

ECONOMIC HARDSHIP

Prof Bokpin Calls For The Resignation Of Vice President



Prof Godfred Alufa Bokpin

Professor Godfred Alufa Bokpin, a Senior Lecturer at the University of Ghana Business School (UGBS) has urged Vice President, Dr Mahamudu Bawumia to resign for the sake of his dignity and integrity.

According to Prof Bokpin although the vice president takes all the criticisms for the country's economic woes as head of Ghana's Economic Management Team, it appears he has very little say in the government's economic policies.

He added that if Dr Bawumia has more influence in the government things will not be as bad as it currently is. "I sympathise with the vice president. He is always at the face of the NPP's (New Patriotic Party's) economic engineering engine, we were told. I believe that if he had enough control maybe things would not be like this," he said.

"If the Vice President feels uncomfortable about his role as the Chair of the Economic Management Committee and

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Investigation Finds Evidence Of War Crimes By UK Special Forces In Afghanistan



UK troops in Afghanistan Photo: Ministry of Defense. A years-long investigation by BBC Panorama has revealed evidence of the repeated killings of unarmed Afghan civilians and detainees by the UK's elite Special Air Service, and the attempted cover-up.

By Tanupriya Singh

A four-year investigation by the BBC has revealed evidence of war crimes by members of the UK's elite Special Air Service (SAS) in Afghanistan. These pertain to the repeated killings of unarmed men and detainees between 2010 and

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The INSIGHT

EDITORIAL

THE CEDI CRISIS

The government recently formed a committee to look into the Cedi's continued free fall much to the chagrin of the public.

The committee's formation and inauguration came into being after several measures adopted by the Bank of Ghana to curb the decline proved unsuccessful.

Clearly, the cedi's troubles seem to be hydra-headed and may have overwhelmed officials at the central bank, hence the formation of the committee.

But forming a committee to look into a crisis situation does not translate into solution.

There is one thing ascertaining the challenge or problem and taking a bold step to deal with it including its root causes and that is what matters most in this circumstance.

In a country where the means of production is very weak and virtually imports everything from the basic necessities to the sophisticated demands, it would require an unusual action or intervention to salvage the situation.

The Cedi's fall has shown clearly that rhetoric is not the same as action. Therefore policy makers especially the managers of the economy need to eat humble pie and immediately put their acts together and work out concrete measures to stabilize the cedi.

ECONOMIC HARDSHIP

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from front page

lacks the influence, he should resign. It would serve him better [and] the reason I'm saying so is that it will help him maintain his integrity. He has to take the bold decision," he said according to myjoyonline.com reports. Following Ghana's serious economic meltdown, there has been an attempt to seek financial bailout from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Justifying the reasons for walking into the fold of the IMF after criticizing the previous administration for doing same, Dr Bawumia claimed that the policies of former President John Dramani Mahama and external factors including the COVID-19 pandemic are responsible for the economic difficulties in the country.

According to him, Mahama's policies resulted in the Energy Sector Excess Capacity Payments and the Banking Sector Clean-Up which together with the COVID-19 and the Russia- Ukraine war have made life unbearable for Ghanaians.

Speaking at an event on Thursday to outline Ghana's achievements in digitalisation, the



Prof Godfred Alufa Bokpin

vice president indicated that the government had no choice but to seek an International Monetary Fund (IMF bailout) to help stabilise Ghana's economy. His statements have since been rubbished by a large section of Ghanaians who feel he should not have spoken at all considering the heap of mess being witnessed with the worsening economic hardship in the country.

Minority Shoots Down One-Billion-Dollar Loan Despite IMF Plea

The Minority has shot down the approval of a 1 billion dollar syndicated loan at the committee meeting despite IMF advice that it should be approved to prevent the economy from grinding to a halt. According to the Ranking Member of the Finance Committee, Ato Forson, their decision was due to the fact that some concerns including defects in the document raised by the minority with regards to the loan have not been addressed.

He insists that until the right things are done, the minority side will not approve the one billion dollar syndicated loan despite the IMF plea.

Speaking in an interview, he said, "...we met as a committee for us to consider and approve two tranches of loans. We have considered them in good fate but we have lingering concerns. First of all, we believe that the document before us has some fundamental defects because what is in the memorandum to parliament and what is in the loan agreement have some difference in the sense that in one breath, we were called upon to approve a loan of 750 million dollars but what is in the agreement has two trenches, tranche A and tranche b, one is in dollars and one in euros. So that will mean that parliament would have to amend what was brought to us."

When asked why they ignored the advice of the

IMF, he said they only take advice from foreign partners and not instructions.

"Parliament does not take instructions from our foreign partners, we take advice from them, advice can either be accepted or rejected it depends on the circumstances on the day," Ato Forson added.

