

# SKY TRAIN

## Minority Calls For Prosecution Of GIIF Board, Management Over \$2 M Deal



**John Peter Amewu, Minister Of Railways Development**



**Kwame Agbodza**  
Minority Spokesperson on Roads and Transport

The Minority in Parliament has called for the immediate prosecution of management and board members of the Ghana Infrastructure Investment Fund (GIIF) over the decision to invest \$2 million dollars in the botched Accra sky train project.

The Auditor General in the 2021 audit

report indicted the Fund over the investment in the South African firm, Africa Investor Holdings.

The Auditor General, however, asked management to monitor the feasibility studies which are yet to take place as well as determine the recoverability of the amount.

But speaking to the media in Parliament on Monday, Minority Spokesperson on Roads and Transport, Kwame Agbodza said the recommendations of the A-G are not far-reaching enough.

According to the Adaklu MP, the

*Cont. on page 3*

**Mahama Congratulates Kenya's President-Elect William Ruto Over Election Victory**



**President John Dramani Mahama**

Former President John Dramani Mahama has congratulated the president-elect of the Republic of Kenya, Dr. William Samoei Ruto.

In a post shared on Twitter, yesterday September 6, 2022, the former president urged President-elect Ruto to unite the people of Kenya.

Mahama also described the election petition that affirmed

*Cont. on page 2*



**Rising Economic Hardship**

**La Shikitele Nii Adjei Koofeh IV Warns Ghanaians Against Profligate Expenditure** *page 5*

# Moment Of Truth In Ukraine War

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# The INSIGHT

## — EDITORIAL

### COMMENDABLE BUT...

**T**he new amendments made recently to the Criminal Offences law and which seek to ensure stiffer punishment for public officers who are found culpable of corruption is undoubtedly a commendable move.

Corruption appears to be ingrained in our daily activities be it business transaction of any engagement that requires provision of services and this ugly practice rears its head.

Averagely, it is estimated that the country loses a whopping 14 billion cedis annually through corruption which is very disturbing.

This phenomenon has taken root because several of the anti-corruption agencies and institutions both private and state-owned which have over the years been established to fight the cancer have themselves been rendered useless without the resources and personnel to fight it.

Regrettably, even though it is publicly announced that money is been spent on these institutions, nothing concrete comes out of it.

The taxpayers' money is increasing spent on these anti-corruption agencies annually by the government and other so-called international organisations but the problem keeps worsening.

Certainly, the new amendments are commendable but more laws are not adequate but the political will to punish even government officials who are found culpable.

It is also important that the laws of the country are carried to the letter if any official or individual is found to be complicit in any corruption related offence. Prosecution of corrupt public officials has to be devoid of partisan politics or colourisation. These are some of the measures that can help fight the cancer in the country.

There is also the need to build a strong public opinion against the canker if it is to be eradicated.

# Mahama Congratulates Kenya's President-Elect William Ruto Over Election Victory

*from front page*

Ruto's election as clear and transparent.

"Congratulations Dr. William Samoei Ruto on your election as President of Kenya.

"As bearer of the trust of the Kenyan people, as affirmed in a clear, transparent manner by the Supreme Court, this is the time to unite the good people of Kenya for continued growth and prosperity," parts of the post read.

"I have every confidence that you will deliver on your mandate to the people. Wishing you a successful and impactful tenure as President of Kenya," Mahama added.

Kenya's Supreme Court had dismissed several petitions against the election of William Ruto as president of Kenya. BBC reports that the apex court 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.

**This is Mahama's post:**



**President John Dramani Mahama**

Congratulations Dr. William Samoei Ruto on your election as President of Kenya.

As bearer of the trust of the Kenyan people, as affirmed in a clear, transparent manner by the Supreme Court, this is the time to unite the good people of Kenya for continued growth and prosperity.

I have every confidence that you will deliver on your mandate to the people.

Wishing you a successful and impactful tenure as President of Kenya 🇰🇪.

## THE INSIGHT

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# SKY TRAIN

## Minority Calls For Prosecution Of GIIF Board, Management Over \$2 M Deal

from front page

management and board of the Ghana Infrastructure Investment Fund and the board were reckless in making payments before even feasibility studies were conducted and thus must be made to answer questions. "It appears to me that the board and management of Ghana Infrastructure Investment Fund have become very reckless in the decision they make in utilizing meagre resources that we put into that Fund. Especially, at a time when we are finding it difficult to feed our children at school and recruit the right frontline health care workers to be at our health facilities. Amidst the general excruciating hardship in the country they have the ability to throw away in my view 2 million dollars," the lawmaker reiterated. It would be recalled that on November 23 2021, just barely 24 months after the government of Ghana signed a concession agreement for the construction of the Accra SkyTrain Project, the Minister for Railway Development, John Peter Amewu, described the project as 'impossible to realise'. The deal which was signed on November 11, 2019, aimed to ensure that the concession agreement would result in the construction of a US\$2.6 billion light rail system in Accra, Ghana and was to be financed by the Ghana Infrastructure Investment Fund and the African Investment SkyTrain Consortium. Amewu who spoke on 'Face to Face' on Citi TV said that the government would not go ahead with the sky train project. According to him, government would not be able to fund the project owing to its intensity in terms of capital investment. "The sky train that we are talking



