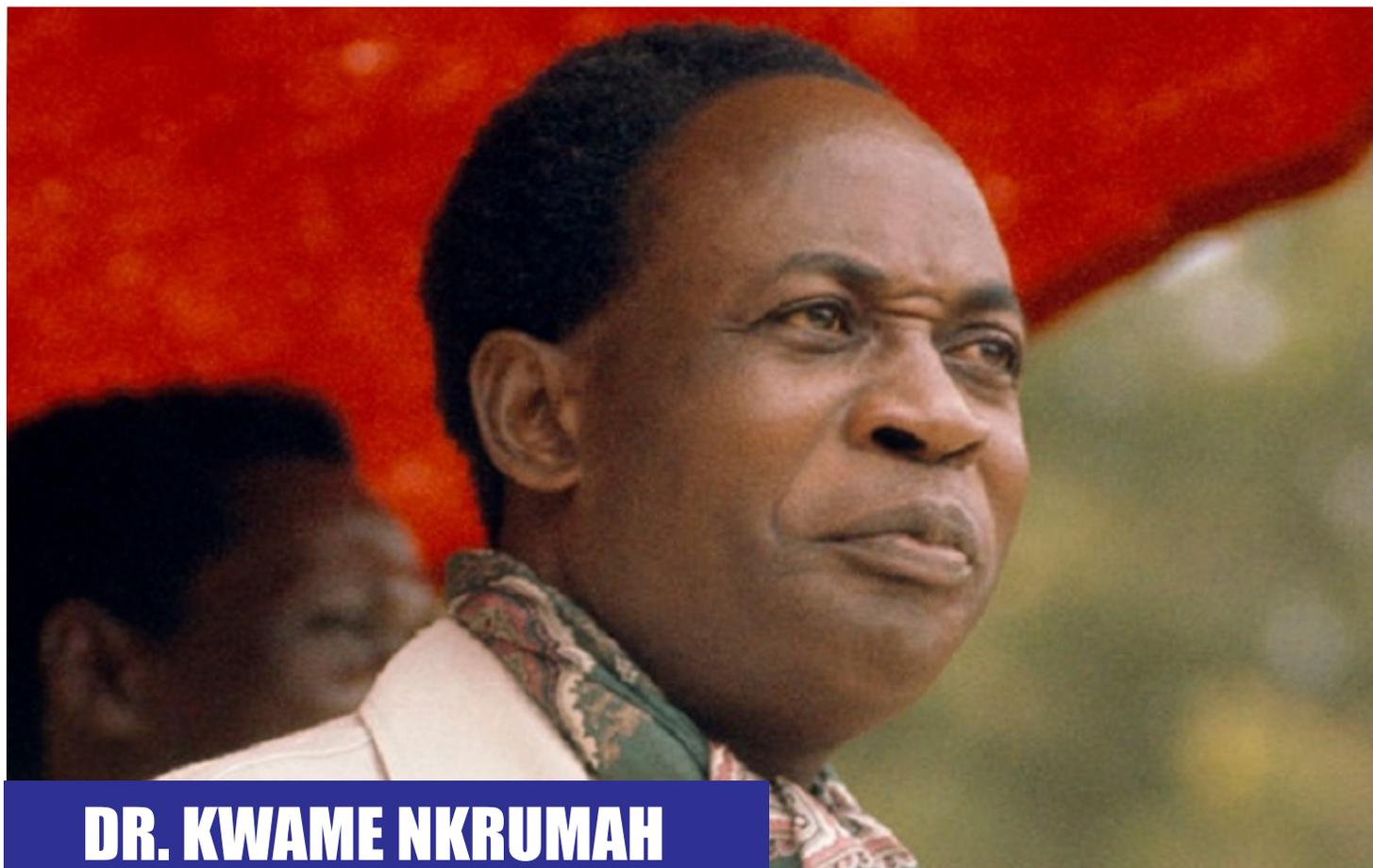


# SMG SALUTES NKRUMAH

## On 51<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Of His Death



**DR. KWAME NKRUMAH**

The Socialist Movement of Ghana has paid glowing tribute to Osagyefo Dr Kwame Nkrumah, founder of the Modern Republic of Ghana and first president on the 51<sup>st</sup> anniversary of his death. Osagyefo Dr. Kwame Nkrumah died in Bucharest

Romania, on 27<sup>th</sup> April 1972 after a short illness. Over five decades after his passing, the Socialist Movement of Ghana in a statement signed by Comrade Kwesi Pratt Jn., General Secretary of the Movement has eulogized Nkrumah for his heroic

achievements which have stood the test of time even till today while attacking the United States (US) Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) for its role in the overthrow and death of Osagyefo Dr. Kwame Nkrumah.

*cont. on page 3*

## Why Continuing Chávez's Legacy Means Dismantling Monroe Doctrine Politics

*page 9*

### Arthur Kennedy Takes On Akufo-Addo Over Prof Frimpong Boateng's Damning Galamsey Report



*Dr Arthur Kennedy (left), President Nana Dankwa Akufo-Addo (right)*

Dr Arthur Kennedy, a leading member of the ruling New Patriotic Party (NPP), has criticised President Nana Akufo-Addo for failing to act on Prof. Kwabena Frimpong Boateng's report on illegal small-scale mining in Ghana.

*cont. on page 2*

### Fitch Finally Downgrades Ghana's Sovereign Debt To 'Restrictive Default'



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

*pages 6&7*

# The INSIGHT

## EDITORIAL

### THE HIV/AIDS MENACE

The report released recently which showed a rise in HIV among pregnant women should be of utmost concern to all.

