

CEDI DEPRECIATION

Spare Parts Dealers Attack Bawumia; Say Ghana Needs Better Economist



Dr Mahamudu Bawumia, Vice President

The Spokesperson for the Spare Parts Dealers Association, Mr Takyi Addo, has chided President Nana Akufo-Addo's economic management team for being so loud about their prowess than the management of the economy. In an interview, Mr Addo called on Akufo-Addo to consult

better economists to turn the economy around and ditch Vice President, Dr Mahamudu Bawumia over his economic failures. According to Mr Addo, the depreciation of the Cedi is a testament that Dr Bawumia is all talk and no action, adding that the government must eat

humble pie and consult economists in previous administrations for solutions to Ghana's current economic malaise. He added that instead of Dr Bawumia putting in place measures to arrest the constant fall of the cedi,

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Ukraine Sliding Into A Real War

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Contractors Chase Govt Over GHC200 Million Debt



The Association of Building and Civil Engineering Contractors has threatened to lock up all government projects in their domain if government does not take steps to have them paid within two weeks. According to the association, they have not been paid for work done since 2017.

The contractors have given government two weeks to take steps to pay up its indebtedness or they will lock up all projects including those

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We're Tired Of Sacrificing - GPRTU Says As It Hints Of Transport Fares Increment

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The INSIGHT

— EDITORIAL

THIS IS WORRYING!

Recent happenings in the state of Palestine regarding the annexation of lands and the committal of atrocities by Israeli forces to say the least is highly repugnant.

Never a day passes without one form of violence or assault being perpetuated by Israel against the people of Palestine.

These acts including seizure of Palestinian lands have been carried out with the highest level of impunity, apparently due to the support provided by America.

Across the West Bank and other occupied territories, there have been protests over plans by Israel to annex more of such lands.

Clearly, this show of impunity and disregard for international law is highly condemnable and unacceptable.

There is no denying the fact that the Israeli authorities' constant destruction of Palestinian homes in Occupied West Bank for new Jewish settlement has been done with the full support of the United States, in spite of persistent international condemnation of such lawless and dastardly acts. Apart from the West Bank's Area C, Gaza has also been turned into a huge killing field as Israel has over the years committed acts of genocide with impunity.

Nobody has been spared the atrocities of the Zionist state which has killed women and children, the old and the young, abled and bodied persons and people with disability.

We firmly believe that Israel is emboldened to carry out these atrocities because of the support it receives from the US and its surrogates around the world.

Undoubtedly, what the world expect to see is the easing of tension and an end to the brutalities in Palestine.

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from front page

he is rather focusing on his presidential ambitions. "The dollar is running like Usain Bolt, now the problem is the government must eat their humble pie and consult more professionals, go to the past administrations, there are more people who can help. From the Rawlings administration, Kufuor administration, Mills administration and the Mahama administration, or if you go to our universities there are better economists there. We need to give them one week, they can go to Peduase and bring solutions.

"Because for now, Bawumia has failed, he has failed the economy, now we know what he can do, the only thing he can do is start going round, start meeting people and talking about digitalization. He can't



Dr Mahamudu Bawumia, Vice President

even fix the economy.

"When the NPP took over in 2016, the Dollar was 3 cedis 97 pesewas after the swearing-in it went to 4 cedis 20 pesewas now it is 10 cedis 10 pesewas, whose fault is it, it is the Vice President, He can't even manage the small office as the Vice President, how much more the whole nation."

Contractors Chase Govt Over GHC200 Million Debt

from front page

under construction and those completed and handed over.

"We are giving the government two weeks from September 13 to 27 to respond favourably to our request or we will be left with no option but to embark on an industrial action and resort to the legal means available," the association warned. The association said government owes its members to the tune of GHS200 million for projects executed within the said period.

The projects cover the road sector, buildings and education among others in the country. President of the Association, Prosper Yao Ledi, narrating the ordeal of members, due to the government's failure to pay them for work done, at a press conference held in Accra said: "We are well-meaning Ghanaian businessmen and women who have played a role in partnering with the government to execute roads and other infrastructure projects." He said the government had made free education a hallmark of its national development agenda. This, he explained, is commendable so they bought into the vision and heeded the call to play their roles by picking up their shovels, and excavators, graders to assist the government to achieve this feat. "We wiped our bank accounts and borrowed from banks, friends, and family to construct feeder roads, urban roads, classroom blocks, dormitories, bungalows, offices, fences, and E-blocks only for the government to renege on honouring its part of the deal by not paying us for work done." "Meanwhile, the government is happily utilizing the

projects and yet does not want to pay the people who worked on the project," he lamented. "Imagine living with no income because all your income has sunk into a government project," he said. "The saddest part of the matter is the money for all these years will not attract any interest," he bemoaned

THE INSIGHT

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Ukraine Sliding Into A Real War

