

# GHANA'S DEBT CRISIS

## CSOs Say 60% Debt Cancellation Needed To Achieve Sustainable Debt Levels



**Ken Ofori-Atta, Minister of Finance**

**T**he Tax Justice Coalition-Ghana, a coalition of Civil Society Organisations (CSO), says government will need foreign creditors to cancel about 60 per

cent of the country's \$30 billion external debt to achieve a sustainable debt level by 2035.

The coalition has, therefore, called

on the government to pursue a comprehensive external debt restructuring programme that would ensure that most of the

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### CHRAJ Condemns Military Brutality At Ashaiman; Says Act Dehumanizing



**Mr. Joseph Whittal, Commissioner of CHRAJ**

**T**he Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) has condemned the military brutality which took place last Tuesday, March 7, 2023, at Taifa, a suburb of Ashaiman in the Greater Accra region.

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**Towards Curbing Crime And Other Unlawful Activities**

**Santa Maria Assembly Member, MCE, Police Bigwigs Educate Community On Crime Prevention**



# The INSIGHT

## — EDITORIAL

### ADDRESS THIS FUNDING GAP!

**T**he Ghana AIDS Commission is not happy about its dwindling budgetary allocation.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# CHRAJ Condemns Military Brutality At Ashaiman; Says Act Dehumanizing

*from front page*

It is alleged that some personnel believed to be members of the Ghana Armed Forces stormed the community and brutalized people after a 22-year-old service man Sherrif Imoro was murdered in a cold blood. The military at the end of the brutalities rounded off one hundred and eighty-four (184) individuals who the Ghana Armed Forces described as suspects in connection with the murder of the late Sherrif Imoro.

Even though the brutalities by the military were widely considered both on social media and traditional media as a move to avenge the slain soldier, the Ghana Armed Forces in a statement released shortly after the issue broke out explained that the exercise was an "intelligence-led operation."

But reacting to the incident in an interview, the Commissioner of CHRAJ, Mr. Joseph Whittal, said the exercise does not pass the test for an intelligence-led operation while adding that the military acted wrongly.

"Because of their personal interest, they come (to Ashaiman), take over the law and do what they want. I completely condemn it. It is a degrading and dehumanizing treatment to put such persons who are going to their work arrest them, make them do press-ups in mud, sitting down with all their clothing removed apart from some briefs is completely unacceptable and that this is exacted by the army of Ghana? It's completely unacceptable," the Commissioner lamented.

He stated emphatically that "any defence of it by any leadership of the military is a misplaced support...We need to call what is wrong wrong and what is right right but the action by the military is completely wrong" Mr.



**Mr. Joseph Whittal, Commissioner of CHRAJ**

Whittal added.

However, the Commissioner of CHRAJ has advised the Ashaiman community to discard any plans of a reprisal attack and hold themselves and allow lawful bodies like the Ghana police to investigate and take the right steps.

Mr. Whittal noted that the military still have weapons that they can always apply.

He also stressed that CHRAJ "when called upon will take the right steps because it is the ombudsman that has constitutional powers to investigate military issues in the event that the military go beyond their normal duty and it affects the right of people."

However, for a CHRAJ investigation to take place the process can only be triggered if an official complaint is filed on the matter, Mr. Whittal explained.

**Source:** [gbcghanaonline.com](http://gbcghanaonline.com)

## THE INSIGHT

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# GHANA'S DEBT CRISIS

## CSOs Say 60% Debt Cancellation Needed To Achieve Sustainable Debt Levels

from front page

country's foreign debt, especially those contracted on a bilateral basis got canceled in the form of reliefs and grants. The estimation is based on an analysis of the 2023 Annual Budget and Economic Policy that the government plans to implement to address the current economic crisis. Speaking at a press briefing in Accra, the Chairman of the coalition, Mr Vitus Adaboo Azeem, said government must also drastically cut down the size of government and scrap or merge some Ministries, Department, and Agencies

(MDA) to reduce the budget size and create less need for borrowing. He also called for the suspension of the National Cathedral Project and the scrapping of the Contingency Vote that allowed the executive to "engage in unapproved expenditure". "The government estimates an overall debt-to-GDP ratio of 55 percent and external debt service-to-revenue of below 18 percent by 2028. "And under the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Debt Sustainability Framework, for a moderate risk of debt distress, the present value of Ghana's external Debt to GDP ratio should be below 40 percent and external debt

service below 18 percent of government revenue," he said. The Coalition, which comprises the Integrated Social Development Centre (ISODEC), Ghana Integrity Initiative, ActionAid Ghana, Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition, and Revenue Mobilisation Africa, also called on the government to focus more on implementing progressive taxation of income, wealth, and property. It said it recognized the debt crisis as a major hindrance to the achievement of the government's proposal in the budget, adding that, "Ghana will need to borrow to implement the budget while seeking to restructure its debt



