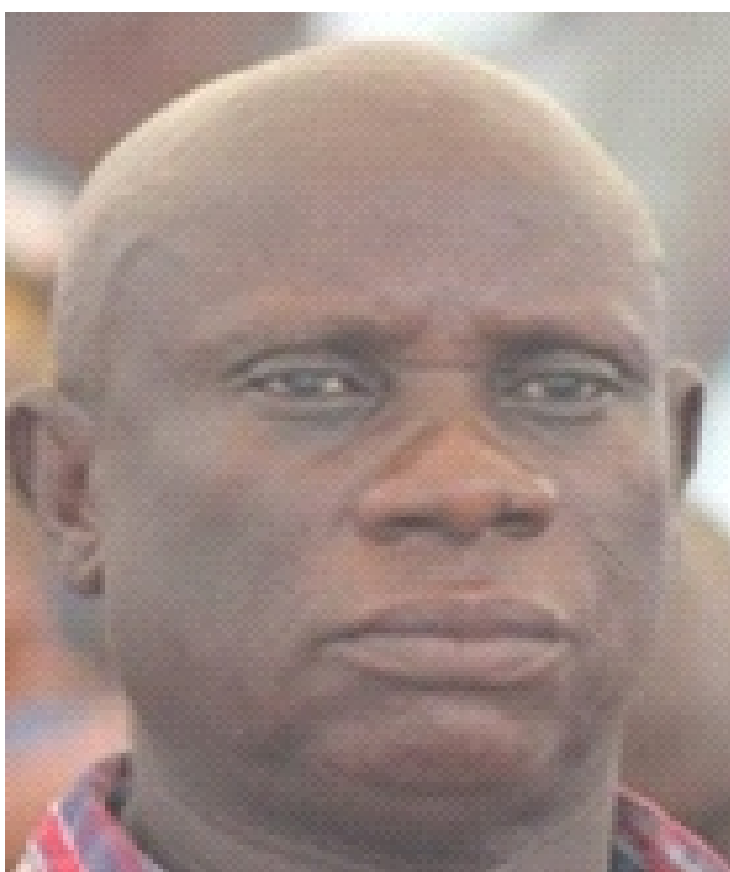


# OKYENHENE

## He Says Ghanaians Who Insult Akufo-Addo Over Economic Hardship Are Villagers And Witches



**Nana Obiri Boahene**



**Okyenhene, Osagyefuo Amoatia Ofori Panin**

**O**kyenhene, Osagyefuo Amoatia Ofori Panin has hit back at persons criticising and insulting President Nana Akufo-Addo over the current economic hardship, describing them as uncivilized villagers,

witches, and wizards who have no sense of appreciation. According to the Okyehene, Ghanaians must appreciate the significant contribution of President Akufo-Addo to the

development of the country as a result of the numerous policies such as Free Senior High School implemented since assuming office as President.

*Cont. on page 3*

## UN Special Rapporteur Calls For Dismantling Of Israel's Settler-Colonial Occupation And Apartheid Regime *page 4*

### Landguards On The Loose At Adjiringanor

*...Former Maritime Boss faces Accusation*



**T**ension is brewing in and around Adjiringanor in East Legon in the Greater Accra region after a group of armed landguards allegedly stormed the area to carry out a demolition of some properties without a court order. The incident which occurred at about

*Cont. on page*

### GROUP ATTACKS BAWUMIA

*Over Cedi Depreciation, Economic Hardship*



*page 5*

# The INSIGHT

## — EDITORIAL

### THE CHILD LABOUR REGRET

**M**inister 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.

## Vegetable Farmers Warn Of Looming Tomato Scarcity Next Year



*Photo of tomatoes*

**T**he Vegetable and Tomato Producers Association has revealed that Ghana spends not less than US\$800 million annually to import tomatoes from neighbouring Burkina Faso.

The association added that this whopping amount is spent to bring in some 800 metric tonnes of the fruit per annum.

According to the association, Ghana is likely to be hit by a scarcity of tomatoes next year because of the instability in neighbouring Burkina Faso and some weather patterns in that country.

The association further noted that 90 per cent of Ghana's tomato intake is from Burkina Faso.

The President of the association, Dr Felix Kamassah, painted this gloomy picture of the state of Ghana's tomato consumption when he spoke in an interview with Korku Lumor, host of the 505 evening news analysis programme on Tuesday, 18 October 2022.

He said the situation will be even direr if steps are not taken for the country's farmers to do all-round farming in the year.

For his part, the Public Relations Officer of the ministry of food and agriculture, Mr Tanko Bagbarah, said the ministry is working to have the situation remedied under the Planting for Food and Jobs programme and

Ghana CARES (Obaatan pa) project under the ministry of finance.

He said Ghana has a huge potential for tomato growth but the dams to irrigate the farms are the challenge.

According to him, issues with tomatoes have become a national priority.

Hence, "last year, the ministry called for a national tomato dialogue to see what the Burkinabes are doing that we aren't doing here to sustain production," Dr Felix Kamassah said.

"Our import bill is huge, in terms of rice and tomatoes," he added, but failed to put a figure to it.

He said the way forward is irrigation, where farmers can farm all year round.

## THE INSIGHT

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# OKYENHENE

## He Says Ghanaians Who Insult Akufo-Addo Over Economic Hardship Are Villagers And Witches

*from front page*

He said the current economic hardship is a global phenomenon.

"We must appreciate the feat of the President and show him appreciation for what he has done for Ghana. We must defend and protect him".

Okyenhene minced no words stating that, "those insulting the President are children of villagers. They are uncivilized. No well-nurtured person will insult an elderly. If you were raised in the Church you will not insult an elder. If you are not a villager then you may be a witch or wizard".

Okyenhene consoled President Akufo-Addo that, "Not all will like you. Even Jesus Christ was crucified. It won't bother me if they speak with sincerity but when you speak with hate, witchcraft, and envy, you must be careful because one day, one day !

one day! one day! One day! truth will overcome evil lies and envy". He said this on Sunday, October 23, 2022 at the inauguration of Archeaconry Service held at the St. Martin Anglican Church in Kyebi in the Abuakwa South Municipality of the Eastern Region graced by President Akufo-Addo as part of his tour of the region.

On illegal mining, Okyenhene called on all to support the President to end the menace.

"Politicians want votes. Nobody will put his presidency on the line for the fight against galamsey. All that politicians like are votes but for him (President Akufo Addo) he doesn't care about votes but the welfare and wellbeing of the voter is paramount to him" President Akufo-Addo asked Ghanaians to have faith in him that, Ghana will overcome the economic

crises.

