

Murtala Blasts Okyehene Over Defense Of GHC400M National Cathedral Project

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Matthew Opoku-Prempeh, Minister of Energy

CRISIS LOOMS IN ENERGY SECTOR

Over Appallingly Bad Genser Deal

By Enoch Danso

Workers of the Volta River Authority, Electricity Company of Ghana, GRIDCo and Ghana Gas have expressed dissatisfaction at the

government's plan to sell off a portion of its gas from Jubilee and TEN fields to Genser Energy Ghana Limited (GEGL). Looking at the current economic situation, it is feared that a change to our energy sector would plunge the

country into chaos and furthermore challenges considering what the finance sector is experiencing. The workers again expressed anger & fear that the Energy Ministry is

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"I'll Work With Newly-Elected Nat. Executives To Bring NDC Back To Power In 2024 Polls"
--- Dr Kwabena Duffuor



Dr Kwabena Duffuor

An Aspiring Presidential Candidate of the National Democratic Congress (NDC), Dr Kwabena Duffuor, has congratulated winners of the weekend national executive positions elections at the 10th National Congress of the NDC held at the Accra Sports Stadium in the Greater Accra Region on Saturday December

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Towards Accident Free X-Mass Festivities

**Association Of
Vulcanizers Engage
Road Safety Authority,
Others At 3rd AGM**



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The INSIGHT

— EDITORIAL

DEAL WITH THEM!

Recent rainfalls in the country have exposed the shoddiness of several of the roads that were constructed and paid for with the taxpayers' money.

Several of the roads within the country's capitals not to mention the hinterlands, have over the past few weeks developed gaping holes following the recent heavy downpours slowing vehicular movement and causing traffic and inconveniences as well.

Surprising, some of these deep potholes have developed on roads only recently repaved and in some cases constructed.

Clearly, this is worrying considering the huge amount of money that was injected into such projects.

Our contractors need to get their acts together and do a good job for the state, if their cries for non-payment or delay in payment of awarded and finished projects is to be acted upon.

The country is bleeding due to the fact that some road projects have become an avenue for money-making by some few contractors who do shoddy works only to be called back to fix the problem at an extra cost to the state. This should not be allowed to happen again.

Even though we support early payment of road contracted projects and also for them to be handed to local contractors to build their capacities and also retain the huge monies spent on such projects in the country, shoddiness of work would not be entertained.

Certainly, this country is bleeding and our contractors and authorities must act.

GLOBAL NEWS

Presented By SPUTNIK International

Assange Denied Permission To Virtually Partake In Sakharov Prize Award: Wikileaks



Julian Assange

MOSCOW (Sputnik) - Belmarsh Prison in southeastern London, where WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange remains in custody, has refused to give permission for him to partake in the European Parliament's Sakharov Prize Award via videolink, WikiLeaks said on Tuesday.

"BREAKING: Belmarsh Prison refuses permission for Julian Assange to participate in European Parliaments Sakharov Prize Award today," WikiLeaks tweeted. The company also said that Assange's spouse Stella would attend the event on her husband's behalf on Tuesday. [Julian Assange](#) was one of the three finalists shortlisted for the award in October. Assange was apprehended in London in 2019 on a US arrest warrant and faces extradition to the United States and a sentence of up to 175 years in a maximum security prison if convicted of espionage. The 51-year-old Australian, wanted by the US government on charges of disclosing classified information and violating the Espionage Act, took refuge at the Ecuadorian Embassy in June 2012 until his arrest in April 2019, after which his extradition hearings began.

Situation On Chinese-Indian Border Remains Stable Following Friday Clashes -- Beijing

BEIJING (Sputnik) - The situation on the Chinese-Indian border is stable after clashes between troops in the border area last week, with the sides being in touch through both military and diplomatic channels, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said on Tuesday.

"The situation on the Chinese-Indian border is on the whole stable, the sides are always in unhindered contact on border issues through diplomatic and military channels," Wang told a briefing.

The spokesman expressed his hope that India will further stick to the agreements with China on their shared border and protect peace in this area together with Beijing.

On Monday, an Indian Defense Ministry source told Sputnik that several soldiers [were injured](#) in a clash between Indian and Chinese troops in the state of Arunachal Pradesh on December 9. Shortly after the incident, both Indian and Chinese PLA Commanders held flag meeting to restore peace along the so-called Line of Actual Control, which serves as a bilateral border formally lacking since the 1962 war.

This is the first serious escalation between India and China in the Himalayas since the May 2020 clash, when India reported 20 soldiers killed and China reported four soldiers killed.

THE INSIGHT

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CRISIS LOOMS IN ENERGY SECTOR Over Appallingly Bad Genser Deal



Matthew Opoku-Prempeh, Minister of Energy

from front page

repeating the same mistakes in the energy sector that led to the current struggles of Tema Oil Refinery which began with the infiltration of private firms in the supply of liquid fuels in the country.

Genser Energy Ghana Limited (GEGL) is a limited liability company registered as a subsidiary of USA based energy solution provider with operations in Ghana, Mali and Guinea. Genser builds, owns and operate electricity market infrastructure to supply power to mines, industries and utilities.

Genser Energy is known to repatriate over 80% of its revenue to South Africa further making its operations less beneficial to the country's economy. Genser Energy is also responsible for the uptake of over 75% of revenue source for VRA and Gridco in the mining area due to a monopoly of operations recently.

According to them, selling of the gas would mean that Ghana's potential of having a cheaper gas for fertilizer production will not be materialized.

