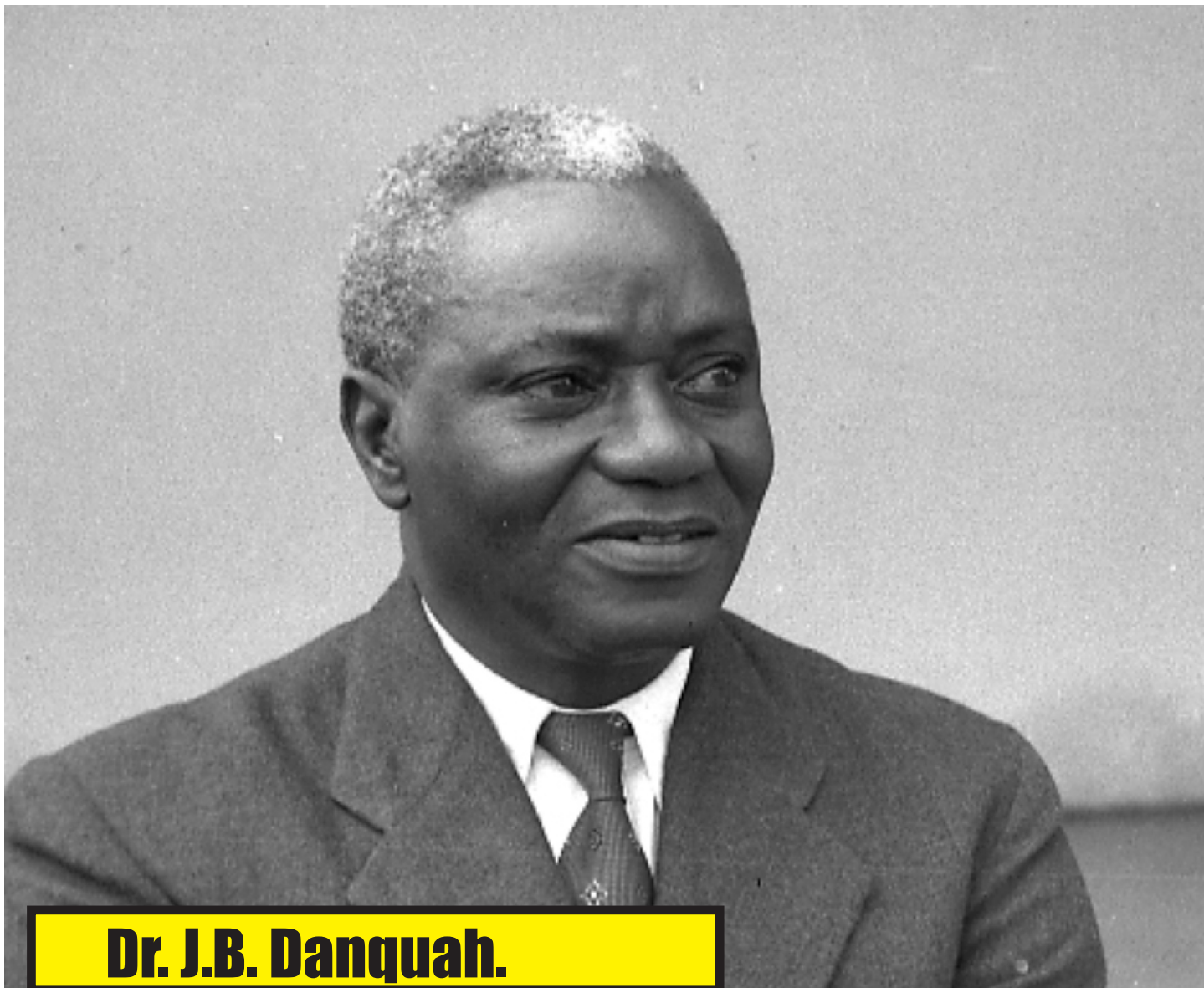


KYEBI RITUAL MURDER

The Full Facts Of Role Played By J B Danquah



Dr. J.B. Danquah.

By Ekow Nelson

The Kyebi Ritual Murder and the protracted legal battle that followed it had more influence on Ghana's politics than many appreciate. For some inexplicable reason, and

rather worrisomely, not much is written about it in Ghana and it is hardly ever discussed – not even in the context of the biography of its key defence protagonist, Dr. J.B. Danquah.

There is a deafening silence about his role in the interminable legal wrangle that followed the horrific murder of the Odikro of Apedwa, Nana Akyea Mensah.

Murder at the Omanhene's Palace

cont. on page 2

School Feeding Programme Faces Imminent Collapse



Cecelia Dapaah

The Ghana National Education Campaign Coalition (GNECC) has expressed worries about the state of the Ghana School Feeding Programme which it says is in a state of emergency currently. A statement issued by the Coalition warned that the program was struggling and could collapse if authorities fail to address the challenges confronting it. "GNECC has noted the positive results of the school feeding program at the pretertiary education level over the years, which the country is proud of;

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TESHIE TSIE WE FAMILY WARNS ENCROACHERS

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US And Pacific Allies Panic Over Solomon Islands-China Security Deal

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The INSIGHT

EDITORIAL

RISEING PUBLIC DEBT

An economist has warned that Ghana risked facing serious debt servicing challenges due to the rising interest cost on bonds.

