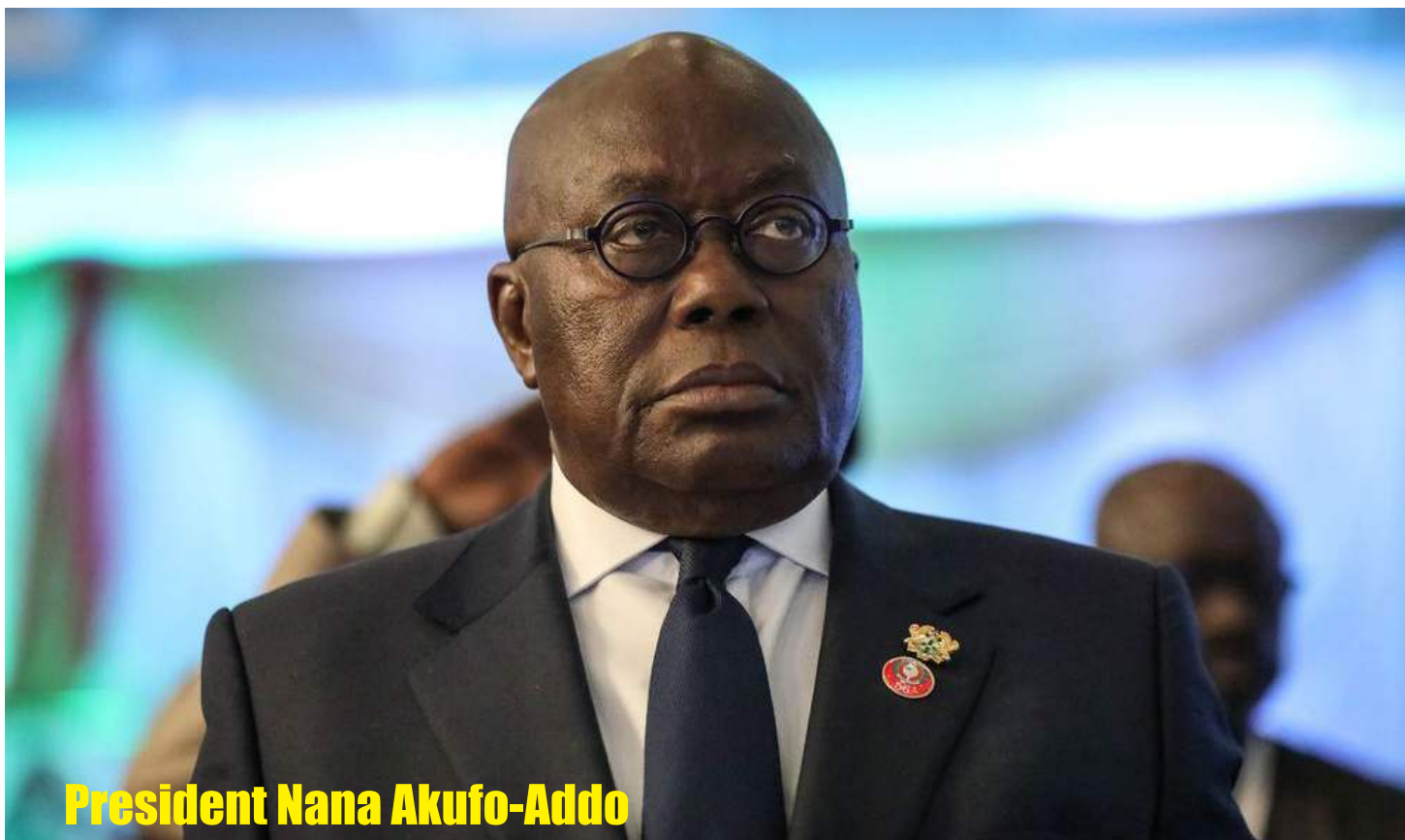


AKUFO-ADDU

Will He Survive This Storm In Ghana?



President Nana Akufo-Addo

Asks Azu Ishiekwene

Not so long ago, he was the poster boy of what looked like an African renaissance. Ghana's President Akufo-Addo didn't only know what to say, he also knew

when and how. I still remember 2018. Barely one year after Akufo-Addo was inaugurated, he was on the big stage.

He was the first African leader to address the National Governors

Association (NGA), a cross-party platform of all 50 governors of the United States of America. At that meeting, he laid out his plans and dream to consolidate Ghana's record as Africa's gateway and the

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US President Joe Biden Nods To Compromise In Ukraine

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EC Cancels Certificates Of 17 Political Parties



Jean Mensa, Chairperson of the EC

The Electoral Commission of Ghana has cancelled the certificates of 17 political parties who it says have no regional and national presence and, therefore, are flouting the laws of Ghana.

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Music Icon Klala At It Again As... Bande Ele's Bitcoin Ballin Song Makes Waves In Ghana, US



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The INSIGHT

— EDITORIAL

HANDS OFF OUR FORESTS!

The continued degradation of the country's lands, forests and ecosystem is very worrying.

This is in spite of warning from environmentalists about the dangers associated with continued deterioration of the country's natural reserve due to exploitation of natural resources.

A months ago, some group of professors renewed the warning to government about attempts to allow the Chinese to exploit the Atiwa forests of its bauxite.

The warning was as a result of the fact that most river bodies generate their source of water from the Atiwa Forest reserve. That warning has not been heeded and there are clear indications that the Chinese engineers will soon enter the forest. There are also some forests which are facing similar such threats.