By M. K. Bhadrakumar

A recurring feature of the Cold War was that the United States almost always placed great store on the optics of a Soviet-American affair while Moscow chose to concentrate on the end result. The Cuban missile crisis is the best known example where the denouement was about the publicized abandonment of the planned Soviet deployment of missiles in Cuba and a US public declaration and agreement not to invade Cuba again. But it later came to be known that there was also an unpublicized part, namely, the dismantling of all of the Jupiter ballistic missiles that had been deployed to Turkey. The behavioral pattern remains the same in Ukraine. As per the Western narrative, Russia is staring at the abyss of defeat amidst the “rout” in Kharkov region. Interestingly, though, at the responsible levels in the Beltway, there is noticeable reticence about beating the drums presumably because of their awareness that the Ukrainian forces simply re-entered the Balakleysko-Izyum direction to occupy areas that Russians had planned to vacate. Moscow is once again leaving the optics almost entirely to the American journalists while Moscow concentrates on the end result, which has had three dimensions: one, complete the ongoing evacuation from the Balakleysko-Izyum direction without loss of lives; two, exploit the Ukrainian troop movements to target the forces that came out into the open from well-fortified positions in the Kharkov region; and, three, concentrate on the campaign in Donetsk. The last part is becoming very sensitive for Moscow, as a significant section of Russian “war correspondents” carried sensational reports that it is apocalypse now. Even senior politicians such as Gennady Zyuganov, general secretary of the

Communist Party, and a powerful voice in the state Duma, feels agitated. Zyuganov said at the first plenary meeting of the Russian state Duma's fall session on Tuesday that the “special operation” has grown into a full-fledged war and the situation on the front has “changed drastically” in the past couple of months. A fragment of the speech, posted in the Communist Party's [website](#) also quoted Zyuganov as saying that “every war requires a response. First and foremost, it requires maximum mobilization of forces and resources. It demands social cohesion and clear prioritization.” Although intended as constructive criticism, Zyuganov's advice will almost certainly be passed over by the Kremlin. Russian presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov has responded with alacrity, [saying](#), “At this moment — no, it (full or partial mobilization) is not on the agenda.” President [Putins support base](#) remains as strong as ever. The recent Russian regional and local elections partly turned into a “referendum” on the Ukraine situation. And the fact that the ruling party received one of the best results in its history by winning about 80% of the mandates in regional and local parliaments shows a resounding vote of confidence in Putin's leadership. That said, the “angry patriots” pose a headache. That is why the latest situation around Bakhmut in Donetsk assumes particular significance. Bakhmut is undoubtedly the linchpin of the entire fortification that Kiev erected in Donbass in the past eight years. It is a strategic communication junction with roads in many directions — Lysychansk, Horlivka, Kostiantynivka, and Kramatorsk — and control of the city is vital for establishing full supremacy over Donetsk region.

The Russian troops and allied militia groups have been trying since August 3 to break into the Ukrainian defenses in the Bakhmut-Soledar direction but with patchy success. Now comes reports that the Russians have entered Bakhmut city and taken control of the industrial zone in the northeastern parts. Some reports say the Russian military contractors known as the Wagner Group have been deployed in Bakhmut. These are highly trained ex-military personnel.

The stakes are exceedingly high. For Kiev, the entire logistics of the operations in Donetsk can unravel if it loses control of Bakhmut. As for the Russians, the breakthrough in the Bakhmut-Soledar direction will clear the main hurdle for the crucial offensive toward the Slavyansk-Kramatorsk axis to the west, the last conglomeration of Ukrainian forces in Donetsk. Bakhmut is only 50 km from Slavyansk-Kramatorsk. Speaking about the Ukrainian “counteroffensive” last weekend to *National Public Radio*, General Mark Milley, US chairman, Chiefs of Staff, had made [some interesting points](#):

- Ukraine has amassed a good amount of combat power. How they use that will now be the determining factor. Things will clarify “in the coming days and weeks.”
- Ukrainian military so far fought extraordinarily well in defense. Defense has always been the stronger form of war.
- Ukraine is now moving into offensive operations where it is critical to integrate fire power into their maneuver in order to achieve superiority.
- Therefore, “it remains to be seen” what is happening in the next few weeks. “It is a very, very difficult task that the Ukrainians are undertaking” —



Bakhmut's desolate streets where intense fighting is expected. (Photo: RFE/RL). As calls by “angry patriots” in Russia for a stronger response rise in volume, the latest situation around Bakhmut in Donetsk assumes particular significance

combining their offense with maneuver. The Ukrainian offensive in Kharkov was planned as a flank attack to encircle and destroy the Russian groupings in the area of Balakleya, Kupyansk, and Izyum. But the Russian command anticipated such an attempt, as its frontline had thinned out lately. The Ukrainian forces outnumbered the Russians by almost four to five times. Interestingly, in anticipation of a Ukrainian offensive, civilians who agreed to leave the region for Russia were evacuated from the threatened settlements in military convoys. Using mobile defense tactics under the cover of specially organized units, Russians finally succeeded in withdrawing their forces. In effect, the Ukrainian/US/NATO plan to maneuver a flank attack and encircle the Russian troops was thwarted with minimal losses. On the other side, Ukrainians also admit that Russians inflicted significant losses of manpower on their opponents (who included a big chunk of fighters from NATO countries.) But the Russian military also made mistakes. Thus, their forward positions were not mined — inexplicably enough; frontline intelligence gathering was deficient; and, the residual Russian troops (drawn down to one-third of full strength) were not even equipped with anti-