The concern comes at a time when the government has rolled out or issued several domestic and foreign bonds already and appears to be rolling out new ones to borrow from the open market.

Already, economists say the intent of every new bond issued is to raise foreign capital to support the struggling economy.

Regrettably, the issuance of bonds coupled with unbridled government borrowing is what has given many financial analysts headache as the rate of borrowing through the issuing of foreign bonds appears to be the government's only succor in these challenging times and keep increasing the public debt. It is clear that the government lacks fresh ideas as its penchant for borrowing has reached crescendo with all sorts of monies being borrowed without let or consideration for its after effect on the economy and future generations.

Paradoxically, the present managers of the economy are the same people who complained about the erstwhile administration's propensity for borrowing. Some individuals in government who profess to know are on record to have said that the country could be developed without any foreign support or borrowing. Today, reality has undoubtedly dawned, and most of these people are quiet having succeeded in winning political power through lies told the people. Clearly, there has to be a paradigm shift as the handling of the economy is not sustainable in the long run.

The time to domesticate the economy to grow and eat what the country needs without overly depending on imports is now.

KYEBI RITUAL MURDER

The Full Facts Of Role Played By J B Danquah

from front page

Six months after the death of Nana Sir Ofori Atta I in August 1943, the Odikro of Apedwa disappeared.

According to evidence presented at the trial that followed, while Nana Akyea Mensah was on his way to the Palace to perform the traditional custom of Wirempe – the consecration of the stool of the deceased Omanhene with 'a mixture of soot, eggs, and the blood of a dog and brown sheep'[Rathbone] – he was attacked in one of the courtyards, given a drink (presumably to drug or poison him), struck on the back and a ceremonial dagger thrust through his cheeks to stop him from screaming.

According to Kofi Ellison, such executions were sudden and quick. The executioners, he wrote, "would have first, stuck a sharp knife through the victim's cheeks.

This act is called "Sɛpɔ," y'abo no Sɛpɔ" or (one is hit with a Sɛpɔ), accomplished two things: It locked his jaws; and prevented him from being able to utter any words.

The latter is very important to prevent the victim from invoking a curse; invoking NTAM (Oath), which would trigger a complete cessation of whatever was intended; or otherwise uttering anything that might bring untold hardship on those doing the act, and/or their families."

Afterwards Akyea Mensah was held in a chair and the eight killers each grabbed bowls to collect the draining blood to 'blacken' the Omanhene's stool. His body was dismembered and disposed of. Nothing was heard of him for five months until his remains were discovered at the bottom of a stream.

It is not clear why the Odikro, who is also said to have been the illegitimate son of the deceased Omanhene, was specifically targeted for murder.

Some say he was killed because there was a quarrel about the use of human blood in the stool blackening ceremony and he was in a minority of one that came out against the practice.

And since Wirempe rites were traditionally performed by the Odikro of Apedwa, it became necessary to eliminate him.

Others say that as a confidant of the dead Omanhene he knew far too much about the family's finances which made him a target for elimination.

Regardless of the true motivations, it is inconceivable that the killers acted alone, or without authority or support. The great lengths the defence team went to obstruct

justice and the considerable expense incurred in legal fees both in Ghana and abroad, funded by the royal family, bears testimony to the institutional support the murderers received from the Akyem Abuakwa Establishment.

Dr. Danquah rides to rescue the defence

If John Mensah Sarbah was the celebrated nationalist of the Gold Coast at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th century, and Casely Hayford the dominant one among the Intelligentsia in the early quarter of the 20th century, Dr. Danquah was, without doubt, the leading Gold Coast nationalist of the 1940s.

Apart from his half-brother, Nana Sir Ofori Atta I, Omanhene of Akyem Abuakwa, there was no other nationalist of similar stature who wielded as much influence in Accra, Kyebi, Saltpond and London on behalf of the Gold Coast, from the late 1930s to the end of the 1940s. When Dr. Danquah became the inspiration and mastermind for the defence of the accused in the murder of the Odikro, the impact on the Colonial government – which was determined to prosecute the case – was cataclysmic. Subsequent interventions by high-profile British political figures from Winston Churchill (who argued against executing the murderers), Quintin Hogg (later Lord Chancellor Viscount Hailsham), R.A. Butler (author of the famous British 1944 Education Act), and Hartley Shawcross (the post-war Labour Attorney General) in the case, and attempts to remove Governor Alan Burns with whom Dr. Danquah had previously formed a close partnership, is testament to the reverberations it caused.

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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

School Feeding Programme Faces Imminent Collapse



from front page

nevertheless, if the government does not take urgent responsibility for rectifying the current situation, the students will continue to suffer. Already, pre-tertiary education is going through some difficulties, and this will exacerbate the situation." The Coalition lamented the failure on the part of the government to pay caterers contracted to work under the program.