The World Bank recently cautioned Ghana against the continuous wanton degradation of its land, forest and other natural resources warning that the country risked not achieving the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15, which is protecting the ecosystem to promote biodiversity.

It is the hope of this paper that somebody somewhere would see wisdom in taking steps to stop the land degradation and reverse the trend by embarking on reforestation to win back degraded lands and forests.

There is clearly the need, in the face of the facts presented, for the government to hands off the Atiwa forest and other natural resource.

EC Cancels Certificates Of 17 Political Parties

from front page

The EC in October gave the parties to the end of that month to prove why their registrations should not be cancelled under the Political Parties Act of 2000, Act 574.

After the expiration of the deadline a notice signed and issued by the Chairperson of the EC, Jean Mensa and published yesterday, November 14, 2022, stated that, "Pursuant to the publication by the Electoral Commission dated 13th & 17th October 2022, the General Public is hereby informed that the Registration Certificates of the under-listed Political Parties have been cancelled in accordance with Section 15 (3) (c) of the Political Parties Law, 2000 (Act 574) effective the 1st day of November, 2022."

These are the political parties:

Democratic People's Party (DPP)
United Front Party (UFP) United Development System Party (UDSP)
Every Ghanaian Living Everywhere (EGLE) Yes People's Party (YPP)
United Ghana Movement (UGM)
Democratic Freedom Party (DFP)
New Vision Party (NVP) Ghana



Jean Mensa, Chairperson of the EC

Democratic Republican Party (GDRP) Ghana National Party (GNP) Power Unity Party (PUP) United Progressive Party (UPP) Reform Patriotic Democrats (RPD) People's Action Party (PAP) United Renaissance Party (URP) National Reform Party (NRP) United Love Party (ULP)

Source: classfmonline.com

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AKUFO-ADDO Will He Survive This Storm In Ghana?

from front page

beginner's paradise. The same year, he was also at the Concordia Annual Summit, a New York yearly redoubt of the world's most prominent business, government and non-profit leaders. At the summit, he shared a vision of an endowed and ready-for-business Africa and also of a "Ghana-beyond aid". He didn't stop there. He met with Chinese President Xi Jinping and told him of Ghana's plan to launch a 100-year \$50billion bond that would pull his country out of stagnation and poverty, into progress and prosperity. As if to prove it, in 2019, Ghana raised \$3billion in Eurobonds and outperformed its order book by \$21billion. Akufo-Addo took the boom message to London and Davos, the icy haunt of the world's great and mighty. But before that, you should have watched his video when French President Emmanuel Macron visited Ghana in 2017. In a speech that raked up 3.4m YouTube views in viral hits and left Macron who was standing beside him in speechless awe, Akufo-Addo admonished Africa for its dependency. European taxpayers, he said, should not forever bear the burden of the continent's misery. Africa has come of age. The continent ought to be able to pull itself up by its own bootstraps and Ghana, under him, would show the way. You couldn't listen to Akufo-Addo and not enjoy the music in his delivery. At the height of COVID-19, when most of the continent's powerhouses – South Africa and Nigeria – seemed to lose their way, Akufo-Addo's Ghana was exemplary. It deployed drones in remote areas to take samples, conduct tests and coordinate medical help and supplies. On a continent with some of the

direst post-COVID-19 forecasts and equally dire forecasts for commodity prices, Ghana seemed like fresh air for business. In what was seen more in neighbouring Nigeria as a slap rather than an endorsement, global giants like Twitter, Hyundai, Kia and Toyota set up major offices in Ghana and praised the country for its stability and ease of doing business. It looked like the continent's leaders could use Akufo-Addo's Master Class. That doesn't appear to be the case anymore. In what might end up as one of the most unlikely political tragedies of Africa's recent history, Akufo-Addo's legacy is unravelling and it's unlikely that he might be able to stitch it together again before his tenure expires in two years' time.

"When we voted for him about six years ago," said the Editor of The Chronicle, an independent Ghanaian newspaper, Emmanuel Akli, "our hopes were very high that he would deliver. We expected overall stabilisation of the economy and the local currency. Now, we're in a very difficult place. We didn't expect this."

Disaffection with Akufo-Addo has boiled over, spilling onto the streets on November 4, with more than 1,000 placard-wielding protesters calling on him to step down. The protesters are also asking the government to say "No" to an IMF bailout and to discontinue ongoing talks with the Fund for a relief package.

The boiling streets are just one of the battlefronts. Opposition lawmakers of the National Democratic Congress (NDC) have also laid a siege to the government in Parliament where they are expected to press a motion of censure for the resignation of the Finance Minister, Ken Ofori-Atta, on November 17.

When did the honeymoon end and how did Akufo-Addo lose his way? How did a president who

spoke so passionately against dependency, structural or voluntary, suddenly find himself on the verge of swallowing his own vomit?

In an article on November 2, Bloomberg traced the problem to the binge that followed the export of oil in Ghana in 2010. After failing to learn lessons from the bitter years of wild price swings in its major export commodities, especially cocoa and gold, and also turning a blind eye to the misery that oil brought on its neighbour, Nigeria, Ghana is doomed by its own mistake.

According to the Bloomberg report, with the discovery of oil the country's GDP leaped by almost 14 percent, with impressive single-digit year-on-year performance. With the country floating on oil money, however, came the temptation to spend and borrow and spend. This vicious cycle was not created by Akufo-Addo's government. And like in many parts of the world, the headwinds from COVID-19 and the Russia-Ukraine war have upended economies and retarded growth. But Akufo-Addo's splurge also did little to curtail matters.

