

# DISTURBING!

## GMA Survey Reveals 90% Of Doctors Want To Leave Ghana



**Kwaku Agyeman-Manu, Minister of Health**



**Dr Frank Serebuor, the National President, GMA**

**P**resident of the Ghana Medical Association (GMA), Dr. Frank Serebuor, has revealed that, per a survey conducted by the association, most Ghanaian doctors are considering leaving the country. He mentioned that a survey conducted among 360 medical doctors indicated that 90 per cent of them have considered leaving Ghana. Dr. Frank Serebuor made the statement at the just-ended 64th annual general conference of the Association in Bolgatanga. He noted that the doctors want a better condition of

*Cont. on page 3*

Allegation Of Causing Panic Withdrawals...

### Two Charged For False Publication

**T**he Accra Circuit Court has granted GHC20,000 bail with two sureties each to a blogger and an Information Technology (IT) professional for an alleged false publication that caused panic bank withdrawals

*Cont. on page 2*



**Alan Kyerematen Leading Ambitious Trade Policy, Six Years On** *page 8*

## Anger Brews Over NLA's Cut Of 30% Lotto Commission

**...But GLOA, PLO, CLAAG Call For Calm Among Lotto Writers**

*By Florence Anim*

**T**here was visible display of anger among hundreds of lotto writers at the

Ghana National Association of Teachers (GNAT) hall in Accra yesterday following the announcement by the National Lottery Authority

(NLA) for all Lotto Operators to enforce the slash of the 30% commission to 20%. It would be recalled that an announcement



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# The INSIGHT

## — EDITORIAL

### PALESTINE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Allegation Of Causing Panic Withdrawals... Two Charged For False Publication

*from front page*

from dollar account holders. This followed the arrest of the accused by the police after they investigated a report from the Bank of Ghana alerting them to the publication, which according to the BoG had caused fear and alarm to the public and resulted in panic withdrawals at the banks. Jeffrey EppirimNyame, the blogger has been charged with publication of false news while Jeremiah KobinaEgyebeng, the I.T Professional, his alleged accomplice faces the charge of abetment. Both have pleaded not guilty to the charges.

The court presided over by Rosemary Baah Torsu fixed the next hearing for 29 December 2022 in which period the prosecution is expected to file all disclosures. Prosecuting, Chief Inspector, Richard Amoah told the court police gathered cyber intelligence on social media indicating that on October 27, 2022, Nyame published an article on his news portal called reportghana.net captioned, "Dollar account holders to get cedi at BOG rate for bank withdrawals effective 31st Oct?" and shared same on various WhatsApp groups and social media platforms causing fear and panic among the general public. During investigations, Chief Insp Amoah said it was established that Egyebeng initially created the news portal for Nyame called reportghana.com in the year 2019 which was used for the publication of similar articles but was closed down by Google for violating their community standard due to complaints received from users. "However, Egyebeng again created a similar news portal but this time changed the domain from "dot com"

to "dot net" and registered it as reportghana.net on February 11, 2022 to be able to use same for publication of articles and happenings in Ghana. "After publishing the said false news, Nyame then shared the publication on WhatsApp group platforms including "reportghana news feed 1," "reportghana news feed 2," "reportghana news feed 3" with over 160 active members where he was the administrator with his personal telephone numbers 0551993013 and 0574144388 registered on the platform," he told the court adding that the news was still circulating on social media. Chief Insp Amoah said Nyame admitted to publishing the alleged false news but stated that he got the article from mynewsgh.com but investigation established otherwise and confirmed Nyame as the author and publisher. [Chief Insp Amoah](#) said Egyebeng admitted to the creation of the news portal managed and used by Nyame. He added that further investigation uncovered the involvement of other persons involved in the publication who were currently at large and efforts underway to arrest them.

**Source – asaaseradio.com**

## THE INSIGHT

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## GMA Survey Reveals 90% Of Doctors Want To Leave Ghana

from front page

service, for which they are seeking to leave the shores of Ghana.

“Immigration of medical doctors from Ghana is an age-old problem that continues to deplete the country of much needed human resources. In recent times there has been a surge in the number of health workers including medical doctors leaving the country.”

“The reasons for immigration of doctors seem to vary with time. A recent survey of 360 doctors currently practicing in Ghana showed that about 90 per cent have ever considered leaving the country to move to more developed countries. “The reason for which doctors leave Ghana include the search for better income, improved working living conditions, better life and schools for their children and opportunities for further education,” Dr Frank Serebuor added.

This comment by the GMA comes after the Ghana Registered Nurses and Midwives Association (GRNMA) in July 2022 revealed that 3,000 nurses left Ghana in search of greener pastures abroad during the first quarter of 2022.

“Just during the first quarter, about 3,000 nurses, including practicing nurses,

left the shores of the country to seek greener pastures abroad. Most of them headed straight to the UK, where they believe their welfare and better future would be ensured. They only write an examination and leave to UK,” Ebenezer Acquah, the Ashanti Regional Assistant Secretary for GRNMA told press men.

