

NATIONAL CATHEDRAL

Okudzeto Ablakwa Says Project Will Cost Ghanaians \$1 Bn, Not



Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa, MP for North Tongu

Member of Parliament for North Tongu, Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa has made yet another damning revelation about the scandal-laden national cathedral project.

This time around, the lawmaker has claimed that contrary to widely publicised information that the building of Ghana's national worship Centre (National Cathedral) will cost US \$400 million, documents available to him indicates that the project will cost a gargantuan US \$1 billion.

While contesting the government's existing figure, Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa noted that his checks indicate that the Ghanaian taxpayer could rather be paying about \$1 billion for the construction of the edifice that has recently

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NPP Decides: Alan Pledges To Work With Clergy If Elected President



Former Minister of Trade and Industry, Hon. Alan Kyerematen has vowed to work closely with the leadership of the clergy if elected as the Presidential Candidate of the NPP and eventually President of Ghana.

The experienced politician made this pronouncement at a private breakfast meeting with the leaders of the

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Second Hand Dealers Association Unhappy

Over Energy Commission's Threat To Ban Imported Electrical Appliances; Want Govt To Intervene

The Concerned Second Hand Dealers Association of Ghana (CSHDAG) has expressed disquiet over the Energy Commission (EC) of Ghana's plans to ban imported second hand electrical

appliances in the country. According to the association its research has revealed that contrary to claims by the Energy Commission that second hand electrical appliances consume much more electricity and

are unsafe, latest findings show otherwise. Addressing a press conference in Accra yesterday over the proposed ban on imported second hand electrical appliances, Mr. Daniel

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The concerned dealers, with GUTA President addressing the press yesterday

The INSIGHT

— EDITORIAL

AN APPALLINGLY BAD DEAL!

The revelation that an amount of \$11 billion from oil exploration deals was allowed to go down the drain due to inaction or a deliberate attempt on the part of some officials of state to reap 'from the back door' is highly condemnable. Clearly, the deal is a bad one and needs to be properly investigated to ascertain complicity, if any.

It is mind-boggling that a country with so many trained experts in oil and gas management could give away as high as a whopping 11 billion dollars to a foreign expatriate company when it had invested virtually nothing in the country's oil exploration project.

This is another act of giving for free what ordinary Ghanaians need to benefit from. No one can and should attempt to justify why our officials deliberately let down the nation by negotiating off our interest in the deal.

Ghana's natural resources have not for the large part benefitted the teeming masses who constitute the poor village dwellers with no means of earning a living.

It is therefore surprising that considering how nationalization of oil and gas has benefitted most countries in Europe, the Americas and Asia, Africa particularly Ghana has failed to optimize the huge benefits and opportunities that international best practices offer and is engaging in acts untoward of a sovereign nation.

This is a bad deal and must be promptly and thoroughly investigated and reversed, if not cancelled.

NPP Decides: Alan Pledges To Work With Clergy If Elected President



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Ghanaian Christian community in Accra on Tuesday, January 24, 2023.

Describing politics and religion as 'two sides of the same coin', at the meeting, Hon. Kyerematen said the bond between politics and religion is interwoven, adding that they are 'two varied ways of leadership'. "Both politics and religion revolve around leadership and followership, while politicians take care of the physical wellbeing of the people, the clergy takes care of their spiritual wellbeing", the former Trade and Industry Minister told the clergy present.

He cited his Great Transformational Plan (GTP), recently launched in his national broadcast, as one of many prospects to steer the affairs of the nation to prosperity.

"When Ghana prospers, the people of Ghana will also prosper", the former Trade Minister and Industry said. He promised to continually exhibit humility and leadership of service to the people, which has always been his hallmark.

Hon. Kyerematen was accompanied by his wife, Mrs. Patricia Christabel Kyerematen and their two sons. Some of the clergy members present included Rev. Ekow Amponsah of Global Revival Ministry, Rev. Dr. Cyril Fayose Christian Council of Ghana,

Emmanuel Adjei Prayer Palace Int, Rev. Ernest O. Amoako
Fire Generation Chapel, Rev. Joshua Obeng
C.C.C Kumasi, Rev. Gyasie Emmanuel
C.A.C, Prophet Samuel Atanga
C.A.C, Rev. Daniel O. Boamah
C.A.C Apostle George Yeboah
C.A.C, Min. Kobi Acheampong
Alive Chapel Int, Min. Sam Sika
Alive Chapel Int, Bishop Jerry Bentil
Alive Chapel Int Apostle Nana Kwarteng Amanfo
Sankofa Ministries, Asare Shadrack
Fire Generation, Pastor Nii Lantey Thompson, RT. Rev. M.A Bossman
Methodist Church Gh, Dr. & Mrs Samuel Donkor
All Nations Full Gospel Church Ghana.

THE INSIGHT

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NATIONAL CATHEDRAL

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been embroiled in a lot of controversies and allegations of corruption.

“We were told by the finance minister that the project will cost \$100 million, then the figure rose to \$150 million. The Chairman, Opoku Onyinah later mentioned \$200 million but now based on fresh documents, I have realized the project is going to cost the Ghanaian taxpayer about \$1 billion.

“The same amount former president Mahama used to set up the Ghana Gas project which is earning us about \$400 million a year,” he is quoted by citinewsroom.com to have said.

