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How to **protect** yourself from

December spending regret

December is a month away, and that is exactly why you should be planning for it now. In Ghana, December is a predictable spending season. People travel, events multiply, families gather, and demand for everything from transport to entertainment goes up. The mistake is waiting until December to deal with expenses you could have seen coming months earlier.

Good December planning means spending with purpose.

Buy before the rush

Some of December can be paid for in November.

- **If you already know you will attend a concert,** buy the outfit now instead of shopping when everyone else is.
- **If you need a power bank or handheld fan for long days outside,** get it before demand for those items rises.
- **Gifts can be ordered ahead of time,** which gives you room to compare prices instead of accepting whatever is left at the last minute.

Is this beginning to make sense? Buying before the rush is one of the easiest ways to be a little smarter with your money.

Budget for the price you will pay

Do not build your December budget using today's prices alone.

Take transport. If a journey normally costs GHS 40, several December trips at a higher fare can add up fast. **Add** traffic, longer distances, multiple events and late-night rides home, and transport can become one of your biggest December costs.

So **estimate your total December transport bill,** not just the cost of getting to your first event. Leave room for reasonable price increases, and set the money aside before the month begins.

The same thinking applies to events. A GHS 300 concert ticket is not a GHS 300 outing. The full cost includes transport, food and getting home safely.

Financial literacy means knowing the cost behind the price tag. Once you know that number, you can start putting it together.

Build your December money before December

December is a month away. So what does building look like in practice? It means starting. One block at a time.

If you read any of our articles at the beginning of the year, you know we have been encouraging you to build wealth gradually, with the **IC Liquidity Fund.**

For December, we want to show you how to use it a little differently. Think of it as a wallet.

You know how you leave money in your current account and use your card or MoMo to take it out when you need it? Treat your IC Liquidity Fund the same way. Your money keeps earning while it waits, there are no charges to withdraw, and if you use MoMo, withdrawals are instant. So you can plan for December, and spend through December, from your IC Liquidity Fund.

Plan the trip. Buy the gift. Get the concert ticket.

Just do it knowing what you can afford, with room for the higher prices that are coming.

You made it through the year. You deserve to **enjoy December.** Just don't let one month undo the eleven it took to get you here.

Money Should Never Sleep

- Download the app
- Create a goal
- Enter an amount
- Start earning returns



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