

# GHANA BANKRUPT UNDER AKUFO-ADDO

**--John Mahama Fires As He Accuses Govt Of Being Clueless And Callous**



**President Nana Akufo-Addo**

Former President John Dramani Mahama yesterday said the vibrant Ghana with a healthy economy he bequeathed President Nana Akufo-Addo is now bankrupt.

According to the former president Ghanaians are now suffering because the government is clueless and in many cases, callous.



**Former President John Dramani Mahama**

Speaking at the launch of his campaign to be elected as the National Democratic Congress (NDC) flagbearer on Thursday, 2

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## Bawku Crisis

**Coalition Of Civil Society Groups Against Political Vigilantism Calls For President Akufo-Addo's Immediate Personal Intervention**



**Eben Kwaku Fenuku, Chairman, CCSAPV**

The Coalition Of Civil Society Groups Against Political Vigilantism (CCSGAPV) has called on President Nana Akufo-Addo to personally intervene and ensure lasting

*Cont. on page 9*

**WHY 24TH FEBRUARY 1966 WAS GHANA'S DAY OF SHAME**

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**SEND Ghana** *page 5*  
**Alarmed Over Possible Outbreak Of Childhood Diseases**

# The INSIGHT

## — EDITORIAL

### TACKLING NON COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

**H**ealth experts have now identified Non Communicable Diseases (NCD) such as diabetes, stroke, hypertension and cancer as the main cause of morbidity and mortality in our public and private hospitals now.

Until recently, communicable diseases such as dysentery, typhoid fever, cholera among many others which are occasioned by untidy environment and lack of personal hygiene have been our bane.

Obviously, the growing cases of morbidity associated with NCDs are clear indications that these lifestyle diseases have become highly ingrained in our daily practices which need to be worked on.

It is regrettable that seeming improvement in general living conditions of some of the people considered part of the so-called growing Middle Class in the Ghanaian society has brought in its wake a deterioration of the health conditions of the majority of the people. It is even alarming especially as the health sector claims it concentrates higher percentage of its national budget to tackling diabetes and hypertension.

According to the Ghana Health Service records hypertension and diabetes, two preventable diseases attributable to lifestyle of the people are due to excessive drinking of alcohol, lack of exercises, and eating non-healthy diets.

This means that if the majority of the people could adopt healthy lifestyles such as exercising, drinking lots of water and eating well, there will be improvement in the health of the people and these NCDs could be reduced if not prevented.

# GHANA BANKRUPT UNDER AKUFO-ADDO

--John Mahama Fires As He Accuses Govt Of Being Clueless And Callous

*from front page*

March 2023, at Ho in the Volta Region, Mahama said "Instead of the prosperity and progress that was promised, the last six years have been, perhaps, the most difficult and challenging period in our history. This government has been clueless and, in many cases, callous. The unthinkable has happened and our country is broken on all fronts.

"Ghana is bankrupt. We are saddled with debt we simply cannot pay, and we have suffered the global humiliation of defaulting on our debts and being downgraded by credit rating agencies to the lowest levels in our history. Our economy is in its worst ever shape, with suffering and pain on an unprecedented scale. Hyperinflation and an ever-increasing price of basic items including food have all combined to inflict unbearable pain on millions of Ghanaian households. Parents are being forced to make hard choices between seeking prompt health care for their sick children and providing meals with their meagre resources for families. 5 Our middle class stands the real risk of being wiped out on the back of an obnoxious debt restructuring programme."

"The poor who depend on the middle class for employment and sustenance are on their own and uncertain of their fate. Our aged pensioners have not been spared either. In the past few weeks they have been compelled to stage public manifestations in defense of their livelihoods even in their elderly state".

Former President Mahama said the situation is so embarrassing that no one

in the New Patriotic Party (NPP) government wants to take responsibility for the current economic mess.

He said all appointee are shying away including their flagbearer hopefuls who were part of the Economic Management Team. He told his audience, "no one in this NPP government wants to take responsibility for anything, including their flagbearer hopefuls, most of whom were part of their Economic Management Team.

"They continue to lay blame for their economic disaster on external factors whose relationship with our present sorry circumstances are at most tenuous."

Mr Mahama said this economic collapse has been years in the making "just as we know it was entirely avoidable."

He lamented that amid all the suffering, the government remains obstinate and refuses to back down from the "costly missteps that led us here in the first place."

*cont. on pages 6&7*

## THE INSIGHT

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# WHY 24TH FEBRUARY 1966 WAS GHANA'S DAY OF SHAME

By Ade Sawyerr

Fifty Seven years ago, a civilian government in Ghana was subverted by military and police adventurers. These men had been aided by the US intelligence forces, who had nothing to offer our dear country Ghana. Their only interest was to destabilise a peaceful and democratically elected government and they did not really know what they were starting.

The reward, for us Ghanaians for this act of sabotage, was the start of a vicious pattern that we have found it very difficult to recover from. Fifty seven years later we are back to the pre-colonial period in our development. The vision of the greatest leader Africa has ever had was in tatters derailed by a foreign superpower using self-seeking Ghanaian accomplices.

I was a young man then, studying for my GCE 'O' Levels, a member of the young pioneers movement and learning the basics of leadership and civics with the movement, looking forward to a political career in future where I would be in a position to serve my country.

