

KEN OFORI-ATTA

Majority, Minority MPs Call For His Dismissal As Finance Minister



Ken Ofori-Atta, Minister of Finance

It now appears that the days in office of Finance Minister, Ken Ofori-Atta are numbered with the call by some majority Members of Parliament (MPs) for him to be sacked. Even though the NPP MPs in time past had made similar demands which were

ignored, it thus appear that the latest call which is laden with threats against the president will this time be difficult to be shirked as the minority MPs are also in full support. With the latest action, a group of NPP MPs numbering over 80 have

petitioned president Nana Akufo-Addo to sack Finance Minister, Ken Ofori-Atta, and the Minister of State at the finance ministry, Adu Boahen, to restore public confidence in the economy.

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Economic Hardship Martin Kpebu Calls For Impeachment Of Prez. Akufo-Addo



Lawyer Martin Kpebu has called on Members of Parliament to start initiating processes to impeach President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo.

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Race For NDC Chairmanship Asiedu Nketiah Officially Launches Campaign *pages 6&7*

The West Must Stop Blocking Negotiations Between Ukraine And Russia *page 8*

The INSIGHT

— EDITORIAL

DEAL WITH THESE IRREGULARITIES!

The Auditor General's Report released recently about tax irregularities, payroll fraud and other malpractices at the government ministries, departments and agencies including the metropolitan, municipal and district assemblies is most disheartening.

Some of these irregularities have always attracted media attention because of how the nation often loses moneys which could have been used to address some developmental challenges.

For instance the issue of payroll fraud has been a major concern over the years necessitating the introduction of the electronic payment system for public sector workers.

The Controller General's Department also in a bid to stop these malpractices introduced the verification system for government workers before salaries are paid.

It is therefore most surprising that we continue to record cases of payroll fraud despite all these stopgap measures introduced over the years.

Clearly, the identification and prosecution of these individuals behind this fraudulent practice most of who are public servants is long overdue.

Institutions such as the Economic and Organized Crime Office and the Financial Intelligence Centre need to team up with other state agencies such as the Office of the Special Prosecutor and that of the Auditor General to ensure the prosecution of these criminal gangs and thieves instead of the existing arrangement of reporting and surcharging offenders if this nation-wrecking practice is to grind to a halt.

There is no denying the fact that the 'soft' handling of these 'thieves' behind the 'ghost names' is what has emboldened them and made their exorcism difficult.

Economic Hardship Martin Kpebu Calls For Impeachment Of Prez. Akufo-Addo

from front page

According to him, recent actions and utterances of the president has brought the office he occupies into disrepute, therefore, he needs to be removed via constitutional means.

He said even if they [MPs] are not successful in impeaching the president, at least Ghanaians will know that they started the process and those who seem not to have the country at heart thwarted that effort.

"The MPs removing the president from office, you just need one-third of the MPs to sign up to a petition.

"So, far, if you go through Article 69, we will find grounds; says that when he behaves in such a way as to bring the presidency into contempt, into ridicule...

"One-third of MPs, let's make the efforts to remove Akufo-Addo from office otherwise it will be an indictment on all of us.

"The MPs, both sides, we need just one-third, they should step up. If you don't start the process to impeach him, it means as a nation we lack honour.

"Make an effort, if it fails it is another matter," Martin Kpebu stressed.

Speaking on TV3's Key Points show over the weekend, the human rights lawyer added that the free fall of the cedi from January to October has shown that the president and his ministers are super incompetent.

He said the president is clueless about managing the economy.

"In the meantime, the president has to come and apologise to us for that nonsensical talk...the president is clueless, he is super incompetent," Martin Kpebu noted.

'I'll shame you all' – Akufo-Addo claps back at 'detractors' in Ashanti Region

President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo responded to persons he thinks are his 'political' detractors during his Ashanti Regional tour.

Speaking while cutting sod for the construction of the Suame Interchange on October 18, 2022, the president stated that these people will be shamed one by one by the numerous work he has done for the



people in the region considered the 'political world bank' of the governing party.

He said for the past six years that he has been in office, the people of the Ashanti Region have benefitted enough from his government, therefore, his detractors cannot say otherwise.

"And to those of you going around saying bad things about me in the Ashanti Region, one after the other, they are all going to be shamed convincingly, today, tomorrow and the day after.

"God bless all of you one by one," President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo said.

"In spite of our present difficulties which I know will be gone as soon as possible, I continue to be excited about the future prospects of the nation and I urge all Ghanaians to join hands in building the Ghana that we want, we can realize it if we all work at it," the President added.

THE INSIGHT

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KEN OFORI-ATTA

Majority, Minority MPs Call For His Dismissal As Finance Minister

from front page

The MPs made the announcement at a press conference addressed by their spokesperson, Andy Kwame Appiah-Kubi, Member of Parliament for Asante-Akim North, in Parliament yesterday, October 25, 2022.

The group said it will not do business with government nor support the 2023 Budget if the president fails to heed their calls.

According to them, the move follows previous concerns sent to the government that have not yielded any positive results.

"We have had occasions to defend allegations of conflicts

of interest, lack of confidence, and trust against the leadership of the Finance Ministry.

"The recent development within the economy is of major concern to our caucus and our constituents. We have made our grave concern to our president through the parliamentary leadership and the leadership of the party without and positive response," Andy Appiah Kubi said.

The MPs believe the move will change the current economic situation in the country.

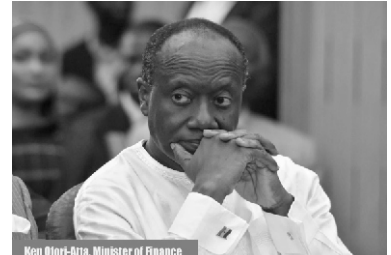
"We are by this medium communicating our strong desire that the president

changes the Minister of Finance and the Minister of State at the Finance Ministry without further delay in order to restore hope into the finance sector and reverse the downward trend in the growth of the economy," he added. The Minority NDC MPs who also back the Majority NPP MPs in the call for the removal of the finance minister from office have filed a motion to have Ken Ofori-Atta sacked. While the Majority have threatened to boycott the 2023 budget presentation if the finance minister is not relieved of his post the minority have taken a different course of action. The MPs explained that their

position follows several concerns over the poor management of the economy, which has forced the government to seek IMF assistance.

