

DEBT EXCHANGE

NPP's Titus-Glover Weeps For Pensioners



Daniel Nii Kwartei Titus-Glover, former deputy Minister for Transport

Daniel Nii Kwartei Titus Glover, a leading member of the governing New Patriotic Party (NPP) and former Tema East Member of Parliament (MP), has urged President Nana Akufo-Addo to listen to the cries of Ghanaians and exclude pensioners from the government's Domestic Debt

Exchange Programme (DDEP). According to Titus Glover including pensioners in the DDEP will be disastrous because most of them depend on their investments in bonds for their livelihood. Speaking in an interview with Accra based TV3, the former

deputy minister for roads and transport added that the addition of pensioners to the programme will adversely affect the political fortunes of his party, the ruling New Patriotic Party (NPP).

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Why Minority Wants Proposed Ban On Importation Of Used Electrical Appliances Withdrawn By Govt



John Jinapor, Ranking Member on Parliament's Mines & Energy Committee.

The Ranking Member on Parliament's Mines & Energy Committee, [John Jinapor](#), has urged government to immediately review what he described as a

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The INSIGHT

— EDITORIAL

THE UNEMPLOYMENT MENACE

The unemployment crisis currently facing the country has been viewed as a national security threat.

This is because the number of youth joblessness keeps rising despite the creation of jobs by the government.

And this comes at a time when over the years successive governments in one way or the other have invariably promised to create jobs and make youth unemployment a thing of the past.

Most of these promises were as a result of the realization of the danger posed to the country's peace, security and stability over the lack of jobs for the teeming number of youths who graduate from both second cycle and tertiary institutions in search of non-existent jobs.

The dreams and aspirations of these individuals are heightened by the unrealistic promises of the ruling political establishment and which often turn out to be a mirage.

For example the Kufuor administration once asked the teeming unemployed, especially the youth to queue for a national register to be compiled and jobs provided them. It later turned out to be a false hope. Currently, there is rising youth unemployment with its attendant consequences to the nation.

The government claims to have made strides in growing the economy but data or figures as to how many jobs have been created so far is anybody's guess – none.

The Insight is of the strong opinion that the government needs to endeavour to activate the Komenda Sugar Factory and many others that are dormant or have been shut down for one reason or the other.

The citizens need jobs and cannot afford to wait any longer when there are existing factories that need little or no funding to get them running.

Perhaps it is time to speed up efforts to address the youth unemployment.

Why Minority Wants Proposed Ban On Importation Of Used Electrical Appliances Withdrawn By Govt

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'harsh' policy of banning the importation of all used electrical appliances.

According to him, this policy if not reviewed, will not only render a vast majority of those who trade in these appliances unemployed but would equally have severe economic consequences on the already impoverished Ghanaian consumer, since most many depend largely on these appliances. He stressed that the way and manner in which the Legislative Instrument (LI) was rushed through [Parliament](#) without adequate consultation and extensive engagement with the various stakeholders was most unfortunate and appalling.

"It is important to remind the Energy Commission that best practices will require the Commission to engage in extensive consultations particularly with the Mines and Energy Committee of [Parliament](#), to solicit their views and input on such an important LI before implementation."

"Even more disturbing is the lack of a grace period or transition period before implementing this policy. For such a policy that has far-reaching consequences, it is only proper that some transition period is allowed to enable traders and consumers ample time to adjust to the policy, especially this time that the uncertainties in the Ghanaian economy are abound," the former Deputy Energy Minister said in a statement. The decision by the Government of Ghana, acting through the Energy Commission, to ban the importation of all used electrical appliances into the country is most unfortunate and must be reviewed immediately.

This policy if not reviewed, will not only render a vast majority of those who trade in these appliances unemployed but would equally have severe economic consequences on the already impoverished Ghanaian consumer since most many depend largely on these appliances.

The way and manner in which the Legislative Instrument (LI) was rushed through [Parliament](#) without adequate consultation and extensive engagement with the various stakeholders was most unfortunate and appalling.

It is important to remind the Energy Commission that best practices will require the Commission to engage in extensive consultations particularly with the Mines and Energy Committee of [Parliament](#), to solicit their views and input on such an important LI before implementation. Even more disturbing is the lack of a grace period or transition period before implementing this policy. For such a policy that has far-reaching consequences, it is only proper that some transition period is allowed to enable traders and consumers ample time to adjust to the policy, especially this time that the uncertainties in the Ghanaian economy are abound.

It must be noted that some of these used electrical appliances can be more energy efficient and durable than new ones depending on the make, brand, and standards.

This policy clearly contradicts the Government's position that the country has so much excess capacity.



John Jinapor, Ranking Member on Parliament's Mines & Energy Committee.

For the records, it must be noted that the current electricity tariff structure is graduated in bands with higher payments for higher electricity consumption which serves as a gentle caution for consumers to acquire energy-efficient appliances whether new or used ones. By this policy, even a returnee Ghanaian is not allowed to come along with his or her 3-month-old electrical appliance, which, by all intends and purposes, could still be as good and useful as a new one. This current policy is not only unfair but discriminatory. The solution to achieving energy efficiency and preventing DUMPING is to resort to the use of standards and effective regulatory measures rather than this very harsh policy of banning all used electrical appliances.

So, the government must be ready to engage, learn from best practices, and adopt sustainable regulatory measures to achieve results other than reacting inappropriately to situations such as this.

We therefore, call on the Energy Commission and for that matter the government, to as a matter of urgency, withdraw this current policy and allow for further consultation, engagement with the relevant stakeholders and a possible review and adjustments before the implementation of the policy.

Thank you.

-Signed-

Hon. John Abdulai Jinapor,
MP-Yapei/Kusawgu Constituency
(Ranking Member, Mines, and Energy Committee)

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DEBT EXCHANGE

NPP's Titus-Glover Weeps For Pensioners

from front page

"I watched your (TV3's) news at 7 o'clock Monday night, and I was seeing these old men and women holding placards; some of them were sick; I felt bad. These old guys have left their homes to come picket at the Ministry of Finance, appealing that we should take them out of this programme.

"How much does a pensioner earn... I want to make an appeal to the president that he should intervene for these pensioners.

