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PRESS STATEMENT

GHANA'S POLITICAL PARTIES: DRIVERS OF DEVELOPMENT OR ELECTION MACHINES?

Released on 5th February, 2018

Political Parties in Ghana's fourth Republic are perceived by the public as basically election machines. Election is the game they have played best. In between elections parties generally lack the internal institutional structures and hardly spare the time and the effort to focus on critical examination and reflection on the country's developmental challenges and the politics required to respond to them.

After a long period of internal debate, the Institute for Democratic Governance (IDEG) has identified the need for developmental political parties as one of the urgent developmental challenges of our country. To involve fellow citizens in the effort to build and enhance the developmental capacity of our political parties, a series of roundtable discussions have been planned. The first of these roundtables will be held on **Wednesday, February 7, 2018 at 10am at the IDEG Auditorium, East Legon** under the theme "**Ghana's Political Parties: Drivers of Development or Election Machines?**" Speakers of the roundtable will be Prof. Godfred Alufar Bokpin, Associate Professor, University of Ghana Business School; Hon. Oforu Ampofo, Director of Elections, National Democratic Congress; Nana Obiri Boahen, Deputy General Secretary, New Patriotic Party and Mr. William Dowokpor, 1st Vice Chairman, Progressive People's Party. They will speak to the topic: **Enhancing the Developmental Capacities and Roles of Ghana's Political Parties.**

Participants in the roundtable are drawn from the Political parties, University Teachers Association of Ghana (UTAG), Members of Parliaments, the Electoral Commission, Metropolitan Municipal Chief Executives, Civil Society Organisations and Journalists. Members of the public interested in the Roundtable should call 0302543320 or email pkwakye@ideg.org/dnadege@ideg.org or WhatsApp 0265291453/0267018154 for invitation.

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