

Africa Needs New Strategic Framework For Industrialization - Alan

Ghana's Trade and Industry Minister Hon Alan Kyerematen has called on African leaders to develop a new strategic framework to reshape

the fortunes of Industrialization on the continent. The industrialization specialist, who has championed the successful implementation of Ghana's One

District One Factory (1D1F) agenda, urged African leaders to map out a master strategy to boost the industrial revolution on the continent. Speaking at the 17th Extra Ordinary

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Hon Alan Kyerematen

TUC FIGHTS GOVT

Over IMF Imposed Freeze On Public Sector Employment



President Nana Akufo-Addo

The Ghana Trades Union Congress (TUC-Ghana) over the weekend expressed discontent over the freeze in public sector employment

announced by the government at the presentation of the 2023 Budget and Financial statement. While expressing its opposition to the

decision, the TUC said the move by the government to impose a freeze on recruitment into the public and civil service for the upcoming year

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Philanthropist Alhaji Jalali Yunusah Procures Medical Equipment To Support Health Care Delivery In Weija-Gbawe



Alhaji Jalali Yunusah

By Muhammed Faisel Mustapha

As part of efforts to ensure quality health care delivery in the Weija-Gbawe area in the Ga South Municipality of the Greater Accra Region, a Germany based philanthropist and politician, Alhaji Jalali Yunusah has purchased some

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Increase Cashew Price For The Upcoming Cashew Season - Farmers Appeal To Govt *page 5*

The INSIGHT

— EDITORIAL

CLOSE THEM DOWN!

Few months after the Ghana Standards Authority in collaboration with the Criminal Investigation Department of the Ghana Police Service closed down a gas cylinder manufacturing plants in Accra and other areas for operating illegally it has now emerged the some others are operating with bravado.

This development is indeed worrying. Indeed, there are several of these gas plants littered across every nook and cranny of the country and the worry is the danger their operations pose to residents especially in residential areas apart from operating illegally.

Over the years the country has recorded a huge number of domestic fires, which had claimed several lives and property and it is upon this basis that such illegal cylinder manufacturing companies need not be allowed to operate.

Often, these stations are closed down only to be seen a couple of days later, operating brisk business, a clear indication that something has gone amidst.

There is therefore, the need for the state regulatory agencies to ensure that standards are adhered to and especially safety issues not compromised upon.

Again, the is the need for the regulators to ensure that those gas plants and filling stations that operate in residential areas and are sited close to, or sandwiched between houses are stopped from such dangerous operations.

Those that are operating illegally need to be closed down now.

Philanthropist Alhaji Jalali Yunusah Procures Medical Equipment To Support Health Care Delivery In Weija-Gbawe

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medical equipment for soon-to-be constructed ultra-modern health facility for the people of Weija-Gbawe Constituency.

The philanthropist who is a resident of Weija-Gbawe revealed that he has already procured and cleared two fully-loaded 40-footer containers of medical equipment shipped from Germany.

According to him, it is part of his agenda to construct an ultra-modern medical facility for the people of Weija-Gbawe constituency to boost health care delivery in the constituency where he lives with his family.

He added that land has already been secured for the construction of the medical facility and engineers including architects have also been engaged for work to commence soon.

Alhaji Jalali Yunusah stated that he has also procured a modern eye surgical equipment from Germany which will make the health post in Weija-Gbawe the best medical facility with modern equipment among other municipalities in Ghana.

Alhaji Jalali Yunusah who doubles as an executive member of Health 4 U, a non-governmental organization that supports health facilities through donations further revealed that he is in negotiations with a medical institution in Germany where Nurses and Doctors in Ghana will be sent to Germany for training on how to use some special medical equipment.

He further revealed that the procured medical equipment are just a few of the many life-changing initiatives he is bringing to the good people of Weija-Gbawe and its environs to make life worth living for the people of the area.

Alhaji Jalali Yunusah noted that he is very committed to supporting the people of Weija-Gbawe constituency with the little resources and connections he has to impact on their basic social needs.

It would be recalled that Alhaji Jalali



Yunusah during the recent flood disaster at Weija-Gbawe and its environs which rendered many residents homeless donated rice and soap to the victims as part of his support to the people.

This, and many other gestures have endeared the people of Weija-Gbawe to Alhaji Jalali Yunusah who has supported the constituents and made their wellbeing and comfort his topmost priority.

Alhaji Jalali Yunusah has been described by many within the Weija-Gbawe constituency of the National Democratic Congress (NDC) as a saviour whom God has chosen to redeem and support the party members in the constituency.

This and others have compelled the teaming members of the NDC to call on him to avail himself to be voted for in the upcoming NDC Parliamentary primaries.

THE INSIGHT

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TUC FIGHTS GOVT

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is an act of betrayal as the government had earlier made a promise not to do such. "I am really disappointed about the freeze of employment in the civil and public services in 2023, because this is something that the TUC has spoken about it all this while. When the IMF team came to this country, we had the opportunity to meet with them and one of the issues we raised with them is about the freeze of employment that always becomes their conditionality anytime they access their programme, we were assured that that was not going to happen," Deputy TUC General Secretary, Joshua Ansah said in an interview with the media.

Joshua Ansah pointed out that TUC in response to the decision will act based on the outcome of a discussion with its Social Welfare Committee. The decision to freeze employment for 2023 has been viewed as part of an IMF conditionality as the government engages the Fund and seeks to reach a decision by December ending for a \$3 billion

financial bailout for the country. Finance Minister, Ken Ofori-Atta last Thursday, November 24, 2022, presented before parliament government's budget and economic policy for the year 2023.

