

TRANSPORT OPERATORS ANGRY

Over Rising Cost Of Fuel; Declare Support For Arise Ghana Protest



Aminu Yusif speaking on behalf of the groups

Transport operators and stakeholders in public transport operations are beside themselves with anger over what they say is the insensitive record increase in cost of fuel in the country.

According to them the government has been overly insensitive to their

plight despite cries for a reduction in prices of fuel.

The transport operators and stakeholders have therefore decalred support for the 48 hours Arise Ghana Protest due for June 28 and 29 accusing the government of being belligerent and refusing to listen to the several legitimate concerns of

various unions in the country. Speaking at a press briefing at the Lapaz trotro station, the groups, consisting of Commercial Road Transport Operators, Concerned Spare Parts Dealers Association, and the National Okada riders

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African Presidents Shun Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelensky Over Russia

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It's Fake News ! Ex-President Kufuor Rubbishes Claims Of Endorsing Bawumia



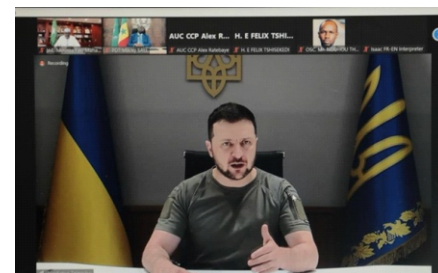
Former President John Agyekum Kufuor

Former President John Agyekum Kufuor has described as fake news, media reports that he has endorsed one of the candidates in the flagbearership race of the ruling New Patriotic Party (NPP).

There were reports in sections of the media and comments on social media purporting that he had endorsed the candidature of Dr.

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Teshie Traditional Council Urges Govt To Release "Animal Research Lands To Rightful Owners" *page 5*



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky

The INSIGHT

— EDITORIAL —

DEAL WITH THEM!

Recent rainfalls in the country have exposed the shoddiness of several of the roads that were constructed and paid for with the taxpayers' money. Several of the roads within the country's capitals not to mention the hinterlands, have over the past few weeks developed gaping holes following the recent downpours slowing vehicular movement and causing traffic and inconveniences as well.

Surprising, some of these deep potholes have developed on roads only recently repaved and in some cases constructed. Clearly, this is worrying considering the huge amount of money that was injected into such projects.

Our contractors need to get their acts together and do a good job for the state, if their cries for non-payment or delay in payment of awarded and finished projects is to be acted upon.

The country is bleeding due to the fact that some road projects have become an avenue for money-making by some few contractors who do shoddy works only to be called back to fix the problem at an extra cost to the state. This should not be allowed to happen again.

Even though we support early payment of road contracted projects and also for them to be handed to local contractors to build their capacities and also retain the huge monies spent on such projects in the country, shoddiness of work would not be entertained.

Certainly, this country is bleeding and our contractors and authorities must act.

But Victim Of Frafraha Demolition Cries Foul And Asks Which Court Gives A 48-Hour Ultimatum?



Avictim of the demolition exercise carried out by the Greater Accra Regional Security Council at Adenta Frafraha has described it as unfair.

The REGSEC led by the Greater Accra Regional Minister, [Henry Quartey](#) on Wednesday, June 22, 2022, demolished some illegal structures at Frafraha in Accra.

The exercise formed part of efforts by the ministry to reclaim some encroached acres of fenced land belonging to the State under the care of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

But speaking to Kwame Nkrumah Tikese of Okay FM on Thursday, a victim of the exercise, Agya Yaw questioned the legal authority behind the exercise, which he described as unfair to the victims.

According to Agya Yaw, he and other victims are bent on seeking legal redress on the matter which has cost them several properties.

"We are taking this to the doorstep of whoever ordered the demolition and whoever assisted in the demolition.

Even if the land belongs to the State, we had our documents. If the documents are fake or someone illegally sold the land to us there was a need for us to have a discussion. There should be a human face.

"Even the 48-hour was not up. The ultimatum was issued on Tuesday and by Wednesday dawn they had brought the machines. How were people going to evacuate within that time? And then you had the military coming in to treat citizens as if they were at war with unarmed and harmless citizens," the victim narrated.

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

TRANSPORT OPERATORS ANGRY

Over Rising Cost Of Fuel; Declare Support For Arise Ghana Protest



from front page

Bemoaning the concerns of the transport groups, the Secretary of the Commercial Road Transport Operators, Aminu Yusif, noted that, "the height of factors working to frustrate and collapse our business is the rampant fuel increase every two weeks and several nuisance taxes like the price stabilization levy, special petroleum tax, and the sanitation and pollution levy. These taxes undoubtedly account for close to 40% of the cost of a litre of fuel in Ghana today". They further lamented the unbearable nature of roads in the country adding that there is "a

huge infrastructural deficit to deal with as a developing country". They also noted that the country has seen little improvement despite government dedicating a whole year to roads. The groups believe throwing their weight behind the group will yield results for the country. They noted that, "for the past few years under the tenure of Nana Akufo-Addo and the NPP, life has become so unbearable for us as our businesses are suffocating and collapsing largely as a result of the incompetent, insensitive, and ill-conceived policies of

government." "We used to buy motorbikes at 4000 cedis but now buy them at 10,000. We used to buy cars a 10,000 cedis some years ago, what happened? Spare parts have become so expensive, from shipping to clearing them from the ports," they lamented. They furthered that prices of vehicle spare parts, just like motorbike spare parts, "have equally skyrocketed affecting the sales and servicing of the bikes," which in the long run works against them.