Consumer inflation was 37 percent as of September, a 21-year record despite belated efforts to tackle it. The country's currency, the cedi, is one of the region's worst performing, with a depreciation of more than 55 percent between January and October this year.

"The price of bread has gone up by over 100 percent this year alone," Akli told me from Accra. "One gallon of petrol is about 81cedi or \$6.22 (N2,675 per gallon or about N668 per litre). The price of petrol drives everything. Things are terrible and everybody is feeling it."

To mitigate the impact, the country's labour unions demanded and received a 20 percent increase in the Cost-of-



President Nana Akufo-Addo

Living Allowance (COLA) two months ago, the first such adjustment in six years, which came on top of the annual adjustment in public sector salaries to reflect the cost-of-living index.

Yet, angry voters cannot quickly forget that they are also partly responsible for their current misery. One of the major reasons they voted the ruling New Patriotic Party (NPP) for a second term was because they feared that NDC would scrap the free senior high school tuition, a clearly unsustainable programme.

Maintaining that programme, along with other pork-barrel projects such as subsidising private power producers and failing banks, cost over \$3billion at a time when the government could hardly find money.

But a desperate public is looking elsewhere for scapegoats and their representatives in parliament are determined to serve the head of the Finance Minister on a platter. Not only have they accused him of misleading the country into excessive borrowing, they have also accused him of using Databank Group, a company in which he has interest, to broker the loans.

The Minister's response that Databank's involvement in such transactions for Ghana preceded his involvement in

Akufo-Addo's government appears to have fallen on deaf ears. Yet, even if parliament succeeds in sacking Ofori-Atta, which is unlikely, it is doubtful if his execution will a) stop things from getting worse before they get better or b) stop the government from taking the IMF bailout, with its attendant stringency.

While the storm gathers, Akufo-Addo appears upbeat. On the sidelines of COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, he tweeted on November 8, "My government is happy to announce that Ghana is about to launch projects in these areas, which will tackle, at the same time, climate change at global and domestic levels, and social issues, by providing people with dignified and sustainable jobs."

He didn't say where the money for the "projects" would come from or how his plan might change the price of bread for protesters on the streets of Accra. If the rib-cracking memes on the thread of the President's message are a measure of what Ghanaians think of him, then today's Akufo-Addo needs to retrieve his head from the clouds and rediscover the common touch of the poster boy.

Not an easy task in two years. *Ishiekwene is Editor-In-Chief of LEADERSHIP*

Source -- *saharareporters.com*



INTERNATIONAL NEWS REPORT

Compiled By Peoples Dispatch

Haitian Journalists To Mobilize Against Attacks

On Sunday, November 13, dozens of journalists and communicators mobilized in the center of the Haitian capital, Port-au-Prince. The press professionals marched to the Delmas 33 police station where the journalist Romelson Vilsaint of Radio Télé Zenith was executed on October 30 by the Haitian National Police when he denounced the arbitrary detention of journalist Dimanche Robeste and four others. In recent months, in the midst of strong protests and mobilizations of the Haitian people against the economic crisis, the de facto government of Ariel Henry, and the threat of foreign intervention, the attacks against journalists and social leaders by the police and paramilitary groups have increased. So far in 2022, according to data from the Inter-American Press Association (IAPA), eight journalists have been murdered in the Caribbean country.

The most recent was on November 5, 2022, when Fritz Dorilas, co-host of a Radio Megastar program “Le droit, la loi et la justice”, was murdered near his home in the Tabarre neighborhood, northeast of Prince Port. On October 30, Vilsaint was assassinated; Tess Garry, of Radio Lebon FM, was assassinated on October 24; Frantzsen Charles of FS NEWS and Tayson Lartigue of Tijèn Journalis were assassinated on September 11; Maxihen Lizarre, from Rois des Infos, was assassinated on February 23; Wilguens Louissaint, a contributor to various digital media outlets, and Amady John Wesley, of the Écoute FM radio station, were murdered on January 6, 2022. In addition to that, several others have suffered attacks in recent weeks, such as Roberson

Alphonse from the portal Le Nouvelliste and Radio Magik 9 (100.9 Fm). On October 25, Alphonse was shot by gang members in the area of Delmas 40B.

Journalist Roubens “le Cayen” was also wounded by police who shot him with bullets on October 30 when Robeste and four others were arbitrarily arrested for “public disorder and rebellion.” Writer Jean Clebert Eloius also suffered an assassination attempt on November 3 when armed groups intercepted his car as he was on his way to the airport. His two companions, who were also shot, died from their wounds. For Jackson Jean, Telesur correspondent in Haiti, “It is not something new for journalists and human rights activists to face tear gas and fire bullets during the mobilizations, and facing violence from gangs.”



After an increase in murders, attacks and criminalization against journalists, they mobilized in the capital Port-au-Prince to demand guarantees for life

However, Jean emphasizes, “The concern began to arise a little more within the group of journalists, since in recent months these press workers are the main targets of the gangs and the police.” In response to this wave of violence, the Online Media Collective (CMEL) launched the call for the march on Sunday, November 13, in memory of the murdered journalists. CMEL also

announced that its members will not cover official police activities and initiatives that they want to publicize until the police publish reports on the investigations into the murders. The collective demands that the competent authorities do justice in the cases of journalists and called on Haitian society in general to respect the right of journalists to practice their profession in peace.

