

# GHANA TO BUY NEW AIRCRAFT



**Dominic Nitiwul, Minister Of Defence**

**T**he Ghana Armed Forces is on the verge of buying a new aircraft as part of effort to modernize. Sources close to the Chief of Defence Staff say that arrangements are being made for the training of pilots and technicians who will man the aircraft. The source refused to indicate the type of aircraft which will be bought but said this is in addition to the refurbishment of the K-8 and other helicopters. The Casa aircrafts are

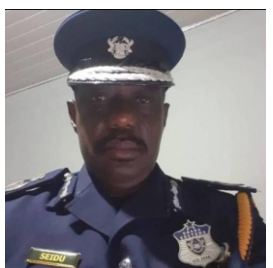
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**'My Hands Are Clean  
On Missing Excavators'  
– Ellembele DCE Insists**



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**Patriotic  
Citizens Of NPP  
Urge President  
To Confirm  
Seidu Iddrisu**



**As Substantive GRA Boss** *page 3*

## SMG TO MARK REAL FOUNDER'S DAY

**T**he Socialist Movement of Ghana (SMG) has announced plans to celebrate what it calls the Real Founder's Day on Tuesday, September 20 and Wednesday September 21, 2022. Blaise Tulo, Convenor of the Accra

collective of the SMG told *The Insight* that the movement will hold a placard parade from the Black Star Square to the Bank of Ghana headquarters on the Professor Atta Mills Highway on Tuesday, September 20, 2022.

According to him, the celebration will be climaxed Wednesday, September 21, 2022 with a public forum at SMG headquarters next-door to the Norgahill Hotel on the George Walker Bush Highway. The forum will be chaired by

*Cont. on page 2*

**I'm Still Acting  
Prez Of Akuapem  
Traditional Council  
- Otobour Gyan Kwasi  
II Cautions Trouble  
Makers In Okuapeman**

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# The INSIGHT

## — EDITORIAL

### DEAL WITH THESE IRREGULARITIES!

**T**he Auditor General's Report released recently about tax irregularities, payroll fraud and other malpractices at the government ministries, departments and agencies including the metropolitan, municipal and district assemblies is most disheartening.

Some of these irregularities have always attracted media attention because of how the nation often loses moneys which could have been used to address some developmental challenges.

For instance the issue of payroll fraud has been a major concern over the years necessitating the introduction of the electronic payment system for public sector workers.

The Controller General's Department also in a bid to stop these malpractices introduced the verification system for government workers before salaries are paid.

It is therefore most surprising that we continue to record cases of payroll fraud despite all these stopgap measures introduced over the years.

Clearly, the identification and prosecution of these individuals behind this fraudulent practice most of who are public servants is long overdue.

Institutions such as the Economic and Organized Crime Office and the Financial Intelligence Centre need to team up with other state agencies such as the Office of the Special Prosecutor and that of the Auditor General to ensure the prosecution of these criminal gangs and thieves instead of the existing arrangement of reporting and surcharging offenders if this nation-wrecking practice is to grind to a halt.

There is no denying the fact that the 'soft' handling of these 'thieves' behind the 'ghost names' is what has emboldened them and made their exorcism difficult.

# GHANA TO BUY NEW AIRCRAFT

*from front page*

also being refurbished. The Insight has learnt that a Navy Forward Operating Base and Barracks is also under construction in the Western Region and is meant to protect Ghana's oil fields. In total 15 Forward Operating Bases are being constructed throughout the country. Under the modernization programme, 366 cadets are also currently under training at the Ghana Military Academy.



Dominic Nitiwul, Minister Of Defence

# SMG TO MARK REAL FOUNDER'S DAY



*from front page*

Professor Akua Britwum of the University of Cape Coast. Speakers at the event will be Professor Raymond Atuguba of the University of Ghana and Comrade Kwesi Pratt Jnr., General Secretary of the SMG.

The event is scheduled to start 4; 00pm and the freedom Band and cultural Troop are scheduled to perform.

Blaise Tulo told *The Insight* that the

progressive sections of the diplomatic community and socialist and progressive organisations as well as the general public have been invited to participate in the event

## THE INSIGHT

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# Patriotic Citizens Of NPP Urge President To Confirm Seidu Iddrisu As Substantive GRA Boss

Calling itself the Patriotic citizens of NPP has appealed to President Nana Addo Dankwah Akufo- Addo to confirm the Acting Commissioner of Customs, Mr. Seidu Iddrisu as the substantive Commissioner. The Convener for Patriotic citizens of NPP, Nana Bonsu in an interview said, Commissioner Seidu Idrissu has been working with the Customs Service for more than

