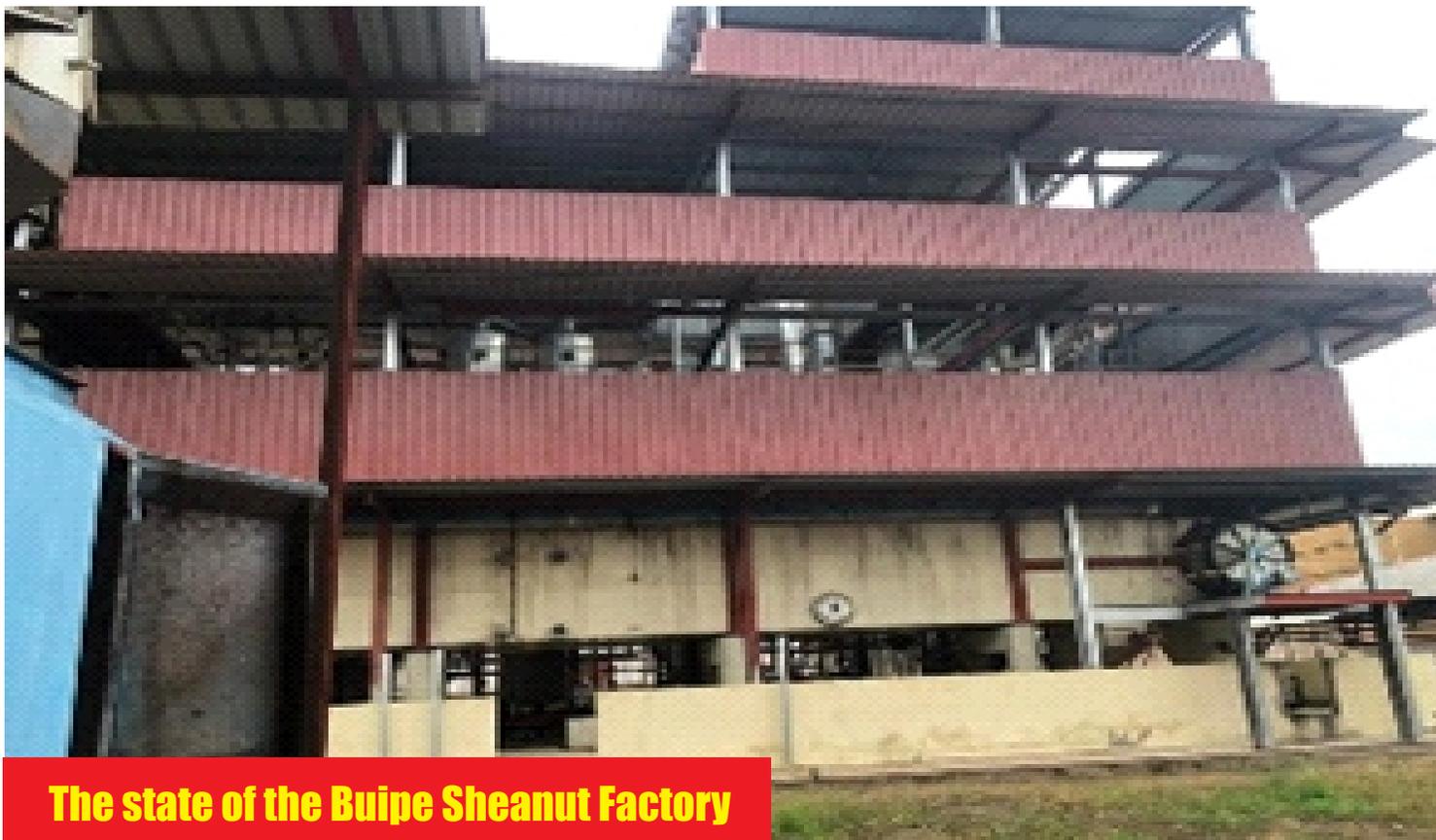


\$10 M BUIPE SHEANUT FACTORY ABANDONED

Fate Of Hundreds Of Women, Youth Hangs In The balance



The state of the Buipe Sheanut Factory

A US\$10 million Sheanut Factory which was set up and commissioned in 2012 at Buipe by former President John Dramani Mahama, to add value to the sheanuts in the locality for exports has been grounded for over two years now.

According to the Executive Director of Think Tank, Baskin Africa, Mr Issifu Seidu Kudus Gbeadese who made the disclosure, the woes of most women and youth in the area have been deepened as middlemen have taken

advantage of them because of the closure of the factory. In a write up on 8th June, 2022 and copied to Bole based Nkilgi FM, Mr Gbeadese said the Nana Akufo-Addo and Dr Bawumia led NPP government

cont. on page 3

Latin American And Caribbean Leaders Condemn The US At Summit Of The Americas

page 5

50 Heavily Armed 'Abongo' Boys Deployed For ECG Prepaid-Meter Installation



The military will be assisted by National Security and the Police

A contingent of 50 military personnel has been deployed by the government to the Krobo area to provide security to the staff of the Electricity Company of Ghana (ECG), as it replaces all postpaid meters with prepaid meters beginning June 14, 2022.

cont. on page 3



Musah Superior vows to win NPP Secretaryship Slot With 60% Vote Margins

page 2

The INSIGHT

EDITORIAL

PALESTINE AND ISRAEL'S IMPUNITY

Recent atrocities committed against Palestinians in East Jerusalem, West Bank and Gaza among others by Israeli forces in the occupied territories is most unacceptable.

Clearly, Israel was emboldened to commit these atrocities because of the support it gets from the United States.

This brazen show of impunity and disregard for international law resulted in these criminal acts is highly condemnable and repugnant to say the least.

