

Shocking! Audit Report Reveals How Five Ministries Paid Dead Staff, Retirees, And Resigned Staff Over GH¢2 Million page 3



Kwaku Agyeman-manu, Minister of Health

DANGER

Chamber Of Pharmacy Warns Of Looming Drug Shortage Over Cedi Depreciation

The National Chamber of Pharmacy has hinted at an imminent shortage of over-the-counter drugs as a result of the extreme depreciation of the Cedi. According to the chamber, the cost

of over-the counter-drugs is likely to go up because of the inability of the local drug manufacturers to have access to dollars for the import of raw materials.

A report released by the Centre for

Democratic Development (CDD) also suggests that the price of over-the-counter drugs will shoot up by some 44 per cent in the wake of the Cedi depreciation.

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Kenya's Supreme Court Confirms William Ruto Election Victory Against Raila Odinga page 2

Ahead Of Election 2024 Della Sowah Calls For United Front To Retain Kpando Seat For NDC



Della Adwoa Sowah, MP for Kpando

The National Democratic Congress (NDC) Member of Parliament (MP) for Kpando Constituency in the Volta Region, Mrs. Della Adwoa Sowah, has called for a united front to retain Kpando parliamentary seat in the general elections of 2024. The NDC guru said political character assassination, sabotaging and backbiting is not in the interest of the party.

She therefore urged the few

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Akuapem Chieftaincy Brouhaha Kingmakers Bare Teeth At Sub-Chiefs In Akropong



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The INSIGHT

— EDITORIAL

THE CHILD LABOUR REGRET

Minister of Employment has regretted the weakened resolve to fight child labour in the country resulting in rise in reported cases.

Clearly, the minister's admission of failure is very worrying.

This is in spite of increased awareness and public sensitisation over the years, to get the matter addressed.

The government through the Ministries of Gender, Women and Social Protection and Labour and Employment have been at the forefront to fight the canker.

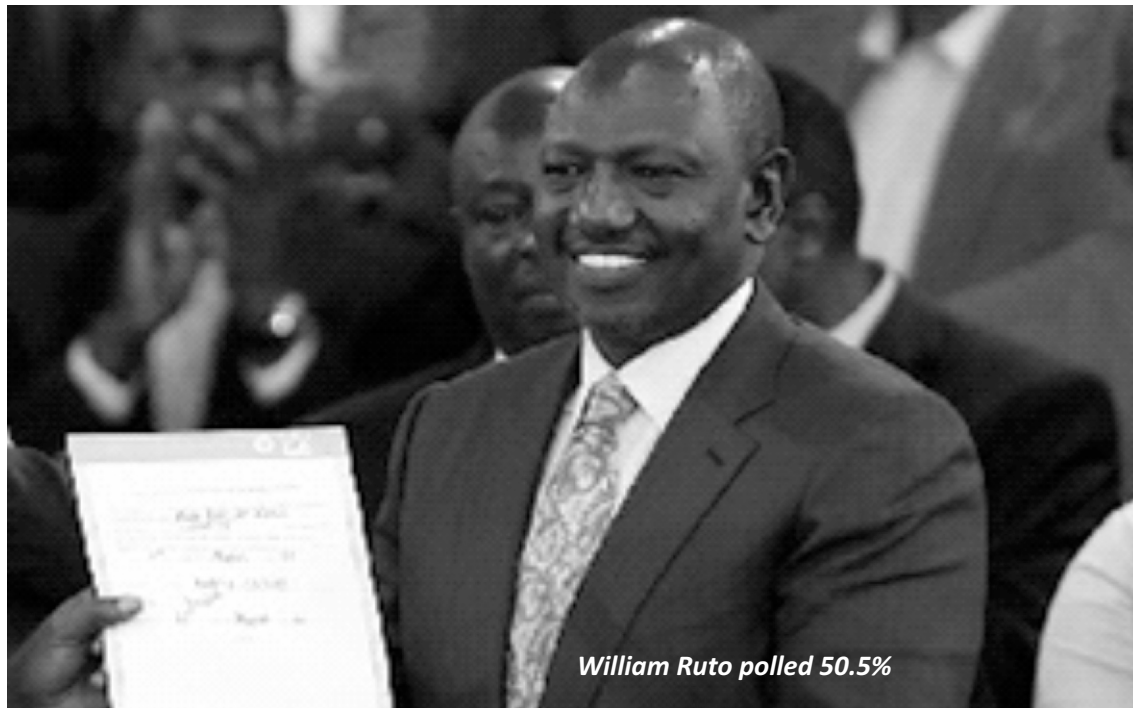
Child labour in our part of the world is predominant in the fishing, mining, and farming communities where these children are abused and exploited against their will.

Some are tortured psychologically and humiliated thus having serious effects on their wellbeing, mental development and upbringing.

It is in this vein that The Insight believes there is the need not to give up the fight but adopt holistic and results-oriented measures to address this menace once and for all.

It is also expected that past measures aimed at addressing the problem would be shirked and new comprehensive modalities such as enforcing and strengthening the country's laws and enhancing social intervention measures will be formulated to address the problem permanently.

Kenya's Supreme Court Confirms William Ruto Election Victory Against Raila Odinga



William Ruto polled 50.5%

Kenya's Supreme Court has dismissed several petitions against the election of William Ruto as president of Kenya.

BBC reported yesterday that the apex court had indicated that William Ruto, 55, was properly elected after he polled 50.5% against his contender, Raila Odinga, who polled 48.8%.

Raila Odinga and seven others had gone to court seeking that the court declares the election null and void following an alleged fraud in the election results, which includes tempering of results.

According to the report, the court, in a unanimous decision said that the court found some of the eight petitions challenging the elections were based on forged documents and "sensational information", Chief Justice Martha Koome said on behalf of the seven judges.

"No credible evidence that the electronic voting transmission system had been tampered with by "a middle man" was presented," she said.