Students Protest Lack Of Staff And Facilities At Amsterdam University



(Photo: via CJB). The protesters alleged that international students are brought to the Netherlands under false promises but then have to struggle to find housing and proper facilities after arrival

Students and youth groups in Amsterdam have demonstrated against the University of Amsterdam's (UvA) failure to provide enough facilities even as it seeks to admit more international students. The students said there was an acute shortage of facilities, staff and infrastructure. The protest was called by the General Student Association Amsterdam (ASVA). Activists from various youth

groups including the Communist Youth Movement of Netherlands (CJB) participated in the protest. The protesters alleged that international students are brought to the Netherlands under false promises but then have to struggle to find housing and proper facilities after arrival.

Students, youth groups, community organizations, trade unions, and progressive political parties in the Netherlands have formed coalitions demanding housing rights, such as #Woonstrijd in Groningen, #Woonprotest in Amsterdam, #Woonopstand in Rotterdam, and #Woonverzet in Hague. These coalitions have been organizing major [mobilizations](#) demanding

housing rights. In November last year, progressive sections in Groningen launched the Shelter Our Students (SOS) campaign, a couch surfing initiative to help homeless students in the city. In September, youth/student groups under the banner of SOS Groningen [occupied](#) the academy building of the University of Groningen to protest the acute housing crisis faced by students.

The housing crisis, with students being among the worst hit, is coupled with an acute cost of living [crisis](#) marked by skyrocketing fuel and food prices. In such a situation, the bid by the University of Amsterdam to invite more

international students to take admission in the university, without sufficient teachers, lecture halls and hostels, has irked student unions and youth groups in the city. On October 13, the Amsterdam committee of the Communist Youth Movement (CJB) stated, “the University of Amsterdam (UvA) wants to expand the number of international students, while there are not enough facilities such as halls, staff or housing. International students are brought to the Netherlands under false pretenses, but have to struggle with greedy landlords and lower quality education upon arrival. At the same time, the staff is

exploited to the bone, as a result, they barely have any more time to be able to provide proper education.” “All of this is the result of the capitalist way of production, where the university and housing corporations have to compete for the highest profits, instead of working together on a central plan. In a socialist society, an increase in the number of international students, who themselves can offer valuable insights and other perspectives, would be accompanied by planned construction of housing and expansion of facilities and the staff of the university,” the CJB added.

US Political Prisoner Mutulu Shakur Granted Parole

By Natalia Marques

The US Parole Commission has granted parole to US political prisoner [Mutulu Shakur](#), who is now 72 after spending over 36 years behind bars. The decision was reached in October but made public on November 10. Shakur is set to be released on December 16. Shakur is currently incarcerated at a federal medical center in Lexington, Kentucky due to his multiple health issues. The decision comes after decades of pressure from activists and the discovery by prison doctors that Shakur had only months to live. “This is a moment for celebration over and above anything else, and then a continued rededication to free all of the political prisoners who continue to remain behind bars,” Eugene Puryear, host at *Breakthrough News* and author *Shackled and Chained: Mass Incarceration in Capitalist America*, told *Peoples Dispatch*.

Shakur is a Black liberation fighter and a revolutionary health worker, renowned for his participation in and leadership of the Lincoln Detox Center. Lincoln Detox was a project of the revolutionary Puerto Rican diaspora group the Young Lords, designed to holistically rehabilitate poor and working class drug addicts in New York City. True to its ideological foundation, the detox program used the addiction treatment drug methadone, then incorporated holistic healing methods such as acupuncture to wean patients slowly off of the medication. The program also utilized socialist political education and community service as healing methods. Shakur has been imprisoned for his alleged involvement in a 1981 bank robbery and the escape of fellow political

prisoner Assata Shakur. According to his supporters, the case against him [contains numerous irregularities](#). Shakur has made numerous attempts at achieving freedom. The same judge who sentenced him, despite acknowledging that the revolutionary had been persecuted by the FBI through COINTELPRO, denied his compassionate release in 2020. The judge's excuse was that Shakur was not close enough to death to justify his release. In May of this year, United States Federal Bureau of Prisons doctors estimated that Shakur had six months to live. This put the incarceration system in a tough position—would they allow a well-respected elder to die in prison? Mutulu Shakur was incarcerated under federal sentencing guidelines known as “old law” as

he was convicted before 1987. This means that the decision to parole him rests with the antiquated [US Parole Commission](#), which was meant to be phased out 20 years ago. The continued existence of the commission rests solely on the fact that there are around 200 prisoners still jailed under “old law”. Finally it was not the courts that granted Shakur's release. The federal parole commission caved under pressure from activists in October, paroling Shakur with far less than six months to live. “It's long overdue that this took place, and I think it speaks to the extreme vindictiveness of the legal authorities, judicial authorities and political authorities of the state of New York and the country more



Photo: Family & Friends of Mutulu Shakur. After over 36 years in prison, movement elder, political prisoner, and revolutionary health worker Mutulu Shakur has been granted parole with less than six months to live

broadly to punish those who stood up bravely for the fight for Black liberation for so many years,” said Puryear commented to *Peoples Dispatch*. “But I think it's also a tremendous victory for the people's movements working for decades now to gain [Shakur's] freedom and to gain the freedom of other political prisoners.”

