

# DUMSOR LOOMS

## As IPPs Give 3-Week Ultimatum To Govt To Clear \$1.5bn Arrears



**Matthew Opoku-Prempeh, Minister of Energy**

Independent Power Producers otherwise known as Private Power Producers have given the government up to three weeks (21 days) to settle debt owed them or risk a drastic reduction in energy

generation leading to power outages (dumsor) in the country. The IPPs/PPPs are not happy that till date the government has not paid a pesewa to them despite owing them a whopping \$1.5 billion.

Already, there are unscheduled power outages in some parts of the country as some areas have been forced to experience over a week of continued power outage to the chagrin of most residents.

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## Campaign Against Societal Pressures Starts 20th March

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## Amasa Nee Whang Family Calls For IGP Intervention In Land Dispute



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## DDEP Issues Are A Threat To Ghana's Economy – Joe Jackson



Director of Business Operations at Dalex Finance, Joe Jackson

Director of Business Operations at Dalex Finance, Joe Jackson, has said the recent developments that characterized Domestic Debt

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# The INSIGHT

## — EDITORIAL

### DEAL WITH THIS HEALTH MENACE

**T**he 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.

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# DDEP Issues Are A Threat To Ghana's Economy – Joe Jackson

*from front page*

Exchange Programme (DDEP) will give some challenges to Ghana's economy.

According to him, the most important issue for the agreement to be reached hovered around debt sustainability and attainment has been affected by the scale down to the DDEP and the nature of negotiations with external creditors. He fears foreign exchange crisis is in the offing for the country.

In an interview with Starr News, Mr. Jackson mentioned that the reduction of the government's expected 130 billion that has come down to 83 billion is a worry to the government meeting its targets.

"Each time there was an exemption, each time the rate was adjusted it increased the complexity of our debt sustainability challenges. So, scaling down the DDEP from what it was initially set at a 130 billion cedis to a final figure of 83 billion cedis meant that it will complicate our issues.

That led us to now realize that there is a new haircut that we are expecting from the foreign bondholders that obviously complicates matters.

"And obviously, the rapid accumulation of the T. Bills debt which has now slowed dramatically was going to put us at risk. What really constitutes the issue is the



Director of Business Operations at Dalex Finance, Joe Jackson

deadline we have. I believe that the deadline was not imposed in a vacuum. The government realizes that it was only for so long that he can continue defaulting and have the market forgive them as long as they have.

He continued: "We haven't paid a dime of our external debt since December. If we don't get an IMF program soon, we are going to see shortages of foreign exchange. It will have an impact all across because we are a nation who imports everything."

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

## THE INSIGHT

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# DUMSOR LOOMS

## As IPPs Give 3-Week Ultimatum To Govt To Clear \$1.5bn Arrears

*from front page*

In some parts of Tema, Ofankor and Pokuase in the Greater Accra region, there have been reports and complaints of unannounced power outages for days. Vice President of IMANI Africa, Bright Simons who blew the alarm on the debt owed PPPs asserted that Private Power Producers who supply more than 50% of the country's electricity have given the government a 3-week ultimatum to start paying its arrears of about \$1.5 billion or risk dumsor.

He noted that the failure of the government to settle its debt will lead to a shortfall in power supply which will subsequently trigger power crisis, otherwise known as 'dumsor' in the country.

In a series of tweets sighted by the media, Bright Simons said the private power producers are, however, opened for discussion with government on the payment plans.

The move is to give government some time to pay them their due whiles they find lasting solutions to the country's economic crisis.

"Ghana's private power producers, who supply more than 50% of the country's electricity, have given the govt a 3-week ultimatum to start paying some of the nearly \$1.5 billion in accumulated arrears or risk a shortfall in generation, which could trigger a power crisis," part of his tweet read.

"They are open to discussions on payment schedules to give the govt some flexibility as they recognise the current cash crunch but cannot accept any restructuring of liabilities or haircuts. They say that notwithstanding serious arrears, they have kept the lights on," it added.

**Woyome proposes independent managers of Ghana's Debt**

Meanwhile, the Member of

Parliament for South Tongu, Kobena Mensah Woyome has proposed the decoupling of the debt management function from the Ministry of Finance to prevent debt pile ups.

In place of this he says, he is proposing independent managers of Ghana's Debt.

He indicated that it seems the government instead of borrowing to fund projects and to pay back the loans with interest, it borrows rather for recurrent expenditure and other activities that do not guarantee the country's ability to repay due to lack of openness on the part of managers of the debt describing it as recklessness.

According to him, the proposed independent debt manager of the country's debt will advise government on loan acquisition decisions including how to borrow, what to borrow and at what rate and how to spend borrowings, ensure efficiency so that the country does find itself into huge debt situation in future.