Explaining further, the MP stated that the original cost of \$400 million that has been mentioned does not include such costs as the monies the government had to incur in relocating the judges' bungalows in the areas that are currently going to house the National Cathedral.

This, he added, did not also include some \$50 million needed for the relocation of the Judicial Training Institute, as well as an amount of \$10 million that made up the cost of the relocation of the Passport Office of Ghana. Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa, who has been at the center of a lot of revelations of misconduct or alleged corruption related to the building of the national edifice, also added that one other company, Waterstone Complex, which had its offices pulled down to allow for the construction to go on, is in court.

He added that the private company has sued the government for \$120 million. By adding all these amounts, plus the modifications to the project, such as the Biblical Garden and the museum, he added, will see the original cost of the project shoot up exponentially. While the National Cathedral project remains one of the most topical government projects that have been fought against by

many currently, President Nana Akufo-Addo has reiterated his resolve to see to its completion. Not even the current economic challenges being faced in the country have stopped him from doing so. Meanwhile, Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa has called out some state institutions for their silence over the issue of Rev Victor Kusi Boateng, the founder and leader of Power Chapel International, illegally having multiple statutory documents under different names.

Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa said that the state agencies that Rev Kusi Boateng scammed to illegally acquire multiple documents including the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA), Registrar Generals Department, Passport Office and the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority (DVLA), must explain to Ghanaians how the blunders happened.

In a Citi TV interview, the MP posited that these agencies should be conducting internal



Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa, MP for North Tongu

investigations to find out how they issued the same person with multiple documents under different names.

“All these institutions should be issuing statements by now (and) carrying out investigations. How is it that they are (so quiet)? Is it that they are complicit?

“How did they take advantage of them so easily. GRA, Registrar General Department, Passport Office, DVLA. How did this happen?” he queried.

The MP in his latest corruption exposé on the National Cathedral made some allegations against Rev. Victor Kusi Boateng, who is the

secretary to the Board of Trustees of the National Cathedral of Ghana.

In an earlier revelation about the National Cathedral, Okudzeto Ablakwa said that a whopping GH¢2.6 million was dished out to a company named JNS Talent Centre Limited.

In his latest exposé, Ablakwa said that further investigations into the alleged payment led to the discovery of one Kwabena Adu Gyamfi as a director of JNS Talent Centre.

Having confirmed the identities of two out of three directors of the centre, Ablakwa dug deeper in a bid to discover the identity of the third director, Kwabena Adu Gyamfi.

According to his findings, citing a number of statutory documents including passports, Tax Identification Numbers and driver's licenses, Kwabena Adu Gyamfi was the same as Reverend Kusi Boateng, who has allegedly been operating under the pseudonym Kwabena Adu Gyamfi.

Second Hand Dealers Association Unhappy

Over Energy Commission's Threat To Ban Imported Electrical Appliances; Want Govt To Intervene



from front page

Asare Asante, President of Concerned Second Hand Dealers Association said the ban if implemented will affect millions of Ghanaians who rely on imported second hand products as well as render over 200,000 of their members jobless and thus called on the government to come to their aid. “The government should

therefore come to our aid by considering the huge number of people who are engaged in this business and their direct beneficiaries and not forgetting the numerous numbers of people who patronize these items”. “Now that there is economic hardship all over the world, why will one say that he is taking our job which feeds over millions of people in this country from our hands and not forgetting about our contribution to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP)”. Again if the sitting Government is seeking for assistance from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) which it will prevent them from employing workers where will they find jobs for us and our graduate children who we are still feeding in our homes due to the inability of the

government to find them jobs”, Mr, Daniel Asare Asante asked.

According to the Association, its activities were not posing any form of threat to the country, but rather created jobs for thousands of Ghanaians.

The Energy Commission recently hinted that it would soon embark on an exercise to tackle the importation of second hand electrical appliances, also known as home used products, as Ghana was gradually becoming a dumping site for electronic waste. However, addressing the press conference in Accra yesterday to raise concerns about the implications the ban could have on dealers when effected, Mr Daniel Asante, said leaders of the Ghana Union of Traders (GUTA) were recently invited by the Commission to deliberate on issues

bordering on their businesses but it ended inconclusively.

He explained that despite the assurance from the Energy Commission that members would be invited again to conclude on the matters discussed, “we did not hear from them again but rather heard news going round that they were planning to stop our activities.”

He stated that the Energy Commission's claims that Ghana had become a dumping site for electronic waste were not true, adding that if second hand vehicles were still being sold and used in the country, dealers in second hand electrical appliances should not be stopped from operating.

Mr Asante further debunked claims that most imported second hand domestic appliances consumed too much energy, adding that his group members were very cautious in their dealings because “All our home used appliances including television, irons, microwaves, blenders, computers, gas and electric cookers are energy efficient.”

President of Ghana Union of Traders Association (GUTA), Dr. Joseph Obeng in a solidarity statement also debunked claims by the Energy Commission that second hand appliances were risky and energy inefficient.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS REPORT

Compiled By Peoples Dispatch

Saudi Arabia-Led Coalition Carries Out Fresh Airstrikes In Yemen, Killing Five Including Three Children



(Photo: Al-Masirah) The airstrikes carried out this week constitute a break in the larger pattern of relative peace in Yemen, months after the collapse of a formal UN-led ceasefire in October last year

At least three children and an adult were on Tuesday, January 24 killed in an air raid by the Saudi-led coalition in a village in Yemen's Hodeidah province, [YemensAl-Masirah TV has reported](#). It also reported that bombs were dropped in Hays and al-Jabalyah districts of Hodeidah province by spy

drones.