However, Dr Frank Serebour also expressed dissatisfaction with the unfair and unequitable distribution of medical doctors in the country, describing it as a discrimination against Northern Ghana. He said that the situation was having dire health consequences on the already deprived and underserved regions and posed threats to quality of healthcare delivery in those areas.

He stated for instance that the Upper East Region had a total of 89 medical doctors, out of which only 30 were currently at post due to further studies, depriving many vulnerable communities of quality healthcare.

“This number is equivalent to a single department in our teaching hospitals in Korle-Bu and Komfo Anokye, and the numbers are not different from other deprived regions in the country”.

According to Dr Serebour, many healthcare facilities in Northern Ghana in particular, were being served by one doctor while some doctors had spent all their working lives in the South particularly in Accra and Kumasi.

He described the situation as an indictment on the management of the healthcare system in Ghana and underscored the need for an open and honest discussion to resolve the skewed distribution of doctors.

“Until there is a total transparency and fair play in transfers based on the needs of institutions, there will always be brave people who would refuse postings to deprived areas,” he lamented.

Apart from urging the government to design incentive package to attract and retain doctors in rural and deprived areas, Dr Serebour urged the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, particularly the District Assemblies to provide basic structures for doctors and other health workers.

This, he said, coupled with improved condition of service, would not only motivate doctors and other health workers to work in deprived communities but would help prevent the brain drain of doctors which was on the



Kwaku Agyeman-Manu, Minister of Health



Dr Frank Serebour, the National President, GMA

ascendancy.

“These packages may include well-furnished accommodation, top up salaries up to the tune of 50 per cent of their total salaries, full scholarships for further training, either within or outside the country after three years of continuous and dedicated service,” he added.

Mr Stephen Yakubu, Upper East Regional Minister, indicated that shortage of doctors especially in the Upper East Region was worrying to stakeholders and needed collective approach to resolving the issue.

He said over the years, doctors had refused postings to the region and the Regional Coordinating Council had tasked the Municipal and District Assemblies to identify and sponsor students to pursue medicine and bond them to work in the

region.

He said the region was benefitting eight district hospitals under the government's agenda 111 project and there was the need to attract and retain more doctors.

Mr Mahama Sei Seini, the Deputy Minister of Health, lauded the efforts of the GMA for the continuous contribution towards ensuring quality healthcare in the country.

He said as part of the government's to achieve Universal Health Coverage, the Ministry had set up a committee on rural incentive package to attract health workers to rural areas and added that the committee had finished and submitted its report.

The conference was on the theme, “Doctor distribution dilemma: the case of Ghana and its



# INTERNATIONAL NEWS REPORT

## Compiled By Peoples Dispatch

### Chilean President Gabriel Boric Presents Bill To Reform Country's Private Pension System

Chilean President Gabriel Boric last Wednesday reported that he would soon present to Congress a bill to reform the country's current private pension system. President Boric said that the bill aims to create a new social security fund to guarantee better pensions and put an end to the seven existing Pension Fund Administrators (AFPs), created under the US-backed dictatorship of General Augusto Pinochet (1973-1990). "Today we present a reform, which has been awaited and postponed for more than 15 years, which creates a mixed system that will guarantee better pensions for all, the current system is in crisis and the amounts are not enough for people to sustain a decent life in their old age," said Boric on national television. The president criticized the fact that "in Chile, 72% of pensions are below the minimum wage and that one in four retirees receives an amount that is below

the poverty line." He pointed out that "this occurs at the same time when the AFPs receive tremendous profits, even though the results and profitability of the funds are negative." The head of state stated that "the AFPs, in this reform, are finished. There will be new private investment managers with the exclusive purpose of investing pension funds, and there will also be a public alternative to increase competition with new players." The president explained that the reform will create "a mixed pension system, based on the principles of social security in which the State, employers and workers will contribute." He added that "the pension savings in individual accounts, both accumulated and future, will remain the individual's property, may be inherited and will never be expropriated." Boric explained that this new

system will give "freedom to choose where to invest your pension funds, an option that does not exist today, since everyone is obliged to be in an AFP." "We want to leave behind an extreme system that has not been able to meet the expectations placed on it and that has recognized deficiencies," he declared. The president called on Congress "to debate with responsibility and dialogue, but without delay, putting people and their needs at the center." Under the mechanism in force, which created an individual capitalization method, each worker has 10.5% of his or her monthly salary deducted to a personal account managed by one of the seven AFPs. These funds are returned to the account holders when they reach their retirement age (60 years for women and 65 years for men). In 2008, a reform was introduced

and a state-financed universal pension was created for the poorest 60% who had never contributed or who received very low pensions. This contribution was increased in 2021 to 194,000 pesos per annum (\$ 210). According to the Finance Ministry's [statement](#), the reform will further increase it to 250,000 pesos (\$ 270). The new system would obligate companies and employers to pay an additional 6% of their employees' salaries to a new state-run social security company to improve current and future pensions. Boric has promised to increase state spending on social services, introduce progressive taxes on corporations and wealthy individuals, and move towards a new fair and sustainable economic system. He has also pledged to replace the country's pension system (AFP), which is managed by private insurers and has been a cause of dispute between the



