

PUBLIC DEBT

Skyrockets From GH¢9 Billion To GH¢402.4 Billion In Five Years



BoG Governor, Dr Ernest Addison (right), Finance Minister Ken Ofori-Atta (left)

The October 2022 Bank of Ghana (BoG) Summary of Economic and Financial Data has revealed that Ghana's public debt stock went up from GH¢9 billion to GH¢402.4 billion as of July 2022. This, according to the central bank, is equivalent to 68% of the Gross

Domestic Product and is in sharp contrast to the projected 104.6% of debt to GDP ratio in 2022 by the World Bank. In dollar terms, the country's debt dropped marginally to \$53.2 billion in July 2022, from \$54.4 billion in June 2022.

Based on the data, the nation did not borrow fresh funds from the international market during the period. However, the debt level will go up going forward, following the \$750 million Afrieximbank loan that came

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Titus Glover Blames NPP Bigwigs For Galamsey Menace



Titus Nii Kwartei Glover, former MP for Tema East

Former Member of Parliament for Tema East, Titus Nii Kwartei Glover, has blamed elements within the ruling New Patriotic Party (NPP) for the government's failure to defeat illegal mining.

According to the former MP, while some members of the party are embroiled in the galamsey menace, those appointed at the local level to fight the menace have failed to discharge their mandate.

"The difficulty is our own people in there.

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Appolonia, Kuberokrom Land Dispute: Why Land Commission's Boundary Report Must Bring Finality

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The INSIGHT

— EDITORIAL

PALESTINE

The Israeli authorities' constant brutal murders and destruction of Palestinian homes in Occupied territories has continued unabated and is most unwarranted and appalling.

In spite of the persistent international condemnation, the dastardly acts by the Israelis still continue.

Apart from targeted killings, the West Bank's Area C, Gaza have also been turned into a huge killing field as Israel has over the years committed acts of genocide with impunity.

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

Only recently Israel launched a new aggression into Gaza which left many people dead and destroyed residential areas and agricultural lands.

The recent killing of Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh is most condemnable and unacceptable.

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

The Insight urges the international community to vehemently condemn Israeli atrocities against the people of Palestine and to take firm action to end the impunity of the Zionist state.

We once again urge all progressives to solidarise with Palestine and to oppose the occupation by Israel.

Titus Glover Blames NPP Bigwigs For Galamsey Menace

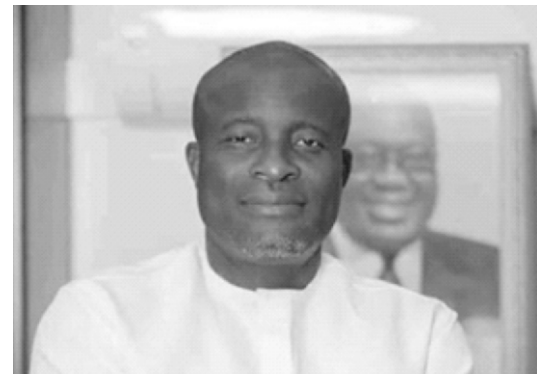
from front page

My own NPP people. Do you think I am afraid to talk about it? It is my own NPP people who are making the fight against galamsey difficult. It is a fact. The law says don't mine on our river bodies.

"If the soldiers are sent in to drive away the galamseers and they leave, the District Security Council led by the MCE what do they do? The Regional Security Council is also responsible for security at that level what do they do? So every time soldiers have to be moved from Accra to these areas to fight the menace? That is not good," he said on Adom TV's morning programme.

Rampant illegal mining activities have resulted in the degradation of several forest covers and the pollution of various water bodies.

This has resulted in a renewed public



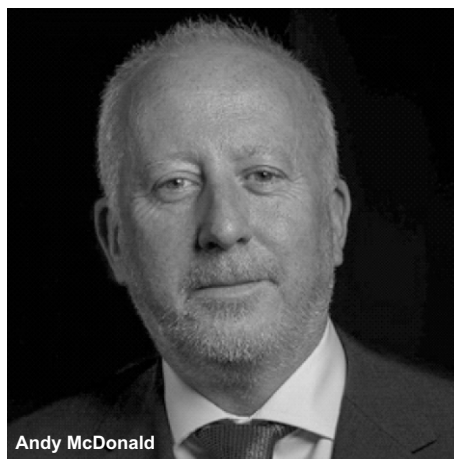
Titus Nii Kwartel Glover, former MP for Tema East

discussion on illegal mining activities. Various calls have been made for the government to take drastic steps to curb the menace.

Only last week, President Nana Akufo-Addo met with members of the National House of Chiefs and MMDCs in galamsey areas.

The meeting by the president was to fashion out some solutions to the galamsey issues.

