

“Eshe Alan Eno” – Ga Adangbes Declare For Alan Kyeremanten



Former President John Dramani Mahama

MAHAMA

He Says NDC Will Match NPP 'Boot To Boot' In 2024

Former President John Dramani Mahama has said the opposition National Democratic Congress (NDC) will match the governing New Patriotic Party (NPP) “Boot to Boot” in 2024 in an effort to stop any attempt at

rigging the polls. The former president disclosed that the National Democratic Congress will leave nothing to chance in seeking to return to power after the 2024 general

elections. He told party faithful in the Tain and Banda constituencies in the Bono East Region during his

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Hordes of mainly Ga Adangbes, gathered at the Ga Mantse Palace at Kaneshie on Monday, gave a huge boost to the flagbearership aspirations of Former Trade and Industry Minister, Hon Alan Kwadwo Kyerematen, when he paid a courtesy call on Dr.

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As He Fetes Orphanage Children In Birthday Bash

Palestinian Ambassador Condemns Israeli Brutalities And Killings

...Wants International Community To Stop Jewish State's Illegal Occupation



H.E. Abdalfatah Ahmed Khalil Alsatarri, Palestinian Ambassador to Ghana

The Palestinian Ambassador to Ghana, Abdalfatah Ahmed Khalil Alsatarri, has condemned Israeli occupation and brutalities meted out to Palestinians which has resulted in several lives being

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The INSIGHT

— EDITORIAL

ADDRESS THIS FUNDING GAP!

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

Officials of the Ghana AIDS Commission who appeared before the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament 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.

“Eshe Alan Eno” – Ga Adangbes Declare For Alan Kyeremanten

from front page

Nii Tackie Teiko Tsuru II, the Ga Mantse.

With shouts of 'Esh3 Alan 3no', (it's Alan's turn), the huge crowd cheered every step of the Former Trade and Industry Minister and champion of the 1D1F initiative, as he made his way to the reception hall of the Palace. Hon Kyeremanten and his entourage, including Nii Ayiquaye Otoo, former Attorney General and former Ghana High Commissioner to Canada, called on the Ga Mantse to among, others, announce his intention to run for the flagbearership of the New Patriotic Party (NPP), when nominations open later in the year and eventually, become President of the country.

The visit was also to congratulate Nii Teiko Taurus II on his ascension of the revered Ga Mantse stool and commiserate with him on the passing of the late Naa Dedei Omaedru III, Queen Mother of the Ga state.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Nii Teiko Tauru II, also President of the Ga Traditional Council, advised political parties against taking Ga Adangbes for granted by failing to fulfill promises made to them and appropriating their lands for personal benefit at the expense of the well-being of the indigenes.

He noted that the people will no longer look on unconcerned as their rights are trampled upon, and will punish any party that did not deal fairly with them at the polls.

"Accra is the pivot of election in Ghana. Accra is Ghana and Ghana is Accra. Don't take us for granted", the Ga Mantse admonished.

He added, "we are sad about how we are being treated on our own lands, without recourse to the traditional authority. We pray that when your bid is successful, you will think about (Ga) lands and support the traditional council".

Hon. Kyeremanten expressed his gratitude to the Ga Mantse and the Traditional Council for their continued support and pledged to deal fairly with issues of the traditional council should he be given the nod to be President.

"Nii M3, I know the symbol of the traditional council, just as that of our



party, the NPP, is the elephant. This already shows that all Ga's naturally belong to the NPP, there is therefore, a spiritual connectivity between our symbols. It is therefore, appropriate for me to honour the traditional council and pay heed to their concerns when elected" Mr Kyeremanten said.

He said, the role the Ga state played in bringing the NPP to power in 2016 must be appreciated and recognized appropriately, adding that "it is in our own interest as a party, to appreciate and honour the status of the Ga traditional council as it is the entry point into the country".



THE INSIGHT

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MAHAMA

He Says NDC Will Match NPP 'Boot To Boot' In 2024

from front page

campaign tour for the party's flagbearership race that the NDC would prioritize the polling stations in seeking to secure their mandate after the vote.

Mahama, who is seeking a fourth straight shot at the presidency, used two controversial phrases in Ghana's political phraseology to drive home the seriousness the NDC will deploy in 2024.