She also added that William Ruto met the constitutional threshold of garnering 50%+1 of votes cast.

William Ruto will be the country's fifth president when sworn in next week.

Following the ruling, Mr Ruto's home area of the Rift Valley and parts of the Central region

has seen massive celebrations by his supporters. Meanwhile, the BBC reports that Kisumu, which is Mr Odinga's stronghold, seems quiet, with streets deserted and some businesses closed for the day. President Uhuru Kenyatta, who was supporting Mr Odinga, is expected to address the country in the coming hours.

THE INSIGHT

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DANGER; Chamber Of Pharmacy Warns Of Looming Drug Shortage Over Cedi Depreciation

from front page

Speaking in an interview with the media, the Chairman of the chamber Mr. Harrison Abutiate bemoaned the inability of members to have access to the dollar for the importation of raw materials. He said the government's failure to

address the needs of members of the chamber will lead to a shortage in many over-the-counter drugs. He called on the government to assist members of the chamber to avert the imminent shortage of over-the-counter drugs and support the chamber with better

bank facilities.

He warned if the situation is not addressed, the cost of over-the-counter drugs will shoot up.

He was of the view that should this happen, the ordinary person on the street will find it difficult to access over-the-counter drugs



Kwaku Agyeman-manu, Minister of Health

Shocking! Audit Report Reveals How Five Ministries Paid Dead Staff, Retirees, And Resigned Staff Over GH¢2 Million

The 2021 Auditor General's report showed that Ghana lost more than GH¢1 billion due to infractions at the various Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs).

One of the infractions in the report was the payment of unearned salaries to persons at the various MDAs. The unearned wages were paid to staff who discontinued their engagement with the ministry, persons who have retired, as well as dead staff. According to the report, the Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Education, Office of the Attorney General and Minister for Justice, as well as the Ministry of Health, at some point paid salaries to staff who had either died, resigned or retired.

The report showed that these ministries paid over GH¢2 million in unearned salaries.

The payment of unearned salaries is a violation of Regulation 92 of the Public Financial Management Regulations, 2019 (L.I. 2378) provides that "the Principal Spending Officer of a covered entity shall ensure the immediate stoppage of payment of salary to public servants and notify the Controller and Accountant-General on the vacation of post



Ministers whose ministry paid unearned salaries

by an employee, and on the resignation or retirement of an employee".

This is a breakdown of unearned salaries paid by the five ministries

Minister of Education

For the Minister of Education, the report indicated that some 88 former staff were paid more than GH¢1 million as unearned salaries after they had stopped working for the ministry.

"We noted that 88 staff who separated from their respective institutions were paid unearned salaries amounting to GH¢1,082,455.02. "We recommended that the heads of these offices should recover the total unearned salaries of GH¢1,082,455.02 from the beneficiaries, failing

which the amounts should be recovered the heads," the report recommended," parts of the report read.

Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Justice

The Ministry of Justice also paid two of its staff who had vacated their post more than GH¢170,000 over two years.

"We noted that two staff of the Ministry, Lily Badungbana Atutigah resigned on 17 January 2021, and Jocelyn Edzie, who vacated her post in September 2019, were paid a total unearned salary of GH¢170,123.20 for the period September 2019 to February 2021.

The Auditor General, therefore, recommended that the Chief Director should recover the total amount of GH¢170,123.00 from the two women, "failure of which

the Chief Director and the validators should be held liable for refund of the amount".

Ministry of Health

The report also found that over GH¢1 million in unearned salaries were given to some 146 persons who were previously attached to some health facilities under the ministry across the country. Some of the health facilities included Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital, Accra Psychiatric Hospital and the Greater Accra Regional Hospital.

"Our review of the Electronic Salary Payment Voucher (ESPV) disclosed that unearned salaries amounting to GH¢1,519,853.00 was paid to 146 officers of 47 institutions," it said.

Ministry of Transportation

The Ministry of Transportation was also found to have paid some of its workers who had died. It paid four workers, including Gibert Nuworkpor, Michael Afesi, Fred Okyere Darko and Seleasie Kuadey, over GH¢12, 000 even though

they were no longer working at the ministry.

"We noted during our audit of the payroll that four officers who separated (deceased) from the Ministry between August and November 2020 received a total unearned salary of GH¢12,144.21 "We recommended that the Chief Director should recover the unearned salary of GH¢12,144.21 from the next-of-kins of the separated staff, failing which the Chief Director should pay," the report read.

Ministry of Interior

The Auditor General also found that a staff who had resigned from the Ministry of Interior was paid more than GH¢3,000 even though she no longer works there.

"Our review of the payroll disclosed that a total amount of GH¢3,414.05 was paid to Miss Davina Mariama Salifu who resigned from the Commission on 1 October 2020 but was paid an unearned salary for October 2020 and November 2020.

"We recommended that the Head of the Commission should recover the amount of GH¢3,414.05 from Ms. Davina Salifu, failing which the amount should be paid by the Head," the report read.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS REPORT

Compiled By Peoples Dispatch

Israel Rejects Appeal To Release Ahmad Manasra Despite Serious Health Concerns

Israeli authorities have refused to release 21-year-old Palestinian Ahmad Manasra. On Thursday, September 1, the Beersheba district court rejected an appeal for release filed by his lawyer. Manasra has spent his adolescence in occupation prisons and has been subjected to torture, leading to a severe deterioration in his health. Israel has defied repeated international calls for his release and has held him in illegal solitary confinement for 10 months.

Manasra was arrested by Israeli forces when he was only 13 years old for being present with his cousin, 15-year-old Hassan Manasra, during the alleged stabbing of two Israelis near the illegal Pisgat Ze'ev settlement in occupied East Jerusalem in 2015. His cousin was immediately shot and killed by a settler.

A mob then brutally beat Manasra, who was then run over by an Israeli driver. He suffered fractures to his skull and bones and was left on the ground as the mob jeered at him, yelling "Die!". [Footage](#) from his illegal interrogation showed him in severe distress, repeatedly saying, "I can't remember," as an Israeli interrogator yelled accusations at him.

