

# GHANA'S DAY OF SHAME

## SMG To Mark 57 Years Of Nkrumah's Overthrow



**OSAGYEFO DR KWAME NKUMAH**

**T**he Socialist Movement of Ghana (SMG) will on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023 organise a public forum to observe the 57<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the shameful overthrow of Ghana's first president and founder, Osagyefo Dr. Kwame Nkrumah. The Socialist Movement of Ghana has for over two decades now been organizing public forums and symposiums every 24<sup>th</sup> February of every year to mark the day which has been widely described as "Ghana's Day of Shame" as it marked the country's darkest moments in history by way of reversing the enviable and progressive socio-economic, industrial and infrastructural achievements of the Convention People's Party (CPP) government led by Osagyefo Dr. Kwame Nkrumah.

*Cont. on page 3*

### Senior Israeli Diplomat Expelled From African Union's Annual Summit



**S**outh Africa, one of the members of the African Union (AU), claimed on Sunday, February 19, that since Israel's status as observer is not yet finalized, the expulsion of its delegate a day earlier from AU's annual summit meeting was justified, *Reuters* [reported](#). A video was posted on social media

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# The INSIGHT

## — EDITORIAL

### AN APPALLINGLY BAD DEAL!

**T**he revelation that an amount of \$11 billion from oil exploration deals was allowed to go down the drain due to inaction or a deliberate attempt on the part of some officials of state to reap 'from the back door' is highly condemnable. Clearly, the deal is a bad one and needs to be properly investigated to ascertain complicity, if any.

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

This is another act of giving for free what ordinary Ghanaians need to benefit from. No one can and should attempt to justify why our officials deliberately let down the nation by negotiating off our interest in the deal. Ghana's natural resources have not for the large part benefitted the teeming masses who constitute the poor village dwellers with no means of earning a living.

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

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

# Senior Israeli Diplomat Expelled From African Union's Annual Summit

from front page

on Saturday showing Israel's deputy director for Africa Sharon Bar Li being asked to leave the inaugural meeting of the AU annual summit held in Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa by security. Ebba Kalondo, spokesperson of the AU chairperson, was later quoted by the news agencies saying that Bar Li was asked to leave the meeting because she was not invited to the summit and AU had only issued a non-transferable invitation to Israeli ambassador to the African Union, Aleli Admasu.

Reacting to the news, Israel claimed that its diplomat was duly accredited to attend the meet and [criticized South Africa and Algeria for the incident, claiming that "the African Union has been taken hostage by a small number of extremist countries such as Algeria and South Africa driven by hatred and controlled by Iran."](#)

However, South Africa rejected Israeli accusations claiming that Israel's status as an observer of the African Union was not yet settled and "until the AU takes a decision on whether to grant Israel observer status, you cannot have the country sitting and observing."

There were [reports in July 2021 that Israel had been granted observer status of the 55-member African Union. However, several members of the group, including South Africa and Algeria, had objected to what they called "unilateral acceptance" of its accreditation by the then chairman of the AU commission Mousa Faki Mahamat.](#)

South Africa had claimed at the time that Israel's observer status contradicted the AU's expressed support to the Palestinian people and it "cannot be a party in any way to plans and actions that would see the ideals of Palestinian statehood reduced into balkanized entities devoid of true sovereignty, without territorial contiguity and with no economic viability." Palestine has observer status at the African Union and Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh [attended](#)



*(Photo: via Wafa) Israel's deputy director for Africa Sharon Bar Li was asked to leave the inaugural meeting of the African Union summit in Addis Ababa. South Africa later said that Israel's status as observer had not yet been finalized and hence, the expulsion was justified*

[the summit meeting on Saturday.](#)

The African National Congress (ANC), South Africa's ruling party, also [welcomed the ousting of the Israeli delegate, and said that Israel's attending the summit was an "attempt to undermine the current sitting AU summit from considering a report that is supposed to guide discussions on whether Israel must be granted an observer status."](#)

ANC also made clear that it was opposed to the "AU granting apartheid Israel any observer status."

## THE INSIGHT

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# GHANA'S DAY OF SHAME

## SMG To Mark 57 Years Of Nkrumah's Overthrow

from front page

This year's forum is being organized under the broad theme, "National Economic Chaos Vindicates Nkrumah" and the event will be chaired by Comrade Dr. Yaw Baah, Secretary General of the Ghana Trades Union Congress (TUC).

Speakers for the event are Professor Akua Britwum, Lecturer at the University of Cape Coast, Hon. Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa, Member of Parliament (MP) for North Tongu and Comrade Kwesi Pratt Jnr., General Secretary of the SMG.

The programme will take place at the headquarters of the Socialist Movement of Ghana on the George Walker Bush Highway, next door to the Noghill Hotel in Accra.

The event which will be telecast live on Pan African Television starts at 4.00 pm and participants will include trade unionists, progressives and revolutionary forces among others.