32 years and has risen through the ranks to get to the Acting Commissioner-General of the Customs Division of the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA). Mr. Seidu Iddrisu according to Nana Bonsu, has served in Wa, Tema and the Kotoka International Airport, and was the head of preventive and head of ethics and good governance at the headquarters. He revealed

that, the Acting Commissioner has worked with the Customs since 1990 after graduating from the University of Ghana. "We the Patriotic Citizens of NPP have been following his work and we know his capabilities when given the position. He is a professional, hardworking and diligent in the execution of his duties. He is an insider who is fit for the job and can assist the Akufo-Addo's government to

raise more revenue for the state. We can confidently say Seidu Iddrisu is in corruptible, clean and deserve to be the substantive Commissioner-General of Customs. The Group was of the view that, if President Akufo Addo is able to confirm Mr. Seidu Iddrisu as the substantive Commissioner-General of GRA, it would erode the impressions being created that, he only appoints



Akans to be in charge of key positions.

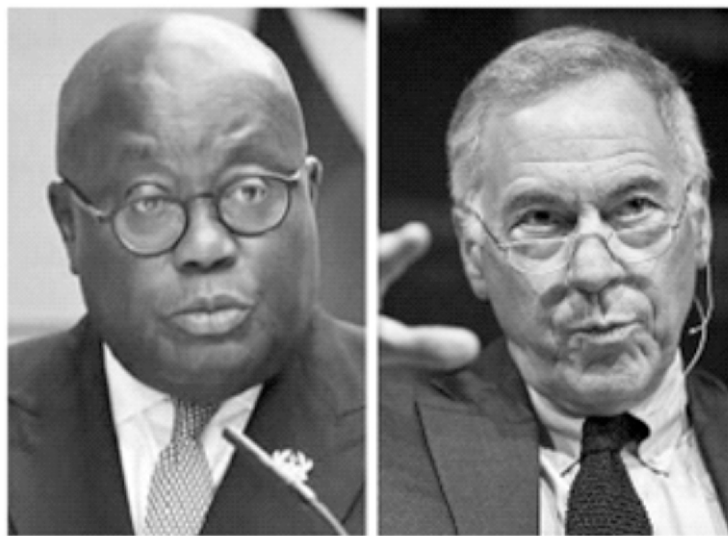
## Economy Under Akufo-Addo Has Gone Down The Tubes - Prof. Hanke Jabs

Professor of Applied Economics at Johns Hopkins University, Professor Steve Hanke, has once again taken a swipe at Ghana's economy under President [Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo](#).

This time, he has stated that the economy has gone down the tubes suggesting that the president and managers of the economy have failed.

His comment comes on the back of the Ghana Private Road Transport Union (GPRTU) hinting at increasing transport fares in the coming days.

"During Pres. Akufo-Addo's reign, #Ghana's economy has gone down the tubes. Just this week, transport fares have jumped by over 21%. Today, I measure GHA's inflation at 80%/yr. That's over 2.5 TIMES the official rate," Prof Hanke tweeted on Wednesday, September 14 citing a GhanaWeb story on imminent hikes in transport fares. GPRTU in an interview with Rainbow Radio justified the planned price increases stating that it did not increase the cost of transportation despite the recent astronomical increase in fuel prices. Abass Ibrahim Imoro, who is the Public Relations Officer (PRO) of GPRTU wondered why the media did not commend them for not raising transportation fares despite rising fuel prices. "The media should applaud us for sticking to the old fares for so long. We deserve praise for taking such a risk. "We had asked the government to



President Akufo-Addo and Professor Steve Hanke

intervene in the matter, but they were unable to do so. So, at this point, we have no choice but to raise transportation fares. The drivers have made significant sacrifices for Ghanaians. When asked what would be the percentage of the transport fares, he said "exercise patience. We would soon announce the new increment. We are still deliberating on the way forward. The moment we agree on the percentage, we will announce it to Ghanaians." If the increment is announced, it will be at least the second time in this year alone that transport fare has gone up. Ghana's economy has been hard hit according to the government by the ravages of the [COVID-19](#) pandemic, the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war and banking sector cleanup. The rippling effect has been an increased cost of living, record

high inflation rates and downgrades of the economy by rating agencies such as S&P and Fitch – a situation which has dealt a heavy blow to government's ability to access the international capital market. The worsening economic situation compelled the government in July to initiate contact with IMF for a programme. Ghana is said to be targeting an amount of \$3 billion over three years from the [International Monetary Fund](#) once an agreement on a programme is reached. The new amount requested as a loan was double the government's initial target of \$1.5 billion. Government hopes to complete negotiations by end of the year to start receiving funds in the first quarter of next year.