Why The World Cannot Ignore The Relentless Slaughter And Brutal Treatment Of Palestinian Children By Israel – British MP Tweets



Andy McDonald

British Member of Parliament, Andy McDonald on Saturday October 9 2022 expressed outrage at the world's ignorance of Israeli occupation brutal killing of Palestinian children.

In a tweet, Mr. Andy described Israeli occupation as "Barbaric" calling for immediate stop to such rampant aggression against Palestinian children.

"The world cannot ignore this relentless slaughter & brutal treatment of Palestinian children," The MP wrote on Twitter. "We would be rightly outraged if this happened to our own kids".

Mr. Andy continued: "How can it possibly be right for the world to ignore such appalling & repetitive atrocities?"

This came as Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) shot dead two Palestinian teenagers last Friday, 17-year-old Mahdi Mohammad Abulmuti Ladadwa and 14-year-old Adel Ibrahim Adel dead.

Moreover, IOF has been carrying out several brutal military incursions in various regions in the occupied West Bank, killing 4 Palestinian teenagers and wounding 11 others. Israeli Occupation forces or settlers have shot and killed 25 Palestinian children in the occupied West Bank this year.

THE INSIGHT

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from front page

in August 2022.

According to the data, the external debt remained largely unchanged at \$28 billion, equivalent to 35.8% of GDP.

The domestic debt however has been going up since January 2022 because of the significant borrowing by the government in the domestic financial market. The domestic debt stood at GH¢190.3 billion in July 2022, from GH¢190.1 billion in June 2022.

Data available shows that the domestic debt began the year at GH¢181.9 billion in January 2022 and then went up to GH¢185.4 billion in February 2022 and GH¢190.1 billion in March 2022. It subsequently shot up to GH¢189.2 in April 2022 and GH¢188.5 billion in May 2022.

On the other hand, the financial sector resolution bond fell by GH¢100 million to GH¢14.4 billion in July 2022. This is equivalent to 2.4% of GDP.

The total public debt stock

of the country dropped to GH¢388.1 billion in April 2022, from GH¢392.1 billion in March 2022. It later went up marginally to GH¢389.2 billion in May 2022 and subsequently to GH¢393.4 billion in June 2022.

Meanwhile, the World Bank in its latest Africa Pulse Report classified Ghana as a high debt distress country as it projects the nation's debt to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of 104.6% by the end of 2022.

According to the report,



BoG Governor, Dr Ernest Addison (right), Finance Minister Ken Ofori-Atta (left)

debt is expected to jump significantly, from 76.6% a year earlier, amid a widened government

deficit, massive weakening of the cedi, and rising debt service costs.

Dollar Breaks ₵11 Mark; Forex Bureaus Sell A Dollar For ₵11.2



from front page

The dollar has hit the ₵11 to \$1 mark as some forex bureaus in parts of Accra are selling a dollar at an average of ₵11.2 since Saturday, October 8, 2022.

Checks by Joy Business indicate that the demand for the dollar keeps

surging, as there is very little dollars in circulation. Some forex bureau operators who spoke to Joy Business on condition of anonymity said the recent action by the Bank of Ghana has yielded little return. According to them, there

are no dollars in circulation.

But, they hope the inflows from the \$1.13 billion cocoa syndicated loan will help improve supply and slow down the rate of depreciation of the currency. The first tranche is expected by the end of this month. On the interbank market, the Bank of Ghana quoted the dollar at 9.63 (selling) on Friday, October 7, 2022.

Meanwhile, the cedi is also not faring well against the Pound and Euro. It is going for ₵12.5 to the Pound and ₵10.57 to the Euro respectively. Analysts say the local unit continues to post

heavy losses on the interbank market as unrelenting foreign exchange demand continued to weigh down the cedi against the dollar.

The last Forex Forward by the Bank of Ghana indicated that demand exceeded supply by \$75.25 million in the latest auction. This is compared with the \$82.75 million recorded a month ago. Bloomberg quotation had earlier put the depreciation of the Ghana cedi at 40.05% in value to the US dollar in nine months of 2022. This ranked it as the second worst-performing

currency in the world in the 147th position, according to Bloomberg. Also, this decline in the local currency against the American currency is the worst in over three decades.

Cedi loses 37.5% in value to a dollar as of September 30, 2022 – BoG

However, the Bank of Ghana said the Ghana cedi depreciated by 37.5% to the US dollar as of the end of September 2022. At the same time, the cedi had depreciated by 24.1%, and 27.5% against the Pound, and Euro.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS REPORT

Compiled By Peoples Dispatch

Leftists In Denmark Demand More Funds For Health And Welfare Sector



(Photo: via Arbejderen.dk). The Danish health sector is struggling without adequate staff and resources, even as workers in female-dominated professions like nursing make less money than those in male-dominated professions

Left-wing sections in Denmark have opposed the inadequate funding and cuts to the health and welfare sector proposed in the budget agreements between the federal government and the regions and municipalities for the year 2023. The leftist Red-Green Alliance (Unity List) and the Danish Communist Party, among others, have protested the inadequate allocations proposed for regions and municipalities, especially in the healthcare sector. Leftists also denounced the extra allocations

for the military at a time when the people of the county are reeling under a cost of living crisis and hospitals are facing a shortage of staff and resources.