While acknowledging that Manasra had not participated in the incident,

an Israeli court still charged him with attempted murder, claiming that he had the ["intention"](#) to kill. Shortly after, the Knesset proceeded to amend existing rules on juvenile sentencing and [approved](#) a draft bill that would allow the imposition of custodial sentences on children as young as 12 years old. Finally approved in August 2016, the law [authorized](#) Israeli authorities to imprison a minor "convicted of serious crimes such as murder, attempted murder, or manslaughter even if he or she is under the age of 14." The sentence would be served once the child turned 14.

The law was invoked against then 14-year-old Manasra during his trial. He was sentenced to 12 years in prison, which was later reduced to nine and a half years.

In November 2021, the Israeli Prison Service placed Manasra under solitary confinement. The order was [renewed](#) for another six months in August, in violation of the prohibition of torture under international law. In February 2022, Manasra's lawyers applied for a case review that could allow him to be

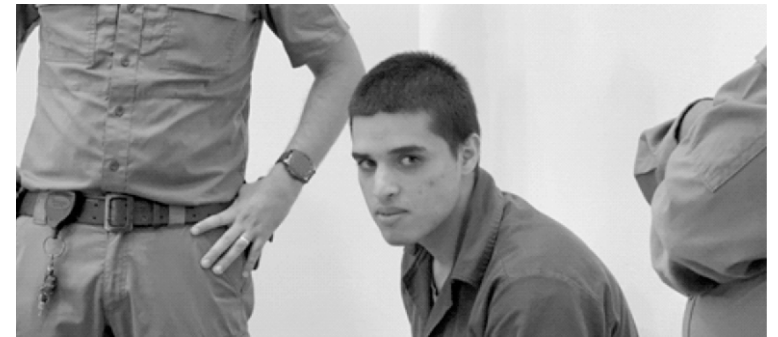
released on parole. However, the application was rejected.

In June, his case was classified under "terrorism," following which, his appeal for release was [rejected](#), in accordance with the counter-terrorism law. This law came into effect in November 2016, and amendments that barred early release for those convicted of serious crimes involving terror acts were enacted in December 2018, over two years after Manasra's conviction in May 2016.

"[Israel's] ill-defined and overly broad Counter-Terrorism Law has led to far too many instances of arbitrariness and abuse," UN experts [reiterated](#) in July. "It's retroactive application to Ahmad, which resulted in the denial of his early release, is illegal, disproportionate and discriminatory."

"Ahmad's imprisonment...has deprived him of childhood, family environment, protection, and all the rights he should have been guaranteed as a child," according to the UN experts.

While rejecting Manasra's appeal on Thursday, the court once again



Ahmad Manasra. (Photo: via Twitter) Held in Israeli occupation prisons for six years, the 21-year-old Palestinian has been subjected to abuse and torture which has resulting in a severe decline in his mental health

based its ruling on the fact that the case was classified under the counter-terrorism law. Manasra's lawyer, Khaled Zabarqa, [said](#) that "As for the medical status of Ahmad, the court has rejected the appeal under the pretext that [the state of] Ahmad's psychological health is not urgent or dangerous enough to release him."

Medical reports, including one filed by a psychiatrist from Doctors Without Border (MSF), [state](#) that Manasra is suffering from schizophrenia. He is also suffering from psychotic delusions and has been severely depressed with

suicidal thoughts. In June, he was shifted to the Ramleh prison hospital due to his condition.

"As his defense team, we say that these decisions are a shame on the "justice" systems of the occupation," Zabarqa said on Thursday, adding that the decision was indicative of an "apartheid judicial system," and, "Today we witnessed one of the manifestations of this apartheid regime, in which Palestinian children are tried for these kinds of [counter-terrorism related] violations."

Appearing in court on Thursday, Manasra said, "I miss my family."

At Least One Person Dead After A New Day Of Anti-Government Protests In Haiti



In a new day of nationwide anti-government demonstrations, thousands of Haitians have once again hit the streets in different parts of the country to protest against widespread insecurity, growing scarcity of fuel and the high cost of living.

In the town of Petit Goâve, in western Haiti, citizens held a massive demonstration demanding the resignation of Prime Minister and acting President Ariel Henry, arguing that during the past one year of his management, he exacerbated the economic, political and social crisis in the country. According to reports from *Rezo Nowdes*, at least one demonstrator

died after police launched tear gas at protesters in order to disperse them. The demonstrator was Roland Rathon, who was asthmatic and died from suffocation. Eleven other people were injured, including two with serious bullet wounds. The demonstrators put the responsibility for the violence on the security agents of the secretary general of the National Palace, Josué Pierre-Louis, who was visiting the region. Reportedly, several pro-government counter-protesters also threw rocks at protesters. In the capital of Port-au-Prince, dozens of citizens staged a sit-in in front of Henry's official residence, demanding that he step down. These demonstrators were also

repressed and dispersed by the police with tear gas. In addition to the sit-in, in Port-au-Prince, hundreds of protesters organized roadblocks with debris, erected barricades with burning tires, shut down businesses and marched through the streets in areas such as Champ de Mars, Delmas viaduct, Petion Ville, Nazon and Laule, rejecting soaring gang violence and high prices of essential commodities and basic services.

Since last Monday, Haitians have been mobilizing in the streets, criticizing the Henry administration's inability to combat crime, inflation and poverty. On August 22, 23 and 24, under the banner of "Rise up for another independence", members of several civil society organizations, popular movements, trade unions, opposition parties, and citizens in general organized different protest

actions in Port-au-Prince, Cap-Haïtien, Petit-Goâve, Miragoâne, Les Cayes and Jacmel. According to popular media platform *Radjo Rezistans* or Radio Resistance, during these three days of social protests, at least four protesters were killed and 19 were injured in police repression and in attacks by armed supporters of the Henry government.