THE INSIGHT

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Investigation Finds Evidence Of War Crimes By UK Special Forces In Afghanistan

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2011. Military reports obtained during the course of the probe suggest that one unit may have killed 54 people in a single six-month tour. [BBC's Panorama analyzed SAS operational accounts, including reports covering more than a dozen "kill or capture" raids carried out by an SAS squadron in the Helmand province.](#)

Individuals who were deployed alongside this squadron told [theBBC](#) that they had witnessed SAS operatives kill unarmed people during night raids. They also stated that they had seen these operatives using "drop weapons" – a tactic wherein AK-47 rifles were planted at a scene to justify the killing of an unarmed person. The UK Ministry of Defense has stated that it cannot comment on "specific allegations". Meanwhile, internal emails have shown that top-most level Special Forces officers were aware of concerns over possible "unlawful killings", but failed to report these to the military police, in violation of their legal obligation.

The killings in Helmand

The SAS unit in question arrived in Helmand in November 2010. Its primary role was to carry out deliberate detention operations, or DDOs, which were also known as "kill or capture" raids. Their stated purpose was to detain Taliban commanders and disrupt bomb-making networks. Sources told the *BBC* that there were "grave problems" with the intelligence that informed the selection process, meaning a civilian could be easily misidentified and targeted. A British representative told the *BBC* that lists of supposed Taliban members were put through a short process of discussion, and were then passed onto special forces who would be given a kill or capture order. "It didn't necessarily translate into let's kill them all, but certainly there was a pressure to up the game, which basically meant passing judgements on these people quickly", the source added. The *BBC* investigation has cited several other people who were deployed along with Special Forces, who said that SAS squadrons were competing with each other to "get the most kills". The squadron in Helmand was trying to achieve a higher body count than its predecessor. During the SAS raids, the operatives

used a recognized tactic wherein they would call everyone from inside a building out, search and restrain them with cable-tie handcuffs. A male would then be taken back inside to assist with the search. However, senior officers soon became concerned by the frequency with which the SAS squadron described detainees being taken inside the buildings and then supposedly grabbing hidden weapons.

In at least six raids, the number of people killed surpassed the number of weapons reportedly recovered— suggesting that the SAS was shooting unarmed people, and that the operatives were falsifying evidence by dropping weapons at the scene. Internal emails at the time described these reports as "quite incredible" and made references to the squadron's "latest massacre".

One operations officer emailed a colleague saying "for what must be the 10th time in the last two weeks", the squadron had sent a detainee back into a building "and he reappeared with an AK...Then they walked back into a different A[building] with another B[fighting-age male] to open the curtains he grabbed a grenade from behind a curtain and threw it at the [SAS assault team]. Fortunately, it didn't go off...this is the 8th time this has happened...You couldn't MAKE IT UP!"

The *BBC* looked at a series of incidents between November 2010 and April 2011, with strikingly similar reports of detained men grabbing hidden AK-47s or hand grenades from behind curtains or under furniture. In one such case on February 7, 2011 the squadron killed a detainee claiming that he had "attempted to engage the patrol with a rifle". The same justification was used for killings on February 9 and 13. The total death toll from the squadron's six-month tour was in the triple figures.

The killings were so brazen that even the senior Special Forces took note, with one officer writing to the Special Forces general director in April 2011 that there was evidence of "deliberate killings of individuals even after they have been restrained" and "fabrication of evidence to suggest a lawful killing in self-defense". Two days later, the assistant chief

of staff of the UK Special Forces wrote a similar letter stating that the SAS could be operating a policy to "kill fighting-aged males on target even when they did not pose a threat".

No accountability

These growing concerns eventually led to a rare review of the SAS squadron's tactics. However, the Special Forces deployed to Afghanistan for the inquiry appeared to take the operatives' version at face value. According to the *BBC*, the officer did not even visit any of the scenes of the raids or interview any witnesses outside the military. Not only that, the final report was signed off by the commanding officer of the SAS unit that was itself responsible for the "suspicious" killings.

None of this evidence was passed onto the Royal Military Police. Instead, the *BBC* found that the statements raising concerns were put into a restricted-access classified file for "Anecdotal information about extrajudicial killings". Meanwhile, the SAS squadron was allowed to redeploy to Afghanistan in 2012, for another six months.

When a murder investigation was launched by the Royal Military Police in 2013, Special Forces director General Carleton-Smith did not disclose any of the existing concerns or the existence of the tactical review.

Meanwhile, the *BBC* visited several homes that had been raided by the squadron between 2010 and 2011. One such site was a guesthouse in a village Nad Ali in Helmand, where 9 Afghan men including a teenager had been killed. The SAS operatives had arrived in helicopters in the dark and approached the house from a nearby field. They claimed that insurgents had opened fire at them, prompting them to shoot back and kill everyone in the building. Only three AK-47s were recovered at the site— one of the instances where the number of casualties exceeded the number of supposed enemy weapons.

