

MARTIN AMIDU

He Says Shake Up In National Security NPP's Scheme To 'Break The 8'



Martin Alamisi Burns Kaiser Amidu

Martin Alamisi Burns Kaiser Amidu, a former Special Prosecutor has alleged that the shake up at the National Security outfit undertaken by President Nana Akufo-Addo last weekend is a critical part of the New Patriotic Party's (NPP) scheme to "Break the Eight". Mr. Amidu in a statement released yesterday asserted that the appointment made by the president was the final piece of the jigsaw which enables him to fix people he can manipulate at the nation's foremost intelligence agency.

Cont. page 2

'Ghana's Economy Is In The Tank' – Prof. Steve Hanke Says

Page 5

"Cuba Is Our Neighbour!" Campaign Urges Biden Regime To Lift Sanctions

Page 4

International Youth Day Celebrations **NDC Youth Wing Announces Boycott Of Event Due To Economic Hardship, Corruption, Others**

The Youth Wing of the opposition National Democratic Congress (NDC) yesterday said it will not partake in this year's International Youth day Celebrations. A statement issued yesterday by the National Youth Organizer of the NDC, George Opare Addo cited excruciating economic hardship in the country as the reason for the boycott.

"The youth Wing is of the view that

there is absolutely nothing for the youth to celebrate in these times of excruciating hardship that the Akufo-Addo/Bawumia government has brought upon the Ghanaian youth through their bad governance, economic mismanagement and pervasive corruption", the statement said.

This is the full text of the statement;
Press Release
NDC YOUTH WING TO BOYCOTT INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY

CELEBRATIONS BY NATIONAL YOUTH AUTHORITY
ACCRA, August 11, 2022- The Youth Wing of the National Democratic Congress will not participate in the 2022 International Youth Day Celebrations being organized by the National Youth Authority. The Youth Wing is of the view that there is absolutely nothing for the youth to celebrate in these times of excruciating hardship that the

Cont. page 3



George Opare Addo

C M Y K

THE SOCIALIST MOVEMENT OF GHANA



We appeal to all compassionate individuals and organisations to donate generously to the relief efforts following the fire outbreak in the fuel storage depot in Matanzas Province of Cuba. This appeal is made against the backdrop of decades old blockade imposed on Cuba by the United States of America. which limits the capacity of the Cuban Government and people to deal effectively with disasters of such magnitude.

All donations in kind and cash should be sent to the Headquarters of the Socialist Movement of Ghana (SMG) next door to the Nogahill Hotel on the George Bush Highway in Accra. You can also contact Emmanuel Baiden on telephone +233 24 965 2640.

Viva Cuba!

Viva Socialism!

CUBA SOLIDARITY APPEAL

#FuerzaMatanzas

C M Y K

The INSIGHT

EDITORIAL

THE FAKE PRODUCTS

The warning by the Communication for Development and Advocacy Consult about the threat posed to Ghanaians regarding the influx of fake electrical products and electronic appliances should be a matter of concern to all.

Already, some large quantities of imported items mainly electrical products have been found by the Ghana Standards Authority not to have met the standardisation test conducted.

Even though the Standard Authority claimed all the items were destroyed, many of such fake products are still in the market.

Several houses within the past several months have burnt down killing their occupants without trace of the causes. The rate at which fake products are entering the market and being bought because of their affordability is worrying if not frightening.

There are several companies that are producing some of the durable electrical products in Ghana but increased taxes have made them not to be price-competitive as many people due to poverty prefer to settle for the 'Cheap Items' without looking at their durability and the risks associated with their usage. There is obviously the need for the government to have a second look at the taxes which are currently killing businesses in the country.

The Standard Authority and the Food and Drugs Authority need to urgently put their acts together to deal with the menace of fake electrical products and appliances before it blows out into a full scale national crisis.

MARTIN AMIDU

He Says Shake Up In National Security NPP's Scheme To 'Break The 8'

from front page

Amidu suggested that Edward Asomani and Nana Attobrah Quaicoe, who have been appointed to top positions at the National Security Secretariat, are loyalists of Akufo-Addo and the NPP.

"The appointment by the President of Mr. Edward Asomani, Deputy National Security Co-ordinator, to act as National Security Co-ordinator ... gives finality to Nana Akufo-Addo's long game to capture the National Security Secretariat apparatus towards his electoral agenda for the 2024 parliamentary and presidential elections.

"The President by the same press release also appointed Nana Attobrah Quaicoe, Deputy Director-General of the NIR ... to act as the Director-General of National Intelligence Bureau, with his confirmation also being subject to the receipt of the constitutionally required advice of the National Security Council, given in consultation with the Public Service Commission as part of Nana Akufo-Addo's long game to capture the National Intelligence Bureau apparatus towards his electoral agenda for the 2024 parliamentary and presidential elections," parts of the statement read.

The statement added: "It is important for the reader to keep at the back of his mind the unspoken facts and evidence that Nana Attobrah Quaicoe and Mr. Edward Kwaku Asomani were recruited into Nana Akufo-Addo's Danquah Institute under the chairmanship of his maternal cousin, Mr. Gabby Asare Otchere-Darko, an indispensable member of the family's planning and strategies cohort."