"I'm making this passionate appeal; my mother is an old pensioner, and when I look at these people, it will be politically suicidal for our party in government to add them to the programme," he said.

Meanwhile, the Minister of Finance, Ken Ofori-Atta, has warned that if individual bondholders are exempted from the ongoing DDEP, Ghana's economy will be in shambles. According to him, even though the decision and its consequence are dire, it is necessary for various individuals to sign willingly to the program to enable government function.

Addressing the concerns of the Pensioner Bondholders Forum

after a picket at the Finance Ministry, Ofori-Atta added that the country is in a situation of "Boa Me Na Me Mboa Wo," to wit, "help me, let me help you," hence bondholders should cooperate with the government to stabilize the economy.

My mouth is no longer gagged from speaking – Immediate-past Chief Justice

Meanwhile, [Sophia Akuffo](#), Ghana's immediate-past Chief Justice, has said that she is no longer in office and so her mouth can no longer be gagged from speaking up.

Speaking with GhanaWeb at the forefront of the Ministry of Finance in Accra, the former appointee of President [Nana Akufo-Addo](#) explained that she is now all out to speak against the government.

"There are quite a number of people here today, who retired last year, last two years. When they retired, they put everything into government bonds and now all of a sudden, you virtually want to, at gunpoint, force them to agree with you that the repayment of their investment or yields of their investments should be as you dictate it. Why?"

"Why are we in the mess we are in, nobody has fully explained it

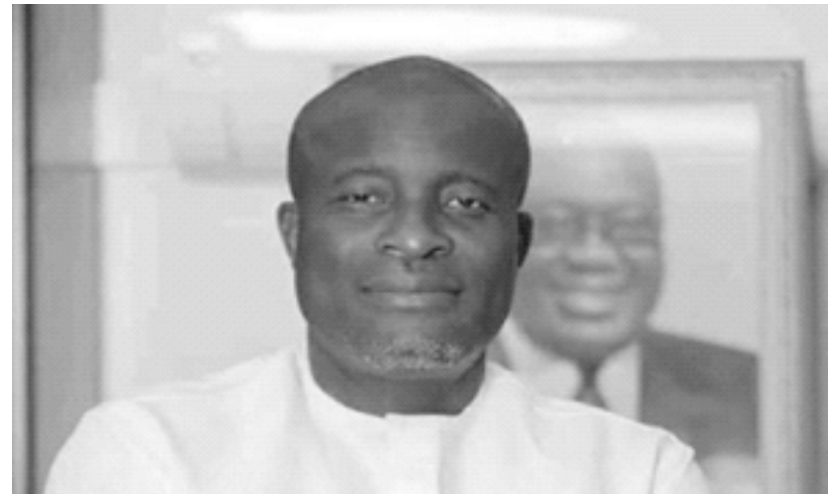
to us, yes debts, we took debts, what was it used for? Where is the accountability? You are not telling us about how you are going to make things better but just 'help me and I'll help you' no, you help yourself first.

"Let me see you doing something serious because we've seen these sorts of things for a very long time. I'm over 70 now, and I'm no longer a government employee. My mouth has been ungagged and I'm talking and I'm saying what I feel and it is important that, the elderly in this nation," she explained.

The immediate-past Chief Justice of Ghana, who was appointed by the sitting president, [Nana Akufo-Addo](#), explained that she is there with the pensioners out of solidarity.

She stated that while she is not going to be affected by the government's DDEP, she finds it wicked for the government to sacrifice the profits of retirees – people who have sacrificed for Ghana, just so that it is able to solve its own problems in managing the economy.

"This is just by God's grace that I'm not included and it's very heart-breaking to see people of, particularly, this age group – some are a bit older than me, some are



Daniel Nii Kwartei Titus-Glover, former deputy Minister for Transport

somewhat a bit younger than me, but these are all people who have worked, worked very hard. They could have left the country when others were leaving, they left, they stayed, they worked for the nation and we've had our ups and downs and everything but bit by bit. "A lot of us are from the generation where you were encouraged to save for tomorrow. We've been through times when all your savings become nonsense because of some government policy. Then over the years, bit by bit, people have become more confident in the economy, in investments and all that," she added.

She stressed that it is unlawful for the government to be pushing this agenda, including profits of pensioners who have invested in bonds.

"I find this wicked; I find it disrespectful; I find it unlawful; I find it totally wrong. Period. Because you don't solve your problems by sacrificing your aged. That's the last thing you should do especially when we don't have any services that are specially geared at the comfort and the relief of the aged," she added.

You Are Home – Voltarians Welcome Alan Kyerematen

Flagbearer hopeful of the New Patriotic Party (NPP), Hon Alan Kwadwo Kyerematen, last Thursday, February 9, 2023, received a rousing welcome when he visited Ho, the Volta Regional capital, as part of his National Engagement tour. The milling crowd poured onto the streets of Ho to wave and cheer him on

with chants of 'No Alan vote, No Vote' and placards extolling his virtues such as 'The Unifier,' 'The Only Hope for 2024', Alan welcome Home,' were ample indication of their choice of who was to lead the NPP to the 2024 general elections. One elated supporter, Ablah Dzifa, said, "We are happy that AlanCash has visited us

in person. We have been waiting for this moment for some time". She added: "This time around, our votes are for 'AlanCash', and no form of intimidation from any quarter will be entertained since we are all optimistic that the party can only 'Break the 8' with Alan as our leader and the whole of Volta Region is behind him," Ms Dxifa said.



