

ECONOMIC CRISIS

1,500 Workers Sacked In Kumasi Over DDEP



KEN OFORI-ATTA, MINISTER OF FINANCE

A Brazilian Construction firm 'Contractor' has reportedly terminated the appointments of over 1,500 construction workers employed for the Construction of the Kumasi Central Market, Kumasi International airport, and the Komfo

Anokye Teaching Hospitals Mother and Baby Units (MBU). The firm from December 2022 commenced staff appointment termination in monthly batches in accordance with the Labour Act accumulating to 1500 affected staff.

Speaking on condition of anonymity to GHOne TV's Ashanti Regional Correspondent, Isaac Justice Bediako, a management member of the company disclosed that all the affected staff were given one-month notice of

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On the Occasion Of International Women's Day Celebration

Socialist Movement Of Ghana Salutes All Militants On Forefront Of Gender Equality Struggles *page 3*

Turn Construction Of Kayayei Hostel Into Skills Training Institute – Ga Mantse Boni Nii Adama Latse II Tells Govt



Boni Nii Tackie Adama Latse II, the Ga Mantse

Boni Nii Tackie Adama Latse II, the Ga Mantse has advised the government to convert the construction of the Kayayei hostel into a skills training institute for the teeming head porters in Accra. According to him the skills training facility if adhered to and constructed in the northern parts of the country aside the Greater Accra region will equip the head porters (kayayei) with the relevant skills needed to live the life of their dream

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Health Workers *page 2*
Worried As More Children Contract TB

The INSIGHT

— EDITORIAL

DEAL WITH THIS HEALTH MENACE

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

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

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

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

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Health Workers Worried As More Children Contract TB

Health workers in the capital have expressed worry over the risk of many newborns contracting tuberculosis as

the syringes needed for immunizing babies with the Bacillus Calmette- Guérin (BCG) vaccines have run out for over a year.

Currently four vaccines for the immunization of children against preventable childhood diseases have been in short supply in various health facilities.

Many nursing mothers are equally worried over the development. When news team from GHOne visited some health facilities in Accra the situation was even dire.

One news report had it that when a six weeks old baby boy brought to the reproductive and child health unit at the Greater Accra regional hospital to receive shots of the polio vaccine, Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV), pentaValent vaccine and Rota virus vaccine but was unfortunately given only the Pentavalent vaccine as the other vaccines have been in short supply in the country for some time now.

His mother, Selina who is a first time mum is worried about the effects on her child, especially as the BCG, given at birth is to prevent children from contracting tuberculosis.

“My son is due to be injected in both legs but an injection meant for one of his legs is unavailable and this is likely going to defeat the efficacy of the vaccine his system. This development is very worrying”

New mom Selina is not the only one frightened over her baby's health risk.

Dorcas Yeboah had also journeyed from Teshie to Ridge to get her newborn immunized only to find out she still have to come back to check on the availability of the vaccines as she has been doing for several weeks now.

“I stay far away but on getting to the hospital I was told I can only get a vaccine for one of his legs which means I have to visit other hospitals in search for the other one which is very stressful.” Many mothers are frustrated over the matter.

“On my arrival, I was told there was a vaccine shortage so I went to Kaneshie polyclinic for just a shot and from there visited another hospital in search for the second shot which is very frustrating.

Another worried also said “I do understand that anything at all can come up after delivery”

“As a new mum I just hope and pray that the vaccines come in time for the injections to take place soon as possible.”

The principal nursing officer at the reproductive and child health unit of the greater Accra Regional hospital, Hilda Akorfa Kumako, laments the effects of not vaccinating children at birth with BCG, fearing the risk of many children contracting tuberculosis due to the absence of syringes and other materials needed to administer the vaccine for over a year now.



She urged parents whose newborns have not received the BCG at birth and are over a year to take their babies for mantoux tests.

“In this case is either the mothers do a mantoux test to check as to whether the children have contacted the TB after not receiving the BCG vaccine after a year since birth, it is best is for them to do so. Again the children must not be exposed to a lot of people for the fact that you do not know who has a particular condition. Mothers must also eat a balanced diet so that the babies can get the immunity from the breastmilk” -Hilda Akorfa Kumako, PNO-Ridge

Again Hilda added that, if stakeholders do not ensure the availability of the vaccines soon, it would have dire consequences on many children's health.

The chamber of pharmacy wants the government to immediately look for avenues of securing the vaccines that are in short supply.

Chairman of the National Executive committee of the chamber, Harrison Abutiate is calling for local production of the vaccines.

“It is high time we have our own basic drugs for that matter simple vaccines like this kind for children so as to keep them healthy and alive.” -Harrison Abutiate, chairman, national executive council – chamber of pharmacy

The Ghana Health Service has however indicated that bottlenecks with the supply of vaccines in the country will be smoothened out in the next three weeks, but until that is sorted, many children's health remain at risk.

Source -- Starrfm

THE INSIGHT

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ECONOMIC CRISIS

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appointment termination followed by a compensation package.