As part of the government's measure to arrest the country's challenged economic situation, the minister announced several measures.

These are some of the full expenditure measures approved by Cabinet and announced by the finance minister:

Mr Speaker, as a first step toward expenditure rationalisation, Government has approved the following directives which take effect from January 2023:

All MDAs, MMDAs and SOEs are directed to reduce fuel allocations to Political Appointees and heads of MDAs, MMDAs and SOEs by 50%. This directive applies to all methods of fuel allocation including coupons, electronic cards, chit systems, and fuel depots. Accordingly, 50% of the previous year's (2022) budget allocation

for fuel shall be earmarked for official business pertaining to MDAs, MMDAs and SOES;

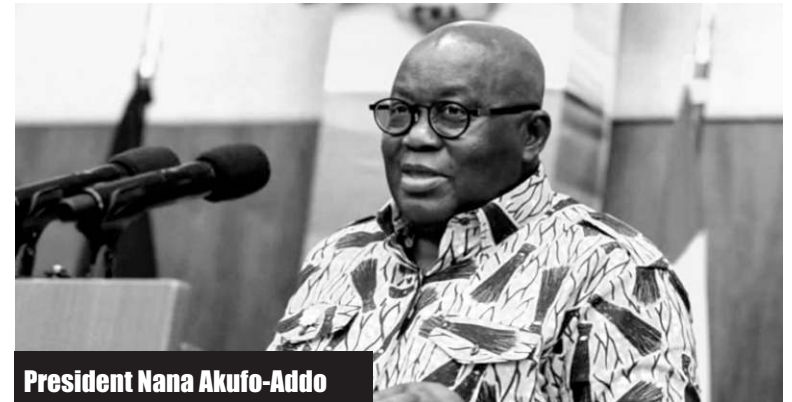
A ban on the use of V8s/V6s or its equivalent except for cross-country travel. All government vehicles would be registered with GV green number plates from January 2023;

Limited budgetary allocation for the purchase of vehicles. For the avoidance of doubt, the purchase of new vehicles shall be restricted to locally assembled vehicles;

Only essential official foreign travel across government including SOEs shall be allowed. No official foreign travel shall be allowed for board members.

Accordingly, all government institutions should submit a travel plan for the year 2023 by mid-December of all expected travels to the Chief of Staff;

As far as possible, meetings and workshops should be done within the official environment or government facilities;



President Nana Akufo-Addo

Government-sponsored external training and Staff Development activities at the Office of the President, Ministries and SOEs must be put on hold for the 2023 financial year;

Reduction of expenditure on appointments including salary freezes together with suspension of certain allowances like housing, utilities and clothing, etc.;

A freeze on new tax waivers for foreign companies and review of tax exemptions for the free zone, mining, oil and gas companies;

A hiring freeze for civil and public servants

No new government agencies shall be established in 2023;

There shall be no hampers for 2022;

There shall be no printing of diaries, notepads, calendars and other promotional merchandise by MDAs, MMDAs and SOEs for 2024;

All non-critical projects must be suspended for the 2023 Financial year.

Africa Needs New Strategic Framework For Industrialization - Alan



Hon Alan Kyerematen

Mr. Kyerematen asked African leaders to seriously embrace industrialization as it is the surest means out of the deep poverty and large levels of unemployment facing their people, adding the difficulties most African countries faced in the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia- Ukraine war should be a wake up call. "Excellencies,

It is a paradox of history that although Africa controls most of the strategic mineral resources of the world, has almost 60% of all arable lands, is endowed with the most extensive water bodies and has some of the richest forest resources, Africa still accounts for only 1.9% of global manufacturing and controls less than 4% of global trade. "The answer to this paradox is for

Africa to industrialize and add value to its natural resources. It is not by coincidence that the most powerful economies in the world also happen to be the most industrialized. "It is against this background that I wish to commend highly the efforts of the AU Commission in bringing a new impetus for the industrialization of our continent", Hon. Alan Kyerematen said at the continental summit in Niamey, Niger. He noted that the industrialization process comes with the outlay of huge financial resources, among others, but urged African leaders to adopt measures that will help to make this possible. "Excellencies, as we are all

aware, industrialization does not occur by chance or happen overnight. Africa will industrialize only if we plan for it through deliberate, consistent, and systematic efforts both at the regional and national levels. In this regard, I will encourage the African Union Commission to initiate the formulation of a new strategic framework for Africa's Industrialization, learning from the experiences of the implementation of AIDA. "Africa cannot industrialize without investment capital. African Governments will therefore need to introduce business regulatory reforms that will attract private capital, both domestic and foreign, into industrial development activities", the Trade and

Industry added. He cited the example of Ghana as a case study where the comprehensive 10 point for industrialization led by the One District One Factory was developed. "Excellencies, In Ghana we have launched and are implementing a Comprehensive Ten Point Plan for Industrial Transformation which includes amongst others, the flagship "One District One Factory" Initiative which seeks to decentralize industrialization, and the establishment of Strategic Anchor Industries, which seek to diversify the Ghanaian economy away from cocoa and gold. Ghana is ready and willing to share our experiences with sister African countries," Mr. Kyerematen said.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS REPORT

Compiled By Peoples Dispatch

Dutch Court Finds 2007 Airstrike In Afghanistan That Killed 20 Civilians Unlawful, Orders Compensation