**Ken Ofori-Atta, Minister of Finance**

owed to external creditors after a long-drawn-out negotiation with domestic creditors." "All these put a constraint on budget financing through the financial markets where there

will be some limited access," Mr Azeem said.  
**Source -- GNA**

## Order Release Of Arrested Persons; Probe Brutalities – Ashaiman Group To Akufo-Addo



**Members of Ashaiman Lives Matter during a press conference**

A pressure group calling itself Ashaiman Lives Matter has demanded that President Akufo-Addo set up a committee to investigate brutalities against residents of Taifa-Ashaiman suffered in the hands of the military on Tuesday, March 7 2023. They condemned the actions by the military personnel

deployed to the area and also called on the police to speed up their investigation. "We are currently in a constant state of fear for our dear lives because the soldiers told the residents that it is a Month's Operation and they have instructions from above to put the fear of God in them to avenge the

murder of the fallen soldier. "Ladies and Gentlemen of the press we the people of Ashaiman condemn the beastly acts of the Ghana Armed Forces and we also call on President of the Republic of Ghana His Excellency Nana Akufo-Addo Danquah, the Commander-in-Chief of the Ghana Armed Forces to do same and render an unqualified apology to the good people of Ashaiman for the criminal acts of his troops," the group stated. They continued: "Therefore as a matter urgency: calling on the President to order the immediate release of all residents of Ashaiman that the soldiers are illegally

keeping in their custody. Calling on the President to immediately set-up a committee to investigate the criminal acts of the soldiers and the culprits punished." However, the Ghana Armed Forces (GAF) has stated categorically that the military operation in Ashaiman on Tuesday, March 7 in which some innocent residents were brutalized was not to avenge the killing of a young soldier, Trooper Imoro Sheriff. The soldier, who was stationed at Sunyani but was on a course in Accra had sought permission to visit his parents at Ashaiman where he grew up but was found in a pool of blood in

the early hours of Saturday March 4, 2023 near the Amania Hotel in Ashaiman. According to the GAF, the Military operation in Ashaiman-Taifa and Tulaku was to fish out the perpetrators of the heinous crime and in the process, the Military picked up about 184 suspects aged between 21 and 47 years old and have handed them over to the Military Police and subsequently to be sent to the Ghana Police Service for screening and for further action.

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



# INTERNATIONAL NEWS REPORT

## Compiled By Peoples Dispatch

### Israeli Occupation Forces Kill Three More Palestinians In Fresh Raids Near Jenin



*(Photo: Wafa). Israel has killed 10 Palestinians around Jenin in just three days, taking the total number of Palestinians killed since the start of this year to 78, which includes 14 children*

In continuing their murderous act of killing spree in the occupied Palestinian territories, Israeli occupation forces have killed three more Palestinians early on Thursday, March 9, in the town of Jaba near Jenin in the

West Bank, Palestinian news agency *Wafa* reported. According to reports, the occupation forces stormed Jaba in scores of vehicles and raided various Palestinian houses in the locality. During their raid, they fired at a car standing near the entrance of

the town, killing all its occupants. The three persons killed were identified as Ismail Fakhoury (26), Nayef Malayshah (25), and Ahmad Fashafsha (22). Israeli occupation forces also arrested one Palestinian from the town. Meanwhile, also on Thursday, 14-year-old Waleed Nassar succumbed to the injuries he had suffered during a raid by the Israeli forces at the Jenin refugee camp on Tuesday. His death raised the total number of Palestinians killed as a consequence of Tuesday's raid to seven. Six Palestinians were killed and 26 others were wounded on Tuesday after they resisted Israeli

occupation forces who stormed the camp and reportedly fired a missile at one Palestinian home. Israeli forces have claimed that the seven people killed on Tuesday included the individual who had killed two Israeli settlers last week in Huwara, near Nablus. Palestinians in the West Bank observed a day of strike against the killings in Jenin on Tuesday. Thousands took part in the funeral procession of those killed. Angry Palestinians briefly refused to bury the bodies of some of those killed in the Jenin raids, which led to clashes with the security forces. There were several reports of illegal Israeli settlers attacking Palestinians in different

parts of the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem on Wednesday. With these deaths, the total number of Palestinians killed by the Israeli security forces since the beginning of the year has reached 78, including 14 children. Israel's extremist government led by Benjamin Netanyahu has refused to heed to calls for de-escalation issued by the UN and several other countries. Reacting to the Israeli violence, Ahmed Aboul-Gheit, chief of the Arab League, called on the UN Security Council to adopt a fresh resolution as per chapter VII of the UN charter to provide protection to Palestinians against continued Israeli aggression.

### China Reiterates Need For Talks, Negotiated Settlement To Ukrainian Crisis

On the first anniversary of the war in Ukraine on Friday, February 24, China issued a 12-point proposal for peace, emphasizing the need for immediate resumption of talks between Ukraine and Russia and asking the world community to refrain from any kind of provocative acts.

Confirming its commitment to "sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of all countries," China, in a document titled 'China's Position on the Political Settlement of the Ukraine Crisis' published on its Ministry of Foreign Affairs website, said that all countries should adhere to international laws—including the principles of the UN charter—and that their "equal and uniform application [...] should be promoted" without any double

standards.

