END OF YEAR REPORT 2022

FEBRUARY 2023

Citizens’ Coalition

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INTRODUCTION

This report captures in brief the Citizens’ Coalition’s activities in pursuit of its objectives and overall progress made over the past six (6) months, since the official launch in July 2022.
ACTIVITIES/EVENTS
COALITION LAUNCH

On July 4, 2022, the Coalition for Democratic Accountability and Inclusive Governance, also known as the Citizens’ Coalition was launched at a press conference, where the following demands were made on the government and some state agencies;

- A-G to ensure the compliance of over 10,000 public servants who are yet to comply with the asset and liabilities declaration obligations under the Constitution and ACT 550.
- Call on Parliament for speedy passage of the Conduct of Public Officers Bill to properly regulate public ethics.
- Government to cease all implementation actions on the Agyapa Royalties Agreement for a thorough discussion in Parliament and with Civil Society.
- Call on Parliament and Auditor General to audit COVID-19 expenditures.
- Call on the Forestry Commission to cease the commercialization and redistribution of the Achimota Forest.

The Coalition subsequently adopted different approaches within law to pursue further some of these issues and they are addressed bellow.

Read the statement shared at the launch here.
AUDITOR GENERAL’S DEMONSTRATION AND SUBSEQUENT ENGAGEMENTS

The Coalition in September 2022 proceeded to organize a demonstration to protest the Auditor-General’s refusal to exercise his surcharge and disallowance powers after the call was made on him at the press conference (launch). The initial demands were rehashed at the demonstration and a petition submitted to representatives of the A-G’s office present. The Coalition has since continuously engaged with the A-G’s office to have broader discussions on the Audit Service’s work, their challenges and possible ways to collaborate to address them. The Coalition first had talks with the A-G, Mr. Johnson Akuamoah Asiedu and later, the Surcharge and Disallowance Committee of the A-G’s Office in November 2022. Standing on this new relationship with the A-G’s Office, the A-G invited the Coalition to their Annual District Auditors Conference. Two Coalition members were present to represent at the Conference.

Read some correspondence with the Auditor-General here.

Meeting with the Auditor General

Access more photos from the demonstration here.

Meeting with the Surcharge and Disallowance Committee, A-G Office
TAMALE LAUNCH

As part of efforts to expand the Coalition beyond the Ghanaian capital, Accra, and decentralize activities, on September 7, 2022, the Northern Regional branch of the Coalition was launched at a press conference in Tamale, pooling together all the three (3) Northern Regions. At the Press Conference, issues peculiar to the Northern Region were raised and authorities urged to act.

PRESS CONFERENCE ON ECONOMY AND MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT

In October 2022, the Coalition again held a press conference amidst the country’s worsening economic situation to make some recommendations to government as to how to deal with the economic crisis and also gain the confidence of citizens. At the conference, the Coalition called for further deliberations with government for concrete stakeholder input in dealing with the issues. Government heeded and called for a meeting with CSOs in November 2022. The Coalition then mobilized members to meet the President and some senior staff of government where they presented their demands.

Read the recommendations made to the President and the press statement issued after the meeting here.

More photos from the launch here.
PRESS STATEMENT ON ECONOMY/BUDGET
The Coalition also issued a press statement early December 2022 to put out their reservations/concerns regarding the 2023 Budget which has been accepted by parliament and again reiterated their stance on some key issues of governance, and accountability.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS ON 2023 BUDGET
After the statement on the Budget was issued, the Coalition then organized a Round Table Discussion on the Budget and Economy to climax activities of the year. The RTD, which featured top experts from crucial sectors of the economy broke down the 2023 Budget, which is expected to deal with the country’s economic woes to the understanding of citizens and then explaining its implications for citizens for the foreseeable future.

Read the presentations here.
Access the full discussions (video) here.
The Coalition had representation at a CSOs meeting convened by former President John Mahama and the New Democratic Congress (NDC). The delegation engaged with the leadership of the opposition NDC particularly on issues of accountability.

[Watch here an excerpt on an interaction with Prof. Jane Naana Opoku-Agyemang, NDC’s Vice Presidential Candidate.]
APPRECIATION

We wish to express our utmost gratitude to all Coalition members for their unflinching support over the past six (6) months in our collective push for a sacrosanct democracy, where citizens’ needs are prioritized above any other interest.