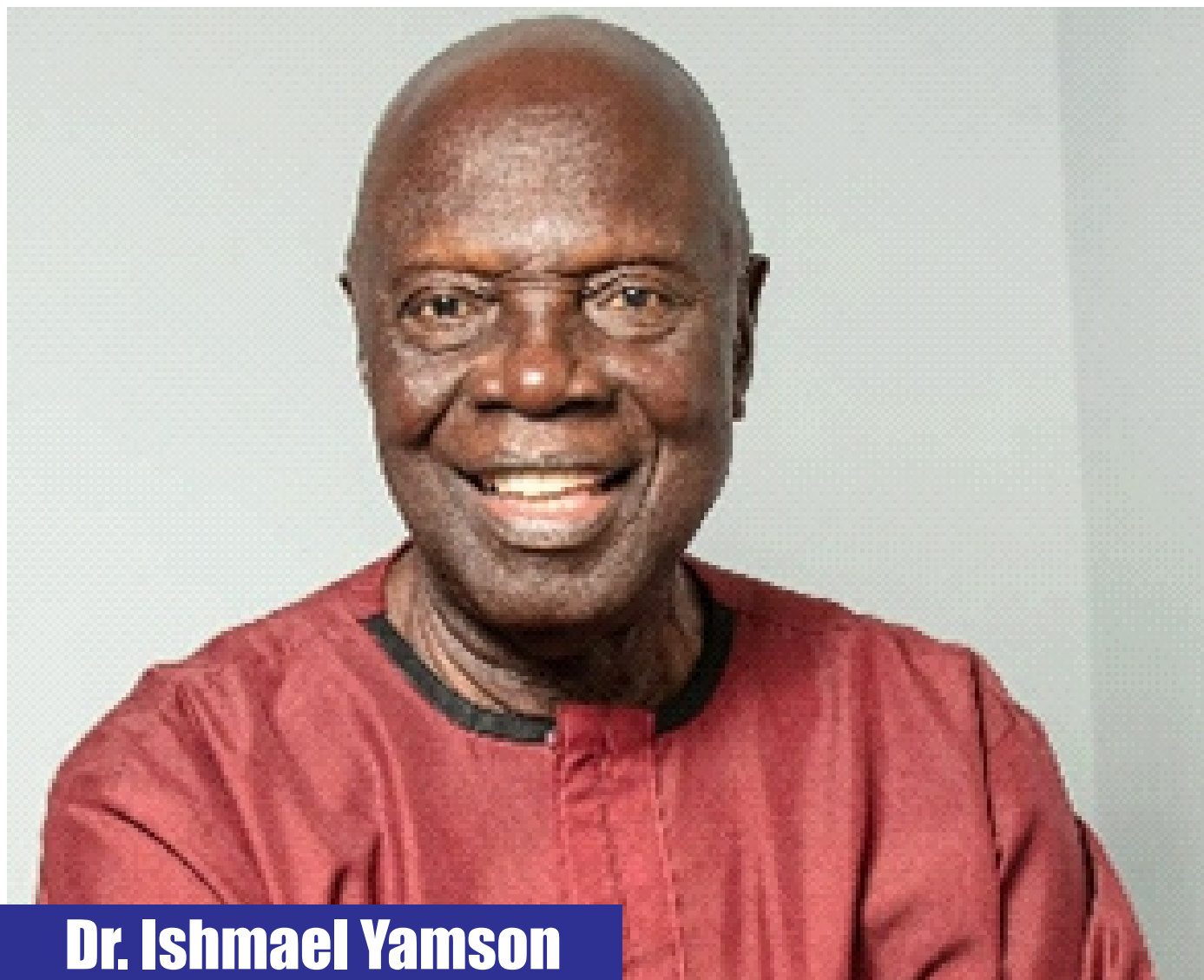


ECONOMIC CRISIS

Ishmael Yamson Blasts Govt, Says Ghana's Problems Started Before COVID And Russia-Ukraine War



Dr. Ishmael Yamson

Dr. Ishmael Yamson, an economist and governance expert, has lashed out at the government saying the country is in a mess because of mismanagement and not COVID-19 pandemic or the Russian-Ukraine war. According

to him Ghana is currently facing a credibility crisis following the mismanagement of the economy by government. Dr. Yamson noted that the challenges that Ghana is facing at the moment started before the outbreak of the Covid-19

pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war. Speaking in an interview with TV3 on Monday, Dr. Yamson said the signs were clear that Ghana's debt situation was reaching unsustainable levels before the pandemic. *Cont. on page 3*

GUTA To Close Shops

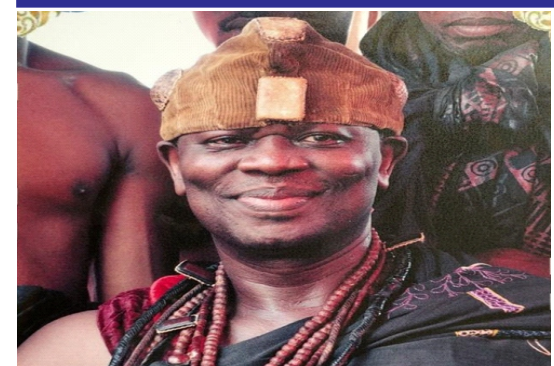
Over Cedi Depreciation, High Inflation, Others



Dr. Joseph Obeng is GUTA president

The Ghana Union of Traders Association (GUTA) has served notice to the government that they will close down shops on Monday, 29th August 2022 in protest against the depreciation of the Cedi and severe economic hardship.

Cont. on page 2



Attack On Chief of Akyem Manso: Krontihene Of Akyem Kotoku Calls For Ceasefire

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The INSIGHT

EDITORIAL

HANDS OFF OUR FORESTS!

The continued degradation of the country's lands, forests and ecosystem is very worrying.

This is in spite of warning from environmentalists about the dangers associated with continued deterioration of the country's natural reserve due to exploitation of natural resources.

A months ago, some group of professors renewed the warning to government about attempts to allow the Chinese to exploit the Atiwa forests of its bauxite.

The warning was as a result of the fact that most river bodies generate their source of water from the Atiwa Forest reserve.