It's Fake News -- Ex-President Kufuor Rubbishes Claims Of Endorsing Bawumia

from front page

Mahamadu Bawumia as flagbearer of the NPP.

But in a strongly worded communique issued by the office of the former President and signed by his aide, Dr Kwabena Osei Adubofour, the ex-president described the report as fake news and called on the party machinery to stay away from internal machination in the supreme interest of the party. At a reception at the Peduase Lodge Hotel on Father's Day, also attended by the Vice President, Dr Mahamoud Bawumia, former president Kufuor described all the aspirants as his children and that the party must try as much as possible to avoid swinging the political pendulum in favour of any of the aspirants if they have the party at heart. The statement said in part: "this office wants to emphatically deny that no such endorsement took place on the said occasion and bemoans the facts that what transpired has been seriously misconstrued".

"The attention of the Office of Former President John Agyekum

Kufuor has been drawn to erroneous reportage in some sections of the media, especially on social media, to the effect that President Kufuor has endorsed an aspiring candidate for the NPP flagbearership over several others who have expressed interest to contest in the race.

"The office wants to emphatically deny that any such endorsement took place on the said occasion and bemoan the fact that what transpired has been seriously misconstrued," the statement signed by Dr. Kwabena Osei-Adubofour, a senior aide and spokesman read in part.

The statement also outlined the circumstances around which he praised the Vice President while tasking the party to ensure a level playing field for all candidates interested in the upcoming contest.

"The President believes that any of those mentioned, when selected by the party to be the flagbearer, would be able to discharge the work of the



Former President John Agyekum Kufuor

flagbearer very firmly and effectively.

It concluded that the contest when it is held should be "devoid of coercion and machinations so that the eventual selected nominee, coming out of the uncompromised freewill of voting delegates, can easily command the support and respect of all party faithful, and indeed, other Ghanaians sympathetic to our cause towards 'breaking the eight.' The NPP is expected to hold elections to elect a flagbearer to lead the party into the 2024 General Elections. The statement further cautioned the party against political concoctions in the larger interest of the herculean break of the eight-year agenda. This is the full statement;



Office of H.E. John Agyekum Kufuor
Former President of the Republic of Ghana

Press Release!

22nd June 2022

Office of Former President Kufuor reacts to Fake News of his Endorsement of a Candidate in the Upcoming NPP Flagbearership Race

The attention of the Office of Former President John Kufuor has been drawn to an erroneous reportage in some sections of the media, especially on social media, to the effect that President Kufuor has endorsed an aspiring candidate for the NPP flagbearership over several others who have expressed interest to contest in the race.

This Office wants to emphatically deny that any such endorsement took place on the said occasion and bemoans the fact that what transpired has been seriously misconstrued.

Former President Kufuor and Vice-president Dr Mahamudu Bawumia were both guests of honour at a Father's Day soiree that was organized by the Peduase Valley Resort and Hotel last Sunday June 19th at the hotel premises. The MC for the occasion was Mr Kwame Sefa-Kayi who stated that when the Vice-president was invited the day before, he was on assignment in the North and appeared unable to be present. He continued that when Dr Bawumia was told that former President Kufuor would also be in attendance, it is reported that he said "if it is Kufuor, then I will surely come."

In his remarks, the former President shared how touching it was to him to hear what the Vice-president was reported to have said. The occasion being a Father's Day event, President Kufuor commented on the father-son relationships between him and the MC, Kwame Sefa-Kayi, Mr Ibrahim Mahama, who was also there, and the Mamfehene who was also in attendance. He also reminisced the close father-son relationship between him and Dr Bawumia and elaborated on how the Vice-president was only one month one day younger than his (Kufuor's) own eldest child, John Addo Kufuor. For this reason, Mr Kufuor continued that he had always been close to the Vice-president and treated him like a true son. There was nothing political about his remarks or even the occasion.

President Kufuor wants people to know that the other much talked-about prospective NPP flagbearership candidates like John Alan Kyerematen, Boakye Agyarko, Joe Ghartey and Dr Owusu Afriyie Akoto all have close relationships with him. Of course, Dr Akoto is his younger brother. The former President believes that any of those mentioned, when selected by the party to be the flagbearer, would be able to discharge the work of the flagbearer very firmly and effectively.

In the upcoming NPP Flagbearership race, in order to achieve party unity and sustain it thereafter for victory of the party in the 2024 elections, what President Kufuor expects from the party and political hierarchies are fair and un-engineered systems and processes that would lead to a fair selection of our next NPP flagbearer. This should be devoid of coercion and machinations so that the eventual selected nominee, coming out

of the uncompromised freewill of the voting delegates, can easily command the support and respect of all party faithfuls, and indeed, other Ghanaians sympathetic to our cause, towards 'breaking the eight'.