According to *Al-Masirah*, another Saudi-led airstrike killed one Yemeni citizen and wounded two others in Yemen's Sa'adah province on Wednesday. The repeated aggression by the Saudi-led coalition in Houthi controlled areas of

Yemen has been [criticized by the local administration in Hodeidah](#) as a "clear evidence proving to the world the lack of seriousness of the coalition to stop its absurd and criminal aggression and lift the siege imposed on the country for more than 8 years."

The Sanaa-based Houthi government issued a [statement](#) condemning the repeated attacks by the Saudi-led coalition. It also questioned Saudi Arabia's practice of denying such attacks and asked for the "formation of an impartial international commission to investigate all crimes, and to bring the perpetrators to international justice."

The statement also accused the US of being part of the

Saudi-led coalition, and responsible for all the death and destruction in Yemen. The government in Sanaa also blamed the UN for being hypocritical for failing to hold Saudi Arabia accountable for its crimes.

The airstrikes carried out this week constitute a break in the larger pattern of relative peace in Yemen, months after the collapse of a formal UN-led ceasefire in October last year. There were reports earlier [this month](#) that both the Houthis and Saudi-backed groups in the country had initiated "backchannel" talks to chalk out a longer ceasefire and hopefully to finally achieve the end of the war.

Despite a reported decline in aggression last year, according to UN reports, more than [3,000 Yemenis were either injured or killed](#) in airstrikes in 2022 alone. The full number of casualties due to fighting over eight years of war stands close to 50,000, with over 4,000 of them being children. Millions of people in the country have also been displaced due to the war.

According to the UN, the war and the Saudi-led blockade of the country have been responsible for causing the "world's worst humanitarian crisis" in Yemen since 2015.

Oklahoma Cops Shot And Killed 26-Year-Old Worker After Bosses Called Police

Chiewelthap Mariar, a 26-year-old Sudanese refugee and worker at the Seaboard Foods meatpacking plant in Guymon, Oklahoma, was shot and killed by police on January 9. According to testimony given to [The Guardian](#) by a fellow worker, Mariar was fired from his position but ordered to work the rest of his shift. This worker claims that the supervisor who fired Mariar confronted him on the shop floor, then called police. Seaboard Foods has neither confirmed nor denied these claims.

Oklahoma police responded to the call, claiming that Mariar then produced a knife and ["began advancing on officers."](#) Police responded by shooting and killing the 26-year-old worker, and are labeling this murder as an "officer-involved shooting".

However, the worker who witnessed the confrontation claimed that Mariar was only holding a company-issued band-cutter, which does not indicate any violent intent. This worker [filmed](#) parts of the incident on his cell phone, and claimed he was fired for doing so. "He had a company-issued band-cutter in his hand," this unnamed worker told *The Guardian*. "When the police got to the plant, the guy was already working, minding his own business."

Seaboard Foods released a statement following the murder, "Providing our employees with a safe work environment and their well-being is extremely important to us. Following repeated attempts to bring calm to the

situation, we requested assistance from the Guymon Police as we felt it was in the best interest for everyone's safety. Following the incident, operations were ceased for the remainder of the evening and the following day, and we provided in-person counseling services for employees throughout the week in addition to ongoing phone counseling services available 24 hours seven days a week."

But according to the anonymous Seaboard worker interviewed by *The Guardian*, the bosses were completely indifferent to the murder that their workers had just witnessed on the shop floor. "I worked in maintenance. All they had us do was cover the scene with plastic, and we proceeded to finish what was on the production line," said the worker. "This company fired me for recording

the truth they were trying to brush under the mat. They never asked me if I was OK. It was my first time seeing a guy get killed—and then I get fired." The Seaboard Foods plant has come under fire in the recent past for numerous COVID-19 infections of meatpacking workers, which claimed the lives of [six workers](#) as of April 2021. Police violence continues to be a second pandemic in the United States. 2022 recorded the most police killings in US history at [1,176 people](#) murdered by police. 2023 has thus far been marked by the brutal beating of [Tyre Nichols](#) by five Memphis police officers, and the police shooting of [Tortugueta](#), an Atlanta "forest defender" who was fighting to prevent the police foundation from building a massive urban warfare training



facility on Atlanta forest land. The union that represents workers at the Seaboard plant in Guymon, UFCW Local 2, released a [statement](#) following Mariar's death, calling for a "federal investigation of this horrific incident by the Guymon city police."

"To think Mr. Mariar and his family came to this country to escape the violence and strife of Sudan, settled in Guymon, Oklahoma to contribute to the economy of our country, and died senselessly on the shop floor," said UFCW District Union Local 2 President, Martin Rosas.

