

# TROUBLE LOOMS AT ADA

## As 45 Communities Threaten Showdown With McDan's Electrochem Over Songor Lagoon



Some Of The Chiefs And Elders Of Ada At The Press Conference Yesterday

Some 45 communities which depend on the Ada songor lagoon for their livelihood have called on President Nana Akufo-Addo and the security apparatus to work within their means and prevent a looming bloodbath by asking businessman

Daniel Mac Korley to withdraw an unlawful order asking over 300,000 indigenes to vacate the area by January 31 2023. According to the indigenes who have been winning salt in the area for over 500 years, the songor lagoon which falls within the Ada

West and East Districts is their only means of livelihood and are protected by the Provisional National Defense (PNDC) Law 287 of 1982 which recognizes the exclusive rights of the indigenes over the lagoon and such, will not vacate the area.

*Cont. on page 2*

### John Jinapor Warns Govt Over Gold For Oil Policy



John Abdulai Jinapor, former Deputy Minister for Energy

Former Deputy Minister for Energy, John Abdulai Jinapor has described the government's gold for oil policy as nothing less than

*Cont. on page 3*



### Nungua's Osokronor We Dzaasetse Warns Nmai Dzorn Residents

Against Individuals Parading Themselves As Chief Of Nmai Dzorn

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## Africa Should Not Be Arena For International Competition, Says Chinese Foreign Minister

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# The INSIGHT

## EDITORIAL

### DEAL WITH THIS HEALTH MENACE

The revelation that there is upsurge in stroke cases among young people per records at the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital in Kumasi is very deeply worrying.

There is clearly no doubt that non-communicable or lifestyle diseases appear to have fast taken over from communicable which used to be our bane as a country. According to the Neurologist, Dr. Fred Stephen Sarfo those as young as 13 are now developing the condition which one suffers when a blood vessel that carries oxygen and nutrients to the brain is either blocked by a clot or bursts resulting in lack of blood to the brain and thus death of the brain cells.

According to the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital it records between 800 and one thousand cases, each year with more than 300 dying and the rest becoming permanently disabled.

With its high risk factors being hypertension, diabetes, high alcohol intake and lack of exercise among others, there is the need for improved or change in lifestyle including other health measures to adequately deal with the situation. Stress is also another causative or factor and health authorities need to intensify public education to reverse the tide. The revelation that there is upsurge in stroke cases among young people per records at the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital in Kumasi is very deeply worrying.

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from front page

McDan's Electrochem Company Limited which claims to have been given a concession rights to mine salt in the area issued a statement on November 14 2022 in which it asked the over 300,000 natives who depend on the Ada Songor Lagoon to vacate the area for his company to take over the huge tracts of lands they dwell on to undertake their salt business.

But clad in red, hundreds of people from the various communities operating under the umbrella name Ada Songor Lagoon Association (ASLA) which comprises chiefs, elders and members of the 45 communities at a press conference held at Bonikope yesterday called the bluff of Daniel Mac Korle and his Electrochem Company insisting that they will never leave their lands.

Nene Dadebom Anim II, Chief of Salom and Vice Chairman of the Ada Songor Lagoon Association who addressed the media said, "On behalf of the Leadership of Ada Songor Lagoon Association; the Chiefs, Elders, and the Youth of all our communities around the Songor Lagoon, we wish to welcome you to this press conference to tell the whole world about atrocities which are being committed against us on our own land by agents of McDan and the security agencies and to particularly carry a message to McDan that he has no legitimate right to issue an ultimatum to us as to when or where we can work on our own land. We demand the withdrawal of his recent press statement that he is going to only allow us; Adaali-Abime living and earning our livelihood around the Songor Lagoon up to the end of January 2023 to clear the place for him to operate."

The association vowed to resist any attempts to have its thousands of members forcibly removed from their own lands insisting that they are taking steps to legally address the matter. The association also chastised their members of parliament, Mr. Christian Corleley Otuteye, MP for Sege constituency and Comfort Doyoe Cudjoe Ghansah, MP for Ada constituency over their loud silence on

the matter.

This is the full text of their statement;

**PRESS CONFERENCE BY ADA SONGOR LAGOON ASSOCIATION AGAINST THE ENTIRE ADA SONGOR LEASE TO MCDAN ON MONOPOLY AND ATROCITIES HIS COMPANY AND THE POLICE ARE BEING METED ON THE ADA SONGOR LAGOON DWELLERS ON 11TH JANUARY, 2023 AT BONIKOPE - ADA TRADITIONAL AREA.**

Neneme, Naaname, Nyemime, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Press, Observers, All Friends, Supporters of our course and All Adaali-abime at home and abroad.