Dr Kwabena Osei-Adubofour
Senior Aide & Spokesman for former President Kufuor
Tel: +233208136920 Email: oseiak1@gmail.com



INTERNATIONAL NEWS REPORT

Compiled By Peoples Dispatch

Massive Workers' Demonstration In Brussels Seeks Wage Increase Amid Worsening Cost Of Living Crisis

Working class sections in Belgium on Monday organized a massive demonstration in the capital city of Brussels, protesting the cost of living crisis and reiterating their demand for a significant wage increase. Over 80,000 people joined the demonstration, including cadres of various trade unions like the General Labor Federation of Belgium (ABVV/FGTB), Confederation of Christian Trade Unions (ACV/CSC), and General Confederation of Liberal Trade Unions of Belgium (ACLVB/CGSLB), as well as activists from political parties such as the Workers' Party of Belgium (PTB/PVDA) and the Communist Party of Belgium (PCB/CPB). Several student and youth groups also participated in the mobilization.

Workers across Europe, including in Belgium, have been

organizing mobilizations to protest the ongoing cost of living crisis. Trade unions and progressive political parties are demanding a general increase in wages to mitigate the crisis marked by skyrocketing food and energy prices. Belgian trade unions view the 1996 Wage Margin Act, which establishes a strict procedure for the Belgian social partners to negotiate a maximum average wage increase, as a major impediment to increasing wages in the country.

While addressing the mobilization in Brussels on Monday, Miranda Ulens of the ABVV/FGTB stated: "80,000 women and men from all corners of the country demand structural measures for

purchasing power in Brussels. Because life is more than just surviving."

On June 21, PTB president Raoul Hedebouw told *L'Echo* that "across the country, pressure is mounting around workers' purchasing power. On 20 June, the unions took to the streets to demand higher wages and lower bills. This has been a mobilization on a scale not seen in years. More than 80,000 people took to the streets. With a unanimous message: the 1996 law must be urgently reviewed. The wage freeze must be lifted. We must put an end to this law that predicts maximum increases in real wages of... 0% for the next four years. This is not tenable. Neither economically or socially. This message is carried by the entire working class, its trade



unions and its political relays. It must be heard. Right now." The PCB/CPB alleged that "It is the imperialist institutions such as the European Union (EU), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), that are now pushing and supporting

the bourgeois states in it, to dismantle the collective social gains, to be able to increase the competitiveness of the corporations."

Afghanistan Hit By Deadliest Earthquake In Two Decades, Over 1,000 Killed



The 6.0 magnitude earthquake struck the provinces of Paktika and Khost. The death toll is expected to rise in the coming days. (Photo: Bakhtar News Agency)

A massive earthquake of 6.0 magnitude has killed over 1,000 people in eastern Afghanistan and injured over 1,500, triggering an emergency in the country. On Wednesday, June 22, the Taliban administration's disaster management officials

confirmed that the earthquake occurred around 1:30 am and has rendered thousands of Afghans homeless in Paktika and Khost after their houses were partially or totally damaged. The earthquake, which struck about 44 km from the south-

eastern city of Khost, has been termed as the deadliest in two decades. Its tremors were felt in places 500 km away. The death toll is expected to rise considering the remoteness of the region and the mountainous terrain. Massive casualties and damage are reported especially from Gayan, Naka, Barmal and Zaroki districts of Paktika province. At least 90 houses were damaged in Gayan, *Bakhtar News Agency* reported. Local news outlet *Etilaat-e Roz* reported that a whole village in Gayan has been destroyed.

Taliban spokesperson Zabiullah Mujahid said that an emergency cabinet meeting

was held to discuss ways to provide assistance to the people affected by the earthquake. The UN office for humanitarian affairs in Afghanistan tweeted that "Inter-agency assessment teams have already been deployed to a number of affected areas."

The graphic visuals of the aftermath of the earthquake showed civilians being rescued using helicopters from the rubble of damaged houses. A number of images posted on social media showed bodies being retrieved wrapped in blankets.

The extent of the damage is yet to be ascertained and the

number of dead may increase in the coming days. The sanctions imposed by the US have already had a devastating impact on the local population and the earthquake is likely to worsen the humanitarian crisis in the war-ridden country. UNICEF, in a statement, said that it had "dispatched several mobile health and nutrition teams to provide first aid to those who are injured." "Every street you go, you hear people mourning the deaths of their beloved ones. Houses are ruined," a local journalist was quoted as saying by *BBC*.

African Presidents Shun Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelensky Over Russia

Under pressure from Emmanuel Macron and Olaf Scholz, the incumbent chair of the African Union (AU), Macky Sall, tried to gather as many heads of state from the continent as possible for a meeting with the Ukrainian President, Volodymyr Zelensky.

In the end, only two presidents were interested in what the ex-comedian had to say to Africa. AU Commission Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat, along with Macky Sall and his Congolese counterpart Denis Sassou N'Guesso, were the only ones interested in [the meeting held on Monday 20 June](#).

For the AU, organizing the meeting with Zelensky was a way of highlighting the neutrality of the pan-African organization vis-à-vis the Russian-Ukrainian conflict. Indeed, before and after his meeting with Vladimir Putin in Moscow, Senegalese President Macky Sall was urged by his Western counterparts to travel to Kyiv to see Zelensky as well.

In the end, Macky Sall simply promised to organize a high-level

summit with African heads of state "who wish" to speak with the Ukrainian president.

A "High Level Summit" that does not fly high

Things promised, things due. This Monday's meeting brought together Macky Sall, Denis Sassou N'Guesso, Volodymyr Zelensky... And that's it. On the interface of the call, we also see the management, and from the premises of the AU in Addis Ababa, the president of the AU Commission, Moussa Faki.