Various social organizations and trade unions have called for nationwide mobilizations on September 4, and a general strike on September 5 and 6. For the last four years, Haiti has been going through an acute social, political, institutional and economic crisis. The situation has worsened since the assassination of its de-facto president Jovenel Moïse in July 2021. Armed gangs

have been increasingly seizing control of the national territory. Violence and kidnappings have surged in Port-au-Prince and nearby areas in recent months, with warring gangs killing hundreds of civilians in their battles over territory. Reportedly, the gangs control nearly 30% of the national territory, and the clashes have caused more than 500 deaths since this April.

Poverty has also deepened, with inflation reaching 29%. The price of basic food products such as rice has quadrupled. Meanwhile, fuel remains the most scarce commodity. Service stations have been closed for months. In the illegal market, if available, petrol is sold at triple the price, costing USD\$15 a gallon.

Ahead Of Election 2024: Della Sowah Calls For United Front To Retain Kpando Seat For NDC

from front page

disgruntled members and supporters of the party to bury their differences and join forces with her to work hard to retain the Kpando constituency parliamentary seat for the NDC.

Mrs Sowah made the call in an interview with AKpini Radio at Kpando on Saturday September 3, 2022 to respond to some false allegations leveled against her by some constituents.

Evil Agenda by opponents

There have been a number of publications in the social and local media platforms alleging that the people of Kpando are unhappy with the performance of their MP of late. This she said was false fabrication. She said the noise in particularly the social media was not the case on ground.

She stated that the coordinated publication was a scheme by a few discontented individual personalities to tarnish her hard won reputation.

This, she said is doing more harm to Kpando as a whole rather than her.

She added that the latest development would not help to bring peace and growth to Kpando as well as the nation as a whole.

"Those who are doing these things should know that at the end of the day, they are rather destroying the reputation of Kpando but not me as the MP or political leader," the MP emphasized.

"If those who are currently creating confusion in Kpando constituency thought that they are exhibiting such nefarious acts ostensibly to block me from winning the upcoming NDC parliamentary primaries, then they will surely fail to achieve their intended target," Mrs Sowah fired back.

My God is still alive

The female legislator attributed the success she chalked despite their scheming in the year 2019 parliamentary primaries on the ticket of the NDC to the doing of God. She added that, that same God who was there for me last time, has not died and "the God is still alive. My God is ever ready to still help me to win the NDC parliamentary primaries in 2023'.

She continued that 'He would subsequently protect me to win the

Kpando constituency parliamentary seat for the NDC in the 2024 general elections."

Mrs. Sowah therefore cautioned her detractors to stop making what she described as "unnecessary noise in the media using false identities and making false allegations" against her.

She said for a created Emmanuel Atinga described as a taxi driver in Kpando to be quoted as saying that he had not seen any development since she was given the mandate exposes their evil agenda.

"This is because right at the Kpando Lorry Station, she built the shed in the station which was one of the biggest sheds in the Volta region. She added that "There are also drivers at the station there who she facilitated work and pay vehicles for."

"It is important for them to stop the noise in the media and rather come and join hands with me to push the dreams of retaining the seat and develop the Kpando constituency," she stressed.

She also debunked claims that she has hired the services of the police



Della Adwoa Sowah, MP for Kpando

officers to harass or arrest some residents of Kpando constituency. "Those who are making such statements in the air, should desist from peddling these lies because these behaviours are bad and dangerous. "If those miscreants are peddling these falsehood against me because of the NDC upcoming parliamentary primaries, I am telling them that the date of the election has not yet been decided. So I am cautioning them to stop the sabotage," she further stressed.

Mrs. Sowah stated that as an MP, she operates an open door policy hence "If you have any good knowledge, skill and idea and you want to do something to help the Kpando constituency then I wish that you should bring them on board for all of us to build Kpando constituency," Mrs Sowah appealed.

Achievements

Mrs Sowah described herself as developmental oriented female MP. According to the MP, her achievements included paving the entire Kpando Market, providing them with a modern information centre, plastic chairs, electricity and lighting of sheds for 24 hour operations.

Mrs Sowah said over 2, 315 young people had benefited from her educational support.

"Indeed her track records in terms of provisions of the health, education, water sanitation, hygiene, security, road networks, drainages, social services, investing in human resources, solving Chieftaincy dispute in Kpando, helping PWDs, fishing and farming communities are visibly for all and sundry to see in their implemented communities," she noted.

According to her, through her tremendous efforts, Kpando has a

modern bridge at Dafor, adding that the Minister of Road and Highways, Mr Kwasi Amoako-Atta has approved over 28 kilometers of roads for Kpando.

"So what are they talking about," she quizzed.

She explained that, while all projects will not be completed at the same time, there was a need for residents to exercise patience as efforts are being made to complete all ongoing projects and start others.

However, scores of residents, particularly chiefs, assembly members and opinion leaders in Kpando have touted social and infrastructural achievements of MP and stated that since she voted into Parliament, she is performing well to their expectations. They credited Mrs Sowah for playing a key role in the resolution of an over 40 years Chieftaincy dispute in Kpando Traditional Area. They described their MP as a good political leader visible, submissive and selfless and pointed out that the truck records of their MP are visibly in the implementation communities.

They added that their MP is working very hard to ensure that all constituents lived in peace and are united by creating an enabling environment and promoting peace among all stakeholders in Kpando country.

They maintained that for the achievements record seek, they can state that all electoral communities within her constituency had received the level of development needed by the people.

Akuapem Chieftaincy Brouhaha Kingmakers Bare Teeth At Sub-Chiefs In Akropong

Kingmakers of the Okuapem Traditional Area in the Eastern Region have slammed a group of disgruntled sub chiefs of Akropong for popping their nose into the processes that led to the installation of the Paramount Chief of the Okuapem Traditional area.