OSP Directs Criminal Prosecution Of NDA Boss, Deputies Over PPA Breaches



Kissi Agyebeng, Special Prosecutor

The Office of the Special Prosecutor has directed that the Chief Executive Officer of the Northern Development Authority, Sumaila Abdul-Rahman, be prosecuted for criminal offences. The report also directed the similar criminal prosecutions of the two deputy CEOs of the

NDA, Stephen Yir-eru Engman (Operations), and Patrick Seidu (Finance & Administration). This, the report stated, is due to their respective roles in breaches of the Public Procurement Act 2003 (Act 663). This was contained in the OSP's Report of Investigation into Alleged Commission of

Corruption and Corruption-Related Offences involving the Northern Development Authority and A&QD Consortium Limited, dated January 24, 2023.

It was based on a written complaint dated June 15, 2022, and addressed to the Special Prosecutor by Martin Luther Kpebu, a private legal practitioner, requesting for investigation into the operations of NDA and the actions of its Chief Executive and Board Chairman.

"The complaint alleged that NDA awarded a contract to A&QS Consortium Limited (hereafter, A&QS) on 28 January 2020 for consultancy services for the supervision of some constituencies in the Upper West Region under the IPEP for the contract sum of Five Million Seven Hundred and Twenty Thousand cedis (GHC5,720,000.00). However,

upon the exit of the then Acting Chief Executive who executed the contract, the contract sum was illegally increased to Ten Million Four Hundred Thousand cedis (GHC10,400,000.00) by the removal of the page containing the original figure of Five Million Seven Hundred and Twenty Thousand cedis (GHC5,720,000.00) and its replacement at page 25 clause 33.1 of the contract with a fresh page containing the bloated figure of Ten Million Four Hundred Thousand cedis (GHC10,400,000.00) to make it appear as if it is the contract executed by the previous Acting Chief Executive," the report stated.

According to the OSP, it conducted the investigations over a period of six months, interviewing twenty persons over a period of four months before arriving at its conclusions.

It established that there were some major breaches in a contract that existed between the government organisation and A&QS and Associate Beaver Consult for the implementation of NDA's Infrastructure for Poverty Eradication Programme (IPEP) at a contract sum of Twenty-Nine Million Six Hundred and Forty Thousand cedis (GHC29,640,000.00).

The report also indicated how the outgoing CEO of the NDA had struck a deal with the companies, but upon his termination, the same was not communicated with the new management.

"In December 2019, Dr. Haroun's appointment was terminated. At the time of his exit as Acting Chief Executive of NDA, the two (2) procured companies – A&QS and Associate Beaver Consult – had not been notified of any award of a contract, and no contract had been executed between NDA and either consulting entity for the commencement of the respective projects.

"There appeared to be a framework document which had the signatures of Dr. Haroun and the Chief Executive of A&QS, Mr. Andrew Kuundaari. However, the signatures were not witnessed.

Then again, the document had no deliverables on the nature of the work to be performed by A&QS. It had no contract sum and it had neither a commencement date nor a date for the contract period. Mr. Kuundaari did not read the framework document and he did not know its contents since it had always remained in the custody of Mr. Stephen Yir-eru Engmen, the Deputy Chief Executive of NDA in charge of Operations.

"It was evident and clear to every relevant person that no contract had been signed between NDA and A&QS at the time of Dr. Haroun's departure. However, Mr. Kuundaari and Mr. Engmen would subsequently point to the framework document in an attempt to justify their actions," the report stated.

In its conclusion, the OSP report stated that it had directed the Controller and Accountant General to freeze payments to A&QS. It further directed for the criminal prosecutions of the CEO, Sumaila Abdul-Rahman, and his two deputies.

"On 1 July 2022, the Special Prosecutor directed the Controller and Accountant General to immediately freeze payments to A&QS under NDA's implementation of the IPEP until the close of the investigation. While lifting the directive in principle, the Special Prosecutor advises all public officers in the approval chain to advert their minds to the tenor of the 16 January 2020 PPA approval for the procurement by NDA of A&QS and to ensure value for money.

"On the basis of the findings, the Special Prosecutor directs the criminal prosecution of the persons named below for respective breaches of the Public Procurement Act, 2003 (Act 663): Mr. Sumaila Abdul-Rahman, Chief Executive, Northern Development Authority; Mr. Stephen Yir-eru Engmen, Deputy Chief Executive (Operations), Northern Development Authority; and Mr. Patrick Seidu, Deputy Chief Executive (Finance & Administration), Northern Development Authority," it added.

Court Orders Alex Mould, Gavivina To Pay GHC5m Bail Bond For 'Missing' Sedina Tamakloe

Alex Mould, a former Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Ghana National Petroleum Corporation (GNPC), and Gavivina Tamakloe have been ordered to pay a bond of GHC5 million to the state for failing to produce Sedina Tamakloe Attionu. The sureties, Alex Mould and Gavivina Tamakloe, secured a GHC 5 million bail for the former boss of the Microfinance and Small Loans Centre (MASLOC), Sedina Tamakloe Attionu, who is standing trial for allegedly causing financial loss of GHC 90 million to the state during her tenure as the CEO of MASLOC between 2013 and January 2017. The accused person was slapped with a forfeiture of recognisance on Tuesday (January 24) when the case came up for hearing at the court presided over by Justice Afia Serwah Asare-Botwe, Graphiconline has reported.

Per Section 104 of the Criminal Offences (Procedure) Act, 1960 (Act 30), if the two sureties are unable to pay the GHC 5 million bail sum, the court can order the sale of their properties to recover the amount.