On November 3, Chilean President Gabriel Boric announced a bill to reform the country's current private pension system. (Photo: Chilean Finance Ministry). President Gabriel Boric criticized the fact that 72% of pensions in Chile are below the minimum wage and one in four retirees receives an amount that is below the poverty line, while Pension Fund Administrators make tremendous profits

government and the population since last year, with a public alternative. The overhaul of Chile's pension system is one of Boric's presidential campaign promises. The AFPs make huge profits by investing the workers' savings in the market, which amount to about 8% of Chile's GDP. But they are believed to have exclusively benefited the elites, and not the vast majority of poor Chileans. In the past years, given the public backlash against the system, there have been at least two attempts to reform it, but all failed to pass in the parliament.

### Social Democrats Maintain Lead In Danish Elections

In the parliamentary elections held in Denmark last Tuesday, November 1, the Social Democrats led by incumbent Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen retained their position as the single largest party in the 179-seat parliament, Folketing, by securing 50 (+2) seats and 27.54% of the votes. The major opposition, center-right Venstre party faced a massive setback as it was reduced to 23 seats (-20). The recently formed parties – the centrist Moderates and the right-wing Denmark Democrats – won 16 and 14 seats, respectively. Among the red bloc, support groups of the incumbent minority government led by the Social Democrats, the Green Left won

15 (+1) seats, the Red-Green Alliance 9 (-4) seats, and Social Liberals 7 (-9) seats. The Liberal Alliance which secured 14 seats (+10) saw a significant rise in its support, while conservative groups including the Conservative People's Party, New Right, and the Danish People's Party won 10 (-2), 6 (+2), and 5 (-11) seats, respectively. The green Alternative won 6 (+1) seats in the elections. The conservative Union Party and the Social Democrats secured one seat each out of the two seats from the Faroe Islands. Pro-independence parties from Greenland, left-wing Inuit Ataqatigiit and center-left Siumut each secured a seat out of the two seats from the island which also

falls under Danish administration. According to reports, Frederiksen's popularity and her party's campaign calling for a stable government amid the cost of living crisis and the ongoing Russia-NATO war in Ukraine, as well as splits and defections within the opposition parties like Venstre and Danish People's Party, influenced the results. While Frederiksen can now form a government with the support of the red bloc parties, it has been reported that she may also seek – as stated before the elections – support from other parties to form a majority government in order to maintain political stability in the country.

Anders T. Sorenson, editor-in-chief of the communist publication *Arbejderen*, told *Peoples Dispatch* on November 2, "The skepticism and uncertainty of ordinary people in an unmanageable and overwhelming, uncertain world with war and crisis, the fear of tomorrow was ultimately translated into votes for 'the safe'. To gather around what we know, because there is a danger of something worse. This secured the ruling Social Democratic Party 27.5% of the vote – and made the party the big winner of the election. Now Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen will try to form a government with the right wing –

this despite the fact that she has mandates to form a government based on left-wing parties. It is not least the backdrop of war and crisis that is used to argue for a government across the middle. But that situation in reality requires redistributive responses – from weapons and rearmament to climate and welfare." The Red-Green Youth stated on November 2 that the prime minister faced a choice between aligning with the red bloc and its promises of better wages for public servants, higher climate goals and inflation assistance paid by the richest, and opting for the right's support which would not address issues of climate change or the economy.

# Review 1992 Constitution: Curtail Excessive Powers Of Presidents – Emile Short



Emile Short, former CHRAJ Commissioner

**A** former Commissioner of the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), Justice Emile Francis Short, has advocated the curtailment of the excessive appointment powers of Presidents under the 1992 Constitution to enhance good governance and democratic accountability. He argued that the excessive and unrestrained appointment powers and influence granted to Presidents under the Constitution created a winner-takes-all environment in the democratic dispensation.

The former commissioner was speaking at a seminar on the theme: "Reviewing Ghana's 1992 Constitution: The excessive powers of the President", in Accra last Tuesday.

**Professor Aaron Michael Oquaye**

It was organised by the Prof. Mike Oquaye Centre for Constitutional Studies at the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA).

The seminar was attended by a cross-section of the public, including

academics, lawyers, parliamentarians and students.

## Weak oversight

Justice Short also identified weak oversight by the Legislature as a major contributor to the large size of government that burdened the taxpayer.

To address the winner-takes-all politics, he suggested the implementation of the recommendations made by an 11-member advisory committee of experts and eminent Ghanaians constituted by the IEA to re-examine the issue and seek broader consultations for reforms. Formed in 2014, the committee, which was chaired by the Catholic Archbishop of Cape Coast, the Most Rev. Gabriel Charles Palmer-Buckle, recommended, among other things, that appointments to key positions in the public sector should emanate from clearly designated bodies that had the capacity to identify suitable persons, using clearly pre-determined criteria.