"...I will actually suggest that government should be candid and maybe all here in this house must agree and advocate that, the managers of the economy, in fact, there should be independent managers of the debt of this country, so that that would be taken away from the responsibility of the finance minister, so that at least, ..., they will be able to help advise government on decisions with regards to what to borrow, rate at which to borrow, how to spend, and on what so that at least all these things can be managed efficiently, so that we don't find ourselves in the situation we find ourselves" he proposed.

Mr Woyome who is also the Ranking Member on the Sports,

Youth and Culture committee made the proposal on the floor of parliament when he took his turn in support of a motion, to thank President Akufo-Addo for delivering a message of the State of the Nation in accordance with article 67 of the 1992 constitution.

The North Tongu lawmaker also questioned the Bank of Ghana for failing on its policy rate management function which has led to the high inflationary rates the country is witnessing in recent times.

He criticized the central bank and described it as 'reckless' and engaging in an 'illegality' by dolling out of printed money to government beyond the allowable five percent threshold which has brought the country to its current status.

Mr Woyome backed his claim with fact and figures and explained that the central bank is expected to use its policy rate to control inflation by mobbing excess liquidity from the system but ends up using the backdoor in releasing more money to government to spend thereby defeating the purpose of the policy rate announcements. "Whenever the Policy Committee meets and increase interest rates, with a clear intention of mopping excess liquidity from the system, so that, off course, we don't have too much money circulating, and that is done usually through high interest rates, and off course that has its own attendant as a results of squeezing businesses in a way that they would not have access to funds to operate with. But all geared towards managing inflation and that is good. But at the same time, the same Bank of Ghana gives out money or funds government through the printing of money, and sometimes and almost all the



**Matthew Opoku-Prempeh, Minister of Energy**

time since 2020, beyond the 5% threshold that they ought to be doing, which is an illegality that has brought us where we are.

"And the issue is this, what are they trying to achieve. You are trying to use the monetary policy to mop excess liquidity from the system because you want to control inflation, but at the same time using the back door and releasing more money illegally to the government, which is going to carry on more expenditure, by way of introducing more money into the system, defeating the very purpose of the monetary policy that was actually announced," Mr Woyome asserted.

The Ranking Member therefore urged for parliament to keep a careful watch over the central bank because it has not been sincere. ..and so Mr Speaker if you watch carefully, figures such as in 2020, they (referring to BoG) funded government to the tune of Ghc10 billion, that is beyond the five percent threshold that ought to be allowed which is five percent of the previous year's revenue that was collected, in 2021, they spent or printed in excess of Ghc 35 billion in terms of funding for government ,then at the same time in 2022, Ghc 50 billion was used to fund government, and then also in this year, so far, about Ghc40 billion, and you look at all these, you are funding government illegally, but at the same time announcing policy rate which is intended to be controlling the money circulation in

the system.

"So you are actually giving and then taking and then making life difficult for a lot people, operators in the economy, businesses alike and so on, in the Ghanaian economy," he added. "Mr Speaker, that is one area that I think the action and inaction of the Bank of Ghana ought to be looked at and watch because they've never been sincere, and what how do you describe it? It is not reckless in terms of decision, it is not in a way not mismanagement of monetary policy in term of ensuring that you are controlling the macroeconomic indicators in the system, and that is for me a way of probably lying for want of a better word, that you are intending to be controlling the monetary system but at the same time pumping more money illegally, into the system, but at the end of the day, you have achieve nothing, only to make life difficult for everybody including businesses and other operators in the economy" Mr Woyome further stated.

He urged the president to allow independent state institutions mandated to investigate allegations of wrongdoing against his appointees with regards COVID-19 funds to do their works and establish the facts whiles urging him to desist from praising himself and clearing them of wrongdoings.



# INTERNATIONAL NEWS REPORT

## Compiled By Peoples Dispatch

### Russia Accuses US Of Provocation, Denies Its Jets Made Any Contacts With US Drone



An MQ-9 Reaper prepares for takeoff at a forward arming and refueling point at the Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. Oct. 20, 2022. (Photo: US Department of Defense). The US has alleged that one of its spy drones was lost in the Black Sea after a Russian jet deliberately collided with it on Tuesday morning

Hours after the US alleged that a Russian jet caused the loss of its spy drone over the Black Sea, the latter accused the US of using its drones to collect reconnaissance data to be used by Ukrainian forces for future strikes inside Russia. The allegations were made by

Russia's ambassador to the US Anatoly Antonov on Wednesday, March 15. He also warned that Russia does "perceive any actions involving the use of American weapons and military equipment as openly hostile," TASS reported. Antonov was responding to

claims made by the US on Tuesday, that a Russian jet had deliberately collided with one of its spy drones over the Black Sea, leading to it crashing in the water and being lost. Antonov denied there was any contact between the Russian jet and the US drone.