NPP MP Insists Sacking Adu Boahen Meaningless Unless Ofori-Atta Resigns



Sacked minister Charles Adu Boahen

New Patriotic Party Member of Parliament for Mpraeso Constituency, Davis Opoku Ansah, has called for the resignation of finance minister, Ken Ofori-Atta following the dismissal of the Minister of State for Finance, Charles Adu Boahen. President Nana Addo Akufo-Addo on Monday, November 14, 2022, sacked Mr Adu Boahen hours ahead of the premiere of an investigative piece by Anas Aremeyaw Anas. But reacting to the sacking in a Facebook post, the Mpraeso MP who had recently joined some majority MPs to demand the sacking of Ofori-Atta and Adu Boahen, said the minister for finance must as well resign.

Borrowing and rephrasing a quote by Dr Kwame Nkrumah, the MP said the essence of the sacking will not be complete without the resignation of Ken Ofori-Atta. “The sacking of Charles Adu Boahen is meaningless unless it is linked to

the resignation of Ken Ofori-Atta and the total liberation of the finance ministry from data Bankers,” he wrote. In a yet-to-be premiered expose by investigative journalist, Anas Aremeyaw Anas, Charles Adu Boahen has been captured on tape making various implicating statements.

Among other things, the minister of state who was being recorded by undercover agents of Anas disguised as investors said they will need just \$200,000 as an appearance fee for Dr Mahamudu Bawumia as well as positions for his siblings if they are to get the vice president's backing and influence in establishing a business in Ghana. Anas in a synopsis shared on social media hours before the premiere of the investigative piece dubbed *Galamsey Economy* said Adu Boahen, after having bundles of US dollars spread on a table in front of him and told to use them for shopping by the supposed business tycoon, promised to introduce the tycoon to the powers that be; the President, HE Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, and the Vice President, in Ghana. Charles Adu Boahen has been one of the subjects of a public call for President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo to sack some of his ministers.

There are demands for the minister of state and his boss, Ken Ofori-Atta, to be sacked for their mismanagement of the Ghanaian economy and performance at the ministry.

The two ministers have been fingered by their critics for conflict of interest, favouritism and nepotism. The likes of private legal practitioner, Martin Kpebu, have raised questions about Adu Boahen's Black Star Brokerage and Ken Ofori-Atta's Databank being chosen to deal in the sale of government bonds. According to the critics, the situation reeks of conflict of interest as banks at the time of being chosen as by the Finance Ministry in 2017, had next to zero market share, were inexperienced relatively small as compared to the firms such as Barclays Bank and Stanbic Bank which were overlooked. “Black Star Securities had next to zero market share at the time they were made part of this whole bond acquisition and sale process. “I am daring the Finance Ministry, they should show us Black Star Security's trading share in 2017. How did they qualify? “Adu Boahen was walking here with a very small company in his armpit. The company was next to nothing, so, they should show. What are the statistics in 2017 at the time they came into office,” lawyer Martin Kpebu said and queried when he appeared as a guest on the August 20, 2022 edition of Joynewsfile.

Music Icon Klala At It Again As... Bandele El's Bitcoin Ballin Song Makes Waves In Ghana, US

Bitcoin Ballin, a new song released recently by America-based Ghanaian Musician, Bandele el is making waves in Ghana and also across the United States.

Bitcoin Ballin song talks about Bitcoin trading and how it is saving lives across the world for those who trade in cryptocurrency. Bandele el's song also reveals how he lives a Bitcoin lifestyle and the aim of his song is to motivate the youth to find other good measures in investing their talents. Bandele el through the song seeks to tell the youth to take advantage of Bitcoin which he says is a modern investment in our digital world, and through networking and social media has opened doors, for the youth to take advantage and make good use



Bandele el, United States based Ghanaian musician

of it. Bitcoin Ballin Song Manager, Klala, who says he is the president of Aworrshiaa Movement is optimistic that the new Artiste's name, Bandele el will soon be a household name with the song. Bandele el is an American based musician in Malibu CA. He visits Ghana often because of his music project and philanthropic works.

Arab League Summit Concludes In Algiers, Reiterates Centrality Of Palestinian Cause



The Algiers Declaration issued at the conclusion of the two-day Arab League summit in Algeria's capital on Wednesday, November 3, reiterated the centrality of the Palestinian cause and criticized Israel's continued violations of international humanitarian laws and the blockade of Gaza. The resolution also vowed to protect the sites in Jerusalem from all kinds of Israeli aggression. The [declaration acknowledges](#) the "centrality of the Palestinian cause and full support for the rights of Palestinian people, including the right to freedom and self-determination and the right to return." It also talks about full adherence to the rights of Palestinian refugees as per UNGA resolution 194 of 1948. The League summit was attended by

the heads of 16 of the total 22 member states, under the leadership of Algerian President Abdelmajid Tebboune. The leadership summit was held in person after a gap of two years. Saudi Arabia and UAE sent their representatives, whereas Morocco did not participate due to its ongoing disagreements with Algeria over the issue of Western Sahara. Syria chose to not participate due to disagreements among the rest of the members over its suspension due to the ongoing war in the country. During his inaugural speech on Tuesday, the Algerian president proclaimed that "our central and core cause is Palestinians, which is subject to elimination attempts

through the Israeli occupation's practices." The declaration also demanded lifting of Israel's blockade of the Gaza strip, and condemned its continued violence against Palestinians and violations of their human rights. The League demanded that Israel release all Palestinians from its jails and stop extrajudicial killings and arbitrary arrests. It also called for the recognition of Palestine as an independent state and international support for Palestinian efforts to hold Israel accountable for its war crimes in the occupied territories. The League decided to maintain its neutral stance over the war in Ukraine and also supported the OPEC+ decision to cut global oil production by 2 million barrels per day, claiming that it was necessary for "protecting the interests of [oil] producing and consuming countries." The summit declaration condemned all foreign interventions and supported political resolutions based on national reconciliation in the war-affected countries of the region