On February 7, 2023, the Court will decide whether or not to try Attionu in absentia. Sedina Tamakloe Attionu failed to show up for the trial for the past 16 months after being granted permission by the court to travel to the USA for medical treatment.

In May 2022, the financial and economic high court denied the request of state attorneys to trial the former chief executive officer (CEO) of the Microfinance and Small Loans Centre (MASLOC), Sedina Tamakloe Attionu, in absentia.

The presiding judge of the case, Justice Afia Serwah Asare Botwe, said that the case will not proceed until the two people who stood surety for her (guaranteed the bail



Sedinam Ationu Tamakloe, former MASLOC CEO

application for her release) including the former CEO of Ghana National Petroleum Commission (GNPC), Alex Mould, appear in court, asaaseradio.com reports. The former MASLOC CEO, Sedina Tamakloe, who is accused of causing financial loss to the state and stealing around GH¢ 93 million from MASLOC coffers has been standing trial since 2020. She has, however, refused to return to Ghana after she was granted permission by the court to travel abroad on health grounds.

Duncan-Williams, Eastwood Anaba Want Construction Of National Cathedral Suspended

Two members of the Board of Trustees of the controversial National Cathedral project, Archbishop [Nicholas Duncan-Williams](#) and Reverend [Eastwood Anaba](#), have called for the suspension of the project. According to the two clergymen, an independent audit of the expenditure on the National Cathedral Project should be done to ensure transparency and accountability to the Ghanaian people. Their call comes amid some controversies that have erupted in recent times with regard to the National Cathedral project. The clergymen added that until the audit of the cathedral account is done, there should be a stop to the construction. In a memo sent to the Board of Trustees on Monday, January 23, and sighted by myjoyonline.com, it said "that in the spirit and cause of transparency and accountability to the Ghanaian people, the current Board of Trustees of the National Cathedral shall appoint an independent, nationally recognised accounting firm to audit all public funds contributed to and spent by the National Cathedral. "Auditors will also audit the overall cost of the project. This appointment of an auditor shall take place before the deferment of activities of the Board of Trustees," excerpts from the memo said.

"That current activity

advancing the construction of Ghana's National Cathedral shall be deferred until the atmospherics in Ghana are improved and the audit of the Cathedral account is done," excerpts of the memo added. The National Cathedral has been one of the topical issues in the last two weeks following some shocking revelations made by the North Tongu MP.

On Monday, January 16, the lawmaker accused the Secretary of the National Cathedral Board of Trustees, Rev. Victor Kusi-Boateng, of a conflict of interest and possession of multiple identities.

According to him, Rev. Victor Kusi-Boateng appears to be using questionable means to divert funds from the National Cathedral project. He has since petitioned the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) to investigate the matter. Aside from the lawmaker's revelation, details as to why a member of the board of trustees, Dag Heward-Mills, resigned from the board emerged.

In his resignation letter, which he addressed to the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the National Cathedral, President Akufo-Addo, and others, he raised concerns as to the cost, design, fundraising, and locations, among others, but did not receive a response after writing several letters. "I feel that the treatment of the issues I have raised in my several letters has been unfortunate. My letters have



been ignored in the past; not attended to for years, and at best addressed flippantly."

One of the top priorities of the Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo government is the building of a 5,000-seater cathedral in fulfillment of a pledge made by the president to God before winning the 2016 elections.

According to the President, the construction of the National Cathedral is pivotal to the development of Ghana.

He explained that the country's comparative performance against neighbouring countries is mainly by the grace of God.

President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo on March 16 appointed a 13-Member Board of Trustees to spearhead Ghana's National Cathedral. At their inauguration at the Jubilee House, the President said the 13-member Board of Trustees will be in charge of the National Cathedral when it

is completed. The members are:

1. Apostle Prof. Opoku Onyinah, former Chairman of the Church of Pentecost – Chairperson
2. Archbishop Charles Gabriel Palmer-Buckle, Metropolitan Catholic Archbishop, Cape Coast – Vice Chairman
3. Most Rev. Bishop Justice Ofei Akrofi, Anglican Archbishop Emeritus – Member
4. Rt. Rev. Prof. Emmanuel Martey, former Moderator of the Presbyterian Church – Member
5. Most Rev T. K. Awotwi Pratt, Presiding Bishop of the Methodist Church – Member
6. Rev Prof Cephas Omenyo, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church – Member
7. Pastor Mensa Otobil, General Overseer of International Central Gospel Church – Member
8. Archbishop [Nicholas](#)

[Duncan-Williams](#), Presiding Archbishop and General Overseer of Action Chapel International – Member

9. Rev Dr Joyce Aryee, Executive Director, Salt and Light Ministries – Member

10. Bishop Dag Heward-Mills, Presiding Bishop, Lighthouse Group of Churches – Member

11. Rev [Eastwood Anaba](#), Founder and President of [Eastwood Anaba](#) Ministries – Member

12. Rev Victor Kusi-Boateng, Founder of Power Chapel Worldwide – Member/Secretary

13. Rev Dr Frimpong Manso, General Superintendent, Assemblies of God – Member

At the National Cathedral Secretariat, there is an appointed Executive Director known as Dr. Paul Opoku-Mensah with two (2) representatives of the United States (UN). In August 2022 Bishop Dag Heward-Mills resigned as a member of the trustee.

