

TROUBLE LOOMS IN TEMA

Over Funeral Ban Imposed By Traditional Council



The late Nii Adjei Kraku II



Mad. Tsotsoo Odai, Tema Queenmother



Nii Adjetey Kraku III, Tema Mantse

There is uneasy calm at Tema New Town and the larger Tema metropolis in the Greater Accra region over a funeral ban imposed by the Tema Traditional Council (TTC) which is due to take effect in October starting tomorrow. The Council which announced the one month suspension of all funeral and church activities, parties, weddings and any other merry-making event in Tema, Tema New Town, Klangon, Ashaiman and other

adjourning towns said the directive is part of funeral arrangements to mourn and honour the late Nii Adjei Kraku II, the embattled Tema Mantse who died in February 2020. A statement issued by the Council on September 5 2022 signed by its Registrar said, "It is therefore, announced to the general public, particularly residents in Tema, that all funerals and related activities are to be suspended in the month of October, 2022. Activities such as engagements,

weddings, outdoor crusades/conventions and other merry making activities are also proscribed within the month of October this year". Some churches, event organizers and traders have also roundly kicked against the directive which they contend is misplaced and unacceptable for a busy industrial and business hub like Tema and environs. Already, there have been reported cases of some business

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Ibrahim Mahama Mentors 17-Year-Old Natural Inventor From Upper East



Business mogul Ibrahim Mahama on Tuesday invited Master Solomon Atimbiri who hails from the Upper East Region but currently resides in Kumasi, for a mentorship session and exhibition of his

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Abu Akleh Was Killed By An Israeli Sniper**

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The INSIGHT

— EDITORIAL

DEAL WITH THEM!

Recent rainfalls in the country have exposed the shoddiness of several of the roads that were constructed and paid for with the taxpayers' money.

Several of the roads within the country's capitals not to mention the hinterlands, have over the past few weeks developed gaping holes following the recent heavy downpours slowing vehicular movement and causing traffic and inconveniences as well.

Surprising, some of these deep potholes have developed on roads only recently repaved and in some cases constructed.

Clearly, this is worrying considering the huge amount of money that was injected into such projects.

Our contractors need to get their acts together and do a good job for the state, if their cries for non-payment or delay in payment of awarded and finished projects is to be acted upon.

The country is bleeding due to the fact that some road projects have become an avenue for money-making by some few contractors who do shoddy works only to be called back to fix the problem at an extra cost to the state. This should not be allowed to happen again.

Even though we support early payment of road contracted projects and also for them to be handed to local contractors to build their capacities and also retain the huge monies spent on such projects in the country, shoddiness of work would not be entertained.

Certainly, this country is bleeding and our contractors and authorities must act.

Ibrahim Mahama Mentors 17-Year-Old Natural Inventor From Upper East

from front page

invention works. Mr. Ibrahim Mahama's attention was drawn to the young inventor's video after it went viral on social media last weekend. The young inventor was able to build a moving excavator and other trucks by using locally available materials.

Mr. Ibrahim Mahama took interest and decided to mentor young Solomon Atimbiri, by offering him the needed support in realizing his dream. He has been attached to a team of local and expatriates engineers.

He'll be given practical training whenever school is on break till he completes school.

He'll join the company permanently and will be working with a team of professional engineers after completion of school. Some of the current engineers working within Mr. Ibrahim Mahama's firm were also discovered as raw talent and developed to become professional engineers.

Solomon Atimbiri will be given the best support and environment to become an accomplished professional engineer and inventor.

#IbrahimMahama

#EngineersAndPlanners



THE INSIGHT

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from front page

entities being threatened with ejection in Tema New Town if they fail to contribute money for the funeral of the late chief and it is feared that the enforcement of the so-called ban could result in land guards and other criminal gangs taking advantage to extort monies from some churches, business entities and law-abiding citizens. It is however not clear how the Council intends to enforce the ban but what has angered most residents of especially Tema New Town and Manhean is that the late embattled chief who was a Muslim was buried the same day he died in February 2020 followed by the 40-day Adua in line with Islamic custom and tradition. Concerns have been raised that

some individuals linked to the late chief have been finding ways to make money from his death by announcing all manner of activities including only recently, the outdoor of funeral ornaments all in a bid to raise funds from business owners in Tema. Amid all the tension and concerns expressed by Tema residents, Nii Adjetei Kraku III, the Tema Mantse, who claims to be the rightful heir to the Tema Stool has urged residents to remain calm as he works to resolve the matter. He said the ban is unacceptable and must be called off. Madam Tsotsoo Odai, the Tema Queen Mother has also called for calm and urged residents not to do anything untoward.