Addressing a press conference, the spokesperson on behalf of the Okuapem Kingmakers, the Mawerehene of the area, Nana Aggrey Egyir, stated the supposed disgruntled sub chiefs from Akropong led by the Frankaahene does not have any locus in Okuapem kingship.

In this sense the kingmakers asserted that the statement contained in the press conference held by the pro-group of the sub-chiefs of Akropong on Tuesday August 30, 2022 are of no merit and substance.

The kingmakers pointed out that the one on whose behalf they held the press conference (Odehwe Kwasi Akuffo) has been banned from ever contesting any kingship by the Regional house of Chiefs.

These come after the Frankaahene of the traditional area, Nana Kwaw Kuturuku (V) in a press conference recounted events which has brought the Okuapeman Chieftaincy issues to this unfortunate situation.

He pointed that it has not been the government's interference which truncated a peaceful and legitimate process of installing Okuapemhene,

Okuapeman wouldn't have been in this current situation of confusion and lawlessness".

He added that, the influx of security personnel in and around the Okuapeman palace to protect one person at the expense of the taxpayers is worrisome. For his part, the Okuapem Mawerehene, Nana Aggrey Egyir expressed that the Queen mother in consultation with the Abrewatia of the royal family gate who are supposed to provide the next Omanhene will present a name, the Queenmother present him to the king makers for approval.

"Then from there the divisional chiefs will also vote on the Aberewatia's candidate then the Gyasehene will present him to the people for him to swear an oath to his people," he added. And that Oseadeyo Kwasi Akuffo III born (Odehwe Kwadwo Kesse Antwi) has gone through all the necessary processes and that he does not fathom the disgruntled sub chiefs led by the Frankaahene and his allies are making the noise.

About five years ago, a chieftaincy dispute broke out in Akuapem following a misunderstanding between factions in the Sakyiabea Royal Gate whose turn, it is to produce the next Okuapehene. The Queen of Akuapem, Nana Afua Obuo Nketia II had by herself selected one Odehwe Kwasi Akuffo

and installed him as chief.

At the same time one Lily Nana Agyeman, Abrewatia of Sakyiabea Royal Gate had nominated Odehwe Kwadwo Kesse to be heir to the throne to succeed the late Oseadeyo Addo Dankwa III who passed on in 2015.

Unsatisfied about events, the Abrewatia petitioned the Eastern Regional House Chiefs challenging the traditional capacity of the Paramount Queen in nominating and installing a Paramount Chief. The Judicial Committee in its judgement annulled the Queen's choice as the legitimate Chief. The Committee clarified that it is the traditional mandate of the Abrewatia to select a candidate and submit his name to Asonahene for onward delivery to the Queen.

The judgement was delivered amidst heavy security presence both at the Regional House of Chiefs in Koforidua and at Akropong-Akuapem. There have been reports of previous uprisings over the issue.

The elders, king makers and the divisional chiefs of Okuapeman are currently waiting for the ruling of the national house of chiefs to bring finality to the issue.

Ghana Is 'Broke': We Need A Rescue Team

Caucus for Democratic Governance, Ghana (CDG-GH) is convinced that Ghana is "Broke". We are also of the view that no amount of money given to Akufo Addo's Government can rescue the collapsed economy. The truth is that Ghana received over three billion dollars from IMF and related financial institutions during the Covid-19 pandemic. This was the highest amount given to any country in West Africa. Besides Akufo Addo has borrowed more than any Government in the 4th Republic, and yet the economy has sunk into an abyss. The cedi is now the worst currency in Africa and the second worst in the world.

Solution.

To find the solution to our economic woes, we have to find the problem. The problem, by evidenced analysis, is bad management and incompetence, which require the President and his government to resign. How much money Ghana gets from IMF or borrows from elsewhere will neither change the economy nor the condition of the suffering people.

1. As long as the management team is incompetent and ignorant of National and International financing ethics,
2. as long as dishonest practices and lies erode the people's confidence, no amount of money

from the IMF can rescue the economy.

We need a fresh team with innovative ideas and practical economic know-how. Leadership and competence in economic management have nothing in common with speaking flowery English with Anglomania flare; but have more to do with vision, intelligence love for country and people, and prudent dissipation of funds. These components, sadly, are missing in Akufo Addo's leadership.

ICU.

The destructive elements :

1. Mismanagement of the economy,
2. consistent plundering of the public purse,
3. unprecedented corruption,
4. misplaced priorities,
5. gross incompetence,
6. careless misuse of taxpayer's money,
7. flights in luxury jets,
8. inability to reduce appointees, and reshuffle the cabinet, are all signs of a collapsed economy

being resuscitated in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

In spite of ICU, the arrogant and incorrigible agent of Imperialism is still digging deep in the wrong direction, playing the lotto with Ghana card registration, and changing National Security heads, all in an attempt at possibly rigging the 2024 elections; oblivious of possible total destruction of Ghana and her economy.

National Debt.

Ghana is "Broke" and bankrupt with high debt distress. Life is difficult. Cost of living is high, and food prices are high, reducing the quality of life.

Prices of fuel, water, and electricity are higher than normal. Inflation of 31.7%, is the highest inflation in Africa. The free fall of the cedi continues unabated, with GHC9 to a dollar. Our National debt is GHC400 billion, out of which 30 billion went into the Finance Minister's Data Bank for negotiating the loans. It is therefore not surprising, that all three International Rating Agencies have downgraded Ghana's economy for high indebtedness, corruption, lack of confidence in the economy, and possibly for printing fake currency notes.

Serious Reminder.



We seriously remind the government and its leadership that they should listen to the voice of the people to whom the country belongs, who voted them into power, and who pays them with their taxes. These voices are asking for a change.

The voice of the people is the voice of God. The Voices are calling on Nana Addo :

1. to stop buying the V8 salon cars, stop the building of the Cathedral, stop the luxury lifestyle and a plethora of misplaced priorities.
2. to restore the quality of our Democracy;
3. to restore citizen confidence;
4. to restore investor confidence;
5. to restore Rating Agency

confidence;

6. to restructure the economy to reverse the Import driven economy into a productive driven economy;

7. to restore the neutrality of the Judiciary, Police and Army;

8. to change Economic Team and sack the Finance Minister, Ken Ofori Atta. He has no clue. He is working to fill his pocket.