FULL TEXT OF REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GHANA COVID-19 EXPENDITURE FOR THE PERIOD MARCH 2020 TO JUNE 2022

from page 7

medical equipment, cleaning materials, medicines, consultancy, storage facility for the vaccines and deployment, life insurance, construction, leasing and renting of treatment and isolation centres, etc.

UTILISATION OF IMF RAPID CREDIT FACILITY – US\$1,000,000,000 (GH¢5,566,676,162)

23. We observed that the Government of Ghana received US\$1,000,000,000.00 (GH¢5,566,676,161.54) on 22 April, 2020 from the International Monetary Fund to support the 2020 budget.

24. We noted that the amount received was utilised on liability management, District Assemblies Common Fund fourth quarter allocation, NABCO second quarter allocation, LEAP program first quarter allocation, Free SHS Program

allocation for 2nd semester of 2019/2020 academy year, free water and electricity, capitalization of the National Development Bank of Ghana, Construction of 88 District Hospitals and seven Regional Hospitals, issuance of Ghana Cards and mop-up exercise across the country among others.

UTILISATION OF BOG-COVID-19 BONDS – GH¢10,000,000,000

25. We observed that the Bank of Ghana in May and September 2020, transferred a total amount of GH¢10,000,000,000 to the Controller and Accountant General as proceeds from the Bank of Ghana COVID-19 Bonds issued.

26. We noted that the receipts were expended on liability management, statutory payments to the Social Security and National Trust (SSNIT), Ghana Education Trust Fund (GETFUND) and other Government of Ghana expenditures as Budget support.

UTILISATION OF AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK FUND – US\$69,957,855 (GH¢398,745,782)

27. We observed that on 28 September 2020 the Government

of Ghana received US\$69,957,855 (GH¢398,745,781.93) from the African Development Bank to support the 2020 budget. 28. We noted that the amount of GH¢398,745,781.93 was transferred into the Treasury Main Account of the Controller and Accountant General held at the Bank of Ghana to support the 2020 budget.

UTILISATION OF EUROPEAN UNION FUND – €84,123,580 (GH¢569,617,582)

29. We observed that the Government of Ghana on 18 November 2020 received €84,123,579.54 (GH¢569,617,581.78) from the European Union Commission to support the 2020 budget.

30. We noted that the amount of GH¢569,617,581.78 was transferred into the Government Main Treasury Cash account and expended on goods & services, capital expenditure and compensation of employees.

DISBURSEMENT OF COVID-19 FUNDS

31. Out of GH¢21,844,189,185.24 mobilised, GH¢11,750,683,059.11 was spent on COVID-19 activities and the rest on budget support. On COVID-19 activities, we noted that GH¢8,658,496,124.96 was spent in 2020, GH¢3,084,311,725.45 in 2021 and GH¢7,875,208.70 in 2022 to mitigate the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic in Ghana as shown in Table 2 below:

Table 2:	DESCRIPTION	2020	2021	2022
TOTAL				
Release		10,144,205,379.89	2,086,706,179.91	4,560,000.00
		12,235,471,560.01		
Expenditure		8,658,496,124.96	3,084,311,725.45	7,875,208.70
		11,750,683,059.11		
Balance		368,087,886.19	127,637,863.72	0.00
		495,725,749.91		
	*Balances are not direct deduction, but they include US\$ conversions			
SUMMARY				
DESCRIPTION	GH¢			
CEDI EQUIVALENTS				

AMOUNT

TOTAL IN CEDIS

Total Release 10,180,296,369.89
2,055,175,190.12

12,235,471,560.01

Total Expenditure

9,812,208,483.70

1,938,474,575.42

11,750,683,059.12

Balance 368,087,886.19

127,637,863.72 495,725,749.91

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Ministry of Finance

32. We noted that a total amount of GH¢543,058,709.13 was recorded as

expenditure on the GIFMIS and lodged in an account. Out of this account, 194

payment vouchers totalling GH¢543,058,709.13 were processed and paid. We recommended that payments to service providers and transfers to MDAs in respect of COVID-19 expenditures should be processed and paid through the GIFMIS.

33. On 6 May 2020, Ministry of Finance paid Smart Infraco Limited GH¢23,388,750 for the provision of Smart Workspace platforms for MDAs to facilitate Virtual Workspace but did not deduct withholding tax of GH¢1,754,156.25 on the payment made to Smart Infraco Limited. We recommended that the Ministry of Finance should recover the amount of GH¢1,754,156.25 from the company and pay same to the Commissioner-General of GRA.

Ministry of Health

34. We noted that the Ministry of Health on behalf of Government of Ghana paid an amount of US\$120,192,379.80 to UNICEF/AVAT for the supply of vaccines. However, 5,109,600.00 doses of vaccines valued at US\$38,322,000.00 were supplied to the National Cold Room leaving a difference of US\$81,870,379.80 with UNICEF/AVAT. We recommended that the Chief Director of the Ministry of Health should renegotiate with UNICEF/AVAT to recover the outstanding amount.