The late Nii Adjetei Kraku II



Mad. Tsotsoo Odai, Tema Queenmother



Nii Adjetei Kraku III, Tema Mantse

Achimota Forest Is Osu Village – Osu Stool Discloses

The Osu Stool has disclosed that, the Achimota Forest is one of the villages established by the people of Osu in the course of their migration from Osudoku enroute to Christiansburg where the indigenes are largely settled now. "Other villages established by the people of Osu include but not limited to Haatso, Papao, Lagon, Achimota, Jawuro (Dzorwulu) and many others". This came to light during a press conference organized by the Osu Stool to address critical issues facing the Osu Traditional area. Addressing the media, Rev. Quartet Solomon Kwatei, the Stool Secretary pointed out that, over the years their rights to own, develop and control the lands, territories and resources have been jeopardized by interference with outsiders, threatening the very existence and their identity as people of a particular origin. "These interference in the Stool's managements of its lands which includes fraudulent land transactions and conveyances without the consent and concurrence of the Stool amongst others, have far reaching consequences on the indigenes of Osu and this practice ought to be curtailed or cease forthwith". Rev. Quartey Kwatei said, in various land matters involving acquisitions by the colonial governments as well as other lands cases, the

judgements of the colonial courts have clearly taken the position that all Osu lands are held only by the stool as allodia owners. "In the matter of Achimota land acquired by the government of the Gold Coast Colony under Certificate of Title No.869/1921 earlier on, the compensation paid to the Owoo family and the Oku family was not on the basis of ownership, but for loss of settlement and livelihood. The compensation was paid to Owoo family's right to be on the land as subjects of the Osi Stool. It is important to emphasize that the compensation was not only paid to the Owoo family but was shared between the Owoo and Oku family". The Osu Stool he mentioned, is the only allodia owner of the Achimota Forest and other Osu established settlements during their migration from Osudoku to their present location. "In the coming weeks, the Chiefs and Elders of OSU will engage the appropriate authorities in government to iron out all issues regarding any contemplated/planned release of the Achimota Forest lands". The Osu Stool Secretary however, urged all the indigenes of OSU to remain united and steadfast in the midst of the disturbing and worrying circumstances.

In Case of Reply the Number and Date of this Letter should be quoted

Tel. No: 0573233624/0246111984

My Ref: TTC/FUN/V.1/18

Your Ref No:



MINISTRY OF CHIEFTAINCY AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS
TEMA TRADITIONAL COUNCIL
(GREATER ACCRA REGION)
P.O. BOX TV 22
TEMA MANHEAN

5TH SEPTEMBER, 2022

Dear Sir/Madam,

BAN ON CERTAIN ACTIVITIES IN TEMA – FUNERAL OF THE LATE TEMA MANTSE, NII ADJEI KRAKU II

As you may be aware, the Tema Mantse, Nii Adjetei Kraku II passed on to eternity in February, 2020.

As part of activities lined up for the funeral, the month of October has been set aside by the Traditional Council to honour the memory of the late Paramount Chief.

It is therefore, announced to the general public, particularly residents in Tema, that all funerals and related activities are to be suspended in the month of October, 2022. Activities such as engagements, weddings, outdoor crusades/conventions and other merry making activities are also proscribed within the month of October this year.

It is also announced that, while the ban of these activities will be strictly enforced in Tema Manhean (Newtown), residents of the other communities of Tema (communities 1-12) and the various divisional areas (Ashaiman, Zeenu, Kubekro, Adigon, Saasabi, Adjei Kojo, Klangon, Sakumono and Adjeiman) are encouraged to mourn with the Chiefs and people of Tema by abiding by this measure put in place to honour the memory of the late Nii Adjetei Kraku II.

In due course, several activities lined up for the funeral will be announced for all and sundry to join the Chiefs and people of Tema for a befitting funeral to be held for the late Nii Adjetei Kraku II.

Please be informed that this announcement supersedes the earlier one issued on 28th July, 2022.

Thank you.


REGISTRAR

Ag. President – Nii Adjetei Agbo II

Loc: Tema Manhean, Email: tematraditionalcouncil@yahoo.com, Bankers: GCB



INTERNATIONAL NEWS REPORT

Compiled By Peoples Dispatch

Pro-EU Moldovan Govt Comes Under Attack As Cost Of Living Crisis Intensifies



Anti-government protest in Chisinau, Moldova. (Photo: via PCRM). The Moldovan left has called for a vote of no-confidence against the Party of Action and Solidarity government. Right-wing sections have been staging protests

A number of protests have taken place over the past few days in Moldova, demanding the resignation of President Maia Sandu and the government led by the pro-EU Party of Action and Solidarity (PAS). Right-wing and Euro-skeptic sections in the opposition, led by the ȘOR party, organized a massive mobilization

in the capital Chisinau on September 18. Meanwhile, the left-wing opposition, comprising the Party of Communists of the Republic of Moldova (PCRM) and the Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova (PSRM), initiated proceedings for a vote of no-confidence against the PAS government headed by Prime

Minister Natalia Gavrilița in the parliament on September 15. The Moldovan left has accused the government of failing to tackle the cost of living crisis that is severely impacting common people across the country. Moldovan politics and society, like many other post-Soviet Republics, have become deeply polarized over relations with the EU and Russia. With the onset of the Russia-Ukraine war in February 2022, the pro-EU government in Moldova has imposed various anti-Russian policies, which have irked sections of the people. The sanctions placed by the EU and the US on Russian gas imports to Europe have triggered high inflation in energy and food prices and resulted in an acute cost of living crisis across Europe, including in Moldova.