In a first of its kind case in the Netherlands, a district court in The Hague last Wednesday, November 23, ruled that a 2007 Dutch airstrike in the town of Chora in Afghanistan, which reportedly killed 20 Afghan civilians, was illegal. The court also ordered the government to provide financial compensation to the victims, [AP reported](#). The court ruled that the early morning airstrikes carried out by the Dutch military on June 17, 2007, using helicopters and fighter jets (F-16s) on civilian houses were a violation of international humanitarian law. The court observed that the attacks were carried out without enough information and adequate attempts to establish the presence of combatants. The judgement [noted that](#) the Dutch military fired at least 28 bombs on the civilian compound in Chora in the Uruzgan province in central Afghan, killing civilians

and their animals and destroying their homes. The verdict came after four survivors of the bombing filed a civil suit against the Dutch state. The names of the petitioners were not revealed in the court document. However, the document notes that at least seven family members of one of the complainants were among those killed in the airstrikes. The Dutch military had claimed that the compound was used by the Taliban. However, the court found that it was a civilian compound. The court also questioned the Dutch military's claims that they had information about the compound being used by the Taliban, saying that the information was insufficient and old as there were no firing from the location for hours before the attack.

War crimes in Afghanistan

Dutch forces were part of the

US-led international military invasion of Afghanistan in 2001 which lasted until August last year. The US had held Afghanistan's then government led by the Taliban responsible for the September 11 attacks. The US and its NATO allies led an international coalition of forces called the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) to invade the country. The ISAF has been accused of being responsible for thousands of [civilian casualties](#) amounting to [war crimes](#) in Afghanistan. However, only in a handful of cases have the US and some of its allies admitted to killing innocent civilians and ordered compensation, which is often found to be [inaccurate](#) and [inadequate](#). Despite evidence, the US and its NATO allies [refuse to take action](#) against their personnel responsible for the war crimes, and in most the cases refuse to take any responsibility.



Petty Officer 1st Class John Collins, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons. The court ruled that the early morning airstrikes carried out by the Dutch military on June 17, 2007 on civilian houses were a violation of international humanitarian law. Dutch forces were part of the US-led international coalition that invaded Afghanistan in 2001

According to the AP report, there were various reports of civilians being killed in military operations carried out by the US-led international forces in Chora at the time. The report claims that during the three days of fighting between the ISAF and Taliban in the town in June 2007, at least 250 people were killed, of whom between 50 and 80 were civilians. The ISAF countries have refused to acknowledge the civilian

deaths or take action against the personnel responsible for those killings. Investigations into the bombings in Chora were only started in the Netherlands two years back after a former military person raised questions about the operation's legitimacy in a report, [Al-Jazeera reported](#).

Myanmar Junta Releases Prisoners In Mass Amnesty Move

The Myanmar junta has announced the release of 5,774 prisoners on "humanitarian grounds" ahead of the country's National Day. The list includes four prominent foreigners, former British ambassador Vicky Bowman, Japanese filmmaker Toru Kubota, Burmese-American Kyaw Htay Oo, and Australian economist Sean Turnell. A number of people gathered outside the notorious Insein prison in Yangon following the announcement of the mass amnesty. [Reuters reported](#) that eyewitnesses saw a bus leaving the prison with some of those named in the amnesty list. All of the foreigners are to be deported after their release, according to the junta spokesperson. The move is aimed at improving the junta's relations with Western countries, which have

been reluctant to publicly accept the legitimacy of the military regime after it toppled the civilian government in February 2021. "Yet again, political prisoners are being used as bargaining chips," the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) [said](#), adding that it was an apparent move to ease the "political pressure." Human Rights Watch (HRW) [noted](#) that while the amnesty notice is a "big relief to their families," it is also "a reminder that thousands of other citizens are being held in horrific conditions without much international support." According to AAPP, which has been documenting rights violations by the junta, the total number of people arrested in the anti-coup agitation is estimated to be [16,316](#), of whom [12,923 are still in detention](#).

Anti-coup crackdown

Political turmoil continues in Myanmar since the military coup last year. The military rule is being strongly resisted by the [civil disobedience movement](#) spearheaded by local [activists, unionists, workers and students](#). In response to the popular resistance, the military crackdown has been intense, structural, and overt. According to estimates by AAPP, a total of [2,525 civilians](#) have been killed in the mass movement so far. The military regime has also taken in a large number of political prisoners to curb the uprising. Between February 2021 to June 2022, at least [890 people were convicted](#) and sentenced. As many as 52 individuals were sentenced to death, HRW [noted](#). "The total number of political prisoners detained was as many as throughout the country's past five decades of military rule that ended in 2010," U Aung Myo Kyaw,

spokesperson of AAPP [claimed](#). Rights groups like AAPP have reported that at least 103 prisoners have died in custody. There have also been multiple [reports](#) of prisoners being severely [beaten](#) inside the Insein jail. On June 14, [Irrawaddy reported](#) that prison authorities were involved in beating up 10 prisoners. In May, more than 60 political prisoners in the Hpan-an prison were brutally beaten for [singing the anti-regime song](#) (Tway Thit Sar). Some prisoners went on hunger strike against the junta's decision to execute four dissidents, including two prominent activists, on June 8. The decision to execute the activists amounted to "war crimes," as per the UN, which called the death sentences "a vile attempt at instilling fear amongst the people of Myanmar."

Crimes against women

On November 10, AAPP along with the Women's League of Burma (WLB) made a [joint call for survivors](#) of sexual violence by junta forces to come forward and report violations to civil society organizations and provide evidence for future prosecutions. At least 12 civilian have been killed and raped, before or after their death, by the junta forces, [claimed](#) AAPP. "We want the coup leaders and rights violators to know that in the future – in a free and federal Burma – they will be held to account for their crimes," AAPP secretary U Tate Naing [said](#), adding that people of Myanmar deserve "justice and dignity" after suffering such human rights violations.

