

10<sup>th</sup> February, 2026

**Attn: All Media Houses**

*For Immediate Release*

**HON. OHENE KWAME FRIMPONG, MP FOR ASANTE AKIM NORTH CONSTITUENCY, INTRODUCES PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL TO AMEND POLITICAL PARTIES ACT, 2000 (ACT 574) TO INTRODUCE CAMPAIGN FINANCING REGIME.**

The member of Parliament for Asante Akim North, Hon. Ohene Kwame Frimpong, has initiated private member's bill to amend the Political Parties Act, 2000 (Act 574) to introduce campaign financing regime, and to provide for related matters.

It may be recalled that since the reintroduction of multiparty democracy in 1992, Ghana has held nine successful general elections, with four peaceful transfers of power. This democratic progress, however, faces a growing challenge: the rising cost of politics.

The *Political Parties Act, 2000 (Act 574)* regulates the registration and functioning of political parties but remains silent on campaign financing. As a result, there is no legal framework limiting campaign expenditure, capping contributions, or mandating detailed disclosures.

Political campaigns now rely heavily on private, informal, and often opaque sources of funding. The Ghana Centre for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana, 2025) estimates that the cost of contesting presidential elections has risen to approximately **USD 200 million**, while the cost of parliamentary campaigns rose by **59% between 2012 and 2016** (*STAR-Ghana Foundation, 2018*).

These trends threaten democratic inclusivity and accountability.

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## **2. Problem Statement**

### **1. Escalating Campaign Costs:**

Political competition is increasingly determined by financial strength rather than competence, ideas, or integrity.

## 2. Exclusion of Marginalized Groups:

Women, youth, and persons of limited means are priced out of meaningful participation in politics. For instance, women held only **15% of parliamentary seats** in 2016.

## 3. Corruption and Vote Buying:

The absence of financial regulation encourages vote buying and illicit funding. Allegations during the **2026 NPP Presidential Primaries Campaign** held on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026, and the **NDC Ayawaso East Parliamentary Primaries contests** held on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2026, now before the Office of the Special Prosecutor, underscore this challenge.

## 4. Weak Oversight:

The *Political Parties Act* lacks disclosure, auditing, and sanction mechanisms necessary to ensure financial integrity.

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## 3. Rationale for the Bill

Globally, more than **180 countries** regulate political finance to promote transparency and fair competition. According to the **International IDEA Political Finance Database (2024)** and **Transparency International (2023)**, key best practices include:

- Limits on private contributions.
- Public funding mechanisms to level the playing field.
- Expenditure caps and disclosure requirements.
- Independent oversight and enforcement.

Countries such as **Canada, France, Germany, and the United Kingdom** have adopted these principles to curb corruption and reduce undue influence in politics. Ghana's growing cost of politics makes similar reform both urgent and necessary.

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## 4. Object of the Bill

The object of the *Political Parties (Amendment) Bill, 2026* is to:

1. Regulate the **sources of campaign funds**, ensuring transparency and legality.
2. Establish **limits on campaign contributions and expenditures**.
3. Create a **Political Parties Development Fund** to provide partial public financing for parties and candidates.
4. Introduce **mandatory financial disclosure and auditing requirements**.

5. Strengthen **oversight and enforcement mechanisms** under the Electoral Commission and the Office of the Special Prosecutor.

This framework seeks to restore fairness, curb corruption, and enhance public confidence in Ghana's democratic process.

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## 5. Key Provisions of the Bill

### Part IV — Regulation of Campaign Financing

- Only citizens and Ghanaian-registered entities may contribute.
- Foreign and anonymous donations prohibited.
- Individual contributions capped at **GHS500,000** (presidential) and **GHS100,000** (parliamentary).
- Campaign expenditure capped at **GHS5million** (presidential) and **GHS500,000** (parliamentary).

### Part V — Public Funding and Transparency

- Establishment of a **Political Parties Development Fund**, administered by the Electoral Commission.
- Funds allocated proportionally to parties based on electoral performance.
- Annual audit by the **Auditor-General** and publication of reports.

### Part VI — Enforcement and Sanctions

- Oversight by the **Electoral Commission** and **Office of the Special Prosecutor**.
- Non-compliance attracts administrative sanctions, fines, and disqualification.

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## 6. Expected Impact

- **Transparency:** Promote openness in political financing.
- **Equity:** Reduce financial barriers for women and youth participation.
- **Accountability:** Strengthen enforcement mechanisms and public trust.
- **Integrity:** Reduce corruption and monetization of politics.