"Management didn't want to violate the country's labour laws so we followed every step including medical check out. This is not something we intended to do but the situation has forced us to do that," the management member stated. He disclosed that the Kumasi airport phase two projects which is about 95 percent completed left with installation of gadgets, control towers, and extension of round ways. The management member added that the demolition of existing structures is all on hold due to lack of funds to facilitate the completion of the entire project.

"The project has been affected by the ongoing government debt restructure programme. Government, I mean the finance minister has suspended external payment. So the UK government responsible for

founding the project has stopped releasing funding to us to work on the project. So we are ready to work but we don't have money to pay workers and buy material so that's the problem we are facing at the moment," our source explained. He continued: "At the moment only few administrative staff are currently working with the company doing administrative work with few drivers. All our vehicles have equally been packed at our warehouse. So for now there's no work on any of our sites."

Central Market Phase Two Project

The Central Market project sod cutting was held on 2nd May 2019 by President Nana Akufo Addo in company of Asantehene Otumfuo Osei Tutu II and expected to be completed by the end of March 2024. However, the construction firm disclosed they can't meet the deadline due delays on the project, a development they stressed is beyond their control.

"We can't meet the deadline for the traders to come and trade in the Central Market. This is because the former Kumasi mayor failed to relocate the traders on time for the project to start on time as we wanted. We have already wasted a lot of time on this project before this IMF recommended debt restructure programme affecting the entire project. You know money and equipment were ready but KMA didn't show any commitment to them to support the project. At some point the UK government wanted to take their money back until the Ashanti Regional Minister's intervention." Meanwhile, Central Market traders who were relocated to the racecourse market and others who have no place to trade are expected to hold a major demonstration against the government on Monday 13th March 2023 over the stalled Kumasi Central Market project.

Manhyia Palace

Another source close to Asantehene Otumfuo Osei Tutu II



KEN OFORI-ATTA, MINISTER OF FINANCE

also confirmed Otumfuo Osei Tutu II has been briefed about the stalled work on the three sites. As a result of the debt restructuring programme proposed by the IMF that the government is depending on a loan to restructure the country's collapsing economy. "You all know the role Otumfuo played behind the scenes on this project. The Otumfuo is aware of the situation. He will soon travel to the UK for the coronation of King Charles the King of Great

Britain in the coming days and this issue will be looked at. It's unfortunate but these are priority projects which are dear to Otumfuo and fall within the Asanteman development agenda so Otumfuo will take the right step I can assure you of that".

Source: starrfm.com.gh

On the Occasion Of International Women's Day Celebration

Socialist Movement Of Ghana Salutes All Militants On Forefront Of Gender Equality Struggles

March 8, 2023.

STATEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

On the occasion of International Women's Day, the Socialist Movement of Ghana (SMG) salutes all militants in Ghana and elsewhere in the world leading struggles for gender equality.

We strongly believe that the effort to build a better and new world in which all peoples can realize their full

human potential, benefit from scientific innovation and enjoy equal access to social services, is only possible if we win the war for gender equality. It is indeed sad that the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Antonio Guterres, in a statement to mark International Women's Day claims that "gender equality is growing more distant" and that on current track, his organization puts the

achievement of gender equality 300 years away. The SMG insists that gender equality is an urgent imperative for the accelerated development of all facets of life and we urge progressive and socialist organizations across the globe to intensify the struggle for gender equality in all human endeavour. We take note of the fact that women constitute more than 50 percent of

the total population of Ghana and are a major resource for national development which cannot be ignored. Clearly our inability to mobilize this important segment of our population for full participation in the national development effort is a brake on our aspirations for building a better country and world. Today, the SMG has joined the bold and sensible effort to achieve gender equality with clear

policies which guarantees 50 percent participation of women in all its leadership organs. We are sure that our collective struggles for gender equality will succeed and that in the not too distant future, women will take their right place on all organs of governance and social progress. Signed. Kwesi Pratt Jnr Gen. Secretary, SMG



INTERNATIONAL NEWS REPORT

Compiled By Peoples Dispatch

Protesting Pension Reforms, French Working Class Shuts Down The Country



(Photo: via CGT). The controversial pension reform bill calling for an increase in the retirement age from 62 to 64 is currently being discussed in the French Senate but was passed over to the Senate before it could be voted on because of disagreements about raising the retirement age

The French workers on Tuesday, March 7, took to the streets across the country denouncing the government's controversial new pension reforms. Trade unions also participated in a general strike on Tuesday as part of their campaign for a 'total shutdown' of the

country, while the French Senate is deliberating on the pension reforms bill. The protestors organized massive demonstrations in 200 cities and towns across the country, as well as picketed workplaces and blocked roundabouts in major city centers, as was done at the time of the yellow vest

protests. Student-youth groups also organized blockades in 39 [universities](#) across France. The strikes have affected transport, schools, the energy sector, industries, municipal services, and government offices, among others. The mobilization on Tuesday was the seventh major day of action organized against the pension reforms. Protests began on January 19 this year—organized by the coordination of trade unions, leftist parties, and student-youth groups—and millions of people across France have already taken part so far, demanding that the reforms be rolled back. Specifically, protesters have demanded an increase in wages and pensions, and that the retirement age be brought down to 60.

