

5th September 2024

PRESS STATEMENT

IEA 2024 PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE-PRESIDENTIAL DEBATES: CALL FOR QUESTIONS

As part of its efforts to consolidate multiparty democracy and promote issues-based Elections in Ghana, the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) will organize two (2) Presidential Debates and one (1) Vice-Presidential Debate before the General Elections in December 2024 as follows:

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|--------------------------------------|---------------|---|
| 1. First Presidential Debate | Accra | 22nd October, 2024; |
| 2. Vice Presidential Debate | Accra | 5th November, 2024; and |
| 3. Second Presidential Debate | Kumasi | 19th November, 2024. |

The IEA 2024 Presidential and Vice-Presidential Debates will provide a common platform for the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Candidates to answer questions on various aspects of the nation's development process. The Debates will take the form of a policy dialogue engagement at which the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Candidates will present their viewpoints, plans and programmes, and also point out weaknesses in the policies of co-contestants and present alternatives to those policies and programmes. The Electorate on the other hand, will receive firsthand information on the policies and programmes of each Candidate. This will enable them to make an informed choice on Election Day.

To broaden the level of participation in these Debates, the IEA is requesting Civil Society Organizations, Associations, Public Institutions, Private Sector Institutions and the General Public to submit questions to the IEA Presidential Debates Committee, on the thematic areas outlined below by email to iea@ieagh.org or by hand delivery to **No. 28 Independence Avenue, Ridge**.

The IEA believes that this will allow the Electorate to take ownership of the electoral process and enable them to demand accountability of the Candidates even before one of them is elected President. Additionally, the approach will ensure that the real concerns of the citizens are addressed by the Candidates.

The deadline for the submission of questions is Friday, 14th September 2024.

Thank you for your commitment towards strengthening Ghana's democracy.

THEMATIC AREAS - QUESTIONS FOR DEBATES

The Debates will be based on questions received from the following thematic areas:

- 1. Macroeconomic Management**
 - a. Public Financial Management
 - b. Debt management/ Government Borrowing
 - c. Transparency in Economic Management

- 2. National Development**
 - a. Strategy for National Development
 - b. Economic Growth

- 3. Energy Security**
 - a. Energy/ Power Generation
 - b. Energy debt
 - c. Management of oil and gas resources

- 4. Management of Natural Resource**
 - a. Ownership
 - b. Value Addition

- 5. Development of Agriculture, Industry, and Service Sectors**
 - a. Food Security
 - b. Linkage of Sectors / Value Chain Developments

- 6. Private Sector Development**
 - a. Investor Climate
 - b. Industrialization/Investment
 - c. Job creation/employment
 - d. Technology Transfer
 - e. Cost of Doing Business (and of Credit)

7. Governance

- a. Article 71 Office Holders and Vested Interest
- b. Reducing Executive Powers
- c. Separation of the Executive from Parliament
- d. Decoupling the office of the Attorney General from Ministry of Justice
- e. Election of MDCEs and Local Government reforms
- f. Capping of the number of Ministries and Constituencies
- g. Asset Declaration
- h. Funding of Independent Constitutional Bodies
- i. Measures to curb Corruption

8. Social Sector

- a. Education - Access and Quality
- b. Health - Access and Quality
- c. Water/Sanitation
- d. Housing
- e. Youth and Sports
- f. Gender inequalities
- g. The Disabled

9. Environmental Security

- a. Climate Change
- b. Flooding – cities, towns, farms
- c. Disaster management

10. Leadership

- a. National consciousness
- b. Cultural norms and values
- c. Political leadership

11. Judicial System

- a. Legal aid
- b. Composition of Judges at Supreme Courts

12. Foreign Policy

- a. Regional Integration (ECOWAS)
- b. Ghana and the African Union
- c. Enhancing the benefits of AfCFTA to Ghana

Please note that all programs are **STRICTLY BY INVITATION**.