John Peter Amewu, Minister Of Railways Development



Kwame Agbodza  
Minority Spokesperson on Roads and Transport

about is the one that is going to run on columns in the sky like the ones you see in Dubai but no agreement has been signed. "It is not possible to be done now. I don't see any sky train being done in the next 3-4 years. There is not going to be any Sky train in the country. It is not possible," he stated. The Minister noted that the funding for the construction of some already commenced projects is becoming a problem for government hence the need for the state to forgo the sky train project. "Rail construction takes a lot of time and it is also capital intensive. A kilometer of a railway line is about four to five times the cost of building a concrete infrastructure in terms of building an asphaltic road. "So considering the fiscal space that we have in the country, facilities to absorb it is becoming problematic for the government and you know our current debt to GDP which is in excess of 70%," he said. The Accra SkyTrain Project envisaged a total track length of 194 kilometers across all routes and was projected to provide transportation to around 380,000 people each day. President Nana Akufo-Addo

speaking then at the signing of the project described it as "a happy day for Ghana and her good people," adding that it is a "critical step towards the consummation of this project," and a vivid testimony of the value of the African Investment Forum. He further touted the project as an "an important infrastructural need, and hopefully the step that is being taken today, that is signing the concession agreement, is bringing the project to much nearer conclusion. That is what

we are hoping for so that the people of Ghana benefit from the progress and the relief that a modern system of transport in our capital city is going to bring." At the time the agreement was signed, it was said that the project will be completed in some 9 months which would have been in August 2020. Former Minister for Railway Development, Joe Ghartey, also speaking to Citi TV in November 2019, emphasised government's commitment to the project saying not even the skepticism expressed by some citizens was going to deter his ministry's resolve to ensure the Skyline project is realised in the best interest of Ghanaians. "Everything starts with an idea. When Kwame Nkrumah started Akosombo, they said it was a dream. We dare to be different. What it is, is that we are still going to negotiate in the best interest of Ghanaians," he said. On why the government opted for an elevated, air-propelled

monorail system instead of grounded rail tracks, Joe Ghartey argued that placing the project on the ground would have meant that Government would have to pay a lot of compensation to individuals in order to get the train to where people and traffic are. "The beauty of trains is that, it must go where passengers are, it must go where traffic is, and also on the ground, you may have to pay too much compensation. You may not even be able to go to certain places because people will not just allow you to take over their property, so one of the options was for them to elevate the train and put it on the pillars." A Deputy Transport Minister, Kwaku Ofori Asiamah, speaking during his vetting in February 2020, served notice that government was on course to deliver the project. It has however been a fiasco and the minority are calling for prosecution considering the initial funding for the project.

## GTP Asks Staff To Go On 2-Week Leave As It Resolves Operational Challenges

The management of Ghana Textiles Printing Company Limited (GTP), at a meeting with the workers' council, has requested that the staff go on a two-week leave (10 working days) in the first two weeks of September 2022. This situation has become necessary due to two main challenges the company is facing: Difficulty in selling, which has led to high unsold volumes in the depots; and serious shortages of RFO on the market thereby forcing

management to power the boilers with diesel instead of RFO and increasing our energy costs by about four times. The two factors have led to a precarious financial situation for the company, which, by extension, seems to threaten the company's ability to pay salaries going forward. The management has, thus, as part of its remedial measures to curtail any further precarious financial situation, asked the workers to take leave days while it

waits for improvements in sales and the RFO situation. The company, in a notice to the staff, said any further changes that may arise will be duly communicated. The President of the Tema Chamber of Commerce, Mr Michael Kabutey Caesar, had, on Thursday, 1 September 2022, told Accra100.FM that the decision had affected 600 staff, who, he claimed, had been laid off. The company, however, denies that any of its workers has been laid off.



# INTERNATIONAL NEWS REPORT

## Compiled By Peoples Dispatch

### UK's New Prime Minister Liz Truss All Set To Carry Forward The Conservative Agenda

By Aditya Sarin

At the end of the almost month-long contest for the Conservative Party to choose its new leader and the new prime minister of the United Kingdom, Liz Truss emerged victorious securing 57.4% of the votes polled by her party members. She succeeded Boris Johnson yesterday whose own premiership was mired in scandal and economic mismanagement. Johnson has left Britain to Truss in a critical state, mired in the worst cost of living crisis of recent decades, as well as a crisis of legitimacy. Over the past several weeks, Truss campaigned extensively to find some way to distinguish herself both from Johnson and the other Tories in the race.

So, who is Liz Truss?