As Denmark heads toward general elections on November 1, the Danish Nurses' Organization has urged its members to put pressure on politicians to prioritize the problems of workers in the health sector and raise issues like underpaid jobs, overwork, wage gap, unfilled vacancies, and lack of funds and infrastructure. Last year, a nearly 100-day-long strike was organized by nurses across Denmark demanding a wage hike and an end to the wage gap. *Arbejderen* (The Worker), the publication of the Danish Communist Party, reported that tight budgets are now in place in all five regions of Denmark for 2023, and these fall far short of solving the major challenges facing the

regions. While additional funds will be set aside for the regions in the budget proposal, especially to cover the welfare costs for an increasing number of elderly people, unions in the health sector claim that the government has ignored requests for funds to procure expensive medicines and new treatment methods in the middle of soaring price rise. Last week, the Red-Green Alliance (Unity List) noted that "Welfare is bleeding, the employees are fleeing, and we know why. Nurses, midwives, social and health educated, educators and many more of our educated welfare workers earn far too little!" "Why? Because they work in female dominated professions. In 1969, they were placed lower in the wage hierarchy with the

so-called "Civil Servant Reform" than similar male-dominated [professions]. We still use that wage hierarchy to this day. In 2022, it's more than time for a fight against pay inequality," the Unity List added.

With regard to the nurses' strike last year, the Danish Nursing Organization had complained that nurses' salaries in Denmark are 15-20% lower than groups with comparable length of education. They slammed the 1969 Civil Service Reform as unjust, asserting that nurses and other female-dominated professions were placed too low in the pay hierarchy by politicians.

On October 7, Anders T. Sorenson, editor-in-chief of *Arbejderen*, told *Peoples Dispatch* that "After decades of neoliberal cutbacks, the Danish

tax-funded hospital system is facing a historic crisis, with people having to wait unreasonably long for treatment and diagnosis, while hospital staff are put under inhuman work pressure, leading to stress and serious errors. The Danish tradition of a solidarity-based welfare model, where progressive taxation pays for free healthcare for all, has been won by generations of struggling workers. But tax-funded collective welfare services do not generate profit. It is in this light that we must view the budget deals that have just been struck, and which will continue the course towards disaster."

Death Of Political Prisoners Leads To Concerns Over Human Rights In Egypt

At least three political prisoners have died inside Egyptian jails in the last couple of days, *Middle East Eye* (MEE) reported last Wednesday. According to MEE, all three died due to poor health conditions inside the prison. This once again underlines the issue of human rights in Egypt under the Abdel Fattah al-Sisi-led government.

Among the deceased was Mohammad Zaki (50), who died on September 10. He was serving a 15-year sentence given by a military court in 2014 for his alleged involvement in a protest. The other deceased have been identified as Hassan Abdullah Hassan (63), who died on September 12, and Shaaban Fouad.

According to posts put up on social media by some Egyptian human rights groups, Fouad was the 28th political inmate who died in prison this year, and over 1,100 prisoners have died in Egyptian jails since 2013.

Zaki, Hassan, and Fouad died in Gamasa prison, Wadi al-Natrun prison, and Shbein el-Koum

deportation prison, respectively. Their deaths have been mainly attributed to medical negligence, according to the Egyptian Network for Human Rights (ENHR).

The death of the three prisoners was "a natural result of lack of the minimum standards of safety and health care" and the failure of Egypt's public persecution to "carry out its duties of oversight on prisons and hold accountable those responsible for violations," Ahmed Attar of ENHR told MEE.

MEE reported that over a hundred political prisoners have died in Egyptian prisons since 2013, including former President Mohamed Morsi who died in the Tora prison in June 2019.

Human rights groups have accused the Egyptian authorities of pursuing a deliberate policy of medical negligence which has led to the deaths of hundreds of political prisoners since 2013. They allege that there is complicity between the legislative and executive authorities in

the country which legitimizes systematic human rights violations both inside and outside prisons. Human Rights Watch (HRW) recently issued a report highlighting how the Egyptian state is restricting and oppressing independent environmental activists and organizations that are raising grave concerns just before the climate conference COP27 will be hosted by Egypt in November.

Alaa Abdel Fattah's hunger strike

Alaa Abdel Fattah, another high-profile political prisoner who has been on hunger strike for six months now protesting authoritarian rule in the country and the deplorable prison conditions, recently said that he may die in prison as well.