## RTI Commission Launches RTI Week

By Florence Anim

The Right To Information RTI Commission has outdoor activities to mark the 2022 edition of the RTI week with a caution from the Executive Secretary, Yaw Sarpong to institutions not to use Right to Information law to retrieve monies from people.

According to him the bill is not set as a profit making entities in as much as the law does not permit such act.

Addressing the media at the launch, Mr. Sarpong said in 2021, the Board of the Commission instituted an annual RTI week celebration with week long activities.

The week celebration he said is set aside to coincide with the International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAL). The IDUAL is set for 28th September each year by the United Nations to celebrate Access to

Information across the globe. The he said is the second event for Ghana since the inception of Act 989.

Touching on the theme for the 2022 celebration which is " Artificial Intelligence, E-Governance, and Access to Information," he said the theme is aimed at encouraging institutions and individuals to appreciate the use of the technology to enhance easy access to Information all in a bid to press for greater participation of the public in our governance system.

Among the activities are radio and television interviews to educate and enlighten the public on the right to Information law, a public forum, health walk and medical screening.



# INTERNATIONAL NEWS REPORT

## Compiled By Peoples Dispatch

### Death Of Political Prisoners Leads To Concerns Over Human Rights In Egypt



Egyptian political prisoner Alaa Abdel Fattah. (Photo: change.org) Rights groups have accused the Abdel Fattah al-Sisi-led regime in the country of pursuing a policy of deliberate negligence when it comes to the condition of prisons, which are overcrowded due to the state crackdown on political opponents

Fouad.

According to posts put up on social media by some Egyptian [human rights groups](#), Fouad was the 28th political inmate who died in prison this year, and over 1,100 prisoners have died in Egyptian jails since 2013.

Zaki, Hassan, and Fouad died in Gamasa prison, Wadi al-Natrun prison, and Shbein el-Koum deportation prison, respectively. Their deaths have been mainly attributed to medical negligence, according to the Egyptian Network for Human Rights (ENHR). The death of the three prisoners was “a natural result of lack of the minimum standards of safety and health care” and the failure of Egypt's public persecution to “carry out its duties of oversight on prisons and hold accountable those responsible for violations,” Ahmed Attar of ENHR told *MEE*.

*MEE* reported that over a hundred political prisoners have died in Egyptian prisons since 2013, including former President Mohamed Morsi who died in the Tora prison in June

2019.

Human rights groups have [accused](#) the Egyptian authorities of pursuing a deliberate policy of medical negligence which has led to the deaths of hundreds of political prisoners since 2013. They allege that there is complicity between the legislative and executive authorities in the country which legitimizes systematic human rights violations both inside and outside prisons. Human Rights Watch (HRW) recently [issued](#) a report highlighting how the Egyptian state is restricting and oppressing independent environmental activists and organizations that are raising grave concerns just before the climate conference COP27 will be hosted by Egypt in November.

**Alaa Abdel Fattah's hunger strike**  
Alaa Abdel Fattah, another high-profile political prisoner who has been on [hunger strike](#) for six months now protesting authoritarian rule in the country

and the deplorable prison conditions, recently [said](#) that he may die in prison as well.

Fattah, now a British citizen, is one of the most important figures from the 2011 popular uprising against the long rule of Hosni Mubarak. He and his lawyer, Mohamed Baker, have been in prison since 2019 on charges of spreading false news. Fattah has served several spells in prison since the 2013 coup by al-Sisi.

The al-Sisi regime has unleashed a massive [crackdown](#) on political opponents and human rights groups in the country, leading to the incarceration of thousands of political prisoners. In the years since the coup, a large number of political parties, trade unions, human rights groups, and [journalists](#) have faced state repression.

*Al-Jazeera* journalist Mahmoud Hussein spent four years in prison without being charged or tried for any crime. Egyptian authorities

finally agreed on [Wednesday](#) to release Hussein's colleague Ahmed al-Najdi who was detained in August 2020 and kept in prison without trial or charge for over two years. The news of the journalist's release is linked to al-Sisi's recently concluded state visit to Qatar. *Al-Jazeera* is funded by the Qatari government. Before it was forced to suspend its activities in Egypt earlier this year, the Arabic Network for Human Rights Information (ANHRI) had published data related to the overall state of political persecution in Egypt under al-Sisi. According to ANHRI, there are at least 65,000 political prisoners in the country. Al-Sisi has used his absolute control on power in the country to control the activities of all opposition forces. While shutting its operations in Egypt, ANHRI had [cited](#) “increasing disregard of rule of law and increased harassment by the police under legal or judicial pretext” in the country.