Minority Reintroduces Motion For Vote Of Censure Against Health Minister

The minority has reintroduced a motion to kick out the health minister, [Kwaku Agyeman-Manu](#) over his involvement in the Sputnik-V vaccines procurement scandal. The private members on the motion, according to the Parliament's Order Paper, are James Avedzi, Mubarak Muntaka, Ahmed Ibrahim, and others. The motion was filed against the minister on the following conduct;

1. Undertaking International Business or Economic Transaction (procurement and supply of vaccines) as Minister for Health with the Private Office of His Highness Sheik Ahmed Dalmook Al Maktoum without prior approval of Parliament contrary to article 181 of the 1992 Constitution of

the Republic of Ghana;
2. Signing Procurement Agreement with the Private Office of His Highness Sheik Ahmed Dalmook Al Maktoum and S.L. Global Ltd without prior approval of the Board of the Public Procurement Authority under sections 40 and 41 of the Public Procurement Act, 2003 (Act 663) as amended by Act 914 which constitutes Criminal Offence under the law;
3. Dishonest Procurement of Sputnik-V vaccines from the Private Office of His Highness Sheik Ahmed Dalmook Al Maktoum and S.L. Global Ltd at the cost of US\$ 19.00 and US\$18.5 respectively when the ex-factory price of the Sputnik-V vaccine generally announced was US\$10

confirmed by the Minister to the Committee responsible for Health.

4. Knowingly procuring Sputnik-V vaccine from the Private Office of His Highness Sheik Ahmed Dalmook Al Maktoum and S.L. Global Ltd at the cost of US\$19.00 and US\$18.5 respectively per dose. Nevertheless, informs the Committee responsible for Health that the ex-factory price of the Sputnik- V does not exceed US\$10.00 per dose;
5. Causing payment in the sum of US\$2,850,000.00 (Cedi the equivalent of GH\$16,331,640.00) to the Private Office of His Highness Sheik Ahmed Dalmook Al Maktoum under void agreement with the Private Office of His Highness Sheik



Health Minister, Kwaku Agyeman-Manu

Ahmed Dalmook Al Maktoum, yet fibbed and misrepresented to the Ad Hoc Committee on Oath that no payment was made under the Agreement to the Private Office of His Highness Sheik Ahmed Dalmook Al Maktoum and thereby committing a crime, to wit perjury; and

6. The above conduct, being in direct breach of the Constitution and Laws passed by this Honourable House, the Minister for Health be removed from office as Minister by a Vote of Censure passed in accordance with article 82 of the 1992 Constitution.

Increase Cashew Price For The Upcoming Cashew Season - Farmers Appeal To Govt

The Cashew Farmers Association of Amoma community in the Jaman South Municipality has appealed to the government and the leaders of the Tree Crop Development Authority to increase the price to Ghc5.00 as they prepare to set cashew price for the 2022/2023 cashew season ahead. The Akafo Nkoso Cashew Farmers Association in the Amoma community while expressing gratitude to the president and the NPP government for the establishment of the Tree Crop Development Authority to steer the affairs and regulate the price of cashew production in the country as a way of boosting agriculture in Ghana hoped that the price will be adjusted upwards. Speaking in an exclusive interview with some selected journalists, Mr. Kusi Emmanuel, the Secretary to the Akafo Nkosuo Cashew Association, indicated that all the farming inputs have experienced tremendous price hikes which are highly affecting the work of the farmers in the country hence government and the Tree Crop Development Authority must

consider a reasonable and considerable benchmark price for the purchasing of cashew nuts in the 2022/2023 cashew season which according to him shouldn't fall below Ghc12.00 or 1 dollar price. He added that most Cashew purchasing clerks in the country always find it difficult to purchase the nuts as a result of financial constraints which compel them to solely depend on foreigners for funds before they can commence effective cashew purchasing which according to him affects purchasing price. He therefore pleaded with the government to support the purchasing clerks with some soft loans to begin their purchasing process to prevent the foreigners from dictating the purchasing price for the farmers stressing that government support to the Cashew purchasing clerks will stabilize the Benchmark price that may be set for the farmers upkeep. Meanwhile the agric extension officer of Amoma community, a suburb of Jaman south in the Kintampo district, Mr Samuel Addo was optimistic that if the government is going to take closer look at farming, he doesn't think Ghana will go in for any loans from foreign countries. According to him, the Amoma



community is a cashew and mango farming area with rich fresh fruits that contain natural nutrients to boost health. He observed that as an extension officer of the community he can boldly state that the farmers need serious help and attention from government. Mr Addo also revealed that the last time the assembly came to the aid of the farmers only 30 people benefited from the seedlings program and left about hundred of them helpless. "The farmers are going through difficulties since the pricing didn't help them at all not to talk of the production before the harvest season." "I plead with the government to do something about the pricing and also help them with some financial assistance to enable them do more than what they're doing now" he stressed. The road that links them to the Amoma community is very bad and needs urgent attention, that is needs to be fixed immediately, he added.

Ghana Now A High Debt Distressed Country - Ofori-Atta

Finance Minister, [Ken Ofori-Atta](#), has stated that current debt sustainability

conducted has shown that Ghana is now classified as a high debt distressed country.

According to him, the country's debt has been grossly affected by the constant depreciation of the cedi.