There is no denying the fact that the Israeli authorities' constant destruction of Palestinian homes in Occupied West Bank for new Jewish settlement has been done with the full support of the United States, in spite of persistent international condemnation of such lawless and dastardly acts.

Apart from the West Bank's Area C, Gaza has also been turned into a huge killing field as Israel has over the years committed acts of genocide with impunity.

Nobody has been spared the atrocities of the Zionist state which has killed women and children, the old and the young, abled and bodied persons and people with disability.

We firmly believe that Israel is emboldened to carry out these atrocities because of the support it receives from the US administration and its surrogates around the world.

The Insight fully supports global action in condemning Israeli atrocities against the people of Palestine and also calls on the International Community to take firm action to end the impunity of the Zionist state.

We once again urge all progressives to solidarise with Palestine and to oppose the occupation by Israel.

Musah Superior vows to win NPP Secretaryship Slot With 60% Vote Margins

By Freeman Koryekpor Awlesu

A former Mayor for Tamale who doubles as the Deputy Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Forestry Commission of Ghana, Mr. Musah Superior on Tuesday June 14, 2022 finally submitted his nomination forms which gave him the legal backing to contest the New Patriotic Party's General Secretary slot in the NPP national executives election.

Consequently, Mr Musah stated that his analysis within hundred and eighty (180) constituencies toured so far in the country showed that there are massive endorsement for his candidature which has attested to the fact the delegates are going to vote massively for him to win the NPP secretaryship position with 60% margins.

Mr. Musah who is the foundation member of the NPP filed his nomination documents around 10:24 AM on Tuesday June 14, 2022 after the leadership of the National Election Committee of the party had scrutinized the forms and certified with his documents.

He has not gone through any challenge of filing his nomination papers to contest NPP secretaryship race his is a staunch member of the NPP who usually pays his dues regularly.

This development has showed that Mr Musah is the choice for the NPP secretaryship position and that voting for him to win the slot would give the chance to the party to win both the presidential and parliamentary elections for the 2024. Addressing journalists in an interview at the NPP headquarters in Accra, Mr Musah expressed concern about the teething logistic and tool challenges facing the constituency offices of the NPP across the country which he lamented was adversely affecting the works of the constituency executives of the party. In most of the offices in NPP constituencies in the country, Mr Musah disclosed that the offices do not have basic office tools such as computers, printers, TVs, radio sets among others.

Additionally, he lamented that most constituency Secretaries have to use business communication centres to write and print our letters?, adding that this is acceptable!

He maintained that that It is failure of the current leadership, stating that he has strong belief that the NPP will win 2024 general elections but the leadership must fix the party first. Following this development, the NPP top shot assured that on his watch as General Secretary, this will stop, adding that it was about time delegates elected new breed of politicians within the NPP capable of breaking the eight in the 2024 general election. Mr Musah, therefore called on delegates and members of the party to vote massively for him to win the general secretary position to help repair the broken structures and foundations of the party across the country.

Mr. Musah who is the foundation member of the NPP stressed that his vast experience in party politics had attested to the fact that he was more capable or qualified to be elected the new NPP General Secretary to help the party win the 2024 poll. According to him, the party has great potential of retaining political power in 2024 should delegates make the right decision about its leadership.

The astute politician stressed that the party is at crossroads and needs to be managed effectively but under a new leadership, if the hope of breaking the 8 could materialize.

According to him, when he is given the nod to win the NPP general Secretary position, he would ensure with a matter of urgency that the proper basic office tools

and logistics will be provided to support administrative work in our not too good constituency offices."

He further assured the supporters and members of the NPP that he will also embark on a deliberate policy to provide television and radio sets in our offices across the country.

The provision of these tools and logistics to the NPP constituency offices, Mr Musah noted would help to elevate the political interest in members through the listening to news. He reiterated that his decision to contest the race was informed by the numerous calls on him from the rank and file of the party to serve in that role.

Mr. Musah stressed "as a true, loyal and dedicated member who is desirous in serving the New Patriotic Party in any capacity, I feel obliged to respond positively to the calls by the numerous party people across the country." According to him, the government of the NPP had performed well; and "we must build on the successes chalked by the government as part of our strategy to secure victory in 2024."

He indicated that It was for this reason that he had offered himself for the general secretary position to lead in galvanizing the grassroots to re-build a stronger, thoughtful, and more efficient party capable of energizing and mobilizing first our supporters and sympathizers, and then millions of non-NPP voting citizens across the country to compete meaningfully in the 2024 general elections.

The spirit of "our party," he said must be brought back.

"We must be ready now and at all times to properly plan and execute an efficient and innovative campaign for victory in the 2024 General Elections.

"I have the capacity and the strength to find the lost spirit, revive the dormant party structures across the country and serve the party people with purpose, greater assertion, and conviction in the mandate I seek. In the coming days, I shall formally make my vision public in my interaction with the party people across the country.

Writer's email koryekporfreeman @yahoo.com

Pix:Mr. Musah Superior, NPP General Secretary hopeful

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

\$10 M BUIPE SHEANUT FACTORY ABANDONED

Fate Of Hundreds Of Women, Youth Hangs In The balance

from front page

which has been trumpeting 1D1F as one of the prioritized programmes, chose to leave the 40,000 capacity sheanut processing factory to rot away and that reports from the factory indicates that it has been grounded for the past two years or more without any solution in sight.

"This has resulted in increased unemployment among the youth and the poor women have equally been rendered more poor and vulnerable for middlemen to keep cheating them", he stated.

Mr Issifu Seidu Kudus Gbeadesse further said "during the commissioning, President John Mahama in 2012 indicated that the decision to set up the factory in Buipe was to add value to the Sheanut and used that as a means to

create employment for the teeming youth, improve income of the rural women who risk their lives in picking the Sheanuts and ensure a guaranteed price for them as well". He added that "these poor women are mostly shortchanged by the middlemen who buy the nuts during the bumper harvest, export them unprocessed for cosmetics and moisturizers industries.