On behalf of the Leadership of Ada Songor Lagoon Association; the Chiefs, Elders, and the Youth of all our communities around the Songor Lagoon, we wish to welcome you to this press conference to tell the whole world about atrocities which are being committed against us on our own land by agents of McDan and the security agencies and to particularly carry a message to McDan that he has no legitimate right to issue an ultimatum to us as to when or where we can work on our own land.

We demand the withdrawal of his recent press statement that he is going to only allow us; Adaali-Abime living and earning our livelihood around the Songor Lagoon up to the end of January 2023 to clear the place for him to operate.

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## THE INSIGHT

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# John Jinapor Warns Govt Over Gold For Oil Policy

from front page

a farce.

In a Facebook post, Mr Jinapor who is a member of parliament for Yapei Kusawgu said the policy, just like the government's Sinohydro deal will eventually end up on the nation's accounting debt.

"The so-called Gold for Oil deal being championed by the Vice-President, in an opaque and loudly manner, is nothing but a charade that will end up piling unsustainable debt just like the so-called Sinohydro deal. It will be recalled that after insisting that the Sinohydro agreement was a barter deal, the current government has just witnessed an embarrassing spectacle following the insistence by the IMF that the deal is nothing but a loan agreement and must reflect in the national

debt accounting," he wrote.

In a quest to manage the rising cost of fuel brought about by the country's current economic challenges, the government is pursuing a Gold for Oil Policy where the state will acquire petroleum products from the international market in exchange for gold.

Among other benefits, Vice President Dr Mahamudu Bawumia who is spearheading the policy said the policy will help ease pressure on the nation's US dollar foreign exchange reserve.

But speaking about the policy in his Facebook post, Mr Jinapor said the Precious Mineral Marketing Company which is expected to play a role in the policy

implementation lacks the expertise to do so.

"Clearly, the PMMC, which is the assayer of Gold in Ghana, has proven to lack the financial capacity and experience in gold trading. This knee-jerk policy is nothing but an attempt to fleece the Artisanal and Small Scale Miners," he stated. The opposition MP added that the policy will also lead to the smuggling of gold out of the country hence the need for the policy to be reviewed.

"Already the Bank of Ghana has artificially pegged the Ghana cedi to the US dollar at around ₵9 to \$1 in sharp contrast to what the commercial banks are quoting, thus ₵12 to the US dollar. This ploy is nothing but an attempt to undervalue



**John Abdulai Jinapor, former Deputy Minister for Energy**

the price of Gold as payments will be made in cedis.

"This fire-fighting approach will only result in the smuggling of Gold across Ghana's borders. From all the analysis, it is obvious this policy is not well thought through and must be

reviewed. The government must rather consult further and build consensus before proceeding with the policy," the MP added.

# Africa Should Not Be Arena For International Competition, Says Chinese Foreign Minister



**China's Foreign Minister Qin Gang and the African Union Commission (AUC) Chairperson, Moussa Faki arrive for the inauguration of the new Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention headquarters, which China is building and equipping in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, January 11, 2023. REUTERS/Tiksa Negeri**

**A**FRICA should not be an arena for competition between world powers, China's Foreign Minister Qin Gang said on Wednesday, opening a new

headquarters for a pan-African health body at the start of five-country Africa tour.

Qin visited facilities of the African Union in Addis Ababa,

including the new headquarters of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention. China financed the complex's construction, as it previously did for the headquarters of the AU itself, also based in the Ethiopian capital. China has been Africa's largest trading partner for over a decade. It competes for influence with the United States – which [hosted](#) leaders from 49 African countries last month – as well as with former colonial powers such as Britain and France. 'Africa should be a big stage for the international cooperation, not an arena for major countries

competition,' Qin said at a news conference with AU Commission chair Moussa Faki.

A trusted aide of President Xi Jinping and former ambassador to the United States, Qin was appointed foreign minister last month. His visit marks the 33rd consecutive year that Africa has been the destination of the Chinese foreign minister's first overseas tour of the calendar year.

Qin met on Tuesday with Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and other government officials, and announced a partial cancellation of Ethiopia's debt to China during the visit, though neither side provided details. Ethiopia has

borrowed \$13.7bn from China since 2000 and has been [seeking to restructure](#) its debt to foreign lenders since 2021. Qin will also visit Egypt, Angola, Benin and Gabon over the next week. Paul Nantulya, a research associate at the Africa Centre for Strategic Studies, said the choice of countries reflected China's diversity of interests in Africa. China has strong security ties to Egypt and Angola. Visiting Benin and Gabon shows ambitions to expand Beijing's Belt and Roads infrastructure-building drive – long focused mainly on the Indian Ocean region – into western Africa, he told *Voice of America* radio.