The PCRM stated on September 18 that Moldovans pay the highest price for gas in Eastern Europe. On September 15, the Electoral Bloc of Communist and Socialists (BECS) – comprising of PCRM and PSRM – said in the Moldovan parliament, “We believe that the government has impoverished the population, and instead of helping citizens, is increasing the burden of the people in the form of increased loan rates. Inflation and national debt are also rising, and in the absence of real aid programs, thousands of entrepreneurs have gone bankrupt. The door has been closed on the farmers as well.” The vote of no-confidence against the government, proposed by the BECS, will be considered in the next session of the parliament.

According to a recent opinion poll conducted by iData, the BECS enjoys 20.8% support in the country. The incumbent PAS is trailing in second place with 19.4%, and the ȘOR party received 16.7% support from respondents. In April this year, communists, socialists and other anti-fascist sections in Moldova had [protested](#) the liberal government's decision to ban the Ribbon of St George and other Soviet/Russian symbols representing the Great Patriotic War (the name for the Second World War in the former USSR) in the country. In the wake of the war in Ukraine, the Moldovan parliament, dominated by the pro-European PAS, voted in favor of banning the public display of Soviet and Russian symbols, including the Ribbon of St George, on April 14.

Anti-Government Protests In Haiti Enter Sixth Week

By Tanya Wadhwa

Thousands of people on Monday hit the streets in Haiti once again, protesting amid the economic, political and social crisis in Haiti, demanding the resignation of de-facto Prime Minister and acting President Ariel Henry. In the capital of Port-au-Prince, protesters organized two massive simultaneous marches to Henry's official residence. Citizens gathered at the Champs-de-Mars public square and at the Airport Crossing, renamed by protesters as the Resistance Crossing, from there marching to the Prime Minister's residence. Similar massive rallies were held in the Carrefour and Gonaïves communes. Demonstrations, protests, roadblocks, and sit-ins denouncing the Henry government were organized in almost all main cities. The call for the protest actions was given by various civil society organizations, popular movements, and trade unions from diverse sectors as a part of the two-day national strike on September 26 and

27, with nationwide mobilizations on September 26 and 28. For the past five weeks, since August 22, Haitians have been tirelessly mobilizing against increasing poverty and food insecurity amid soaring prices of essential commodities and basic services; acute shortage of fuel amid brutal increase in prices; widespread gang-related kidnappings, killings and violence; and the crushing devaluation of the national currency, the Haitian Gourde, against the \$USD. Anti-government protests have intensified since September 12, following the announcement that the national government was increasing the prices of gasoline, diesel and kerosene. According to reports from [local media](#), the fuel prices have hiked by between 128% and 194%. The price of gasoline went up by 128%, from 250 per gallon to 570 gourdes (4.81 USD\$), that of diesel by 189.80%, from 353 per gallon to 670 gourdes (5.65 USD\$). Kerosene rates rose by 194.60%, from 352 per gallon to 685 gourdes

(5.78 USD\$). For the past two weeks, stopping the suffocating rise in fuel prices has become Haitians' second fundamental demand. The unconditional exit of de-facto PM Henry and his anti-human government remains the first. Haitians have blamed the international community for their dire situation, arguing that its support for Henry is keeping him in power, despite his lack of legitimacy. In the beginning of September, over 100 social movements and organizations called on the US, the UN, the OAS and the countries that make up the Core Group to drop their support for the Henry government and stop interference in Haitian internal affairs. They demanded that Haiti's right to self-determination be respected, as well as the right of Haitian people

to mobilize. Haitians are also demanding the application of the Montana Agreement. This Agreement advocates the installation of a transitional government to govern the country for two years, in order to recover the nation from the crisis caused by the ruling far-right Haitian Tèt Kale Party (PHTK), rebuild society, and organize elections for the next government. On September 26, the left-wing *Pati RASIN Kan Pèp la* or the People's Camp ROOT party [emphasized](#) that “there is no possible satisfaction of the Haitian people's demands without a legitimate government.” The Party called on its members, progressive forces and Haitians in general “to remain vigilant against all infiltration and counter-

regulations that come out to divert the true demands of the people.” The party called on political leaders to refrain from using talking points that could mislead or confuse people and cause a riot, such as claims that “foreign military intervention is being prepared because Haitians cannot solve the country's crisis,” or “it is gangs that are standing up in the street.” The party also denounced the violent police repression against protesters, and the impunity police enjoy in such acts. Lastly, the party expressed its support for all mobilizations that defend the rights and interests of the Haitian people.

Fresh Investigative Report Reveals Shireen Abu Akleh Was Killed By An Israeli Sniper

A joint [investigation](#) conducted by London-based research group Forensic Architecture and Palestinian group Al-Haq last Tuesday claimed that, Israeli forces deliberately shot *Al-Jazeera* journalist Shireen Abu Akleh and called it an “extrajudicial killing.” It used advanced spatial technology and data and video evidence provided by *Al-Jazeera* to recreate the act of the Israeli sniper. The report released on their websites refutes assertions made earlier by Israel and the US that Abu Akleh's death was accidental. The report conclusively establishes that at the time of her shooting, there was no gunfight in the area and that an Israeli sniper fired at her despite knowing her identity.