"Painfully, a 2004 USAID report has it that annually, about 48% of the Shea nuts in the Savannah belt remain uncollected and underutilized due to the lack of ready market and the risk involved. "So, the setting up of the factory was to create the ready market to motivate these women to ensure the collection of more than 90% of the Shea nuts".

He also said "if the NPP government led by President Akufo-Addo

actually believes in their 1D1F slogan, the easiest way to fulfill this for the entire Savannah region is to revive the factory and even expand its capacity".

The Baskin Africa Executive Director continued "it is sad that we have the raw materials (sheanuts) in abundance but due to political interest and reckless decisions, a \$10m, 40,000 capacity Buipe Sheanut processing factory has been left to rot while the unemployed youth wallow about without jobs". Mr Gbeadesse also disclosed that the project was a joint venture between the Government of Ghana through the Produce Buying Company Ltd (PBC) and Messrs LDS Maquinas e'Equipmentos Industrias Ltd of Brazil and as part of the agreement, Messrs Sysgate Brazil Ltd was mandated to market the Shea butter on the Brazilian market and so the

finished product was to be transported to the Tema port through the Volta Lake for onward export to Santos, a port in Brazil". He said the Savannah belt, which occupies about half of Ghana's total landmass of 2,385,100 square kilometres, has the Shea tree as the major economic resource to especially the women.

It is estimated that the annual potential production of Sheanut in the belt is about 200,000 tonnes with about 45,000 tonnes of the Shea kernel exported annually and that with this estimates, the sheanut factory was strategically sited to mop up the raw materials from the entire belt and ultimately eradicate the ever rising poverty levels of rural women especially, within the Savannah belt.

Mr Issifu Seidu Kudus Gbeadesse said it is trite knowledge that the Savannah



The state of the Buipe Sheanut Factory

belt is the poorest in Ghana with concomitant needless ethnic conflicts across the region, unemployment, insecurity, hunger and illiteracy, the inequality gap between the South and the North keeps widening.

"So, to reduce and ultimately eradicate poverty and unemployment within Savannah Ecological Zone, it is imperative to adopt strategic economic policies and programs that will create employment and improve the income levels of the poor-vulnerable-women in rural North"; he said.

Source: nkilgifmonline.com

50 Heavily Armed 'Abongo' Boys Deployed For ECG Prepaid-Meter Installation



from front page

The military will be assisted by National Security and the Police. Customers who still insist on rejecting prepaid meters will be taken off the national grid. The Municipal Chief Executive for Yilo Krobo, Eric Tetteh in view of the exercise has urged all residents to cooperate with the ECG staff. Meanwhile, speaking to the media in Koforidua on Monday, June 13, 2022, on the sidelines of a familiarization visit by the management of ECG led by the new Managing Director (ECG), Mr. Samuel Dubik Masubir Mahama, the Director of Customer Service, Anokye Abebreseh said, intensive engagements have been done with all

stakeholders in the Krobo area hence expecting maximum cooperation. "Just last week we met, a tripartite kind of a committee comprising of Electricity Company, National Security and United Krobo Foundation. We met and the agreement is that ECG going to install prepaid meters starting from tomorrow for which all of us have agreed to. So come tomorrow (Tuesday) we are going to deploy our men to the field to start the installation of prepayment meters. We have done a lot of stakeholder engagements so at least for now calm is prevailing so come tomorrow 14th of June we are going to start deployment of prepayment meters," said Anokye Abebreseh. The installation of prepaid meters comes after years of an impasse between Krobo residents and ECG which escalated into devastating attacks on the ECG office in Somanaya and led to a deadly clash with police. The ECG office has since been shut

down. Residents vowed to resist the installation of Prepaid meters while calling on ECG to write off debts owed by customers in Krobo land from 2018 to 2021. Answering questions on the controversy of non-payment of electricity bills by residents, Mr. Anokye Abebreseh stressed that ECG has ringfenced all arrears of customers in the Krobo area from the period between 2014 and 2017 but arrears between 2018 to date must be paid by customers within 5 years however, the debt will not be transferred into the prepaid meters to be installed. "We made it clear that the period between 2014 and 2017 has been ringfenced so that the customers, for now, will not border themselves about their amount but then the period between 2018 to date the customers are supposed to pay but for goodwill purposes, we've asked

that we are not going to put the debt on the new prepayment meters. "Normally the practice is that when you put prepayment meter there you put the debt on the post-paid meter on the prepaid meter so that we will recover whatever debt but in this case, we said from 2018 to date we are not going to put it there, and that we will meet customers individually and determine how they should pay the debt." The Minister of Energy Matthew Opoku Prempeh revealed a month ago during the ministry's 'meet the press' briefing in Accra that, Technical and commercial losses of about GH¢3.2billion are threatening the future of state-owned power distributors -the Electricity Company of Ghana (ECG). The company's losses in then exchange terms amounts was US\$400million accumulated from power theft, malfunctioning meters,

obsolete infrastructure, and ineffective revenue collection, among others. The minister lamented: "Which company can be viable if it loses that amount of money? Power theft – those who are stealing power, those whose meters are not working, and those who don't have meters but have electricity – is costing ECG nearly GH¢3.2billion," Losses from the technical and commercial factors stood at GH¢1.8billion, and GH¢1.5billion respectively in 2021, from GH¢1.4billion, and GH¢1.5billion respectively in 2020. Technical and commercial losses in the last five years (2017 to 2021) reached GH¢8.9billion). ECG is therefore on a serious drive to reduce commercial losses in the system.