Even worrying is the Ghana AIDS Commission's admission that HIV/AIDS is on the ascendancy in the country. Certainly, all these come against the backdrop of increased awareness and public sensitisation over the years, to get the menace effectively under control.

The government through the Ministry of Health, the Ghana Health Service, The Ghana Aids Commission and several world bodies and stakeholders succeeded to a large extent in creating the awareness of condom use and abstinence. 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 stakeholders in the health sector will once again come together to find lasting solutions to the problems giving rise to new infections and nib it in the bud.

Towards this end, it is the opinion of The Insight that new intervention measures would help to address the problem.

It is also the expectation of Ghanaians that past measures which helped in addressing the problem such as condom use, abstinence, among others will be revisited and employed in the fight including the individuals who spearheaded such bold initiatives.

## Arthur Kennedy Takes On Akufo-Addo Over Prof Frimpong Boateng's Damning Galamsey Report

from front page

Speaking in a JoyNews interview on Monday, Dr. Kennedy said that people who say the president did not act on the report because he did not know about it, even though it was given to his chief of staff, are unserious. He added that once a report has been sent to the president's chief of staff, Akufo-Addo will certainly know about it.

"Those saying that are not serious. To begin with, all around the world, everybody knows that when you hand a report to the chief of staff, it is as good as handing it to the president, unless the president wants to say he does not have confidence in the chief of staff.

"The report itself contains clear, unambiguous instances of him (Frimpong-Boateng) bringing up to the president the problems that the inter-ministerial taskforce was having. For example, with regard to the senior minister, with regards to Sir John, with regards to a lot of others and the president promising to address those, (but) he didn't.

"The idea that this report has been on the blind side of the president is really a joke and an insult both to the president's intelligence and integrity as well as to Ghanaians," he said. He also refuted assertions that Prof. Frimpong-Boateng's report was full of speculation. He said that the report presented "verifiable facts", and it cast doubts on Akufo-Addo's commitment to fighting galamsey.

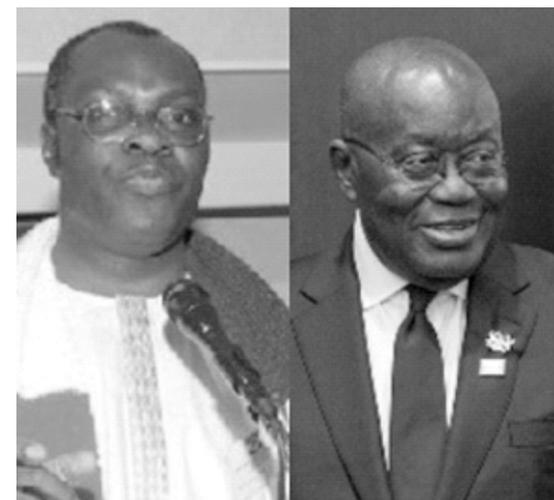
#### Background

A former Minister of Environment, Science, Technology, and Innovation, Prof Kwabena Frimpong Boateng, named members of parliament and top government officials who are allegedly involved in illegal small-scale mining (galamsey) in Ghana.

Portions of a report on illegal small-scale mining (galamsey) in Ghana by Prof Frimpong Boateng, indicated that these MPs and government officials were either directly involved in galamsey or were using their power to protect relatives who were involved in the menace.

The 36-page report, which Prof Frimpong addressed to the Chief of Staff and the Ghana Police Service, according to myjoyonline.com, implicated the former MP for Manso Nkwanta, Joseph Albert Quarm; director of operations at the presidency, Laud Commey; executive assistant and head of social media at the presidency, Charles Nii Teiko; and Frank Asiedu Bekoe, director of political affairs at the Office of the Chief of Staff.

"He (the former NPP MP) used his position as a member of the Minerals Commission to acquire several dozens of large-scale concessions in his district, ostensibly for community mining purposes. He ended up selling these concessions to private individuals, including party members for



Dr Arthur Kennedy (left), President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo (right)

GH¢2000 per concession.

"Throughout our struggle with illegalities in the small-scale mining sector, what baffled me was the total disregard of the president's commitment to protecting the environment. I can state without any equivocation that many party officials from the national to the unit committee level had their friends, PAs, agents, relatives, financiers, or relatives engaged in illegal mining. Most of them engaged Chinese working for them.

"There are appointees in the Jubilee House that are doing or supporting illegal mining or interfering with the fight against the menace. Examples are Laud Commey, Charles Nii Teiko, and Frank Asiedu Bekoe (Protozoa)," parts of the report read.

The report also indicated that members of the opposition National Democratic Congress (NDC) had also acquired several mining concessions, especially in the Western Region.

"In the Wassa East District, a former NDC Deputy Minister who is also MP for the Wassa East constituency has been actively mining in the Subri forest for years," the report also stated.