Abu Akleh was assassinated by Israeli forces on May 11 when she, along with other journalists, was covering an Israeli raid on a refugee camp in Jenin in the occupied West Bank. Her colleague Ali al-Samoudi was also injured in the firing but survived. The investigation found that Israeli claims of accidental fire were false and that the Israeli sniper knew about journalists' presence in the area. He fired 13 rounds at them for at least two minutes without any provocation. The investigation also asserts that the Israeli sniper targeted the people who tried to help Abu Akleh after she was shot. Israel has refused to take any action against the security personnel responsible for Abu

Akleh's killing. In a report published earlier this month, Israel had claimed that her death had not been intentional but was the result of gunfire between Palestinian armed groups and Israeli soldiers. The Israeli [report](#) asserted that it was “not possible to unequivocally determine the source of the gunfire that hit Abu Akleh.” However, it admitted that “there is a high possibility that Ms. Abu Akleh was accidentally hit by IDF gunfire that was fired towards suspects identified as armed Palestinian gunmen, during an exchange of fire.” Earlier, a US State Department statement issued on [July 4](#) also said that Abu Akleh's death was “accidental” and took place during caused in a gunfight

where “gunfire from IDF positions was likely responsible for” her killing. The statement claimed that the killing was not intentional but a result of “tragic circumstances.” This was despite various previous investigations conducted by the media and human rights groups such as B'Tselem already having refuted the Israeli claims of a gunfight in the area at the time of Abu Akleh's killing. On the day report by Forensic Architecture and Al Haq was released, Abu Akleh's family members moved the International Criminal Court (ICC) seeking justice. They filed a formal complaint with the support of the International Federation of Journalists and Palestinian Press Syndicate to establish Israeli accountability in



Shireen Abu Akleh. (Photo: AJ+/Twitter). Forensic Architecture and Al-Haq issued their findings after a new investigation. Abu Akleh's family has moved the ICC seeking Israeli accountability for her killing

Abu Akleh's killing. Even though Abu Akleh was a US citizen, all attempts by her family to seek US intervention in holding Israel accountable have failed to yield any result so far. US President Joe Biden refused to meet the family during his visit to Israel in July. The family reiterated their demand for justice when they met Secretary of State Antony Blinken later that month.

Concerns Over Effects Of Cement Manufacturing On Panbros Salt Chiefs, Residents Of Weija Mc Carthy Rally Support For Empire Cement Gh



The Traditional Authorities and the United Residents Association of South West McCarthy made up of Weija-Gbawe, Tetegu and its environs have stated that, per what they have seen with their naked eyes proves that, based on the technology being used by Empire Cement Ghana Limited is a clear indication that, no dust is generated during operations to cause any health or environmental hazards to the residents. According to them, not only does Empire Cement technology and methodology adopted, addresses all the environmental concerns but also, the technology is far

superior in comparison to the technology being used by several existing cement manufacturing factories which have been established in comparable geographical sites in Ghana.

Addressing the press, Mr. Kwaku Danso, President of the United Residents Association of South West McCarthy pointed out that, for some time now, a handful of nine (9) people comprising their spouses and children, organized a press conference instigated by their pay masters to mislead the public by giving unsubstantiated information and bad publicity about Empire Cement Ghana Limited. He said that, the motives of the so call McCarthy Hill Residents Association, is to create public disaffection towards the well intentioned high technology and eco-friendly cement manufacturing company, which is aimed at creating 13000 direct

and indirect jobs for the teeming unemployed youth in the Weija Gbewe Constituency and beyond as well as, providing affordable cement for the developmental needs of the country.

Mr. Kwaku Danso on behalf of the United Residents Association however, appealed to President Akufo Addo to commission the factory and make it operational because of the advantages that it will bring to Wieja-Gbawe constituency in particular and the Ghanaian economy at large. Empire Cement Ghana Limited he mentioned, took a great pain to invest huge sums of money in developing a robust system to deal with the “perceived adverse environmental concerns” raised by the stakeholders in the matter. “The factory will create 13000 direct jobs, pay duties and taxes to the state and also aim to bring down the prices of cement

for a development in the area of housing, hospitals, schools, roads, bridges to mention but few”. The Traditional Authorities together with the United Residents Association of South West McCarthy, pledged their support to the factory to be operational and to disassociate themselves from the activities of the McCarthy Hill Residents Association saying, they do not represent the larger community of Weija-Gbawe, Tetegu, and its environs who support the factory. They indicated that, Empire Cement has not been registered anywhere for the manufacture of Cement papers adding that, the facts can be verified from the Registrar General Department. The sod-cutting ceremony of Empire Cement Ghana Limited was held on 11th June, 2020, after having secured permit from EPA for enabling works and also the building permit from the Municipal Assembly.

The ceremony was held by the then Former Greater Accra Regional Minister who is now deceased, Hon. Ishmael Ashittey, Hon. Tina Ayeley Mensah, MP for Weija-Gbawe Constituency, and Hon. Patrick Kwesi Kumor, MCE as well as the Chiefs and Assembly members of the area. Thirty Five million dollars is said to have been injected into the economy through the cement factory which to the people, should not be made to go down the drain since it is going to serve as a disincentive to prospective investors both local and foreign. The Company was registered at the Registrar General Department for the sole purpose of manufacturing and bagging of cement and subsequently, registered with the Ghana Investment Promotion Centre and the IDIF Secretariat at the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

Latest Ipec Poll Shows Increased Support For Lula

The latest voter intention poll released by Ipec on Monday September 26 indicates that former President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva of the Workers' Party of Brazil (PT) has increased by one percentage point and he now has 48% of total voting intentions in the stimulated survey (when the names of the candidates are presented). The sum of the votes for all the other candidates is 44%. The poll indicates that Lula has a possibility of winning in the first round.