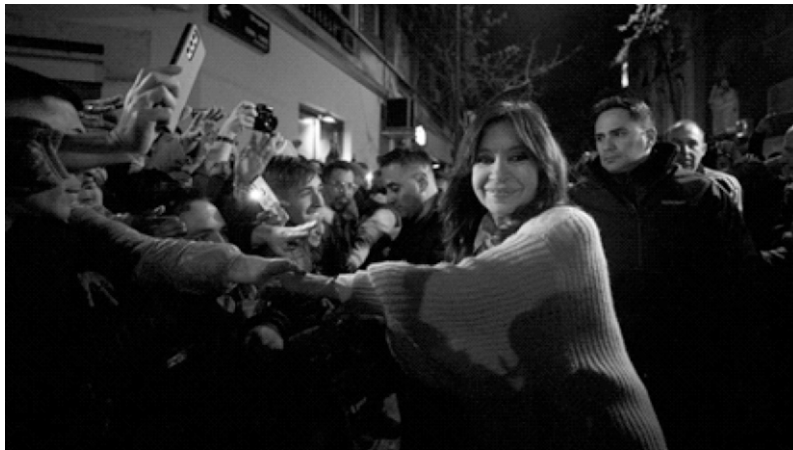
tank weapons. The single biggest outcome of the past week's happenings is that the conflict has assumed the nature of a full-fledged war. Zyuganov was not off the mark when he said in his Russian state Duma speech: “The military-political operation... has escalated into a full-fledged war, which has been declared against us by the Americans, NATO members, and a unified Europe.” “A war is fundamentally different from a special operation. A special operation is something you announce — and something you can choose to put an end to. A war is something you can't stop even if you want to. You have to fight to the end. War has two possible outcomes: victory or defeat,” he said. Putin has a big decision to make now. For, while the good part for the Russian military may be that the frontline has been straightened and large Russian reserves are being transferred to the battlefields, de facto, a state of war exists now between Russia and NATO. The recent phone calls to Putin in quick succession by [French President Emmanuel Macron](#) and [German Chancellor Olaf Scholz](#), after an interlude of months, signals that an exigency may have arisen to re-engage the Kremlin leader.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS REPORT

Compiled By Peoples Dispatch

Fourth Person Arrested In Argentina Over Attempted Assassination Of Vice President Cristina Fernández De Kirchner



Argentine Vice President, Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, greeting supporters outside her home in Buenos Aires. (Photo: Cristina Fernández de Kirchner/Twitter) Recent developments in the investigation of the assassination attempt against Vice President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner revealed that the group had been planning the attack for some time, and that they had failed in a previous attempt

By Tanya Wadhwa

On Wednesday, September 14, the Argentine Federal Police arrested a fourth suspect in the assassination attempt against Vice-President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner earlier this month.

The person arrested is Nicolás Gabriel Carrizo, who is believed to be the leader of the “Los Copitos” group that tried to kill Fernández de Kirchner on September 1. According to reports from local media, the police investigation revealed that Carrizo was spying around the vice president’s home. In video surveillance footage of the cameras installed near the home of the former head of state, he was seen at the corner of the street where her apartment is located multiple times between August 27 and 31.

The investigation further disclosed that hours following the attack on the vice president, Carrizo posted violent messages in his Whatsapp status, threatening

President Alberto Fernández. “Surely, you’re next Alberto! Be careful!,” he wrote.

On the night of September 1, Fernando Sabag Montiel, a 35-year-old Brazilian national, [tried to shoot the vice president outside her home](#) in Buenos Aires’ Recoleta neighborhood, while she was greeting supporters. Sabag Montiel pulled the trigger of his handgun inches away from her face, but the gun failed to fire. He was immediately caught by the vice-president’s supporters and arrested by the police.

Three days later, on September 4, Sabag Montiel’s partner and accomplice, [Brenda Uliarte, 23, was arrested](#) after being identified with Sabag Montiel in the surveillance footage.

On Tuesday, September 13, an associate of Uliarte, Agustina Díaz, 21, was arrested, after a forensic examination of Uliarte’s confiscated cell phone revealed messages between her, Sabag Montiel and Díaz regarding the attack. One of the chats revealed that Uliarte

had contacted Díaz before and after the attack, and the latter helped her escape the crime scene following the attack.