such as Libya, Syria and Yemen. The declaration also talked about establishing a nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction-free zone in the region, and [proposed a treaty](#) on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. UN Secretary General António Guterres also addressed the meeting and called for greater unity among the Arab countries, reiterating that "[our shared goal remains two states](#)" – where Israel and Palestine live side by side. **A dubious record on Palestine** The Arab League, formed in 1945, is one of the first regional groupings in the world. The objective behind the group was to promote regional unity, peace and cooperation among its members. It has a permanent headquarters in Cairo, Egypt, with a secretary general, a post currently held by Ahmed Aboul Gheit. Though the issue of Palestine has always been central to the organization, several of its member states have chosen to ignore the collective position from time to time and sought compromises with Israel. Recently, some League members, such as [the United Arab Emirates](#)

[\(UAE\), Bahrain, Morocco](#) and [Sudan](#), "normalized" their relations with Israel under the so-called Abraham Accords pushed by the US in 2020-21. The normalization with Israel goes against the League's own Arab Peace Initiative adopted in 2002, which explicitly talks about not having relations with Israel without a resolution of the Palestinian issue. The Arab Peace Initiative supports a two-state solution with a Palestinian state within the 1967 borders and East Jerusalem as its capital. Egypt, one of the most important regional players, was the first Arab country to sign a peace deal with Israel in 1979, formally recognizing it. Jordan followed in 1994, when the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) was engaged in the Oslo peace deal with Israel. Yara Hawari [notes](#) that the authoritarian nature of most of the regimes in the region has made it easy for rulers to ignore the widespread popular opposition to such dealings with Israel. She underlines that normalization with Israel is a way to seek closeness with the US and secure more weapons and intelligence gathering.

Ukrainian Man Arrested In Alleged Fake Currency Trafficking

The Ukrainian man, Mazen Farakh

Mazen Farakh, a Ukrainian national who has been on the wanted list of the police for alleged fake currency trafficking, has been arrested. The suspect, who is alleged to have moved a total of \$65 million in fake currency out of Ghana to various destinations was picked up by the Ghana Immigration Service (GIS) at the Kotoka International Airport (KIA) on Wednesday, November 9, 2022. He is believed to be at the Airport Police station pending further

investigations into the case.

Arrest Warrant

In September, this year, the Airport Police forwarded a warrant for the arrest of Mazen Farakh, issued by the Madina District Court, to the Comptroller-General of the GIS. Intel revealed that, over the years, the suspect had been able to move an amount of \$65 million in fake currency outside the country to various destinations. The suspect was alleged to be transacting the same business but was picked up after a copy of the arrest warrant and the bio-data

page of his passport was sent to the GIS.

Accomplice

Earlier this year, an alleged Nigerian accomplice nicknamed Sam was picked up by the anti-graft institution. Sam, 52 according to intel was arrested on the allegation that he defrauded Mazen Farakh of \$6.5 million but allegedly insisted that he never defrauded the Ukrainian but rather, engaged in a fake currency deal with him.

Source: [peacefmonline.com](#)



US President Joe Biden Nods To Compromise In Ukraine

By M. K. Bhadrakumar

The midterm elections in the US witnessed tight races as Senate and House control hangs in the balance. But that didn't discourage President Joe Biden from holding a [press conference](#) on Wednesday to claim that the “giant red wave” didn't happen.

Biden said. “Democrats had a strong night. And we lost fewer seats in the House of Representatives than any Democratic President's first midterm election in the last 40 years. And we had the best midterms for governors since 1986.”

Biden, however, eschewed triumphalist rhetoric and committed “to continue to work across the aisle... (although) it's not always easy.”

For the world capitals, Biden's remarks relating to Ukraine were the most keenly awaited segment. Succinctly put, Biden was far from emphatic that Republicans in control of the House now would be cooperative.

He said: “I'm prepared to work with my Republican colleagues. The American people have made clear, I think, that they expect Republicans to be prepared to work with me as well. In the area of foreign policy, I hope we'll continue this bipartisan approach of confronting Russia's aggression in Ukraine.”

When asked whether US military aid to Ukraine will continue uninterrupted, Biden merely replied, “That is my expectation.” He contended that the US hasn't given Ukraine “a black check” and only equipped Kiev to have “the rational ability to defend themselves.”

Biden had an impressive record as senator in coalition building in the Congress. But today, his bid for a second term as president comes in the way. If he chooses to be a candidate in 2024, that would leave Republicans with no choice but oppose him viscerally – personally and politically. Biden had some interesting comments on the announcement in Moscow earlier on Wednesday regarding Russian troop withdrawal in Kherson city. Biden said the Russian move was on expected lines and the interesting part is that Moscow waited till the midterms got over.

Biden avoided giving a direct answer when asked whether the Russian

evacuation would give Kiev the leverage to begin peace negotiations with Moscow. But he didn't refute such a line of thinking, either. Instead, Biden added that “at a minimum, it (evacuation) will lead to time for everyone to recalibrate their positions over the winter period. And it remains to be seen whether or not there'll be a judgment made as to whether or not Ukraine is prepared to compromise with Russia.”

