

# GHANA FEDERATION OF LABOUR BLASTS GOVT

## Over New Taxes; Says Finance Minister Is Confused



**Abraham Koomson, General Secretary of the Ghana Federation of Labour**

**T**he Ghana Federation of Labour (GFL) has expressed disquiet about the new taxes introduced by the government which was passed in parliament nearly a fortnight ago.

According to the General Secretary of the Ghana Federation of Labour, Abraham Koomson, it is extremely worrying that the government continues to pile taxes on Ghanaians in spite of the current economic

challenges.

Mr. Koomson who bemoaned the situation said the Finance Minister, Ken Ofori-Atta and by extension, the government is confused about how to

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**NPP 2024: If Alan Says It's His Turn; He Deserves It – Ken Agyapong**



*Kennedy Agyapong and Alan Kyerematen*

**M**r Kennedy Ohene Agyapong, the governing New Patriotic Party's Member of Parliament for the Assin Central Constituency in the Central

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## World Bank

**Report Reveals Rising Cost Of Living To Hamper Ghana's Economic Growth In 2023**



*Ken Ofori-Atta, Minister of Finance*

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# The INSIGHT

## — EDITORIAL

### THIS IS DANGEROUS!

**T**he statement made last Saturday by Agriculture Minister, Bryan Acheampong who is also the Member of Parliament for Abetifi is to say the least most dangerous and unacceptable.

Even worrying is the justification by individuals including his own party hierarchy that there is nothing wrong with those comments.

Clearly, any statement which arises out of intent to breach the peace of the country in future should not be taken lightly.

Therefore, Bryan Acheampong's statement that the ruling New Patriotic Party government will never hand-over power to the NDC and will do everything possible to hold onto political power come 2024 should never be countenanced.

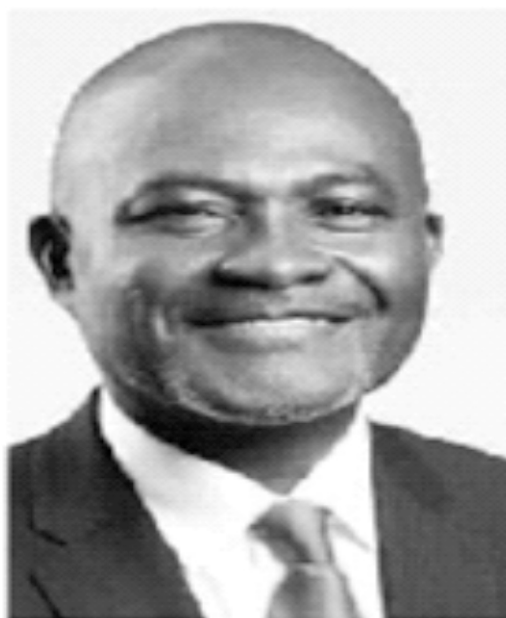
Bryan Acheampong himself is fully aware that political power is transient and the determination of that that does not lie in the bosom of his party, neither is it with the flagstaff house, the seat of government, but the people.

Ghanaians have endured a lot over the years in spite of the deepening economic hardship and what they expect from political office holders is succour and an assurance that better times will come and not a test of their patience.

Nobody should take the patience of Ghanaians for granted.

The power belongs to the people, and our politicians should be mindful of their statements.

# NPP 2024: If Alan Says It's His Turn; He Deserves It — Ken Agyapong



**Kennedy Agyapong and Alan Kyerematen**

*from front page*

Region, has said fellow flagbearer aspirant Alan Kyerematen is deserving of the slot by virtue of his toils for the party.

Mr Agyapong told Somp FM in the Kumasi metropolis that Mr Kyerematen has paid his dues to the party and, thus, deserves to be the flag bearer. In his view, if people are arguing that Dr Bawumia deserves to be the flag bearer because he has been the vice president for two terms, then Mr Kyerematen is even more deserving of that privilege.

"Yes, if Alan says it's his turn, he deserves it because he has been in the trenches with the party from its inception as the president of the Young Executives Forum (YEF) which was the financial wing of the NPP in the early days", Mr Agyapong noted.