A statement issued last week by the Director of Communications at the presidency, Eugene Arhin, said that the president had appointed the Deputy National Security Coordinator, Edward Asomani, to act as the substantive Coordinator.

The statement also indicated that the president had appointed the Deputy Director General of the National Intelligence Bureau, Nana Attobrah Quaicoe, as the Director General of the Bureau.

"In accordance with Section 20 (1) of the Security and Intelligence Agencies Act, 2020 (Act 1030), President Akufo-Addo has subsequently appointed Mr. Edward Asomani, Deputy National Security Co-ordinator, to act as National Security Co-ordinator, with effect from Monday, 8th August 2022.

"... the president has appointed Nana Attobrah Quaicoe, currently Deputy Director General of NIB, to act, with effect from Monday, 8th August 2022, as Director General of the National Intelligence Bureau," parts of the statement read.

However, Mr. Amidu who was appointed as the first ever Special Prosecutor by the Akufo-Addo administration but had to quit his post allegedly because of interference and deliberate underfunding believes there is more to the shake up than a normal security arrangement. This is the full text of his statement;

NEW LEADERSHIP APPOINTMENTS TO THE NATIONAL SECURITY APPARATUS AND AKUFO-ADDO'S LONG GAME OF BREAKING THE EIGHT: BY MARTIN A. B. K. AMIDU

The press release issued by the Communications Directorate of the Jubilee House, Accra on 5 August 2022 announcing the appointment of new leadership for the National Security apparatus was the eventual actualization of an intentional and purposeful strategic decision by President Akufo-Addo since he lost the second round of the 2008 Presidential Election to ensure that if he ever ascended the Presidency

Cont. on pages 6&7

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 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE 1- 7XW

Tel: 0171-6201430

E-mail: prattc22@aol.com

International Youth Day Celebrations

NDC Youth Wing Announces Boycott Of Event Due To Economic Hardship, Corruption, Others

from front page

Akufo-Addo/Bawumia government has brought upon the Ghanaian youth through their bad governance, economic mismanagement, and pervasive corruption. The hardship is so dire that the youth struggle to afford one decent meal a day. To add insult to injury, prices of goods and services keep on increasing on the market every second.

Contrary to the Akufo-Addo/Bawumia government's fanciful promises to create descent jobs for the youth, they have rather increased the unemployment situation through the collapse of businesses such as banks and other financial institutions resulting in the laying-off of many of our youth. Many graduates, newly trained nurses, teachers, and other professionals remain home unemployed and wonder where their next meal will come from. Those in the informal sector already struggling to put body and soul together have been saddled with unbearable taxes to further worsen their precarious living standards. We are not oblivious of the fact that young people of our Country today must show proof of their NPP membership or affiliation before they can get any opportunity under this government. For those who do not have any connections in the NPP, they are callously confronted with monetary demands not less than 30,000 cedis to be recruited into various security agencies or

other job opportunities. The NPP government has thrown meritocracy to the dogs! No wonder there are concerns about standards of professionalism in some of our security agencies today. The economic mismanagement by the government has resulted in extremely bad times for young entrepreneurs who struggle to make ends meet due to increase in taxes, and nuisance taxes such as the e-levy which has led to the deliberate collapse of the mobile money businesses affecting the livelihoods of over 300,000 youth. Most young people who were into online business have had to fold up due to the introduction of the roundly condemned e-levy. As the NDC rightly predicted, the NaBCO model for job creation is unsustainable. After putting NaBCO beneficiaries through months of hardship by government's refusal to pay them their meagre allowances, government has finally collapsed the programme and the beneficiaries are now hopeless! Ominously, the Akufo Addo/Bawumia government has wickedly failed to pay beneficiaries their monthly stipends for the past nine months. Another disturbing anti-youth project this government is vigorously pursuing, is its inability to pay allowances of national service personnel for many months now. The case of teacher and nursing trainee allowances is not different. After bragging of supposedly restoring trainee allowance to enhance its

electoral fortunes, government has so far not been able to honor its promise. While government cannot find money to pay these allowances to give respite to young people, President Akufo-Addo finds money to rent luxurious jets at cut-throat prices at the detriment of suffering taxpayers so he can enjoy bathing in the sky. Again, even though the Free SHS programme has been lauded by many Ghanaians as a good programme, its poor implementation has brought untold hardships to parents and students. Today, boarding students are dying of hunger in schools. They largely rely on the benevolence of their old school associations, churches, and philanthropists to survive. Many heads of schools are threatening to shut down schools for lack of food. The state of the Ghanaian youth today under the Akufo-Addo/Bawumia government is that of hopelessness and complete disillusionment. Government is clueless about youth development and how to address the challenges facing the youth. It is therefore surprising that the NYA is readying itself to mark this year's international youth day with another jamboree instead of charging government to immediately address the needs of the youth. We are aware that the NYA intends to mark the day by conferring an award on