Throughout her career, Truss has not been one to shy away from her Conservative roots and ideology, and the promises that she made while campaigning reflect that outlook. The central plank of her policy manifesto has been a slashing of taxes across various sectors, in an attempt to deal with the UK's current financial woes and rising inflation. Her targets so far have included windfall taxes, corporate tax hikes, blocking all new taxes, green energy levies to companies, taxes paid by the self-employed, and inheritance taxes. She has also suggested that she will roll back the 1.25% hike to the National Insurance that had been introduced last year in an attempt to

fund health and social care under then Chancellor Rishi Sunak. Despite this, she has said that public spending will not decrease under her watch, and that more free schools and hospitals will be built during her time as prime minister.

The struggles of the NHS have been in the news a great deal recently, with repeated threats of doctor and nurse walkouts over low pay and poor working conditions, and complaints from patients of months-long wait times to access care. It is unclear how, or if, Truss' plans would ameliorate this situation at all, especially as she has suggested her openness to diverting billions of pounds from the NHS into social care. Despite this, Truss has simultaneously suggested that the NHS needs a larger budget, but that this must come from "general taxation." Where this increase in taxation is likely to take place has been unclear.

As energy prices have increased dramatically over the last several months, even Rishi Sunak, her rival for the premiership, felt the need to say that he would do something about energy prices and supply. Truss, in contrast, has opposed a freeze in energy price caps (even if members of her potential cabinet have said they could not rule out the same) and said

that she does not support energy rationing. She had also initially said that she does not support direct relief to consumers, before being forced to walk back that particular position. Her proposed solution to the UK's energy crisis can best be understood by her support for "fracking in areas where people want it to happen," as well as lukewarm support for nuclear and renewable power.

Increased funding, Truss has also promised, will go to the police, along with an expanded set of powers. She says she will "ensure that crime decreases by 20%, and called for re-instituting a league-style table to track the effectiveness of various local constabularies against each other. More patrols of the oceans will be increased, and immigrants will be targeted even more ruthlessly; deportations to countries other than Rwanda have been mooted, as well as ways to ensure that immigrants cannot find work in the UK. Overall spending on defense will also be increased.

Internationally, Truss has suggested that she might withdraw the UK from the European Convention on

Human Rights (ECHR) so that the government cannot be overruled by it, as happened when a flight deporting refugees to Rwanda was grounded on June 14 after intervention by the European Court of Human Rights. Firmly committed to Brexit, Truss has instead expressed her openness to greater trade with the Commonwealth and a potential free trade agreement with Israel. She has also pledged to tackle Russia and China more comprehensively, and suggested that the UK needs to send more aid and weapons to Ukraine and help rebuild it under a new Marshall plan, but at the same time not "become directly involved in the conflict."

Domestically, her plans skew close to Tory cultural orthodoxy. She has said she will somehow "stand up for free speech" and at the same time stressed the "need to fight back against the identity politics that has infected [UK] institutions" and the need to reject "woke" civil service culture. She has suggested, as is almost a tradition in Britain, that she will move to exclude trans women from women's spaces, and attempt to make it harder for those

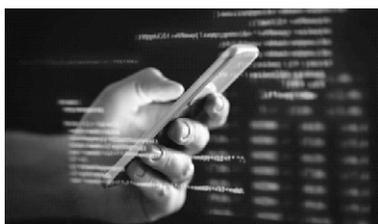


Hardline conservative Liz Truss emerged victorious over Rishi Sunak to replace Boris Johnson as leader of the Conservative Party

looking to transition.

Truss' promises however, are full of contradictions and impossibilities, and perhaps it is best not to think of all she has said as a program for the next two years but rather as an election manifesto for the 2024 elections. What does seem clear, however, is that Truss remains committed to the same policies of austerity, privatization, and deregulation for business that has characterized previous Tory governments, and maybe even more so than those who have preceded her. There will be more strike-breaking and sabotage of industrial action under her, and people will continue to be immiserated.

### Cyprus Government Slammed For Inaction On Spying Scandal



(Photo: via AKEL) The tech security company which developed the controversial Predator spyware that was used to spy on a Greek politician and journalists is currently owned by an Israeli businessman based in Cyprus

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

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

Revelations on targeted surveillance through the Predator spyware targeting Greek opposition politician Nikos Androulakis and certain investigative journalists led to shock and outrage in Greece. According to a report by the Citizen Lab at the University of

Toronto, which conducts extensive independent research on cyber security, the Predator spyware is developed by Cytrox which started in North Macedonia in 2017. According to reports, in 2018, Cytrox was acquired by the Cyprus-based company WiSpears/Passitora Ltd., owned by Tal Dilian, the CEO of Intellexa and a former Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) Unit 81 commander. In 2019, the Cyprus police arrested three employees of Dilian's WiSpear company over suspicions of using a high-tech surveillance van to intercept communications. However, prosecution was subsequently dropped by the attorney-general.

*Phileleftheros* reported that the surveillance scam in Greece is connected to tech security developers currently based in Cyprus, who were also involved in the surveillance van controversy.