The Solutions above are required to turn the economy in the right direction. Since your policies and National Plans cannot reverse the prevailing mess and destruction, we advise you to resign and give the baton to a new team.

Source -- [CDG-GH](#)

Lafa Homowo Celebration: Chief Appeals To Police Against Festival Intimidation



Lafa Mantse Nii Ayi Okufoubour and queen mother Naa Dede Ansah

The Chief of Ngleshie Lafa, Nii Ayi Okufoubour has

appealed to the police to end all forms of intimidation against the festival celebration.

He made the appeal when he together with his people celebrated their Homowo festival in a lavish style over the weekend. The festival celebrations and the accompanying rituals hit their climax from last Thursday through to Saturday.

Addressing the people, Nii Ayi Okufoubour thanked God for seeing them through a difficult year. The chief said one major

concern of his is how police in Accra want to suppress the celebration of Homowo lately by forcing chiefs to sign bond. To him this can never happen in Ashanti region and it is gradually taking away the shine of their much cherished Homowo.

"Why is it that the police don't want us to celebrate the festival just like others do elsewhere, or can they

do same in Ashanti region? he quizzed. He went further by saying that police presence in the communities can never be underestimated. So in as much as they are important to everyone when it comes to security, the police should help make their festival beautiful once again.

Lafa queen mother Naa Dede Ansah II also advised the youth to be obedient and focused in life.

100 Years Of Russian Gas For India

By M. K. Bhadrakumar

India has made several ambitious commitments at the Glasgow climate summit. Two key pledges were that India's non-fossil energy capacity will reach 500 GW by 2030 and the country will transition to net zero emissions by 2070. Sceptics doubt whether such timelines are realistic. Meanwhile, the climate agenda itself has gone for a six with the conflict in Ukraine weaponizing energy security in a way that was unthinkable. In all probability, both green energy and zero emission targets will need an extended timeline, as the major industrial countries grapple with economic recession and high inflation. The momentum has been lost and the geopolitics of energy security will inevitably impact the calculus in ways not quite foreseeable. When an energy superpower such as Russia is treated as an outlier by the West, and China defers its climate dialogue with the US due to tensions over Taiwan issue, all bets are off.

Meanwhile, natural gas, as a bridge fuel, is likely to outlast coal and oil in the age of global warming. Gas burns much cleaner than coal and this saves significant amounts of greenhouse gases emitted to the atmosphere. [Europe calls gas](#) "green energy"! Natural gas can indeed be a bridge to a carbon-free future, provided methane leaks are kept under check by installing reliable measurement equipment. In fact, British Petroleum (BP) has predicted a strong future for natural gas, that by 2050 it would provide 22% of primary energy in their "Rapid" future scenario, compared with 45% for renewables. Above all, natural gas also manages to survive on the geopolitical stage, as is evident through the six-month long Ukraine war. Simply put, it is a safe

prediction that gas will stay fairly constant between 2020 and 2050, while oil and coal start declining in 2025 or thereabouts.

We are now seeing inevitable price spikes as countries around the world compete for LNG shipments. The Asia-Pacific region is expected to account for half of the expected growth in global gas demand to 2025. However, the European Union's commitment to phase out gas imports from Russia – historically, its largest supplier – is having global repercussions, as Europe's surging demand for LNG draws in deliveries initially intended for other regions.

On the other hand, according to a recent estimate in July by the International Energy Agency, Russian pipeline gas exports to the EU will fall by over 55% between 2021 and 2025 – perhaps, in an accelerated case, by over 75%. This becomes an extremely favorable setting for India to work on a gas pipeline project from Russia. Significantly, last Tuesday, the prominent Russian daily *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* [carried a report](#) on the visit by the Russian gas Leviathan Gazprom's CEO Alexey Miller to Ashgabat and his meeting with Turkmenistan President Serdar Berdimuhamedov, which inter alia flagged that a pipeline project to send Russian gas to the South Asian region would be under consideration in Moscow. By the way, for the benefit of the uninitiated, following the transition in leadership in Turkmenistan in March, the Moscow-Ashgabat strategic axis has had a phenomenal makeover. On Monday, in Moscow, President Putin conferred Russia's high honor of the Order of Merit of the Fatherland on Berdimuhamedov in a symbolic gesture signifying the Kremlin's great appreciation for Turkmenistan's gesture of spurning an overture from Brussels seeking additional gas supplies for the EU via



As countries around the world compete for LNG shipments, the setting is favorable for India to work on a gas pipeline project from Russia

Azerbaijan and Turkey to replace Russian gas! Gazprom chief Miller told Turkmen television in an interview that Russia intends to "continue large-scale purchases of Turkmen gas on a long-term basis." Evidently, Moscow is mopping up the surplus Turkmen gas (after exports to China) to preclude the EU or other third parties from playing politics with it against Russia. In effect, it is a political gesture by Moscow that also reinforces the robust cooperation between the security agencies of the two countries, which is a vital brotherhood for both sides in today's era of color revolutions. (Ashgabat is not only a Caspian state but also has a 800-km long border with Afghanistan (which runs from the tripoint with Iran to the tripoint with Uzbekistan.) The Russian daily hinted that Miller's talks with President Berdimuhamedov in Ashgabat might have touched on an "overland route to Asian market" for surplus Russian gas, which used to be delivered to Europe previously. As the paper puts it: "And the way to Hindustan lies through Turkmenistan. There is a developed gas transportation infrastructure between it (Turkmenistan) and Russia."