George Opare Addo

President Akufo-Addo. That is nothing but an insult to the Ghanaian youth. It is such a wonder that at a time that the Ghanaian youth are struggling, the NYA finds it necessary to award the President for inflicting hardship on them. The NDC under President John Mahama handed over a National Youth Policy and Implementation Plan to the Akufo-Addo government 6 years ago. This government failed to implement the policy. It has spent all these years reviewing the policy. Again, the NDC government enacted the National Youth Authority Act in 2016 but the Akufo-Addo govern has failed to implement the law for the benefit of the Ghanaian youth. The Youth Wing of the NDC believe that the only thing that is worth celebrating is the tenacity, resilience, and

the tolerance of youth in the face of extreme unjustifiable provocation. There is absolutely no future for the youth as the Akufo-Addo government through its economic policy of borrow-to-chop has mortgaged the future of the youth by borrowing to unprecedented levels that many generations yet unborn will have to pay. Such a bad father who leaves no inheritance for his children! We wish however to urge the youth not to despair and lose faith in Ghana's democracy. We encourage all eligible youth to endeavor to register with the Electoral Commission when the opportunity presents itself and exercise their franchise in anger, hunger, and protest this failed NPP government. Aluta Continua



INTERNATIONAL NEWS REPORT

Compiled By Peoples Dispatch

“Cuba Is Our Neighbour!” Campaign Urges Biden Regime To Lift Sanctions

While the devastating fire in the Cuban province of Matanzas continues to burn through oil tanks that were critical for Cuba's energy supply, US activists extend their solidarity. “Sanctions fuel the fire”, an open letter declares, urging US President Biden to lift sanctions against Cuba so that humanitarian aid and funds can flow freely to the island. The letter was released on August 9, and as of August 10, a growing list of prominent figures in the US and international left have signed on, including Cornel West, Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz, Noam Chomsky, and Jeremy Corbyn.

The letter is part of the “Sanctions Fuel the Fire” campaign, spearheaded by the People's Forum, the ANSWER Coalition, IFCO/Pastors for Peace, and CODEPINK. “Despite the words of condolence and the offer of technical advice, the US government has done very little to aid the people of Cuba in their greatest moment of need,” reads the letter. “Unfortunately, US sanctions fuel the fires that rage in Cuba! Despite assurances by the US Embassy in Havana that the law authorizes US entities and organizations to provide disaster relief and response, Trump's 243 sanctions continue to prevent urgently needed aid

from arriving in Cuba.”

The United States has not offered material aid to Cuba thus far, unlike nations such as Mexico and Venezuela who have sent personnel and materials to fight the fire on the ground. Simultaneously, the US continues to impose cruel sanctions, some of which are held over from the Trump era, like Cuba's inclusion in the US's “State Sponsors of Terrorism” list. The US has also subjected the island to a cruel blockade for over 60 years.

“Due to the sanctions, there are long, complex processes to get licenses to send aid, usually taking months for approval,” wrote the



Prominent figures across the US left have signed an open letter demanding that Biden lift sanctions on Cuba to facilitate humanitarian aid after Matanzas fire

campaign organizers. “Additionally, Cuba's inclusion in the State Sponsors of Terrorism List means that banks in both the United States and abroad are reluctant to process humanitarian donations, making it essentially

impossible to send desperately needed funds.” The open letter concludes: “When your neighbor's house is on fire, the normal human reaction is to rush next door to help. To save lives. To extinguish the flames. Cuba is our neighbor!”

Progressives Condemn Repression Of Anti-War March In Niscemi, Italy



Anti-war groups and other progressive sections in Italy have denounced the repression of an anti-war march in the Niscemi commune of Sicily. On Sunday, August 7, hundreds of activists and ecologists from groups like No MUOS Movement, No Base Movement – Coltano, A Foras – Sardinia, Punta Izzo Possible, Autonomous Collective of Port Workers, Political Ecology – Palermo, and others organized a march to the US-controlled military base in Niscemi which houses one of the ground stations of the US military communication system, Mobile User Objective

System (MUOS). Italian security forces violently repressed the march using water cannons and tear gas. Anti-war groups have protested the police action and stated that the security forces used teargas canisters with hazardous chemicals to attack the peaceful march.

Activists from various anti-war groups and ecological initiatives had assembled in Niscemi as part of a three-day camp organized by the No MUOS Movement from

August 5-7. The march to the military base was organized on the third day of the camp to protest the presence of military camps of the US and NATO across Italy, including the MUOS ground station in Niscemi. In the three-day camp, the participants discussed the impact of imperialist wars and military garrisons on climate and ecology. The No MUOS Movement stated that “there is a very close relationship between the climate crisis and wars. The impact of wars on the environment begins long before the military conflict materializes. Building and sustaining military forces consumes huge amounts of natural resources and [leads to] enormous volumes of greenhouse gas emissions.” According to the No MUOS Movement, vast areas of Sicily are facing acute ecological disaster due to the presence of

military garrisons and unscientific developmental projects. The No MUOS Movement was launched in Italy to oppose the installation and functioning of the ground station of MUOS in Niscemi adjacent to the Sughereta di Niscemi Nature Reserve. On August 8, Potere al Popolo (Power to the People) stated, “we're back demonstrating together with hundreds of people in the heart of the Sughereta Nature Reserve, who protest the US Navy antennas, which are also used to control drones that too often export death around the world.” “We did it yesterday, as many other times, and we will do it again every time, because this fight, now 10 years long, is emblematic of the he US military presence in our country, but also of the devastation of our territories inflicted by those who

govern us. We want to stop the militarization of our country, and to safeguard our territories, and the health of people and nature,” added Potere al Popolo. In its statement on August 8, the Communist Youth Front (FGC) condemned the police repression in Niscemi. FGC stated that “The No Muos struggle is an example of perseverance and combativeness in putting the sticks between the wheels of imperialism.” “Off to the Nato/US bases! No involvement of Italy in imperialist plans!” said the FGC. In June, the No Base Movement organized a massive protest in Coltano, Pisa, against the Italian government's plan to open a new military base in the San Rossore Park in Coltano. The Autonomous Collective of Port Workers is also active in protests against the use of Italian ports like Genoa to transfer arms and ammunition for imperialist wars.