History has shown us that the coup d'etat was unnecessary and devious. Those who were the willing tools of American imperialism were so myopic that they could even think through the train of events that they had unleashed. All they cared for was in wishing to be heads of states as events that unfolded revealed. I wish to examine the effects of that coup today and to ask those who have judged Nkrumah so harshly in the past to reflect on the depths to which this dastardly act by cowards, hiding behind the gun, has plunged our nation today.

The once shining star of Africa has been turned into a country that has extended the begging bowl too many times for our comfort. Those who blame previous and the present governments for mortgaging the country to the hilt should realise that the seeds were sown the 1996 coup.

Let us all recall where Nkrumah was at the time of the coup. He was on his way as an international statesman of stature to intercede in the war in Vietnam. Let me ask, has any other president in Africa ever been seen to be so prominent on the international arena.

Those who justified the coup on the basis that it was meant to liberate us from a dictatorial democracy of centralist power should now review their position. Evidence abounds that the act was a political disaster. Several decades later we are still struggling to return the country

to full parliamentary and multiparty democracy. Nkrumah never subverted the constitution of Ghana; he changed it. He did not disregard the laws of the country; he used them against people who he felt had plotted to assassinate him. He used the law sometimes in a draconian way, but he used the law nevertheless. He was threatened by bomb attempts; he was scared that our country would degenerate into lawlessness. In a perverse sense he was right because the coup that overthrew him suspended the constitution and returned the country into one without the law. Could we have imagined ever the acts of lawlessness that would be perpetrated under successive military juntas, regimes – revolting terms, that do not register in the English language.

I must admit that the notion of putting people in prison without trial goes against the principles of human justice, but if there were flaws within Nkrumah's character these were exposed under the extremist threat to his leadership. People were bent on using routes to change in the country that were dangerous.

Once you justify one coup, you are stopped from condemning other coups. Recent events in the late Mobutus Zaire, the Yugoslavia and other countries have proved that the power of the people is the best way of removing dictators, that is, if Nkrumah can be classified as one.

Once the floodgates were opened, military dictators who saw an opportunity to throw the country into further strife and justified coup after coup. These set the country further and further back from democracy.

Countries that have taken the route of the gun, return to the gun again and again. These military regimes wielded absolute power. The absolute power delayed our democracy. Given the chance again one will come up and would no doubt be hailed by the people of Ghana.

Indeed civilian governments have not fared any better, our Special Branches and BNIs have been used against the democratic loving people of Ghana who have dared to criticise a government. It is even now happening in our dear country.

Politically the 1966 coup has been a disaster that set the country back some 57 years and it is only now that we are finding our feet in instilling the message in the people of Ghana that no matter how bad a government is, the ballot box is the only legitimate way of changing that government.

Socially and culturally, we Ghanaians cannot hold our heads as high as we did pre 1966 in the

newly independent Ghana when our people were courted everywhere they went and the Kente cloth revered anytime a Ghanaian wore it. And this was anywhere in the world including the same America that subverted our democracy and sacrificed on the altar of the cold war.

We who were the beacon of Africa are now having to reassert ourselves, we have been overtaken by Nigeria and south Africa. Would this have been possible if Kwame had not been overthrown – we are tarnished with the same brush of countries that have experimented with military dictatorship. We are part of that so called hopeless continent as the economist recently called Africa on its front page.

The coup did us no favours and we sell struggle to rehabilitate our stature in the world. If only we had not had that coup we would be used as the example of what is good in Africa.

In development terms we are only now re-rehabilitating our infrastructure. Nkrumah left us a fine infrastructure fitting those time. Those who were supposed to rehabilitate it in the late sixties did nothing. It was further destroyed by lack of investment. It has taken 57 years to return our infrastructure to what it was before the first coup in 1966.

Our telephones have only recently been modernised, our roads are being laid out and all these with borrowed more. But what have we done to our railways. We have abandoned our railways why?

I am ashamed to talk about physical planning. It is as if the whole country and its leadership does not know what planning is all about. This could not have happened during Nkrumah's day. What ever you can say of the man, he liked beautiful things and was determined that our country would be beautiful.

Education is now a problem in Ghana. Our schools used to be the training ground for politicians in other African states. Ghanaian degrees have turned into Russian and American degrees needing validation in Britain. What a shame – this could not have happened during Nkrumah's time. Look at the schools Nkrumah built was the money wasted, was this not the way to develop our country by investing in its people and giving them the education and skills that would have enabled us to get on that path of accelerated economic



growth.

Our businessmen all need to be educated if they are to compete in the world, our farmers need to be educated if they are to understand the agricultural policies and exploit technological development. Our carpenters need to be able to read and write in order for them to be able to read the instructions making furniture, our factory workers need to be able to read the instructions and the plans. We should forget about economic growth if we cannot afford to invest in education it just will not happen. Kwame Nkrumah tried to make it happen for us. The coup stopped it. How many years did it take before a new university was built after he left office.

Economically – we are back with the begging bowl making connection not on our own terms but an terms that have conditionality that are inimical to our development. We have borrowed more than we can pay.

[The vision of Nkrumah](#) would have seen us through. Every government that comes to power talks of empty coffers and yet they succeed in emptying the coffers more.

Fifty Seven years after we overthrew Nkrumah we are still tottering on bankruptcy. Bankrupts are discharge after three years and are we saying that not even our liberators and redeemers and revolutionaries and defenders could lead us into the land of milk and honey.