35. The Ministry, without the approval of the Central Tender Review Committee, increased the cost of five contracts with total contract sum of GH¢24,256,500.00 by GH¢4,017,000.00 through variation orders. We recommended that the Chief Director should seek retroactive approval to avoid disallowance of such variation amount.

36. The Ministry of Health entered into a 25-year Finance Lease Agreement at a total lease value of GH¢15,265,000.00 in 2020 to be used as a holding and isolation centre in Adaklu in the Volta Region. The works, we noted, include remodelling the existing buildings to be used as holding, treatment and isolation centres but could not use the facility for the intended purpose which resulted in an additional cost of GH¢20,382,247.70. We recommended to the Chief Director to consider outright acquisition of the buildings.

National Food Buffer Stock Company

37. We noted during our review that, between April 2020 and September 2020, National Food Buffer Stock Company (NAFCO) received three payments totalling GH¢42,237,770.00 however, we noted that waybills from the various Institutions amounted to GH¢40,831,685.00 resulting in an over-invoicing of GH¢1,406,085.00. We recommended to the CEO of National Food Buffer Stock Company to refund the excess amount paid to the Auditor General's Recoveries account.

Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection

38. We noted that Management of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection used honour certificates to retire an amount of GH¢11,999,444.00 paid in cash to caterers who provided hot meals during the

lock down period. We recommended to the Chief Director of the Ministry to, in future, avoid or at least minimize the use of honour certificates in the acknowledgement of transactions.

Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development

39. Contrary to Regulation 78 of the Public Financial Management Regulation (PFMR), Management of the Ministry made payments totalling GH¢285,135.64 on 10 transactions not related to COVID-19 activities. We recommended that; the Chief Director ensures the refund of the GH¢285,135.64 to the Auditor-General's recoveries account.

MINISTRY OF FINANCE COORDINATING ACTIVITIES

Receipt and utilisation of funds

40. We observed that the Ministry of Finance received a total of GH¢749,017,632.34 comprising GH¢500,000,000 transferred from the Controller & Accountant General (CAG) Goods and Services account and GH¢249,017,632.34 transferred from the Contingency Fund into the Ministry of Finance COVID-19 Response Cedi and Dollar Accounts held at the Consolidated Bank of Ghana (CBG), Stadium branch. Details of the transfers are as follows:

Date	Amount (GH¢)	Amount (US\$)	Sources
3/26/20	21,000,000.00	0.00	C&AG Goods and Services Account
3/31/20	19,000,000.00	0.00	C&AG Goods and Services Account
4/9/20	40,000,000.00	0.00	C&AG Goods and Services Account
4/14/20	20,000,000.00	0.00	C&AG Goods and Services Account
4/17/20	29,823,000.00	0.00	Contingency Fund
4/27/20	68,239,345.00	0.00	Contingency Fund
5/22/20	81,084,787.38		
	14,431,750.00		Contingency Fund

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from page 7

7/7/20 10,587,009.33
1,866,934.00 Contingency Fund
7/8/20 8,725,000.00 0.00
Contingency Fund
9/2/20 13,006,000.00 0.00
Contingency Fund
10/23/20 10,146,416.40
1,776,800.00 Contingency Fund
10/26/20 23,245,936.00 0.00
Contingency Fund
1/14/21 400,000,000.00 0.00
C&AG Goods and Services
Account
Total 744,857,494.11
18,075,484.00
CAGD 500,000,000.00
Contingency 249,857,494.11
41. In reviewing the Consolidated Bank of Ghana statements, we noted that the Ministry of Finance disbursed a total amount of GH¢57,782,745.00 to MDAs and made payments amounting to GH¢541,292,422.94 on COVID-19 activities in 2020 and 2021. The amount of GH¢541,292,422.94 was made to suppliers and service providers for procurement of PPEs, medical supplies, evacuation of Ghanaians, fumigation & disinfections, and other COVID-19 related expenditures. Details are provided below:
REVENUE 2021-GH¢ 2020-GH¢ Cumulative as at 2021-GH¢
Government of Ghana (CAGD)
400,000,000.00 100,000,000.00
500,000,000.00
Covid -19 Alleviation Programme (CAP) (Contingency Fund)
0.00 244,857,494.11
244,857,494.11
Exchange Gains 3,354,866.99
804,071.24 4,158,938.23
Individual Donation 0.00 1,200.00
1,200.00
Total Revenue 403,354,866.99
345,662,765.35 749,017,632.34
EXPENDITURE
Medical Supplies 4,931,669.83
75,936,415.54 80,868,085.37
Personal Protective Equipment
205,036,563.51 0.00
205,036,563.51
Hotel Accommodation on Quarantine
5,006,190.14 51,162,323.38
56,168,513.52
Fumigation and