"The Ghana School Feeding Programme (GSFP) Secretariat stated on May 16, 2022 that cooking services would resume in all beneficiary schools. However, because the caterers' debts are still to be paid and are in arrears, this has not happened. The School Feeding Caterers Association is also pushing for an increase in the per-student cost with respect to the rising cost of living in the country."

The statement added "In December last year, the Minister for Gender, Children and Social Protection assured that arrears owed the Ghana School Feeding Programme (GSFP) caterers would soon be settled. She noted that all the necessary data and figures had been worked on and submitted to the Controller and Accountant General for the

release of funds to pay the caterers. The question is why as of now the caterer's arrears have not been paid yet?

As a result, we are urging the Government to expedite action in settling all arrears owed to caterers so that they could resume work." It would be recalled that President of the Greater Accra School Feeding Caterers Association, Juliana Cudjoe, squashed claims that government has settled the debt it owes her members. She stated categorically in an interview with Accra-based Citi News that no caterer in any region has been paid as claimed by government.

"I am not aware of any form of payment made by government. No caterer in any of the regions has been paid. Government should come again," Juliana Cudjoe said in the interview. On June 7, 2022, school feeding caterers hit the streets of Accra to demonstrate over government's delay in releasing their unpaid arrears.

The demonstration was to also inform government to increase their feeding grants.

As part of efforts to reduce hunger and enhance food security, government introduced school feeding programme. The initiative is in line with United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals on hunger, poverty and malnutrition. According to reports,

government currently provides 93 pesewas for a child per day for a plate of food. The amount has however been labelled by many as inadequate. Meanwhile, a Deputy Ranking Member on the Education Committee of Parliament, Dr. [Clement Apaak](#), who is not happy about the state of the programme has said it is unethical, unlawful, and illegal for President Akufo-Addo to allocate Ghc200 million towards the construction of the National Cathedral when school feeding caterers have not been paid, and the scheme is almost collapsing. The legislator who represents constituents in the Builsa South Constituency said the president is unlawfully using state resources to fulfil a personal pledge he made to God.

"So far, the [Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo](#) government has illegally and unlawfully spent a whopping GHC200m to finance the fulfilment of his personal pledge to his God to build him a cathedral; without the requisite permission and parliamentary approval for any such disbursement of state funds.

"In his own words, Akufo-Addo said, 'I made a pledge to God, that, if I become the President after two unsuccessful attempts in the 2016 presidential elections, I will build a Cathedral to the glory of God.' Meanwhile, he has reneged on the use of taxpayers' money to address issues citizens voted him into power to tackle, such as the payment of school-feeding caterers to carry out their services of providing decent meals for 1.69 million pupils to continue to keep these children in school."

The lawmaker said although he is a Christian, it is inappropriate for the president to use state resources to facilitate a project he personally pledged to construct.

"Though a Christian, it is not

acceptable and remains inappropriate for Akufo-Addo to use public resources in the fulfilment of a personal pledge, such as the building of a cathedral, whilst a significant number of the population wallow in glaring abject poverty. As the case stood, the narrative was that the building of the cathedral was not going to burden the public purse. So, why did Akufo-Addo stealthily initiate processes, unlawfully, using his cousin [Ken Ofori-Atta](#), to do otherwise."

He added that the government has not brought the project before the House for approval but allocating resources towards the project.

"It is a documented fact that at no time has the government forwarded the cathedral project in any national budget to Parliament with an assigned financial allocation for approval. The first budget Statement and Economic Policy under [Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo](#) to capture the cathedral project was the 2019 budget, and here is what it said on page 193, paragraph 1001; 'meeting the spiritual needs of our people with the promotion of the Ghana National Cathedral'. It's worth noting that the 2017, 2018, and 2022 budget statements never mentioned the cathedral project at all. In the budgets for 2019, 2020, and 2021 although mention was made of the cathedral, no funds were allocated to it."

He, therefore, asked the government to pay the school feeding caterers so they would resume work to ensure children who are now home will resume school.

"Government must quickly honour its obligation to pay the caterers and increase the cost of feeding per pupil as soon as possible. This is what the government was given the mandate to execute with the

GHC 881m captured in Appendix 6, page 272, of the 2022 Budget Statement and Economic Policy under the School Feeding Programme."

This is the full text of the statement;

Personal Pledge vs Statutory Obligation, Budget Statement vs Budget Speech: The Cathedral, The School Feeding Programme, and Matters Arising

By Dr. [Clement Apaak](#), June 13th, 2022

Monday, June 13th marks the start of the sixth week since caterers under the School Feeding Programme placed on record their plight to the government on their inability to continue to render services, while government decisions arrogantly continued to erode their meager savings spent to sustain the program which is affected and whittled away by registered microeconomic indicators.

These caterers have since embarked on an industrial action to register their abhorrence and protest the ill and unfair treatment meted out to them by the government. This action was meant to bring to the notice of heads of the concerned ministry and agency if the above-raised issues haven't yet reached them.