While addressing the parliamentary press corps, the minority urged the majority to not relent on calling the finance minister out.

The Deputy Minority Chief Whip, Ahmed Ibrahim, noted "as representatives of the people and as duty bearers, we must move a motion to call for the end of the Finance Minister. "Our brothers in the Majority believe in this.



Hon Ofori-Atta, Minister of Finance

What they should do is to support the call of the Minority Leader and the motion for the dismissal of the Finance Minister."

This is the list of Minority MPs who have signed the motion for a vote of censure:



MINORITY CHIEF WHIP

MEMORANDUM

TO : RT. HON. SPEAKER

FROM : HON. MOHAMMED-MUBARAK MUNTAKA
MINORITY CHIEF WHIP

DATE : 24TH OCTOBER, 2022

SUBJECT : MOTION FOR VOTE OF CENSURE

That this Honourable House passes a vote of censure on the Minister responsible for Finance Mr. Ken Ofori-Atta in accordance with Article 82 of the 1992 Constitution on the following grounds;

1. Despicable conflict of Interest ensuring that he directly benefits from Ghana's economic woes as his companies receive commissions and other unethical contractual advantage, particularly from Ghana's debt overhang.
2. Unconstitutional withdrawals from the Consolidated Fund in blatant contravention of Article 178 of the 1992 Constitution supposedly for the construction of the President's Cathedral;
3. Illegal payment of oil revenues into offshore accounts in flagrant violation of Article 176 of the 1992 Constitution;
4. Deliberate and dishonest misreporting of economic data to Parliament
5. Fiscal recklessness leading to the crash of the Ghana Cedi which is currently the worst performing currency in the world;
6. Alarming incompetence and frightening ineptitude resulting in the collapse of the Ghanaian economy and an excruciating cost of living crisis;

MOTION BY THE UNDERSIGNED MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT FOR A VOTE OF CENSURE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 82 OF THE CONSTITUTION AGAINST THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, THE HONOURABLE KEN OFORI-ATTA.

| NO. | NAME | CONSTITUENCY | SIGNATURE |
|-----|---|----------------------|-----------|
| 1 | Hon. Haruna Ididris | Tamale- South | |
| 2 | Hon. James Klutse Avedzi | Ketu North | |
| 3 | Hon. Alhaji Muntaka Mohammed-Mubarak | Asawase | |
| 4 | Hon. Ahmed Ibrahim | Banda | |
| 5 | Hon. Cudjoe Comfort Doyee Ghansah, (Mrs.) | Ada | |
| 6 | Hon. Alex Adomako-Mensah | Sekyere Afram Plains | |
| 7 | Hon. Muhammed Bawoh Braimah | Ejura Sekyedunase | |
| 8 | Hon. Adams Abdul-Salam | New Edubiase | |
| 9 | Hon Vincent Oppong Asamoah | Dormaa West | |
| 10 | Hon. Seidu Haruna | Wendro | |
| 11 | Hon. Fredrick Yaw Ahenievah | Jaman North | |
| 12 | Hon. Williams Ofori-Dahoh | Jaman South | |
| 13 | Hon. Sulemana Adama | Tain | |
| 14 | Hon. Ampelo Kwame Trumasi | Sene West | |
| 15 | Hon. Napea, Dominic | Sene East | |
| 16 | Hon. Dr. Kwabena Dankor | Pru East | |
| 17 | Hon Joseph Kwame Kurah | Kintampo-North | |
| 18 | Hon. Sanja Nanja | Atobubu-Amanin | |
| 19 | Hon. Emmanuel Kwadwo Agyekum | Nkoranza South | |
| 20 | Hon Elizabeth Ofori-Agyare | Techiman North | |
| 21 | Hon. Joseph Kwasi Mensah | Nkoranza North | |
| 22 | Hon. Alhaji Collins Deusa | Asutifi South | |
| 23 | Hon. Opedu, Eric | Asutsi South | |
| 24 | Hon. Cassel Ato Fortson | Ayamaku/Enyan/Tsiam | |
| 25 | Hon. Ricketts-Hagan Kwaku | Cape Coast South | |
| 26 | Hon. Quenstar Maame Pokuon Sawyer | Agoa East | |

| | | | |
|----|---------------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| 58 | Hon. Agnes Naa Momo Lartey | Kroyor | |
| 59 | Hon. Rita Naa Odoley Sowah | Dadekropon | |
| 60 | Hon. Theresa Lartey Awarin | Odaikol North | |
| 61 | Hon. Francis Xavier Koko Soso | Medina | |
| 62 | Hon. Mohammed Adamu Ramadan | Adentan | |
| 63 | Hon. Dan Abdul-Latif | Adekuma Central | |
| 64 | Hon. Alhassan Bashir Alhassan Fustini | Sargangu | |
| 65 | Hon. Suhylini Sayibu Alhassan | Tamale North | |
| 66 | Hon. Joseph Nkpe Bukari | Saboba | |
| 67 | Hon. Murtala Mohammed Ibrahim | Tamale-Central | |
| 68 | Hon. Hamza Adam | Kumbungu | |
| 69 | Hon Jacob Iddris Abdul | Savelugu | |
| 70 | Hon. Daniel Nalla Wakpal | Kpandai | |
| 71 | Hon. Dawuni Abukari | Wulensi | |
| 72 | Hon. Seidu Issifu | Nalerigu/Gambaga | |
| 73 | Hon. Bardim Abdu-Raga Azumah | Bunkpurugu | |
| 74 | Hon. Yusuf Sulemana | Bale Bembol | |
| 75 | Hon. Andrew Dan Chibwey | Sawla-Tuna-Kalba | |
| 76 | Hon. John Abdulai Jnapor | Yapei Kusungu | |
| 77 | Hon. Zuhena Mohammed Ibrahimah | Salaga South | |
| 78 | Hon. Cletus Apul Awika | Zebila | |
| 79 | Hon. Muhama Ayeriga | Bawku Central | |
| 80 | Hon. Dominic Akuranga Ayine | Bolgatanga East | |
| 81 | Hon. James Agbola | Bulka North | |
| 82 | Hon. Benson Tongo Baba | Tolon | |
| 83 | Hon. Ladi Ayi Ayemba | Pulga | |
| 84 | Hon. Edward Abimbola Bawa | Bongo | |
| 85 | Hon. Albert Akuku Alahuga | Garu | |
| 86 | Hon. Dr. Clement Nana Asaak | Bulale South | |
| 87 | Hon. Mark Kurt Nwaeze | Nabdam | |
| 88 | Hon. Isaac Adongo | Bolgatanga Central | |