Other messages revealed that the group had been planning the attack for some time, and that they had failed in a previous attempt on August 27. This was the night that Fernández de Kirchner addressed supporters who had gathered outside her home to express their support for her in the face of the judicial and political persecution against her. A chat between Sabag Montiel and Uliarte, released in the media, read: “It’s too late now, it’s midnight. She’s upstairs but I don’t think she’ll come out [again], so that’s it, let’s leave it,” Sabag Montiel said in a message to Uliarte. To which she replied: “We have to start going into action. Let’s put a molotov [cocktail] in the Casa Rosada [Argentina’s presidential palace].” Uliarte, then, texted and reported Díaz: “I sent (someone) to kill Cristina. It didn’t work.” A day after the attack, Uliarte, Carrizo, and a man named Sergio Orozco, appeared in an interview with the *Telefe* channel, claiming that “they were not aware of Sabag Montiel’s plans” and “they were receiving death threats.” They promised to collaborate with the justice system. Carrizo willingly surrendered his cell phone at the disposal of the authorities after he was

summoned to testify. Amid developments in investigation leading to arrests, on Monday, September 12, Fernández de Kirchner received a death threat. According to reports, a person called the 911 emergency line, from somewhere in the city of La Plata in the Buenos Aires province, and left an intimidating message for the vice president.

On Tuesday, September 13, the federal judge María Eugenia Capuchetti, who is in charge of investigating the attempted assassination of Fernández de Kirchner, confirmed the threats and ordered to reinforce the security of the Peronist leader.

The authorities have not yet been able to identify the person who made the threat, nor the exact location from where the call was made.

Security Minister Aníbal Fernández, in a press conference on Tuesday, assured that “the call is being investigated,” and that the police officers are trying “to reach those responsible.” He added that “although the threatening call was a message to 911, it should not be minimized. For us, any fact, no matter how small it may seem, is important.”

The security minister added that the measures would be taken to strengthen the security of President Alberto Fernández also.

On September 12, in conversation with the Spanish channel *Telecinco*,

revealed that those arrested in the attempted assassination attempt of the vice-president had planned to an attempt against President Fernández as well.

“The conversations of the accused are becoming known, in which they talked about the failed attempt against Cristina, and they said that I would be next. I have to be attentive in case it happens to me, but I cannot separate myself from the people,” said the head of state.

The Federal Police is investigating links between the detainees and the far-right organizations Federal Revolution and the Nation of the Dispossessed, whose members threatened government officials and threw torches at the Casa Rosada during a demonstration in July. The ties between these groups and businessman Nicolás Caputo, a close friend of former conservative President Mauricio Macri, are also being investigated.

On September 14, the head of the Federal Intelligence Agency (AFI), Agustín Rossi, denounced before Judge Capuchetti that Federal Revolution group was behind the attempted assassination of Vice-President CFK and provided audios in which its members talk about their intention to assassinate President Alberto Fernández and Deputy Máximo Kirchner. Hours earlier, the founder of the group, Jonathan Morel, acknowledged having received 1,760,000 pesos from Grupo Caputo, a company owned by Nicolás Caputo, “as trust for a job.”

NPP MP Laments How He Was Forced To Vacate Seat For Chinese Clients At Kumasi Pub

The Member of Parliament for Afigya Kwabre North, Collins Adomako-Mensah, has recounted how he was removed from his seat at a pub in the Ashanti Regional capital, Kumasi, in order for the bar to accommodate some Chinese clients.

The lawmaker believes the episode is part of a wider impact of the influence that Chinese people, especially those engaged in illegal small-scale mining, galamsey, are having in the country.

According to him, the fight against galamsey was one for the dignity and sovereignty of Ghana.

Contributing to a panel discussion on Metro TV's Good Morning Ghana on September 14, Adomako-Mensah narrated the experience he had with his friends and how the bar attendants despite knowing who he was insisted on him changing seats. "Three weeks ago, I was in Kumasi and myself and some few friends decided to go to a pub to have a drink. 10 minutes after we sat looking through the menu, one of the gentlemen approached us and said we have to get up from where we are seated and move to another place. "I said if it's about cost, we are prepared to take care of it. He said

'no, you have to move and sit somewhere else.' They know [I am an MP]. After a little argument, I decided to just move because it was creating a scene."

He said what happened after they had agreed to move was of a group of Chinese clients taking the very seats they had been forced to leave.

"Ten minutes after we moved, some Chinese guys entered and they were treated with all the courtesies. This galamsey thing, it has gone beyond a definition about repatriation and deportation. It is about our dignity now. It is about our

sovereignty. It is getting totally out of hand," he lamented. "And you listen to radio and the argument is about a woman [Aisha Huang]. A woman who has eluded governments – a whole machinery. Let's situate the argument well.

"It is not about definition of deportation or repatriation. It is a serious matter. I am a Member of Parliament, I was sacked from a seat just to allow Chinese people to sit," the legislator said. His point about deportation and repatriation relates to a recent explanation by Information Minister that the two terms



Member of Parliament for Afigya Kwabre North, Collins Adomako-Mensah

meant different things.

Kojo Opong-Nkrumah was reacting to a controversial take by President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, that he wasn't sure if galamsey queen Aisha Huang was deported or she fled the country in 2018.