They expressed that the Jubilee and TEN are the cheapest sources of gas when it comes to the computation of WACOG and that selling a portion of the cheapest gas will result in a higher WACOG. "This means that if GEGL is allowed to buy a portion of the gas from

the Jubilee and TEN fields, the WACOG is likely to increase as compared to the prevailing conditions. It is important to also note that the government's plan of building a fertilizer plant is also dependent on gas from the Jubilee and TEN fields. Hence, if a portion of gas from the two fields is sold to GEGL, the potential of having a cheaper gas for fertilizer production will not materialize," they stated in a statement. The workers' noted that the National Gas Company (GNGC) signed an Interconnection Agreement with Genser Energy Ghana Ltd (GEGL) on 16th February 2018 before executing a Gas Sales Agreement on 20th April 2018 and subsequently, a Gas Pipeline Options Agreement with GEGL was signed on 23rd April 2018. In this GSA, the custody transfer point of gas was determined to be the Prestea Regulating and Metering Station (PRMS). Gas Supply commenced in May 2019 with pricing pegged at a Delivered Gas Price (DGP) of \$7.29/MMBtu. This pricing was in place for months of May and June 2019. Subsequently, GEGL submitted an amended GSA which was not duly agreed on by both parties. GEGL sought an Industrial Discounted Tariff

(IDT) from the Ministry of Energy which was duly granted at \$6.5/MMBtu in July 2019. In September 2019, the Public Utilities Regulatory Commission (PURC) reduced the DGP from \$7.29/MMBtu to the Weighted Average Cost of Gas (WACOG) of \$6.08/MMBtu effective 1st July 2019.

In September 2019, PURC revised the WACOG downwards to \$6.0791/MMBtu which was to take effect in retrospect (i.e., from July 2019). It is against this backdrop that GEGL initiated attempts to revert from a Power customer to an Industrial customer. Nevertheless, GEGL has never met the criteria to be aptly classified as an industrial customer. Genser in a letter dated 10th February 2020 notified GNGC of changes in status from an industrial customer to a wholesale supplier of electricity to the unregulated electricity market. Consequently, GEGL executed a GSA with GNPC in March 2020 and commenced gas offtake from GNPC resulting in the eventual termination of their GSA with GNGC. Concurrently, GEGL disputed GNGC's invoices based on the delivery point, transmission service charge and the currency denomination of Natural Gas Price. GNPC per their agreement with GEGL, currently ships gas to GEGL at a total fee of \$2.79/MMBtu (\$2.66/MMBtu for commodity and \$0.134/MMBtu GNPC Aggregation and Management fees) outside of the PURC Approved WACOG. The applicable tariff to Genser is therefore 57% below the approved Discounted Industrial Tariff of \$6.50/MMBtu and 54% below

the PURC WACOG of \$6.0791/MMBtu.

This contradicts the directive from the MOE on the designation of Gas sector institutional roles. The result of this has led to a reduced tariff offered to Genser, below the PURC WACOG and Discounted Industrial Tariff. Clearly, these consistent tariff reductions unfairly granted to GEGL being a wholly private entity are questionable with consequential huge financial losses and liabilities to the state.

Indebtedness to GNGC

As at October 2022, GNGC was still owed USD 13,470,958.79 from invoices before GNPC GSA Execution and USD 17,285,716.75 after. The Gas Value Chain is being negatively impacted by lack of receipts from GEGL. This non-payment affects GNGC's ability to ensure wholesome payment of regulatory levy due PURC for the period preceding the NGC. GNGC's financial ability to run and maintain existing gas infrastructure whilst executing expansion works have been hugely affected. It is worth noting that a shutdown of GNGC's entire gas infrastructure, as a result of a lack of funds for proper maintenance, could lead to a 75% shortage in the country's electricity supply.

Indebtedness to Energy Sector

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note that a shutdown of GNGC's entire gas infrastructure, as a result of lack of funds for proper maintenance, could lead to a 75% shortage in the country's electricity supply.

Indebtedness to Energy Sector

The unauthorized pricing discount granted GEGL leads to a revenue shortfall within the Gas Value Chain. Through this revenue shortfall, the Ministry of Finance is forced to cater for the revenue gap by making payments up to the tune of about USD 45,000,000 as at August 2022. GNGC has since engaged Economic Sector Recovery Programme (ESRP) Working Group to discuss issues relating GEGL disputing GNGC Tariff, Custody Transfer Point and Non-Payment of Invoices. It is baffling that the state should incur huge losses with crippling energy sector debts for a private entity to assume the legal mandate of key energy sector entities such as GNGC, VRA, ECG and GRIDCo. This tangential coordinated chain of activities of GEGL is a national security threat with the potential to plunge the energy sector into deep crisis.

However, in July 2022, GEGL announced, through various media platforms, their intention to construct a 100 km Gas Pipeline to Kumasi, a 200 MMScfd Gas Conditioning Plant (GCP) in Prestea as well as a Natural Gas Liquid (NGL) storage terminal at Takoradi Port.

"The actions have devastating and rippling impacts on the Gas Value Chain. The impact will be felt from the Fuel Providers to Power Producers to Ministry of Finance and other stakeholders such as ESRP and PURC."