That warning has not been heeded and there are clear indications that the Chinese engineers will soon enter the forest.

There are also some forests which are facing similar such threats.

The World Bank recently cautioned Ghana against the continuous wanton degradation of its land, forest and other natural resources warning that the country risked not achieving the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15, which is protecting the ecosystem to promote biodiversity.

It is the hope of this paper that somebody somewhere would see wisdom in taking steps to stop the land degradation and reverse the trend by embarking on reforestation to win back degraded lands and forests.

There is clearly the need, in the face of the facts presented, for the government to hands off the Atiwa forest and other natural resource.

GUTA To Close Shops Over Cedi Depreciation, High Inflation, Others

from front page

Addressing the media on Monday, the President for GUTA, Dr. Joseph Obeng said the rapid and continuous depreciation of the cedi is affecting their businesses.

"With the mandate given to the government they can turn the economy, we have given the government the mandate and they have the resources. We believe that with the resources given to the government they can turn the economy around.

"We, the members of the business community, are ever ready to avail ourselves to help the government in its quest in finding solutions to the many challenges. We should not throw our hands in disarray and place the economy on autopilot," Dr. Obeng stated.

He further called on the government to stretch its hands to all major stakeholders to bring their expertise on board to salvage the economy. GUTA added that the depreciation of the cedi has eroded the capital of its members and is severely hampering their operations.

The association lamented the rapid depreciation of Ghana's local currency- the cedi which has led to the depletion of their business capital.

Dr. Joseph Obeng said that: "as we speak now, one's working capital of six hundred and forty thousand Ghana cedis (GH¢640,000) which could buy one hundred thousand Dollars (USD 100,000) at the beginning of this year can now buy Sixty-four Thousand United States Dollars."

In contrast, he added that the borrowed capital of GH¢640,000 is now attracting an interest payment of about 35%; representing two hundred and twenty-four thousand Ghana cedis (GH¢224,000.00) per annum.

GUTA bemoaned the high exchange rate which currently stands at \$1.00 to GH¢10.00.

It described the current inflation of 31.7% as too high while recounting the implications of the monetary policy rate



Dr. Joseph Obeng is GUTA president

of 22% resulting in a commercial lending rate of over 35%.

These are some of the issues GUTA wants the government to address.

1. VAT Standard rate is 19.25% instead of the flat rate of 4%
2. The huge influx of foreigners in the retail business against our investment laws
3. Do not review any system to increase duties on the importation of second-hand clothing
4. Listen to the concerns of car dealers
5. Withdraw compulsory maritime insurance policy
6. Do not blame us for the high prices of goods on the market
7. Activities of the black market and its effect on the cedi

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

ECONOMIC CRISIS

Ishmael Yamson Blasts Govt, Says Ghana's Problems Started Before COVID And Russia-Ukraine War

from front page

"The borrowing has been taking place before that time," he said. "The international capital market had concluded that we were unable to service our debts. It was not because of Covid or the Russia-Ukraine war, investor confidence had gone down because of the debts."

Dr. Yamson further noted that the government has to admit that it has failed to act prudently, a situation which has led the country into challenges.

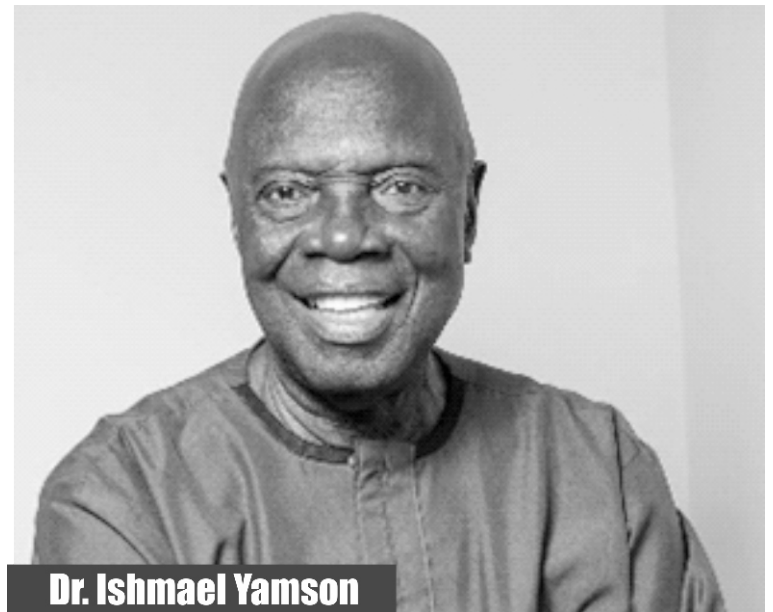
"That admission for me, is important. What should we do in order not to go and borrow money? Diagnose our problems better, more credibly and if you have a credible plan, people will invest in your plan. "The government is faced with a credibility crisis otherwise, why are investors refusing to lend to Ghana? Because they

know we cannot pay," Dr. Ishmael Yamson stated. Commenting on the depreciation of the cedi, Dr. Yamson observed "if your Cedi is depreciating every day, you are losing credibility."

Ghana's currency, the Cedi, crossed ₵10 per dollar mark as of Friday, August 19. It now trades at ₵10.01 per dollar in some forex bureaus. The Bank of Ghana (BoG) in a statement called for calm as it has introduced measures to resolve the fall of the Cedi. The BoG has identified five key reasons for the woes of the local currency. These are, "The strength of the US dollar, Investor reaction to Credit Rating Downgrade, Non-Roll over of Maturing Bonds, The sharp rise in crude oil prices and impact on the Oil Bill, Loss of External Financing."

The measures introduced to resolve these, according to the BoG, are the "Gold Purchase Program to increase foreign exchange reserves; Special Foreign Exchange Auction for the Bulk Distribution Company's (BDCs) to help with the importation of petroleum products; Bank of Ghana is entering into a cooperation agreement with the mining companies to provide BOG with the opportunity to buy gold as when it becomes available.

"The Bank of Ghana is supporting the banking sector with foreign currency liquidity to help meet the demand for external payments. The recently approved USD750,000,000 Afriexim loan facility by Parliament, once disbursed, will boost the foreign exchange position of the country and help restore confidence.