Without the leadership of Nkrumah we lost our vision and have been roaming around not knowing where we are going. The begging bowl will only lead us into more debt as we are finding out.

What did the soldiers and policemen expect. That America would have bailed us out economically after they had overthrown Nkrumah, that they would have become presidents. What naivety did they not show? What did their thirty pieces amount to?

Our country has been set back. There is still hope that we will go back to the basic principles of being an independent country and realise that America played a big trick on us and we were all gullible. What have we got from those who helped us plan our coup?

After Fifty Seven years we must judge Nkrumah less harshly.

We must now accept that coups are bad for our country and the first coup 24th February 1966 must mark our day of shame.

We have gained nothing, politically, culturally, socially, economically form a coup planned by Americans for the heck of it and executed by naïve service people.

The spirit of our independence continues, the vision of Nkrumah is still alive; his name lives on in books and pamphlets perhaps more than any African head of state.

Nkrumah never dies!

Forward ever backward never

***\*\*This piece was written years ago for Ghanaweb and Modern Ghana***



# INTERNATIONAL NEWS REPORT

## Compiled By Peoples Dispatch

### Most “Progressive” Police Force In The US Is Slammed For Response To Police Killing



**Anti-police brutality activist and Indian immigrant Suhail Purkar speaks in Cambridge City Hall on February 27 (Photo: the Party for Socialism and Liberation - Boston) Cambridge police shot and killed Arif Sayed Faisal just four days into 2023, and officials are no closer to releasing the names of the officers responsible**

Over 200 students from over seven universities, and dozens of local residents poured into the City Hall of Cambridge, Massachusetts on the evening of February 27, holding a demonstration with chanting, singing, and speeches.

Demonstrators chanted, “No good cop in a racist system!” and “One solution, revolution!” The occupation was initiated to demand justice for [Arif Sayed Faisal](#) (20), a Bangladeshi immigrant student killed by Cambridge police on January 4

as he was having a mental health crisis. “We are engaged in the critical struggle of demanding justice for Arif Sayed Faisal, our fellow student who was murdered by the police,” said Emerson College student Daven McQueen. Faisal was a student at the University of Massachusetts Boston. Students occupy Cambridge City Hall on the evening of February 27 (Photo: the Party for Socialism and Liberation – Boston)

One of the protesters' central demands is for the city of Cambridge to release the names of the officers responsible for the shooting. Earlier this year in Memphis, not only did city officials [release](#) the names of the officers who murdered Tyre

Nichols, they arrested and charged the officers with murder. This was done shortly before video footage of Nichols' fatal beating was released to the public. However, since Faisal's murder, Cambridge has refused to release the names, and under pressure from the community they have even doubled down on their position. Police Commissioner Christine Elow, who multiple times after his murder claimed that Cambridge police were one of the [most progressive departments](#) in the country, [announced](#) on February 14 that after a preliminary review of the shooting that there was no “egregious misconduct or significant policy, training, equipment, or disciplinary violations.” Elow also confirmed that the officer who killed Faisal is on paid administrative leave.

Anti-police brutality activists have expressed anger in response to the hollow statements of city officials, such as City Manager Y-An Huang, who said in a [statement](#), “as a nation, we are wrestling with how to fix policing, and Faisal's death highlights that even in Cambridge, we have more work to accomplish.” In that same statement, Huang again refused to release the names of the officers responsible. On February 23, the Middlesex County District Attorney announced that an inquest, or an “independent” investigation led by a judge without direct DA involvement, is now underway. The DA's office stated that “per order of the

court”, no details would be released about the investigation until it is completed. This latest City Hall occupation is one of several times that demonstrators have entered City Hall to demand justice for Faisal. The first time, on January 23, protesters disrupted a City Council meeting, and in response, city officials, including Cambridge Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui, fled rather than address demands. The second time, on February 6, protesters staged a similar disruption. “Just a few weeks ago, we entered the City Council chambers, and the City Councillors ran away, bolted,” said anti-police brutality and labor organizer Husayn Karimi. “It was embarrassing, it really was. And then we went back two weeks later, same number of people. Bolted. And then we took a little contingent of ten people...bolted,” Karimi said, describing the multiple times that community members have tried to directly address city officials with their demand of justice for Faisal. Husayn Karimi speaking in Cambridge City Hall on February 27 (Photo: the Party for Socialism and Liberation – Boston) “But they know we're down here,” continued Karimi. “They can hear our chants. Just with ten people, just with 50 people, those of us who were there could experience the strength we had in our numbers. And although we're just 200, maybe 300 people here, there are actually 140 million of us in this country who are in or near poverty, who are oppressed, and who have a stake in overturning this system.”

### Thousands Of Palestinians March To Protest Settler Violence In The Occupied Territories

Thousands of Palestinians in Israel on Tuesday, February 28, took to the streets to denounce the attacks by Israeli settlers on Palestinian homes and properties in Nablus on Sunday. At least one person was killed in the attacks and around 400 others were wounded.

Palestinian gathered in the north Israeli town of Sakhnin following a call by the Arab Higher Follow Up Committee, an umbrella organization of Arab groups in Israel.