According to [L'Humanite](#), 65% of people in the country support the strikes and protests against the pension reforms proposed by Emmanuel Macron's government, which call for an increase in the retirement age from 62 to 64 and also stipulate a mandatory 43 years of service before one is entitled to a full pension or benefits. The pension reforms bill underwent two weeks of [debate](#) in the National Assembly, the lower house of the French Parliament, but was passed over to the Senate before it could be voted on because of disagreements about raising the retirement age. While trade unions and the left-

wing coalition New Ecological and Social People's Union (NUPES) have continued their opposition to the bill in the streets and in parliament, the Macron-led neo-liberal government expects to pass the bill with the support of legislators from center-right parties. On Tuesday, leader of the French Communist Party (PCF) Fabien Roussel [said](#): "Today, [...] the coordination of the unions calls for France to 'stop' against the unfair pension reform that the government wants to impose. The working world hasn't been this united in a struggle for decades. We can win and push back the government."

Brazilian Government Orders Investigation Into Undeclared Jewelry Gifted To Bolsonaro's Wife

The government of Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva has ordered the Federal Police to investigate allegations that a government official under his predecessor, Jair Bolsonaro, had illegally tried to bring millions of dollars worth of jewelry into the country without declaring it to authorities. Justice and Public Security Minister Flávio Dino, who reported on the investigation, said that the case could constitute "crimes of smuggling, embezzlement and money laundering, among others."

Last week, on March 3, the *Estadão* newspaper reported that Marcos André Soeiro, an advisor to Bolsonaro's Minister of Mines and Energy Bento Albuquerque, had tried to smuggle to Brazil a US\$3.2 million jewelry set consisting of a diamond necklace, ring, watch and earrings.

The jewelry was allegedly gifted to the far-right former president and former first lady Michelle Bolsonaro by the government of the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia Mohammed bin Salman. According to the report, the jewels were found by customs agents in Soeiro's suitcase during an inspection at the Guarulhos airport in São Paulo, while a government delegation was returning from an official trip to the Middle East in October 2021. The customs agents seized the jewelry, as according to Brazilian legislation, any goods worth more than US\$1,000 must be declared when they enter Brazil and pay the import tax, which is equivalent to 50% of the estimated value of the item. The law also states that if a person is caught trying to omit that

they have the product, they are charged with an additional fine of 25% of the value of the product for attempting to smuggle it. Bolsonaro, who has been residing in the US and has avoided returning to Brazil in the face of various lawsuits against him, on March 4, denied committing any "illegal act." "I'm being accused of a gift that I neither asked for nor received," he said in an interview with CNN Brasil. "There is no illegality on my part. I never committed illegal acts." Nevertheless, according to the *Estadão* report, the Bolsonaro government made four unsuccessful attempts to recover the jewels through government officials. After failing, on December 28, 2022, two days before flying to the US,

Bolsonaro himself sent a letter to the Federal Revenue Service requesting the transfer of the jewels to the Presidency. This request, however, was denied. The only way to avoid paying the tax and the fine in Bolsonaro's case was to declare the jewelry as an official gift to the State. However, in doing so, the jewels would have remained with the Brazilian State, not Michelle Bolsonaro. This controversy adds to a growing list of scandals and potential legal cases against Bolsonaro. Bolsonaro was [defeated](#) in the October 2022 run-off election by the progressive Workers' Party leader Lula. However, he never publicly accepted his defeat or



Former far-right Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro. (Photo: Archives). A former government official tried to bring undeclared jewelry amounting to USD\$3.2 million into the country, a gift from the Saudi Arabian government to Bolsonaro's wife

congratulated Lula. On December 30, 2022, 48 hours before Lula's inauguration, he fled to Florida. On January 8, his supporters [stormed](#) key government buildings in the capital Brasília, calling for a military coup to remove Lula from power. Bolsonaro is also facing investigations into whether he played a role in instigating the attack.

Turn Construction Of Kayayei Hostel Into Skills Training Institute – Ga Mantse Boni Nii Adama Latse II Tells Govt



Boni Nii Tackie Adama Latse II, the Ga Mantse

from front page

instead of the construction of the hostel facilities.

It would be recalled that the Ga West Municipal Assembly a fortnight ago announced the construction of kayayei hostel facility to enable the thousands of head porters live in a decent place after work within the next 18 months.