The daily cited an expert opinion that since Russia's domestic market is already

overstocked and the European market is "gradually closing" for Russian gas, and the supplies to China are being carried out anyway by both Turkmenistan and Russia, "coordination and joint activities for gas supplies to Pakistan and India no longer seem like something fantastic. Given the recent contacts between the authorities of the Russian Federation and Afghanistan on economic issues, there is more and more logic in Gazprom's joint work with Turkmenistan on the implementation of TAPI (Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India pipeline)." The daily added that Turkmenistan will be open to the idea of Russia constructing a gas pipeline on its territory leading to the south for Russian gas to be marketed. It disclosed that Kabul is not only receptive but negotiations have already taken place between Russian and Taliban authorities on building a pipeline to Afghanistan – and, an agreement is ready for signature.

All this seems to be related to the [recent visit](#) by the Afghan Minister of Commerce and Industry with a delegation of officials from the finance ministry for week-long consultations in Moscow in

mid-August for supplies of wheat, gas and oil. *Reuters* also [separately reported](#) that talks are in the "final stages over the terms of a contract for Afghanistan to purchase gasoline and benzene from Russia."

Of course, a Russian gas pipeline project – instead of TAPI – is an entirely different ball game. Gazprom has enormous experience in building and operating pipelines. In effect, this idea presages Turkmenistan becoming an energy hub connecting the Russian gas grid with the vast South Asian market.

Gazprom chief Miller told TASS on Wednesday that Russia has huge gas reserves for the next 100 years, and certain deposits will only be operational and producing gas by 2120! Miller explained that such grand panorama can be visualized today thanks to a new Russian gas production facility in the Yamal gas fields in northwest Siberia, which holds Russia's biggest natural gas reserves, estimated to be in the region of 44 trillion cubic feet of gas and 550 million barrels of condensate.

(The original article has been slightly modified)

Ethiopian Diaspora Groups Gear Up For Protests Against West's Support To TPLF



Ethiopians in the US rally in Washington D.C on November 9, 2021, demanding the US and its media to stop backing the TPLF. (Photo: www.waltainfo.com) "Deploing the International community, in particular the UN, United States and the EU Member states, for their continued sympathy" towards the TPLF, the Ethiopian Advocacy Organizations Worldwide (EAOW) passed a resolution calling for peace on September 2

Ethiopian diaspora across the Western world has condemned the US and the EU for "emboldening" the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) which resumed the war in the northern part of the country on August 24, ending the truce initiated by the federal government in March. "Deploing the International community, in particular the UN, United States and the EU Member states, for their continued sympathy" towards the TPLF, the Ethiopian Advocacy Organizations Worldwide (EAOW) passed a resolution on Friday, September 2. The EAOW, a consortium of 18 organizations representing Ethiopian nationals in the US, Canada, UK, South Africa, and 11 European countries, condemned the TPLF's alleged

systematic large-scale forced conscriptions – including of child soldiers – in the northernmost State of Tigray. Thousands have been fleeing Tigray, which is under the TPLF's control, in order to escape forced conscription. However, hundreds have been caught and arrested by the TPLF, which is waging a war against the Ethiopian federal government. Tens of thousands of conscripts were sacrificed in human wave attacks launched by the TPLF, which had advanced south into the neighboring states of Amhara and Afar last year before being beaten back into Tigray. The resolution alleges that in order to conscript more soldiers for another round of invasion into Tigray's

neighboring States, the TPLF instituted a "one family one soldier" policy, as the war became increasingly unpopular in Tigray itself. The groups is also allegedly denying food aid to families unable or unwilling to contribute soldiers. This is when, according to the World Food Programme (WFP), 83% of Tigray's population is food-insecure and over 60% of pregnant or lactating women were malnourished as of January.

Multiple reports indicate that on resuming the war on August 24, the TPLF looted 12 full fuel trucks from the WFP and tankers with 570,000 liters of fuel meant to facilitate food aid delivery. Hundreds of WFP trucks which entered Tigray to distribute food aid had already been seized by the TPLF and used to mobilize its troops during its offensive last year.

"This has only reaffirmed the view [that] the TPLF should not be playing a central role in the distribution of aid in Tigray," Bisrat Aklilu, a board member of the American Ethiopian Public Affairs Committee (AEPAC), said in a letter to WFP's Ethiopia country director Adrian van der Knaap.

He called on the WFP "to

undertake an urgent review of its processes and to identify any misuse of aid by the TPLF.. Given the sheer number of Ethiopians in need in Tigray, Afar and Amhara regions, it would be an unforgivable scandal if WFP's humanitarian assistance is ending up in the hands of rebel forces rather than the vulnerable communities who are suffering." "Deploing the deafening silence of the International Community in condemning such blatant violation of international law by TPLF," the resolution urged the international community to force the TPLF to come to the negotiating table.

The federal government led by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has kept the door open for negotiations under the African Union (AU). AU's High-Representative for the Horn of Africa, former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, had met with the government's and TPLF's leaders several times during the months of truce. The EAOW resolution has called on the international community to "reiterate the peace process under the undisputed leadership" of the AU. However, dismissing the AU as incompetent, the TPLF had [effectively called for Western intervention](#) only two days

before resuming the war. It made particular references to the US and EU, whose envoys had met its leaders only weeks before it resumed the war.

"To date, the American Ethiopian community has been disappointed with the United States Government's approach to the conflict, which has been perceived as more favorable to the TPLF terrorist group than the democratically elected government of Ethiopia," AEPAC said in a press release. AEPAC, which is a part of the EAOW and a signatory to its resolution, will be holding demonstrations and rallies on Tuesday, September 6, in Washington D.C and other cities in the US.

"The rallies will have a clear objective – to call on the US Government to support peace over violence in Ethiopia," its statement said. "The only way to give peace a chance for the people of Ethiopia and ensure stability in [the] Horn of Africa is to end the TPLF's violence. AEPAC will continue to engage US legislators and the administration to educate them on the facts on the ground and views of the diaspora."