# INTERNATIONAL NEWS REPORT

## Compiled By Peoples Dispatch

### Another Assassination Attempt Against Colombian Vice President Francia Márquez

Colombian Vice President Francia Márquez, on Tuesday, January 10, denounced a new attempt on her life. Márquez reported on Twitter that her security team had found a highly destructive explosive device near her family home in the Yolombó village, in the Suárez municipality, in the Cauca department during a security check before her visit. Márquez also reported that the device had been destroyed in a controlled explosion by bomb disposal experts.

“Members of my security team found a device with more than 7 kg of explosive material on the road that leads to my family residence in the village of Yolombó, in Suárez, Cauca. It was destroyed in a controlled manner by anti-explosive personnel from the SIJIN,” Márquez tweeted along with photos of what appeared to be an improvised explosive device. The Vice President and Minister of Equality, in another tweet, shared a police report about the incident, and said that “the attached report shows that it was another attempt on my

life.”

Márquez, an environmental activist who became the first Black woman vice president of Colombia against all odds, added that “regardless, we won't stop working every day, day after day, until we achieve Total Peace that Colombia dreams of and needs. We will not give up until it is possible to live in true harmony in each territory.”

Márquez had planned to visit her hometown in Yolombó from January 7 to 9. For this reason, a prior inspection was carried out in the areas close to her residence, when the explosives were found. Due to the characteristics and location of the device, intelligence and security personnel concluded that this was an attack against the vice president. This was not the first time that Márquez had her life threatened. In May 2022, before the presidential elections, during a campaign rally in the capital Bogotá, Márquez was

[pointed at with a laser](#) when she was on stage addressing a multitude of supporters. At that time, her bodyguards immediately covered her with bulletproof shields to protect her and prevent an attack against her life. In April 2022, the far-right paramilitary group, Águilas Negras or Black Eagles, [issued death threats](#) against several members of the left-wing Historic Pact coalition, including Gustavo Petro and Francia Márquez, who were candidates at the time.

It was the third death threat that Márquez had received in less than a month. The Águilas Negras [had issued two other death threats](#) to Márquez and other progressive political and social leaders in March 2022. Márquez, who rose to prominence for her struggle against illegal gold mining in Suárez, took office with President Gustavo Petro last year on promises of fighting inequalities, corruption, impunity, drug trafficking, paramilitarism and consolidating peace. Violence against environmentalists, land defenders, human rights defenders, Afro-descendent,



Colombian Vice President Francia Márquez denounced a new attempt on her life on January 10. Photo: Francia Márquez/Twitter. Márquez reported that her security team found a highly destructive explosive device near her family home during a security check before her visit

Indigenous, peasant and social leaders like Márquez is not uncommon in Colombia. Paramilitary and drug trafficking groups have been targeting those who work to defend land and natural resources in their territories and pose a threat to the organization's illegal operations. Colombia has lived through almost 60 years of internal armed conflict over territorial disputes between

paramilitary groups, drug traffickers, the army and guerrillas, which has killed around 450,000 people and displaced over 8 million.

Colombia's first leftist leaders, President Petro and Vice President Márquez, are determined to bring total peace to the country. The Petro-Márquez government has [called](#) on all irregular armed groups operating in different parts of the country to negotiate peace agreements.

According to Colombian human rights organization, the Institute of Development and Peace Studies (INDEPAZ), so far, at least 23 irregular armed groups have [expressed their intention to engage in dialogue](#) and “accept legal benefits in exchange for peace and definitive non-repetition of violence.”

The government has already begun negotiations with four groups including the dissident groups of the demobilized FARC guerrilla group: the Estado Mayor Central, the Segunda Marquetalia; and the drug cartels Clan del Golfo and Los Pachencas. The peace process with the National Liberation Army (ELN) which began under the government of Juan Manuel Santos, but was suspended during the term of Iván Duque, was also restarted and the first round of talks was held in Caracas, Venezuela in December 2022.

### Brazil Rejoins Community Of Latin American And Caribbean States

The Brazilian government of progressive President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, last Thursday, January 5, reported that it had decided to rejoin the regional integration bloc, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC). The development came four days after the leader of the Workers' Party of Brazil (PT) took office.

The Brazilian Foreign Affairs Ministry, through a [statement](#), reported that the government had “communicated to the member countries of the CELAC, through the appropriate diplomatic channels, the reincorporation of Brazil, in a full and immediate manner, to all instances of the mechanism, both political and technical in nature.” The extra-regional partners with which CELAC maintains regular dialogue, including the European Union, China, India, ASEAN and the

African Union, were also informed of the development.