To bring it to the attention of the reading public, the purpose of the school feeding program housed under the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, is to increase school enrolment, attendance, and retention. The program is also meant to reduce hunger and malnutrition amongst pupils in addition to enhancing domestic food production, especially in deprived and rural agrarian communities across the



INTERNATIONAL NEWS REPORT

Compiled By Peoples Dispatch

US Imposes Fresh Sanctions On Companies Involved In Oil Trade With Iran

The US Treasury Department last Thursday, June 16, sanctioned two companies based in Hong Kong, three in Iran, and four in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), [accusing](#) them of being involved in “international transactions and [evading] sanctions, supporting the sale of Iranian petrochemical products to customers in the PRC and the rest of East Asia.” The sanctioned companies have been accused of dealing with Triliance Petrochemical Co. Ltd (Triliance) and Iran's Petrochemical Commercial Company (PCC). Two individuals, one Chinese citizen and one Indian, have also been sanctioned. Brian E Nelson, the Under Secretary of the Treasury for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence, claimed that though the US is trying to revive the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) diplomatically, “absent a deal, we will continue to use our sanctions authorities to limit exports of petroleum, petroleum products, and

petrochemical products from Iran.” Iran has dismissed the fresh round of sanctions imposed by the Joe Biden administration calling them ineffectual. “Our petrochemical industry and its products have long been under sanctions, but our sales have continued through various channels and shall continue to do so”, claimed Mehdi Safari, Iran's deputy Foreign Minister, according to *Al-Mayadeen*. The US unilaterally withdrew from the Iran nuclear deal or the JCPOA in 2018 under Donald Trump's presidency. The Trump administration also imposed numerous sanctions on Iran under its so-called “maximum pressure campaign” to force it to renegotiate the deal with a much wider mandate, including Iran's regional and missile defense policies. Iran has refused to renegotiate the deal and undertaken measures to reduce its own

commitments under it in response to the sanctions. President Biden, who during his election campaign had promised to rejoin the deal, has refused to lift the Trump-era sanctions. His administration has instead imposed new sanctions despite initiating indirect talks with Iran to revive the deal under the mediation of the remaining signatories in Vienna since early 2021.

Sanctions have killed many Iranians

UNHRC special rapporteur Alena Douhan in a recent interview to French weekly *Le Point* [said](#) that sanctions imposed by the US following its unilateral withdrawal from the JCPOA in 2018 have had “profound effects on the lives of Iranians in many ways” and have even been responsible for deaths during the COVID-19 pandemic. Douhan is the first UN rapporteur to visit Iran in the last 17 years. In her interview, which was



republished by the Iranian Foreign Ministry, Douhan claimed that sanctions have had adverse effects on trade, tourism and handicraft industries in Iran, apart from harming its oil and gas exports. She also claimed that the sanctions had adversely affected the country's public service delivery due to increased demand as even those who could earlier afford private services are now dependent on them.

Douhan also highlighted that the US sanctions have contributed to the deaths of many Iranians and caused political unrest in the country. She claimed that they were primarily responsible for the lack of medicines and medical facilities in Iran during the COVID-19 outbreak, leading to large-scale deaths in the country. The COVID-19 pandemic had infected more than seven million Iranians and caused the death of over 140,000 as of June 15, as per data released by the John Hopkins University.

Leftist Youth Groups In Austria Launch Youth Against War Campaign



including free public transport, housing and health. Demonstrations were organized in the cities of Vienna, Graz, Linz, Innviertel, Salzburg, St. Pölten, Innsbruck, Feldkirch and Klagenfurt, among others, on June 9 and 10. Campaign booths were also started in different parts of the country from June 12 as part of the initiative and talks are planned for June 16. Peace festivals are scheduled in the cities of Vienna, Linz and Graz in the last week of June. The Youth Against War [campaign](#) has insisted on maintaining the neutrality that Austria has held since World War II and demands that the country should not be a part of any military alliance in the future. In the backdrop

of the ongoing war in Ukraine, warmongers across Europe by fanning Russophobia have been persuading countries to increase their defense budgets. Even historically neutral countries like Sweden and Finland have [applied](#) for NATO membership recently. At the same time, progressive and anti-war groups, especially leftists, have intensified [campaigns](#) against militarization.

The Youth Against War [campaign](#) stated that “no Austrian has to die in wars. With neutrality, Austria can also make an active contribution to more peace in the world. However, the war in Ukraine is being exploited to drive us into an EU alliance or the NATO military alliance. We stand clearly against it and fight for peace

and neutrality!” “Everyone loses in the war – except the arms companies. The more bombs fall, the higher their profits. They earn from the suffering and death of people. Wars always serve only one purpose: to maximize the profits of corporations and banks. But it is not the rich who die in their wars – they are young, dispossessed people like us. Nobody wants war – except those who earn from it,” the campaign added.

The Young Left accused that while the soaring cost of living crisis has overburdened working class lives in the country, the government continues to give tax gifts to the rich and does not take any

sustainable measures against inflation. The KJO said that “after three months of war in Ukraine, millions of people have fled and tens of thousands have died. War is always the wrong way. We no longer want to watch war, hardship and misery normalized. That is why we are taking action now. We oppose war and all those who fuel it. Together we stand up for a life in peace for all people.” “No, we do not want NATO membership and an EU army! No, we will not go to their wars! We fight for peace and socialism! We are the youth against war,” added the KJO.

