

A-G's Report Reveals Nearly 50% Of COVID-19 Funds Used For Budget Support, Not COVID-19

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Palestinian envoy to the UN Riyad Mansour

SMG Pays Glowing Tribute To Amilcar Cabral, The Great Pan Africanist



The Socialist Movement of Ghana (SMG) has paid glowing tribute to Amilcar Lopez da Costa Cabral, a great Pan-Africanist Revolutionary and teacher whose immense contribution in the African liberation struggle resulted in freedom for some countries which were under colonial oppression. Fifty (50) years after his passing, the SMG in a statement signed by Yaw

Cont. on page 8

PALESTINE

Over 100 Countries Condemn Israel's Punitive Measures Against Palestinians

More than 100 United Nations (UN) member states have signed a joint statement condemning Israel's punitive measures against Palestine following the adoption of a resolution at the UN

General Assembly last month. The resolution asked the International Court of Justice (ICJ) for a legal opinion on the status of Israeli policies in the occupied Palestinian territories.

The signatories of the statement, as shared by the Palestinian Authority (PA) last Monday, expressed "deep concerns regarding the Israeli government's decision to impose punitive measures against the

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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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A-G's Report Reveals Nearly 50% Of COVID-19 Funds Used For Budget Support, Not COVID-19

An audit report on the government of Ghana's COVID-19 expenditure has shown that nearly 50 per cent of the money the state mobilised to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in the country was used for budget support and not issues related to the outbreak.

The report, which was prepared by the Auditor General Department, indicated that the government raised nearly GH¢22 billion, as of June 2022, to fight COVID-19 in Ghana through the Contingency Fund, the World Bank Group, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the European Union (EU).

However, out of the total amount raised to fight COVID-19 only about GH¢12 billion (a little over 50 percent of the total funds raised) was used for activities geared toward fighting the spread of the virus and its impact in Ghana.

“We noted from our examination of the records that the amount of GH¢21,844,189,185.24 were sourced from the Contingency Fund, the World Bank Group, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the European Union (EU) and the sale of BOG-COVID-19 Bonds for the 2020, 2021 and 2022 Fiscal Years to finance the Coronavirus Alleviation Programme and implementation of the Ghana COVID-19 Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan as well as Budgetary Support

“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



Ken Ofori-Atta, Minister of Finance

mitigate the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic in Ghana,” parts of the report read.

The A-G report also uncovered that the government paid during the period of March 2020 and June 2022 paid an amount of \$80 million for the purchase of COVID-19 vaccines. However, the vaccines have since not been delivered to the country.

The audit report on the government's COVID-19 expenditure comes after calls by Ghanaians, including Members of Parliament from the minority, for a probe after allegations of misappropriation of funds raised to fight the virus.

THE INSIGHT

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PALESTINE

Over 100 Countries Condemn Israel's Punitive Measures Against Palestinians

from front page

Palestinian people, leadership, and civil society." They said they "reject" these punitive measures and "call for their immediate reversal." The number of signatories to the statement surpasses the total number of 'yes' votes in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). On December 30, 87 countries had voted in favor of [the resolution](#) and 26 had voted against, with 53 abstentions. Germany, Italy, France, and Japan are among the signatories of the statement condemning the Israeli move. These [countries](#) had either voted against the resolution or had abstained during the vote in the UNGA. Though Israel had rejected the vote, calling it "illegitimate" and "absurd," the new ultra-right government led by Benjamin Netanyahu announced a series of punitive measures against the Palestinians within hours of its passing. Among them was the diversion of USD 39 million from the taxes collected from the occupied territories for Israel's so-called "victims of terrorism" fund. It also revoked the travel permits provided to

Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad Maliki and some other Fatah officials, which had allowed them free travel without having to seek permission each time from the Israeli authorities. Newly appointed extremist Interior Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir also revoked permissions for Israeli lawmakers to visit Palestinian prisoners and made the waving of the Palestinian flag illegal. Israel also issued freeze notices against all Palestinian construction inside the occupied West Bank. On Wednesday, [Israel](#) claimed that the resolution adopted in the UNGA was "poisonous and destructive." Israel's UN ambassador Gilad Erden called the resolution "a knife in the heart of any chances of dialogue or reconciliation." Palestinian ambassador Riyad Mansour [questioned](#) Israel's condemnation of the resolution, claiming that it seemed as though "Israeli representatives live in a parallel dimension where the entire world is wrong and they are right." He rejected Israeli claims, saying that "we face an absurd situation where

impunity is enjoyed by those who violate the law and collective punishment is endured by those entitled to its protection."

"Diverting Palestinian funds is piracy"

Palestinians have criticized Israel's repeated practice of withholding or deducting from Palestinian funds, particularly at a time when the occupied territories are facing an unprecedented economic crisis, and have called this move "[piracy](#)." According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Israel, as an occupying power, controls close to two-thirds of all Palestinian revenue generated through taxation, customs fees, and other sources. As per the agreements reached during the Oslo accords in the 1990s and afterwards, Israel is supposed to transfer the revenue it collects from Palestine to the PA so that the latter is able to fulfill its administrative and political responsibilities. However, as the UNCTAD [report claims](#), Israel has a habit of making "unilateral deductions," which makes the finances of the PA



Palestinian envoy to the UN Riyad Mansour

vulnerable and its capacity to deliver basic services in the occupied territories unstable. When, earlier this month, Israel announced that it would be withholding the USD 39 million from the PA fund, it attempted to justify this by saying that the money would have been used by the PA to "[incentivize terrorism](#)." Instead, Netanyahu's government claims that it will divert the money to "victims of Palestinian terrorism," mostly Israeli forces and settlers killed or wounded during their aggression against Palestinians. The PA has been using a part of its revenues to help the victims of Israeli aggression in the occupied territories. Every year, hundreds of Palestinians are killed or maimed by the occupation forces. For Israel, this support is apparently akin to "incentivizing terrorism."

The PA is already struggling with a severe economic crisis, as noted in the UNCTAD report and [other studies](#). This diversion of revenue would make it impossible for the Palestinians to establish any kind of autonomous economic existence, or to pursue the policies necessary to tackle the growing poverty and unemployment in the occupied territories. The confiscation of the USD 39 million by Israel, along with several other [restrictions](#), is more than just a show of the occupation's economic control over the PA. It is a form of punishment not limited to those directly harmed by violence, but Palestinians as a whole, as it [impacts their capability to fund](#) even basic social services such as healthcare and education.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS REPORT

Compiled By Peoples Dispatch

Iran Warns Of Retaliatory Measures If EU Member Countries Designate IRGC A Terrorist Organization



Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian. (Photo: Press TV). Last week, the European parliament adopted a resolution asking member countries to designate the IRGC a terrorist organization over its alleged "terrorist activities, suppression of protests, and supplying of drones to Russia"

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian over the weekend warned that Iran may leave the Nuclear non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) if the European parliament's resolution asking member countries to designate the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) a terrorist organization is implemented, [Press TV reported](#). He was speaking on the sidelines of the special session

of the Iranian parliament on the European sanctions. The speaker of the Iranian parliament, Baqer Qalibaf, also [said](#) that European countries "should not close the window of diplomacy" by designating the IRGC a terrorist organization, or they should be ready to face retaliatory measures such as the designation of all their forces deployed in the region as

terrorist groups.

Last week, the European Parliament (EP) adopted two resolutions putting the IRGC on the EU's terror watchlist and asking its member states to designate it a terrorist organization. It also asked for fresh sanctions against several other Iranian entities and individuals, including President Ebrahim Raisi, over their role in alleged human rights violations during the recent anti-Hijab protests in Iran.

Iran has [maintained](#) that the mass anti-Hijab protests, which broke out in September last year following the suspicious death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini and lasted for months, were backed by foreign elements with the objective of regime change. Earlier, in a phone conversation with his Swedish counterpart Tobias Billstrom, Foreign Minister Amir-Abdollahian had underlined

that the EP's resolution violates the UN charter and is "ungrateful," as the IRGC had played a significant role in the fight against ISIS, which was threatening European capitals.

EU following US diktats

Iran [condemned](#) the EP's move, claiming that the resolution once again showed that the EU had no free will and "has turned into a puppet of US terrorism, the Zionist regime, and the hated anti-national [Iranian] groups."

The US had already listed the IRGC as a terrorist organization, as part of the so-called 'maximum pressure' campaign implemented by the former Donald Trump administration following its unilateral withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) in May 2018. The EP's resolution was adopted by a vote of 598 in favor and nine against, with 31 abstentions. The amendment in the EU's annual foreign policy report [asks](#) "the EU

and its member states to include the IRGC on the EU's terror blacklist in the light of its terrorist activity, the repression of protesters, and its supplying of drones to Russia."

Iran has [rubbished this last allegation](#), mostly echoed by the US and its NATO allies, of its drones being used by Russia in Ukraine, and called it propaganda. If implemented, the ban would invite criminal proceedings against members of the IRGC and its subsidiary militias such as Basij and the Quds force. Its assets would also be frozen and any association with it would invite criminal proceedings. Iran maintains that listing the IRGC as a terrorist organization is illegal as it is a part of the country's official military. Meanwhile, on Monday, foreign ministers of Europe are set to approve a new, fourth round of sanctions against Iran over the protests, [DW has reported](#).

Progressives Slam World Economic Forum In Davos As "Oligarchic" And Hypocritical

Progressive groups have criticized the recent annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in the Swiss resort town of Davos, which began on Monday, January 16, and concluded on January 20. This year's meeting which was on the theme, 'Cooperation in a Fragmented World,' saw the participation of political leaders and around 1,500 business leaders from across the world. In statements on January 18, the Swiss Party of Labor and the Communist Party slammed the summit as oligarchic, hypocritical, and representative of an undemocratic elitist clique that tries to orchestrate capitalist and imperialist interventions across the world. On January 17, a protest against the WEF by radical anti-capitalist groups was held in the city of Zurich. The WEF is an inter-non

governmental lobbying organization founded in 1971 that works to influence global agendas. It is funded mainly by multinational corporations. Alexander Eniline from the leadership of the Swiss Party of Labor, told *Peoples Dispatch* on January 18, "The WEF, that currently takes place in Davos, is the main yearly meeting of CEOs of transnational corporations and bourgeois politicians from leading capitalist countries, who discuss, without any democratic legitimacy nor any control from the people, questions that concern everyone. The countries of the global South have nothing to say about decisions that will harm them. This kind of forum shows the fundamentally anti-democratic, oligarchic nature of our system." On Sunday, a day before the opening of the summit, climate activists

demonstrated in Davos, protesting the participation of energy firms such as Chevron, Saudi Aramco, and British Petroleum (BP) at the WEF, accusing such companies of hijacking the climate debate. Following the protest, the Young Socialists Switzerland (JUSO) [stated](#) that "the powerful and rich cannot decide about our future undisturbed! The WEF stands for destruction and we are the future!" According to Eniline, "As climate change is dramatically [getting faster], that oligarchy speaks about how to make more money in 'green' technologies for the same corporations that are accountable for the current catastrophe. They also discuss how to send more weapons to

Ukraine, which implies worsening the war. The Swiss Party of Labor condemns such kinds of forums, and fights for a democratization of international relations."

At the WEF 2023, a delegation from Ukraine including the wife of President Volodymyr Zelensky, Olena Zelenska, and Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko was present to lobby for more aid and ammunition for Ukraine to continue the war against Russia.

Sources from the Communist Party of Switzerland told *People Dispatch* that "one of the main topics of discussion this year is the war in Ukraine. Unfortunately, the participants speak of peace, but Russia is not part of it. In addition,

Olena Zelenska, the first lady of Ukraine, flew to Davos asking for more weapons, whereas the attendees are already discussing how to divide and share—in a neocolonial fashion—Ukraine after the war. This is not helping the cause of peace; to the contrary! They also speak of reducing inequalities, and yet most of the attendees are part of the richest 1% in the world." The party added that "the protection of the environment is also a major discussion in the WEF summit. However, every year, 1000 private jets fly to Davos, which is equal to the pollution emitted by 300,000 cars altogether."

Poultry Farmers Cry Over 300% Rise In Feed In 2 Years



Poultry farmers in the country are in tears over the rising cost of feed which has recorded over 300 percent astronomical increase in two years.

President of Ghana National Association of Poultry Farmers, Victor Opong Adjei, on October 16, 2022 noted that poultry feed had risen by 300% in two years. He stated that the prices of the

main poultry feeds - wheat bran, soybean and maize have shot up astronomically.

According to Victor Opong Adjei, wheat bran which was selling at GH¢15 two years ago was sold at GH¢50 in 2022.

Soybean which was sold at GH¢150 two years ago shot up to GH¢400 per kilogramme in 2022.

Maize, on the other hand, shot up by 60 percent.

Three months after raising concerns

over the cost of the feed, the price keeps rising again .

This is the full story originally published on October 16, 2022 by thebftonline.

About 70 percent of poultry farms in the country are on the verge of collapsing as poultry feed increases astronomically, president of the Ghana National Association of Poultry Farmers (GNAPF), Victor Opong Adjei, has said.

Two years ago wheat bran used to sell at GH¢15 for a 25kg bag but is now selling at GH¢50. Soya bean that was also sold at GH¢150 is now selling at GH¢400 per kilogramme, and the price of maize is no better than those two and has seen an up to 60 percent increment in recent times.

These are the main ingredients used in the preparation and production of poultry feed; and once they surge in price, managing their poultry farms becomes very expensive for farmers.

The Bono Regional Minister, Justina Owusu Banahene, at the 23rd Regional Annual General Meeting of Association of Ghana Industries (AGI) last week in Kumasi hinted that about half the poultry farms in her region are folding-up.

Mr. Opong Adjei confirming what the Regional Minister said, explained to B&FT that the issue is much bigger as there has not been any intervention by government to help assuage their plight.

He confirmed that most farmers are reducing the capacity on their farms in order to stay in business, even though feeding the birds is having a heavy toll on them.

He further cautioned that if proper measures are not put in place, the poultry industry might collapse totally. "The situation is getting out of hand. It looks like there is no intervention to sustain the poultry industry. Very soon, we will not have a single poultry farm in the country. The situation is bad.

"The farms are basically in the Bono and Ashanti Regions. They are all having the same challenge as a result of the feed cost that has gone up over 300 percent. We were looking for an intervention by the ministry, but nothing came out of it; so it has now become very critical. "If you go to the Bono Region, one farmer who owned a 300,000-bird capacity poultry farm has sold his birds and now has only 50,000 left. And even with that, it's a challenge feeding them. When you go to the Eastern Region there is another farmer with 32,000 capacity; he now has only 700 birds. The situation is the same across the country, and it is very critical and needs timely intervention," Mr. Opong Adjei lamented.

On the number of jobs lost, Mr. Opong Adjei explained that once the poultry farmers are cutting down on production, some of their staff will definitely be laid-off. He noted that depending on the size of a farm, staff strength could be around 50 or more.

COPEC Proposes Alternative Policy To Control Fuel Prices

The Chamber of Petroleum Consumers Ghana (COPEC) has proposed a solution it describes as the "funnel arrangement" to help control fuel prices in the long term. Under the arrangement, the Chamber suggested that instead of Bulk Oil Distributors (BDCs) importing petroleum products in fragments, the country should rather aggregate the volumes required over a period and import in bulk.

In an interview with the Ghana News Agency, Duncan Amoah, Executive Secretary, COPEC, said the proposed policy would also ease the demand for forex on the part of the BDCs and help to reduce the depreciation of the Cedi.

"We should aggregate our volumes and auction it to the oil traders. Once the oil trader knows that for this quarter Ghana is requesting for a million tonnes, if you ask them to give you quotations, you are likely to get a more efficient pricing system," Mr Amoah said. He added: "Aggregated importation would help to price fuel for at least in the next three months at a constant figure



Duncan Amoah, Executive secretary of COPEC

instead of the current fluctuations in prices." After weeks of recording consistent decline, fuel prices shot up again on Monday, January 16, 2023, owing to the about 10 per cent depreciation of the Cedi in the last two weeks. Currently, petrol is selling at an average GH¢13.90, from GH¢12.40, whilst diesel is selling at about GH¢15.60 per litre, from about GH¢13.70. On Monday, the Bulk Oil Storage and Transportation Company (BOST) took delivery of the first consignment of petroleum products delivered under the Government's Gold for Oil Policy. The about 41,000 metric tonnes of the petroleum products is valued at about \$43 million. The Government announced the Gold for Oil Policy in November last year as an innovative measure to exchange gold for petroleum products instead of US Dollars.

The Government said the move was intended to reduce the demand for dollars for the importation of petroleum products and by extension reduce the rate of depreciation of the Cedi.

It is estimated that the country required about \$400m to import petroleum products monthly. Mr Amoah said the Gold for Oil Policy was not the solution to the instability in fuel prices, adding that the Policy may create additional layers in the value chain that could compound the problem. He urged the Economic Management Team and the Bank of Ghana to use the sale of the gold to rather stabilise the Cedi so that every sector that relied on Dollars would benefit. "Every single active actor that we are introducing along the chain in the Gold for Oil deal is likely to come out with one cost or the other and that would probably add to the cost of the oil," he said.

Source -- GNA

Nkawkaw MP Cuts Sod For The Construction Of A GHC 4.2Bn Health Centre For Amanfrom Community



Joseph Akwasi Frimpong

The Member of Parliament for Nkawkaw, Joseph Akwasi Frimpong has announced plans to invest an amount of 4.2bn GHC in the construction of a new health centre for the people of Nkawkaw Amanfrom. The MP made the announcement during a groundbreaking ceremony to commence construction works on the project. The MP however thanked Nananom and the residents of the community for donating the land for the project and charged them to help contractors build the facility

with their communal labour. On her part, Mrs Celestine Asante the Municipal Health Director for Kwahu West Assembly also explained that the purpose of constructing the health centre at Amanfrom was the fact that, the area has become a significant business centre and therefore could be prone to vehicular accidents hence, her outfit's resolve to provide the facility for the area. She further charged chiefs to earmark some of their lands for future developments. Nana Omari Boabeng, Odikro of Nkawkaw Amanfrom on the other hand thanked the authorities for the commencement of the facility after a long period of appeals. He further noted that their current CHIPS Compound is a rented storeroom which is paid for annually and yet is unfit for its purpose.

Nana Omari Boabeng however promised to rally his people to help contractors complete the project on time with

SMG Pays Glowing Tribute To Amilcar Cabral, The Great Pan Africanist

from front page

Appiah-Kubi, for the General Secretary has eulogized and chronicled his historic achievements. This is the full text of the statement; January 20th 2023.

CABRAL: TRIBUTE TO A GREAT PAN-
AFRICANIST REVOLUTIONARY &
TEACHER

50 years ago today, on 20th January 1973, the secret police (PIDE) of Fascist Portugal assassinated Amilcar Lopez da Costa Cabral using a disgruntled cadre of the Independence struggle.

Amilcar Cabral was the iconic thinker, political leader, principal teacher, tireless ambassador, and military strategist of the African Party for the independence of Guinea and Cape Verdes ("PAIGC"). He was also a central figure in the struggle against brutal Portuguese colonialism in Angola, Mozambique and the Islands of Principe and Sao Tome. Indeed, Cabral was a leader of the wider pan-Africanist movement participating clandestinely in meetings with other architects of continental unity such as Nkrumah, Sekou Touré, Senghor, Selassie. Cabral's internationalism left a wider "South" footprint including for example his collaboration with the Brazilian Left and the involvement of seminal educational theorist Paolo Freire in the development of education programmes in the liberated areas of Guinea Bissau. At the time of his betrayal and assassination PAIGC had all but defeated Portugal militarily and established effective political control over most of Guinean territory. His murder could not therefore halt the momentum towards national liberation in Cape Verde or Guinea Bissau (which arrived just 5 months later). Nor could it prevent freedom for Angola or Mozambique or indeed the rest of the African continent. However, this dastardly act did deprive Africa of a relatively young and energetic leader with genuine independent insights and ability who would no doubt have played an important role in the struggle to construct a united socialist Africa securely anchored in its own culture and brotherhood able to contribute to the progress of humanity. Had Cabral not been cut down the African experience of the 79s and 80s and would probably have been less neo-colonial than it turned out to be. 20th

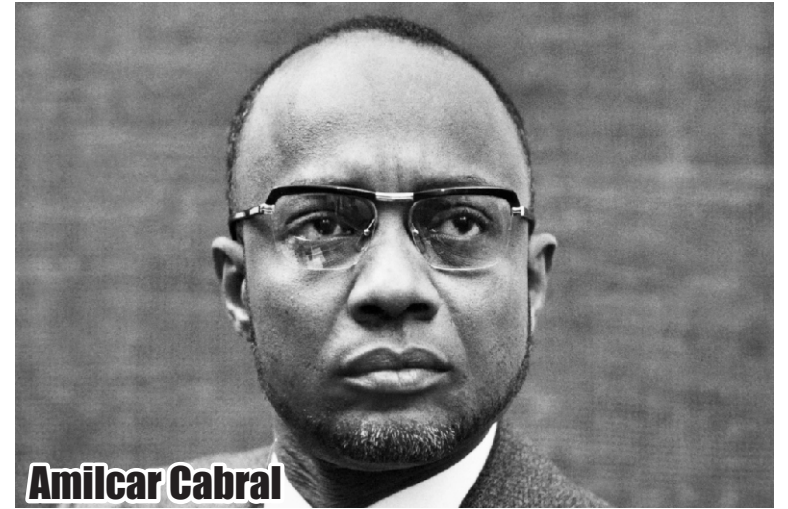
January is thus a Black letter day for Africa and all people of recent African descent.

In 1446 when Portuguese explorers arrived at the western tip of the failing Mali empire in search of gold, they encountered the peoples of what today is Guinea Bissau. For the next 500 years through the trans Atlantic slaving and colonialism Guinea Bissau, like the rest of Africa experienced brutal underdevelopment. Europe set Africa's economic, social, technological, and cultural development back centuries. The Portuguese were one of the most intensely exploitative and brutally repressive practitioners of colonialism. Colonialism looted African lands and resources. It imposed arbitrary taxes to drive Africans into the cash economy. It disrupted food production and imposed cash crop production to feed industries in Lisbon including direct forced Labour. In addition to and in support of this exploitation Colonialists practiced institutional racism and violent repression of African culture. Colonialism unleashed starvation, malnutrition, unsanitary living conditions and the spread of diseases ensuring an average life span in Guinea Bissau and Cape Verde of just 30 years. Only 1% of Guineans and about 3% Cape Verdeans had access to school under colonial rule. Colonialists justified their project to the Portuguese public by specious claims of assimilation and civilization of African people.

Cabral from an early age was a keen scientific observer and analyst of physical and social reality. He was an upholder of processes rather than static "facts". He saw growth and contradiction in everything even before he was exposed to formal dialectics and theories like Marxism. He learned science from his father Juvenal and was committed to revolutionising agriculture in Bissau and Cape Verde from an early age. Agriculture was then dominated by backward Portuguese practices which produced regular famines in his homeland. He had great empathy for Africans and the hardships they experienced even though he himself born to relative privilege (to the extent that war time Guinea Bissau offered privilege to any of its "middle class"). Brilliant performance in school afforded him the opportunity to study Agricultural economics in the Metropole where in addition to

professional skills he developed both the political knowledge and the commitment to free Africa from colonialism starting from Bissau and the rest of the Portuguese empire and starting from the reorganisation of production. He believed that the 'socio-political situation is a consequence of the economic situation". His detailed study of Bissau agriculture and producing communities in the 1970s remains the standard reference on these matters more than 50 years later. The conduct of that study also allowed him to develop the networks necessary for the political mobilisation of the Bissau people. Cabral built a political vehicle; African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC) in 1956 as the vanguard for unifying the dispersed and fragmented struggles of the exploited and oppressed in Guinea Bissau and Cape Verde. His tactics moved from adopting a peaceful solution to colonialism to the adoption of insurrection and armed struggle by 3 August 1961. This change in tactic become intensified after the belligerent Portuguese government as part of numerous hostile methods of suppressing resistance massacred 50 dockworkers on strike at pidguiti. Cabral understood that despite the differences in ethnic, tribal, and social relations, everybody needed to be mobilized under one banner to defeat colonialism and imperialism. Based on this idea He dedicated himself to a strategy of a united struggle against Portuguese colonialism and the building of Pan Africanism. He asserted that 'so long as imperialism is in existence, an independent African state must be a liberation movement in power, or it will not be independent'. Cabral was involved in the formation of the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) and worked closely with Liberation Front of Mozambique (FRELIMO), Movement for the Liberation of São Tomé and Príncipe (MLSTP) all within the framework of the Conference of Nationalist Organizations of the Portuguese Colonies (CONCP). He had a programmatic and methodological approach to the national liberation phase of the struggle.

As Basil Davidson puts it "He raised an army, led and taught it how to fight, gave it detailed orders, supervised its every major action; but he did all this, by the habit of his practice, through a process of collective political discussion". 50 years after his assassination Cabral's example illuminates the path for people struggling against



the decadent capitalist order and in search of a different paradigm to true liberation. An approach to struggle in which the masses are the protagonist of the qualitative change we require. He was a popular educator able to break complex concepts into simple terms for his combatants, most of whom had no formal education. His most famous quotation is drawn from his general directives to combatants of the PAIGC "Hide nothing from our people, tell no lies.... claim no easy victories; but all the time explain, discuss, debate, argue, learn and above all lead" now more than ever is relevant and a guide to all anti-imperialist and anti-capitalist forces.

In November 2018 the Socialist Movement of Ghana (SMG) together with other collaborators established the Amilcar Cabral School (ACS). The school's focus is to provide a physical space where progressive organisations in West Africa and beyond with a secular outlook can gather to expand their collective knowledge and deepen their understanding of class as the defining characteristic of social being while addressing issues of race, ethnicity, gender, and the other subordinate identities through which people experience social oppression. ACS seeks to organize and promote training activities that connect with organised struggles, worldwide, for qualitative change of society. The school was named after Amilcar Cabral because he represents and embodies the method, methodology and pedagogy that we are committed to. His scientific and materialist framework for comprehending reality helped in deepening an understanding of the material structure of his society. Indeed, as a theoretician organically linked to the people's

liberation movements, Cabral refuted dogmatism and challenged the Eurocentric approach to the development of theory. He would frequently admonish his comrades "do not confuse the reality you live in with ideas you have in your head". Correct ideas must emanate from practice, and it is in practice that we test the validity of ideas. Cabral made major theoretical contributions to the framework for studying social phenomenon and reshaping concepts such as culture, nationalism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, race, and class struggle. Amilcar Cabral, believed that the individual's reality does not stand in isolation to others. The principle of the interconnectedness of reality consequently led him to embracing the necessity of internationalism and solidarity amongst the worlds oppressed and exploited people. On 50yrs of the demise of one of Africa's most celebrated thinkers and fighters Amilcar Cabral, we reflect once again over his homage to Osagyefo Kwame Nkrumah during the latter's funeral in Conakry, Cabral said of Nkrumah that he would rise again each dawn in the hearts and determination of all freedom fighters and in the action of all true African patriots. Cabral could have been speaking of himself so dearly do we hold his example and teaching.

We are emboldened by Cabral's ideas and practice as a call to action in our fight for the attainment of human centred production relations crucial for the progress of humanity and the further development of society.

Long live Amilcar Cabral!!!

Yaw Appiah-Kubi
for General Secretary

“War Is An Enemy Of The Poor”: US Activists Honor The Anti-War Legacy Of Martin Luther King Jr.

By Natalia Marques

“We are here, honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.,” said co-executive director of The People’s Forum, Claudia De La Cruz, to a crowd of hundreds gathered in Times Square, in front of the US Army Recruiting Station, on January 14. “We are here to reclaim his legacy and say: no to war.”

The organizers and workers mobilized to demand an end to NATO and a peaceful resolution to the ongoing war in Ukraine. The rally and march was organized by the Act Now to Stop War and End Racism (ANSWER) Coalition, a US anti-war organization, and the People’s Forum. Activists raised slogans to demand a peaceful resolution of the war through negotiations rather than continued US weapons funding. Banners read “Money for our needs/Not the war machine” and “No to NATO/Yes to peace”.

With Congress [passing](#) a massive spending bill in December, containing [over \\$44 billion](#) in US aid to Ukraine, the United States is now set to spend over \$100 billion total on the

Russia–Ukraine War. Activists are demanding that these billions be used instead to fund public services, such as education, jobs and healthcare. “We know we live in a city and in a country with a massive housing crisis. Millions of people [are] struggling to make it every single day.” Journalist Eugene Puryear told the crowd. A recent Bankrate poll revealed that [56%](#) of people in the US could not cover a \$1,000 expense without dipping into savings. “The Biden administration only increased the budget for housing by [\\$12 billion](#). And on top of that, they [cut](#) from the budget: money for seniors who need affordable housing,” Puryear continued.

“Not one more dime for war!” demanded Puryear. “And an all-out offensive for peace, and to change this imperialist war drive that’s gonna destroy the planet if we don’t stand up and say something now.”

De La Cruz also emphasized the impact of war on the working class. “Knowing who our enemy is is important. War is an enemy of the poor,” she said.

Boston-based organizer Rachel



Claudia De La Cruz of The People’s Forum speaks to a crowd outside of the US Army Recruiting Station in Times Square. Although seldom recognized, Martin Luther King Jr. was anti-war. His politics should be applied to demand an end to NATO and the war in Ukraine, say activists

Domond spoke to the crowd about the recent [police murder](#) of 20-year-old Sayed Faisal in Cambridge, Massachusetts. “We’re out here to oppose war abroad, right? But we’re also here to oppose war right here at home,” Domond said. “The city and the police department will do everything that it can to protect its own...we still do not even know the name of the officer that murdered our community member in broad daylight.”

“Peace is the right to live without fear. It’s the right to move about our

lives in our communities safely. It’s the right to know that if we need help, we can get it,” Domond said. In 2022, US police [murdered](#) more people than any other year in recorded history. “This country doesn’t know justice. I mean how could it? When it spends more money on military and weapons than it does basic social services.”

In honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day on January 16, speakers paid tribute to Martin Luther King Jr.’s lesser-known legacy as an anti-war activist. King agitated against the US invasion

of Vietnam, proclaiming in 1967 that the United States government was “the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today.” Since the outbreak of the war in Ukraine in February 2022, the United States has pumped billions of dollars in weapons into the Russia–Ukraine war, a war that has cost [hundreds of thousands of lives](#) to war violence and countless others to [hunger](#) and poverty due to the global [cost of living crisis](#) due to the war.

The march from Times Square concluded in a [teach-in](#) at The Peoples Forum, a few blocks south. Hundreds congregated in the space to hear a discussion between De La Cruz, Puryear, and ANSWER Coalition executive director Brian Becker about the urgent need to reactivate the anti-war movement in the US.

“We have to continue to fight for integration, collaboration, negotiations, because that’s been the only way of resolving conflict. War is a tool of our enemy,” said De La Cruz, in closing, to the crowd assembled inside The People’s Forum. “The only legit war is class war.”

Alan Supporters Are Losing Their Jobs Former NPP General Secretary Alleges

Nana Ohene Ntow, a former General Secretary of the ruling New Patriotic Party (NPP), has called out the party for its handling of issues surrounding the election of its flagbearer for the 2024 presidential elections.

Speaking in an interview on Adom TV, Ohene Ntow alleged that persons who are declaring their support for one of the NPP flagbearer hopefuls, [Alan Kyerematen](#), are being punished with some losing their jobs.

He added that, on the other hand, no action is being taken against NPP and government officials who are declaring their support for Vice President [Mahamudu](#)

[Bawumia](#) for similar reasons.

“The party deliberately brushes aside issues when they are caused by one side of the party but for the other side of the party, you see action being taken... In recent times you see some of the leaders of the party, MPs and ministers declaring their support of Dr Bawumia.

“Antwi Boasiako is in Kumasi saying Bawumia must win, Chairman Samba is in Tamale saying he has declared (Bawumia as the winner) ... Antwi Boasiako is the one going to organise the primaries in the Ashanti Region and he is saying Bawumia must win which means he will do all he can to make Bawumia the winner. “Meanwhile, polling station

executives declaring their support for [Alan Kyerematen](#) are being sacked from their jobs. People who are working in the public sector who have declared their support for Alan are being fired, there is one in Tamale who was fired recently,” he said in Twi.

He added that the treatment of persons who have declared their support for Alan is not the best and will end up dividing the party. The former NPP General Secretary said that if the party fails to handle issues surrounding the presidential primaries properly it will end up disintegrating the party before the 2024 general elections.



Former General Secretary of the NPP, Nana Ohene Ntow

How Akufo-Addo's 'Promise To God' Became A \$350million Scandal-Laden Project



The National Cathedral (centre) is expected to cost \$350m. President Nana Akufo-Addo (left) and Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa

For a country that has Christians making up over 70% of the population and its Muslim community being led by a man whose occasional visits to Christian denominations have been well documented as a show of religious tolerance and unity; erecting a facility to serve as a hub of activities for Christendom should under normal circumstance create no fuss and be well-embraced by most if not all of the country's population. That is not the case for Ghana's National Cathedral which is being built by the Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo government. Instead of it being welcomed with open arms, it has sharply divided opinions which perhaps reflect the deep-seated partisanship that

lies right behind the layer of religious oneness. Since 2017 when President Akufo-Addo first announced that his government was going to oversee the building of a facility that will become the symbol of Christianity in the country, there has been scandal after scandal with no end in sight.

With the argument still raging about the expediency of the project, we highlight the thematic areas on which the different scandals have been built.

Concept

The main basis on which the cathedral was going to be built became the first point of divergence between pro and anti-Cathedral brigades.

The initial point which was sold to Ghanaians by the president and his cohorts was that the Cathedral was going to be a fulfillment of a promise Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo made to 'his' God in the event that he ever becomes president, that he will like the biblical David build a monument in His honour.

There, the debate went against him as people questioned why a man's promise to his God should be the headache of an entire country. Proponents argued that just as the Free Senior High School was a dream project of the president, the National Cathedral is a personal dream that has become national once he won the 2016 elections.

The argument then shifted to the importance of the country Ghana having a monument that reflects the belief system of the majority of the country's population and a signal of the country's depth of gratitude to God for His mercies on the country.

Proponents argued that aside the constitution recognizing Ghana as a secular state, the president and his supporters were looking to harness the religiosity of Ghanaians.

The argument of it serving as a tourist centre has also been shot down as critics question the story behind the cathedral that will serve as the pull-factor for potential tourists.

Location

The siting of the National Cathedral became another hot topic as people wondered why it will be situated in one of the traffic-ridden areas in the capital. To them at a time where complaints were made daily about decongesting the capital, a project which will attract thousands of people, as estimated, should be taken away from an area with a notorious traffic record.

The location also came at the cost of recently-built apartments for some judges. The apartments, some of which were less than two years old were demolished alongside other structures to make way for the project and questions have been asked as to why the state had to incur such losses to put up the Cathedral.

The state is currently the subject of a GH¢120 million lawsuit by Waterstone Realty Limited for the demolition of its structure to make way for the Cathedral.

Funding

When concerns were raised about the expediency and prudence of the project, the reason given by the government which was widely shared by proponents of the Cathedral was that the Cathedral was going to be built by contributions from private citizens and organizations and that the state was only going to provide 'seed capital'. In fact when James Kwabena Bomfeh, the former General Secretary of the CPP went to the Supreme Court for interpretation on the role of government in religious activities such as the National Cathedral, the Attorney-General is said to have argued to the court that the matter of the National Cathedral, the state was only providing the land and seed money.

Events thereafter has brought to light to the fact that all the GH¢339 million spent on the

project so far are from the state coffers and that the fundraising attempts by the government-appointed trustees have not birthed any significant amount. The revelation only deepened opposition to the project as critics felt empowered by the deception by government and pushed for more answers.

Lack of transparency and questionable payments/decisions

As stated by the Member of Parliament for Afigya Kwabre North, one of the major headaches with the cathedral is the opaque nature with some transactions so far undertaken. According to him, even MPs on the majority side are not privy to some of the information about payments made in respect of the Cathedral which have been brought to light by the Member of Parliament of North Tongu, Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa. Since 2022, Okudzeto has made some explosives allegations including the GH¢26million payment to the Nehemiah Group, GH¢2.6million 'irregular' payment to the JNS Talent Centre which has culminated in arguably the biggest scandal bedeviling the project as well as the alleged double identity of the secretary of Board of Trustees, Reverend Victor Kusi Boateng.

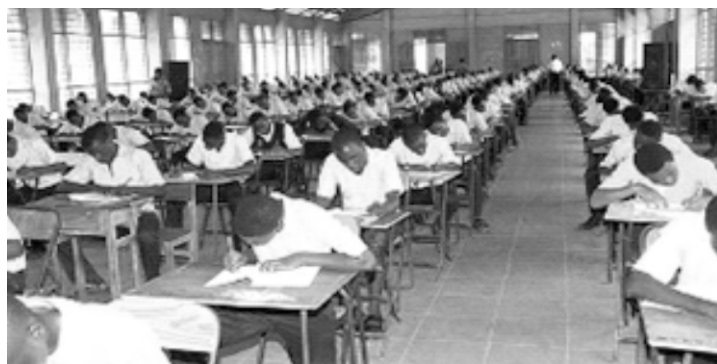
The appointment Sir David Adjaye also courted significant controversy even though the trustees and the renowned architect have explained that the processes leading to the appointment were above board.

Bishop Dag Heward-Mills' letters and resignation

Earlier this week, the Cathedral suffered yet another scandal as letters were written to the secretariat by a former trustee, Bishop Dag Heward Mills. The founder of the Lighthouse Church International raised issues with the cost, location and lack of transparency around the project. Dag Heward-Mills who resigned from the Board of Trustees was unhappy that key decision about the project were taken by persons other than the trustees.

WAEC To Release 2022 BECE Results On January 25

The West African Examination Council (WAEC) has announced that the results of the 2022 Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE) will be released on Wednesday, January 25, 2023. The council in a press statement dated January 19, 2023, said that investigations are ongoing into examination irregularity cases detected during and after the conduct of the examination. "Having successfully conducted the examination at 2,023 centres and completed coordination and marking exercises, the council is far advanced with post-examination activities. "Investigations are ongoing into examination irregularity cases detected during and after the conduct of the examination. For a quick resolution of malpractice



cases, the council appeals to affected school authorities and candidates to respond with dispatch to its invitation. Candidates are informed that their refusal to honour such invitation shall not impede the council from making a final determination on the cases in question... "The target date for the release of results for the BECE for both school and private candidates, 2022 is Wednesday, 25th January 2023," part of the statement read. The statement added that

parents and candidates should remain calm as the council works towards the release of the results.