Tema-Mpakadan Railway Project At 95% Completion Stage – Minister

Minister for Railways Development, [John Peter Amewu](#), has disclosed that construction works on the Tema-Mpakadan railway line is at a 95 percent completion stage. According to him, there are ongoing engagements with the Minister of Transport for the transformation of the endpoint of the railway line into a modern port. Speaking in an interview with journalists during a site visit, the Railway Development Minister said the project when completed, will significantly reduce road traffic, and increase economic activities from Tema to other parts of the Volta and Eastern region. "I am very impressed with the progress of work and as the contractors have indicated, we're within the schedule to complete it by

the end of the year. Talks are ongoing with my colleague Minister for Transport to make use of the ending point at Mpakadan which has become a concern," he is quoted by Joy Business.

"It is important that we need to have some level of collaboration quickly to see what to do at the port of Mpakadan. Otherwise, it will be a train leading to nowhere. Because this project completion will be completed sooner than expected, hence that port needs to be completed soon," the minister added.

Peter Amewu was also optimistic that the completion of the railway project will improve the activities and movement of traders who transport commodities on the route.

The Tema-Mpakadan Railway project will cover about 90



File of the Tema-Mpakadan railway line

kilometers from Tema Port to Mpakadan near Akosombo in the Eastern region.

Due to the [COVID-19](#) pandemic, construction works on the project had to stall for a period.

However, the firm undertaking the project, Afcons Infrastructure Limited has given the assurance that efforts are underway to ensure the project is completed and handed over to the Government of Ghana by the end of 2022.

The railway line, when completed, is expected to link Ghana from Tema to Ouagadougou which is Burkina Faso's capital.

We're Tired Of Sacrificing - GPRTU Says As It Hints Of Transport Fares Increment

Head of Communications at GPRTU, Abbas Moro, has said his outfit can no longer bear the burden of saving the public from paying new fares amidst the hikes in price of petroleum products on the market.

According to him, the economic crisis and increase in fuel prices are having dire consequences on their businesses.

Abbas Moro noted that the leadership of the Union will soon meet to discuss an upward review of transport fares to cushion transport operators.

In an interview with Citi News, he pointed out that Ghanaians already know that anytime there is an increment in fuel prices, transport fares on the other hand

increases.

He said, "We have sensitized the general public that whenever the prices of fuel go up 10 per cent above the existing price, automatically we are supposed to increase fares. There are so many things to look out for including the current economic situation. So for where we are heading towards, we cannot keep sacrificing – definitely when our leadership meets something positive must come out."

It would be recalled that in May this year, there was a marginal increase (20 per cent) in transport fares.

Petrol at the time was selling at GH¢9.41 whereas diesel was GH¢11.12.

In recent times, petrol is selling above GH¢11 while diesel sells above GH¢13 at various pumps.

Corruption: Martin Amidu Writes On Why The Fight Requires A High Degree Of Crusading Integrity And Not Entrepreneurship



INTRODUCTION

My critique and analysis of the report into the alleged commission of corruption and corruption-related offences involving the Labianca Group of Companies Limited published on 19 August 2022 invoked insults and the casting of aspersions on my person instead of a reasoned response to the detailed critique and analysis presented to the public for informed debate. I have crusaded against corruption since 1982 when I chaired the three-man National Investigation Committee, Sub-committee into the Cotton Development Board.

I am not one of those whose crusade has ever had an eye on foreign and local donations and grants to fund or pay for my constitutional advocacy activities against corruption. That is the work of entrepreneurs whose salaries and emoluments are derived from funding, donations or grants from foreign governments and/or their agents.

I expect the CDD's Corruption Watch Ghana and those associates and lawyers attacking my person instead of the article I wrote to be bold to inform Ghanaians of how from June to October 2018, I refused to compromise the independence of the Office of the Special Prosecutor (OSP) when they tried on numerous occasions to let me violate Section 22 of the Office of the Special Prosecutor Act, 2017 (Act 959) on funding the OSP and ceding the OSP to their management and control.

As a result of the unreasoned attack on my person instead of the article I wrote, I petitioned the Public Services Commission on 31st August 2022 on the unlawful

appointment of permanent staff to the OSP contrary to Article 195 of the 1992 Constitution and Section 21 of Act 959. I followed this up on 2nd September 2022 with letters to the Minister for Finance, the Accountant-General, the Auditor-General, and the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament to protect the public purse.

A PROUD NORTHERNER TO BEAR THE PEJORATIVE NAME KONONGOKAYA

A member of parliament who is the chairperson of the Constitutional and Legal Committee of Parliament, Mr. Kwame Anyimadu-Antwi, within hours of the publication of the twenty-page article stooped so low to call me by the pejorative Gold Coast Colony and Ashanti name assigned my forebearers, northerners, from the Northern Territories of the British Protectorate in Konongo, as Konongokaya.

No amount of attempting to clean the pejorative origins of the word "Konongokaya" can hide the insult to Northerners in the colony or to me as one of their descendants. Like the Kayayei of today, we are proud northerners and proud of our identities. It is, however, a shame that such a person calls himself a lawyer and Chairman of the Constitutional and Legal Committee of the Parliament of modern-day Ghana founded on 6 March 1957 and passing laws for citizens under the 1992 Constitution.