A press statement issued by the US Defense Department had said that "a Russian Su-27 aircraft struck a U.S. Air Force intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance MQ-9 unmanned aerial vehicle's propeller, causing US forces to bring it down into international waters of the Black Sea."

The statement quotes US Air Force General James B. Hecker, commander of the

US Air Forces Europe and Air Forces Africa, who said, "These aggressive actions by Russian aircrew are dangerous and could lead to miscalculation and unintended escalation." However, as per TASS, the Russian Defense Ministry denied the US allegations and said that the drone was flying over the Black Sea illegally, with its transponders off, and in violation of the airspace boundaries established for the war in Ukraine. The Russians also claimed that following abrupt maneuvering, the drone "went into an unguided flight with a loss of altitude and collided with the water surface," TASS reported. The US had summoned Antonov after news of the

drone loss on Tuesday. After his meeting with the US State Department, Antonov rejected the allegations of Russian aggression. He also asserted that Crimea is a part of the Russian Federation, whether the US accepts it or not, and that the US should not provoke the Russian navy and air force by sending drones into its territories.

On Wednesday, Antonov also raised the issue of the US supply of over US\$ 33 billion worth of weapons to Kiev. "Just think about this number! It is absolutely clear that it is the United States that is leading the situation to a deliberate escalation fraught with a direct armed conflict," he said.

### Violence Breaks Out Outside Former PM Imran Khan's Residence In Pakistan As Police Attempt To Arrest Him

Late on Tuesday, March 14, clashes broke out between Pakistani police and supporters of Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), as the former arrived at Khan's residence in Lahore to arrest him on charges of corruption. On March 15, PTI raised an alert in a tweet, writing: "Residence of PTI Chairman Imran Khan under attack." It also added, "Residence of former Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan is currently under attack by this fascist regime," while sharing visuals of smoke billowing around Khan's residence. The clashes continued for nearly 24 hours, into March 15,

as the police fired tear gas and rubber pellets at Khan's residence in Lahore. Several injuries were reported on both sides. Security forces deployed outside Khan's residence had begun retreating but relief only came when the Lahore High Court ordered the suspension of the operation until the morning of Thursday, March 16. On February 28, a sessions court in the national capital Islamabad issued a non-bailable arrest warrant against Khan over his continuous absence in court hearings on charges of corruption and undeclared assets while he was in power from 2018 to 2022. "We will

arrest Imran Khan today and present him in court," said Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah at a public rally telecast live on local TV channels. Imran Khan and his government were ousted from power in April last year after losing a vote of no confidence in the Parliament. He has frequently criticized state institutions and the Pakistani army in his public speeches. In October last year, Pakistan's Election Commission disqualified Khan as a member of Parliament, finding him guilty of "corrupt practices." Since Imran Khan's ouster, the



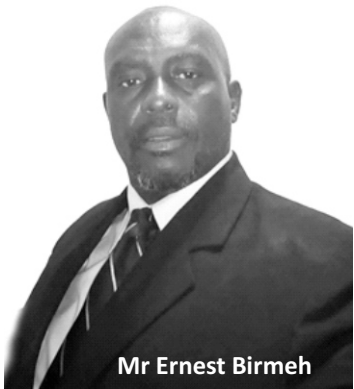
Police deployment on the streets of Zaman Park in Lahore, where Imran Khan's residence is located. (Photo: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf / Twitter). Khan, who has criticized state institutions and the Pakistani army, has been accused of corruption

PTI has been on the streets demanding snap general elections. General elections are currently scheduled to take place in October 2023.

In November, Khan survived an attempt on his life when he was injured by a gunshot during a protest march in Punjab's Wazirabad.



# Campaign Against Societal Pressures Starts 20th March ... To Be Followed By Employment Generation Led By Dr Think Twice



Mr Ernest Birmeh

“The ugliest head of the unexpected hardships (PRESSURES) is on, is devastating homes, is making society more uncomfortable, many will silently die, crimes waives, insecurity will increase. We, individuals, families (society) can reduce the hardships, crimes waives, etc, if practically, we manage their personal responsibilities reasonably. To achieve this, we must know

what our personal responsibilities are separate from politics, adjust, strategically none violently. The kind of lifestyle lived twenty years, ten years, five years ago can't be maintained, an attempt will increase crimes waives, insecurity, hardships, etc. What's in the Constitution, Ghanaians should hold politicians accountable and gladly be responsible for what's not in the Constitution" The Country Director, Expert in SOCIETAL PRESSURES, Think Twice Africa Consult (Consultancy) and Think Twice foundation Ghana (NGO) led by Mr Ernest Birmeh aka Dr Think Twice, is proudly informing Ghanaians on impending campaign on SOCIETAL PRESSURES followed by

