

ECONOMIC HARDSHIP

NPP's Boakye Agyarko Says Current Situation Frightening



Boakye Agyarko, Former Minister for Energy

Boakye Agyarko, a leading member and flagbearer hopeful of the ruling New Patriotic Party (NPP) has described Ghana's current economic crisis as deeply frightening and worrying. In a tape recording which has gone viral on social media, Boakye Agyarko, NPP's presidential candidate hopeful who is also a

former Minister of Energy reportedly said that anyone who would say Ghana's situation was not frightening is a liar and not being candid. He implied that if America had not put pressure on the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to help save Ghana's dire situation, the economy would have crashed a long time ago.

"I will admit that things have not gone as well as they should have. Those who claim that everything has gone well are lying. Despite our best efforts, I don't believe we in this country understand where we are. I don't believe so! I'm terrified as a former banker and economist.

Cont. on page 3

Pathetic

...As Pupils Of Kpandema Primary School Lie On Bare Floor To Study, Write Exams



Some of the pupils taking an exam on the bare floor

Pupils of Wiaga Kpandema Primary School in the Builsa North municipality of the Upper East Region are forced to sit or lie on the bare floor for studies due to the lack of adequate furniture in the school. The pupils from KG one to primary

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The INSIGHT

— EDITORIAL

THE HIV/AIDS MENACE

The report released recently which showed a rise in HIV among pregnant women should be of utmost concern to all.

Even worrying is the Ghana AIDS Commission's admission that HIV/AIDS is on the ascendancy in the country.

Certainly, all these come against the backdrop of increased awareness and public sensitisation over the years, to get the menace effectively under control.

The government through the Ministry of Health, the Ghana Health Service, The Ghana Aids Commission and several world bodies and stakeholders succeeded to a large extent in creating the awareness of condom use and abstinence. The sudden rise in cases of HIV infections simply means that something is not being done or gone wrong.

It is the view of this paper that stakeholders in the health sector will once again come together to find lasting solutions to the problems giving rise to new infections and nib it in the bud.

Towards this end, it is the opinion of The Insight that new intervention measures would help to address the problem.

It is also the expectation of Ghanaians that past measures which helped in addressing the problem such as condom use, abstinence, among others will be revisited and employed in the fight including the individuals who spearheaded such bold initiatives.

Pathetic

...As Pupils Of Kpandema Primary School Lie On Bare Floor To Study, Write Exams

six sit on the bare floor for their lessons.

The six-unit classroom block does not have furniture for effective teaching and learning. This situation is not only contributing to the falling standards of education in the area but also affects the health of children, especially during the rainy season.

Some pupils who spoke to Kwaching Agwaazeh indicated that they are unable to concentrate during lessons and they find it difficult when writing.

Others complained of having chest pains after lying on the bare floor for the whole day.

Parents of pupils of the school also complained that since they come home with dirty uniforms they have to wash the uniforms of pupils daily.

Source -- [Agwaazeh](#) Pupils of Wiaga Kpandema Primary School in the Builsa North municipality of the Upper East Region are forced to sit or lie on the bare floor for studies due to the lack of adequate furniture in the school.

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Source -- [Agwaazeh](#)

THE INSIGHT

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ECONOMIC HARDSHIP

NPP's Boakye Agyarko Says Current Situation Frightening

from front page

"I'm not sure Ghanaians understand the state of our economy, if they do, we'll be wailing by now. "This would have spiralled out of control if America hadn't put pressure on the IMF," Boakye Agyarko said when he met party delegates in Krobo in the Eastern region.

IMF Assigns Leonard Chumo As Resident Advisor To Bank Of Ghana Meanwhile, Bretton Woods Institution, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), has appointed Leonard Chumo as Resident Advisor to the Bank of Ghana.

Mr Chumo will provide technical assistance to the central bank and will support the implementation of Pillar 2 and 3 of the Basel II/ III capital frameworks.

He will also help strengthen the Risk-Based Supervisory framework at the Bank of Ghana.

In a press statement, the Resident Advisor assumed office on February 6, 2023 and is expected to stay for three years.

"At the request of Bank of Ghana and fully funded by Switzerland's State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, SECO, the International Monetary Fund has assigned a Resident Adviser in financial sector supervision to the Bank of Ghana to provide technical assistance and help build the capacity of the banking supervision function," part of the statement read.

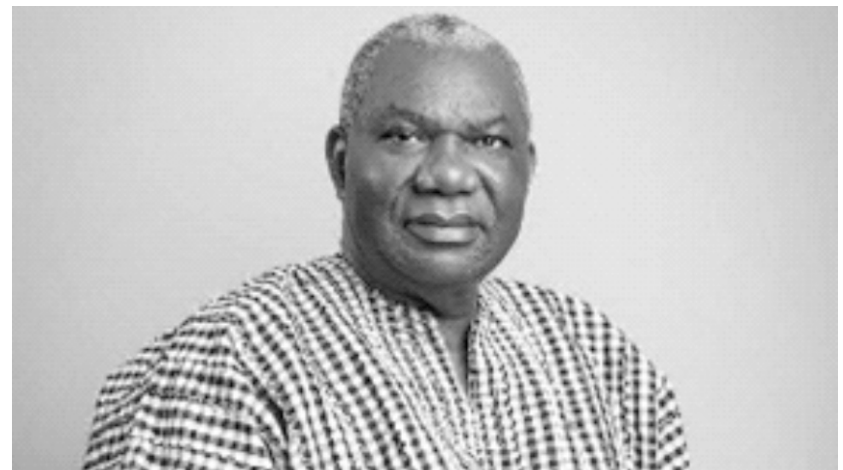
"The appointed Advisor, Mr. Leonard Chumo, brings first-hand knowledge of supervisory work from leading central banks as well as previous technical assistance experience in the Western Africa region. Mr. Chumo started his assignment in the Bank of