It noted that the "international community should stay committed to the right approach of promoting talks for peace."

Hinting that NATO's expansionist policy was one of the reasons for the beginning of the war, China asked the West to abandon its "cold war mentality" of "expanding military blocs" and seeking security at the cost of others.

China has voiced its opposition to the West—namely, the US, the EU, and other NATO members—providing weapons to Ukraine, claiming that such acts would only prolong the war and would not help in achieving peace in the region.

The US and other NATO countries have sent hundreds of billions

worth of weapons to Ukraine so far. During the UN General Assembly vote on the Russia-Ukraine war on Thursday, China reiterated this point, claiming that weapons supplied to Ukraine would "only exacerbate tensions." The UNGA adopted a resolution asking Russia to withdraw its forces from Ukraine by a vote of 141-7 with 32 abstentions, including from countries like China and India.

Other points of the Chinese proposal included its opposition to all nuclear escalation. It said that the world should act to avoid any such possibility, and oppose any move towards increased nuclear proliferation. China also criticized all unilateral sanctions imposed by the US and the EU on Russia, saying that such



*(Photo: Victor/Xinhua). In a 12-point proposal, China criticized Western sanctions on Russia and asked the world community to shed its "cold war mentality" and address the "security interests and concerns" of all countries involved*

acts "cannot solve the issue" and only "create new problems." China claimed that it opposed all attempts to use the world economy "as a tool or weapon for political purposes." It made an appeal to the world community to ensure that

humanitarian operations were not "politicized," and instead "[followed] the principle of neutrality and impartiality." China also expressed its willingness to participate in post-war reconstruction efforts in Ukraine.



## Towards Curbing Crime And Other Unlawful Activities

# Santa Maria Assembly Member, MCE, Police Bigwigs Educate Community On Crime Prevention



The Assembly Member for Santa Maria Electoral Area in the Ga Central Municipality of the Greater Accra Region, Nana Kwasi Boandwoh Jnr, has called on all and sundry including drivers and transport owners in the municipality to give maximum support to the Ghana Police Service and the Sowutuom District Police Command including other national security agencies to effectively deliver on their constitutional mandate to end crimes and other criminal activities in the municipality

The young assembly member indicated that the unalloyed support of the good people of Santa Maria electoral area and its adjoining communities in the Ga Central municipality will invigorate the police officers in Sowutuom District Police Command to apply all the laws, rules and regulations without fear or favour. He stressed that reposing confidence in the police would strengthen them to efficiently and effectively deliver perfectly on their mandate to reduce criminal activities in Santa Maria and its adjoining communities in the Ga State. Nana Kwasi Boandwoh Jnr disclosed this while speaking at You & The Police Programme he organised at Santa Maria Last Stop near the Dunwell Methodist Chapel Lane on Wednesday March

8, 2023.

The event was aimed at bridging the gap between police and the community and also educate them on the duties of a police officer in the Santa Maria enclave. The event was heavily attended by high dignitaries and included the Director In Charge of Community Policing Unit - Tesano in the person of ACP Mr Oscar Amevenku, Sowutuom District Police Commander Chief Supt Patience Akwetey, Supervisor of Motor Transport and Traffic Directorate (MTTD), ASP Tawia Oppong, The Municipal Chief Executive (MCE) for Ga Central Municipal Assembly, Hon Mohammed Bashiru Kamara, Coordinators, Assembly Member for Antieku Electoral Area, Hon Sam Donkor and Operation clean your frontage (City Response

Team) among others.

Nana Kwasi Boandwoh Jnr reiterated his commitment and readiness to work closely with the police officers, chiefs, queen-mothers, traditional office holders and religious leaders and youths to end the perennial problems of criminal activities in Santa Maria and its adjoining communities to make the area a safe community. According to him, there have been several reported cases of the unnecessary internal fights, armed robbery attacks, thievery among others being perpetrated by some miscreants to the residents in the area which has posed a serious threat to the lives of the residents of Santa Maria.

The Assembly member used the occasion to brief the youths and people of his yet to be established neighbourhood watch committee in Santa Maria with the intention to end the criminal activities in Santa Maria enclave in Accra.

He stated that the incessant criminal activities within the Santa Maria enclave have become worried to him and some concerned traditional authorities, hence their intended move to devise proactive measures to form a watchdog committee and police post.

He encouraged the people in the community to join the neighbourhood watchdog committee to end the perennial problems of criminal activities in Santa Maria and its adjoining communities to make the area a safe community.

The Director in charge of Community Policing Ghana, the Sowutuom District Police Commander, the station officer for CPU, Supervisor of Motor Transport and Traffic Directorate (MTTD), other officers present from the Ghana Police Service schooled the gathering about the importance and tasks of the community policing in the community.

The senior police officers stated that the community policing is generally defined as a law enforcement philosophy that allows officers to continuously operate in the same area in order to create a stronger bond with the citizens living and

working in that area.