"The current debt sustainability analysis conducted reveals that Ghana is now considered to be at high risk of debt distress," he said while presenting the 2023 budget statement in parliament.

He added that "the sustainability of our debt has been continuously affected by the negative impact of exchange rate depreciation, particularly on external debt, as well as the crystallization of significant contingent liabilities in recent years."

He however added that government was committed to sustaining the country's skyrocketing debt levels. He said, "Mr. Speaker, despite the heightened debt levels, Government remains committed to ensuring that debt is brought to



sustainable levels over the medium to long term."

The Minister of Finance, [Ken Ofori-Atta](#), is in parliament to fulfill his constitutional mandate by presenting the government budget to the House.

The presentation is in accordance with Article 179 of the 1992 Constitution and section 21 of the Public Financial Management Act, 2016 (Act 921).

The minister is presenting the 2023 Budget Statement and Economic Policy to parliament in a year that has experienced perhaps, the worst forms of economic downturns in the fourth republic.

[Ken Ofori-Atta](#) has also come under a lot of backlash and pressure from both within and outside his party, the New Patriotic Party (NPP), to either resign or be sacked by President Nana Akufo-Addo.

Putin Invokes Castro's Legacy Amid New Cold War Rivalry

By M. K. Bhadrakumar

A three-meter-tall bronze statue of Fidel Castro was last Tuesday unveiled in the Fidel Castro Square in Moscow's Sokol District by Russian President Vladimir Putin and Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel in memory of the historic leader of the Cuban Revolution. Fidel himself was staunchly against creating a cult of personality and in Cuba there are no streets, buildings, institutions or localities named for him. In a speech in 2003, Fidel stated: "There is no cult of personality around any living revolutionary, in the form of statues, official photographs, or the names of streets or institutions. The leaders of this country are human beings, not gods."

Thus, the only things named in honor of the great revolutionary are located outside Cuba — a park in Vietnam, several streets in South Africa, Namibia, Angola, Tanzania, Mozambique and so on. The event in Moscow saluting Fidel's legacy is highly symbolic. From being a "status quoist" state, Russia is rapidly assuming a "revolutionary" role in world politics, challenging the so-called "rules-based order" imposed by the West, and is in the middle of one of the gravest crisis of the post-Cold War era. The year 2022 happens to be the 60th anniversary of the [Cuban Missile Crisis](#) marking the high noon of the Cold War when again Moscow found itself at the center of a showdown with Washington. The discord then was eerily similar to the one now — over the US attempts to push strategic deployments in Russia's immediate neighborhood threatening its national defense and security. The crisis in 1962 erupted when the US detected the construction of Soviet launch sites in Cuba as retaliation for the US deployment of Jupiter missiles in Turkey. It was

addressed through back channel negotiations to reach a deal whereby the Soviet missiles were eventually dismantled and removed from Cuba, while on its part, the US ended its quarantine of Cuba in October 1962 and removed its Jupiter missiles from Turkey by April 1963. Alas, President Biden, unlike President Kennedy, has refused to negotiate with Russia, and a proxy war ensued in Ukraine. The war could have been avoided and Ukraine's destruction averted if only negotiations were held to resuscitate the Minsk Agreements that made allowance for some form of regional autonomy for Donbass region within a federated country governed from Kiev. President Biden chose not to take that road (and, of course, the pro-Western Ukrainian leadership in Kiev felt encouraged to undermine the Minsk Agreements as such.) Putin [recalled poignantly](#) on Tuesday that in his last conversation with Fidel in July 2015, "He talked about the things that were surprisingly consonant with the time — the time of the development of a multipolar world — saying that independence and dignity cannot be put up for sale and that every nation is entitled to develop as it sees fit and to choose its own path, and that a truly fair world has no place for dictatorship, plunder or neo-colonialism." Putin later drew the attention of Diaz-Canel to the demeanor of the statue. "I do not know if you liked it or not, but it seems to me that one can't help but like it," Putin said with a smile, adding that it was an appropriate tribute to Fidel's memory and a real work of art. "It's dynamic, on the

move, looking forward. A perfect image of a true fighter." Diaz-Canel concurred: "This is a monument in motion. I think it reflects Fidel's personality in the midst of struggle, just like we are in the midst of struggle today." The meaningful exchange carried a far-reaching message of its own. Truly, the Ukraine war has been a moment of truth for Russia. From a foreign policy focused narrowly on national interests, Russia is reclaiming its regional and global role lately. Fidel would have nodded approvingly, as Cuba under him had an internationalist outlook and made immense sacrifices in challenging US hegemony. Fidel's legacy is of exceptional importance to Russia today. Putin described the friendship between Russia and Cuba as their "shared heritage." He underscored, "Jointly, we will continue to strengthen our union and defend the great values of freedom, equality and justice." Putin added, "Based on this solid foundation of friendship, we must, of course, bearing in mind the current realities, move on, and strengthen our cooperation. I am very glad that we have such an opportunity." Diaz-Canel was more direct and forthright. He [told](#) Putin: "We appreciate all the work that the Russian Federation is doing to ensure that the world moves toward multipolarity and makes progress in that direction. In this sense, you have serious leadership. "Russia and Cuba have been subjected to unfair unilateral sanctions and have a common enemy, a common source which is the Yankee empire, which manipulates a large part of humankind... And our first commitment is to continue to uphold the Russian Federation's position in this conflict which, we believe has its origins,



