

## 2024 Elections: Fitch Solutions Predicts Win For NDC



**Alan Kyerematen**

# ALAN SPEAKS

## On Decision To Be President And His Vision Of Great Transformational Plan For Ghana

**O**utgoing Trade and Industry Minister, Alan Kyerematen has spoken days after his resignation and breathed hope by unveiling what he calls the Great Transformational Plan (GTP).

In view of the bold initiative he has called on Ghanaians to make tremendous sacrifices in preparation for a promising future. The long serving Trade and Industry Minister in a broadcast to

Ghanaians assured all of the possibility of attaining a true independent future. In his frank message to Ghanaians after his surprise resignation from

*Cont. on page 2*

## Legal Tussle Over Britain's Last African Colony

**...As Chagossian People' Reject Negotiations Between UK And Mauritius On Chagos Islands'**

*page 10*

## Mahama Blasts Akufo-Addo Over Akonta Mining



President Nana Akufo-Addo (left) and former President John Mahama

**F**ormer President John Dramani Mahama has taken a swipe at President Nana Akufo-Addo over what he says is his penchant for clearing his appointees and members of his government accused of wrongdoing.

In a Facebook post, the former president said his predecessor's recent comment on the alleged illegal gold mining activities of Bernard Antwi Boasiako, the Ashanti Regional Chairman of the

*Cont. on page 8*

## Kofi Amoabeng Blames Cedi Depreciation On Stealing, Corruption By Politicians

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# The INSIGHT

## EDITORIAL

### DEAL WITH THIS HEALTH MENACE

**T**he 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.

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.

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*from front page*

office, the outgoing Trade and Industry tabled what he described as Great Transformational Plan (GTP) for Ghana spanning from 2025-2030.

In a detailed description of the GTP, Mr. Kyerematen itemized seven points in his bid to build a formidable work unit and independent Ghana.

The seven itemized points read in his speech to Ghanaians are; the primacy of the Private Sector in our national development agenda, attitude to work and enforcement of discipline, corruption and petty theft or thievery, the arrogance of power, passion for excellence, focus more on getting things done than talking, our politics in Ghana is too divisive.

“The primacy of the Private Sector in our national development agenda. The Government's focus must be to facilitate the process of making our private sector competitive, by creating an enabling environment for businesses.

Attitude to work and enforcement of discipline. We as a people should appreciate the need for discipline in all spheres of our national lives and change our attitude to work. It is your duty to ensure that you earn your living from the efforts of your labour.

Corruption and petty theft or thievery, particularly from the public purse, deny our country the benefit of utilizing its tax revenue and other resources for the development of our country.

The arrogance of power has been a major obstruction to progress in our country. In servant leadership, humility is an asset and not a weakness. Passion for excellence. As a country we must celebrate competence and excellence and not mediocrity.

As a people, we must focus more on getting things done than talking. Ghana is gradually becoming a NATO country – “No Action Talk Only”. What Ghana needs now are solutions and actions not debates.

And last but not the least, our politics in Ghana is too divisive. This keeps out some of our best talents in offering themselves for political appointments”, parts of his speech reads.

The seasoned politician also used the platform to officially announce his presidential dreams with confirmation of candidature for the upcoming NPP Presidential Primaries. He pledged to be a transformational leader if given the



**Alan Kyerematen**

mandate first within the NPP and the Ghanaian voter at large.

“If by the will of God and through your goodwill, I am voted first, as the flagbearer of the NPP and subsequently as President of the Republic in the next general elections, I will become the transformational leader of our time, who will build on the foundations laid by successive leaders of our nation over the last sixty-five (65) years.

To achieve this strategic goal of transforming our dear country to become the shining star of the new Africa, I will as President, launch and lead the execution of the Great Transformational Plan (GTP) of Ghana which will span the period 2025 to 2030”, the outgoing Trade and Industry Minister confirmed.

The outgoing Trade and Industry Minister stunned the political space and the ruling NPP with bold resignation from his position on Thursday January 5, 2023.

## THE INSIGHT

**ACTING EDITOR**

- **BENJAMIN AKUFFO**  
(0244669960)  
benjaminakuffo65@yahoo.com

**Secretary**

- **Gifty Agyemang**

**Design and Graphics**

- **Godwin K. Attah**

**Production Manager**

- **Kweku Menz**

### PUBLISHERS

**Militant Publications Limited**

**P. O. Box NT 272**

**Accra-Newtown, Accra**

**Tel: 0244379344/0242836930**

**Email: theinsightonline20@gmail.com**

**LONDON CONTACT**

**5A Wesminster Bridge Road, London SE 1- 7XW**

**Tel: 0171-6201430**

**E-mail: prattc22@aol.com**



# Mahama Blasts Akufo-Addo Over Akonta Mining

*from front page*

ruling New Patriotic Party, only justifies the 'clearing agent' tag attributed to the First Gentleman.

“That penchant by the president to absolve his appointees and other close associates of any wrongdoing as he has done with the ongoing investigations into the operations of Akonta Mining Company is a serious dent on the already deteriorating image of the Office of the President.