The observance of Ghana's Day of Shame on every February 24 is undertaken to mark the futile attempts by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) of the United States (US) to destroy the historic achievements of Osagyefo Dr. Kwame Nkrumah in Ghana and Africa in general. As part of activities to mark the day, the Socialist Movement of Ghana issue statements via its numerous collectives to denounce the overthrow of Ghana's first President and founder, Osagyefo Dr. Kwame Nkrumah

on 24<sup>th</sup> February 1966 as a treasonable act against Ghana and Africa in general.

A statement previously issued by the Accra and Bibiani Collectives of the SMG to mark last year's 56 years of the sordid episode in Ghana's history described the overthrow of Osagyefo Dr. Kwame Nkrumah as "shameful and treasonable against Ghanaians and Africans as a whole".

The day of shame is also widely observed by progressives and revolutionary forces as it marked the day in which one of the most vicious attacks on African independence was orchestrated and launched from Ghana.

The attack was designed by the Intelligence services of

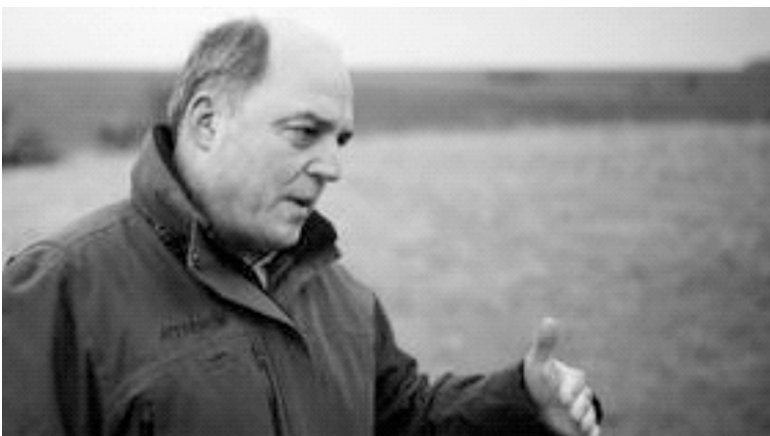


**OSAGYEFO DR KWAME NKUMAH**

Western Imperialism and executed by a handful of traitors in uniformed services conspiring with the

leadership of the Danquah-Busia political tradition to undo the progressive works of Osagyefo Dr. Kwame Nkrumah.

## West Lacks Operational Tanks For Kiev – UK Defense Secretary



**Armies have been "hollowed out" over the last three decades, Ben Wallace said. Britain's Defense Secretary Ben Wallace. © Ben Birchall / POOL / AFP**

After pledging to supply Ukraine with modern heavy tanks, many Western nations have now discovered that a significant part of their weaponry is not fit to take part in any

conflict, The UK's Secretary of Defence Ben Wallace has said. In a Saturday interview with Der Spiegel, Wallace noted that Germany organized a meeting with its NATO allies this week to discuss tank deliveries. "That's when the

problems became obvious. The political decision is there... The politicians sent their military to the depots only to find that their tanks are not operational or repaired for delivery to Ukraine," he said. According to Wallace, NATO has to face the painful truth that "our armies have been more or less hollowed out over the last 30 years... There are numbers of how many tanks each country has. But then there is the reality that tells us that far too few of them are operational," he noted.

When asked whether the tanks would arrive in Ukraine on time, the British defense

chief made a call to "give the other partners a little more time," describing Western-made armor as "not a silver bullet to win the war instantly" and highlighting the importance of training Kiev's troops. Wallace went on to say that similar issues apply to ammunition. "In terms of ammunition stocks, too, we found that our peacetime plans were not sufficient. We didn't count on a real war, so the target numbers for the ammunition were too low," he said.

In January, the UK, Germany and the US decided to supply Kiev with modern heavy armor

– Challenger 2, Leopard 2 and M1 Abrams tanks respectively. Germany has also approved the re-export of Leopard 2s from third countries to Ukraine, with Chancellor Olaf Scholz pointing out recently that many nations who'd asked Berlin for re-export permission have failed to deliver the tanks. Russia has repeatedly warned the West against supplying Ukraine with arms, saying it would only prolong the hostilities. Kremlin Press Secretary Dmitry Peskov has claimed that Western tanks sent to Kiev "will burn" and will fail to change the outcome of the conflict.