### Swedish General Elections Go To The Wire

General elections were held last Sunday to the 349-seat unicameral Swedish parliament, which saw a voter turnout of 81.3%. As the counting neared its end late on Monday, both the incumbent coalition led by the Social Democrats and the right-wing opposition were locked in a tight fight to reach the simple majority of 175. According to the latest projections, the opposition parties, including the right-wing Sweden Democrats (73 seats), Moderate Party (67 seats), Christian Democrats (19 seats) and Liberals (16 seats), together are likely to have a single seat lead over the combined tally of the incumbent coalition government led by Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson, comprising the Social Democrats (108 seats), Center Party (24 seats), Left Party (24 seats), and Greens (18 seats).

The Social Democrats have managed to win eight more seats than their previous tally and secured 30.5% of the votes polled. The Sweden Democrats emerged as the game changer and have become the second

largest party in the new parliament, securing 12 more than its previous tally and 20.6% votes, displacing the Moderate Party which managed to bag 67 seats (three less than its previous tally).

According to reports, the parties in the opposition camp are busy holding talks on forming a stable coalition government. The liberal-conservative Moderate Party is ready to support a government led by Sweden Democrats. Such a coalition is likely to have the support of the Christian Democrats (KD) as well. The crucial question here is whether the Liberals agree to support or sit in a government led by the right-wing Sweden Democrats headed by Jimmie Åkesson. The final results are yet to be officially announced after the counting of around 200,000 overseas and early votes.

Major issues that dominated the election campaign include Sweden's request for NATO accession, the Russia-Ukraine war, the cost of living crisis,

immigration and refugees, taxation, transition to green energy, rise in crimes and the spike in hate crimes. Most of the parties including the Social Democrats and Sweden Democrats have called for joining NATO by revising Sweden's neutrality. Sweden Democrats' vigorous campaign for lesser intake of refugees and stricter immigration rules has helped to increase in its support among right-wing conservative sections, cutting into the traditional support base of the Moderate Party.

Meanwhile, working class sections especially the communist parties expressed dissatisfaction with election results. On September 12, Andreas Sorenson from the Communist Party of Sweden (SKP) told *Peoples Dispatch* that “at this moment, the preliminary results show that there is no clear winner and that only one member of parliament can make the difference.”

He said that “with the Social Democrats in power for the last four years, we have witnessed limitations on the right to strike, a deterioration of the working conditions and a rising militarism and participation in the war in Ukraine; we have seen Sweden apply for membership in the NATO and we have seen massive increases in prices, especially concerning electricity.” “On the other end, the Sweden Democrats have set the tone within the entire right-wing camp with slogans on deportation of criminals, stopping immigration and toughening up on crime. This will mean an increase in repression, basically, which will affect the entire population in Sweden,” Sorenson added.

Jakob Lejon, the International Secretary of Sweden's Revolutionary Communist Youth (RKU), the youth wing of the Communist Party, told *Peoples Dispatch* that “judging from the preliminary results we've seen so far, it doesn't look like that the

long-reigning social democrats will be the ones to administer capitalism this time, and for the next four years, Sweden might be led by the most ghoulish representatives capital can find. This is not a question of preferring the 'lesser evil'. We must instead realize that what is needed to break the never ending cycles of these two evils is socialism!”

He also added that the Kingdom of Sweden has never been a socialist workers' republic or a socialist country as many people think. “The Social Democrats are active agents in the preservation of Swedish capitalism and imperialism and have often stood in the capitalist vanguard of privatization, austerity politics, 'law and order', racism, imperialism etc.,” he said.



# 'My Hands Are Clean On Missing Excavators' – Ellembelle DCE Insists

The District Chief Executive (DCE) for Ellembelle in the Western Region, Mr. Kwasi Bonzoh, has denied allegations leveled against him to the effect that he led some thugs to attack police officers and also obstructed their operations when they were escorting one of the excavators reported missing from Ellembelle to Takoradi.

According to the DCE, he was concerned about the two missing excavators from the Teleku Bokazo, illegal mining site, meant to ensure the security of the heavy duty machines.

The DCE said that the police claimed there were no excavators in their custody, and that, he and Francis Apeni, a member of the District Small Scale Mining Committee, were

responsible for the safety of the machines.

Mr Bonzoh recalled that at about 2pm on August 31, he informed the police "to watch over the two excavators, but, later, the machines got missing", stating that, the police in their statement, last Saturday, denied that saying it's in our custody."

He said since he was a subject of investigations as Chairman of the District Security Committee (DISEC), and Chairman of Small Scale Mining Committee, "I should be concerned about any excavator leaving my jurisdiction."

The DCE said he never obstructed police processes, adding "We didn't have evidence on the missing excavators, and, this time, we have evidence and so I needed to take pictures of an excavator leaving my district. I did not obstruct the police in anyway."