They called the attack on Palestinians a “pogrom” and accused Israeli occupation forces of being participants in the attack. A similar protest held in solidarity with the Palestinian victims in Tel Aviv was suppressed by the Israeli security forces, who detained protestors and resorted to the use of force to disperse them. A statement issued by the protestors said, “We are facing a

difficult test in which we have to show loyalty to our roots, our sons and our Palestinian people, ready to confront the injustice, arson, murder and defiling of the holy places,” [Wafa reported](#). By Tuesday, Israel had already released all eight persons arrested for the attacks on Huwara. According to a [report](#) in the *Times of Israel*, three of the eight were sent to “house arrest” and five were released. Palestinians have also claimed that settler violence has not ended after Huwara with reports of [fresh attacks](#) on Tuesday as well.

On Sunday, hundreds of illegal Israeli settlers [attacked several towns](#) in and around Nablus city, including in Huwara in the occupied West Bank. They reportedly beat Palestinians up and burnt homes and other property. Despite being present in large numbers, Israeli security forces did not try to stop the violence.

In a special [closed door meeting of the UN Security Council](#) on Tuesday,

member countries called for immediate de-escalation of the situation in the occupied West Bank and reiterated the call for an immediate stoppage of all “unilateral actions.”

The UNSC meeting was called for by Palestine and was formally convened at the request of the UAE, the representative of the Arab countries in the body. This has been the third such meeting since Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's ultra right-wing government came to power in Israel in November last year. Palestinian ambassador Riyad Mansour, speaking outside the meeting, reminded the UNSC that it “has a responsibility to shoulder, especially with regards to... taking steps to provide protection to the civilian population, especially after the criminal and terrorist act by settlers in Huwara and nearby villages,” [National News reported](#).



# SEND Ghana Alarmed Over Possible Outbreak Of Childhood Diseases

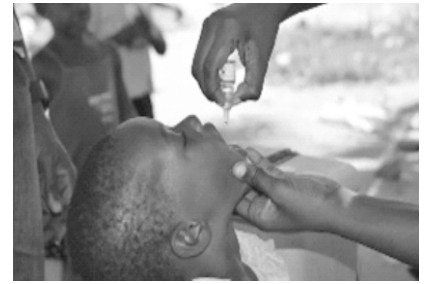
A policy research and advocacy non-governmental organisation, SEND Ghana, has warned of a possible outbreak of childhood diseases in the country if the authorities do not take urgent steps at addressing the current shortage of childhood vaccines. In a statement signed by its Deputy Country Director, Emmanuel Ayifah, the organization stated that the current situation is "hindering the country's goal of attaining Universal Health Coverage and Sustainable Development Goals more broadly." It has, therefore, called for urgent steps to be taken to ensure that this situation is redressed so as to take away the tag over Ghana as a 'stubborn child' among global

immunization bodies. "For about a month now, health authorities have been paying lip service to resolving the shortage. It is reported that 10 out of the 16 administrative regions in Ghana are currently battling shortages of vaccines and are now turning nursing mothers away. This is hindering the country's goal of attaining Universal Health Coverage and Sustainable Development Goals more broadly. "The government of Ghana over the years have not fulfilled its co-financing obligation with the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI). Ghana is now considered a 'stubborn child' among global immunization bodies. While we recognize the current economic crisis in the country,

important needs such as vaccination for children cannot be compromised," the statement said. The SEND Ghana boss further suggested that the government uses funds from the management of COVID-19 to remedy this situation, while urging that this is done urgently. They also commended parliament for taking bold steps at ensuring that the government pays attention to this. "We recommend that government retrieves monies used to purchase Covid19 vaccines that were not delivered as cited in the Auditor General's 2022 report to purchase vaccines for children. "We commend the Health

Committee of Parliament for inviting the sector minister, Kwaku Agyeman-Manu, to respond to questions regarding the shortage of the vaccine. We further appeal to parliament to use its powers to continue to sustain the pressure on the government until the vaccines are made available to all health centres across Ghana. "We hope the government will speed up processes leading to the acquisition of vaccines to protect and guarantee the safety and well-being of children," the statement added.

Earlier, the Ghana Health Service said a shortage of routine vaccines for children blamed for a measles outbreak that infected 120 would be resolved within weeks.



SEND Ghana wants urgent attention given to the situation to avert an outbreak

The authorities added that the shortage of vaccines against polio, hepatitis B, and measles, was caused by the depreciation of Ghana's currency, with nursing mothers complaining for months of the shortage of vaccines meant for babies from birth to at least 18 months. The situation became worse in February after major health facilities in 10 out of the 16 administrative regions of Ghana kept turning nursing mothers away due to erratic supply.

## You've Been Tried, Tested And Disapproved - NPP's Ahiagbah Jabs Mahama



Richard Ahiagbah, Director of Communications for the New Patriotic Party (NPP)

Richard Ahiagbah, Director of Communications for the New Patriotic Party (NPP), says former President John Dramani Mahama has nothing new to offer Ghanaians. This comes after President Mahama, during the launch of his campaign in Ho, said he had studied the challenges of the country over the last five years and that he had gathered solutions to the problems of

Ghana. "Some have lost all hope in the democratic process and believe that democracy is no better than other forms of governance." "Our present state and its effect on the people trouble me a lot, and this is why, as you have observed, at every significant or wrong turn of the decision taken by this government, I have, with the

benefits experience I have acquired, provided alternative solutions and even offered the expertise and knowledge of some of my party colleagues to help get us out of these challenges," Mahama said. Reacting to the comments of Mahama in a tweet, Richard Ahiagbah, the Director of Communications for the NPP, said Ghana knows the abysmal performance of Mr Mahama when he was president. He insisted that Mr. Mahama failed when he was given the opportunity to lead the country. According to the politician, Mahama has been tried, tested, and disapproved. "Reselling H.E John Mahama...Ghana knows his dismal record; there is nothing new to add with an expensive campaign launch...Tried, tested and disapproved. #Ghana," Richard Ahiagbah tweeted. **Source:** [atinkaonline.com](http://atinkaonline.com)