Austrian youth groups including the Communist Youth of Austria (KJO) and the Young Left have initiated the Youth Against War campaign demanding peace, freedom, neutrality, and protesting the center-right coalition government's plan to allot more funds for military upgrades in the backdrop of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war. The youth groups called on the government to instead allot more funds for social spending,

Free SHS Branded T-Shirts Estimated To Cost GH¢38m Being Shared For Students

Starrfm.com.gh has uncovered bulk printing of Free SHS branded T-shirts for distribution to about 1,274,412 students who are currently in schools across the country.

The T-shirts are being procured by the Free Senior High School Secretariat at the office of the Presidency.

The cost of procuring the shirts has not been disclosed but the average cost of Printing a T-shirt in Ghana ranges between Ghc20 to Ghc60 each depending on the quality but with a discount based on the number of prints.

According to the Ministry of Education, currently, there are 827,193 continuing students in the second and third-year SHSs.

According to the ministry, an estimated 447,219 first-year students had so far enrolled this academic year.

Using an average printing price of Ghc30 per T-shirt, the Free SHS t-shirts to be shared for the about 1,274,412 students currently in school means the government is spending about Ghc38,232,360.

Starr News Eastern Regional Correspondent Kojo Ansah has established that so far 41,215 pieces of the t-shirts have been distributed to about 100 public second cycle institutions in the Eastern region including Technical and Vocational Education Training institutions. Each school had 416 as the first consignment as more of the T-shirts are expected to arrive for distribution.

However, when contacted, the Public Relations Officer for Ghana Education Service at the Eastern Regional Education Directorate, Asiedu Acheampong, denied knowledge of the distribution of such t-

shirts to any school.

He said, "What I am aware of is branded Cardigan of the various schools but for free SHS t-shirts I am not aware so if you can send a picture of it to me and the name of the school you took the pictures from".

Not convinced by the explanation by the PRO, Kojo Ansah approached the Regional Supply officer at the Regional Directorate of GES, Daniel Ayertey, about why he is distributing Free SHS branded T-shirts which according to the PRO GES has not sanctioned, Mr. Aryertey was shocked by the statement of the PRO placed a phone call to him.

He later explained that the t-shirts were brought from Free SHS Secretariat late last year to be distributed to the students free of charge.

He said the region received 41,215 pieces as the first consignment but because the stores are full, decided to release it to the schools

to use their discretion to share with the students as they await the other consignment.

However, some headmasters and teachers told Starr News even though the t-shirts are free for the students the printing cost is not free.

They said the cost of printing the t-shirts could be used to make part payment of arrears own the schools by the government.

The introduction of the free SHS policy has increased average enrolment in SHSs from about 800,000 in 2015 to 1.2 million in 2021, with the double-track system. The Free SHS program since its inception has been financed from the Annual Budget Funding Amount (ABFA) of petroleum revenues and the general government coffers or the Consolidated Fund.



However, the policy has been bedeviled by financial challenges and delays in the supply of food to the schools many if difficult for heads of second-cycle institutions to run the schools smoothly.

Source – Starrfmonline.com

Private School Owners, Teachers Charged To Show Quality Education In Schools

By Florence Anim

The Regional Chairperson of the Ghana National Association of Private schools, Aisha Asi Akrofi has charged school owners to ensure that through the introduction of common core programmes curriculum, teachers exhibit quality education through teaching. The curriculum was designed by the National Council for Curriculum and assessment. The curriculum according to Mrs Akrofi

was to assist Ghanaian primary school to place learning at the heart of every classroom teacher and ensure that every learner receives quality education.

Mrs Akrofi made the assertion at the NNF essential skills competence 10 training program for school owners to enhance their skills and knowledge in teaching in Accra. The event she said is to train teachers and

school owners to know what to expect and derive during and after teaching.

She advised teachers to follow the curriculum provided by the council admitting that teachers needs training.

She therefore called on teachers to enroll in any educational opportunities to enhance their skills of teaching.

AUCTION SALE

Auction sale of Petroleum products about 700 metric tones of automotive gas oil aboard Bluefoss / Sirius Voyager Chemical Tanker Vessel IMO 7419042 at Takoradi Harbour will be sold on

Monday 20th June 2022 at 10:00am. Property of Clement Alexander Clements /Bluefoss Ordered by the D/Sheriff Tema High Court There is a reserved price. AUCTIONEER: Coastal Mart Auctions Contact: 0200797708/ 0244664497

TESHIE TSIE WE FAMILY WARNS ENCROACHERS

We the Tsie We Family of Teshie also known as Kle Musun Family hereby make this publication about the extent of our land at Otinshie due to recent developments for the public to be aware of same and stop dealing with persons that have no authority to alienate those lands at Otinshie East Legon and other families are using force interpretation by the 2008 Supreme Court Judgement and claiming people's lands granted to them by the Tsie We family.

