**PRESS CONFERENCE BY THE COALITION OF DISTRICT ASSEMBLY MEMBERS (CODAM) ON THE STATE OF DECENTRALIZATION IN GHANA AND HOW THE RESETTING AGENDA BY HIS EXCELLENCY JOHN DRAMANI MAHAMA IS THE WAY FORWARD.**

The Coalition of District Assembly Members (CODAM) is pleased to formally endorse H.E. John Dramani Mahama as the next President of the Republic of Ghana.

CODAM represents a collective of dedicated Assembly Members across the nation, committed to ensuring the welfare and development of our communities through efficient governance, development and oversight.

H.E. John Dramani Mahama’s leadership vision aligns deeply with our mandate.

His commitment to strengthening local governance, increasing transparency, and fostering accountability is demonstrated in his promises and fulfilment.

CODAM is reminded of H.E. John Mahama and H.E The Late Professor Evans Attah Mills track record of delivering on promise to Assembly Members.

During his tenure as Vice President under the late Professor Evans Atta Mills, he fulfilled the first promise ever made to Assembly Members by providing motorbikes to aid in our mobility and service delivery. His role as the Chairman of the Economic Management Team during this period further showcased his commitment to empowering local governance and strengthening economic support for development at all levels.

**The current government has left NALAG members deeply disappointed. Despite numerous promises, motorbikes for the Nineth Assembly Members remain undelivered, hindering our work at the grassroots. The Nineth Assembly face neglect as even basic membership cards are unavailable for Membership identification and recognition, reflecting poor commitment to local governance. This lack of support undermines NALAG's credibility and frustrates its mission.**

**CODAM trust His Excellency’s pledge to introduce a monthly consolidated allowance for all Assembly Members.** This monthly allowance is aimed at enhancing our capacity to effectively represent our constituencies, enabling us to better fulfill our responsibilities and respond to the needs of our communities.

With this allowance, Assembly Members will be empowered to:

1. **Better Fulfill their Responsibility as the first point of call**: during developmental projects, Fund raising, ceremonial functions and incidents such as naming ceremonies and accidents, Assembly Members remain the first point of call and are expected to act as soon as possible. The allowance will assist Assembly Members to better respond whenever they are called upon.
2. **Enhance Accountability and Transparency in Local Governance**: As community representatives, we are key players in safeguarding public resources. H.E. Mahama’s proposal will enable us to strengthen local governance structures, foster accountability, and ensure that public resources are managed responsibly.

In addition, we acknowledge and support H.E. Mahama’s **Operation Recover All Loot (ORAL)** initiative, a bold approach aimed at reclaiming all unlawfully mismanaged state resources.

Of particular concern to CODAM is the issue of property rate collected by the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) and Digital City Solutions (DCS), which has been plagued by irregularities and, unlawful practices which CODAM has already taken steps toward accountability by:

* **Petitioning the Office of the Special Prosecutor (OSP)** to investigate these irregularities.
* **Triggering the Right to Information Act** in accordance with Article 21(1)(F) of the 1992 Constitution and receiving a response from GRA in line with Section 18 of the Right to Information Act, 2019 (Act 989), acknowledging that a corruption-related issue demands immediate attention.

It is particularly concerning that **Digital City Solution (DCS) filed a legal case against the GRA** following the termination of their agreement, with property rate collections by DCS now a subject of court proceedings. CODAM’s objective is to ensure that the revenues collected are accurately accounted for and transferred to the respective Assemblies in a timely manner. This also is to ensure that property rate collection follows lawful processes and adheres to Section 146 (1) of the Local Governance Act, 2016 [Act 936], restoring integrity and transparency to the collection and use of these vital community resources.

The Coalition of District Assembly Members (CODAM) urges all Ghanaians to support H.E. John Dramani Mahama as the next President of Ghana. His leadership represents a renewed commitment to fostering accountability, empowering local governance, and ensuring that the resources of the nation are used for the benefit of the people.Top of Form

Thank you.

**Signed,**

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**HON. MAWUNYO AGBE**

**President, Coalition of District Assembly Members (CODAM)**

**Dean of Presiding Members, Volta Region**

**Presiding Member (PM), Ho Municipal Assembly.**