Additionally, they pointed out that this allows public safety officers to engage with local residents and prevent crime from happening instead of responding to incidents after they occur. The event which looked like interactive form made Sowutuom District Police Commander, Chief Superintendent Akwetey Ophelia addressed the gathering and called on the people, particularly the drivers not to give bribes to police officers when the commit crimes and other offences. Chief Superintendent Akwetey Ophelia stressed that the public should be mindful that it is unlawful for the police officers to take bribes from the individual or drivers in the event of committing any crime.

"It is not possible for the drivers or general public to give bribes to police officers when they commit crime to be allowed by the police to go scot-free. The senior police officers took the people through the kind of crimes related issues in the community which disturb peace and unity within the community and cautioned them against these crimes not to land into the grip of the law.

The police officers cautioned the people not pay money before administering bail for someone who has been arrested and detailed in the police cell.

She stressed that when "you visit Sowutuom police station all the warning signs are written boldly on the wall in the police station together with her personal contact and also location to her office in the building." According to her, the police personnel services to the general public are free and that police reward their personnel with ranks and that they don't take money. The MCE of Ga Central Municipal Assembly, Mohammed Bashiru mounted the podium to extensively brief the gathering about the projects and programmes ongoing in the various electoral areas within the municipality. He said that he thinks that the drivers or people should see the police as their superior in the community and accord that respect to them in order to maintain peace in the community.

## Boosting Quality Education Delivery

# Lutheran Church Breaks Ground For The Construction Of 24 Unit Ultra-Modern Classroom Block

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana (ELCG) Which has a mission to bring hope and salvation to the people of Ghana through the proclamation of the Gospel of Christ, has officially broken the ground for the construction of a 4-storey ultra-modern 24 unit classroom block at All Saints Lutheran Church School at Anyaa Palas Town in the Ga Central District of the Greater Accra Region.

The project which is being financed by ECOBANK is expected to be completed in a year's time and estimated to cost 12 million Ghana Cedis.

The sod-cutting for the construction of the ultra-modern school project comes at a time when the All Saints Lutheran School has been in operation in the area for 40 years. The project when completed will have library facilities, kitchen, computer laboratory, teachers rooms, washrooms, and offices at every floor aside the 24 unit classrooms.

The President/Bishop of Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana, Rev. John Shadrack

Donkoh in his speech at the sod-cutting ceremony said, "The Church is poised to provide opportunities that may ensure educational infrastructure in all the major districts in Ghana". "Currently, we have schools in several places in Ghana where the church has presence. Next Month we are commissioning another block of classrooms in Bunkpurugu in the Northern Region targeting over 1,000 pupils".

He said the church believes that educated community would be a blessing to the entire country in the long run. "For this we give glory to God for the vision of our forebears and the current Evangelical Lutheran School Board of Directors, many of whom are here present".

In an interview, the Director of Lutheran Schools, Mr. Joseph Lanbon disclosed that, the project when completed will help boost education delivery at Anyaa and environs.

"We are expecting that within 6 months time, the first floor will be completed for use".

According to Mr. Joseph Lanbon, management is committed to providing quality education in the



country which is based on Lutheran standard adding that, about 96 percent of their school children always get grade 1 or 2. This is what we worked towards. It is our standard. Our children can be found in all the best schools in the country".

Among the dignitaries that witnessed the ground breaking ceremony included the 1st Vice Chairman, Mr. Alex Lanbon, MCE of Ga Central, Hon. Armed Bashiru Muhammed,, Chairman of National Education Board (NEB) of ELCG, the Clergy of ELCG in Greater Accra, MCD, Mr. John Owusu, the Head of Public Sector ECOBANK, Mr. Adi Kwarteng, Mr. Wayo Armed, Ecobank (Branch Manager Re-insurance House Branch), Mr. Alex Ashong and Ecobank Relationship Manager.

# Agbodza Jabs Akufo-Addo Over Mahama Road Projects

The Minority Chief Whip, [Kwame Governs Agbodza](#), has debunked President Nana Akufo-Addo's claim that his government has constructed more roads than any government. According to the MP for Adaklu Akufo-Addo listed road projects that were initiated and finished by the Mills-Mahama administration as his in a document presented to Parliament. Akufo-Addo declared while delivering the State of the Nation address in Parliament on Wednesday, March 8, that his administration has built more roads than any other government in Ghana's 4th Republic history. "Mr Speaker, I would like to state categorically that this Government has built more roads than any government in the history of the 4th Republic, and Mr. Speaker, the details of all these roads are attached in the annex to this message," the president said. He added, "I have done so because, last year, when I made a similar pronouncement, I was met with howls and gasps of incredulity from the Minority benches, and so I thought it's appropriate, this time, to present it as an annex to the statement, which will be part of Hansard." But in a statement denying the claim of Akufo-Addo, Agbodza who is also the Ranking Member of Roads and Highways Committee of Parliament listed all the road projects the erstwhile NDC government initiated. For instance, Agbodza said the claim that the Akufo-Addo government has constructed more Interchanges between 2017 – 2022, than the NDC "is an unfortunate fabrication that should not be peddled by no less a person than President Akufo-Addo." He said the president attempted to "expropriate for his government" projects such as the Pokuase Interchange, Tema Motorway Interchange Phase 1, Obetsebi Lamptey Interchange Phase 1, Flowerpot and Suhum Interchange. Agbodza further explained that funding for the listed projects "was secured by the erstwhile Mahama/NDC administration." "Contracts signed and works ongoing before President Akufo-Addo and the NPP came into office in 2017. The Suhum Interchange project for instance was about 85% completed when the Mahama/NDC administration exited office in 2016," he stated.