Fattah, now a British citizen, is one of the most important figures from the 2011 popular uprising against the long rule of Hosni Mubarak. He and his lawyer, Mohamed Baker, have been in prison since 2019 on charges of spreading false news. Fattah has served several spells in

prison since the 2013 coup by al-Sisi. The al-Sisi regime has unleashed a massive crackdown on political opponents and human rights groups in the country, leading to the incarceration of thousands of political prisoners. In the years since the coup, a large number of political parties, trade unions, human rights groups, and journalists have faced state repression.

Al-Jazeera journalist Mahmoud Hussein spent four years in prison without being charged or tried for any crime. Egyptian authorities finally agreed on Wednesday to release Hussein's colleague Ahmed al-Najdi who was detained in August 2020 and kept in prison without trial or charge for over two years. The news of the journalist's release is linked to al-Sisi's recently concluded state visit to Qatar. *Al-Jazeera* is funded by the Qatari government. Before it was forced to suspend its activities in Egypt earlier this year, the Arabic Network for Human Rights



Egyptian political prisoner Alaa Abdel Fattah. (Photo: change.org) Rights groups have accused the Abdel Fattah al-Sisi-led regime in the country of pursuing a policy of deliberate negligence when it comes to the condition of prisons, which are overcrowded due to the state crackdown on political opponents

Information (ANHRI) had published data related to the overall state of political persecution in Egypt under al-Sisi. According to ANHRI, there are at least 65,000 political prisoners in the country. Al-Sisi has used his absolute control on power in the country to control the activities of all opposition forces. While shutting its operations in Egypt, ANHRI had cited "increasing disregard of rule of law and increased harassment by the police under legal or judicial pretext" in the country.

Pathologist Worried About Strange Diseases, Babies Born With Deformities In Mining Areas



A forensic pathologist and Head of KNUST School of Medicine and Dentistry, Dr. Paul Ossei Sampene is concerned about the recorded cases of newborn babies with deformities in mining communities. Speaking to GHO News, the pathologist observed that illegal mining activities which continue to contaminate food

crops and river bodies have far-reaching consequences on human health, partly why the country's health facilities are overwhelmed by strange diseases and defects in births. He stressed the heavy concentration of metallic substances found in river bodies is worrying. "We need to appreciate the fact that

cumulatively if these patients get even 0.005% of a heavy metal, and assuming the person stays there all his life you can imagine the sort of concentration that you can get in a year or in a month, and that is what we should consider. When you live there permanently, that is your place of abode and consume whatever is produced there, you drink the water there and eat the food there, cumulatively it can affect your life. And we need to take action. If care is not taken in the near future we need to import food." Irresponsible small-scale mining activities across mining communities in Ghana continue to have adverse impacts on lands and water resources and threaten

human survival in mining areas. Newborn babies with deformities, and kidney failure, among others, are on the rise as a result of the intake of polluted water and consumption of food crops in mining areas, the pathologist observed. "Per my particular examinations of people that have passed on at certain areas seem to be telling me that there is a lot of heavy metal pollution in our food chain which has found its way into the body of the human." The gastrointestinal tract which we call GIT per our medical term is one of the things that is affected

when you consume these heavy metals. "I did one work by using placenta and looking at it I think is alarming. Even though I haven't been able to do more of these things nationwide, but I think that if we allow it to continue, we will be in a position where in the near future we'll get a lot of babies with deformities. "Some of them fortunately the deformities are not compatible with life and so some of them just die immediately after birth. But if you're not careful and you survive it, you might have somebody with an internal organ deformity."

Assistant Headmaster Of Mpatasie JHS Dies In Galamsey Pit

A 47-year-old Assistant Headmaster of Mpatasie D/A Junior High School in the Amansie South District of the Ashanti Region has died after he fell into a mining pit. Officials say Akwasi Anane had embarked on a routine trip to his mining concession at about 9 p.m., on Tuesday (October 4) when the incident occurred.

The deceased reportedly missed his step and fell into one of the abandoned mining pits. His body was immediately pulled out of the mud after a rescue mission. He was however confirmed dead at the scene. A District Coordinator for the National Disaster Management Organization for Amansie South Edward Oduro Nsiah confirmed the development to dailymailgh.com.

"He is a teacher and he also has a concession so he went to the site very late. He stood on top of the pit and in an attempt to make a step he slipped and fell into the pit. His body has been deposited at the St. Martin's Hospital at



Agroyesum," Nsiah said. "The fight against galamsey is not paying off. For instance when you come to Amansie South nearly 80 percent of the indigenes are into illegal mining. In the last two months, we have lost at least six lives at separate locations and that is very worrying," he added. The Minister of Lands and Natural Resources who has already visited the mining sites at the Amansie South enclave is still amazed at the level of destruction caused to the environment by illegal miners and said the government will

continue to deploy the military to clamp down on such activities. "It should baffle all of us as citizens and policymakers and stakeholders in this fight how an operation like this in the heart of the forest and the far away areas of our country can go on without notice by police, chiefs, the local political leadership, assembly people, the District Chief Executive and even the inspectorate division of the minerals commission here," Mr. Jinapor said.