It followed the cutting of sod to begin construction of a four-storey hostel facility at Adjen Kotoku to accommodate 300 of them. The facility is among seven other hostel facilities that would be built within seven municipalities in the Greater Accra Region. Three would be built within the Accra Metropolitan Assembly and one each in Korle Klottey, Ashaiman,

La Nkwantanang and Ayawaso Central. Funded by the government, the four-storey facility, which is the first to be built, would be completed within a period of 18 months. However, Boni Nii Tackie Adama Latse II at a press conference yesterday to express reservations about the project urged the government to equip the head porters with relevant training and employable skills by converting the hostels into skills training institute. He also said the construction of the facility on the Gadagme lands without due consultation with the Ga Dangme Chiefs and the Ga Traditional Council is unacceptable. The Ga Mantse noted that Ga Dangme people have been accommodative by giving out their lands for national projects in the capital but hostel facilities that will entrench the head porting activities of these innocent girls whose activities expose them to the harsh weather and all forms of abuse is inappropriate. Nii Adama Latse II further asked the government to halt all new projects in the capital and complete abandoned ones such as the La

General Hospital, the Trade Fair Centre facilities which were pulled down some years ago but have not been rebuilt. He also called for the completion of the Salaga Market in Accra, and other facilities which have been abandoned whilst new ones are being started in their stead. The concerns raised by the Ga Mantse comes at a time when the Ga Dangme Council has also opposed the proposed construction of a hostel facility in Accra for head porters. The council believes the project is an affront to development and living standards in Accra because the land earmarked for the project is for the construction of a recreational facility and cannot be used to re-settle non-indigenes when there are Ga indigenes without homes in the capital city. In a statement, the Ga Dangme Council demanded that the land be handed over to the Lands Commission so that the same land can be used to build housing for Ga indigenes since it is no longer used for the Korle Lagoon Recreational Planning Scheme. "The Council is of a strong conviction that in accordance with the constitution and laws, the land should be returned to the original owners. The injustice involved in what is happening is that Ga lands are being used to resettle non-indigenes whilst there are several homeless indigenes living on the streets fighting for space and accommodation at Bukom, James Town, Chorkor and generally along the coast with no room for expansion." In essence, the council wants the Kayayei hostel project to be abandoned so that they can be given vocation and technical skills in the regions from which they migrate rather than moving to the south for jobs that do not exist. "Therefore, since these indigenes also require land for construction and settlement, we propose that, the land in question, be handed over to the Greater Accra Regional Lands Commission to be held in trust and with the collaboration of composite Ga, Gbese and Korle Stools and James Town Stool and the Ga Dangme Council for same to be parcelled out to their descendants. Meanwhile, Ga Dzasetse Nii Yaote Oto Ga II has again set the records straight regarding the right heir to the Ga paramountcy stool. According to him Nii Boni Adama Latse II is the rightful Ga Mantse who was legally and lawfully installed according to Ga customs and tradition and anyone parading himself as such should be ignored by the public. This is his statement he issued yesterday in Accra;

SHORT REMARKS BY NII YAOTE OTO-GA II, GA DZASETSE DURING GA DZASE MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 8TH MARCH, 2023

Good morning friends of the media, this is the ninth meeting of the Ga Dzase since the beginning of the year, and in our midst is Boni Nii Tackie Adama Latse II, the Ga Mantse who will share with Ga Dangme Bii some concerns bordering the Ga State.

But before he does that, let me emphasis that with the demise of Boni Nii Amugi II Ga Mantse and his burial by me Nii Yaotey Otoga II, Ga Dzasetse, and the Ga Dzase we put in place the customary processes to install a new Ga Mantse. There are 4 Ruling Houses who ascend the Ga Stool in rotational order, and they are:

- i. Teiko Tsuru We - 1944 to 1947
- ii. Tackie -Komme We - 1948 to 1965
- iii. Amugi We - 1965 to 2004
- iv. Abola Piam We - ' ?

From the above, it is obvious that it is the turn of Abola Piam We and they were customary informed and provided 3 candidates, namely, George Tackie, Ayitey Canada and Kelvin Tackie. George Tackie was nominated and taking through necessary customary rites relating to the Enstoolment of a Ga Mantse with the Stool name Nii Tackie Adama Latse II as follows;-

- a. Confined in the Ga Stool room with all his customary rites.
- b. Afili was fixed on His hands by Sakumo Wulomo_
- c. He has been to Nmaanmo Mli 3 years with the Sakumo Wulomo as customs demand, to enable him perform duties of the wulomo during his absence.
- d. Adowa Fai was fixed on His Head by the Asere Stool.
- e. Out-doored and swore the oath of Fidelity to Gamei at Amuginaa with Nii Gbese responding by swearing the oath of allegiance on behalf of the Chiefs, Wulomei and elders of the Ga State. Process for gazetting were initiated through the Ga Traditional Council, Greater Accra Regional House of Chiefs and the National House of Chiefs where Nii Ga's name was entered into the National Register of Chiefs on 24th April, 2015. `

As far as the Ga Paramount Dzase headed by me is concerned there is a lawful, accredited and substantive Ga Mantse in the person of Nii Tackie Adama Latse II, who has not abdicated the Stool neither has he been distooled. On this note, I humbly invite Nii Ga to share his thoughts.