Further, the poll indicated that in valid votes, after deducting blank and spoiled ballots, Lula has 52% of the voting intentions.

Following Lula, Jair Bolsonaro (PL) has 31%, Ciro Gomes (PDT) has 6% and Simone Tebet (MDB) has 5%. Soraya Thronicke

(União Brasil) and Felipe D'Ávila have 1%. The other candidates do not score. The margin of error is two points higher or lower.

In the previous survey, published last Monday September 19, Lula had 47%, followed by Bolsonaro 31%, Ciro 7%, and Tebet 4%. The others totaled 1% each or less. The sum of the votes of all the opponents, 44%, was lower than Lula's declared intention to vote, and the difference was within the margin of error, that is: there was uncertainty about the need or not for a second round.

The survey interviewed 3,008 people between September 25 and 26. The margin of error is two percentage points higher or lower,

considering a confidence level of 95%. The survey was registered with the TSE under number BR-01640/2022.

Other polls

With less than a week to go until the first round of the election that will define the next president of the Republic, at least 11 electoral polls are scheduled for the next few days.

A survey conducted by Brasil de Fato at the end of last week shows that Lula's lead has grown numerically in the last nine nationally relevant polls. On Saturday, an Ipespe/Abrapel poll and, on Monday (26), the FSB/BTG poll added to the statistics.

There are now 11 consecutive polls showing



On Saturday September 24, Lula spoke to thousands of people in the working class area Grajuá, São Paulo. Photo: Ricardo Stuckert. Former president appears four points above the sum of the other candidates and can win in the first round

Lula's distance to Bolsonaro growing in the final stretch of the electoral campaign before the first round of the presidential election. Atlas: Tuesday, 27/09; Quaest/Genial: Wednesday, 28/09; Exame/Ideia: Thursday, 29/09;

Datafolha: Thursday, 29/09; Atlas: Friday, 30/09; Quaest/Genial: Saturday, 01/10; MDA/CNT: Saturday, 01/10; Ipec: Saturday, 01/10; Datafolha: Saturday, 01/10.

Ketu South Residents To Hit The Streets Over Deadly Dykes



The Ketu South lagoon

Residents in some parts of Ketu South in the Volta Region on Tuesday, September 27, held a demonstration in protest against the operations of a salt mining company, Seven Seas Salt Limited, along the Keta Lagoon. The residents are agitated over the death of a mother and her three children in dykes allegedly dug by the company in the Lagoon. Two persons died in a similar

fashion in July when they went fishing in the Lagoon.

Background

A mother and her three (3) children have died in a dyke at Laklevikope in the Ketu South Municipality of the Volta region.

The dyke, according to residents, was dug by Seven Seas Salt limited – a salt mining company operating along the Lagoon in that part of the region.

The victims are Yawa Afenu, 41 (mother), and her three children, who were said to have gone fishing in the Lagoon on Saturday in the company of their surviving father, Atitso Amewu but fell into the dyke while attempting to save one of the children who had first fallen in.

"They went fishing with their parents, but the dyke is in such a way that you would not know which side is deep. So one of the children fell into it, and the rest all attempted saving him but lost their lives, including their mother except the father who swam to safety," a resident told Starr News.

"There are no danger signs to caution people from going there either and so the whole area is full of danger," the resident added.

Bodies of all four victims - Yawa Afenu, 41, (mother) Bridget Amewu, 14, Daddy Amewu, 10 -her children and another child staying with the family, Sitsofe Ahiawor, 8, have since been retrieved by the police and deposited at the Ketu South Municipal hospital morgue for preservation and autopsy. Assemblyman for the area, Victory Ayeku, who confirmed the incident, said they had been left devastated.

He said, "We are devastated. It is sad, but we are having a discussion around it to see the actions we would have to take to protect ourselves from this tragedy going forward."

The latest happening brings the number of deaths recorded in the Lagoon this year alone to six (6).

In July, two other individuals

lost their lives in separate incidents in a similar fashion in the Lagoon.

In an interview with Mr. Adams Mensah, the Public Relations Officer of the Seven Seas Salt limited, he denied the company's ownership of the dykes.

He indicated that though the company had constructed dykes the said dykes, where deaths have been recorded, are outside the company's concessions and might have been created by individuals as a fish pond.

Mr. Adams Mensah, however, condoled with the affected families noting, "It is an unfortunate incident -for a man to lose all of his family in that manner is unbearable but it must be stated that the dykes are not the creation of the Seven Seas Salt limited."

Source: starrfm.com.gh

Morocco Fails To Get Kenyan Endorsement For Its Colonial Occupation Of Western Sahara

By Pavan Kulkarni

Dismissing a now-deleted tweet by Kenyan President William Ruto about rescinding recognition of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR), the Kenyan foreign ministry clarified on September 16 that it would continue to maintain diplomatic relations with SADR and support its right to self-determination. Also known as Western Sahara, SADR is a founding member of the African Union (AU) and the continent's last colony, fighting a war for liberation from Morocco. The Moroccan occupation of most of SADR's territory since 1975 has been receiving increasing Western support, despite a consensus in international law that Morocco has no legitimate territorial claims over SADR, whose right to self-determination is well-recognized. But Kenya has emerged as an important ally, championing SADR's cause over the last decade. Ruto's decision to change this foreign policy, only a day after his swearing-in ceremony, which was also attended by SADR's president Brahim Ghali, was reversed as a result of public backlash and dissonance within the foreign ministry, sources and reports indicate.