"Don't be shaken, continue to have faith in God that the hardship being experienced in the country, through God we shall overcome. Have faith in me! Have faith in me! This too shall pass," President Akufo-Addo said. Retired Revered Felix O. Annacy, the Bishop of the Koforidua Anglican Diocese urged Ghanaians to rally behind the government and pray for the manifold wisdom of God to direct the path of the President to take the country out of this global economic turmoil.

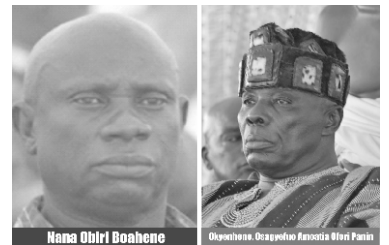
However, the former Deputy General Secretary of the ruling New Patriotic Party (NPP), Nana Obiri Boahene, has berated the Okyenhene, Osagyefuo Amoatia Ofori Panin, for insulting persons who have been

criticising President Nana Akufo-Addo over happenings in the county.

Reacting to his comments, Nana Obiri Boahene intimated that Osagyefuo Amoatia Ofori Panin's utterances were unfortunate.

The former NPP Deputy General Secretary added that the chief, rather than insulting the critics of the president, should have urged Akufo-Addo to listen to those with genuine concerns.

"Let me be very honest. Such a comment coming from a big chief is not in good taste. You are not some small chief, you are a big chief and you were not talking to your friend, you were talking in public and you uttered such



words, it is not good.

"You don't have to support the NDC or the NPP to make such comments. It was an opportunity for him to urge the president to listen to the cries of Ghanaians. You don't just call people witches and wizards. It is not good," he said in Twi in a Neat FM interview yesterday.

## Landguards On The Loose At Adjiringanor ...Former Maritime Boss faces Accusation



*from front page*

construction, but also the shooting of workers at the site.

The said demolition exercise, which was believed to be done illegally since there was no Court order ordering such an exercise, was allegedly sanctioned by the former Director-General of the Ghana Maritime Authority, and one-time Board Chairman of GRA, Mr. Kwame Owusu.

Mr. Kwame Owusu is alleged to have called for the services of some individuals in the area who were said to be landguards to help him carry out the exercise as he lays

claim to a parcel of land in the area for which the action was staged to ensure that the owners of the land do not have a free way to develop their land. Information gathered was that 'Kwame Owusu's men' stormed the land with an excavator and a payloader with Registration No. 5869-19 and armed with dangerous weapons amid firing of gunshots which scared workers away and even some residents living around the vicinity. The armed thugs who were ready to kill judging from their actions at the site, shot one person believed to be one of the workers on the site; sustaining serious injury at the leg and was rushed to the 37 Military Hospital for treatment. He is still on Admission. Interestingly, three persons belonging to the gang of persons he allegedly contracted to carry out the demolition exercise have been arrested by the East Legon Police Command.

Their arrest which came to the land owners and residents as good news since they will breathe a sigh of relief from the threats and atrocities of these Landguards but things turned

out differently when the East Legon Police Commander was ordered to release the suspects arrested on bail.

Although many residents believe the incident including the shooting of the workers is criminal and for that matter, the suspects must be arraigned before Court, no such thing happened.

This paper has established that the tussle over the said land began as far back as 2017 when Rainsford Addoquaye Addotey, Nii Laryea Botwe II and King Dr Odaifio Welentsi III (Plaintiffs/Judgement Debtor) filed a case against Falcon Crest Investment Limited, Samuel Kofi Diame and Numo Adjei Kwanko II.

In their submissions at the court, the Applicant indicated that they have been in possession of the said property since 2008 by a grant from

the Numo Nmashie family and Tsie We family and to enter judgement and make consequential orders against them without giving them the opportunity to be heard is contrary to the law.

Hence, the Applicant filed to stay proceedings pending the determination of the Application. It emerged however that, Kwame Owusu during the course of the trial, filed to join Falcon Crest Investment Limited to fight the Applicant in this case. However, Falcon Crest Investment Limited lost and the Applicants secured an Order of Possession on May 13, 2022 over the said parcel of land.

This paper gathered that Kwame Owusu who is laying claim to the said land claims to have secured an Injunction against Falcon Crest Investment Limited over the said parcel of land; which by the details does not belong to Falcon Crest Investment.

Sources have revealed that, Kwame Owusu before the whole legal tussle approached the owners of the land for negotiations but he was informed to contact the new owners since the land had been sold out to another person for amicable engagement and settlement should the new owner is willing to sell the land to him (Kwame Owusu)

Interestingly, Kwame Owusu allegedly failed to do the needful but rather decided to seek the services of armed men to help him take undue possession of the land, with the assistance from the police hierarchy.

Attempts to get Kwame Owusu to respond to the allegations proved futile but some of his close aides have rubbished the claim as nonsensical and intended to destroy his image.



# INTERNATIONAL NEWS REPORT

## Compiled By Peoples Dispatch

### UN Special Rapporteur Calls For Dismantling Of Israel's Settler-Colonial Occupation And Apartheid Regime



(Photo: Middle East Monitor / Issam Rimawi)  
The report by UN special rapporteur Francesca Albanese states that the world has failed to hold Israel accountable for its continued violations of international human rights laws and its apartheid policies in the occupied Palestinian territories

United Nations special rapporteur for human rights in the Occupied Palestinian territories, Francesca Albanese, in a report made public last Tuesday, has stated that it is essential to “dismantle Israel's settler-colonial occupation and its apartheid practices” to realize the inalienable right to self determination of the Palestinian people. Albanese stated that Israeli actions against Palestinians in the occupied territories amount to “persecution”

and “collective punishment” with a clear attempt to erase Palestinian identity. She claimed that the Israeli apartheid regime was emboldened in the last 55 years due to “acquiescence of the international community and failure to hold Israel accountable” for its actions. The report notes that the greatest human rights suffering is that of nearly 40% of Palestinians who are refugees or their descendants, who were forced to flee their homes during the creation of Israel in 1948. Decades after 1967, they are still forced to suffer the occupation on a daily basis “without any prospects of returning to their ancestral homes.” [The report dated](#) September 21, 2022 was released for the public last Tuesday. Albanese noted that the Israeli state denied her a visit to the occupied territories and the Israeli representative to the UN also refused to meet her during the preparation of the report. She underlined that Israel's non-cooperation with the UN on the matters of human rights is “a

serious concern.”