"I have no doubt that NDC will win the 2024 elections. So, the vote will be a do or die affair and we will be matching them boot to boot at the polling station. "When the time comes, we will take names of polling station agents and I plead that we need educated persons who can do at least arithmetic, so, that you can decipher what we really got and to ensure the biometric details match the number of papers in a ballots box. "It is not about who is older

in the party. We need a knowledgeable person who can be trained to undertake the task. You can bring your wards who are educated to be trained for the purpose," he stressed.

Mahama, who will come up against four other competitors said the NDC planned to have its own collated results by midnight of December 7.

"With that, when voting ends at 5 pm, we will be able to declare our victory by midnight. We would



Former President John Dramani Mahama

have our results. We won't sleep on the evening of 7th December till we have assured ourselves of victory," he added to massive

applause.

Ghana Is Bankrupt Or Insolvent - Ato Forson 'Shreds' Akufo-Addo's SoNA



Cassiel Ato Forson, Minority Leader and former deputy Minister of Finance

Minority Leader in Parliament, Cassiel Ato Forson last Wednesday took under two-minutes to sternly critique president Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo's State of the Nation Address (SoNA) delivered on March 8.

Ato Forson in supporting the motion moved by his colleague on the Minority side pointed out a series of economic indicators

that showed that all was not well with the country as Akufo-Addo's address sought to portray.

He argued that the current economic crisis, the president admitted to in parts of his address, was largely self-inflicted and that Ghana was officially bankrupt.

"There is still a wide spread of despair and disenchantment among our people. Millions of Ghanaians are going through unbearable hardship and excruciating pains.

"Our economy is at its worst shape in decades, in fact Ghana's economy is bankrupt or insolvent. We are currently unable to repay our debts, Ghana has officially defaulted in

the repayment of our debt since January 2022.

"Mr. Speaker, yet Mr. President your government is failing to cut the size of government down and public expenditure," Mr. Forson stated on the floor of Parliament in response to President Akufo-Addo's State of the Nation Address on March 8, 2023.

Ato Forson also reiterated his point that the government had worsened the state of the economy with the printing of monies in two successive years leading to high inflation.

"Mr. President, our economy is in tatters largely because it is self-inflicted. Your government inflicted it on us and failed to act. Mr. President this is your

scorecard and this is the true state of our nation," he added.

Background

President Nana Akufo-Addo has vehemently rejected claims that his government's reckless borrowing and spending is to be blame for the country's current debt situation.

According to the President, it is worth noting that the debts the country is servicing were not only contracted during the period of his administration. "Mr Speaker, we have spent money on things that are urgent, to build roads and bridges and schools, to train our young people and equip them to face a competitive world.

"Considering the amount of work that still needs to be done on the state of our roads, the bridges that have to be built, considering the number of classrooms that need to be built, the furniture and equipment needs at all stages of education, considering the number of children who should be in school and are not, considering the number of towns and villages that still do not have access to potable water, I daresay no one can suggest we have over borrowed or spent recklessly," the President said in his Address on the State of the Nation on the floor of Parliament on Wednesday March 8, 2023.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS REPORT

Compiled By Peoples Dispatch

US House Of Representatives Votes To Defeat Resolution Demanding Troop Withdrawal From Syria



US troops deployed in Syria. (Photo: RT). The US has built an illegal base and deployed nearly 900 soldiers in Syria, who have allegedly helped prolong the war in the country and facilitated the loot of its natural resources

A resolution asking for the complete withdrawal of US troops from Syria within six months was defeated last Wednesday, March 8, in the US House of Representative despite drawing bipartisan support.

The resolution was proposed by Republican representative Matt Gaetz from Florida, who claimed

that the presence of US troops in Syria has no justification and no clear objective. The resolution received 103 votes in favor and 321 votes against. Despite the expressed support of the Progressive Caucus, the resolution was only supported by 56 Democrats and 47 Republicans in the House, which has a total strength of 435.