Thank you
Signed
NII YAOTE OTO GA II
(GA DZASETSE)

CLOGSAG Branch In Sefwi-Wiawso Furious Over Salary Deductions



Members of the Sefwi-Wiawso Branch of CLOGSAG are agitated over what they claim to be wrongful deductions on their salaries. This wrongful deduction is described to be a 5% deduction for their tier-3 pension scheme, which they claim they were not consulted for it to be done. They therefore met as a union at the Sefwi-Wiawso Municipal Assembly Hall on Wednesday 22nd February 2023 and

resolved that the action by CLOGSAG be reversed and plans for any future deduction of that sort be halted. Ernest Akoto, one of the concerned members of the CLOGSAG Branch mentioned that Tier-3 pension is voluntary and therefore needed the consent of the beneficiary before inception. "This is the same way they started the deduction of the CLOGSAG Fund and because we kept quiet over it, they took us for granted. We

demand a reversal of this new move for proper consultation to be done."

Another member who had already subscribed to a Tier-3 pension scheme with another fund manager mentioned this exercise meant he was going to be deducted twice for the same purpose. He mentioned he should have been consulted before such a move was undertaken and that it was going to be a massive blow on his already meagre salary. In a petition to the Controller and Accountant General and the Executive Secretary of CLOGSAG, the concerned members called for an investigation into the matter and an appropriate action to be taken to ensure that such deductions do not occur in the future.

Source: www.etvghana.com

Hugo Chávez Didn't Die, He Multiplied!

March 5 marked ten years since the passing of Commander Hugo Chávez, former president of Venezuela and the father of the Bolivarian Revolution. Chávez was Venezuela's president from February 2, 1999, until his death on March 5, 2013. Chávez inaugurated a new period in Venezuela's history. Through his comprehensive and inclusive social and economic policies, he brought back dignity and pride to the Venezuelan people and transformed the social reality of the country. He forged important projects for Latin American unity and integration such as the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America – Peoples' Trade Treaty (ALBA-TCP), and the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR). He died at the age of 58, following a two-year battle with cancer.

On the tenth anniversary of his death, thousands of Venezuelans took to the streets of the capital Caracas to pay homage to Chávez and ratify their commitment to defend his anti-imperialist and socialist legacy. Workers, students, members of political organizations, social movements and trade unions gathered at different points in Caracas and marched together to the Cuartel de la Montaña, where the mausoleum with Chávez's remains is located. They chanted slogans such as "Chávez didn't die, he multiplied!", "I am Chávez," and "Chávez is alive."

"I am Chávez" t-shirt. Photo: Zoe Alexandra María Elena Blanco, member of the political team of the Urban Planning Organization of Macarao parish, told *Peoples Dispatch*, "Urban Planning Organizations of Caracas feel proud of the legacy of our President Hugo Chávez,

continued by Nicolás Maduro. We are thankful to the Bolivarian Revolution. As a result of a natural disaster, our Commander Chávez ordered us to build our own house wherever there was a vacant lot and we did so. Today is the tenth anniversary of the regrettable loss of our Commander, but for us he will always be alive. For us Chávez was a father and a mother. We will always remember him."

Likewise, Yaritza Mota, a teacher in 23 de Enero parish, told *Peoples Dispatch*, "A day like today, for us Venezuelans, for us teachers, is an unforgettable day because for us Chávez is still alive, he is still present." She continued, "We cannot forget that Venezuela was declared free of illiteracy thanks to the wonderful management of our unforgettable and eternal Commander Hugo Chávez Frías. We cannot forget that we increased the enrollment in elementary school, middle school, high school, even at the university level thanks to Chávez and his policies, which are now continued by President Nicolás Maduro. In Venezuela, everyone studies. In Venezuela, education is free and of good quality."

"I am a young Chavista". Photo: Zoe Alexandra Leaders from across Latin America such as former Cuban President Raúl Castro, Bolivian President Luis Arce, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Ralph Gonsalves, former Bolivian President Evo Morales, and Former Ecuadorian President Rafael Correa traveled to Caracas to join the events organized in Chávez's honor. At the Cuartel de la Montaña, along with Venezuelan political leaders, high-level government officials and military authorities, [international leaders](#) also placed flowers on Chávez's tomb.

International Meeting on the Importance of Chávez's Bolivarian Revolution

As part of the activities to honor the revolutionary leader, hundreds of leaders of trade unions and people's movements as well as intellectuals from across the world gathered in Caracas to take part in

the International Meeting on the Importance of Bolivarian Thought of Commander Hugo Chávez in the 21st Century. The event took place between March 3 and 5. During the seminar, activists and intellectuals reflected on the anti-imperialist and anti-capitalist legacy of Chávez and ratified its validity in the 21st century.

Cuba solidarity activist and co-executive director of the Peoples Forum, Manolo de los Santos, stated, "If we want to celebrate Chavez's legacy and say that we are Chavistas, we must raise a permanent campaign against imperialism. The planet faces its greatest dilemma. Either the planet survives or imperialism survives."

Meanwhile, Evo Morales highlighted, "Fidel and Chávez broke that fear of speaking against imperialism, capitalism. For me, the empire is defeated, it has been defeated by the peoples of Latin America in the Cold War."

"Chavista thought is the trench in the fight against capitalism that tries to subdue us to plunder our natural resources," Morales said.