# INTERNATIONAL NEWS REPORT

## Compiled By Peoples Dispatch

### Biden Ordered Destruction Of Nord Stream Pipelines, Claims Renowned Journalist Seymour Hersh

Seymour Hersh, a Pulitzer prize-winning journalist, has claimed in an article published on [Substack](#) on Wednesday, February 8, that the blasts that decommissioned the Nord Stream pipelines in September were executed by the US under orders from President Joe Biden. Hersh cites an unnamed source who, he says, had participated in meetings held in Washington to plan the attack in December 2021, months before the Russian offensive in Ukraine began on February 24. Hersh claims that divers from the US Navy's Diving and Salvage Center in Panama City, Florida, used the annual NATO exercises that take place in the Baltic Sea—BALTOPS 22, in June 2022—to plant the explosives that were later detonated remotely on September 26, 2022. The report claims that the blasts were

carried out remotely after a Norwegian Navy P8 surveillance plane dropped the necessary sonar buoy in the sea on September 26. Two pipelines of Nord Stream 1 had been operational for over a decade, supplying billions of dollars of gas to Germany and other Western European countries. Two pipelines of Nord Stream 2 were yet to be operationalized. Of the four Nord Stream pipelines, the blasts destroyed three. The report claims that the decision to blow up the pipeline was taken by US President Joe Biden, and that planning for the attack began taking place in late 2021 in Washington under the leadership of Jack Sullivan, US national security advisor. The first formal meeting, Hersh says, was held in December 2021. The decision to go forward with a covert operation using remotely-

detonated mines was taken after considering other more overt options, such as using submarines or air strikes with delayed fuses, among others, Hersh claims. According to Hersh, blowing up the Nord Stream pipelines was a part of US attempts to reduce Russian influence in Germany and other Western European countries, as well as to reduce their access to—and, therefore, dependence on—Russian oil. It was done now with the objective of ending European resistance to supplying money and weapons to Ukraine, and to sway Europe towards taking a more actively anti-Russia stance.

#### Confirms Russian claims

Following the blasts in September last year, Russia had [pointed out](#) that the US was the direct beneficiary of the destruction of Nord Stream. It had [called the act](#)

an “unprecedented act of state terrorism,” and had demanded serious international investigations. Earlier investigations carried out by Denmark and Sweden, whose special economic zones Nord Stream passes through, confirmed that the destruction of the pipelines was the result of an act of [sabotage](#). Both the US and NATO have denied the claims made in the report. Pentagon spokesperson Garron Garn [told TASS](#) that his country “was not involved in the Nord Stream explosion.” Adrienne Watson, a White House spokesperson, [claimed](#) that Hersh's account was “false and complete fiction.” Maria Zakhrova, from the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, however, has asked the US to clarify and comment on the facts



*(Photo: EPA-EFE/Danish Defence Command). Seymour Hersh reported that divers from the US Navy's Diving and Salvage Center planted the explosives that were later detonated remotely on September 26, 2022. Earlier investigations by Denmark and Sweden had already confirmed sabotage*

presented in Hersh's report. Several well-known journalists have also questioned the US's complete rejection of Hersh's report, pointing out that his record as a reporter—including his earlier coverage of such things as the Vietnam War, the Watergate scandal, and Abu Ghraib—suggests that this report should be taken more seriously.

### Not An Inch Back: French Workers Fight Back Against Macron's Neo-Liberal Pension Reform



*(Photo: PCF Nord via Fabien Roussel). France's controversial pension reform bill will likely undergo crucial debates and voting in the National Assembly, the lower house of the French Parliament*

French workers have intensified their protests against the unpopular pension reforms being pushed by Emmanuel Macron's government. Responding to a joint call issued by major French trade unions, on Thursday, February 16, for the fifth time since January this

year, workers—in the hundreds of thousands—hit the streets across the country denouncing the new pension reforms that seek to raise the retirement age in France from 62 to 64. The protesters have reiterated their demand that the proposed reforms be withdrawn and called for

increases in the minimum wage and pensions in the country. Activists from left-wing parties and student-youth groups affiliated with the New Ecological and Social People's Union (NUPES) coalition also joined the protest mobilizations.

According to [estimates](#) by the General Confederation of Labor (CGT), around 1.3 million people took part in the mobilizations on Thursday, including 300,000 in Paris, 55,000 in Albi, and 15,000 in Grenoble. The unions have called for a total shutdown of the country on March 7 by national strike and massive mobilizations. On Friday, February 17, major developments were expected in the French parliament, as the lower house—the

National Assembly finalized its deliberations on the proposed [reforms](#) before they are passed on to the Senate. There have been reports that suggest that there exists a lack of unity among the MPs from the NUPES coalition over whether to debate all the proposed amendments to the pension [reforms](#) bill or to focus on the defeat of Article 7 of the bill, which calls to increase the retirement age from 62 to 64. Time is running short for the opposition. If the National Assembly fails to complete the debate and vote on the bill by Friday night, the bill

will automatically be pushed to the Senate for further deliberations. The minority government, led by President Macron and Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne, is counting on support from all the MPs from Macron's Renaissance (RE) and The Republicans. While addressing the media during the mobilization on Thursday, Fabien Roussel, the leader of the French Communist Party (PCF), [said](#) that “the government is stubborn and the President of the Republic provokes us by asking the French to accept this unjust reform.”



# We Made Mistakes, Farmers Don't Need Tractors - John Mahama

Former President, [John Dramani Mahama](#), has asserted that farmers do not need agricultural equipment, such as tractors, to aid their work. According to him, these farmers rather need the services of someone who operates a tractor. In his view, his government erred in importing tractors and agricultural equipment for farmers as they were unable to use them to the maximum and maintain them. Speaking at the 59th Munich Security Conference 2023, the former president said if given the chance again, he would rectify this problem to help farmers grow their yields and business.