Furthermore, the committee proposed that for some of the appointments, a duly constituted body comprising professional bodies or institutions shall recommend suitable individuals of at least five, from among whom the President shall make a

nomination to Parliament.

## Limitation

Justice Short said a second look needed to be taken at the provision that the President's consent must be sought in the appointment of board members of state-owned media.

Furthermore, he said, the President's role in determining end-of-service benefits for most of his appointees, including Article 71 holders, as well as members of parliament (MPs), must be reviewed.

"It has been estimated that the President has the power to appoint not less than 5, 000 people into the public service," he added. Objecting to the provisions, the former CHRAJ Boss stated: "These practices are a recipe for patronage and cronyism and severely constrain the development of effective checks and balances and governmental accountability."

## Scope of power

Justice Short cited the various institutions whose chairpersons, deputies and other members the President retained the power to appoint and suggested that independent bodies should take up those responsibilities.

The institutions are CHRAJ, the

Electoral Commission, the National Commission for Civic Education and the District Assemblies Common Fund. Other appointments by the President are the heads of the security agencies, including the Inspector General of Police, the Auditor General, the Head of the Audit Service, the Governor of the Bank of Ghana and the Chairperson and members of the National Development Planning Commission.

## Majority, Minority

The Majority Leader in Parliament, Osei Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu, and the Member of Parliament for North Tongu, Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa, both agreed with Justice Short's submissions, describing them as "thought-provoking".

Mr Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu, however, observed that MPs who were at the same time ministers appointed by the President had the requisite expertise for the job and stressed the need for vigilance on the part of the Appointments Committee of Parliament to ensure that the right people were appointed to positions of trust.

"All manner of people are appointed because of ineptitude on the part of Parliament. I have a preference for the Westminster type of system and not the presidential type," he said. Mr Ablakwa was happy about the suggestion made by Justice Short that some of the appointing powers of the President be given to independent bodies.

He, however, cautioned that the country must tread cautiously in the composition of such bodies, so that they become neutral, adding that "credible political parties with representation in Parliament should also be consulted when constituting such bodies".

## Compilation

Prof. Oquaye, who is a former Speaker of Parliament, chaired the event. He said the intellectual speeches of all speakers, including former Presidents, would be compiled into a report and appropriate recommendations made for implementation.

Source: [gbcghanaonline.com](http://gbcghanaonline.com)

# Anger Brews Over NLA's Cut Of 30% Lotto Commission ...But GLOA, PLO, CLAAG Call For Calm Among Lotto Writers

from front page

was made recently in the media by the Ghana Lotto Operators Association (GLOA) of Ghana and Private Lotto Operators (PLO) that effective 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022 commissions paid to lotto writers would be reduced from 30% to 20% which is a 10% reduction in their income levels.

However, GLOA, PLO and Concerned Lotto Agents Association of Ghana (CLAAG) yesterday convened a meeting to calm the nerves of Lotto Writers as CLAAG has already written to National Lottery Authority to register its grievances over the reduction in commission. According to the Executive Secretary of CLAAG at the press briefing in Accra yesterday, Mr. Kweku Duah-Tawiah, the announcement about the reduction was implemented and subsequently met with anger by the agitated writers, given

the already existing hardship in the country.

He said the situation has therefore resulted in several incidence of near altercations between Lotto Writers and their respective agents coupled with numerous outpouring of anger against the move which is expressed through voice calls and messages to offices and executive officers demanding for sustained nationwide demonstrations against the reduction until such times that it will be reversed. He therefore called on members of the various Associations to remain calm to seek for an amicable solution to the problem at hand and if by Friday November 11<sup>th</sup> the matter has not been resolved, CLAAG will again invite its members to reconvene and

decide on its next line of action.

"It is our hope to seek an amicable solution and of course with the active participation of GLOA," he noted.

The Chairman of GLOA, Noah Afonope, who assured the Lotto Agents and Operators said he believes that something good will come out of the meeting with NLA.

Some of the Lotto writers who were clad in red, held placards with inscriptions such as, "we don't want any 20% but 40% instead. Sammy Awuku must go. Leave Banker to banker alone. 20% of what, we no go gre. Chop chop money keke," among others.

Some chanted "we want 40%, we want 40%" adding if the NLA refuses to increase their commission "then nobody should reduce what is due us".