Disinfections
96,323,102.05 0.00 96,323,102.05
Safety Operations by National Securities
0.00 65,197,061.67 65,197,061.67
Provision of Dry Food Packages and Hot Meals
0.00 26,763,000.00 26,763,000.00
Transfer to Ministries, Departments and Agencies
0.00 57,782,745.00 57,782,745.00
Evacuation of Ghanaians 0.00 8,967,330.35 8,967,330.35
Administration & Coordination
646,620.00 1,322,146.47
1,968,766.47
Total Expenditure 311,944,145.53
287,131,022.41 599,075,167.94
Excess of income over expenditure
91,410,721.46 58,531,742.93
149,942,464.39
42. Our review showed that as at 31 December 2021, the accounts had a balance of GH¢149,942,464.39 as shown in the table above.
Payment to Noguchi and College for supplies
43. We noted that in 2020 and 2021, the Ministry of Finance made payments totalling GH¢4,931,669.83 and GH¢75,936,415.54 (US\$13,436,963.60) respectively to suppliers for the procurement of medical supplies for the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research and the College of Health Sciences, University of Ghana.
44. Our examination of the underlying records indicated that funds were used for the intended purpose. We however, noted that as at June 2022, US\$5,600,772.00 out of US\$13,436,963.60 worth of medical supplies sent to Noguchi Memorial Institute remained unused. The medical supplies include Antigen Test kits valued at US\$3,643,500.00. We recommended that the Medical Director should ensure that the items are utilised.
Payment to PPE suppliers – GH¢205,036,564
45. During our examination of payment records, we found out that the

Ministry of Finance paid a total amount of GH¢205,036,563.51 for the purchase of PPEs for GES offices, Colleges of Education, Nursing Training Colleges, Universities and Christian Health Association of Ghana in 2020. Details of the payments will be commented on later in the report.
Cost of quarantine and fumigation – GH¢152,491,616
46. The expenditure records of the Ministry of Finance disclosed that GH¢5,006,190.14 and GH¢51,162,323.38 were in 2020 and 2021 respectively paid as cost of quarantine (accommodation and feeding) of stranded Ghanaians and non-residents Ghanaians evacuated or repatriated from abroad.
47. We reviewed the payment records relating to evacuation/repatriation exercises from United Arab Emirates, China, Kuwait, Benin, Nigeria, United Kingdom, Senegal, Netherlands, Lebanon, Jeddah, Iran, Qatar etc. We have provided further details in this report.
48. We also reviewed payment records of an amount of GH¢96,323,102.05 in 2021 for fumigation and disinfection of all Educational Institutions from basic to tertiary schools including public and private Institutions prior to the second phase of reopening of schools. Additional comments on these activities are provided under Ministry of Education in this report.
Payments to Ministry of National Security for cost of security operations – GH¢65,197,062
49. In examining payment vouchers and other related records, we noted that the Ministry of Finance transferred a total amount of GH¢65,197,061.67 to the Ministry of National Security to carry out security operations during the lockdown and 'Operation Return Home'.
50. Our review disclosed that

National Security deployed security personnel to ensure that Ghanaian returnees placed under mandatory quarantine complied. The payment covered allowances to security personnel, contact tracers, fuel for security operations and ration for security personnel under the COVID-19 Emergency Response Plan in 2020. Further details on this activity is stated under Ministry of National Security in this report.
Payment for cost of food – GH¢26,763,000
51. We noted from our review that in 2020, a total amount of GH¢26,763,000.00 was expended on the cost of food by the National Food Buffer Stock Company Limited, Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection and NADMO, for payment of dry food packages, hot meals for vulnerable persons and transportation of food item to Faith based organisations. Management issues on how the funds were utilised will be highlighted under the various Institutions in the report.
Transfer of funds to Institutions – GH¢57,782,745
52. Our examination of bank statements and other related records disclosed that the Ministry of Finance transferred a total amount of GH¢57,782,745.00 to the Ministries of Local Government and Rural Development, Communication, Sanitation and Water Resources, Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs, and Transport, as well as the Christian Health Association of Ghana for various COVID-19 activities.
53. We reviewed the records on the funds released to these Institutions and management issues thereof are stated under the various Institutions in this report.
Payment to Airlines – GH¢8,967,330
54. We observed that the Ministry of Finance in 2020 paid

a total of amount of GH¢8,967,330.35 to United Arab Emirates and Ethiopian Airlines for the evacuation of Ghanaians from various countries. We reviewed the expenditure and confirmed the payment.
Administration and coordination cost – GH¢1,968,766
55. Our review disclosed that the Ministry of Finance spent a total of GH¢1,968,766.47 on administration and coordination during the period under review. An amount of GH¢646,620 was spent on administration and GH¢1,322,146.47 on coordination activities. We examined the expenditures and confirmed the payments. **DETAILS OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**
Payments to service providers outside GIFMIS – GH¢543,058,709
56. Regulation 61 of the Public Financial Management Regulations, 2019 (L.I. 2378) states that, 'a commitment and payment of a covered entity shall be made in the Ghana Integrated Financial Management Information System (GIFMIS) within a commitment ceiling issued according to budget availability.'
57. We observed that in 2020, 102 payment vouchers were used in disbursing GH¢231,150,955.97 to service providers for the provision of hotel accommodations, evacuations of Ghanaians, supply of fuel and transfer of funds to MDAs. We however, noted that the payments to service providers were made outside the GIFMIS platform. Similarly, in 2021, 92 payment vouchers were used to pay GH¢311,907,753.13 for PPEs, hotel accommodation and fumigation by resorting to the use of manual cash books on excel spread sheets and manual cheques other than GIFMIS.
58. MoF explained that "all transfers to the MoF COVID-19 accounts managed by the MoF were processed through the GIFMIS platform. The total transfer of GH¢543,058,079.13 have been recorded as

to be cont.