According to the workers, GNGC is the only recognized Natural Gas Transmission Utility (NGTU) License holder and GEGL has no mandate to build and operate transmission lines of their own

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS REPORT

Compiled By Peoples Dispatch

Thousands March In Morocco To Protest Worsening Economic Conditions And Oppression

By Tanupriya Singh

Thousands of people gathered at the Bab Al-Ahad Square in Moroccan capital Rabat last Sunday, as part of a national march against “high prices, political repression, and social oppression.” The action was organized by the Moroccan Social Front (FSM), a coalition of left-wing political parties and trade unions, with support from leading human rights groups as well as various political, civil society, and sectoral organizations and unions. “We came to protest a government that embodies the marriage between money and power and supports monopoly capitalism,” declared Younes Ferachine, a coordinator at FSM. As the march proceeded through the capital, protestors chanted, “The people want lower prices... The people want to eliminate despotism and corruption.” Activists from different parts of the country and all those impacted by issues like housing and unfair policies across sectors of society participated in the march. Protestors also raised demands around issues of unemployment and access to public services like hospitals and schools. In a statement to *Peoples Dispatch* following Sunday's march, FSM National Secretariat member Mouad Eljohri stated that while the authorities did not intervene in the march, they had refused to receive a notice for the

event, in violation of the law. Authorities in the city of Kenitra and in Rabat's Diour Jamaa and Quartier de L'Ocean neighborhoods tried to prevent activists from printing posters and placards and distributing information about the march. Despite these maneuvers by the state, Eljohri still classifies the action as “a great success” and that the mobilization was one moment “that will be followed by other stages of struggle”. He called on the different sections of the FSM to build on this success and “to take the necessary local initiatives to meet the demands of the people.” FSM has been [mobilizing](#) amid declining socio-economic conditions in Morocco with millions of people living in poverty and [vulnerability](#) and rising prices of basic necessities including fuel. The country's consumer price index [saw](#) an 8.1% year-on-year increase in October. The surge was driven by high food prices, which saw an increase of 13.8%. Transport costs have also [remained high](#) with an average inflation of 12% over the first 10 months of 2022. As the situation in the country has worsened along these indices, progressive forces have highlighted the policies being pursued by the government and their impact on the working class.

“These dangerous conditions experienced by the Moroccan people are the result of the domination and savagery of the Makhzen [the country's governing system centered around the monarchy] capitalist system which is based on dependence and imperialism, the intensive exploitation of the working class, and the plundering of the various toiling popular groups by the ruling class bloc,” [denounced](#) the Workers Democratic Way (WDW) party.

The party also condemned the government's “reactionary measures, procedures, and policies aimed at enriching the wealthy and impoverishing the poor,” especially the government's Finance Bill which would give “tax gifts to large companies in exchange for fiscal pressure on small and medium enterprises and owners.” Joining the protest call, the National Association of Lawyers in Morocco [added](#) that the bill would deepen the suffering of the Moroccan people. It also criticized the marginalization of public services, especially education and health, and the targeting of several groups including lawyers. “Morocco is not a poor country, but rather has a variety of resources, including marine, fishery, and mineral resources, or even phosphate, which is enormous wealth for Moroccans,” [a protestor told](#) Moroccan news outlet *Hespress*. “The alternative is to build a democratic state that distributes wealth fairly to the people.” Tayeb Modad, a member of the Moroccan Association of Human Rights (AMDH), [stated](#) that the national march was organized in



(Photo: Workers' Democratic Way). Thousands marched on December 4 in Rabat against soaring prices of basic goods including food and fuel. The protest also drew attention to the attacks on freedom of expression, public services, and labor rights

the context of “the real crisis” that the country was going through with attacks on the “rights and freedoms and daily subsistence of citizens.” In addition to the economic demands, protestors also spoke out against “all forms of repression including political and anti-union repression, attacks on the freedom of expression, and the imprisonment of journalists, activists and critics of the government.” The Palestinian flag was on [prominent display](#) during Sunday's protest. Activists have [repeatedly rejected](#) the kingdom's normalization of ties with Israel. In a [statement](#), the National Federation of the Agricultural Sector and the Moroccan Labor Union (UMT) also raised key demands including a revision of the government's Finance Bill, measures to control rising prices of basic goods, an increase in wages along with development of agriculture and betterment of the condition of workers in the sector, an alternative democratic agricultural policy, and food sovereignty. The National Network for Labor Rights [denounced](#) that labor

rights which are at the “heart of social rights” are facing a “sweeping capitalist attack led by international financial institutions,” with the support of the government and state institutions. It noted the deterioration of working conditions in the country, especially in terms of health and safety, with an increase in work-related accidents. It also denounced the escalation in repression of trade unions by employers, a “practical ban” on trade union work in industrial and agricultural sectors and “free zones,” and the criminalization of the right to strike. Left-wing forces in Morocco have been demanding the protection of rights including the freedom of expression, association, peaceful assembly, and union action. Organizations including FSM and the National Network for Labor Rights have also condemned the lack of true social dialogue in the country and the government's disregard towards the popular demands of the working class and the unemployed.



Murtala Blasts Okyehene Over Defense Of GHC400M National Cathedral Project

Ibrahim Murtala Mohammed, the Member of Parliament (MP) for Tamale Central has descended on the Okyehene, Osagyefuo Amoatia Ofori Panin II over his position that failure to complete the construction of the National Cathedral will bring shame to President Nana Akufo-Addo and Ghana.

Murtala Mohammed who admitted to having great respect for the chieftaincy institution, posited in a Joy News interview that the position by the Okyehene is untenable and not in tandem with the dictates of the Bible.

Murtala Mohammed said per his knowledge of the Bible, God will not be in favor of erecting a Cathedral in His name at a time when the country's economy is tanking. He said God finds joy in helping people in need and not being corrupt and that if the president wants to please God, he should practise the stated virtues.