| | | | |
|----|----------------------------------|----------------------|--|
| 27 | Hon. Samuel Ato Mills | K.E.E.A | |
| 28 | Hon. Ahenku Crensil | Ejura | |
| 29 | Hon. Kwamena Hinson Nyarku | Cape Coast North | |
| 30 | Hon. David T. D. Vondoe | Twifo Afi Morkwa | |
| 31 | Hon. Desmond De-Graft-Pokuo | Gomoa East | |
| 32 | Hon. Richard Gyen Mensah | Gomoa West | |
| 33 | Hon. Ahenku Kwame Agyekum | Krachi North | |
| 34 | Hon. Alhassan Kadiya Ghansah | Kakame Odoben Brakwa | |
| 35 | Hon. James Gyakye Quayson | Assin North | |
| 36 | Hon. Daniel Oshene Dankor | Upper Denkyira West | |
| 37 | Hon. Ebenezer Oshiey Tetteh | Lower Manya Krobo | |
| 38 | Hon. Joseph Appiah Boateng | Afram Plains South | |
| 39 | Hon. Waddi Nana Esi Kofi Mensah | Afram Plains North | |
| 40 | Hon. Thomas Nana Nyarko | Bole | |
| 41 | Hon. Kwamena Tetteh Nyarko | Upper Manya Krobo | |
| 42 | Hon. Albert Tetteh Nyarko | Viti Krobo | |
| 43 | Hon. Taddy Adja Sellen | Ayeyadwa | |
| 44 | Hon. Henry Nana Bakyie | Krachi South | |
| 45 | Hon. Nana Mahama Toura | Juayama East | |
| 46 | Hon. Edwin Nii Lantey Vandeputre | Odadododuo | |
| 47 | Hon. Christian Cordery Oshiey | Sepa | |
| 48 | Hon. Alfred Oshiey Vandeputre | Adekuma South | |
| 49 | Hon. Ernest Henry Morbey | Jashiman | |
| 50 | Hon. Dr. Zanele Aggrey-Hawkins | Korle Krobo | |
| 51 | Hon. Yusuf I. Jajah | Juayama North | |
| 52 | Hon. Samuel Nartey George | Ningo-Prampram | |
| 53 | Hon. Sophia Nana Edem Aduakoku | Domea-Domam | |
| 54 | Hon. Usha Oshiey Aduakoku | Shal-Osuoku | |
| 55 | Hon. Benjamin Ayiku Nartey | Lindokuku | |
| 56 | Hon. Joseph Akuranga Tetteh | Kpone-Kumasi | |
| 57 | Hon. Isaac Ashai Oshiey | Tema East | |

| | | | |
|-----|--|-----------------------|--|
| 89 | Hon. Lydia Lantey Ahenku | Tampara | |
| 90 | Hon. Sampson Tangombu Chiragla | Nwengro Central | |
| 91 | Hon. Thomas Adda Daku | Chirano-Paga | |
| 92 | Hon. Abdul-Rashed Polup | Wa Central | |
| 93 | Hon. Dr. Sebastian Nigamena Sardaare | Duffinay/Russley/Issa | |
| 94 | Hon. Cletus Seidu Daprah | Jhapa | |
| 95 | Hon. Anthony Mwinikabe Sumah | Nadowli/Kaleo | |
| 96 | Hon. Dr. Godfred Seidu Jasaw | Wa East | |
| 97 | Hon. Peter Landehene Toolau | Wa West | |
| 98 | Hon. Bado Aweaasey Ziedeng | Lawra | |
| 99 | Hon. Mohammed Adams Sukpanu | Sissala West | |
| 100 | Hon. Emmanuel Kwasi Bodzrah | Ho West | |
| 101 | Hon. Kabena Mampah Woyome | South Tongu | |
| 102 | Hon. Bernard Ahiaror | Akatsi South | |
| 103 | Hon. Benjamin Komla Kpodo | Ho Central | |
| 104 | Hon. Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwe | North Tongu | |
| 105 | Hon. Dalia Adjoa Sowah | Kpando | |
| 106 | Hon. Kwame Gwomaw Agbode | Adeku | |
| 107 | Hon. Peter Kwasi Kortsu-Kotso | Akasi North | |
| 108 | Hon. Alexander Rosenwitt Hottardze | Central Tongu | |
| 109 | Hon. Rockson Nelson Eise Kwami Dafeamekpor | South Dayi | |
| 110 | Hon. Joycelyn Tetteh | North Dayi | |
| 111 | Hon. Charles Akwasi Agbete | Agotime-Ziope | |
| 112 | Hon. Argida Ofori Akinu-Tay | Afadzato South | |
| 113 | Hon. Richard Kwame Sefe | Anlo | |
| 114 | Hon. Dofia Asa Gomashe | Krachi South | |
| 115 | Hon. Kwame Douzon Gapey | Keta | |
| 116 | Hon. Weldon Gidau | Krachi East | |
| 117 | Hon. Helen Adjoa Ntoso | Krachi West | |
| 118 | Hon. John Kwabena Bless Oti | Nkwanta North | |
| 119 | Hon. Geoffrey Kiri | Nkwanta South | |



INTERNATIONAL NEWS REPORT

Compiled By Peoples Dispatch

Steve Bannon Sentenced To Four Months In Prison



Former Chief White House Strategist Steve Bannon and Former Chief of Staff Reince Priebus speaking at the 2017 Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in National Harbor, Maryland. (Photo: Gage Skidmore). Despite receiving a prison sentence for defying a subpoena to testify and provide evidence for the January 6 investigations, Bannon could remain free for a year or more

Steve Bannon, former chief strategist for Donald Trump, was last Friday sentenced to four months in prison and a \$6,500 fine. He was convicted of defying a subpoena from lawmakers requesting evidence and testimony in the investigations following the January 6, 2021 [attacks](#) on the US Capitol.