## THE INSIGHT

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# SMG SALUTES NKURUMAH On 51<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Of His Death

from front page

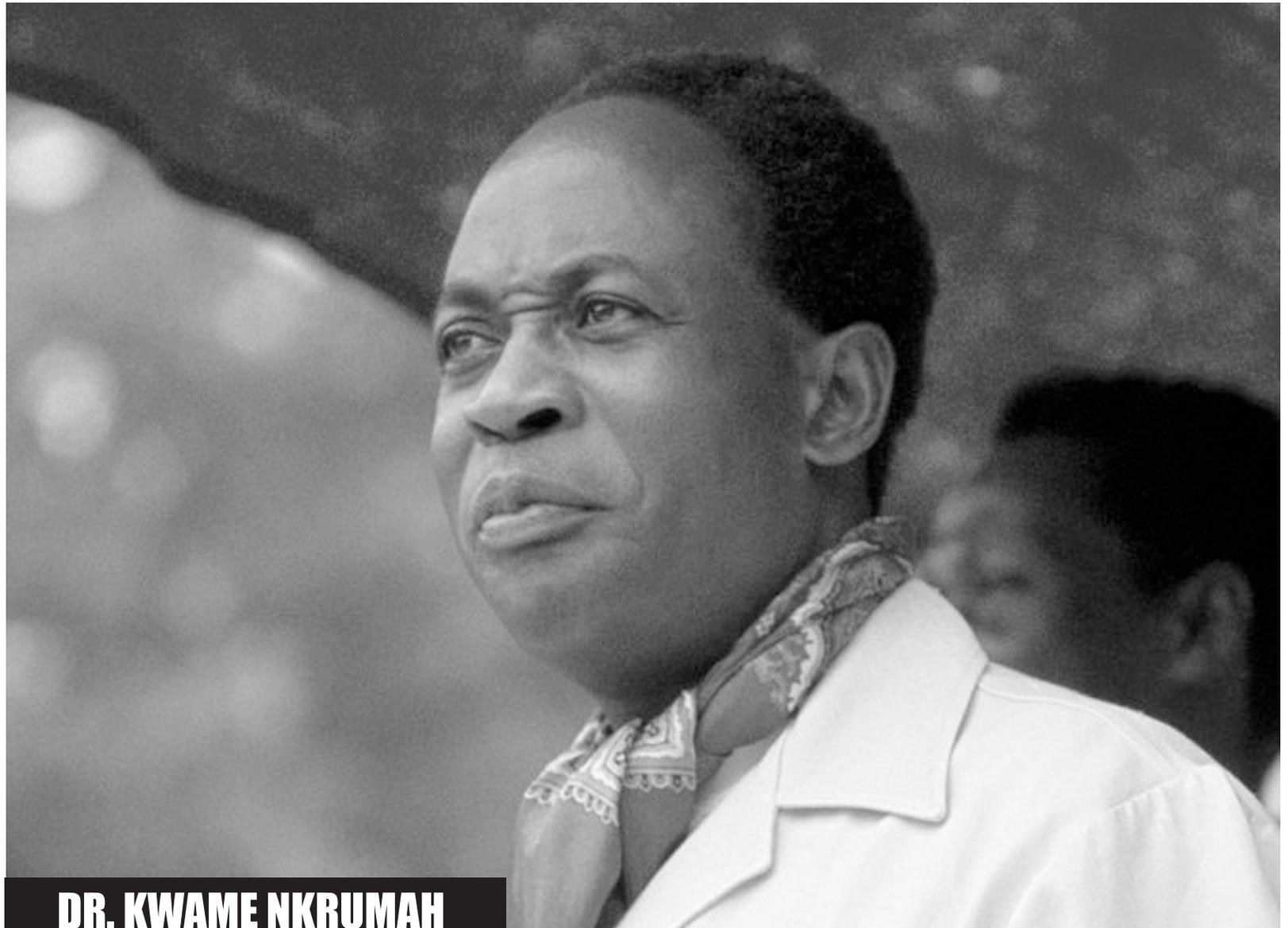
## STATEMENT ON THE 51ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF OSAGYEFO DR. KWAME NKURUMAH

The Socialist Movement of Ghana (SMG) does not mourn the death of Osagyefo Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, Founder of the modern Republic of Ghana and an inspiration for the national liberation movement in Africa. On the occasion of the 51st anniversary of his death in Romania, we salute his untiring efforts to free all of Africa from the yoke of exploitation and oppression and his full commitment to the unity of working people throughout the world.

Nkrumah died on April 27th 1972 only six years after the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) of the United States of America and other western intelligence agencies combined their forces to overthrow his progressive government with the help of traitors in the Ghana Armed Forces and the police. The objective of the February 1966 coup was clearly to subvert Nkrumah's efforts at the unification of Africa and the building of self reliant national

economy. Indeed the British High Commissioner in Accra had warned in September 1961, that Nkrumah was making Africans too politically conscious and urged his government to get rid of him.

It is significant that 51 years after his death and 57 years after his overthrow, the neo-colonial agenda of the coup plotters has been exposed for what it really is. Throughout the continent of Africa, the working people and their allies are waging battles against the unbridled privatisation of state enterprises, the massive devaluation of national currencies, the lack of access to social services



**DR. KWAME NKURUMAH**

such as education, health, and housing and rising cost of living. Today, many African countries have lined up in Washington, begging for bailout programmes from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) which only promises more misery for the working people. Ghana which led the struggle for independence in sub-saharan Africa has become bankrupt under the leadership of the opponents of Nkrumah who style themselves as Danquah-Busiasts. In a relatively short period of six years, the national debt has ballooned from GHC 120bn to GHC 392bn. The country now needs 128 percent of total national revenue to pay for only debts and debt servicing

and public sector emoluments. The official rate of inflation is pegged at more than 50 percent and the prices of food and other household items have increased by 300 percent over the last two years. The Socialist Movement of Ghana (SMG) is convinced beyond any doubt that the path to meaningful development lies in a return to the Nkrumaist prescription of collective self-reliance under the banner of broad pan-African unity. This must necessarily entail the adoption of a common currency for Africa, a common defence and foreign policy and the full political integration of the entire continent. We applaud the intention of the governments of Burkina Faso and Guinea to form a

federation as was done by Ghana-Guinea-Mali in the 1960s. It is our hope that other countries in the region and on the continent will join this courageous effort at the political integration of Africa. It is also noteworthy that as we mark the 51st anniversary of the death of Nkrumah, a strident anti-french neo-colonial wave is sweeping across the continent and the masses are demanding the dismantling of all foreign military bases. This in our view is a manifestation of the rejection of the *raison d'être* of the February 1966 coup against Nkrumah. On this occasion, we declare our unflinching solidarity with all the forces

of national liberation throughout the world fighting for the right to self-determination and national independence including Palestine and the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic. The SMG also extends its solidarity to the Governments and peoples of Cuba, Venezuela and Iran who are engaged in struggles against imperialist aggression in the forms of military subversion and economic blockade. Osagyefo Dr Kwame Nkrumah continues to inspire us in our struggle for African Unity under the banner of scientific socialism and we are sure of victory in the not too distant future. We will be victorious. Signed Kwesi Pratt Jnr. General Secretary



# INTERNATIONAL NEWS REPORT

## Compiled By Peoples Dispatch

### Belgium City Of Liege Becomes Latest European City To Sever Ties With Israel

The Belgian city of Liege on Monday became the latest city in Europe to join the boycott of Israel. The city council of Liege decided to suspend its relations with the Israeli authorities, accusing them of running a regime of “apartheid, colonization and military occupation.” The majority of the city council voted for the [resolution](#), which called for the suspension of ties with Israel until its “apartheid regime” puts an “end to the system of violations of the rights of the Palestinian people and fully respects the obligations imposed by international law and various United Nations resolutions.” Acknowledging the facts of *Nakba* (mass

displacement of Palestinians) and Palestinians' right to return, the resolution lists all major violations of international laws committed by Israel and calls for implementing a national boycott of all Israeli goods and services produced in the occupied territories. The resolution was introduced by the Workers Party of Belgium (PTB) and supported by the Socialist Party and the Green Party in the Liege city council. A large number of civil society members kept a vigil outside the council building while the resolution was being voted on. Liege is the third largest city in Belgium after the capital Brussels and Antwerp. Palestinian Boycott,

Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement [welcomed](#) the decision in a statement on Tuesday, saying that it “salutes the Belgian city of Liege for its decision to end all ties with Israel due to its regime of “apartheid, colonization and military occupation” the statement reads. BDS also congratulated the Belgian civil society's “tireless work” that “has made this decision possible and called on “cities worldwide to follow the examples of Barcelona, Oslo and Liege by severing ties with apartheid Israel in support of Palestinian struggle to #DismantleApartheid.” The Spanish city of



A large number of civil society members kept a vigil outside the Liege city council building during the vote on the resolution on April 24, 2023. (Photo: QNN/Twitter) The resolution in the Liege city council, introduced by the left-wing Workers' Party, calls for the suspension of ties with Israel until its apartheid regime puts an “end to the system of violations of the rights of the Palestinian people and fully respects the obligations imposed by international law and various United Nations resolutions”

Barcelona suspended all its existing agreements with Israeli state authorities [in February](#) for its policies of apartheid and occupation of Palestinians. The Norwegian

capital city of Oslo also [recently decided](#) to boycott buying all goods and services produced in the occupied Palestinian territories.

### Amid Mounting Political Crisis, Peru's De-Facto President Swears In Four New Ministers



Peru's de-facto president Dina Boluarte swore in four new ministers on April 23. Photo: Presidencia del Perú. Indigenous and social organizations, as well as trade unions, have decided to

Peru's de-facto president Dina Boluarte last Sunday sworn in four new ministers amid a spiraling political crisis in the country.

In a ceremony held at the Government Palace in the capital Lima, accompanied by her Prime Minister Alberto Otárola, Boluarte swore in Daniel Maurate Romero as the new Minister of Justice and Human Rights, replacing José Tello Alfaro; and Magnet Márquez as

Minister of Education, replacing Óscar Becerra. Antonio Fernando Varela Bohórquez was sworn in as the new Minister of Labor and Employment Promotion, replacing Luis Alfonso Echeverre Adrianzén; and Juan Carlos Mathews Salazar as Minister of Foreign Trade and Tourism, replacing Luis Fernando Helguero Gonzáles. According to reports from local media, PM Otárola had requested former Justice Minister Tello

Alfaro's resignation after he suggested reparations to the relatives of victims who died as a result of the state repression of the anti-government demonstrations over the past months.

Meanwhile, former Education Minister Becerra was reportedly removed due to his repeated controversial statements. Becerra has attacked the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and even called for Peru's withdrawal from the body, called for the application of the death penalty in the country, and compared Aymara Indigenous women to animals. Former Labor Minister Echeverre Adrianzén was dismissed because of the investigation against him for alleged aggravated collusion. He is being probed for the hiring of PM Otárola's former sister-in-law, Carola Rodríguez, in his office. PM Otárola is also being investigated in the case.

The cabinet changes were made on the same day as the extradition of former President Alejandro Toledo from the United States. He will be tried in Lima on corruption charges in the Odebrecht case.

Boluarte assumed power on December 7, 2022, when democratically elected left-wing President Pedro Castillo was removed by the right-wing dominated Congress in a legislative coup. Castillo was subsequently arrested after he tried to dissolve the Congress. This was Boluarte's [second](#) cabinet reshuffle. On December 22, 2022, just 11 days after her inauguration, she made five changes to her cabinet, including the appointment of her former Defense Minister Otárola as the new PM. In almost five months in power, Boluarte has made a total of 12 ministerial changes. Massive protests against the Boluarte government have been taking place since the day she took office. Hundreds of thousands of people have taken to the streets, condemning Boluarte for betraying the progressive ticket she was elected on after she entered into a political alliance with the country's right-wing

forces. The protesters have demanded Castillo's immediate release, the resignation of Boluarte, the dissolution of Congress, general elections by the end of the year, and a referendum on a constituent assembly to draft a new constitution. According to reports from local media and human rights organizations, an estimated 50 to 70 people have been killed in violent repression by police and military forces in these past months. Despite heavy repression, Indigenous and social organizations, as well as trade unions, have decided to continue with the protests to press for their demands, and have set Tuesdays as days of struggle. Additionally, they have called for a national strike and nationwide mobilizations on May 1. According to a recent survey conducted by the IPSOS Peru, [77%](#) of the Peruvian citizens disapprove of the Boluarte administration, and [84%](#) reject the performance of the Congress.

# Galamsey Report: Minority Leader Calls For National Probe



## Minority Leader, Cassiel Ato Forson

The Minority Leader in Parliament, Dr. [Cassiel Ato Forson](#), has said a damning and revealing report on illegal mining authored by former Minister for Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Prof. [Kwabena Frimpong-Boateng](#), calls for a national

probe. Prof. Frimpong-Boateng, who is a former Chairman of the now defunct Inter-Ministerial Committee on Illegal Mining, in his report, accused some bigwigs of the Akufo-Addo government, of interfering in his fight against illegal small-scale mining, locally known as

galamsey or being engaged in galamsey.

However, the presidency, in reacting, said claims in the report are a catalogue of grievances of Prof. Frimpong-Boateng and could best be described as hearsay.

The presidency also stated that the document was not an official report before Cabinet as it was submitted in an informal way.

This has led to a series of press statements and interviews by persons accused in the report of wrongdoing.

Commenting on the issue, the Minority Leader said Prof. Frimpong-Boateng's report to the President on the failed

work of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Illegal Mining, which was set up by President Akufo-Addo to fight the illegal mining menace, confirms that the whole "fight" was a fraudulent one.

According to him, it was shrouded in a well-calculated ruse to enable key government officials and functionaries at the presidency to dabble in the very illicit business of 'galamsey.'

"Despite the President placing a moratorium on April 1, 2017, suspending all artisanal and small-scale mining in the country for a total period of one year and three months, we are told that in 2018, the government, acting through the Forestry Commission and Ministry of Lands, somehow contrived to give out all forest

reserves in Ghana for mining activities.

"To confirm the grand collusion, despite a Cabinet directive in 2019 to suspend the issuance of new licenses and permits, more illegal miners, including Chinese gangs, entered Ghana's forest reserves with the help of government officials, and the destruction of Ghana's forests and environment continued unabated, the Dr. Ato Forson who's MP for Ajumako Enyan Essiam said in a Facebook post.

He added: "These revealing issues and several others in the damning report call for a national probe."

Source: [kasapafmonline.com](#)

## Tema Oil Refinery Will Stand On Its Feet Again If I Win 2024 Elections - John Mahama



The Tema Oil Refinery (TOR)

Former president, [John Dramani Mahama](#), has pledged to revive the [Tema Oil Refinery](#) should he be elected as again as president in the 2024 general elections.

According to him, the once vibrant refinery which was producing tonnes of oil products has now been left to collapse under the governing New Patriotic Party.

Addressing party delegates in Ashaiman over the weekend, John Mahama gave the assurance of revamping the refinery to its former glory to create jobs and provide oil

products for domestic consumers.

"Since we (NDC) left office, TOR has never processed crude oil again. I remember before we left office, we sent to TOR the first batch of Ghanaian crude oil from our own oil fields for TOR to process. That oil sat there for several years, eventually, they discounted the oil and sold it out without processing it. I can assure you, when NDC comes back, TOR will stand on its feet again".

Meanwhile, the Institute for Energy Policies and Research (INSTEPR) has said about \$500 million was needed to revamp the [Tema Oil Refinery](#).

Since 2018, the [Tema Oil Refinery](#) has not been operational due to a lack of crude oil which serves as a raw material for the refinery.

Apart from this, TOR is also faced with other challenges like broken equipment, and piled debt, among others.

It would be recalled that the management of TOR in April 2022 sought approval from the Energy Ministry to engage some private sector players to revamp the oil refinery. The green light on this development was however given on May 2, 2022.

## Next NDC Government Will Align With Business Community – Duffuor

Ghana's former Finance Minister under the erstwhile Mills

government who is a contender in the [National Democratic Congress](#) (NDC) flagbearer race, Dr. Kwabena Duffuor has intimated the next NDC government will hold high interest in the business community.

The votes of the NDC in the two previous general elections have seen a significant reduction. This has been attributed to the decreasing votes at the party's strongholds as well as shying away from floating voters.

Dr. Kwabena Duffuor who is currently on a tour at the Western Region in the build-up to the May 13th NDC presidential primaries says the party would need to enhance its attraction for floating

voters who will dominate the business and professionals community.

Speaking at a gathering of party faithful in Sekondi, he pledged that the NDC will invest in businesses to endear itself to the business fraternity. According to Dr. Duffuor his leadership will not neglect the party's grassroots as has been the trend for the past years which has led to increasing apathy in the party's strongholds.

The NDC has fixed May 13, 2023, to elect its flagbearer for the 2024 Presidential election. The candidates include Ex-President John Mahama, Dr. Kwabena Duffuor and Mr. Kojo Bonsu.

Source: [starrfm.com.gh](#)



NDC flagbearer hopeful, Kwabena Duffuor

## After 6 Years, State Witnesses Not Willing To Testify In Opuni-Agongo Case – AG Tells Court



Deputy Attorney General Alfred Tuah-Yeboah (L) with Justice Clemence Jackson Honyenuga (R)

The republic has indicated that it is proving difficult for the state to re-assemble witnesses to testify in the ongoing trial of former COCOBOD boss and businessman. The Deputy Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Alfred Tuah-Yeboah, disclosed this

on Tuesday, April 25, 2023, when the case was called at the High Court (Land Court 2) in Accra. He told the court presided over by Justice Kwasi Anokye Gyimah that the prosecution has contacted witnesses the state used in the previous trial, but "some are not willing to come and testify" against

the accused persons. The former COCOBOD Chief Executive, Dr. [Stephen Opuni](#), and businessman Seidu Agongo, as well as Agricult Ghana Limited, are facing 27 charges, including willfully causing financial loss to the state and contravention of the Public Procurement Act in the purchase of Lithovit liquid

fertiliser between 2014 and 2016. They have pleaded not guilty to the charges and are on a GH¢300,000 self-recognisance bail each.

Following the retirement of Justice Clemence Honyenuga, who had been hearing the matter since 2018, the case was transferred to another judge by the Chief Justice based on a request by the Attorney General.

The new trial judge, Justice Kwasi Anokye Gyimah, after reviewing proceedings under the previous judge, and assessing the argument by prosecution to adopt the proceedings as well as the counter-arguments, ruled on April 4, 2023, that the case would be heard de novo (afresh).

The trial judge, therefore, ordered the parties to file statements they want to rely on in the trial by April 21 and slated April 25 for case management.

But when the court sat on Tuesday, April 25, 2023, the Deputy Attorney General, who represented the state,

acknowledged the court's directive but pleaded for time. "We are here for adjustment of time," Mr. Tua-Yeboah said and prayed to the court to grant the prosecution 30 more days to file the witness statements. Aside from saying that some witnesses are not willing to testify in court, he told the court that one of the people contacted said he is on retirement.

He claimed one of them also said he spent about two years in the witness box, which appeared deterring. Counsel for the accused persons did not oppose the request and asked the court to use its discretion.

After consultation with the parties, the judge ruled, "prosecution's prayer is granted, case adjourned to June 7 for case management". Meanwhile, the Attorney General has appealed against the court's decision to start the trial de novo.

The appeal process is expected to start on May 3, 2023.

Source -- [newstitbits.com](#)

## Address Vaccine Hesitancy In Ghana – WHO

The World Health Organization (WHO), has counselled Ghana's stakeholders in the health sector to address vaccine doubtfulness to safeguard every child in the country is vaccinated. WHO believes vaccine hesitancy in Ghana and to a larger extent Africa has become a rising concern which needs critical steps to address it. The Country Representative for WHO, Dr. Francis Chikasa Kasolo who made the call appealed to the Ghana Health Service (GHS) to invest in strong immunization systems and ensure vaccine accessibility to all children in the country.

He said this during the launch of the 2023 edition of the African Vaccination Week which was held at the Lancaster Hotel in the Ashanti Regional capital Kumasi on Thursday, April 20, 2023. Speaking on the theme "The Big Catch-Up", Dr. Kasolo called on African leaders to work together in the spirit of achieving sustainable development goals which implore every country to provide quality healthcare to its citizens. "As we celebrate the 2023 African Vaccination Week, we must work together in the spirit of the sustainable development goals, to ensure that no child is left behind, this means measures are put in

place to ensure vaccines are available to all who need it." Addressing participants at the launch, the Director General for Ghana Health Service, Dr. Patrick Kuma Aboagye underscored the need for stakeholders in the health sector to team up and support active immunization programs in the country. He noted that African vaccination week provides special opportunities for health officials to educate the public on the need to get vaccinated and its accompanying importance. "The week provides the opportunity to showcase the importance of vaccines in all our lives, and how they protect us, young and old,



Country Representative for WHO, Dr. Francis Chikasa Kasolo

against more than 25 vaccine-preventable diseases."

"As we work to accelerate COVID-19 vaccination efforts, it is critical that we don't ignore the urgent need to also strengthen routine immunization efforts."

Dr. Aboagye pledged GHS's commitment to vaccinating all

children across the country to protect them from childhood diseases.

He urged parents to visit any health facilities closer to them to get their children vaccinated.

Source: [starrfm.com.gh](#)

# Why Continuing Chávez's Legacy Means Dismantling Monroe Doctrine Politics



**Hugo Chavez being returned to power on 13 April 2002 after a right-wing coup briefly overthrew him (AVN / Archive). For every Monroe Doctrine intervention, there will be an April 13th rebellion for sovereignty and dignity.**

By Michelle Ellner

On April 11, 2002, there was an attempted coup against President Hugo Chavez's democratically elected government in Venezuela. Chavez had prioritized programs to improve living conditions for those who were previously unrepresented, and established an independent foreign policy in favor of the nation's interests. Chavez's stance conflicted with the Monroe Doctrine of 1823, which laid the groundwork for the use of US military force and other forms of intervention to oppose any government, be it foreign or regional, that jeopardized US interests. The Monroe Doctrine became the ideological basis for US hegemony in the region, justifying the violation of the rights of nations of self-determination, as was the case for Venezuela in 2002 and since then. With Washington's backing, Venezuela's pro-Washington elite, high-ranking military officials, leaders of the traditional labor organizations, the Catholic Church hierarchy, and the nation's chamber of commerce had embarked on ousting a popular government. The Chávez administration had redefined the rules of democracy by drafting a new Constitution, one that was voted on by the people, and that allowed for greater popular participation. The Chavez government was also reasserting its sovereignty over its vast oil wealth by ending the process of privatization of

PDVSA, the state oil company. In September 2000, It organized a summit meeting in Caracas of OPEC oil-producing countries to stabilize prices at higher levels to increase the country's main source of income. Washington's main opposition to Chávez's foreign policy came when he met with OPEC leaders considered to be US adversaries, including the governments of Libya, Iraq and Iran in preparation for the 2000 OPEC summit. He met again with Saddam Hussein and Muammar Ghaddafi the following year, and spoke out against the US invasion of Afghanistan as a reaction to 9/11, saying "You can't combat terror with more terror". intelligence brief dated April 6, 2002 — a mere five days before the coup plot would be carried out — explicitly states that a coup was set to take place. Under previous Venezuelan governments, neoliberal reforms had increased poverty and the police and military had used violent repression, but the US still perceived Venezuela as a flourishing democracy. Nevertheless, upon Chavez's ascension, the fundamental premise of respecting an elected leader's mandate was swiftly ignored by the United States. A State Department [cable leaked right before the coup](#) revealed the dissident military factions' intentions to detain and overthrow Chavez, exhibiting

advanced knowledge and direct involvement with the conspiracy. On April 10, a day before the coup, US Ambassador Charles Shapiro spoke to the press after meeting the Mayor of Caracas and when asked if the [US supported President Chavez](#), his reply was: "We support democracy and the constitutional framework" and he advised US citizens in Venezuela to "be careful". The Caracas Mayor, by his side, said: "If he doesn't rule like a democrat, Chavez will leave office sooner than later." What came after was a wave of violence and repression that led to the arrest of Chavez, the killing of 19 people and injuring of over hundred, and a business leader swearing himself in as President, followed by a visit from Ambassador Shapiro. All according to regular Monroe Doctrine protocol, thus far. Yet the one factor not taken into consideration: the will of the Venezuelan people. On April 13th, the people of Venezuela made history and made a dent on the Monroe Doctrine's record. Community leaders and organizers, [despite facing police repression and a corporate media blackout](#), took the streets to demand that Chavez was brought back to office. Military officers and troops, loyal to the Venezuelan Constitution that the people had given themselves, rose up against commanding officers and demanded that Chavez be reinstated as the legitimate President. This joint civilian and military popular rebellion to save Venezuelan democracy made history and overturned the Monroe Doctrine formula that had successfully overthrown other independent Latin American leaders in the past, such as Jacobo Arbenz, Salvador Allende, João Goulart, Juan Bosch and Jean-Bertrand Aristide. The question we must ask on an anniversary like this is why

the United States continues to insist on a 200-year-old doctrine that has its back turned to the aspirations of the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean? Why does the US government continue to promote violence, human rights violations, and undemocratic governance that we would not tolerate on our own soil? Why do we continue to make people suffer in places like Venezuela by sanctioning the entire country for standing up for their self-determination? Wouldn't we, as a people, expect solidarity and respect for standing up for our own democratic ideals? In the end, the Monroe Doctrine is condemned to failure because people's determination to be free will always prevail. Why not turn, instead, to a policy of mutual cooperation, of respect for Latin American and Caribbean internal affairs? Why not convince rather than coerce, collaborate rather than take advantage? Why do we still not understand that the instability, violence and exploitation we promote in our region backfires and leads to the migration challenges we face today in our

own country? In Venezuela now, there's a popular saying that refers to the day of the 2002 coup and the day—two days later—that Chavez was reinstated: Every 11th has its 13th. It is a significant sign of the new Latin America and Caribbean that has emerged in the 21st Century, a region that wants to bury 200-year-old interventionism. For every Monroe Doctrine intervention, there will be an April 13th rebellion for sovereignty and dignity. **Michelle Ellner** is a Latin America campaign coordinator of CODEPINK. She was born in Venezuela and holds a bachelor's degree in languages and international affairs from the University La Sorbonne Paris IV, in Paris. After graduating, she worked for an international scholarship program out of offices in Caracas and Paris and was sent to Haiti, Cuba, The Gambia, and other countries for the purpose of evaluating and selecting applicants. Subsequently, she worked with community based programs designed to promote productive endeavors in Venezuela and then served as an analyst of US–Venezuela relations.

Venezuela: Conditions Ripening for Coup Attempt [redacted] E.O. 13526, section 1.4(c)

**Dissident military factions, including some disgruntled senior officers and a group of radical junior officers, are stepping up efforts to organize a coup against President Chavez, possibly as early as this month.** [redacted]

E.O. 13526, section 1.4(c)(d) [redacted] The level of detail in the reported plans—one report targets Chavez and 10 other senior officials for arrest—lends credence to the information, but military and civilian contacts note that neither group appears ready to lead a successful coup and may bungle the attempt by moving too quickly.

— Civilian groups opposed to Chavez's policies, including the Catholic Church, business groups, and labor, are backing away from efforts to involve them in the plotting, probably to avoid being tainted by an extraconstitutional move and fear that a failed attempt could strengthen Chavez's hand. [redacted] E.O. 13526, section 1.4(c)

**Prospects for a successful coup at this point are limited.** The plotters still lack the political cover to stage a coup, Chavez's core support base among poor Venezuelans remains intact, and repeated warnings that the US will not support any extraconstitutional moves to oust Chavez probably have given pause to the plotters.

