

**As Lawyer Appiah-Danquah Attacks Annoh Dompseh And Describes Him As Ignorant Propagandist...** *page 9*

## Varsity Don Says Alan Making Gains For NPP In Volta Region



Hon Alan Kyerematen



Dr Kofi Mensah



**Dr Kofi Konadu Apraku, NPP flagbearer hopeful**

# KONADU APRAKU

**He Says Ken Ofori-Atta Would Have Long Been Shown The Exit If ...**

**D**r. Kofi Konadu Apraku, one of the leading members of the governing New Patriotic Party (NPP) who has declared his intention

to run for the flagbearer position of the party has said that if he was the president, Ken Ofori-Atta would have long lost his job by now.

According to him, it is enough that there are many disgruntled members of the party, mainly their Members of Parliament, who have expressed their

*Cont. on page 3*

**Celebrating 44<sup>th</sup> Triumph Anniversary Of The Islamic Revolution Of Iran**

*page 5*

**Banso Chief Nana Ette Akrade II Faces Accusation Of Inciting Gwira Youth Against Govt, Mining Company**  
*...Residents Want National Security To Act*



Nana Ette Akrade II

*page 3*

**Aftermath Of Protracted**

**Sand Winning Legal Dispute**

**Summertide Company Smokes Peace Pipe With Akyem Abuakwa** *page 5*  
**Traditional Council**

**Fred Nana Yaw Addo Baah Wins NPP Chairmanship Race For Akwatia**  
*...Beats Incumbent With A Vote Margin*



*page 2*

# The INSIGHT

## EDITORIAL

### DEAL WITH THIS HEALTH MENACE

The revelation that there is upsurge in stroke cases among young people per records at the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital in Kumasi is very deeply worrying.

There is clearly no doubt that non-communicable or lifestyle diseases appear to have fast taken over from communicable which used to be our bane as a country. According to the Neurologist, Dr. Fred Stephen Sarfo those as young as 13 are now developing the condition which one suffers when a blood vessel that carries oxygen and nutrients to the brain is either blocked by a clot or bursts resulting in lack of blood to the brain and thus death of the brain cells.

According to the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital it records between 800 and one thousand cases, each year with more than 300 dying and the rest becoming permanently disabled.

With its high risk factors being hypertension, diabetes, high alcohol intake and lack of exercise among others, there is the need for improved or change in lifestyle including other health measures to adequately deal with the situation. Stress is also another causative or factor and health authorities need to intensify public education to reverse the tide. The revelation that there is upsurge in stroke cases among young people per records at the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital in Kumasi is very deeply worrying.

There is clearly no doubt that non-communicable or lifestyle diseases appear to have fast taken over from communicable which used to be our bane as a country. According to the Neurologist, Dr. Fred Stephen Sarfo those as young as 13 are now developing the condition which one suffers when a blood vessel that carries oxygen and nutrients to the brain is either blocked by a clot or bursts resulting in lack of blood to the brain and thus death of the brain cells.

According to the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital it records between 800 and one thousand cases, each year with more than 300 dying and the rest becoming permanently disabled.

With its high risk factors being hypertension, diabetes, high alcohol intake and lack of exercise among others, there is the need for improved or change in lifestyle including other health measures to adequately deal with the situation. Stress is also another causative or factor and health authorities need to intensify public education to reverse the tide.

## Fred Nana Yaw Addo Baah Wins NPP Chairmanship Race For Akwatia

...Beats Incumbent With A Vote Margin



Fred Nana Yaw Addo Baah has been elected the new Chairman for Akwatia Constituency by the governing New Patriotic Party (NPP) in the Eastern Region. At the party's delegates conference held over the weekend which was attended by about hundreds of delegates, Mr Baah polled 299 votes to beat incumbent chairman of the party, Alhaji Baba Yakubu, popularly known as Baba Yen kro who had 298 votes.

The one vote margin between Mr Baah and Baba Yen kro has attested to the fact that this is a clear keen contest. Addressing his supporters and members of the NPP after his victory, the visibly joyful Baah thanked the delegates and members of the party for mustering courage to vote massively for him to win the championship position of the NPP and indicated his commitment to work with his predecessor.

He also thanked the executives, members, supporters of the NPP in the Eastern Region for supporting him to win the championship race of the party in Akwatia constituency and called for peace and unity within the party. He pointed out that for the past three weeks, the focus of the Eastern Regional executives of the NPP has been in the Akwatia constituency. He pointed that the NDC Eastern Regional executives were thinking of how to organize a peaceful and transparent election to elect the Akwatia NPP constituency executives to run administrative affairs of the party ahead of the 2024 general elections. He further congratulated the officials of the Electoral Commission for their efforts to supervise free and fair polls which has ended up devoid of any confrontation. He noted that their elections to man the affairs of the party in the constituency level has clearly showed that the delegates and members of

the NPP have entrusted a big task onto them and assured not to let them down. He pledged his outfit's commitment to hard work with the other elected executives of the constituency including the losers to wrestle the Akwatia parliamentary constituency seat from the National Democratic Congress (NDC) Member of Parliament (MP) in the 2024 polls. He stressed that looking at the vote margin after the contest between him and his incumbent chairman of the NPP in Akwatia constituency, Mr Baba, it was one vote difference he attained to win against him. According to him, the one margin vote difference he attained to beat his predecessor had indicated that Mr Baba has worked hard for the NPP in the Akwatia constituency and that the majority of the members still like him. He pointed out that he would work with Mr Baba closely and other losers to ensure that they build a strong foundation and structure of the party to win the seat from the NDC in the 2024 general elections. Mr Baah gave the assurance that the newly elected executives of the NPP would bring the members and supporters of the party together. "We observed that without unity and peace within the ranks and files of the party, it would be difficult for the NPP in the area to wrestle the parliamentary seat from the NDC in the 2024 polls. He said the delegates and members of the party had elected "us as their new officers of the party and that they are going to prepare and come with the strategies on how to face the NDC which has become their main target for the 2024 s

## THE INSIGHT

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

**Secretary** - Gifty Agyemang

**Design and Graphics** - Godwin K. Attah

**Production Manager** - Kweku Menz

### PUBLISHERS

**Militant Publications Limited**  
P. O. Box NT 272

Accra-Newtown, Accra

Tel: 0244379344/0242836930

Email: theinsightonline20@gmail.com

LONDON CONTACT

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

Tel: 0171-6201430

E-mail: prattc22@aol.com

# KONADU APRAKU

## He Says Ken Ofori-Atta Would Have Long Been Shown The Exit If

from front page

no-confidence in the performance of the Minister of Finance.