The *BBC* also showed photos of the bullet holes in the guesthouse to ballistics experts, who said that the



UK troops in Afghanistan Photo: Ministry of Defense. A years-long investigation by *BBC Panorama* has revealed evidence of the repeated killings of unarmed Afghan civilians and detainees by the UK's elite Special Air Service, and the attempted cover-up.

clusters suggested multiple rounds had been fired downward from above, and "did not appear indicative of a firefight". The same pattern was visible at two other locations. Ballistic experts stated that the bullet holes were suggestive of "execution-style killings" instead of firefights. An RMP investigator also told the *BBC* that the bullet patterns had raised alarm, and that the bullet marks appeared to "undermine the special forces' version of events". The RMP eventually opened Operation Northmoor in 2014, which was an investigation into over 600 alleged offenses by British forces in Afghanistan. This included a number of killings by the SAS squadron. However, RMP investigators told the *BBC* that their efforts were obstructed by the British military, and Operation Northmoor was closed down in 2019. The Ministry of Defense stated that no evidence of criminality was found, a claim which the RMP investigation team has disputed. The MOD has also accused *BBC Panorama* of jumping to "unjustified conclusions from allegations that have already been fully investigated".

This is not the first such investigation into the killings of civilians by foreign occupying forces in Afghanistan. A [four-year inquiry](#) conducted by Major General Justice Paul Brereton in Australia found "credible evidence" that its elite soldiers had unlawfully killed 39 people,

including prisoners, farmers, or civilians, between 2009-13. Meanwhile, the *BBC* investigation (and the MOD's response to it) has also re-directed attention to the unjust and ongoing imprisonment of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, who did the critical work of exposing military abuses in Iraq and Afghanistan, and is now facing extradition and upto 175 years in prison in the US for it.

New BBC investigation reveals classified documents of specific incidents of Afghans being killed in cold blood by UK forces. The BBC report mirrors @wikileaks publication of similar evidence of US forces in Afghanistan & Iraq. #Assange faces 175 years in US prison for journalism.

<https://t.co/KzTg786D0A>
— Stella Assange
#FreeAssangeNOW
(@StellaMoris1) [July 12, 2022](#)
15 years to the day since the #CollateralMurder incident, which would have remained unknown but for the brave reporting of #WikiLeaks Julian Assange, reports of further war crimes in #Afghanistan make the headlines

Assange faces a 175 year sentence for his reporting
<https://t.co/v525Cez50W>
[pic.twitter.com/PCU6lu4W8L](https://t.co/v525Cez50W)
— Defend Assange Campaign (@DefendAssange) [July 12, 2022](#)



INTERNATIONAL NEWS REPORT

Compiled By Peoples Dispatch

Iran Expresses Angry At US-Israel Deal Over Nuclear Program

Iranian authorities have expressed anger at US-Israel deal regarding the its nuclear programme

Speaking in a public gathering during his visit to the northwestern province of Khormanshah, Raeisi asserted that “any mistake by the Americans and their allies in the region, and the world will be met with a harsh response that will make them regret it.”

Following the signing of a joint strategic [declaration](#) on July 14 by the US and Israel focused on preventing Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons, Iranian president Ebrahim Raeisi said that Iran will not tolerate any “mistake” by the US and its allies in the West Asia region, and will respond harshly to provocation. Raeisi's comments were made in a public gathering during his visit to Iran's northwestern province of Khormanshah. He asserted that “any mistake by the Americans and their allies in the region and the world, will

be met with a harsh response that will make them regret it.”

He also blamed the US and its allies in the region for “transiting instability and terrorism,” asserting that the Zionist regime of Israel “will never have normal relations in the region”. The joint strategic declaration signed by US President Joe Biden and Israel's caretaker Prime Minister Yair Lapid is officially known as the “Jerusalem US-Israel Strategic Partnership Joint Declaration,” and it states that the US will never “allow Iran to acquire a nuclear weapon, and that it is prepared to use all elements of its national power to ensure that outcome.”

Biden also claimed in an interview to Israeli *N12 News* that he is ready to use force “as a last resort” to keep Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons. However, he emphasized that the US will first pursue a diplomatic path to achieve this goal.

Disagreeing with Biden's emphasis on dialogue and diplomacy during a press conference after the signing of the joint declaration, Lapid asserted that “the only way to stop [Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons] is to put a credible military threat on the table,” claiming that, “words or diplomacy will not stop” Iran.

Biden reiterated “an ironclad commitment from the United States of America to Israel's security”.

Criticism of Biden's threat to use force

Reacting to the deal, Nasser Kan'ani, spokesperson of Iran's foreign ministry, wrote on Twitter that, “the aim [of the joint declaration] is not just Iran, but rather, Arab and Islamic countries.” He claimed that the US wants countries of the region to “always bow to the Zionist regime's



superiority.”

Kan'ani also claimed that the US's unconditional support of Israeli aggression in West Asia will prevent all attempts to establish stability. Biden's threat to use force against Iran has invited widespread criticism. Calling the threat a “gigantic mistake,” peace activist Medea Benjamin of US anti-war organization CODEPINK reminded Biden of his own critical stance

when predecessor Donald Trump withdrew from the Iran nuclear deal in 2018.