If simply reading a 20-page article was problematic for such a member of parliament to help him argue in a civilized manner without casting invectives at the author, then, one wonders how seriously the bills and regulations are scrutinized under such a lazy chairperson before

Parliament passes them. Surely, Ghana deserves better representation in Parliament.

CDD-GHANA'S CORRUPTION WATCH GHANA

The next day, 20 August 2022, after the publication of my article, the supposed doyen of the NGO, CDD-Ghana, in a statement signed by its Co-Founder, Dr Gyimah-Boadi, raised questions about Ms Asomah-Hinneh's appointment by the president as a Board Member of the Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority (GPHA).

Unfortunately, the President did not appoint Ms. Asomah-Hanneh to the Council of State. She is an elected member of the Council of State as stated in my article and the Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority is not the same entity as the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) to generate any conflict of interest in her dealings with the GRA. And clearly, the OSP was acting ultra vires its statutory and constitutional mandate and the question of the propriety or otherwise of any appointment by the President to the Board of GPHA did not arise. The impression subtly created that the OSP Labianca Report was constitutional and lawful was the issue at stake to be addressed by all adherents of the rule of law and the due process of law and not evading those issues through the side door.

The proper context of appreciating the CDD's stance after my article is to remember the position it took in support of the OSP Labianca Report as reported by Modern Ghana on 11 August 2022. Modern Ghana reported that:

"Advocacy group, Corruption Watch Ghana has commended the Office of the Special Prosecutor for recovering over GHS1 million in unpaid import duty charges from Labianca Company Limited...In a press release, Corruption Watch Ghana is pushing for the owner of Labianca Company Limited, Ms. Buah Asomah-Hinneh to be removed from her position as a Council of State member...In addition, it also wants the Deputy Commissioner for Customs in charge of operations Mr. Joseph Adu Kyei sanctioned."

In the words of the statement issued

by Corruption Watch Ghana:

"Ms. Buah Asomah-Hinneh must be asked to resign or be removed from her membership of the Council of State and the Board of Directors of the Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority. Corruption Watch Ghana welcomes the directive for the opening of a wider investigation in respect of the issuance of customs advance rulings and markdown of benchmark values between July 2017 and December 2021.

We further welcome the directive to the Commissioner-General of the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) to submit an Integrity Plan designed with the aim of preventing the corruption of the exercise of discretion by officials of the Customs Division by December 31, 2022. We believe that these directives are forward-looking."

After welcoming wholeheartedly an unlawful and unconstitutional report by their accredited partner in the fight against corruption my article which raised issues on the ultra vires of the OSP Labianca Report threatened to expose the collective who were participating in the mob lynching of witnesses who were being condemned without a hearing in accordance with Act 959 and the 1992 Constitution.

As reported in the Modern Ghana article, "Corruption Watch Ghana is an initiative by the Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana) and a coalition of anti-corruption civil society organizations including, Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII), Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC), and Africa Center for International Law and Accountability (ACILA)..."

I do not consider the media acting pursuant to Chapter Twelve of the 1992 Constitution as partners of Corruption Watch Ghana. They are named as media partners just for the same purposes of "influence peddling or trading of influence" as Corruption Watch Ghana criticizes others for practicing.

The same influence peddling or trading of influence can be seen on the website of the OSP where two of the leading foreign-influenced NGOs have become integral partners of an independent OSP:

Afrobarometre-Center for Democracy and Development (CDD),

and Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII) - without the slightest shame of any conflict of interest in rigging the elections to Chairpersonship of the governing council of the OSP and violating Section 22 of Act 959 which forbids the OSP from accepting any funds directly or indirectly from anybody except from or through the Ministry of Finance.

This partnership clearly negates the independence of the OSP and now enhances the ability of the NGOs to use influence peddling or trading of influence to source funds, grants and donations from foreign sources first to meet their administrative expenses and salaries, and secondly to interfere in the independent operations of the OSP. This is precisely what Section 22 of Act 959 sought to prevent.

They failed to persuade me to violate this law during my tenure. The records are available on their illegal efforts should they wish to contest this claim.

The unanswered question that the CDD's Corruption Watch Ghana does not want Ghanaians to think about is the fact that some of their members serve as public officers on governing councils of the executive branch of government as Chairpersons or members of state institutions and take the allowances and other perquisites of public office that come with such appointments.

Those Ghanaians who do not see these entrepreneurial NGOs as suffering from the same "conflict of interest," or "...influence peddling or trading of influence" they pontificate against should visit the definition of the expression "public officer" under Section 3 of the Criminal Offences Act, 1960 (Act 29). I refrain from naming them, but they know themselves. This is a typical lynching mob modus operandi that hides their own iniquities while lynching others who like themselves, have not been found guilty through the due process of law for the commission of any offence(s). Walk your talks and resign from those executive branch positions, if you truly have integrity and believe in what you preach.