At the closing ceremony of the tributes dedicated to Chávez, held at the Teresa Carreño theater in Caracas, Commander Raúl Castro applauded the revolutionary spirit of the Venezuelan people, who have been resisting the US attacks, staying loyal to Chávez's legacy. "We have witnessed the aggressions and the economic war to overthrow the Bolivarian process, but we have proudly witnessed that the Venezuelan people know how to defend their conquests and have not deceived Chávez."

Likewise, President Maduro also stressed, "We have applied the Hugo Chávez formula on everything in these ten years, it has been the formula of connecting, mobilizing, activating the strength of the



On March 5, thousands of Venezuelans took to the streets of Caracas to pay homage to Commander Hugo Chávez on the tenth anniversary of his death. Photo: Zoe Alexandra. Ten years since his passing, the legacy of Commander Hugo Chávez lives on in the people of Venezuela and the world

people at all junctures."

"Always with the people, never without the people, go with the joy, hope, criticism," said Maduro.

The Bolivarian Revolution

Chávez, when he was first sworn in as the President of Venezuela, pledged to democratically reform the 1961 Constitution and lay the foundations for a new inclusive and social constitution. On the day he was inaugurated, he began the revolutionary process and called for a referendum for the creation of a National Constituent Assembly to write a new Constitution, based on the principles of the Liberator Simón Bolívar: socialism, nationalization and a state-led economy. The plebiscite for the drafting of a new Constitution was approved by 87% of the vote. On December 15, 1999, the constitutional draft that established a new social and people-centric model of the state was approved with 71% of the votes. It also renamed the country as the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

Musicians participate in the march to the 4F Mausoleum where Chávez's remains were laid to rest. The development of national arts and culture has been put front and center in the Bolivarian Revolution. Photo: Zoe Alexandra

Chávez's rule marked the end of the Fourth Republic, a time marked by social inequality, neoliberal economic policies and

abuse of power, and the beginning of the Bolivarian Revolution, a process of political, economic, social and cultural transformation of Venezuela based on the pillars of democracy, independence, peace, social justice and sovereignty. Chávez introduced several policies based on the population's access to food and housing, free health and education, promotion of employment opportunities and the extension of social security. During his administration, the rate of hunger, poverty and extreme poverty reduced by more than 50% in Venezuela. Higher education and university education became the right of all Venezuelans. Through his social housing program called the Great Housing Mission of Venezuela (GMVV), so far over 4 million homes have been delivered to low-income people at a low cost or free of charge, depending on their income.

These social programs have been sustained by the current government of the United Socialist Party of Venezuela (PSUV), led by President Maduro, despite the brutal economic sanctions imposed by the United States and its allies against the country.

The Venezuelan people have been defending Chávez's Bolivarian Revolution, braving the impacts of cruel commercial, economic and financial sanctions imposed by the US.

Quick Facts About Bola Ahmed Adekunle Tinubu, The Newly-Elected President Of Nigeria

Bola Ahmed Tinubu was recently declared the president-elect of Nigeria by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) Chairman, Prof. Mahmood Yakubu. According to the result declared by the INEC Chairman, Bola Tinubu of APC polled 8,805,655 valid votes to defeat the other three top contenders, Atiku Abubakar of PDP who polled 6,984,520, Peter Obi of Labour Party who got 6,098,588, and Musa Kwankwaso of NNPP who got 1,496,687, in an election marred by controversies and irregularities. These are a few facts about Bola Ahmed Tinubu, the next in line to succeed President Muhammadu Buhari.

Bio Data

He was born in Osun State, Nigeria, on March 29, 1952. However, his birth date and education certificates have remained controversial. He holds the chieftaincy titles of Asiwaju of Lagos State and the Jagaban of

Borgu Kingdom in Niger State, Nigeria.

Education

Bola Tinubu attended St. Johns Primary School in Lagos and Children's Home School in Ibadan, Nigeria. He moved to the United States, where he studied at Richard J. Darley College, Chicago, and Chicago State University, and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting in 1979.

Career Before Politics

He worked for some American firms in the United States, including Arthur Anderson, Deloitte, and GTE Services. He returned to Nigeria in 1983 where he worked with Mobil Oil Nigeria.

Political Career

Tinubu began his political career in 1992 when he joined the Social Democratic Party (SDP) and became a Senator representing the Lagos West Constituency in the brief

Nigerian Third Republic. He joined a pro-democracy group, National Democratic Coalition (NADECO), a group that was formed in 1994 to protest the annulment of the June 12 election and the restoration of democracy.

He went into exile in 1994 due to the activities of General Sani Abacha's military regime. He returned to Nigeria in 1998 after the death of General Sani Abacha and contested the gubernatorial seat of Lagos State in the 1999 general election under the Alliance for Democracy (AD) and won. He served two terms as the Governor of Lagos State – May 1999 to May 2023 and May 2023 to May 2007. In 2014, he spearheaded the merger of some political parties in Nigeria, when Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN), All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP), Congress for Progressive Change (CPC), and breakaway factions of the Peoples Democratic Party



Nigeria's president elect, Bola Ahmed Adekunle Tinubu

(PDP) and All Progressive Grand Alliance (APGA) joined together to form All Progressive Congress (APC).

