

GOLD-FOR-OIL

Why Gold Trinity Is The Worst Scam Of All Time



Ernest Addison, Governor of Bank of Ghana



Ken Ofori-Atta, Minister of Finance

By Nii Amu Darko

My daughter, Naa Densua just sent me a 6 page document: "Government of Ghana Gold for Oil (G40) Programme Framework." I didn't even bother to read it. My immediate response was: the biggest

scam of all time. Gold for oil is one arm of a trinity of deception foisted on Ghanaians as a solution for the economic mess this government has willfully created. The other two are: Gold for cedi, and gold for cocoa. Anybody with the most basic understanding of Newtonian mechanics, quantum mechanics or

thermodynamics know this simple truth, that controls most of the physical world: "The total energy of a system remains constant, even though one form of energy may be transformed into another form." 1st law of thermodynamics

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As Ofori-Atta Insists On Inclusion Of Pensioner Bondholders Over Fear Of Economic Collapse

Prof Bokpin Says Silence Of Parliament, Christian Council On DDEP Worrying *page 5*

CORRUPTION

CDS Calls For Proactive Framework To Fight Canker And Manage Risks



Dr Frank Banner, Senior Research and Policy Analyst at CDS

The Centre for Democracy and Socio Economic Development (CDS) Africa, has charged government and stakeholders to initiate and implement proactive and strategic

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Alleged Issuance Of Dud Cheques Adotenhene Of Tumiatsu Gwira Debunks Claims By Awulae Angama Tu-Agyan II

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The INSIGHT

— EDITORIAL

THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE!

The Ghana AIDS Commission is not happy about its dwindling budgetary allocation.

Officials of the Ghana AIDS Commission who appeared before the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament were full of lamentations that they received only GHC3 million instead of the GHC14 million budgetary allocation to them in 2022.

According to the officials the funding gap or challenge greatly affected their work as it had dire consequences on the delivery of its mandate.

Clearly, the funding bottlenecks accounts for the recent rise in cases of HIV/AIDS infections in the country since monies needed to embark on sensitization programmes are not forthcoming as expected.

This development justifies the saying that you cannot eat your cake and have it which means that rise in infection need be blamed on reduced funding.

The rise in the cases of HIV infections in the country is very worrying as measures needed to address the canker appear to be suffering funding challenges and this must be of concern to all.

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

It is the view of this paper that the government in spite of the economic challenges should provide the commission with the needed funding in a bid to address this menace.

CORRUPTION

CDS Calls For Proactive Framework To Fight Canker And Manage Risks

from front page

framework to help tame corruption in the country. CDS-Africa noted with concern Transparency International's 2022 Corruption Perception Index (CPI) report, published on January 31, 2023.

In the report, Ghana, which is an African democracy exemplar, received a score of 43 on the CPI. The country scored 43 on the CPI ranking in 2020 and 2021, respectively. According to the report, Ghana's efforts to combat corruption have stalled. Based on this, CDS has made some recommendations that will help boost the fight against corruption in the country.

A statement signed by Dr. Frank Bannor, Senior Research & Policy Analyst at CDS recommended that Ghana's strategy for combating corruption should include a proactive framework for foreseeing and managing corruption risks. To minimize potential corruption risks, a thorough review of every possible project and contract is required within the public sector. It further states that government and political influence should not be allowed in state agencies that the law requires to identify and punish corruption cases. To strengthen monitoring, the government must ensure that public complaint procedures are incorporated into projects and contracts. It recommended that Corruption prevention should become a strategic tenet of Ghana's governance system.

To mitigate corruption, it noted that deterrence is of great essence. Such a measure would send a strong message to potential wrongdoers about the latent consequences of their misbehavior and inaction. "The government needs to establish a system that rewards appropriate behavior and penalizes corrupt conduct in the public sector. All citizens must understand they have a role to play in the fight against corruption. Citizens and public sector workers must immediately report any suspicions of bribery or corruption to mandated agencies and institutions.

Corruption poses a significant risk to Ghana's economic development. It noted that economic inequality is made worse by corruption, with a one-unit rise in corruption resulting a 0.15 to 1.5 per cent decline in GDP per capita. Petty corruption, in particular, impacts citizens' perceptions of corruption in a country because it interferes with their daily lives and undermines public trust in democratic processes, government legitimacy, and state institutions. The CPI has grown as the most crucial global indicator of corruption in the public sector since its launch in 1995.

Using information from 13 external sources, including the World Bank, World



Dr Frank Bannor, Senior Research and Policy Analyst at CDS

Economic Forum, private risk and consultancy organizations, think tanks, and others, the Index assigns ratings to 180 nations and territories based on perceptions of public sector corruption. Until 2012, the CPI was computed between 0 to 10, with a lower value of 0 indicating a high level of corruption, while a higher score value indicated a lower level of corruption. At that time, Ghana's average score was 4.1, which was recorded in 2010 (see Figure 2 in the attachment). Since the methodology of the CPI changed in 2012, where countries are now ranked based on a score of 0 to 100, Ghana's average score has not changed significantly, obtaining only 48% in 2014. It is worrying, that since 2000 when the CPI report was launched, Ghana's score has always been below average, and this leaves much to ponder about as a nation". The statement added.