Source: dailymailgh.com

Bawumia Is An Unmitigated Disaster - Prof Hanke Jabs

Professor of Applied Economics at the Johns Hopkins University, Steve Hanke, has taken a swipe at Vice President Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia for the performance of the economy under his watch. Prof Hanke believes that Dr. Bawumia has been an "unmitigated disaster" at the helm of Ghana's economy. In a tweet referencing a GhanaWeb story where [Felix Kwakye Ofose](#) has made a similar comment, the US-based economist said he could not agree more with that position.

"Former Deputy Communications Minister Kwakye Ofose calls #Ghana's VP Bawumia an 'unmitigated disaster.' I couldn't agree more. Today, I measure Ghana's inflation at a punishing 87%/yr. That's more than 2.5 TIMES the official rate," Prof Steve Hanke tweeted. This is not the first time

Professor Hanke has hit hard at Dr. Bawumia who doubles as the de facto head of the Economic Management Team (EMT). In a September 20 tweet, the professor identified the Vice President as the cause of the country's problems. According to him, even though the Vice President rode on the back of coming to solve the problems of the country, he is rather doing the opposite by creating problems. Professor Hanke was commenting on the depreciation of the Ghana Cedi against major trading currencies, especially the US dollar. "#Ghana's VP Bawumia says he's 'into politics to help people solve problems.' SPOILER ALERT: Bawumia is the one CREATING the problems. Today, I measure GHA's inflation at a stunning 81%/yr, nearly 2.5 TIMES the official rate," he tweeted.

What Is Kwasi Kwarteng Really Up To? One Answer: This Is A Reckless Gamble To Shrink The State

By Adam Tooze

Markets have delivered a devastating judgment on Kwasi Kwarteng's tax-cutting mini-budget. The pound has collapsed to historic lows. And investors have sold UK government debt, driving the price of bonds down and the effective interest upwards at a rate not seen since the currency crises of the 1950s. The combination of the two is particularly worrying because it signals what some fear could become a comprehensive loss of confidence in the pound and UK assets.

You might ask how it could be otherwise. How did the government expect the markets to react when it followed a giant energy crisis-fighting package, roughly costed at £150bn, with a further £45bn in tax cuts that primarily benefit the rich? It also delivered this news at a time when inflation is running faster than at any point since the 1970s and flouted the need for vetting by the Office for Budget Responsibility. What did it expect?

Astonishingly, in the bubble of Downing Street, the answer seems to have been applause. Apologists for Liz Truss and Kwarteng insist that they are embarking on a new era of supply-side reform, in which taxes are set with a view to incentivising entrepreneurship and reviving the growth rate. If this contributes to inflationary pressure in the short term, it is the job of the Bank of England to counter that with higher interest rates.

You might wonder why anyone would want government economic policy and the Bank of England to pull in opposite directions. But that kind of division of labour is not unusual. In the wake of the banking crisis of 2008, we saw tight fiscal policy – in the name of austerity – flanked by ultra-loose monetary

policy. That combination has not been a success. Growth has been lacklustre and booming financial markets have fed inequality. The basic idea of Trussonomics seems to be to invert the formula. And there would be a point to that if the £45bn were focused on renewable energy, or investment in education or the health service. But tax cuts for the rich are a terrible way to stimulate growth and one could hardly think of a worse time to deliver such giveaways.

As far as the Bank of England is concerned, it comes as a rude awakening. In the 25 years since it was given its independence the bank has been largely successful in controlling inflation, but it faces a surge in prices and a government pushing determinedly in the wrong direction. Though the Truss team has signalled that it wants to put an end to low interest rates, whether it really likes the medicine it is apparently asking for from the Bank remains to be seen.

In any case, the markets don't buy it. If they had found the Kwarteng vision of economic policy plausible, rather than selling off sterling in response to the mini-budget, they would have bought into sterling on the expectation of profiting from higher interest rates. Instead, investors simply want out of what looks to most analysts like a doomed experiment. To hold sterling assets they are now demanding what some are calling a “moron risk premium”. To hold debts issued by such an incompetent government requires a reward.

There has been some talk that the UK is at risk of being relegated to



'Defenders of the government insist that the mini-budget was only the start.' Photograph: Jeff Overs/BBC/PA. In the US they call it 'starving the beast' – cut taxes and, as revenue decreases, you create irresistible pressure for austerity

the class of emerging market borrowers, whose creditworthiness has to continually be demonstrated to foreign investors. So far, at least, that is exaggerated. The UK has borrowed on a large scale from foreign investors, but unlike an emerging market, it has done so in its own currency. Furthermore, claims against the UK are offset by large British holdings of foreign assets. As a result, even a severe devaluation of sterling would not unleash a destabilising spiral of depreciating currency and rising debt burden.