“As though proud of that dishonourable badge, 'the clearing agent', Nana Akufo-Addo has yet again justified the appropriateness of his nickname with the seeming presidential exoneration of Akonta Mining, a company owned by a member of his political party (NPP) and accused of illegal gold mining in the country's forest reserves,” Mr Mahama who described the president's action as unacceptable said.

The Catholic Bishops' Conference after its Annual Plenary Assembly in 2022 issued a resolution in which it urged the government to investigate and prosecute Akonta Mining Company owned by Chairman Wontumi for its alleged illegal mining activities. But addressing the 8th National and 16th Biennial Congress of the National Union of Ghana Catholic Diocesan Priests Association, President Akufo-Addo said “Akonta Mining Company is not engaged in any illegal

mining anywhere in Ghana as we speak.” Mr Mahama however believes the president's comments and choice to address the matter the way he did at the event called by Ghana's catholic clergy is rather shocking.

“Fortunately, and unfortunately, we are told by the owner of Akonta Mining that the Minister has explained to him they were forced to unwillingly act against his company because of public pressure from the National Democratic Congress (NDC), CSOs and NGOs. He also very alarmingly said the President called him ostensibly to appease him over Government's action and that the Office of Special Prosecutor cannot touch him,” the former president added.

While describing the comment by the regional chairman as sad for Ghana's record as “the poster boy for rule of law and democratic governance,” Mr Mahama enjoined citizens to support the country's anti-corruption institutions without undue interference and influence.

Meanwhile, the Office of the Special Prosecutor in late 2022 launched an investigation into the activities of Akonta Mining and the allegations made against

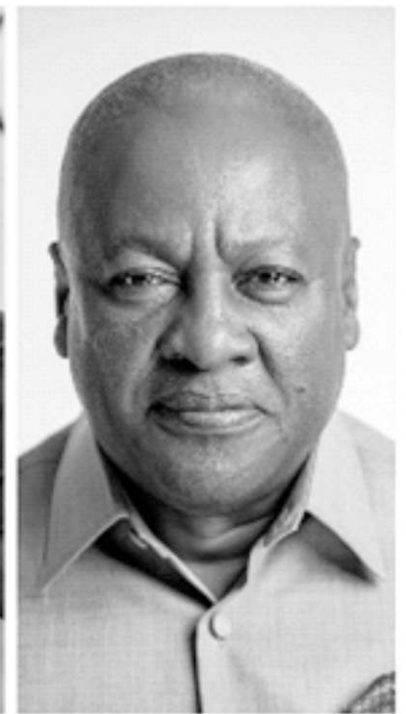
the company. Some critics say the recent comment by President Akufo-Addo is an attempt to interfere in the investigation and exonerate the company and the regional chairman of wrongdoing.

**This is the full statement by former President John Mahama:**

It is unacceptable that President Nana Akufo-Addo has consistently put pressure on state anti-corruption institutions by announcing clearance of appointees and companies that are under investigation for wrongdoing.

That penchant by the president to absolve his appointees and other close associates of any wrongdoing as he has done with the ongoing investigations into the operations of Akonta Mining Company is a serious dent on the already deteriorating image of the Office of the President.

As though proud of that dishonourable badge, 'the clearing agent', Nana Akufo-Addo has yet again justified the appropriateness of his nickname with the seeming presidential exoneration of Akonta Mining, a company owned by a member of his political party (NPP) and accused of illegal gold mining in the country's



*President Nana Akufo-Addo (left) and former President John Mahama*

forest reserves.

The shocking impudence is how and when he even did that at a public event called by the country's catholic clergy.

Fortunately, and unfortunately, we are told by the owner of Akonta Mining that the Minister has explained to him they were forced to unwillingly act against his company because of public pressure from the National Democratic Congress (NDC), CSOs and NGOs. He also very alarmingly said the President called him ostensibly to appease him over Government's action and that the Office of Special Prosecutor cannot touch him.

This is a sad commentary for a country that has in the past been held up in Africa as the poster boy for rule of law and democratic governance.

This sad development also erodes the years of hard work, which has earned Ghana international appeal in climate change and sustainable development discourse globally.

In addition, the President's comment cannot be allowed to override or become a substitute for the statutory mandate granted the investigative bodies of Ghana by the Constitution. Such acts fly in the face of justice and the fight against corruption, and of course erodes the faith of our citizens in our democracy. As enjoined by our National Anthem to “cherish fearless honesty” and “resist oppressors' rule,” we must all as citizens support the anti-corruption institutions to carry out their duties fairly and courageously without undue interference by any influences.

John Dramani Mahama  
Tuesday January 10, 2023.



# INTERNATIONAL NEWS REPORT

## Compiled By Peoples Dispatch

### Over 7,000 Nurses Are On Strike In New York City. Here's Why

By Natalia Marques

On Monday, January 9, over 7,000 New York City nurses from Mount Sinai and Montefiore hospitals in Manhattan and the Bronx, respectively, went on strike. Nurses, organized by the New York State Nurses Association (NYSNA) are demanding safe patient-to-staff ratios, fair wages, and to maintain existing healthcare benefits. Nurses, who authorized a strike on December 21 with an overwhelming vote of 98.8% in favour, have been in contract negotiations with hospital administrations across the city. Initially, the number of nurses set to strike was around 16,000, at eight hospitals: NewYork-Presbyterian, Montefiore, Mount Sinai Hospital, Mount Sinai Morningside and West, Maimonides, BronxCare, Richmond University Medical Center, and Flushing Hospital Medical Center. However, hospital bosses scrambled to reach tentative agreements with the nurses to avert a strike at all hospitals save Montefiore and Mount Sinai Hospital.

The mood outside of Mount Sinai Hospital, in the Upper East Side of Manhattan, was fiery, despite negotiations being tense for the past few days. The picket line swelled with a crowd of hundreds of nurses,

bisected by a road of slow-moving vehicles, many honking in support. Mount Sinai management has claimed that NYSNA walked out of negotiations, while NYSNA has claimed the same of the hospital bosses.

"It is deeply unfortunate that instead of agreeing to either of these solutions and rescinding its strike notice, Mount Sinai's NYSNA leadership has made the decision to ask nurses to leave patients' bedsides during a tridemic," [claimed](#) Mount Sinai on January 9.

Montefiore also made similar implications regarding the commitment of NYSNA nurses to their patients. "Despite Montefiore's offer of a 19.1% compounded wage increase—the same offer agreed to at the wealthiest of our peer institutions—and a commitment to create over 170 new nursing positions, and despite a call from Governor Hochul for arbitration, NYSNA's leadership has decided to walk away from the bedsides of their patients," wrote the hospital in a [statement](#).

Again and again, hospital bosses and their representatives have hammered in the point of how

disastrous a strike by nurses would be.

A strike would be a "public health calamity," claimed Ken Raske, of the Greater New York Hospital Association. Nurses are indeed essential, as evidenced by hospital executives' costly efforts to make up for the losses of the strike by [transferring infants to other hospitals](#) or [hiring travel nurses](#), who are paid more than a regular nurse. Union nurses have pointed out the incongruity of these decisions, as the millions of dollars required to prepare for a strike could be used to simply pay nurses more. And, as striking nurses have emphasized consistently, the picket line is the last place they want to be.

"We would rather be in there, doing what we love," Diane, a nurse at Mount Sinai, told *Peoples Dispatch*, referring to the hospital building behind the picket line.

"We don't wanna leave our patients. This is the last thing that we ever want to do. But unfortunately we're pushed to this point," said Jessica, also a nurse at Mount Sinai. "Management left their patients, not us. We're here fighting for our patients."

These nurses are referring to one of the primary concerns of unionized nurses: the lack of safe staff-to-patient ratios at



NYSNA nurses on the picket line outside of Montefiore Medical Center, in the Bronx. Nurses, organized by the New York State Nurses Association (NYSNA) are demanding safe patient-to-staff ratios, fair wages, and to maintain existing healthcare benefits

New York City hospitals. New York state actually has [existing staffing laws](#), which were passed in 2021 to address precisely the issue of hospitals using understaffing to cut costs. However, since then, New York state has [failed](#) to enforce these laws. Mount Sinai currently has 500 staff openings and Montefiore has 700, according to NYSNA.

Julia, another Mount Sinai nurse, told *Peoples Dispatch*: "When there's too many patients being taken care of, then it compromises safety, and at the same time, it compromises your license. So that's why we're here. It really is safety for the patients as well as for the

nurses."

"Who were [the ones] here during the pandemic? Who is actually at the bedside?" Julia continued. "So if it is [the hospital executives'] family being taken care of, how could you expect me to really be addressing all of the issues of the one patient, if there's maybe 17 other patients being taken care of in the emergency room in or in the ICUs or as inpatients."

Hospital bosses claim that understaffing is due to a [shortage](#) of nurses. In reality, nurses are [leaving the profession](#) at increasing rates due to low wages and high stress. Union nurses argue that by investing in hiring more staff, which will decrease stress, and paying nurses more for their work, hospitals will be able to address a shortage of nurses. Instead of making these investments, the union has pointed out that hospital executives paid themselves [tens of millions in bonuses](#) during the height of the pandemic.

"We want New Yorkers to be taken care of. We stayed with you during COVID. You clapped for us with pots and pans," said Nella Pineda-Marcon, nurse at Mount Sinai and NYSNA secretary, at a January 9 press conference at the Mount Sinai picket line. "Our loyalty is with New Yorkers. Our loyalty is with the community. It's never profit over patients."

### Mass Rallies Across Yemen Denounce Saudi-Led War And Blockade

President of the Sanaa-based government in Yemen, Mahdi al-Mashat, last Sunday January 8, congratulated the thousands of protesters who participated in the "siege is war" rallies held across the country a day earlier to denounce the Saudi-led war and blockade.

Al-Mashat [said](#) that by participating in the rallies, the Yemeni people had once again shown their united opposition to the external aggression directed at their country and the suffering that the war has unleashed on millions of people.

*Al-Masirah* [reported](#) that thousands of Yemenis took to the streets in capital Sanaa and several other cities on Saturday, January 7, denouncing the Saudi Arabia-led

and US-assisted aggression and blockade of Yemen.

The protesters carried banners and posters denouncing the US-Saudi collaboration in the war against Yemen and demanded an immediate end to the siege of the country. Protesters asserted that the blockade was another form of warfare against the people of Yemen.

Protesters also raised the issue of the uncertainty created following the collapse of a rare UN-led [ceasefire](#) in October. Speaking at the protests, Sa'ada Governor Mohammad Jaber Awad said that the "status of no war and no peace" should end as soon as possible as it allows the continued looting of the country's natural resources, *Press Tv* [reported](#).

Ever since the Houthis took control of Sanaa, a Saudi Arabia-led international military coalition has been waging a war in Yemen, calling the Houthis an Iranian proxy. The coalition has also imposed a comprehensive land, sea, and air blockade of Yemen, preventing the movement of both people and goods. The war and the siege have killed thousands of people and caused massive suffering for millions. According to [UN estimates](#), over 377,000 people have been killed in the war so far and millions have been displaced from their homes. Over seven years of war have also severely devastated the health and other civilian infrastructure of Yemen, already the poorest country in the Arab world. According to [one](#)

[estimate](#), despite the ceasefire, over 3,000 Yemenis were killed or injured last year alone.

The US has been supplying weapons worth billions of dollars to Saudi Arabia and its allies and has provided technical and other forms of assistance to the coalition forces in the war. After facing global criticism for its role in creating the world's worst humanitarian crisis, newly elected President Joe Biden decided to end the US role in the war in Yemen in February 2021. However, despite publicly announcing the end of its role in the war, the US has continued [supplying weapons](#) to Saudi Arabia and its allies. There are also reports of its forces being involved in [implementing the siege](#) on Yemen.



# Kofi Amoabeng Blames Cedi Depreciation On Stealing, Corruption By Politicians

There is a new twist to why the local currency - cedi - depreciates against major trading currencies, especially the US dollar. According to the former Chief Executive Officer of now-defunct UT Bank, Prince Kofi Amoabeng, corruption is one of the causes of the high demand for dollars in Ghana. He further accused politicians of hoarding dollars, leading to the depreciation of the cedi. Speaking at the maiden edition of the McDan Business Forum, Kofi Amoabeng said "Ghana exchange rate regime is a pathetic one. The so-called politicians are the

ones hoarding the dollars, but it's seen out there as if they are not the cause of all this. Corruption is part of our problem and we need to work on it". "One thing that causes big demand for dollars is corruption. All the money they are making and stealing are not in cedis but in dollars...They must change dollars. So they hide it under their beds and when they get the opportunity they put it outside", myjoyonline quoted him to have said. It would be recalled that on October 20, 2022, Bloomberg reported that the cedi had diminished in value by 9.6%. The news portal said it makes the total loss of the

cedi in 2022 almost 52%, the highest recorded in 22 years.

The free fall of the cedi now places the currency at the 148th position of worst-performing currencies in the world.

"The currency depreciated as much as 9.6% on Thursday, heading for its biggest decline in 22 years. That took losses in 2022 to nearly 52%, the worst performance among 148 currencies tracked by Bloomberg," the news portal reported. During the same period, a committee was formed to hold talks with domestic bond investors on debt management strategy and



*Prince Kofi Amoabeng, former CEO of now-defunct UT Bank,*

how to negotiate the deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Ghana is targeting an amount of \$3 billion over a three-year period from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) once an agreement on a programme is reached. The new amount requested

as a loan is double the government's initial target of \$1.5 billion. The IMF programme is aimed at restoring macroeconomic stability and safeguarding debt sustainability among many others.

## 2024 Elections: Fitch Solutions Predicts Win For NDC

Fitch Solutions, the research arm of the international rating agency, Fitch Ratings, has predicted that the biggest opposition political party, the National Democratic Congress (NDC), is likely to win the 2024 presidential election. According to Fitch, a survey it conducted indicated that most Ghanaians will be voting for the NDC in the 2024 elections. Mike Kruiniger, a senior country risk analyst at Fitch Solutions in charge of sub-Saharan Africa who disclosed the findings of the survey

before the Christmas holidays, said that Ghanaians will vote for the NDC because of the economic hardships in the country.

Mike Kruiniger added that economic hardship in the country will get worse in 2023 under the New Patriotic Party (NPP) government led by President Nana Akufo-Addo.

"If we look slightly into the future... the general election in 2024, we believe that at this point the opposition NDC is most likely to win.

"Public trust within the

government is extremely low at the moment, and anti-government sentiments are likely to grow further next year due to hardships.

"When asked whom they will trust with the economy, recent polls show that overwhelming majority of respondents (Ghanaians) opted for the opposition NDC, informing our view that a government change is likely in 2025 after the 2024 elections," he said.

**Source --**  
[www.ghanaweb.com](http://www.ghanaweb.com)

## NDC Weija-Gbawe P. C. Hopeful Assures Constituents Of AstroTurfs

By Muhammed Faisel Mustapha

Parliamentary Candidate hopeful for Weija-Gbawe Constituency in the Greater Accra Region, Alhaji Jalali Yunusah has revealed that he is in negotiation with some Turkish investors to help construct AstroTurfs in some selected Communities in the Municipality. This he said forms part of his initiatives as former International Footballer to bring out the talent in the youth of Weija-Gbawe Constituency. The German based Philanthropist made this known during a football gala competition he organized through his Non-governmental Organization (NGO), Health4yu which seeks to bring together all the various wards of the NDC in the Weija-Gbawe Constituency to foster peace and unity ahead of victory 2024. Alhaji Jalali Yunusah further revealed that he has engaged some football teams in Germany and has been provided with some football scout to come to Ghana and fish out talented footballers to build their career in the international stage. He added that a lot of football activities will take place within the Weija-Gbawe Constituency to have

way for the scouts to identify talented footballers, not only from NDC members and supporters but all individuals.

He stated that the youth will be engaged in stakeholders' forum in the signing of any agreement with the Turkish investors with regards to the construction of the Astro-turf projects in the Weija-Gbawe Constituency so as to ensure that the youth have a say and be the most beneficiary of the deal.

According to him, his quest to develop and bring out the talent in the youth was not to gain political goals but it is his dream to promote football and other sporting discipline in a community where he lives. He stated that there are many more initiatives such as Education, Health, Sports, Sanitation, Youth and Women Empowerment and among others in the pipeline for the good people of Weija-Gbawe Constituency. He also hinted that he will bring on board some German medical Doctors to organise health screening exercise within the Weija-Gbawe Constituency which according to him is scheduled to take place in March this year.

# Prof. Naana Jane Named In 2023 List Of 100 Most Reputable Africans

Ghana's first female Vice Chancellor, former education minister and the 2020 running mate of the NDC, Professor Naana Jane Opoku-Agyemang has been named in the 2023 list of 100 Most Reputable Africans. The list by Reputation Poll International (RPI), a leading global reputation firm (reputationpoll.com), named nine other Ghanaians selected in the areas of governance, entertainment, human rights/advocacy, education, and business.

The other Ghanaians are Eric Yirenkyi Danquah, a professor of plant genetics at the West Africa Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI) and the winner of the 2022 Africa Food Prize at the AGRF2022 Summit in Kigali, Rwanda and Madam Afua Kyei, chief financial officer at Bank of England.

Others are Dag Heward-Mills, founder and bishop of the Lighthouse Chapel International, Edward Kobina Enninful, OBE, editor-in-chief, British Vogue, Ken Kwaku, honorary consular of Ghana to Tanzania; and Kofi Tutu Agyare, managing partner at Nubuke Investments.

The rest are Madam Lucy Quist, managing director, Morgan Stanley Ghana, Sir Samuel Esson Jonah, chancellor of the University of Cape Coast and Madam Theresa Ayaode, executive director of Multiple Concepts Groups.

The selection criteria were integrity, visibility, and impact. In addition to the individuals recognised on Reputation Poll International's "100 Most Reputable Africans" list for their various achievements, there are also those who are celebrated for their contributions to social impact and social entrepreneurship, helping to transform businesses in Africa and positively impacting lives without causing controversy. During the announcement of

the list, Beldina Auma, the co-chairperson of the Review and Audit Committee, as well as the chair emeritus of the World Bank Group-IMF African Society, President of SCIP-International, said the organisation was dedicated to recognising people, groups, and businesses who continually improve lives in Africa and around the world. **Below is the list of the 100 Most Reputable people in Africa in alphabetical order;**

1. Abdulrazak Gurnah FRSL || British Author and Professor
2. Afua Kyei || Chief Financial Officer at Bank of England
3. Agnes Matilda Kalibab || President of Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)
4. Aisha Yesufu || Human Rights Advocate
5. Amani Abou-Zeid (H.E) || Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, African Union Commission
6. Amina Chawahir Mohamed Jibril || Deputy Executive Director, UNEP
7. Arunma Oteh || Economist and Financial Manager
8. Basita Michael (Esq) || President of the Sierra Leone Bar Association
9. Bibata Ganemtore Nabaloum || Head of Association for Promotion of Women and Children (APEE)
10. Bibi Ameenah Firdaus Gurib || Fellow of the African Academy Of Sciences
11. Birama Sidibé || Former Vice President Of the



12. Bolaji Akinremi (Amb.) || Director of Economy Trade & Investment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
13. Carol Bouwer || CEO, Carol Bouwer Productions
14. Carolyn Steyn || Founder, 67 Blankets for Nelson Mandela Day
15. Chantal Moussokoura Fanny (Sen.) || Senator for Folon District
16. Clare Akamanzi || CEO, Rwanda Development Board (RDB)
17. Conrad Mbewe (Pastor) || Author and Pastor at Kabwata Baptist Church
18. Cosmas Maduka || Founder and Chairman of the Coscharis Group
19. Coumba D. Sow || Representative at UN Food and Agriculture Organization
20. Dag Heward-Mills (Bishop) || Founder and Bishop of the Lighthouse Chapel International
21. Danai Jekesai Guirira || Actress
22. Dauda Lawal (Dr.) || Executive Vice Chairman and CEO of

23. David Olaniyi Oyedepo (Bishop) || Founder and General Overseer at Living Faith Church Worldwide (LFCW)
24. Denis Mukwege || Founder and Head of the Panzi Hospital
25. Edi Mue Gathegi || Actor
26. Edward Kobina Enninful OBE || Editor in Chief, British Vogue
27. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf (H.E) || Former President of Liberia
28. Enoch Adeboye (Pastor) || General Overseer, Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG)
29. Eric Yirenkyi Danquah || Founding Director, The West Africa Centre for crop Improvement (WACCI)
30. Fatoumatta Njai || Representative of ECOWAS
31. Fitsum Assefa Adela || Leader, FDRE Minister of Planning and Development
32. Goodluck Ebele Azikwe Jonathan (H.E GCFR, GCON) || Former President of Nigeria
33. Helena Ndume (Dr.) || Head of Ophthalmology,

34. Jane Naana Opoku-Agyemang || Chancellor of the Women's University in Africa
35. Jennifer Douglas (Dr.) || Founder and President, Gede Foundation
36. Jonathan Fonati Koffa || Deputy Speaker Liberia
37. Joaquim Alberto Chissano || Former President of Mozambique
38. Joseph-Achille Mbembe || Author, Philosopher, and Lecturer
39. Joyce Msuya || Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator at the UN
40. Judy Dlamini || Chancellor at the University of Witwatersand
41. Kandeh Kolleh Yumkella (Alhaji, Dr.) || Former Director-General of UNIDO
42. Kanya King, CBE || CEO, Music of Black Origin (MOBO) Awards
43. Ken Kwaku || Honorary Consular of Ghana to Tanzania
44. Kofi Tutu Agyare || Managing Partner at Nubuke Investments
45. Lazarus Chakwera (H.E) || President of Malawi
46. Leruo Tshekedi Molotlegi || 36<sup>th</sup> Kgosi (king) of the royal Bafokeng Nation
47. Leymah Gbowee || Peace Activist
48. Leila Slimani || Author and Journalist
49. Lia Tadesse ||



# Prof. Naana Jane Named In 2023 List Of 100 Most Reputable Africans

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Minister of Health in Ethiopia

50. Lindiwe Mazibuko || Executive Director of Apolitical Academy
51. Lucy Quist || MD, Morgan Stanley Ghana
52. Lydia Heather Mudhari || Honorary Consul for Zimbabwe in Scotland
53. Marieme Jamme || Philanthropist and Businesswoman
54. Maritza Peña Rosabal || Former Minister of Education in Cape Verde
55. Martha Karau (Hon.) || Leader of the NARC Kenya political party
56. Martha K. Koome (Hon. Chief Justice EGH) || Chief Justice of Kenya
57. Martin Kimani || Kenyan Diplomat
58. Mike Jocktane || Founder, Christ Revealed to Nations & Presidential Candidate, Gabon Nouveau.
59. Mogoeng Thomas Reetsang Mogoeng || Former Chief Justice of South Africa
60. Mohamed Moustapha Malick Fall || Regional Director at UNICEF for

Eastern and Southern Africa

61. Mohamed Mustafa ElBaradei || Egyptian Lawyer and Diplomat
62. Mohammed "Mo" Ibrahim || Founder and Chairman of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation
63. Monica Geingos || First Lady of Namibia
64. Monique Ilboudo || Author and Human Rights Advocate
65. Mthuli Ncube || Former Finance Minister of Zimbabwe
66. Naguib Onsi Sawiris || CEO of Orascom Telecom Holding
67. Nelson Makamo || Visual Artist
68. N'Gunu Tiny || Founder and CEO, The Emerald Group
69. Nicholas F. Oppenheimer || Businessman
70. Nj Ajuk || Author, Founder, and CEO of Centurion Law Group
71. Njoya Tiku || Manager of the UNDP Regional Office in West and Central Africa
72. Nonkululeko Nyembezi-Heita || CEO of Dutch Mining Group

73. Ogiame Atuwatse III || 21st Olu of Warri
74. Olaniyi Olatunji Nelson || International Development Professional
75. Patrick Ngugi Njoroge || Governor of the Central Bank of Kenya
76. Paul Enenche (Dr., Pastor) || Senior Pastor, The Dunamis International Gospel Centre
77. Phuthi Mahanyelle || CEO of Naspers
78. Ronald Ozzy Lamola || Minister of Justice and Correctional Services in South Africa
79. Rosalia Martins-Hausiku || CEO Motor Vehicle Accident (MVA) Fund of Namibia
80. Sadia Haji Samatar || Lead of the Parliament in Somalia
81. Sahle-Work Zewde || President of Ethiopia
82. Samuel Esson Jonah || Chancellor of the University of Cape Coast in Ghana
83. Sheila Dinotshe Tlou || Nurse and Nursing Educator
84. Soha Ali || Senior Country

Representative of J.P Morgan Chase Bank for the Egypt Office

85. Tembeka Nicholas Ngcukaitobi || Author, Lawyer, and Political Activist
86. Thebe Ikalafeng || Founder and CEO of Brand Leadership Group
87. Theresa Ayaode || Executive Director of Multiple Concepts Groups
88. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande || The Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the United Nations
89. Tuma Adama Gento-Kamara || Chairperson of the National Revenue Authority (NRA)
90. Victoire Sidémého Dzidudu Dogbé Tomegah || Prime Minister of Togo
91. Victor Ochen || Founder and Executive Director of African Youth Initiative Network (AYINET)
92. Wally Adeyemo || Deputy Secretary of the United States Department of the Treasury

93. Wanjiru Kamau-Rutenberg || Executive Director at Rise, a project by Schmidt
94. WF Kumuyi (Pastor) || General Overseer of the Deeper Christian Life Ministry (DCLM)
95. Wided Bouchamaoui || Leader of the Tunisian Confederation of Industry, Trade, and Handicrafts
96. Wilfried Mbappé || Football Coach and Agent
97. William K. Ruto || President of Kenya
98. Winnie Byanyima || Under-Secretary-General of the UN and Executive Director of UNAIDS
99. Workneh Gebeyehu Negewo || Minister of Foreign Affairs in Ethiopia
100. Zeinab Badawi || British Journalist and Television Presenter

## NDC Weija-Gbawe P. C. Hopeful Assures Constituents Of AstroTurfs

By Muhammed Faisel Mustapha

Parliamentary Candidate hopeful for Weija-Gbawe Constituency in the Greater Accra Region, Alhaji Jalali Yunusah has revealed that he is in negotiation with some Turkish investors to help construct AstroTurfs in some selected Communities in the Municipality.

This he said forms part of his initiatives as former International Footballer to bring out the talent in the youth of Weija-Gbawe Constituency. The German based

Philanthropist made this known during a football gala competition he organized through his Non-governmental Organization (NGO), Health4yu which seeks to bring together all the various wards of the NDC in the Weija-Gbawe Constituency to foster peace and unity ahead of victory 2024. Alhaji Jalali Yunusah further revealed that he has engaged some football teams in Germany and has been provided with some football

scout to come to Ghana and fish out talented footballers to build their career in the international stage. He added that a lot of football activities will take place within the Weija-Gbawe Constituency to have way for the scouts to identify talented footballers, not only from NDC members and supporters but all individuals. He stated that the youth will be engaged in stakeholders' forum in the signing of any agreement with the Turkish

investors with regards to the construction of the Astro-turf projects in the Weija-Gbawe Constituency so as to ensure that the youth have a say and be the most beneficiary of the deal. According to him, his quest to develop and bring out the talent in the youth was not to gain political goals but it is his dream to promote football and other sporting discipline in a community where he lives. He stated that there are many

more initiatives such as Education, Health, Sports, Sanitation, Youth and Women Empowerment and among others in the pipeline for the good people of Weija-Gbawe Constituency. He also hinted that he will bring on board some German medical Doctors to organise health screening exercise within the Weija-Gbawe Constituency which according to him is scheduled to take place in March this year.

# Concerned Drivers Association Revive Calls For Ofori-Atta's Sack

Members of the Concerned Drivers Association (C-DAG) have revived calls for the dismissal of Finance Minister Ken Ofori-Atta for incompetence.

Some months ago, a cross-section of the populace and professional bodies, including some 80 majority MPs as well as the minority MPs, called for Mr. Ofori-Atta's removal as Finance Minister following the economic hardships the country was experiencing. The President, Nana Akufo-Addo, appealed to the Majority MPs to allow Mr. Ofori-Atta to lead Ghana and IMF negotiations for an economic bailout and also to present the 2023 budget statement.

Months after the budget presentation and with the IMF negotiations still ongoing, which have led to a debt exchange programme, the Finance Minister is still at post.

The Concerned Drivers said in a statement: "We want to unreservedly state that we can no longer accept Ken Ofori-Atta as minister of finance, regardless, and any attempt to keep him shall

be met with a fierce revolt." According to the drivers, Mr. Ofori-Atta's incompetence has sunk the country's economy in the ditch and, therefore, he must be sacked. Meanwhile, despite calls for his sacking, President Akufo-Addo has given Mr. Ofori-Atta additional responsibilities to act as Minister of Trade following the resignation of Mr. Alan Kyerematen.

## These are details of the statement by the drivers:

Concerned Drivers Association of Ghana(C-DAG)  
Press Statement for Immediate Release

To All Media Houses

January 10, 2023

Sack Finance Minister Ken Ofori-Atta Now

Members of this association are demanding for the immediate removal of Finance Minister Ken Ofori Atta.

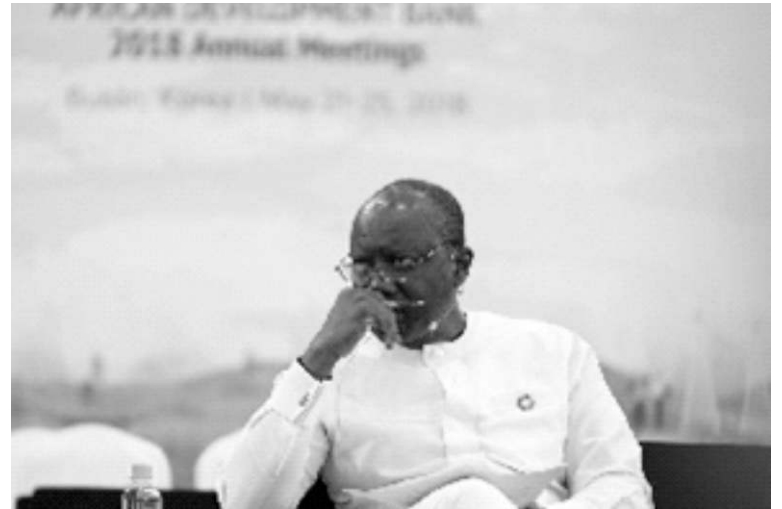
His incompetence has been clearly written on the walls and Ghanaians feel the brunt of the outcome which is an unprecedented economic hardship.

His gross incompetency has sunk Ghana's economy into a ditch. We are battling with the situation of a frail currency, high inflation rates and unstable prices for petrol. All these are factors that have made it difficult for us to live and take proper care of our families.

We would want to remind the President that he pleaded for his cousin to be allowed a stay in office because the IMF negotiations were ongoing.

As of now, negotiations are over and we are extremely sure that any other person can take over and supervise the IMF program as well as the ministry's activities. We want to unreservedly state that, we can no longer accept Ken Ofori-Atta as minister of finance regardless and any attempt to keep him shall be meted with a fierce revolt.

To the majority side of Parliament, particularly to the 80 members who openly declared that their constituents want Ofori Atta removed, we wish to remind you that you are in Parliament not for yourselves but for the people. Ghanaians have already passed



Finance Minister Ken Ofori-Atta

the verdict on Ken Ofori Atta and you have no business but to make sure that he is removed from office.

We do not want to believe that, you backtracked your decision because of the alleged attempted bribe of you by a certain businessman.

We rather believe that you only softened your stance as a result of the President's plea and we'd want to believe that as of now you'll fully support our call for the sacking of the finance minister.

In the spirit of this, we expect that you ensure his removal before the end of this month.

Any failure on your part to effect the finance Minister's removal shall be

deemed as a compromise because you were bribed and we shall not hesitate to invoke traditional curses on you from the resting place Osagyefo Dr Kwame Nkrumah. We shall also block the road anywhere we spot any of you and ensure that you are been hooted at. Ghana is sinking and we believe it must take our collective effort to put the country back on track.

Thank You.

Conveners:

Eric Owiredue, Deputy Secretary  
David Agboado, PRO  
Paa Williams, National Chairman

Source: [classfmonline.com](https://www.classfmonline.com)

# Legal Tussle Over Britain's Last African Colony

## ..As Chagossian People' Reject Negotiations Between UK And Mauritius On Chagos Islands'



A legal attempt has been launched to halt negotiations between the UK and Mauritius over the sovereignty of the [Chagos Islands](https://www.classfmonline.com), Britain's last African colony, claiming Chagossian people's views are being ignored.

Bernadette Dugas, who was born on Diego Garcia, an island within what is known today as the British Indian Ocean Territory, is seeking judicial review of the government's

approach to the talks.

In a pre-action letter sent to the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), lawyers representing Dugas argue that the negotiations are unlawful as they "are being held without consulting her and the Chagossian people".

Dugas, with the support of other former inhabitants and their descendants, is seeking a pause in

the talks "so that the former residents and their families are properly consulted with respect of the negotiations on the sovereignty of the Chagos Islands".

Mauritius, a British colony until its independence in 1968, claims the remote Chagos Islands as its own territory.

Three years before independence, the UK severed the Chagos Islands from the rest of Mauritius so it could lease Diego Garcia to the US for military use.

The British government then forcibly deported 2,000 Chagossians. A newly published book by the barrister and historian Philippe Sands KC, *The Last Colony*, chronicles how the British shut down the islands' plantations and cut off food supplies, with families

told they had no option but to leave by ship by 27 April 1973 or slowly starve.

An arduous legal dispute has been waged by those seeking the right to return to the islands, culminating in a 2019 ruling by the international court of justice that the [continuing British occupation of the islands was illegal](https://www.classfmonline.com).

There remain multiple different viewpoints among the Chagossian community about what the future status of the islands should be, with some voicing distrust of the Mauritian authorities.

There have been calls by some for the Chagos Islands to be made independent although longstanding observers believe that only as many as 50 people would probably want to return to the remote archipelago.

Lawyers acting for Dugas argue in

their letter that "negotiations without the consultation with or involvement of my client is contradictory to the Chagossian people's right of self-determination". David Snoxell, who was UK high commissioner to Mauritius between 2000 and 2004, said the attempt at judicial review had scant chance of success but that those seeking consultation had every right to do so after years of mistreatment. He said: "I don't think there has been proper consultation and I wonder whether there has been any at all. It is perfectly legitimate to ask for consultation on what is going on, how it is going on and what form it takes."

A government spokesperson said: "We do not comment on potential legal proceedings."