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 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE 1- 7XW

Tel: 0171-6201430

E-mail: prattc22@aol.com

GOLD-FOR-OIL

Why Gold Trinity Is The Worst Scam Of All Time

from front page

"The total wealth of a country remains constant, even though one form of wealth may be transformed into another form." 1st law of Afreeconomics. Writing on the trinity will be a whole book. I will just bring out the fallacies.

1. Gold for cedi
Oz of gold \$2000
Ton of gold \$64.3m

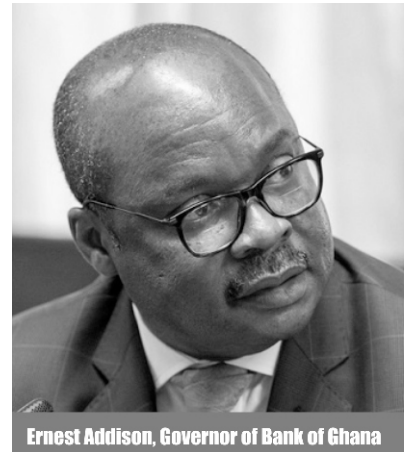
Ghana exports about 140 tons Ghana earns about \$9b from gold. Even if Ghana buys 10% of total gold exported, the value is \$900m, enough for only 2 months of fuel imports. \$900m at \$12 to the \$ is almost \$11b. Where will government get the unbudgeted \$11b from? Print it? Now, this is when I'm assuming that, the mines will sell the \$ at \$12. It may be as high as \$18 to the \$, as government itself pegged the \$ for fuel purchase late last year. At \$18 to the \$, government will need \$16.5b unbudgeted money to buy 10% of total gold exported from

Ghana. Last year, government reported buying 26 000oz from Newmont. Newmont produces up to 700 000oz/year. Government therefore purchased only 3.7% of gold Newmont produced. Value of 26 000oz is \$52m. This represents only 11% of cost of fuel imports for JUST ONE MONTH. It doesn't even scratch the surface of our liquidity problem. We have just transformed one form of wealth into another. The total wealth remains the same. How much did Newmont change the \$ for in cedis? We don't know. Newmont sold only 3.7% of its gold, getting the amount of cedis it needed (probably at a rate better than on the black market) for its local operations eg payment of salaries and maintenance of equipment etc. The only winner is Newmont.

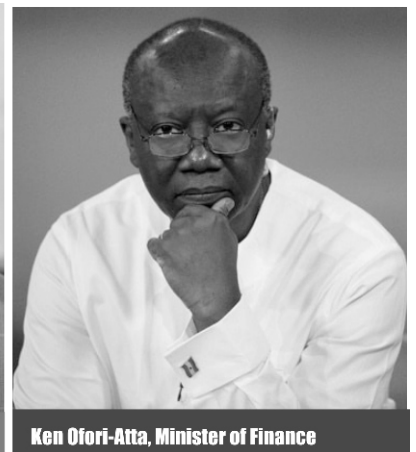
2. Gold for oil
I understand we have 8tons of gold in reserves. Total value is therefore \$514m. If we sell all our gold in reserves, we can't import

more than a month of fuel (\$450m). Gold for oil is a scam. Ghana is the loser. Gold is a store of value. Gold appreciates more than any currency over a generation. When Sam Jonah "sold" our 11m oz of gold in the ground in 1999, it was \$300/oz. Today, that same oz is \$2000. The market value of \$300 in 1999 isn't even \$600 today. Only an Esau government will mortgage its future wealth for immediate gratification. Esaus cry, and this government will cry. By the way, there are different prices for different modes of payment. Cash price is different from credit price. Single price is different from bulk price etc etc. Very likely, \$ price may be different from gold price. How much is the gold price for oil?

3. Gold for cocoa
Vice President Dr Mahamudu Bawumia talked about this few months ago. One of my young friends argued with me about it. I just smiled. Ghana doesn't have the capacity or leverage to determine the mode of payment from its prospective cocoa buyers. Even if



Ernest Addison, Governor of Bank of Ghana



Ken Ofori-Atta, Minister of Finance

they decide to buy cocoa with gold, who decides the price of the gold? This is what happens in a buyers market. The buyer makes the rules. You need the buyers money more than he needs your cocoa. The wise buyer who knows the future value of gold would want to pay you in \$ which he has plenty anyway. If you insist on gold, he would forecast the appreciation of gold against the \$ and fix the rate for you. If you're stupid, he's not. The only ways to begin solving our problems are:

1. Positive terms of trade
 2. Budget surplus
- With these two, the total wealth of our country will begin to increase, then there's real progress. Changing one form of wealth to another while total wealth remains the same is meaningless and a scam. This trinity of gold is the worst of all scams.
- Tswa omanyeba
Nii Amu Darko
President, ARM
05/02/2023

Mali Expels UN Mission's Human Rights Chief



Guillaume Ngefa-Atondoko Andali

The Malian interim government says the head of the United Nations peacekeeping mission's human rights division has been asked to leave the country within 48 hours after being declared persona non grata. In a statement on Sunday, it said the decision to expel Guillaume Ngefa-Atondoko Andali was connected to his allegedly biased choice of civil society witnesses for UN Security Council briefings on Mali, the most recent of which was held on January 27.