He wondered: "Where were all these small boys who have been insulting Alan, when he was in the trenches working for the NPP".

## THE INSIGHT

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# GHANA FEDERATION OF LABOUR BLASTS GOVT

## Over New Taxes; Says Finance Minister Is Confused

*from front page*

run the economy because there are already about 17 taxes.

His comment comes on the back of the passage of the three revenue bills; Excise Duty, Growth and Sustainability Levy, and Income Amendment Bills, something he says will add to the excruciating burden the ordinary Ghanaian is already going through. "This government, they are confused especially the finance minister who doesn't know what he is doing.

Already, about seventeen taxes are being paid, we have import duty which is 5%, import VAT

of 15%, processing fee, ECOWAS Levy, Network Charge VAT, Network Charge Covid-19 levy, Health, Ghana's Shippers Authority SNF fee, Import National Health Insurance, Network Charge National Health Insurance, IRS Tax deposit, Special Import Levy...

"Seventeen taxes are being paid before these three new ones so we don't need taxes again," he was quoted by 3news.com as saying. Reacting further, Mr Koomson said the Federation of Labour has tried unsuccessfully to have an audience with the finance minister after they got wind

of the new taxes.

"Fortunately for us, we got wind of these new taxes that Ofori-Atta wanted to impose on us so we petitioned Parliament through the Speaker dated 3rd February 2023. GUTA also petitioned, AGI petitioned, to the extent that AGI even gave recommendations, they wanted engagements with Finance Committee of Parliament... the Food and Beverages Association of Ghana also petitioned, we even followed up, we went to parliament to meet the leadership there, for the speaker we couldn't access him, we went there several times but he was involved in other things so we couldn't access him. "Our problem now is that the



**Abraham Koomson, General Secretary of the Ghana Federation of Labour**

taxes that we are paying, if they are not being applied well that is the situation that we will find ourselves in because we know that going to IMF comes with so many implications," he told Moro Awudu. He also added that these taxes must be put to good use, especially when the country is looking to secure

some support from the International Money Fund. "Our problem now is that the taxes that we are paying, if they are not being applied well that is the situation that we will find ourselves in because we know that going to IMF comes with so many implications," he said.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

P.O BOX NT 272  
Accra – Newtown Accra  
April 12, 2023

**Dear Friends,**

I wish to state emphatically that I have never had a Facebook or Twitter account and I have no intention of opening one. This statement has become necessary because over the last few months, I have noticed that Facebook and Twitter accounts have been opened in my name to propagate falsehood.

My very deep suspicion is that an organized group, possibly an intelligence outfit is up to mischief and that in the coming weeks, months or years, these accounts will be used to achieve sinister, diabolical, political or even criminal objectives. Please ignore all such posts on all these dubious platforms.

Signed.  
Kwesi Pratt Jnr.

## Ashaiman Tomatoes Importers Cry Foul ...Over Harassment From Market Queens

Some market women from the Ada and Ashaiman areas of the Greater Accra Region who are engaged in the importation of tomatoes from Togo have indicated that they have been facing constant harassment from Ashaiman main market queen mothers. For the past three years, according to reports, these importers have been constantly harassed by these market queens. According to the victims, anytime they arrive at Ashaiman market with their goods, some market guys, on the orders of the said market queens seize their goods, sell them and share the monies among themselves without the knowledge of the respective importers. They say the reason for the market queen's actions is their failure to register with their Association. According to the market queen, before the importers can be



*File photo of tomato sellers*

allowed to do business in the market they must be registered. This, the importers see as absurd as the market is an open place where everyone can go about his/her business. One of the importers, Rebecca Lartey, speaking in an interview with Class FM simply said they don't understand why they are allowed to sell at the Central Market in the Accra metropolis but are refused to do business at the Ashaiman main market. According to her, the situation has resulted in the loss of capital invested in the business. "Some of us were arrested and

are facing persecution by our creditors in Togo," she narrated. She lamented that since the harassment began, they have reported the case to appropriate authorities but all to no avail. She, therefore, called on the government to intervene to allow them access to sell freely at the Ashaiman market. Meanwhile, when the market queen was contacted to respond, she asked Rebecca Lartey to provide the names of the victims before they can respond to the issues. The Ashaiman Chief, Nii Annan Adjor, when contacted about the plight of the importers also said he has asked the victims to report the issues to the police.