After the vote, Gaetz claimed that his resolution was the beginning of his “fight to end forever wars and bring our troops home.” He was reported claiming: “Syria is my lead-off hitter. We're going to take a trip around the globe. We may go to Yemen, we may have stops in Niger, we may have stops in Sudan, maybe ultimately, we'll end in Ukraine.” Gaetz is an extreme right-wing Republican and a supporter of Donald Trump. Sections of the US right wing are in favor of winding up military operations and military aid in some countries abroad so that the resources that are freed up can be used to focus on China or be deployed against migrants in the border.

First deployed in the country in 2014, most of the US troops in

Syria have been withdrawn since the declaration of victory over the Islamic State (ISIS) in 2019. There are still around 900 US troops in the country who work in collaboration with Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) in the country's north and eastern areas. The primary justification for the presence of the US forces in Syria post 2019 has been the alleged threat of the reemergence of ISIS. Former President Donald Trump reversed his decision to withdraw all troops from Syria within days in 2019, claiming that their presence in the country was necessary to prevent ISIS from exploiting its oil resources. The Syrian government, however, has termed the presence of US forces in the country illegal and accused the

US forces operating from the illegal base in Al-Tanf in Homs province of aiding the anti-government forces to prolong the war in the country. It has also said that, in alliance with the SDF, the US forces have been looting billions of dollars of its oil resources.

The Syrian government had strongly objected to General Mark Milley, chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, visiting the country earlier this month without permission or notice, calling it an illegal visit. It rejected the claims made by the US that the visit was to assess the preparedness of its forces to deal with the possible resurgence of ISIS, claiming that “the international community knows very well that *Daesh* (the Arabic name for ISIS) is an illegitimate offspring of US intelligence.”

Peru's Judiciary Extends Preventive Detention Of Pedro Castillo By 36 Months

The judiciary of Peru has extended the preventive detention of former left-wing President Pedro Castillo from 18 to 36 months. Supreme Court Judge Juan Carlos Checkley ordered the three-year pre-trial detention for Castillo over alleged crimes of criminal organization, aggravated influence peddling and collusion in cases related to public works contracts in transportation and housing ministries and in the sale of fuel to the state-owned petroleum company Petroperú. The ruling has been widely criticized as being politically motivated and part of the attempt to completely exclude the ousted President from both political and civilian life. In May 2022, the Prosecutor's Office began investigating Castillo's former transportation minister Juan Silva and six congressmen of the opposition center-right Popular Action party for irregularities in the tender for the construction of Tarata III Bridge. Businesswoman Karelím López, who was being investigated for money

laundering at that time, had alleged that Silva accepted bribes in exchange for the public work with Castillo's authorization. Castillo had denied the charges, adding that he and his administration were being politically persecuted by the Prosecutor's Office and the judiciary, whom he alleged were being controlled by the conservative oligarchy. In August 2022, the public ministry opened a probe into the alleged irregularities in the tender for the acquisition of biodiesel barrels from the company Heaven Petroleum Operators by Petroperú. Later in 2022, the Prosecutor's Office opened an investigation against Castillo's former housing minister Geiner Alvarado in the alleged acts of corruption in the execution of investment projects of the municipalities of Anguía, Chachapoyas and Chadín. It was alleged that Castillo was leading these corruption schemes and a criminal network while in office. In a hearing held on March 7, Castillo reiterated his innocence, stating that he did not commit any of the crimes he is being accused of. “I reiterate my innocence regarding the false facts that I am accused of and once again

denounce this unjust kidnapping for serving my country loyally as President of the Republic,” said Castillo.

Judge Checkley also ordered a 36-month pre-trial detention for Silva, and imposed the measure of appearance with restrictions to Alvarado with rules of conduct and payment of a security.

The judge explained that the detention was extended to prevent Castillo from fleeing the country or interfering in the investigation. Meanwhile, Castillo's lawyer Eduardo Pachas said his client was being “politically persecuted,” adding that Castillo would appeal the ruling. Castillo, who was ousted in a legislative coup and subsequently arrested on December 7, 2022, has been imprisoned in the Barbadillo prison in Lima for over three months, complying with the first measure of 18 months of preventive detention issued against him on December 15,

2022. The Prosecutor's Office is investigating him for the crimes of rebellion and conspiracy, abuse of authority and public disturbance for attempting to dissolve the Congress and rule by decree. Since his forcible removal from office and illegal arrest, hundreds of thousands of citizens, mainly from the long-neglected and marginalized countryside of Peru who identify themselves with Castillo, a former rural school teacher and a peasant leader, have been mobilizing in different parts of the country to demand radical political changes. Their demands include Castillo's immediate release, his successor Dina Boluarte's resignation, closure of the right-wing dominated Congress, advanced general elections by the end of the year, and a referendum on a constituent assembly to draft a new constitution.