Source: starrfm.com.gh



INTERNATIONAL NEWS REPORT

Compiled By Peoples Dispatch

Progressives Continue To Protest Finnish Bid For NATO Membership

Progressive and anti-war sections in Finland continue to protest the country's bid for NATO membership. On June 4 and 5, activists from various groups including Stop NATO, Communist Youth Association (Kommunistinuoret), Communist Youth (KTP), Tampere Marxist Study Circle and Pirkanmaa Peace Defenders' Committee participated in demonstrations in Helsinki and Tampere denouncing the government's move to join NATO. The protesters claimed that Finland's accession to the US-led military alliance will make it part of the nexus against the people of the world and will not be in the interest of the Finnish people either. Finland and Sweden have

recently decided to join NATO. The political establishment in the country used the pretext of the Russia-Ukraine war to run a campaign claiming that joining NATO was essential for the country's security. Prior to this, Finland and Sweden had pursued a policy of neutrality towards the US and the erstwhile Soviet Union, later Russia. Despite significant pressure from centrist and center-right sections to join NATO, the countries had remained committed to this policy. But the ongoing war in Ukraine has caused a rise in militarism and Russophobia in the

region, and sections within the social democratic parties in the two countries rooted for NATO membership. Finland and Sweden submitted their application to join NATO on May 18. Regarding the protests on June 4 and 5, the Communist Youth Association stated, "we still say no to NATO and together and openly say yes to peace! The security of nations or a viable planet cannot be secured with wars, nuclear weapons or human rights crimes. We choose the path of peace politics, dialogue, people's welfare and national democracy." JP Väisänen from the Communist Party of Finland (SKP) had earlier [told Peoples Dispatch](#) that his

party was clearly opposed to Finland's possible NATO membership and the strengthening of any plans to join military alliances in the EU. "World crises, conflicts and wars need countries and regions to stand away from big powers like the US and Russia and their conflicts, in order to function as a neutral and respected functionary to facilitate necessary dialogue and finding mutual steps in understanding and peace making," he said "SKP opposes the increase of Finnish military budget and the deal for F35 fighters. We stand on the side of the European Peace movement and demand more resources in building civil society peace and participatory



NATO protest in Tampere. (Photo: via Kommunistinuoret)

initiatives. SKP is against the Russian war in Ukraine but we also see Russia as a neighbor and not an enemy," he had said. Progressive sections in Sweden are also continuing protests against the bid to join NATO. Protests are also ongoing in various other parts of Europe, including in [Italy](#), [Greece](#), [Norway](#) and [Czech Republic](#), against new military deals.

At Least 49 Killed In Armed Attacks In Sudan's West Darfur Over The Past Week



Damaged structures in the city of Kreinik in Sudan's West Darfur from March 2022. (Photo by Wilberforce Musombi / NRC). Earlier major armed attacks by the Janjaweed militias in the last week of April had targeted West Darfur's Kreinik town and the capital city of El Geneina, killing at least 200 and displacing around

aka Hemeti, who has a large stake in mining operations in the region of Darfur where a de-population campaign is allegedly underway. Previous major armed attacks by these militias in the last week of April had targeted West Darfur's Kreinik town and the capital city of El Geneina, killing at least 200 and displacing around 100,000. Further displacement is to be expected as at least eight villages were burnt down in the armed attacks last week. Reports of these militias engaging in armed robberies, looting and rapes – particularly targeting Internally Displaced People (IDP) who have already lost all their possessions to the war – continue to emerge from several other parts of West Darfur and North Darfur. The Janjaweed militias involved in

all these attacks were armed and organized under the regime of former dictator Omar al-Bashir from among the nomadic herdsman communities in the region. They were meant to suppress the armed rebel groups of the marginalized sedentary farmers and pastoralists who were standing in the way of extracting the mineral wealth in the area. Accused of committing genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity in the course of suppressing the armed rebel groups, several Janjaweed leaders, along with al-Bashir himself, stand trial in the ICC after his ouster in 2019 by the December Revolution. The trial of Ali Muhammad Ali Abdelrahman, aka Ali Kushayb, resumed in Hague on Monday,

June 13. The Juba peace agreement of 2020, which critics argue is merely a power sharing agreement between the military and leaders of armed rebel groups, has brought no respite to the violence. Armed attacks have further increased since the military coup in October 2021 because "after the coup, these militias have been reassured and further emboldened," Adam Rojal, spokesperson of the General Coordination of Displaced and Refugees, told *Peoples Dispatch* in an interview last month. "Because the generals, under whose supervision they had carried out the campaign of genocide and crimes against humanity in Darfur under Bashir, are the ones who seized

power," he had said. Nearly eight months since the coup, mass-protests across the country demanding full civilian rule have continued despite unceasing repression by the security forces. At least 101 protesters had been killed as of June 7. More than 4,500 have been injured, over 400 of whom are still undergoing treatment. At least 35 have lost limbs or other organs and eight are paralyzed. However, unfazed by this brutal repression, several pro-democracy marches continue to take place in Sudan. More country-wide demonstrations and protest actions have been scheduled for June 16, 20, 27 and 30.

At least 49 people were killed in armed attacks in the Kulbus locality in Sudan's restive State of West Darfur last week, *Radio Dabanga* reported on Sunday, June 12. Several more have been wounded in the multiple attacks by the Janjaweed militias. These militias allegedly continue to be backed by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). The RSF is led by Sudan's military's junta's deputy chairperson, General Mohamd Hamdan Dagalo

Latin American And Caribbean Leaders Condemn The US At Summit Of The Americas

The Ninth Summit of the Americas, which began on June 6 in the city of Los Angeles in California, US, concluded on Friday, June 10. The Summit had been a subject of controversy since the exclusion of Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega and Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro from the event was announced by the host, the US. The government of President Joe Biden received widespread criticism from across the region for not inviting these three countries to the conference.

Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador (AMLO) was among the first to explicitly criticize the US policy to exclude countries with political ideologies different from its own, and soon, over a dozen Latin American leaders also followed suit and several announced that they would boycott the conference if all countries were not invited. The threats of a boycott came true. The Summit saw the absence of multiple Latin American leaders,

including AMLO, Bolivian President Luis Arce, Honduran President Xiomara Castro, Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Ralph Everard Gonsalves, Prime Minister of Grenada Keith Claudius Mitchell, and Prime Minister of Saint Kitts and Nevis Timothy Harris, who skipped the event as it was not inclusive. Guatemalan President Alejandro Giammattei and Salvadoran President Nayib Bukele boycotted it due to US interference in their internal affairs. Uruguayan President Luis Lacalle Pou dropped out after testing positive for COVID-19.

Due to the absence of key leaders, the Summit not only saw its purpose defeated, which was to promote cooperation between the countries of the continent, it also marked a new decline in US power and influence over the region. Leaders such as Argentine President Alberto Fernández, Prime Minister of Belize John Briceño, Prime Minister of Dominica Roosevelt Skerrit, Prime Minister of Saint Lucia Philip Pierre, Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago Keith Rowley, Prime Minister of Bahamas Philip

Davis, Prime Minister of Barbados Mia Mottley, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda Gaston Browne, Mexican Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard, and Bolivian Foreign Minister Rogelio Mayta condemned the US government's decision to exclude Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela from American soil.

President Fernández, in his capacity as the president pro tempore of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), regretted that not all countries were invited to the Summit. He criticized the over six-decade-long blockade of Cuba and toughening of the US sanctions against Cuba and Venezuela during the pandemic. He also questioned the role of the Organization of American States (OAS) in the 2019 coup d'état in Bolivia. He invited his US counterpart to abandon the policies that are harmful for the region and "open up in a fraternal manner in pursuit of common interests." In this regard, he invited President Biden to join the next CELAC plenary meeting. Meanwhile, PM Briceño, in his capacity as the current president of the Community of Caribbean States (CARICOM), described the Biden administration's decision to not invite Venezuela, Nicaragua and Cuba to the



Summit as "incomprehensible and unforgivable." He highlighted the role played by Cuba in providing vital medical assistance to two-thirds of the countries in the hemisphere during the pandemic, and by Venezuela in ensuring energy security in small Caribbean countries like Belize. He called on the US President to lift the blockade against Cuba and the sanctions against Venezuela and Nicaragua and "build an America with social justice." Likewise, PM Skerrit said that the isolation of Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela disrespects the Democratic Charter of the Americas and by doing so, the

US distorted the meeting's mission, which is meant to build and promote democracy in the Americas. In addition to calling for the lifting of embargo, Skerrit called for the termination of Cuba's unjust listing as a state that sponsors terrorism. PM Pierre, PM Rowley, PM Davis, PM Browne, Foreign Minister Mayta and Foreign Minister Ebrard also called for the end of the illegal blockade of Cuba and the inhumane sanctions against Venezuela and Nicaragua. Foreign Minister Mayta, Foreign Minister Ebrard and PM Davis called for the refounding of the OAS.

Nyaho Tamakloe Blames The Clergy For Ghana's Challenges

Founding member of the [New Patriotic Party \(NPP\)](#), Dr Nyaho Tamakloe, has said that leaders of faith-based organisations should be blamed the most for the hardships Ghanaians are currently going through. Dr Tamakloe explained that the leaders of faith-based organisations are responsible because they have been selective in holding Ghana's governments accountable. The founding member of the NPP, who was speaking in an XYX TV interview monitored by GhanaWeb, added that some clergy criticised former President [John Dramani Mahama](#) but are quiet now even though the country was

going through a lot of challenges.

"The clergy should be blamed more than anybody for what is happening because my own church's moderator - the Presbyterian Church of Ghana – (has not been inconsistent in attacking governments). For Prof Martey to come out attacking leadership then, yes, was correct.

"I believe when a leader is going wrong, you have every right to criticise him. However, when we have a certain leader now ([Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo](#)), Martey is nowhere to be found. For Martey to come out and say he communicates via text messages is very



Founding member of the New Patriotic Party (NPP), Dr Nyaho Tamakloe

unfortunate.

"Martey used to communicate to the public directly, through either the press or the radio or any other group of people; he even talked about issues on the pulpit. He has the right, as I said, but what is good for the goose must be equally good for the gander, and this is where he falls short," he said.

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

Opuni Trial: Whatever Opuni Did Was Consistent With Policies Of The Board – Fmr Board Chairman

Ambassador Daniel Ohene Agyekum, who chaired the board of [COCOBOD](#) and its Entity Tender Committee, has emphatically stated that Dr. [Stephen Opuni](#) always acted in accordance with COCOBOD's policies.

The retired diplomat therefore told the High Court last Friday, June 10 that the former COCOBOD Chief Executive did not perpetuate any fraud when COCOBOD purchased Lithovit liquid fertiliser between 2014 and 2016.

The forth prosecution witness was giving testimony under cross-examination led by counsel for businessman Seidu Agongo and Agricult Ghana Ltd, lawyer Nutifafa Nutsukpui who was holding brief for Benson Nutsukpui.

"Where is all these coming from?" This was the immediate reaction of Amb. Ohene Agyekum when he was informed that the trial judge, Justice Clemence Honyenuga had in his ruling on submission of no case said Dr. Opuni assisted Seidu Agongo and his company to perpetuate fraud against COCOBOD.

"The first accused during my tenure in office, did not, certainly not, perpetuate any fraud. As the chief executive of management of COCOBOD and with my little knowledge of corporate responsibility, the chief executive, whatever he did was consistent with the policies of the board," the witness pointed out to the court.

