

## IEA Press Release

### **Response to Press Statement Issued by the Spokesperson of “The Mahama 2024 Campaign” Team on the IEA’s Announcement of its Intention to Conduct Presidential and Vice-Presidential Debates for the 2024 Elections**

The Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) takes note of the Press Statement issued on Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> July, 2024 by “The Mahama 2024 Campaign” team which was signed by the Spokesperson- Madam Joyce Bawah Mogtari. The said Press Statement was in response to the IEA’s announcement of its intention to conduct Presidential and Vice-Presidential Debates for the 2024 elections.

While thanking Madam Mogtari for her response, the IEA reacts as follows:

1. The IEA is on record as having initiated Presidential Debates in this country (in the year 2000), and has consistently pursued this noble public-spirited function with integrity, with the exception of 2020 where no Debates were organized because of the Covid-19 pandemic.
2. Respectfully, in our Press Release of 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2024, the IEA did not indicate that it had engaged or informed any Political Party or Presidential Candidate to participate in the Debates. Indeed, the IEA had not engaged any Political Party or Presidential Candidate prior to its Press Release. The Institute intended to follow the Release with individual letters to the Candidates inviting them to the Debates and other activities.
3. The Debates provide opportunities for the candidates to present their policies to the Ghanaian public, and to counter the policies of their opponents so that the electorate will make informed choices at the elections. In that regard, the IEA gives equal opportunity to all the Candidates. Therefore, the IEA cannot be said to be fronting for any political party, in particular the NPP as is being alleged.
4. The IEA respectfully encourages all Presidential and Vice-Presidential Candidates to participate in the Debates which offers the platform to explain their policies and programmes to the electorate, to win their votes.
5. The Debates contribute to enhancing Ghana’s growing democracy, and should be seen as such.
6. As it always does, the IEA will be writing to the Presidential Candidates inviting them to participate in the Debates and the other activities.
7. It is our sincere hope that all Presidential and Vice-Presidential Candidates will participate in the planned programme.

Thank you.

SIGNED:

Dr. Charles Mensa  
Board Chair, IEA