Hon Alan Kwadwo Kyerematen



INTERNATIONAL NEWS REPORT

Compiled By Peoples Dispatch

University Staff In UK Begin Two-Day Strike Protesting Below-Inflation Pay Offer



Picket line at the London Metropolitan University Campus. (Photo: via Jeremy Corbyn/Twitter). Around 70,000 workers across 150 universities in the UK have begun striking demanding an increase in wages at par with inflation, an end to cuts in benefits and pensions, and the regularization of contracts

University staff across the UK last Thursday started a two-day strike in response to a call by the University and College Union (UCU), protesting a below-inflation pay offer proposed by authorities. Around 70,000 academic staff from 150 universities across the UK took part in

the strike over February 9 and 10. The UCU announced the strike when 80% of its membership rejected the offer made by the university bosses, which proposed a meager 5% rise in wages. The union also called for revoking cuts in benefits, ending cuts in pensions (pension reforms made in 2022 mean that the

average worker will lose 35% of retirement income), and the regularization of 90,000 insecure contracts of teachers, librarians, and others. The UCU has also warned of further strikes and protests in March if the authorities refuse to respond favorably to its demands. The National Union of Students (NUS) also extended solidarity to the striking workers. The working class across the UK—including academic staff—had been at [loggerheads](#) with employers and the Tory government over demands to increase wages at par with inflation, in order to meet soaring costs of living crisis. Instead of trying to democratically resolve the crisis by responding to workers' demands, the Tory

government has been trying to push undemocratic [laws](#) to block and penalize workers' protests and strikes. The UK saw a massive [university strike](#) in November 2022 as well, which drew the participation of over 70,000 workers across 150 universities. According to a *Morning Star* [report](#), UCU General Secretary Jo Grady has said that “university bosses hold over GBP 40 billion (USD 48.68 billion) in reserves, but they would rather hoard that money than use just a fraction of it to settle our dispute. While they earn up to GBP 714,000 (USD 869,009) a year, tens of thousands of our members are on insecure contracts, some as short as six weeks,

and have seen their pay held down for over a decade.” “We have repeatedly asked bosses to explain why they refuse to deal with the issues that blight higher education, yet they refuse to publicly justify their position,” she added. On February 9, Jeremy Corbyn, MP and former Labour Party leader, extended his support and solidarity to the UCU strike and [tweeted](#): “University staff from [the UCU] are on strike to save the future of education. They deserve fair pay and pensions. They deserve job security. And they deserve the support of the labor movement, which should be proud to defend workers fighting for us all.”

UN Mission Revives Consultation Among Parties In Libya For Holding Delayed National Elections

UN envoy to Libya and head of its Support Mission (UNSMIL) in the country, Abdoulaye Bathily, met with Khalifa Haftar, leader of the Libyan National Army (LNA), in Benghazi on Tuesday, January 7, as a part of his renewed attempts to restart the peace process in the country and establish a consensus around the constitutional framework. “To discuss the political, security, and social situation in Libya,” Bathily [claimed](#), Haftar agreed that “all parties engage constructively and without delay to establish a constitutional framework to facilitate free and fair and transparent elections [in Libya] in 2023.” Bathily added that they also discussed the need to withdraw all foreign mercenaries, forces, and fighters from the country for “sustainable peace and stability in Libya.”

The need to unify political and military institutions in the country was also underlined in the talks, Bathily said. Haftar has been leading the LNA,

rival of the erstwhile Government of National Accord (GNA) set up in Libya. Haftar had led an attack on the capital Tripoli in 2019–20 before the UN-led peace process was able to establish a ceasefire in October 2020, which paved the way for the establishment of an interim government under the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum (LPDF). The LPDF, however, broke up in December 2021 following the failure of the interim government led by Abdul Hamid Dbeibah to conduct the national elections that month, as mandated during the government's inception in February 2021. Disagreements over the electoral law enacted by the House of Representative as well as Dbeibah's candidature were the major reasons for the failure of the peace process. Since then, Libya has been ruled by two rival administrations, which have occasionally resorted to military force to assert their power.

Fresh round of meetings

Since his appointment in September

last year, Bathily has conducted a series of meetings with the rival groups in the country. Recently he [chaired a meeting](#) of Libya's 5+5 Joint Military Committee (JMC) in Cairo, Egypt. That meeting was also attended by the representatives from Sudan, Chad, and Niger. It discussed the continuation of the ceasefire in Libya and ways to expel foreign mercenaries from the country. The 5+5 JMC was devised as an institution to ensure some coordination between the rival leadership of the country's divided military during the UN-led peace process.

Bathily has [stated that the objective of his consultations](#) with the rival parties is to devise a process for holding national elections by the end of this year.

On February 27, Bathily is [expected to brief the UN Security Council](#) (UNSC)

about his attempts to secure peace in Libya.

UNSMIL and Bathily's present one-year term are set to expire on October 31.

A monthly forecast for February published by the UNSC [claims](#) that “the protracted political stalemate” between the government of National Unity led by Dbeibah and the House of Representative-backed government led by Fathi Bashagha “contributes to the country's political, economic and security instability.”

Bathily was also successful in organizing a meeting between the speaker of the House of Representative Aguila Saleh and President of the High State Council Khaled Misri in Cairo on January 5. It was this meeting between the two heads backing the rival



UN envoy to Libya and head of its Support Mission (UNSMIL) in the country, Abdoulaye Bathily (L), with Khalifa Haftar, leader of the Libyan National Army (LNA). (Photo: Abdoulaye Bathily/Twitter). UNSMIL head Abdoulaye Bathily has been meeting with Libya's rival political and military leaders in order to find a consensus on holding elections, with emphasis on the expulsion of all foreign mercenaries from the war-torn country

administrations in Tripoli and Sirte, respectively, which revived the possibility of a settlement. The High State Council is an advisory body formed during the UN-led peace process in Libya in 2015. Though the talks later failed, the council has remained in existence and advises what was the erstwhile Government of National Accord based in Tripoli.

Wacam Blasts Tano Chiefs For Siding With Newmont Against Poor farmers

Wacam, a community based human rights and environmental mining advocacy non-governmental organisation (NGO), has stated that it has never shied away from supporting farmers in mining communities in the Tano North Municipality of the Ahafo Region and others, from defending their rights and properties.

The Associate Executive Director of Wacam, Mrs Hannah Owusu-Koranteng, who made the statement, was reacting to a news item by Accra-based Peace FM on Wednesday, February 1, 2023, which pointed the finger of blame on the organisation.

The said news item said some chiefs in the operational areas of Newmont Ahafo Mine (including communities such as Yamfo, Afrisipa, Susanaso, Techire and Adrobaa) led by the chief of Yamfo, visited the Deputy Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Hon Mireku Duker, and blamed Wacam for helping farmers in these areas to protect their properties from the mining company.

The Peace FM story continued that the chiefs chided Wacam for

assisting the vulnerable farmers in the above areas for engaging Wacam to use legitimate means to protect their properties.