The foreign ministry described Brazil's return to the CELAC as “an indispensable step towards the recomposition of our diplomatic heritage and the country's full reinsertion into the international community.”

For its part, the Argentine government of President Alberto Fernández, which currently holds the pro tempore presidency of the CELAC, congratulated Brazil on its reincorporation into the regional mechanism.

“This action represents a fundamental fact for the strengthening of one of the most representative dialogue mechanisms in the region,” it said.

The statement from the Brazilian foreign ministry also reported that

President Lula will travel to Buenos Aires on January 24, to participate in the 7th Summit of Heads of State and Government of CELAC at the invitation of President Fernández.

#### What is CELAC?

CELAC is an intergovernmental mechanism for dialogue, consultation, political agreement and regional cooperation. It is made up of all 33 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

It was founded by Commander Hugo Chávez, in December 2011, in Caracas, Venezuela, with the objective to promote regional unity and peace, political cooperation, and socio-economic development of all member countries, while respecting the political, economical, social, cultural and ideological differences of each country.

It serves as a counterweight to the US and Canada dominated “integration

mechanisms” such as the Organization of American States (OAS) and the failed Free Trade Area of the Americas, which favor North American interests at the expense of the countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Lula played an important role in the creation of the regional body. In 2008, Brazil hosted the first summit of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (CALC) in Costa do Sauípe, Bahia, an event which helped establish CELAC some years later. In the second week of January 2020, former far-right Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro suspended the country's participation in the organization, alleging that it had failed to protect democracy in member states, by supporting “undemocratic regimes” in Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela.

# Nungua's Osokronor We Dzaasetse Warns Nmai Dzorn Residents Against Individuals Parading Themselves As Chief Of Nmai Dzorn



**T**he Dzaasetse of Osokronor We of Nungua, Nii Boutei Din III has cautioned the people of Nmai Dzorn to disregard claims from anyone purporting to parade himself as the chief of Nmai Dzorn.

According to him, he's the only person to nominate and install someone to replace the past chief.

In a press conference held on Monday January 9, 2023, Nii Boutei Din III said, "We've nominated someone to take charge as the chief of this area,

reason we called for this press conference"

"We have nominated Nii Otoo Bornmai Alabi Petempeh IV, he will replace the past and gone chief Nii Otoo Bornmai Alabi Petempeh III.

"We want each and everyone to understand that we have a new chief at Nmai Dzorn"

I just heard someone parading himself as the chief of Nmai Dzorn with the name Borketey Oyeymu II -- that's so bad to hear. I will not sit down for Nmai Dzorn to be like the other Ga-Dangme towns which have double installed chief and traditional leaders.

"I called this media briefing to announce to the public that, the news circulating that Borketey Oyimo II is the chief of Nmai Dzorn is false".

"I'm the Dzaasetse of this area and I nominate and install a chief within this area, disregard anyone parading himself as the chief. That person is an imposter. Anyone who transacts or deal with him, do that at his or her own risk"

"The accredited elders of Osokronor We of Nungua are the real elders to install chief just like Oyibi, the accredited elders are Gyin We".

"We have rules and regulations at Nungua and its villages, so I have installed my chief, disregard anyone who calls himself as the chief"

I'm petitioning the Nungua traditional and president not to sit down and allow Nmai Dzorn to be like other Ga-Dangme states installing double chiefs".

"I'm following customary procedures and tradition laid down by our ancestors to install chief"

"The Osokronor We elders headed by myself have the customary rites to install chief and present him to the Nungua traditional council, not anyone. If not myself, disregard anyone who comes in the Dzaasetse of Nmai Dzorn"

"Do not entertain anyone, let's follow the process for a beautiful Nungua tradition....he said However, he added that the only legal chief of Nmai Dzorn is Nii Alabi Tetteh IV.

"Nmai Dzorn is a village under the Nungua traditional area and based on that the chiefs were installed through Nungua and the clan that has the mandate to install the chiefs is the Osokronor We and the Osokronor We has a Dzaasetse and accredited elders and these elders have installed a new person as the Nmai Dzorn Manste, Nii Otoo Bornmai Alabi Petempeh IV,.