The report states that “since 1967, the human rights situation in the occupied Palestinian territory has been steadily deteriorating, primarily as a result of gross violations of international law, including racial segregation and subjugation by the occupying power, Israel.” It notes that several Israeli actions amount to gross violations of international human rights laws.

Albanese is a well known expert of international law from Italy. She took charge as the UN special rapporteur in May this year succeeding Michael Lynk who had also termed the Israeli policies in the occupied Palestinian territories as apartheid.

#### Attempts to erase Palestinian identity

Albanese's report highlights Israeli attempts to stamp out Palestinian collective identity by persecution of all attempts to resist its oppressive policies. She points to the attack on the funeral procession of journalist

Shireen Abu Akleh on May 13 this year as one of the examples of such attempts. She also lists the growing number of cases of administrative detention under which a large number of Palestinian activists have been incarcerated in Israeli prisons without charge or trial for years. The closing down of offices of seven Palestinian human rights groups earlier this year, administrative detention of activist Salah Hammouri, and arrests of a large number of Palestinian children are some example cited in the report showcasing Israel's attempts to terrorize Palestinians. The report mentions that between 500 to 700 minors are arrested by Israel almost every year. Currently, over 4,500 Palestinians are languishing in Israeli prisons. The UN special rapporteur also criticized the decision by some countries in the Arab region to normalize relations with Israel,

noting that all attempts to negotiate peace with Israel will be “ineffective” until there is focus on Palestinian human rights and their right to self determination.

The report recommends that “the government of Israel complies with its obligations under international law and ceases to impede the realization of the right to self determination of the Palestinian people, ending its settler colonial occupation of the Palestinian territory immediately and unconditionally and making reparations for its wrongful acts.”

The report asks the world community to pressure Israel to immediately end the illegal occupation of all Palestinian lands as well as the displacement of Palestinians, independent of any negotiations, in order to achieve a final settlement of the conflict.

### Protesting Relatives Of Forcibly Disappeared Persons In Sri Lanka Seek International Probe

Relatives of people subjected to enforced disappearance in Sri Lanka have staged a protest outside the UN office in the capital Colombo. The protesters were associated with the North-East Association of Relatives of Enforced Disappearances (ARED). They demonstrated outside the UN office for three hours and demanded an international probe to establish the whereabouts of their missing relatives. They also handed over letters to various foreign missions, seeking support for their struggle for justice. Family members of forcibly disappeared persons have been protesting for over 2,066 days since a hunger strike was started in Colombo demanding action from the authorities: “We have handed over our demands to the UN, they have assured us to reply to this shortly. If the international community too cheats us by prolonging this to save the Sri Lanka government, we wouldn't hesitate to take our lives. We will not stop protesting till our relatives who are more valuable than our lives are

secured,” Yogarasa Kanagarajani, one of the members of ARED, told [reporters](#).

“Some of our children were [toddlers](#) as young as eight months old when they were forcibly taken from us. We constantly worry about their safety. Many of them must be around 14 to 25 years old,” a [distraught mother](#) said. Thousands of people from the minority Tamil community were subjected to enforced disappearances in the final phase of the civil war in Sri Lanka that ended in 2009. “The government to date is unable to answer us and is trying to protect itself to hoodwink not only the Tamils in the North and East but also all those affected during the UN sessions, we the affected mothers will not accept this. We will not accept either the 200,000 LKR or the death certificates. We should be told what happened to our relatives. But the Sri Lanka government can't say that at any time. How will a government which took forward a brutal war and perpetrated genocide answer this. So, we will make them stand trial at the International Criminal Court and

get justice for us,” 63-year-old Yogarasa stressed.

According to the UN Working Groups of Enforced Disappearances, Sri Lanka has the second largest number of cases related to enforced disappearances. An estimated [100,000 individuals were subjected to enforced disappearances](#) during the deadly civil war, according to the advocacy group People for Equality and Relief in Lanka.

Protesters on Monday appealed to UN resident coordinator Hanaa Singer to get the body to appoint an international investigative team of eminent persons to find out what happened to the missing persons and the role played by the authorities in their disappearance. Seeking the whereabouts of their relatives for several years, family members of victims have undergone severe mental trauma in their struggle for justice. ARED has been raising the issue of enforced disappearances across the country. So far, at least [132](#)

[relatives](#) of persons subjected to enforced disappearances have died while struggling to establish the fate of their relatives. Relatives have also complained of an [increasing level of threats, harassment, and state intimidation](#).

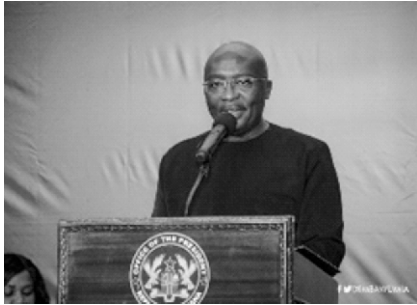
ARED [stressed](#) that the government has been using the security establishment to intimidate demonstrators, while showing the international community including the UN Human Rights Council that they are acting on the Human Rights Council Resolution 30/1 by establishing the Office of Mission Person (OMP). Several activists including ARED secretary Leeladevi Anandanadarajah have called the body an [“inactive mechanism.”](#) “Since its operationalization in September 2017, it has become apparent that there was no honest intention to serve the families of the disappeared,” ARED stated. Those accused of being involved in mass disappearances, such as former

police chief Jayantha Wickramaratne, were also made its members, according to the group. “When the OMP was established, there was no transparency and none of our expectations were fulfilled,” it added. “In many districts when officials of OMP visited us, we protested against them and stopped them from functioning. However, in some districts, they have opened offices overnight. But the mothers, who are affected by the brutal war and genocide, never got the details of their relatives. Believing in the government we testified before more than 12 commissions. Instead of letting us know what happened to our relatives, they asked us if we needed a hen or goat?” Yogarasa lamented.



# GROUP ATTACKS BAWUMIA

## Over Cedi Depreciation, Economic Hardship



Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia, Vice President

The Food and Beverages Association of Ghana (FABAG) has criticized Vice President Mahamudu Bawumia for his inability to stabilize the depreciation of the cedi.

This comes on the back of the recent Ghana Union of Traders Association's (GUTA) closure of shops within the capital, Accra to protest the prevailing harsh economic conditions of the country. The protest, it would be recalled, was intended to push the government to urgently address the depreciating cedi, high-interest rate, and soaring inflation. But speaking on Accra based Starr

Fm last Wednesday, the Secretary to the Food and Beverages Association, Sam Aggrey said Food and Beverages Association was in full support of GUTA's action.