Dr. Ishmael Yamson

"The Cocoa Loan is expected in the last quarter of the year. This facility will also help provide more foreign currency to help address the cedi depreciation. In the

short term, we expect that when the IMF programme is finalized, it will also go a long way to help restore confidence in the economy and drive portfolio flows."

Delta Airline Number N195DN Banned From Flying To Ghana

The Ghana Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA), has banned a Delta Airlines aircraft with registration N195DN from flying to Ghana. The Authority said the decision follows the failure of the Airline Company to investigate and address technical issues regarding the aircraft in question, which left several Accra-bound passengers, including Ghanaians, stranded at the JFK airport on July 24, 2022. GCAA, in a letter dated August 19, 2022, and addressed to the "Accountable Manager" at Delta Airlines, said, "following the events of August 13 2022, when your aircraft with registration N195DN was forced to return to the gate due to a technical problem, a team of Ghana Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA) inspectors were tasked to conduct an investigation on the

circumstances surrounding this occurrence." The letter continued; "The investigation revealed that:

1. The crew reported a fuel imbalance issue with the left main tank.
2. The inbound crew experienced this same issue on the flight leg to Accra, i.e. on July 31 2022.
- 3 This was the same aircraft that had to return to JFK on July 25 2022, a few hours after take-off from JFK, and which was widely reported on in various media outlets.

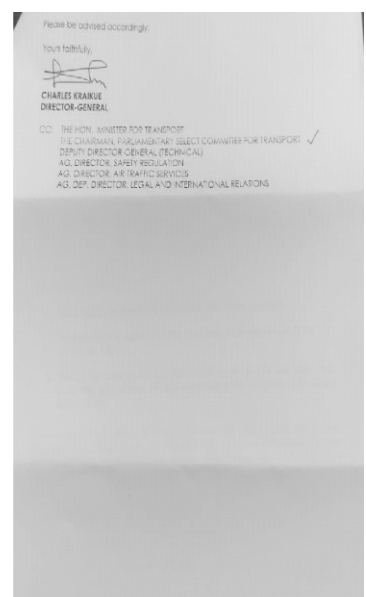
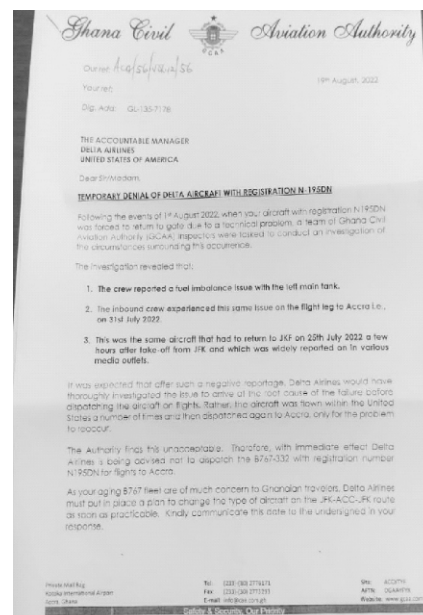
"It was expected that after such a negative reportage, Delta Air Lines would have thoroughly investigated the issue to arrive at the root cause of the failure before dispatching the aircraft on flights. Rather, the aircraft

was flown within the United States a number of times and then dispatched again to Accra, only for the problem to reoccur.

"The Authority finds this unacceptable. Therefore, with immediate effect, Delta Air Lines is being advised not to dispatch the B767-332 with registration number N195DN for flights to Accra. As your ageing 0767 fleets are of much concern to Ghanaian travellers, Delta Air Lines must put in place a plan to change the type of aircraft on the JFK-ACC-JFK route as soon as practicable. Kindly communicate this date to the undersigned in your response. Please be advised accordingly," the letter signed by Charles Kraikue, Director-General, GCAA, concluded. Recently, seven travellers, including an American and the Communications Officer of the National Democratic

Congress, Sammy Gyamfi, petitioned the Aviation Consumer Protection Office of the US Department of Transportation over the conduct of Delta Air Lines Incorporated. They complained that their flight from the US on July 24

was inexplicably delayed. The flight was then rescheduled, cancelled and rescheduled without sleep arrangements for passengers. The complainants contend that this inconvenience was on the "flimsy ground that one of its pilots had not reported for work."





INTERNATIONAL NEWS REPORT

Compiled By Peoples Dispatch

Israeli Authorities Threaten Heads Of Two Palestinian Human Rights Organizations With Arrest

Israel continues targeting Palestinian human rights organizations after raiding and ransacking the offices of seven such organizations last week. On Sunday, August 21, Israeli occupation forces threatened to arrest the heads of two of these organizations – Defence for Children International-Palestine's (DCIP) general director Khaled Quzmar and Al-Haq director Shawan Jabarin.

According to DCIP's Twitter post, Quzmar was detained by Israeli security agency Shin Bet on Sunday and taken to the Ofer military base near Ramallah. He was not allowed any legal counsel and released after a few hours.

Earlier in the day, Jabarin, the head of Al-Haq, also complained that he had received a threat call from an Israeli intelligence agent who called him for

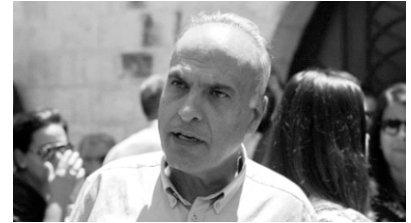
interrogation at the Ofer base. The caller threatened Jabarin with imprisonment and accused him of being a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), also asking him to stop his activities. The Israeli forces had [raided](#) and ransacked the offices of seven Palestinian human rights organizations on August 18 in Ramallah and al-Bireh in the occupied West Bank. The occupation forces targeted the offices of DCIP, Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Organisation, Bisan Centre for Research and Development, Union of Agricultural Works Committee, Al-Haq, and Union of Palestinian Women Committees. These organizations were designated as "terrorist" and "unlawful organizations" under Israeli military law in

November 2021. The occupation forces also raided the office of the Health Workers' Committees. According to Al-Haq, the Israeli occupation forces seized private property and information from three of these organizations and sealed their premises. Israeli authorities have claimed that these organizations have been affiliated to the PFLP, and accused them of running recruiting centers for the banned organization. However, the Palestinian groups have refuted these allegations and pointed out that Israel has failed to produce any evidence to corroborate its claims even after years. The work of these organizations has been hailed

by the international community, with a large number of European countries funding their activities. An [investigation](#) carried out by several media organizations in 2021 points towards a conspiracy by Israeli agencies to shut down these organizations.