Iran is a signatory of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), and has repeatedly claimed that its nuclear program is only for peaceful purposes, and that it does not want to develop a nuclear bomb as it is against the values of the Islamic republic.

Bolivian Prosecutors Suspend Camacho's Hearing In Coup Case Following Death Threats

Bolivian prosecutors investigating the 'Coup d'état I' case have announced that they suspended the hearing of right-wing leader Luis Fernando Camacho after receiving death threats. The governor of the Santa Cruz department was set to testify on Tuesday July 12 over his involvement in the October 2019 coup d'état against the government of Evo Morales.

Anti-corruption prosecutor Carmelo Laura told local media that on Monday morning, the members of the Prosecutor's Office received anonymous threatening phone calls. “The commission of prosecutors has suffered a series of very serious threats...so we are going to suspend the audience organized with Mr. Luis Fernando Camacho Vaca. The prosecutors fear for their lives,” said prosecutor Laura. With regard to the rescheduling of the hearing, he said that the La Paz Prosecutor's Office was already aware of this situation and that the decision on rescheduling would be made in the city of La Paz, after the threats received are analyzed and due actions are taken on the matter. The commission of prosecutors traveled from the capital La Paz to the

department of Santa Cruz to take statements of Governor Luis Fernando Camacho Vaca and his father José Luis Camacho Parada. They are being investigated for the crimes of “conspiracy, sedition and terrorism” for their involvement in the US-backed right-wing civic-military coup that overthrew democratically elected socialist president Evo Morales in November 2019.

Luis Fernando Camacho, who was the president of the far-right Pro Santa Cruz Civic Committee in 2019, was one of the main promoters of the violent and racist demonstrations against the Morales government. In October 2019, during the post-elections conflict, he came to La Paz with members of his organization to demand Morales' resignation despite the rejection of popular sectors that demanded respect for democracy and the Constitution.

In a video released on social media networks, months following the coup, he was seen addressing a group of people,

saying that his father had coordinated with the military and police to ensure that the anti-Morales protests were not repressed. In November 2020, following the restoration of democracy in Bolivia, former deputy of the ruling Movement Towards Socialism (MAS) party Lidia Patty filed a complaint with the Prosecutor's Office against Santa Cruz's governor and his father, accusing them of terrorism, sedition and conspiracy. In March 2021, the lawsuit was extended to former de-facto president Jeanine Áñez, who was recently [sentenced to 10 years in prison](#) in the 'Coup d'état II' case for “breach of duties” and “resolutions contrary to the Constitution and the Law” when she illegally assumed the presidency of the country, as well as to former military and police chiefs. Recently, Patty requested to expand the accusation against former presidents Carlos Mesa and Jorge Quiroga, and businessman Samuel Doria Medina.

The Camachos were summoned to give their statements in La Paz in October 2021, however, citing health problems José Luis Camacho declared that he could not travel and the said summons were suspended. After almost ten months of delay, on

Monday, defendant José Luis Camacho finally appeared before the prosecutors' commission, however, he refrained from testifying, taking advantage of his constitutional right to silence. His son, Luis Fernando Camacho, was set to testify on July 12 and state under oath his role in the 2019 coup d'état. Pending the hearing, the Pro Santa Cruz Civic Committee and the opposition *Creemos* alliance had already called on their supporters to demonstrate at the Santa Cruz Prosecutor's Office to support their leader.

On Friday, July 8, providing further evidence of the growing internal conflict between the right-wing sectors in the country, Áñez's lawyer Alain Canedo asked the the Prosecutor's Office to charge Camacho and request his immediate preventive detention in the case. He pointed out that despite the fact that the original complaint was against Santa Cruz's governor, he was only notified to testify, unlike

Áñez who was arrested and is in prison.

“The Public Ministry should charge him and request the preventive detention of Luis Fernando Camacho, similar to what was done with Jeanine Áñez...Let's not forget that the complaint began against Luis Fernando Camacho in November 2020, and it is only in March 2021 that it was extended to Jeanine Áñez,” said Canedo, in statements broadcast by the *Red Uno* television station.

Since Áñez's conviction last month, the relatives of the victims of the Sacaba and Senkata massacres and other human rights violations committed during her rule have been demanding that the national government bring to justice all those who were responsible in the planning and carrying out the coup. President Luis Arce has promised that his government will constitutionally and legally work to guarantee justice and reparations.

Chase The OMCs For GH¢650 Million Owed In Petroleum Taxes – Govt Told

A Former Power Minister under the erstwhile National Democratic Congress (NDC) led administration, Dr. Kwabena Donkor has urged the Akufo-Addo-Bawumia-led government to recover an amount of GH¢650 million in petroleum taxes from Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs).

Addressing a press conference in Parliament, the former Power Minister

said the OMCs cannot continue to keep these amounts of money.