[John Dramani Mahama](#) said, "I realised some of the things that we did, we made mistakes, we imported tractors and agricultural equipment, and we gave it to farmers. The farmer does not need the tractor, he does not need the agricultural equipment, he needs the services of a tractor," "So somebody who knows how to maintain that tractor must have a service centre, where he provides the services to the farmer. But we gave the tractors to the farmers, and in a year or two the tractor had broken down because he [farmer] doesn't know that every six months you must change the engine oil, you must change the filters, you must grease the



**Former President of Ghana, John Dramani Mahama**

tractor, he [farmer] doesn't know that. So we will approach it differently," he stated.

[John Dramani Mahama](#) is

the Chairperson of the Tana High-Level Forum on Security in Africa.

Defence, Thandi Modise, was the keynote speaker for the event.

South Africa's Minister for

## Picketing Pensioners Caused Me Great Distress – Ken Ofori-Atta



**Finance Minister Ken Ofori-Atta**

The Minister for Finance, Ken Ofori-Atta has disclosed that the presence of pensioner bondholders at the premises of his ministry over a two-week period caused him a great deal of distress. Addressing parliament on Thursday, February 16, 2023, the minister reiterated that government will honour the terms of bonds held by pensioners as it remains committed to the wellbeing and dignity of senior citizens.

"Mr Speaker, government remains committed to the wellbeing and dignity of our senior citizens and pensioners. Indeed Mr Speaker, it has personally caused me great distress as a number of our pensioners have picketed at the premises of the ministry of finance since Monday, February 6, 2023. I have already stated in my press release dated February 14, 2023, that government will honour their coupon payments and all maturing bonds in line with government's fiscal commitments," the minister told parliament. The Pensioner Bondholders Forum have been picketing at the ministry demanding total exemption from the government's Domestic Debt Exchange Programme. The picketing witnessed the

participation of former Chief Justice, Sophia Akuffo who described the programme as unlawful and disrespectful to senior citizens.

But speaking to parliament on Thursday, the minister disclosed that pensioners who did not participate in the programme have been exempted by government.

"In seeking to understand the concerns of our senior citizens, I have met with them on three occasions; the most recent was 15 February 2023 where I explained the terms of the new bonds.

"Mr Speaker, I subsequently wrote to their convener that all pensioners who did not participate in the bond offering are exempted," Ofori-Atta added.

## Ghana's IMF Programme Rushed, Poorly Negotiated - Minority Leader



Ghana is hoping to obtain a \$3 billion IMF deal by the end of the first quarter of 2023. According to the finance minister, failure to obtain the deal by March will crash the economy.

But the Minority Leader in parliament, [Cassiel Ato Forson](#), intimated that the deal with the IMF was rushed and poorly negotiated.

According to him, this is the fastest any country has undertaken an agreement with the Fund. He, therefore, called on the government to set the example of cutting expenditures to encourage the approval of certain taxes in the 2023 budget.

"The budget statement does not look like a country that is embarking on fiscal consolidation. We will not allow you to engage in burden-shifting. Sow e are telling you if you want us to cut your loans, cut your taxes, cut first. Show us the way, show us the way that you are ready to share the burden with the people of Ghana before you call on us to approve your taxes. We won't allow you to shift the burden to the ordinary Ghanaian," he said on the floor of parliament on February 16, 2023. He said, "this is the fastest a country has undertaken a debt restructuring This is one of the fastest agreements but it is the one that is mostly poorly negotiated because they rushed into it and didn't constitute a proper strong team to be able to negotiate with the IMF and as a result, Ghana has had a bad deal."

# NCA Slapped With GH¢20,000 Cost Over Appeal

A three-member panel of the Court of Appeal presided over by Justice Senyo Dzamefe has dismissed an appeal filed by National Communications Authority (NCA) over a GH¢20,000 damages awarded against it by the High Court.

On July 22, 2021, the High Court in Accra (General Jurisdiction) presided over by Justice Rebecca Sittie in an Application filed by private Legal practitioner Francis Kwarteng Arthur ordered Ghana Telecommunications Company Limited and Scancom (MTN Ghana Limited) and all network service providers not to release subscribers Mobile Money details to government.

The court in its judgement also awarded a cost of GH¢20,000 each against Kelni GVG and NCA and a further GH¢10,000 against Ghana Telecommunications Company Limited in favour of the plaintiff.

Unhappy with the damages aspect of the judgement, the NCA initiated an appeal to challenge the cost slapped by the High Court.

The NCA argued that the court has no jurisdiction to award the damages and that the damages in itself is too excessive.

But the plaintiff and his lawyers opposed the request and argued that the damages awarded was a step in the right direction.