In response to the detention and threats against Quzmar and Jabarin, Al-Haq issued a [statement](#) demanding immediate intervention from the UN Special Procedures and the international community to "take targeted and effective action to protect them."

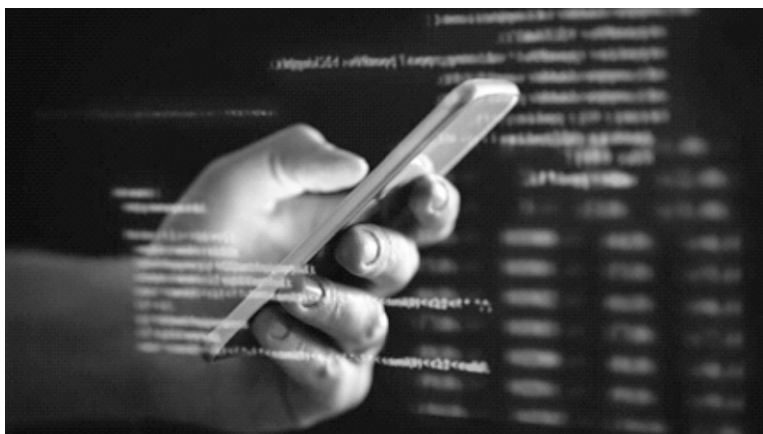
Al-Haq stated that Palestinian civil society groups and human rights defender are now "facing existential threats, including arbitrary



Khaled Quzmar, General Director of Defence for Children International-Palestine (DCIP). (Photo: Wafa) Khaled Quzmar was briefly detained, while Al-Haq's director Shawan Jabarin was threatened with arrest on Sunday by Israeli security agency Shin Bet, after the organizations' offices were raided last week

arrests and imprisonment, show trials on secret evidence," along with a "risk to financial and banking assets of the organizations, and closure and prevention of critical human rights work in the occupied Palestinian territories."

Cyprus Government Slammed For Inaction On Spying Scandal



Progressive sections in the Republic of Cyprus have slammed the center-right government for its inaction on the involvement of Cypriot companies in the Predator spyware surveillance controversy that rocked Greece recently. On August 17, the Progressive Party of Working People (AKEL) accused the government of not paying heed to the democratic and

institutional violations in surveillance through spywares. Several investigative reports have exposed the targeted surveillance of investigative journalists and a major opposition leader in Greece using a spyware called Predator, developed by a cyber tech company named Cytrox which was acquired by a Cyprus-based tech

security company.

Revelations on [targeted](#) surveillance through the Predator spyware targeting Greek opposition politician Nikos Androulakis and certain investigative journalists led to shock and outrage in Greece. According to a [report](#) by the Citizen Lab at the University of Toronto, which conducts extensive independent research on cyber security, the Predator spyware is developed by Cytrox which started in North Macedonia in 2017. According to reports, in 2018, Cytrox was acquired by the Cyprus-based company WiSpears/Passitora Ltd., owned by Tal Dilian, the CEO of Intellexa and a former Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) Unit 81 commander. In 2019, the

Cyprus police arrested three employees of Dilian's WiSpears company over suspicions of using a high-tech surveillance van to intercept communications. However, prosecution was subsequently dropped by the attorney-general. *Phileleftheros* reported that the surveillance scam in Greece is connected to tech security developers currently based in Cyprus, who were also involved in the surveillance van controversy. In its statement on August 17, AKEL said that "until a few days ago, the Cyprus government responded with contempt to the growing concern about the surveillance scandal that is shaking the whole of Europe. It has now been documented

that the surveillance scandal is directly linked to Cyprus. It is not only AKEL which says this – the internationally recognized research department of the University of Toronto, Citizen Lab, says so, the international and Cypriot media says so, the European Parliament and many others discuss the issue." "A dark web has long been revealed, dangerous for democracy and the rule of law, and those who have had to protect institutions and democracy are either involved or do not understand the democratic and institutional aberration that these phenomena constitute. Whatever the case, however, it is dangerous. That is why the matter must be made clear immediately," AKEL added.

Galamsey Fight: GAF Deploys Personnel To Protect Ankobra, Offin Rivers

In line with the government's intensified efforts to deal with illegal mining, Ghana Armed Forces has deployed officers to the Rivers Ankobra and River Offin.

This was announced by the Ministry of Lands in a press release issued on Sunday, August 21, 2022.

According to the Ministry, the platoon of Naval officers deployed by the army is to stamp out illegal mining activities on the two water bodies.

"Following operations undertaken by the Military (Operation Halt II) to prevent illegal mining on our water bodies, A platoon each of Naval personnel have been stationed on rivers Ankobra and River Offin that the illegal miners don't return to work on the water bodies. This is in line with the promise made by the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources to ensure that the water bodies are protected.

"The Ministry is also advising persons interested in understanding small scale mining to contact the

appropriate office of the Minerals Commission for assistance to be allocated places designated for small scale mining and also be assisted with mercury-free machines.

"The security agencies will deal ruthlessly with persons found to have engaged in illegal miners popularly Known as galamsey" parts of the statement read.

The deployment of the officers follows the decision by the Minerals Commission and Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources to step up protection of the waterbodies following viral videos of galamsey activities on Offin River.

Addressing a press conference on Sunday, August 14, 2022, the Chief Executive Officer of the Minerals Commission states that government will take decisive and long-term steps to deal with the menace.

He warned that anyone caught by the army officers in their operations will be dealt with in accordance with the law.

He stated that speedboats and other logistics will be made available to the officers to aid them in their works

He noted that within the last two years, Government, through the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources and the Commission, has introduced several measures to deal with illegal mining, popularly referred to as "galamsey".