— Chavez is monitoring opponents inside and outside the military, [redacted] and might use a coup attempt to justify clamping down on the struggling opposition and tightening his grip on the country's institutions. [redacted] E.O. 13526, section 1.4(c)

**To provoke military action, the plotters may try to exploit unrest stemming from opposition demonstrations slated for later this month or ongoing strikes at the state-owned oil company PDVSA.** White-collar oil workers began striking on Thursday at facilities in 11 of 23 states as part of an escalating protest against Chavez's efforts to politicize PDVSA.

— Protracted strikes, particularly if they have the support of the blue-collar oil workers' union, could trigger a confrontation. [redacted] E.O. 13526, section 1.4(c)

E.O. 13526, section 1.4(c)

# Police Retrieve Exhumed Bodies Kept At Palace After Ofori Panin Fie Allegedly Sold Cemetery To Investor

The Suhum District Police Command in the Eastern Region on Thursday, April 20, 2023 stormed Amanase Chief's Palace to retrieve skeletons of exhumed human bodies kept at the palace.

The bodies were exhumed from the royal cemetery in the community after it was reportedly sold to an investor by Okyenhene Osagyefuo Amoatia Ofori Panin to be used for the construction of a fuel station.

The bodies exhumed include late chiefs and royals. Two of the exhumed bodies were freshly buried.

While one of the fresh corpses have been reburied, the other has been kept at the Suhum Government Hospital morgue. However, the Gyaasehene of Amanase, Obenfo Addo Agyekum who doubles as Acting Chief of the community decided to keep the exhumed skeletons of late chiefs of the community in a room at the palace.

This created uproar in recent times among some royal family members and residents.

Police invited the chief to write his statement about the incident last Thursday. Subsequently, the Police CID stormed the palace to evacuate the skeletons to the morgue after minutes of back and forth with the Gyaasehene and some of his sub chiefs. Obenfo Addo Agyekum however told Starr News, "the cemetery has been sold to an investor as a result we have to exhume the bodies. So Okyenhene Osagyefuo Amoatia Ofori Panin himself ordered that the bodies be exhumed to enable the investor develop the land so we held a community durbar, invited everybody including pastors, opinion leaders to discuss the matter".

He continued that "So after exhuming the bodies we realized we have to create a new royal cemetery to rebury skeletons of the late Chiefs.



*The bodies exhumed include late chiefs and royals*

We tried several times to get earmarked land for that purpose but were unsuccessful so we decide to keep the skeletons in a room here at the palace until we

get cemetery to rebury them. We had two fresh bodies which we sent to Suhum government hospital but we managed to bury one, the other body is still at the morgue".

At the time of filing this story, the Chief was still at the Suhum Police CID for further interrogation.

Source: Starrfm

## Real Reason Behind Exhumed Skeletons At Amanase Palace – Gyaasehene Speaks

Following reports that some human remains were retrieved at the Amanase Chief's palace in the Eastern Region, Gyaasehene of the area has emerged to provide some clarifications to the issue. The bodies which were said to be those of certain royals were reportedly stored at the palace for two years by the Gyaasehene, Obenfo Addo Agyekum I who is now the regent of Amanase.

They had been exhumed after the sale of the land which served as an old cemetery to an investor for redevelopment.

The Gyaasehene who had been made to write a statement on the matter after the Suhum police, led by Crime Officer, ASP Yeboah Oscar stormed the palace to retrieve the skeletons has since emerged with what he says is a clarification on why exactly the remains were found at the palace.

According to him, the skeletons which were part of the exhumed remains of royals at the old cemetery had been kept at the palace following the advice of officials from the EPA and morgue officials at the Suhum Government Hospital.

"The officials at the mortuary, and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) officials also told us that once they are skeletons, they can sprinkle medicine to preserve it for us so that if there's such a place in the palace where we can keep the remnants of dead royals, we can take them there so we did that.

"While we waited, we informed elders and the family of another Chief who is called Nana Korow, whose remains we had at the palace, that the skeletons are at the palace," he said while speaking to media persons as captured in a UTV video.

"His children came to demand that we bury their father, I told them to be patient because the place we were supposed to bury him was not ready and I didn't want a situation where we will send it there and other issues will arise. So we put it on hold waiting for such a time when we can appropriately dispose of the skeletons," he added.

The Gyaasehene further noted that the reports which emerged had been circulated by dubious persons who wanted to bring disgrace to the Amanase seat. He also noted that contrary to reports that the lands were sold on the blind side of Amanase Chief, Osabarima Asamoah Asare Ampofo I who is currently unable to met out his royal duties owing to advanced age, documents presented to him showed that the Chief had consented to same.

He further noted that due process was taken in the preservation and burial of the bodies as was advised.

"Unfortunately, journalists heard of the incident, but I don't know how they broadcasted it and I don't know which people gave them the information, but they misconstrued and misreported the entire situation.

"I am saying on authority that the old cemetery has been destroyed and we have exhumed the bodies that were there. We have done the mass

burials for those whose bodies were still fresh, put those whose had to be preserved till later, and kept those whose skeletons could be here," he noted.

"I think people who want the disgrace of the Amanase are behind the false narrations. Others may ask if the Okyehene is aware of the sale of these lands. I say emphatically that in 2012, my forefathers, when I became Gyaasehene, when the documents were laid before me, Osabarima Asamoah Asare Ampofo I in whose stead I'm reigning because of his ill health, he had signed as a witness," he further said.