Mr Bonzoh applauded the Inspector General of Police, the Regional Police Commander and the operational team, for retrieving one of the missing excavators and also for the arrest of some Chinese suspects in connection with the case.

He urged them to retrieve the other excavator to ensure justice and fairness in the matter which had generated much public interest. Mr Bonzoh said: "I will fight with my last blood. I have to ensure that the excavators and the issue of illegal mining, popularly known as galamsey, in the district is stopped." He expressed worry that galamsey was destroying land, water bodies, adding "Yes, I know I have stepped on toes but, I believe the police would go ahead and bring the perpetrators of this crime to book." It will be recalled that the DCE was



arrested on September 7, 2022 for allegedly attacking police personnel who retrieved one of the excavators reported missing from Ellembelle.

The team of police officers were escorting the excavator to Takoradi; however, at the Axim Junction, the DCE, Kwasi Bonzoh, reportedly led some thugs to attack the police and obstruct the operation.

This led to his arrest along with three others, and the DCE has since been granted bail.

But in a quick rebuttal, the DCE flatly rebuffed these allegations leveled against him, saying that he would be the last person to hire the thugs to attack police officers for doing their work since he respects the rule of law.

According to him his only offence was that he tried capturing a video of the found 'missing excavators' as evidence while it was being taken away by the police but the police wanted to implicate him.

"They only wanted to lie to people that I was lawless which is not true. I was arrested by the police for videoing the found 'missing excavator,'" Mr. Bonzoh stated.

Mr. Bonzoh indicated that all he wants to do is to fight against galamsey by ensuring that those engaged in such acts are arrested. "I have been very sad throughout last week due to my case leading me to court. I am not here to blame anyone. I have been arrested twice on the issue of the missing excavators. All I wanted to do was to fish out those involved in the act," Mr. Bonzoh explained.

The DCE described his arrest and detention by the police as unfortunate, saying that having been the chairman of Ellembelle DISEC, he has been working closely

with the police in the fight against illegal small scale mining activities in the various mining prone areas within his district.

He said if he was aware that the excavator was one of the missing excavators the police officers were escorting to Takoradi he would not have gone there to take the video which has landed him in the grip of the law.

According to him, since he has no information to the effect that one of the reported missing excavators was found by the police officers that was why he acted that way which has brought the rift between him and police.

"My heart has shaken when I heard the news that one of the missing excavator is being moved away from my jurisdiction, thinking otherwise that it might be the owners of the excavator who are moving the machine from the area that is why I acted in that way to get evidence," he reiterated. He pointed out that when the excavators were reported missing in Ellembelle, the issue made the police to issue a press statement and asked him to help or partner the police to conduct investigations into the matter to unravel the truth.

He noted that when one of the missing excavators were found, nobody informed him and that what he heard was that some people have been escorting one of the missing excavators from his area to Takoradi.

He stressed that those who are with him were the workers of the Assembly, calling on the general public, particularly the people in the district to disregard the allegation leveled against him, "since my hands are clean."

## I'm Still Acting Prez Of Akuapem Traditional Council - Otobour Gyan Kwasi II Cautions Trouble Makers In Okuapeman



the Akuapem Traditional Council head until the chieftaincy issues against the Akuapem Paramountcy are resolved and the new Paramount Chief of Akuapem Traditional Council is installed and ascended to the throne. According to Otobour Gyan Kwasi II, there are deliberate attempts by the Ahwerease Mankrado of Asona family of Akuapem to mislead his followers that he is not under his rule as Acting President of Akuapem Traditional Council. He maintained that what was happenings within the Okuapeman does not mean that he doesn't have traditional capacity to talk about them but for the sake of peace he has held on to them.

He pointed that he has been looking for the appropriate time to tackle these issues with the people of the Asona family which could bring peace and development to the Okuapeman.

Against this backdrop, Otobour Gyan Kwasi II called on the people living in the

area to be self-discipline and avoid negative practices that would land them into the wrong side of the law.

The Patriotic citizens of NPP is appealing to President Nana Addo Dankwah Akufo-Addo to confirm the Acting Commissioner of Customs, Mr. Seidu Addrissu as the substantive Commissioner. The Convener for Patriotic citizens of NPP, Nana Bonsu in an interview said, Commissioner Seidu Idrissu has been working with the Customs Service for more than 32 years and has risen through the ranks to get to the Acting Commissioner-General of the Customs Division of the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA). Mr. Seidu Addrissu according to Nana Bonsu, has served in Wa, Tema and the Kotoka International Airport, and was the head of preventive and head of ethics and good governance a...