In its statement, AKEL said that "until a few days ago, the Cyprus government responded with contempt to the growing concern about the surveillance scandal that is shaking the whole of Europe. It has now been documented that the surveillance scandal is directly linked to Cyprus. It is not only AKEL which says this – the internationally recognized research department of the

University of Toronto, Citizen Lab, says so, the international and Cypriot media says so, the European Parliament and many others discuss the issue."

"A dark web has long been revealed, dangerous for democracy and the rule of law, and those who have had to protect institutions and democracy are either involved or do not understand the democratic and institutional aberration that these phenomena constitute. Whatever the case, however, it is dangerous. That is why the matter must be made clear immediately," AKEL added.

# Ablakwa Finds Employment For All NABCO Trainees In His Constituency

The Member of Parliament (MP) for North Tongu, Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa, has stated he has facilitated the employment of all the trainees of the Nation Builders' Corps programme (NABCo) in his constituency. In a tweet shared last Thursday, September 1, 2022, the MP disclosed that all the 97 beneficiaries of the programme have been successfully employed at a Chinese firm in his constituency. The MP disclosed that the Chinese firm is Sinostone Bioethanol Manufacturing Limited, which manufactures bioethanol from cassava for sale to the Ghanaian market and the West African Sub Region, among other things. "As the government ends

NABCo today, September 1, 2022, I am delighted to announce that I have successfully negotiated with the Chinese management of Sinostone Bioethanol Manufacturing Ltd. (SBML) located in my beloved North Tongu, to immediately employ all our 97 NABCo beneficiaries," parts of the tweet the MP shared read. It would be recalled that the Finance Minister, Ken Ofori-Atta, during his presentation of the 2022 Mid-Year budget statement, said the NABCo programme will end on September 1, 2022. However, this is not the first time the government has indicated that the programme has ended. The government has said that all trainees who do not get permanent employment after

the programme ends will be transitioned into its entrepreneurship programme, YouStart. Meanwhile, NABCo trainees have threatened to picket at the presidency if the government fails to address their concerns during a demonstration in Accra. The demonstration by the trainees was to demand their 10-month stipend arrears and the permanent employment government promised them during the 2020 election campaign. Some of them also describe the YouStart entrepreneurship programme, which the government said it will transition them to, as a scam. "Now, the analysis here is that just GH¢700 you have



*Ablakwa with officials of Sinostone Bioethanol Manufacturing Limited*

not been able to settle it out. You have accumulated it (the allowance) for 10 months. If you cannot pay the GH¢700, how can we believe that you can pay the GH¢50,000 and the GH¢100,000 you are promising us for the

YouStart?

"It (the YouStart programme) is a total scam because GH¢700 is just a penny compared to their ex-gratia and allowances. It's a total scam," one of the trainees said.

## Rising Economic Hardship: La Shikitele Nii Adjei Koofeh IV Warns Ghanaians Against Profligate Expenditure

Nii Adjei Koofeh IV, La Shikitele (Kingmaker) and a member of the La Traditional Council, who also doubles as Supreme Head of the Nmati Abonase Division of La has advised Ghanaians to leave within their means amidst the current economic hardship. According to him, people should be measured in their spending in order for their finances not to be affected negatively. "In Ghana we are complaining about the depreciation of the Ghana Cedi against the US Dollar, fuel, water and electricity tariffs have been increased. We should all manage our finances to avoid problems when schools re-open and going forward". Touching on the La Homowo Festival in an interview with MorrisTV, Nii Adjei Koofeh IV said, even though the ban on noise making and drumming has been lifted, that is not the end of the homowo, another rite called Kpleshwemo would be performed on 14th of September 2022 to customarily end the La Homowo Festival. "Today's rite was for the lifting of



the ban on noise making, during the Kpleshwemo rite, a cow would be slaughtered as sacrifice to the La Kpa deity. A Thanksgiving service will also be held on the 18th of September 2022 to wrap up the homowo activities, he noted". He said some people were of the view that the La Homowo Festival shouldn't have been celebrated due to the demise of the La Mantse, but he said those people were ill-informed since they (the Chiefs) consulted the La Kpa deity after

the demise of the La Mantse and the deity directed that the necessary rites should be performed for the Homowo to be celebrated. Finally he expressed his profound gratitude to the Chiefs, Elders and everyone including the media who participated in the festival and appealed to them to apply the peace and unity they used in celebrating the La homowo festival to govern La now and forever.

## GNAG Launches Digitized Database System And Cooperative

*By Florence Anim*

As part of its 40 years' celebration to rebrand and restructure its operations, the Ghana National Association of GARAGES (GNAG) has launched a Digitized Database system and cooperative.