employment across the country. "SOCIETAL PRESSURES, are absolutely outmoded to a larger extent creating its own harmful effects. Thousands of years back, they were great, today is more deadly and must be addressed. They are hugely outside the constitution and must be handled separately". Pressures such as, when will you marry? When will you give birth? Does your manhood work, prove it? How responsible are you without a child? Pressures on funerals, birthdays, naming ceremonies, teasing colleagues with simple phones such as yam phones and thousands more. Are social problems, created by society, absolutely outside the constitution, he claimed. "Absolutely, it doesn't

encourage effective planning and any society which doesn't engage in individual and collective planning stand chances to suffer. I planned I didn't plan are two different issues" He said "The warning we gave to Ghanaians through PROMPTED SUICIDES across ten regions during awareness creation was enough, but society never took us serious. The economic hardships took every Ghanaian by surprise. We must therefore, take immediate action, advantage of the situation, tackle societal pressures. The campaign will kick start in greater Accra and Kumasi respectfully" The Country Director said. "The concept of TACKLING SOCIETAL PRESSURES THROUGH EMPLOYMENT GENERATIONS needs huge logistical support, therefore, we humbly appeal to

Ghanaians, political parties aspirants, companies and the likes to see the issue at hand and throw in their support. "Tackling SOCIETAL PRESSURES are absolutely none political, Ghanaians should see it as a social issue absolutely outside the constitution. During the campaign, Ghanaians should have their phones and cameras, video messages during the campaign, share with families and others. Ghanaians and others should subscribe to all our social media handles (YouTube, Facebook, tiktok, Instagram) Dr Think Twice for further information, education on the concept of TACKLING SOCIETAL PRESSURES THROUGH EMPLOYMENT GENERATIONS" He concluded Source: Think Twice Africa Consult Contact:0556754709/0203003178 Email: [thinktwicefoundation2000@gmail.com](mailto:thinktwicefoundation2000@gmail.com)

## Amasa Nee Whang Family Calls For IGP Intervention In Land Dispute

The Amasa Nee Whang family of Nungua has appealed to the Inspector General of Police, Dr. George Akuffo Dampare to call his men who are allegedly meddling in land litigation in the area to order. According to the leader of the family, the issue has become necessary for the IGP to call his men at the Property Fraud Unit to discharge their duties with the needed professionalism it may require. At a press conference on Thursday, the family representative, Patrick Nii Amasa noted that the family intends to call on the IGP to call his men who are meddling in the family land case. Accra Region is now being stolen by some persons with police backing. According to him, a man who claim to be a National Security

operative came to his house with other handguards to give warning shot and threatened the members of the family to refrain from stepping onto the land. The family rep said other family members went to work on the parcel of land and they were attacked by the same persons.

The family members reported the matter to Gborbu Wulomo Shitse who invited the parties to enquire why they were engaging the services of land guards with the intention of terrorizing and preventing rightful owners from developing the parcel of land. He said Dawood and Rosemary failed to produce any documentation to the land as demanded by Gborbu Wulomo. The matter, he noted was

reported to both the Regional and National Police Commands. He said one Mr. Daniel Oppong who was instructed to take over the case invited the said Dawood Agyeman but he and his cohorts refused to turn up. He narrated what happened when they went to the land in the company of the police to arrest some of the land guards but were met with strife and opposition. He noted that "We went to the police station to make a complaint leading to the arrest of the landguards at Baatsona but when they got to Manet, Dawood and some persons who claim to be security persons in fake military gang without name tags crossed the police patrol vehicle and dropped all the suspects in the presence of this Inspector Samuel Oppong yet he failed to caution or question his action", he said.



Dr. George Akuffo Dampare, Inspector-General of Police

He said the family then petitioned the Police Regional Command who went to arrest several land guards with pump action guns and other weapons unlawfully occupying their registered piece of land. The family expressed worry about the conduct of Inspector Oppong who never expressed interest in the case to suddenly develop interest and arrest the complainants who have proven with court rulings.

"We are therefore calling on the IGP, Mr Dampare, to call Inspector Oppong and Bawa of the property fraud unit to order. My brother must be granted bail. Their actions are nothing but a clear attempt to frustrate the court process" - he indicated. Meanwhile, attempts by this paper to get Inspector Oppong and Bawa respond to the allegations proved futile as at the time of going to press.