'Ghana's Economy Is In The Tank' – Prof. Steve Hanke Says

Professor of applied economics at Johns Hopkins University-USA, Steve Hanke, has suggested that the country's economic outlook does not look favourable. The academic in a Twitter post on August 6 pointed to the depreciating Cedi as the reason for his claim. In his view, the country needs a currency board in order to address the situation. The Cedi in recent times has witnessed marginal depreciation with some analysts predicting that it may trade at GH¢10 to a US dollar – a major currency by end of the year. "In #Ghana, the economy is in the tank. By my calculations, the #cedi has depreciated by ~34% against the USD since Jan. 1, 2020. The cedi is a central bank junk currency.

GHA must mothball its central bank and install a currency board," Prof Steve Hanke tweeted.

This is what Professor Steve Hanke said on Ghana's economy in the past

Professor Steve Hanke has for some time now been monitoring Ghana's economic growth and putting a spotlight on it. In one of his #EconWatch diaries, the academic stated that, since 2021, Ghana has lost more than half of its sovereign bonds especially as the country is seeking [for] an IMF economic rescue programme. This, he said, has made the West African country which is on the brink of debt default while labelling it as "a poster child for economic mismanagement."

"Ghana's sovereign bonds have lost more than half their value since 2021. Ghana has become a poster child for economic mismanagement and is now on the brink of default," Prof Steve Hanke's tweet on August 2 read. He has also predicted that Ghana's return to the International Monetary Fund will fail like its previous programmes. In #Ghana, the economy is in the tank. By my calculations, the #cedi has depreciated by ~34% against the USD since Jan. 1, 2020. The cedi is a central bank junk currency. GHA must mothball its central bank and install a currency board. pic.twitter.com/FxIB6XptGW — Steve Hanke (@steve_hanke) August 6, 2022 #EconWatch: #Ghana's sovereign bonds have lost



President Akufo-Addo and Prof. Steve Hanke

more than half their value since 2021. Ghana has become a poster child for economic mismanagement and is now on the brink of default. pic.twitter.com/XqrsMcKIUC — Steve Hanke (@steve_hanke) August 2, 2022 After slamming Ghanaians with more taxes to "save the economy," Pres. Akufo-Addo

runs to the IMF. When he learn? SPOILER ALERT: Like GHA's past 17 IMF bailout programs, a new program won't work. Today, I measure Ghana's inflation at 51%/yr. <https://t.co/hnzlnDMrWT> — Steve Hanke (@steve_hanke) July 24, 2022

Noguchi Research Reveals Cancerous Substance Found In Some Brukina Drinks

Some harmful levels of aflatoxins [a family of toxins produced by fungi called *Aspergillus flavus* and *Aspergillus parasiticus*] that can cause cancer have been found in samples of 'Brukina' and the millet and dairy milk used to prepare it. This was revealed through a research conducted by Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research at the University of Ghana and published in the Ghana Medical Journal. A myjoyonline report indicated that for the research which sought to investigate levels of aflatoxins in the locally-prepared drink, some samples of Brukina

were bought from producers in Nima and Ashaiman for a period of 7 months. In all, some 21 samples were collected from each site.

Scientists found after investigations that 1 sample from Ashaiman and 2 from Nima had unacceptable levels of aflatoxins in them. Furthermore, 12 samples of dairy milk from Ashaiman and 10 from Nima also contained high levels of aflatoxin above the acceptable limit. Two other millet samples were found with the cancerous substance from Ashaiman while same was found in 6 samples from Nima. Toxicologist and lead scientist



at the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research, Prof. Regina Appiah-Oppong, commenting on the development urged that farmers and brukina producers are monitored by regulatory agents and educated on good storage practices in order to avoid exposing the public to health risks from consumption of the drink which is popular.

Govt Sets Up FX Development Committee To Probe Recurring Depreciation Of The Cedi

Government through the Finance Ministry has established a Forex Development Committee that will look into policy measures and interventions to prevent the recurring depreciation of the cedi from assuming the impact of the central bank. The move follows a promise made by the Finance Minister, Ken Ofori Atta last year that government would establish a bi-partisan committee to investigate the structural causes of the cedi depreciation and propose adequate measures.

The membership of the committee, however, is drawn from the Office of the Vice President, Bank of Ghana, Agriculture Ministry, Ghana Union of Traders Association (GUTA), Association of Ghana Industries, some universal banks among other key stakeholders. The Deputy Finance Minister, Charles Adu-Boahen, speaking at a press briefing in Accra to inaugurate the committee explained that the mandate of the committee is to review the current Forex (FX) regime, offer workable alternatives by way of policy interventions which potentially would reduce FX risks in the economy and also identify the inherent constraints in the system. "The FX Development Committee



which is chaired by the Finance Minister, Ken Ofori-Atta is also to critically look at the role of automation and digitization as a critical enabler of FX reforms," he said. Adu-Boahen added that; "The formation of this committee is not to infringe on the independence of the central bank in its foreign exchange operations and if anything at all, the work of the committee is to complement the efforts of the central bank in curtailing the usual poor performance of the cedi against its foreign counterparts." In 2019, the cedi depreciated by more than 12.7 percent, the worst performance since 2015 when the cedi depreciated by more than 14.6 percent.