We are the accredited owners of all that piece or parcel of land comprising the Otinshie East Legon area. By original settlement from time immemorial on migration from LA in the Accra District aforesaid after an initial purchase of the beach for a consideration of 32 OZB of Gold from the Nungua Stool, the people of Teshie acquired the absolute ownership in possession of the lands of the town of Teshie under the leadership of NUMO Tsie Mankralo and original leader of the migrant party before the actual settlement And Whereas during the original settlement the family groups

of the migrant party were respectively allocated portions of the land for their own settlement. And whereas the land of the Kle Musun Quarters aforesaid was allocated to the original ancestral family of the Wulomo during the said settlement and the said ancestral family group has increased and become the said Kle Musun Quarters and Whereas the members of the said Kle Musun Quarters have been in peaceful and undisturbed occupation and possession of their land over since the said allocation and have exercised acts of ownership in the respect thereof without any interference including the alienation of plots thereof And whereas by a Notice Published in the land and Concessions Bulletin No. 13 dated the 7th day of May 1965, all Stools and families are requested to declare any interest in any Land within the Accra-Tema City Council area which they hold and to send full particulars thereof to the Minister of Lands within three months. This DEED WITNESSED that in compliance with the said

Notice the WULOMO do thereby DECLARES That by the acquisition above described the absolute and allodial ownership in possession has been VESTED in the Members of the said Kle Musun Quarters of all that Piece or Parcel of land situate, lying and being at Teshie in the Accra District in the Eastern Region in the Republic of Ghana and bounded on the North East by Teshie Stool Land belonging to the Kle Quarters measured by 1,950 feet more or less on the South East by Teshie-Ada round measured by 9,650 feet, 14,400 feet, 4200 feet, 2450 feet, 1050 feet, 500 feet, 1050 feet, 1650 feet, 1000 feet and 850 feet and on the South West by land belonging to the Agbawe Quarters of Teshie measured 2450 feet 1050 Feet..and on the South West by land belonging to the Agbawe Quarters of Teshie 240 Feet and on the North West by 7600, 500, 450, 150, 500, 300, 200 and 300 Feet. An Area of 333,000 Acres and 1,347,632.54 Hectares. By the Supreme Court Judgement in Civil Appeal No. JA/22/2007 in the case of **THEODORE ADJEI OSAE (DR.)**



& 2 OTHERS vs NUMO NORTEY ADJEIFIO & 2 OTHERS dated 7th May 2008, the Supreme Court held that, the Osae family were entitled to the Otinshie Village their Cemetery and Farmland whiles the Tsie-We family of Teshie are entitled to the vast land. Further by the Supreme Court judgement no family can alienate land in those areas without the

prior consent of the Tsie We Family. Please the publication should warn those purchasing lands in those areas to curb litigation which put much cost on the buyers who purchase same from the wrongful person and or persons.

TSIE WE FAMILY OF TESHIE

'Your Suit Is Unmeritorious' – High Court Throws Out Akropong MP Supporters



Asuit filed against two Akropong Constituency impending elections aspirants have been dismissed by a High Court in Koforidua,

court documents show. The court, presided over by His Lordship Justice Senyo Amedahie described the suit as unmeritorious.

The plaintiff, Mr. Adum Acheampong, a former NPP Constituency Chairman of Akropong Constituency was for the second time absent in court when the case was called. His counsel was however not in court. A representative of the Plaintiff sought an audience of the court and pleaded for an adjournment as he claimed the plaintiff was a bit under the weather but the court rejected the plea for another adjournment. The suit challenged the eligibility of Julius Akuffo and Linda Dankwa to contest for any position in the Constituency on the tickets of NPP. The court found no merit in

the claims against the defendants and has accordingly dismissed the suit for want of liability. The Defendants, NPP and the two others, Julius Akuffo Djan and Linda Darkwa who were represented by Lawyer Gary Nimako Marfo were however present in court. Dismissal of Injunction on Constituency Election In a related development the Koforidua High Court (room 4) in a case presided over by His Lordship Nana Yaw Gyamfi Frimpong has dismissed an injunction placed on the Akropong North Constituency elections. The injunction was filed by two petitioners, Emelia Awuku of Larteh Akaade

Number One and Godfred Ampadu of Daakye Akropong. The petitioners before the court ruling today had filed a process to strike out the case at the court.

Regardless, counsel for the defendants, Gary Nimako Esq., insisted the case be properly be dismissed by the court for sake of clarity and directions.

The presiding judge accordingly dismissed the injunction suit paving a way for the conduct of the long awaited Akropong Constituency NPP elections. **Source: dailymailgh.com**

US And Pacific Allies Panic Over Solomon Islands-China Security Deal

By Anish R M

The United States and its Pacific allies have sounded alarm bells over a security cooperation deal signed between Solomon Islands and China, with threats directed at China. On Sunday, April 24, the Chinese embassy in Solomon Islands hit back at the comments made by the US delegation that visited the Pacific nation last week, calling it a “blatant threat.”

The Chinese embassy's spokesperson stated that the comments “again exposed the hegemony mindset and bullying behavior,” reported *Global Times*.

The spokesperson also added that “any attempt to stir up trouble, tension and opposition in Pacific island countries doesn't conform to the common interest of regional states and won't work.”