He outlined some of these measures mentioning the introduction of Operation Halt II, engagement with relevant stakeholders, revamping of the Community Mining Scheme, geological investigation of designated areas to identify mineralized areas to be allocated to small-scale miners, the distribution of one hundred (100) mercury-free equipment to ensure responsible mining and the inauguration of District Mining Committees to monitor and supervise small scale operations.

He asserted that as part of all these enforcement mechanisms, intelligence gathering have also been enhanced on all fronts to ensure that the fight is properly fought and won. Mr. Ayisi reiterated that a



Some members of the anti-galamsey taskforce

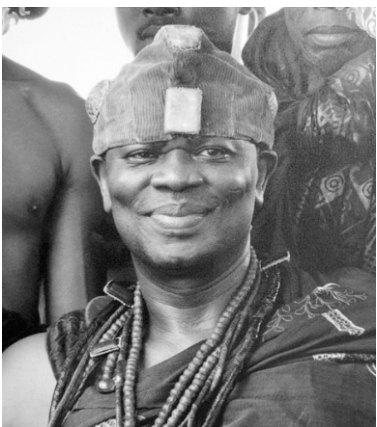
tracking regulation has been passed with a tracking control room to be functional in September, adding that he believes in addition to these permanent patrols, the tracking will help together with drones connected to their control systems and these will hoist over the rivers for frequent report to the Commission.

He stressed forcefully, calling out on the media and the general public that the fight against illegal mining should

be a collective effort of all citizens "Lets all get onboard, get us the information, report what you see and hear and help us to help you."

The CEO assured the Ghanaian public of its unflinching commitment in the fight to sanitize the small scale mining sector and also sensitize the public with more educational information.

Attack On Chief of Akyem Manso: Krontihene Of Akyem Kotoku Calls For Ceasefire



Obrempong Gyamfi Saforo Kyereh

The Krontihene of Akyem Kotoku Traditional Area in the Eastern Region, Obrempong Gyamfi Saforo Kyereh, has vehemently condemned the violence attacks meted to Chief of Akyem Manso, who doubles as Benkumhene of Akyem Kotoku Traditional Area, Obrempong Sintim Poku III on Sunday August 21, 2022 whilst heading to the Akyem Kotoku palace in Akyem Oda to attend Akwasidae. The attack on Obrempong Sintim Poku III is believed to have been orchestrated by elders of the feuding faction in the Akyem Kotoku chieftaincy dispute.

However, addressing journalists over the issue, Obrempong Gyamfi Saforo Kyereh, described the attacks visited

on Obrempong Sintim Poku III as unacceptable and barbaric and called on those who are hiring the thugs to commit these heinous acts to stop since they would be exposed and embarrassed one day.

Obrempong Gyamfi Saforkyereh II noted that the long unending Akyem Kotoku Chieftaincy dispute is retarding social and infrastructural development and growth of the Akyem Kotoku, lamenting that there are many projects and programmes which have stalled still due to disunity of the people in the area. He pointed out he is very passionate about the development of the Akyem Kotoku, saying that they would be development when there are unity and oneness. He maintained that citizens of the Akyem Kotoku Traditional Area should champion the course of the peace rather than engaging in the internal fightings which have the tendency to destroy socioeconomic development in the area. According to him, what had happened on Sunday should not repeat itself again in the Akyem Kotoku and that it is now the time for all and sundry to unite to move

the Kotoku Traditional Area forward. He pointed out that he realized that some self seeking elders who are hiring some youths and thugs to foment confusion in the area they don't want the Akyem Kotoku to develop. He stressed that "if we cannot come together as one people then we cannot development Akyem Kotoku Traditional Area.

"People are making a lot of bad statement to tarnish the image of the Akyem Kotoku Traditional Area with the claim that there are peace and unity. They are saying that there are bloody clash, confusion, tension in Kotoku which made the place look like war zone. But when you come to Akyem Kotoku you would realize that all statements have turned not be something serious.

"...if the Paramount Chief of Akyem Kotoku Traditional Area, His Royal Majesty Oseadeyo Nana Dr Frimpong Manso IV has surrounded himself with soldiers and police officers at the function, it doesn't mean there are confusion in Akyem Kotoku

Traditional Area. "So I am appealing to the the elders and the Abusua of Frimpong Manso lineage who owned the Akyem Kotoku Paramount Stool should all join their hands to rally their support Oseadeyo Nana Dr Frimpong Manso IV as the Omanhene of Akyem in order to forestall peace and unity, will go a long to bring needed development to the area,"Obrempong Gyamfi Saforkyereh II advised. He indicated that all and sundry to rally support over the chief who has been installed as the Paramount Chief of the area so that the long unending Akyem Kotoku chieftaincy dispute would come to an end. He pointed out that those who had negative mind to create the confusion in Akyem Kotoku area to stop because the unborn citizens would come to bare the suffering when they could not work to maintain peace within the Akyem Kotoku.

"We should all burry our differences and that all we have to think about currently is how to ensure togetherness which would help to build united Akyem Kotoku," Obrempong Gyamfi Saforkyereh II further stressed. A 24-year-old

chieftaincy dispute between two royal Agona families of Akyem Kotoku continues to linger as there is no end in sight to resolving the dispute. Though in the year 2000, Nana Frempong Manso IV was enstooled by the Frimpong Manso royal family as the Paramount Chief of Akyem Kotoku, the Paramount Queen-mother, Nana Akua Asantewaa nullified the enstoolment process through the Eastern Regional House of Chiefs and the Court and reportedly expunged the gazetted name. The Akyem Kotoku Traditional Council has since not been peaceful as the chieftaincy dispute has led to renewed clashes and gunshots which have led to deaths, injuries and destruction of property despite efforts made by previous government officials and other high-powered peace brokers.

However, a peace pipe was smoked in 2018 between the feuding factions to end over two decades of protracted Chieftaincy dispute in the traditional area

Parents Of Children With Developmental Disabilities Asked To Seek Early Intervention

Ms. Sandy Dorsey, the Founder, of Smiles for Speech (SFS), a non-profit organisation, has asked parents of children with developmental disabilities to seek early intervention. She said early intervention was paramount in identifying the challenges and providing the necessary measures to address them.