PT And Broader Coalition Make Lula's Candidacy For Brazilian Presidency Official



By Brasil de Fato

The name of the former president, who will seek his third term, was made official by the federation formed by the Workers' Party (PT), the Communist Party of Brazil (PCdoB) and the Green Party (PV). Former President Luiz Inácio “Lula” da Silva is now officially the Workers' Party candidate, as well as the candidate of the federation named “Brazil of Hope”, which combines the three parties. The slate formed with former governor Geraldo Alckmin of the Brazilian Socialist Party (PSB) as vice-president was approved at the conventions held by the federation on Thursday, July 21.

The events took place in sequence in a hotel in central São Paulo. In the absence of Lula, who is fulfilling pre-campaign agendas in Pernambuco, the conventions had no political actions or public speeches.

According to polls, Lula has a wide lead over second-place incumbent Jair Bolsonaro, who is seeking re-election and announced his candidacy on Sunday, July 24.

Since the beginning of the year, Lula has been engaged in building a broad

alliance to defeat Bolsonaro. One of the fruits of this alliance was the nomination of Alckmin, surprising to many.

As a result of this effort, the coalition “Let's Go Together for Brazil” brings together seven parties, with PSB, the Socialism and Liberty Party (PSOL), the Sustainability Network (Rede), and the Solidarity party joining the PT, PCdoB, and PV. Together the parties elected 123 federal deputies in 2018, almost a quarter of the Chamber (24%). By comparison, in 2018 the PT only got the support of PCdoB and the Republican Party of the Social Order (PROS) for the slate initially led by Lula, then replaced by Fernando Haddad.

Lula is now embarking on his seventh presidential campaign and is seeking his third term in office, which would be an unprecedented feat in the country. In 2018, he was leading the polls when he was arrested as a consequence of Operation Car Wash, as the result of illegal maneuvers by former judge Sergio Moro, who became Jair

Bolsonaro's minister after the elections.

Imprisoned for 580 days, between April 7, 2018 and November 8, 2019, Lula never hid the fact that he intended to run for the presidency of the Republic to prevent Bolsonaro's reelection and ensure the PT's return to the Presidential Palace six years after the coup against Dilma Rousseff.

YouTube removes video in which Bolsonaro makes false statements about the electoral system

On July 18, YouTube took down a livestream made by President Jair Bolsonaro on July 29, 2021, in which he made false claims against the Brazilian electronic voting system. The livestream content is part of what was featured during a meeting that took place that Monday between Bolsonaro and foreign ambassadors. YouTube is also analyzing whether they will take down the meeting broadcast, also hosted on the platform.

In a statement, the company stated that, since March 2022, they have been removing content with “false allegations that the Brazilian electronic voting machines were hacked in the 2018 presidential election and that the votes were altered.” Therefore, the content removed this Monday is “one of the examples of what we do not allow according to our anti-disinformation policy during elections.”

Among the fake news Bolsonaro shared during the meeting, he said to the attendees that the electronic voting system cannot be audited.

“Only two countries in the world have adopted our voting system. Several other countries either don't use it or started using it, however, they came to the conclusion that it is not a reliable system because it is not possible to audit it,” he said. “It is just impossible to audit elections in Brazil,” he added. Bolsonaro also stated that the Supreme Electoral Court's approach “does not fit the democratic system.”

Bolsonaro's statements are part of his efforts to discredit the Brazilian electoral process. On several occasions, Bolsonaro has said that he has pieces of evidence that discredit the security of electronic voting machines. However, he has never made them public.

Lula continues to lead in the polls

A new Exame/Ideia survey, released on Thursday 21, shows former president Lula with 44% voter support, and Bolsonaro with 33%. Both candidates fluctuated within the margin of error, which is three percentage points. Bolsonaro lost the most points compared to the last Exame/Ideia poll, which had him at 36% voter support.

Ciro Gomes, from the Democratic Labor Party (PDT), has 8% voter support, Simone Tebet of the Brazilian Democratic Movement has 4%, André Janones (Avante) has 2%. The candidates obtained only 1% or less.

“We see a stable number of voter support. There is still no reflection of the impact derived from the government's measures to pay emergency aid or reduce fuel prices.

In other words, this is something we must monitor in public opinion in the coming months. It is worth remembering that the emergency aid [allocated during the COVID-19 pandemic] took about two months to be reflected in the president's popularity,” explains Maurício Moura, founder of the Ideia research institute, referring to the impact of the constitutional amendment known as PEC for Aid, approved last week. In the second round, in a dispute between Lula and Bolsonaro, the Workers' Party candidate has 47% of voting intentions and Bolsonaro appears with 37%. The difference between the candidates increased compared to the survey conducted a month ago.