"I'm a royal and I've so much respect

for chiefs. When Karl Max said religion was the opium of the masses, I think traditional authorities are now the opium of the masses. How on earth can anyone argue this one?

"The best thing you can do to please God is to reduce poverty, eschew corruption, create jobs and ensure there is peace and harmony. God did not ask you to build a cathedral at the expense of people.

"If you have a respected traditional leader who says we shouldn't bring shame... so we shouldn't bring shame at the expense of our survival? So because of avoiding shame, people must rob in the name of God. You think God will be happy? I think God is angry with this government," he stated.

Murtala Mohammed also questioned the tourism-worthiness of the National

Cathedral, stating that there is no historical connection to the facility.

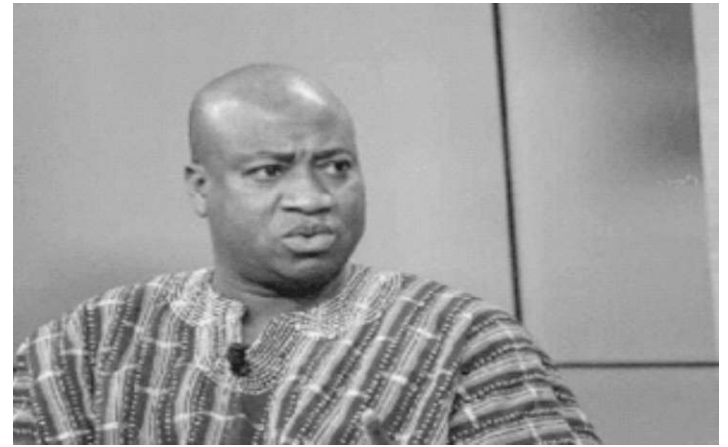
"The biggest cathedral in Ghana is in my constituency and I remember as Muslims, growing up we used to go there. I've heard the argument being made that it will be tourist site, but on what basis?

"You think someone will leave Bethlehem. The Bible says that the best thing that pleases God is improving the living conditions of people. You think God will be happy with this?" he quizzed.

What Okyehene said

The Okyehene in his justification of the need for a Cathedral, stated that it will be a shame to the president and the nation if the project is not completed.

Addressing the Board of Trustees of the National Cathedral Project in Kyebi last Friday, December 9 at



Ibrahim Murtala Mohammed, MP for Tamale Central

Ofori Panin, he said that the benefits of having the project will be immense.

"He [Akufo-Addo] has to glorify the name of the Lord for how far He has brought him and build the cathedral to testify that he is grateful to God for making him President, there is no sweeter news as this."

He continued: "with the cathedral, there'll be no need to

travel to Israel, just in Accra, the cathedral will answer all your questions about Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth and everything. "So I'm pleading with you all, let us not bring shame upon our country and the President, let us contribute to build the cathedral," he added.

"I'll Work With Newly-Elected Nat. Executives To Bring NDC Back To Power In 2024 Polls" --- Dr Kwabena Duffuor



Dr Kwabena Duffuor

17, 2022. The opposition NDC over the weekend elected national executives to steer administrative affairs of the party for the 2024 general elections.

The election supervised by the Electoral Commission (EC) produced Johnson Asiedu Nketiah as National Chairman and Mr. Fifi Fiavi Kwetey as General Secretary.

The National Organizer race was won by Joseph Yamin while Sammy Gyamfi retained his position as National Communications Officer. George Opare Addo will continue to serve as the National Youth Organizer of the

party while Dr. Louisa Hannah Bissiw will lead the women's wing of the party.

However, speaking in an interview with journalists on Sunday to congratulate the winners of the contest, Dr Duffuor urged the newly-elected national executives to work in the interest of the party. Consequently, the former Governor of Bank of Ghana indicated his commitment and readiness to work with the newly-elected national executives to bring back the NDC into political power in the 2024 general elections to save Ghanaians from the current economic hardships in the country.

He also appealed to the winners to bring on board the defeated aspirants in their quest to secure victory for the party come 2024.

Dr Duffuor also urged the defeated candidates to avail themselves whenever called upon to work in the interest of the party for victory 2024.

The former Minister of Finance and Economic Planning commended the Electoral Commission (EC) and the party for successful regional elections. He singled out winners of the branch elections in the UK and Ireland Chapter of the party for a special congratulations.

He appealed to them to stick together and work collectively to better position the party for the impending parliamentary and presidential position elections in the coming days.

According to him, in spite of the recent economic crisis Ghana finds itself in, the NDC needs to work hard to assure Ghanaians it has answers to the country's economic problems.

The NDC Presidential hopeful, therefore, appealed to the party delegates to elect him as their next flagbearer since he has the requisite experience and competence to help steer affairs of the party back into government.

Massive Clean-Up Exercise Hits Ejisu Ahead Of X-Mass Festivities

THE EJISU Municipal Assembly in the Ashanti Region has organised a massive clean-up exercise ahead of the celebration of this year's Christmas.

The exercise included the cleaning and picking of polythene bags, weeding, sweeping, gathering and disposing of refuse within the Ejisu municipality. The exercise was to ensure effective cleaning and cleansing of the community to keep the town from both bacterial and virus diseases such as coronavirus. "The time has come for each and every citizenry to show much concern about environmental sanitation and hygiene to help prevent communicable diseases in the area.

The Municipal Chief Executive (MCE) of Ejisu, Mr Samuel Oduro Frimpong therefore thanked all for participating in the exercise.