Steve Bannon is a former

Hollywood producer and one of the founders of ultra-right wing Breitbart News. He was chief executive of the 2016 Trump campaign, and was later appointed Trump's senior counselor and chief strategist, and a member of the National Security Council. He was forced to step down due to his involvement in the 2017 Unite the Right rally, in which a violent mob of ultra-right wing protesters descended upon the city of Charlottesville. Heather Heyer, an anti-fascist counter-protester was killed during this event after neo-Nazi James Alex Fields ran her over with his car. The January 6 select committee was a bipartisan committee in the US House of Representatives composed of mostly Democrats and a few Republican politicians. It was formed to investigate the January 6 US Capitol attack in

2021. On January 6, a mob of Trump supporters stormed and broke into the US Capitol as Congress was certifying the electoral college votes from the 2020 presidential election, which Joe Biden won. After Donald Trump lost in 2020 to Biden, Trump rejected the results, inflaming his supporters by claiming that the election was "stolen," leading to the mob storming the Capitol. Trump spoke at the "Stop the Steal" rally outside of the White House on January 6, right before the attacks.

"Mike Pence, I hope you're going to stand up for the good of our Constitution and for the good of our country," Trump says, encouraging his Vice President to support him in claiming the election was stolen. "And if you're not, I'm going to be very disappointed in you." As Trump supporters stormed the Capitol, one of their many chants was

"hang Mike Pence!"

Bannon was convicted of two charges of contempt of Congress, one for refusing to give testimony at the January 6 select committee and refusing to hand over relevant documents to the committee. Despite his sentence, Bannon will most likely remain free for over a year, as sentencing judge Carl Nichols, a Trump appointee, allowed Bannon to remain free pending appeal which will most likely push his jail term back for a year or longer. This treatment is inconsistent with the experience of poor and working people caught in the US prison system. Up to 19 people in Florida were [arrested](#) in August for the crime of voting. At least one of the arrestees, Tony Patterson, was given a \$1,000 bond and sent straight to police custody. Trump's post-election strategy of denying the validity of the

electoral process seems to have been enthusiastically embraced by Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro. Months ahead of the elections, Bolsonaro was already [denouncing the election process](#) as fraudulent.

Bannon himself [claimed](#) that Bolsonaro would be victorious in the 2022 Brazilian elections "unless it's stolen by, guess what, the machines." Bolsonaro has specifically targeted his election fraud accusations at the electronic voting machines used in Brazilian elections. Brazil's voting system is highly efficient, with mandatory voting, voting scheduled on weekends, and without a credible case of fraud in 25 years. Bannon made this claim at a 2021 conference that was dedicated to promoting Trump's stolen election theory. The conference was also attended by Bolsonaro's son,

Progressives Intensify Protests As Far-Right Leader Meloni Assumes Premiership In Italy

Progressive sections have carried out a massive mobilization in the Italian city of Bologna highlighting a number of issues, including the climate crisis, the cost of living crisis, persecution of workers, imperialist wars, rise in fascism, and unscientific development. The call for the march was supported by groups like GKN Factory Collective, Fridays for Future, Assembly No Passante Bologna, and Emilia-Romagna Food Sovereignty Network. Activists from trade unions like Si Cobas, members of leftist parties such as Potere al Popolo, the Communist Refoundation Party (PRC), and Italian Communist Party (PCI), as well as youth groups like the Communist Youth Front of Italy (FGCI), Young Communists (GC), and Communist Youth Front (FGC), participated in the march. On October 21, student groups had protested in Rome against the cost of living crisis and the rise of the far-right in the country.

On Sunday, October 23, far-right

leader Giorgia Meloni was sworn in as the prime minister of Italy. In the general elections held on September 25, the right-wing coalition led by her party, Brothers of Italy (FdI), won a massive [victory](#) while every other mainstream political party crumbled. Disenchantment with the prevailing austerity policies, warmongering, and political instability, are among the factors listed by analysts as the reason for the fall of the mainstream political parties. The policies of the erstwhile Mario Draghi-led government had [provoked](#) widespread anger among the working classes, youth, and other sections who regularly staged [protests](#) against his government. Now, with the ascent of a far-right government to power, working class sections have decided to intensify their struggles against austerity, depravity, warmongering and persecution. Following the mobilization in

Bologna on Saturday, Potere al Popolo stated, "We have to stop the government from unscientific development and focus our collective efforts on public transport, non-fossil mobility, ecological re-planning of cities, and in the service of a new balance between humans and nature. To do this, we have to...[combat] the lobby of oil tankers, warmongers, and speculators, which is well represented both in the Draghi government and the new Meloni government. The future is at hand, we just have to go and get it."

Giuliano Granato from Potere al Popolo told *Peoples Dispatch* on October 24, "Giorgia Meloni will move in the path of Polish government: perfectly aligned with Washington and NATO (in line with Draghi government) in foreign affairs and strongly pro-business in economic field – that means a possible stop to

the necessary ecological transition. At the same time, the new names of Ministries and newly appointed Ministers point in the direction of the attempt of construction of a right-wing hegemony in Italian society: national interest instead of popular interests; a crusade against the rights of women, LGBTQIA+, immigrants; historical revisionism in order to clear fascist names and values, attacking whatever smells like 'leftist'." Maurizio Acerbo from the leadership of the Communist Refoundation Party (PRC) stated, "The protest in Bologna – 'for rights, the environment, health, public and common spaces, a beautiful life and for peace' – marks a further and positive stage in the convergence of movements, from the factory collective of #GKN to #FridaysForFuture. We at the

Communist Refoundation and the Popular Union find ourselves in the appeal that convened the demonstration 'Converge to Rise' and we are convinced that only from the bottom up a real opposition to this government can be built."