“Over GH¢650 million is out there from taxes that you and I have paid on petroleum products and we have consumed which have been not been collected from Oil Marketing Companies,” he reiterated on Wednesday, July 13, 2022.

The Former Power Minister who is the current Member of Parliament (MP) for Pru

East Constituency hinted that Ghana has allowed racketeers and fraudsters to enter its petroleum industry to siphon taxes and go away.

He lamented, “We have allowed racketeers, we have allowed fraudsters to come into the industry and siphon taxes and then go away, and the GH¢650 million are only the taxes owed to the state.”

He further indicated that



Kwabena Donkor, Former Minister Of Power

the Auditor General's report for 2021 has revealed massive rorts in

the petroleum sector.

Source: gbcghanaonline.com

Trainee Nurses, Midwives Bare Teeth At Government Over Unpaid Allowances



A number of nurses said they have no option but to defer their courses

Members of the Ghana Nurses and Midwives Trainees' Association have threatened to picket at the Ministry of Health if their allowances are not paid by the end of July this year. They have also threatened to boycott all intra-semester and inter-semester practicums

indefinitely. Addressing a press conference on Thursday, 14 July 2022 in Kumasi, the National President of the Association, Adumbisa Pascal, said they have not been paid allowances for 11 months now. He said, as a result, over 1,000 trainee

nurses have been prevented from taking examinations since they could not pay their school fees due to non-payment of allowances.

A number of them, he said have no option but to defer their courses.

While expressing disappointment in the government, he said they are suffering and want the government as a matter of urgency pay them.

Mr. Adumbisa also called on the government not to cancel the allowance due to the IMF conditions and any attempt to do so will be met with the fiercest resistance.

Suame Magazine Artisans Demonstrate Over Poor Roads



Artisans at Suame Magazine in the Suame Municipality of the Ashanti region last Thursday blocked the Suame highway to demonstrate against deplorable roads in the municipality.

The blockage caused vehicular traffic on the road as commuters waited for hours before the police deployed to the scene cleared it for free flow of traffic.

The aggrieved industrial workers said although there were some potholes on the road, it was not all that deteriorated but the contractor graded and left it. Some of the angry artisans who spoke to Class news' Elisha Adarkwah said they can no longer bear with the dust that emanates from the road since it has been

causing health implications. They said life was claimed on the road two days ago through a car crash due to the deteriorated and dusty nature of the road. They expressed disappointment in the governing [New Patriotic Party](#) (NPP) and the Member of Parliament for the area, [Osei Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu](#) for failing to ensure that the contractor fixes the road. The aggrieved artisans have, therefore, given the government a two-day ultimatum to ensure the road is fixed else they will block it again and prevent it from being used.

African Airlines Stare At \$4b Loss Over Costly Fuel

African airlines are expected to record a \$4.1 billion loss this year on the back of expensive fuel that is eroding the gains made by a recovering business.

Africa Airlines Association (AFRAA) says expensive jet fuel and other expenses involved in running the airlines will weigh down on the profits.

Kenyan airlines have had to adjust their fares upward because of a sharp rise in the cost of fuel, which accounts for a significant portion of the expenses involved in running the aircraft.

The cost of jet fuel has hit a high of Ksh148 (\$1.25) a litre from Ksh100 (\$0.85) in January, piling pressure on

airlines at a time when the demand for flying has remained low as the industry still recovers from the effects of Covid-19.

“Full-year revenue loss for African airlines for 2022 is estimated at \$4.1bn, equivalent to 23.4 percent of the 2019 revenues,” said AFRAA.

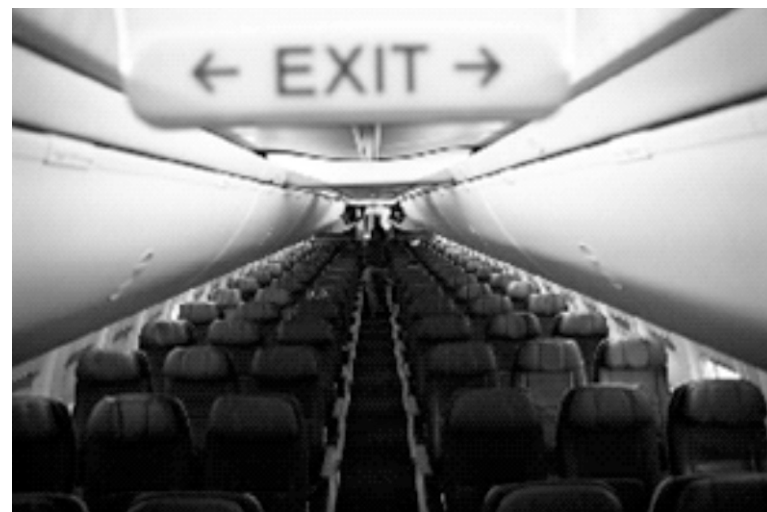
International Air Transport Association (IATA) had earlier warned that rising jet fuel prices were likely to cause airfares to increase this year, as airlines grapple with higher operating costs.

“We have had to adjust our fares because of expensive fuel that has increased our operation cost,” said Jambojet chief executive officer Ndegwa Karanja.

Mr Karanja, however, said the prices would be reviewed downwards in the coming days depending on the cost of fuel.

Safarilink chief executive officer Alex Avedi said the high cost of fuel has been passed on to the cost of tickets, making them pricier. “There has been a significant rise in the cost of fuel since January and this has had an effect on the cost of tickets,” said Mr Avedi.

The projected loss for this year, however, is lower than what was recorded last year, a pointer that the aviation industry is recovering from massive losses witnessed in the last two years as Covid-19 disrupted the sector. In 2021, African airlines



cumulatively lost \$8.6 billion in revenues due to the impact of the pandemic, representing 49.8 of 2019 earnings.

The Intra-African passenger traffic recovery was estimated at 74 percent in May due to the easing of

anti-covid-19 restrictions in several African countries. A total of 27 states in the continent have eased travel restrictions by removing the requirement for testing on fully vaccinated passengers.

Source: theeastafrican.co.ke

17 Terrorist Attacks Recorded In West Africa In June 2022



Mr Albert Kan-Dapaah, Minister of National Security, has said the West African subregion experienced 17 terrorist attacks as of June 28, 2022.

He said the attacks resulted in 574 deaths with “so many injuries.” “In April, the subregion of West Africa witnessed attacks, incidents and 315 people died. We felt that was too much, but in May, there were only 42 incidents, five less than in April, but 465 people died. The trend has not changed,” he added.

The Minister said this on Monday at the opening ceremony of the First Senior Level Regional Course for the Prevention of Violent

Extremism (PVE) for West Africa Region, in Accra.

The four-day event is jointly organised by the African Union's (AU) specialised institution - African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT) and partnered by the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland. It is being supported by the Human Security Research Centre (HSRC)-Ghana.

Mr Kan-Dapaah noted that major security threats posed by terrorism and violent extremism were more widespread than previously thought, transcending borders. Therefore, he said the course would create the opportunity for them to reflect on measures, strategies

deployed thus far towards addressing terrorism and violent extremism.

He said it would also help them develop innovative approaches towards enhancing regional security.

The Minister urged participants not to shirk the fight against terrorism to policy makers of their respective governments, adding that, a societal approach was needed.

Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, Former Special Representative of the Secretary-General for United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), said innovative approaches were required to nib terrorism and violent extremism in the bud in the subregion.

He noted that military action per se was not a sufficient guarantor of national security.

Therefore, he suggested that the response to terrorism and violent extremism should be carried out with a blend of military approach and a whole-of-society preventive measures that took into consideration the vulnerabilities of people.

Dr Chambas said PVE policies must

consider creating a conducive atmosphere for economic empowerment and a sense of belonging, particularly for young people, to be productive and contribute to the socio-economic development of their communities and countries.

Mr Idriss Mounir Lallali, Acting Director, African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT/CAERT), AU Commission, said Ghana's active involvement and participation in activities of the AU demonstrated the country's long-standing history of working tirelessly towards peace, unity and resilience of the African Continent.

He said Violent Extremism was a multi-faceted and extremely diverse phenomena, thus making it difficult to be predicted by one variable.

Mr Lallali said in Africa, vulnerabilities such as weak political institutions, porous borders, inadequately trained and ill-equipped security forces, historical grievances mainly related to marginalisation, and lack of economic opportunities—particularly for young people—had created conditions for extremist ideologies

to grow and fester.

He said political instability within the continent provided safe havens for terrorist and extremist groups and in turn creating generalised insecurity that gave rise to popular uprisings – thus resulting in a vicious cycle of insecurity and coup d'états.

Mr Lallali said although military strategies may be justifiable in combative situations, more practical and lasting solutions must be targeted in preventative measures. He said terrorism and violent extremism would only be overcome by collectively working together in the fight against all forms and manifestations of the threat.

“Our collective action and cooperation are needed now more than ever to silence the guns on our continent,” he added.

Mr Philipp Stalder, Ambassador of Switzerland to Ghana, said the course would be an opportunity to consider how dialogue could concretely be put at the service of violence prevention.

He noted that dialogue was transformative and important to the prevention of violence.

Source -- GNA

John Ndebugre Laid To Rest

The President of Ghana, [Nana Akufo-Addo](#), the Vice President, Dr. [Mahamudu Bawumia](#), and former president, [John Dramani Mahama](#), over the weekend bid farewell to the late John Ndebugre.

The death of the former Member of Parliament for Zebilla, John Akparibo Ndebugre, was announced on Friday, May 6, 2022.

The former Peoples National Convention (PNC) MP died at the age of 72 after a short illness at Zebilla in the Bawku West District of the Upper East Region.

He was a lawyer by profession, was married and had four children.

At a state funeral held for him at the forecourt of the State House in Accra, the president and other dignitaries joined the family of the late MP to bid him a final farewell.

Signing a book of condolence for the late PNC MP, [John Dramani Mahama](#) described John Ndebugre as a mentor and an elder brother.

“So shocked to learn of your

sudden passing. You've been an elder brother, mentor, and comrade. Your words of advice and good counsel have served me well in my political career. Rest in peace, my big brother,” he wrote.

Also in attendance at the funeral were the Speaker of Parliament, Alban Bagbin, and the Chief Justice, Kwasi Anin Yeboah.

About John Akparibo Ndebugre

John Akparibo Ndebugre was a Ghanaian politician of the Republic of Ghana.

He was the Member of Parliament representing Zebilla constituency of the Upper East Region of Ghana in the 4th Parliament of the 4th Republic of Ghana. He was a member of the People's National Convention.

Early life and education

Ndebugre was born on March 12, 1950. He was a product of Kwame Nkrumah

University of Science and Technology where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the university.

He was also a product of the Ghana School of Law, where he acquired a Bachelor of Law degree from the school.

Career

Ndebugre was a lawyer by profession.[2]

Political career

Ndebugre was a member of the People's National Convention. He became a Member of Parliament in January 2005 after emerging winner in the General Election in December 2004. He was elected as the MP for the Zebilla constituency in the fourth parliament of the fourth Republic of Ghana.

Elections

Ndebugre was elected as the Member of Parliament for the Zebilla constituency of the Upper East Region of Ghana for the first time in the 2004 Ghanaian general



Akufo-Addo, Bawumia, Mahama, Bagbin and Anin Yeboah are at the funeral

elections.

He won on the ticket of the People's National Convention. His constituency was a part of the 3 parliamentary seats out of 13 seats won by the People's National Convention in that election for the Upper East Region.

The People's National Convention won a minority total of 4 parliamentary seats out of 230 seats. He was

elected with 11,026 votes out of 31,188 total valid votes cast.

This was equivalent to 35.4% of total valid votes cast.

He was elected over Appiah Moses of the New Patriotic Party, Cletus Apul Avoka of the National Democratic Congress and Sulley Aneda Apam of the Convention People's Party.

Obiri Boahen Says OSP's Request To Investigate Sir John's Estate Sets 'Very Dangerous Precedent'



Nana Obiri Boahen, Deputy General Secretary of the NPP

Deputy General Secretary of the [New Patriotic Party](#) (NPP) has bemoaned the investigation into the estate of the late former Chief Executive Officer of the Forestry Commission, Kwadwo Owusu Afriyie aka [Sir John](#).

[Nana Obiri Boahen](#) asserts that the investigation was wrong and sets a dangerous precedent because the

executor of [Sir John](#)'s Will cannot explain how he ([Sir John](#)) acquired his wealth.

In a Somp FM interview monitored by GhanaWeb, the NPP Deputy General Secretary, who is also the lawyer for the executor of [Sir John](#)'s Will, Charles Owusu, said that there is no need for the Special Prosecutor to freeze the assets of the late [Sir John](#).

“If someone is alive and you are looking into his estate, that is okay. But if the person is dead and you are asking the executor of his Will to answer questions on his estate, how is he supposed to do that. How will he know how the dead person

amassed his wealth?

“I used a phrase in court that, the Special Prosecutor freezing the assets of [Sir John](#) will set a very bad and dangerous precedent... this will mean that if anybody acquires wealth and the Special Prosecutor seize it just like it happened in Ghana some years back,” he said in Twi.

On the matter of the peripheral portions of the Achimota Forest Reserve land being willed by [Sir John](#), he said that the government can ask the Owoo family about the persons they sold the lands they reclaimed to.

“On lands, he bought at the

Achimota Forest, he ([Sir John](#)) is not alive but the Minister (for Lands and Natural Resources) explained that parts of the lands were given to the Owoo family and [Sir John](#) also bought the lands from the family. He (the Special Prosecutor) can go to the Owoo family and ask them who they sold their lands to,” he said.

Obiri Boahen added that allegations that [Sir John](#) acquired the properties stated in his Will through corruption are false because he ([Sir John](#)) was given some gold consignment by his uncle, which he could have used to

acquire more properties than what was stated in his Will.

Meanwhile, an Accra High Court has dismissed a request by the Special Prosecutor, Kissi Agyabeng, to extend his power to freeze the assets of the late CEO of the Forestry Commission, Kwadwo Owusu Afriyie, also known as [Sir John](#).

The OSP has, however, indicated that it will be appealing the decision of the court, saying, “If this decision is left to stand, the Republic will lose the fight against corruption in unimaginable ways. The investigations into the estate of Kwadwo Owusu Afriyie alias [Sir John](#) will still proceed.”

How Sri Lankan President Resigned By Email After Fleeing To Singapore



Gotabaya Rajapaksa, ousted Sri Lankan president

Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa last Thursday tendered his resignation in a letter sent by email to parliamentary speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardenena, according to an announcement from the speaker's office.

Rajapaksa landed in Singapore on a flight from the Maldives earlier after fleeing his country in the wake of anti-government protests.

Abeywardenena has received an email with Rajapaksa's resignation, the speaker's office confirmed to CNN on Thursday, but added that "we cannot accept such an email at face value."

"The legality of it needs to be ascertained. It has been shared with the relevant authorities for the verification of the same," the office

said. "Once we have official confirmation and it is legally verified, we hope to make a statement regarding it tomorrow [Friday] morning."

Abeywardenena's office added that it is expecting to receive a paper copy of the letter, but that would take longer as it would be sent from Singapore. According to a high-ranking government source, the letter was emailed after Rajapaksa arrived in Singapore. The source spoke on the condition of anonymity to provide details that have not been shared publicly by officials.

Singapore said Rajapaksa had been allowed to enter the country on a "private visit" but had not asked for or been granted asylum.

"It is confirmed that Mr. Rajapaksa

has been allowed entry into Singapore on a private visit. He has not asked for asylum and neither has he been granted any asylum. Singapore generally does not grant requests for asylum," the Singapore Foreign Ministry statement read.

Rajapaksa pledged to quit over the weekend after angry demonstrators broke into his official residence, swam in his pool, and demanded the end of his family's ruling dynasty. He left the Maldivian capital Malé on board a "Saudi flight," a high-ranking security source in Colombo told CNN.

CNN believes the source was referring to Saudia flight 788, which left Malé at 11:30 a.m., according to the source. The flight landed in Singapore at 7:17 p.m. local time Thursday, according to the Changi Airport website. CNN has reached out to Saudia, Saudi Arabia's flag carrier, but has not heard back.

Rajapaksa had been in the Maldives for one day after fleeing Sri Lanka in the early hours of Wednesday -- the same day he had said he would resign.

But the absence of a formal resignation letter raised questions about the intentions of an apparently self-exiled leader who appointed the prime minister as acting president after leaving his island nation.

Shortly after Rajapaksa left the country, protesters stormed Acting President Ranil Wickremesinghe's office to demand his removal.

Wickremesinghe responded by calling a nationwide curfew overnight.

On Thursday, Wickremesinghe granted Sri Lanka's armed forces special powers of arrest, and instructed them to "exercise force" if necessary to dispel protests across the nation, army spokesman Brigadier Nilantha Premaratne said in a televised address.

"In view of the escalation of violent acts, protesters intent on harming the armed forces or public property are earnestly urged to desist from all forms of violence immediately or be prepared to face consequences as members of the armed forces are legitimately empowered to exercise force," Premaratne said.

Sri Lanka's parliament will not reconvene until Rajapaksa formally submits his resignation letter, Speaker Abeywardenena said Thursday.

Previously, parliament had been expected to start the process of selecting a new president on Saturday, with the goal of voting in a new leader by July 20. That timeline is now on hold until Rajapaksa officially leaves his post.

Many protesters have vowed to continue to demonstrate until both men step down.

By Thursday morning, as questions swirled over Sri Lanka's future, a calm had descended on the streets of the commercial capital Colombo.

A lawyer representing the People's

Protest Movement said Thursday that all occupied buildings, except the Presidential Secretariat, will be handed back to authorities.

"We want to affirm that this is a peaceful protest and have no intention to resort to any form of violence," Swasthika Arulingam told reporters. "This has always been and will continue to be a peaceful movement."

But everywhere there are signs that the country remains on a knife edge. Amid crippling shortages of fuel, abandoned vehicles line the streets near gas stations. People are no longer able to drive to work, so they cycle instead. Some have taken to sleeping in their cars.

The Sri Lankan police force said one police officer had been seriously injured during the protests and was receiving treatment in hospital. An army sergeant had also been injured, it added.

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres on Thursday said he was following the events in Sri Lanka "very closely" and called for a "peaceful and democratic transition."

"It is important that the root causes of the conflict and protesters' grievances are addressed," he wrote on Twitter. "I urge all party leaders to embrace the spirit of compromise for a peaceful and democratic transition."

Security Heightened Over Fears Of Burkina Faso Bandits Infiltrating Ghana

Ghana's security apparatus along the borders of the country in the Upper East Region is on high alert after intelligence reports suggested some bandits from Burkina Faso have infiltrated the country. According to asaaseradio.com, the Upper East Regional Security Council issued a directive to the security officers to be on high alert, indicating possible attacks on Ghanaian communities by suspected Burkinabe bandits. The report said that a communique to police

commanders in the region indicated that the robbery gang, who had high military-grade weapons, may have already infiltrated some communities in the Upper East Region and are likely plotting an attack. Meanwhile, an attack that reportedly happened during the weekend in the region led to a local Imam and several others sustaining various degrees of injuries. This attack led to several women and children fleeing their communities to other communities in the Upper East Region.