"It is therefore disingenuous for the President to peddle such a confident lie and insist that this be recorded into the Hansard of Parliament as truth."

**This is the statement by Mr. Agbodza ;**

EXPOSING THE LIES BEHIND PRESIDENT AKUFO-ADDO'S CLAIM THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAS CONSTRUCTED MORE ROADS THAN ANY GOVERNMENT UNDER THE 4TH REPUBLIC.

The claim by President Akufo-Addo in his SONA address that his government has constructed more roads than any other government under the fourth Republic is a barefaced lie not borne out by any fact.

A careful scrutiny of his so-called record in the roads sector as contained in the annexed document presented to Parliament, exposes this lie.

## 1. Interchange Construction

The claim that the Akufo-Addo government has constructed more Interchanges between (2017 – 2022), than the NDC (2009 – 2016), is an unfortunate fabrication that should not be peddled by no less a person than President Akufo-Addo. The attempt to expropriate for his government, the following projects, is most scandalizing and such dishonesty must be called out and condemned by all;

1. Pokuase Interchange
2. Tema Motorway Interchange Phase 1
3. Obetsebi Lamptey Interchange Phase 1
4. Flowerpot
5. Suhum Interchange

Funding for these projects was secured by the erstwhile Mahama/NDC administration, contracts signed and works ongoing before President Akufo-Addo and the NPP came into office in 2017. The Suhum Interchange project for instance was about 85% completed when the Mahama/NDC administration exited office in 2016. It is therefore disingenuous for the President to peddle such a confident lie and insist that this be recorded into the Hansard of Parliament as truth.

For emphasis, below are the facts as far as Interchange Construction by various regimes is concerned.

Interchanges constructed under the NDC (2009 – 2016)

- Kwame Nkrumah Circle
- Ring Road Flyover
- Kasoa Interchange
- Giffard Road
- Airport Hills
- Obetsebi Phase 1
- Pokuase Interchange

- Tema Motorway Interchange Phase 1
- Flowerpot
- Suhum Interchange

Interchanges constructed under the NPP (2017 – 2022)

- Tamale Interchange (completed)
- East Legon Underpass (completed)
- Nungua Interchange (Ongoing)
- Adjiringanor (Ongoing)
- PTC Interchange – Synohydro (Ongoing)
- Kpone Barrier, Dawhenya, Prampram and Savanah Interchanges (Not started)
- Obetsebi Lamptey Interchange – Phase 2 (Ongoing)

## 2. New Roads

Regarding the so-called detailed breakdown of new roads constructed by the NPP government, President Akufo-Addo after being badly exposed for lying in his 2022 SONA over so-called 10,000km of new road network in Ghana, this time around decided to put together a document which presents asphaltic overlays, resealing, sectional rehabilitation, regravelling and even reshaping and pothole patching as new roads constructed by his government between 2017 – 2022.

## The Facts

A. 2022 document submitted to Parliamentary Select Committee on Roads and Highways

- New Road Construction – 68.50km
- Total Road Works (asphalt overlay, construction, gravelling/regravelling, partial reconstruction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, resealing, spot improvement & upgrading) – 4,263.37km

B. 2023 Annexed document to SONA address

- New Road Construction – 615.82km
- Total Road Works (asphalt overlay, construction, gravelling/regravelling, partial reconstruction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, resealing, upgrading/surfacing) – 11,974.96

## QUESTIONS

1. Where are the 547.32km of New Road Construction between 2022 and March, 2023?

2. Why is the figure for Completed Projects (Total Road Works) and



## Minority Chief Whip, Kwame Governs Agbodza

Periodic Maintenance, between 2017 – 2022, the same 11,974.96 km? Clearly, something does not add up!

## CONCLUSION

- President Akufo-Addo's claim in 2022 that his government had constructed over 10,000km of new roads was a lie.
- The President clearly repeated this same lie in his SONA address to Parliament yesterday, because;

1. The annexed document submitted to Parliament yesterday, merely presents total road works (including asphalt overlays, resealing spot improvements etc) of 11,974.96km between 2017 – 2022, as new roads. These are NOT new road constructions. Therefore, President Akufo-Addo lied!

2. Their own document shows actual construction (new roads) of only 615.82km, between 2017 – 2022. Ghanaians are calling on them to show evidence of these new roads.

## Other Fabrications

### 1. Volta Region Roads

The attached document peddled an absolute lie about supposed roads constructed in the Volta Region. Whereas a summary table showcases 15.52km of roads in the Volta Region, actual details under the Regional breakdown shows only 7km of actual construction in the Volta Region ( Ho Main Road Dualization, Sokode – Civic Centre).