According to Mrs Owusu-Koranteng, it is pathetic for the chiefs to blame Wacam in its advocacy work, and more especially, when the farmers had engaged the NGO to help them protect their rights and properties from the “devastating operations of Newmont.”

She said Regulation 2 of the Compensation and Resettlement Principles, LI 2175 (2012) states that a person whose interest in land is affected by the granting of mineral right may engage the services of qualified persons to protect his/her interests.

Therefore, the farmers are acting within the remit of the law by engaging Wacam to support them in the protection of their properties, the Associate Executive Director of Wacam explained.

“Is the Yamfo Chief and the other chiefs in the Tano North Municipality now the mouthpiece of Newmont?” she quizzed.

She emphasised that inasmuch as Newmont has the right to use its

allies including chiefs, lawyers, security personnel among others to protect its interest, the 'vulnerable farmers' in the Tano North municipality equally have same right to seek support from advocacy organisations such as Wacam, a human rights, environmental and mining advocacy NGO, that has been operating in about 180 communities in 7 regions of Ghana. “Wacam's mining advocacy which spans over the twenty-three (23) years has empowered communities affected by mining operations to protect their rights against corporate power. As a knowledge organisation, Wacam's vast and rich knowledge on mining and environment has benefited government, researchers, students among others. Wacam's advocacy has helped the country and regulators in holding mining companies accountable to pay compensation in situations of cyanide spillages,” she indicated. Mrs. Owusu-Koranteng averred that examples abound of how Wacam, through its activities, has exposed attempts by mining companies to cover up cyanide spillages and



Mrs Hannah Owusu-Koranteng, Associate Executive Director of Wacam

corporate cruelties against poor people living in areas of mining operations by big mining companies like Newmont.

“Wacam was very instrumental in exposing the cyanide spillage of Newmont Ahafo Mine which compelled the company to pay a fine of \$5 million US dollars imposed on them for spilling cyanide into community rivers and attempting to cover up.

“...Wacam is proud that its vigilance

helped to expose the Newmont Ahafo cyanide spillage resulting in a fine against Newmont which had been used for the development of community projects including a clinic,” she said.

To this end, Mrs Owusu-Koranteng reiterated that Wacam is committed to use legal and rights advocacy to continue the support to the vulnerable people affected by the operations of multinational companies, stressing that “Wacam is very proud of this noble objective.”

Ghana Operating 'Flawed Democracy' -- Claims 2022 EIU Democracy Index

Ghana's democracy has been classified in the 'flawed' category according to an annual report by the Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU), the 2022 Democracy Index.

Ghana was one of six African countries that were put in the category along with Botswana, Namibia, Cabo Verde, South Africa and Lesotho.

Flawed democracies are defined as nations where elections are fair and free and basic civil liberties are honoured but may have issues (e.g. media freedom infringement and minor suppression of political opposition and critics).

The Democracy Index is based on five categories: electoral process and pluralism, functioning of government, political participation, political culture, and civil liberties.

Ghana's scores were as follows:
Overall score = 6.43 / 10
Global Rank = 63rd
Regional rank = 6th
Rank Change in rank from previous year = -7



- I Electoral process and pluralism = 8.33 / 10
- II Functioning of government = 5.00 / 10
- III Political participation = 6.67 / 10
- IV Political culture = 6.25 / 10
- V Civil liberties = 5.88 / 10

About the 2022 Democracy Index

The Democracy Index, which began in 2006, provides a snapshot of the state of democracy worldwide in 165 independent states and two territories. This covers almost the entire population of the world and the vast majority of the world's states (microstates are excluded). Based on its scores on a range of indicators within these categories, each country is

then classified as one of four types of regime: “full democracy”, “flawed democracy”, “hybrid regime” or “authoritarian regime”.

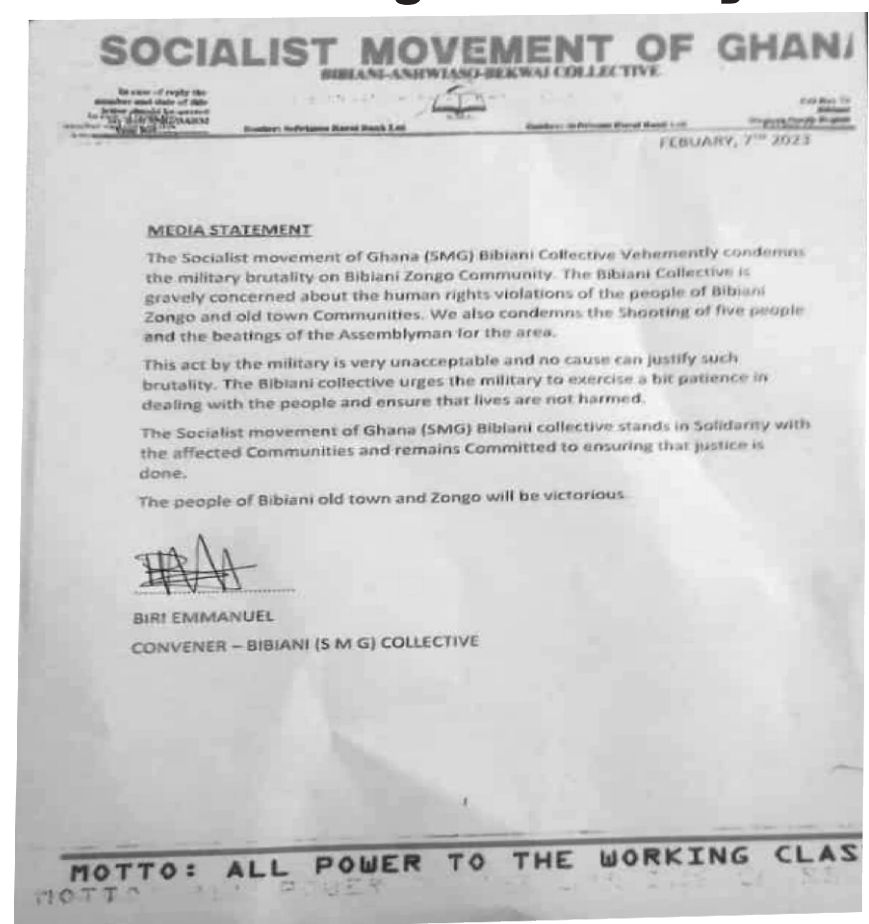
Sub-Saharan Africa

“Flawed democracies” are concentrated in developing regions such as eastern Europe (16 in 2022), Asia (9), Latin America (9), and Sub-Saharan Africa (6).