## I Will Scrap Ex-Gratia When I Become President – Mahama

Former President John Dramani Mahama has promised to scrap the retirement benefit given to the Executive under Article 71 officeholders, known as ex-gratia, when he becomes president again. According to him, his government will start the constitutional processes to scrap ex-gratia in the first year of his administration. The former president, who made these remarks at the launch of his campaign to become the flagbearer of the NDC on Thursday, added that his government would also work to scrap ex-gratia benefits given to appointees under the other arms of government. "The payment of ex-gratia to members of the executive under Article 71 will be scrapped. And the necessary constitutional steps to abolish that payment will start in earnest in 2025. "We will also begin the process of persuading the other arms



of government other than the executive to accept the removal of this ex-gratia payment," he said. Mahama also said that his administration would focus on reducing the president's powers and ensuring the separation of powers among the three arms of government: the executive, the legislature, and the judiciary. He also said that he would run the leanest government Ghana has ever had in the 4th Republic, with ministers and deputy ministers not numbering more than 60. The former president also added that his government would focus on completing abandoned projects rather than starting new ones.

# Stop Jean Mensa's New C.I. Now; It Will Disenfranchise Voters – KNUST's Prof. Brenya

The Minority in Parliament has been urged to stop the Electoral Commission's proposed Constitutional Instrument (CI) in its entirety to prevent thousands of Ghanaians from being disenfranchised during the 2024 elections.

Prof. Edward Brenya, the Head of the Political Science Department at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), who made this call on Power FM said the C. I will be a disadvantage to typical rural dwellers.

The draft constitutional instrument entitled 'Public Elections (Registration of Voters) Regulations, 2021' has sparked controversy because a section of the draft seeks to make the Ghana Card the sole form of identification for eligible voters who want to get onto the national register.

In Parliament yesterday, EC Chairperson Jean Mensa justified her outfit's decision to make the Ghana Card the sole identification document for voter registration ahead of the 2024 polls.

Madam Mensa indicated that the Instrument seeks to ensure that voter registration becomes a continuous all-year-round registration of eligible voters at its district offices, adding the C.I will make registration flexible for eligible voters.

"Under the limited voters' registration process, registration was conducted at limited periods and was not done all year round. This made it such that, persons who turned 18 after the registration period could not do so after the time set for the limited registration, which usually within 2–3 weeks," she said.

But Prof. Edward Brenya, who is

wants to contest in the opposition NDC parliamentary primary in the Sekyere Afram Plains Constituency, vehemently kicked against the explanation of Jean Mensa and stated that would not work for rural folks who have not received their Ghana Cards.

For instance, he said a resident of Hiama Nkyene, a village surrounded by three rivers in his constituency, will spend more than 24 hours to get to the district capital, Drobonso, if one does not get help from farmers who have motorbikes to cover half of the journey.

"At Hiama Nkyene where they are surrounded by three different rivers where we had to recently mobilise to get them some canoes to help them cross the rivers to the other side, travelling to the district capital to register with the NIA or electoral commission will be problematic," Prof. Brenya argued in Akan.

To him, the NIA still has not been able to deal with its basic challenges of printing cards at the district level and hastened that until those bottlenecks are dealt with.

"Most people in my area have no Ghana Cards. When the government started blocking the SIM cards of persons who had not registered them with the Ghana Card, I can tell you that about 30% of my people lost their numbers. When you call them, they are unreachable and when you ask them, they say they don't have the Ghana Card." he told host Prince Minkah.

"To me, I think the primary document that shows that one is a Ghanaian is the birth certificate. The Ghana card doesn't...Let's be honest the Ghana Card system is fraudulent and if care is not taken, it will result in anger and chaos," Prof Brenya added.

Minority's Opposition

Meanwhile, The Minority in Parliament has refused to support the Electoral Commission's

proposed Constitutional Instrument (CI) until the National Identification Authority (NIA) addresses issues with the acquisition of Ghana Cards (EC).

Speaking on the floor of Parliament following a presentation by the EC Boss and NIA Boss, Prof. Ken Attafua, Minority Leader, Dr. Cassiel Ato Forson, said processes must be put in place to make the acquisition of Ghana Card flexible.

"Using the Ghana card as the only means of voter registration will negatively impact the electoral roll and deny some otherwise qualified persons from registering to vote. We cannot take assurances as the basis. Let the NIA resolve the challenges with the issuance of the Ghana card first. Until that, I am sorry, we can

never be part of that."

This comes after the National Identification Authority (NIA), said it was set to print more Ghana cards as government has settled GH¢100 million debt owed creditors.

Printing of the cards was suspended following financial constraints faced by the NIA.

Appearing before Parliament on February 28, 2023, the Finance Minister, Ken Ofori-Atta disclosed that an amount of GH¢20 million has been paid to CalBank following the initial payment of GH¢80 million to ensure the NIA begins its operations to print more cards.