But the Bank of England is under intense pressure, and the feeble statement it issued on Monday won't change that. Clearly, rates are going to have to rise and rise fast. The monetary policy committee no doubt regrets the decision at its last meeting to raise interest rates by only 0.5 percentage points. But though it is obvious that it must now raise rates, the Bank faces a serious risk. If it does not act, it will look weak and that may unsettle markets. But if it does make an emergency rate increase, and markets take that action as a sign of panic, the selling of sterling may intensify. That truly would put the UK in emerging market territory, where

rate increases are seen as a sign of weakness, not strength. Furthermore, once the Bank of England has embarked on this course, it will have little alternative but to keep on hiking until markets calm down.

Far from reviving growth, the effect will be to deliver a body blow to the UK economy. Tens of billions are being pumped into family purses to help with energy bills. Tens of billions more are being dished out in tax cuts. But interest rate increases will squeeze anyone on a flexible rate mortgage or needing to re-finance. How buoyant does the government expect growth to be when millions of homeowners who bought their homes expecting mortgage rates to be about 1% face interest rates of 6% or more?

And that is not even the last of the bad news. Defenders of the government insist that the mini-budget was only the start. Kwarteng promises further tax cuts. But he also promises to bring the deficit under control. How is that to be squared?

The answer is public spending cuts. Among Republicans in the US, the tactic is known as “starving the beast”. Cut taxes

and, as public revenues contract, this will create irresistible pressure for spending cuts. The argument is all the more urgent if you can invoke pressure from the financial mar

In 2010, when David Cameron's coalition government embarked on austerity, it invoked a bond market panic to justify its painful cuts. Then, the panic was more imaginary than real. The debt crisis in Greece served as the bogeyman. Now Britain has a bona fide homemade panic on its hands. Yields on UK bonds have now risen above those of the eurozone debt-victims Greece and Italy. The markets trust Britain's Tory government less than the heirs to post-fascism in Rome.

Did the Truss government unleash this avalanche on purpose? That is hardly what the “moron premium” suggests. But we should certainly expect them to turn the crisis that they have created against the public sector in pursuit of their misbegotten vision of a small-state revolution.

Appolonia, Kuberkmom Land Dispute: Why Land Commission's Boundary Report Must Bring Finality

Until around 2014, there was no dispute over the ownership of lands at Kuberkmom, a community at Atadeka in the Kpone-Katamanso district in the Greater Accra Region. Development of the place was moving smoothly without disturbances.

The Appolonia Stool that has its land fallen within the Kpone Traditional Council land title also never made claims of the lands under the control of the people of Kuberkmom led by the Odaitse-We Royal Mantse-Man Family. There was no boundary dispute between the two towns since it was a common understanding that the two towns knew their boundaries and never trespassed each other's boundary for whatever purpose.

According to settlers in the community, along the line around 2014, one Seth Kwame Sallah and a Setho Classic Engineering Company limited, a supposed Estate Company emerged from nowhere and started laying claims to the lands which were commonly believed to belong to the Odaitse-We Royal Mantse-Man Family of the community. He claimed that his company, Setho Classic Engineering Company limited, acquired the lands from the Apolonia Stool and immediately established an office in Atadeka and started taking possession of the lands. He and his company began selling off the lands to developers and forcefully preventing people who acquired their portions of land from the Royal Family of the community from developing.

This move by the company and Sallah attracted serious resistance from another Estate company, Naak Estate limited and HFC Bank. Naak Estate claimed it also bought

the land from the Odaitse-We Royal Mantse-Man Family, who are chiefs of the Kuberkmom Township and sold same to HFC Bank. Settlers noted that this action by Seth Kwame Sallah and his company on one hand, and the strong resistance from Naak Estate and HFC Bank on the other hand, sparked serious violence in the community over the ownership of the land.

According to them, that was the beginning of the use of violent land guards activities in the once peaceful community as Seth Kwame Sallah was constantly accused of deploying their ruthless services to chase out developers who did not acquired their portions of land through him or his company. They alleged that he was using the land guards to fight the other faction that was also laying claims to the same land and to assert his authority on the land. Even though, the Odaitse-We Royal Mantse-Man Family and the people of the community organized several demonstrations against what they described an outright illegal seizure of their lands and charged the police to act, Seth Kwame Sallah called their bluff and continued taking possession of the lands.

Police Interventions

Information from the Ghana police service indicates that the police in the Tema and Greater Accra regions have severally intervened to forestall peace and to help the parties find a lasting solution to the disputed land but had not made headway in past years until recently.

According to sources, COP Mrs. Beatrice Zansiri (Rtd) who was the Tema Police Regional Commander at the time the violence over the ownership of the land started in 2014, in an attempt to solve the problem permanently engaged the Lands commission to determine the boundary between Kpone-Appolonia lands and kuberkmom

lands.