"Kenya's position [on SADR] is fully aligned with... the AU Charter which calls for the unquestionable and inalienable right of a people to self-determination," read the foreign ministry [communiqué](#) dated September 16, addressing all of Kenya's missions and directorates. This communiqué, which was made public on Monday, September 19, reiterated, "UN Security Council Resolution 690 (1991)... calls for the self-determination of Western Sahara through a free and fair referendum administered by the UN and the AU. Kenya supports implementation of this UN security Council Resolution to the letter."

Implicitly criticizing the new president's hasty announcement, the communiqué signed by principal secretary Ambassador Macharia Kamau added, "It should be equally noted that Kenya does not conduct its foreign policy on Twitter or any other social media platforms, rather through official government documents and frameworks." Following a meeting with Moroccan Foreign Minister Nasser Bourita, Ruto had tweeted on September 14, "At State House in Nairobi, received a congratulatory message from His Majesty King Mohammed VI. Kenya rescinds its recognition of the SADR and initiates steps to wind down the entity's presence in the country." While the tweet was soon deleted, Morocco's foreign ministry released

an [official statement](#) on its website the same day, announcing: "Following the message of His Majesty King Mohammed VI to the new President of the Republic of Kenya, Mr. William Ruto, the Republic of Kenya has decided to withdraw the recognition of the so-called 'SADR' and to initiate the steps to close its representation in Nairobi."

The statement further claimed that Morocco and Kenya had signed a joint statement agreeing that "in deference to the principle of territorial integrity and non-interference, the Republic of Kenya [had extended] total support to the serious and credible autonomy plan proposed by the Kingdom of Morocco" as the only possible solution to the Sahara issue.

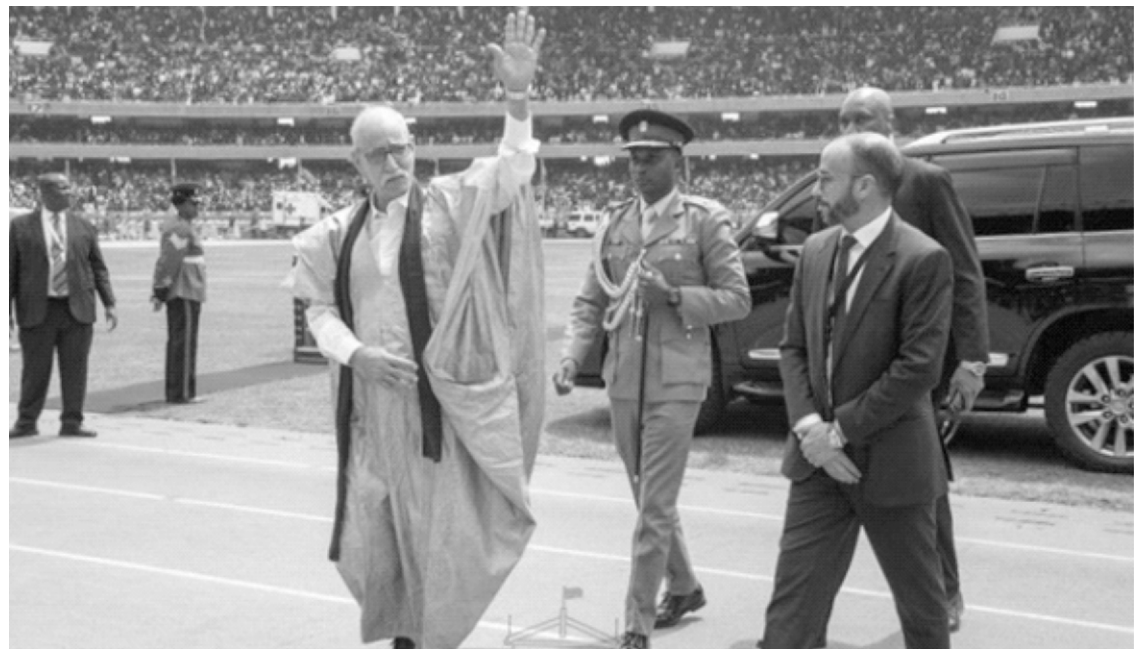
The Kenyan foreign ministry's communiqué two days later in effect clarified that the tweet by the president had been arbitrary and had no bearing on the country's foreign policy. This was a setback to Morocco, which had declared a diplomatic victory over SADR prematurely, before any official announcement by the Kenyan government.

Asked to explain the sudden change in stance and dissonance within the government, Kenya's Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua [told KTN News](#) on Monday, "This was an administration in transition—[having been] only one day in office... We had many visitors, there [were] so many delegations, and communications had to be made." He said this without specifying which countries' delegations or visitors had sought for such a communication to be made. Gachagua stressed that the most important thing was that "a clarification had been made," and that the country's position was "that of the United Nations and that of the African Union."