Biden said that on the sidelines of the G20 summit at Bali (November 15-16), there might be consultations with world leaders, although Putin himself was not going to be there. Indeed, some sort of diplomatic messaging is going on. In fact, the Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov [toldTasson Thursday](#) that “It was decided that Russia will be represented by (foreign minister) Sergey Lavrov at the G20 summit.” Biden took a second question on Kherson developments to say furthermore that the Russian evacuation will not only help the sides to “lick their wounds” but “decide whether — what they're going to do over the winter, and decide whether or not they're going to compromise.”

Notably, Biden has spoken twice about “compromise” (read territorial concessions) by Kiev, which is a major shift from the US stance that the Russian forces should get out of Ukraine. Biden concluded: “That's – that's what's going to happen, whether or not. I don't know what they're going to do. And – but I do know one thing: We're not going to tell them what they have to do.” Taken together, Biden's remarks are consistent with the “scoop” by *NBC News* on Wednesday, citing informed sources, that during the National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan's unannounced visit to Kiev last week, he studied Ukraine's readiness for a diplomatic solution to the conflict. The NBC channel reported that Sullivan was exploring options for ending the conflict and the chance of starting negotiations and raised the need for a diplomatic settlement during meetings with Ukrainian authorities. It said some US and Western officials increasingly believe that neither Kiev nor Moscow can achieve all of their goals, and the winter slowdown in hostilities could provide a window of opportunity to start negotiations.



Russian President Vladimir Putin (C) with leaders of Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia at the ceremony annexing the four regions as part of Russian Federation, Moscow, September 30, 2022. US President Joe Biden has spoken twice about “compromise” by Kiev, which is a major shift from the US stance that Russian forces should get out of Ukraine

Interestingly, [Kremlin-fundedRTpromptly picked up theNBCreport](#) and highlighted it. Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova also chipped in commenting, “We are still open to negotiations, we have never refused them, we are ready to conduct them – taking, of course, into account the realities being established at the moment.” The Russian authorities continue to maintain that the evacuation of their forces in Kherson stems purely out of security considerations. The onus has been put on the recommendation by Army General Sergey Surovkin, the commander of Russia's military operation in Ukraine. The general claimed in a [televised speech](#) that the evacuation from Kherson creates stronger defensive lines for the troops and will save the lives of soldiers and civilians. Suffice to say, Lavrov's presence in Bali will be of pivotal importance. Presumably, he will have contacts with Western counterparts. Indeed, Biden's remarks about territorial compromise signal a sea change in the calculus. Also, Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, while opening a discussion with the Economic Club of New York on Wednesday about the possibility of peace between Ukraine and Russia, confirmed that there is indeed “a window of opportunity for negotiation” moving forward. The general [urged](#), “When there's an opportunity to negotiate, when

peace can be achieved, seize it. Seize the moment.” To be sure, he spoke with an eye on the Russian military command. The backdrop is that the Democrats' loss of control of the House of Representatives makes it difficult for them to freely promote the foreign policy line of the Biden administration, including assistance to Ukraine. Henceforth, Biden will have to negotiate decisions on Ukraine with the Republicans. This is one thing. Second, the cascading economic crisis in Europe holds explosive potential for political turmoil, especially if there is another refugee flow from Ukraine in the harsh winter conditions, which is a real possibility. The blowback from sanctions against Russia has lethally wounded Europe, and bluster aside, there is really no replacement for the inexpensive, reliable, abundant Russian energy supplies via pipelines. All this is becoming hugely consequential for Western unity. The recent visit of German Chancellor Olaf Scholz to China shows that dissent is brewing. Above all, the massive Russian mobilization threatens to give a knockout blow to the Ukrainian military, but there is no appetite among Europeans for a confrontation with Russia. The UK, Washington's steadfast ally in Ukraine, also is under immense pressure to disengage and concentrate on the domestic crisis

as the new government tackles a [funding hole of the order of £50bn](#) in the budget. Going ahead, the notions of regime change in Moscow that Biden had once espoused publicly and the neocon project to “cancel” Russia has hit the wall and crumpled. That said, the US can draw comfort that the Russian pullout from the west of Dnieper implies that Moscow is not intending to make any move on Nikolaev, leave alone Odessa – at least, in the near term. On the other hand, if the Ukrainian forces surge and occupy Kherson and threaten Crimea, it will pose a big challenge for the Biden administration. From Biden's remarks, the is confident that it has enough leverage in Kiev to ensure that there is no escalation. For the present, it is premature to estimate that Moscow only took the bitter decision to abandon Kherson city, which was founded by a decree of Catherine the Great and is etched deeply in the Russian collective consciousness, with a reasonable certainty that Washington will restrain Kiev from “hot pursuit” of the retreating Russian army to the eastern banks of the Dnieper river.

Parliament And The Politics Of Survival As Members Of Parliament – Ultimatums And Motions Of Censure

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the public which both sides in Parliament have always perceived to be gullible people was their conviction that the mass of the population cannot on their own discern the facts in plain sight that the President's mismanagement of the economic and social policies could only have been possible with the support and cooperation of Parliament.

Their constituents are supposed not to be able to reason that the Constitution had clearly apportioned to the legislative branch of government the mandatory function of being the bulwark and gatekeeper against any breaches of the people's trust by the President in any pursuit of misguided economic and social policies detrimental to the wellbeing of their constituents and this country as a whole.

Ken Ofori Atta and Charles Adu Boahene were vetted and approved in dubious circumstances less than two years ago in a bi-partisan manner by the very members of parliament who on 25 October 2022 were sacrificing them for removal from office to divert public attention from their respective roles in enabling the creation of the messy economic situation in the country.