"The ruling classes of this country, from the far-right to the Democratic Party (PD), are unable to question a model of destructive development that produces land consumption, pollution, inequality and exploitation," added Acerbo. The Communist Youth Front (FGC) has called for a national mobilization of students on November 18 against the problems in schools, the cost of living crisis, rise of fascism, and warmongering.

Mahama To Speak On Ghana's 'Collapsed' Economy On October 27



Former President John Dramani Mahama

Former President [John Dramani Mahama](#) is expected to deliver an address on matters concerning the economic woes currently confronting Ghanaians. This was confirmed by [Joyce Bawah Mogtari](#), an aide to the former president, in a Facebook post on Monday October 24,

2022.

"John Mahama speaks on Ghana's collapsed economy and the unprecedented hardships sweeping across the land and the way forward on Thursday 27th October at 7 pm," she wrote on her page.

Ghana's economy has in recent times witnessed a

downturn with the government admitting that the country was facing challenging times.

Many economists have also pointed to the rate of inflation, fuel price hikes, and fast depreciation of the Cedi as the basis for the claim.

The government has, however, blamed the ravages of COVID-19 and the Russia-Ukraine conflict for the country's woes. Amid economic downgrades from rating agencies such as Fitch, Standards and Poor and Moody's, Ghana has been prevented from accessing the international capital market which has compelled it to initiate contact with the International Monetary Fund for a programme. Ghana is looking at securing a \$3 billion facility over a three-year period.

Mahama in his recent commentary on the economy has urged the government to fast-track negotiations with the IMF in order to secure the programme with the Bretton Woods institution quickly. He added that with the passing of each day, Ghana's economic situation was getting worse.

"Distressing! Every passing day makes our economic situation worse. Gov't must work with greater alacrity to lock in a programme with the Fund in order to create a more predictable economic outlook," John Mahama tweeted on October 4.

The former president also in an October 19 tweet said the economic hardship confronting the country is the worst in thirty years.

He made the remark while reacting to news that a man had died by electrocution on a high-tension pylon near Kasoa.

"I returned from a trip to the sad news of Kakra who electrocuted himself. Levels of hardship in Ghana are dire; the worst in 3 decades. But suicide is never an answer. Even in the darkest night, there'll come dawn. The sun will rise again. Let's be each other's keeper & keep hope alive," Mahama tweeted.

The anticipated address by John Mahama will be his second major address on the economy in recent times. On May 2, the former president engaged with Ghanaians on the topic "Ghana at a Crossroads."

Cedi Depreciation: Kumasi Traders To Close Down Shops From November 5

Traders in Kumasi, the capital of Ashanti Region, have threatened to close down over 8,000 shops on November 5, 2022 in protest at the high cost of doing business in the country. The traders who ply their trade at the Kejetia market, Racecourse market, Abinkyi market, Bantama market, Asafo market, Kwadaso market, among others have vowed to halt all trading activities by closing down their shops to drum home their concerns over the free fall of the Ghana Cedi against major trading currencies in the world.

The traders who are from six different associations in Kumasi City have directed their members to first suspend the importation of goods into the country for the next two weeks beginning Monday, October 24, 2022. The traders are mainly from the Ashanti Regional branch of the Importers Association, Kumasi Togo Agents and Traders Association, Clothes



Sellers Association, T-Shirt Sellers Association, Materials sellers Association, Babies and Children Wear Dealers Association, and Headscarves Dealers.

Speaking to OTEC News Kwame Agyenim Boateng on Sunday, October 23, 2022 the Public Relations Officer for Importers Association, who doubles as the Deputy Secretary for Kumasi Togo Agents and Traders Association Nana Yaw said they will be compelled to close over 8,000 shops in Kumasi City on November 5, 2022 if nothing changes. He explained that the local currency's inability to

compete with the Dollar and the CFA was negatively impacting their businesses.

"This protest is a signal to the government to have a sense of urgency to salvage the situation"

He added that things were quickly getting out of hand and something had to be done as a matter of urgency to avoid collapsing the system.

"We are pleading with the government do something to stop the depreciation of the cedi and the high rate of inflation to reduce the hardships faced by Ghanaians," he added.

Source: [otecfmghana.com](#)

GNAT Condemns Murder Of JHS 2 Student Of Banda Nkwanta R/C JHS

The Bole branch of Ghana National Association of Teachers (GNAT) and the Associations of Conference of Heads of Basic Schools (COHBS) have condemned the gruesome murder of master Sansah Sei, a JHS two (2) student at the Banda Nkwanta R/C JHS who doubles as the Assistant Agric Prefect of the school on Saturday, 15th October, 2022.

In a press statement dated and copied to Bole-based Nkilgi Fm, COHBS and its mother union GNAT condemned such barbaric act perpetrated by some faceless miscreant(s) which have angered the entire Banda Nkwanta community and beyond.

The Bole District Secretary of GNAT, Chief Abdulai Jaaga, on behalf of the associations expressed their deepest and heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family, the school and the community at large. He said; "We share in your pain and loss as we go through this trying moment, We condemn in no uncertain terms the dastardly act perpetrated by the assassin(s). We wish to state unequivocally that, we



will leave no stone unturned in helping the police to bring the perpetrator(s) to book." According to Chief Abdulai Jaaga, the police should take pragmatic measures that will lead to the perpetrator(s) in order to set free their brother and colleague Mr Jude Babanbanuba, the accused Headmaster of the school in whose staff common room the boy was murdered. He urge all teachers in and around the community and the feuding factions to calm down and lend their unflinching support to the police by providing credible and reliable information that will lead to the justice we all desire.

Source: [nkilgifmonline.com](#)

The West Must Stop Blocking Negotiations Between Ukraine And Russia

By Vijay Prashad

Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24, 2022. This war has been horrendous, though it does not compare with the terrible destruction wrought by the US [bombardment](#) of Iraq (“shock and awe”) in 2003. In the [Gomel region of Belarus](#) that borders Ukraine, Russian and Ukrainian diplomats [met](#) on February 28 to begin negotiations toward a ceasefire. These talks fell apart. Then, in early March, the two sides met again in Belarus to [hold](#) a second and third round of talks. On [March 10](#), the foreign ministers of Ukraine and Russia met in Antalya, Turkey, and finally, at the end of March, senior officials from Ukraine and Russia [met](#) in Istanbul, Turkey, thanks to the initiative of Turkey’s President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. On March 29, Turkey’s Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu [said](#), “We are pleased to see that the rapprochement between the parties has increased at every stage. Consensus and common understanding were reached on some issues.” By April, an agreement regarding a tentative [interim deal](#) was reached between Russia and Ukraine, according to an article in *Foreign Affairs*.

