

# NUCLEAR ENERGY

## 62 Years Of Ghana's Failed Atomic Dream



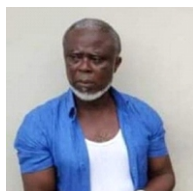
**Matthew Opoku Prempeh, Minister of Energy**

Since Ghana gained independence in 1957, the issue of further development and strengthening of Ghanaian statehood has arisen, which is impossible without building a

strong economic system based on a developed industrial complex. The choice of which industry to develop was predetermined – the nature generously strewed the Ghanaian land with bauxite

deposits – the raw materials for the production of aluminum. But for the industrial production and the development of the aluminium industry, a large amount of cheap

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Dr. Mac-Palm was undergoing trial before his reported death

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### **“It's Not My Signature” - Court Clerk Refutes Claim In Case of McDan v Yehans Int.**

A High Court Clerk, Mr Atta Mensah who is a prosecution witness in the ongoing trial between MCDan vrs Yehans international has denied claims that he signed any document to tender as evidence in the ongoing land dispute between MCDan group and Yehans international Ltd.

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**Eckankar  
President  
Pays Courtesy  
Call On Ga Mantse**



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# The INSIGHT

## EDITORIAL

### HANDS OFF OUR FORESTS!

**T**he continued degradation of the country's lands, forests and ecosystem is very worrying.

This is in spite of warning from environmentalists about the dangers associated with continued deterioration of the country's natural reserve due to exploitation of natural resources.

Only recently, some group of professors renewed the warning to government about the exploitation of the Atiwa forests of its bauxite.

The warning was as a result of the fact that most river bodies generate their source of water from the Atiwa Forest reserve.

That warning has not been heeded and there are clear indications that the Chinese engineers will soon enter the forest.

There are also some forests which are facing similar such threats.

The World Bank recently cautioned Ghana against the continuous wanton degradation of its land, forest and other natural resources warning that the country risked not achieving the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15, which is protecting the ecosystem to promote biodiversity.

It is the hope of this paper that somebody somewhere would see wisdom in taking steps to stop the land degradation and reverse the trend by embarking on reforestation to win back degraded lands and forests.

There is clearly the need, in the face of the facts presented, for the government to hands off the Atiwa forest and other natural resource.

## "It's Not My Signature" - Court Clerk Refutes Claim In Case of McDan v Yehans Int.

from front page

A parcel of land at Manet belonging to Yehans international was sold to MCDan group in 2015, which rightful ownership was contested by Yehans international and was ruled in favor of the latter, Yehans international.

Appearing in court yesterday to testify as prosecution witness, Mr Atta Mensah said "My lord, this is not my signature".

He also revealed that as at the time the documents was signed somewhere in 2017, he was not working with lands court anymore.

Lawyers of the plaintiffs in court requested Mr Atta Mensah to present three copies of his signature for forensic experts to examine.

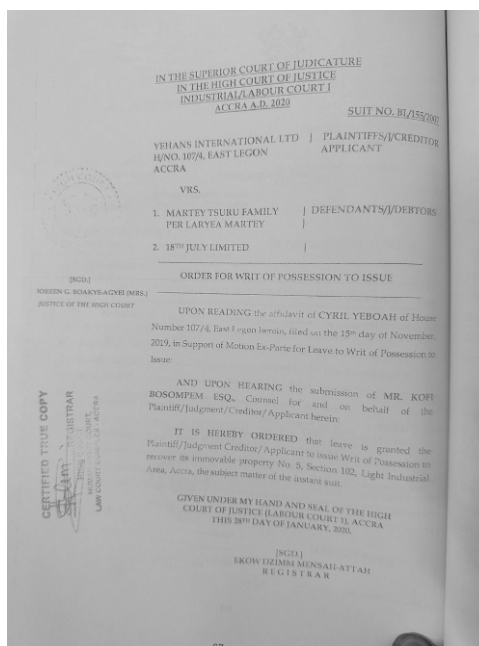
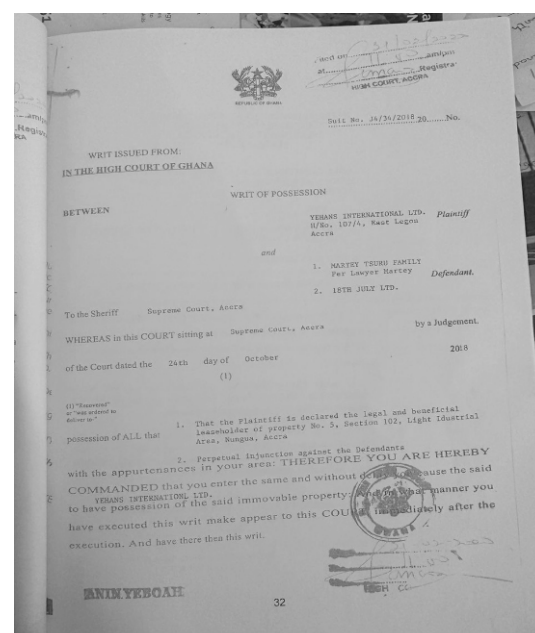
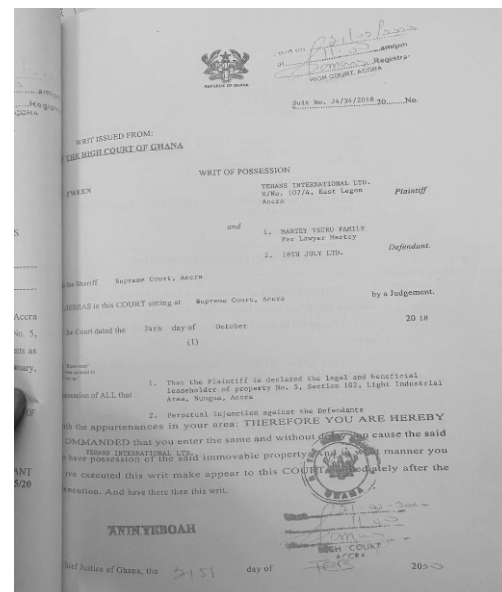
The high court presided over by his lordship .... adjourned the case to 2nd May 2023 to allow the surveyors present their report.