"I think that the main question was about the GH¢100 million to be transferred to CalBank IMS



Prof. Edward Brenya, the Head of the Political Science Department (KNUST)

and as has been confirmed by the [Executive] Director for the NIA, we have indeed transferred the GH¢80 million and today with swift instructions the GH¢20 million has also been executed. That is the assurance we want to give that we will continue to work with the programme we have agreed with CalBank," the finance minister noted.

Source:

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

## EC Won't Respect Reason; Only Stamina - Bright Simons Tasks Minority To Resist CI



Bright Simons, Vice President IMANI Africa

Vice President of IMANI Africa, Bright Simons has described as illogical the insistence by the Electoral Commission (EC) to make the Ghana Card the sole identification document for continuous voter registration. He holds that only a robust opposition by the Minority in Parliament and the Speaker of Parliament can thwart the move which will lead to disenfranchisement and a burden on the vulnerable. In three tweets posted on March 1, Simons also described the Ghana Card as an enrichment scheme for a few elites citing how the cost of the scheme has shifted over the years.

**EC, NIA bosses, ofori-Atta appear before Parliament**

EC Chair Jean Mensa; along with the Chief Executive Officer of the National Identification Authority (NIA), Prof Ken Attafua and the Minister for Finance, Ken Ofori-Atta, appeared before Parliament earlier this week to defend the sole use of the Ghana Card as proof for registration of new voters.

The NIA, who are in charge of the issuance of the cards have raised logistical constraints which the Minister of Finance has assured is being addressed. For the EC chair, her submissions explained how and why the particular card was chosen for new registrations as per the Constitutional Instruments (CI), the EC has laid before Parliament. The Minority, has however, rejected the reasons advanced and vowed to resist the CI in and out of the House.

**What Bright Simons said:**

Let's not mince words here, there is ABSOLUTELY NOTHING LOGICAL about the attempt to impose the Ghana Card as the sole ID for voter registration! The Opposition should continue to oppose it with every ounce of

energy! The Electoral Commission won't respect reason only stamina.

The Ghana Card is an enrichment scheme for a few elites. These people have hoodwinked the Ruling Party into believing its political fortunes depend on it. The NIA said the state's total contribution will be \$124m. That the so-called PPP partner will fund the rest of the budget. In 2020, a whopping 800 million GHS was budgeted for Ghana Card rollout. In 2022, more than GHS400m. More than \$250m of state money has already been sunk. This is one of the world's most expensive ID Card schemes, sorry scams. Yet, govt is expected to pay \$117m in arrears. Mr. Speaker, show your mettle. Show you are on the side of the vulnerable. Prevent that CI from being laid until a) Passports & other valid proofs of citizenship are allowed; b) any system acceptable for obtaining the Ghana Card is also made acceptable for voter registration.



# Bawku Crisis; Coalition Of Civil Society Groups Against Political Vigilantism Calls For President Akufo-Addo's Immediate Personal Intervention

*from front page*

peace, security and development of Bawku which has been plagued with chieftaincy crisis for several decades.

According to the group President Akufo-Addo's personal intervention is needed to assure both factions in the chieftaincy crisis that he cares and is interested in the welfare of people in the area. A statement issued and signed by Eben Kwaku Fenuku, Chairman, CCSAPV said the latest violence which has forced many residents to flee should be a cause for worry.

This is their full statement;

## **THE COALITION OF CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS AGAINST POLITICAL VIGILANTISM CALLS FOR PRESIDENT AKUFFO ADDO'S IMMEDIATE AND PERSONAL INTERVENTION IN THE BAWKU CHIEFTAINCY CRISIS**

The chieftaincy dispute in Bawku dates back to the colonial era through Kwame Nkrumah's reign till today. This dispute has made Bawku a town on the edge of pandemonium and brouhaha as the two feuding tribes continue to claim legitimate ownership of the Bawku skin of authority. This latest installment of violence and pandemonium was triggered by the enskinment of Naa Alhaji Seidu as the 15<sup>th</sup> Bawku Naaba by the King of the Mamprugu Traditional area, Naa Bohugu Mahami I on the 15<sup>th</sup> February despite the government's recognition of Naba Asigri Abugrago Azoka II as the legitimate ruler of Bawku.

In a related development, the Government of Ghana ordered

the arrest and prosecution of the aforementioned newly enskinned overlord of Bawku and any other persons involved in his enskinment through a communique. The government also reiterated its recognition of Naba Asigri Abugrago Azoka II as the legitimate Bawku Naaba because his regency has been duly acknowledged and he has been gazetted as a member of the National and Upper Regional House of Chiefs through that same communique and went further to send soldiers and security operatives to remove the newly installed Bawku Naaba which was of course resisted, a move whose failure was easily predictable for the simple reason that the conflict is two sided.

The Mamprugu Traditional Council in the wake of the enskinment of the new Bawku Naaba intimated that they do not share their tradition but they select and enskin chiefs for the good people of Bawku sans any government interference or manipulation. They registered their displeasure over how the politicians have interfered in Bawku chieftaincy affairs over the years. They also posited that chieftaincy matters are the preserve of traditional authorities, and that governments and state authorities should only mediate the conflict instead of interfering.

The Coalition of Civil Societies Against Political Vigilantism is very concerned about the violent threats and occasional

shootings has made many residents flee the area in order to protect their lives in the aftermath of the incident.