Many of the nations in Sub-Saharan Africa continue to be concentrated at the bottom of the Democracy Index rankings. The continent has only one “full democracy”—Mauritius—and six “flawed democracies” in 2022, unchanged from the 2021 index.

The number of countries classed as “hybrid regimes”, at 14, also remains unchanged from the 2021 index. Authoritarian forms of government continue to dominate, with 23 countries still classified as such. The overall average regional score

SMG Condemns Military Brutality On Bibiani Zongo Community



Auditor-General's Publication Of COVID-19 Expenditure Audit Unconstitutional – Attorney General

The Attorney General and Minister for Justice, Godfred Yeboah Dame has questioned the constitutionality of decision of the Auditor General's Office to publish its audit of government's expenditure on COVID-19. According to the Attorney General, the report was prematurely published as it failed to fulfil some provisions in the Constitution. "I observe that the report of the special audit on the Government's COVID-19 transactions has been published on the website of the Audit Service. In light of the constitutional provisions pertaining to the duty of the Auditor-General after the preparation of audit reports, I consider a publication of the COVID-19 audit report or indeed any audit report particularly when same has not been either considered by Parliament or referred to a committee of Parliament, premature. Referencing Articles 187(5) and 187(6) of the 1992 Constitution in a letter addressed to the Auditor-General, Mr Dame noted that the report ordinarily ought to have been submitted to parliament for the House to debate and where necessary, appoint a committee to deal with matters pertaining to the report.

He emphasised that any such report cannot be deemed final until parliament has done its work. The Attorney General thus advised the Auditor General to withdraw the report published on its website. "I advise a withdrawal of the report on the Government COVID-19 transactions from your website before same has been debated by Parliament and considered by the appropriate committee of Parliament," Mr Dame said. The audit report by the Auditor-General on Government of Ghana's Covid-19 transactions for the period March 2020 to June 2022, uncovered several infractions relative to expenditures from Ministries, Departments and Agencies. The report published on the website of the Auditor-General has generated controversy with calls being made for a full-scale parliamentary probe to be made into the uncovered infractions.

This is the full letter by the Attorney General:

RE: AUDIT OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS OF GHANA

I refer to various discussions between your good self and me regarding the effective implementation of reports of the Auditor-General on audits into the

public accounts of Ghana, particularly with regard to the issuance of disallowances and surcharges.

The matters discussed have become more pertinent in view of the intense controversy generated by the publication of the report on the special audit of the Government of Ghana's Covid-19 transactions for the period March 2020 to June 2022 on the website of the Ghana Audit Service <http://www.audit.gov.gh>. I find it compelling to lay out a few points which I hope will guide action to be taken after the preparation of your reports.

1. Article 187(5) of the Constitution mandates the Auditor-General to submit his report to Parliament and in that report, draw attention to any irregularities in the accounts audited. Section 16 of the Audit Service Act, 2000 (Act 584) clearly indicates that reports on special audits and reviews, as the one conducted in respect of the COVID-19 transactions, are subject to the requirement for the Auditor-General to submit the reports to Parliament.

2. Article 187(6) of the Constitution requires Parliament to debate the report of the Auditor-General and appoint, where necessary and in the public interest, a committee to deal with any matters arising from it. This is repeated in section 21 of Act 584. Over the years, the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament (PAC) seems to be the committee designated by Parliament to interrogate issues arising out of the Auditor-General's reports. It is only after satisfying the constitutional requirement of submitting the auditor general's report to Parliament, the subsequent debate by

Parliament thereon and conclusion of work by the appropriate committee of Parliament, that the report of the Auditor-General may be considered final and relevant action may be taken thereon.

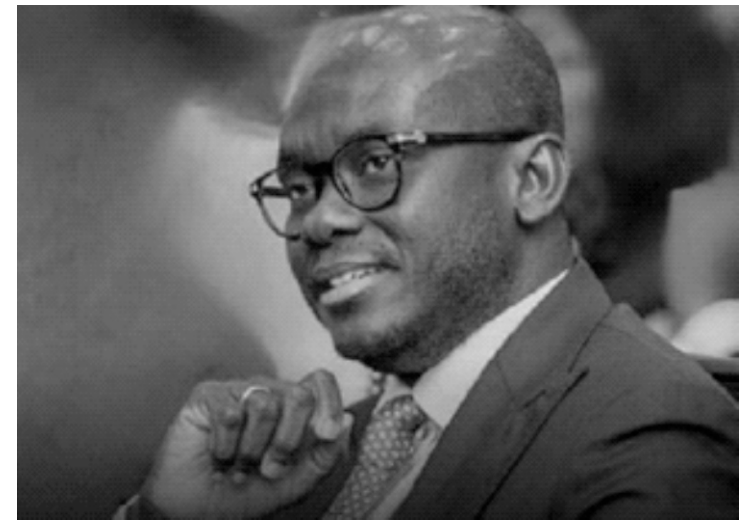
3. I observe that the report of the special audit on the Government's COVID-19 transactions has been published on the website of the Audit Service. In light of

the constitutional provisions pertaining to the duty of the Auditor-General after the preparation of audit reports, I consider a publication of the COVID-19 audit report or indeed any audit report particularly when same has not been either considered by Parliament or referred to a committee of Parliament, premature.

4. I am mindful of the provision in section 23 of Act 584 which seems to mandate a publication of the reports as soon as they have been presented to the Speaker to be laid before Parliament. However, the laws governing the functions of the Auditor-General ought to be construed as a whole. The constitutional duty of the Auditor-General to submit his reports to Parliament and Parliament's consequential obligation to debate and scrutinise same, will be grossly prejudiced by a prior publication of the report.