Background

The Supreme Court on 24th October 2018 ruled that the plaintiff (Yehans international Ltd) is declared the Lease and beneficial lease holder of the property No.5, section 102, light industrial area Nungua, Accra.

2. Perpetual injunction against the defendants with the appurtenances in your area; therefore you are hereby commanded that you enter the same without delay you cause the said Yehans international limited to have possession on the said immovable property: and what manner you have executed this writ make appearance to this court immediately the execution and have there then the writ.

Execution and possession of the property took place in 2020.



## THE INSIGHT

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# NUCLEAR ENERGY

## 62 Years Of Ghana's Failed Atomic Dream

*from front page*

electricity was required.

The government went in two ways:

- the first was to construct hydropower stations (a well-known Akosombo Dam project);
- the second was to develop ultra-modern at that time nuclear energy.

Thus, on February 28<sup>th</sup>, 1961, in Moscow, the USSR and the Republic of Ghana signed an intergovernmental "Agreement for Cooperation in Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy".

The agreement stipulated that the USSR would provide technical assistance to the Republic of Ghana in the construction of a nuclear research reactor, an isotope laboratory, a workshop and other auxiliary facilities in accordance with the project as well as the training of Ghanaian national personnel for the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

In order to implement it, the relevant Soviet organizations were obliged within 1962-1965:

- to carry out the design work, supply fuel elements to start up the reactor, equipment and instruments as well as materials not available in Ghana, required to construct an "IRT-2000" nuclear reactor (thermal power up to 2000 kW), and one hot cell;
- to send Soviet specialists to Ghana for rendering technical assistance in selecting construction site, gathering basic data for designing, constructing the abovementioned reactor, assembling, adjusting and putting into operation equipment, supplied from the USSR, as well as to train Ghanaian specialists and supervise the operation of the reactor within one year after its start up;
- to assist in the foundation of the isotope laboratory with a

capacity of 300 Ci per year (for finished products), a mechanical workshop and auxiliary facilities, boiler and refrigeration units, an electrical substation, a radioactive waste disposal station and other facilities (a total of 23 facilities) by performing the designing work;

- to provide advisory and consulting assistance to Ghanaian research organizations in developing their programmes for research and experimental work in the field of peaceful uses of atomic energy;

- to provide technical assistance to Ghana in the establishment of a Nuclear Research Centre;
- to accept Ghanaian specialists on the peaceful use of nuclear energy for training (internship) in the USSR.

On October 27<sup>th</sup>, 1961, as a follow-up to this Agreement, a contract was signed in Accra between the "Technopromexport" and the Ghanaian side, which provided for the obligations of the parties to supply equipment for the nuclear centre, a business trip to Ghana of Soviet specialists, and the admission of Ghanaian specialists for training to the Soviet relevant institutes.

The secondment of specialists and the supply of equipment had to be provided in time by agreement of the competent organizations of the parties.

The construction of the Nuclear Research Centre, as well as installation and commissioning works were carried out under the technical supervision of the Soviet specialists.

It is worth mentioning that, unlike the Akosombo Dam project, which actually pushed Ghana into the stranglehold of neocolonialism (Ghana's government was compelled, by contract, to pay for over 50% of the cost of Akosombo's construction, but the

country was allowed only 20% of the power generated, the remaining 80% was generated for VALCO, owned by the American Kaiser Aluminum company) the Soviet Union did not pursue the goal of extracting super profits at the expense of the Ghanaian side.

On the contrary, the cost of the works provided under the Agreement was defined on the terms of the Soviet-Ghana Trade Agreement, which granted "the most-favoured nation treatment in respect of all matters related to trade between the two countries".

So, on December 27<sup>th</sup>, 1965, a bilateral Protocol was signed in Moscow

on the completion of the main supplies of equipment for the Nuclear Research Centre and on the fulfillment of the Contract's obligations by the Soviet side.

It is important to say, that during constructing nuclear centres in developing countries, the Soviet Union paid serious attention to protecting the environment and establishing reliable control over the radiation situation around them. That is why in April 1965 a radioactive fallout tracking station was commissioned in Ghana.

Soviet scientists assisted Ghanaian specialists and advised them during the construction, installation and commissioning of equipment, provided technical assistance during the construction of a radioactive fallout monitoring station, supervised compliance with the requirements of the Nuclear Research Centre project.

In 1965, a prominent Soviet atomic scientist Mr. Daniil Simonenko came to Ghana to lecture at the Legon University for the local atomic researchers. By that time, all the parts of the fully functional reactor were



**Matthew Opoku Prempeh, Minister of Energy**

transported to Accra ready to be assembled and launched. But unfortunately, the Ghanaian dream for a better future failed to come true. Due to overthrow of Kwame Nkrumah, the first President of independent Ghana, in 1966 the construction of the Nuclear Centre was frozen and postponed.

Only after almost 11 years, in 1976, the Government of Ghana appealed to the USSR to complete the construction of the Centre.

Considering that quite a long time has passed since the delivery of the reactor and the building of auxiliary facilities, the Ghana Atomic Energy Commission has raised the issue of upgrading the reactor with an increase in its capacity to 5000 kW. The Soviet leadership decided to conduct a full-fledged audit of the equipment, as well as the previously constructed buildings and premises, and to resume work on the finishing of the Ghana Nuclear Research Centre with a modernized research reactor in the second phase.

However, in 1979 due to accumulated social tension over the difficult economic situation in the country, which resulted in the series of military coups, and the subsequent reorientation of the new Ghanaian leadership to internal problems, the cooperation in the nuclear field was mothballed once again for a very long time. Only in 2015, during the second session of the Ghana-Russia

Permanent Joint Commission for Cooperation (PJCC) the two countries returned to this vital issue and struck another intergovernmental agreement on cooperation in the field of the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes. The document stipulates the elaboration of the Project Development Agreement, which is aimed at the construction of a Nuclear Power Plant and the Centre for Nuclear Science and Technology in Ghana. Its realization was entrusted to the Joint Coordination Committee. In August 2022, a delegation of the Russian State Atomic Energy Corporation Rosatom came to Ghana with a working visit and made a presentation of an ultra-modern nuclear technology no one else has at the world market: small modular reactors (SMRs) and floating nuclear power plants (FNPP). Both sides agreed to establish a Joint Working Group to coordinate and exchange information regarding Russian modern technological solutions that would perfectly fit Ghana's strategic plans to move to cleaner energy.