MINUSMA, as the UN mission in Mali is known, did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Andali could not be reached for comment. The Malian authorities have come under pressure for alleged human rights violations and abuses reportedly perpetrated by Malian armed forces in partnership with the Russian private military contractor Wagner Group in Mali. On January 31, UN experts called for an independent investigation into possible war crimes and crimes against humanity by both these forces. "Since 2021, the experts have received persistent and

alarming accounts of horrific executions, mass graves, acts of torture, rape and sexual violence, pillaging, arbitrary detentions and enforced disappearances perpetrated by Malian armed forces and their allies," said the statement. The Malian government, which took power in a 2021 military coup, on Saturday released a statement that pushed back against some of the UN allegations and emphasised the authorities' commitment to respecting human rights in accordance with international and national law.

Source -- [cnn.com](https://www.cnn.com)

Gold-For-Oil Policy: BoG Will Print New Money To Buy The Gold – Dr Kofi Amoah



Dr. Kofi Amoah warns government not to print money for Gold-for-Oil policy

A renowned economist and businessman, Dr. Kofi Amoah, has alleged that the government through the Bank of Ghana will print more money to finance its Gold-for-Oil policy. In a tweet shared on Friday, February 3, 2023, Dr Amoah said that the government has no savings to purchase the gold for this policy and thus will resort to printing more money. He said that the printing of money will fuel inflation which will further heighten the hardship ordinary Ghanaians are facing. He added that the government should rescind the Gold-for-Oil policy immediately before it collapses the economy. "The NPP has stepped into the Capitalistic Culture they've no clue of. Pls get out whilst you can b4 Ghana drowns completely.

"Govt n BOG have no money saved so they'll print new money to buy the gold for the barter which will fuel inflation n Cedi depreciation," parts of the tweet read. The economist made these remarks while reacting to an article by GhanaWeb on the government's Gold-for-Oil policy. Vice President Mahamudu Bawumia, in November 2022, announced the government's plan to undertake the gold-for-oil initiative. The deal was hinged on buying oil products with Ghana's gold instead of the US dollar. Dr Bawumia, in a post shared on Facebook, explained that the usage of gold to purchase oil would address Ghana's dwindling foreign reserves as well as reduce demand for US dollars by oil importers.

"It will fundamentally change our balance of payments and significantly reduce the persistent depreciation of our currency," the vice president earlier wrote. Under the policy, the government believes that using gold to purchase oil products would also bring stability to the exchange rate market and ensure domestic oil operators do not solely depend on foreign exchange to import products.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS REPORT

Compiled By Peoples Dispatch

Massive Workers' Rallies Across UK Defend The Right To Strike



Mobilization at Newcastle upon Tyne on February 1, 2023. (Photo: Vyshakh Thaliyil). The Tory government in the UK has been waging a war against the working class through its austerity-ridden policies and anti-worker legislation

Over half a million people last Wednesday joined the 'Right to Strike' rallies called by trade unions across the UK to protest the austerity-ridden anti-worker policies of the Tory government, including a legislation which intends to curtail the right to strike. More than 40,000 people marched in London alone. Rallies were also held in

cities like Glasgow, Sheffield, Liverpool, Bristol, Manchester, Cambridge, Nottingham, Newcastle, among several others. The rallies were attended by activists and leaders of unions including the National Education Union (NEU), Public and Commercial Services (PCS) Union, University and College Union (UCU), Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (ASLEF), and National

Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers (RMT). Teachers formed the largest contingent in the rallies, raising banners that read 'Save Our Schools,' and calling for an increase in wages, staff, and funds for schools. The demonstrators demanded that the Tory government withdraw the anti-strike bill and the notorious Scabs' Charter. The Tory government introduced a controversial Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Bill in the UK parliament on January 10, which would enable the state and employers to force workers to ensure minimum service during trade union strikes across eight key sectors including health, ambulance, fire and rescue, security, education, and transport. The bill would empower bosses to sack workers who refuse to provide a minimum level of service during

walkouts across key sectors, as well as sue trade unions in court both to prevent strikes and claim damages. It has gone through the House of Commons and currently awaits its second reading in the House of Lords on February 23. The bill has outraged the working class across Britain, who are already at loggerheads with the Tory government over pay restoration, the untackled cost of living crisis, and the 'Scabs Charter'. In his statement on February 1, Communist Party of Britain (CPB) General Secretary Robert Griffiths greeted the protesting workers and said that "union action is stronger when we are together. Today is a living testimony to working class principles of unity, solidarity, and not crossing a picket line. There is a rising tide of rage at the attack on wages, conditions, pensions, and services, and at a government

that simultaneously blocks negotiations in some areas whilst conducting sham negotiations in others. They should come to the table or clear out of the way." Kevin Courtney, joint general secretary of the National Education Union (NEU) said that "taking strike action is very much a last resort for our members. Knowing that parents and members of the community support them taking a stand to 'Save Our Schools' will give educators huge confidence in taking this action, not just for fair pay, but in defense of children's education." The Trade Union Congress (TUC) has called for another round of mobilization on the budget day of the Tory government, March 15.