Last week on Friday, April 22, a high-level delegation from the US consisting of officials from the National Security Council, US Indo-Pacific Command, USAID, and assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, Daniel Kritenbrink, visited the capital Honiara and held a meeting with the Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare over the recently signed deal with China.

The delegation explicitly told the Solomons prime minister that the US would “respond accordingly” if China maintains a long-term military presence in the country. The US and its Pacific allies like Australia and New Zealand have specifically alerted to the possibility of a Chinese military base in the region through the deal.

The remarks were released in

a statement published by the White House on Friday, which also added that the US “will follow developments closely in consultation with regional partners.”

Despite repeated assurances from the Sogavare government that the deal will not pave the way for any form of long-term military presence by China or a military base, and a proposal from the Solomon Islands for a strategic dialogue with the US to discuss the matter, the US and its allies have taken an increasingly belligerent and alarmist stand against the deal.

The deal has taken highly politicized contours, especially in Australia where anti-China propaganda has reached a fever pitch as the general election nears. While the ruling conservative Liberal-National Coalition government of Prime Minister Scott Morrison was the first to attack the deal, the Australian Labor Party was prompt at using it as an election ploy, accusing the government of incompetence as the region is becoming “less secure”. More hawkish security think tanks have even called for an [invasion](#) to preempt a deal. Many have pointed out the irony of Australian politicians raising such panic and leveling accusations of a possible Chinese military base while the country has maintained a troop presence in Solomon Islands since November 2021.

2021 unrest behind security pact

In November 2021, mass



protests against the government in Solomon Islands turned into heavy rioting in the capital city Honiara and the island of Malaita. The protesters associated with Malaitan secessionists demanded the resignation of Prime Minister Sogavare and the breaking off relations with China. The rioting that transpired targeted Chinese shops and businesses in Honiara's Chinatown neighborhood and elsewhere, and led to at least three deaths. This was the second such attack on the island nation's Chinese community after the mass rioting that took place in 2006 in the aftermath of a contentious general election. Following the riots, nearly 200 foreign military personnel were called from neighboring nations Australia and Fiji to subdue the riots and maintain peace. China also sent help in the form of police equipment and gears. By the end of the year, reports suggested that China and Solomon Islands have been in talks for a security cooperation deal in case of future violence and threats to the Chinese community and businesses.

Deepening Solomons-China relations is the threat

The animosity from the US, along with Australia and New Zealand, towards the deepening ties between Solomon Islands and China began when the former became the latest country to recognize the People's Republic of China (PRC) as the legitimate representative of China in 2019.

Interestingly, the US, which has not maintained an active diplomatic relationship with the Solomons since 1993, only reopened its embassy in Honiara in February this year after reports of the security deal started making the rounds. Daniel Larison, who writes on US foreign policy, recently remarked about the long-standing neglect from the US and its allies towards Solomon Islands as a reason for the nation gravitating towards China. “The U.S. cannot neglect small nations and then expect them to fall in line when U.S. officials finally show up to complain

about their relations with other states,” wrote Larison in *Responsible Statecraft*.

Earlier in March, hitting back at allegations of Chinese dominance, Sogavare said “We find it very insulting, Mr. Speaker, to be branded as unfit to manage our sovereign affairs.” The Solomons government on the other hand has only doubled down on its stand to deepen ties with China in the face of such pressure from its more prosperous neighbors and the US. Sogavare, while receiving sporting facilities built by China for the 2023 Pacific Games last week, told reporters that “the relations between China and the Solomon Islands have deepened since the establishment of the diplomatic ties in 2019, and facts prove that the Solomon Islands was on the right side of history in its decision to establish diplomatic ties with China.”

School Feeding Programme Faces Imminent Collapse



country.

Sad but legitimately, the said caterers engaged to provide these services, have been on strike for the past six weeks now. The legitimate demands of these caterers are simple. They demand the following:

- a) immediate payment for the feeding of pupils for 68 days at the current rate of Ghp 0.97 per child per day; and
- b) an increment of the allocation from Ghp 0.97 per child per day in light of the high cost of food items.

According to the caterers, they contracted loans from various financial institutions or took supplies of food items on credit from suppliers to meet their contract to feed these pupils. Thus, the immediate payment by the government is meant to pay off these debts and sustain their credit-worthy status. Their situation is exacerbated by their creditors who are on their necks each day and night. In addition, at the current rate of Ghp 0.97 per pupil per day, it is practically impossible for them to prepare a decent meal under the prevailing current economic conditions.

Accordingly, the caterers have a legitimate case. What decent meal can be provided at Ghp 0.97 in Ghana today; with this high cost of living and with galloping inflation, particularly the exponential growth rate of inflation on food items, at these dizzying levels? This is particularly worrying and calls for responsible leadership to address these pertinent legitimate calls.

The absence of such service providers has affected school attendance; because the absence of these caterers is directly related to the attendance of pupils, especially those in the lower primary, in schools in rural, deprived, and poor communities. In other words, several numbers of the 1.69 million pupil-beneficiaries of this program delivered through these caterers, who were fed before the curtailment, brought about through the strike action, are currently not attending school and may not return if the government does not address the pending issues raised by these service providers.

It beats my imagination how the attitude of the government seems lethargic in addressing this urgent matter. Those who share this position cannot be faulted when the government continues to exhibit these hard-core traits of insensitivity to the plight of the deprived and the most vulnerable in our society. Government cannot claim funding is the issue when we now know that huge sums of our taxes have been clandestinely released towards the fulfillment of a private and personal pledge to build a cathedral.

So far, the Akufo-Addo government has illegally and unlawfully spent a whopping GHC 200m to finance the fulfillment of his personal pledge to his God to build him a cathedral; without the requisite permission and parliamentary approval for any such

disbursement of state funds. In his own words, Akufo-Addo said, "I made a pledge to God, that, if I become the President after two unsuccessful attempts in the 2016 Presidential Elections, I will build a Cathedral to the glory of God." Meanwhile, he has reneged on the use of taxpayers' money to address issues citizens voted him into power to tackle; such as the payment of school feeding caterers to carry out their services of providing decent meals for 1.69 million pupils to continue to keep these children in school.

Though a Christian, it is not acceptable and remains inappropriate for Akufo-Addo to use public resources in the fulfillment of a personal pledge, such as the building of a cathedral, whilst a significant number of the population wallow in glaring abject poverty. As the case stood, the narrative was that the building of the cathedral was not going to burden the public purse. So, why did Akufo-Addo stealthily initiate processes, unlawfully, using his cousin [Ken Ofori-Atta, to do otherwise?](#)

[It is a documented fact that at no time has the government forwarded the cathedral project in any national budget to Parliament with an assigned financial allocation for approval. The first budget Statement and Economic Policy under Akufo-Addo to capture the cathedral project was the 2019 budget, and here is what it said on page 193, paragraph 1001: "meeting the spiritual needs of our people with the promotion of the Ghana National Cathedral". It's worth noting that the 2017, 2018, and 2022 budget statements never mentioned the cathedral project at all. In the budgets for 2019, 2020, and 2021 although mention was made of the cathedral, no funds were allocated to it.](#)

[Any indication of the state providing seed money may rather be traced to the Finance Minister's speech, which he read in brief to Parliament during the](#)

[presentation of the 2019 Budget Statement and Economic Policy. In the 2019 budget speech, paragraphs 156-157, on pages 104-105 under National Cathedral, the Minister stated as follows: Mr. Speaker, the state is facilitating this process by providing the land, the Secretariat, and seed money for the preparatory phase. Mr. Speaker, the president is determined that the building of the National Cathedral would not put undue financial burdens on the state. He has therefore proposed a partnership between the State and the Ghanaian Christian community both at home and in the Diaspora.](#)

[Evenso, no particular figure was mentioned as seed money. But even if a figure was mentioned in the Minister's speech, Parliament, as it is known, does not debate, consider and approve what the Minister narrates. Parliament debates consider and approve the content of a Budget Statement and Economic Policy presented on behalf of the president. Parliament does not engage in speculations.](#)

[The narrative around the cathedral project exposes Akufo-Addo and his cousin Ken Ofori-Atta as having no regard for our laws, processes, and procedures. This capricious use of executive power unlawfully and unreasonably is what has enraged the public. No citizen had a problem when the indication was that the cathedral project was to be funded with private resources. Didn't government tell the Supreme Court that its contribution is to provide land for the construction of the cathedral? And that the actual construction was to be sponsored and financed by the churches in the ruling of the JAMES K. BOMFEH JNR. V. ATTORNEY GENERAL case?](#)

[In fact, the churches were told the same as restated by the Secretary of the Christian Council under whose watch the cathedral project was birthed. According to Rev. Dr. Kwabena Opuni-Frimpong, the government said it](#)

[would only be a facilitator; while the churches were to provide funding for the project. He further said, "The then Minister of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs, Honourable Kofi Dzamesi, was one of those who explained to us again and again, that the churches in Ghana are going to build the cathedral and not the government."](#)

[In all humility, it is not right, it is immoral, and is unaccountable for Akufo-Addo to cause Ken Ofori-Atta to apply GHC 200m of public funds towards building an unapproved, and unbudgeted cathedral; when school children sit at home because school feeding caterers are owed their due. Unlike the cathedral project, the budget for the School Feeding Programme was contained in the 2022 Budget Statement and Economic Policy, which was debated, considered, and approved by the representatives of the people. The release of public funds for the construction of an unbudgeted and unapproved cathedral to the detriment of budgeted and approved programs like School feeding cannot be tolerated in any democracy, and we must not tolerate the same.](#)

[Government must quickly honor its obligation to pay the caterers and increase the cost of feeding per pupil as soon as possible. This is what the government was given the mandate to execute with the GHC 881m captured in Appendix 6, page 272, of the 2022 Budget Statement and Economic Policy under the School Feeding Programme.](#)

[In Solidarity,](#)

[Dr. Clement Apaak
M.P, Builsa South and Deputy
Ranking Member, Education
Committee](#)