Ghana on 6th February 2023 and is expected to stay for three years. Among others," the statement added. It would be recalled that government on July 1, 2022, announced its decision to engage the International Monetary Fund for \$3 billion financial bailout programme. Subsequently, a team from the IMF arrived in the country from July 6 to July 13, 2022 to engage Ghanaian authorities for a possible economic support programme.

A staff-level agreement between Government of Ghana and IMF was reached in December 2022.

The IMF programme, according to government is aimed at restoring macroeconomic stability and safeguarding debt sustainability among many others.

This is BoG's press statement;



Boakye Agyarko, Former Minister for Energy



PRESS RELEASE

APPOINTMENT OF RESIDENT ADVISER ON FINANCIAL SUPERVISION AT BANK OF GHANA

At the request of Bank of Ghana and fully funded by Switzerland's State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, SECO, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has assigned a Resident Adviser in financial sector supervision to the Bank of Ghana to provide technical assistance and help build the capacity of the banking supervision function.

The Adviser's placement is a continuation of cooperation in this area between the Bank of Ghana, the IMF and SECO, that started as early as in 2015 and had already seen the assignment of a previous Adviser until 2018. Achievements from the past collaborative efforts include the passage of the Banks and Specialised Deposit-Taking Institutions Act, 2016 (Act 930), the development and issuance of the Corporate Governance Directive 2018, and the Capital Requirement Directive 2018.

The appointed Adviser, Mr. Leonard Chumo, brings first-hand knowledge of supervisory work from leading central banks as well as previous technical assistance experience in the Western Africa region. Mr. Chumo started his assignment in the Bank of Ghana on 6th February 2023 and is expected to stay for three years. Among others, he will support the implementation of Pillar 2 and 3 of the Basel II/ III capital frameworks, as well as strengthen the Risk-Based Supervisory framework at the Bank of Ghana.

Bank of Ghana wishes to express its utmost appreciation to SECO for the continued funding of Long-Term Technical Experts from the IMF to the Bank.

END

14TH FEBRUARY 2023

WHY NKRUMAH OPPOSED FRENCH ATOM TESTS IN THE SAHARA



Accra February 13, 1960

My government has learnt with horror that the Government of France, in total disregard of repeated protests by Ghana and other African States, and of the Resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations, has defied the conscience of mankind and has this morning

exploded a nuclear device on African soil. My government further notes a declaration by the French Prime Minister that this explosion is only the first of a series of similar explosions to be carried out by the Government of France. In these circumstances, my government must take immediate action to

safeguard the interests of the people of Ghana and, therefore, as a first step, my government has decided to freeze, as from today, the assets of all French firms in Ghana until such a time as the effects on the population of Ghana of the present atomic explosion and the future

experiments referred to by the French Prime Minister, become known.

I appeal to the nation to remain calm. My government will take any further action which may become necessary.

KWAME NKRUMAH



INTERNATIONAL NEWS REPORT

Compiled By Peoples Dispatch

Anti-Fascists Protest Annual Neo-Nazi Gathering In Budapest

Anti-fascist groups in Hungary have protested an annual neo-Nazi gathering held in capital Budapest on Saturday, February 11, and organized a counter mobilization. Activists from various anti-fascist groups gathered at Buda Castle in Budapest and protested the bid by neo-Nazis to mark 'Honor Day,' commemorating the Nazis who were killed during the Siege of Budapest by the Soviet Army in 1945. Neo-Nazis from within Hungary and abroad gather annually in Budapest in the second week of February on the occasion.

According to *AntifaInfo Budapest*, speakers at the anti-fascist event [stated](#) that "it is the common responsibility of the whole of society to ensure that anti-human, mass-killing fascist ideas

and racist Nazi violence can never be strengthened again." Walter Baier, president of the European Left Party, visited the monument 'Shoes on the Danube Bank' in Budapest on Saturday and paid tribute to the Jews killed by Hungarian fascists from the Arrow Cross Party in 1944–45. Baier also "welcomed the Hungarian anti-fascists on behalf of his party and expressed solidarity with the anti-Nazi movement in Hungary," *Merce.hu* [reported](#). The monument depicts the massacre of Jews and others, who were ordered to take off their shoes and then shot dead at the edge of the Danube river by fascists from the Arrow Cross Party between December 1944 and January 1945. Vajnai Attila, from the

leadership of the Workers' Party of Hungary (2006), [slammed](#) the police authorities, the Ministry of Interior Affairs, and the conservative Fidesz party-led Hungarian government headed by Viktor Orban for covertly supporting neo-Nazi demonstrations that glorify Nazi criminals and their collaborators in Hungary during World War II. Neo-Nazi groups in Hungary started organizing Honor Day in 1997 to commemorate the Nazi soldiers and collaborators who were killed by the Soviet Red Army during the Siege of Budapest. As part of the annual commemoration, neo-Nazis from all over Eastern Europe [gather](#) in Budapest and march through Kapisztrán