The proceedings of the PAC provide an opportunity for irregularities raised by the Auditor-General to be interrogated and queried. Persons and institutions affected by the report receive a further hearing on the findings of the Auditor-General's reports at the proceedings of the PAC in Parliament. A prior publication of the Auditor-General's report completely undermines the purport and meaning of article 187(5) and (6) and should not be encouraged. Consequently, I advise a withdrawal of the report on the Government COVID-19 transactions from your website before same has been debated by Parliament and considered by the appropriate committee of Parliament.

5. Further, as pointed out in previous letters by the Attorney-General to your office over the years, there has been a glaring omission to indicate in the notices served on the Office of the Attorney-General and Ministry of Justice, satisfaction by the Auditor-General of the mandatory procedure enjoined by section 17 of Act 584, in order to be able to execute



Godfred Yeboah Dame, Attorney General and Minister of Justice

a disallowance and surcharge.

6. As you would recall, I have, in previous communication with you, indicated that in accordance with section 17 of Act 584, certain steps ought to be complied with by the Audit Service after an audit report has been subjected to the scrutiny of the PAC. These steps border on the issuance of disallowances and surcharges by the Auditor-General.

i. the relevant head of department or institution to whom the amounts stated in the notice of surcharge or disallowance are due, must be notified of the surcharge or disallowance, the reasons for the surcharge or disallowance as well as when this was done. Please see section 17(1) of Act 584

(ii) notices served on the Attorney-General must indicate whether the affected individuals and institutions have been served with the notice of surcharge or disallowance and, if so, when this was done. Please see section 17(2) of Act 584.

iii. Information confirming compliance with the statutory steps and when same was done is crucial for the Attorney-General to institute legal action against specified defaulters.

7. By letters dated 21st December 2017, 14th December 2018 and 21st January 2019, the Attorney-General informed the then

Auditor-General about lapses in the notices of disallowance and surcharge served on the Attorney-General in order for him to remedy same. Unfortunately, to date, some have not been remedied.

8. It is only through due process, particularly the observance of the processes stated above, that we can realise the true import and effect of article 187 of the Constitution. There ought to be enhanced cooperation between the Audit Service and the Office of the Attorney-General and the Ministry of Justice. These two institutions are at the forefront of the quest for public accountability, probity, the rule of law and the rooting out of corruption and malpractices in Ghana, and therefore are left with no option but to collaborate. In this regard, I have set up a special team in my Ministry, jointly headed by the Solicitor-General and the Director of Public Prosecutions, specifically charged with coordinating with your outfit in order to promptly act, in accordance with law, on established irregularities contained in the Auditor-General's reports.

I would appreciate if you could set up a similar team to work with my office. Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Recreating The Holocaust In Their Own Image, By Owei Lakemfa

By Owei Lakemfa

The civilised world knows that the Palestine belongs to two major nationalities; the Israelis and the Palestinians, hence it has settled for a two-state solution in which both peoples would live in secured states of their own. But the Israeli establishment, which is today peopled mainly by far right elements, wants to steal what is left of the Palestinian lands after its aggressive land grab began in 1967. In doing this, Israel is ready to exterminate the Palestinians, thereby creating a new Holocaust in their own image.

The month of January has been one of the bloodiest in the Palestine, with at least 35 killed in various Israeli raids. Uncharacteristically, some Israelis were also killed. This happened when a lone Palestinian, armed with a handgun, killed seven Israelis in East Jerusalem, the traditional home of the Palestinians.

Last year, 170 Palestinians were killed in Israeli raids, with about 10,000 injured. The Israeli system does not discriminate between adults and minors; between 29 September, 2000 and 26 December, 2008, Israeli forces killed 1,084 Palestinian children.

Many of these conflicts arise out of the forced displacement and resettlement of Palestinians into internally displaced peoples camps, and the continuous illegal encroachment of Israeli settlers on more Palestinian land like Jenin. The January killings in the Palestine coincided with this year's International Holocaust Remembrance Day, which held on Friday, 27 January. It marked the horrific mass murder of six million Jews by Nazi Germany. There can be nothing

more despicable than the Holocaust. There can be no excuse for it. But there is something about selective memory in world affairs. Without intending in any way to downplay the horrific Holocaust, how come the international community does not remember the 15 million Africans massacred in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) by the Belgians under King Leopold II?

For the massacre of six million Jews, West Germany agreed in September 1952 to pay Israel \$714 million as reparation, why is Belgium not made to pay reparation for the 15 million massacred Africans? Rather, Belgium continues to keep the wealth and artefacts stolen from the DRC. Why does 'The International Community' pretend the genocide in the DRC never occurred?

The criminal Holocaust was carried out between 1941 and 1945, but about four decades before, genocide was visited by the same German establishment on the Namibian people. In that first genocide of the 21st Century, the Germans, who wanted to turn that beautiful country into a White Settler state, killed 65,000 of the 80,000 indigenous Herero people, and over 10,000 or half of the population of the Nama people.

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This has gone on for decades, yet the 'International Community' is not only silent, but states like the United States of America (USA) has never hidden its full support for the Israeli establishment, which is perpetrating these crimes against humanity.

It was also in Namibia that the German establishment first experimented the mass killing methods like gassing people, which they used in the Jewish Holocaust. Perhaps if the world had stood against the Namibian genocide, that of the Jews, four decades later, would have been avoided. In April 1915, the Turks began the extermination of the Armenian people. About 1.5 million Armenians were massacred. Maybe if the world had risen up against the Armenian genocide, that against the Jews would not have occurred. But because the powerful arm of humanity, rather than criminalise genocide, has been selective on which mass slaughter is acceptable and which is not, we continue to experience the horror, and in some cases, the perpetrators get away with it.