Family

Bola Tinubu is a Muslim from South West Nigeria and from the Yoruba ethnic nation. He is married to a Christian Minister and Senator, Oluremi Tinubu, and together they have four children Folashade Tinubu-Ojo, Oluwaseyi Tinubu, Abibat Tinubu, and Jide Tinubu (deceased).

Controversy

In 1993, Tinubu's assets were frozen by the American government for alleged involvement in drug trafficking. The American government had probable reasons to believe his bank accounts in America held proceeds of drug deals. Tinubu settled the case by forfeiting about \$460,000 to the U.S. government. Court documents and later reports revealed that he was a bagman for two Chicago drug dealers in the early 1990s.

Source: face2faceafrica.com

The Genesis Of Ghana's Central Bank, The Ghana Cedi

Before Ghana attained independence, there was no institution or body that was responsible for its fiscal and monetary affairs. History has it that Ghanaians engaged in barter trade as the very first means of exchange. They also used cowries at some point before the introduction of pounds, shillings, and even notes and coins. History has it that, prior to the declaration of independence on March 6, 1957, from the British colonial powers by Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, the Gold Coast, now Ghana, had already laid a solid foundation for economic, social, and governance takeoff. And, there was the urgent need to establish a central bank to, as it were, give a 'true meaning' to political independence.

Consequently, the Bank of Ghana was established on the eve of Ghana's independence, March 4, 1957, and mandated to issue and redeem banknotes and coins. Prior to this, the West African Currency Board (WACB), which was constituted in 1912 by the British Colonial Administration, issued and circulated the West African Pound (£WA) in the Gold Coast and the other Anglophone countries in West Africa (with the exception of Liberia). After independence, however, the West African pound, shillings, and pence remained the units of currency in Ghana until the first currency reforms in July 1958 when the Bank of Ghana issued the

Ghana Pound (£G) as the main currency to further consolidate political independence. According to the Bank of Ghana, after independence, the West African Pound, introduced by the WACB, was regarded as a vestige of British colonialism that had to be changed. Consequently, the Bank of Ghana introduced the first set of currency called the Ghana Pounds, Shillings, and Pence to replace the West African Shillings and Pence in July 1958 with the following denominations: Barely three years after the introduction of the Ghana pounds, shillings, and pence, the Government initiated a move to adopt

the widely accepted decimal currency system.

The Kessels Committee was subsequently set up to design a road map for the migration. The proposed banknotes were named the “cedi” and the corresponding coin, was

the “pesewa” and all the banknotes and coins bore the portrait of the first President of the Republic of Ghana, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah. In July 1965, the various denominations below were issued:

No	Banknotes	Coins
1	10 Shillings	½ Penny
2	1 Pound	1 Penny
3	5 Pounds	3 Pence
4	1000 Pounds (For Interbank transactions)	6 Pence
5		1 Shilling
6		2 Shillings

Note: 12 Pence was equal to 1 Shilling whereas 20 Shillings was equal to 1 Pound
Source: Bank of Ghana

No	Banknotes	Coins
1	1 Cedi	5 Pesewas
2	5 Cedis	10 Pesewas
3	10 Cedis	25 Pesewas
4	50 Cedis	50 Pesewas
5	100 Cedis	
6	1,000 Cedis	

Note: 1 Cedi was equivalent to 8 Shillings and 4 Pence (8s 4p) while 100 Pesewas was equal to 1 Cedi. The 1 Penny coin was allowed to circulate for a while alongside the 1 Pesewa.
Source: Bank of Ghana

Sudanese Left Warns That Election Under Military Junta-Right Wing Deal Will Legitimize Coup



By Pavan Kulkarni

The [Framework Agreement](#) signed in December to reach a power-sharing arrangement between Sudan's military junta and a right-wing coalition of parties has no constitutional legitimacy, warned Saleh Mahmoud, Foreign Relations Secretary of the Sudanese Communist Party (SCP).

The political parties of the Forces of Freedom and Change (FFC) coalition do not have a popular mandate to negotiate with the coup leaders, he told African Union (AU) Commission Chairperson Moussa Faki at a meeting in capital Khartoum on February 13.

This meeting between delegates from the SCP and the African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council was convened on Faki's invitation, against the backdrop of increasing international intervention to conclude a power-sharing arrangement between the army and the FFC.

However, at the [mass-demonstrations against the junta](#) which have been unrelenting since the army seized all power with the coup on October 25, 2021, the slogan – “No Negotiations, No Compromise, No Partnership” with the military – continues to resound on the streets of Sudan.