A statue of Fidel Castro that was unveiled in Moscow's Sokol District. Photo: RT. The inauguration of the statue of Fidel Castro takes place during the 60th anniversary year of the Cuban missile crisis. The discord then was eerily similar to the one now — over US attempts to push strategic deployments in Russia's immediate neighborhood

unfortunately, in the fact that the United States is manipulating the international community... We appreciate all efforts of the Russian Federation and your role in orienting the world towards multi-polarity, in encouraging it to move in this direction. In this sense, you have a very strong leadership role." How this verve in the Russian-Cuban relations pans out in the complex geopolitical setting will bear watch. The Russian-Cuban intergovernmental commission held a session in Moscow during Diaz-Canel's visit, where, reportedly, "a number of important decisions on key issues" were taken to advance the bilateral relations. Diaz-Canel told Putin, "We have identical approaches and views on global issues. I would like to say again that Russia can always rely on Cuba." No matter the denouement to the Ukraine war, Russia still would face the stark reality of the US-NATO military presence right at its doorstep. There is no question of a NATO rollback to the 1998 position in Europe. The Western mercenaries in their thousands are fighting in Ukraine and prominent faces like General David Petraeus are demanding an open western military intervention in Ukraine to defeat Russia. Indeed, the US initiative to induct Finland into NATO as a member — although that country faces no threat from

Russia — aims to "box in" Russia. And the West is aggressively stepping up its presence all around Russia. It is inconceivable that Russia can afford to remain passive. Suffice to say, Putin is playing the "Cuban card" at an inflection point. Interestingly, Diaz-Canel's itinerary of visit also includes China. Díaz-Canel will be the first head of state from a Latin American country that Xi Jinping receives after the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China. The Chinese Foreign Ministry took note that "despite international vicissitudes, China and Cuba have forged ahead together on the path of building socialism with national characteristics, supported each other on issues concerning core interests and had close coordination on international and regional issues, setting an exemplary model for solidarity and cooperation between socialist countries and sincere mutual assistance between developing countries." In a commentary on Díaz-Canel's forthcoming visit, [Global Timestook note](#) that "Despite US' long-term crackdown on left-wing governments in the region, Latin America is now experiencing "pink tide" resurgence with major countries in the region "turning left." Latin America is tired of US' hegemony and coercion, and leaders with the agenda focusing on domestic development are gaining public support." *MK Bhadrakumar is a former diplomat. He was India's ambassador to Uzbekistan and Turkey. The views are personal.*

Anas Rubbishes Claims Of Extortion



CEO of Tiger Eye P. I. Anas Aremeyaw Anas

Investigative journalist Anas Aremeyaw Anas has disputed claims of extortion, and blackmail leveled against him and his team following the release of his recent exposé dubbed "Galamsey Economy." The recent work of Anas has led to the dismissal of the Minister of State for Finance, Charles Adu Boahen, who was captured in the exposé making implicating statements. However, on the back of some criticism following the release of the expose, Tiger Eye P. I. in a statement signed by its Chief Executive Officer, Anas, has dared anyone with evidence of such claims of extortion to come forward.

This is the full statement by Tiger Eye:

TIGER EYE RESPONDS TO ALLEGATIONS OF EXTORTION AND BLACKMAIL

Press statement signed by the CEO of Tiger Eye PI, Anas Aremeyaw Anas

1. Following the release of the Galamsey Economy exposé which focused on exposing the pervasive rot that is affecting the economy and investor confidence in Ghana, some persons have resorted to mudslinging and lies against the CEO of Tiger Eye PI, Anas Aremeyaw Anas. A video, made up of rehashed

allegations from 2018 have been circulated on social media networks and other messaging platforms. Tiger Eye hereby responds to the contents of the said video, containing details which we have refuted on countless occasions.

2. Tiger Eye PI dismisses all the allegations including extortion and blackmail against Anas Aremeyaw Anas. These allegations are imagined and fabricated, with no basis in reality. Tiger Eye PI notes, that, these are antics by the perpetrators of corruption and their collaborators, to distract from the facts of our recent exposé. It also merits the question: why do such allegations only surface when there is an exposé?

3. In the said video, Mr Kwesi Nyantakyi's wife is seen and heard, sometime in 2018 on Metro TV, alleging that some persons had contacted her husband to pay some amount of money (\$100,000) in order to drop the #12 exposé. When this allegation was first made, Anas Aremeyaw Anas challenged Mr Nyantakyi and his wife to sue him or whoever did what they're alleging, or report him/her to the police for extortion if they think their stale allegation is true (<https://mobile.ghanaweb.com/.../Sue-me-for->

extortion..."). It's however important to note that, she, as well as the trumpeters of the said allegation, fail to mention anyone's name. As we speak, Mr Nyantakyi is standing trial for fraud and corruption. If this allegation were true, it would be absurd that he would not go any length to put whoever made those demands for bribes before the law especially when through Tiger Eye's anti-corruption operations, he has lost his job.

4. It's important to note that, the champion of these spurious allegations, Mr Kennedy Agyepong (also seen in the video), who splashed the photos of the late Ahmed Suale on his NET 2 TV prior to his assassination, is in court with Anas Aremeyaw Anas in a defamation suit. When he challenged the professional integrity of Anas as a lawyer at the General Legal Council, he was handed a defeat. Again, he has already lost the first round of defamation suit against him by Mr Abdul Malik Kweku Baako, where the court found his allegations to be unfounded and empty.

5. In the video, portions show Mr Charles Bissue's false claims. Tiger Eye refuted his false claims recently, extensively. (https://www.myjoyonline.com/full-text-anas-vs-charles...). We reiterate that those claims of demands for bribes to drop the Galamsey Fraud exposé, are false and without merit.