Ms. Dorsey, a speech-language pathologist, told the Ghana News Agency (GNA), during training for mothers of children with developmental disabilities, that communication was a very important part of being included in society and essential to one's emotional wellbeing. The training was organised by the SFS in collaboration with Kekeli Foundation in Ho.

It was to build the capacity and confidence of the mothers in caring for their children and equip them with the requisite knowledge and skills on how to help their non-speaking children

to communicate and feed. She said in Ghana and some other developing countries, children with communication disorders lacked access to the resources they needed due to the unavailability of speech-language therapists to assist them to communicate as well as the finances to afford those services.

Ms. Dorsey said the SFS was a grassroots/parent-centered organisation that partnered organisers of local programmes to provide consultations, training, and resources for caregivers, mentorship for speech-language therapy (SLT) students as well as offering SLT support in specific areas of the field.

The collaboration, she said, allowed them to create awareness on communication disorders to prevent stigma, which was a big challenge to children receiving treatment, who were often associated with evil spirits.

"Many families consider speech and language disorders to be a curse by the ancestorsso they will hide the child and pretend he or she does not exist," she said.

Ms. Dorsey said families could be trained on how to enhance functional communication skills for children and language-rich daily activities at home that would have a meaningful impact on their lives.

"Imagine a world where all children can receive access to the resources they need to reach their full potential and not to be bound by colour, gender, socio-economic status or location."

"With a holistic and inclusive education, together we can create a sense of belonging for children in every corner of the world."

Madam Carrie Colleen Brown, the Director of Kekeli Foundation, who emphasised the need for early



intervention, said the Foundation was ready to provide the necessary support to parents.

She said society had to be more supportive of families of children with disability and urged all to unite to deal with the stigma against PWDs adding: "Everybody is important in society and disability is just an adversity". Some participants who spoke to the GNA were grateful to the SFS and Kekeli Foundation for the training, saying the knowledge and skills acquired would help them in taking care of their children.

Madam Comfort Nuwordu, one of the beneficiaries, said her child could not walk but due to the physiotherapy services provided by the Foundation, the child had now started walking. The SFS had, since its inception, served more than 300 children in Ghana, Kenya, Peru, and Jamaica, provided over 10,000 hours of speech and occupational therapy services, and trained more than 1,200 caregivers and teachers, in 17 countries.

Source -- GNA

Akyem Manso Chief Injured In Attack By Unknown Assailants



His vehicle was smashed which led to him sustaining some injuries

The chief of Akyem Manso who doubles as Benkumhene of Akyem Kotoku traditional area Obrempong Sintim Poku III, came under attack on Sunday whilst heading to the Akyem Kotoku palace to attend Akwasidae.

According to Obrempong Sintim Poku III, some unknown persons pelted his vehicle with stones about 50 meters from the palace. His vehicle was smashed which led to him sustaining some injuries.

He was given first aid treatment at the palace by the embattled

Omanhene of Akyem Kotoku Oseadeeyo Dr. Frimpong Manso II, who is a medical Doctor by Profession.

The attack is believed to have been orchestrated by a feuding faction in the Akyem Kotoku chieftaincy dispute.

The Oda District Police Commander and his men who were providing security at the palace combed the area but could not arrest any suspect. The chief was, however, taken to a nearby police station to make an official report.

Obrempong Sintim Poku II told Starr News "I am fine but will return to the police station this morning to write my statement". A 24-year-old chieftaincy dispute between two royal Agona families of Akyem Kotoku continues to linger as there is no end in sight to resolving the dispute.

After the demise of the late Omanhene, Okofobuor Agyeman Attafuah IV, the two royal

families, the Attafuah and Frimpong Manso factions disagreed about who should ascend the throne as Omanhene.

Though in the year 2000, Nana Frempong Manso IV was enstooled by the Frimpong Manso royal family as the Paramount Chief of Akyem Kotoku, the Paramount Queen-mother, Nana Akua Asantewaa nullified the enstoolment process through the Eastern Regional House of Chiefs and the Court and reportedly expunged the gazetted name.

The feuding faction also in revenge performed customary rights purportedly destooling the Queen-mother.

The Akyem Kotoku Traditional Council has since not been peaceful as the chieftaincy dispute has led to renewed clashes and gunshots which have led to deaths, injuries, and destruction of properties despite efforts made by previous government officials and other high-powered peace brokers.

However, a peace pipe was smoked in 2018 between the feuding factions to end over two decades of protracted Chieftaincy dispute in the traditional area. A sheep was slaughtered and a libation was poured by the two factions as a sign of unity however the peace deal was not sustainable as the dispute resurfaced.

Chieftaincy dispute remains a major security threat in the Eastern Region as the majority of the 11 paramountcies are battling Chieftaincy disputes which spiral into intermittent clashes.

The Eastern regional Minister Seth Kwame Acheampong said in a recent regional coordinating council meeting that "As you are in no doubt aware, most of the security issues in the region arise from chieftaincy disputes and the development has been a major source of concern to the Regional Security Council (REGSEC)"

Source -- starrfm.com.gh

The United States Contests The Chinese Belt And Road With A Private Corporation

By Vijay Prashad

At the G7 Summit in Germany, on June 26, 2022, US President Joe Biden made a [pledge](#) to raise \$200 billion within the United States for global infrastructure spending. It was made clear that this new G7 project—the [Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment \(PGII\)](#)—was intended to counter the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Given Biden's failure to pass the Build Back Better bill (with its scope being almost [halved](#) from \$3.5 trillion to \$2.2 trillion), it is unlikely that he will get the US Congress to go along with this new endeavor. The PGII is not the first attempt by the US to match the Chinese infrastructure investment globally, which initially took place bilaterally, and then after 2013 happened through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). In 2004, as the US war on Iraq unfolded, the United States government set up a body called the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), which it called an “[independent US foreign assistance agency](#).” Before that, most US government development lending was done through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), which was set up in 1961 as part of then-President John F. Kennedy administration's charm campaign against the Soviet Union and against the Bandung spirit of non-alignment in the newly assertive Third World. Former US President George W. Bush said that USAID was too bureaucratic, and so the MCC would be a project that would include both the US government and the private sector. The word “corporation” in the title is deliberate. Each of the heads of the MCC, from Paul Applegarth to Alice P. Albright, has belonged to the private sector (the current head, Albright is the daughter of former US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright). The word “challenge” in MCC refers to the fact that the grants are only approved if the countries can show that they