He told journalists that, Ejisu had a major problem in term of sanitation control, adding that the exercise would help the municipality and the Region at large to promote environmental hygiene. He pleaded with residents and traders to change their attitudes towards sanitation and keep Ejisu clean.

"The environmental sanitation is now necessary because it reflects in human health so there is a need to hold a clean up exercise which was a project the Ejisu Municipal Assembly has embarked on since November this year since cleanliness is godliness and market women's health are key to be protected," the MCE stated. Mr Frimpong indicated that since November this year the Assembly has taken it upon itself to embark on an exercise each Saturday in the month to ensure that the environment in Ejisu municipality is clean to its fullest. He observed the inclusiveness of the

Ejisu market women into this clean up exercise which signifies that people are concerned about their health and needs to take this opportunity seriously.

Mr Frimpong appealed to the market women to consider the reduction of their goods since the fuel has been reduced drastically and the cedi gaining its full potential strength now. He described President of the Republic of Ghana H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa as a visionary leader and a good listener who cares for his people.

He pointed out that the President has done a good job for the reduction and bringing confidence to the cedi which was depreciating for the last few months.

According to him, Ejisu being the capital city of the municipality that is why the attention is focused here but the other communities within the municipality are also advised to do same at the same time.

He was optimistic that the GPRTU would reduce the fares not only 15.3% but rather reduce it drastically to ease the burden on Ghanaians.

The MCE wishes the Ejisu municipality a healthy and incidents free during and after Christmas festive season.

"As citizens there is a need to be law abiding citizen because the Ejisu MUSEC has provided enough uniforms security personnel to protect life and property during and after Christmas Season," he noted.

CRISIS LOOMS IN ENERGY SECTOR Over Appallingly Bad Genser Deal

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without the knowledge of GNGC. This act, they said, undermines the effectiveness of GNGC to operate fully as mandated whilst achieving its mission and vision. Again, GEGL as a power-producing company is not supposed to operate a transmission pipeline since it puts VRA in a disadvantageous position. "Once GEGL combines the operation of the transmission pipeline and power supply to Kumasi, they will monopolize power distribution around the enclave. Furthermore, the construction of the GCP in Prestea calls into question the source of the gas GEGL would be using for their plant. GNGC anticipates that the GEGL would be seeking to supply gas directly to Independent Power Producers (IPPs). This action would mean GEGL will position itself to be a Power Generator and Distributor hence affecting the efficacy of the Electricity Company of Ghana (ECG) ability to be the premiere electricity supplier in the country and hence affecting their

sustainability in the long term." It also emerged that with the expansion of business operations to Kumasi, GEGL intends to build its GCP. With their access to gas, GEGL will likely engage the customer base of ECG in the subsequent 2 years. The proposed transmission pipeline to Kumasi is being built by GEGL without recourse or consultation with GNGC. GNGC, when engaged, proposed a 100-bar-gauge 130km pipeline however GEGL proceeded with a 72-bar-gauge design capacity further compromising GNGC's role as the NGTU License Owner. Again, a 72-bar-gauge pipe rating defeats the pipe rating provision in the Gas Master plan.

Revenue Losses for VRA and ECG
Genser's manipulation of the power market has led to a reduction in VRA share of the non-regulated power market. Genser stands to take about 30%

of the electricity supply to the mining and industrial companies. As a result, VRA sells majority of its power produced to the regulated power with insufficient revenue recovery. This gap in the energy sector is further widened by Genser's business activities increasing the bill paid by the Ministry of Finance to cover the sector revenue gap. VRA has lost 50% of their shares in the mines to GEGL. Representing 709.9 million dollars from last year to Q2. of 2022.

Potential Revenue and Job Loss to VRA, GRIDCO, ECG AND GNGC

The expansion of Genser's activities threatens the long-term survival VRA, ECG, GRIDCO and GNGC. The potential threat to these four companies spans from increase in labour turnover to revenue losses. Genser's construction of pipelines for gas supply conflicts with the businesses of VRA, ECG, GRIDCO

and GNGC in the supply of gas to non-power industrial customers, conversion of gas into power and transmitting for sales to mining companies without grid charges.

Again, GNGC and VRA is at risk of losing substantial revenue from Genser's plans to construct a GCP. The illicit replication of the business model of the sole NGTU license owner could be destructive to the entire value chain of the gas sector.

Effect of GCP on GNGC

GEGL intends to build a Gas Conditioning Plant in Pretea. GNGC also intends to build a second Gas Processing Plant with a higher capacity than the existing one. The two plants are expected to take raw gas from the Jubilee and TEN fields.

Currently, these two fields can supply 200MMSCFD of raw gas due to Tullow's infrastructure

constraints. GNGC's existing GPP has a design capacity of 150MMSCFD, which means that there's only 50MMSCFD available for any new Gas Processing Plant.

Hence, until Tullow increases their volumes from the two fields, GEGL's plant and GNGC's cannot exist concurrently. The President in his state of the nation address indicated that GNGC will be building a new Gas Processing Plant which affirms the need for GNGC's ongoing process to build a new Gas Processing Plant.

The existing contractual arrangement surrounding GEGL plant indicates that the plant will be taking 50MMSCFD from the Jubilee and TEN fields, whose maximum prevailing output is 200MMSCFD. This leaves 150MMSCFD available and this is the capacity of GNGC's existing GPP, hence there will not be any need for GNGC's second GPP. This is the reason why these two plants shouldn't be built concurrently.