Western envoys meet with coup leaders

Disregarding this popular sentiment, envoys of the US, UK, France, Germany, Norway, and the European Union (EU), [arrived in](#)

[Khartoum on February 7](#) to meet with the military coup leaders and representatives of the FFC parties who signed the Framework Agreement. Special Representative of the European Union for the Horn of Africa, Annette Weber, said “We came to Sudan carrying a message of hope and support for the framework agreement”. Protests coinciding with the visit were called for by the Resistance Committees (RCs). A network of over 5,000 of these committees spread out in neighborhoods across the country has been leading the pro-democracy protests against the military junta since the coup. The Central Committee of Sudanese Doctors (CCSD) reported several injuries, including by live fire, in the crackdown on these protests on February 7. On February 9, when protesters marched toward the Presidential Palace – the seat of coup-leader and army chief Abdel Fattah al Burhan where the international envoys met him – [security forces killed a 15-year old boy](#) with a tear gas canister shot at his head. As many as 124 people have been killed in repression since the coup.

Osama Saeed, an SCP member who was protesting in Khartoum's twin city of Omdurman where the boy was killed, told *Peoples Dispatch*, “The US and its allies don't give a hoot about the atrocities committed by

the junta. Their only concern is that the military is not able to administer the country due to mass-resistance.”

He insisted that western governments therefore “want to bring in some civilian technocrats to run the administration while the military maintains its political power. They only want to create a suitable economic environment in Sudan for their corporations and agri-businesses to invest. Human rights and democracy are not their concerns.”

Nevertheless, US Acting State Secretary Peter Lord [described](#) the Framework Agreement as “the ideal basis for establishing constitutional arrangements that will lead to a transitional period which ends with elections”.

The joint statement of the envoys on February 9 also [stated](#): “The Framework Political Agreement process remains in our view the best basis on which to form a civilian-led transitional government and establish constitutional arrangements for a transitional period that culminates in elections.”

Any elections held on the basis of the Framework Agreement under an arrangement where the military retains political power cannot be free and fair, argues Mahmoud. “The junta will inevitably manipulate the process to secure its power. Its puppets will win rigged elections,” he told *Peoples Dispatch*. “It is obvious” that the purpose of such an election is “only to legitimize the military regime” with a façade of democracy, he added.

“We do not have the basic laws needed to safeguard the right to campaign. Our laws actively impede the exercise of freedoms set out in international declarations such as the The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights,” he said. Basic

rights, he argues, need to be secured before the election for it to be free and fair.

“Millions of displaced citizens will not be able to vote”

More importantly, “there are millions of citizens who are entitled to the electoral process, but cannot participate in it because we still don't have peace. In Darfur alone, we have nearly six million displaced,” added Mahmoud, who is also the president of Darfur Bar Association.

“Most of them are confined to IDP [Internally Displaced Persons] camps in Sudan or in refugee camps outside the country. Other communities, including from other countries in western Africa, have been resettled by the regime on the land from which they were forced to flee during the civil war.”

The war has ended only on paper with the Juba peace agreement signed in August 2020. But armed violence has continued and even increased, according to many observers. The notorious state militia called the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), led by the military junta's deputy chairman, Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, is frequently involved in armed attacks which have caused displacement of millions more in Darfur since the peace agreement.

IDPs remain the most frequent victims of these attacks. Adam Rojal, Spokesperson of the General Coordination of Displaced and Refugees, maintains that purpose of targeting the IDPs is to eliminate the surviving witnesses of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity, for which former dictator Omar al Bashir stands trial at the International Criminal Court.

Bashir was handed over to ICC after he was ousted in April 2019 by the December Revolution. However, the generals in his security committee immediately seized power after his ouster. Following the massacre of protesters outside the army HQ on June 3 that year, the FFC entered into a negotiation and

signed a power-sharing agreement on the basis of which a 'joint civilian-military transitional government' was formed.

The army continued to control most of the economy and foreign policy under this government. The little power that was ceded to the civilian leaders chosen by the FFC was also retaken by the army in the coup on October 25, 2021. The leaders of most of the armed rebel groups, who were given a share of state power after signing the Juba agreement, went on to support the coup. Violence in Darfur, Blue Nile and Nuba mountains has sharply increased since.

'Juba Peace agreement must be abolished'

The Framework Agreement reiterates commitment to the Juba agreement. Mahmoud, however, insists that the “Juba agreement is only a power-sharing agreement between the leaders of armed groups, the military generals and their allies in the RSF. It does not reflect the needs of the people in these regions.”

The agreement cannot be corrected with amendments to it, he added, insisting that “it should be abolished in its entirety.” A genuine peace process, in which the primary victims of the war – the IDPs – have their say, “can only begin after this military junta is overthrown”, Mahmoud maintains. “Of the 67 years since Sudan's independence, the military has ruled the country for more than 57 Years. This is the root of all corruption, hunger, wars, violation of basic human rights, the displacement of millions in Darfur, the conflict in Blue Nile and Nuba mountains, the secession of the south, the June 3 massacre and the increasing violence in capital Khartoum,” he said.

None of these problems can be overcome until the military junta is overthrown and its generals are tried for all their crimes by an international body like the ICC, he argued, reiterating SCP's call for backing the street protests with a political general strike and total civil-disobedience.