

# Rights of Youth & Disability, RYD INTERNATIONAL

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Press Release

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## CONTEMPT, DISREGARD AND INSENSITIVITY OF THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS, NDC TOWARDS DISABILITY AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITY

Rights of Youth and Disability (RYD) International wishes to condemn in clear and unequivocal terms the misunderstanding of disability occasioning the contempt, disregard, insensitivity and disrespect at former President John Agyekum Kufuor and Persons with Disability (PWD) by the National Democratic Congress (NDC) and its assigns. We catalogue the following instances to make the point:

1. Ivor Greenstreet Apparently Needs Some Elevation to see the Better Ghana – Sam George to Ivor Greenstreet. Source: Peace Fm Online (<https://www.peacefmonline.com/pages/politics/politics/201412/226571.php>) Date: Dec - 20 – 2014.
2. Appointing “Stammerer” Omane Boamah and "blind" Danaa as Ministers was bad – Bagbin. Source: Daily Graphic ([Appointing “Stammerer” Omane Boamah and "blind" Danaa as Ministers was bad – Bagbin - Graphic Online](#)) Date: Aug - 22 – 2018 at 15:35.
3. On January 5, 2017 before the august House of Parliament, Former President John D. Mahama told the nation at his last State of the Nation Address at column 2810, paragraph 3, that under his stewardship, “The percentage of the District Assemblies Common Fund (DACF) meant for persons with disability has been increased by 50 per cent.” That year, the allocation for the PWD in the DACF formula to parliament was 1.8%, a rather 0.2% short of the existing 2% instituted by former President John Agyekum Kufuor. It took President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo to raise the PWD share of the DACF from 2% to 3% in 2018.
4. At page 79 (7.3.3.p) of the NDC 2020 manifesto, they referred to PWD Act, 2006 (Act 715) as: “the Disability Act, 2007.” This deliberate maiming of the seminal law enacted, promulgated and assented to, under the hand of the venerable J. A. Kufuor, Esq. is no different from the recent attacks against the personhood of the gentle giant.

In a rather bizarre circumstance, these acts of opprobrium and disgust for PWDs by the NDC and its assigns have been extended to the personhood of the revered and internationally celebrated former President, His Excellency John Agyekum Kufuor for becoming a wheelchair user in recent times. We acknowledge that his alma mater, Prempeh College, recently celebrated him as the ALL-TIME Greatest old boy for his sterling leadership at the helm of affairs as President of the Republic of Ghana.



*Motto: Care for Youth, Care for Disability*

While acknowledging that Dela Edem has rendered an unqualified apology with little or no remorse to the former President, another NDC assign, Samuel Hunter went wild the very next day with unprintable words directed at the respected statesman who turns 86 years come December 8, 2024, Godwilling. A purported statement under the hand of the NDC's national communication officer merely describes the comments by Dela Edem as: "unfortunate", "unsavoury and distasteful" without condemning same. That is nothing but a wish-wash. We cannot accept it as a true apology.

We cannot, as advocates of disability, pretend not to have seen these unfortunate displays of insensitivity, disregard and/or disrespect of disability, a human condition, by a party that has sponsored persons in power and authority of state for a major part of this 4<sup>th</sup> Republican dispensation. We must learn to appreciate that disability is not a taboo, nor a curse, as misconstrued by the party and its assigns, but a human condition.

It is in the interest of the party to rise above the ignorance of disability and overcome the prejudice towards PWDs. The nation must show respect to that disability population, a sizeable segment of the nation representing 8% that stood at 2,098,138 in the 2021 Population and Housing Census report.

We pray that as an octogenarian, he stays mentally alert and active as he is, to engage the nation and the youth to share knowledge, wisdom and experience to guide us into the far advancing digital world. In his wheelchair he is living the dignified life of a true statesman. We are proud to be associated with the former President, and we are ever grateful that he honoured our invitation to serve as the Special Guest of Honour to the maiden edition of Disability Conversations on Tuesday, October 17, 2024.

For the avoidance of doubt and public education, we wish to reproduce sections 4 (1) and 37 (1) of the Persons with Disability Act, 2006 (Act 715):

4(1) A person shall not discriminate against, exploit or subject a person with disability to abusive or degrading treatment.

37(1) A person shall not call a person with disability derogatory names because of the disability of the person.

37(2) A person who contravenes subsection (1) commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding fifty penalty units or to a term of imprisonment not exceeding three months or both.

Long live Ghana!

Long live the cause of Disability and PWDs in Ghana!

Long live the undying legacy of President J. A. Kufuor!

Long live the Rights of Youth and Disability International!

Signed

**Yazid Adam (PWD-Activist)**

RYP International

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