"Because if you look at the way things are happening, our business capital is dwindling. If you take the cedi investment and the rate at which it keeps depreciating, therefore one cannot say that we have to be silent and sit down without doing anything for the government to know that we are serious bodies.

"We were expecting that the government will announce certain remedies that will actually revert this trend of depreciation. Unfortunately, we've not heard anything, so once the government understands the closure of shops or strike that is the way we'll communicate to him for him to know that there is a real problem on the ground," Mr.

Aggrey stated.

Touching on the cedi depreciation, Mr. Aggrey asked the government to fix the fast deprecation of the cedi to ease burdens on businesses.

"If they are not doing anything about this situation then they need not be in power. The Vice President assured that the cedi has been arrested and the key given to the IGP and therefore there is nothing like the cedi depreciation.

"At least if it should depreciate, it should be slow but it is skyrocketing. He (Bawumia) is the same person who said if the fundamentals are weak the cedi will expose you. This is what we have been experiencing for the past year. What is he doing about it," the secretary to FABAG questioned.

He added: "So we are asking them to wake up if they are sleeping then they should wake up and solve the problem. Because we are suffering and our investment

cannot dwindle just like that. We need investors to come into this country and invest and if this is the way things are going to be then they have no business to be in power."

**We have increased access to toilet facilities from 33% to 59% – Bawumia**

Meanwhile, a statement issued last Friday by the [presidency.gov.gh](https://presidency.gov.gh) quoted the Vice President Mahamudu Bawumia, who was the guest speaker at the opening ceremony of the 'All Systems Go Forum' organised by the Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources, as saying that the government has shown its commitment to addressing the water and sanitation needs of Ghanaians while meeting the Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs). He noted that Ghana has achieved very significant gains

in the areas of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in the past six years by ensuring greater access for millions of Ghanaians to safe drinking water and toilet facilities.

Quoting the 2021 Population and Housing census report, he said access to toilet facilities by the population has increased from 33% to 59% while access to basic drinking water has increased from 79% in 2018 to 87.7% in 2021.

He also stated that there has also not been a single recorded case of cholera in the last five years.

To this end, he thanked Sanitation and Water Resources Minister Cecilia Abena Dapaah for her "excellent stewardship of the sector."

## Debt Restructuring: Don't Touch Pension Funds – Public Sector Workers



File photo of public sector workers on a protest

The Forum for Public Sector Associations and Unions have asked the Government not to apply a "haircut" to Tier 2 Pension Funds as part of a "probable" debt restructuring programme. The Forum said it had taken note of media reports suggesting that about 94 per cent of Tier 2 Pension contributions placed in Government securities might be affected by the said debt restructuring agenda. At a press conference in Accra today, Thursday, October 20, 2022, Mr Isaac Bampoe Addo, Chairman of the Forum, said any such decision on the Tier 2 Pensions would contravene provisions of the National Pensions Act, 2008. "If the Government was to pursue the restructuring of Ghana's debt by touching pension funds, placed in government securities, it would be tantamount to the deceit of benefits envisaged under the Three Tier Pensions Scheme," he said.

Mr Addo said following the media reports, the Forum officially wrote to the National Pensions Regulatory Authority (NPRA) for clarification. He said the NPRA, in its response to the Forum, assured that: "there's no such policy or decision at the moment to restructure Ghana's debt and as regards the 94 per cent of Tier 2 pension contributions placed in government securities." Mr Addo said the decision to place a larger proportion of Tier-2 funds into Government Securities, was due to the fact Government paid all the Temporary Pension Fund Account (TPFA) at the Bank of Ghana in government securities. He said the Occupational Pension Schemes had efficiently grown the Tier-2 Pensions Funds that would allow the schemes to pay "better lump sum" to its contributors on retirement. "Thus, if the government would want to touch these funds, that are privately managed, it would be tantamount to the Government reaping where it has not sown," he said.

The Forum is made up of nine public sector Unions and Associations, including the Civil and Local Government Staff Association, the Ghana National Association of Teachers; the Ghana Medical Association; the Ghana Registered Nurses' and Midwives' Association, and the National Association of

Graduate Teachers (NAGRAT).

The rest are the Judicial Service Staff Association of Ghana, Coalition of Concerned Teachers Ghana, and the Ghana Hospitals Pharmacists Association.

The Forum constitutes about 70 per cent of the public sector payroll. Ghana's Pension Scheme is in three tiers. The First Tier is the Basic National Social Security Scheme for all workers in Ghana. It is a defined benefit scheme and mandatory for workers to have 13.5 per cent contributions made on their behalf, and managed by SSNIT.

The Second Tier is a defined contributory Occupational Pension Scheme mandatory for workers with 5 per cent contribution made on behalf of members. The contribution is managed privately by approved Trustees.

The Third Tier which includes all Provident Funds and all other Pension Funds outside Tiers I and II is a voluntary scheme.

Section 102 of the Pensions Act states: "the accrued benefits of a member in an occupational pension scheme shall not be attached in execution of a judgment debt or be used as a charge, pledge, lien or be transferred, assigned or alienated by or on behalf of the member."

## Cedi Depreciation: Prof John Gatsi Says Govt Not Responsive To Economic Crisis

The Dean of the University of Cape Coast Business School (UCCBS), Prof. John Gatsi has accused the government of failing to roll out measures to address the rapid depreciation of the Ghana cedi against the US dollar.

Speaking to Accra based Starr News, Prof. John Gatsi contended that the government's posture does not demonstrate that the nation is in crisis.

"You have exhausted what is called the short-term measures because the thing is demand and supply and you don't have the resources for the next move. But you can also do things that will give positive signals and yet we are not doing that.

"In fact, in the past two weeks we have not been behaving like we are in a crisis," the Dean of UCCBS stated. Touching on the discussions on an IMF-supported program, John Gatsi advised the government to be open on how it is handling the debt restructuring with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

"If you have sent a five-member committee to collect facts for debt

management strategy, the debt management strategy by the Financial Management Act is the job of the Finance Minister and his team. If in their opinion they are done and you cannot open up that you are doing debt restructuring then the approach is wrong.

"People will read different kinds of meaning. Especially on the back of during the Financial and Banking sector clean-up, people had their money locked up and at a point, the investment of citizens were forced into mutual funds against their will. There are people who cannot also access their locked-up funds up till today," Mr. Gatsi stated.

