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PRESS STATEMENT ON THE UNFAIR PRODUCER PRICE TO COCOA FARMERS.

The New Patriotic Party (NPP) issues this statement to set out its serious concerns about the producer price for the 2026/27 cocoa season, announced by the NDC Government on Friday, 25th September 2026. The Government has fixed the price at GH¢2,650 per 64kg bag, an increase of just GH¢63, or 2.4 percent, on the reduced price that prevailed at the close of the 2025/26 season.

It is the considered position of the NPP that this price is not merely inadequate. On the Government's own law, it is unlawful. It falls below the statutory minimum set by the Ghana Cocoa Board Act, 2026 (Act 1182), a law this same Government passed only weeks ago.

1. A Record of Broken Promises

During the 2024 election campaign, leading members of the then opposition NDC, among them the current Minister for Food and Agriculture, Hon. Eric Opoku; the Minister for Finance, Hon. Dr. Cassiel Ato Forson; the Minister for Health, Hon. Kwabena Mintah Akandoh; and His Excellency the President himself, toured the cocoa-growing areas and promised farmers GH¢6,000 per bag. Farmers were told that the GH¢3,100 per bag then being paid was exploitative, and that they deserved no less than 70 percent of the world market price. Farmers placed their trust in those assurances and voted accordingly.

The record since then tells a different story. In October 2025, the Government announced a producer price of GH¢3,625 per bag for the 2025/26 season, far short of the GH¢6,000 it had promised. Four months later, in February 2026, it reduced that price to GH¢2,587 per bag. This cut of GH¢1,038 per bag, imposed in the middle of the crop year, was the first of its kind in the history of Ghana's cocoa industry.

2. The February 2026 Price Cut Was Arbitrary and Unlawful

The reduction was arbitrary because it emerged from an emergency Cabinet decision taken without consultation with farmers, Licensed Buying Companies (LBCs) or any other stakeholder in the sector.

It was unlawful because, under the regime governing COCOBOD at the time, the producer price announced at the start of the season was a guaranteed minimum, to prevail throughout the crop year from October 2025 to September 2026. A guaranteed minimum cannot, by definition, be revised downward to the detriment of the producer. Every government before this one respected that principle.

Having failed to deliver the GH¢6,000 it promised, the Government went further and reduced the price below the GH¢3,100 it inherited. The NPP maintains that the difference between the announced 2025/26 price and the reduced price remains a debt owed to every farmer affected by the cut. Until that debt is settled, the NDC Government remains indebted to Ghana's cocoa farmers.

3. GH¢2,650 Does Not Satisfy Section 57 of Act 1182

Section 57 of the Ghana Cocoa Board Act, 2026 (Act 1182) provides that *"the producer price for a crop season shall not be less than 70% of the Gross Free-on-Board (FOB) price realized by the Cocoa Board for that crop season."*

The Government asserts that GH¢2,650 represents 71.18 percent of the Gross FOB price. For that to be true, COCOBOD's realized Gross FOB price would have to be approximately US$5,180 per tonne. Yet it is a matter of public record that international cocoa prices over the past three months have ranged between US$5,500 and more than US$6,000 per tonne. It is also unclear whether COCOBOD has included in its computation the Living Income Differential (LID) of US$400 per tonne paid by buyers on Ghanaian cocoa.

Applying the lower end of the prevailing price range, the computation is as follows:

Step	Item	Value
1	Average world market price, past three months (lower bound)	US$5,500 per tonne
2	Living Income Differential (LID) paid by buyers	US$400 per tonne
3	Expected gross price per tonne (1 + 2)	US$5,900 per tonne
4	Average exchange rate	GH¢11.50 to US$1
5	Gross price per tonne in cedis (3 × 4)	GH¢67,850
6	70% of gross price per tonne (statutory minimum)	GH¢47,495
7	Bags per tonne	16
8	**Minimum lawful producer price per bag (6 ÷ 7)**	**GH¢2,968.44**
9	**Price announced by Government**	**GH¢2,650.00**
10	**Shortfall per bag (8 – 9)**	**GH¢318.44**

Even on conservative assumptions, farmers are being underpaid by approximately GH¢318 on every bag, or more than GH¢5,000 on every tonne of cocoa they produce. At higher prevailing world prices, the shortfall is greater still.

Should the Government contend that its realized FOB price reflects cocoa forward-sold at lower prices in earlier periods, the burden rests on it to demonstrate this with verifiable data. Farmers are entitled to see the figures on which their livelihoods are being determined.

The NPP is also compelled to ask whether this outcome explains why the COCOBOD Bill was passed under a Certificate of Urgency, with limited opportunity for Parliament and stakeholders to scrutinise the pricing framework it established.

4. Unpaid Arrears and the Risk to the 2026/27 Season

The producer price is not the only concern facing the sector. Only weeks ago, the Chamber of Cocoa Marketers reported that cocoa beans delivered to COCOBOD during the 2025/26 crop year, valued at approximately GH¢4 billion, remain unpaid. That crop year itself ran for close to fourteen months rather than the customary twelve.

LBCs and farmers are therefore justified in asking a direct question: if GH¢4 billion in 2025/26 purchases taken over by COCOBOD remain unsettled, what guarantee exists that purchases in the 2026/27 season will be paid for promptly? This concern is grounded in recent experience. In late 2025 and early 2026, farmers went unpaid for months for cocoa they had already delivered.

5. Our Demands

The cocoa farmer is not asking for charity. The farmer is asking for fairness, certainty, timely payment and transparent marketing. Above all, the farmer is asking for a government that keeps its word. The NPP accordingly calls on the Government to:

(a) Publish in full the computation underlying the GH¢2,650 producer price, including the realized Gross FOB price, the volumes and prices of forward contracts for the 2026/27 season, the treatment of the Living Income Differential, and the exchange rate applied;

(b) Review the producer price upward to bring it into compliance with Section 57 of Act 1182;

(c) Pay, without further delay, the amounts withheld from farmers as a result of the February 2026 price reduction;

(d) Settle all outstanding arrears owed to farmers and LBCs for the 2025/26 crop year; and

(e) Set out a credible financing plan guaranteeing prompt payment for all cocoa purchased in the 2026/27 season.

Conclusion

Seventy percent of the Gross FOB price, as the law prescribes, is not GH¢2,650. Ghana's cocoa farmers have been misled and shortchanged by a government that promised them far more and has delivered far less. They deserve a fair price for their labour, and they deserve a government that honours both its promises and its own laws.

Signed

For further comments, contact the FF;

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