Would Ghana use this chance to make its dream come true and obtain "the electricity independence" or not is entirely up to the Government. But as the history shows delays may be expensive.



# INTERNATIONAL NEWS REPORT

## Compiled By Peoples Dispatch

### Resistance To Pension Reform In France Intensifies



Trade unions and left groups in France have escalated protests against the unpopular pension reforms which were passed recently by the government

**M**assive mobilizations last Thursday rocked France as workers gave an ultimatum to French President Emmanuel Macron demanding that his government withdraws the pension reform that was passed without a vote in parliament.

According to estimates by unions, a total of around 3.5 million people hit the streets in more

than 250 locations across France on Thursday.

Workers continued work stoppages in critical areas including energy, transportation, railways, seaports, airports, industries, school, colleges and universities, municipal services including waste management, and tightened blockades of major roads, bridges and roundabouts in major cities. Sporadic clashes with security forces were reported in several areas along with arrests of protesters.

On March 22 in a TV interview, Macron reiterated his plan to implement the pension reform by the end of the year and did not show any willingness to cede to the demands put forth

by the platform of trade unions and left-wing parties to roll back the reform, or to conduct a national referendum on its implementation. The unpopular reform, announced on January 10, called to increase the retirement age in the country from 62 to 64 and made 43 years of service mandatory to avail full pensions and benefits. Heavy deployment of security forces continued in cities under the order of Macron to remove blockades.

On March 16, Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne invoked the emergency provision Article 49.3 of the constitution to bypass voting in the National Assembly, and passed the "law

amending financing of Social Security for 2023," instituting the controversial pension reform proposed on January 10. The move triggered spontaneous protest across the country. Protests intensified when the government survived a vote of no-confidence on March 20, tabled by opposition groups in the National Assembly. The motion failed after falling short of just nine votes.

Trade unionists affiliated to General Confederation of Labor (CGT) and others raised banners protesting the reform at the summit of Canigou at Pyrenees in Southern France, and CNRS divers from Roscoff mounted the CGT flag on the

seabed to protest the reform.

On Thursday, Fabien Roussel MP, leader of the French Communist Party (PCF), said, "Macron is betting on violence, chaos in the country" while his "government is hanging by a thread. In a few days, we went from the debate on pensions to police violence." He has also called to expand the mobilization, to bring the country to a standstill and hit the economy hard. Roussel urged "the creation of a union between the left and the trade union organizations to work hand in hand."

Trade unions and left movements from Greece, Belgium, Luxembourg, Italy, and elsewhere expressed support and solidarity towards the French protests.

### Indian Opposition Leader Rahul Gandhi Expelled From Parliament After Defamation Conviction

**R**ahul Gandhi, a key leader of India's main opposition party, the Indian National Congress (INC), has been disqualified from the Lok Sabha, or the Lower House of parliament. The notice was issued a day after he was convicted in a criminal defamation case by a District Court in Surat in the State of Gujarat. Gandhi was subsequently sentenced to two years in prison, in a ruling that has been termed unprecedented and "bizarre." The 52-year-old leader, who was elected from the constituency of Wayanad in Kerala, now stands at the risk of being unable to contest in India's general elections scheduled for 2024.

The case against Gandhi was based on a complaint filed by a state legislator from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ruling, far-right Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) following remarks made by the Congress leader in the run up to the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

"One small question, how are the

names of all these thieves 'Modi, Modi, Modi'... Nirav Modi, Lalit Modi, Narendra Modi, and if you search a little more, many more Modis will emerge" Gandhi had said during a campaign speech, referring to two fugitive Indian businessmen who have been separately charged with multiple crimes including money laundering, and the Prime Minister, respectively.

In his subsequent complaint against Gandhi, BJP member and former Gujarat State minister, Purnesh Modi claimed that the Congress leader's statement had defamed all persons with the 'Modi' surname.

After the Court announced its decision on Thursday, it granted Gandhi bail and additionally suspended the jail sentence for 30 days to allow him to appeal the ruling in a higher court.

Meanwhile, in its notification on Friday, the Lok Sabha stated that

Gandhi's disqualification had come into effect from the day of his conviction, that is March 23. The notification was issued hours after Gandhi was already in Parliament on Friday.

Gandhi's expulsion is based on the provisions of Article 102(1) (e) read together with Section 8 of India's Representation of the People Act of 1951, under which any person who is "convicted of any offense and sentenced to imprisonment for not less than two years shall be disqualified for a further period of six years" after their release.

In order for Gandhi to evade these penalties, a higher court will, upon appeal, either be required to issue a stay on *both* the conviction and the sentence, or rule in favor of Gandhi altogether. If this fails, Gandhi will be effectively barred from contesting elections for eight years. He is also facing other cases of

defamation and a case of money laundering.

The Congress party has announced plans to hold more protests following some actions on Friday, accusing the Modi government of "killing democracy." The case has also drawn condemnation from other sections of the political spectrum.

"It's condemnable that the BJP is now using the criminal defamation route to target opposition leaders and disqualify them as done with Rahul Gandhi now," Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader and former MP, Sitaram Yechury said. India's criminal defamation law is a relic of British colonial rule, and there has been a sustained demand for its abolition, especially given the deployment of the law by the powerful to stifle dissent. Yechury added, "This comes on top of the gross misuse of ED

[Enforcement Directorate, an organization under the finance ministry tasked with investigating cases of money laundering and violations foreign exchange laws]/ CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] against the opposition. Resist and defeat such authoritarian assaults."

The Modi government has been accused of selectively using the arms and institutions of the Indian state to persecute critical voices in the press, civil society, and rival political parties.

In February, officials from the Income Tax department conducted a days-long "survey" at the offices of the *BBC*. The operation was widely condemned as a form of retaliation against the broadcaster's airing of a two-part documentary on the 2002 anti-Muslim pogrom in Gujarat when Modi was the Chief Minister.