He continued: "So if the government is going to be empowered to determine the sense of elongation then the citizens have to know the maturity period of their investment. As well as to also know whether they may be taxed on their principal or the interest. If you are hiding this and they get to know they will be reacting and that's what the banks are experiencing".

# 'This Is Your Reminder To Complete SIM Registration Process' - Ursula Owusu-Ekufu

The Minister for Communications and Digitalization, [Ursula Owusu-Ekufu](#), has served notice to persons who are yet to complete their SIM registration process to do so before October 30.

According to her, some Ghanaians have been able to complete the first stage of the registration but are yet to complete the process with their biometric details. These persons she noted, should take advantage of the SIM self-registration app to complete the process or risk having their SIM cards blocked.

In a release last Friday on October 21, 2022, she said: It is however disconcerting that almost 10 million people who have linked their SIM Cards to their Ghana Cards (i.e. completed Stage 1 registration) have not completed their Stage 2 registration. "There is no excuse for this since these individuals have their Ghana Cards, have started the process, and had ample opportunity to fully register their SIM Cards, including through the use of the self-registration app which is the first of its kind in the world," she added.

**This is the full text of the release:**

## PRESS STATEMENT ON SIM REGISTRATION EXERCISE

I commend the millions of Ghanaians and non-Ghanaian residents in Ghana who have diligently registered their SIM Cards in accordance with the SIM Registration directives since the process commenced on 1st October 2021.

The primary objective of the SIM Registration exercise, as we have continually emphasized, is to protect us all against fraud, promote our collective security and advance our transformational digital agenda.

Mobile phones and SIM-enabled devices have become essential livelihood tools and underpin many digital innovations we find indispensable, but despite the immense benefits of modern digital technology, there are also significant risks, some of which we

are seeking to mitigate through the SIM registration exercise. We must ensure a safe digital ecosystem for us all. Government has no intention of just inconveniencing or overburdening citizens or depriving them of the use of their SIM Card enabled devices.

The good news is that despite the challenges that this exercise has encountered, including challenges with the acquisition of Ghana Cards, we have chalked significant successes we should be proud of. Between 1st October 2021 and 4th October 2022;

28,959,006 SIM Cards have been linked to Ghana Cards (Stage 1 registration); representing 67.28% of the 42,749,662 total SIM cards issued nationally

18,930,664 SIM Cards have been fully registered (Completed both Stages 1 and 2) – representing 44.28% of the total SIM cards issued. This equates to 69.64% of all Stage 1 registrations.

13,720,687 unique Counts of Ghana Cards have been used so far for the registration exercise

While we have not yet achieved our target, by every measurable yardstick and against the challenges that we have as a developing economy, this is quite an achievement. 14 million Ghanaians and non-Ghanaians can sleep safely, comforted by the fact that their 18.8 million SIM Cards are safe and secure. We have made good progress, and this is a collective gain that we must celebrate.

It is however disconcerting that almost 10 million people who have linked their SIM Cards to their Ghana Cards (i.e. completed Stage 1 registration) have not completed their Stage 2 registration. There is no excuse for this since these individuals have their Ghana Cards, have started the process and had ample opportunity to fully register their SIM Cards, including through the use of the self registration app which is the first of its kind in the world.

There may be some who are opposed to the SIM Card registration exercise for either ideological, philosophical, or political reasons. Let me just remind them that they may be exercising their right to opt-out of this exercise but all actions have consequences. All unregistered SIMs will be deactivated. Regulation 1(b) of the Subscriber Identity Module Registration Regulations, 2011 (L.I 2006) states that "A network operator or service provider shall not activate a Subscriber Identity Module for a subscriber unless the subscriber complies with the directives given by the Authority under the Act and the National Communications Authority Act, 2008, (Act 769) on the registration of Subscriber Identity Module."

This imposes a legal obligation on all Network Operators to activate ONLY SIMs registered in the manner prescribed by the NCA on their network. Any SIM which is not duly registered in accordance with NCA directives cannot be activated on any network in Ghana. The Authority, NCA, therefore, has the power to issue DIRECTIVES detailing the entire procedure for SIM registration and to impose penalties/sanctions for noncompliance with the Directives.

As a responsible government, we will ensure that they enforce the law to the letter. We also acknowledge that some of our citizens have had difficulties obtaining Ghana Cards to enable them undertake their SIM registration, although 1.3 million Ghanaians have also been issued their Ghana cards but have not collected them. This is regrettable and we will continue to engage the National Identification Authority to expedite the process. At the end of July 2022, I announced a two-month extension of the deadline for registration to 30 September 2022. Following consultation with the industry, I hereby announce the following:



**Ursula Owusu-Ekufu, Minister of Communications and Digitalization**

1. All SIM Cards that have been linked to Ghana Cards (i.e. completed Stage 1 registration), but have not completed their Stage 2 registration will be blocked from the end of October. This is not an extension of the deadline but a temporary moratorium to encourage these individuals to complete the process. If they have any peculiar challenges, they should contact the NCA.

These good people have the Ghana card, have started the process, and will be encouraged to complete it with this gentle reminder. All other unregistered SIMs will also be blocked progressively.

2. The NCA is in discussions with the NIA on registered amputees and other categories of persons and will make an announcement shortly on arrangements made to accommodate them. The provision made earlier for SIMs active outside Ghana and diplomats still stands.

3. All data-only SIMs including those issued by Surfline, Busy Internet, Telesol, and any institution such as ECG, have up to the end of November to complete registration.

4. Some people have registered more than ten (10) SIM Cards for personal use and the database has identified it and will clean it up. They should, as a matter of urgency, delink the

unwanted SIM Cards immediately because any excess SIM Cards over the individual limit of 10 SIMs per person will be removed from the database and blocked. This will also address issues of pre-registered SIMs. Let me remind all SIM card vendors that it is an offense to pre-register and sell SIM cards. The NCA has been directed to conduct mystery shopping and enforce the law against those miscreants. If found guilty, they could be imprisoned for up to 5 years.

Let me conclude by stating that the government is fully committed to ensuring that we have a safe digital ecosystem underpinning our collective cybersecurity. A successful SIM Card registration exercise is an essential part of this goal and I therefore appeal to us all to put our national interest first and do the right thing for this country. As we celebrate our successes on the SIM Card registration, the government will continue to uphold its commitment to protect all citizens. We encourage all of us to live up to our obligations to each other and to the state. We need your cooperation to ensure that this essential SIM Card registration exercise succeeds.

Thank you.