WalterGate Ghana Limited is the IT firm contracted by GNAG to rebrand and restructure the association to conform to Ghana's Digitization and use of modern technology and innovations in the Automobile industry of Ghana. The event which was held under the theme, Restructuring for National Growth and Development through Digitization also engaged stakeholders by sensitizing them on sustaining modern roles of GNAG. GNAG is the umbrella organization established and registered in 1982 for all small-scale automobile repair workshop operators (i. e. Mechanics, welders, electricians, panel beaters etc)

The launch was in line with Ghana's Digitization drive with the intrinsic goal to accelerate economic growth and facilitate job creation. The digital database Management system comes with the registration of members according to regions, districts, zones, location, specialization, addresses, next of kings, contacts, and many more. Speaking on behalf of the Minister of Trade and Industry, Dr. John Hawkins Aseidu who is the Technical Advisor of industrial parks or special economic zones at the Ministry of Trade and



Industry outlined some Government intervention laid to support activities of the Association which includes setting up training Institution for members to be trained. Dr. Aseidu reiterated that the Government is implementing various strategies and projects under the industrial transformation agenda which anchors on ten pillars to create enabling environment for industrial development and promote their participation in local, regional and world markets. As part of the initiatives towards the development of the Auto Industry, Government is focusing on automotive skills and technology upgrading and will involve GNAG's auto programmes for higher value Addition and capacity building so that members can stay in business and contribute to national development. On his part Chairman for the Association, Mr. Kwame Nsia Poku encouraged members not to allow education be a burrier for them but must endure to strive hard and embrace technology as a means of setting good pace for the association.

# Ellembelle DCE, Police 'Fight' Over Missing Excavators

News last week emerged about some seized excavators going missing in Ellembelle. The excavators were part of equipment discovered by the District Chief Executive for Ellembelle, Kwesi Bonzoh, who doubles as the Chairman of the District Security Council (DISEC) during his tour of a portion of land belonging to the Nkroful Agric Senior High School in the area. The DCE and his team set ablaze equipment at the site and transported the two excavators, which were also on the site, to a nearby community – Teleku-Bokazo- to later be transported to the nearest police station.

According to the DCE, the incident was reported to the police on Wednesday, August 31, 2022.

He noted that he sought to get two police officers from the station to guard the seized excavators to ensure they were not taken back by the owners while his team tried to secure lowbeds to transport the excavators to the Regional Security Council but the police insisted they were short of personnel.

After some agreement, however, two officers were released but left the excavators at 6 PM after they arrived at the scene at 2 PM with the excuse that they had been requested to return to their station.

Kwasi Bonzoh, in an interview with Joynews, further revealed that they were nowhere to be found the next morning when his team arrived to

check on the excavators.

After this, according to the DCE, he sought clarity from the police commander at the District Police Station but the accounts the latter gave for why his men left the equipment abandoned raised concerns.

“What he said was that they didn't have men and that the people were supposed to come back, so they called him (his personal assistant) when they were leaving, and he told them they could leave. Then I asked him how that two constables would take instructions from a civilian; that was when he said they were supposed to come because they were in station orderly, so they were supposed to come and change over,” the DCE said.

#### The police account:

Following reports of the missing excavators by several media platforms, the police on Friday released a statement indicating that 'no excavators were handed over to the police by the District Chief Executive (DCE) of Ellembelle, Mr. Kwasi Bonzoh, or any other person from the assembly.’ They further urged the public to disregard the publication while noting that the DCE, his personal assistant, and another person are being investigated in connection with the missing excavators.

#### DCE reacts:

The DCE, Kwasi Bonzoh, has since reacted to the police statement. According to him, the narrative of the police and the way they have handled the issue makes them complicit in the matter. Speaking to Joynews, the DCE said, “We thought it was negligence of duty, but with their narration and the way they are trying so hard to hide certain things, they are hiding something, and we have to find out; we cannot rely on the police to investigate because they themselves they are an interested party.

“So this matter that the police is saying they weren't here and that I should be investigated for these two excavators, I wasn't here when the excavators were even parked here; I was in Accra.

“The operators, when they parked the excavators, they left, but we were getting the lowbed so that we can send them to the Regional Minister's officers as he requested.

“Before the statement was released- that is where I suspect something fishy- the police sent a team here for investigations, so I availed myself, gave them all the investigation, and gave them all videos, pictures, thinking that they would even track the excavators.

“Then, in the evening, I heard that a member of the district small-scale mining committee had been arrested by the police, so I went to the police station, and I was also arrested and made to write a



caution statement and given self-recognisance bail, that was when the police released the statement. “They said I was being investigated for false publication that I said that the excavators were handed over to the police and I said I never said that. Even before the statement, I had written an official report, and submitted it to the Western Regional Minister who is the Chairman of the Regional Security Council.

“For the benefit of the doubt, I told the Regional Commander to go with me to the scene to see the site where the excavators were parked. He refused. As I speak, all the 3 police officers whose responsibility [it] was to find the missing excavators, none of them – not the Divisional Commander, the District Commander, nor the Divisional Crime officer, have visited the site where the excavators were parked,

yet they claim they are investigating me. What are they investigating? How can you do investigations without going to the site,” he said.

#### DCE's word against Police word:

On how he wants the issue handled, Kwasi Bonzoh asked for an independent investigation by the interior ministry, considering his argument that the police may themselves be complicit in the matter.

