

WORKERS ARE SUFFERING

TUC Cries Out And Demands 20% Cost Of Living Allowance From Govt



Dr Anthony Yaw Baah, Secretary General of TUC

General Secretary of Ghana Trades Union Congress (TUC), Dr. Anthony Yaw Baah has said Ghanaian workers are suffering too much due to what he says is the increasing cost of living in the country.

According to Dr Yaw Baah it is worrying that in the midst of natural resources and various assets the country can boast of most Ghanaians (citizens) continue to suffer. Addressing this year's May Day celebrations in Accra, Dr Baah said, "Mr. President, Ghanaians are

suffering too much. This is not the country that was envisaged by our leaders who fought with their tears and blood to gain independence for us. God has endowed us gold, diamond, forest, ocean, oil and other resources, therefore nothing can justify the high incidents of severe

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Ghana Records Worst Press Freedom Ranking In 17 Years

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Ghana Not At Crossroad -- Owusu Bempah Responds To Mahama



Convener of Fixing The Country Movement, Ernest Owusu Bempah has denied claims made by former President John Mahama that Ghana is at crossroads due to economic hardships, high

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The INSIGHT

EDITORIAL

END THE BLOCKADE NOW!

For over 20 years now the United States (US) has refused to heed to the United Nations (UN) General Assembly (GA) Resolutions which call for the ending of trade sanctions against Cuba.

In all the resolutions passed it has been explicitly stated that the United States action is clearly against international law and must be stopped.

The Obama Administration attempted to normalize diplomatic relations and was on the verge of easing all trade sanctions until it exited office.

Regrettably, all the diplomatic gains made by the Obama Administration were squandered by the erstwhile Trump Administration, which shockingly decided to unilaterally tighten the existing sanctions by introducing new ones.

Even though that too yielded no results, the current Biden administration does not also appear to be interested in easing the trade embargo and sanctions against Cuba.

Clearly, this conduct is unacceptable and must be resisted by all Progressive Forces of the world.

The United States need to be told in plain language that its flagrant abuse of international law can no longer be countenanced.

The people of Cuba have the right to self-determination and to choose which political system and policy they deem fit and favourable.

The US simply has no choice but to respect the will of the Cubans as to who leads them and which political and economic path they champion.

It is their will and must be accepted by all including the US.

The time to lift the Trade Embargo without any precondition is now.

Alleged Attack On Bisexual In Nima

On 4th May 2022 it has come to the notice of Theinsight newspaper that there was an attempt to attack a native of Nima, Muslim Community a suburb of Accra who is alleged to be a bisexual. Theinsightnewspaper gathered by a narration from a member of the community that, Adnan Andani Yussif the said bisexual victim was said to be involved in sexual activities with some young men in the community, therefore some groups of people took their time to monitor him if truly he is actually into such act. The group who is said to be a vigilante group is tasked by the community to clamp down on any sexual immoralities

such as gayism, lesbianism and bisexuality. Adnan Andani Yussif is a married man with kids, he got married to Ayishetu Issaka in 2014.

This vigilante group discovered that both Andani Yussif and his wife are bisexual, this led to the attack of his family but unfortunately his wife Ayishetu was not available at the time. Before he was attacked well-wishers informed him of the looming attack on him therefore he has made arrangements to run away from the community because these acts are abominable in the Muslim community, Nima. Since then Adnan Andani Yussif and one of his daughters cannot be found.

Armed Robbers Attack Fuel Station, Shoot CEO And Bolt With Money

Gunmen on a motorbike raided 'R n P' fuel station in Walewale in the West Mamprusi Municipality of the North East Region and bolted with an unspecified amount of money between the hours of 7 pm and 8 pm on Tuesday May 17 2022. The bandits shot the owner of the fuel station who went unconscious in the process and landed at the Walewale Government Hospital. According to the cousin of the fuel station CEO, his uncle was with the manager at the station when the armed robbers invaded the place and asked all those around to lie down but one of them moved to the CEO and shot him at the occiput.

"It was yesterday in the evening that two guys invaded the area and went to the filling station first and picked some money. He was on hands up and they followed him into the office, so he was just entering and they shot him at the occiput but the bullets didn't penetrate too much. So they sent him to hospital," Sadat said. The Assemblyman for Kukuazugu electoral area, Seidu Kamal Gazirey said the robbers have robbed the residents almost five times in a Month (May) alone within Walewale township. He is calling on the IGP and the Interior Minister to deploy enough police personnel to the West Mamprusi Municipality.

"Is even a series of robberies. If you look at this month alone, per what I have counted myself, we have almost five of them at a glow within this month.

"In fact, IGP in collaboration with the Interior Minister should try as much as they can to see how they can help Walewale with enough police

personnel," Seidu Kamal appealed. The CEO of the said fuel station, Musah Abdul-Rahman was treated and later discharged from the Walewale government hospital.