[5:44 pm, 15/09/2022] Mr Akufo: Nominations/ picking of forms to contest the election is on the 20-22/09/2022.( Tuesday)

The Acting President of the Akuapem Traditional Council in the Eastern Region, Otobour Gyan Kwasi II, has sounded a strong word of caution to the scores of various recalcitrant chiefs and other traditional office holders in Okuapeman to desist from their continuous practices of causing unnecessary confusion and tension or else they would incur his wrath for their wrong doings. Otobour Gyan Kwasi II who doubles as the Aburihene and Adontenhene of Okuapeman, noted that he would not sit down unconcerned this time for these self-seeking chiefs to continue to attack his integrity and hard won reputation. He reaffirmed that he is still

# THE ONE CHINA POLICY (THE TAIWAN QUESTION): AN OBJECTIVE PERSPECTIVE

Growing up, I watched the western media like CNN and BBC give their rendition on the Taiwan question. The rhetoric had always been “Taiwan is an independent Island and has never been part of or ruled by China. For years, I believed this to be the truth and wondered why China will want to claim an “independent country” as part of it, but is this so?

In 2012, I had the chance to travel to China to study. I had the chance to hear China's side of the story from my Chinese friends, scholars and News. Was I to believe the Western or the Chinese Version? I decided to do a research, trace history and form an objective opinion, for history cannot be changed. The findings were an eye opener.

The first point in going back to history; it is widely agreed that China has over 5000 years of history. In order to make an objective assessment, everything that happened within this period should be taken into account.

Here are the facts : Taiwan was ruled by China's Qing dynasty from 1683 to 1895. The Qing dynasty was forced to cede Taiwan to Japan, after Japan claimed its victory in the First Sino-Japanese War,

Now let's dive in... Through a war of aggression against China, in April 1895, the Qing government was forced to sign the unequal Treaty of Shimonoseki, and occupied forcibly Taiwan. The Cairo Declaration was issued by the Chinese, US and British governments in December 1943, which stipulated that Japan should return all the territories it had taken, to China. These included the Penghu Archipelago, Northeast China, and Taiwan. China, the United States and Britain signed the Potsdam Proclamation in 1945 which stipulated that “The terms of the Cairo Declaration shall be carried out.”, Japan surrendered in August of that

year and in its Instrument of Surrender promised in that it would fulfill the obligations laid down in the Potsdam Proclamation faithfully.

The Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) was proclaimed On October 1, 1949, replacing the government of “the Republic of China” to become the only legal government of the whole of China as well as its sole legal representative in the international arena. The leader of the deposed Party, Chiang Kai-shek, fled to Taiwan in 1949, purporting to establish his ROC government in contradiction to the united China. The US sent troops to occupy Taiwan, after the start of the Korean War in June 1950 and declared the status of Taiwan has yet to be determined” and later, lobbied for “dual recognition” step by step, among the international community, contradicting the declaration earlier made.

Following 30 to 40 years after 1949, the Taiwan authorities, although did not recognize the legitimate status of the government of the Peoples Republic of China as the representative of the whole of China, insisted that Taiwan is a part of China and that only one China exist, and opposed “two Chinas” or “Taiwan independence.” This suggests to me Chinese on both sides agree on the ONE-CHINA POLICY.

Besides history, bilateral agreements with China and the US, gives us clues on the matter. The US in 1972, made it very clear in the Shanghai Communiqué purporting that “the United States acknowledges that all Chinese on both sides of the Taiwan Strait maintain one China and that Taiwan is an integral part of China. In the Joint Communiqué on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the People's Republic of China and the United States of America which was released in 1978, the United States “recognizes the Government of the People's Republic of China as the only legitimate Government of China” and “acknowledges the Chinese position of one China and

Taiwan is part of China”. The US side made it clear that in the 17 August Joint Communiqué of 1982 that, “the United States of America recognized the Government of the People's Republic of China as the sole legal Government of China, and it acknowledged the Chinese position that there is but one China and Taiwan is part of China.”, The US, in that communiqué also “reiterates that it does not intend to infringe on Chinese sovereignty and territorial integrity, or interfering in Chinese internal affairs, or pursuing a policy of 'two Chinas' or 'one China, one Taiwan'”. “Unless the US comes to declare this as false; which hasn't been the case, we hold this as true.

Finally, let's see what the International Community thinks... The United Nations General Assembly, in October 1971, adopted at its 26th session Resolution 2758, expelled the representatives of the Taiwan authorities, restored the seat and all the lawful rights of the government of the PRC in the United Nations. 181 countries, based on principle of one-China including the US, have established diplomatic relations with the PRC.

After these findings, my opinion on the matter, from an objective point of view greatly changed from the narrative of the western Media. I believe yours has now.