The panel of the second highest court of the land which also includes Justice Eric Baah and Justice Merley Afua Wood dismissed the appeal and reaffirmed orders made by the High Court. The court consequently awarded a cost of GH¢20,000 damages to the plaintiff (Respondent) after ruling that the appeal is unmeritorious.

The five Respondents in the

matter are Ghana Telecommunications Company Limited, Scancom PLC – MTN-Ghana, Kelni GVG Limited, NCA, and Attorney General respectively.

## NCA's grounds of appeal

On August 12, 2021, the NCA filed a notice of appeal on grounds as follows:

a. That the learned High Court Judge erred in awarding damages against the Appellant in such generic human rights enforcement action in which the Respondent provided no evidence of personal rights violation.

b. That the learned High Court Judge erred in awarding damages against the Appellant when no special or general damages relief was claimed by the Respondent in enforcement of fundamental human rights action.

c. That the damages awarded by the learned High Court Judge against the Appellant and in favour of the Respondent is harsh and excessive.

d. That the Ruling is against the weight of the affidavit evidence.

## Unmeritorious, misconception

The Plaintiff (Respondent) through his lawyers led by Dr. Justice Srem-Sai on November 17, 2022, responded to the motion for the appeal and described it as “unmeritorious.”

“My Lords, as it stands, the Applicant's personal information (and the personal information of millions of Ghanaians) which have been unlawfully released are at large, with absolutely no prospect of being retrieved and protected,” Counsel argued.

“It is important to also note that the trial Court's order that the 4th Respondent file a certificate

of compliance with its orders of retrieval and destruction is yet to be complied with.

“The 4th Respondent has mounted a brass neck to the express orders of the trial High Court but found it prudent to spend scarce public resources to pursue an appeal which has no likelihood of success.

“In the light of the above, we pray, respectfully, that these grounds of appeal, too, be dismissed as unmeritorious. The entire appeal is but a misconception of the case itself.”

## Background

The High Court in Accra (General Jurisdiction) presided over by Justice Rebecca Sittie has ordered Ghana Telecommunications Company Limited and Stratcom (MTN Ghana Limited) and all network service providers not to release subscribers' Mobile Money details to government.

A private legal practitioner, Francis Kwarteng Arthur, went to the High Court to challenge the President's order contained in Executive Instrument (EI) Number 63 and the manner in which the order was being implemented.

Through the EI 63, government through Kelni GVG made a request to the telecommunication networks and service providers to hand over the personal information of all customers and subscribers to the President to conduct contact tracing to control the spread of the deadly COVID-19.

Mr Arthur through his Lawyer Justice Srem Sai sued the Ghana Telecommunications Network (1st, Statcom (MTN) (2nd), Kelni GVG (3rd), the National Communications Authority (4th) and the



Attorney General (5th Respondents) for interference and invasion of privacy.

In a 115-page ruling delivered on July 22, the court ordered the NCA to supervise the clearing of already released data from both electronic and manual systems from today, July 30, 2021.

“It is hereby ordered that 1st and 2nd Respondents and all other telecommunications Network and service providers be and are hereby restrained from providing the President, the Government, 3rd and 4th Respondents their agents, assigns or workmen however described with the details and unhashed details of Applicant's mobile money and that of all other mobile money subscribers as 3rd Respondent requested in the email correspondence of 27th March 2020 to 1st and 2nd Respondents and Ugochukwu Uzoka of Glomobile Ghana and any other Telecommunication Network and service provider with effect from the date of the ruling.

“It is further ordered that all the mobile money details and unhashed mobile money details of Applicant and that of all other mobile money subscribers which 1st and 2nd Respondents and other

Telecommunication Network and service providers have already provided to the President, the Government, 3rd and 4th Respondents or their agents, assigns or workmen however described per the request of 3rd respondent's communication dated 27th March 2020 be retrieved and cleared from all manual and electronic records of the President, the government, 3rd and 4th Respondents, their agents, assigns or workmen however described under the supervision of 4th Respondent within 14 days from July 30, 2021,” the court-ordered.

“Having established that Applicant's rights to privacy has been interfered with or violated through the request 3rd Respondent made to 1st and 2nd Respondents to provide the unhashed mobile money details of Applicant, he is entitled to the award of damages. This is not an open license for all mobile money users to seek damages for such violation of their rights.

“I award Applicant GH¢20,000 damages each against 3rd and 4th Respondents and GH¢10,000 against 1st Respondent,” the judge ordered.

Source: [starrfm.com.gh](http://starrfm.com.gh)



# Akyem Apadwe Stool, Mankata Family Have No Right To Sell Odumase - Panpanso Lands, Say Nana Amon Kwame & Kwasi Amoani Oyoko Royal Families

Accredited and principal elders of the Nana Amon Kwame and Kwasi Amoani Oyoko Royal families from Odumase (Kodjo Fosu) and Akwamu Akwatin in the Eastern Region have broken their silence by announcing to the general public that the swathes of 5068 acres of lands located at Odumase popularly called Panpanso belong to the two families and not stool lands. Consequently, the elders of the two families pointed out that the Supreme Court, the High and Circuit Courts have separately declared judgements and rulings to that effect and called on the unsuspecting individual personalities who claimed to have bought properties from Panpanso enclave to immediately come to see the allodial owners of the said lands for immediate regularization of documents in order not to lose their lands.