As we speak we heard, there's somebody parading himself as the Nmai Dzorn Manste, reason the Dzaasetse has petitioned the Nungua Traditional Council and the Greater Accra Regional House of Chiefs and the National House of Chiefs to tell them that the person who is parading himself, one Daniel Quaye parading himself as the stool name Borketey Oyimo II, meanwhile, the history of Nungua or the name of the people who ascended the stool is Nii Otoo Bornmai Alabi Petempeh IV, -- that is the still name of Nmai Dzorn so anybody calling himself as the Oyimu II is false, ask yourself why is the Oyimo 1st and why is he the

2nd?...he asked

"There's nothing like Oyimo who is Nmai Dzorn Manste. There's only one Nmai Dzorn Mantse and he is Nii Otoo Bornmai Alabi Petempeh IV, and the Dzaasetse in his wisdom to avert the current chieftaincy across the length and breadth of the Ga-Dangme took the bold step to write to the Nungua Traditional Council, copied the Regional House of Chiefs and the National House of Chiefs, he copied the Wulormo, the Nungua Mankralo who is the vice president of the Nungua Traditional Council, he also copied the KROMA MCE, copied the office of the Greater Accra Regional Minister so he stated categorically he and his elders have installed one chief of Nmai Dzorn in the person of Nii Otoo Bornmai Alabi Petempeh IV, anybody else parading himself as the Nmai Dzorn Mantse is an imposter. Anyone who deals with him, does that at his or her own risk"

## Lack Of Confidence In Democracy Dangerous – Kwabena Agyapong

**K**wabena Agyei Agyepong, a flagbearer hopeful of the New Patriotic Party (NPP), says the seeming lack of confidence in democracy occasioned by the conduct of the political class is "a dangerous development". Mr Agyapong said the practice where people went for political office with the aim of amassing wealth at the expense of the masses had gradually weaned the people's confidence in democratic rule. Speaking on a news programme monitored by the Ghana News Agency, he said the leadership of the country must accept responsibility for the situation and work towards restoring confidence in the political system.

"We have progressively damaged the confidence that people have in democracy and that is a very dangerous development because leaders after leaders or governments after governments have not satisfied the Ghanaian people.

"So we have to engage the people in a very productive way...we are not happy where we are," Mr Agyepong said.

While condemning the practice of vote-buying that has characterised the country's electoral system, he called on political parties to institute reforms that could discourage aspirants from dispensing money to the

electorate for votes.

"Let's talk to the electorate not to mortgage their future. Your Future is not for sale. We should look at quality leadership and people who have the country at heart. "We are virtually poisoning the political base and that is what worries me," Mr Agyepong said.

He urged young people not to lose confidence in the country, rather support and participate in the political process and help to improve the system.

Mr Agyepong said governance and development issues that had bedevilled the country could not be blamed on the Constitution but on bad leadership.

He bemoaned what he described as the lack of patriotism and readiness to serve among the political class and the people at large, saying: "We need the kind of leaders that are prepared to take difficult decisions and so that all of us will be doing what is right; putting our country first before everything."

"The Constitution for me is not the problem, but the way we lead our country; the values that we have and the fact that our moral fibre has become decadent in this country over the last 30-40 years.

"Political leadership should look at the collective, look at



NPP flagbearer hopeful, Kwabena Agyei Agyepong

what to do for the betterment of our country because we have become very populist people and sometimes we say things just to play to the gallery," Mr Agyepong said.

**Source -- GNA**

# China Reopen Its Door To The World

By H.E. LU Kun, Chinese Ambassador to Ghana

**Put People and Life First** Over the past three years, the COVID-19 pandemic has wreaked havoc around the globe and posed enormous challenges to all countries including China. The Communist Party of China and the Chinese government, putting the people and their lives first, have made every effort to protect the lives, safety and health of the Chinese people. Though China accounts for 18.32% of the world's population, its total COVID-19 deaths are equivalent to 0.08% as of the worldwide. Over the past three years, China has effectively responded to five global COVID waves and avoided widespread infections with the original strain and the Delta variant. The life expectancy in China has increased steadily, with the average lifespan rising from 77.93 years in 2020 to 78.2 years in 2021. China was the only major economy to achieve positive growth in 2020. Its total economic output exceeded 17 trillion US Dollars in 2021 and accounted for 18.5% of the world economy. Since the COVID-19 outbreak, China, upholding the vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind, has made significant contribution to protect global public health. China shared the genome sequence of the virus at the earliest opportunity, making important contribution to the drug and vaccine research and development in countries around the world. We

shared pandemic control and treatment information with over 180 countries and more than 10 international and regional organizations, dispatched 38 medical expert teams to 34 countries and has provided hundreds of billions of pandemic control supplies to 153 countries and 15 international organizations and provided over 2.2 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines to over 120 countries and international organizations. The UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres expressed thanks to China for its important contributions to the international cooperation in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in achieving a fair distribution of COVID-19 vaccines in developing countries.