# Eckankar President Pays Courtesy Call On Ga Mantse ... Seeks Permission Ahead Of International Spiritual Workshop



In the early hours of Friday 24th March 2023, the leadership of Faith based society ECKANKAR Ghana, paid a courtesy call on the Ga Manste, Nii Tackie Teiko Tsuru II, to officially invite him to the 2023 edition of their Annual Seminar tagged ECK AFRICAN SOUL ADVENTURE SEMINAR.

The year's edition of the ECK AFRICAN SOUL ADVENTURE SEMINAR is scheduled to take place at the Temple of ECK Ghana at

Okponglo East Legon, located next to the Erata Hotel from the 25th to 27th of August 2023. Again, the seminar which will feature a lot of workshops for beginners, new members, and fellow ECKANKAR members is free and open to the general public. The three-day Seminar on the theme “Your Life Is A Spiritual Adventure” seeks among other things, to offer spiritual empowerment, highlighting

experience workshops, spiritual discussion, and other activities for greater spiritual growth. In an interaction with the media, the President of ECKANKAR Ghana, Mr. Aspect Caiquo, said ECKANKAR represents the true path of spiritual freedom.

“We cannot do anything on Ga Land without informing the owners about our intentions. We are here today to inform His Royal Majesty what will be happening on his land. We have invited a lot of prominent spiritual speakers across the globe and we are expecting thousands of people within that week”, he announced.

He further mentioned that this seminar will throw more light on the teachings of ECKANKAR and help individuals discover their true spiritual purpose in life.

He noted that according to the teachings of ECKANKAR, “You are a soul. You are a child of God and your survival destiny is to become a Co-worker with God to spread divine love to all those around you.

ECKANKAR has a living master who

ensures the purity of the teachings.

He acts as both an outer and an inner teacher.”

Mr. Aspect Caiquo also used the opportunity to present an undisclosed amount of cash to Ga Mantse as well as other items which included Water and Soft Drinks.

In his words of appreciation, Nii Tackie Teiko Tsuru II commended the team for paying homage and officially inviting him to this year's ECK Seminar. He assured the team of his full support during this year's seminar.

“We have heard about you, 'ECKANKAR but we don't really know what you do; it is good that you have come officially to introduce yourself today. I urge that you get a convenient time to come over again to educate us more on what happens within your organization. You have my full support in your upcoming event. As you have invited me, I will come and support the event,” he said.

## BACKGROUND

ECKANKAR is ancient wisdom for today. Its teachings, which resurfaced in 1965, emphasize the value of personal experiences as the most

natural way back to God.

Whatever your religious background, they show how to look and listen within yourself to expand your consciousness and enjoy spiritual connectedness.

See for yourself—perhaps for the first time—how to live a happy, balanced, productive life and put daily concerns into loving perspective.

ECKANKAR has a few basic beliefs.

Simple spiritual exercises are taught that lead to the experience of the Light and Sound of God.

As we practice the spiritual exercises, we learn to recognize the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

We learn that each of us is Soul, a spark of God sent to this world to gain spiritual experience.

ECKANKAR studies dreams as a source of inner truth, learning how working with our dreams from a spiritual perspective can help us handle daily challenges and learn from them.

The Spiritual Leader of ECKANKAR is Harold Klemp, the Mahanta, the Living ECK Master.

## FHUC Officially Launches Family Health Medical School Endowment Fund

In order to make Medical Education accessible to all, Family Health University College has officially launched Family Health Medical School Endowment Fund. The Fund would cater for the needy but brilliant Ghanaian students, who have the passion of becoming medical doctors in future, but cannot afford the cost. The theme for the launch is, “Empowering the Needy for 21st Century Medical Education ”.

Medical education is expensive, such that, it can only be afforded by the few rich in the society, whilst a great number of persons with the passion for the profession, are unable to access it due to financial constraints. The main objective of the Fund is to provide financial support to needy, but brilliant students who have the desire to be trained as Medical Doctors.

In a welcome address, the Founder and President of Family Health University College, Prof. Yao Kwawukume commended past students of the institution who are doing well in serving in cities and rural areas across the country. He said, reports received so far point

to the fact that, people in the cities and rural areas where Family Health Medical School Doctors are working, appreciate their contributions a lot. Prof. Kwawukume further expressed his appreciation to the Governing Council and Board of Trustees, for the effort made in establishing the Endowment Fund to ensure that the less privileged in society are not left behind, as far as medical education are concerned.

He however, appealed to the general public to contribute towards the Fund in order to give hope to the needy but brilliant students. In an interview, the Chairman, Board of Trustees, Naa (Dr.) Alhassan Andani, disclosed that, for a unique institution like Family Health University College, of which vision is “to be a prime center for the education and training of health professionals, for the advancement of human health”, it is important that an Endowment Fund is established to provide scholarship to the needy but brilliant students, towards the realization of their dreams of becoming medical doctors. He added that, besides the provision of scholarship to needy but brilliant

students, part of the Fund would be used to organize research, and lecture series, and also to acquire teaching and learning aids to ensure that institution provides the best of medical education within the sub-Saharan region and beyond.

The benefits to be derived from the Endowment Fund, according to Naa Andani, are huge, and that is what the society pays for good medical education. He therefore, entreated both individuals and corporate bodies to contribute generously towards Family Health Medical School Endowment Fund.

A past student of the institution, who went through her medical training by the benevolent support of a philanthropist, encouraged the general public to contribute towards Family Health Medical School Endowment Fund to benefit other less privileged in society, as far as medical education is concerned.

The Board of Trustees members for the Endowment Fund include; Naa (Dr.) Alhassan Andani – Chairman (Former

Chief Executive, Stanbic Bank); Dr. Peter Kwame Yeboah – Member (Executive Director, CHAG); Rear Admiral Geoffrey Mawuli Biekro (Rtd) – Member (Former Chief of Naval Staff); Mrs. Merene Botsio Benyah – Member (Ghana's Ambassador to Italy/Legal Practitioner/Consultant); Mr. Barton Kwaku Glymin – Member (Former Head of MIS, Operations; and Investment & Development (SSNIT); and Rev. (Dr.) Joyce Aryee – Member (Executive Director: Salt & Light Ministries). Ms. Adjoa Adubea Koram (Assistant Registrar, FHMS) is the Secretary to the Board.