US and Israel allegedly lobbying Kenya to endorse Morocco's occupation

Even before the election was held in August this year, the US and the UK, which were allegedly supporting Ruto's candidacy, had sought from him a reversal of Kenya's policy on SADR during his foreign trips, alleged Booker Ngesa Omole, National Vice Chairperson of the Communist Party of Kenya (CPK).

The UN, the AU, the Court of Justice of the European Union, and the International Court of Justice all maintain that Morocco has no legitimate territorial claims over SADR. Nevertheless, in late 2020, then US President Donald Trump had announced his decision to open a consulate in occupied Western Sahara, in effect recognizing it as Moroccan sovereign territory. After Ruto was declared the president-elect, a [presidential delegation from the US](#) earlier this



SADR President Brahim Ghali attending the inauguration ceremony of the Kenyan President William Ruto on September 13. (Photo:: Kamal Fadel/Twitter. A Kenyan foreign ministry communiqué has clarified that the announcement made on Twitter by newly elected President William Ruto on rescinding recognition for the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) was arbitrary and had no bearing on the country's foreign policy

month and the subsequent [Israeli delegation](#) led by its minister of intelligence, had both allegedly brought up Kenya's policy vis-à-vis SADR in the meetings with Ruto, Omole claimed.

Morocco, which is the second largest exporter of fertilizer in the world, had in the meantime seen a further opening in Ruto's election promise of providing cheap fertilizers, he explained. With an apparent assurance from Morocco about "providing fertilizers at subsidized prices, Ruto went on national television to announce that he will provide subsidies to all farmers on fertilizers within two weeks time. A day later, he announced he was rescinding SADR's recognition," Omole said. The bulk of the phosphate used in Moroccan fertilizers is extracted from the occupied Western Sahara. "The Moroccan regime uses the resources stolen from Western Sahara to bribe foreign officials to obtain recognition for its illegal occupation of our homeland," Kamal Fadel, SADR's Representative to Australia and the Pacific, told *Peoples Dispatch*. "Those who receive the stolen goods from Western Sahara are complicit in the war crime of pillage and their involvement is a tacit support to an illegal occupation—one with continuing notorious human rights abuses occurring during a time of armed conflict," he added.

Pointing out that within an hour of Ruto's announcement, "Kenyans had jumped on his tweet, attacking him for surrendering sovereign foreign policy to Moroccan bribes," Omole explained that there is a strong sentiment against what is perceived as a return to old foreign

policy.

"Kenyan population supports the Sahrawi people"

"Except for the last 10 years, Kenya has not had a progressive foreign policy. It was always a wait-and-see opportunistic policy, aligning with whichever position brings in most alms from foreign countries. So our relations with Western Sahara had always been strained," Omole told *Peoples Dispatch*.

In 2006, Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki had placed diplomatic relations with SADR on "[a temporary freeze](#)" only months after first receiving diplomatic credentials from its ambassador. "But the Kenyan masses are always ahead of their governments. There was an uproar here, led by the Kenya Western Sahara Friendship Society (KWSFS)," said Omole, who has been a member of the KWSFS for 20 years.

"This organization has been fostering people-to-people friendship between the two countries. A few times, we have also hosted families from the refugee camps [of the displaced Sahrawis in Algeria]. Kenyan people lobbied the government to condemn Morocco's occupation," he explained. Under popular pressure, "Kibaki had to initiate the process to re-establish diplomatic relations with SADR." While this was unfolding, Uhuru Kenyatta and William Ruto, who at the time were contesting the 2013 election together as presidential and vice-presidential candidates, were put on trial by the International Criminal Court (ICC). They were tried for charges of

crimes against humanity for political violence in the aftermath of the 2007 presidential election. The charges were subsequently dropped.

However, Kenyatta did not take the alleged US and UK support for this trial well, Omole claimed. "After he won the election, he went about changing Kenya's foreign policy against the interests of the West. He pursued alternative trade relations with the East, instead of continuing to rely on the West. He refused to follow Israel's line and supported Palestine. He opened the SADR's embassy in Nairobi, and, for the first time, Kenya appointed an ambassador to SADR. For the first time, a Kenyan ambassador presented his credentials to the president of the SADR."

In the regional and international forums of the AU and the UN, Kenya actively supported the cause of the SADR. "The progressive foreign policy has continued since," and during this period Kenyan people's relations and solidarity with the Sahrawi people has deepened, Omole said.

There is a high degree of "awareness among the Kenyan people about the Sahrawi people's struggle for liberation. It seems our new president was out of touch with the reality that the Kenyan population supports the Sahrawi people, regardless of the divisions that will be sown by governments," he observed.