The witness was also asked, based on his experience in chairing the board and the ETC, "how easy was it for an individual to game or otherwise rig the procurement process for a particular fertiliser?" He replied, "My Lord that is absolutely impossible. My lord I cannot imagine; it is inconceivable that any particular individual can or could rig or influence the choice or decision to award a

contract in favour of a particular person. It is simply impossible and it could not happen under my watch or during my tenure as chairman."

Amb. Ohene Agyekum was further asked if the first accused ever influenced the procurement process to benefit the second and third accused persons. His response was that "as far as I am aware, the first accused never acted in a way that could have influenced the decision of either the board or the Entity Tender Committee. And in my dual capacity as chairman for both the board and the ETC, such a thing never happened."

SCIENTIFIC TEST IN CLASSROOM
The attention of the witness was drawn to claims by ..of the Chemistry Department of the University of Ghana when they tested litovit liquid fertiliser they barely had properties that will make it effective.

He was therefore asked, "During your tenure as chairman, were you aware of any test carried out on litovit liquid fertiliser that came to similar conclusion?" He replied, "my Lord, my short answer is no. I was not made aware of any such scientific report.

"If you conduct a scientific test in the classroom and you draw the conclusion such as was drawn by the university, then I will state that it was not certainly the same litovit liquid fertiliser that the board had purchased and provided to the farmers free of charge."

Nutifafa Nutsukpui then followed with another question, "and sir since you left office, have you become aware of any test carried out that cast any doubt on the efficacy of the litovit fertiliser that your board had procured for the cocoa farmer?"

Amb. Ohene Agyekum reiterated, "Again my sure answer is no, never."

At the previous sitting, the witness told the court that letters dated 11th February 2014, marked as Exhibit L, and 13th February 2014 marked



Exhibit M to Cabinet and Finance Minister respectively, though was signed by Dr. Opuni he didn't write those letters but the procurement unit of COCOBOD. In the last sitting, Amb. Ohene Agyekum confirmed that those letters also captured other fertilisers that COCOBOD bought in addition to Lithovit liquid fertiliser.

Q: when you turn to the second pages of exhibit L and M, you will see the table with the following fertiliser types listed. Asaase wura, Cocoa Master, Cocofeed, Sidalco 10:10:10, sidalco 60:20 and lithovit. Is that correct sir?
Ans : my Lord with what I read here, is absolutely correct.

Q: Now, exhibit N is a letter from COCOBOD to seek approval to sole source the fertilisers listed on page 2 of exhibit N.

Ans : that is so my lord

Q: Now look at exhibit V been shown to you now. It is a letter from PPA to Ghana COCOBOD dated 15th March 2014 granting approval for the procurement of the various fertiliser types: Asaase wura, Cocoa Master, Cocofeed, Sidalco 10:10:10, sidalco 60:20 and lithovit.

Ans : That is so my Lord and it is in accordance with the procedures at the time.

Q: Now, the fertiliser types

contained in Exhibit L, M and V were selected by the experts from codapec hitec units. That is correct.

Ans : yes my lord. As I tried to explain in my evidence in chief, it is the codapec and hitec in accordance with the procedures that determines the quantities and type of fertiliser for every cocoa season.

Q: Now sir, at the ETC's 54th meeting held at the boardroom of cocoa House, Asaase wura, Cocoa Master, Cocofeed, Sidalco 10:10:10, sidalco 60:20 and lithovit were approved by the ETC for the cocoa CODAPEC and HITECH 2013/2014 season.
Ans : yes my lord, as far as I can recollect.

Q: sir, these fertiliser types which were approved by the etc for the 2013/2014 were in no way determined by the suppliers of the fertiliser.
Ans : it is absolutely true. It was no way determined by any of the suppliers.

Q: again by the policy of the board you chaired, all the fertilisers you bought for the codapec/ hitec programme were distributed to the farmers

for free. That is correct.

Ans : my Lord that is correct. If I may go further, the decision to supply fertilisers free of charge was for a very good reason. And that as a cocoa farmer's son who have lived with difficulties and challenges faced by the cocoa farmer, together with my board members, we believe that providing these items as well as constructing accessible roads within the cocoa growing areas was the correct thing to do

Q: Now sir to your recollection, in all the meetings of the etc, all the members were aware of the goods and services they were granting COCOBOD approval to procure.
Ans : yes my lord

The former Chief Executive of COCOBOD, Dr. Stephen Opuni, businessman Seidu Agongo and Agricult Ghana Ltd were charged with 27 counts including causing financial loss to the state and breach of the procurement act in the purchase of Lithovit liquid fertilizer between 2014 and 2016.

Source -- [angelonline.com](#)

Is This The End Of The French Project In Africa's Sahel?

By Vijay Prashad

On May 15, 2022, the military junta in Mali [announced](#) that it would no longer be part of the G5 Sahel platform. The G5 Sahel was created in Nouakchott, Mauritania, in 2014, and brought together the governments of Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger to collaborate over the deteriorating security situation in the Sahel belt—the region just below the Sahara desert in Africa—and to increase trade among these countries. Behind the scenes, it was clear that the formation of the G5 Sahel was encouraged by the French government, and that, despite all the talk of trade, the real focus of the group was going to be security.

In early 2017, under French pressure, these G5 Sahel countries [created](#) the G5 Sahel Joint Force (FC-G5S), a military alliance to combat the security threat posed by the aftermath of the Algerian civil war (1991-2002) and the detritus of NATO's 2011 war in Libya. The G5 Sahel Joint Force received the [backing](#) of the United Nations Security Council to conduct military operations in the region.

Mali's military spokesperson Colonel Abdoulaye Maïga said on May 15 that his government had sent a letter on April 22 to General Mahamat Idriss Déby Itno—President of Chad's transitional military council and the outgoing president of the G5 Sahel—informing him of Mali's decision; the lack of movement in holding the conference of the G5 Sahel heads of state, which was supposed to take place in Mali in February, and handing over the rotating presidency of the FC-G5S to the country, forced Mali to take the action of leaving both the FC-G5S and the G5 Sahel platform, Colonel Maïga [said](#) on national television.