### 2. Western Region roads

Again, the Western Region summary of the annexed document showcases 67.50km of so-called new road constructions. But the detailed Regional breakdown shows a figure of 78.30km constructions. This

clearly does not add and only goes to confirm the fact that government is merely conjuring up figures.

3. Bolgatanga-Bawku-Polimakom Road Another lie peddled in the said document is when the Bolgatanga – Bawku – Polimakom Road whose construction began under the erstwhile Mahama/NDC government, has been counted as part of a so-called 108.40km of new road construction in the Upper East Region. Nothing could be further from the truth than this. The truth of the matter is that, the Akufo-Addo government upon assumption of office in 2017, completely abandoned that project and left it to rot until the Brazil Contractor packed out of site.

The contractor only recently returned to site after several demonstrations against government. So how can that project be counted as a new road being constructed by the Akufo-Addo government?

### 4. Cocoa Road Projects

President Akufo-Addo was conveniently silent on the abandonment of several road projects, including the Eastern Corridor Road, Cocoa roads.

On Cocoa roads, the roads Minister, Hon. Kwesi Amoako Atta disclosed at a meet the press on 22nd May, 2021 that government had awarded a total of 325 projects (4,853km) of cocoa roads at a cost of GHS15 billion. President Akufo-Addo conveniently chose not to mention a word about cocoa roads, knowing fully well that all these 325 projects (4,853km) have been abandoned completely.

Hon. [Kwame Governs Agbodza](#) (Minority Chief Whip/Ranking Member, Roads and Highways Committee of Parliament)

**Source:** [myxyzonline.com](#)



# Women Workers Of The World: United Against Imperialism And Neo-Fascism

**O**n this year's International Working Women's Day, feminist organizations united across the globe to denounce NATO's proxy war in Ukraine that has taken countless lives and plunged the people of the world, especially the Global South, into [crisis after crisis](#).

One such organization is the socialist Venezuelan Popular Feminism platform, agitating for a peaceful resolution to the Russia-Ukraine war. The organization formulated the following statement: The Venezuelan Popular Feminism platform joins the international day of agitation for peace and against war, called by the anti-war women's movement CODEPINK Women for Peace, on the occasion of International Working Women's Day this March 8, 2023.

"Let's do everything we can... so that this difficult hour that we are living, becomes the hour of the peoples, the hour of justice, the only way to true peace... let's save the world," said Commander Hugo Chavez on November 10, 2001, before the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Faithful to the socialist, feminist and pacifist legacy of Comandante Chávez, our platform for Venezuelan Popular Feminism follows this call to save the planet from the patriarchal, warlike, racist, classist, predatory and impoverishing policies of global capitalism.

The new national security strategy of the United States and its North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies to stop the rise of Russia and China in world geopolitics consists of renewing the Cold War and generating chaos throughout the world.

To this end, they are waging a proxy war against Russia, accompanied by a campaign to blame it for the conflict with Ukraine, while the United Nations General Assembly silently contemplates NATO's involvement and the supply of arms to Kiev.

They plunder the riches of the Syrian Arab Republic, through a war of plunder, which this month will be twelve years old, and

which has caused a deep humanitarian crisis, aggravated by the earthquake which recently affected the Syrian and Turkish people.

Within the security strategy of the United States, Latin America is a very important link, and they make no secret of their intentions to take advantage of its great mineral, water and oil wealth.

We denounce the US imposition of puppet governments in our region, through lawfare and continuous coups, which denaturalize the emancipating role of women's political participation, for example, by imposing the genocidal Dina Boluarte in Peru to exercise power in a patriarchal, racist, anti-popular and stateless manner.

Venezuela has large reserves of oil, gas, water, gold, copper, coltan and rare earth elements. For more than two decades, the Bolivarian government's policy has been striving to break free from the neo-colonial ties imposed by the United States more than a century ago, and for this reason has been the object of numerous aggressions against its people.

After the physical disappearance of President Chavez, whose social, feminist and popular policies managed to significantly reduce hunger and poverty in our country, the United States unleashed an all-out war capable of bombing the pockets of our people; a war whose bullets are laws, decrees and unilateral coercive measures. As of today, more than nine hundred illegal sanctions are imposed against the Venezuelan people, which threaten our economy, our fundamental human rights, our international relations and minimum conditions of existence, with the purpose of causing deep pain to the population in order to force us to change the correlation of political power in the country. The United Nations Organization has considered this to be a crime against humanity.

The coercive and unilateral measures imposed by the



**The Venezuelan Popular Feminism platform last Tuesday joined the international day of agitation for peace and against war (Photo: Venezuelan Popular Feminism platform). Venezuelan socialist feminist organizations united with others across the globe on International Working Women's Day to call for a peaceful resolution to the Russia-Ukraine war**

United States on Venezuela have caused the death of Venezuelan men and women who have had difficulties in accessing medical services and supplies, as the sanctions prevent companies from selling the required supplies to the Venezuelan State and have also hindered the purchase in the international market of raw materials for the production and feeding of our people.