meet 20 “[policy performance indicators](#),” ranging from civil liberties to inflation rates. These indicators ensure that the countries seeking the grants adhere to the conventional neoliberal framework. There are also great inconsistencies among these indicators: for instance, the countries must have a high [immunization rate](#) (monitored by the World Health Organization), but at the same time they must follow the International Monetary Fund's requirements for a tight fiscal policy. This essentially means that the public health spending of a candidate country should be kept low, resulting in the required number of public health workers not being available for the immunization programs. The US Congress provided \$650 million to the MCC for its first year in 2004, as a US government official told me; in 2022, the amount [sought](#) was more than \$900 million. In 2007, when Bush met with Nambaryn Enkhbayar, the former president of Mongolia, to sign an MCC grant, he [said](#) that the Millennium Challenge Account—which is [administered](#) by MCC—“is an important part of our foreign policy. It's an opportunity for the United States and our taxpayers to help countries that fight corruption, that support market-based economies, and that invest in the health and education of their people.” Clearly, the MCC is an instrument of US foreign policy, but its aim seems to be not so much to tackle the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) of the United Nations (on hunger, health and education), as Bush said, but to ensure extension of the reach of US influence and to inculcate the habits and structures of US-led globalization (“market-based economies”). In 2009, then-US President Barack Obama developed a “[pivot to Asia](#),” a new foreign policy orientation that had the US establishment focus more attention on East and South Asia. As part of this pivot, in 2011, former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton gave an important [speech](#) in Chennai, India, where she spoke about the creation of a New Silk Road Initiative. Clinton argued that the United States government, under Obama's “pivot to Asia,” policy was going to develop an

economic agenda that ran from the Central Asian countries to the south of India, and would thereby help integrate the Central Asian republics into a US project and break the ties the region had formed with Russia and China. The [impetus](#) for the New Silk Road was to find a way to use this development as an instrument to undermine the Taliban insurgency in Afghanistan. This US project floundered due to lack of congressional funding and due to its sheer impossibility, since Afghanistan—which was the heart of this road project—could not be persuaded to submit to US interests. Two years later, in 2013, the Chinese government [inaugurated](#) the Silk Road Economic Belt project, which is now known as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Rather than go from North to South, the BRI went from East to West, linking China to Central Asia and then outward to South Asia, West Asia, Europe and Africa. The aim of this project was to [bring together](#) the [Eurasian Economic Community](#) (established in 2000) and the [Shanghai Cooperation Organization](#) (set up in 2001) to work on this new, and bigger project. Roughly [\\$4 trillion](#) has been invested since 2013 in a range of projects by the BRI and its associated funding mechanisms (including the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the Silk Road Fund). The investments were paid for by grants from Chinese institutions and through debt incurred by the projects at rates that are competitive with those of Western infrastructure lending programs. The US government's “Indo-Pacific Strategy Report” (2019) [notes](#) that China uses “economic inducements and penalties” to “persuade other states to comply with its agenda.” The report provides no evidence, and indeed, [scholars](#) who have looked into these matters do not see any such evidence. US Admiral Philip S. Davidson, who previously commanded the US Indo-Pacific Command, [told](#) the US Congress that China is “leveraging its economic instrument of power” in Asia. The MCC, and other instruments, including a new [International Development Finance Corporation](#), were hastily set up to give America an edge over China in a US-driven contest over the creation of infrastructure



Joe Biden at the recent G7 Summit. The US has launched another private initiative in an attempt to counter China's rapidly growing infrastructure development and investment project, Belt and Road

investment globally. There is no doubt that the MCC is part of the broad Indo-Pacific strategy of the United States to undermine Chinese influence in Asia. Only a handful of countries have thus far received MCC grants—starting with Honduras and Madagascar. These are often not very large grants, although for a country the size of Malawi or Jordan, these can have a considerable impact. No large countries have been drawn into the MCC compact, which suggests that the United States wants to give these grants to mainly smaller countries, to strengthen their ties with the United States. Nepal's [accession](#) to the MCC must be seen in this broader context. Although the [discovery](#) of uranium in Nepal's Upper Mustang region in 2014 seems to play an important role in the pressure campaign on that country. In May 2017, Nepal's government [signed](#) a BRI framework agreement, which included an ambitious plan to build a railway link between China and Nepal through the Himalayas; this rail link would allow Nepal to lessen its reliance on Indian land routes for trade purposes. Various projects began to be discussed and feasibility studies were commissioned under the BRI plan. These projects, more details for which [emerged](#) in 2019, were the [extension](#) of an electricity transmission line and the creation of a technical university in Nepal, and of course, construction of a vast network of roads and rail, which included the trans-Himalayan railway from Keyrung to Kathmandu. During this time, the United States entered the picture with a full-scale effort to disparage the BRI funding in Nepal and to promote the use of MCC money there instead. In September

2017, the government of Nepal signed an [agreement](#) with the United States called the Nepal Compact. This agreement—worth \$500 million—is for an electricity transmission project and for a road maintenance project. At this point, Nepal had access to both BRI and MCC funds and neither of the parties seemed to mind that fact. This provided an opportunity for Nepal to use both these resources to develop much-needed infrastructure, or as former Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal [told me](#) in 2020, his country could get new loans from the Asian Development Bank. After both deals had been signed, a political dispute broke out within Nepal, which resulted in the [split](#) of the Communist Party of Nepal and the fall of the left government. One major issue on the table was the MCC and its [role](#) in the overall Indo-Pacific strategy of the United States, which seems to be targeted against China. *Vijay Prashad is an Indian historian, editor and journalist. He is a writing fellow and chief correspondent at Globetrotter. He is an editor of LeftWord Books and the director of Tricontinental: Institute for Social Research. He is a senior non-resident fellow at Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies, Renmin University of China. He has written more than 20 books, including The Darker Nations and The Poorer Nations. His latest books are Struggle Makes Us Human: Learning from Movements for Socialism and (with Noam Chomsky) The Withdrawal: Iraq, Libya, Afghanistan, and the Fragility of US Power.* This article was produced by [Globetrotter](#).