The poll considered four other runoff scenarios, determining that Lula would win in all of them. Bolsonaro leads in the simulations in front of Tebet and Ciro, but the percentages in the case of Ciro are within the margin of error and, therefore, are considered a technical tie. A total of 1,500 people were consulted between July 15 and 20. The interviews were conducted via telephone, with calls to both residential landlines and cell phones. The survey was registered at the Superior Electoral Court (TSE) under number BR-09608/2022.

This article was compiled from several articles originally published on [Brasil de Fato](#).

Cedi Maintains Rank As Worst Performing Currency In Africa – Bloomberg

The Ghana cedi is still the worst performing currency among African currencies with the “Worst Spot Returns,” according to Bloomberg.

The cedi recorded -28.82% depreciation to the dollar as of August 8, 2022, to sell at nearly GH¢9 to a dollar. This means the currency could be heading for a record fall in the last 25 years.

The low performance of the cedi has driven inflation to a

record of 29.8% in June. However, despite the revenue the country is enjoying due to the high price of crude oil on the international market, the cedi's depreciation has led to the increasing prices of petroleum products.

On August 5, 2022, Standard and Poor's ("S&P") Global Ratings downgraded Ghana's foreign and local currency credit ratings from 'B-/B' To 'CCC+/C' with a negative outlook.

According to S&P, the

downgrade is due to intensifying financing and external pressures on the economy.

The Finance Ministry in response stated that “the Government is disappointed by S&P's decision to downgrade Ghana despite the bold policies implemented in 2022 to address macro-fiscal challenges and debt sustainability which have been significantly exacerbated by the impact of these global external shocks on the economy.”



Ukraine's 'Great Game' Surfaces In Transcaucasia

By M. K. Bhadrakumar

If the metaphor of the “Great Game” can be applied to the Ukrainian crisis, with the expansion of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) at its core, it has begun causing reverberations across the entire Eurasian space. The great game lurking in the shade in the Caucasus and Central Asian regions in recent years is visibly accelerating.

The edge of the game is above everything else the targeting of Russia and China by the United States. This unfolding game cannot be underestimated, as its outcome may impact the shaping of a new model of the world order.

Starting with the Caspian Summit in Ashgabat held on June 29, the inter-connected templates of the great game in the Caucasus began surfacing. The fact that the summit was scheduled at all despite the raging conflict in Ukraine — and that Russian President Vladimir Putin took time out to attend it — testified to the high importance of the event.

Basically, the presidents of the five littoral states — Kazakhstan, Iran, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan and Russia — synchronized their watches, based on the [Convention on the Legal Status of the Caspian Sea](#) — the Constitution of the Caspian Sea — that was signed at their last summit in 2018.

While doing so, they considered the current international situation and geopolitical processes worldwide.

Thus, one of the key points of the [Final Communiqué of the Ashgabat Summit](#) was the reiteration of a fundamental principle regarding the total exclusion of the armed forces of all extra-regional powers from the Caspian Sea, which primarily meets the geopolitical interests of Russia and Iran.

The fact that the heads of the Caspian countries confirmed

this in writing can be regarded as the main result of the summit. Secondly, the leaders focused on the Caspian transport communications and agreed that the region could become a hub for the East-West and North-South corridors. The Caspian Summit was held just five weeks after Russian forces gained control of Mariupol port city (May 21), which established its total supremacy over the Sea of Azov and the Kerch Strait in eastern Crimea. Kerch Strait has a strategic role in Russian policies, being the narrow maritime gateway (5 km in length and 4.5 km. wide at the narrowest point) which links the Black Sea via the Sea of Azov to Russia's major waterways including the Don and the Volga.

In effect, it is yet to sink in that in the geopolitics of the entire Eurasian landmass, the liberation of Mariupol by Russian forces was a pivotal event in the great game, since the Kerch Strait ensures maritime transit from the Black Sea all the way to Moscow and St Petersburg, not to mention the strategic maritime route between the Caspian Sea (via the Volga-Don Canal) to the Black Sea and the Mediterranean. United Deep Waterway System of European Russia linking Sea of Azov and Caspian Sea to Baltic Sea and the Northern Sea Route.

Now, to get the “big picture” here, factor in that Volga River also links the Caspian Sea to the Baltic Sea as well as the Northern Sea Route (via the Volga-Baltic Waterway). Suffice to say, Russia has gained control of an integrated system of waterways, which connects the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea to the Baltic and the Northern Sea Route, which is a 4,800 km long shipping lane that connects the Atlantic with the Pacific Ocean, passing along the Russian coasts of Siberia and the Far East.

No doubt, it is a stupendous consolidation of the so-called

“heartland” — per Sir Halford Mackinder's theory (1904) that whoever controls Eastern Europe controls the Heartland and controls the “world island.”

Looking back, therefore, there is no question that the reunion of Crimea with the Russian Federation in 2014 was a major setback for the US and NATO. Putin caught Washington and its allies by total surprise. It complicated their objective to integrate Ukraine into the NATO.

The US was caught unawares for the second time when in the early days of the current special military operation, when all Western eyes were trained on the Kiev region, Russian troops captured the highly strategic southern city of Kherson as early as on March 2. The significance of it was understood only by those who could perceive the great game unfolding in Ukraine as something much more than a mere military conflict. (Most Americans still don't get it.)