As to the re-unification, if you will ask for my opinion, after living in China for 9 years, I will say it will be of great benefit to the people of Taiwan if it was to unite with China.

On the economic front, China is the second largest economy of the world. China's GDP was 24.2 trillion dollars by the end of 2020 and it's the world's highest revenue of any country. The country has the largest number of manufacturers and exporters. China has also become a very powerful investor in the global market. She has invested her resources in countries like Chad and Niger, Angola, Argentina, Venezuela, UAE, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Australia, the UK, and the US. The country has become a tech giant, becoming a leader in Science and Technology such as 5G.

Politically, China has a stable political environment, a permanent seat at the table of the United Nations Security Council. She's also a member of the world's leading

organizations like ASEAN Plus, WTO, BCIM, APEC, G20, BRICS, and many others. It has developed very good relationships with other world's leading countries.

Moreover, people on both sides are ethnic Chinese, they share a common culture and speak the same language. Reunification with China will bring Taiwan economic gains, recognition and great benefits to its people. Taiwan has only 23 million or so people and limited resources, why not merge with 1.4 billion people and achieve security for its people? As the saying goes, there is power in numbers.

. My suggestion to the people of Taiwan is “see what binds you with the mainland, and do not allow western infiltration for their own gain”, take a look at the broken promises of the west towards Ukraine, the people of Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya and so on”

This is my objective take.

Dr. Isaac Ibrahim  
BMS, M.Econ, Ph.D.

## 'My Hands Are Clean On Missing Excavators' – Ellembele DCE Insists

from page 5

"This is what I want the general public as well as the whole world to understand that the allegation levelled against me that I have moved with thugs to attack the police officers when taking the video of the excavator was not true," the DCE reaffirmed.

He maintained that having been the government representative for the Ellembele, he would be the last person to hire the services of thugs to stop the police from performing their constitutional duties entrusted into their hands.

Against this background, the DCE stressed that "No I cannot do so." He said those who owned the excavators and have been using them to mine in the premises of school in the area before their deeds have become to entangle him, should be dealt with by the police officers and not him.

He noted that illegal small scale mining activities are completely

unlawful and that those who were engaged in the activities may always have encountered with the police officers in the area. He said President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo who appointed him to be the MCE in the Ellembele was against illegal small scale mining activities. He pointed out that the President even said he would put his presidency on the line with a commitment to end the illegal small scale mining popularly called galamsey in Ghana. He noted that the statement made by President Akufo-Addo is a clear indication that the fight against illegal small scale mining activities was dear to his heart. The MCE noted that "if the whole President who appointed him was able to declare war against irresponsible mining activities, then

it is the time for him to wake up to help the President succeed in the fight against the menace in the area. He recounted series of measures he took to work closely with the stakeholders including the chiefs, Queen-mother, police and other traditional office holders to fight illegal small scale mining activities in the past four years. He pointed out that the illegal small scale mining activities have become a lucrative business for some individual personalities and organisations and that preventing them not to engage in these illegal activities have been the challenges for the Assembly and government. He thanked the people of Ghana for the love and confidence and trust they have in him during and after his arrest in connection with the missing excavators.



# Mahama Ex-Gratia Brouhaha: Sammy Gyamfi Sets The Records Straight

National Communication Officer for the National Democratic Congress (NDC) [Sammy Gyamfi](#), has said there is an attempt by government to mislead Ghanaians about the emoluments and privileges of former President John Dramani Mahama. According to him, this is shameful because John Mahama was very clear about the specific bills and expenditure he has personally borne since he left office. In a Facebook post, [Sammy Gyamfi](#) said the NPP has rather resorted to the circulation of some official documents that have no relation with the subject.

"The desperate attempt by government and NPP communicators to mislead Ghanaians about the emoluments and privileges of former President John Dramani Mahama is shameful to say the least.

"For the records, the former President in his recent interview with TV3's Alfred Ocansey, was very clear about the specific bills and expenditure he has personally borne since he left office. Rather than rebut or respond to the specific issues raised by the former President, some NPP and government communicators have shamelessly, albeit in vain, resorted to the circulation of some official documents that have no bearing whatsoever on the issues at stake. It is therefore important to situate the discussion within the proper context," he added.

## This is the statement;

LAWYER SAMMY GYAMFI WRITES:

The desperate attempt by government and NPP communicators to mislead Ghanaians about the emoluments and privileges of former President John Dramani Mahama is shameful to say the least.

For the records, the former President in his recent interview with TV3's Alfred Ocansey, was very clear about the specific bills and expenditure he has personally borne since he left office. Rather than rebut or respond to the specific issues raised by the former President, some NPP and government communicators have shamelessly, albeit in vain, resorted to the circulation of some official documents that have no bearing whatsoever on



**Sammy Gyamfi, National Communications Officer NDC**

the issues at stake. It is therefore important to situate the discussion within the proper context.