How Ghana Surrendered Its Independence To The US

By Owei Lakemfa

GHANA, the shining Black Star which in 1957 lit the way to independence for all of Africa, is today, a slave colony of the United States, US. The declaration 65 years ago by its leader, Kwame Nkrumah that: "The independence of Ghana is meaningless unless it is linked up with the total liberation of Africa", gave momentum to the independence movements across the continent. Ghana followed up its declaration by providing offices and bases for liberation movements in the continent.

For this reason and the moves by Nkrumah to unite the continent into a single United States of Africa, his stiff opposition to Apartheid, transforming Ghana into the universal headquarters of the Pan Africanist movement and seeking to make Africa independent of external powers, his administration was overthrown.

The coup that toppled the Nkrumah administration was planned by the American Central Intelligence Agency, CIA, whose Deputy Director, Ray Cline, co-ordinated it from Washington, while its station chief in Ghana, Howard Bane, saw to its execution. Over 1,600 Ghanaians were killed in the coup with many injured. The primary tasks of the coup plotters were to reverse all the gains made by the Nkrumah leadership, expel all liberation fighters given refuge and hand over the country to external forces. One of the major beneficiaries of the 1966 coup was Edward Akufo-Addo who was named the Chief Justice. Four years into the coup, he was named the President of Ghana.

Today, 50 years after he left



President Nana Akufo-Addo

office, his son, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo as President of Ghana, is continuing the demolition work by surrendering the independence of Ghana to the same American establishment that executed the criminal February 24, 1966 coup.

The current President Akufo-Addo had in April 2018 sworn that Ghana has "not offered a military base, and will not offer a military base to the United States of America". But it is a matter of nomenclature as the military base was baptised as West Africa Logistics Network, WALN. Under it, America is given the right to run Ghana as a colony although the latter still maintains the privilege of marking March 6 as 'Independence Day'.

As part of the Agreement, Ghana, through an American contractor, McDan, has handed over Terminal 1 of the Kotoka International Airport in Accra to the Americans free of charge! The 'Agreement' itself is worse than the humiliating Japanese piece of surrender to the US after defeat in the Second World War. It grants American soldiers and civilian contractors the privileges, exemptions and immunity equivalent to diplomatic missions under the Vienna Convention. American soldiers can wear their uniforms and carry arms in Ghana as if they are in the US and can enter and exit Ghana without passports



Joe Biden, US President

just with their identity cards! That is a right even Ghanaians don't have!

Agreed facilities and areas provided by Ghana, like the runway, can be of exclusive use by American forces who are also authorised to exercise all rights and authorities for the use, operation, defence, or control of such places, including using force. Also, the Americans can undertake construction activities on, and make alterations and improvements to agreed facilities and areas like the airport and seaport and are authorised to control entry to such places.

The agreement also provides that Ghana furnishes, without rental, all agreed facilities and areas while the Americans are afforded priority in access to and use of facilities that have been provided for joint use. Buildings constructed by US forces shall become the property of Ghana, provided that it "shall be used by United States forces".

The Americans are also empowered to retain title to all equipment, material, supplies, relocatable structures and other moveable property. Under the Agreement, US forces are authorised to preposition and store defence equipment, supplies and materials – which does not exclude chemical and

biological weapons and laboratories. They also have the right to remove such items from the territory of Ghana.

Ghana is obliged to ensure the protection, safety and security of American forces, contractors, property and official information. In other words, Ghanaian officials and citizens can be hunted like Julian Assange for alleged leakage of US information. The agreement says if the Americans are not physically present at their facilities and areas, such places "shall remain locked and secure, and security for such facilities and areas shall be provided by Ghana".

The Americans have the powers to conclude contracts for the acquisition of goods and services, including construction, in Ghana in accordance with United States laws and regulations. Ghana agreed that the acquisition of goods and services in the country by or on behalf of American forces shall not be subject to any taxes, customs duties or similar charges.

Also, the Americans are not liable to pay any tax (including VAT) and are empowered to "import into, and export out of, and use in Ghana any personal property, equipment, supplies, material, technology, training or services in connection with this Agreement".

Such importation or exportation are exempted from any inspection, licence, other restrictions, customs duties, taxes or any other charges assessed within Ghana. In other words, any American soldier can smuggle anything in and out of Ghana. The agreement also provides that aircraft, vehicles and vessels operated by US forces may enter, exit and move freely within the territory and territorial waters of Ghana. So, America can wage war on Ghanaian territory. Also, such

aircraft, vehicles and vessels are not subject to the payment of landing, parking or port fees, compulsory pilotage, navigation or over flight charges; or tolls or other use charges, including lighter age and harbour dues levied by Ghana.

Ghana also agreed to accept American driving licences and the Americans are empowered to operate telecommunication systems, and the right to use all necessary radio spectrum free of cost.

Other than contractual claims, no claims for damage, loss or destruction of property, or death or injury to any military personnel and civilian employees shall be entertained. So, American forces can damage property or kill Ghanaians without being charged. Any third party claims, say by a Ghanaian citizen, will be handled by the American Government in accordance with US laws and regulations.

The agreement can only be terminated by one year's written notice to the other party through diplomatic channels. There is of course no reciprocal agreement giving Ghana any right or privilege in the US; it is purely an 'Agreement' between a slave and slave master.

The Supreme Court of Ghana had on Tuesday, May 5, 2020 ruled as unmeritorious, a suit against this slavish agreement brought by the Ashanti Regional Youth Organiser of the opposition NDC, Brogya Genfi. This was how Ghana surrendered its independence to the US.

Owei Lakemfa is a former Secretary-General & Chief Executive of Organisation of African Unity (2013-2015) whose Secretariat is based in Accra, Ghana.