[Source -- The Peoples Dispatch](#)

Australian Wildfires Raised Global Heat And Broadened Ozone Hole, Says Study

A new study suggests that the massive wildfires in Australia in 2019-2020 caused the atmospheric temperature to rise and could also increase the ozone hole. The study published in [Scientific Reports](#) on August 25 says that the plumes of smoke from the wildfires led to a 3 degrees Celsius temperature rise over Australia, along with a global rise of 0.7 degrees Celsius. The temperature rise lasted for four months both in Australia and at the global level, according to the study. The plumes of smoke may also have broadened the ozone hole. From December 2019-February 2020, an extreme drought [hit Australia](#). This unprecedented event led to wildfires that burnt over 5.8 million hectares, causing widespread devastation to wildlife and croplands. Along with the catastrophic damage in Australia, the

fires caused a temperature rise globally. The global temperature increase in the lower stratosphere by 0.7 degrees Celsius was the biggest after the eruption of Mount Pinatubo which occurred in the Philippines in 1991.

Commenting on the remarkable scale of the wildfires and their impact, Nerilie Abram, a paleoclimate scientist at the Australian National University, [said](#), "The effect was equivalent to the type of impact that we'd see from a moderate volcanic eruption. What we're discovering about the scale of these fires is remarkable."

The wildfires' impact was so massive that smoke particles rose to the stratosphere. The stratosphere exists at the height of 10-50 kilometers from the surface of Earth, and smoke particles usually do not reach up to this level. But plumes of smoke emanating from the Australian wildfires reached a height of more

than 35 kilometers. This, according to the researchers, was linked to unusual pyrocumulonimbus clouds caused by the fires. Pyrocumulonimbus clouds are generally [formed](#) above a heat source, such as a wildfire or a volcanic eruption.

These clouds contain lots of black carbon, which can absorb heat and rise to the lower stratosphere, like a hot air balloon, explained Jim Haywood, co-author of the study and an atmospheric scientist at the University of Exeter, UK. Once it is formed, the black carbon continues to absorb sunlight and thus keeps warming the air.

Abram explained further, [saying](#) that parts of the Australian coastline had been filled with a haze of smoke for months. She remarked that the scale of the wildfires that year was extreme. The team of researchers utilized the

data from remote-sensing satellites to observe changes in the distribution of smoke particles in the stratosphere. The team also combined the information obtained from this data with climate models. Their analyses revealed that the model-predicted impact of the smoke on stratospheric temperature did match with the observed temperature hike. The models were also used to see whether the high-impact fumes from the fires could also cause damage to the ozone layer. The analyses made by the research team indicated that the chemical reactions between the smoke and the ozone impacted the Antarctic ozone hole by making it bigger. "The year before the fires, we had a puny little ozone hole, while in 2020, we were taken rather aback because there was a very, very deep ozone hole," [explained](#) Haywood, adding

that the hole lasted for around five months.

Ozone layer depletion also strengthens the polar vortex, a large region of cold and rotating air encircling both the poles of Earth. In the polar vortex, low pressure and cool air encircle the poles. Strengthening the polar vortex creates a feedback loop, where a stronger polar vortex leads to more depletion of the ozone layer and the hole remains open for longer. Ozone layer depletion causes harmful UV rays to penetrate, causing harm to both human health and the environment. Moreover, warming in the stratosphere can also lead to more ozone layer damage.

President Akufo-Addo's Lawyer, Akoto Ampaw, Others Joins Protest Against Auditor General

Lead counsel for President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo in the 2020 presidential election petition, Lawyer Akoto Ampaw yesterday joined a public protest against the Office of the Auditor General.

Lawyer Akoto Ampaw joined the protest as a member of the Citizens Coalition to register their displeasure with the Auditor General's refusal to disallow and surcharge for the various financial irregularities uncovered in its reports since 2019.

"The protest is in respect of a matter which is of very major national importance. That is to ensure that those who misuse public funds are made accountable and the Auditor General as we know under the constitution has the duty to disallow any such expenditure and surcharge the persons responsible for such unlawful expenditure.

"In its reports, the Auditor General has repeatedly identified persons in the public service that have misused public funds and indicated that they ought to be

surcharged. And yet, to date, the Auditor General has not rallied the spine to take that decisive action that the constitution imposes on him.

"So in this era, where we have a crisis of revenue, people who misuse public funds ought to be dealt with without any hesitation, and we are here to make sure that the Auditor General complies with his constitutional obligation and to ensure that public funds are safe.

"This would be part of the message to all public officials who have control of public funds that if they misuse public funds, they will be made to account for it," he told GhanaWeb's George Ayisi during the protest.

Prior to 2017, OccupyGhana, a Civil Society Organisation (CSO) led a public crusade on issues of corruption and governance which saw the group holding various protests in the country.

OccupyGhana in 2017 secured a Supreme Court ruling which



charged the Auditor General to issue surcharges and disallowance for the various infractions on the government's accounts.

However, since the inception of the current administration, OccupyGhana has been accused of taking a backseat in putting pressure on the government and state institutions. The group has been accused of being in bed with the current government.

But according to lawyer Ampaw, the Citizens Coalition, by its



structure, is insulated from political associations. He, however, underscored that Occupy Ghana continues to play a significant role in the advocacy terrain, including pushing for the Auditor General to exercise his powers.

"You know that for us, Citizens Coalition, one of our important membership conditions is that you will not be a member or an active participant in any party-political organisation. So that helps to insulate us from the kind of problems that may have occurred in the past.

"But it isn't really true that OccupyGhana is not doing anything. OccupyGhana has been pushing this matter with the Auditor General. So it may not be on the streets, but it is still defending rights and ensuring that so-called duty bearers comply with their obligations to the public," he said.

Other prominent members of the Coalition who joined Monday's protest include lawyer Samson Ayenini, lawyer Martin Kpebu, Kofi Asare of Africa Education Watch, Nana Ama Agyemang Asante, Edem Senanu and Akwasi Pumpuni and Kofi Bentil.