The departure of Mali was inevitable. The country has been torn apart by austerity policies pushed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and by conflicts that run along the length of this country of more

than 20 million people. Two [coups](#) d'état in 2020 and 2021 in Mali were followed up with the [promise](#) of elections, which do not seem to be on the horizon. Regional bodies, such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), have also imposed [tough sanctions](#) against Mali, which has only exacerbated the economic problems already being faced by the Malian people. The G5 Sahel defense ministers last met in November 2021, and the G5 Sahel member countries' heads of state meeting in February 2022 was postponed. Mali was meant to take over the rotating presidency of G5 Sahel, but the other states who are part of the platform were [not](#) keen on this transfer (Chad has continued with the presidency).

Extra-regional power

The statement by Mali's military [blamed](#) the institutional drift in the G5 Sahel on the “maneuvers of an extra-regional state desperately aiming to isolate Mali.” This “extra-regional state” is France, which Mali says has tried to “[instrumentalize](#)” the G5 Sahel for French objectives. The five members of G5 Sahel are all former French colonies, who ejected the French through anti-colonial struggles and attempted to build their own sovereign states. These countries suffered assassinations (such as that of [Burkina Faso](#) former leader Thomas Sankara in 1987), dealt with IMF austerity programs (such as the [measures](#) taken against the government of Mali's former President Alpha Oumar Konaré from 1996 to 1999), and faced the reassertion of French power (such as when France [backed](#) Chad's Marshall Idriss Déby against Hissène Habré in 1990). After the French-initiated NATO war against Libya in 2011, and the destabilization it wrought, France intervened militarily in Mali [through](#) Operation Barkhane, and then—along with the United States military—it intervened across the Sahel as part of the G5 Sahel platform.

Since the reentry of the French military in the region, it has driven an agenda that seems to be more about catering to Europe's needs than those of the Sahel region. The main argument made for the French (and US) intervention in the Sahel is that they want to partner with the militaries of the region to combat terrorism. It is true that there has been a rise in militancy—some of it rooted in the [expansion](#) of Al Qaeda and the Islamic State activities in the Sahel.

Conversations with officials in the Sahel states, however, reveal that they do not believe that countering terrorism is the main issue for French pressure on their governments. They believe, although they are wary of going on the record, that the Europeans are worried more about the issue of migration than that of terrorism. Rather than allow migrants—many from West Africa and West Asia—to reach the Libyan coast and make an attempt to cross the Mediterranean Sea, they want to build a [perimeter](#) in the Sahel to limit the migrant movement beyond that; France has, in other words, moved the southern border of Europe from north of the Mediterranean to south of the Sahara.

Poorest place on earth

“We live in one of the poorest places on earth,” former Malian President Amadou Toumani Touré told me before he died in 2020. About 80 percent of the people of the Sahel live on [less than](#) \$1.90 a day, and the population growth in this region is [expected](#) to rise from 90 million in 2017 to 240 million by 2050. The Sahel belt owes a vast debt to the wealthy bondholders in the North Atlantic states, who are not prepared for debt forgiveness. At the seventh summit of the G5 Sahel in February 2021, the



Mali recently announced that it would no longer be part of the G5 Sahel. From the beginning, it was clear that the formation of the G5 Sahel was encouraged by France, and that the real focus was on security.

heads of state [called](#) for a “deep restructuring of the debt of the G5 Sahel countries.” But the response they received from the IMF was deafening.

Part of the budgetary problem is the demands made on these states by France to increase their military spending against any increase in their spending for humanitarian relief and development. The G5 Sahel countries [spend](#) between 17 percent and 30 percent of their budgets on their militaries. Three of the five Sahel countries have [increased](#) their military spending astronomically over the past decade, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute: Burkina Faso by 238 percent, Mali by 339 percent, and Niger by 288 percent. The arms trade is suffocating these countries. With the potential [entry](#) of NATO into the region, this illusionary form of treating the Sahel's problems as security problems will only persist. Even for the United Nations, the questions of development in the area have become an [afterthought](#) to the main focus on war.

Lack of support for the civilian governments to deal with the real problems in the region has led to military

coups in [three](#) of the five countries: Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali. The military junta in Mali [ejected](#) the French military from Mali's territory on May 2, a week before it left G5 Sahel. Indications of disquiet regarding French policies swirl around the region. Will Mali's example be followed by any of the other countries who are part of the G5 Sahel group, and will France's real project in the Sahel—to limit migration of people from the Global South to Europe—eventually collapse with Mali's exit from the G5 Sahel?

Vijay Prashad is an Indian historian, editor and journalist. He is a writing fellow and chief correspondent at [Globetrotter](#). He is an editor of [LeftWord Books](#) and the director of [Tricontinental: Institute for Social Research](#). He is a senior non-resident fellow at [Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies](#), Renmin University of China. He has written more than 20 books, including [The Darker Nations](#) and [The Poorer Nations](#). His latest book is [Washington Bullets](#), with an introduction by Evo Morales Ayma.

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Pay Us COLA To Avoid Turmoil In Education Sector – TEWU To Government

The Teachers and Educational Workers' Union, (TEWU) of the Trade Union Congress (TUC) has warned the government that non-payment of Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) will destabilize the education sector.

In a statement signed by the General Secretary of TEWU-TUC, Mark D. Korankye, he bemoaned the lackadaisical attitude of the government to their demand.

“We wish to state that members have reached their limit in the face of the excruciating economic conditions in the country and cannot wait any longer. Failure to respond positively to this call, the country's educational sector stands to suffer and that will have a damming effect on the final years of the Senior High Schools in their preparations for final examinations,” he said.