“The divisional Commander's narrative is even worse; he says the excavators were in my possession for 48 hours. I believe strongly that if the police really want to track the excavators given all the information, they can track the excavators and arrest those

## Prof Ransford Gyampo Descends On Akufo-Addo Over Support For Eugene Arhin



is offering Eugene Arhin an unfair benefit, knowing full well that no parliamentary primaries have been held for the area.

He shared his sentiments on his official Facebook page. Professor wrote that the video he saw on the internet regarding Nana Addo's statement was weird and thus he wasn't too happy about the unnecessary attempt to back other nominees and tagged it as an unfair advantage over other members of the same political party in a yet-to-be-organized parliamentary primary.

“Respectfully, Mr President, I cannot mince my words. I think you're being lawless, I'm sorry to

say it like that. You were part of your party's National Executive Committee meeting, which approved the party's Code of Conduct.

You are giving Eugene Arhin an unfair advantage, knowing full well that no parliamentary primaries were held for the area,” he noted.

He insisted that President Akufo-Addo should not read everything jotted down for him. He added that Akuffo-Addo's speechwriters always have their plans too, and he expects the president to be able to read what has been written for him.

“I expect Justine Frimpong Kodua,

the party's general secretary, to summon you before your party's appeals committee with the force of a man who believes in fairness. He did this with Hopeson Adorye and Assifua. Nobody is above the law and the application of the law must not be selective.” he quoted. Prof Gyampo urged Justin Kodua to intervene.

“We knew John Boadu couldn't do this and that's why we all worked behind the scenes towards your election. I know the pressure you were under from high places to give up your preference to become Secretary General of the Party.



“You asserted yourself as a man, condemned the powerful voices against your ambition and won. After your victory, many believe that you are your boss. Respond kindly to this lawlessness demonstrated by our President”, he concluded his statement.

Source: [Gabsfeed.com](https://www.gabsfeed.com)

Renowned associate professor and lecturer in one of the most popular Universities in Ghana, Legon, isn't too happy with the first gentleman of the state.

Professor Ransford Gyampo has claimed that President Akufo-Addo

# Moment Of Truth In Ukraine War

By M. K. Bhadrakumar

The fog of war envelops the Ukrainian “counteroffensive” in southern Kherson region where Kiev hopes to regain lost territories. But by the sixth day of operations, the echo chamber in the West has fallen silent. There are no tall claims. Last Sunday's update of the UK Ministry of Defense prefers to dwell rather on the “morale and discipline” issues in the Russian army, in general, their modest pay-packets and basic amenities like “appropriate uniform”, arms and rations — rather than on Kherson counteroffensive.

There is a media blackout in Ukraine. All we know is of military convoys of ambulances with wailing sirens rushing through Odessa city streets, hospitals in Odessa and Nikolai regions overflowing with wounded servicemen, and eerie public calls for blood donation. The Transcarpathia region in western Ukraine, from where the locally-recruited 128th mountain assault brigade was redeployed to the Kherson front, declared a day's mourning in memory of its brave sons who lost lives. Meanwhile, the latest word from Kiev is that its counteroffensive is a “methodical operation” to degrade the Russian forces in the south rather than make territorial gains. President Volodymyr Zelensky said with some irritation: “I'm not ready to predict when it (rollback of Russian forces) will happen. I don't have the exact dates, but I have the exact understanding of how we will do it.”

On Thursday (fifth day of counteroffensive), Zelensky took a second meeting within the week of the Headquarters of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief, but only to add cryptically, “Certain decisions have also been made. I think everyone will be able to see their outcomes.”

The US media vaguely claims

that Ukrainian forces are making “tactical gains” and are preparing “for a long and hard-fought battle before winter sets in... Western officials cautioned the counteroffensive won't sweep the Russian forces out of Ukraine any time soon.

However, success in retaking the region of Kherson and gaining control of the western side of the river would be “really significant.” (*Politico*) The daily noted, “Such a victory would show Ukraine's Western allies that they are right to continue sending billions of dollars of weapons and supplies to help counter Russia.”

This last bit is the crux of the matter. The arms supplies from European countries to Ukraine have virtually dried up to a trickle and a similar trend is discernible with the US supplies too. The Joe Biden Administration is asking Congress to approve another \$11.7 billion in aid for Ukraine but that is in anticipation of the likelihood that the 2023 budget may not be passed by the deadline of October 1. The White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) announcement on September 2 acknowledges that this is “a short-term continuing resolution to keep the Federal government running.”

The OMB statement says the White House wants this anomaly because funds from previous packages to boost Ukrainian military are running low, with three-quarters distributed or committed, and more will follow in the next month.