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Corruption: Martin Amidu Writes On Why The Fight Requires A High Degree Of Crusading Integrity And Not Entrepreneurship

from page 9

THE INTEGRITY OF NOT READING ARTICLES WE CRITICISE

Mr. Martin Kpebu, a lawyer, who makes it his stock in trade to regularly appear as a guest in the electronic media as part of his private law practice, without reading my article, said: "Mr Amidu shot over the bar. That's what he did in Agyapa [case], so I don't know why Mr Amidu suddenly has come to this 180 turn to stand on the other end. We have so much respect for him but in this particular thing we don't agree with him."

This lawyer did not appear, as simple legal ethics demanded, even read my article, or understand it, because if he had he would not have missed the last paragraph on page 4, (after I had stated the investigatory and prosecutorial powers of the OSP under which the OSP Labianca Report was written, including the publication of reports under Section 3(3) of Act 959) in which I stated that:

"The report of the OSP on Labianca under discussion makes no reference to it as having been undertaken in pursuance of its objects under Section 2(c) of Act 959 and Regulation 31 of L. I. 2374. It is not stated in the Labianca report to be a prevention of corruption report, in the nature of, an analysis of the risk of corruption conducted by the OSP but conducted as a full investigation by a panel. The Agyapa Royalties analysis of the risk of corruption and anti-corruption risk assessment report of the OSP made it clear that it was written pursuant to the prevention of corruption mandate."

A simple reading of pages 63 and 64 of the Agyapa Royalty Transaction Report dated 15 October 2020 clearly showed its difference from the OSP Labianca Report: "This assessment does not constitute an investigation even though a formal investigation for the suspected commission of ...offences may arise from this corruption risk assessment. It is not the work of a Commission or Committee of Enquiry...It partakes of a compliance audit..."

But this is a gentleman and a lawyer who had taken a position on the OSP Labianca Report when it was published in the media on 8 August 2022 without even considering the fact that the whole report by his friend, the Special Prosecutor, was written without any jurisdiction or mandate under the law establishing the OSP. In a report by Joy Multimedia dated 11 August 2022 this lawyer who knows it all, was reported to have "...thrown his support behind the Office of the Special Prosecutor (OSP)

in the Labianca Company saga."

He is also quoted to have told the television station that: "Col. Damoah (Rtd) can't take himself out of this case. It is just too late in the day so the ad hominem argument that the Special Prosecutor is a small boy is neither here nor there. So he should accept because I don't see the grounds for the attack."

And this is one of the human rights lawyers who had crucified persons accused of corruption by means of adverse findings for which they had no right of appeal to the High Court as guaranteed to commissions of enquiry under the 1992 Constitution. My critique and analysis of his friend's OSP Labianca Report were therefore difficult for him to swallow as it contradicted his previous ill-considered position on Multimedia on the issue.

What integrity do we exhibit to the listening and reading public when we appear on television, urge our host to visit the OSP to see its abysmal state of affairs for himself because we had followed up our petition to the Special Prosecutor on the Northern Development Authority (NDA) alleged corruption case, and in the same breath accusing the President for not interfering in the independence guaranteed to the OSP by usurping that independence to fight corruption as President? There was no way the President could win the argument.

If he dealt with the NDA case when it was pending before the OSP upon our man of integrity's petition, the President would be interfering in its independence. If he awaited the results of the independent OSP he was part of a criminal syndicate of corruption. Perfect logic of integrity! Then two days later the OSP which had held on to the NDA petition without acting on our man of integrity and human rights petition, announced the commencement of investigation into the NDA case. Was there collusion to set up the President for damnation? It should be everybody's guess.

IMANI'S CHARGE OF OBSTRUCTION OF THE CURRENT SPECIAL PROSECUTOR

The Vice President of IMANI Africa, Kofi Bentil, is reported on 25 August 2022 on Joy News' PM Express to have "cautioned against the hailing of the former Special Prosecutor, Martin Amidu, as an authority to be running commentary on the actions of the present Special Prosecutor, Kissi Agyebeng." According to the reportage:

"Mr. Amidu should not be sniping at him, making such commentary. We all make commentary, we all criticize, and we all say what we have to say.

But you and I and everybody else should be careful not to make Martin into somebody who will be running commentary and then we will sit back and then be analyzing what Mr. Agyebeng is doing because of what Martin Amidu is saying. I absolutely will not join that bandwagon."

Pathetically, Kofi Bentil of IMANI Africa accuses me of obstructing the work of the present Special Prosecutor with long epistles. The exercise of my constitutional right as a citizen to critique unlawful and unconstitutional conduct did not matter to the validity of the arguments contained in my considered article to this lawyer and Vice President of IMANI Africa.