# Scrap E-Levy If You Want To Reintroduce Road Tolls – Ablakwa To Government

The Member of Parliament for North Tongu, Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa, has asked the government to cancel the Electronic Transfer Levy (E-Levy) now that the government is planning to reintroduce road tolls. According to him, the government made it clear before implementing the E-Levy that it was a replacement for road tolls. He observed that the government does not properly consider its policies before implementing them. The lawmaker stated that the government cannot have it both ways. He said you cannot have in place the E-Levy and reintroduce the toll. "The government told us that they were introducing the E-Levy because they had removed road tolls. They can't have it both ways if they want to reinstate the toad toll. "The E-Levy must

be repealed."

He asserted that Ghanaians must demand answers from the government because one of the reasons and justifications for this poorly thought out policy was that we would have to pay E-Levy.

The MP made these remarks in response to a press statement by the Minister of Finance indicating that tolls would be reinstated.

He was speaking in an interview with Rainbow Radio's parliamentary correspondent Philomina Kuntu Blankson.

The finance minister wrote to the Ministry of Roads and Highways to confirm the approved fees as tolls on roads and bridges which will be reintroduced this year.

According to Ken Ofori-Atta, "It is provided under Section 6 of Act 1080 for the Minister to amend the schedules of the Act to include or exclude MDAs and/or adjust the fees and charges collected by MDCs for their services through a Legislative Instrument when

necessary."

"Accordingly, this ministry has initiated steps to provide for foundational rates for tolling of roads and highways as part of the amendments of the Act, pending completion of the process to identify the rods and highways to be affected by the reintroduction of the road tolls as stated in the budget," he added.

The approved fees for motorbike users will pay 50 pesewas instead of 19 pesewas.

Saloon car users will pay a fee of GH¢1 rather than the previous 50 pesewas fee. Pick-ups/4x4 vehicles and light bus users will be charged GH¢1.50 pesewas when the toll booth reopens. Drivers of heavy buses will also pay GH¢ 2 instead of the GH¢1.50 pesewas they used to pay.

For drivers of medium and heavy goods trucks up to 4 axles, the fee to be paid will



*The MP for North Tongu, Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa*

be GH¢3 instead of GH¢2.

In response, Okudzeto Ablakwa slammed the government, accusing it of failing to properly consider its policies.

"I must state unequivocally that this government does not carefully consider its policies before implementing them. As a public policy student, I can say that this government does not have the ability to consult widely and to be scientific or empirical in its policy

implementation.

Unfortunately, our government is uninterested in consulting. All of their policies have been a disaster. Several examples, including the luxury car tax and the benchmark at ports, have all been disasters. We advised them against eliminating the toll, but they did not listen."

**Source:**

[rainbowradioonline.com](http://rainbowradioonline.com)

## BHC Accra Hosts Joint Military Headquarters For Operation Flintlock 2023

The British High Commission in Accra has played host for the joint military headquarters of Operation Flintlock 2023. The Flintlock exercise is designed to strengthen the ability of key partner nations to counter violent extremist organizations, collaborate across borders and provide security for their people, while respecting human rights and building trust with civilian populations.

The robust participation of African and international partners reflects a mutual commitment to countering malign activity and violent extremism throughout the Sahel and West Africa region. Twenty-nine nations and approximately 1,300 personnel will participate in Flintlock 2023. Combined military and law enforcement exercise took place in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire from March 1-15, 2023.

Speaking at the launch of the joint military headquarters in Accra, British High commissioner to Ghana, Her Excellency Harriet Thompson said:

"Although operations and exercises will take place across Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire; the UK is delighted to be hosting the Joint Multinational Headquarters right here at the British High Commission. We welcome you all. It is the bonds that we will form, the lessons that we will learn, and the strategies we will share here and throughout this Operation that will grow our collective ability to adapt to and overcome the very real threats that we see to regional peace and security." In his speech Deputy Commander, U.S. Special Operations Command Africa Colonel Robert Zyla said: "With the establishment of

this headquarters, our mentors from around the world have worked alongside SOCAFRICA and USAFRICOM teammates to incorporate and expand our legal and engagement operations".

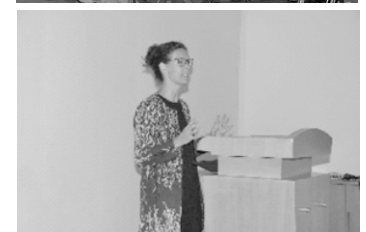
Colonel Robert Zyla also noted "Understanding how intelligence, evidence collection, and common procedures enable us to better incorporate law enforcement and military units, ensuring those taken into custody are properly tried in the justice system and further reinforces the rule of law".

Headquarters operations will test and strengthen participants' ability to collectively address regional security challenges through a comprehensive scenario involving command and control of simulated participants at various

outstations.