All questions about their competence, conflict of interest, and the harshness of our social and economic circumstances as a nation were raised by civil society and other better enlightened and knowledgeable citizens within the public and brought to the notice of all the members of Parliament.

Now is the time, therefore, for the Minority Leader, Haruna Iddrisu, to honestly tell the public about the consideration that motivated him as the Minority Leader and ranking member of the Appointments Committee to have seconded the motion for

the approval of the report of the Appointments Committee presented to the plenary by the Majority Chief Whip Frank Annor Dompren on behalf of the chairman and first deputy Speaker Joseph Osei-Owusu who was presiding when he seconded the motion knowing that he was not satisfied with the performance of the nominee, Ken Ofori-Atta, who in Mr. Iddrisu's words must face the consequences of running down the economy for the past four years.

The Majority Leader, Osei Kyei Mensah-Bonsu who is also now appearing to be holier than thou, and the Minority Leader, Haruna Iddrisu led the bi-partisan approval processes in parliament with the very so-called 80 rebels of the NPP, and those in the minority now championing the censure motion.

Now is also the time for the Minority Leader to reconcile his boastfulness in the viability of his whip when he said in an interview in relation to the motion for censure of the Minister for Finance that: "I have issued a nine-line whip, not even three-line whip, three times three ... and we will stand strong on this matter," with his earlier interview on Pan African TV when he said, inter alia, that:

"If you put that to a vote and you saw the embarrassing outcome of Hawa Koomson, Kojo Oppong-Nkrumah, Kwesi, any elected MP is an adult, I Haruna Iddrisu cannot accompany an NDC MP into a ballot box to guide him how to exercise his vote. He is responsible enough. Mine is to issue the party whip, which is the directive that we expect you to stand against this policy, nothing more. And as an adult, respecting the secrecy of the ballot, I cannot be held responsible."

It is imperative that the leadership of parliament is held accountable for their deceptive and contradictory words designed to cheat the intelligence of the public which is made up of citizens who are better knowledgeable and hounourable than some of those who by chance find themselves sitting in Parliament.

The public needs to guard its expectations against the possible outcome of the selfish and self-serving gamesmanship from the majority and minority members of Parliament struggling for re-election to parliament after collaborating with the executive branch to lead the nation into the harshest economic and social suffering in our history.

There is no better warning in our present situation than the words of Sammy Gyamfi, the National Democratic Congress's National Communications Officer on 4 March 2021 when Ken Ofori-Atta and other Ministers were approved with the suspicious support of the minority in parliament. He wrote in his Facebook comments that:

"Comrades, the betrayal we have suffered in the hands of the Speaker of Parliament, Rt. Hon. Alban Bagbin, the leadership of our Parliamentary group, particularly Hon. Haruna Iddrisu and Hon. Muntaka Mubarak, and dozens of our own MPs, are what strengthens me to work hard for the great NDC to regain power.

They brazenly defied the leadership of the party and betrayed the collective good for their selfish interest. And we, must not let them succeed in their parochial quest to destroy the NDC, the party that has done so

much for them and all of us. The shame they have brought on the party will forever hang like an albatross around their necks...."

These are words of wisdom if members of the National Democratic Congress in Parliament hope to gain the confidence of the public to form a Government in the future. The same words apply to the members of the New Patriotic Party in parliament as to what not to do to worsen the lost confidence of the people in their Government after the mess caused by the blind support they gave to their Government to cause the mess.

The foregoing examination and analysis have demonstrated that the gamesmanship that

members of both sides of parliament on 25 October 2022 pretended to separately pursue in removing their common adversary on similar grounds and reasons could be a scam to ensure their re-election to parliament after their contribution to the current economic mess of the country.

Hopefully, patriots after reading this piece will be steeled against being disappointed by the eventual failure of the motion of censure after the failure by the majority to remove the ministers before the presentation and approval of the November 2022 Budget Statement and Economic Policy in Parliament. Let us continue to put Ghana First! God save Ghana!

Wereko Brobby Says Ghana Is In Crisis Because Of Akufo-Addo's Stubbornness

A leading member of the [New Patriotic Party](#) (NPP), [Dr Charles Wereko-Brobby](#) has berated President [Nana Akufo-Addo](#) for the current hardship in the country.

According to him, Ghana's economy is in this state because the president refuses to listen to sound advice.

Dr Wereko Brobby, who made these remarks in a Neat FM interview, added that Akufo-Addo and his appointees are doing the same things he (Akufo-Addo) criticised the NDC government for when he was in opposition.

"(The country) is in this current state because of stubbornness. Because from the beginning, we at Alliance for Change used to criticise the NDC for the size of their government, accusing them of squandering the country's resources with the number of ministers they had appointed. "Now, this my brother (Akufo-Addo) comes to power, and the 85 ministers of Mahama we were complaining was too much, [he]



Leading member of the New Patriotic Party (NPP), Dr Charles Wereko-Brobby

increased it to 125. So, is this progress?

"When we spoke about it, he said that the number of his ministers is insignificant but what matters is their output. This means that we criticised the NDC only to come and do worse than they did. This is why we are where we are today... If you decide not to take the advice on things we have spoken about, this is what happens. Today, inflation is over 40 percent, and it will be worse," he said. Dr Wereko-Brobby added that the failure of the government to stabilise the nation's currency and the prices of petroleum products is the cause of the hardships in the country.