This is a person who did not even appear to have read the prologue to my critique and analysis which explained why I broke one year of silence to write on a patently unconstitutional and unlawful report of their friend. The distinguished Vice President of IMANI Africa refused or failed to address the reasons for my article as I stated in the prologue even if he was lazy to read the entire 20-page article:

"...The report seriously violates the statutory mandate of the OSP under the 1992 Constitution. It is, therefore, imperative that the public appreciates through cogent and credible critique and analysis of the issues involved in the published Labianca report in which three investigation witnesses who appeared before an unauthorized investigation panel are being lynched in the court of public opinion as though they had been cautioned and/or charged with any corruption and/or corruption-related offences before the OSP.... his explains my first critique and analysis of the work of the OSP since the assumption of office of the Special Prosecutor on 9 August 2021."

But so are they all, all distinguished Vice Presidents of NGOs, who when they cannot engage the argument, engage the personality of their perceived adversary with disparaging trash in their defensive interactions.

Let me say this for the first and the last time: I had to resign from the OSP after crossing swords with the President and his Family and Friends on 1 November 2020 on the Agyapa Royalties Transactions. Any experienced public officer would tell anyone that strategically, staying on in that office opened me up for trumped-up impeachment at the time of the Government's own choosing.

Resigning was the most strategic and

tactical thing to do to both avoid the Charlotte Osei situation and to scuttle the Agyapa Royalties Transaction which has been more beneficial to Ghana than the GHC1million extorted from Labianca Company Limited. I had to make that decision based on decades of experience in public office and not cede it to any civil society organization or Mr. Kwame Anyimadu Antwi who did not even know how I was persuaded to accept the appointment in the first place.

INVITATION TO ANTI-CORRUPTION NGOS FOR A REASONED DEBATE

I humbly invite the non-governmental organizations who chose to attack and cancel me from exercising my constitutional right to engage in critical and analytical discourse on the lawfulness of the OSP report to respond to my article in a civilized manner by demonstrating that pursuant to section 2(a), 3 and 79 of Act 959 and Regulations 5, 6, and 7 of L. I. 2374 under which the OSP purported to have written and published the OSP Labianca Report any specified corruption and corruption-related offences were committed.

The factual context is that the interpretation section, Section 79 of the Office of the Special Prosecutor Act, 2017 (Act 959) defines "corruption and corruption-related offences to mean offences under (a) Section 146, 151, 179C, 239, 252, 253, 254, 256, 258 and 260 of the Criminal Offence Act, 1960 (Act 29); (b) Section 92 (2) of the Public Procurement Act, 2003 (Act 663); and (c) Existing offences under enactments arising out of or consequent to offences referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b);..."

The following is a summation of the corruption and corruption-related offences created under Act 959:

(a) Section 146 deals with dishonestly receiving property that a person knows to have been obtained or appropriated by a criminal offence punishable under the chapter; (b) Section 151 deals with a person who extorts property from any other person by means of threat; (c) Section 179C dealing with using public office for profit; (d) Section 239 deals with corruption of and by public officers; (e) Section 252 deals with accepting or giving bribe to influence public officer or juror; (g) Section 253 deals with corrupt promise by judicial officer or juror; (h) Section 254 deals with corrupt selection of juror; (i) Section 256 deals with corruption, intimidation, and personation in respect of election; (j) Section 258 deals with falsification of returns at election; (k) Section 260 deals with withholding public money by public officer; and (l) Section 92(2) of the Public

Procurement Act, 2003 (Act 663) deals with offences constituted under the Act for which jurisdiction is given to the Office. Surprisingly, it fails to mention Section 93 dealing with corrupt practices.

I challenge Corruption Watch Ghana, its associated friends and lawyers to point to the offences indicated above the offences of "conflict of interest", or "...influence peddling or trading of influence by Ms. Asomah-Hinneh by employing her position as a member of the Council of state and a member of the Board of Directors of Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority..." or "...an institutional culture of lighthearted (sic) unconcern regarding the impropriety of action at the Customs division of the Ghana Revenue Authority – which indicated a high propensity to engender corruption and corruption-related activities" as corruption and corruption-related offences.

Should they be able to show these to fall within Section 79 of Act 959, I would gladly accept the charges of obstructing, meddling, and shooting over the bar against me, and apologize for my transgression into the domain of the almighty Corruption Watch Ghana under the equally omnipotent CDD Ghana.

CONCLUSIONS

The efforts and attempts by the group of non-governmental organizations called Corruption Watch Ghana, their associated friends, and lawyers to silence, intimidate, and cancel my voice from defending the 1992 Constitution in the fight against corruption within the narrow laudable objectives of the Office of the Special Prosecutor, Act, 2017 (Act 959) and the Office of the Special Prosecutor (Operations) Regulations, 2018 (L. I. 2374) to "investigate and prosecute specified cases of alleged or suspected corruption and corruption-related offences" will, and has failed.

The more my person is attacked and intimidated, the more I shall use all available legal and constitutional means at my disposal to ensure that the Office of the Special Prosecutor does not become a rogue institution of CDD-Ghana's Corruption Watch Ghana and their associates who are pushing it into illegal acts to enhance their entrepreneurial influence peddling or trading of influence at the expense of the security and laws of Ghana.