In 2015, former US President Barack Obama laid the foundations of this economic war against Venezuela defining it as an unusual and extraordinary threat to the security of the United States, and this vile decree has been renewed by successor presidents who sustained the attacks against Venezuela even in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. There is no doubt about the criminal nature of this decree.

The difficulties we have gone through these years have shown that President Nicolás Maduro Moros is the president of peace, therefore, we reiterate our support for his efforts to overcome the serious effects of the onslaught of the economic war.

We call on the social movements of the world to

exercise the diplomacy of the peoples as counter-hegemonic praxis to demand:

– To the U.S. government and its NATO allies the cessation of aggressions against the peoples of the world.

– To the large economic groups the cessation of the destruction of the planet and attention to the challenges presented by the global climate crisis that threatens life in all its forms.

– The lifting of sanctions and the blockade imposed by the United States and its allied governments on the more than 30 countries that suffer its cruel effects.

We declare our solidarity with the women who suffer the onslaught of conventional and non-conventional war. It is necessary to share and unify our struggles to make us strong and invincible.

Likewise, we thank the anti-war women's movement CODEPINK for their permanent solidarity action and anti-imperialist struggle, as Venezuelan women and the people in general will never forget their courageous action to defend the sovereignty of Venezuela in the hard year 2019, protecting our diplomatic headquarters in Washington DC. The ties that unite us are unbreakable.

For the feminization of politics and the construction of lasting and enduring peace, for

sisterhood and a feminist world, for the sovereignty of all the peoples of the world, we Venezuelan working women say: LET US LIVE IN PEACE, WE ARE WINNING!

FUNDACIÓN GÉNERO CON CLASE  
MOV. FEMINISTA POPULAR LYDDA  
FRANCO FARÍAS  
FUNDACIÓN VIOLETA  
FRENTE NACIONAL DE DEFENSA DE LA EDUCACIÓN BOLIVARIANA  
VIVAS NOS QUEREMOS  
TODAS NOSOTRAS VIOLETA  
CÍRCULOS FEMENINOS  
MOV. FEMINISTA MIXTO  
CORAZONES VIOLETA  
EMBAJADA DE DERECHOS HUMANOS  
COLECTIVO FEMINISTA  
COMANDANTA ARGELIA LAYA  
MUJERES POR LA VIDA- ESENCIA FEMINISTA  
CORAZÓN DE MUJER  
FUNDACIÓN NUESTRA CAUSA  
MUJERES POR EL SOFTWARE LIBRE  
CESDIEM CENTRO DE ESTUDIOS SOCIALES PARA EL DESARROLLO INTEGRAL Y EL EMPODERAMIENTO DE LA MUJER  
FUNDACIÓN RETO VIOLETA  
HEROÍNAS SIN BARRERAS  
CONGRESO ARTICULADOR DE MUJERES DE IZQUIERDA  
TODAS VENEZUELA- UNIDAS  
ANZOÁTEGUI  
LA 5TA OLA  
GRUPO DE MUJERES  
SOBREVIVIENTES DE VIOLENCIA  
MACHISTA  
ROMPIENDO LA NORMA

# MESSAGE ON THE STATE OF THE NATION BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, NANA ADDO DANKWA AKUFO-ADDU, ON WEDNESDAY, 8TH MARCH 2023, AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE, ACCRA.

*from page 7*

self-enrol in the scheme and this

application enables registration and renewal for oneself and others by linking NHIS cards to Ghana cards. In 2022, over 5 million members' data was linked to their Ghana card to enable them to access healthcare using the card.

The National Health Insurance Authority has also improved its claims

management processes with an emphasis on e-claims and paperless

systems at all four Claims Processing Centres. In the year under review,

electronic claims processing was about seventy percent (70%) of all claims

submissions. As of 31st

December 2022, the scheme paid a total

claim of GH¢1.014 billion to health service providers.

Mr Speaker, our drone delivery service is firmly established and Ghana

now has six (6) centres for Zipline drone services, making Ghana the

largest aerial logistics distribution network in the

world. Zipline, through

the national-scale drone delivery services, has

delivered some 14.8 million (14,809,463) units of life-

saving medicals, vaccines, and blood products

to health facilities in Ghana by the end of 2022. Childhood

vaccines top the list with the delivery of 8.3

million doses, followed by 2.05 million

doses of COVID-19 vaccines. Mr. Speaker, I must say,

however, that the current

shortage of some childhood vaccines in the

country has concerned me greatly. This

shortage, if prolonged, will affect negatively Ghana's

Childhood Immunisation Programme, which has been recognised as

one of the most

successful in the world. The

WHO has only recently expressed worry about a steady decline in measles vaccination coverage globally, because of the concentration on the fight against COVID-19.

In accordance with our desire not to become part of this global trend, Government has taken steps to ensure that stocks of these vaccines are procured and supplied, as a matter of emergency. The Ghana Health Service has developed an elaborate programme to catch up on children who have missed their vaccinations immediately stocks arrive.