Anti-fascist Protest in Budapest on February 11, 2023. (Photo: via Vajnai Attila). Progressives slammed the Hungarian government as well as the police authorities, accusing them of covertly supporting neo-Nazi events that glorify Nazi war criminals and their collaborators

Square and the routes in Pilisi Park Forest that were used by the Nazis who tried to [escape](#) from the advancing Soviet Red Army. The historic 50-day of the Siege of Budapest by the Red Army began on December 26, 1944, and concluded on February 13

of the next year, with the surrender of the Nazi forces troops who were defending the city. This bid to [honor](#) those who were defending Nazi tyranny has been condemned by progressive sections across Europe and other parts of the world.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas Reiterates Bid To Seek Full UN Membership

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has announced that Palestine will seek full membership at the United Nations (UN) in the coming days. He made this announcement at the Arab League conference on Jerusalem in Cairo, Egypt, last Sunday, February 12.

Abbas also sought support from other Arab and Islamic nations against the increasing "lethal assaults" against Palestinians in the occupied territories. Abbas addressed the gathering along with the Egyptian president Abdel Fattah al-Sisi and Jordanian king Abdullah II, as well as the representatives of other Arab countries. He [asked](#) Arab nations to support the cause of Al-Quds (the Arabic name for Jerusalem), calling it a "religious duty and vital at the humanitarian and national levels." The conference was organized as a follow-up to the Arab League [summit in November](#) last year in Algiers, where it was decided that steps needed to be taken to "support and

strengthen the steadfastness of the Palestinian people of Jerusalem as the first line of defense for the occupied city on behalf of the Arab and Islamic nations," *Wafa* reported. Abbas, speaking about the escalation in Israeli violence in the occupied territories, appealed to the world community to "put a stop to the Israeli aggression and unilateral actions." He also underlined that Palestine would "go to the United Nations and its various bodies to demand a resolution protecting the two-state solution by granting Palestine full membership." Diab Allouh, Palestinian ambassador to Cairo and Palestine's representative to the Arab League, had [claimed a day earlier](#) that the conference was being held with the objective of "countering the practices of Israeli occupation forces in light of the recent violent and ferocious attacks on Jerusalem and its Islamic and Christian sanctities and amid rise in the Israeli attempts to Judaize the

holy city." **Israel's fresh assaults in occupied territories** Israel's violence against Palestinians in the occupied territories has continued. On Monday, February 13, its air forces bombed the besieged Gaza strip in the pre-dawn hours. Though there have been no reports of casualties yet, the attack caused massive material damage in central Gaza. Israeli forces [claimed](#) that the air strike was carried out in response to a rocket fired from Gaza. They also claimed that the attack targeted an "underground Hamas facility." Israeli tanks also fired artillery into the Gaza Strip. Palestinian resistance group Hamas [issued a condemnation](#) of such raids, claiming that, "the Zionist bombardment of Gaza [has] coincided with acts of aggression against Nablus and al-Quds, confirming that we are facing a campaign of hostilities against our entire nation." Israel's ultra right-wing government, led by Benjamin Netanyahu, also

[decided](#) on Monday to legalize at least nine illegal settlers' outposts in the occupied West Bank. Netanyahu announced that there will be more illegal settlements constructed in the occupied territories as well. Israel's interior ministry, headed by extremist Itamar Ben-Gvir, also [issued orders](#) to place more restrictions on the movement of Palestinians in occupied East Jerusalem and to demolish houses of those Palestinians allegedly involved in attacks against Israeli settlers in the region. Netanyahu claimed that the new punitive measures, including the recognition of illegal outposts, were in "response" to attacks on settlers. On Friday, a Palestinian car [rammed](#) settlers, killing two. Israel has termed this a "terrorist" attack. Last month, at least seven Israelis were also killed in a mass shooting in occupied East Jerusalem, a day after Israeli forces had killed nine Palestinians in Jenin. Meanwhile, on Monday, a

Palestinian was killed by Israeli occupation forces in Nablus. Ameer al-Bustami (21) was killed and at least five other Palestinians were reportedly injured when Israeli forces surrounded a civilian building in Sufian street and opened fire at it, Ahmad Jibri, of the Palestinian Red Crescent, [told Wafa News Agency](#). On Sunday, a 14-year-old child, Qusai Radwan Waked, was killed during a similar Israeli military raid in Jenin, *Wafa* reported. Israeli forces have killed [48 Palestinians already this year](#), in numerous raids all across the occupied West Bank. The UN had [declared last year](#) to be the deadliest year for Palestinians in the occupied West Bank since 2005, as Israeli forces killed more than 160 Palestinians.

Bawku Conflict: 27 Pregnant Women Die Over Inability To Access Hospital

A senior health officer at the Upper East Regional Directorate of the Ghana Health Service (GHS), Majeed Sulemana, has revealed that 27 women died in the Bawku municipality due to the conflict in the area.