# Alan Kyerematen Leading Ambitious Trade Policy, Six Years On



**John Alan Kwadwo Kyerematen**

*By Lawyer Benson Afful*

Six years after the successful implementation of the government's flagship program, One District One Factory, under the leadership of the Trade Minister, John Alan Kwadwo Kyerematen, about 175 factories are currently operating in the country. Mr. Kyerematen spearheaded the ambitious industrialization policy with a mindset of creating jobs, increasing incomes while reducing unemployment among the youth of the country. President Akufo-Addo in 2018 launched the initiative and put in charge one of Ghana's finest trade expert, Mr. Kyerematen, to ensure the implementation of the program. There is no doubt that the initiative is one of the policies that secured a landslide victory for President Akufo-Addo in the 2020 general elections with a record 53.8 percent. As ambitious as the program may sound, some analysts have argued that this is one of the most impressive trade policies in Ghana's history since independence as it seeks to establish a factory in each of the country's 275 districts. The program has since

generated more than 200,000 direct and indirect jobs and is expected to lift the country from an import economy to an export-driven economy by adding value to the country's raw materials. Having led the ministry expertly in the last six years, Mr. Kyerematen in 2020 when covid hit the country's health system ensured that some pharmaceutical companies secured a grant to boost production. Ghana's health system was put to a serious test after the emergence of the global pandemic, for this reason the government through the trade ministry secured a grant of GHc15 million for local pharmaceutical manufacturers under the 1D1F initiative. Eleven pharmaceutical companies benefited from the grant that was secured from local partners in partnership with the ministry. Local textile manufacturing industries were also resourced to produce COVID Protective Gear which made them abundantly available and saved government from using hard-earned foreign exchange to import

them.

Also, the new strategic economic growth poles such as the establishment of vehicles plants, pharmaceutical manufacturing and garment production which have received dedicated attention by the ministry are also creating highly skilled job opportunities for Ghanaians.

Mr. Kyerematen's drive at the ministry has made the country witnessed the production of local vehicles by auto giants such as Suzuki, VW, Nissan, Sino Trucks among others under the Automotive Development Policy which was being implemented by the trade minister.

These global auto makers produce the vehicles locally and export to other African market and this will boost Ghana's competitiveness under the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), a development which was headed by Mr. Kyerematen's ministry.

As someone who is passionate about job creation, he said his ministry is focusing on strategic poles such as the Strategic Anchor Industries Initiatives which is developing new strategic growth poles to diversify the economy and the industrial parks which are providing support to private business promoters to establish industrial parks in each of the 16 regions to improve access to land, utilities and business support services for industrial development.

The AfCFTA vision Ghana was selected as the secretariat for the largest single market and the secretariat building was

commissioned by the African Union on August 17, 2020, with the vision to end the paradox of Africa being the richest in terms of resources yet the poorest in material wealth. With AfCFTA, it is estimated that intra Africa trade will increase by US\$35 billion annually. Under the AfCFTA, the 1D1F policy which has been designed as a comprehensive industrial transformation agenda to drive the manufacturing sector will play a key role for Ghana to harness the opportunities that the agreement presents.

Mr. Kyerematen who led Ghana's team that secured the nod for the secretariat to come to Accra believes that Ghana is uniquely positioned to become the new commercial capital for Africa.

It's estimated that the total cost of about 20 categorised items imported into the country amounted to US\$10 billion annually.

According to data from the Ghana Trade Advocacy Network, values for various products imported include tin tomatoes-\$1 billion, rice-\$800 million, Sugar and confectionery-\$300 million, flour-\$600 million, poultry and meat-\$400 million, fish-\$245 million, fresh tomatoes from Burkina Faso – \$100 million and toilet rolls and tissue-\$100 million.

The rest are cooking oil-\$300 million, pharmaceutical and chemicals-\$750 million, soaps and cosmetics, plastics-\$500 million, paper-\$600 million, tiles and ceramics-\$200 million, iron and steel products-\$600 million, cars and spare parts-\$2 billion, furniture-\$250 million,

textiles and apparel-\$250 million, home appliances-\$900 million and beverages-\$200 million.

However, trade experts believe that with government's determination to ensuring that the country produces its own products locally the cost of import to the country is expected to be reduced drastically in the long term as the factories begin to operate at their peak.

Recently, President Akufo-Addo together with his trade minister, Alan Kyerematen, began a tour on various regions to commission some factories in fulfillment of the government's promise towards the 1D1F initiative. This goes a long way to buttress the point that the minister has stayed true to his words of creating jobs for the youth through the government's industrialization agenda. Among these remarkable progress made towards the initiative, there are plans to also revamp the Kade Match factory, which was set up to produce a critical household item to Ghanaians, by second quarter next year.

The Aveyime rice project, another critical project which is needed in this critical moment is expected to receive support to start production as well in early next year to reduce the country's huge reliance on the importation of rice. It's therefore undeniable fact that, the successful implementation of the 1D1F policy will jumpstart the country's economy and put it on the path of recovery, as dynamic trade minister Alan Kwadwo Kyerematen continue to steer affairs of the ministry with his vision of creating jobs through value addition of the country's raw materials.

# COCOBOD Trial: Step Down – Opuni To Retired Justice Honyenuga

Lawyers of the former Chief Executive of Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD), Dr. Stephen Kwabena Opuni have filed an application asking Justice Clemence Honyenuga, who has attained the retirement age of 70 to step down from his case.