The brutal police and military repression unleashed by Boluarte against these mass nationwide protests has resulted in the deaths of at least 60 people and has left over 1,200 injured. Despite heavy repression and militarization of rural provinces, the demonstrators, relatives of victims and survivors of state violence have said that they will remain in the streets against the government until their demands are addressed and those responsible of the violence are brought to justice. On March 8, on International Women's Day, thousands of women mobilized in different parts of the country demanding an end to gender based violence in the country and to Dina Boluarte's “murderous regime”.

Ashaiman Military Brutality: Dr Nyaho -Tamakloe Wants Defence Minister Fired



Dr Nyaho Nyaho-Tamakloe, a leading member of the New Patriotic Party

Dr Nyaho Nyaho-Tamakloe, a leading member of the New Patriotic Party, has called on the Minister for Defence, Dominic Nitiwul, to resign or be

fired by President Nana Akufo-Addo from his position over the brutalisation of residents of Ashaiman by personnel of the Ghana Armed Forces. Speaking in an interview on 3FM last Thursday, March

9, 2023, Dr Nyaho-Tamakloe said that military personnel who went to Ashaiman should not be punished because they only followed orders. According to him, the only people who should be held liable for the actions of the army personnel in Ashaiman are the commanding officers and the minister for defence. "The soldiers that invaded Ashaiman shouldn't be punished because they were doing their work per the instructions of their superior officers. "If for anything at all, it is the superior officers that

should be punished. Also, the superior officers took instructions from a higher command that is why I said the minister of defence Should resign or be fired but I doubt if the president will do that," he said. Dr Nyaho-Tamakloe, who is an ex-military man, also said that he can't believe the silence of President Nana Akufo-Addo on the incident. "I was shocked the president didn't talk about the Ashaiman incident. This is an important national issue that shouldn't have escaped his attention," he said.

Soldiers conduct swoop in

Ashaiman

Some soldiers invaded Ashaiman in the early hours of Tuesday, March 7, 2023, apparently in search of the murderers of their young colleague, Sheriff Imoro, who was allegedly lynched on Saturday, March 4, 2023. Several videos of the incident captured by some residents went viral on social media. In some of these videos, personnel hit and brutalised those outside their rooms. The incident happened on the dawn of Tuesday, March 7, 2023, at Official Town in Ashaiman.

Akufo-Addo Has Quadrupled The Sins Of John Mahama's Era - Manasseh Azure

Investigative journalist, Manasseh Azure Awuni, has said that the wrongs of the Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo government are a multiple of those that were committed under the erstwhile John Dramani Mahama administration.

He explained that, having started his journalism career under the administration of Mahama, his assessment of both governments has proven that the incumbent has been far worse. Speaking during a University of Ghana 75th Anniversary Public Lecture on Ghana's 66th Independence on the theme, "Our Ghana: Reflections on Integrity and Resilience, he explained that a lot of the work he did helped the New Patriotic Party (NPP) to win power in 2016. Manasseh Azure, however, explained that while he doubted that the Akufo-Addo government could ever match the John Mahama government in terms of non-performance, it has become clear that his fears have been overly confirmed. "I was born in 1985 after the last military intervention in Ghana. I started my full-time practice as a



Manasseh Azure says he believes Mahama did better than Akufo-Addo is doing

journalist under the John Dramani Mahama administration. I covered some of the very top investigative stories with which the opposition at the time used to fight the administration. "On December 9, 2016, when the Electoral Commission declared Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo the winner of the presidential elections, I said to myself that never again should Ghana be subjected to this level of obscenity. I repeated those who had ears to spare for my naïve prophecy that if President Akufo-Addo ever committed a quarter of John Mahama's mess, Ghana will crash. "Six years on, there appears to be a unanimous consensus that Nana Akufo-Addo has not committed a quarter of John

Mahama's sins; he has quadrupled them," he said. Nana Akufo-Addo is in his second term as president but there have been many cross-sector concerns about the poor management of the economy by the government. Many have called for a number of urgent measures to be undertaken to help the situation, such as cutting down of the size of the government. More particularly, there have been several calls, even from within the New Patriotic Party, for the sacking of the Minister of Finance, Ken Ofori-Atta. President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo has, however, stated that he does not see anything wrong with the output of his minister and for that reason he should relieve him of his job.