According to him, the deaths which occurred between 2021 and 2022 were caused by the inability of the women with critical medical conditions to receive care.

According to a Graphic report, 20 pregnant women died in 2021 while 7 died by the end of December last year.

"This is as a result of the inability of the pregnant women to visit and receive medical care at the Bawku

Presbyterian Hospital, the only major referral health facility in the heart of the municipality," he said. He further explained that the Bawku Hospital served patients from the municipality and others from the Pusiga, Garu, Tempane and Binduri districts due to the absence of district hospitals in those districts' areas.

He said aside from the inability to get to the hospital, some pregnant women who managed to get to the hospital still passed on because of the limited number of staff, which resulted in delays in administering the required medical care.

He noted that the security

situation in the Bawku municipality was very disturbing and an impediment to the delivery of quality health care to patients, especially pregnant women, children and the aged. The senior health officer also raised concerns with regards to the staff of the hospital.

He said those who lived among Mamprusis and Kusasis in their communities, put the lives of the health workers at risk, stressing that "some of the health staff are seen to be sympathisers of the feuding parties, since they stay with them".

"This has made it very difficult for such staff to come out of their homes to work, since they fear for their lives,



a development which continues to have a negative toll on the operations of the hospital," Mr Sulemana lamented.

He added that due to the increased insecurity in the municipality, there was high demand for transfer among

staff to leave the municipality to work in health facilities in other districts.

"Definitely, there is high demand for transfer among staff, but if you want to grant everyone, there will not be any staff to work in the hospital," he pointed out.

Gold-For-Oil: Bank Of Ghana Secretly Printing Monies To Buy Gold – Ato Forson Alleges

Minority leader Dr [Cassiel Ato Forson](#) has raised serious concerns about the government's gold-for-oil deal which seeks to reduce the prices of petroleum products in the country. Speaking on TV XYZ, the former Deputy Minister for Finance alleged that the [Bank of Ghana](#) is secretly printing cedis to give to the Precious Minerals Marketing Company (PMMC) to purchase gold for the government.

"Where is the BoG getting money to purchase to give to PMMC to purchase the gold?" Dr Forson asked while pointing to the illegality that is surrounding the policy. "The [Bank of Ghana](#) has secretly printed GH¢50 billion this year without Parliamentary approval. He did that with Finance Minister [Ken Ofori-Atta](#), and we don't know where the money has gone," he said. He explained that the secret printing of cedis began in 2020.

"From 2020 till now, the [Bank of Ghana](#) has printed GH¢90 billion cedis. GH¢40 billion

printed between 2020 and 2022. This year alone, they have printed GH¢50 billion cedis," Forson disclosed. Dr Forson who is also the MP for Ejumako-Enyan-Essiam Constituency also indicated that the Minority would hold the Governor of the Central Bank accountable for the illegality. The 'Gold for Oil' policy is to buy oil products with gold rather than U.S. dollar reserves.

It is meant to tackle dwindling foreign currency reserves coupled with the demand for dollars by oil importers, which weakens the Ghana cedi and increases living costs. Speaking at the 2022 AGI Awards in Accra, Vice President Dr Mahamadu Bawumia explained that Ghana's gold for oil program will give Ghana the space to accumulate more international reserves as the country will save the \$3 billion it spends on oil imports.

He added that the use of gold was specifically for oil



Cassiel Ato Forson, Minority Leader

imports in the face of declining foreign exchange reserves. However, Dr Ato Forson believes the deal is marred by corruption as he explained that the government did not buy oil with gold in its first transaction under the policy.

"They bought the oil with dollars; they didn't buy with gold as we were told. Even with that, instead of buying the oil at 95 dollars per metric tonne, they bought it at around 101 or 105 dollars per metric tonne. "This means there is a middleman somewhere who is making 5 dollars profit around the deal," Dr Forson noted and assured that his side of the law-making chamber will unveil the face behind that illegality.

Source: [myxyzonline.com](#)

DDEP Has Exposed Lazy Conduct Of Banks In Ghana - Banking Consultant

Banking Consultant, Dr. Richmond Atuahene, has said that the Domestic Debt Exchange Programme (DDEP) has exposed the lazy conduct of banks operating in the country. According to him, in the wake of the programme's launch, most commercial banks were under the false impression that government securities were risk-free hence they had over-indulged in lending to the government beyond their single obligor limit.

"As I speak to you a bank had a bond of 9 billion as against a loan portfolio of 4 billion, twice the bonds because when I said it about two years ago in my delivery at Kempinski I said we're doing what we call lazy banking," he is quoted by myjoyonline.com.

"Lazy banking in the sense that we want an easy way out of banking, buy government bonds, buy treasury bills, declare good profit, declare good income, pay good dividend, but that is not banking. That is no banking. That is not how the British colonial masters taught us about banking. Banking, the regulation must be tough for both investments and as well as credit facility, but that was mute," Dr Atuahene added.

He further expressed concern over the [Bank of Ghana's](#) 'loud silence' in raising red flags on the matter which has left some banks at risk of insolvency due to the DDEP.