"While Flintlock is at its core a military exercise, but this Operation will also see temporary medical and dental clinics working with communities to support healthcare provision, as well as women, peace and security events and initiatives taking place, which is particularly important as we mark and celebrate International Women's Day tomorrow" Harriet Thompson Added.

This year, participating African nations include Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Togo and Tunisia. Other international participants include Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States.



*Harriet Thompson delivering her welcome address*





# LIST: Who Got What At 2023 National Honours And Awards Event



**P**resident Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo on March 14 presided over the 2023 edition of the National Honours and Awards event at the Accra International Conference Center (AICC). Three broad categories of individuals, institutions and partners were awarded at the event.

**The three groups as contained in a post shared on the president's Facebook timeline were:**

- Men and women who were entrusted with the responsibility of keeping us safe at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, to our foreign friends and partners who aided us in that enterprise.
- Men and women who made sure that the maritime boundary dispute with our immediate, western neighbour, the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire ended favourably for the Republic of Ghana, thereby, ensuring that our

western maritime resources, including its oil and gas potential, rightfully remained in our possession.

c. Individuals whose work deserve the plaudits of the nation.

The state-owned Daily Graphic reports that in all, some 19,557 frontline health workers received certificates and plaques for their dedicated services in the line of duty. The newspaper added that about 50 individuals and entities that received the Order of the Volta – Companion awards. Those of the COVID bloc included Members of the National COVID-19 Taskforce and Trustees of the Ghana COVID-19 Private Sector Fund. GhanaWeb has sighted an event brochure that listed the 18-members of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) Technical Team and Legal Advisors, who were awarded.

**This is the list: Some members of the presidential taskforce GhanaWeb sighted at the event**

1. Dr. Anthony Nsiah-Asare Ltd)
  2. Dr. Aboagye Dacosta, Director of Health Promotions at the Ghana Health Service
  3. Dr. Patrick Kumah Aboagye, Director General of Ghana Health Service
  4. Kojo Oppong-Nkrumah, Minister of Information
  5. Kwaku Agyemen-Manu, Minister of Health
  6. Henry Quartey, Greater Accra Regional Minister
  5. Mr. Omane Frimpong (Chairman, Wilkins Engineering Ltd)
  6. Mr. Kwame Ofori Bamfo (Managing Director, Bamson Group)
  7. Mr. Kwabena Adjei (Group Chairman, Kasapreko)
  8. Mr. Thomas Svanikier (Chairman, Svani Group Ltd)
  9. Mr. Kwasi Twum (CEO, The Multimedia Group)
  10. Mr. Senyo Kwasi Hosi (CEO, Chamber of Bulk Oil Distributors)
  11. Julie Essiam (Commissioner, Ghana Revenue Authority)
- The nominated Trustees of the COVID-19 fund comprise:**
1. Mr. Anthony Oteng-Gyasi (Chairman, Tropical Cable & Conductor Ltd)
  2. Mr. Edward Effah (Chairman, Fidelity Bank Ghana Ltd)
  3. Mr. Kwaku Bediako (Director, CH Group)
  4. Mr. John Taylor (CEO, Woodfield Energy Resources

global repute of the modern age, who will be given a befitting posthumous award, Order of the Volta – Companion.

The rest are Ms. Margaret Sophia Darkwah, the first female Commissioner of Police; Prof. Akwasi Osei, former Chief Executive of the Mental Health Authority; and Dr. Veronica Agatha Martinson, former Executive Director of the Cocoa Research Institute, Ghana," the president's post read in part.

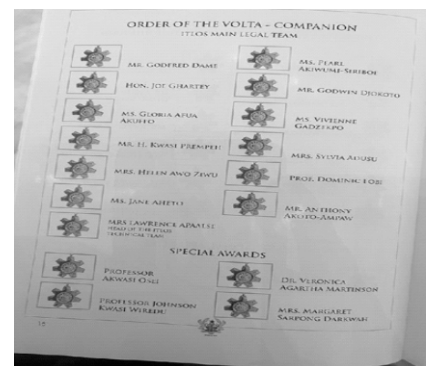
## About the National Awards:

The national awards are presented to persons who have made immense and recognized contributions in sectors such as the civil service, military, prisons service, education and public health, agriculture, commerce and industry, the judiciary, scientific and other research, sports, culture and the arts, and the financial sector.