There has also been some deaths which residents fear may escalate in the coming days and weeks if no lasting solution is arrived at besides violence. In a sticky situation like the Bawku crisis, we want to state unequivocally state that there is no replacement for human lives: human lives must be at the forefront of every government decision.

The CCSAPVs believes that the chieftaincy dispute in Bawku is a state of emergency which cannot be solved or remedied by issuing mere communiques from the Jubilee House in Accra or by sending soldiers or security operatives to forcefully remove the newly enskinned Bawku Naaba which was strongly resisted, a failed move which was easily predictable. History tells us that in instances like Bawku, violence begets pandemonium and more violence. This is the time for diplomacy and dialogue and not brute force. The chieftaincy dispute in Bawku is a state of emergency which needs the presence of the President soon as possible because in times past, when the Bawku conflict got out of hand, sitting presidents went there in person to hold dialogues with the feuding



**Eben Kwaku Fenuku, Chairman, CCSAPV**

tribes in order to restore calm and find a way out. Many great civil wars in Africa and on the globe have erupted from far less menacing fashions as compared to the crisis in Bawku, it's a full blown crisis.

The coalition believes that once the Overlord of Mamprugu has enskinned a chief from the Mamprusi faction, their youths will stop at nothing to resist any attempt to de-enskin him because they do not regard the Kusasi regent, the one the government of the day recognizes as legitimate. The Bawku chieftaincy conflict has two feuding factions so if the government takes one faction's side, the other faction will always fight the government. Extreme ailments require extreme remedies they say so the CCSAPVs believes that the cure for this conflict is an unbiased, round table, high level dialogue chaired by the President with the involvement of the Mamprugu Overlord and the Mamprusi and Kusasi factions. Brute force is and should be the last option in this

crisis.

The Coalition believes that the Bawku conflict has transcended the fore walls of Bawku and is now an issue of national security: a state of emergency. We entreat the president to attach much gravitas to the situation. We have a nagging feeling that this conflict may escalate into something that has never been seen in Bawku if the President does not personally intervene and mediate. Already, the threats of insurrection and Islamic insurgency in next door Burkina Faso and neighbouring Mali and Nigeria is ample security threat to our nation. We cannot and should not let the chieftaincy crisis in Bawku get out of hand and compromise and undermine the already delicate security situation. This is the worst time to allow the Bawku chieftaincy conflict to fester. Now more than ever, the government needs to act swiftly. It is better to be safe than to be sorry. A stitch in time saves nine. We must strike while the iron is red hot. Signed:

Eben Kwaku Fenuku  
Chairman, CCSAPV.

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# GHANA BANKRUPT UNDER AKUFO-ADDO

## --John Mahama Fires As He Accuses Govt Of Being Clueless And Callous

from page 7

next leader should exercise sound judgement and be able to make the right calls and at the right time.

Such a leader must have the humility and presence of mind to take responsibility for what has gone wrong and be willing to act timeously to get the numerous problems resolved. He should be a leader whose heart is filled with compassion for the people and who has the humility to connect with and understand the needs of the people he serves.

He should not be a leader who views the public purse as a family heirloom or even the mandate given him to govern as the manifestation of a birthright. A leader who has his sights on leaving a legacy for posterity. With all the humility I can muster, I believe I possess these qualities and that I am uniquely placed, having sat back the past few years to take stock of our country's path. I am aware of the extent of work that awaits the next government.

There is so much to fix; there is so much to repair; and there is so much to heal. But I am set and ready! Very ready, to Build The Ghana We Want Together with you. Our mission is to get out of the current nightmare. And to get out of it together, reaching to one another, listening to one another, providing hope for all.

Working with a pool of experienced, talented, and passionate men and women, and with many others from non-political backgrounds including the private sector and civil society who simply want the best for Ghana and who desire to transform our country and its people, it can and will be done. The first order of business will be to reset our country to its default settings as envisioned by the founders of the 4th Republic.

A nation of peace and prosperity, built on the principle of integrity, justice and equity, respect for human rights and personal freedoms, a leadership of modesty and humility that forges consensus and carries the people along in the implementation of its policies and programmes. At the top of our priorities as the new government in 2025, God willing (Insha Allah), is to restore stability and inclusive growth to the

economy.

This we will do by bringing the various indicators under control to relieve Ghanaians of their suffering. We will strictly enforce prudence and responsibility in the management of public finances by cutting out waste and ostentation, which have become common place under this administration. Together, we will build the Ghana we want. We shall restore faith in our almost collapsed financial system and embark on sweeping reforms at the Bank of Ghana. We shall actively pursue policies to ensure robust local participation in our banking, financial, telecommunications, mining, agriculture, agribusiness and manufacturing sectors. 12 This will be anchored on our plan to grow the economy and create sustainable employment for our youth.

We will make investments in productive sectors of the economy like agriculture, industry, technology, digitisation and tourism to spur growth and generate jobs for the teeming youth who continue to lose hope by the day. With the limited fiscal space, we are likely to inherit because of the mismanagement of the economy under NPP, a new NDC Government will give priority to continuing and completing abandoned and ongoing projects rather than rushing to commence new ones. I shall assemble and operate the leanest but most efficient government under our fourth republic. We will reduce, significantly, the size of government.