In early April, Russian forces began to [withdraw](#) from Ukraine’s northern Chernihiv Oblast, which meant that Russia halted military operations around Kyiv, Ukraine’s capital. The United States and the United Kingdom claimed that this withdrawal was a consequence of military failure, while the Russians said it was due to the interim deal. It is impossible to ascertain, with the available facts, which of these two views was correct. Before the deal could go forward, then-UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson [arrived](#) in Kyiv on April 9. A Ukrainian media outlet – *Ukrainska Pravda* – [reported](#) that Johnson carried two messages to Ukraine’s President Volodymyr Zelensky: first, that Russian President Vladimir Putin “should be pressured, not negotiated with,” and second, that even if Ukraine signed agreements with the Kremlin, the West was not ready to do so. According to *Ukrainska Pravda*, soon after Johnson’s visit, “the bilateral negotiation process was paused.” A few weeks later, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin visited Kyiv, and following the trip, Austin spoke at a news conference at an undisclosed

location in Poland and [said](#), “We want to see Russia weakened.” There is no direct evidence that Johnson, Blinken, and Austin directly pressured Zelensky to withdraw from the interim negotiations, but there is sufficient circumstantial evidence to suggest that this was the case. The lack of willingness to allow Ukraine to negotiate with Russia predates these visits and was summarized in a March 10, 2022, article in the *Washington Post* where senior officials in US President Joe Biden’s administration [stated](#) that the current US strategy “is to ensure that the economic costs for Russia are severe and sustainable, as well as to continue supporting Ukraine militarily in its effort to inflict as many defeats on Russia as possible.”

Long before the Russian invasion of Ukraine, since 2014, the United States has – through the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative of the US Department of Defense – [spent](#) more than \$19 billion in providing training and equipment to the Ukrainian military ([\\$17.6 billion](#) since Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24, 2022). The total annual [budget](#) of the United Nations for 2022 is \$3.12 billion, far less than the amount spent by the US on Ukraine today. The arming of Ukraine, the [statements](#) about weakening Russia by senior officials of the US government, and the [refusal](#) to initiate any kind of arms control negotiations prolong a war that is ugly and unnecessary.

Ukraine is not in Iowa

Ukraine and Russia are neighbors. You cannot change the geographical location of Ukraine and move it to Iowa in the United States. This means that Ukraine and Russia have to come to an agreement and find a solution to end the conflict between them. In 2019, Volodymyr Zelensky won by a [landslide](#) (73%) in the Ukrainian presidential election against Petro Poroshenko, the [preferred](#) candidate of the West. “We will not be able to avoid negotiations between Russia and Ukraine,” Zelensky [said](#) on a TV panel, “Pravo Na Vladu,” *TSN* news service reported, before he became president. In December 2019, Zelensky and Putin [met](#) in Paris, alongside then-Chancellor of Germany Angela Merkel and France’s President Emmanuel Macron (known as the “Normandy Four”). This initiative was driven by Macron and Merkel. As early as 2019, France’s President Emmanuel Macron [argued](#) that it was time for Europe to “rethink... our relationship with Russia” because “pushing Russia away from Europe is a profound strategic error.”

In [March 2020](#), Zelensky said that he and Putin could work out an agreement within a year based on the [Minsk II agreements](#) of February 2015. “There are points in Minsk. If we move them around a bit, then what bad can that lead to? As soon as there are no people with weapons, the shooting will stop. That’s important,” Zelensky [told](#) the *Guardian*. In a December 2019 press conference, Putin [said](#), “there is nothing more important than the Minsk Agreements.” At this point, Putin said that all he expected was that the Donbas region would be given special status in the Ukrainian constitution, and during the time of the expected Ukraine-Russia April 2020 meeting, the troops on both sides would have pulled back and agreed to “disengagement along the entire contact line.”

Role of Macron

It was clear to Macron by 2020 that the [point](#) of the negotiations was about more than just Minsk and Ukraine; it was about the [creation](#) of a “new security architecture” that did not isolate Russia – and was also not subservient to Washington. Macron [developed](#) these points in February 2021 in two directions and spoke about them during his interview with the Atlantic Council (a US think tank). First, he said that NATO has “pushed our borders as far as possible to the eastern side,” but NATO’s expansion has “not succeeded in reducing the conflicts and threats there.” NATO’s eastward expansion, he made clear, was not going to increase Europe’s security. Second, Macron said that the US unilateral withdrawal from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty in 2019 – and Russia’s [mirroring](#) that – leaves Europe unprotected “against these Russian missiles.” He further said, “As a European, I want to open a discussion between the European Union and Russia.” Such a discussion would pioneer a post-Cold War understanding of security, which would leave the United States out of the conversation with Russia. None of these proposals from Macron could advance, not only because of hesitancy in Russia but also principally because they



Russian and Ukrainian delegations at the negotiating table on March 7, 2022. Photo: Belta news agency via Xinhua. Ukrainians have been paying a terrible price for the failure of ensuring sensible and reasonable negotiations from 2014 to February 2022 – which could have prevented the invasion by Russia in the first place, and once the war started, could have led to the end of this war

were not seen favorably by Washington.

Confusion existed about whether US President Joe Biden would be welcomed into the Normandy Four. In late 2020, Zelensky [said](#) he wanted Biden at the table, but a year later it became [clear](#) that Russia was not interested in having the United States be part of the Normandy Four. Putin said that the Normandy Four was “self-sufficient.” Biden, meanwhile, chose to [intensify](#) threats and sanctions against Russia based on the claims of Kremlin interference in the United States 2016 and 2018 elections. By December 2021, there was no proper reciprocal dialogue between Biden and Putin. Putin [told](#) Finnish President Sauli Niinistö that there was a “need to immediately launch negotiations with the United States and NATO” on security guarantees. In a video call between Biden and Putin on December 7, 2021, the Kremlin [told](#) the US president that “Russia is seriously interested in obtaining reliable, legally fixed guarantees that rule out NATO expansion eastward and the deployment of offensive strike weapons systems in states adjacent to Russia.” No such guarantee was forthcoming from Washington. The talks fizzled out.