Justice Honyenuga, a Justice of the Supreme Court sitting with additional responsibility as a High Court judge, attained the age of 70 on September 4, this year, but has been granted a six months extension by the Chief Justice to wrap up the trial as per the law, a development Dr. Opuni and his lawyers have raised concerns with.

The Supreme Court judge has been presiding over the case in which Dr. Opuni and two others are standing trial for allegedly causing financial loss to the state to the tune of GHc271 million in the alleged fraudulent procurement of Lithovite Liquid Fertilizer.

In court on Monday, November 7, 2022, when the case was called, lawyers of Dr. Opuni led

by Lawyer Samuel Codjoe indicated to the court about the latest application. The Director of Public Prosecution, Mrs Yvonne Atakora Obuobisa, said even though a copy of the said application was shown to her, the prosecution has not been served.

Justice Honyenuga after listening to the parties adjourned the case to November 14, 2022.

According to EIB Network's Legal Affairs Correspondent Murtala Inusah, Dr. Opuni who was a subject matter of a six-weeks excuse duty following an eye surgery was present in court.

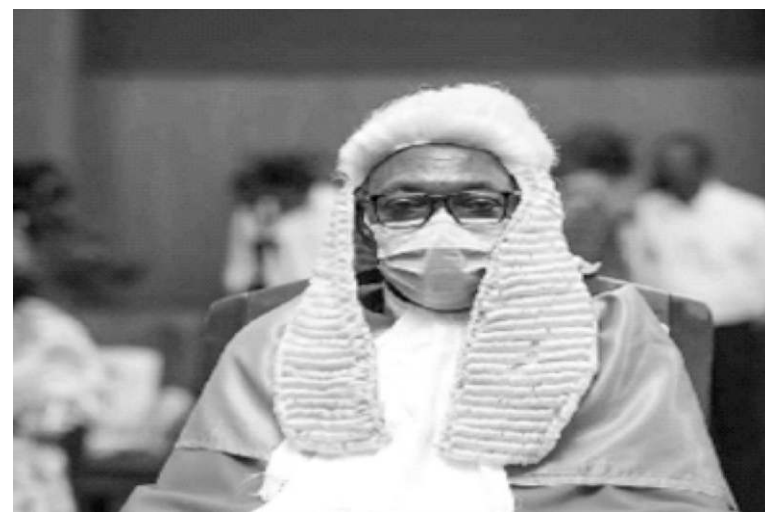
Dr. Opuni and Businessman Seidu Agongo, the Chief Executive Officer of Agricult Ghana Limited all pleaded not guilty to the charges and have been granted bail. So far, the prosecution had closed its case after calling seven witnesses with the seventh Defence witness for Dr. Opuni currently in the witness box.

## Surgery

On October 17, a Medical Director of St. Lucy Eye Clinic, Dr. Kodjo Abalo provided justification for the six weeks excuse duty granted to Dr. Stephen Kwabena Opuni, who had had some eye surgeries saying, "Six weeks is crucial in the healing process of the eye."

Dr Abalo, was on October 11, 2022 summoned by the Criminal Division of the Accra High to explain to the court the circumstances leading to his excuse duty to Dr. Opuni who is said to have had eye surgery.

When the trial resumed on October 11, after a two-month legal vacation, lawyers of Dr Opuni led by Samuel Codjoe informed the court about Dr. Opuni's ill health, but the doctor was summoned by the court presided over by Justice Clemence Honyenuga, a Justice of the Supreme Court sitting with additional



**Justice Clemence Honyenuga**

responsibility as a High Court judge.

## Testimony

In Court on Monday, October 17, Dr. Kodjo Abalo, the Medical Director of St Lucy Eye Clinic told the court that Dr. Opuni is his patient, who came to the facility on a referral basis but not as a walk-in patient.

He said Dr. Opuni came to the facility on May 21, 2022, with a referral letter and a printout of the optical

Coherence, and that after examination, the only treatment was for the facility to operate on the eye.

According to him, Dr. Opuni came back after recovering from Covid-19 on Sept 9, 2022, ready for the operation, and after the pre-operative was done, the operation was done on September 23, 2022.

Source: [starrfm.com.gh](http://starrfm.com.gh)

# Economic Crisis: PNC's Recommendations To Govt

The People's National Convention (PNC) has submitted a proposal on how to mitigate the effects of the current economic crisis on Ghanaians. According to the party, these proposals will help the government in finding solutions to the challenges facing the economy.

The proposals come on the back of President Akufo-Addo's national address a fortnight ago, in which he conceded that the country is in a crisis. The PNC, in a statement, noted that it agrees that the economy is in recession, hence, the proposal to the government in finding solutions to the challenges.

## These are the proposals from the PNC:

1. The general increases in prices of goods and services, are obviously being driven by the unprecedented increases in petroleum prices exacerbated by the free fall of the Ghana Cedi. We commend the government's initiative to import

cheap petroleum products as a short-term measure to stabilise prices.