MRS. URSULA OWUSU-EKUFU  
(MP)

MINISTER



# Soaring Cost Of Living Crisis Puts Europe On Short Fuse

By Muhammed Shabeer

**M**assive protests against the soaring cost of living crisis continue across Europe. Acute energy shortages and skyrocketing prices of fuel and basic commodities have pushed people to the brink, even as governments and energy companies resort to warmongering and profiteering from the crisis. With a harsh winter predicted, without adequate and affordable energy, broad sectors of society have started joining mobilizations demanding concrete measures to tackle the cost of living crisis. Working class groups leading the mobilizations are demanding governments to increase wages and pensions and restore the purchasing power of people, along with placing caps on fuel and food prices to curb inflation. Progressive political parties are calling for taxes on the excess profits made by energy companies. In this line, many have underlined the importance of a peaceful solution to the Russia-Ukraine war to restore stability to the region.

On Sunday, October 16, over 100,000 people marched in Paris, France denouncing the Emmanuel Macron-led government's failure to tackle the cost of living crisis and the climate crisis. Activists and leaders from the newly formed left-wing coalition New Ecological and Social People's Union (NUPES), its constituents La France Insoumise (LFI) and the Communist Party of France (PCF), and trade unions like the General Confederation of Labor (CGT) participated in the march. LFI leader Jean-Luc

Melenchon and the Nobel Laureate in literature (2022) Annie Ernaux also joined the march. Major trade unions in the country have called for a general strike on October 18 demanding an increase in wages and restoring the purchasing power of people affected by the crisis. Following the mobilization, Melenchon, the leader of NUPES and LFI, stated, "With what we are doing today, with so many organizations calling for it, we are drawing the construction of a new Popular Front that will exercise power in this country when the time comes. And which, as always, will begin by taking care of the poor people, of those who suffer and cannot defend themselves. The freezing of prices, the increase of wages, the restoration of the wealth tax, a serious plan against climate inaction and the defense of pensions are the principles demanded by this new Popular Front." On Sunday, tens of thousands of people marched in Moldovan capital Chisinau protesting against soaring inflation and demanding the resignation of President Maia Sandhu and the government led by the pro-EU Party of Action and Solidarity (PAS). According to reports, police blocked several protesters from entering the Central Square in Chisinau and also demolished a large number of tents placed by the protesters. Opposition parties in the country including the Party of Communists of the Republic of Moldova (PCRM) condemned the police crackdown on protesters. In its statement, PCRM said



**Mobilization in Paris. (Photo: via LFI) The ongoing cost of living crisis and fuel shortages as well as the failure of governments to handle the crisis has triggered protests by working class and poor sections across Europe**

that Moldova under President Sandu and PAS is no longer a legal or democratic state. "The crackdown on peaceful protesters was the last straw that overflowed the cup of people's patience, and popular anger. This regime, which daily makes people's lives unbearable, engages in moral repression against dissidents, pushes the country to hunger, cold, devastation, war, must undoubtedly go." On Saturday, October 15, working class sections in Cyprus, under the leadership of the Pancyprian Federation of Labor (PEO), marched to the Ministry of Finance in Nicosia demanding concrete measures to fight inflation and the ongoing cost of living crisis. Members of the United Democratic Youth Organization (EDON) also joined the march. In its memorandum submitted to the government, PEO demanded a decent minimum wage with adequate rights, institutional measures to strengthen Collective Agreements, and immediate reduction in the VAT on fuel, electricity and

other essentials.

The Progressive Party of Working People (AKEL) in Cyprus had earlier stated that "since the government is deaf to society's request to relieve and support households and businesses from the energy crisis, since the government refused to implement parliament decisions in this direction, it is obvious that we need another government that can fix all the problems and implement the proposals, suggestions and decisions of AKEL and the opposition related to comprehensive planning on energy, electricity and fuel to be able to relieve households and business."

On Saturday, progressive sections in Italy, including the Communist Refoundation Party (PRC) and We Don't Pay Campaign, organized mobilizations in the cities of Rome, Bologna, Palermo, Ancona, and others, protesting the high cost of living, profiteering by the energy companies, and the ongoing imperialist wars. On Friday, October 14, cadres of the Workers Party of Belgium (PTB/PVDA)

protested in front of the headquarters of the energy supplier group Engie in Brussels as part of the Fridays of Rage protests that the party has been organizing each week. They called on the government to tax the super-profits earned by the company during this crisis. Protest marches were also held on Friday in the cities of Charleroi and Gand. People in the Austrian city of Graz hit the streets on Friday protesting the soaring inflation and demanding an increase in wages. Members of the Communist Party of Austria (KPO) and the Communist Youth of Austria (KJO) took part in the mobilization. The committee of the KPO in Graz stated, "the government is just watching as life becomes unbearable for more and more people. Government has no means against the horrendous heating and electricity costs. The two-time increase in benchmark rents has waded through the federal government, now a third increase could be on the way, due to which tenants would pay almost 18% more rent than last year."



# Doing Business With The Taliban Govt.



**File Photo: Flickr Russia and China have refused to tag along with the western ground rules. Instead, both have decided to do business with the**

**M. K. Bhadrakumar**

Russia and China have refused to tag along with the western ground rules. Instead, both have decided to do business with the Taliban government.

August 31, 2022 by [M.K. Bhadrakumar](#)

The best part of the UN Security Council discussion last Thursday regarding the situation in Afghanistan was the candid remarks by the Russian and Chinese ambassadors on the accountability of the Taliban government in Kabul for the crisis gripping that country today, just a year after the vacation of the NATO occupation. ([here](#) and [here](#)) There is a poignant backdrop here. In no time after the retreat from Afghanistan, NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) is already immersed in another proxy war in Europe, and the alliance, at US behest, is lurching toward the Arctic to counter Russia and China's ["big plans for the polar region."](#)

The best part of Russian Permanent Representative Vassily ["Nebenziyas remarks"](#) is his recall of the US-NATO's abominable, cruel legacy of transferring the Islamic State fighters from West Asia to Afghanistan. To quote the ambassador:

"ISIS came to Afghanistan and firmly strengthened its influence in the country that was effectively controlled by the US and its Western allies. We have been talking about this since 2017, but our Western partners have only recently acknowledged it. Moreover, the whole time ISIS's capacity has been constantly increasing, including with

financial support from abroad and the inflow of foreign terrorist militants who have received combat experience in other crisis areas of the world...

"All our appeals to focus on the growing threat from ISIS in Afghanistan were met with the frantic attempts by our Western colleagues to belittle its scale or completely sweep this topic under the rug. At the same time, the United States had numerous opportunities, including material military and technical capabilities, as well as time to eliminate terrorists in Afghanistan..."