## Eminent Ghanaians awarded:

Akufo-Addo's Facebook post listed a number of the eminent Ghanaians who were awarded on the day:

"The late great philosopher, Prof. Johnson Kwame Wiredu, by common consent one of the outstanding philosophers of



# Peace Council Slams Military Over Brutalities In Ashaiman

**T**he National Peace Council has condemned the military for brutalising some residents of Ashaiman following the murder of one of their own. According to the council, the military should have allowed the police to work instead of taking the law into their hands. George Amoh, Executive Secretary of the Council, speaking to Citinewsroom, said, "I believe the military should have used restraint. The police have the authority to conduct an investigation. The military should have allowed the police to investigate because they

have the resources and strategies to find whoever was involved." The military invaded Ashaiman, brutalising innocent residents after the murder of one of their own on Tuesday, March 7, 2023. The incident happened at the Official Town in Ashaiman during a heavy downpour. Meanwhile, the Circuit Court in Ashaiman has remanded all the six accused persons who have been arrested in connection with the killing of 21-year-old soldier, Imoro Sherif, in Ashaiman on

March 4 2023. The suspects, Safianu Musah alias Dayorgu and Ibrahim Abdul Rakib, Samuel Tetteh alias Wiper and Abubakar Sadick alias Birdman, Yussif Mohammed and Abdul Gafaru Abdul Karim were charged with stealing, robbery, and receiving dishonest goods. In Court on Monday, March 13, 2023, lawyers for the two main accused persons pleaded for bail for his clients, but the Judge, Simon Gaga, declined

because the lawyer could not prove their permanent place of abode. They've been remanded into police custody and will reappear on March 27, 2023. The suspects were arrested at their hideouts in Ashaiman after almost a week of painstaking intelligence-led operations by the Police. "Further investigation has established that suspects Samuel Tetteh and Abubakar Sadick at about 1:45 am on March 4 2023, attacked the deceased at Taifa Ashiaman in an attempt to rob him of



George Amoh, Executive Secretary of the Council

his phone and a backpack. The deceased, however, resisted and struggled with the suspects. During the struggle, suspect Samuel Tetteh pulled out a knife and stabbed the deceased in the arm, snatched his phone and bolted, leaving the deceased with the knife stuck in his arm," a Police statement said.

# The Seeds Of The 1973 Durban Strikes Still Grow

By Irvin Jim

This March, as we commemorate 50 years of the 1973 [Durban strikes](#), we reflect on the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa's ([Numsa](#)'s) deep roots which lie in the Durban strikes. We are taking this moment to reflect on a general strike by industrial and other workers that began on 9 January 1973.

The year before there had been a strike by dockworkers in Durban, and a new militancy was emerging after the banning of the liberation movement, and the communists, in 1960. When the strikes had come to end late in March 1973, close on 100 000 mainly African workers had come out on strike.

After the 1972 dockworkers' strikes the General Factory Workers' Benefit Fund was formed in Durban in 1972 by the radical academic, [Richard Turner](#), trade unionist Harriet Bolton and a number of Turner's students. Turner was committed to the idea of workers' control. At the time it was illegal for black workers to belong to a registered trade union, so black workers joined the benefit fund as a cover for trade union activities. After the Durban strikes thousands of workers joined the benefit fund. Several unions were formed in the wake of the 1973 strikes, including the Metal and Allied Workers' Union (Mawu), which was founded in Pietermaritzburg in April 1974. It was formed from the benefit fund with 200 members from two factories, Alcon and Scottish Cables. Alpheus Mthethwa was elected as the branch secretary. The Transvaal branch was formed in 1975.

Academic Kally Forrest has written that: "Fierce debate went into the formation of unions like Mawu, and the principles and strategies that emerged underpinned these unions in the future. Central to their strategy was that only an accumulation of worker power could bring meaningful change.

"Richard Turner was assassinated in 1978 showing that the system of racial capitalism saw building

workers' power towards worker control as a serious threat to its existence."

Mawu was admitted to the International Metalworkers' Federation. In South Africa it worked closely with the National Union of Motor Assembly and Rubber Workers of South Africa and the United Automobile, Rubber and Allied Workers Union. In 1979 they and other unions formed the Federation of South African Trade Unions ([Fosatu](#)). Fosatu was a workerist union that remained independent from the national liberation movement. Fosatu developed an impressive workers' culture programme, including poetry and theatre, and was known for its commitment to democratic practices on the shopfloor and for a deep commitment to workers' control. Mawu got access to the Dunlop factory in Durban in 1983. The workers began collecting money for a strike fund and then went on a go-slow and a refusal of overtime work. Several workers were fired. There was a major strike in 1984 during which workers adopted the strategy of siyalala la – sleeping inside the workplace at night.

In his autobiography *A Working Life: Cruel Beyond Belief*, Temba Qabula, who was also a well-known worker poet and playwright, wrote: "We refused to leave because the factory belonged to us. We built it with our sweat and blood. We lost all our energy to this company and so it belonged to us".

After the strike at Dunlop there were also strikes at Bakers Bread and Clover.

In *Praise Poem to Fosatu*, first performed in 1984, Qabula, wrote:

You are the metal locomotive that moves on top

Of other metals

The metal that doesn't bend that was sent to the Engineers but they couldn't bend it.