Filipino Movements Protest Marcos Jr's Decision To Further Open Up To US Military

The Philippines has agreed to give the US military further access to more local bases across the country. The move was announced by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr on Thursday, February 2, along with US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, who is on a visit to the country. As per the agreement reached by the two countries, the US will gain access to four new bases under the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP). This military access will be facilitated by the 2014 Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) and will be on top of the already existing EDCA facilities that the US has access to. The EDCA, put in place during Barack Obama's administration, is the most prominent military agreement signed between the US and the Philippines since the complete withdrawal of US troops in 1992. The agreement gives the US access to strategic military sites in the Philippines, allowing extended

stays for US troops, and the building and operation of facilities on Philippine bases. A joint statement by the Philippines and the US states "their plans to accelerate the full implementation of the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement with the agreement to designate four new Agreed Locations in strategic areas of the country and the substantial completion of the projects in the existing five Agreed Locations." While the areas identified for new bases are yet to be disclosed, reports suggest that they will include areas close to Taiwan and Palawan Island, near the South China Sea. Recently, US Vice-President Kamala Harris' visit to the Philippines in November 2022 included a visit to a naval ship in Palawan, which led to a strong response from China. The expansion of EDCA sites has been in the works for months under the Marcos administration. Even before the announcement of the deal, progressive movements had been protesting Austin's visit to the Philippines. Rights group Karapatan had earlier said

that nothing good could come from his visit, and even described Austin as "a man whose career and fortune were built on the deaths and destruction resulting from US-driven wars of aggression." "Aside from being one of the top military commanders who led the US's bloody wars of aggression in Iraq and Afghanistan that claimed almost a million lives, most of them civilians, he is the face of the money side of US warmongering, the side that ravenously feeds off the suffering of the victims of these evil wars," Karapatan Secretary General Cristina Palabay said. After the announcement, the joint decision was widely decried by peace advocates, who see it as part of a months-long effort by the US to expand its military presence across the Indo-Pacific, with an intent to encircle China. The Philippines is also expected to see a boost in US military aid, with the US having recently allocated a potential USD 100 million in defense financing for the country. This is on top of the 82 million allocated for upgrading the five existing

EDCA bases. "At least USD 100 million in military assistance is already in the pipeline in exchange for the Marcos Jr regime's reaffirmation of EDCA and other military agreements with the US," Palabay had predicted in a statement released shortly after Austin's arrival. "With Austin's background, we can expect more murder and mayhem against the Filipino people as the US intensifies its intervention in the conduct of the counter-insurgency war in the country," she added. The announcement was met with protests outside the presidential palace, organized by left-wing and progressive groups. Austin has claimed that the new bases are not permanent basing projects in the Philippines. But activists fear that increasing US military access to the country will pave the way for a return to a time when the US had an extensive military presence in the country, as it did before 1992. The withdrawal of the bases, largely facilitated under the dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos (father

of the incumbent president), was a large part of the democratization efforts in the Philippines. "The matter of asserting Philippine sovereignty and sovereign rights rests with the Filipinos, not any foreign power," said Renato Reyes, leader of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, or Bayan. "It would be foolish to believe that the US, with its own geopolitical interests, is here to help us in asserting our sovereignty." In their statement, Bayan also warned that the expansion of EDCA sites might trigger more tension in the region. "Filipinos must not allow our country to be used as a staging ground for any US military intervention in the region." "The US is engaged in provocations with China using the issue of Taiwan. Allowing US use of our facilities will drag us into this conflict which is not aligned with our national interests," the group said.

As Ofori-Atta Insists On Inclusion Of Pensioner Bondholders Over Fear Of Economic Collapse Prof Bokpin Says Silence Of Parliament, Christian Council On DDEP Worrying

Professor of Finance at the University of Ghana Business School (UGBS), Professor Godfred A. Bokpin has described as worrying the silence of some major stakeholders in the governance of this country relating to the government's Domestic Debt Exchange Program (DDEP). Pensioner Bondholders Forum, a group for the protection of pensioners with investment in government bonds yesterday picketed at the premises of the Finance Ministry in demand for its members to be exempted from the Domestic Debt Exchange Program (DDEP). According to the group, attempts to have their investment exempted from the programme have proved futile, the reason for their decision to picket at the Finance Ministry until their demands are met. Commenting on the Debt

Exchange Program on Accra based Starr Fm, Mr. Bokpin stated that he cannot fathom why Parliament as the representative of the people has not summoned the Minister of Finance for questioning. "We need all important stakeholders, you need the TUC on the table, the TUC should not just wake up because pensions were at risk. What is a pension if the whole country is not governed well? Because if you don't do this Debt Restructuring very well, adequately and comprehensively it will show up in the next two years. "If you look at the terms that the Minister has proposed even for the Individual Bondholders you are looking at the principal repayment in 2025 at a time he will not be there. Even the opposition party what is their stake and their contribution in this Debt Restructuring?" Mr.

Bokpin queried. He stated that NDC and other major stakeholders must demonstrate their commitment and what alternative they are putting on the table to salvage the nation from the current situation. "The Christian Council, all the major stakeholders you know this is not a time where you can leave governance to a few people, no, this is a time where we all come on board. Bring the best ideas and best alternatives on the table for our common good. If Parliament could tell us that they themselves have no deeper understanding of this Debt Exchange what prevents them from asking the Finance Minister to come and brief Parliament comprehensively? The situation, the steps, and all of that." **The economy will collapse if we exempt you – Ofori-Atta tells**

pensioner bondholders Meanwhile, Finance Minister, Ken Ofori-Atta, has warned that if bondholders are exempted from the ongoing Domestic Debt Exchange Program (DDEP), Ghana's economy will be in shambles. According to him, even though the decision and its consequence were dire, it is necessary for various individuals to sign willingly to the program to enable government function. Addressing the concerns of the Pensioner Bondholders Forum after a picket at the Finance Ministry, Mr Ofori-Atta urged the affected holders to hold their peace as it goes through tough periods. He added that we are in a situation of "Boa Me Na Me Mboa Wo", to wit "help me, let me help you" hence bondholders should cooperate with government to



Prof Godfred A. Bokpin

stabilize the economy Prior to this, Mr Ofori-Atta reiterated that government has attenuated the period and term of maturity to 5 years instead of the uncertainty of the long term. In response, the Pensioner Bond Holders insisted on government to totally exempt them from the ongoing Domestic Debt Exchange Program (DDEP) Dr Adu Antwi Anane, leader of the Pensioner bondholders indicated their acceptance or otherwise, disapproval will be dependent on their members for further actions. **Sources--** starrfm.com.gh and kasapafmonline.com

Alleged Issuance Of Dud Cheques

Adotenhene Of TumiatuGwira Debunks Claims By Awulae Angama Tu-Agyan II



The Adotenhene of Tumiatu in the Gwira Traditional Area in the Evalue-Ajomoro-Gwira Municipality of the Western Region, Nana Kpole Antoanah V, has broken his silence by rubbishing what he terms as fake and the biggest lies peddled by some prominent traditional office holders against the gold mining activities of Okoben Mining Company Limited. He stressed that these falsehoods and blatant lies against the local gold mining company were perpetrated by the embattled Paramount Chief of the area, Awulae Angama Tu-Agyan II and his followers who accused the company of issuing dud cheques to defraud the elders and farmers/ residents in relation of paying crops

and lands compensation packages. Consequently, Nana Kpole Antoanah V denied the claim by Awulae Angama Tu-Agyan II, which went viral that the traditional authorities of Gwira have banned the Okoben Mining Company Limited from mining gold resources on its concession at Dominase and dared Awulae Angama Tu-Agyan and other chiefs who peddled the supposed falsehoods against the company to come publicly to invoke the gods to prove themselves if they claimed that they are not lying against the company. "The Okoben Mining Company Limited being owned by Nana Okoben Amponsah has done no wrong. We are strongly backing the company that it has done no wrong in its mining activities in our area. Even in the event that the company has done wrong to be banned from mining on its concession at Dominase in Gwira, I, Nana Kpole Antoanah have a traditional and power and capacity as the Adotenhene of Gwira to ban the company. But it is not Awulae Angama Tu-Agyan II because he doesn't have the traditional locus and power to do so as far the traditions, customs of the

area are concerned. "This is because Awulae Angama Tu-Agyan II is not the rightful custodial or allodial title owner of the lands of concession that the company has secured to mine the gold in the Gwira Traditional Area. So the fake and biggest lies peddled around against the company by Awulae Angama Tu-Agyan II and his followers are in complete violation of the tradition, customs and norms of the Gwira Traditional Stool. So it is high time for Awulae Angama Tu-Agyan II and his followers to stop their continuous lies and libelous stories against the company and render unqualified apology to Nana Okoben Amponsah," Nana Kpole Antoanah V further stressed. Addressing a press conference at Gwira on Monday February 6, 2023, the Adotenhene spoke about the legality in the gold mining activities of the company since it started its operations in the area, and that pointed out that the gold mining company has been honouring its various task obligations by way of paying compensation packages to

the affected farmers and also be paying royalties to the Gwira Stool. "I want to state categorically that all the various works that the Managing Director of Okoben Mining Company Limited, Nana Okoben Amponsah has done in the years of 2016 and 2017 on the concession he secured from the Gwira Stool at Dominase, I am personally present before Nana Okoben Amponsah brought the cheques to pay the traditional authorities who are the allodial owners of Gwira Stool. And these cheques brought and presented by Nana Okoben Amponsah to the elders of the Gwira Stool were duly cashed in the bank and paid the beneficial personalities," Nana Kpole Antoanah V reaffirmed. Nana Kpole Antoanah V was responding to allegations leveled against Nana Okoben Amponsah that he issued dud cheques to defraud cocoa and other farmers whose farms were affected in relation to the gold mining activities on his concession at Dominase in Gwira. It would be recalled that some chiefs led by Awulae Angama Tu-Agyan II called on the government of President Nana Addo Dankwa

Akufo-Addo to withdraw any license granted to Okobeng Mining within fourteen (14) days. According to them, because of the company's illegal activities, its operational works have degraded their land and polluted rivers such as River Ankobra, streams and other river bodies on the said concession. But the Adotenhene clarified that he was even the very traditional office holder of Gwira who received the various genuine cheques issued by Nana Okoben Amponsah to honour his mandatory payment of the various claims of compensation to the hundreds of cocoa farmers and other elders/ residents in Gwira who were affected in the mining activities of the company. The chief stressed that these lawfully compensation packages were paid to the farmers, particularly the cocoa growing ones, explaining that it was not true that the company had deprived the affected cocoa farmers of payment of their compensation packages due them.

Bawku Conflict: REGSEC Warns Civilian Rebels Combatting Army

The Office of the Upper East Regional Coordinating Council (REGSEC) has said it will be disastrous for the indigenes of Bawku to engage the military in combat. “Again, REGSEC appeals to both factions to desist from any attempt to engage the military in combat, since that will be catastrophic on the part of the civilians,” the REGSEC said in a statement following its emergency meeting held on Thursday, February 2, 2023, to review the security situation in Bawku.

The REGSEC further called on the people of Bawku to remain calm as it works to bring lasting peace to Bawku.

“REGSEC therefore admonishes the people of Bawku to stay calm as we go through the processes,” the statement said.

It also reminded the indigenes of Bawku and its environs to adhere to “all the security measures put in place by REGSEC.”

Meanwhile, the Ghana Armed Forces (GAF) has refuted allegations by some individuals in Bawku that soldiers deployed on Operation Gongong to restore

calm in the area are killing innocent Kusasi youth and women in their homes and communities.

The GAF also says allegations that military personnel have seized Zoogin, a Kusasi community, are false and unfounded.

GAF, in a statement, explained that information received from the National Investigations Bureau (NIB) by its Operation Gongong team early this week indicated that passengers on board a yellow KIA Grand Bird Bus with registration number AS 3672-21 traveling from Accra to Missiga were attacked by unknown gunmen around Kpawelga on the Bawku Highways.

The gunmen fired through the tires and engine compartment of the vehicle.

The bus is currently parked at Asylum Down, Bawku Divisional Police Station, for an investigation to be conducted.

Also, one KIA Rhino truck with registration number AS 7093-17 was hit, and the driver of the truck, Alhassan Abdella, aged 40, from the Gonja ethnic group, sustained gunshot wounds on the left foot.

He is currently receiving treatment at the Bawku Presbyterian Hospital. Again, GAF noted that on Wednesday, February 1, 2023, gunshots were heard around South

Natinga in Bawku.

A patrol team rushed to the general area of the shooting, where a suspect, Abdul Malik Haruna, aged 35, from the Mamprusi ethnic group, was arrested.

He has since been handed over to the Bawku Police for further investigation.

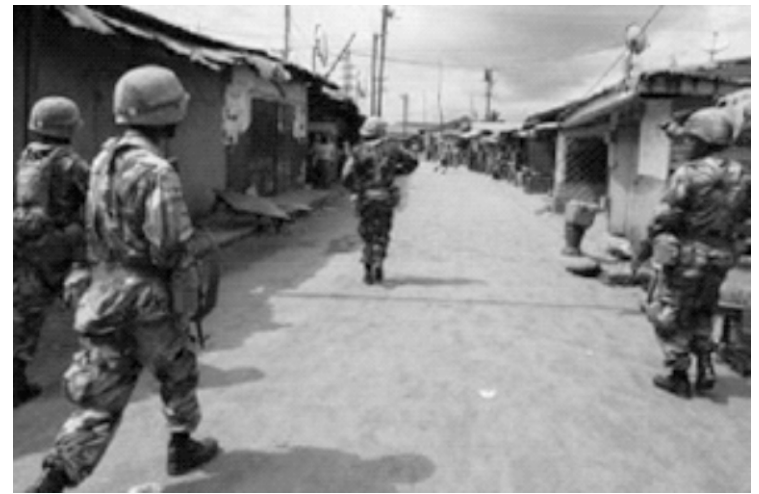
In the statement, GAF said it must be placed on record that based on a tip-off by the Bawku Police on the hideout of the suspects alleged to be involved in the firing incident at Bawku, troops conducted cordon and search operations together with the Bawku police at Pateleme General Area.

Three suspects, Fatau Alhassan Binda, 42; Abubakar Iddrisu, 44; and Alhassan Mustapha Binda, 33; all from the Dagomba ethnic group, were arrested in a house at Pateleme.

They were handed over to the Bawku Police for further investigations.

In a separate incident, GAF further disclosed that sporadic firing was heard around the Sabongari General Area.

A patrol team dispatched to assess the situation spotted



The REGSEC further called on the people of Bawku to remain calm as it works to bring lasting peace t

unknown armed men at the Gozesi-Valley side in Sabongari wearing black t-shirts with black hoodies.

Troops engaged them and neutralised six armed men.

GAF said during the engagement, some armed men took cover in a mud house within the immediate vicinity to engage the team.

One of the armed men attempted to attack troops with a cutlass but was disarmed in the process.

During the operation, a local woman found with a gunshot injury on the left hand was sent to Bawku Presbyterian Hospital by troops for treatment.

GAF said it is forced to disclose

these outcomes in order to dispel false information and the wrong notion that a particular group is being targeted by troops in Bawku.

GAF has assured the general public of its commitment to protecting the citizenry at all times.

It is, therefore, soliciting the support of all peace-loving Ghanaians, especially indigenes of Bawku, to facilitate the process of bringing normalcy to the area and also to aid GAF in de-escalating tension in the interest of the needed peace and security for the socio-economic development of Bawku and the nation as a whole.

...But Mahama Ayariga Petitions CHRAJ Over Alleged Military Killings In Bawku, Demands Compensation



Member of Parliament for Bawku Central in the Upper East Region, Mahama Ayariga

The Member of Parliament for Bawku Central in the Upper East Region, Mahama Ayariga, has petitioned the Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) over the alleged killing of

some 10 citizens by the military. In a petition to CHRAJ, the MP demanded investigations into the incident, and a GH¢500,000 compensation for each of the families of the person allegedly killed by the military.

“In my capacity as the Member of Parliament for Bawku Central, I, hereby lodge a complaint on behalf of some residents of Bawku under regulation 2(2)(a) and (b) of C.I. 67 pertaining to several acts of violation of the human rights of some residents of Bawku by members of

the Ghana Armed Forces.