The record shows that Washington rejected Macron’s initiatives as well as entreaties from Putin and Zelensky to resolve issues through diplomatic dialogue. Up to four days before the Russian invasion, Macron [continued](#) his efforts to prevent an escalation of the conflict. By then, the appetite in

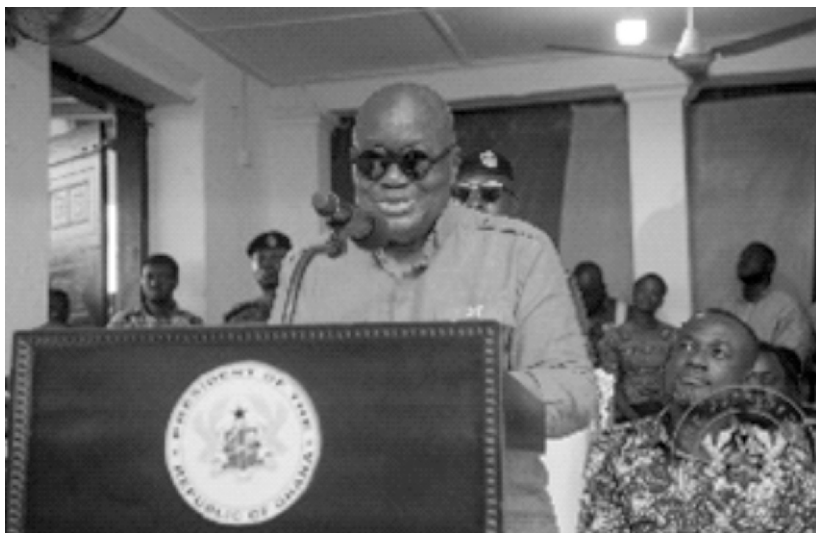
Moscow for negotiations had dwindled, and Putin rejected Macron’s efforts.

An independent European foreign policy was simply not possible (as Macron had suggested and as the former leader of the Soviet Union Mikhail Gorbachev had [proposed](#) in 1989 while talking about his vision for a “common European home” that would stretch from northern Asia to Europe). Nor was an agreement with Russia feasible if it meant that Russian concerns were to be taken seriously by the West. Ukrainians have been paying a terrible price for the failure of ensuring sensible and reasonable negotiations from 2014 to February 2022 – which could have prevented the invasion by Russia in the first place, and once the war started, could have led to the end of this war. All wars end in negotiations, but these negotiations to end wars should be permitted to restart.

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Economic Crisis: AFAG's 8-Point Resolution To President Akufo-Addo



President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo

The Alliance for Accountable Governance (AFAG), a pro-New Patriotic Party (NPP) group, has submitted an eight-point resolution to the President regarding the current state of the economy and how he should deal with his Finance Ministers.

The group lamented about the continuous depreciation of the dollar, pinning it on racketeers within the banking system and calling on the government to remedy the situation.

Their first resolution is for President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo while he thinks of what to do to curb the free fall of the cedi, to reassign Ken Ofori-Atta, the Finance Minister to a different portfolio in his government.

The group further indicated that

"some forex restrictions targeted at persons undermining the system from the central bank through the commercial banks to the unlicensed forex operators.

"Investigate the banks and prosecute officials engaged in forex trading, impose import restrictions on selected items and engage multinational companies, business ventures contributing to the capital flight."

THIS IS THE FULL TEXT OF AFAG'S STATEMENT: Mr PRESIDENT, SPEAK & ACT NOW

The Alliance for Accountable Governance (AFAG) is a public interest advocacy group that shares a lot of centre-right positions on

issues that are often in sync with the ideological philosophy of the New Patriotic Party (NPP). Over the years, AFAG has been quiet out of goodwill toward Government. However, given recent developments, we are forced to depart from our current position on national development. Mr President, it is our considered opinion that the current speed of the cedi depreciation is borne out of the mischief of speculators and is purely artificial.

Although it will reflect various challenges with the balance of payment due to post covid and Ukraine, there is some panic buying, a lack of confidence and a high degree of uncertainty in the financial market.

Mr President, there is a particular conspiracy theory that points to the central bank's supervision of the forex market as weak. It is believed that high-placed persons in the central and commercial banks with profit motives auction dollars at an interbank rate, cheaper to the black markets, who then sell it on the market at very high speeds.

It is also the belief that people in business in the subregions are contributing to the volatile situation by coming into Ghana to sell their currency and buy dollars for cheap in Ghana, and after that, sending it to their countries (where dollars are pretty

expensive). Mr President, this is among others.

Mr President, also critical is the mass belief by Ghanaians that the minister of finance is doing very little to shore up confidence in the market. Nonetheless, but arguably so, there is a broad perception of him not doing much, coupled with his attack on the IMF.

The finance minister believes that going to IMF has a dire effect on the economy and that Ghana won't seek any support from the IMF. AFAG finds it inconsistent of him, therefore, to lead the IMF negotiations or remain in office now that the government is seeking a bailout. Mr President, it is time to present an economic recovery plan to the nation. IMF intervention would not be enough to salvage the situation. Over the period, you have not also addressed the country. We find this highly unusual based on how in the past, you have fostered cooperation from Ghanaians through your frequent addresses during the covid crisis. We will need you to reduce anxiety in the system and let Ghanaians know the "whys" and "hows".

RESOLUTION:

- The minister of finance and the

Minister of State at the Ministry, Ken Ofori Atta and Charles Adu Boahen must be reassigned

- some forex restrictions targeted at persons undermining the system, from the central bank through the commercial banks to the unlicensed forex operators

- investigate the banks and prosecute officials engaged in forex trading

- impose import restrictions on selected items

- engaging multinational companies and business ventures contributing to the capital flight.