6. It's interesting that whenever these claims are made, those alleging fail to mention specific names nor produce evidence to buttress their claims. They don't also take bold steps to report such things to the law

enforcement agencies for them to be dealt with per law. This should alert every watcher, that, these claims are wanton and must be treated as such.

7. In the video, a man in cornrow whom another claimed was Anas, was being accused of land grabbing. On humanitarian grounds, we wish to iterate that circulating videos of persons and tagging them as ANAS could put innocent persons at risk as they might get caught up and targeted in a case of mistaken identity. We further wish to state for the record that Anas Aremeyaw Anas, CEO of Tiger Eye has NEVER forcefully or illegally dispossessed anyone of his/her land and hasn't been involved in an altercation as being purported. No court has found him guilty of illegal land expropriation. Tiger Eye is fully aware that this particular allegation is being championed by one Kweku Annan who was sacked from NET 2 for professional misconduct. Suffice to say, Kweku Annan was exposed by Tiger Eye demanding bribes to spew lies about Anas Aremeyaw Anas (https://www.adomonline.com/fallout-from-12-radio...). Subsequently, Tiger Eye took him to the National Media Commission (NMC) for redress on his allegations (https://www.graphic.com.gh/.../video-anas-petitions-nmc...), where he couldn't substantiate a single claim, leading to the issuance of a restraining order against him by the NMC. Once again, we challenge anyone with evidence of wrongdoing in the nature of unlawful expropriation of lands to proceed to the appropriate State agency for further action.

8. To reiterate without

equivocation, Tiger Eye PI has NEVER, either through its agents or third parties, demanded monies from persons busted by Tiger Eye PI in the cause of our work, including the Number 12 and Galamsey Fraud exposés for the stories to be dropped. Per the internal operating procedures and integrity mechanisms within Tiger Eye, it's IMPOSSIBLE for any of our agents to demand bribes to drop a story. The sheer frivolity and incoherence of these allegations have been exposed times without number by Tiger Eye PI.

9. Tiger Eye PI, has at all times, after its investigations, taken extra steps to assist relevant State authorities to investigate the findings of our investigations. Anas Aremeyaw Anas has testified in courts, has been cross examined, and has been a subject of multiple suits for his works. None of these suits, since the over two decades of dedicated service to uncover crimes, has been successful.

10. We challenge anyone with evidence of crime against Anas Aremeyaw Anas, to without hesitation, make same available to the relevant State authorities.

11. Tiger Eye PI remains unwavering in its commitment to fight graft and crimes using sting operations (Anas principle), and absolutely nothing, be they threats or baggage of spurious allegations, will stop us from holding duty bearers accountable in the interest of God and Country.

[SGD]

ANAS AREMEYAW ANAS

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Full Text Of 2023 Budget And Financial Statement Presented By Finance Minister Ken Ofori-Atta

From page 7

Enforce compliance with legal and regulatory framework on foreign

exchange;
o Initiate measures to overhaul the tax structures in the extractive industry;

o Expand the gold purchase programme by Bank of Ghana to support FX Reserve accumulation, promote an LBMA certified gold refinery in Ghana and promote local currency stability;

● To safeguard the social protection programmes, we will among others:

o Expand social protection programmes such as LEAP, School Feeding, and NHIS for the vulnerable and socially excluded.

25. Mr. Speaker, last year, I presented our plan to get us back to pre-pandemic macro-stability and growth levels. More importantly, I shared the President's strategy to improve the living standards of Ghanaians and address our central challenge – unemployment. The strategy was anchored on building a Sustainable Entrepreneurial Nation through fiscal consolidation and Job Creation. I am happy to report that we have piloted the YouStart Programme and launched the District Level programme.

26. Mr. Speaker, we now have the commitment of our banks and development partners and are confident that the GHS10 billion, 1 million jobs will be achieved in the next three (3) years.

27. We are now embarking on a journey to fundamentally reposition our economy with the Post-COVID-19 Programme for Economic Growth (PC-PEG), to be supported by the IMF, World Bank and other friendly sovereigns and the private sector (domestic and international), as our blueprint. We are mindful that it will require broad-based contributions and sacrifices. There will be costs to the fiscal adjustments we intend to make in the coming years to sustain our stability, recovery and eventual transformation. My pledge to this House is that there will be fiscal discipline.

That every pesewa that we ask the Ghanaian people and businesses operating in Ghana to contribute will be spent well.

28. The challenges we face are daunting but we must not lose sight of the greatest strength of being Ghanaian: resilience, entrepreneurial zeal, faith, courage, solidarity and hope. I, therefore, ask all of us to play a constructive role in getting our nation fully back on track. Ours is a country with real prospects and the challenges notwithstanding, Ghana will rise again, and my faith is premised on the fact that a lot has already been achieved, especially over the course of the Fourth Republic and our policy, as outlined in this budget to reset the economy, if supported will ensure that, indeed, we have not wasted the current global crisis, but used it to make our economy stronger and the progress and prosperity of our people even more assured.

SECTION 2: GLOBAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS AND OUTLOOK

Economic Growth and Inflation

29. Mr. Speaker, the global environment is fragile, and the outlook remains uncertain. Global economic activity in 2022, has slowed down more broadly and sharply than anticipated. Economic growth in Emerging Markets and Developing Economies is expected to slow down from 6.7 percent in 2021 to 3.7 percent in 2022, with a similar pattern expected in 2023. In Sub-Saharan Africa, growth is expected to slow down to 3.6 percent in 2022 and 3.7 percent in 2023, from 4.7 percent in 2021 due to low investment and a worsening trade balance.