Also, according to the elders of Nana Amon Kwame and Kwasi Amoani Oyoko Royal families, the Supreme Court further affirmed the earlier ruling by the High and Circuit Courts, stating in its ruling that the 5068 acres of the lands at Odumase (Panpanso) are family lands and not stool lands.

They explained that individual personalities who claimed that they bought their lands from the chief of Akyem Apedwa Traditional Stool and Mankata family and subsequently had their land title regularization documents from the Paramount Chief of the Akyem Abuakwa Traditional Area, Asagyefuo Amoatia Ofori Panin II does that in their own perils or danger.

They urged clients and members of the public seeking to buy land in Odumase-Panpanso enclave to only deal with the Nana Amon Kwame and Kwasi Amoani Oyoko Royal families since they are the allodial owners of the lands in that stretch of the area.

The elders and members of Nana Amon Kwame and Kwasi Amoani Oyoko Royal families further warned that "all persons with prospective commercial interests and undertakings with the Mankata family and Akyem Apadwe Stool with regards to Panpanso/Odumase lands do so at their own risk."

"Any person seeking interest in

Odumase (Panpanso) must first seek the consent of the elders and members of Nana Amon Kwame and Kwasi Amoani Oyoko Royal families who shall provide guidance on the established procedure and documentation and seek final and decisive approval of the two families," they added.

According to elders and members of Nana Amon Kwame and Kwasi Amoani Oyoko Royal families, the Akyem Apedwa Traditional Stool And Mankata family have made the wrong move in selling the pieces of these lands to innocent estate developers numbering about ten (10).

They expressed concern about the knowledge of the Akyem Apedwa Traditional Stool And Mankata family to the truth as far as the ownership of the said land is concerned.

The elders and members of the two families stressed that "we would defend our lands with the last drop of our blood warning those who bought the land to trace the Akyem Apedwa Traditional Stool And Mankata family to refund their monies."

The elders stated that the Akyem Apedwa Traditional Stool And Mankata family have no rights to sell the lands in question to anyone, adding that those who purchased the lands from members of Akyem Apedwa Traditional Stool and Mankata family should rather rush to consult the elders of Nana Amon Kwame and Kwasi Amoani Oyoko Royal family for regularization of their lands title documents.

"We are using this medium to serve this public notice to the various land buyers/developers or homeowners at Odumase (Panpanso) to formally engage our secretariat to regularize the ownership of the lands on which their properties are situated," the allodial owners stressed.

According to the elders, the failure of the land buyers/developers or homeowners at Panpanso/Odumase to engage them will lead to their losing their properties.

The elders of the Nana Amon Kwame and Kwasi Amoani Oyoko Royal family stressed



that their great-great-grand fathers bought the 5068 acres of the land which is located at Odumase (Kodjo Fosu) popularly known as Panpanso in Ayensuano District from the then chief of Apedwa Traditional Area, Nana Kwasi Jachi in the year 1897 which costs about 1000 pounds. The chief of Apedwa in the name of Nana Kwasi Jachi received the delegation from the Oyoko Royal family led by Nana Amon Kwame and Nana Kwasi Amoani from Odumase (Kodjo Fosu) to take every needed necessary things to forever own these track of lands, even in the law court in the following years including 1909(Yao Ntikora verse Teacher Mante, Amon Kwame and ten others, 1913( Amon Kwame verse Kwame Obregyamah, Tetteh Ashong and four others), 1922(Amon Kwame verse Tetteh Ashong , Kwame Obregyamah and ten others), 1924(Amon Kwame verse J.J. OCQUAYE and AMON QUAO) and 1924(Amon Kwame verse Ayitey)," they explained. According to them, all these cases are held in the Supreme Court in the era of Gold Coast for which Amon Kwame won all these case saying that the pieces of documentary evidence were available at the national archives. They pointed out that these 5068-acres of land legally became a property to Nana Amon Kwame and Kwasi Amoani to be precise on behalf of the Oyoko Royal family of Odumase (Kodjo Fosu). According to them they haven't met any government official to hand over their land to him or her.

Speaking in an interview with some senior journalists to set the records straight and to disabuse

the minds of the people from the as the Akyem Apedwa Traditional Stool And Mankata family imputed public domain, the spokesperson for the family, Mr William Agyekum Acquah Asante noted that the family decided not to wade into the spute but those who bought the lands illegally and unlawfully are currently lying to the public.

However, Mr Acquah indicated that the elders of the Nana Amon Kwame and Kwasi Amoani Oyoko Royal families also have evidence to prove the fact that the said land belongs to them and not to the Akyem Apedwa Traditional Stool And Mankata family as being claimed by some people who bought the lands through fraudulent means.

Tendering some documents to the press in relation to his claims, he noted that elders of the Nana Amon Kwame and Kwasi Amoani Oyoko Royal family from Odumase (Kodjo Fosu) and Akwamu Akwatin won the series of the court cases against the said lands.

With all the facts and documents

## Sam Atsu Forson Promises To Revive The Spirit Of NDC In Amasaman For Victory In 2024 Polls

An Aspiring Parliamentary Candidate of the National Democratic Congress (NDC) for Amasaman Constituency in the Greater Accra Region, Mr Samuel Atsu Forson Alorinyo has asserted that the party is battle ready to strengthening its structures, mend the cracks to facilitate a resounding victory come 2024 elections.

In his view, he is readily ready to provide resources and logistical support to the party to strengthen its wheels going into 2024 polls for smooth victory for the umbrella fraternity. Mr Forson made the remark, in an interview with this portal when visiting the various branches within Amasaman Constituency to encourage and charge party fanatics to work assiduously for the victory of NDC come 2024.

The seasoned politician and financier of the NDC since his involvement in this game of politics disclosed that, Ghanaians had become highly disappointed with the incumbent New Patriotic Party (NPP) government for initiating and implementing harsh policies that had worsened the living conditions of the ordinary Ghanaian. He further stated that, it is highly paramount to furnish the party the necessary finances at the

available, Mr Acquah expressed surprised at the turn of events saying, "If their great-great-grand fathers bought the 5068 acres of land which is located at Odumase- Panpanso in Ayensuano District from the then chief of Apedwa Nana Kwasi Jachi in the year 1897, considering all the documentations presented, and the legal battle that ensued, how then can another family resell same parcel of land to innocent land developers. He took a swipe at the land secretariat of Akyem Abuakwa Traditional Area for making document in the name of Osagyefo Amoatia Ofori Panin and same going ahead to regularize the land title to the innocent prospective buyers of the said land in question.

They pointed out that this clearly shows that they are bringing confusion between the allodial owners of the land and land developers.



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He called for unity among the rank and file of the party and urged the delegates to vote for him massively to become the Parliamentary Candidate for Amasaman Constituency to ensure total victory in the forthcoming 2024 general elections.

# China-Iran Ties Are On The Right Side Of History

By M. K. Bhadrakumar

The three-day state visit by Iran's president Ebrahim Raisi to China on February 14-16 is a landmark event affecting regional politics and international security. The red carpet welcome accorded to Raisi signified the high importance attached by Beijing to the comprehensive strategic partnership between China and Iran in the prevailing international milieu.

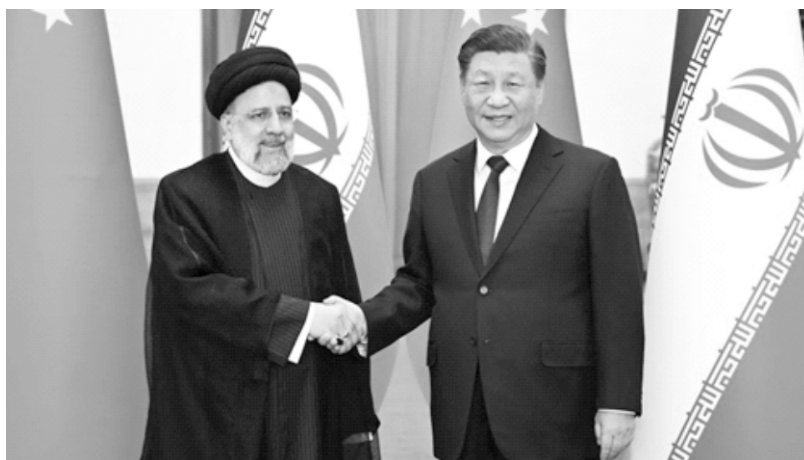
In a 'curtain-raiser' on Monday, [Global Times](#) wrote that the visit "shows the Raisi administration's unswerving determination to promote the 'Look to the East' policy." The CCP Central Committee newspaper then went on to make a profound statement: "Iran's 'Look to the East' policy meant the transition from its policy of negative balancing and non-alignment to building alliances with non-western world powers that have similar political structures to Iran, such as Russia and China." This must be the first time that Beijing explicitly hailed Iran's transition toward an alliance with non-western world powers that do not qualify as liberal democracies — "such as Russia and China." This characterization becomes the leitmotif of Raisi's visit to China. Indeed, Beijing, Moscow and Tehran are sailing in the same boat as the pioneers of a democratized world order defying US hegemony. On the following day, [in a lengthy editorial, Global Times](#) dwelt on the strategic ramifications, taking note that "outside the US-West bloc and its influence circle, there is huge space and potential for win-win cooperation" between Beijing and Tehran. It said: "China's deepening cooperation with Iran also has anti-hegemony and anti-bullying feature. Both China and Iran uphold independent foreign policies, firmly defend

the principle of non-interference in internal affairs on international occasions, and safeguard the common interests of developing countries. This is conducive to promoting the multi-polarization and diversified development of the world, and conforms to the general trend of the times..."