THE INSIGHT

ACTING EDITOR - BENJAMIN AKUFFO
(0244669960)
benjaminakuffo65@yahoo.com

Secretary - Gifty Agyemang

Design and Graphics - Godwin K. Attah

Production Manager - Kweku Menz

PUBLISHERS

Militant Publications Limited
P. O. Box NT 272

Accra-Newtown, Accra

Tel: 0244379344/0242836930

Email: theinsightonline20@gmail.com

LONDON CONTACT

5A Wesminster Bridge Road, London SE 1- 7XW

Tel: 0171-6201430

E-mail: prattc22@aol.com

WORKERS ARE SUFFERING

TUC Cries Out And Demands 20% Cost Of Living Allowance From Govt

from front page

poverty, destitution and suffering in Ghana today, 65 years today.

"It is obvious to us that the numerous IMF programmes in Ghana did not work. It is also clear to us that the partisan approach to dealing with Ghana's problems is not working", he stated. In view of the prevailing economic hardships in the country, the TUC boss appealed to the government to grant public workers a Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) of 20 percent.

According to Dr. Anthony Yaw Baah, the allowance will better cushion many public sector workers that have made and continue to make many sacrifices amid the current economic conditions.

He further called on government to overhaul its Single Spine Structure, implement the removal of some petroleum taxes and increase the minimum wage to cushion public sector workers.

"I will like to conclude with a very very special request to you. Given the rising cost of living, we will like to humbly appeal to you, to use your executive powers to grant a cost-of-living allowance of at least 20% to all public service workers.

"I will like to appeal to you, to use your executive powers to grant a COLA of at least 20% to all public sector workers," he urged.

"Here, I'm not talking only about those on single spine. I'm also talking about the Armed Forces, the Police Service, the Prison Service, the Immigration Service, the Fire Service and all the security and intelligence

agencies. The cost-of-living allowance must also be extended to workers in the private sector who're earning just GH¢365 per month", Dr. Baah stated.

The TUC General Secretary further said, "We also expect that this will be extended to all those pensioners on the SSNIT scheme who're earning just GH¢300 a month.

"Mr. President, this will not only cushion workers and pensioners from the harsh effects of inflation. But even more importantly, it will prevent mass poverty in this country amongst the working people, who're contributing so much to the development of our country".

Meanwhile, workers in the Central Region as part of the May Day celebration have also reiterated the demand for a Cost of Living Allowance (CoLA) of at least 20 percent for all public sector workers to cushion them against the prevailing hardships in the country.

They said the rapid depreciation of the Cedi, coupled with the galloping inflation in Ghana was pushing many workers below the poverty line, requiring urgent measures to salvage the situation.

Regional Secretary of TUC, Madam Cynthia Aba Sam Ananoo, who was speaking to the media said the proposed allowance would cushion workers against the high cost of living and prevent mass poverty among workers.

She said the allowance must also be extended to private sector workers earning the minimum wage and pensioners taking home a maximum of GH¢300 per month.

Madam Ananoo maintained that the time had come for workers to be paid the living wage instead of minimum wage, adding that

salaries must be adjusted to respond to the high cost of living.

She called on government to suspend all taxes and levies on all petroleum products to reduce the prices of fuel and ease the burden of citizens as the 15-pesewa reduction offered by government was inadequate, adding that the move would demonstrate that government was sensitive to the plights of the people.

She urged government to consider a review of the method of fuel prices adjustment because the current method was adversely affecting consumers. "Government should also consider revamping the Tema Oil Refinery to refine petrol domestically. This will insulate us from the high fuel prices due to exchange rate fluctuations," Madam Ananoo said.

Corroborating the concerns raised by the secretary, she observed that the country's economic recovery had not been as robust as projected as it was faced with challenges from multiple sources.

"Ghanaian workers' income cannot take us home and government and other employer agencies must address it as a matter of urgency to rescue workers from extreme poverty," he said.

He also called workers to help to accelerate the growth of Ghana as their leader negotiated for better conditions of service on their behalf.

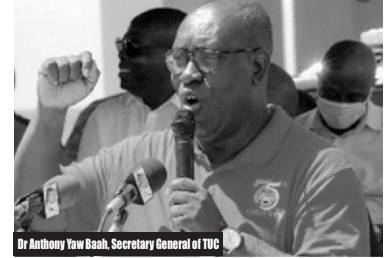
The Central Regional Minister, Mrs Justina Marigold Assan appealed to workers to use dialogue to demand reasonable conditions of service in the wake of the economic distress all over the world.

"I believe that we should be able to resolve all labour issues in a friendly manner through

negotiations and constructive dialogues to ensure a peaceful industrial atmosphere in the country," she stressed.

She noted that it was the vision of government to collaborate with organised labour to lift the country from its present lower middle-income status to upper middle-income status and wean Ghana from dependency on foreign aids.

"As the economy rebounds, government will do everything possible in intensifying creation of more jobs, by collaborating with the private sector and also protect incomes of those already in employment through continuous dialogue with labour unions for mutual benefit," she assured.



Dr Anthony Yaw Baah, Secretary General of TUC

The Minister added that government would continue to motivate the worker by providing them with logistics and better conditions of service "so that you can also reciprocate it by upscaling your performance to put our country on the path of growth and development.

Some workers who distinguished themselves in their workplaces were awarded at the event.

People's National Convention

For Immediate Release
Press Statement
4th May, 2022.

DISREGARD ANY MEETING CALLED BY DAVID APASERA AND MOSES DANI BAAH; THEY REMAINED DEPOSED LEADER AND CHAIRMAN RESPECTIVELY

The leadership of the PNC is cautioning its members to disregard a purported Standing Committee meeting being called by the removed Leader and Chairman; David Apasera and Moses Dani Baah respectively. These duo have been relieved off their position by the party and they have no capacity to call for a Standing Committee meeting. Any Standing Committee member who attends this purported meeting will be referred to the disciplinary Committee for questioning. Meanwhile, PNC Regional Chairmen for Volta, Cecil Rhodes Kwesi Dogbe and Bono East, Inusah Bauh are asked to step aside from their positions and to

await a Disciplinary Committee hearing regarding a gross misconduct attributed to them. Their respective Vice Chairmen should act as chairmen with immediate effect. We are instructing our members from these regions to cease regarding the duo as chairmen until investigation is completed. The leadership of the party have referred Mark Awusi to the police for impersonating the Acting Youth Organiser of the PNC by writing to TV3 purporting he was the Youth Organiser. Gross insubordination is something the PNC frowns upon and will not tolerate. The party is holding a National Executive Committee meeting come Thursday the 12th of May, 2022 to look into the court ruling directing David Apasera and Moses Dani Baah back to the party to seek redress. PNC: Service with Honesty Comradely yours, -signed Janet Asana Nabla General Secretary (0244174074



INTERNATIONAL NEWS REPORT

Compiled By Peoples Dispatch

Czech Progressives Slam Plans To Permanently Deploy US Military In The Country

Progressive sections in the Czech Republic have criticized plans to allow the permanent stationing of US military troops in the country. Various groups including the Czech Peace Movement (CMH), Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia (KSCM), Young Communists (MK), Communist Youth Union (KSM), and others have raised strong objection to statements made by representatives of the incumbent center-right government that favor plans to allow a permanent foreign military base inside the Czech Republic. On April 27, communist leader and CMH chairman Milan Krajca urged the government to reject the deployment of foreign troops, bases and weapons in the country.

With the escalation of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, advocates of militarism have been on a roll, especially in Eastern Europe, urging

governments to increase military spending, buy and stockpile arms and ammunition, send men and ammunition to Ukraine, and even open new military bases across the region for US-led NATO's military maneuvers.

Earlier this month, Czech defense minister Jana Černočková hinted at opening talks with her US counterpart regarding the permanent deployment of US military troops in the country. Czech deputy prime minister Marian Jurečka even suggested places like Mosnov and Prerov in as suitable locations for a military base. Even though Czech Prime Minister Petr Fiala did not fully endorse the defense minister's plan, he revealed that there may be negotiations for a defense agreement with the US, which most countries in the region already have.

In response to the government's plans for further militarization of

the country, Czech communists and the peace movement have formed a committee, including personalities like Union of Czech Writers chairman Karel Sýs, spokesperson of the No Bases initiative, Eva Novotná, communist leader Josef Skála, and editor of *Haló Noviny* newspaper, Monika Hoření. The committee has initiated a petition against the presence of foreign troops on the territory of the Czech Republic. Krajca said in a statement, "We strongly protest against efforts to build and operate a US military base in the Czech Republic, whether it is in Mosnov, Prerov or anywhere else. Such a step would mean a direct threat to the citizens of the Czech Republic and the danger of an even more intense cloudburst of our country into further rounds of arms." KSCM leader Kateřina Konečná told the media earlier, "I do not want the Czech Republic to be



Czech defense minister Jana Černočková at a press conference in March. In the backdrop of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, ministers of the Czech Republic have been indicating their intention to negotiate with the US on the presence of a base in the country

another place with the base of the USA (there are over 800 of them in the world). I do not want our citizens to be a potential target, especially not while the US does what it wants and raises tensions in the world."

Earlier this year, Czech communists and the peace movement organized a major

[mobilization](#) against the government's decision to provide Ukraine with armaments and support NATO's maneuvers.

US Supreme Court Set To Eradicate Abortion Rights

As per a draft decision leaked on Monday and published in *Politico*, May 3, the Supreme Court is set to overturn the historic *Roe v. Wade* ruling of 1973, thus eradicating abortion rights in the United States. The draft decision was penned by Justice Samuel Alito, a conservative George Bush-appointed judge. He did not hold back on his criticism of *Roe*, which is the only federal protection for abortion rights for women across the United States. "*Roe* was egregiously wrong from the start," he wrote. "Its reasoning was exceptionally weak, and the decision has had damaging consequences."

The ruling of *Roe* was based on the "Due Process Clause" of the Fourteenth Amendment of the US Constitution, which enshrines a "right to privacy". The court had determined that this "right to privacy"

protects a woman's right to choose to have an abortion. Alito disputed this in his draft decision. As he wrote, the Due Process Clause indicates that any right that is not guaranteed in the Constitution must be "deeply rooted in this Nation's history and tradition". Alito does not believe that abortion falls under this category, writing that "an unbroken tradition of prohibiting abortion on pain of criminal punishment persisted from the earliest days of the common law until 1973." In reality, abortions were legal and widely practiced in the US until around 1880, when they were outlawed in what some view as a reaction against a growing feminist movement. If this draft decision becomes final, women in conservative states will be at the mercy of politicians who have expressed a desire to eliminate abortion. Right-wing politicians are carrying out a massive attack on

abortion in the US. Some consider 2021 to have been the "[worst year for abortion rights](#)" in many years, with 108 restrictions on abortion passed throughout the country. Since the *Roe v. Wade* decision, 1,338 restrictions have been enacted, 44% of those within the last decade.

In Texas, conservative politicians generated nationwide outrage when they passed [SB 8](#), which bans abortions after six weeks, before many women even know they are pregnant. What sets SB 8 apart from previous abortion restrictions is "civil enforcement": the law places a \$10,000 bounty on the heads of anyone "aiding or abetting" an abortion, from the abortion provider themselves to simply whoever drove the woman to the clinic. Since SB 8, other abortion bans have been passed,

in states such as Mississippi, or recently in Oklahoma, which also has a similar "civil enforcement" clause.

The movement advocating for abortion access has long been advocating for passing the Women's Health Protection Act (WHPA), which would render all of these restrictions illegal. The Senate recently voted down WHPA after two conservative Democrats joined the entire Republican Party in voting against the legislation. The vast majority—79%—of people in the US support legal access to abortion in most cases. "It is, quite frankly, an embarrassing reflection of the impotence of Democratic Party leadership that two Senators are allowed to decisively impact legislation instead of being disempowered for voting against the interests of their constituents," wrote socialist feminist magazine *Breaking the*

Chains.

Hundreds of protesters, mostly women, gathered outside of the Supreme Court yesterday evening, chanting "When abortion rights are under attack, what do we do? Stand up, fight back!" and "Abortion is health care!" Several people have gathered throughout the day on May 3, with an even larger turnout expected this evening. Several of the largest socialist organizations, such as the Democratic Socialists of America and the Party for Socialism and Liberation have called protests in several cities. These upcoming protests will build on the months of organizing against abortion restrictions that was catalyzed by SB 8, and fueled by events such as the arrest of Lizelle Herrera in Texas, charged with murder for an alleged abortion. The draft decision is not final, and time

Close Kokrobite Beach Activities Before 6 PM ... Nii Ofei III Tells Facility Owners

By Freeman Koryekpor Awlesu

The Divisional Chief of Kokrobite fishing community under the Ngleshie Alata Traditional Area of the Greater Accra Region, Nii Ofei III has sent a strongly-worded warning to the owners of the Kokrobite Beach resort facility to respect their new directive to close the facility before 6 pm in any beach day to avoid unforeseen disasters during beach activities in the area.

According to the traditional officer who has the oversight responsibility over all the lands in Kokrobite beaches, failure by the managers of the Kokrobite Beach to comply with their new directive will incur his wrath and that of national security and police officers in the area.

"We are saying that we would have capacity to close the beach facility if the owners disregard our new directive because we cannot sit unconcerned for our young people who are coming to hold the affairs of this country lose their precious lives through drowning in the beaches.

"The activities at the beaches are killing our young ones so much so that it is time for us

to sit up this time round to put measures in place to prevent the annual calamities in our society," the Kokrobite Chief stated. He pointed out that the traditional office holders led by him in collaboration with the Ghana Police Service and Municipal Chief Executive Officer of Ga South Municipal Assembly, Mr Joseph Nyarni Stephen have devised security measures to ensuring deploying a team of the police officers to sack all the beach people from the Kokrobite Beach before the 6 pm anytime the crowd come to the beach. Nii Ofei III pointed out that their checks have indicated that some people died in the beach during the night because when the sea level rises and those new to the islands don't realize the situation, it makes them drown and die through submersion in and inhalation of water.

The chief was of the view that they have jointly taken these corrective and security measures to advise the owners of the beach to close their facility before 6 pm since a significant number of sea deaths are attributed to accidental drowning of the people in the night.

Nii Ofei III issued these warnings in

reaction to the untimely death of 14-year-old Junior High School (JHS) form three female pupil of Kokrobite Presbyterian School who was struck by a broken rock to death at the Kokrobite beach recently. According to the report, the school girl was relaxing on some rocks packed at the beach side when a heavy storm blew over the place, causing some of the rocks to split.

A part of the broken rock mysteriously hit the girl on her forehead and she bled profusely amid loud screams for help. She was rushed to the Kokrobite hospital but sadly passed away. Speaking on the incident, Nii Ofei III stated that the incident has thrown the entire people of Kokrobite and its adjoining communities into a state of shock as they are still in shock over the circumstance that led to her death. Nii Ofei III added that the body of the late female student has been buried a couple of weeks ago. He however blamed the Ghana Police Service for not doing proper investigations into the death of the small girl saying that the elders of Kokrobite were not happy about the way and manner the police have handled the matter.



period, Roadside evangelism and the use of megaphones and other loudspeakers should be totally avoided during this period and Funeral rites and their related activities are also banned within this period." However, the Kokrobite Chief has, as a result, directed all households in Kokrobite and its communities which falls within the Ga State to reduce the volume of music to acceptable levels within the boundaries of their homes.

"For peace and harmonious co-existence to prevail, all indigenes, residents, visitors and entities located within the jurisdiction are urged to comply with the directive during the period," Nii Ofei III said in an interview with journalists.

"The National Ambulance Service is however exempted from the ban. This is to enable them to discharge their duties without any let or hindrance.

"Accordingly, we urge all the inhabitants to respect the values and beliefs of the indigenous chiefs and their subjects and cooperate with the Assembly to have a peaceful ritual season," he stressed.

He vowed that anymore, or church caught in disobeying their traditional orders during the period would arrested and dealt with accordingly.

Writer's email

koryekporfreeman@yahoo.com

Homowo Festival Commences With Performance Of“Shibaa” Rites ---For Cleaning And Clearing Of Sacred Farms

The Ga Traditional Council (GTC) in the Greater Accra Region led by Dantu We Wulomo on Monday May 2, 2022 performed “Shibaa” rites, the clearing of the sacred farm of the Dantu deity ahead of the planting of millet. Following this development, as the Ga traditions and customs demand, the Sakumo Wulomo, Numo Ogbamey III on Tuesday May 2, 2022 with the tacit support from the Paramount Chief of Ga Traditional Area, His Royal Majesty King Tackie Teiko Tsuru II performed the same rites. The traditional rites and customs which were witnessed by some prominent traditional office holders, queen-mothers including Asafoiatsemei and Asafoanyemei was part of the activities preceeding this year's annual Homowo festival of the chiefs and people of the Ga State.

This will be followed by the ban on drumming and noise-making from the 9th day of May to the 9th day of June 2022. During this period, the Ga state will fast and pray for rainfall and a bumper harvest. The Ga State will also pray for the country and its citizens to continue to keep the peace, love, tranquillity, and good spirit,” the Sakumo Wulomo, Numo Ogbamey III is quoted to have said.

About Homowo
The word Homowo (Homo–hunger, wo – hoot) can mean “to hoot (or jeer) at hunger” in the Ga language. The tradition of Homowo started with a period of hunger leading to famine due to failure of the seasonal rains needed by crops in the Greater Accra Region, where the Ga people predominantly dwell. When the rains returned to normal, the Ga people celebrated by creating the Homowo festival, hence its name and meaning. Homowo is greatly celebrated in all the

towns in the Ga state with celebrations climaxing in Gamashie. The celebration begins with the planting of maize used in preparing the festal meal named Kpokpoi or Kpekle.

During this period, noise making is prohibited or banned since it is believed that it disturbs the gods.

The meal is eaten with Palm Nut Soup and it is also sprinkled within the town.

This is normally done by traditional leaders and family heads. Celebration includes marching down roads and streets beating drums, chanting, singing and traditional dances.

Even though the celebration of Homowo is a Ga tradition, many other ethnic groups are welcomed to join in the celebration.

The Homowo festival of the Ga tribe is believed to have a lineage from the Jewish tribe and its ancestral tradition of the Jewish Passover feast.

Some of the towns that celebrate Homowo are La, Teshie, Nungua, Osu, Ga-Mashie, Tema among others.

Speaking in an interview with journalists, His Majesty King Tackie Teiko Tsuru II thanked Numo Ogbamey III for performing the rites of cleansing the sacred farm.

He used the occasion to call on all the Ga citizens residing abroad (diaspora) to come home and join forces with the local citizens to celebrate this year's Ga Homowo festival which will be organised and celebrated in a unique and peaceful manner.

According to King Tackie Teiko Tsuru II who doubles as the President of Ga Traditional Council, the traditional authorities from all the villages and towns of Ga-Dangme communities had done effective consultation with the national security agencies to put in

place security measures to ensure that all the activities marking this year's celebration of the festival are being held in an atmosphere of peace and harmony devoid of any disturbance.

"The best we can do as a people is to resolve our differences as quickly as possible, forget and forgive one another by making peace with each other," he appealed.

He said the chiefs and people of Ga state continue to play integral role in the development of the country, especially in sustaining the prevailing peace.

Against this backdrop, the King sounded a strong word of warning to Ga citizens to refrain from engaging in any form of violence before, during and after this year's Homowo festival and further appealed to them to ensure a peaceful observance of the event.

He stated categorically that the traditional authorities and citizens of Ga State are ready to celebrate this year's festival in a grand manner.

He assured that this year's celebration will be unique and more peaceful because many citizens of the Ga State would get themselves involved in the activities of the festival.

He maintained that corporate institutions and non-governmental

organisations (NGO) are welcomed to show their support.

According to him, this year's festival is going to improve tourist attraction and as well as project the heritage mark of the Ga State.

"We have been celebrating the Homowo festival since time immemorial and we are bound to take it to another level in a very joyful and conscious way and not to violate any regulations," he stated.

He said “the Homowo festival by the Ga people commences from now till the end of September 2022, and within this period all rites will be

performed accordingly. Be pleased to join us as we celebrate Homow and feel free to get an understanding of any part of our rites that you may not fully comprehend".

He stressed that the traditional authorities have had to summon a number of people for disregarding their rules but he trusts this year will be different.

He urged other indigenes to respect the Ga culture and to foster unity among the citizenry in the region.

Ghana Not At Crossroad --Owusu Bempah Responds To Mahama

from front page

debt levels among others.

At a press conference yesterday to respond to former president John Mahama's Ghana at Crossroad lecture held at Kempinski Hotel on Monday 2 May 2022, Owusu Bempah said Ghana is not at any crossroads as Mr Mahama wanted the whole world to believe.

Mr. Ernest Kofi Owusu Bempah who is a Political Strategist and Convener for Fixing The Country Movement said that President Akufo-Addo over the last five years has expanded the Ghanaian economy and is doing more to build a better society.

"Take for instance, the Akufo-Addo's management of Covid-19 pandemic, the positive appraisal by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as against Mahama's Management of Cholera outbreak in 2014. Can Ghanaians be informed of the measures instituted by John Mahama during the 'Dumsor' crisis, and Cholera outbreak that killed over 200 Ghanaians?"

He averred that, under former President Mahama's Administration, Ghana experienced the worst energy crisis in the history of Ghana.

"Indeed, the 'Dumsor' crisis actually crippled Ghana's economy for four years, and there was not a single mitigating measures offered to businesses and individuals".

Mr. Bempah mentioned that, Ghana under former President Mahama, witnessed multiple problems including, the rising cost of living, collapsing of businesses, an unsustainable national debt, lack of inclusive economic growth to address unemployment, poor infrastructure, and rising fiscal and balance of payment deficits.

President Mahama he stated, doesn't have a single solution to the country's problems and that he is just desperate to rule the country again, hence his penchant of making false claims of having all the answers to the country's problems.

"Mr Mahama lost the 2016 election due to his mismanagement of the country's economy which resulted in the worsening plight of the ordinary Ghanaian. It is also a known fact that Mr Mahama has nothing to offer except to draw back the country's progress if Ghanaians mistakenly give him power again".

Mr. Ernest Kofi Owusu Bempah however said, President Akufo-Addo would continue to offer clear visionary leadership that is not only on diagnosis of problems but, resolve them and offer hope and belief in the

Ghanaian and Ghana as a whole. This is the full statement by Ernest Owusu Bempah:

Statement By Fixing The Country Movement At A Press Conference Held On Wednesday 04/05/2022 In Accra On John Mahama's

Ghana at Crossroad lecture Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen of the media, we are compelled to assemble you here once again to do justice to some pertinent issues with regards to former President John Mahama's so-called Ghana at crossroad lecture held at Kempinski Hotel on Monday 2 May 2022.

The Kempinski event which seeks to draw light on the supposed crossroad that the country currently stands actually exposed Mahama's nakedness. Indeed, Mr Mahama succeeded in dancing naked in front of the intelligent public by the swipe he took at the Akufo-Addo government on what he termed as the politicisation of independent state institutions and the dismissal of those who dared to ensure what is right.

Even the attacks on President Akufo-Addo's economic policies was such a surreal mix of myth and fantasy.

Mr Mahama practically gaslighted himself and sounds terribly in touch with his self-serving inner self. He just plonked another dead cat in front of the public to get outraged about.

Hear him;

"President Nana Akufo-Addo and his Head of the Economic Management Team, rather appallingly, remain nonchalant in the face of this serious crisis and have limited their response to the imposition of very harsh and regressive tax measures, one of which is the E-Levy, which has been roundly rejected by the people of Ghana."

Ladies and gentlemen of the media, how utterly shameful for Mr Mahama to try to compare his 'failed' administration to the Akufo-Addo one?

We are not really surprised by Mahama's callous attempts to try and take a positive credit out of the current global economic crisis, and post pandemic political-economic vulnerabilities, and attempt to present himself as a credible alternative. He's obviously looking for endorsement within the the NDC as a result of the looming tsunami of leadership struggle within the NDC.

However, for John Mahama to hold a public lecture to boast about his governance prowess when we all know what he dished out for four

years as president says a lot about his split personality. The simple truth is, Mahama has just exposed himself to public ridicule.

Ladies and gentlemen of the media, we were all in this country and witnessed the presidency of John Mahama. We all saw the highs and lows of the "accidental" president and his lack of obvious know how.

When Mahama was confronted with challenges in government, he infamously compared himself to a dead goat saying, "I have seen more demonstrations and strikes in my first two years. I don't think it can get worse. It is said that when you kill a goat and you frighten it with a knife, it doesn't fear the knife because it is dead already. I have a dead-goat syndrome."

In actual fact, the height of Mahama's incompetence was displayed at the 2015 ECOWAS Summit where, he complained about his missing speech.

"Where is my speech...I am missing certain pages in my speech...", he said openly while delivering his remarks.

John Mahama – who many people say came into politics by accident happened to be the worst president ever in the history of Ghana.

When the then Vice President John Dramani Mahama became the president of Ghana by default on 24 July 2012, not many people considered him presidential material enough to lead Ghana's quest for full middle-income status. Having attained the rank of lower middle income for during the Kufuor era, Ghana – with a large and rising middle class, estimated at over 47% of the population at the time – was yearning to transit to full middle-income status. Due to the efforts of the Kufuor regime, the country had shown progress in reducing poverty and it outranked its peers on most measures of human development. But Mahama's incompetence denied Ghana the much needed respite for economic emancipation.

Even former President Jerry Rawlings, the man who founded the National Democratic Congress (NDC) party that Mahama now leads, the man who gave Mahama his first government job as deputy minister and later full minister, publicly expressed a lack of faith in Mahama's ability to steer the ship of state.

So, is Ghana really at the crossroad?

Ghana under Mahama faced the multiple problems of a rising cost of living, collapsing businesses, an

unsustainable national debt, a lack of inclusive economic growth to address unemployment, poor infrastructure, and rising fiscal and balance of payment deficits.

The fundamental truth here is former President John Dramani Mahama is not an alternative to solving Ghana's problems.

The man doesn't have a single solution to the country's problems. Mahama is just desperate to rule the country again, hence his penchant of making false claims of having all the answers to the country's problems. Ladies and gentlemen of the media, it is a trite knowledge that Mr Mahama lost the 2016 election due to his mismanagement of the country's economy which resulted in the worsening plight of the ordinary Ghanaian. It is also a known fact that Mr Mahama has nothing to offer except to draw back the country's progress if Ghanaians mistakenly give him power again.

Isn't it intriguing that whereas Mr Mahama is claiming to have solutions to the country's unemployment situation, it was during his tenure that the country witnessed the formation of the unemployed graduates association?

We are talking about a man who claimed to have the interest of the poor at heart, yet he never introduced any pro-poor policy or intervention during his administration.

Interestingly, Mahama and his opposition NDC had been fighting all social intervention policies introduced under the various NPP administrations, including the free SHS, Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP), and National Health Insurance Scheme.

The noise and the so-called alternative solutions that Mahama claim to have are a ruse just to scheme to get power in order to come back to continue his mismanagement of the country.

The problem with Mahama and his delusionist enablers who are on this path is that they are under the false impression that Ghanaians have a weak memory.

President Akufo-Addo over the last five years has expanded the Ghanaian economy and is doing more to build a better society.

Take for instance, the Akufo-Addo's management of Covid-19 pandemic, the positive appraisal by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as against Mahama's Management of Cholera outbreak in 2014. Can Ghanaians be informed of the measures instituted by John Mahama during the 'Dumsor' crisis, and Cholera outbreak that kills



over 200 Ghanaians?

Again, what exactly did Mahama's so-called Covid-19 advisory team did to help during the crisis?

Under Mahama, Ghana experienced the worst enemy crisis in the history of Ghana. Indeed, the 'Dumsor' crisis actually crippled Ghana's economy for four years, and there was not a single mitigating measures offered to businesses and individuals.

So you see, Ghana is not at a crossroad.

The president will continue to respect the dignity of the people. He will continue to push for substantial changes to the world financial architecture so we can also help our people out of distress. He will continue to champion programmes that support the delivery of crucial infrastructure, and create jobs and incomes.

The president will continue to offer clear visionary leadership, not Mahama's version of incompetent leadership, that not only diagnosis problems, but seeks to resolve them. He will continue to offer hope and belief in the Ghanaian and Ghana as a whole.

As Ghanaians, we must not allow our future to be decided by a load of bigoted inbreds who have failed to update their politics from the 17th century, and who thinks without them, the this country can't survive.

Ladies and gentlemen of the media, just like Shakespeare observed in King Lear, the 'unrepentant thief' is the one who sees political power as substitute for welfare.

Let Mr Mahama take heed of this Shakespearean advise and comport himself in the public space.

In any case, should Ghana finds itself at a crossroad, we are not sure Ghanaians will ever need directionless Mahama to show the way. Let's not forget his leadership was the worst since independence.

We know better.

Long live Ghana!!

(Signed)

Ernest Kofi Owusu Bempah

Political Strategist, Convener- Fixing The Country Movement)

Ghana Records Worst Press Freedom Ranking In 17 Years

from page 2

The creeping back of the Criminal Libel Law

Media freedom advocates and civil society organisations have raised concerns about the increasing hostilities [against journalists](#) in recent times. Some have condemned what appears to be the reintroduction of the Criminal Libel Law, under the guise of publishing false news.

“This has become particularly apparent since the government of the National Democratic Congress once more assumed office in January 2009 after winning the 2008 general elections. Bereft of the convenient tools of criminal and seditious libel laws, the ruling government has had to comb through the Criminal Code and to seize upon the offence of offensive conduct conducive to breaches of the peace and the sister offence of publishing false news likely to cause fear and alarm to the public,” Mr. Akufo-Addo said.

Under his watch as president, however, this law has resurfaced and is being used against journalists.

In January 2022, the Executive Director of the Alliance for Social Equity and Public Accountability (ASEPA), Mensah Thompson, was arrested, detained and charged by the police for alleging on Facebook that the president's family had used the presidential jet for shopping. This was after he apologised and retracted the comments.



Kwabena Bobbie Ansah of Radio XYZ was also arrested, detained and put before the court by the police for making disparaging comments about the president's wife, Mrs. Rebecca Akufo-Addo.

“We are deeply troubled by the growing use of the prosecutorial and judicial power of the State to punish criminally speech that allegedly falsely injures or damages the reputation of other persons or of an institution of state. Instructively, during the heyday of the criminal libel law in the 1990s, the criminal law was used in precisely the way it is now being used: to prosecute and punish journalists and public speakers for allegedly false or defamatory statements against certain family members or associates of the President,” four civil society groups in Ghana said in a joint press statement.

The four— the Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana), STAR-Ghana Foundation, IMANI Africa, and Africa Center for International Law & Accountability (ACILA)—said the law on publishing false news was being abused and should be repealed.

“As a tool for regulating speech, the criminal law is fraught with the danger of politicization and selective prosecution, as it leaves it to a party-aligned attorney-general, an appointee who serves at the pleasure of the President, to determine which or whose allegedly false speech or publication to prosecute and which or whose speech to ignore,” they said.

Some of the violations are also carried out by security agencies. On February 3, 2022, the police brutally assaulted Eric Nana Gyetuah, a radio presenter with Connect

FM based in Takoradi in the Western for filming a police operation.

In March this year, [Michael Aidoo](#), an investigative journalist, was assaulted by military personnel at the Afari Military Hospital project site when he went to carry out investigations on abandoned projects.

Akufo-Addo and press freedom

Before his assumption of power, Nana Akufo-Addo was seen as a champion of press freedom. Although his critics say the president had been living a charade, his defenders point to his role in the repeal of the Criminal Libel Law in 2001, a legacy of the President John Kufuor era.

Others also point to a policy on the mechanism for the protection of journalists, but media watchers say it is just another paper gathering dust while journalists

continue to face violations in their line of work.

In June 2017, six months after he was sworn in, the President described Ghana's media environment as “loud and crowded” with some bouts of recklessness.

“But I must say, I would much rather have the loud and reckless media than the meek and praise singing one that used to characterize our newspapers, radio and television,” he said.

However, five years into his administration, press freedom advocates say his words and actions do not match.

In February 2022, [the Executive Director](#) of the Media Foundation for West Africa, Sulemana Braimah, wrote an open letter to President Akufo-Addo, detailing the deteriorating media environment.

“Under your first term of four years, there were over 55 individual incidents of violations of media rights in the country. The number exceeds what was witnessed over any four-year period since President John Kufuor's government. But what is even more significant is the gravity of the violations that occurred during your first four-year tenure,” Mr. Braimah wrote.

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SATURDAY, 7TH MAY, 2022
6AM: BODY ARRIVES AT POLICE
CHURCH, MATAHEKO
10AM: BURIAL MASS FOLLOWED
BY FINAL FUNERAL RITES AT
POLICE CHURCH PREMISES

INTERMENT: AWUDOME CEMETERY
SUNDAY, 8TH MAY, 2022
9AM: THANKSGIVING MASS AT THE
POLICE CHURCH, MATAHEKO