## Adjusting and Optimizing COVID-19 Policies

In the light of the marked decline of the pathogenicity and virulence in Omicron and the steady rise of China's capacity for medical treatment, pathogen detection and vaccination, China has refined its COVID-19 response measures, shifting focus from stemming infection to protecting health and preventing severe cases. According to the recently released *Notice on Provisional Measures on Cross-border Travel*, starting from January 8, 2023, inbound travelers



H.E. LU Kun, Chinese Ambassador to Ghana

will no longer conduct nucleic acid testing on arrival, outbound travel of Chinese citizens will resume in an orderly manner. The purpose is to better coordinate COVID-19 response with economic and social development, and ensure the normalcy of people's life and work. All countries go through a period of adaptation when shifting gear in their COVID-19 policies and China is no exception. China's COVID-19 policy adjustment is science-based, timely and necessary. The fight against COVID-19 in the past three years has laid the foundation and created necessary conditions for the latest round of policy adjustment. Relevant Chinese authorities have shared the genome data of the virus from COVID cases in China via the Global Initiative on Sharing Avian Influenza Data (GISAID). China will continue to closely monitor the mutation of the virus, release epidemic information in a timely, open and transparent manner in accordance with the law, and work with the international community to meet the challenges of the epidemic. The overall COVID-19 situation in China is within expectation and under control. We are

confident that we will have an accelerated return of normal economic and social life and secure a complete and final victory against COVID-19.

## Reinvigorate the World Economy

China's latest policy adjustment will create new conditions for stronger international exchanges and cooperation. As the economic recovery gathers steam after China continues to refine COVID-19 policies, China's adjustment of its strategy has been well-received and supported by the international society. Foreign firms hold optimistic expectations for their performance in the Chinese market in the coming year. The WHO is pleased to see China loosening some of its COVID-19 restrictions. Foreign business communities in China, including the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China, are optimistic about China's recovery as they see the ability to revive from hurdles is rooted in the nation's culture. A senior executive of Henkel stated that the continuous optimization of pandemic control measures in China speaks to China's commitments to safeguard economic and social development amid the pandemic. A representative from the China-Britain Business Council said China's decision to ease border restrictions is extremely welcomed. Tourist destinations across the world can't wait to welcome Chinese tourists as cross-border travel searches

soar in China. According to J.P. Morgan Asset Management's forecast, China's GDP growth may rebound to over 5 percent in 2023.

## China and Ghana Fighting the COVID Together

China attaches great importance to medical and health cooperation with Ghana, and has sent eleven medical expert teams to Ghana, making great contributions in helping Ghana fight against malaria, AIDS, cholera and typhoid. After the COVID-19 outbreak, China sent a chartered flight to deliver medical supplies to Africa via Ghana. The adjustment of China's COVID response measures provides new opportunities for closer economic and cultural exchanges between the two countries. We will continue to pull together with Ghana in the trying times, and deepen cooperation with Ghana in the field of medical and health. We are confident that economic, trade and people-to-people exchanges and cooperation will become even closer and robust in the coming days. The global pandemic is not yet over. China stands ready to make concerted efforts with the rest of the world to fight the pandemic together and protect the health and safety of the people, promote world peace and development, and advance the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

# The Brazilian Hard Right Are Already A Political Cliché

By Vijay Prashad

On January 8, 2023, large crowds of people—dressed in colors of the Brazilian flag—[descended](#) on the country's capital, Brasília. They invaded the federal building and Supreme Court and [vandalized](#) public property. This attack by the rioters had been widely expected since the invaders had been planning "[weekend demonstrations](#)" for days on social media. On January 1, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva (known as Lula) was formally [sworn in](#) as Brazil's president, but during his inauguration there was no such melee. It was as if the vandals were waiting until the city was quiet and when Lula himself was out of town. For all the braggadocio of the attack, it was an act of extreme cowardice. The man whom Lula defeated—former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro—was nowhere near Brasília. He was not even in Brazil. He fled before the [inauguration](#)—to escape

prosecution, presumably—to Orlando, Florida, in the United States. But even if Bolsonaro was not in Brasília, *Bolsonaristas*—as his supporters are known—were everywhere in evidence. Before Bolsonaro lost the election to Lula in October 30, 2022, *Le Monde Diplomatique Brasil* [suggested](#) that Brazil was going to see "Bolsonarism without Bolsonaro." The political party with the largest bloc in the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate in Brazil is the far-right Liberal Party, which served as the political vehicle of Bolsonaro during his presidency. The toxic right-wing stain remains both in the elected bodies and on social media.