The capture of Kherson in early March practically spelt doom for the NATO's design to extend its military presence in the Black Sea basin. Today, the game is practically over for the US and NATO, once Russia took control of the entire basin of the Sea of Azov. Russia now de facto controls the access of Dniepr to and from the Black Sea. And Dniepr happens to be the main river way for Ukraine's transportation links to the world market.

To the immediate east of the Kerch Strait is Russia's Krasnodar region, which extends southwards to Russia's largest commercial port on the Black Sea, Novorossiysk at the cross-roads of major oil and gas pipelines between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea. In sum, control of the Kerch Strait gives Russia a big say with regard to the transportation routes linking Western and Eastern Europe to the Caspian Sea basin, Kazakhstan and China. Put differently, this part of the Russian special military operation becomes an integral part of Moscow's Eurasian project linking up with China's Belt and Road Initiative.

Washington has belatedly



Presidents of Russia, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Iran and Kazakhstan (clockwise from left) took part in the 6th Caspian Summit, Ashgabat, June 29, 2022. A 'Great Game' is afoot in the Caucasus and Central Asia with Russia gaining an advantage due to recent developments in the Ukraine war. The Western powers have belatedly entered the scene too

understood that Russia has outwitted the Western alliance and gained the upper hand in the great game in eastern Black Sea region. So, the Western strategy towards the Caucasus and Central Asia is being reworked. The NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg scheduled a meeting in Brussels today with the foreign minister of Azerbaijan Jeyhun Bayramov. Importantly, Bayramov also attended a meeting of the EU-Azerbaijan Cooperation Council today in Brussels. The EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell later said at a joint news conference with Bayramov that “Azerbaijan is an important partner for the European Union and our cooperation is intensifying.” Meanwhile, yesterday, the European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen visited Baku to sign a memorandum of understanding with Azerbaijan on [energy cooperation](#). All this is taking place against the backdrop of Charles Michel, the president of the European Council, spearheading efforts to mediate between arch rivals Azerbaijan and Armenia. As part of the EU's diplomatic efforts, Michel hosted in April a meeting in Brussels between Azerbaijan's President Aliyev and Armenia's Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan where the two sides expressed willingness to secure a peace agreement. Last week, the CIA Director William Burns paid an unpublicized visit to Yerevan in this connection. Evidently,

Washington and Brussels are jointly strategizing a game plan to replace Russia and Turkey, which have hitherto taken the lead roles in Transcaucasia. There should be no doubt that Moscow is watching closely the synchronized US-EU-NATO moves in the Caucasus targeting Azerbaijan with a view to undermine Russia's consolidation in the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea regions, which poses a formidable hurdle to the advancement of the NATO strategies toward Central Asia and Xinjiang. This is a high-stakes game. It will be recalled that on February 22, just two days prior to the launch of the special military operation in Ukraine, Putin hosted the president of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev in the Kremlin. They [signed](#) “a wide-ranging agreement,” the details of which were not divulged. The document is titled the Declaration on Allied Interaction.

Clearly, oil-rich Azerbaijan, which is not only a littoral state of the Caspian Sea but a gateway to both Central Asia and Russia's Volga region, is destined to play a key role in the great game in the period ahead.

MK Bhadrakumar is a former diplomat. He was India's ambassador to Uzbekistan and Turkey. The views are personal.

MARTIN AMIDU; He Says Shake Up In National Security NPP's Scheme To 'Break The 8'

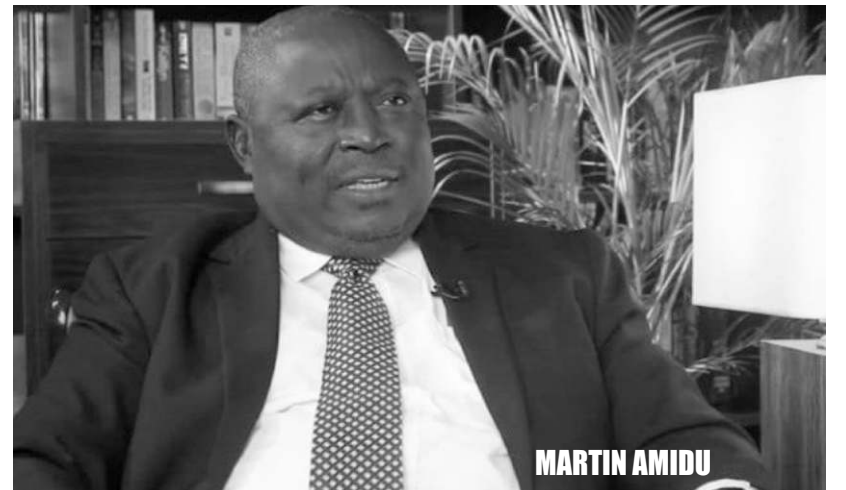
from page 7

appeal, I want you to help me to achieve the last great political feat of my career in Ghanaian politics, that on the 7th of January 2025, I will go to Black Star Square and hand over the baton to our next NPP President of the Republic who we would have chosen, supported and brought to victory.” (Emphasis supplied). Akufo-Addo said further that: “Victory in 2024, that is our goal, that is our task and that by the Grace of God, we will achieve.” (Emphasis supplied). And as if to thump a finger in the eyes of the electorate and people of Ghana on 5 August 2022, the Communications Directorate of the Jubilee House, Accra then issued a press release announcing the appointment of Mr. Edward Kwaku Asomani, and Nana Attobrah Quaicoe as the new leadership for the National Security apparatus. Then on 8 August 2022 in an interview with the North Star radio in Tamale Nana Akufo-Addo relived his post-traumatic stress disorder of losing the 2008 presidential elections. He is reported on Ghana Web of 9th August 2022 to have said, inter alia that:

“A lot of people are forgetting that in 2008, we almost broke the 8 then. The elections of 2008 which is the first one with me as a candidate of the NPP, I won the first round and in fact, I was short of outright victory by 23,000 votes. Very narrow. 23,000 votes should have gone the other way round wherever and I would have been president in the first round in 2008. It didn't happen.... We went into a second round and in that second round, the NPP lost by 40,000 votes. President Mills

was elected with 50.01% of the overall votes. It is the narrowest margin of victory in any presidential contest of the 4th Republic. That tells you the NPP was extremely close to making that statement [of breaking the 8] as far back as that (time)... We have all learnt our lessons from what happened. Those that came from our own side, the problems that we had ourselves and those that were external to our party. We are determined this time round that not only will it be a victory, it will be a decisive victory because this National Democratic Congress, they should spend more time in opposition so they can organize themselves better for the future of Ghana than what they are today.” (Emphasis supplied) The groundwork to facilitate the accomplishment of the dreams of Nana Akufo-Addo to abuse the constitutional process through the appointing powers vested in him to load the institutions of state power responsible for impartial law enforcement, security and intelligence of the electoral process with the new leadership of the National Security apparatus appointed by Nana Akufo-Addo had already been laid during his first term in office as President when he captured the commanding heights of the Ministry of Communications and Digitalization and its associate regulatory authorities and agencies responsible for information technology, and communications. The biometric data of all citizens of voting age who use SIM cards as instruments of ICT are to be captured and stored in a database at the National Information Technology Agency (NITA) pursuant the authority of the Minister and the National Communications Authority

(NCA). It is imperative for citizens to remember that the Director-General of the National Communications Authority (NCA), Mr. Joseph Anokye, was purposefully brought or encouraged to returned home to facilitate the winning of the 2016 elections by Nana Akufo-Addo and was duly rewarded with that appointment in January 2017. For those who do not know or remember: the Director-General of the National Information Technology Authority (NITA), Mr. Richard Okyere-Fosu, was a former group head of information technology at cousin Ken Ofori-Atta's Data Bank Financial Services Limited who went along to the Ministry of Finance with Ken Ofori Atta as the Minister of Finance and was later transitioned to NITA first as Director of Finance and Administration and subsequently elevated to lead the agency. And for those who understand the power of controlling voter's and citizens' biometric data and means of information technology communications during the 2024 elections the possibility of surveillance of political opponents could not have been far from the main reason for the insistence and railroading of Ghanaian on the Ghana Card registration, and the SIM Cards re-registration exercise using the unconstitutional and infamous process of the Establishment of Emergency Communications Instrument, 202 (E. I. 63). Nana Akufo-Addo's long game to use the instruments of state power disingenuous and opaquely to prepare an uneven electoral playing field in such a manner as to realize his fixation and paranoid of winning the 2024 elections, no matter what happens, is being gradually achieved. Interested readers of further



details may wish to re-visit my article: “Nana Akufo's Dictatorship – Illegal Sim Card Re-Registration and Solidarity for Boycotting the Use of Mobile Phone” of 10 February 2022 which is available online. The 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana demands a fair and transparent governance process based on merit and participation by every qualified citizen and enjoins each of us who are citizens to ensure that the Presidential oath to uphold and defend the Constitution and do justice to all citizens without fear or favour, affection or ill will is respected by the President Nana Akufo-Addo. Former President Rawling did not use the instruments of state power to prevent former President Kufuor from winning the 2000 elections against the late Vice President Mills as the governing party's candidate and I as his Vice-Presidential candidate during the second round of that election. Former President Kufuor also underscored the importance of not interfering with the electoral process when he stated in 2008 that: “When my term ended, and the votes were declared by the electorate, I obeyed. Even with some of my people questioning. But I said that was the constitution. If anyone felt aggrieved let them go to court.” The 1992 Constitution has

endured the longest in the democratic history of our dear nation and enjoins all citizens to defend it against any attempts to undermine its spirit or to establish by any subterfuges a one-party state by an elected President entrusted with the levers of state power of the Republic of Ghana. President Nana Akufo-Addo's long electoral game while appearing to follow the letter of the law in making appointments to public office substantively breaches the fundamental spirit of the Constitution of integrity, transparency, accountability, and merit and is leading to the actualization of a calculated and deliberate intention to undermine the 2024 electoral process. It is in consideration of the foregoing that I hereby break my silence from public political discourse which I imposed upon myself to call on all patriotic citizens to come together in defence of the 1992 Constitution to ensure that the processes leading to the 2024 elections are not undermined by Nana Akufo-Addo's penchant for impunity and abuse of constitutional power that may lead to the jeopardy of the Constitution that we as citizens are enjoined to protect and defend. Ghana must always be put first.

Martin A. B. K. Amidu