"Under Washington's moves, the international structure is being divided and restructured, with the vicious trend of forming blocs and camps again emerging, which puts the non-Western world in a difficult situation and once again faces historical choices. The existing US-led international system has designs to bully and exploit developing countries and emerging countries. Now Washington still thinks that it is not convenient enough, that the interests of developing countries have increased in weight, and wants to reconstruct a new international system with a stronger tendency, which is undoubtedly a major challenge for the non-Western world and needs to be resisted by forming a joint effort."

This compelling thought appeared in the opening statement of Chinese President Xi Jinping at the meeting with Raisi on Tuesday at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing when he said that "amid the profound changes in the international situation, China and Iran have constantly consolidated their strategic mutual trust and steadily advanced pragmatic co-operation. They have promoted their common interests and upheld international fairness and justice, writing a new chapter for China-Iran friendship."

Xi underscored that "China supports Iran in safeguarding its sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national dignity as well as resisting unilateralism and hegemony, and opposes attempts by external forces to interfere in



**Chinese President Xi Jinping meets Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi in Beijing. Photo: Xinhua. The three-day state visit by Iran's president Ebrahim Raisi to China on February 14-16 will have a deep impact on regional politics and international security**

Iran's domestic affairs and undermine its security and stability."

The big picture comprises three key elements here: Moscow's 'friendship without limits' with Beijing, Iran's Eurasian integration, and the Russian-Iranian alliance in the making. The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation provides a platform for all three countries for strengthening communication and coordination in a spirit of mutual respect and trust and jointly work on regional security issues.

Raisi's visit will accelerate the implementation of the 25-year agreement signed in 2021 between Iran and China. The program, including energy, trade and infrastructure, faced obstacles due to the pandemic and the escalation of US sanctions. But things are on the cusp of change. China watches Russian stealing a march on it, although the latter's 25-year agreement with Iran is still a work in progress.

To be sure, the talks in Beijing focused on how to advance practical cooperation between Iran and China, even as China is coming out of the self-imposed restrictions during the pandemic, is raring to go and is revving up the Belt and Road.

However, what is yet to sink in is that a major outcome of the confrontation between Russia and the NATO countries is that Iran is set to break through the rings of western containment through the past four decades since the 1979 revolution. Beijing sees that

Russia is providing strategic depth for Iran in a win-win engagement. Just before Raisi embarked on the state visit to Beijing, the new governor of Iran's central bank, Mohammadreza Farzin stated in Tehran that "The financial channel between Iran and the world is being restored." In effect, he was announcing that Iran and Russia have taken a significant step towards linking their banking infrastructures amid Western sanctions.

After years of work, the two countries have managed to connect Iran's SEPAM national financial messaging service to Russia's Financial Messaging System of the Bank of Russia (SPFS), the Russian equivalent of SWIFT, that aims to link with other major powers like China and India. The tie-up signifies that Moscow today has the political will to forge ahead with an optimal partnership with Iran, as they also pursue greater use of their national currencies in trade.

Moreover, Russia and Iran are creating a firewall to sequester their defense cooperation from the prying eyes of the US. Moscow is about to transfer cutting-edge military technology to Tehran, including the famous Su-35 multipurpose 4+ generation fighter jets as part of a \$3 billion arms deal that also includes two S-400 air defense systems. None of this is escaping Beijing's attention. (Interestingly, Farzin was included in Raisi's delegation to Beijing.) Beijing understands that the confrontation between Russia and the US is working to the advantage of two of its key partners to break

out of the Western stranglehold of sanctions and realize their full potential as regional powers — North Korea and Iran — which has profound implications for the power dynamic in the Asia-Pacific and West Asia. The Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces General Mohammad Bagheri greeted the newly-appointed North Korean counterpart General Pak Su-il recently with a call for expansion of military ties "to confront any move that disrupts global security."

China-Iran relationship is entering interesting times. Fortuitously, the Gulf states themselves are decoupling from the US-Israeli strategy to whip up anti-Iran frenzy. Meanwhile, Iran's relations with Saudi Arabia are steadily improving and the latter is developing diversified external relations as well with accent on partnerships with China and Russia. The growing similarity lately in the respective diplomatic trajectories of Iran and Saudi Arabia would have a calming effect incrementally on Gulf security and eliminates the scope for US interference in the GCC interaction with China (and Russia.)

President Xi highlighted to Raisi the importance of stability in West Asia, saying that upholding stability matters to the well-being of the countries and people in the region and also has great relevance to world peace, global economic development and the stability of energy supplies. Xi noted in particular that "China appreciates Iran's willingness to actively improve relations with neighboring countries, and supports countries in the region in resolving their differences through dialogue and consultation to realize good neighborliness." This paradigm shift in Gulf security puts the Sino-Iranian partnership on the right side of history.

*MK Bhadrakumar is a former diplomat. He was India's ambassador to Uzbekistan and Turkey. The views are personal.*