The two men responsible for public safety in Brasília—Anderson Torres, secretary of public security of the federal district, and Ibaneis Rocha, governor of the federal district—are close to Bolsonaro. Torres was a [minister](#) in Bolsonaro's government and was on [holiday](#) in Orlando during the

attack; Rocha took the [afternoon off](#), a sign that he did not want to be at his desk during the attack. For their [complicity](#) in the attack, Torres was dismissed from his post, and Rocha has been suspended. The federal government has taken charge of security, and [thousands](#) of "fanatic Nazis," as Lula [called](#) them, have been arrested. The slogans and signs that pervaded Brasília were less about Bolsonaro and more about the hatred felt for Lula, and the potential of his pro-people government. Big business—mainly agribusiness—sectors are furious about the reforms [proposed](#) by Lula. This attack was partly the result of the built-up frustration felt by people who have been led to believe that Lula is a criminal—which the courts have [shown](#) is false—and partly is a warning from Brazil's elites. The ragtag nature of the attack resembles the January 6, 2021, attack on the US Capitol by supporters of former US



Workers clean up the mess left behind far-right protesters at the presidential palace in Brasília (Photo: Ana Pessoa/Mídia Ninja). The slogans that pervaded Brasília on January 8 were less about Bolsonaro and more about the hatred felt for Lula and his pro-people government

President Donald Trump. The illusions about the dangers of a communist US President Joe Biden or a communist Lula seem to have masked the animosity of the elites to even the [mildest](#) rollback of neoliberal austerity. **Vijay Prashad** is an Indian historian, editor, and journalist. He is a writing fellow and chief correspondent at *Globetrotter*. He is an editor of [LeftWord Books](#) and the director of *Tricontinental: Institute for Social Research*. He is a senior non-resident fellow at [Chongyang Institute for](#)

[Financial Studies](#), Renmin University of China. He has written more than 20 books, including [The Darker Nations](#) and [The Poorer Nations](#). His latest books are [Struggle Makes Us Human: Learning from Movements for Socialism](#) and (with Noam Chomsky) [The Withdrawal: Iraq, Libya, Afghanistan, and the Fragility of U.S. Power](#). This article was produced by [Globetrotter](#).

## NMC Chair Urges Media To Be Circumspect In Reportage Over Bawku Conflict



Yaw Boadu Ayebofoh, Chairman of NMC

Mr Yaw Boadu-Ayebofoh, Chairman of the National Media Commission (NMC) has admonished journalists in the Upper East Region to be circumspect with information they churned out in public domain. "I am not saying you should lie. But there are certain truths that depending on the circumstances of the time, must not be disclosed. It is not every truth that has to be told.

"And even if it must be told, the way you tell it could be

the difference. That is why we want to appeal to everyone here to be circumspect," he told journalists in Bolgatanga at a meeting to revive the Regional Media Advisory Committee and to encourage journalists in the region to report on issues from Bawku with circumspection. The five-member Committee comprised Mr Robert Ajene, Chairman, the Right Reverend Dennis Debukari Tong, Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Tamale as member and Sir Alfred Abugre Ndago, a former Principal of the Saint John Bosco College of Education, member. The rest are Mr Bob Tater, a Legal Practitioner, member and Mr Eric Kwadjo Amoh,

the immediate past Chairman of the Ghana Journalists Association as member and Coordinator. The NMC Chair said, "Once we revive the Media Advisory Committee, listen to them. Do not take any of them for granted because if you do, you do so at your own risk." He said the Committee was given the mandate and authorised to advise journalists and media outlets who erred in line of duty on behalf of the NMC, and called on journalists to respect the work of the Committee. "We exist because of a Constitutional provision. We have the mandate to do the things we do, and when we approve of their work, it means that it is our

decision. And none of you can challenge the decision of the NMC by way of impunity," he said. Mr Boadu-Ayebofoh urged journalists in the Region to work with the Committee to serve the interest of the Region, adding that the journalists must understand the conflict situation in Bawku so they do not become tools for destruction in their quest to building the peace in the area. Mr George Sarpong, the Executive Secretary of the NMC, stressed on the need for the work of the journalists to calm tensions in Bawku and other conflict prone zones in the Region. He said any child denied access to education in Bawku could become a liability to society, and if children in the area were educated, it would be beneficial

to the entire country. Mr Ajene thanked leadership of the NMC for the confidence reposed in members to continue to serve on the Advisory Committee of the Region. He reminded journalists not to report any information that was not thoroughly investigated, "Do not also support any side when there is a controversy," he added. He said there were threats to close down some institutions, especially the Presbyterian Nurses Training College in Bawku if peace was not restored in the area. "We should make sure that there is a reversal of the issue so that Bawku returns to normal life. We want Bawku to return to normal life, you can make it, take the challenge, and let us see," Mr Ajene told the journalists.