In the said interview, H.E John Mahama made ten (10) important points that are worth highlighting:

1. He stated that the claim by the Bono Regional Chairman of the ruling NPP that an ex gratia amount of GHS14 million was paid into his ADB account in the year 2013 is an "absolute lie". And that the only payment that was made to him by the Controller and Accountant General in 2013 was his salary arrears - an amount of GHS230,000.

2. He also stated, that the claim by the Bono Regional Chairman of the ruling NPP that he has received privileges and perks worth GHS15 million since he left office in 2017 is "absolutely untrue". And that he receives only his monthly pension as former President.

The former President went on to say that:

3. He pays the electricity bills for his household and office;

4. He pays the water bills for his household and office;

5. He lives in his own accommodation so the State does not pay him anything for accommodation.

6. The State has not given him an office. And that he rents an office space in East Cantoments, Accra which he personally pays for.

7. He pays for his own fuel.

8. He pays his own domestic

staff.

9. He pays for his medical bills.

10. He pays his own air tickets and that of his assistants whenever he travels.

Can our friends in the NPP and government stop shifting the goal post and tell the nation whether these statements made by H.E John Mahama are true or false? Given the fact that the emoluments and privileges of former Presidents are matters of public record, can government rebut any of these statements with evidence? When is government releasing official documents that confirm the payment of ex gratia of GHS14 million and GHS15 million to former President Mahama, as alleged by the irresponsible Bono regional chairman of the ruling NPP?

The point has to be made, that at no point in the said TV3 interview did former President Mahama say that he pays the salaries of his own office staff. Therefore, the official documents on payment of salaries of office staff of former President Mahama by the State as required by law, being circulated on social media by some NPP communicators are complete red herrings being introduced into the discussion just to obfuscate the issues and confuse Ghanaians.

Additionally, at no point in the said interview did H.E John Mahama say that the State has not allocated him any official vehicle. Our

friends in government and the NPP cannot set their own questions and proceed to answer same. Thus, the memos on the allocation of official vehicles to former President Mahama being circulated on social media by some of their communicators are of no relevance to this discussion.

For the records, former President Mahama was allocated four (4) used State vehicles when he left office in 2017 - two SUVs and two saloon cars. The two SUVs (Land Cruiser GXR) are for the use of the National Security detail attached to the former President's residence and office for his protection. These two SUV vehicles broke down in the year 2018 and the Presidency was duly informed. Interestingly, the Akufo-Addo/Bawumia government refused to replace them until 2021, after the determination of the 2020 election petition. The former President had to personally buy two (2) vehicles for the National Security detail assigned to him, which they used from 2018 until they were replaced in the year 2021 by the State. Few weeks ago, government contacted the logistics officer at the office of former President John Mahama to come for two (2) new saloon vehicles to replace the two (2) used saloon vehicles he was allocated in the year 2017. H.E John Dramani Mahama rejected this offer on grounds that the vehicles are still operational and serviceable, hence did not need to be replaced. Government

subsequently called the logistics officer at the Office of the former President to come for an additional saloon vehicle to beef up the mobility of his accompanying National Security detail. This saloon vehicle was delivered to the office of the former President only last week. These are the vehicles that are the subject of the memos being circulated by NPP apparatchiks on social media.

It is important to note, that all the five (5) State vehicles allocated to the former President are fueled, serviced and maintained by him and at his own expense.

It is also worthy of note, that the former First Lady, H.E Lordina Mahama was not allocated any official vehicle almost five (5) years after she left office in 2017. It was only in the year 2021, after the Supreme Court decision on the 2020 election petition that she was allocated one SUV and one pickup.

In conclusion, let it be placed on record that Former President Mahama since leaving office in 2017, has never complained about the provision, adequacy or otherwise of emoluments and privileges due him as a former President of the Republic, even though these are his entitlements under the law. But for the yet again strenuous attempt by the Bono Regional Chairman of the NPP, who has a knack for heaping all manner of lies and vitriol on the former President, he has never for once contemplated making a fuss out of these issues.

Having been compelled to set the records straight, I can appreciate how the truth has inadvertently and inescapably exposed the continuous mistreatment, yet unguarded calumny against H.E John Dramani Mahama and his dear wife, H.E Lordina Mahama by the Akufo-Addo/Bawumia government and their assigns. This notwithstanding, the Akufo-Addo/Bawumia-NPP government must approach this conversation with a sense of candor. They will not be allowed to create their own distortions and proceed to defend same.

SAMMY GYAMFI ESQ.  
National Communications  
Officer, NDC