"So, the banks find it an easy way of going. And let me tell you a secret, some of the banks from other jurisdiction, you know some of them nearly exited when they saw these bonds, they called their board members and told them 'Look the way

you people are going there we're afraid of it'.

"Some of them warned them, the mother companies warned some of the banks here. But the question is that because the enabling environment has been created for easy banking and lazy banking we ended up [here]," the Banking Consultant added.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Finance has announced that over 80 percent of local bondholders signed on to government's Domestic Debt Exchange Programme (DDEP). This was disclosed in a statement by the ministry announcing the closure of the programme on February 14, 2023. "The Government's Domestic Debt Exchange Programme (DDEP) closed on Friday 10th February 2023 with over 80% participation of eligible bonds. The government wants to thank the people of Ghana for their forbearance and support throughout the very difficult times," the statement said.

The ministry further emphasised that participation in the programme was voluntary and that the right of bondholders to self-exempt was never in doubt.

"However, under the circumstances, Government at the same time, always made a strong but humble appeal to bondholders to participate in the DDEP; seeing it as a very critical act of burden-sharing in the ongoing national effort to tackle the economic crisis, bring back microeconomic stability and guarantee sustainable growth and prosperity for the people of Ghana," the ministry said.

Roger Waters Calls For Immediate Ceasefire In Ukraine In UNSC Address

Activist and Pink Floyd co-founder Roger Waters [addressed](#) the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) meeting on Wednesday, February 8, on the Russia-Ukraine conflict and demanded an "immediate ceasefire" as the "only sensible course of action today." Waters stated that the Russian war in Ukraine was "illegal" and condemned it. He, however, also condemned the "provocateurs" who provoked the Russian aggression in Ukraine, without naming any country. The war in Ukraine began last February after NATO failed to address Russian apprehensions regarding NATO's expansion close to its international borders and Ukraine's refusal to address the long-standing conflict in the Donbass region involving Russian-speaking people.

Waters was invited to speak at

the UNSC by Russia. The meeting was called to highlight the West's relentless supply of arms to Ukraine, which Russia [claims](#) will make any possibility of a peaceful settlement difficult. Ukraine's envoy to the UN Sergiy Kyslytsya criticized Waters' address, saying that it was an "ironic attempt" to "whitewash" Russian actions.

The US also criticized Waters' claims that the war was a result of provocation by Ukraine and its allies. Richard Mills, US deputy ambassador to the UN, called it "victim blaming."

Waters has been [critical of the West's supply of weapons](#) to Ukraine, which he claims may prolong the war. He has demanded that the US and NATO assure Russia about its expansion in the region to end the war.

The US and its allies in Europe have been supplying billions

of dollars of arms to Ukraine, apparently to aid its defense against Russian invasions. Russia has asserted that this is a "[proxy war](#)" waged against it by the West using Ukrainians.

Meanwhile, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky [concluded his second foreign trip](#) since the beginning of the war on Thursday, February 9. He visited Brussels and addressed the European Parliament, and also attended a meeting of the European Council. A day before, he had visited London, where he met UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, and Paris, where he met French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz.

During his address to the European Parliament, Zelensky thanked the



(Photo: Randy Credito) Roger Waters was invited to speak at the UNSC by Russia and called for a ceasefire but was criticized by Ukraine and the US. He has been critical of the West's supply of weapons to Ukraine, which he claims may prolong the war

European countries for providing Ukraine with weapons. He further demanded more weapons and other forms of support in the future. He also [expressed hope](#) that Ukraine would be a full member of the European Union soon.

During his meetings with the European leaders,

Zelensky had demanded fighter jets and said that he received a positive response. However, Macron was later [reported as saying](#) that the proposal to provide fighter jets to Ukraine was not finalized and that it would not be possible in the coming weeks.

Address By Nkosi ZMD Mandela, MP On The Occasion Of The Visit To The Sahrawi Refugee Camps In Tindouf, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic On Tuesday 7th February 2023

His Excellency President Brahim Ghali;

The leadership of the Polisario Front; Heroic people of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic; Brothers and sisters; Comrades and friends.

Assalaamu alaykum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuhu.

I am deeply honoured to be standing in the sand in solidarity with the Sahrawi people once again. The wind and dust of Tindouf has brought us back to remind us that our struggle is far from over until every inch of land of the Sahrawi people is free.

I bring you revolutionary greetings from the people of South Africa. Your struggle lives and is pumping in our hearts and veins. How can it not be living when despite your own constraints and limitations you stood by us in the darkest hours of our liberation struggle against the brutal Apartheid regime in South Africa.

In the dark days and nights that our political leaders of the African National Congress (ANC) and other political formations of our liberation movement spent in the jail cells of Robben Island and other Apartheid jails, it was your bravery, courage and heroism that inspired them and motivated us, and

kept our hopes alive.

When the forces of global imperialism were backing the Apartheid regime in our country, and the global anti-Apartheid Movement was still in its infancy and struggling to gather support and solidarity, it was the heroism of the Polisario Front that led to the capture of South African Armed Personnel Tanks made in South Africa and smuggled to Apartheid Israel by Morocco in an act of sanctions busting. The evidence is still here for everyone to see here in the military museum where those tanks with the old South African flag are still held.