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

As He Fetes Orphanage Children In Birthday Bash Palestinian Ambassador Condemns Israeli Brutalities And Killings ...Wants International Community To Stop Jewish State's Illegal Occupation

from front page

lost over the past few months. According to him despite international condemnation of the illegal occupation and building of settlements on Palestinian lands, protests against such acts have resulted in deaths of innocent Palestinian lives, a phenomenon which is not acceptable.

The Palestinian Ambassador who is also the Dean of Arab Diplomatic Missions in Ghana slammed Israeli killings when he spoke in an interview with The Insight over the weekend during a gathering of Ghanaian and Palestinian children where he feted over 200 children from different orphanage homes in Accra.

The programme was also to celebrate his birthday which was a day earlier. The Ambassador over the years has been celebrating his birthday day with orphans. Ambassador Abdalfatah Alsatari told The Insight that there is the need for stronger international campaign against Israel's occupation and killing of Palestinians.

"I think there is the need for more international campaign against the brutalities meted out to

Palestinians by the Jewish State", he said.

Ambassador Alsatari noted that the only solution to the Israeli-Palestinian impasse is the Two State Solution which has been amply upheld by the international Community and backed by the United States.

He said at a recent visit to Israel by US Secretary of State, Anthony Blinken, he reiterated the Two-State solution which he believes is the only solution to the crisis.

The comments by the Palestinian Ambassador comes at a time when Israel in continuing with its murderous act of killing spree in the occupied Palestinian territories, had its forces kill three more Palestinians early last 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.

Meanwhile, the Palestinian authorities have condemned the brutalities meted out to Palestinians in the occupied territories and called for international protection for all Palestinians against Israeli aggression.

This is a statement condemning Israeli brutalities;

The State of Palestine urgently calls on the international community to provide international protection for the undefended Palestinian people from unrelenting Israeli sponsored terrorism and incitement;

The bloodletting scenes of Israeli

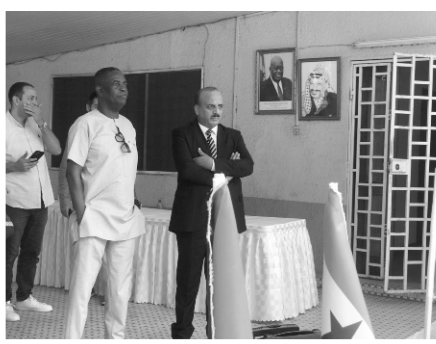
Jewish terrorist militias in Huwara destroying the life of every discoverable Palestinian and burning homes, cars, trees, and animals to ash and rubble, are sickening and unprecedented in scale and ferocity; Israeli Jewish terrorist groups chanted "death to Arabs" and danced on the rubble of burned homes and the bodies of dead and injured Palestinians, all while protected by Israeli occupying forces; This Jewish settler terrorism is State-sponsored; it is financially diplomatically, and politically facilitated and supported by every branch of Israel's government and celebrated by Israeli officials; The Huwara carnage comes few weeks after Israeli officials expanded access by terrorist groups to weaponry. The State of Palestine holds Israel and Israeli officials fully responsible for settler terrorism and warns of the inevitable violent consequences; Settler terrorist groups are an extension of the government, an extension of the State, not a repudiation to it; Terrorists groups and Israeli official's work hand in glove to advance the criminal declared policies since Nakba, including Jewish supremacy,

ethnic cleansing, and the eventual displacement and replacement of the Palestinian people;

The Nakba never ended. Nor has Israel's brutality, terrorism, and systematic displacement of the Palestinian people. The Palestinians of Huwara today live the horrors their ancestors faced 75 years ago; 90s Israeli settler terrorism persists and is aimed to persecute the Palestinian people into submission. Empty condemnations and expressions of concerns will not protect the undefended Palestinian people from Israel's racial terrorism;

The Secretary-General must immediately provide protection for the Palestinian people. The international community must, without any delays, hold Israel and Israeli officials accountable for their crimes.

Empty condemnations and expressions of concerns will not protect the Palestinian people from Israel's racial terrorism. The United Nations and Secretary-General have a duty to immediately act to provide protection for the Palestinian people. The international community must, without any delay, hold Israeli officials and terrorist settlers accountable for their crimes.



State Of The Nation Address By President Akufo-Addo

from previous issue

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 working with our partners in the Region to strengthen regional co-operation in the fight against the terrorist menace in West Africa, hence our commitment to the Accra Initiative. Mr Speaker, our decision to prioritise tourism, as a key policy for economic diversification, job creation and growth, is clearly paying off. The World Economic Forum Report 2021 Travel Index ranks Ghana as the number one tourism destination in West Africa. The potential contribution of tourism and the arts to GDP is, therefore, one that we must nurture and emphasise. Both domestic and international tourism are rebounding significantly from the severely disruptive impact of COVID on the travel and tour industry. International arrivals nearly trebled last year, from a low of three hundred and fifty-five thousand, one hundred and eight (355,108)

in 2020, to over nine hundred and fifteen thousand (915,000). Domestic visits to tourist sites are also up by over 55.7% during the period. All these have been made possible by deliberate marketing initiatives and upgrades of tourist infrastructure by the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture and its Agency, the Ghana Tourism Authority. "Beyond The Return" initiative, which I launched in 2019 as a sequel to the Year of Return, has re-ignited excitement about Ghana as the hub and a Mecca for the Global pan-African, a home every person of African descent must visit at least once in their lifetime. A few days ago, at a historic ceremony in Washington DC, we conferred Ghanaian citizenship on Mother Viola Fletcher (108 years) and her brother Uncle Red (102 years), two of the only three living survivors of the Tulsa Massacre of 1921. In May this year, I will be chairing a Tourism Stakeholder Retreat on "Rethinking Tourism for National Development & Job Creation". I have tasked the Ministry and its Agency, the Ghana Tourism Authority, to work on the modalities to bring together all the stakeholders within the industry. Over the next couple of years, my government will deepen even further our efforts to make tourism a strong primary source of growth for the economy. Mr Speaker, Monday was 6th March, our Independence Day, and this year we had the main celebrations in the Volta Region.



I made the decision to rotate the Independence Day anniversary celebrations in order to enhance the cohesion and unity of our nation, and to make it clear to all segments of our population that we are all part of the "One Ghana Project". I am glad to inform the House that it was a happy and grand event, set against the breathtakingly beautiful background of the Adaklu mountains. Mr. Speaker, sixty-six (66) years since our independence, Ghana has taken steady strides to becoming a more developed country. The Ghana of 1957 is not the Ghana of 2023. We have come a long way since the days of our six million population, with very few modern amenities for its people, to today's population of thirty-two million, with a growing stock of modern infrastructure, spanning drones to supply our medicines, to the Ghanacard which identifies each of us as proudly Ghanaian. As President, I have championed the

innovation of policies and the execution of projects that have helped improve the quality of life of the Ghanaian people. And, God willing, I will continue on a path that brings the most benefit to the people of Ghana. Things may be dire today, nonetheless, we must count our blessings. Our petrol stations have fuel, and we have been spared long, winding queues to fuel our vehicles. Our markets and shops are, by the Grace of God, well-stocked, and we have not been faced with the prospect of the rationing of basic necessities such as fruits and vegetables. Our children's schooling has not been interrupted. We have continued to provide Free SHS, Free TVET and pay teacher and nursing training allowances. Our electricity supply has been consistent, and we have been spared the hardship of **Dumsor** during such a trying time. Our country continues to be stable and at peace. Throughout history, there are many instances of nations going through periods where dark clouds

create shadows that momentarily shield the yearned-for vision from sight. Such moments should not be ones in which despair takes over. Such moments call for strength of character, sense of purpose and an abiding commitment to the general good. Fellow Ghanaians, let us believe in ourselves, and in our capacity to overcome the problems that are before us. This is a phase, and, with every fibre of my being, I am certain that this too shall pass. We have done it before, and we will do it again. May God bless us all, and our homeland Ghana, and make her great and strong. Mr. Speaker, I thank you for your attention.

U.S. Hegemony And Its Perils

from page 7

Monopoly and Suppression

The United States seeks to deter other countries' scientific, technological and economic development by wielding monopoly power, suppression measures and technology restrictions in high-tech fields.

The United States monopolizes intellectual property in the name of protection. Taking advantage of the weak position of other countries, especially developing ones, on intellectual property rights and the institutional vacancy in relevant fields, the United States reaps excessive profits through monopoly. In 1994, the United States pushed forward the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), forcing the Americanized process and standards in intellectual property protection in an attempt to solidify its monopoly on technology. In the 1980s, to contain the development of Japan's semiconductor industry, the United States launched the "301" investigation, built bargaining power in bilateral negotiations through multilateral agreements, threatened to label Japan as conducting unfair trade, and imposed retaliatory tariffs, forcing Japan to sign the U.S.-Japan Semiconductor Agreement. As a result, Japanese semiconductor enterprises were almost completely driven out of global competition, and their market share dropped from 50 percent to 10 percent. Meanwhile, with the support of the U.S. government, a large number of U.S. semiconductor enterprises took the opportunity and grabbed larger market share.

The United States politicizes, weaponizes technological issues and uses them as ideological tools. Overstretching the concept of national security, the United States mobilized state power to suppress and sanction Chinese company Huawei, restricted the entry of Huawei products into the U.S. market,

cut off its supply of chips and operating systems, and coerced other countries to ban Huawei from undertaking local 5G network construction. It even talked Canada into unwarrantedly detaining Huawei's CFO Meng Wanzhou for nearly three years.

The United States has fabricated a slew of excuses to clamp down on China's high-tech enterprises with global competitiveness, and has put more than 1,000 Chinese enterprises on sanction lists. In addition, the United States has also imposed controls on biotechnology, artificial intelligence and other high-end technologies, reinforced export restrictions, tightened investment screening, suppressed Chinese social media apps such as TikTok and WeChat, and lobbied the Netherlands and Japan to restrict exports of chips and related equipment or technology to China.

The United States has also practiced double standards in its policy on China-related technological professionals. To sideline and suppress Chinese researchers, since June 2018, visa validity has been shortened for Chinese students majoring in certain high-tech-related disciplines, repeated cases have occurred where Chinese scholars and students going to the United States for exchange programs and study were unjustifiably denied and harassed, and large-scale investigation on Chinese scholars working in the United States was carried out.

The United States solidifies its technological monopoly in the name of protecting democracy. By building small blocs on technology such as the "chips alliance" and "clean network," the United States has put "democracy" and "human rights" labels on high-technology, and turned technological issues into political and ideological issues, so as to fabricate excuses for its technological blockade against other countries. In May 2019, the United States enlisted 32 countries to the Prague 5G Security Conference in the Czech Republic and issued the Prague Proposal in an attempt to exclude China's 5G products. In April 2020, then U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced the "5G clean path," a plan designed to build technological alliance in the 5G field with partners

bonded by their shared ideology on democracy and the need to protect "cyber security." The measures, in essence, are the U.S. attempts to maintain its technological hegemony through technological alliances. The United States abuses its technological hegemony by carrying out cyber-attacks and eavesdropping. The United States has long been notorious as an "empire of hackers," blamed for its rampant acts of cyber theft around the world. It has all kinds of means to enforce pervasive cyber-attacks and surveillance, including using analog base station signals to access mobile phones for data theft, manipulating mobile apps, infiltrating cloud servers, and stealing through undersea cables. The list goes on.

U.S. surveillance is indiscriminate. All can be targets of its surveillance, be they rivals or allies, even leaders of allied countries such as former German Chancellor Angela Merkel and several French Presidents. Cyber surveillance and attacks launched by the United States such as "Prism," "Dirtbox," "Irritant Horn" and "Telescreen Operation" are all proof that the United States is closely monitoring its allies and partners. Such eavesdropping on allies and partners has already caused worldwide outrage. Julian Assange, the founder of Wikileaks, a website that has exposed U.S. surveillance programs, said that "do not expect a global surveillance superpower to act with honour or respect. There is only one rule: there are no rules."

Cultural Hegemony -- Spreading False Narratives
The global expansion of American culture is an important part of its external strategy. The United States has often used cultural tools to strengthen and maintain its hegemony in the world. The United States embeds American values in its products such as movies. American values and lifestyle are a tied product to its movies and TV shows, publications, media content, and programs by the government-funded non-profit cultural institutions. It thus shapes a cultural and public opinion space in which American culture reigns and maintains cultural hegemony. In his article The Americanization of the World, John Yemma, an American scholar, exposed the

real weapons in U.S. cultural expansion: the Hollywood, the image design factories on Madison Avenue and the production lines of Mattel Company and Coca-Cola. There are various vehicles the United States uses to keep its cultural hegemony. American movies are the most used; they now occupy more than 70 percent of the world's market share. The United States skilfully exploits its cultural diversity to appeal to various ethnicities. When Hollywood movies descend on the world, they scream the American values tied to them. American cultural hegemony not only shows itself in "direct intervention," but also in "media infiltration" and as "a trumpet for the world." U.S.-dominated Western media has a particularly important role in shaping global public opinion in favour of U.S. meddling in the internal affairs of other countries.

The U.S. government strictly censors all social media companies and demands their obedience. Twitter CEO Elon Musk admitted on 27 December 2022 that all social media platforms work with the U.S. government to censor content, reported Fox Business Network. Public opinion in the United States is subject to government intervention to restrict all unfavourable remarks. Google often makes pages disappear.

U.S. Department of Defence manipulates social media. In December 2022, The Intercept, an independent U.S. investigative website, revealed that in July 2017, U.S. Central Command official Nathaniel Kahler instructed Twitter's public policy team to augment the presence of 52 Arabic-language accounts on a list he sent, six of which were to be given priority. One of the six was dedicated to justifying U.S. drone attacks in Yemen, such as by claiming that the attacks were precise and killed only terrorists, not civilians. Following Kahler's directive, Twitter put those Arabic-language accounts on a "white list" to amplify certain messages.

The United States practices double standards on the freedom of the press. It brutally suppresses and silences media of other countries by various means. The United States and Europe bar mainstream Russian media such as Russia Today and the Sputnik from their

countries. Platforms such as Twitter, Facebook and YouTube openly restrict official accounts of Russia. Netflix, Apple and Google have removed Russian channels and applications from their services and app stores. Unprecedented draconian censorship is imposed on Russia-related contents. The United States abuses its cultural hegemony to instigate "peaceful evolution" in socialist countries. It sets up news media and cultural outfits targeting socialist countries. It pours staggering amounts of public funds into radio and TV networks to support their ideological infiltration, and these mouthpieces bombard socialist countries in dozens of languages with inflammatory propaganda day and night. The United States uses misinformation as a spear to attack other countries, and has built an industrial chain around it: there are groups and individuals making up stories, and peddling them worldwide to mislead public opinion with the support of nearly limitless financial resources.

Conclusion

While a just cause wins its champion wide support, an unjust one condemns its pursuer to be an outcast. The hegemonic, domineering, and bullying practices of using strength to intimidate the weak, taking from others by force and subterfuge, and playing zero-sum games are exerting grave harm. The historical trends of peace, development, cooperation, and mutual benefit are unstoppable. The United States has been overriding truth with its power and trampling justice to serve self-interest. These unilateral, egoistic and regressive hegemonic practices have drawn growing, intense criticism and opposition from the international community.

Countries need to respect each other and treat each other as equals. Big countries should behave in a manner befitting their status and take the lead in pursuing a new model of state-to-state relations featuring dialogue and partnership, not confrontation or alliance. China opposes all forms of hegemonism and power politics, and rejects interference in other countries' internal affairs. The United States must conduct serious soul-searching. It must critically examine what it has done, let go of its arrogance and prejudice, and quit its hegemonic, domineering and bullying practices.