"Over the years, the questions repeatedly asked in the (UN) Council Chamber about unidentified helicopters transporting ISIS fighters and weapons for them to different regions in the country, including to the north, which was happening while we were told that the situation was fully under control of the coalition forces, have also remained unanswered..."

Countries like India in Afghanistan's neighborhood should sit up and take note. India should join the Russian call to the Americans to return the money stolen from the Afghan people. Why hasn't India raised the ISIS threat in the QUAD, which has two members with Afghan blood on their hands — US and Australia?

The Chinese ambassador Zhang Jun made it a point to be explicit, while talking to the media that no matter the shortfalls on the part of the Taliban government, there is imperative need to engage with the Kabul authorities.

A dangerous situation is arising as

the Joe Biden administration plots renewed intervention in Afghanistan. The drama over the alleged [killing of the Al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri](#) hangs in the air but what is crystal clear is that the Pakistani military facilitated the US drone attack. This Faustian deal between the generals in Rawalpindi and the CIA and Pentagon is a recipe for another civil war and resumption of many more decades of bloodshed.

Any further dabbling in Afghanistan's internal affairs will inevitably lead to a spillover into Pakistan. The Taliban has [forewarned the Pakistani generals](#). Indeed, within Pakistan itself, there is going to be resentment that the new pro-American government in Islamabad and the generals in Rawalpindi are collaborating with the erstwhile occupation forces. The silencing of Imran Khan is not going to make things easier, either. Much of the blame is to be put on the incumbent Pakistani army chief Gen. Bajwa.

Russia's security tsar, Nikolai Patrushev, secretary of the country's Security Council and a longstanding colleague of President Putin, alluded to the dangers ahead when he recently [cautioned the SCO member countries](#) against participating in military exercises in the Central Asian region with the US. Patrushev said: "I would like to reiterate to our partners that, above all, the Americans need such events in order to study the potential theater of military operations, specify the positions of potential targets and adjust digital maps for high-precision weapons. I really hope that all the SCO member states by now realize the extremely high risks that these American initiatives present for our security."

Patrushev reminded his Central Asian colleagues that there have been recent attempts to stage "color revolution" in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

The only beneficiaries out of anarchical conditions in the Af-Pak region will be the US and the UK whose intelligence agencies hope to stage a comeback to the Hindu Kush. The western priority is to

thwart any Russia-China-Iran axis consolidating in the Eurasian region and to create unstable conditions in Central Asia that will be conducive for subversive groups to operate in Xinjiang, North Caucasus and eastern Iran. To be sure, the ominous message coming out of the ["CNNs exclusive interview"](#) this week with the spokesman of the so-called Afghanistan Resistance of Panjshiris is that steadily, the build-up has begun for another regime change project in Afghanistan. The Western opinion is being carefully prepared for it. The Panjshiris have an old French connection. Old war horses are coming out of the woodwork.

So, what is the balance sheet one year after the US-NATO withdrawal from Afghanistan? Succinctly put, the shrill campaign over the human rights situation in Afghanistan, demand for an "inclusive government" in Kabul, et al, have contrived to forestall international recognition of the Taliban government, although the Taliban is in reality coping with issues that are a legacy of the western occupation for two decades — a fragmented polity, deeply corrupt and venal, and a hapless nation that had been subjected to horrific violence and suffering.

On top of it, the US refuses to return ["Afghanistans frozen funds"](#) until its pre-conditions are met, namely, Taliban complying with the American diktat. The real intention here is to starve the Taliban government of financial resources to undertake even token governance — leave alone economic reconstruction — unless it caved into an accommodation with Washington on the latter's terms. There is no question that plural societies need inclusive governments. That said, western-style pluralism is not necessarily the only way forward. Muslim countries in general do not use western-style democratic governance. Indeed, the ruling party in India did not field a single Muslim candidate in the

2019 general election to the 540-member parliament? Indeed, the US cannot present itself as a model for an "inclusive" society, either. Inclusiveness comes out of a variety of factors borne out of local characteristics.

The course that Russia and China have adopted is the only way, which is to engage with the Taliban government. They have refused to tag along with the western ground rules. Instead, both have decided to do business with the Taliban government. A trade delegation from Kabul visiting Moscow is finalizing [contracts for supplies of wheat, gas and oil](#).

The 10-storeyed [China Town in Kabul](#) set up in 2019 is once again bustling with business activity. The *South China Morning Post* has [reported](#) that representatives from Chinese state-owned companies have also visited the Taliban's embassy in Beijing, which was opened earlier this year, to discuss investment opportunities and reconstruction plans. This is all for the good. The Taliban government has many inadequacies. But the occupying powers who acted as a law unto themselves without even holding their conduct and behavior in Afghanistan accountable to the UN Security Council, have forfeited their moral and political right to be prescriptive today. Therefore, isolating the Taliban government for one issue or another is sheer blackmail and pressure tactic. No self-respecting ruling elite will accept that. The candid discussion at the UN Security Council has been a reality check. The [UN has urged](#) that development aid for Afghanistan should be forthwith restarted. It is not as if there aren't any glimmers of hope.

Russia and China should lead the way and the Western powers need to be put to shame as mean, arrogant avengers who cannot forgive the Afghan nation for their abject defeat in the war.