It saddens me that since the withdrawal of the Spanish colonisers in 1975 and the annexation by Morocco in 1976 no progress has been made in liberating Africa's last colonial outpost. Numerous extensions to hold a free and fair referendum on the future of the occupied Sahrawi Republic land has been made under the aegis of the United Nations. Despite this, Morocco continues to lay claim to Sahrawi land and perpetuates its illegal annexation in violation of international law, and continues meting out brutal cruelty to political prisoners in violation of the Geneva Convention and its clauses on

the treatment of prisoners of war. Some of those political prisoners have been tortured and languishing in Moroccan jails for over three decades.

My brothers and sisters, The African National Congress has since its unbanning at every National Policy Conference and every National General Conference adopted resolutions in support of the just struggle of the Sahrawi people.

This principled position in support of the Sahrawi Republic and the struggle for self determination by the Sahrawi people forms part of the International Relations policy of our government in South Africa.

We assure you that we will continue to lobby and advocate for the struggle of the Sahrawi people in all forums in Africa including SADC and other regions in the African continent, the Pan African Parliament, the African Union and all global multilateral forums including Latin America, the European Union and the United Nations.

Comrades and friends, My grandfather President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela reminded us

that "as long as there is a single human being suffering anywhere in the world, our struggle is far from over."

The Sahrawi people are suffering here in the refugee camps and the world is turning a blind eye.

The heroes of the Sahrawi people's struggle are suffering in jail and the world looks on in silence.

The Sahrawi exiles in Europe have a right under international law to be protected and have the right to return to their homes under international law yet the world ignores their plight.

We feel your suffering and we feel the suffering of those in the diaspora just as we feel the pain of the political prisoners and we will not remain silent.

There are those who expect us to be silent in the face of unbearable injustice but we can never do that and we will never do that. There are those who are angry at us for flying the flag of Western Sahara in all forums that we speak across the world. The revolutionary struggle of the Sahrawi people will never be silenced.

There are those who are angry at us

for speaking about Western Sahara at the opening ceremony of the Africa Cup of Nations. We are very firm on this that there can be no normal sport in an abnormal society. We waged a battle against colonial dispossession for almost 350 years and for almost six decades against an Apartheid nuclear power that was notorious for its brutality, and we never gave up.

Today, we are here to say never give up, we are standing with you and we are mobilising the international solidarity network to stand in the sand with you in support of the struggle of the Sahrawi people.

Long live the struggle for a free Western Sahara long live!

ENDS

Nkosi Zwelivelile

Royal House of Mandela

Mvezo Komkhulu

P.O. Box 126

Viedgesville 5102

Eastern Cape Province

7th February, 2023.

Ntim Cautions Flagbearer Hopefuls Against Flouting Party's Code Of Conduct

The national chairman of the ruling [New Patriotic Party](#) (NPP), Stephen Ntim, has assured the Greater Accra Regional Council of Elders of the NPP and the entire party that the leadership of the NPP will ensure that the upcoming election of a flagbearer to lead the party into election 2024 is free and fair.

Speaking at a brainstorming session by the council of elders of the Greater Accra Region at Peduase in Aburi, the Chairman stated that even though the party is yet to set a date for the congress and election of its flagbearer and parliamentary candidates, National executives are in vigorous preparation to ensure a free, fair, clean and successful primaries.

Responding to concerns by some members of the council on those who are flouting the code of conduct in the campaigning, the chairman was emphatic that the code of ethics is still in force and thus cautioned prospective aspirants to abide by them as no date has been set yet for the elections.

This is the full statement:

STATEMENT BY THE NATIONAL CHAIRMAN OF THE NPP, MR. STEPHEN AYESU NTIM AT A RETREAT ORGANIZED BY THE GREATER ACCRA REGIONAL COUNCIL OF ELDERS ON FEBRUARY 11, 2023.

Chairman and members of the Greater Accra Regional Council of Elders, I stand on existing protocols to, first of all, bring you greetings from the National leadership of the Party, and to commend you for putting together this important Retreat. I do not recall a retreat of this nature organized by any of our regional council of elders and so, I commend you for setting this pace and hope that other organs of the party particularly at the regional levels would emulate this enviable example.

The choice of the theme for this occasion: "Effective Party Organization To Break The Eight" is spot on and worthy of commendation. Indeed, I dare say, there couldn't have been a better theme looking at the times we find ourselves as a party. We are seeking to do something no political party in the history of this country has been able to do. We are seeking to win a third consecutive general election. We are seeking to break the eight that have so far eluded the two major political parties in the fourth

republic.

Obviously, to achieve this extraordinary and unprecedented feat, we need to do the extraordinary. We cannot do the same things we've been doing from 1992 and expect to achieve a different result, more so, when the result in question, is one that no political party in Ghana has been able to achieve. This consciousness is what I expect to drive our 2024 project. We must all be conscious of the enormity of the task ahead of us to be able to work our hearts out toward its realization.

Consistent with our mandate, we, as national officers, following our election in July 2022, set for ourselves, a target of working assiduously to retain power in 2024 to justify the confidence that had been reposed in us by the party's delegates. This particular commitment to delivering nothing but victory to the party come 2024, has, at all times, been our primary focus in everything we do.