“The leadership of TEWU of TUC (GH) wants to put it on record that it has made frantic appeals to the government since September 2021, as well as early this year and even before the 2022 May Day national celebrations, that the skyrocketing prices of goods and services, calls for the authorities to pay COLA to workers, to enable them to cope with the

challenging economic conditions,” Mr. Korankye stated.

He continued: “Unfortunately, these appeals have not received any positive response, not even an acknowledgment of the Union appeals by government, especially the sector minister, that is, the Minister for Employment and Labour Relations.”

This is the full statement:

TEACHERS AND EDUCATIONAL WORKERS UNION, TEWU OF TUC-GHANA, CALLS ON THE GOVERNMENT TO COME CLEAR ON THE PAYMENT OF COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCE (COLA), TO CUSHION MEMBERS AGAINST THE EXCRUCIATING ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY

The Teachers and Educational Workers' Union, TEWU of TUC (GH), wishes to send its strongest signal to the government, to immediately pay Cost of Living Allowance (COLA), to members without fail. We wish to state that members have reached their limit in the face of the excruciating economic conditions in the country and cannot wait any longer. Failure to respond positively to this call, the country's educational sector stands to suffer and that

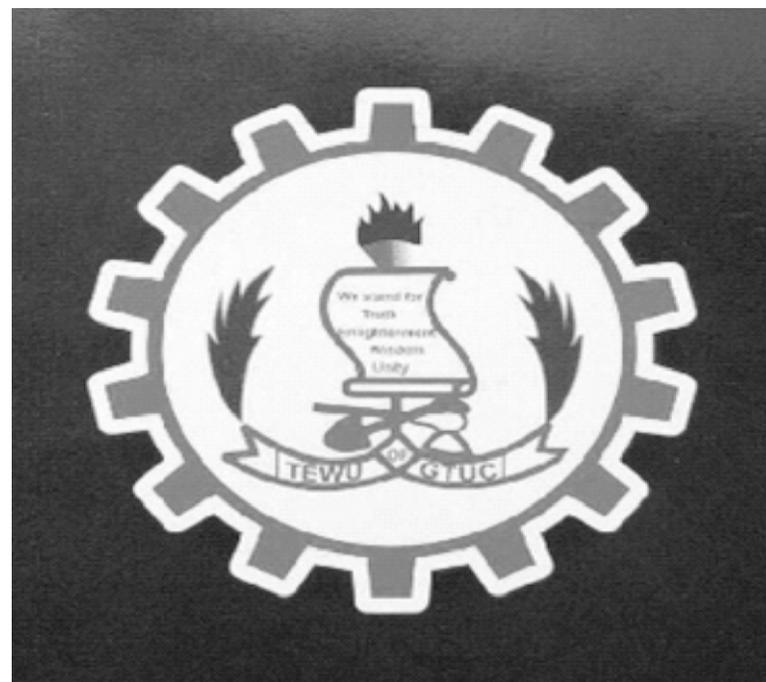
will have a damming effect on the final years of the Senior High Schools in their preparations for final examinations.

The leadership of TEWU of TUC (GH) wants to put it on record that it has made frantic appeals to the government since September 2021, as well as early this year and even before the 2022 May Day national celebrations, that the skyrocketing prices of goods and services, calls for the authorities to pay COLA to workers, to enable them to cope with the challenging economic conditions.

Unfortunately, these appeals have not received any positive response, not even an acknowledgment of the Union appeals by the government, especially the sector minister, that is, the Minister for Employment and Labour Relations.

Again, at the 2022 National May Day parade, at the Black Star Square, in Accra, the Secretary General of TUC (GH), Brother Anthony Yaw Baah, reiterated the issue of COLA to the President and his team present, but still, there is DEAFENING silence from the corridors of power.

As leaders of Public Sector workers, we cannot sit down for



our members to be subjected to this treatment of no action from the government to support them through COLA to deal with the worsening economic situation. In view of this, we have resolved that, by the end of this month, if no response is heard from the government, members of the Teachers and Educational Workers' Union, TEWU of TUC (GH), will have no other OPTION, then to advise our members to lay down their tools, until COLA hits the account of our cherished members.

The oil that helps the wheel of the economy to rotate is the workers' sweat, so it is painful, why this treatment to workers by the government, with the

complete silence on the various appeals for the authorities to pay workers COLA.

We, therefore, urge the government that the earlier it responds positively to this COLA demand, the better it will be for the Country in our education sector.

Please government pay workers COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCE (COLA), to prevent any turbulence on the labor front because living conditions are deteriorating by the day.

Issued for and on behalf of the National Leadership

Mark D. Korankye
General Secretary, TEWU of TUC

NPP Flagbearer Race: Kwabena Agyepong Hints At Running



Former aspirant for the flagbearer position of the ruling [New Patriotic Party](#), Kwabena Agyepong, has hinted that he

may vie for the position again. Speaking on the impending race in the party, he said that it cannot be the case that it is being regarded as a two-horse race especially when there are people like him who could make another showing for the slot. “The ground has not been opened yet. In 2007, I was the youngest of the 17 presidential

aspirants. I haven't ruled myself out at all for this battle,” he said, a 3news.com report said.

Kwabena Agyepong also said that with the way the NPP is structured, things like coercion and endorsements are not enough to get people elected into the party office. “I think it is very important

that we let Ghanaians know that our party has a time-honoured tradition that that decision cannot be earned through coercion, endorsements or force. It has to be earned by people, showing respect, going to the various places,” he added. It is no longer a secret that the main contenders for the

vacant slot of the NPP flagbearer position, although not official, is being projected to be between the Vice President, Dr. [Mahamudu Bawumia](#), and the Minister of Trade and Industry, [Alan Kyerematen](#). The NPP flagbearer race will be decided in 2023.