**MK Bhadrakumar is a former diplomat. He was India's ambassador to Uzbekistan and Turkey. The views are personal.**





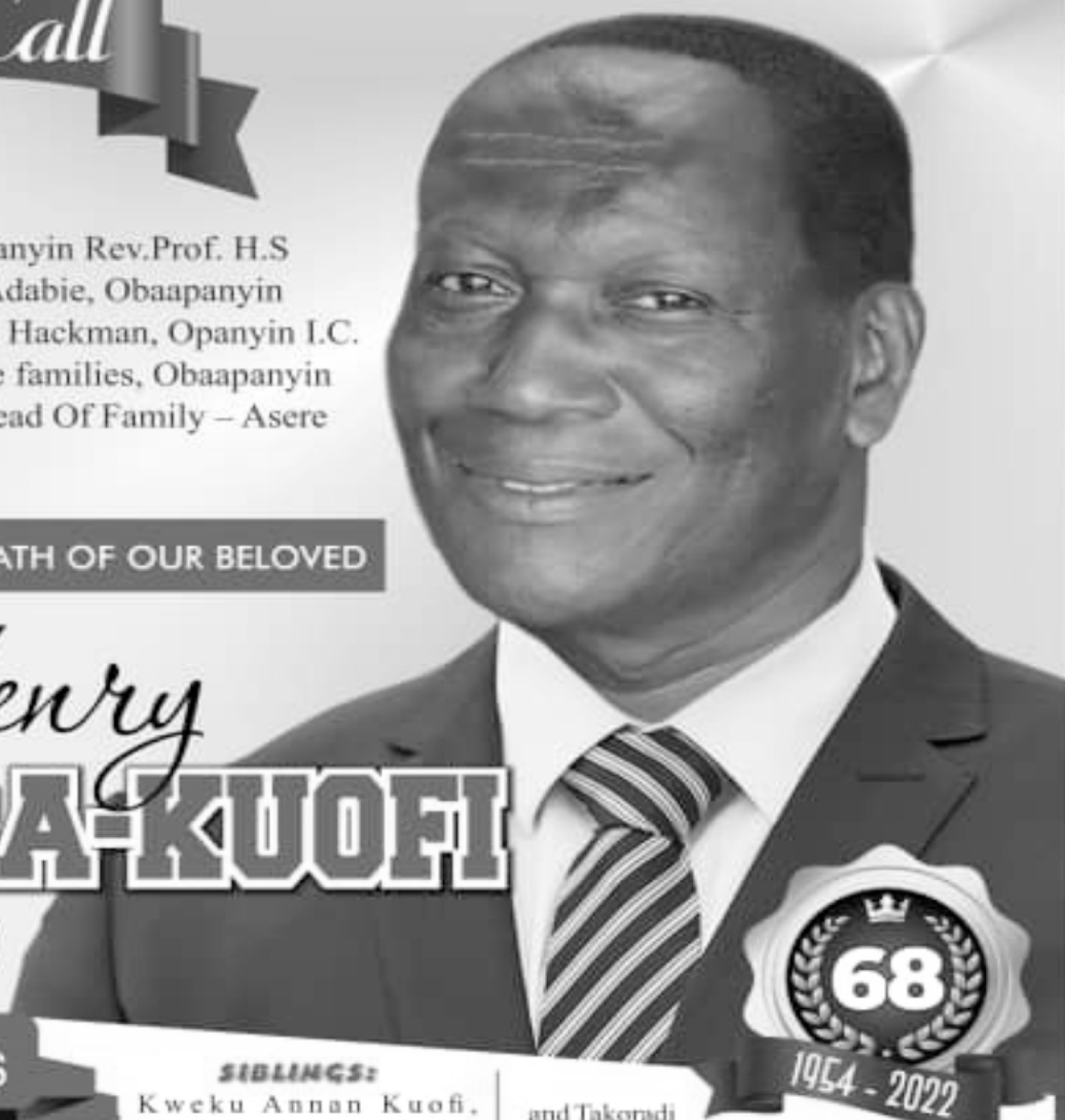


Ebusua-Panyin R. Spio-Quansah, Opanyin Rev.Prof. H.S Amonoo-Kuofi, Obaapanyin Mercy Adabie, Obaapanyin Christina Ankomah-Sey, Opanyin J.E Hackman, Opanyin I.C. Acquah, the entire Adabie and Dadzie families, Obaapanyin Winifred Kuofi, Joseph A. Ashile ( Head Of Family – Asere Songme Se

REGRET TO ANNOUNCE THE DEATH OF OUR BELOVED

# Mr. Henry AMANKRA-KUOFI

( alias Uncle Kwamena )



## Funeral Arrangements

**THERE WILL BE NO WAKE KEEPING**

**LAYING-IN-STATE:** 28<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2022

**BURIAL SERVICE:** 29<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2022 AT REV. PHILLIP QUAQUE ANGLICAN CHURCH

**INTERMENT:** PRIVATE

**FAMILY GATHERING:** IMMEDIATELY AFTER BURIAL AT REV. PHILLIP QUAQUE ANGLICAN CHURCH

**THANKSGIVING AND MEMORIAL SERVICE:** REV. PHILLIP QUAQUE ANGLICAN CHURCH

**TIME:** 9:00 AM

**FINAL FUNERAL RIGHTS:** SUNDAY 30<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2022 AT HSE. NO U515 SOLACE 9<sup>th</sup> AVE. NORTH OLA ( GPS ADDRESS: CC-076-5688 )

### WIDOW:

Christina Quayee

### CHILD:

Kodwo Amankra – Kuofi

### SIBLINGS:

Kweku Annan Kuofi, Mrs. R. E Buamah, Ms. Winifred Kuofi, Rev. Prof. H.S. Amonoo-Kuofi, Henrietta Kuofi, Mrs. Anna Hanson, Mrs. Eva Bedu Mensah, Beatrice, Angelina and Ethel Lily Kuofi

### NEPHEWS AND NIECES:

Kojo Buamah and Nana Yaw Buamah, Rose Hammond Donkor, Henry and Harold Bedu-Mensah, Dr. K. Amonoo-Kuofi and Sisters (UK), Beatrice Laryea Brother and Sister, Rebecca Acheampong, Mr. I.C. Acquah Brothers and Sisters, J.N.K. Aggrey (UK), Ankomah-Sey Brothers and Sisters, Kweku Spio and Siblings, Lydia Agyafene Brothers and Sisters, Kobina Adabie, Augustina Mensah Brother and Sisters, Amankra-Kuofi Nephews and Nieces Of Ola

and Takoradi

### COUSINS:

Mr. R. Spio-Quansah, Mrs. Christina Ankomah-Sey, Madam Elizabeth McCarthy, Coach Adabie Brothers and Sisters of Cape Coast, Kumasi and Accra, Mrs. Victoria Deku Brothers and Sisters, Mrs. Nellie Adabie-Ankrah and Siblings, Mr. R.I Adabie Brothers and Sisters of Cape Coast, Kumasi and Sunyani

### IN-LAWS:

Mrs. Gladys Amonoo-kuofi, Mr. George Jerry Hanson, Mr. K. Bedu – Mensah, Madam Mildred Helden Quayee, Mr. Enoch Helden Quayee, Mrs. Gloria Amankra-Kuofi

### GRAND CHILDREN:

3

### CHIEF MOURNERS:

Ebusua-panyin Robert Spio Quansah, Rev. Prof. H.S Amonoo Kuofi, Obaapanyin Ankomah Sey, Opanyin J.E Hackman, Opanyin I.C. Acquah, Bernard Yussif Arhin, Evans Mbroh, the entire Adabie and Dadzie families of Cape Coast, Kumasi and the entire Quayee family of Accra

*All friends and sympathizers are cordially invited*