“Among the rights violated included the sacred right to life of 10 citizens of Bawku who were shot to death by members of the armed forces engaged in Operation Gongong in Bawku on Tuesday 31st January and Wednesday 1st February 2023. Children's rights. Women's rights and property rights were violated,” he noted.

He said a response by the Ghana Armed Forces indicated their admittance that their men killed some of the residents, therefore, a compensation of GH¢500,000.00 should be given to each

of the affected families.

“The military does not deny shooting and killing these residents of Bawku. A statement issued by the military authorities on 2nd February 2023 admitting responsibility for the killings is attached.

“Compensation of GH¢500,000.00 for each and every one of those whose lives were taken, to be paid to their immediate families as punitive damage,” he added.

Jair Bolsonaro Applies For Six-Month Tourist Visa To Stay In US

Brazil's former president Jair Bolsonaro, who is facing investigation as part of an inquiry into an alleged attempt to topple the country's government, has filed a request for a six-month visitor visa to stay in the US. The former leader is understood to have entered the US on an A-1 visa reserved for sitting heads of state, which would expire on Tuesday, 30 days from the end of his presidential term. On Monday, a California-based law firm known for its work with Brazilians said that Bolsonaro had requested a six-month visa to stay in the US. "We look forward to achieving the highest level of satisfaction and desired results for our client," AG Immigration Group said in a statement.

Bolsonaro left Brazil for Florida on 30 December, two days before the inauguration of his leftist rival, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. The ceremony proceeded without incident, but a week later 'thousands of Bolsonaro's

diehard supporters stormed the capital and trashed the top government buildings, demanding that Lula's election be overturned. Bolsonaro is being investigated for whether he had any role in inciting that uprising. It is just one of several probes targeting the former president that pose a legal headache upon his eventual homecoming. For the first time in his more than three-decade political career as a lawmaker then as president, he no longer enjoys the special legal protection that requires any trial be held in the supreme court.

Bolsonaro's calculus appears to be to distance himself from the radicals whose destruction in the capital could implicate him in the short term, with the aim of some day returning to lead the opposition, said Mário Sérgio Lima, a political analyst at Medley Global Advisors. "He is giving it some time, staying away a bit from the country at a moment when he can begin to suffer legal consequences for his supporters' attitudes," said

Lima. "I don't think the fact of him staying away is enough. The processes will continue, but maybe he thinks he can at least avoid some sort of revenge punishment." Bolsonaro has been staying in a home outside Orlando, Florida, and video has shown him snapping photos with supporters in the gated community and ambling around inside a supermarket. After the rampage in the Brazilian capital this month, a group of 46 Democratic lawmakers sent a letter to President Joe Biden 'demanding Bolsonaro's visa be revoked.

"The United States must not provide shelter for him, or any authoritarian who has inspired such violence against democratic institutions," they wrote.

Brazil's last justice minister, Anderson Torres, was also visiting the US during the riot and was arrested on his return.

Bolsonaro was one of the closest international allies of Donald Trump, another former



Brazil's former president Jair Bolsonaro. Photograph: Ueslei Marcelino/Reuters Staff and agencies. The Ex-Brazil president who has been in Florida since 30 December is being investigated for attempt to topple country's government

president living in Florida who has made baseless allegations about electoral fraud. The former leader had previously told CNN Brasil that he had planned to return by the end of January, and was considering moving his departure earlier for health reasons. The far-right leader was injured in a knife attack in 2018. He has suffered continuing health complications from that assassination attempt, and received hospital care during his stay in Florida.

Bolsonaro's son, a senator, told reporters at an event this weekend that he was not sure when his father would return to Brazil. "It could be tomorrow, it could be in six months, he might never return. I don't know. He's relaxing," Flávio Bolsonaro said. The US state department has repeatedly declined comment to questions about Bolsonaro's visa status in the US.

Eswatini: ITUC Denounces Brutality And Harassment Of Trade Unionists By Authorities



The ITUC has expressed concern over what it says are the recent attacks on trade unionists and pro-democracy campaigners by government forces in Eswatini. On the 11 January 2023, the name of Sticks Nkambule, the

Secretary General of the Swaziland Transport, Communication and Allied Workers Union (SWATCAWU), was published by the police as a wanted person for alleged criminal conduct. This follows the union's announcement

of a "job stay away", 13-14 December 2022, with a demand to improve working conditions and the release from prison of two members of the Eswatini Parliament, Mduduzi Bacede Mabuza and Mthandeni Dube. On 29 December armed police raided the village of Sticks Nkambule and harassed his family. The ITUC is also alarmed by: The security forces' disruption of a trade union workshop at the Global Village Guest hotel, 15 November 2022.

The shooting of Kayise Qwabe by security forces on 11 November 2022.

The withdrawal, without

justification, in October 2022 of the salary of Mbongwa Dlamini, President of the Swaziland National Association of Teachers. Earlier in April, Mbongwa's home was attacked by security forces with live bullets.

ITUC Deputy General Secretary Owen Tudor said: "These events are very troubling and part of a long campaign of anti-union, anti-democracy harassment by the Eswatini government.