The sources said, after the exercise was carried out, Seth Kwame Sallah and his company refused to appear before the Commander and personnel from the Land Commission for the boundary report to be read for all of them so as to bring a finality to the dispute. They said, he rather dragged the then Regional Commander to a High Court in Accra. This, according to the sources, frustrated Mrs Zansiri from solving the problem until she was transferred back to the police Head office.

Other sources also have it that COP Mr George Tuffour (Rtd), another Tema Police Regional Commander also conducted the same exercise but Seth Kwame Sallah and his company again refused to appear for the report determining the boundary.

Police Inspector Ankamah, of Property Fraud Unit at Headquarters also try to conduct the same exercise after a complaint was lodged by Seth Kwame Sallah himself but he failed to make the payment for the exercise to be carried out.

According to another source at the police Criminal Investigation Department (CID), the Anti Land Guard Unit also to forestall peace in the area invited parties to allow the disputed land to be picked and same search conducted at Land Commission but he again refused.

Question our sources at the police are asking is, why is Seth Kwame Sallah who is claiming that the land is his and is duly registered would not want to collaborate with the security agencies and the Land Commission to determine the boundary for peace to prevail for all these years. What is he afraid of?

Current Tema Regional Police Commander Efforts To Forestall Peace

According to sources at the town, when the current Regional Commander, DCOP Mr Daniel Kwame Afriyie took office, there another near violent clash between Seth Kwame and his company on one hand and one Mr. Francis Adu King and the Odaitse-We Royal Mantse-Man Family over ownership of a parcel of the land within the disputed land. Mr King said he also acquired part of the land from the Royal Family and when he tried to take possession of the land, he was resisted by some persons alleged to be land guards deployed by Seth Kwame Sallah.

According to residents of the area, it almost degenerated into bloody clashes, but the Regional Commander moved in with his men and asked both factions to stay clear off the land so that his office would investigate and bring finality to the aged dispute. He therefore, invited both factions including representatives from the Land Commission and demanded from the two factions, Mr Adu King who had acquired the land from the Odaitse-We Royal Mantse-Man Family and Setho Classic which also claimed to have acquired same land from Kpone Traditional Council to submit their documents.

This was to enable the Land Commission to pick the land and establish the boundary as to whether it falls within the Kpone Traditional Council land title or the Odaitse-We Royal Mantse-Man site plan in order to resolve the problem. The factions agreed to his request and presented their documents and the Land Commission together with police and the parties involved carried out the exercise sometime last month.

The Land Commission Report
Finally, on September 7 the



Samuel Abu Jinapor, Minister Lands & Natural Resources

Land Commission report on the boundary was read to both parties in the Regional Commander's office.

Present at the meeting included the Regional Police Commander, DCOP Mr Daniel Kwame Afriyie, the Regional Police Command (2 I C), the Regional Crime Officer, Gideon Darko and Francis Adu King. The others were Seth Kwame Sallah Lawyer, Nii Adu Kofi, Seth Kwame SALLAH Son and Asante Awuah from the Land Commission (Surveyor).

The report as read to the parties made it cleared that the disputed land doesn't fall within the Kpone Traditional Council as being claimed by Seth Kwame Sallah and his company bringing a finality to the dispute over the land ownership.

“Both land as shown and surveyed for Seth Kwame Sallah and his cadastral plan do not fall in Kpone Traditional Council Certificate but rather fall within the site plan of Odaitse-We Royal Mantse-Man Family (1686.3 Acres).

Land surveyed for Adu King falls within the site plan of Odaitse-We Royal Mantse-Man Family,” the report stated.

But after the report Seth Kwame Sallah appears to have again rejected the boundary it and is accusing the police administration of meddling in land issues.

Under Suella Braverman, UK Set For An Ever Harsher Policy Towards Refugees

By Tanupriya Singh

Activists and campaigners in the UK have slammed a slate of measures targeting asylum seekers announced by the Home Office this week. On October 4, Home Secretary Suella Braverman delivered her first major speech to the Conservative Party conference, indulging in the right-wing xenophobic rhetoric of “the challenge of illegal migration”, “mass and rapid migration”, and asylum seekers “abusing” the system. Leading up to Tuesday's announcement, UK media had reported that Braverman was working on legislation that would ban anyone deemed to be entering the country illegally from seeking asylum. These include asylum seekers crossing the English Channel on small boats. Braverman would confirm this later stating that the move would “make it clear that the only route to the United Kingdom is through a safe and legal route.” “If you deliberately enter the United Kingdom from a safe country, you should be swiftly returned to your home country or relocated to Rwanda that is where your asylum claim will be considered,” she added. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees has warned that such a law will “almost certainly breach” the 1951 Refugee Convention. In a statement to the *Guardian*, a spokesperson stated that “access to asylum should never be contingent on mode of arrival or nationality”. Braverman's proposals will go further than the already extremely hostile immigration system cemented by her predecessor, Priti Patel, whom Braverman thanked in her speech for laying the “foundations.”