Again, we recommend that the government should take charge of the importation and pricing of petroleum products to ensure prices are affordable for the ordinary Ghanaian. The government should not pay attention to the few individuals trying to thwart its efforts by saying it is impossible. Meanwhile, the government must hasten the operationalisation of the Tema Oil Refinery and other refineries under construction to help permanently bring fuel prices under control.

2. PNC welcomes the decision by the government to reduce the importation of certain foods and beverages into the country. This is not going to be easy; however, more proactive measures must be taken in planning to wean us off the importation of products we can produce locally.

3. We recommend that the government should regulate and be part of the importation of rice and other essential products into the country. The government, through the Buffer Stock Company, must buy the local rice from producers and equally be in control of the amount of rice imported into the country.

The government guaranteeing market for local rice producers will encourage local rice farmers to scale [up] their production, thereby leading to self-reliance in the production of rice. This should be replicated in the production of other foodstuffs.

4. Again, the total reliance on the private sector, in these hard times, to be the sole importer of essential commodities, has not been helpful, as businesses are taking advantage of the situation by selling essential commodities at exorbitant prices. The government must take steps to control the importation of certain essential

commodities into the country to ensure affordable prices of such commodities.

5. We recommend to the government, as a matter of urgency, to revamp the operations of the Metro Mass Transport (MMT) and other Public Transport Agencies within three months to minimise the rising cost of transportation, especially within the cities and to offer free rides to schoolchildren and the elderly. Mini-buses should be added to their fleet of vehicles to augment the already existing 'trotro' and help serve as a check on their charges.

6. We recommend to the government to clamp down on the pricing of items in dollars. We would like the government to enforce the Foreign Exchange Act, 2006 (Act 723), which prohibits pricing, advertising, and receipt or payment for goods and services in foreign currency in Ghana. The sole legal tender in Ghana is the Ghana cedi (GHC) and Ghana pesewa (Gp) and anyone who will violate this

act be it hotels, companies, institutions or individuals should be severely punished to serve as a deterrent.

7. The call for the government to cut down on its appointees is justifiable. The government's move to continue the reduction of its appointees' salary by 30% was commendable but it is not being seen to be a great sacrifice as such, we recommend that the government cut down the number of appointees and put the remaining ones on full salary for them to be well motivated to meet performance expectations. This singular act will bring back the credibility and trust the government need from Ghanaians.

The party called on Ghanaians to remain resolute and optimistic about getting out of these difficult times. "Let us all, and as individuals conduct our businesses in a way that should not cause fear and panic, which will further ruin us all," the statement added.

# 'Loss And Damage' Is Officially On The Agenda As COP27 Kicks Off In Egypt

By Tanupriya Singh

Over 45,000 people from 196 countries, including 120 heads of state, are gathering in the city of Sharm El-Sheikh in Egypt as the 27th iteration of the Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, or COP27, began on Sunday, November 6.

"We are gathering this year at a time when global climate action is at a watershed moment," stated Egyptian Foreign Affairs Minister and COP27 President Sameh Shoukry, as the country took over leadership of the summit from the UK.

"Multilateralism is being challenged by geopolitics, spiraling prices, and growing financial crises, while several countries battered by the pandemic have barely recovered, and severe and depleting climate change-induced disasters are becoming more frequent."

The two-week long conference had a delayed start amid negotiations over its agenda which stretched onto Sunday morning. However, a key outcome is that for the first time in its history, the COP will address Loss and Damage finance: "Matters relating to funding arrangements responding to loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including a focus on addressing loss and damage," has been [included](#) under point 8(f) of the agenda.

This was following a proposal presented on behalf of the G77+China by Pakistan, which is recovering from devastating floods which killed over 1,700 people and submerged one-third of its territory.

For decades now, vulnerable countries have been demanding reparations from the global North to address the historical and ongoing harms of colonialism, capitalism, and imperialism that have placed much of the global South at the frontlines of the climate crisis.

A group of 16 countries led by [Vanuatu](#) are also in the process of seeking an "advisory opinion" from the International Court of Justice on the legal obligations of all countries for prevention and

redressal of the adverse effects of the climate crisis.

Meanwhile, the Global North has consistently restricted any efforts to address Loss and Damage in any meaningful way. Existing frameworks on the issue have [focused](#) on "cooperation and facilitation" on "enhancing knowledge, coherence, action and support".

Areas of "cooperation and facilitation" under the Paris Agreement included emergency preparedness, slow onset events, non-economic losses, and the resilience of communities, livelihoods, and ecosystems. There has been no mention of financing.

At COP26, a demand to set up a fund for Loss and Damage was blocked by the US and the European Union and ultimately diluted to a decision to have a "dialogue" on "arrangements for the funding of activities to avert, minimize and address loss and damage."

Before this dialogue has even begun, the global North has yet again undercut its potential outcome, to shield itself from accountability— Shoukry [clarified](#) during the opening ceremony that outcomes of the discussions would be based on "cooperation and facilitation and do not involve liability or compensation." It would also "launch a process with a view to adopting a conclusive decision no later than 2024."