"The government of Eswatini must stop the harassment and wanton arrests of trade unionists and citizens. It must respect its

obligations as a member of the ILO." "The ILO's principles on freedom of association say that authorities must guarantee that trade union rights can be exercised in normal conditions with respect for basic human rights, in a climate free of violence, pressure, fear and threats of any kind. "Allegations of criminal conduct should not be used to harass trade unionists. "It is time to find a path away from repression to peace and shared prosperity through a process of social dialogue with trade unions to find solutions to the problems affecting the country."

National Endowment for Democracy Deletes Records of Funding Projects in Ukraine

...Deletion Needed To Preserve Big Lie Of An Unprovoked Russian Invasion

The National Endowment for Democracy (NED) - a CIA offshoot founded in the early 1980s to advance "democracy promotion" initiatives around the world - has deleted all records of funding projects in Ukraine from their searchable "Awarded Grants Search" database.

The archived webpage captured February 25, 2022 from 14:53 shows that NED granted \$22,394,281 in the form of 334 awards to Ukraine between 2014 to the present. The capture at 23:10 the same day shows "No results found" for Ukraine. As of right now, there are still "No results found" for Ukraine. Searching using "Ukraine" as a keyword (as opposed to a "Project Country" in the original captures) yields "No results found." Searching for the titles of the funded projects listed in the last "intact" web capture yields no results. Additionally, the current database search criteria have been restricted, previously funding from 2014 to present could be searched, currently only 2017 to present is searchable per the drop-down menus. There are multiple news reports before February 25 corroborating this \$22,394,281 amount.

Validating the Big Lie

The erasure of the NED's records is necessary to validate the Biden administration's big lie - echoed in the media - that the Russian invasion of

Ukraine was "unprovoked." In a recent statement of solidarity with Ukraine, the NED acknowledged that it had been a "proud partner of Ukraine's civil society groups, media outlets, and human rights defenders since 1989 - before the Ukrainian people declared independence in 1991 - as they have confronted enormous challenges in building an independent and free country." NED President Duane Wilson admitted at an NED forum on Ukraine on March 4 that Ukraine was the NED's fourth largest grant-making program around the world. Wilson said that "the endowment is proud that we have had Ukraine as a major partner since 1989, before independence, supporting Ukrainian civil society organizations."

Exposing Russian but Not Ukrainian War Crimes

The NED's anti-Russian agenda was detailed by one of the speakers at the March 4th forum, Olha Aivagurski, who said that a lot of her work with an NED funded NGO focused on documenting Russian war crimes. Neglected was Ukrainian army war crimes, whose scale is detailed in a new RT News documentary "Donbass, yesterday, Today and Tomorrow." It includes

footage of excavation of mass grave sites in Donbass where neo-Nazi militias attached to the Ukrainian army massacred and then buried hundreds of civilians.[1] The NED, however, is committed to advancing the cartoonish narrative depicting Ukraine as a valiant David fighting the evil Russian bear.

Color Revolutions

The NED played a pivotal role in helping to trigger the conflict with Russia by supporting two color revolutions directed against Ukraine's pro-Russian leader Viktor Yanukovich - a potential successor to Volodymyr Zelensky if Russia wins. The 2004 color revolution replaced Yanukovich with Viktor Yushchenko, who favored admitting Ukraine to NATO and adopted an International Monetary Fund (IMF) structural adjustment program that benefitted U.S. investors while cutting social programs.

NED activists employed a broad public relations strategy that included: a) busing paid out-of-town protesters into Kyiv; b) creating an online TV protest station and agitation paraphernalia; and c) providing offshore training to the anti-Yanukovich student leadership. The strategy was based on the writings of Gene

Sharp and a template that the NED had successfully employed in Serbia with a youth group called "Otpor," which helped secure the defeat of socialist Slobodan Milosovic in September 2000 elections. A parallel approach was used during the February 2014 Maidan Square uprising which resulted in Yanukovich's ouster - he had been reelected in 2010 - and the advent of a pro-Western regime in Kyiv. During the fall of 2013, the NED named as a Dante Fascell fellow Sergii Leschenko, a journalist who exposed how Yanukovich had paid Republican party strategist Paul Manafort \$1.2 million as a political consultant.[2] As a sign of the NED's influence, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko (2014-2020) - a main beneficiary of the Maidan coup currently awaiting trial on treason charges - bestowed the Order of Princess Olga, one of Ukraine's highest honors, on Dr. Nadia Diuk,[42] a former vice president and senior adviser to the NED for Europe and Eurasia.

Preserving Fiction of an Unprovoked Russian Invasion

In 2020, the NED provided \$4.6 million to Ukraine for purposes that included raising

awareness of alleged human rights abuses by Russia in Crimea and eastern Ukraine, and fomenting opposition and resistance to Russia. The large scope of the NED's program makes clear the organization's importance. However, with the Biden administration intent on preserving the fiction that the Russian invasion/counter-offensive was unprovoked, censorship and the deletion of records is necessary.

[Camilla Thompson contributed to the reporting.]

A U.S. journalist quoted in the film, George Eliason, stated that he repeatedly sent reports of war crimes to American media outlets which ignored him. Leschenko subsequently became a member of parliament where he lobbied for Ukraine's closer integration with Europe. At the time, Leschenko joined the party of Ukraine's fifth president Petro Poroshenko, but then supported neoliberal Volodymyr Zelensky. When Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, Leschenko compared Vladimir Putin to Adolf Hitler. ↑

<https://covertactionmagazine.com/2022/03/07/national-endowment-for-democracy-deletes-records-of-funding-projects-in-ukraine/>