Some ambassadors and ministers representing Algeria, South Africa, the DRC, Nigeria and Egypt in particular also listened to Volodymyr Zelensky, as well as the head of the Libyan Presidential Council.

The symbolism is overwhelming: the other African presidents have simply boycotted the Ukrainian president. Moreover, the AU decided to hold the meeting behind closed doors at the last minute. A detail that has aroused the annoyance of the Western media, which believe that "African heads of state would like to prevent Zelensky's 'outspokenness' from feeding the press headlines", according to the editorialists of

France24.

Two initial declarations emanated from the meeting. First, the Senegalese Head of State and AU Chairperson, Macky Sall, thanked Zelensky "for his friendly address to the virtual meeting of the AU Extended Bureau".

"Africa remains committed to respect for the rules of international law, the peaceful resolution of conflicts and freedom of trade," says Macky Sall. The AU therefore maintains the same position, with priority for the return of Russian and Ukrainian grain and fertilizer exports. An urgent issue for a majority of African countries. For his part, Volodymyr Zelensky declared: "Africa is in reality a hostage. He is a hostage of those who started the war against our state". The Ukrainian president reiterated his accusations for Russia, which he said would block Ukrainian grain exports. What are the relations between Volodymyr Zelensky's Ukraine and Africa?

Be that as it may, this meeting between the AU and Zelensky is not without context. Since taking office in 2019, diplomacy between Ukraine and African countries has suffered a

setback due to the drastic reduction in rights for foreign students in Ukraine. Volodymyr Zelensky's desire to subsequently join NATO created a dilemma for the African countries closest to Russia. In this case Algeria, Angola, South Africa and Equatorial Guinea. But it is especially since the beginning of the conflict between Ukraine and Russia that more and more African diplomats condemn the double standards of treatment of African nationals. Volodymyr Zelensky said in February that any African students who leave Ukraine "will not be welcome there once the war is over". Not to mention, of course, the scandal of the humanitarian corridors. Africans fleeing the war have come up against the European Union's refusal to welcome them on the same basis as Ukrainian refugees. Then, at the end of last February, the Ukrainian embassy in Senegal enlisted several dozen Senegalese to fight in Ukraine. An appeal



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky

decried by the Senegalese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which condemned "this practice which constitutes a violation of the obligation to respect the laws and regulations of the receiving State".

So if Volodymyr Zelensky comes today to beg for greater African support, he seems to neglect that the variable geometry emotion that his case provokes in the Western media means almost nothing to Africans. But, also, his statements against Russia are also dull in the eyes of the AU. Maybe [by agreeing to relaunch grain trade with African countries from its ports](#), Zelensky will be able to buy a little goodwill from African diplomats.

Teshie Traditional Council Urges Govt To Release “Animal Research Lands To Rightful Owners



The Traditional rulers of Teshie in Accra are demanding an expedited release of lands housing the Animal Research Institute at Ashiyie-Adenta to them.

According to them, the state never paid compensation to the original owners of the land after it acquired it for research purposes in 1970.

This follows allegations of widespread encroachment on the lands of the institute by land guards due to what some say is the government's lack of interest in the lands.

This was said in the news in April that the destructive activities on the more than 1,000-acre land at

Frafraha, off the Adenta-Dodowa road, have led to the destruction of many projects such as a piggery, a hatchery, a guinea fowl housing project, a sheep breeding pen and a meat processing factory.

The resultant effect has left the over 1,000-acres of land at Frafraha, off the Adenta-Dodowa road being sold indiscriminately by the land guards and what the Traditional rulers described as unscrupulous Ghanaians.

In a presser on Wednesday, June 8, 2022, Nii Obour Bour II called on the government to intervene and release the land to its owners, the Nunmo Nmashie family, if it no longer serves its purpose.

"Government came to the area and said they wanted to use it for animal research. We don't know who they dealt with, but later, they claimed to have paid some compensation for the lands. Our checks reveal nothing of that sort

was done."

"Even though the government never compensated the family our forefathers willingly released it to them to aid in research purposes, but several years down the line it is not serving its intended purpose and is being sold by land guards."

"They took several acres of the land from the family but the research institute is occupying just a small place and we want our land back."

"We have appealed to successive governments to no avail but because President Akufo-Addo is a listening President we want him to listen to us and release our land to us as well as pay compensation for the many years they have used the lands," he said.

However, Secretary to the council, Paul Akporh Sowah they're much interested in the release of the lands but to the rightful owners or people. "We know government is

making releases and it has caused a whole lot of confusion within the Ga-state. We want to establish to the government that we are the true owners of land and its part of the 72 villages belonging the people of Teshie.

Government should come to our aid—we don't to speak that much has been said, government should rise and give it lands.

Teshie is the last community that was established by the Ga-State, we have people who do not have places to sleep so, we're pleading on the government to come into our aid and release this land for us to also develop and also stay" ...he said

Nii Nortey Tuakwah II, Shippi of Teshie council of elders on the other hand explained if the government is not interested in the Animal Research Institute, they (government) must sit down and explained to them

(Teshie) and stop encroachers from taking theirs lands. He said, "all the necessary compensation should be paid or help the people of Teshie to have their lands and enjoy what is due them.

It's unfair to build on a land without informing the rightful owners"

He sent a strong warning to the encroachers to halt any development on the lands before action is taken.

"Those who are building on the land without should stop. It is our pleasure that our President I, Nana Addo is a serious man, a legal luminary and he does not joke with some of this thing so we hope he will hear our cry and come our aid as quickly as possible" ... he said we have all the necessary to prove so we are also appealing to the the greater regional Minister Mr Hanrry Quatey to go dipper into the matter.

Macron's Domestic Challenges Pile Up As Second Term Begins | France

Emmanuel Macron is facing domestic difficulties as his second term in office begins this week, after his centrists lost the absolute majority in parliament. The new president is now uncertain about how to strike alliances to push through important legislation this summer. First, the cost-of living crisis. Inflation is eroding wages. Macron has promised new handouts as well as pension increases and tax breaks. He must now present these promises to parliament. Ministers say that France is the most generous European country in helping households to cope. It has cap gas and power prices, which allowed it more than its neighbours to offset the rise in inflation. Voters repeatedly told candidates during the parliamentary election campaign that more must have

been done to help them make ends meet. The government is under pressure from the public to explain its plans for food coupons and to outline measures that would boost long-stagnant public sector wages. Pensions will rise by 4% in July and a fuel price rebate of 18 cents per litre will be extended through August. The government must explain if the rebate will be extended beyond August and whether it will be replaced with a measure that targets people who depend on their car to get to work. France is also in crisis regarding hospitals. A major shortage in medical staff and resources is forcing scores of emergency departments to temporarily close or limit their hours. As doctors warned of the dangers to public health, there have been strikes at hospitals, protests by medical personnel, petitions, and

picket lines in recent days. Macron's prime minister, Élisabeth Borne, said it was a government "emergency" to put in place special measures for the summer and hold a wider longer-term review of the health system. Marine Le Pen, a far-right party, has said the hospital system is in crisis.

After Macron's accusation that Macron wasn't moving fast enough to address the crisis caused by the climate change, the government promised an urgent environment bill to allow for the development of renewables.

The president's controversial plans to raise the retirement age are likely to be pushed back until after the summer as he seeks to avoid a repeat of the protests against his last attempt at pension change. Rail workers and other transport workers opposed his proposed pensions overhaul in 2019, which



would be the longest strike since May 1968's wildcat stoppages.

There will be a very different, potentially more heated parliamentary atmosphere to Macron's first term, after a strong showing from the left and a surge from the far right.

When Macron was first elected president in 2017, Jean-Luc Mélenchon's hard-left France Unbowed party had only 17 members of parliament. However, the small group was very vocal and able to tabulate

amendments to laws. They also dominate media coverage by bringing in packets of pasta and tomato sauce to the National Assembly to illustrate how government cuts to housing benefit benefits have affected them.

The new left alliance is the largest opposition force in parliament this time, with a greatly increased capacity to make its voice heard.

Source: [The Guardian](#)

Improving Tourism In Ghana

Classy Dance Africa Foundation Urges Govt To Support Cultural Troupes



In our part of the world folklore, traditional music and dance are so revered to the people. From generation unto generation this cultural legacy has survived the test of time. All efforts has been made by our forebears to sustain our

cultural identity for unborn generation. It is against this background that cultural troupe, Dance Africa foundation has devoted its time and energy to hoist the flag of Ghana high across the globe. They

are really making the nation and Africa proud on the international stage.

Mr Ismael Mawuli Sokpor, co-founder of Dance Africa foundation has made a passionate appeal to government for support. According to him, the assistance from government will help boost tourism industry and create numerous job opportunities for youth. Another leading member of the group Emmanuel Bempong also said, it will be good to collaborate with tourism ministry to move forward in the right direction.

"The ministry of tourism should as a matter of

urgency collaborate with all cultural troupes to help achieve a big goal," he opined.

If this is done various Centres for National Culture across the country will begin to function properly and generate some revenue for the sector.

Dance Africa Foundation

The group has sold out scintillating performances anytime they mount the stage to its audience. They treat their fans with music in Ga, Ewe, Akan and other languages. This unique attribute of Dance Africa foundation makes their

followers adore them more. In fact, since 2017 the group had taken part in several international music and dance programmes across the globe, winning best traditional dance from Africa. Due to their unique performances they also received certificates of recognition and other notable awards. The group are well versed in promoting Frafra and Gahu music and dance. Truly, their contribution to afro fusion music from the Upper east and Volta region in Ghana cannot be overlooked.

STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT BY MINISTER OF FINANCE KEN OFORI-ATTA ON THE COVID 19 EXPENDITURE 2020/2021

from page 7

funds earmarked for COVID-19 mitigation. Existing financial management rules and regulations were used to disburse funds while ensuring the necessary timelines required in dealing with a pandemic were met.

23. All implementing entities (Ministries, Departments and Agencies as well as Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies) that received funds for COVID-19 expenditure were required to keep the relevant documentation for audit purposes.

24. Mr. Speaker, in line with our financial management rules and regulations, all covered entities keep records and subject themselves to internal audit on a continuous basis as well as external annual audits by the Supreme Audit Institution of Ghana, the Audit Service.

25. Mr. Speaker, in the 2020 Mid-Year Review and Supplementary Estimates I presented a comprehensive update on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the measures Government had put in place to contain it. Furthermore in the 2021 Budget Government presented to this august House, the Budget Statement and Economic Policy, including a detailed breakdown and justification for the COVID-19 expenditure including a statement showing the sources of funds and expenditures on COVID-19 and this was duly approved by the House.

26. Again, in November 2021 when I presented the 2022 Budget, I provided further updates and schedules on COVID-19 expenditure.

27. Mr. Speaker, I now proceed to provide additional details on the COVID-19 expenditures that I have listed.

Support to Households

28. Mr. Speaker, total amount programmed for the initiatives under the Support to households in 2020 was **GH¢1,718 million**, out of which amount utilized was **GH¢1,550 million**. The details include:

- a total amount of **GH¢12.1million** was utilized for the distribution of the packed hot food in Accra, Tema, Kasoa and Greater Kumasi. This includes the cost of transportation of packed food in some suburbs of Greater Kumasi by NADMO. The expenditure for the provision of Hot Meals during the lockdown served about **2,744,723 persons** for the period of the lockdown at a unit cost of **GH¢4.32**.

- a total amount of **GH¢42.24 million** was expended on distribution of Dry Food packages through Faith Based Organizations in Greater Accra and Kumasi. A total of about **470,000 persons** received these food packages.

As part of the support to households, Government through the Ministry of Water and Sanitation and its agency Ghana Water Company Limited provided free water which initially lasted for the period April to September 2020. Following an executive directive, this was extended to December 2020 for lifeline consumers. The distribution was also carried out by the Community Water and Sanitation Agency and other Small Holder Water Supply Organizations (NGOs). An amount of **GH¢556 million** was budgeted in 2020 for this programme out of which **GH¢456 million** was utilised. In 2021, a total allocation of **GH¢200 million** was made for the provision of free water and electricity for lifeline consumers, out of which **GH¢143 million** was utilised.

Government also made provision in the Budget for free electricity to lifeline consumers and absorbed 50% of all electricity bills for all residential and commercial

customers. A total cost of **GH¢1,039 million** was utilised for the policy from April to September 2020.

Health Response-Supplies Equipment and Relief for health workers

29. Mr. Speaker, the total amount programmed for the measures under the health response in 2020 was **GH¢1,522 million**, out of which an amount of **GH¢1,049 million** was utilized. The details are as follows:

- a total amount of **GH¢2 million** for busing health workers within Accra, Tema, Kumasi & Kasoa to and from work for the duration of the lockdown by GAPTE (Aayalolo) and Metro Mass Transit (MMT). The whole amount was utilized, with **GH¢0.7 million** going to GAPTE and **GH¢1.3 million** going to support the services of the MMT company.

A total of **GH¢80 million** was programmed to pay **50 percent** of the basic salary as allowance for frontline workers. All requests have been reconciled and paid.

Total of **GH¢1,440 million** was programmed for the provision of PPEs, testing kits and medical equipment as well as to undertake community engagements. Other expenditure includes communication, quarantine, and treatment for COVID-19. An amount of **GH¢1,008 million** was utilised.

Health Infrastructure

30. Mr. Speaker, in the wake of the pandemic, Government took a bold decision to provide health infrastructure in the districts and regions that did not have a District or Regional Hospital. In all, 111 District, Regional and Mental Hospitals (Agenda 111) were programmed for construction. A total of **GH¢600 million** was released to begin the construction across the country in 2020.

31. In the 2021 budget, an amount of **GH¢779.05 million** was programmed for the

continuation of the Agenda 111 projects. Out of this, an amount of **GH¢763.92 million** has been **Security Operations, Evacuations and Coordination**

32. Mr. Speaker, Government programmed a total amount of **GH¢1,200 million** for security operations, evacuation of Ghanaians stranded abroad and coordination of MMDAs' sanitation and disinfection exercises. As at 31st December 2020, an amount of **GH¢875 million** was utilized. This expenditure was utilised by the Ministries of Local Government and Rural Development, the Interior, Justice and Attorney-General, Defence, National Security and Goil.

Economic Relief, Stabilization and Revitalization

33. Mr. Speaker, in addition measures to stabilize the economy after the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, Government also implemented programmes to revitalize the economy and protect jobs. These include the:

- a. Coronavirus Alleviation Programme Business Support Scheme (CAPBuSS) by the NBSSI now the Ghana Enterprises Agency (GEA), which provided soft loans to 302,001 small and medium scale businesses across the country to mitigate the economic impact of the pandemic and protect jobs. A total of **GH¢600 million** was utilised;
- b. The Ghana Cares Obaatan pa Programme was launched in November 2020 to make strategic investments in the real sector of the economy. Total amount released as at end 2021 was **GH¢539 million** out of the total programmed amount of **GH¢1,510 million**; and
- c. the establishment of the Development Bank Ghana to address gaps in the Ghanaian credit markets, especially the availability of medium- and long-term finance for the private sector. A total amount of **GH¢853 million** has been transferred to the Bank as seed money.

34. Mr. Speaker, other measures include the: a. transfer of **GH¢1,501 million** to the Statutory funds in line with the approved budget to enable them deliver on their mandate. This was occasioned by the non-performance of revenues largely due to the global lockdowns; and b. the payment of **GH¢1,267 million** to contractors to settle outstanding indebtedness to contractors that were programmed to be paid in 2020 with revenues collected as well as ease the financial burden that arose due to the outbreak of the pandemic **COVID-19 Complementary Releases**

35. Mr. Speaker, due to the COVID-19 protocols, the Electoral Commission (EC) and National Identification Authority (NIA) had to increase their registration sites and recruit more personnel to ensure compliance during the registration and voting. An amount of **GH¢401 million** was transferred to the NIA and EC as additional support to ensure COVID-19 compliant registration and voting.

National COVID -19 Response (School Reopening)

36. Mr. Speaker, in September 2020 while other countries had closed all schools, Government, with the advice of experts, took the bold decision to partially re-open schools to enable final year students write their final exams under very strict COVID-19 protocols. This was largely successful with minimal infections amongst the students. An amount of **GH¢1,119.73 million** was allocated for Mass School Reopening in January, 2021. This was to ensure that all students and teachers were provided with infection prevention and control items. Total amount utilized was **GH¢1,118.69 million**.

STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT BY MINISTER OF FINANCE KEN OFORI-ATTA ON THE COVID 19 EXPENDITURE 2020/2021

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Procurement of COVID-19 Vaccines

37. Mr. Speaker, the acceleration of sustained socio-economic recovery through advances in vaccine development required the mobilization of significant resources to enable the deployment of a mass vaccination programme. The urgent need to vaccinate a target of 20 million people to achieve herd immunity and strengthen the health system in Ghana required that Government of Ghana makes a significant allocation for the purchase of vaccines. A total amount of **GH¢929.30 million** was therefore allocated in the 2021 Budget for the procurement of vaccines. The National Deployment and Vaccination Plan (NDVP) estimated an amount of **US\$51.6 million (GH¢301.86 million)** to undertake the vaccination deployment

38. A total amount of **GH¢775.82 million** was released for the purchase of Sputnik V, the Janssen COV SARS 2 COVID Vaccines and the Emergency deployment of vaccines in schools. As at 31st March 2022, a total of **5,424,450** vaccines have been supplied and received into the country. Since the commencement of the COVID-19 vaccination campaign on March 2, 2021, **14,268,269** doses of vaccines have been administered as at April 25, 2022.

39. Mr. Speaker, I believe that this presentation demonstrates Government's commitment to accountability and transparency. All programmed, mobilized and utilised funds have been duly reported on. As a Government, we continue to operate an open-door policy and welcome any

opportunity to engage in the national interest.

40. Let me reiterate that never before, in the history of the Fourth Republic, has the entire Ghanaian economy and society experienced such severe shock occasioned by a single external event. Indeed, from independence to date, the Ghanaian economy has never faced such a sudden nationwide dramatic reduction in household and corporate economic activity. But, as the President said in one of his addresses to the nation during the coronavirus outbreak, "our survival is in our hands" and it continues to be in our hands.

41. Mr. Speaker, thank you very much for the opportunity and God Bless our homeland Ghana.

COVID-19 EXPENDITURE STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT

Appendix 1: Status of Utilisation of 2020 COVID-19 Budget (GH¢ M)

Status of Utilisation of 2020 COVID-19 Budget (GH¢ M)				
S/N		2020 BUDGET	Release/Utilisation	Variance
COVID-19 Expenditure Update				
1	Support to Households	1,718	1,559	168
1.1	Provision of 2,744,723 Hot Meals in Accra, Tema and Kumasi During Lockdown at Average price of 64.37 (includes Transportation)	12	12	0
1.2	Provision of 470,000 Dry Food Packages In Accra and Kumasi to Faith Based Organisations for Distribution (includes Transportation in Greater Kumasi and Repackaging)	42	42	-
1.3	Payment for the provision of Free Water to all Ghanaians (April to September 2020)	556	456	98
1.4	50% Relief for payment of Electricity Bills for Ghanaians and 100% for lifeline consumers (Free) for April to September 2020 (VRA, NetCo and ECG)	1,108	1,039	69
2	Health Response - Supplies, Equipment and Relief for Health Workers	1,522	1,049	473
2.1	Allowance of 50% of basic Salary for frontline health workers	80	39	41
2.2	Busing of health workers in Accra, Tema, Kumasi & Kono to and from work for the duration of the lockdown by GAPTE (Aayakko) and Metro Mass Transport	2	2	-
2.3	Procurement of COVID-19 Testing Kits, Testing, Community engagement, communication and quarantine **	678	647	31
2.4	Provision of PPEs, Medical Equipment and Treatment For COVID-19 *	762	361	401
3	Health Infrastructure	600	600	-
3.1	Provision of Health Infrastructure (Agenda 111- District and Regional Hospitals)	600	600	-
4	Security Operations, Evacuations and Coordination	1,200	875	325
4.1	Field Surveillance, Monitoring, Coordination and Emergency Security Operations	68	68	0
4.2	Support for Governance and Security Issues Arising Due to Pandemic:	1,106	742	364
4.2.1	o/w Ministry of Interior	249	185	64
4.2.2	o/w Ministry of Defence	720	507	213
4.2.3	o/w Ministry of National Security	135	49	86
4.2.4	o/w Ministry of Justice and Attorney-General	2	1	1
4.3	Transfer for evacuation, mandatory quarantine of s of evacuated Ghanaians from UAE, Kuwait, Lebanon, Europe, Americas and other countries (Total of 9,500 Ghanaians)***	26	66	(39)
OTHER COVID-RELATED EXPENDITURE				
ECONOMIC RELIEF, STABILIZATION AND REVITALISATION				
5.1	Soft Loans for Micro, Small & Medium Seed Businesses (CAPBuSS)	600	600	-
5.2	Seed Fund For Capitalisation of Development Bank	580	280	300
5.3	CARES Programme	510	510	0
5.4	Statutory Funds Payments	1,502	1,501	1
5.5	Payment of outstanding indebtedness to contractors/TPCs (Critical Payments)	2,330	1,267	1,063
6	OTHER COVID-19 COMPLEMENTARY RELEASES	600	401	199
6.1	Additional Support to EC and NIA to ensure COVID19 compliant registration and Voting	600	401	199
	Total	11,162	8,122	1,977

NOTES:
 1.3 Budget for Free water under CAP was for Apr-Sept but actual implementation was up to Dec following the President's directive.
 2.3 Includes the \$100M Sourced from the World Bank in April to implement the EPRP 1
 2.4 Indicates expenditures on the \$130M funding expected inflows that was put in the Mid-year Budget to finance the EPRP 2
 4.3 Additional Funds GH¢39m for the Cost of Evacuation and Quarantine of Stranded Ghanaians was from other balances from the CAP
 5.4 Statutory Payments were made to support Governance continuity in the midst of the Pandemic due to revenue shortfalls
 5.5 Funds allocated to CARES was not utilised therefore was rolled back at the end of the financial year.

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Appendix 2: Status of Utilisation of 2021 COVID-19 Budget (GH¢ M) JAN-December 2021

	Status of Utilisation of 2021 COVID-19 Budget (GH¢ M) JAN -December 2021				
	Items	Original Budget Allocation	Revised Budget Allocation	2021 Releases	Balance
	COVID-19 Related Expenditures (CARES)	4,509.63	4,601.48	3,914.40	687.08
1	Provision of Free Water and Electricity for lifeline consumers	200.00	200.00	143.24	56.76
	<i>OW free water for Lifeline consumers</i>	-	-	143.24	
2	Provision of Health Infrastructure (Agenda 111- District and Regional Hospitals)	1,476.31	779.05	763.92	15.13
3	National COVID-19 Response*	597.65	597.65	597.65	-
4	Additional COVID 19 Expenditure on Mass Reopening of Schools and Tertiary Institutions**	-	522.08	521.04	1.04
5	Seed Fund for Capitalisation of Development Bank Ghana***	306.37	573.41	573.41	-
6	Cost of Economic Revitalisation payment (CARES)	1,000.00	1,000.00	539.32	460.68
7	Procurement of COVID 19 Vaccines	929.30	929.30	775.82	153.48
7.1	<i>o/w payment for 20,000 doses of Sputnik V</i>	-	-	2.18	
	<i>Emergency Rollout of Covid vaccines in schools</i>			19.80	
7.2	<i>o/w Payment for 12,689,062 doses of Janssen Sars-Cov 2</i>	-	-	753.84	

Appendix 3: Funding Sources for the 2020 Budget Following The Impact Of The Covid-19 Pandemic

S/N	Funding Source	Programme Supported	Amount(GH¢)
1	GOG Contingency Fund	Covid-19 Alleviation Programme	1,204,000,000
2	World Bank Group Funds - Health Interventions	Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRP) 1 & 2	1,334,000,000
	o/w GARID CERC (US\$65m)		377,000,000
	o/w Fast track Covid-19 Facility (US\$35m)		203,000,000
	o/w Fast track Covid-19 Additional Facility(US\$130m)		754,000,000
3	IMF (\$1bn)	2020 Budget Support	5,852,950,000
4	AfDB		405,650,000
5	EU		504,000,000
6	BOG - COVID-19 Bonds		10,000,000,000
Grand Total			19,300,600,000

Henry Quartey Leads Soldiers To Pull Down 100 Private Properties On 200 Acres CSIR Land



The Greater Accra Regional Minister [Henry Quartey](#) on Wednesday, June 22, 2022, led some members of the Regional Security Council (REGSEC) to demolish illegal structures at Frafraha in Accra. The exercise was part of efforts by the Minister to reclaim some encroached acres of fenced land belonging to the State under the care of Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). Confirming this in a post on his Facebook page, [Henry Quartey](#) said, "On Wednesday, June 22, 2022, I led

members of the Regional Security Council (REGSEC) to undertake a demolition exercise on 200 acres of fenced land belonging to the State under the care of Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)". [Henry Quartey](#) also confirmed that parts of the land totaling 1,300 acres have been taken over by people and some other parts sold out. "Out of the over 1,300 acres of CSIR land, over 900 acres have been encroached on, with the remaining 200 being sold out by unknown persons". "....I admonished the REGSEC team to demolish everything to ground zero, i.e. all existing and new spring-up buildings within the 200 acres of the fenced land should be demolished", Mr. Quartey added. The Minister further indicated that

occupants of the sold lands have been directed to seek assistance from the Lands Commission to ensure their properties are registered. "I have urged occupants of the over 900 acres of land to get assistance from the Lands Commission to assist them to get executive instruments, in other to be able to register their properties in their names since none of them has documents or permits after over 20 years of building," he said.