Not only has the Global North refused to commit to Loss and Damage compensation, it has not even fulfilled existing funding targets set under international agreements.

## Manipulation and gaps in climate financing

In 2009, wealthy countries agreed to provide financing worth \$100 billion per year until 2020 to help vulnerable countries respond to climate change. This target has been missed consistently. Not only that, analysis has [found](#) that responsible countries have intentionally used misleading accounting to misrepresent climate finances — inflating their contributions to vulnerable countries by up to 225%.

The report figure of public climate finance provided in 2020 was \$68.3 billion, alongside another \$15 billion in private finance and



*The 27th Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change begins in Egypt. Photo: Cop27/Twitter. After a years-long push by the global South, the UN climate conference will discuss funding for loss and damage related to the climate crisis. Over a 100 heads of state are set to address the summit being held in the wake of severe climate disasters from Pakistan to Somalia*

export credits, already far short of the promised \$100 billion. Oxfam has found that the "true value" of the funds provided stands between just \$21-24.5 billion.

At the same time, over 70% of public climate finance is actually loans, trapping poorer countries under debt even further. For Senegal, 85% of its climate finance was in the form of loans, or effectively debt.

Meanwhile, latest analysis from Carbon Brief has [revealed](#) the extent to which rich countries are failing in the \$100 billion pledge. The US is responsible for 52% of the historic emissions released by wealthy and industrialized countries. Accordingly, Carbon Brief states that it must contribute \$39.9 billion to the annual pledge.

In actuality, the US provided less than \$8 billion in funding in 2020, the latest year for which data is available. Countries such as Canada, the UK, and Australia have also not paid their proportionate share, falling short by \$1.4-\$3.3 billion.

## "No credible pathway to 1.5C"

Just as COP27 was kicking off, the UN World Meteorological Organization (WMO) published its interim 'Global State of the Climate' report, ahead of its final release in April 2023. WMO found that the last eight years had been the hottest ever on record. It added that the average global temperature this year would be 1.15C above pre-industrial levels.

Sea levels are rising at twice the rate as compared to 1993 and the presence of carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, and methane in the atmosphere has hit record

levels.

As fossil fuel giants like Shell, [BP](#), and Total Energies are raking in [billions](#) profiting off of the cost-of-living crises affecting people across the world, the UN environment agency has warned that there is "no credible pathway to 1.5C in place." Even if current pledges for action by 2030 are fulfilled in their entirety, the global rise in temperature will still reach 2.5C, precipitating disastrous climate events.

Since COP26, only 29 out of 194 countries have presented new national action plans, and even then the updated pledges will only [remove](#) about 1% off emissions in 2030. The extent of cuts actually required to meet the 1.5C target is 50%.

Meanwhile, by 2030, the carbon emissions of the richest 1% of the world's population is set to [exceed](#) the level compatible with the 1.5C threshold by 30 times. Eight years from now, an estimated 132 million people will be [pushed](#) into extreme poverty due to the climate crisis.

According to the World Health Organization, between 2030 and 2050, an [additional](#) 250,000 people will die each year from malnutrition, malaria, diarrhea, and heat stress.

Research has found that extreme heat will [disproportionately](#) increase death rates in poorer countries.

According to such analyses, there are millions of people who simply do not have the option of thinking about the climate crisis as something that will impact them 20, or eight, or even one

year into the future.

## "You have got to worry about now"

"What future?" Historian and journalist Vijay Prashad had [asked](#) at the People's Summit for Climate Justice held at the sidelines of the official COP26, "Children in the African continent, in Asia, in Latin America, they don't have a future, they don't have a present... you have got to worry about now." "2.7 billion people can't eat now and you're telling people to reduce their consumption. How does it sound to a child who hasn't eaten in days?"

19 million children were among the 38.7 million people in Pakistan, Nigeria, India, Chad, and South Sudan who were [affected](#) by floods between August and October 2022. Countries in East Africa are facing the worst drought in decades—in Somalia, 6.7 million people are at risk of acute food insecurity out of which over 300,000 are expected to face [famine](#) by the end of 2022. On the whole, Carbon Brief has found that extreme weather events have [killed](#) at least 4,000 people and affected another 19 million people across Africa in 2022 alone so far. Over 70% of the world's [refugees](#) are from countries most vulnerable to climate change— including Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Yemen, and Syria. It is also important to note that most of these countries have also faced years of imperialist intervention and war.

[West Asia](#) and North Africa are warming at a rate that is double the global average. Severe wildfires have raged from Algeria, to Australia, to the US.

The Philippines, which witnesses an average of 20 storms and typhoons each year, was just hit by tropical storm Nalgae which killed over 100 people and caused widespread flooding and landslides. Parts of Latin America have been hit by multiple hurricanes within quick succession.

As various heads of state gear up for closed-door meetings and public addresses at COP27 between November 7 and 8, any commitment to addressing the climate crisis must at its core acknowledge disproportionate vulnerabilities and inequities.