He added that were he in the shoes of President Nana Akufo-Addo, what he would have done was to give into their demands and get the finance minister off the job, a report by citinewsroom.com has said.

"If I were the president [Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo], I would have listened to the MPs and sacked Ofori-Atta," he is quoted to have said in an interview with GTV.

It will be recalled that there were over 80 MPs on the Majority side of parliament who recently addressed the press, announcing their disaffection with the Minister of Finance.

The MPs then called on the president to sack Ken Ofori-Atta or risk having them no longer participate in any government business that would be brought before parliament.

Although this is yet to happen, as President Akufo-Addo has severally indicated that he finds nothing wrong with the work of his appointee, Dr. Kofi Konadu Apraku has said that there is the need for the president to examine the sentiments of the MPs and those of the general public.

"In politics, you have to be sensitive to public opinion. Sometimes, it may not be the truth, but that is the sentiments, and the sentiments of the people need to be

examined, and acted upon if it is possible. It's a great deal for the NPP MPs to come out there to say they don't want our finance minister, their own Finance Minister that they have worked with in the past.

"In democracy, we have to be sensitive to the people. Lack of action exacerbates the problem, so you cut it off and cut your losses and I would have cut my losses and said please you have done enough, the environment is hostile to you so go. I would have changed him," he is quoted to have said.

The race for the top-spot of the NPP party elections is yet to be officially opened but so far, a number of names have popped up, indicating that they are also



Dr Kofi Konadu Apraku, NPP flagbearer hopeful

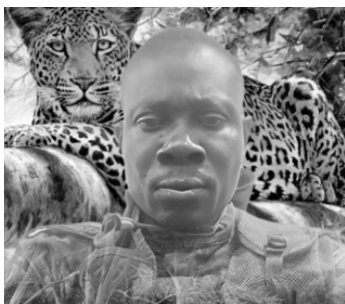
interested in the spot.

Some of the names that come up have been Alan Kyerematen, the immediate-past Minister of Trade and Industry; Dr Akoto Owusu Afriyie, the former Minister of Food

and Agriculture; Francis Addai-Nimoh, a former MP for Ashanti Mampong; and the Vice President, Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia.

## Banso Chief Nana Ette Akrade II Faces Accusation Of Inciting Gwira Youth Against Govt, Mining Company

### ...Residents Want National Security To Act



Chief of Banso in the Gwira Traditional Area in the Evalue-Ajomoro-Gwira Municipality of the Western Region, Nana Ette Akrade II, has been accused of inciting community violence against the government and a private Ghanaian gold mining company. The chief is said to have incited the youth against the government and the Managing Director (MD) of Okoben Mining Mining Company Limited, Nana Okoben Amponsah over claims that the

latter has failed to bring socioeconomic development to the Gwira Traditional Area. The chief is alleged to have indirectly beaten the war drum against the government and the company, saying that the residents should count whether they can find any tarred road being constructed in Gwira by the central government since it granted environmental and other gold mining permits/licenses to Okoben to mine gold resources in the area.

Per the laws of this country no mining company has the power or mandate to construct roads in its host communities even though such is allowed as part of its corporate responsibility and that forms the basis of the accusation that the chief is indirectly inciting the youths/residents against the government of Ghana. Nana Ette Akrade II, who is still in active service as military officer has been spotted in a video which has gone viral and which is in the possession of this news outlet, inciting residents, particularly the youths during a public gathering

held at Gwira on Saturday February 11, 2023 to ensure Nana Okoben Amponsah is not allowed to work on his gold mining concession at Dominase in Gwira.

He incited the residents to rise against Nana Okoben Amponsah and his followers anytime they spot them on their mining concession since the Gwira Traditional Council has banned the company from mining in the area.

In the video, Nana Ette Akrade II was heard challenging the residents that he would give GH¢ 50, 000.00 to whoever provided licenses to show that Nana Okoben Amponsah has the necessary legal licenses to mine gold on his concession in Gwira.

"We have moved to Accra to report the attitude of the company to the management of the Minerals Commission and Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, but we were told that they would respond to us, we haven't heard from them since". However, speaking to journalists, thousands of residents of Gwira who

were not in support of the current attacks meted out to Nana Okoben Amponsah by Paramount Chief of Gwira, Awulae Angama Tu-Agyan II, Chief of Gwira Banso, Nana Ette Akrade II and the Chief of Gwira Abelebu, Nana Dominle Mieza II stated that condoning hate speeches could affect the peace and tranquility in the area, adding that national security and the other security agencies must ensure that Nana Ette Akrade II is brought to book over his comments.

They expressed disappointment in Paramount Chief of Gwira, Awulae Angama Tu-Agyan II, Chief of Gwira Banso, Nana Ette Akrade II and the Chief of Gwira Abelebu, Nana Dominle Mieza II for what they termed as wrongful attacks meted out to Nana Okoben Amponsah. According to them, the various accusations levelled against the company by these chiefs were because they connived with some top politicians in the Western Region to take over the legal and genuinely acquired concession at Dominase in

Gwira to give it out to some illegal foreign nationals who are also mining gold resources.