However, that a people were victims of genocide does not mean they would condemn the next genocide or even not perpetuate their own. This is the case of the genocide being carried out against the Palestinians by the Israeli state. This has gone on for decades, yet the 'International Community' is not only silent, but states like the United States of America (USA) has never hidden its



Israeli soldiers and a Palestinian boy during clashes in Hebron. Picture credit: Mussa Qawasma/Reuters. That some people were victims of genocide does not mean they would condemn the next genocide or even

full support for the Israeli establishment, which is perpetrating these crimes against humanity. Israel has in the last few years become even more emboldened to perpetrate its genocide against the Palestinians following the accession of President Joe Biden to power in the USA. In a speech in July, 2022, Biden said: "...seeing Israel thrive, seeing the wildest dreams of Israel's founding fathers and mothers grow into a reality that Israel's children enjoy today, to me is close to miraculous...A nation that has forged peace before and can do it again...And a nation that will never dwell alone, because as long as there's the United States you will never be alone." Except for the Belgian genocide in the DRC, which was based on economic greed, perpetrators of genocide are usually guided by a self-righteous ideology which gives them a sense of

superiority and makes them see their victims as inferior beings. Nazism, the ideology of Hitler's Germany, saw the Aryan as a racially pure and superior people with the divine duty to rule the world. They saw the Jews as inferior beings who may contaminate them. So to them, in exterminating the Jews, they were not killing human beings. This was the same ideology that informed the Apartheid system, which saw Whites as superior with the divine right to own South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe, and if necessary, to eliminate the indigenous Black population, which to them, are inferior beings.

Socialism Is Increasingly Popular In The US. So The House Of Representatives Denounces It

The United States House of Representatives has passed a resolution denouncing "the horrors of socialism." All 219 members of the Republican Party voted in favour. Most Democrats did as well, with 109 voting with the Republicans, 86 voting against, and 14 voting "present," which is effectively an abstention.

At a time when socialism is becoming increasingly popular in the US despite decades of red-baiting and persecution of the left, the House denounced "socialism in all its forms" and further opposed "the implementation of socialist policies in the United States of America." The resolution repeated widely-debunked allegations of mass murder in socialist countries and accused the revolutionary processes in Cuba and Venezuela of causing great economic harm to the people while remaining silent on the impact of US sanctions which have been the primary reason

for the hardships faced by people in these countries.

"The United States of America was founded on the belief in the sanctity of the individual, to which the collectivistic system of socialism in all of its forms is fundamentally and necessarily opposed," reads the text. The resolution was sponsored by Cuban-American representative Maria Elvira Salazar of Miami-Dade County. The resolution is now on its way to the Senate. This resolution also comes at a time when socialism as an ideology has been gaining popularity in the past few years, while support for the capitalist system is decreasing in popularity. Even among Republicans and Republican-learners aged 18-34, an Axios [poll](#) showed that from 2019 to 2021, capitalism has dropped in popularity from 81% to 66%. The percentage of US adults overall with favorable views of socialism [increased](#) from 39% to 41% in that same time period

Among the 86 Democrats who voted against the resolution are progressives Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Rashida Tlaib, and Cori Bush, who were all endorsed by the Democratic Socialists of America, a large socialist organization in the US. Ilhan Omar, Democratic Representative from Minnesota, also voted against the resolution. Omar was recently voted out of the House Foreign Affairs Committee by the Republican House majority, due to her previous [anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist statements](#).

This resolution comes at a time of crisis for the working class. 34 million people, including nine million children, are food insecure in the United States. According to the Poor People's Campaign, [almost half](#) of people in the US are

poor or have low incomes. After a devastating global pandemic, which led to over one million deaths in the US and generated a national recession, the people of the United States were hit by a record-breaking wave of inflation in 2022. In response to this, the Federal Reserve is pushing to [slow wage growth](#), claiming that this will help alleviate the inflation crisis. This is while rents across the country are skyrocketing, and over 40% of tenants are spending more than 30% of their income on rent. "I think it's very telling of how threatened establishment politicians are somehow losing their footing, losing their power, really, where they're positioning themselves to utterly defend a capitalist system that we see has only caused problems," Karla Reyes, union leader and socialist

organizer in New York City, told *Peoples Dispatch*. "[This is] In contrast to what they could be focusing on, which is the crises that are afflicting the working class in the United States, which include homelessness, and [killer cops](#) who are still murdering Black people with complete impunity."

"[The House is] trying to perpetuate an ideology that, frankly, is getting old," said Reyes. "Capitalism has looted countries, has poisoned the world, and has created unsustainable lifestyles that push us toward individualism and toward consumerism...socialism is the complete opposite."

Half Of Black British Police Suffer Racial Incidents From Colleagues, Survey Finds

By Vikram Dodd, Police and Crime correspondent

More than half of Britain's black police officers and staff suffered racial incidents from colleagues in the past year, a survey has found. Those affected were much more likely to feel like outsiders and to want to leave, and many believed their bosses failed to punish wrongdoers, in effect creating a culture of impunity. The survey was conducted for the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) as it struggles to address a [race crisis facing British policing](#), with black Britons having less confidence and trust in the service and being [less likely to join](#).

Black officers and staff were asked for their experiences of bullying, discrimination and micro-aggressions, and 1,614 responses were analysed. The survey defined micro-aggressions as "everyday slights, indignities, putdowns and insults". Half of respondents said they concealed some part of their identity or attributes at work, such as the music they listened to, their family heritage or origins, or their religious activities. Two-thirds said they had considered leaving policing, with the most common reason for staying – given by 40% – being to try to fight for change from within. Just over half said they had

experienced "a negative race-related incident" involving colleagues in the previous 12 months. Nearly a quarter said this included racial discrimination, 15% said bullying and harassment, and 46% cited micro-aggressions. Eight out of 10 incidents happened in the office, and the next most common setting for the discrimination was on patrol, then while socialising with colleagues. The most common response to incidents was to do nothing, with a minority being reported. Those incidents that were reported were handled poorly, according to the survey. Seven out of 10 black police workers were unhappy with how their complaints of discrimination were handled, compared with 10% who were satisfied. Those who experienced race-related incidents were three times more likely to say they felt like an outsider than those who did not. Police chiefs' claims to have created a whistleblowing culture are undermined by the finding that many of those who complained believed they were ostracised by their colleagues. The survey found that 49% felt excluded from social conversations or work activities because of race or ethnicity, against 42% who did not. But for those who reported an incident, the

figure jumped to 75%. Only one in five minority ethnic officers felt they had the same chance to progress as white colleagues. The survey comes after years of police leaders [failing to tackle](#) deep-rooted and persistent racism in their ranks despite claims of reform. Andy George, the chair of the National Black Police Association, said: "It's been more about covering it up than dealing with racism. Discrediting victims who come forward, and rewarding discriminatory behaviour. "The findings represent the widespread failure to adequately tackle racism despite bold words and initiatives ... For too long, policing has protected those who discriminate, whilst victims are gaslighted and seen as the problem." Police chiefs have said they want to [put their own house in order](#). The former Metropolitan police superintendent Leroy Logan said police leaders could not be trusted to reform the service and an independent inquiry was needed, similar to that which last month exposed ['racism within London's fire brigade](#). "This report shows the toxicity of the culture. There needs to be an independent government report, with