Mr. Speaker, I want to encourage all parents and caregivers to ensure that eligible children are vaccinated, once this programme begins. No child should be denied access to vaccination. Mercifully, so far, not a single child has died as a result of the outbreak.

This House has already passed into law the National Vaccine Institute Bill, which is yet to be brought for my assent. In the near future, this Institute will ensure that, no matter what happens to the global vaccine supply chain, we can produce our own vaccines locally.

Mr. Speaker, government continues to prioritise agriculture as one of the driving forces for economic transformation. The experiences and lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine conflict justify sufficiently our increased investment in the agricultural sector. Indeed, the sector recorded significant successes, with an average growth rate of 6.28% from 2017 to 2021. The consistent growth over the period has translated into improved food security, job opportunities along agricultural value chains and availability of raw materials for industry. To address the vexed issue of

post-harvest losses, we have constructed some sixty-five (65) warehouses, with the remaining fifteen (15) at advanced stages of completion. This intervention is adding some eighty thousand metric tonnes (80,000mt) to national grain storage capacity.

US\$29.9 million worth of machinery and equipment have been procured from Brazil to boost mechanisation. Government will, this year, commence preparatory works for establishing a Tractor and Backhoe Loader

Assembly Plant in the Ashanti Region, and continue capacity building of operators to ensure effective management and prolong the lifespan of agricultural machinery.

Mr. Speaker, the impact of climate change and variability on global agricultural activities is a call to us, and, indeed, all countries, to adopt

appropriate technologies and other innovative practises for sustainable agriculture and resilience against food insecurity.

Government's response has been to continue to invest in irrigation infrastructure both large and small scales across the country.

In 2022, government completed the rehabilitation and modernisation of large-scale irrigation schemes at Tono, Kpong and Kpong Left Bank projects. The three schemes are expected to provide six thousand, seven hundred and sixty-six hectares (6,766ha) of irrigable land for all-year-round crop production. Phases I and II of the Tamne Irrigation Project have also been completed, with Phase III of the project at fifty-seven percent (57%) completion.

Mr. Speaker, we are now at the most difficult stage of electricity provision around the country. The parts

that are left are the very difficult to access areas. The National Electricity Access rate increased from 79.3% in 2016

to 88.54% in 2022, making us amongst the top six (6) in Africa, and we are still expecting to achieve the ninety percent (90%) universal electricity access rate by 2024. To reduce transmission system losses and voltage fluctuations and to improve the overall quality of power supply, old lines are being replaced on the Western, Eastern, Coastal and Middle corridors.

It is worth noting that three (3) new sub-stations have been commissioned between 2021 and 2022 thereby improving reliability and efficiency. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to inform the House that the Electricity Company of Ghana, has since the last quarter of 2022, embarked on an aggressive digital transformation programme.

In the first phase of this programme, set to be completed by end of April

2023, the focus is on creating a cashless and efficient payment system. I

am pleased to announce that, on 1st March 2023, all ECG District Offices

became cashless. This is a major achievement by all standards. Since the

start of this transformational programme, we have so far seen a twentyfive

percent (25%) increase in the monthly revenues. The second phase

of the programme will see the digitisation of postpaid bills, and the digital tagging of all metres.

In our estimation, these initiatives should increase the monthly revenues

of ECG by some forty percent (40%) before the end of this year. I firmly believe that the initiatives, which

have been so boldly rolled out by ECG,

will make revenue leakage a thing of the past, and address consumer

pain points in their interactions with ECG.

Mr. Speaker, we continue the fight against galamsey with the support of the security agencies, in the short-term. However, we are determined to

promote responsible small-scale mining through Community Mining Schemes. So far, sixteen (16) of these Schemes have been commissioned, with three (3) more to be commissioned by the end of this year. All these

Schemes are supported with Gold Katchas, pieces of equipment designed

to help small-scale miners to extract gold from the ore without the use of mercury.

In 2021, I launched the National Alternative Employment and Livelihood

Programme. The Programme employs several youth in the production of

seedlings and reclamation of degraded mined lands. Currently, reclamation is ongoing over one

thousand hectares (1,000ha) of degraded

lands in Ashanti, Eastern and Western North Regions.

Mr. Speaker, on the international front, I should state that having gained

a seat as a non-permanent member of the Security Council for the years 2022 and 2023, Ghana, as one of

three Non-Permanent African Members,

is working vigorously to push the Africa agenda, which includes the fight

against terrorism, and the reform of the UN Security Council. I am pleased

to state that good progress is being made on the reform of the UN

Security Council. A US President, for the first time, in the person of President Joe

Biden, and the French President, Emmanuel Macron, have both

embraced the Reform process. It is our hope

that the leaders of the three other P5 Members of the Security Council will soon do the same, and help bring

about this much needed reform that will bring greater effectiveness to the work of the United Nations and the

Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security.

We continue to be active members of the African Union and ECOWAS, and support strongly measures both

bodies have taken against unconstitutional changes in government in our Region. We are

*to be cont.*