"We expect the police and the courts to bring this Banso chief who is a military officer to Justice very quickly to deter others who might be harboring similar violent thoughts in the Gwira. Because the Banso chief is still in active service as military officer so his actions can influence the youths to visit attack on Nana Okoben Amponsah and family members including his workers," they lamented. The residents who are elders of the area called on the public to disregard any activity that sought to promote chaos, saying disturbances and hatred negatively affected development and must not be countenanced at all levels. They stressed that the laws of the country must be applied swiftly when it comes to issues that have the tendency of destroying the peace of the country, especially with the case of Banso Chief to serve as a deterrence to others.



# INTERNATIONAL NEWS REPORT

## Compiled By Peoples Dispatch

### German Workers Across Sectors Protest Fall In Real Wages



**Mobilization in Fulda, Hesse, on February 9, 2023. (Photo: Friedhelm Windmüller via DBB). Trade unions have demanded a 10.5 % increase in wages in the public sector to cope with the soaring inflation**

Public service workers from all sectors, including health care, day-care, city administration, public transport, water distribution, universities, and municipal waste management, have gone on a warning strike protesting low wages and poor working conditions. The protest took place in the States of Berlin, North Rhine Westphalia (NRW), and Hesse, among others,

Over 3,500 people, including professionals from the state-owned Vivantes Hospitals, Charite-Berlin University of Medicine, Berlin Waste Management (BSR), and other public sector enterprises demonstrated at Oranienplatz in Berlin on Thursday to protest the fall in real wages. Trade union Ver.di and the German Civil Service Association (DBB) have demanded a 10.5% increase in wages—an increase of EUR 500 (USD 534.80)—for around 2.5 million

employees in the public sector at the federal and local levels. On February 7 and 8, teachers and school psychologists, among others, [joined](#) in a warning strike called by the Education and Science Union (GEW), demanding smaller classrooms and better infrastructure and working conditions. Last week, around 70,000 postal employees across Germany also went on [strike](#) demanding a 15% increase in their wages.

As countries across Europe face soaring inflation, working class sections have been demanding a hike in wages at par with inflation. The German government, led by Chancellor Olaf Scholz, has, however, continued to be insensitive toward the demands of the workers, while busy sending more funds, arms, and ammunition to Ukraine. Citing the annual report by the Federal Statistical Office, Ver.di had [said](#) that “real wages have fallen in the country for the third year in a row. Even though wages have gone up

compared to the previous year, inflation will be more than double that in 2022, nearly 8%.”

On February 9, Ver.di [said](#): “Something happened today! Nationwide, federal and local employees took to the streets and showed with their strike actions that they firmly support the demands of the current wage round in the public sector. A hotspot was definitely NRW, where thousands took to the streets in different cities. Thousands also marched towards Oranienplatz in Berlin and confronted Berlin politicians with their demands. But also outside of the metropolises, for example on Sylt, Ver.di members stopped working because their wages are not enough to cope with inflation and high rents.”

“The last three years have meant more work for employees and less in the shopping cart. This also applies to those in the broken public services. Fair wages for

employees are part of the urgently needed investments in welfare, because otherwise no one will keep the store running soon. And that's why we are fighting for wage increases that offset inflation,” added the union.

On February 9, the Berlin committee of the Die Linke (The Left) expressed solidarity with the striking workers and [said](#): “This week there were several strikes in Berlin. The postal workers went on strike for 15% more wages, Berlin teachers are demanding a collective agreement on health protection for smaller classes, and the public sector is talking about 10.5% or at least EUR 500 more. In view of the constantly increasing prices, high rents, and overcrowded classes, the demands of [our] colleagues are more than justified. We stand by your side in solidarity!”

The Berlin Committee of the German Communist Party (DKP) also [expressed](#) solidarity with the strikes.

### Peruvian Police Repress Protests, Leave Over 20 Injured In Juliaca

Tens of thousands of Peruvians have taken to the streets across the country in another national strike, demanding the resignation of de-facto President Dina Boluarte, closure of the right-wing dominated Congress, new general elections this year, and a referendum on a constituent assembly to draft a new constitution. Indigenous and peasants communities, social organizations, students associations, and diverse sector trade unions held peaceful mobilizations in different regions of the country to demand an end to the political crisis that has gripped the country since the [legislative coup](#) against democratically elected President Pedro Castillo on December 7, 2022. In the capital Lima, thousands of people demonstrated near the Congress, expressing their

dissatisfaction with its [decision to reject bills](#) that called for elections to be held in 2023 accompanied by a referendum. In the evening, hundreds gathered at the San Martín Plaza to pay homage to the victims of state repression. In Juliaca city, in the Peru's Puno region, thousands hit the streets to mark one month since the massacre of 19 protesters at the hands of public security forces. Family members and loved ones of the victims organized a march, chanting slogans such as “Spilled blood will never be forgotten,” “Dina, Juliaca repudiates you! All of Peru repudiates you!”

On January 9, police and military officers [opened fire](#) on thousands of protesters who had occupied the Juliaca airport as a part of nationwide anti-government protest, killing 19

protesters and leaving over 60 others severely injured. On Thursday, a group of protesters once again tried to occupy the local airport to demand justice for the fallen protesters. The police agents also once again violently repressed them with tear gas and metal pellets, leaving at least [23](#) injured, including a minor who received a gunshot wound to one of his legs.

Progressive leader and former presidential candidate, Verónica Mendoza, lamented the continuation of repression. “Exactly one month ago a painful massacre occurred in Juliaca: 19 Peruvians were killed. Today again 23 people have been injured, including an 11-year-old minor. Today they are in our hearts and we will not stop demanding justice for them,” [tweeted](#) Mendoza.

Massive marches and rallies were also held in Apurímac, Arequipa, Ayacucho, Cajamarca, Cusco, Iquitos, Lambayeque, Loreto, Madre de Dios and Piura, among other regions. Additionally, at least 62 roads and highways remained blocked throughout the national territory. Incident of brutal repression was recorded in Chalhuanca town in Apurímac, where police shot against protesters with live bullets. According to reports from local media, around 80 people were arrested and several were injured. In this regard, Mendoza [called](#) on Boluarte to stop the repression. “Police are shooting in the streets of Chalhuanca, Apurímac. Mrs. Dina Boluarte, this is happening in your land, they are shooting at you countrymen! Stop this shooting!”

The mobilizations were carried out as a part of the national strike called by the General Confederation of Peruvian Workers (CGTP) to mark two months of the social uprising as well as to reject the violent repression unleashed against the peaceful protests. For the past two months, since December 7, 2022, hundreds of thousands of people, mainly from the long-neglected and marginalized countryside of Peru, have been mobilizing in different parts of the country to demand radical political changes. According to reports from human rights organizations, in the past 60 days of protests, more than 60 people were killed and over 1000 were injured.

# Celebrating 44<sup>th</sup> Triumph Anniversary Of The Islamic Revolution Of Iran

Every year, Iranians celebrate the “Ten Days of Dawn” from the beginning of February, which coincided with the return of Imam Khomeini who was welcomed by around three million Iranians in capital Tehran following his 14 years absence due to forced exile, until February 11, which was the day of the triumph of the Iranian nation's revolution against the Pahlavi dictatorial regime. During these days, some people go to the shrine of Imam Khomeini, some people decorate the streets, and some celebrate in the city. On February 10, millions of Iranians march in the streets of Tehran and other cities to mark this day.

The victory of the Islamic revolution in February 1979 (22 Bahman 1357 Persian Calendar) is a turning point in the Islamic uprisings of the last century, especially in the Shia world. In terms of its Islamic nature and religious goals, the Iranian Revolution attracted the hearts of Muslims from Islamic religions and created a glimmer

of hope, and this was all because the Iranian Revolution was the banner of Islam, meaning ideals and aspirations for more than a billion.

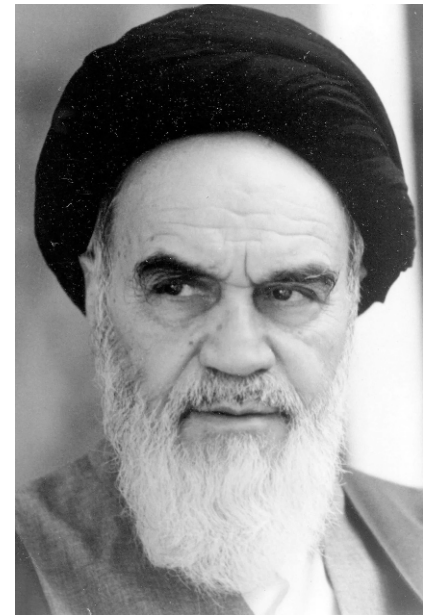
Before the Islamic revolution, Islam was a dead inactive religion which had no effect on the lives of its followers. Many Islamic values were abolished or distorted which later resulted in the creation of Al-Qaeda and ISIS thanks to huge investment and support from the western powers partly to keep Islam look that way, partly to uphold arms sale in the Middle East and partly to overshadow the Iran's revolutionary message to all freedom seekers around the world.

Unlike other contemporary uprisings which ended in nothing but mayhem, due to big logic void, lack of justified cause worth of sacrifice and absence of legitimate leadership accompanied with western manipulation like whatever happened in Syria, Sudan, Libya and Egypt, Iran's Islamic

revolution had all the elements necessary for a successful triumph and to turn a deprived “yes man” country into a regional if not saying world power despite unprecedented sanctions a portion of which could cripple any state. Living as Muslims for over 14 centuries, the Iranian people sensed that the Foreign-backed Pahlavi dictatorship regime have not only taken away all kinds of independence and state sovereignty, but were gradually trying to interfere with their Islam driven cultural ceremonies and even prohibiting the Muslim women from wearing Hijab to the point that the regime massacred tens of people who protested against that Hijab prohibition law in “Goharshad Mosque” in August 1935 which is considered as one of the important roots of the revolution that took place 4 decades late. Eventually, the Iranian people after years of endeavor and sacrifice toppled the Pahlavi regime on February

11, 1979, ending the 2,500 years of monarchy in the country. From the day 1 of the triumph, Iran, now an independent country and having taken full sovereignty over its vast under and over ground rich resources began to face pressure and sanctions from the United States who had just lost an important puppet dictator in the region, a free source of energy and a vital ally to the Israel against the Arab nations in the Middle east. One can list all kinds of sinister plots the west orchestrated against Iran from the attempts to overthrow the new government - something the US had successfully done to the democratically elected Mohammad Mosaddegh earlier in 1953 to put the Shah back in the dictatorial power - to arming a mad Saddam with all conventional and nonconventional and chemical weapons during an 8-year imposed war which Iranians refer to as the “8-year Holy defense”, to imposing of unimaginable forms of economic and medical sanctions centered around Iran's peaceful nuclear power and organizing the ISIS in Iraq and Syria to limit Iran's regional influence and to cowardly assassinating a Hero like Major General Soleimani right after the iconic commander put an end to that terror, and a recent media based hybrid war after the death of Mahsa Amini.

They say whatever doesn't kill you makes you stronger. Same thing happened to the Iranian people. Despite all the ill willing exerted on Iran by the western powers led by the United States and their Middle Eastern oil retailing dictator allies, the Islamic republic of Iran, with the support of its tolerant people, strong will and dedication of its scientists, displays categorical achievements every year during this national celebration day. Iran owns the first rank in Asia and fifth in the world in laser knowledge, top five country with the knowledge of making neural prosthesis, top five



Ayatollah Khomeini, Iranian Spiritual Leader

producer of nuclear medicine and radio-pharmacy and bio-implant generators, Covid19 Vaccine, Stem Cell and cloning technology and numerous other scientific and technological achievements. Having launched its first domestically engineered satellite Omid (Hope) into orbit in 2009, this year the Islamic Republic of Iran has unveiled two indigenous telecommunications and imaging satellites designed and manufactured by the country's specialists called Nahid (Venus)-2 and Tolou (Sunrise)-3 respectively among others. The Islamic Republic's military power and deterrence capability are so advanced that not only it provides solid defense, but has put many other powers in line to buy Iranian products. Thanks to the Islamic revolution for the first time in the history and more than 3000 years of civilization, the Iranian people earned the right to vote. Less than two months after the victory of the Islamic Revolution, Iranians took part in a referendum, where more than 98 percent of eligible voters voted 'yes' to the Islamic Republic as a new political system, which took the power from monarchs and dictators and handed it over to people.

**Source:**  
**Political Department**  
**Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran – Accra**

## SEND GHANA Calls For Prosecution Of Persons Involved In Covid Funds 'Chop-Chop'

All persons and entities found culpable in the [COVID-19](#) Audit Report released by the Auditor General should be prosecuted, that is the call of the Deputy Country Director of SEND GHANA, Dr. Emmanuel Ayifah. Dr. Ayifah made the call when SEND GHANA issued a statement expressing disappointment in the fact that so much money was misappropriated from the funds that were set aside for the pandemic.

“Multiple reports suggest that a substantial part of the [COVID-19](#) funds have been grossly misapplied and channelled to fund other government interventions and flagship programs. It is sad to note that out of nearly GH¢22 billion that was raised to fight the [COVID-19](#) pandemic between March 2020 to June 2022, just a little over half (GH¢12 billion) was used to fight the pandemic and its related impact,” he said in the



Dr Emmanuel Ayifah is SEND GHANA's Deputy Country Director

release.

The statement also commended the Auditor General for heading to SEND GHANA's earlier call on the state and parliament to ensure that it ensures there is value for money in terms of the disbursement of [COVID-19](#) funds.

“In April 2022, SEND GHANA called on the Supreme Audit Institutions, the Auditor General Department and the

Parliament of Ghana to, as part of their oversight role, conduct special audit into [COVID-19](#) related expenditures to ensure value for money,” it added. The SEND GHANA boss also stated that it is his hope that the release of this audit report would not only become another one of such cases where no action is taken on the outcomes of such investigations.

Dr. Emmanuel Ayifah has therefore called for heads to roll.

# Auditor-General's Audit Report Reveals MMDAs Paid GH¢499,671 To Contractors For No Work Done

**T**wenty-one Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) paid a total of GH¢499,671.94 to various contractors for no work done between 2018 and 2021, the Auditor-General (A-G) has revealed.

The Coordinating Directors, Finance Officers and the Works Engineers who recommended and approved the payments are to recover the money else they would refund it themselves. This was contained in the Consolidated Performance Audit Report of the A-G on capital projects of 30 selected MMDAs funded through the District Assemblies Common Fund – Response Factor Grant (DA CF-RFG) between 2018 and 2021.

The MMDAs include Atwima Kwanwoma, GH¢37,750; Offinso, GH¢12,516; Ejisu, GH¢2,418; Nzema, GH¢880; Sunyani, GH¢8,315; Sanarigu, GH¢18,190; Chereponi, GH¢41,956; Achiase, GH¢9,643; Asene Manso Akroso, GH¢2,900; Northeast Gonja, GH¢1,680; Keta, GH¢133,700 and Mfantseman, GH¢5,888.

The rest are Komenda-Edina-Eguafo-Abirem, GH¢11,851.04; Hohoe, GH¢3,220; Kintampo South, GH¢57,925; La Nkwantanang Madina, GH¢26,134; Sene West, GH¢98,013; Suame, GH¢3,936; Wa, GH¢2,366; Juaboso, GH¢19,102 and Effia Kwesimintim, GH¢1,288,90.

The Asutifi South, Dormaa Central, Bawku, Adentan, Nanumba South,

Abuakwa South, Tema, Jasikan and Ada East District, were the nine MMDAs which were not flagged for the offence.

The DACF-RFG is the proportion of the DACF allocated to the MMDAs based on their performance plus contribution of development partners that support the performance-based grant system. The audit was focused on selected projects in the aforementioned MMDAs between 2018 and 2021 to determine if they met the required standard specifications and guaranteed value for money. According to the report, submitted to parliament in May last year, the GH¢500,000 paid to the contractors were released upon recommendations of work engineers and approved by the coordinating directors in the assemblies in violation of clauses 16, 33, 36 and 37 of the conditions of contract and Section 7 of the Public Financial Management Act, 2016 (Act 921).

For instance at the Keta Assembly, furniture valued at GH¢133,700.00 could not be accounted for although the assembly had paid fully for them and although a list covering the distribution of 322 desks, amounting to GH¢109,447.20 was shown as evidence of receipt, the team could not vouch for the

supplies.

In another instance, Kintampo South paid GH¢57,925 for no work done to construct a school block and provide five boreholes, whilst Sene West District Assembly was short-changed by GH¢98,013.69 for a reduction in the size of a Community Health-based Planning Services (CHPS) compound.

Additionally, the audit also found out that Mfantseman and Hohoe Municipal Assemblies, paid GH¢1,067,188 to contractors without supporting documents, whilst Dormaa Central, Bawku and Sunyani paid GH¢1,764,520 to contractors without recourse to internal audit pre-audit requirements.

These infractions, according to the report, were as a result of inadequate supervision. According to the report although most of the works engineers had Higher National Diplomas in Construction Management and some have upgraded themselves with master's degrees in construction, their "output has been unsatisfactory."

"The general excuse of lack of logistics to visit project sites is not tenable as an efficient



**Johnson Akuamoah Asiedu, Auditor-General**

scheduling of projects supervision during critical activities would have sufficed. The works engineers were absent at critical stages of construction and district coordinating directors failed to ensure that they performed their functions.

"The consequences for these lapses in supervision resulted in payments to contractors for no work done which is detailed under payments of works in this report," the report said.

The Ministry of Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development, in its

response to queries of the audit team, promised to ensure the officers in charge recover the monies. Although the audit team found out that DACF RFG funds had significantly contributed to the infrastructure development of the districts, there was more room for improvement in the management of funds, planning and budgeting, supervision, coordination among stakeholders, and training for staff.

## Aftermath Of Protracted Sand Winning Legal Dispute

### Summertide Company Smokes Peace Pipe With Akyem Abuakwa Traditional Council



Mr Samuel Atsu Forson

**M**anagement of Summer Tide Company Limited has stated that it has settled impasse with the chiefs and elders of Akyem Abuakwa Traditional Council in the Eastern Region in regard to the misunderstanding which arose between the two over sand winning activities in

Akyem Abuakwa Traditional Area.

Addressing a crowded press conference in Accra yesterday Monday February 13, 2023, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Summertide Company Limited, Mr Samuel Atsu Forson noted that his outfit withdrew the case from court as a result of the amicable settlement.

"After deeply reflecting over the matter we have with Akyem Abuakwa Traditional Area, we have wholeheartedly regretted making such move, and we hereby wish to unreservedly render an unqualified apology to the Okyenhene, Osagyefo Amoatia Ofori Panin, the Akyem Abuakwa Traditional Council and, indeed, all citizens of the Akyem Abuakwa Traditional Area," he told journalists.

He pointed out that the company has decided to step down saying that the company has taken the step to render

an unqualified apology to the Paramount Chief of Akyem Abuakwa Traditional Council.

He noted that the company has also written a petition to Okyenhene, Osagyefo Amoatia Ofori Panin to plead for forgiveness.

"Our decision to smoke peace pipe with the chiefs and elders of Akyem Abuakwa has informed the decision of the management of the company to engage the media today to educate and inform the general public that the company has settled its case with the Akyem Abuakwa Traditional Council. We expect that peace will prevail now and forever," he noted.

Touching on the allegations of legality of the company, Mr Forson denied widespread media reports that the company has engaged in illegal sand winning activities in

Akyem Abuakwa Traditional Area.

He stated categorically that its Commercial sand winning activities in the area was in conformity with the Minerals and Mining laws and regulations. According to Mr. Forson, the company has valid or legal working environmental permits and licences from state mining regulatory institutions including Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Minerals Commission of Ghana to carry legal sand winning in the area. Consequently, Mr. Forson called on the general public to disregard the allegations levelled against the company, saying that they are law-abiding citizens who generally respect the laws in the country and would be the last to engage in

bad or illegal activities which would be contrary to the laws and regulations of this country. To buttress his case, Mr Forson showed various copies of the legal statutory documents and environmental operating permits and licences from the Environmental Protection Agency, Minerals Commission, National Insurance Commission, Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources to prove his case that indeed the company's operations were legal and licensed by appropriate state mining regulatory authorities. According to him, they have secured a legal and genuine lease agreement with the custodian owners of the lands to win sand in the area.

## As Lawyer Appiah-Danquah Attacks Annoh Dompseh And Describes Him As Ignorant Propagandist...

# Varsity Don Says Alan Making Gains For NPP In Volta Region

**A** Senior Lecturer with the University of Ghana Business School (UGBS) has heaped kind words on NPP flagbearer hopeful, Hon Alan Kyerematen after the latter's heroic reception in the Volta region. As part of his ongoing nationwide tour, Hon Alan Kyerematen was heavily welcomed in the Volta region despite the open love for the opposition National Democratic Congress (NDC) within the region. The thousands that trooped to the various gatherings in Volta region to welcome the former Trade and Industry Minister has wowed Dr Kofi Mensah and other political pundits. In response to the historic crowd that received Hon Alan Kyerematen on his arrival to the region, Dr Kofi Mensah did not mince words describing the political gains awaiting NPP should Alan's bid to leading the party gets endorsed by delegates.

In his usual social media interactions, the Senior Lecturer lit up the new media space with the tweet, 'Wow! Looks like Alan Cash is vibrating strongly in Volta. Interesting times ahead. Obi ni yem.....wee. #NPPContest. #NPP2023". The deafening noise from the masses that received Hon Alan Kyerematen in an NDC dominated region appeared to have sent out signals across the political space. Political experts have been wondering what that massive endorsement meant ahead of the make or break Presidential Primaries later this year. Having served at the Trade and Industry Ministry for over a decade and under two different regimes, the industrial expert stepped down from his Ministerial position to intensify his long term Presidential dreams. The recent mammoth crowd from Volta region confirmed his natural affection across the political divide as NPP dares to break the Traditional eight year regimes in Ghana's geopolitical space. The Presidential Primaries is expected to be keenly contest among Hon Alan Kyerematen, HE Dr Mahamudu Bawumia, Hon Kennedy Ohene Agyapong and some notable names within the New Patriotic Party.

**Annoh Dompseh is ignorant propagandist - Lawyer Appiah-Danquah**

Meanwhile, Lawyer Appiah Danquah a leading member of the NPP has descended on the Member of Parliament for Nkawkaw Adoagyir, Annoh Dompseh over his comments against Alan Kyerematen. In a write up this is what the lawyer said about the MP and his attacks on the former Trade minister. One of the biggest epochs in the economic history of mankind was the great depression. History tells us that in 1929 the stock exchange crashed leading to one of the biggest economic downturns in the history of mankind but most importantly it led to arguably the most radical evolution in the role governments played in the management of their economies.

Prior to the great depression governments took a laid back approach to the management of their economies. However this changed radically with the use of the New Deal by Franklin Delano Roosevelt to fight the impact of the great depression. Since the Great Depression and the introduction and application of the New Deal, Governments have used fiscal and monetary policy to influence their economies.

Fiscal policy is simply the use by governments spending and revenue mobilization to influence the economy. This is important because a prudent fiscal policy is capable of creating a strong macroeconomic environment to support economic growth, reduce poverty and create an inclusive economy. Monetary policy on the other hand is the strategy Central banks apply to influence the supply of money through the adjustment of interest rates, bank reserve requirements and the purchase and sale of government securities and foreign exchange.

Ghana like most nations of the world have used fiscal and monetary policies to influence the performance of its economy. Indeed our constitution places

the responsibility of running the economy in the hands of the President. Chapter 8 of the 1992 Constitution of Ghana places the entire Economy into the hands of the President and his Vice. Furthermore Article 60 (1) of the said constitution provides that the Vice President of the Land shall perform such functions as may be assigned to him by this constitution or by the President. It is instructive to note that throughout Nana Addo's long campaign to be President from 2008 until he finally became President in 2017 he sold his Vice Alhaji Dr Bawumia as the man to manage the economy in general and specifically create a strong Ghana cedi and macroeconomic environment so the entire economy grows.

Indeed subsequent to the President taking office His Excellency Alhaji Dr. Bawumia was mentioned on so many platforms as being the man in charge of running the economy and he himself held himself up as the main man running the economy of Ghana.

Thus it is beyond contestation that the person in charge of the use of government influence that is fiscal policy and monetary policy is the Vice President. It was thus contemptuous of the Hon Annoh Dompseh in an interview he granted Adom Fm to suggest quiet disingenuously that the current economic malaise we find ourselves cannot be attributed to his Excellency Alhaji Dr. Bawumia and mischievously attempted to lay the blame on Hon Alan John Kwadwo Kyerematen since he Annoh Dompseh claims Hon Alan Kyerematen heads the so called Cabinet Economic Committee. This assertion is not only reckless as to seeks to throw dust into the eyes of unsuspecting Ghanaian but is also crass and exposes the Hon Annoh Dompseh as being either ignorant of the Governance Architecture of this country or he is just a vile propagandist who has no value for principle.

The fact is we are in this economic doldrum now because of a fundamental failure of our fiscal policy since 2020. Since 2017 Ghana has posted record figures in most of the



**Hon Alan Kyerematen**



**Dr Kofi Mensah**

economic indicators. For the first time in the history of the 4th republic we have posted trade balance surplus on more than three occasions, we have posted record GDP levels, record GDP per capital levels. So why is the Economy on its knees?

You only have to look at our Budget Deficit to GDP ratios to get your answer. In 2020 we posted a deficit to GDP of a whopping 15.29% and 11.11% percent in 2021.

So clearly our economic crisis is sadly a result of fiscal indiscipline.

The big question is in whose hands lie our fiscal destiny? Indeed it is trite knowledge that the budget of Government does not only indicate how the President and his Vice intend allocating the resources of the land but most importantly determines the fiscal direction the country will be heading.

It is beyond debate that our national budget which essentially contains our fiscal policy is drawn and driven essentially by the President and his Vice President together with the Minister of Finance. Thus the fiscal part of our economy lies in the bosom of the President, the Vice President and to a smaller extent the Finance Minister.

Furthermore in any analysis of this Presidency a solid argument can be made that the fiscal part of our economy is in the hands of the Vice President because during campaign the President told all Ghanaians that the reason he is running with Alhaji Bawumia is because he Alhaji Bawumia will be tasked with the job of giving a stable macroeconomic environment

through the application of prudent fiscal policy. Thus Annoh Dompseh cannot extricate the Vice President from the so called Mess He Annoh Dompseh claims the economy is at the moment. The fact is the decision to borrow at the levels we did, the decision to spend up to 15% deficit of our GDP in 2020 and 11% of GDP in 2021 were made by the President and his Vice President and if we are facing a fiscal crisis we cannot look beyond these two if our desire is to apportion blame.

The dire fiscal crisis we are facing notwithstanding Hon Alan Kyerematen has demonstrated an amazing level of competence and understanding in transforming the nation through industrialization and Trade. Its unbelievable that with a meagre budget allocation of just Four Hundred Million Ghana Cedis he can generate an investment level in excess of Two Billion Ghana Cedis and about 126 factories operating.

With this level of monumental output against the meagre input from the President and his vice one would have expected Annoh Dompseh to question the wisdom in the President and his Vice deciding to allocate only Four Hundred Million to the most successful government flagship program 1D1F and a whopping Two Billion Ghana Cedis on NABCO.

The big question is WHY? Only the President and his Vice will know.

# Why Republicans Removed Ilhan Omar From House Foreign Affairs Committee – As It Happened

Closing summary

It is now 4pm in DC. Here are the key events that happened across the country:

**The House voted along party lines as it ousted Democratic representative Ilhan Omar from the Foreign Affairs Committee while Democrats defended her.** The vote was divided 218 to 211, CBS [reports](#). One GOP member voted “present.” Omar defended herself on the floor on Thursday, [saying](#): “This debate today, it’s about who gets to be an American? What opinions do we get to have, do we have to have to be counted as American?... That is what this debate is about, Madam Speaker. There is this idea that you are suspect if you are an immigrant. Or if you are from a certain part of the world, of a certain skin tone or a Muslim.”

**A New Jersey councilwoman has been fatally shot on Wednesday night, according to New Jersey’s Sayreville police department.** In a press statement released on Thursday, police said that they responded to shots fired on Wednesday evening in the Parlin section of Sayreville, New Jersey. Upon arrival, officers “located town councilwoman Eunice Dwumfour, 30, of Sayreville, in her vehicle who had sustained multiple gunshot wounds. Dwumfour had succumbed to her injuries and was pronounced on scene.”

**Senators Joe Manchin and Ted Cruz have introduced a new bill that would protect gas stoves.** On Thursday, the senators introduced the Gas Stove Protection and Freedom Act which would prevent the Consumer Product Safety Commission from banning gas stoves across the country.

**Senate majority leader Charles Schumer has said that president Joe Biden stands united alongside Democratic leaders against raising debt limits.** In a statement to reporters on Thursday, Schumer said, “I’ve spoken to the president both before and his staff after the meeting. He had the same position — [House Democratic leader] Hakeem Jeffries, Chuck Schumer, the House Democratic caucus, the Senate Democratic caucus and the president have the exact same position, we should pass the debt ceiling clean. That’s where we’re at,” the Hill [reports](#).

**The White House has condemned the Republican-led House vote that ousted Democratic representative Ilhan Omar from the Foreign Affairs Committee.** Speaking to reporters on Thursday, White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said that Omar is a “highly respected member of Congress” and called the move a “political stunt,” the Hill [reports](#).

**The Florida governor, Ron DeSantis, announced plans this week to block state college programs on diversity, equity and inclusion, and critical race theory in his latest attack on Black and**

**LGBTQ+ people in the public education system.** The second-term governor, widely expected to launch a 2024 White House bid, previously [blocked an advanced placement course](#) on African American studies from being taught in high schools, saying it violated state law, and championed a “don’t say gay” law prohibiting lessons about sexual orientation or gender identity in state primary schools.

**The former White House press secretary turned governor of Arkansas Sarah Huckabee Sanders will give the Republican response to Joe Biden’s State of the Union address.** Announcing the move on Thursday, the House speaker, Kevin McCarthy, called Huckabee Sanders “a servant-leader of true determination and conviction”, adding: “I’m thrilled Sarah will share her extraordinary story and bold vision for a better America on Tuesday.”

**In the latest development in the saga over former presidents and vice-presidents and the improper retention of classified documents, the Wall Street Journal reports that FBI agents will soon search a property belonging to Mike Pence.** Yesterday, FBI agents searched a home in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, that belongs to President Joe Biden. No additional documents were found but Biden already faced the attentions of a special counsel, appointed to investigate his retention of documents from his time in the



**Ilhan Omar walks to her office after being ousted by the Republican-led House of Representatives to serve on the foreign affairs committee. Photograph: Tom Brenner/Reuters. Democrats say ousting from key committee is simply 'spite'**

Senate and as vice-president to Barack Obama.

**Florida Republican senator Rick Scott said that he does not think that Senate minority leader Mitch McConnell’s decision to remove him from the Senate Commerce Committee “made any sense.”** “I’m going to keep doing my job... I put out a plan. He completely opposed me putting out a plan,” Scott [told](#) CNN, referring to a plan he announced last year that would have subjected all “[government bureaucrats](#)” to a 12-year term limit, shut down the Department of Education, and slashed the federal workforce by 25% within five years, among other proposals.

**President Joe Biden called for cooperation and respect at the National Prayer Breakfast where he said that he and House speaker Kevin McCarthy will “treat each other with respect.”** “Let’s just sort

of, kind of, join hands again a little bit. Let’s start treating each other with respect. That’s what Kevin and I are going to do,” said Biden, the Hill [reports](#).

**President Joe Biden has confirmed the departure of his top economic adviser Brian Deese from the White House.** In a [statement](#) on Thursday, Biden announced that Deese will be stepping down from his role as director of the National Economic Council in the coming days.

**Former House speaker Nancy Pelosi has said that she will endorse Democratic representative Adam Schiff for California senate if senator Diana Feinstein decides to not run again.** In a [statement](#) released by Pelosi and reported by Politico, Pelosi wrote: “If Senator Feinstein decides to seek re-election, she has my whole-hearted support. If she decides not to run, I will be supporting House Intelligence Committee Chair Adam Schiff, who knows well the nexus between a strong Democracy and a strong economy,” she

## Chomsky And Prashad On Why Cuba Is Not A State Sponsor Of Terrorism

By Noam Chomsky And Vijay Prashad

Cuba, a country of eleven million people, has been under an illegal embargo by the United States government for over six decades. Despite this embargo, Cuba’s people have been able to transcend the indignities of hunger, ill-health, and illiteracy, all three being social plagues that

continue to trouble much of the world. Due to its innovations in health care delivery, for instance, Cuba has been able to send its medical workers to other countries, including during the pandemic, to provide vital assistance. Cuba exports its medical workers, not terrorism. In the last days of the Trump administration, the US government returned Cuba to

its State Sponsor of Terrorism list. This was a vindictive act. Trump said it was because Cuba played host to guerrilla groups from Colombia, which was actually part of Cuba’s role as host of the peace talks. Cuba played a key role in bringing peace in Colombia, a country that has been wracked by a terrible civil war since 1948 that claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands of people. For two

years, the Biden administration has maintained Trump’s vindictive policy, one that punishes Cuba not for the promotion of peace. Biden can remove Cuba from this list with a stroke of his pen. It’s as simple as that. When he was running for the presidency, Biden said he would even reverse the harsher of Trump’s sanctions.

But he has not done so. He must do so now. **Noam Chomsky and Vijay Prashad are the authors of [The Withdrawal: Iraq, Libya, Afghanistan, and the Fragility of US Power](#). Noam Chomsky is a linguist, philosopher, and political activist. Vijay Prashad is a writing fellow and chief correspondent at [Globetrotter](#). He is the chief editor of [LeftWord Books](#) and the director of [Tricontinental: Institute for Social Research](#).**