

President Mahama Fact-Checked: Claim on Road Conditions True but Misleading

President Mahama on his campaign rounds in the Northern region made some claims concerning roads, electric power, and water. His claims were found to be true but misleading on conditions of roads when the NDC government came into office, entirely true on the installed capacity of electricity, and mostly true on water coverage. The full report on these claims are presented below:



1. CLAIM: When we came into power, we faced socio-economic infrastructure that was not in good shape, our roads were bad.

VERDICT: True but Misleading

Explanation: The Ministry of Roads and Highways' [Transport Indicator database report](#) and the Ghana statistical Service (2009) indicates that under the 'national road condition mix', about 67.8 percent of roads in the country as at 2008 were in a good or fair condition compared to 32.2% which were in a poor state at the same time (up from 54.6% in 2000). The poor roads had decreased from 45.5% in 2000 to 32.2 in 2008. So, though roads were bad in 2008, they were not as bad as the president hoped to point out by his claim.



2. CLAIM: “Within 18 months we have installed 874 megawatts additional power, as a result of that the power situation in the country is stable.”

VERDICT: ENTIRELY TRUE

Explanation: Paragraph 225 and 226 of the 2016 Mid-year review corroborates this claim. “Consequently, Mr. Speaker, the Government promised to deliver key power projects to ease the electricity supply deficit. I am happy to announce that Government has delivered on its promise by adding the following projects, which were at various stages of completion to the national grid:

- 220MW Kpone Thermal Power Project (KTPP);
- 110MW Tico Expansion Project;
- 180MW First half of the Asogli Phase 2 Project;
- 20MW BXC Solar Plant;
- 225MW Karpowership; and
- 250MW AMERI Plant.

The aggregate sum of installed capacity for the above projects is 1,005MW. This means that the president’s claim of the installation of 874MW additional power is actually true. Though it cannot be emphatically stated, the power situation has stabilized compared to the last eighteen months.

Additionally, the mid-year review statement indicated that power projects such as the 370MW AKSA; 110MW TEI; 250MW Karpower II; 180MW Second half of the Asogli Phase 2; and 350MW CenPower were “at different stages of development for delivery in the short-to-medium term.” will bring total installed capacity to 5,105MW.”



3. CLAIM: “We’ve taken water supply, those who were drinking clean water in Ghana, in 2008 they were 58%, today as I speak those who drink clean water in Ghana are 76% of our population.”

VERDICT: Mostly True

Explanation: on Tuesday August 9, 2016, the Minister responsible for Water Resources Works and Housing Dr. Kwaku Agyemang Manu, at the [Meet the Press](#) series held in the conference room of the Ministry of Communication stated that the 76% was for urban water supply only and not the entire nation.

“Hon. Chairman, urban water coverage today stands at 76% and will increase to 78% by the end of this year when several on-going projects are completed...” the Minister said in the statement. “Currently, rural water coverage stands at 64.9%,” the minister added.

In conclusion, the national average for water coverage will at best be an average of both rural and urban coverage which is 70.45%. This means that the president’s estimate of the national water coverage was not perfectly true.