Since 2021, people have been prohibited from making an asylum claim in the territorial waters of the UK. Under new laws that came into force in June 2022, asylum seekers who are intercepted by officials in the English Channel are criminalized as having entered the UK “illegally.” Moreover, the Home Office is now also authorized to refuse an asylum request if the claimant has passed through a 'safe' third country, including France. Braverman has also indicated further coordination with Paris to increase interceptions of boats by French authorities, to prevent people from crossing the Channel to the UK. For all the emphasis that Braverman and the government place on “safe and legal” routes, human rights organizations have pointed out that it is the lack of these that pushes people to travel through perilous routes in the first place. This was also acknowledged by the Foreign Affairs Select Committee in 2019 which noted that “a policy that focuses exclusively on closing borders will drive migrants to take more dangerous routes...” More than 33,500 people have arrived in the UK through the English Channel so far in 2022. Figures from the Home Office show that between January 2018 and June 2022, 94% of people crossing the Channel in small boats had claimed asylum. While the Home Office has said that people should be notified of a decision on their claim within six months, 70% had not heard back within this specified period in the past year. “By focusing on punishment instead of processing, Patel and Braverman have left more than 90,000 people awaiting a decision on their

asylum claim, living in limbo and unable to begin rebuilding their lives. They have kept many people in detention, unjustly and indefinitely,” stated human rights organization Detention Action. The Home Office is also planning to re-open two detention centers to hold 1,000 male asylum seekers in a deal projected to cost \$442 million. “Detention has been shown to be ineffective, inhumane, and to benefit no one aside from the private companies which run the centers.” Detention Action deputy director James Wilson told the *BBC*. “86% of those who enter detention centers are eventually released back to the UK, their detention having served no purpose whatsoever. It's a failing system... that destroys people's lives.” “This government knows detention damages lives and communities. They know alternatives to detention—housing, and support in local communities—work better for everyone and are more cost-effective. But they are determined to peddle cruelty to score headlines,” stated the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants (JCWI). The impact of the Home Secretary's plans may be worsened by her explicit intention to side-step and undo existing protections for asylum seekers and refugees. “UK policy on illegal migration should not be derailed by abuse of our modern slavery laws, Labour's Human Rights Act, or orders of the Strasbourg Court [the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR)],” Braverman told the Tory conference. She claimed that people arriving in small boats had lied about being victims of trafficking and modern slavery. Priti Patel had made



British Home Secretary, Suella Braverman. Suella Braverman is considering banning people crossing the English Channel from claiming asylum in the UK. She added that it was her “dream” and “obsession” to have asylum seekers deported to Rwanda.

similar claims that the majority of people arriving in small boats were not asylum seekers but “economic migrants.” This claim was later proven to be false. According to the Helen Bamber Foundation, a human rights charity, more than 90% of cases referred from detention have been confirmed as being victims of trafficking. However, despite being recognized as such, people have not been released from detention, with final decisions on cases taking an average of 17 months. “The system is not being ‘abused’ — it is harming people who have already been exploited,” the organization said. In a disturbing statement made at a fringe event at the conference, Braverman stated, “I would love to have a front page of *The Telegraph* with a plane taking off to Rwanda, that's my dream... it's my obsession.” She was referring to the widely-condemned agreement signed by the UK government in April to forcibly transfer asylum seekers to Rwanda. The first deportation flight to Kigali on June 14 was grounded just minutes before take-off, owing to crucial direct action by activists and an eleventh hour intervention by the ECHR. A subsequent investigation into the hours leading up to the flight revealed horrific scenes of detainees in severe distress, self-harming, threatening

suicide and being placed in “pain-inducing” restraints as they tried to resist their deportation. The agreement is currently subject to legal challenges. In September, the UK High Court conducted a five-day judicial review of the deal in a case brought by Care4Calais, Detention Action, and the Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS), alongside individual asylum seekers. The UN refugee agency has also made written submissions in the proceedings, emphasizing that the arrangement posed a risk of refoulement (or forced return) and a breach of the Refugee Convention. The hearings have revealed that concerns regarding the agreement, including risks of human rights violations and persecution, had been repeatedly raised by UK officials. However, these were sidelined, and a deal with Rwanda was actively pursued by then Home Secretary Patel and Prime Minister Boris Johnson. Despite the fact that the court is yet to issue a ruling on the matter, the Home Office now led by Braverman is reportedly planning another deportation flight, with “notices of intent” sent to asylum seekers in September. Meanwhile, the court is set to hear another legal challenge to the agreement, brought by Asylum Aid, on October 10 following which one judgment will be issued for both cases. PCS and Care4Calais are reportedly also considering approaching the court to oppose the asylum ban proposed by Braverman.