As I announced in my Ghana We Want address at UPSA late last year, I will form a government of less than sixty (60) ministers and deputy ministers of state. I will initiate and undertake the most far-reaching constitutional, political and governance reforms under the fourth republic aimed at restoring confidence in our democracy and governance systems while making life easier and better for our people. In response to the concerns and calls from many of you, I will initiate and undertake the most far-reaching constitutional, political and governance reforms aimed at restoring confidence in our democracy.

We will continue and bring to conclusion the constitution review process began by President Atta Mills including a review of the controversial article 71 to reduce the number of office holders, and remove the disparities in privileges and emoluments vis a vis the public and civil service. The payment of ex-gratia to members of the executive under Article 71 will be scrapped.

The necessary constitutional steps to abolish that payment will start in earnest in 2025. I will also begin the process to persuade other arms of government to accept same. Issues pertaining to the excessive powers of the President, proper separation of powers, strengthening of parliament, restoring true independence to the judiciary, independent and quasi-independent state institutions and depoliticizing them will take centre stage.

With renewed vigor, we will work to restore confidence in all institutions of state, so that our people will see their institutions working for them as they should with utmost professionalism and non-interference from political actors. We must, for instance, end the chaos that now characterizes the Computerized School Selection and Placement System for BECE graduates. As a first step, we should allow students to only complete their applications for SHS after they receive their BECE results.

They will be in a better position to know their actual grades and match them with the cut-off grades and raw scores of the senior high schools they wish to be admitted to. 14 This will moderate expectation, ensure effective demand based on real results and address uninformed demand. It will also root out corruption and blatant discrimination from the process.

Fellow country men and women, the time has come for Ghanaians to receive proper accountability from those they elect to political office. This accountability can only be achieved by a new party in government. I promise Ghanaians, that I shall investigate how public funds were expended and this includes the Covid-19 Audit and the findings from the Auditor-General's reports over years.

We must clean the Augean stables and rid them of the filth and corruption. The anti-corruption will be given unfettered space to do their work. The days of the infamous 'clearing agent' will be well and truly over. But to ensure efficiency and professionalism at this endeavor, institutions of state would be empowered to be independent in their work. State owned enterprises will not be a gravy train for political apparatchiki. We shall re-introduce the hallmark of my previous administration – tolerance for criticism and the creation of a conducive atmosphere for the media to do its work without the fear of threats, harassment, and possible assassination. I have heard many of my party supporters say that the next NDC government must also exact its pound of flesh. My brothers and sisters, I daresay, there is no use fighting for political power, if it is only to come and repeat the same mistakes of the NPP administration that have brought our dear nation to this sorry state.

We must therefore engage our grassroots to work together with us to build the Ghana we want. To be able to achieve all the above, we must see different personalities and backgrounds. We must not see NDC and NPP. We must not see Ga, or Ewe or Akan or Dagomba. We must not look to religious differences. We must look to ourselves. We must look to Ghana. One united people.

You and I, hand in hand and working together. In Building The Ghana We Want Together, it will take grit. It will take determination. But we have what we did not have before – the benefit of hindsight and reflection from afar, and the benefit of experience – to improve upon our successes and avoid our mistakes. As I roll out my campaign for the flagbearer slot of the NDC and subsequently during the national elections, I will engage as many of you in the public as possible and interface with various interest groups to tap into your views on how to fashion the Ghana we want. As observed by Aldous Huxley “experience is not what happens to you; it is what you do with what happens to you.” In the coming days, we will be having conversations about our country.

But more important, we must put into action the plans that we would conceive together. It will not be easy. It will take grit. It will take determination. It will take tears. It will take sacrifice. I promise you I will share that pain and sacrifice with you. And above all I promise you hard work. I want to assure you, my fellow

Akatamansonians that I have heard your concerns on how to further strengthen our party. I will certainly make you proud by addressing your needs, as we work to position the party to be more responsive to your needs. We shall build the most formidable political party that every Ghanaian will be happy and proud to associate with. Remember it was the NDC that provided the most road and water projects, educational, health and telecommunications infrastructure for you, across the country. Remember it was the NDC that considered it prudent to build an airport in the Volta Region when the naysayers opposed and ridiculed it. Too much has happened to us as a people. But we have a duty to ourselves to learn from history and chart a path accordingly.

“The greatest leader is not necessarily the one who does the greatest things. He is the one that gets the people to do the greatest things” are the wise words of Ronald Reagan that I subscribe to. The next government would not be about me. It would not be about forming a cadre of family and friends to enrich themselves at the expense of our people. It would be about you. In all humility, with a rekindled spirit, renewed energy, and sharpened vision to help save our dear country, Ghana, I formally announce my candidacy and launch my campaign. I am proud and honoured that our NDC family, young and old, men and women, from all over the country is supporting me.

I am humbled by your love, and I hope you know I love you all! I must also thank the diverse group of individuals who continue to voluntarily donate towards my campaign. Some of you – students, professionals, traders, okada riders among others – voluntarily set up platforms to mobilise funds to support my campaign. Thank you very much.

I am [John Dramani Mahama](#), your proven servant leader. I ask you to bless me massively with your trust, and your votes on May 13 and subsequently on 7th December 2024 and I will return your generosity with hard work.

Ghana needs experience, not experiments! Ghana used to be the shining light on the continent. I am of the strongest conviction that we can attain those heights again. I believe it. We will lead by example. As I conclude, I wish to thank my wife, Lordina, who has been my dependable partner on my political journey. Thank you all. Akpe ka ka ka!! Let's win this together!!!