Metropolitan police officers undergoing public order training. Eight out of 10 incidents happened in the office and the next most common setting was on patrol. Photograph: Paul Doyle/Alamy. Officers polled about experiences of bullying, discrimination and micro-aggressions in past year

independent oversight. I do not see change unless it is taken out of police control," he said. Abimbola Johnson, the chair of an [independent oversight board](#) set up by police chiefs to reassure the public change was happening, said the survey findings were so stark that the foundations of policing's legitimacy may be in jeopardy. She said that if this was how black officers were being treated, it raised real concerns about what the public faced. Black people – especially men – face greater use of force and coercive powers. Johnson said: "A police service that fails to treat its own black colleagues with dignity and fairness undermines the public's confidence that it will treat black civilians with integrity and respect."

Tyron Joyce, a deputy chief

constable in the NPCC who is currently the most senior minority ethnic officer in the country, said: "The findings of this survey give us important insight into the experience some of our black colleagues and how they feel about policing. We now need to use this knowledge to bring about real change. "Over the next three months, the police uplift programme, alongside policing, will be working with officers and staff to delve deeper into the findings and look for workable solutions we can put into practice through the police race action plan." The NPCC plans to set up focus groups to come up with suggested solutions, and to repeat the survey. The NPCC made no mention of the need for cultural change. Last February the Guardian revealed that police chiefs had [debated an admission of institutional racism](#) but decided against it.

Any Attempt By Akufo-Addo To Impose His Opinions On Us Will Be Resisted – Amoako Baah



Dr. Richard Amoako Baah

Political Science lecturer at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Dr Richard Amoako Baah has said Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo's

attempt to impose his opinions on the New Patriotic Party (NPP) would be resisted.

He accuses the President of not thinking about the growth of the party and its chances of winning the 2024 elections but rather pursuing what he described as his selfish desires and not that of the political party that brought him into power.

"This has never happened in the NPP that a President whose tenure is coming to an end wants to have an influence in our affairs as a political party. He wants us to follow his lead.

"What he wants is what he is pushing for the party but that won't happen in our lifetime. We won't agree for him to influence any decision in the party.

"The Party brought you but Nana Akufo-Addo has decided not to respect the party. After winning the election 2020, he said he is more popular than the party. The party that brought him to power, he says he is more popular than it because MPs lost their seats. How can you say that as a President?"

The New Patriotic Party is currently divided because the Party has been unable to decide on when to elect its flagbearer and parliamentary candidates for the 2024 elections.

Source: www.mynewsgh.com

Unavailability Of Premix Fuel Causing Unemployment In Tema Newtown – Fisherfolk

Unemployment among the youth of Tema Newtown is soaring due to the unavailability of premix fuel for the past six months, fishers at the Tema Canoe Beach have revealed. The Ghana News Agency Tema Regional Office during a tour observed that the usual busyness seen at the canoe beach on a normal fishing day was missing as numerous young men were seen idling at the place and chatting the day away. Several canoes were also docked as their owners could not get the needed premix fuel to power the sea.

Nii Adjeirteh Quaye, the Vice President of the Canoe and Fishing Gear Owners

Association of Ghana (CaFGOAG), stating the impact of the unavailability of premix on fishing activities said the youth who depended directly and indirectly on fishing were currently unemployed. Nii Quaye explained that currently out of the over 1,000 canoes operating from the canoe beach, only about 300 of them engage in fishing activities due to the inability of the state to make the premix fuel available at the various landing beaches. He said one canoe, apart from directly employing between 15 and 20 people for its fishing activities, also provided auxiliary jobs to the youth and women who respectively help in removing the fish and selling them. According to him, currently,

canoe owners have to depend on mixing petrol with engine oil to power their outboard motors adding that due to the cost involved several canoes had to stop operations. He disclosed that he has to buy four drums of petrol and engine oil at a cost of GH¢ 3,200 per drum to enable him to continue in business a situation he said would compel him to pass on the cost to the consumer. He lamented that due to the hardship and high unemployment in the community, some of the youth have resorted to thievery and snatching of people's phones especially on the industrial area road in the evenings to make ends meet.



Nii Ashitey Odametey, Tema Wudum Chief Fisherman, corroborated the unemployment issue saying fisher fishmongers, and the youth in Tema Newtown were facing serious financial hardship due to supply challenges of the premix fuel. Nii Odametey called on the

Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture to supply the fuel to the landing beaches stressing that their failure to honour their promises to supply it was adversely affecting their survival.

Source -- GNA

THE ENTIRE FAMILIES OF THE LATE MADAM KANOR OF ADONORKOPE ADA.

respectfully invite you to the farewell of their beloved
to pay farewell of their beloved

Madam Janet
ADJOYO KANOR
(a.k.a Yayo)

SCAN ME
FOR THE VENUE



Funeral Arrangements are as follows

WAKE KEEPING/LYING IN STATE: Friday 17th February, 2023 @ Adonorkope Ada

BURIAL SERVICE: Saturday 18th February, 2023 @ Adonorkope Ada

INTERMENT: Saturday 18th February, 2023 @ Adonorkope Ada

THANKS GIVING SERVICE: Sunday 19th February, 2023 @ Adonorkope Ada

AGED:
81

CHILDREN:

**Madam Matilda Akorkor Cudjoe (Adonorkope) Ada, Hon Comfort Doyoe Cudjoe (MP of Ada)
and Mr Isaiah Teye Cudjoe (G.P.H.A Tema).**

All Friends And Sympathisers Are Cordially Invited...

**ALL COVID-19 PROTOCOLS
WILL BE OBSERVED**



DRESS CODE
Saturday Black and White
Sunday all White