Teach us Fosatu about the past organisations

Before we came.

Tell us about their mistakes so that we may not

Fall foul of such mistakes.

Our hopes lie with you, the

Sambane that digs

Holes and sleeps in them, whereas others dig

Holes and leave them.

I say this because you teach a worker to know

What his duties are in his organisation,

And what he is in the community

Lead us Fosatu to where we are eager to go.

There were more strikes in 1985, including stoppages to demand the release of Moses Mayekiso, who had been elected as a Mawu shop steward in 1979 and was arrested in late 1984. He had also been involved in community-based resistance linked to the United Democratic Front (UDF), which was launched in 1983, and the union had become increasingly connected to community struggles.

In 1985, Mawu led a major strike at Sarmcol, a subsidiary of British Tyre and Rubber Company, in Mpophomeni, which is not too far from Pietermaritzburg. Almost a thousand workers were fired. Four members of the shop stewards' committee were abducted while at a meeting at the home of Phineas Sibiyi, a leading Mawu shop steward. Three of them were murdered, the other surviving a gunshot wound. As the strike developed the union came under serious pressure from Inkatha, a generally reactionary and pro-apartheid ethnic nationalist organisation. Also in 1985, members of Mawu in Mpophomeni created a play, *The Long March*, which told the story of their struggle against Sarmcol. It travelled the world. When the workers called for a boycott of all white-owned stores in Natal (as the province was then called), they came under intense pressure from Inkatha.

In the same year, 1985, Mawu transferred to the new ANC aligned Congress of South African Trade Unions ([Cosatu](#)), which was launched on 1 December 1985 with Jay Naidoo elected as the first general secretary. About a third of 460 000 workers who formed Cosatu came from Fosatu, including powerful worker leaders as Chris



*Durban, 1973: Workers at the Consolidated Textile Mill in Jacobs demand a wage hike of R5.*

Dlamini, John Gomomo and Ronald Mofokeng.

In May 1986, Mayekiso was elected as the Mawu general secretary. A month later he was arrested and detained on the charge of treason.

Qabula wrote that Cosatu organised "sleep-in seminars" to educate workers about workplace and community issues and built a fighting federation that took up issues on the shopfloor and the struggle for national liberation.

On May Day in 1986 Inkatha launched its own union, the United Workers' Union of South Africa, carrying a coffin symbolising the death of Cosatu. In Natal there were a number of attacks on Cosatu members by Inkatha. On 6 June, 11 workers lost their lives when a strike at the Hlobane colliery was attacked. But Cosatu became more and more powerful as the struggle against apartheid intensified.

In 1987, at the height of the urban insurrection and the brutal repression meted out under the state of emergency, Mawu merged with three other unions to form Numsa. Those unions were the Motor Industry Combined Workers Union, the National Automobile and Allied Workers Union and the United Metal, Mining and Allied Workers of South Africa. Two Cosatu unions also dissolved into Numsa, namely the General and Allied Workers Union and the Transport and General Workers Union. Mayekiso was elected as the general secretary of the new union while still in detention. He was finally acquitted in April 1989.

The new union remained deeply committed to the principle of workers' control, and it continued to face severe repression. In May 1989, Jabu Ndlovu, a Numsa shop steward who had previously been a powerful Mawu shop steward, was attacked and killed by Inkatha in her home in

Pietermaritzburg. She, her husband Jabulani, also a Numsa member, and their daughter were shot and burnt. When the ANC was unbanned in 1990 Cosatu openly affiliated to the ANC, as part of what was called the tripartite alliance including the ANC, Cosatu and the South African Communist Party (SACP). Numsa offered critical solidarity with the national liberation movement but took clear positions against the shift to neoliberal policies, beginning with the adoption in 1996 of the self-imposed structural adjustment programme known as the Growth, Employment, and Redistribution plan.

But as the betrayal of the ANC became more and more crude, Numsa's voice became louder. In November 2014 Numsa was expelled from Cosatu. Following democratically adopted resolutions the union went on to form a new federation — the [South African Federation of Trade Unions](#) — an organisation to link union and community struggles — the United Front and a political instrument for the working class — the '[Socialist Revolutionary Workers Party](#)'.

Today Numsa is largest union in South Africa, with more than 300 000 members. It remains committed to fighting hard on the shop floor and has been joined by more and more workers from outside of the union's historical base among metal workers. Workers in a range of areas — from university cleaners to airline cabin crew — have joined the union, and the union has consistently won benefits for its members. It also remains a revolutionary socialist union committed to building unity among the progressive organisations of the working class, as well as Pan-African and international solidarity.

**Irvin Jim is the general secretary of the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa**