



EDITORS OVER THE YEARS



Daily Graphic EDITORIAL

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Prioritising our developmental needs: The way to go!

Going through research materials, publications and policies, the commission prioritised developmental areas on which the scarce resources could be put to great use.

A bipartisan group of eminent persons was also engaged to whittle down all the pressing developmental needs of the country to 79, saying if funds were committed to those areas, it would bring the utmost good to all.

The partners, after collating all the information, shared it with the MDAs for them to wisely apply their scarce resources to priority needs in all their activities.

Digitised property and business fees were identified as the first priority proposal, while the second was universal malaria testing and health facility treatment, with the strengthening of community health systems and the land titling programme being the third and fourth priority areas, respectively.

TB patient education for adherence to basic protocols was the fifth priority; logistics for faster and more accurate testing was the sixth, while logistics for accurate TB testing, ambulance maintenance in rural areas, preventive malaria testing for children in the Guinea Savanna and complementary feeding came in respectively.

Interestingly, the prioritised areas impact directly on citizens' health, and that is to be expected, as a healthy people are the country's most beneficial resource.

The MDAs are, therefore, to take the priority areas into consideration in their work, with the NDPC indicating at the briefing that competing needs meant pruning down to the most urgent, hence the 79 identified areas.

Some of the materials, which present the cost-benefit analysis of devoting funds for simple acts, such as TB education to ensure adherence, show that the benefits far outweigh the initial committed funds used in education.

The *Daily Graphic* believes that such home-grown analysis by the NDPC, the ISSER and the Copenhagen Consensus is important and the knowledge and pointers shared are the right ways to go if we are to have value for our money.

We urge that the NDPC monitors and ensures that MDAs focus on the priority areas identified.

Targets must be set and progress noted, so that Ghana, in small but sustained steady steps, reaches its goal of development.

Your voice

In the midst of resource constraints, how do we prioritise needs for development? Our reporter, Augustina Dzodzogbe, engages our readers.



Nyamekye Amoako

Our needs, such as food, potable water, accommodation and education must be attended to. These are the primary needs that nobody should be denied.



Adonu Raphael

The government must invest heavily in vocational education and make it more attractive. Students must also be empowered financially, after completion of their studies, to start their own businesses.



R. K. Sarpong

We must strengthen our human resource capacity by improving our educational systems to align with our needs, while investing in the basic infrastructural needs of the citizenry, such as roads, hospitals and schools.