- restricting the forex export to a certain level, at least in the next six months.

- Ensuring traders who export US dollars from Ghana annually have imported about an equal amount to the country.

- Encourage Ghanaians to understand why the current rates are artificial and how they will trade at a loss when the market settles, and the cedi benchmarks to the US Dollar at its real value.

Signed

AFAG LEADERSHIP

Mahama Celebrates New UK Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak

Former President John Dramani Mahama has celebrated the feat of Rishi Sunak for emerging as the new Prime Minister of the United Kingdom (UK).

In a Twitter post on Monday October 24, Mahama said that it was worth celebrating the incoming PM of Indian descent as he is the first person of color to occupy the highest office in UK politics.

"Significant developments

in the UK with 42 year old @RishiSunak emerging as Leader of the Conservative Party and soon to be appointed Prime Minister by King Charles III. Worth celebrating first person of colour to rise to that position," Mahama tweeted.

Rishi Sunak secured more the 100 MP backers in a leadership race of Britain's Conservative Party on Monday as against his other contender Penny Mordaunt who withdrew

after failing to meet the 100 MP threshold.

This meant that Rishi Sunak was in pole position to become the Prime Minister. Sunak is set to replace Liz Truss who resigned on Thursday October 20, making her the shortest-serving prime minister in UK history.

Sunak will become Prime Minister on Tuesday once he is officially appointed by King Charles III and will be the first prime minister appointed by the new King following the death of



John Dramani Mahama and Rishi Sunak

Queen Elizabeth II in September, CNN reports. CNN understood that the King was traveling to London from the private royal estate of Sandringham

on Monday afternoon, as had always been his plan. He will have an audience with Truss on Tuesday morning before meeting with Sunak.

Race For NDC Chairmanship

Asiedu Nketiah Officially Launches Campaign

from page 7

The direct benefit of this is cutting down the astronomical cost of holding large National Congresses with thousands of participants and the associated risks of travelling from far and near for such conferences. Special and well-structured party conferences devoid of campaigning can then be held subsequently to discuss party constitutional and policy matters as well as matters of national importance.

- For many years, we have all known that the current mode of selection of party executives and candidates at all levels is too costly and unsustainable and has implications for governance. For a mass-based organization like the NDC, there is an undeniable need for much broader participation by as many members of the party as possible at the least possible cost. We cannot perpetually encourage the unsustainable expenditure associated with vying for positions in the party. It is for this reason that we attempted universal suffrage in the 2015 primaries. Despite varying degrees of success and challenges during that attempt, it remains the best way to curb monetization and restricted participation in party primaries and I will be tabling it for consideration

as Chairman of the party.

- We will deepen mass registration of party members with the view to achieving continuous registration and ultimately building a fully integrated data base for more efficient management. This will help eliminate disputes about memberships and reduce opportunity for manipulation of registers for electoral purposes. It will enhance dues collection and other funding avenues.
- I will champion, as Chairman of the NDC, the provision of a permanent campus for the Institute of Social Democracy to make it a fully-fledged institution of political and ideological learning with accreditation and open access to social democratic parties, institutions, labour union leaders and personnel of CSOs in and outside of Ghana.
- The party school will run programmes for all office holders in the NDC and bring them up to speed with their responsibilities.
- I will collaborate with my successor General Secretary to continue with the Financial Reforms we are currently implementing to give the branches, constituency and regional wings of the party, greater financial autonomy, and independence with strict

financial and accounting lines to ensure maximum transparency in the collection and utilization of funds.

- We will revive the NDC Heroes Fund to serve as sustainable means of supporting party functionaries, who suffer disabilities in the course of their duties or their dependents in the event of death.
- In short, I will lead my colleagues as your chairman to make the NDC a formidable, attractive, and modern organization that will be the party of choice for the teeming masses of Ghanaians, the youth, women, the vulnerable in society and people from all walks of life and background. The NDC will be the reference point for effective social mobilization to unleash the potential of the Ghanaian to achieve any feat and realize our collective aspirations.

3y3 Zu!
3y3 Za!

Fellow Akatamansonians Ladies and gentlemen Ultimately, my Chairmanship will result in a resounding victory for the NDC in the 2024 elections. That would not only be a political success for the NDC, but it is also in fact, a national emergency and imperative. On the evidence of the kind of governance we have seen in the last six years, failure

to wrest the leadership of our dear country from the NPP will spell doom for Ghanaians as they would have been condemned to more bad governance and total maladministration. The people of this country have no tolerance left for the horrendous misrule of Akufo-Addo and his nation-wrecking NPP government. Ghanaians can no longer tolerate the insults being heaped on them by Akufo-Addo himself and his close associates. Ghanaians are fed up! Ghanaians look forward to the NDC to fearlessly save what is left of our country and restore it to its glorious days. For all their mismanagement and terrible governance, all of us know that the NPP is prepared to kill for power as they demonstrated in the Ayawaso West Wuogon attacks and the callous murder of eight innocent souls during the 2020 elections. In their arsenal is a deeply partisan Electoral Commission that believes their singular duty is to rig elections for the NPP and emasculate other parties. The NDC must, therefore, be properly organized and have a leadership that exhibits untainted integrity, fearlessness, trustworthiness, proven temperament, selflessness,

discipline, accountability, transparency, and emotional intelligence. Above all, we need a leadership that has the moral courage to stand up to a marauding NPP in the 2024 elections. The NDC needs a Chairman who is not amenable to any influence, inducement, or compromise by external forces. It is these qualities that I humbly bring to the table in this contest for the Chairmanship position of the party. I pledge that mine will be a decent campaign focused on issues devoid of any personal and needless attacks. This, after all, is an internal contest, which should leave us more united than divided and I extend a hand of friendship to all aspirants in this contest to do same so that in the end, we will surge forward together to remove the failed NPP government from office. Once again, I am Johnson Asiedu Nketiah: your very own courageous, fearless, trustworthy, honest, and experienced servant – General Mosquito. Vote for me as the National Chairman of the NDC come December 2022. I thank you all for coming Long live the NDC and may God bless our homeland Ghana.