Association Of Vulcanizers Engage Road Safety Authority, Others At 3rd AGM

By Muhammed Faisel Mustapha

The Association of Vulcanizers, Ghana on Sunday December 18, 2022 engaged the National Roads Safety Authority, Ghana Standards Authority and members of the association as part of efforts to ensure road safety and accident free travels during this Christmas festivities. The stakeholders' engagement was to sensitize and educate the Vulcanizers of the association to reduce tyre-related road accidents in the country. The third edition of the association engagement with its members brought together representatives from National Road Safety Authority and the Ghana Standards Authority to enlighten the Vulcanizers on the Authority's measures to support the association's aim of reducing tyre related road accidents in the country. Members of the association were urged to ensure that all necessary measures to avoid tyre related accident were applied during and after the Christmas festivities. The General Secretary of the Association, Chief Basiru Karimu Bukorba in an interview stated that since the

formation of the Association, accidents caused by negligence of some vulcanizers have reduced drastically. He revealed that due to the contribution of the Association in reducing road accident in the country, the association has been recognized by the National Road Safety Authority, Ghana Standards Authority, Ministry of Transport, Association of Small scale Industries among other stakeholders in the road safety industry. With this, the General Secretary of the association made a passionate appeal to the government to help reduce import charges on vulcanizing equipment so as to help their efforts in reducing road carnage in the country. He revealed that although the association has negotiated with some companies that sell vulcanizing equipment to help provide equipment to its members on credit, the high cost of the equipment has compelled the members not to go for the said equipment. He added that, with the waiver on skill work on the automobile equipment, it will straighten and expand the skill work industry and make it more attractive for the youth to venture into the hand work industry especially vulcanizing. He further called on the government

to as well come to their aid and support them in educating vulcanizers in the rural areas as the association has targeted more villages to extend its orientation to ensure that Vulcanizers in those areas have much knowledge on their profession and serve the nation better. The General Secretary further revealed that through the association, vulcanizers are proud to hit their chest and say they are vulcanizers and the public has also shown appreciation of the work of vulcanizers and has compelled them to bring their children to enroll in the vulcanizing work. Mr. Robert Ayetey, the National Organizer of the Association of Vulcanizers, Ghana called on members of the association to ensure that they keep their work place hygienic and safe to the satisfaction of their clients. He urged them to as well change the water they use to check punchers regularly and clean as it has always been a topic of discussion by many clients who come for tyre services. According to him, the vulcanizing job has been recognized by all the major stakeholders in the tyre and road

safety industry hence the need to practice proper hygiene at all time. He added that the work of the vulcanizers has attracted many in the society which has compelled them to enroll in the profession therefore it will be prudent to work hard as vulcanizers to make the work more attractive and neat. On his part, the planning manager at the directorate of Regulation, Inspection and Compliance of the Ghana Road Safety Authority, Nana Asare Mintah revealed that the Authority's collaboration with the Association of Vulcanizers, Ghana is to provide safe service to its customers. The National Road Safety Authority, he said, has been charged to reduce road accidents therefore any organization that works in the road safety space is of interest for the Authority adding that the Road Safety Authority is working with the Vulcanizers Association to reduce the number of accidents. Mr. Mintah revealed that the Road Safety Authority is putting together some regulations which is before Parliament. The regulations according to him will

require that the Authority will give out permit before a person can operate as a vulcanizer. He added that the new regulations if passed by Parliament will require, a person to belong to an association where he or she receives constant training, the authority will also ensure that the Ghana Standard Authority will calibrate gauges and measuring equipment of the vulcanizers before issuance of a permit. He reiterated that the Authority's collaboration with the Association is to require the association to provide it members with training in order for road users to be confident in the vulcanizer working on his or her tyres. However, Mr. Mintah revealed that the Road Safety Authority is running a campaign called 'Stay Alive' which is informing public that it is necessary for one to drive and return to his or her family safely and also for drivers to be advocates of road safety and caution colleague drivers flouting roads regulations to stay safe.

US Imposes Sanctions On Son Of Zimbabwe President Mnangagwa

The United States has added Zimbabwe President Emmerson Mnangagwa's son to its sanctions list after identifying him as the one in charge of his father's business interests related to a businessman accused of corruption. President Joe Biden's administration slapped the corruption sanctions on Emmerson Mnangagwa Jnr on Monday as the US leader prepared to host a major summit of African leaders in Washington last week. The Treasury Department announced that it was adding four Zimbabwean people and two companies that are linked to prominent businessman Kudakwashe Tagwirei and his Sakunda Holdings, both of which are already on the US sanctions list. US sanctions on Zimbabwe freeze any assets of the targeted individuals and companies that may be in the US jurisdictions and bar Americans from doing

business with them. President Mnangagwa and scores of other ruling Zanu PF officials as well as security chiefs are targeted by the sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe over two decades ago over alleged human rights violations, corruption and electoral fraud.

'Encourage' behaviour change

Washington said the tightening of the sanctions regime was meant to "encourage" behaviour change on the part of the Zimbabwean government. "We urge the Zimbabwean government to take meaningful steps towards creating a peaceful, prosperous, and politically vibrant Zimbabwe and to address the root causes of many of Zimbabwe's ills: corrupt elites and their abuse of the country's institutions for their personal benefit," the US

Treasury said in a statement. "The goal of sanctions is behaviour change. Today's actions demonstrate our support for a transparent and prosperous Zimbabwe." The US added Mr Tagwirei's wife, Sandra Mpunga, and two business executives, Nqobile Magwizi and Obey Chimuka, from companies linked to the wealthy businessman. It also listed two companies, Fossil Agro and Fossil Contracting, which are both connected to Mr Tagwirei and Sakunda Holdings.