Source -- GNA

# TROUBLE LOOMS AT ADA

## As 45 Communities Threaten Showdown With McDan's Electrochem Over Songor Lagoon

from page 7

champion McDans course by prosecuting Noah Narh Dameh who was being looked to kill but don't have what it takes to investigate the attack on radio Ada, our Community Radio and officials of the station.

McDan, the master land grabber has now become a "King;..... King of Ada" and it is a criminal offence to defame him; whoever is perceived to defame him would be persecuted and prosecuted by State Authorities.

Late last year Johnathan Dorkutso, Tetteh Lawer Mosusuhe aka Lawal and Asafoatse Otumfuor three close senior advisers of Nene Ada led McDan's land guards to the salt farm of our National Organiser, Bro Ahuma Karimu at Kablevu to specifically point it out to McDan's agents for destruction. Their aim was no doubt to cripple, silence and to put fear of McDan in him.

Two days after their visit, McDan's land guards led by the notorious Alhassan, leader of McDan's land guards and a detachment of the Ghana Police on their way to destroy the farm, violently attacked the peaceful residents of Kablevu, a settlement near Bro. Ahuma's salt farm.

In the ensuing melee several people were badly injured including Nene Isaac Asem Huadzi, Chief of Kablevu who was nearly killed. The residents of Kablevu had to flee the

town for several days before returning.

Ladies and Gentlemen; Adaali-Abime before we end the program let us listen to some recordings by one N a n g w a , s e l f - s t y l e d Terkpebiawe Setse and the deposed Terkpebiawe Westoyi aka as Baasaki.

(PLAY THE TAPES)

In the recordings you heard clearly what Nangwa said. He said he does not know that all our salt producing lands from Sege to Elavanyo had been handed to McDan.

He also said he can produce salt in his house, if so why doesn't he join McDan to go and produce salt in his house and leave the Songor Lagoon and our lands for us.

You have heard Nene Korley whose position is being challenged for distoolment also, he said he does not know that McDan has taken all the lands from Sege to Elavanyo. Adaali-Abime, you have heard Amate Midikorhi aka Amate Paul, who also claim the Songor Lagoon and its adjoining lands belong to the government.

The question we would like to ask Amate Midikorhi is how did the government acquire the lands? Can Amate Midikorhi tell us how much money had been paid as compensation to the Terkpebiawe Clan and the thousands of Adaali-Abime from Sege Nakom-kope to Elavanyo who have been earning their living from the Lagoon over the years?

The conduct and comments

of these traitors of Ada clearly demonstrates the general level of brainlessness of some of our chiefs and elders especially those who fail to see the harm that McDan is doing to us Adaali-Abime all over the Songor Lagoon.

What do we do to these brainless traitors;

.....Dorkutso.....Lawal.....N a n g w a.....Baasaki ...Amate Midikorhi Paul.....

Adaali-Abime; to reiterate our demands we want PNDC Law 287 and the Master Plan for Salt Development at Ada implemented immediately; nothing else will satisfy us and nothing else will bring peace to Ada. The solution to the unrest around the Songor Lagoon has long been found in PNDC Law 287 and the Master Plan but the greed, ignorance and wickedness of individuals and Government officials have made it difficult to implement.

The Minerals Commission and the Ministry of Natural Resources should hear us and cancel the illegitimate mining licenses issued to McDan. There are no salt mines in Ada and there has never been; what we do in Ada is sea salt farming and harvesting which is not a mining process.

The de-classification of sea salt farming and harvesting as a mining process will be our next big battle after we have dealt with McDan.



McDan, we would like you to know that we are not working in the Songor Lagoon because you have given us permission to do so; your permission is illegitimate and worthless. We are working in the Lagoon because it is our right by natural law, custom and tradition to do so. Your ultimatum is meaningless to us! We, the Adas have been on this land for more than 400 years, we will never leave here today, tomorrow; on 31st January nor on any day in the future.

We have every right in natural law to work in the Songor Lagoon; you McDan have no right to be here, your presence in Ada is illegitimate and contrary to PNDC Law 287 and you cannot give us any ultimatum.

Today you may think you have the backing of the NPP Government and therefore

powerful but tomorrow NPP will not be in power you may not have that backing again.

Adaali-Abime; Ghana's National Anthem enjoins us as citizens to resist oppressors rule with all our will and our might forever. We shall resist the oppression of McDan and his backers in the N a n a A k u f f o - A d d o ' s government forever and ever. Fellow Adaali-Abime on 1st February we urge all of you to come and congregate here at Boni-kope to see what McDan and Nana Akuffo-Addo's Government will do to us.

We plead with you members of the press here today to disseminate news on the injustices being committed against us as widely as possible both locally and internationally.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Thank you very much for your attendance, attention and support.