We began by appointing hardworking party members to serve as deputy national officers, directors at the national secretariat and as members of the various committees of the Party to help us effectively deliver on our mandate. Of course, we can only be successful on this mandate if we get the support and cooperation of the members of our Party. More importantly, we can only succeed on our mandate when we continue to receive wise counsel from the members of our council of elders from the constituency to regional and national levels to put us on track at all times.

As members of the council of elders, the wisdom and advice you offer us is so crucial to help us effectively organize and manage the party. This is crucial in winning the 2024 general elections.

With your continuous support thus far, I am happy to report that the NPP is the most organized political party in Ghana. In respect of the current state of the NPP as evidence of our level of preparedness for the 2024 general elections, I can say confidently that, building on the hard work started by the previous administration, we continue to be the most vibrant and the leading political party in

Ghana.

Indeed, despite the negative impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on political activities, we were the first party in Ghana that was able to organize conferences and elected polling station executives in all the over 38,000 polling stations in the country; elected constituency executives in all the 275 constituencies; elected regional executives in all the 16 regions of the country and ultimately elected national executive officers.

We have equally successfully undertaken a nationwide membership registration, and have also begun rolling out a new biometric membership ID card with the launch of a new biometric membership identification system to issue new party cards to our members and for the management of membership data. We have successfully organized orientation and training workshops for the national and regional party executives to prepare ourselves for the task ahead.

We have initiated the "Party-Government Engagements series", which is an initiative that is aimed at bridging the gap between the party and government by strengthening the relationship between government appointees and party executives at all levels through regular face to face interactions. Following the introduction of the initiative, some senior government officials and CEOs of government agencies have visited the Party headquarters and held fruitful interactions with party officials.

Without a doubt, all these feats, can certainly, only be achieved by a well-organized political party that is well prepared to go into the 2024 general elections and win by the grace of God.

Mr. Chairman, having come this far, another crucial activity that is ahead of the Party going into election 2024 is the organization of parliamentary and presidential primaries to select our respective candidates. This exercise is so crucial that our victory in 2024 is largely hinged on how we conduct ourselves before, during and after these primaries.

On account of this, I wish to make a passionate appeal to all prospective aspirants, their supporters, party members and all stakeholders of the Party to respect the rules of engagement. We should always be guided by



Stephen Ntim with NPP Greater Accra Council of Elders

the supreme interest of the party and eschew all acts that have the tendency of dividing our ranks. We cannot have an effective and well organized party to break the eight if we do not prioritize the party's interest. Our victory in 2024 will largely depend on how we conduct ourselves in the upcoming presidential and parliamentary primaries.

It is in view of the importance of these primaries on our electoral fortunes that the National Council of the Party formulated a Code of Conduct to regulate our conduct during the period preceding the opening of nominations for these primaries. It is also worth reminding all party members that the Code of Conduct is still in force, and as national officers, we will continue to monitor its implementation to ensure maximum conformity. This is crucial to help us close our ranks going into the 2024 general elections and to be able to break the eight.

As members of the Council of Elders of our Party, you have an important role to play in promoting the Code of Conduct and generally, in ensuring party discipline, which again is absolutely necessary for our victory in 2024. I, therefore, appeal to every member of the party to support us in this endeavor. This is needed for the party to break the eight.

Distinguished Elders, I also wish to report to you that the party is currently engaging stakeholders and would very soon come out with a timetable for the conduct of the Party's parliamentary and presidential primaries. For your information at the last Steering Committee, National Executive Committee and National Council meetings held on 2nd February

2023, it was resolved that due to the importance of this exercise on the party's electoral fortunes in 2024, there was the need for the party to build consensus among all relevant stakeholders before deciding on timelines for the conduct of the primaries.

At the right time when a broader stakeholder consultation is done and this decision is eventually taken, the Party would issue appropriate rules and regulations to govern the conduct of these primaries. I once again plead to all party members to abide by these rules and regulations in the interest of the party. I wish to reiterate the point that as national officers of the Party, not only are we going to be impartial but will also ensure a level playing field for all prospective aspirants in the conduct of both the parliamentary and presidential primaries.

We admonish supporters of would-be aspirants and members of the party to refrain from the use of provocative language in the lead-up to the party's primaries. We should all remember that we remain the sons and daughters from the womb of one giant elephant. This is the only party we have. We should remind ourselves of the very reason for our existence as a political party which finds expression in Article 2(3) of the Party's Constitution. i.e. "to win political power through democratic means in order to pursue the party's agenda as provided for in the party's manifesto for a general election".

LONG LIVE THE NPP

LONG LIVE GHANA

KUKRUDU! KUKRUDU!

If Black English Isn't A Language, Then Tell Me, What Is?