Importantly, though, of the \$11.7 billion requested by the White House, \$4.5 billion would go toward replenishing Pentagon's depleted stockpiles, \$4.5 billion to budgetary support for Ukraine's government, and only \$2.7 billion to defense and intelligence aid as such. This new round of aid is intended to

last through December. Zelensky must be a worried man. He needs to convince the US that such massive multi-billion dollar military aid has been worth it. He should show at the very least, a bloody stalemate on the southern

warfront. (Russia is gaining the upper hand in Donbas already.) There is always the danger that Zelensky might overreach. Politico disclosed: “Western governments have warned Kyiv against spreading its forces too thinly in a bid to capture as much territory as possible, since the Ukrainians would have to hold any gains they make. The officials said they expect Ukraine to reassess its military goals if it retakes Kherson. However, the city of Melitopol, also in the south, remains too far away from the Ukrainian positions, while a ground attack against Crimea during this offensive is not plausible.”

Now, all this juxtaposes with the upbeat tone but bare factual information shared in the official Russian statements on Kherson front. Other Russian reports say that the “counteroffensive” has been virtually muzzled and Ukrainian forces have taken heavy casualties running into several thousands. It seems to be an apocalyptic scenario, too tragic to recount.

The solitary Ukrainian breakthrough remaining as of Saturday night was a bridgehead across the Ingulets river — the so-called Andreevsky bridgehead. There is speculation that Russians may have lured the Ukrainian troops into a “fire trap.” The river crossings have been cut off and Russians are probably encircling the Ukrainian troops trapped on the western side of Ingulets with no supplies or reinforcements reaching them. The counteroffensive has lost its bite and is now turning into positional battles on one or two sites in the Mykolaiv-



By the sixth day of the Ukrainian counter-offensive, the echo chamber in the West has fallen silent. There are no tall claims. Zelensky must be a worried man as he needs to convince the US that such massive multi-billion dollar military aid has been justified

Krivoy Rog direction. A Russian counterattack has also been mentioned to the effect that the frontline now touches the “administrative boundary” of Mykolaiv region (which is a crucial city en route to Odessa.) Heavy bombardment of Mykolaiv city has also been reported. The Russians claim to have destroyed vast quantities of weaponry.

Russia's “domain control” can be put in perspective: the enemy is, on the one hand, caught on the bare steppe and cut down with the overwhelming superiority of Russian artillery and aviation, and, on the other hand, encountering well-fortified, entrenched defense lines. That said, Zelensky cannot give up, as he is desperately in need of a success story. Kiev still hopes to reverse the situation, but how that is achievable remains to be seen.

Against this sombre backdrop, more and more skeptical voices are being heard in the US about the Biden Administration's policy trajectory. The latest is an opinion piece in Wall Street Journal by Gen. (Retd) Mark Kimmitt, formerly Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs in the Bush administration. Kimmitt predicts that “a breakthrough is unlikely” and soon, “logistics shortfalls” may force a change

in US strategy.

He explains: “NATO will have to deal with dwindling stocks of leading-edge weapon systems. This likely will mean muddling through a longer war, with more casualties. It means more pressure from supporting nations, sustained inflation, less heating gas and falling popular support.”

In principle, the options are: i) “dig deeper into NATO stockpiles being held back for national defenses”; ii) “ramp up critical shortfalls” by invoking the Defense Production Act and its European equivalents; iii) escalate the conflict by targeting Crimea and Russia itself; or, iv) forcing Zelensky to face the grim reality that “diminishing resupplies” of weaponry actually contains “the message of declining outside support” for the war itself.

The retired general with Republican Party leanings concludes: “Beginning the diplomatic resolution would be distasteful, and perhaps seen as defeatist, but as there is little chance of climbing out of the current morass, it may be better to negotiate now than later... Looking into a future of protracted war, diminishing high-tech systems and mounting casualties, Mr. Zelensky and NATO must face up to tough decisions before those decisions are forced on them.”

## African Union Calls For Suspension Of Anti-Russia Sanctions Amid Rising Wheat Shortages



**Russian President Vladimir Putin with the President of Senegal and leader of the African Union Macky Sall in Sochi. (Photo: African Union) "Anti-Russia sanctions have made this situation worse and now we do not have access to grain from Russia, especially wheat," said AU chairperson Macky Sall following a meeting with Vladimir Putin on June 3**

US-led sanctions on Russia in the wake of its "special military operation" in Ukraine have caused severe food shortages in Africa, noted the leadership of the African Union (AU) in a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin on June 3 in the Russian city of Sochi along the Black Sea.

A week before the military operation was launched by Russia on February 24, with the stated aim of "demilitarization and denazification" of Ukraine, global prices of wheat, which is a staple for 2.5 billion people across the world, had already soared by 55%. This was in no small part in anticipation of the conflict between the two countries which together

produce around 30% of the world's wheat and barley, one fifth of its maize, and over half of its sunflower oil, according to the [United Nations Conference on Trade and Development \(UNCTAD\)](#). "Anti-Russia sanctions have made this situation worse and now we do not have access to grain from Russia, especially wheat," said Macky Sall, AU chairperson and President of Senegal. Wheat imports made up 90% of the USD 4 billion worth of imports from Russia by African countries, according to the Agricultural Business Chamber of South Africa. Somalia, which relies on the two countries for 90% of its wheat imports, is among the worst affected. The Democratic Republic

Congo (DRC), the second largest African country, imports 80% of its wheat from Russia and Ukraine. The third-largest country on the continent, Sudan, the most-populous country, Nigeria, and the most populated land-locked country, Ethiopia, rely on Russia and Ukraine for about 45% of their collective wheat imports. Landlocked Chad declared a "food emergency" a day ahead of the meeting.