Not doing enough

President Mnangagwa has been pushing for the lifting of Western sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe since taking over from long-time ruler Robert Mugabe following a military coup in 2017, but the US insists that the Harare administration is not doing enough to warrant the lifting of the embargo.



Zimbabwe President Emmerson Mnangagwa's son, Emmerson Mnangagwa Jnr.

The latest sanctions review saw the US remove names of several Mugabe-era ministers from the list. South African President Cyril Ramaphosa in September met President Biden in Washington where he tried to persuade him to lift the sanctions on Zimbabwe, which he said were hurting the southern African region. President Ramaphosa said Zimbabwe's neighbours such

as South Africa, Botswana and Namibia were being overwhelmed by the influx of Zimbabwean economic migrants and argued that Harare's problems were induced by the sanctions.

President Mnangagwa's government accuses the West of using the embargo to push a regime change agenda.

Source: theeastafrican.co.ke

Kenya's Treasury Seeks Cheaper Loans, Rejects 'Expensive' Bids



The Central Bank of Kenya

Kenya's National Treasury's plan to secure cheaper loans from commercial banks and pension funds has started playing out in the local money markets with central bank rejecting bids it considers "expensive." The EastAfrican has learnt that investors are demanding a compensation for the value of their money eroded by inflation, which is hovering at a record high of 9.5 percent as a result of high fuel and food prices. Central Bank of Kenya (CBK), the government's fiscal agent, is under pressure to borrow from the domestic market at a rate that is not more than 10 percent as President William Ruto's administration seeks

to bring the mounting debt burden under control. However, the performance of the treasury bond auction in the past three months shows that the government has been borrowing at an average rate of 13.82 percent, according to the latest CBK data. According to analysts at Cytonn Investments Ltd, the government continued to reject expensive bids, in the month of November accepting a total of Ksh129.3 billion (\$1.05 billion) of the Ksh161 billion (\$1.31 billion) worth of bids received, translating to an acceptance rate of 80.3 percent. "However, yield on government securities increased during the month (November) compared with the same period last year (2021) as a

result of the elevated inflationary pressures leading to investors demanding higher premium," according to the analysts through the month market report for November dated December 4 2022. "Despite the slight decline in inflation in the month of November to 9.5 percent from 9.6 percent in October, we expect the inflationary pressures to remain elevated in the short term, mainly on the back of high fuel prices."

Government debt

Treasury bonds constitute 82.53 percent of government debt followed by treasury bills (15.44 percent), overdraft at central bank (1.3 percent) and other domestic debt (0.73 percent). Commercial banks and pension funds are major investors in government securities controlling 47.45 percent and 32.77 percent of the government debt respectively. In November bond turnover in the secondary market declined by 5.3 percent to Ksh54.5 billion from Ksh57.6 billion in October, signalling reduced activity by commercial banks. Last month, average yields on the 91-day and 364-day Treasury Bills also increased by 13 basis points (bps) and 25.1 bps to 9.2 percent and 10.2

percent from 9.1 percent and 9.9 percent respectively in October. The National Treasury faces a Ksh40 billion (\$327.86 million) debt repayment demand after failing to convince ordinary bondholders to shift their Ksh87.8 billion (\$719.67 million) investments into a long-term infrastructure bond.

Six-year bond issue

The results of the six-year bond issue No. IFB1/2022/006 dated December 5 2022 (Switch auction) shows that the government received bids totalling Ksh52.9 billion (\$433.6 million) against a target of Ksh87.8 billion (\$719.67 million), indicating a subscription rate of 60 percent. Of the Ksh52.9 billion (\$433.6 million) bids received, the government only accepted Ksh49.11 billion (\$402.54 million) comprising Ksh47.1 billion (\$386.06 million) and Ksh2 billion (\$16.39 million) worth of competitive and non-competitive bids respectively. Analysts at Cytonn Investments partly attributed the under subscription of the switch bond to investors avoiding the duration risk and tightened liquidity in the money market. The government only managed to save Ksh47.75 billion (\$391.39 million) from the switch bond priced at 13.215

percent. Central Bank converted Ksh87.8 billion (\$719.67 million) worth of treasury bills and bonds that were maturing on December 5 into a new six-year Infrastructure bond. The move was aimed at saving the government Ksh87.8 billion (\$719.67 million) in interest and principle repayments to ease pressure on the government's debt obligations.

Switch bond snubbed

However, investors snubbed the switch bond with the government only managing to raise Ksh47.75 billion (\$391.39 million) out of the Ksh87.8 billion (\$719.67 million) targeted amount, leaving the National Treasury with Ksh40 billion (\$327.86 million) to pay off immediately escape default. With the infrastructure bond the government was hoping for an interest payment relief of six months until June 5 2023. The idea of a bond switch is part of a plan by President William Ruto's administration to manage escalating domestic interest rates.

Source: theeastafrican.co.ke

Five Killed By Police During Anti-Coup Protests In Peru

By Tanya Wadhwa

Since December 7, tens of thousands of Peruvians have been protesting in different parts of the country in rejection of the [parliamentary coup](#) that took democratically elected left-wing President Pedro Castillo out of office and led to his arrest. On December 7, Peru's right-wing dominated unicameral Congress approved the third vacancy (impeachment) motion against Castillo. Hours following his removal from office, he was arrested and charged with allegedly "breaching constitutional order" for having tried to dissolve the Congress before the vote on the motion.