The New York Times

July 29, 1979

St Paul de Vence, France -- The argument concerning the use, or the status, or the reality, of black English is rooted in American history and has absolutely nothing to do with the question the argument supposes itself to be posing. The argument has nothing to do with language itself but with the role of language. Language, incontestably, reveals the speaker. Language, also, far more dubiously, is meant to define the other -- and, in this case, the other is refusing to be defined by a language that has never been able to recognize him. People evolve a language in order to describe and thus control their circumstances, or in order not to be submerged by a reality that they cannot articulate. (And, if they cannot articulate it, they are submerged.) A Frenchman living in Paris speaks a subtly and crucially different language from that of the man living in Marseilles; neither sounds very much like a man living in Quebec; and they would all have great difficulty in apprehending what the man from Guadeloupe, or Martinique, is saying, to say nothing of the man from Senegal -- although the "common" language of all these areas is French. But each has paid, and is paying, a different price for this "common" language, in which, as it turns out, they are not saying, and cannot be saying, the same things: They each have very different realities to articulate, or control. What joins all languages,

and all men, is the necessity to confront life, in order, not inconceivably, to outwit death: The price for this is the acceptance, and achievement, of one's temporal identity. So that, for example, thought it is not taught in the schools (and this has the potential of becoming a political issue) the south of France still clings to its ancient and musical Provençal, which resists being described as a "dialect." And much of the tension in the Basque countries, and in Wales, is due to the Basque and Welsh determination not to allow their languages to be destroyed. This determination also feeds the flames in Ireland for many indignities the Irish have been forced to undergo at English hands is the English contempt for their language. It goes without saying, then, that language is also a political instrument, means, and proof of power. It is the most vivid and crucial key to identify: It reveals the private identity, and connects one with, or divorces one from, the larger, public, or communal identity. There have been, and are, times, and places, when to speak a certain language could be dangerous, even fatal. Or, one may speak the same language, but in such a way that one's antecedents are revealed, or (one hopes) hidden. This is true in France, and is absolutely true in England: The range (and reign) of accents on that damp little island make England coherent for the English and totally incomprehensible for everyone else. To open your mouth in England is (if I may use black English) to "put your business in the street": You have confessed your parents, your youth, your

school, your salary, your self-esteem, and, alas, your future. Now, I do not know what white Americans would sound like if there had never been any black people in the United States, but they would not sound the way they sound. Jazz, for example, is a very specific sexual term, as in jazz me, baby, but white people purified it into the Jazz Age. Sock it to me, which means, roughly, the same thing, has been adopted by Nathaniel Hawthorne's descendants with no qualms or hesitations at all, along with let it all hang out and right on! Beat to his socks which was once the black's most total and despairing image of poverty, was transformed into a thing called the Beat Generation, which phenomenon was, largely, composed of uptight, middle-class white people, imitating poverty, trying to get down, to get with it, doing their thing, doing their despairing best to be funky, which we, the blacks, never dreamed of doing--we were funky, baby, like funk was going out of style. Now, no one can eat his cake, and have it, too, and it is late in the day to attempt to penalize black people for having created a language that permits the nation its only glimpse of reality, a language without which the nation would be even more whipped than it is. I say that the present skirmish is rooted in American history, and it is. Black English is the creation of the black diaspora. Blacks came to the United States chained to each other, but from different tribes: Neither could speak the other's language. If two black people, at that bitter hour of the world's history, had been able to speak to each other, the institution of chattel slavery could never have lasted as long as it did. Subsequently, the slave was given, under the

eye, and the gun, of his master, Congo Square, and the Bible -- or in other words, and under these conditions, the slave began the formation of the black church, and it is within this unprecedented tabernacle that black English began to be formed. This was not, merely, as in the European example, the adoption of a foreign tongue, but an alchemy that transformed ancient elements into a new language: A language comes into existence by means of brutal necessity, and the rules of the language are dictated by what the language must convey.

There was a moment, in time, and in this place, when my brother, or my mother, or my father, or my sister, had to convey to me, for example, the danger in which I was standing from the white man standing just behind me, and to convey this with a speed, and in a language, that the white man could not possibly understand, and that, indeed, he cannot understand, until today. He cannot afford to understand it. This understanding would reveal to him too much about himself, and smash that mirror before which he has been frozen for so long. Now, if this passion, this skill, this (to quote Toni Morrison) "sheer intelligence," this incredible music, the mighty achievement of having brought a people utterly unknown to, or despised by "history" -- to have brought this people to their present, troubled, troubling, and unassailable and unanswerable place -- if this absolutely unprecedented journey does not indicate that black English is a language, I am curious to know what definition of language is to be trusted. A people at the center of the Western world, and in the midst of so hostile a population, has not endured and transcended by means of what is

patronizingly called a "dialect." We, the blacks, are in trouble, certainly, but we are not doomed, and we are not inarticulate because we are not compelled to defend a morality that we know to be a lie. The brutal truth is that the bulk of white people in America never had any interest in educating black people, except as this could serve white purposes. It is not the black child's language that is in question, it is not his language that is despised: It is his experience. A child cannot be taught by anyone who despises him, and a child cannot afford to be fooled. A child cannot be taught by anyone whose demand, essentially, is that the child repudiate his experience, and all that gives him sustenance, and enter a limbo in which he will no longer be black, and in which he knows that he can never become white. Black people have lost too many black children that way. And, after all, finally, in a country with standards so untrustworthy, a country that makes heroes of so many criminal mediocrities, a country unable to face why so many of the nonwhite are in prison, or on the needle, or standing, futureless, in the streets -- it may very well be that both the child, and his elder, have concluded that they have nothing whatever to learn from the people of a country that has managed to learn so little.