30. Overall, global inflation has risen, driven largely by increases in energy and food prices. Inflation in Emerging and Developing Economies has also risen from an average 5.9 percent in 2021 to 9.9 percent in 2022. The war in Ukraine has further heightened inflationary pressures.

31. The exchange rates across the major international currencies depreciated rapidly by the end of the third quarter of 2022. As at 23rd November, 2022, the Ghana cedi depreciated cumulatively by 54.2

percent against the US Dollar. Similarly, the Ghana cedi depreciated cumulatively by a 48.5 percent against the British Pound.

Overview of Macroeconomic Performance (Jan-Sep. 2022)

32. Mr. Speaker, I now present to this august House the provisional macroeconomic performance for the first three quarters of 2022 based on available data for the period.

33. To better assess the macroeconomic developments for the first three quarters of the year, permit me to restate the macroeconomic targets set for 2022 as presented in the 2022 Mid-Year Fiscal Policy Review:

▣ Overall Real GDP growth of 3.7 percent;

▣ Non-Oil Real GDP Growth rate of 4.3 percent;

▣ End-period inflation of 28.5 percent;

▣ Overall fiscal deficit of 6.6 percent of GDP;

▣ Primary surplus of 0.4 percent of GDP; and

▣ Gross International Reserves sufficient to cover at least three and half months of imports of goods and services.

34. Mr. Speaker, data on the performance of the economy at the end of the third quarter highlights the continued adverse impact of the challenging global and domestic environment on the economy. As I indicated earlier, these developments have manifested through rapid exchange rate depreciation, high inflation, unsustainable debt burden, fiscal stress and external sector shocks, among others, despite the monetary and fiscal policy interventions that were deployed in the first three quarters of the year.

35. Mr. Speaker, the economic performance for the first three quarters of the year is summarised as follows:

36. Mr. Speaker, provisional GDP data from Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) published in September 2022 indicate that overall Real GDP for the first half of 2022 recorded an average year-on-year growth of 4.0 percent (3.4 percent in Q1 2022 and 4.8 percent

in Q2 2022 respectively). Non-Oil GDP expanded by 4.1 percent and 6.2 percent in the first and second quarters in 2022, respectively.

▣ The latest data indicates that headline inflation accelerated to 40.4 percent in October 2022, from 37.2 percent in September and 33.9 percent in August. The rise in the October inflation was broad-based, driven by both food and non-food prices.

▣ The Monetary Policy Rate has increased by 1,000 basis points (from 14.5% to 24.5%) since the beginning year as the Central Bank deployed its monetary policy tools to anchor inflation expectations;

▣ Developments on the money market broadly showed rising interest rates across the yield curve. For example, the discount rate on the 91-day instrument has increased to 32.5 percent as at today from 12.5 percent in December 2021;

▣ The Public Debt-to-GDP ratio stood at 75.9 percent at the end of September 2022, up from 76.7 percent at the end of December 2021.

▣ Gross International Reserves (GIR) stood at US\$6,591.8 million, equivalent to 2.9 months of imports cover, at the end of September 2022 from a stock position of US\$9,695.2 million (equivalent to 4.3 months imports cover) at the end of December 2021.

Fiscal Developments

Summary of Fiscal Performance Q1-Q3 2022

37. Mr. Speaker, the 2022 Mid-Year Fiscal Policy Review revised the 2022 fiscal framework against the backdrop of unfavourable global and domestic developments. The fiscal deficit target was revised to 6.6 percent of GDP down from the 7.4 percent set in the 2022 Budget. Similarly, the primary balance target was revised upwards to a surplus of 0.4 percent of GDP from a surplus of 0.1 percent.

38. This was on the back of revisions in GDP projections, adjustment in the expected yield from the 2022 revenue measures, adjustments to reflect the 30 percent discretionary expenditure cuts,

adjustment in interest payments, and adjustments in the allocation for compensation of employees to incorporate a 15 percent Cost of Living Allowance (COLA), adjustment in exchange rate on account of higher depreciation, and adjustment to the Benchmark Crude oil price.

39. Mr. Speaker, provisional data on Government fiscal operations for January – September 2022 shows a shortfall in revenue performance and a faster execution of expenditures. This resulted in an overall budget deficit of GH¢41,699 million (7.0% of GDP), against a programmed deficit target of GH¢36,684 million (6.2% of GDP). The corresponding primary balance for the period was a deficit of GH¢9,597 million (1.6% of GDP), against a deficit target of GH¢5,794 million (1.0% of GDP).

Revenue Performance

40. Mr. Speaker, Total Revenue and Grants amounted to GH¢65,399 million (11.0 percent of GDP), compared with a target of GH¢67,307 (11.4 percent of GDP) and the GH¢49,108 million (10.7 percent of GDP) recorded in the corresponding period in 2021. The outturn for Total Revenue and Grants represents a shortfall of 2.8 percent compared to the period's target and year-on-year growth of 33.2 percent. The shortfall in revenue stemmed from the less robust performance recorded in all the revenue handles for the period.

41. Mr. Speaker, Domestic Revenue for the period amounted to GH¢64,601million (10.9 percent of GDP), falling below the target of GH¢66,503 million (11.2 percent of GDP) by 2.9 percent. The outturn, however, represents a year-on-year growth of 34.0 percent and constituted 98.8 percent of Total Revenue and Grants.

Expenditure Performance

42. Mr. Speaker, Total Expenditure (including arrears clearance and discrepancy) for the period amounted to GH¢109,421 million (18.5 percent of GDP), above the target

to be cont.