



Ghana – Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 26 November 2010

Information on the NPP (New Patriotic Party). Information on its activities, objectives, policies, leadership, membership, history and current situation in Ghana. Information on the treatment of those who are members or are perceived to be members of the party by the government and/or society. Information on whether there is free movement within Ghana and whether NPP members have experienced any legal or practical problems moving within the country. Information on whether police have provided protection/services to someone experiencing problems due to his membership of the NPP.

The *Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada* describes the foundation of the New Patriotic Party (NPP) as follows:

“The New Patriotic Party (NPP) was reportedly founded on 2 June 1992 and represents the Danquah/Busia Club (Le Nouvel Afrique Asie No. 37, Oct. 1992). According to *West Africa* (10-16 Aug. 1992), initially, the NPP was a union of five Nkrumahist parties: the National Independent Party (NIP), the People's Heritage Party (PHP), the Popular Party for Democracy and Development (PPDD), the People's National Convention (PNC) and the National Convention Party. *West Africa* states that the NPP has its roots in the proscribed Progress Party, Popular Front Party, the United National Convention and the Gold Coast Convention (10-16 Aug. 1992).” (Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (1 November 1993) *Ghana: Information on the history of the New Patriotic Party (NPP)*)

A research response prepared by the *Refugee Review Tribunal* of Australia states:

“Specific information on the New Patriotic Party (NPP) led by Nana Akufo-Addo is provided on the Party's website: <http://www.npp-ghana.org/index.php?categoryid=1>. One page provides the address of the headquarters, the Party logo, and a list of the seven leading NPP officials:

PARTY HEADQUARTERS, New Patriotic Party, H/No. C. 912/2 Duade Street, Kokomlemle Accra, Ghana.

NEW PATRIOTIC PARTY National Chairman	Peter MacManu
First National Vice Chairman	Stephen Ntim
Second Vice Chairman	Mrs Agnes Adzo Okudzeto
Third Vice Chairman	Mr Edmund Annan
National Treasurer	Mr Michael Dugau
National Organiser	Lord Commey
General Secretary	Nana Ohene Ntow
Email	info@npp-ghana.org
Telephone Numbers	+233 21 220864 / 227951
Web Sites	<u>Official Page Forum NPP USA</u> <u>NPP UK</u>
Presidential Candidate (2008)	<u>Nana Dankwa Akufo-Addo</u>

(Australia: Refugee Review Tribunal (3 April 2009) *Ghana - 2008 elections - National Patriotic Party*)

A page on the website of the *New Patriotic Party* lists the aims of the NPP as follows:

“1. A knowledge-based economy is the pattern of the future, the condition for survival in the globalising economy of the twenty-first century. The NPP has accordingly developed plans for the most far-reaching reforms in the quality and availability of educational opportunities for all Ghanaians. The creation of a superior human resource base is at the heart of the new strategy of national development which the NPP is offering to Ghana.

2. Another key feature of the new strategy will be micro-economic interventions for facilitating private sector operations, including modernized farming and fisheries, to lead the nation into unprecedented engagement in wealth creation. The desired result will be achieved through focusing business interventions on the growth areas of ICT applications, agro-processing, other value-addition ventures and tourism. The goal is accelerated economic growth which should lead to accelerated improvement in the living conditions of the people of Ghana.

3. Wealth creation of the magnitude aimed at will be more easily achieved in a nation of healthy workers who are well motivated to give of their best in production and service activities. A more humane health delivery system will be provided through effective implementation and Geographical spread of the National Health Insurance Scheme. The NPP Government will also involve the leadership of both the Employers and the Workers to explore and exploit ways of motivating workers and improving their working skills through appropriate training and retraining programmes.

4. Women and Children have been traditionally handicapped over the years. The NPP government will continue to pursue with greater vigour its interventions for empowering women technically and financially to play more active roles in the nation’s wealth creation programmes, in education, and in other social and political fields.” (New Patriotic Party (2010) *Our Vision For The Future*)

A *European Union Election Observation Mission* report on the December 2008 elections, in a section headed “Political Background” (sub-headed “Key Political Actors”), states:

“The NPP won the presidential elections in both 2000 and 2004. This party perceives itself to be a centre right party ideologically and during these elections it committed to continue the reforms that it has introduced during its last two terms in office including developing the economy and improving the public sector, based on a liberal economic model of governance.” (European Union Election Observation Mission (February 2009) *Ghana: Final Report – Presidential and Parliamentary Elections 2008*, p.8)

A *BBC Radio World Service* profile of NPP leader Nana Akufo-Addo states:

“One of the founding members of the New Patriotic Party in 1992 when multiparty democracy returned to Ghana, Nana Akufo-Addo has had presidential ambitions since 2000. With a father who was ceremonial president from 1969 to 1972 he has political pedigree, and he is related to founding members of Ghana's pro-independence movement, the United Gold Coast Convention. As a toddler, the family

home in Accra was like the party's headquarters. He won a fierce contest at the party primaries last year to get his name on the ticket despite not being the favoured candidate of outgoing-President John Kufuor. His campaign slogan is 'BIG – Believe In Ghana'." (BBC Radio World Service (30 December 2008) *Nana Akufo-Addo (NPP)*)

In a paragraph headed "In the political arena" this profile states:

"As a student, he did economics in Ghana and read law in the UK, he flirted with Marxism, at one time describing himself as a Trotskyite, before returning to the liberal ideals of his political forebears, known in Ghana as the Danquah-Busia tradition. In 1975 he became a barrister in Ghana and secretary general of the People's Movement for Freedom and Justice, a broad-based coalition of activists that ultimately brought about the downfall of Ignatius Acheampong's military government in 1978. During the 20-year rule of Jerry Rawlings, Akufo-Addo established himself in Ghana's political arena as a champion of human rights. He founded Ghana's Committee on Human and Peoples' Rights and as attorney general in 2002 drafted the National Reconciliation Act, which established the National Reconciliation Commission to investigate past human rights abuses in Ghana. Married with five children, he is a fluent Twi, Ga, English and French speaker." (ibid)

The 2010 *Freedom House* annual report on Ghana states:

"In advance of the December 2008 presidential election, the NPP faced internal division as over 20 candidates vied for the party's nomination. Ultimately, Nana Akufo-Addo, most recently the foreign minister, was chosen over Kufuor's preferred candidate, Alan Kyerematen. The fact that Akufo-Addo and many of his supporters belonged to the Akyem tribe while Kufuor and Kyerematen were Ashanti meant that ethnic rifts often complicated the political ones. Meanwhile, the NDC easily chose John Atta Mills as its candidate for the third time, though it too experienced some internal conflict as Atta Mills and Rawlings continued to clash. While problems with voter registration and fighting between NDC and NPP supporters were reported before and during the vote, the election was ultimately viewed as a success by both domestic and international observers. Akufo-Addo won the first round with 49 percent, while Atta Mills took 48 percent. However, Atta Mills won the runoff with just 50.23 percent. His inauguration in January 2009 marked the second-ever peaceful, democratic transfer of power in Ghana. The NDC also won concurrent parliamentary elections, taking 114 seats as the NPP secured 107." (Freedom House (24 June 2010) *Freedom in the World 2010 – Ghana*)

A report by the *Commonwealth Observer Group*, in a section headed "Background To The 2008 Elections" (sub-headed "Campaigning"), states:

"By September 2008 the NPP and NDC as well as other political parties had launched their campaigns, holding rallies across the country. Campaigning was sometimes marred by clashes between rival political parties. In the lead-up to the elections, there were increasing reports of isolated incidents of violence, particularly in the strongholds of the two major political parties (the NDC and the NPP). Violent incidents were reported in Tamale in the Northern Region, Cape Coast in the Central Region, Old Fadama and Agbogbloshie both in the Greater Accra Region and Sefwi Akontombra in the Western Region. The NPP and NDC accused each other of being responsible for this violence, while other political parties pointed fingers at both main parties." (Commonwealth Observer Group (17 February 2009) *Ghana Parliamentary*)

and Presidential Elections 7 December 2008 and Presidential Run-Off Election 28 December 2008, p.9)

An *Agence France Presse* report states:

“At least six people have been killed in northern Ghana in pre-election violence which followed a weekend campaign rally, a local private radio station said on Tuesday, quoting police sources. Police picked up the bodies of six people, among them opposition activists, following a wave of arson attacks suspected to have been carried out by supporters of the ruling New Patriotic Party (NPP) across Gushiegu town on Monday, Joy-FM said. Residents said 19 houses, three of them belonging to opposition National Democratic Congress (NDC) regional chairman Mahama Jeboni, six cars, and an NDC office were torched.” (Agence France Presse (2 September 2008) *At least six killed in political violence in Ghana: report*)

An *IRIN News* report states:

“Following an upsurge of pre-election violence that has killed three people and injured many others in northern Ghana, experts fear hostilities will continue in the months leading to December presidential and legislative elections. Charred remains of houses, walls riddled with bullets, and burnt cars and are talismans of last week’s violence in the Northern Region’s capital of Tamale. Violence erupted following a shooting incident on 31 August that abruptly ended a political rally organised by the ruling New Patriotic Party.” (IRIN News (9 September 2008) *Ghana: Pre-election violence escalates*)

The Accra-based newspaper *Ghanaian Chronicle* has published numerous reports on incidents involving members of the NPP, including the following selection of articles.

A *Ghanaian Chronicle* report on the arrest of NPP activists in August 2009 states:

“The leadership of the opposition New Patriotic Party (NPP) has appealed to the Inspector General of Police (IGP), Mr. Paul Tawiah Quaye, to immediately release NPP activists who were arrested at Akwatia yesterday, to reduce political tension in the area. Believing the arrests were politically motivated, the party stressed that the arrest of two constituency executives of the party, together with a Pentecost Church elder by the police, would exacerbate tension in the area, and create conflict among party activists.” (Ghanaian Chronicle (21 August 2009) *Ghana: NPP Wants Arrested Activists Released*)

This article also states:

“Reports however indicate that the two constituency executives of the NPP, together with the Pentecost Church elder, threatened the life of the National Democratic Congress (NDC) Constituency Chairman, and went to the extent of destroying his properties. According to the police, it was based on this allegation that they were arrested, but the NPP argued that the executives did nothing untoward to warrant their arrest.” (ibid)

A *Ghanaian Chronicle* article on the arrest of alleged NPP supporters in April 2010 states:

“The Northern Regional Police Command on the advice of the Attorney General, Mrs. Betty Mould Iddrisu, has rounded up 23 people believed to be supporters of the opposition New Patriotic Party (NPP) in Gushegu, for their alleged involvement in the 2008 political bloodshed that led to the murder of the Gushegu Chief, Nang-lana Abubakari Ziblim. The 23 suspects who are in the Tamale Police Custody have since gone through thorough screening with five identified as some of the main suspects. They would be transported to Accra for prosecution, according to Police sources. The five (5) are Damba Abu, Labaran Bawah, Yabdown Sandow, Labaran Salifu, a.k.a. Kabi-lana and Issifu Bawah. The remaining 18 would be granted bail.” (Ghanaian Chronicle (15 April 2010) *Ghana: Police Arrest 23 Suspects*)

A *Ghanaian Chronicle* article on the beating of an NPP activist in April 2010 states:

“Scores of supporters of the ruling National Democratic Congress (NDC), last Wednesday took the law into their hands, and subjected one Mrs. Juliana Martey, a former Constituency Women's Organiser of the New Patriotic Party (NPP), to severe beatings, after she refused to hand over the key to a public toilet she was operating .” (Ghanaian Chronicle (20 April 2010) *Ghana: NDC Gangsters Strike Again*)

A *Ghanaian Chronicle* article refers to the response of the police to an alleged assault on NPP activists as follows:

“The Western regional Command of the Ghana Police Service (GPS) has taken over investigations into circumstances that led to a brutal assault on three Serial Callers who have allegiance to the New Patriotic Party (NPP) in Takoradi, by suspected National Democratic Congress (NDC) thugs. The thugs, who assaulted the serial callers, were reported to have been led by one Muhammad Anaba, an NDC activist and Chairman of the Takoradi Butchers Association. The regional Crime Officer, Mr. Vincent C. Agbenyato confirmed in a telephone interview that the said Muhammed Anaba had been arrested and granted bail.” (Ghanaian Chronicle (12 June 2009) *Ghana: NDC Thugs Attack NPP Serial Callers*)

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

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