Family Health University College started in a garage at 51 Guggisberg Street, Korle Bu in 1997 as a Diagnostic Centre, and was later moved into a rented premise at Zoti Road as Family Health Hospital.

In 2007, it was relocated to its permanent site at Teshie, overlooking the Atlantic Ocean and directly opposite the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre. The Family Health Medical School is affiliated to the University of Ghana, and accredited by both the Medical and Dental Council of Ghana (MDC), and the



Ghana Tertiary Education Commission (GTEC).

The Medical School offers a six-year Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MB ChB) programme for SSCE and 'A' Level candidates, and a four and a half-year Bachelor of Surgery (MB ChB) Graduate Entry Medical Programme (GEMP) for first degree holders in science-related disciplines. Family Health Medical School has recently been approved by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduate (ECFMG), making its students and graduates eligible to apply for ECFMG Certification and United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE).



# Two Decades Of US Criminal Invasion In Iraq And Its Aftermath

By Abdul Rahman

The US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003, which completed two decades on March 20, represents the starkest example of the grave consequences of unilateral military intervention in another country. The invasion and the chaos unleashed in its aftermath not only caused large-scale death (over one million Iraqis by some estimates) and destruction, but also led to the creation of a highly unpopular ruling establishment.

It is now widely believed that control over the country's natural oil and gas reserves was the real objective behind the US' unilateral move in Iraq. However, the US administration of George Bush, under which the invasion took place, made every effort to portray it as a necessary step for global security and the promotion of democracy. The results were disastrous for Iraqis. A war of resistance was followed by sectarian conflicts, which ultimately culminated in the rise of Islamic State or ISIS. The invasion of Iraq resulted in a never-ending series of violent events that are still continuing today. Amidst this prolonged chaos, the day-to-day problems of around 40 million Iraqis—poverty, unemployment, health, and others such concerns—have not been addressed.

## Real objectives of the war

The US-led invasion was based

on a completely baseless claim of Iraq posing a threat to global security with its stocks of hidden “weapons of mass destruction.” This assertion was made on the basis of the military and economic might of the US and its hegemonic control over the means of propaganda. Despite the United Nations not agreeing with the US push for a military intervention, it decided to act unilaterally, coercing its Western allies to join the war that was deemed necessary for promoting their notions of “democracy” and dealing with the growing menace of “global terrorism.”

In actual terms, the war was meant to establish US hegemony over resources, namely Iraqi oil. The claims of ensuring global security were busted when US forces could not find any hidden weapons of mass destruction, even after completely occupying the country. Revelations about Abu Ghraib and later exposés by WikiLeaks showed the real face of the mission to 'restore democracy and human rights' in Iraq. Wikileaks exposed the use of torture as a means to extract information in Guantanamo Bay and elsewhere, the extrajudicial killings of innocent civilians, and the billions of dollars in windfall gains made by the US military-industrial complex from the war.

In the initial years of its occupation, while devising a new system of governance in Iraq, the US supported, generally against the

popular will, leaders considered to be sympathetic to its interests in the country and in the region. This gave birth to a political elite without any popular roots, and intensified sectarian divisions and conflicts within the country. In an ironic and unintended consequence, the US bungling led to the emergence of Iran as a key player in Iraqi politics. At the same time, the continued violence provided a perfect opportunity for the US and its allies to reinforce their military presence in Iraq, after withdrawing them for a brief period.

## Implications for common Iraqis

Apart from the fact that the US-led invasion in 2003 and the spiral of wars and violent conflict that ensued caused the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Iraqis and displaced over nine million people, it also caused larger, long-term structural problems affecting the entire population.

Iraq is a rich country in terms of natural resources and was one of the largest producers and exporters of oil before sanctions crippled its economy in 1991-92. Even after two decades of the invasion and the lifting of those crippling sanctions, as per the official data, millions of Iraqis—almost a quarter of the population—today live below the poverty line. This rate is rising despite a growth in national



(Photo: Technical Sergeant John L. Houghton, Jr., United States Air Force, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons). Since the invasion of their country in 2003, Iraqis have not seen respite from its implications, with occupation, sectarian violence, fanaticism, and corrupt and inefficient governments—sustained by persistent imperialist interventions—marking the last two decades

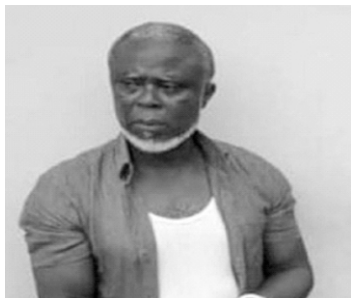
income in recent times.

Unemployment, particularly among educated youth, is one of the major concerns.

The so-called democracy visualized in the 2005 constitution created under the occupation has not taken root. The US attempts to plant and nurture rootless politicians who had lived in exile for generations and were ready to serve its interest without question, such as Nouri al-Maliki, who remained prime minister for almost a decade and still enjoys power, is considered as one of the primary reasons for this fiasco. Maliki is widely considered to be one of the leaders who pushed a sectarian agenda while in power. In the popular perception, corrupt

and inefficient leadership thrives in Iraq primarily due to the Muhassasa system introduced under the occupation forces as a tool for sectarian representation and power sharing. For Iraqis, half of whom were born after the war, the sectarian quota provides the basis for clientelism and nepotism. The Tishreen movement of 2019-21 represents this generational shift in Iraqi society, with an almost complete rejection of the existing political elite, considered puppets of the US and other international and regional players. The people's apathy towards the current political system was also witnessed in their refusal to participate in the last national elections held in October 2021.

# Main Suspect In Coup Plot Against Akufo-Addo, Dr. Mac-Palm Is Dead



Dr. Mac-Palm was undergoing trial before his reported death

The leading suspect in a treason case in the country, Dr. Frederick Mac-Palm - who has been accused of trying to stage a coup against President Akufo-Addo, has reportedly died.

According to a citinewsroom.com report, even though details of his death are sketchy, he was said to have

collapsed in the late hours of Saturday, March 25, 2023.

He was confirmed dead upon arrival at the hospital, the report added.

## Background

Dr. Mac-Palm together with two others; Ezor Kafui and Bright Allan Debrah Ofori, was on Friday, September 20, 2019, picked up by a joint team from the Bureau of National Investigation (BNI) and the Criminal Investigative Department (CID) for plotting a coup against the presidency with the intent to destabilize the country.

The Minister of Information, Kojo Oppong Nkrumah, in a press release

revealed how state agencies detected and foiled a planned attack on the Jubilee House leading to the retrieval of several arms, explosive devices, and ammunition from Alajo and Bawaleshie in Accra and Dodowa respectfully.

Following the alleged coup attempt, the three accused persons were today, September 24 arraigned before the Kaneshie District Court and slapped with five charges.

Some of the charges they're faced with are conspiracy to commit crimes; to wit manufacturing of arms and ammunition without lawful authority, possessing explosives and firearms without lawful excuse, and manufacture of firearms without lawful authority.

But reacting to the charges after court proceedings, Dr. Mac-Palm while being escorted by the BNI to his vehicle shouted by pleading innocent to the charges levelled against him.

According to him, he knows the truth will definitely come out for him to be vindicated so he is not in any way bothered about the whole issue.

However, the Kaneshie District Court presided over by the magistrate, Rosemond Dodua Agyiri, has remanded the alleged coup plotters into BNI custody and ordered that family members and lawyers be allowed to visit the accused persons.

This follows after the prosecutor, ASP

Sylvester Asare asked the court to remand the three suspects into BNI custody to enable them to continue with investigations smoothly.

The request was objected to by the defence attorneys who argued that the State should have been ready to prosecute the case if any, due to the number of days the accused person has been with them.

But the magistrate granted the request by the prosecution and urged them to expedite their investigations.

The case has been adjourned to October 9, 2019. A fourth suspect only named as Sulley is currently on the run.

Source -- [www.ghanaweb.com](http://www.ghanaweb.com)



# Challenges Of A New African Ocean And Continent

By Owei Lakemfa

There are many advantages and challenges of Africa splitting into two separate continents with a new ocean between them. But do I have the right to peer into a future millions of years away? I think we really need to discuss that future as it may come earlier than humans think. For now, let us see how far we have gone with the AU Vision 2063. As we sleep, nature is ever awake, working. Even if we snore, it cannot be as loud as the rumbling Mount Nyiragongo volcano in the Democratic Republic of Congo, which this week is threatening to blow out as it did on 22 May, 2011. The tragic flood Freddy that is ripping through Malawi, Mozambique and Madagascar and which has claimed some 300 lives, is like a drop in the sea in comparison to the new ocean that nature is burrowing through the continent.

The East African Rift System (EARS), elongating from the Afar area of northern Ethiopia, splitting up countries like Kenya and Tanzania from parts of Africa, has been found to be separating at seven millimetres per year. The most obvious indication of the shifting tectonic plates, created a 35-mile-long rift in the Ethiopian desert in 2005. This was a most revolutionary and extraordinary occurrence, as the tectonic shift that normally takes hundreds of years, occurred in just a few days.

Geologists point at tell tales of rapid shifts in the bowels of the continent, such as the Victoria micro plate, the biggest of its kind on earth; tucked between each side of the rift, it has for two years now been rotating anti-clock

wise. There are also, several active volcanoes in the East African region, which are contributing to the breakup of the continent. These include the Ol Doinyo Lengai 'Mountain of God' in Tanzania that rises to an elevation of 9,442 feet and has one of the fastest flowing lava on earth.

There are the volcano clusters in Ethiopia, like the Aloo Dalapila and the Erta Ale volcano, 'the mountain that smokes', which has been erupting for over a century. There are only five known volcanoes with lava lakes in the world, and this is the most unique of them; it has two lava lakes, dating back from 1967.

Satellite measurements have also showed the slow birth of both a new ocean and a new continent in Africa. *Geophysical Research Letters*, the authoritative biweekly peer-reviewed geoscience journal published since 1974, said geologists have made two fundamental confirmations; a new ocean is being created in Africa, and the continent as we know it, will split into two.

***The challenges of having a new ocean in Africa, which would slice through the continent creating two distinct continents are quite enormous. It starts with the question; do we need a new ocean? If no, can we still prevent it? If yes, how do we prepare for it, including the huge lands that will be yielded to it, the people that would be displaced, countries recreated, merged or new ones that would be born?***

Christopher Moore of the University of Leeds in the United Kingdom, in employing satellite radar to monitor the volcanic activity, said: "This is the only place on Earth where you can study how continental rift

becomes an oceanic rift."

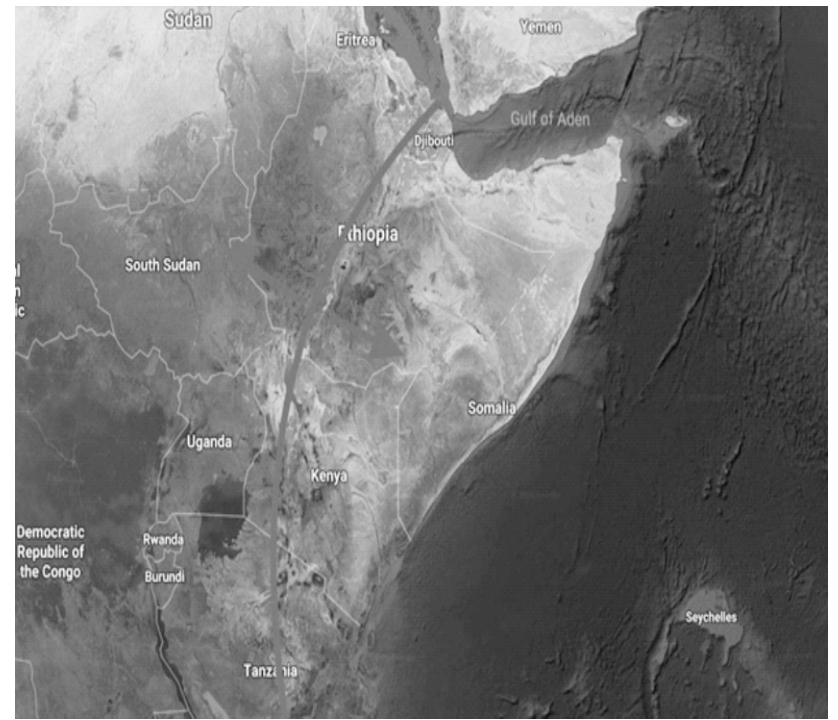
On Africa, he adds: "We can see that oceanic crust is starting to form, because it's distinctly different from continental crust in its composition and density."

Cynthia Ebinger, a geophysicist at Tulane University in New Orleans, who is studying the phenomenon revealed: "The hottest inhabited town on the Earth's surface is in the Afar. Daytime temperatures often go to 130 degrees Fahrenheit and they cool off to a balmy 95 degrees at night."

Ken Macdonald, a marine geophysicist and professor emeritus at the University of California, Santa Barbara, explains how the new ocean will get its waters: "The Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea will flood in over the Afar region and into the East African Rift Valley and become a new ocean, and that part of East Africa will become its own separate small continent."

The challenges of having a new ocean in Africa, which would slice through the continent creating two distinct continents are quite enormous. It starts with the question; do we need a new ocean? If no, can we still prevent it? If yes, how do we prepare for it, including the huge lands that will be yielded to it, the people that would be displaced, countries recreated, merged or new ones that would be born? Preparations for this future can start with tackling something as mundane as a name for the new ocean.

Africa is bounded in the north by the Mediterranean Sea, the west by the Atlantic Ocean, the east by the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean and in the south by the Atlantic and Indian Oceans. But none of



**Picture credit: Google Earth/Forbes. Obviously there are advantages, such as landlocked Zambia, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Malawi having their own coastlines.**

these bear its name.

The Indian Ocean was named after India, while the Atlantic Ocean which until the 19th Century was called the Ethiopian Ocean, was finally called Atlantikôî pelágei or the "Sea of Atlas", named after the Greek god, Atlas. So, since the African Union (AU) has not succeeded through diplomatic negotiations or the United Nations to properly rename either the Atlantic Ocean or Indian Ocean after Africa, maybe the new ocean that may arise in another five or ten million years will be named the African Ocean. But should we wait for so long? ***There are many advantages and challenges of Africa splitting into two separate continents with a new ocean between them. But do I have the right to peer into a future millions of years away? I think we really need to discuss that future as it may come earlier than humans think. For now, let us see how far we have gone with the AU Vision 2063.***

The earth, about 240 million years ago, was a single

supercontinent, known as Pangaea, before slowly splitting into seven continents. Now with mother Africa, which gave birth to the six other continents, pregnant again, an eighth continent will be born. The Arabian plate, in the last thirty million years, has been moving apart from mother Africa, leading to the creation of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden. Birth is usually welcome in Africa. In the case of a child, we tend to fix a special day for the naming ceremony during which we roll out the drums and celebrate. Can we do less if unto us a new continent is born? Should we be excited that our continent may become two? Obviously there are advantages, such as landlocked Zambia, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Malawi having their own coastlines. But the geologists say the smaller of the emergent continents comprising Somalia, Eritrea, Djibouti, the eastern parts of Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, and Mozambique where the valley ends, may drift away from the rest of the continent.



# MLGWUI SIGN MOU WITH DSIK TO TRAIN AND EMPOWER RETURNEES AND MIGRANTS

The Migrant Labour General Workers' Union International (MLGWUI) has signed a cooperation agreement Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the German Sparkassenstiftung for International Cooperation (DSIK) on the Project “Economic Inclusion of Returnees and Potential Migrants in Ghana and the Gambia”.

The General Secretary and Head of Education International Relations of the Migrant Labour General Workers' Union International (MLGWUI), Mr. Justice Baako Ntarmah in his acceptance speech said the 5 days training programme is to help restore hope in the lives or livelihood of returnees after many years of return to their diaspora without achieving their labour migration purposes. According to him, “the German Sparkassenstiftung for International Cooperation DSIK projects until its inception in Africa, for Business Training and Coaching Training with Financial Support for Economic Inclusion of African Migrants (Returnees) and Potential Migrants in Ghana and the Gambia, African Migrants especially, Return Migrants had NO Hope in our lives or livelihood after many of us had returned from diaspora to our homeland, Africa without achieving our labour migration purposes. In Fante I would say “Yabano Nsapan” or Boga Aye Loose”. But now over thousands of African Return Migrants (Returnees), including Migrant Workers and Migrant Entrepreneurs, Migrant Farmers and Migrant Students have Hope in our livelihood through Economic Inclusion of Returnees and Potential Migrants on the Business Training and Coaching Training Project being executed by DSIK”.

This initiative, he disclosed has brought encouraging stories among many of the African Migrants on number of initiatives and interventions of DSIK that has changed their lives. He said the Leadership of the MLGWUI is grateful and can boldly testify to the entire world that many African Migrants have benefited from number of initiatives and interventions being executed by the German Sparkassenstiftung for International Cooperation DSIK since the inception of the Project in Africa till now.

The MLGWUI hope to see DSIK getting more financial support to enable an extension of the project or enable Refugees and Immigrants who are also part of/and Members of Migrant Labour General Workers'

Union International (MLGWUI) to benefit from such educative projects. The Secretariat (offices) of MLGWUI as migrants labour or trade union receives complaints daily from Refugees and Immigrants about their exclusion from such sustainable and supportive Business Training and Coaching Training projects, which the DSIK is providing for general Migrants. The General Secretary of MLGWUI said together with its leadership will ensure that all Members are eligible to benefit from any business and coaching training or employment opportunities, the Union would successfully collaborate with international organisations or public institutions that would benefit Return Migrants in their livelihood and regional integration.

The Union expressed their gratitude to the Management of DSIK especially, Madam Susanne Giese, the Project Coordinator Migration for the support.

Mr. Justice thanked 56 Business Training and the 57 Participants as well as Business Coaching Session 39b Participants for their full participation and urged the Business Training Trainees to avail themselves for Coaching Business and all subsequent training programmes of DSIK and MLGWUI. I ensures that all Members are eligible to benefit from any business and coaching training or employment opportunities the Union would successfully collaborate or agree with international organisations or public institutions that would benefit Return Migrants in their livelihood and regional integration. I remain humbled and grateful to the Management of DSIK especially, you Madam Susanne Giese, the Project Coordinator Migration. On behalf of MLGWUI, the General Secretary promised to use enough time in organising, educating, defending and addressing Return Migrants challenges to ensure almost all Ghanaian and African Returnees are organised and received sustainable Business Training and Coaching Training by the DSIK with support. Below are the history of MLGWUI and its objectives as stated by the General Secretary; The Madam Susanne Giese, the Project Coordinator Migration of German DSIK, with much respect, permit me to say a few words on how Migrant Labour General Workers' Union Integration was formed. In accordance with UN and ILO

Conventions relating to Labour Migration and Employment including Convention of Migrant Workers' and Members of Their Families, ILO Conventions On the Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining, Freedom of Unionisation and Protection of the Rights to Organise, Domestic Workers' Convention, Equal Remuneration, Worst Forms of Child Labour, Forced Labour, Abolition of Forced Labour, Minimum Age of Work/Employment, Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) among others with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Migrants are no exception in line with above referred international Conventions in terms of Labour Migration. However, Migrant Workers are facing various challenges in employment relations including workplace discrimination, racism, gender bias, underpaid wage and salary, wage theft, no voice or defence on their social and employment matters, Kafala System of employment especially in gulf states because a Migrant as an individual has on Voice to defend himself or herself except they come together or unite and persevere in decent work, hence the birth of the Migrant Labour General Workers' Union International (MLGWUI) to champion the cause and rights of all categories of Migrant.

The Migrant Labour General Workers' Union International (MLGWUI) which was formed in 2006 by African Migrant Worker, Industrial Relations Practitioner, Human and Labour Rights Activist and Missionary Justice Baako NTARMAH and Jessica Ebene NTARMAH (then a Migrant Student) was legally incorporated/registered in 2013. The MLGWUI is an Africa and Diaspora labour/trade union organisation for Migrant Workers, Return Migrants (Returnee), Potential Migrants, Migrant Entrepreneurs, Refugees and Student Volunteering Migrants. MLGWUI is a united and migrant owned trade organisation for all migrants including industrial based, enterprise level and informal economic level. It has a National Executive Board and Diaspora Representatives in various countries. The aims of the MLGWUI include is ensuring Decent Work, Justice, Protection, Education, Business Training, Linguistic Culture, Occupation Safety and Health for general African and Diaspora Migrants.

Its objectives also include defending, protection, counselling and referring all categories of Migrants in Legal Matters, Unethical Recruitment by Unregistered Job and Travel Agencies, Psychosocial Pre-Departure Decision, Frustration and Returning Counselling, Conditions of Better Employment Service, Negotiation of Wages and Salaries, Wage Theft Claims, Mediating Between Migrant



Workers and Employers in Labour Relations, Labour Migration and Regional Reintegration.

Finnish-French Migrant Resource Centre (FFMRC) is the education department of the MLGWUI which encourage international studying including Finnish, French, Spanish, German, English, Twi among others. The Centre offers and serves as the Educational Training and Migrants' Complaints Centre as well as Psychosocial Pre-departure Decision and Returning Counselling, Trade Union Education on Employment Relations, Wage and Salary Negotiations, Labour Migration and Gender in Migration Training, Business Entrepreneurial Training and Informing the General Migrants about Business and Training Opportunities, Local and International Employment and Education Advertising Information, Trade Union Workshops, Conferences, etc. as part of efforts of MLGWUI on national and international campaign against Irregular Migration but rather promoting Safe, Fair and Ordering Labour Migration in accordance with UN Compact on Migration.

Its purpose is to help in reducing Irregular Migration activities which lured or enticed by unethical and unregistered recruitment agencies that cause or increase undocumented Migrants, shameful arrest, abuse, deportation or untimely deaths of some Migrants in Africa and Diaspora.

Way forward, MLGWUI intends to collaborate with international organisations in labour migration and employment space as well as government agencies including Labour Department to ensure issuance of Labour Registration Certificate popularly known as **Labour Card** becomes important document for Employment Applicants to be used in Ghana, Africa and Diaspora or add to Migrant Workers' Curriculum Vitae. And it is my expectation that MLGWUI becomes largest migrant trade union organisation centre in African **ensuring sustainable business and coaching trainings with her partners such as DSIK** and also **providing free employer-employee decent work employment services** to African Migrant Workers and Diaspora as many Return Migrants are not yet received financial support to start up their own businesses.

Dear Madam Susanne Giese, the Project Coordinator Migration of German DSIK. Once again, Migrant Labour General Workers' Union International appreciates your support for us, African and Diaspora Return Migrants (Returnees) and Migrant Workers and hope you will remember us in prayers as we keep looking urgently for a new Rented Special Office to serve all categories of Migrants.

In her speech, the Project Coordinator Migration, Madam Susanne Gaise, told trainees the history about how the German Sparkassensitftung started 250 years ago and explained the purpose of DSIK Inclusion of Returnees and Potential Migrants project.

She said over 3000 Returnees and Potential Migrants have been trained since inception of DSIK project in Ghana and the Gambia. 110 have received fully training and financial support. About question on why many Returnees are trained but only 110 have received supports, Madam Giese quickly responded by saying it is due to unsatisfied business plans many trainees submitted to German Sparkassensitftung which are not clear convinced to be accepted or considered for approval. She however assured trainees that the DSIK is doing its best to ensure this training project support all Returnees for sustainable businesses and best livelihood. She informed the trainees that another project called Business Pack will be established soon.

The Regional Coordinator Western Africa, Mr. Kwang Yung gave his personal story in migration and thought trainees on business time management. He advised Returnees not to hide themselves after their returned home. "Do not feel shy and hid yourselves because you do not achieved your purposes in labour migration"

50 Trainees comprised Return Migrants (Returnees) from Germany, Cyprus, Holland, Italy, Kuwait, Qatar, Iraq, Libya, Lebano, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Egypt, United Arab Emirates, Liberia, Nigeria and Potential Migrants who have attempted migrate but could not reached their intended destination countries.

All 50 trainees in three separate training sessions (BT 56, BT 57 and BC 39b) received Certificate of Participation respectively.