While countries like Kenya manage to produce 100,000 metric tons of wheat domestically, this falls way short of the 2.4 million tons needed per year. "Kenya imports 60% of the deficit mainly from Ukraine and Russia. The current situation in the two countries has disrupted the importation supply chain," according to a Kenyan millers association. Almost half of the 54 African countries depend on Russia and Ukraine for wheat imports, as per the FAO.

Domestic production within Africa is also affected because "we do not have access to fertilizer. The situation was bad and now it has become worse, creating a threat to food security in Africa," Sall said. The AU Commission's chairperson, Moussa Faki Mahamat, appealed for "the suspension of sanctions against cereals and other key commodities, the need for their

safe sea passage to mitigate the devastating economic and socioeconomic effects of a growing food and energy crisis which is further hampering the global recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic."

An estimated 20 millions tons of export-bound wheat is stuck at Ukraine's ports. While Ukraine and its US-led Western backers have accused Russia of causing the scarcity by hampering exports from Ukraine's Black Sea ports, it is evident from the statements made by the AU leadership that this claim enjoys little credibility among African countries.

Putin's spokesperson Dmitry Peskov told reporters ahead of the meeting that the Russian President "will tell our African friends the real state of affairs, he will explain once again what is happening there, who has mined the ports, what is needed for grain to go, that no-one on the Russian side is blocking these ports." In an interview with *Rossiya 24* on the same day, Putin said that it was Ukraine which had mined the Black Sea ports and was hampering the movement of goods. He also gave the assurance that Russia would ensure a safe passage for wheat exports through the Azov Sea ports in Mariupol and Berdyansk which are under its control.

Russia was "always on Africa's side," Putin said in his press briefing ahead

of the meeting, adding that "At the new stage of development, we place great importance on our relations with African countries, and I must say this has had a certain positive result."

Sall had told Putin before the meeting that "our countries, even if they are far from the theater (of war), are victims on an economic level." In his comments to the media after the three-hour-long meeting, Sall said he was leaving Russia "very reassured" from his interaction with Putin. "I found Vladimir Putin committed and aware that the crisis and sanctions create serious problems for weak economies, such as African economies," he said. Earlier, Ukrainian President [Zelensky had requested the AU twice for an opportunity to address its assembly](#) in Equatorial Guinea last month, where he wished to make his case on why Africa should also condemn Russia. However, African countries, despite being critical of the war, have refused to take sides or condone the sanctions on Russia, and have called for a negotiated end to the conflict. At a meeting of the The Bureau of The Assembly of The African Union (AU) Heads of State and Government on May 10, it was agreed that the AU leaders could pay a visit to both Russia and Ukraine. The AU will reportedly also receive a video address from Zelensky. However, the date for this is yet to be scheduled.

## GJA, PIAC Rekindle Collaboration To Attain PRMA Objectives

The Ghana Journalists Association (GJA) and the Public Interest and Accountability Committee (PIAC) have rekindled their dedication to foster better collaboration towards the attainment of the objectives of the Petroleum Revenue Management Act, 2011 (Act 815).

This is contained in a launch dated September 1, 2022 and signed by the General Secretary of the GJA, Mr. Kofi Yeboah.

According to a launch, the

objectives of PIAC consists of: "monitoring and evaluating compliance with the Act by government and relevant institutions in the management and use of petroleum revenues and investments; providing space and platform for the public to debate on whether spending prospects and management and use of revenues conform to development priorities while providing independent assessment on the management and use of

petroleum revenues to assist Parliament and the executive in the oversight and the performance of related functions." The PRMA objectives have been highlighted when the National Executive members of the GJA led by President, Albert Kwabena Dwumfour paid a courtesy call on the members of PIAC in Accra, on Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2022.

The assembly deliberated on methods to collaborate to get Ghanaians knowledgeable concerning the administration and use

of petroleum revenues by actors in government and the way to equip journalists with related data and information by way of capability constructing coaching.

Also mentioned at the assembly was the appointment of a brand new member to the Committee to serve the curiosity of the GJA.

"On this topic, the GJA President said consultations have been done widely and the needed procedures will

be followed to ensure that the nominee, Nana Kwaku Dei (Mr. Ransford Tetteh) is sworn-in as member of PIAC."

In the meantime, the Chairman of PIAC Prof. Kwame Adom-Frimpong congratulated the newly elected GJA National Executive members and pledged that the Committee will work with the GJA to get its actions and periodic reviews to most people.

**Source: myjoyonline.com**