Citizens' resistance

For the past five days, the protesters have been organizing peaceful mobilizations and roadblocks across the national territory demanding that former President Castillo be immediately released and reinstated as the president of the country. In the capital Lima, despite heavy police repression, the protesters have been maintained a nearly permanent protest in front of the Congress. Another central demand of protesters has been the effective dissolution of the right-wing-controlled parliament. Some have also demanded that fresh elections be organized to change the country's legislature. The protesters have also expressed their rejection of the appointment of Castillo's Vice President Dina Boluarte as the new president. They are calling for Boluarte's resignation, arguing that she is not an elected leader. They also condemned her for making a political alliance with the right-wing to govern. The citizens are also demanding that a Constituent Assembly be called to draft a new constitution to replace the current neoliberal one, which was written and imposed in 1993 during the dictatorship of Alberto Fujimori (July 1990–November 2000). They have stressed that it is time that this long-standing demand of the Peruvian people be addressed and fulfilled. Before

being overthrown, Castillo had declared that the Congress would remain dissolved until the Constituent Assembly was installed, making good on his presidential campaign promise. In addition to the capital, protests against the coup have been registered in regions across the country including Andahuaylas, Arequipa, Trujillo, Iquitos, Madre de Dios, Ica, Tacna and Huacho provinces.

Police repression

The police have been responding to these peaceful protests with violence and repression. The police officers have been using tear gas and even live bullets against demonstrators. According to reports from local media and the [National Ombudsman Office](#), at least two protesters, 15 and 18 years old, were killed in police repression on Sunday, December 11, in the city of Andahuaylas, in Apurímac region. On Monday December 12, in the city of Chincheros, the local hospital confirmed that two protesters died as a result of the police repression, including a 16-year-old and 26-year-old Jonathan Lloclla Loayza. A fifth protester was killed in Arequipa by police.

In the early hours of Sunday morning, residents had been demonstrating outside the local airport in Andahuaylas and blocked the entrance. In an attempt to unblock the airport, the police agents brutally repressed the people. Videos on social media showed the police running over a woman and attacking the press. In the incident, over 20 people were severely injured and over a dozen were arrested. The hospital in the city reported that one of the deceased died due to a gunshot injury in the neck. The same day, the police also violently repressed the residents in Arequipa and Ica, who had blocked the Pan-American highway since December 7 in protest. The police reopened the highway, but failed to dismantle other roadblocks maintained by the residents, mainly erected by

peasant and Indigenous communities, across the provinces.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Peru [condemned](#) "the death of a minor and a young man in Andahuaylas, Apurímac," and called for "a prompt, impartial and exhaustive investigation of the facts, providing access to justice to the next of kin of the victims." The OHCHR also urged Peruvian citizens and authorities to maintain "calm" and avoid "escalation of tensions," stressing that "the right to peaceful assembly must be guaranteed." Upon the confirmation of two deaths in Andahuaylas, the protesters intensified the measures of protests across the country. The residents of Arequipa immediately organized the closure of the local airport in solidarity.

The social organizations from Apurímac called for an indefinite regional strike, starting at zero hours on December 12. The Agrarian and Rural Front of Peru (FARP), an umbrella organization bringing together over a dozen Indigenous, peasants, women's movements and social organizations, also [called](#) for an indefinite national strike beginning Tuesday, December 13. In response to increasing popular pressure, in the early hours of Monday, December 12, President Boluarte announced that she would send a bill to Congress to advance the general elections to April 2024.

She also declared a "state of emergency in the areas of high social conflict," which was denounced as a clear attempt to criminalize protests by various social movements.

Despotism of the Peruvian right

The right-wing opposition majority Congress, which has an 11% approval rating, waged almost constant attempts to overthrow Castillo and destabilize his government as soon as he entered office in late July 2021. On December 12, Congress



Since December 7, tens of thousands of Peruvians have been protesting in different parts of the country, demanding closure of the Congress, new elections and new constitution through a Constituent Assembly. Photo: Wilson Chilo / Wayka Peru.

advanced its attacks and approved a bill to lift Castillo's immunity, making way for his prosecution. The decision was made by 64 votes in favor, 35 against and 1 against. Castillo had been preliminarily detained for a period of seven days. Following the removal of his immunity, now, the Prosecutor's Office can use its powers to request up to 36 months of preventive detention for Castillo.

The Prosecutor's Office is investigating Castillo for the crimes of rebellion and conspiracy, abuse of authority and public disturbance for announcing the dissolution of Congress. Castillo has alleged that the office is controlled by the oligarchy.

Peruvian activist Daniela Ortiz, in an [interview](#) with *Multipolarista* editor Ben Norton, pointed out that the parliamentary coup against Castillo was aimed at "putting the right in power."

"It is not about taking down Castillo, it is about putting themselves in power, because it is something that we have seen before. He is not the first president to be taken out by the right-wing, he is actually the

third president. And we're not talking of just any right-wing.

We're talking about the Fujimori right-wing that wants to be in power and continue that dictatorship that we had with Alberto Fujimori. Now, we have Keiko Fujimori, his daughter, and all the people from her party, Popular Force, who are aiming basically to take power and not let anyone be in the executive power. It has been happening for many years. The Popular Force has been controlling the congress and creating the laws to be able to control the executive power and not let the Peruvian people have the president that we have elected," said Ortiz.

Ortiz added that "the demand to close the Congress was a popular demand. Many of the recent marches, blockades and demonstrations were not against Castillo, but were to push him to work on the agenda he entered with...And what happened was that he did what the people were asking him to do...Many of us understand that the detention of Castillo is absolutely illegal. Even under the rules that they have imposed."