Brazilian Activists Slam Bolsonaro's Genocidal Climate Policy

“Indigenous people protect our future,” have read an enormous image projected on the side of a building in Midtown Manhattan. On the evening of September 19, Indigenous and environmentalist leaders collaborated with NYC-based protest projection collective “the Illuminator” to display political slogans against deforestation and violence against Indigenous peoples in Brazil. Slogans included, “protect Indigenous land, protect the climate,” “timber extraction threatens Indigenous land and increases conflict,” “Indigenous peoples protect all ecosystems,” among others, in both English and Portuguese. The organizations that planned the protest include the Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil (APIB), Defend Democracy in Brazil Committee (DDB-NY), Greenpeace Brazil and Greenpeace USA. This protest comes as a response to the [UN General Assembly](#) (UNGA) and Climate Week currently taking place in New York City. On September 20, right-wing Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro opened the UNGA. Activists in Brazil have charged Bolsonaro with [genocide](#) for his deadly

[mishandling](#) of the COVID-19 crisis, as well as crimes against Black and Indigenous people. Bolsonaro has also been accused of wreaking havoc on the environment, in particular regarding ramped up deforestation of the Amazon. “Indigenous Lands are the most preserved areas in all of Brazil, but this does not translate into our rights being protected,” said Dinaman Tuxá, Executive Coordinator at APIB. Indeed, Indigenous peoples play a tremendous role in protecting the Amazon environment. As made obvious by satellite imagery, the area surrounding the Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau reserve is 70% deforested, while the reserve itself is only 2% deforested. At the same time, Indigenous peoples are some of the most persecuted in Brazil, a persecution that has only worsened during Bolsonaro's term. As of August 2022, [176 Indigenous people have been murdered](#) during Bolsonaro's third year in office. [At least 6](#) Indigenous people were murdered in September alone, thus far. These assassinations include that of Indigenous leader Victorino Sanches of the Guaraní-kaiojá on September 13. Notably, in June 2022, Indigenous

activist Bruno Pereira and journalist Dom Phillips were [found dead](#) in a remote part of the Amazon. At the time, Sônia Guajajara, executive coordinator of APIB and candidate for Federal Deputy commented, “[it is h]ard to wake up in one of the countries that kills the most environmental defenders. They want us to give up, but we will not give up. Brazil is Indigenous land and we will make our whole lives a life of struggle for our peoples!” **UN address or campaign speech?** Bolsonaro's address to the UNGA on the morning of September 20, focused on elevating the policies carried out by his administration and attacking prior governments, leading many analysts to denounce it for being akin to a campaign speech. He stated that “As regards the environment and sustainable development, Brazil is part of the solution and stands as a reference to the world.” “In the Brazilian Amazon, an area as big as Western Europe, more than 80% of the forest remains untouched and pristine, contrary to what is often reported by the mainstream national and international media,” Bolsonaro continued. These statements have been



widely criticized for being misleading. Studies show that environmental destruction has accelerated during Bolsonaro's term as president. According to Greenpeace Brazil, as of January, during the past three years, deforestation has [increased by 52.9%](#) in the Amazon, compared to the three previous years. According to data from Brazil's National Institute for Space Research (INPE), 7,135 km² of the Amazon rainforest, nine times the area of New York City, was deforested from January to August 2022. This is the highest rate ever recorded for this length of time. The INPE data also indicates that deforestation reached the highest rate last month since 2017, surpassing the infamous 2019 “[day of fire](#)” in which rural producers agreed to burn pasture and deforestation areas on August 10 of

that year. Also in August of this year, [33,116 illegal fire hotspots](#) were recorded in the Amazon. Carol Pasquali, Executive Director of Greenpeace Brazil, said, “What happens in the Amazon doesn't stay in the Amazon. All over the world, we are already seeing the impacts of the climate crisis...We need our forest standing and its people protected from those who want to make short-term profits off of it.” The organizers of the September 19 action said that the projections were intended to call out Bolsonaro “for anti-Indigenous and anti-environmental policies that have led to an explosive increase in deforestation along with violence against Indigenous Peoples and environmental defenders.” **Source --** [Peoples Dispatch](#)

Ghana's Fiscal Recklessness Has Been Exposed Over The Past 10 Years – Economist



Petroleum economist, Dr. Theo Acheampong

Economist, Dr. Theophilus Acheampong, has said the fallout of the [COVID-19](#) pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war has significantly exposed Ghana's fiscal recklessness. Government has routinely

explained that recent economic headwinds are attributable largely to the ravages of the [COVID-19](#) pandemic, the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war and the banking sector clean-up. The rippling effect has been an increase in the 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. But Dr. Theo Acheampong

speaking in an interview with Accra-based Citi TV said Ghana has in the last ten years been threading on an unsustainable path in terms of economic growth. “Our expenditure patterns kept increasing, and our gap and deficit had to be financed from external sources,” he is quoted by Citinewsroom.com. “The point is that we have been living recklessly, over the last 10 years, our fiscal finances have been pretty much in shambles. If we recall, during the Covid-19 pandemic, we were told that those who died the most were

those with underlying health conditions. In our case, what the pandemic and Ukraine war have done is to expose our fiscal diabetes,” he added. Touching on other aspects which have resulted in the economic challenges, Dr. Acheampong said excessive borrowing and living unsustainably have further exposed Ghana to economic pressures. “We had an underlying ailment in terms of our borrowing and living unsustainably, and these two have exposed them, resulting

in where we find ourselves,” he explained. The worsening economic situation compelled the government in July to initiate contact with [International Monetary Fund](#) for an economic support programme. Ghana is targeting an amount of US\$3 billion over three years from the Fund once an agreement on a programme is reached. Government hopes to complete negotiations by end of this year to receive the funds in the first quarter of 2023.