# INTERNATIONAL NEWS REPORT

## Compiled By Peoples Dispatch

### On Anniversary Of Easter Rising, Calls For Irish Unity Are Strengthened



Members of the Irish Citizen Army outside Liberty Hall, under the slogan "We serve neither King nor Kaiser, but Ireland". During Easter week in April 1916, Irish militant republican forces started an uprising against the British colonialists in Dublin, marking a new era in the Irish freedom struggle against British imperialism

Republican groups across Ireland last Sunday observed the 107th anniversary of the Easter Rising waged by Irish independence fighters against the

British imperialist forces, and paid tributes to the fallen heroes of the uprising. Political parties and groups including Sinn Féin, Workers' Party of Ireland,

Communist Party of Ireland (CPI), and Connolly Youth Movement (CYM), among others, organized commemorative events over the Easter week. Republican groups also reiterated their commitment to strive for Irish unity.

The Easter Rising, or the Easter Rebellion, was an armed insurrection led by Irish independence fighters against the British colonialists in Ireland during Easter week (April 24-29) of 1916. On April 24, hundreds of republican militants, under the leadership of Patrick Pearse, James Connolly, and others, occupied major government offices in Dublin, and proclaimed

the Irish Republic. The colonial forces of Britain deployed thousands of soldiers and brutally quelled the rebellion in a week of heavy fighting in Dublin. According to reports, around 485 people were killed in the clashes and over 2,000 were injured. In the following days, over 3,000 people were arrested by the British authorities and a series of trials in military court began in May.

Death sentences were given to major leaders of the uprising and the signatories of the Proclamation of the Republic. In May 1916, major Irish Republican leaders were executed including Patrick Pearse, James Connolly, Thomas MacDonagh, Thomas Clarke, Joseph Plunkett, William Pearse, Edward Daly, Michael O'Hanrahan, John MacBride, Éamonn Ceannt, Michael Mallin, Seán Heuston, Con Colbert, and Seán Mac Diarmada. The executions as well as other atrocities committed by the British forces invoked widespread protests across Ireland and resulted in the rise of radical republicanism in Ireland. After a long militant and parliamentary struggle by Irish republican forces against the British colonialists, Ireland achieved independence in 1921 and the Republic of Ireland was officially established in 1949. However, six counties in the North remained under British control as directed by the Government of Ireland Act 1920 and the Anglo-Irish Treaty of 1921. This partitioned Ireland into two—the Catholic majority counties in the South (present day Irish Republic) and six

counties in the North, with a large population of Protestant settlers who wanted to maintain ties and union with Britain.

At the commemoration of Easter Rising on Sunday, Sinn Féin leader Mary Lou McDonald said, "this is the rising of a new generation. A rising fueled by the enduring values of the Irish people: community, compassion, togetherness, and kindness. We seek to build the Irish nation anew. To end partition in our time. To unite our people and our country." "The gravesites of our patriots are not monuments at which to stand and lament. Rather they are signposts to the future that we will achieve together. A nation is a living, breathing thing. It pulses through the hopes of its people to endure, to continue, to reach its destiny, and we will not write the epitaphs of those who lie here until Ireland—united and free—takes its rightful place amongst the nations of the world. That was the goal of Easter 1916. It is the goal now, it will remain the goal until the day it is achieved," she added.

Graham Harrington from the Communist Party of Ireland (CPI) told *Peoples Dispatch* on April 11 that "the 1916 Rising was not just a seminal event in Irish history, but also in world history, since it was a blow against British imperialism from within...Vladimir Lenin criticized those socialists who did not support the Rising, saying that those who expect a pure social revolution will never live to see it." Harrington added, "107 years on from the Rising, the need to break the link with imperialism is still there, the struggle for Irish sovereignty and independence, based on the vision of James Connolly, continues."

### Rights Groups Express Concern Over Proposed Anti-Terrorism Bill In Sri Lanka

The introduction of an Anti-Terrorism Bill in Sri Lanka, to replace the erstwhile Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA), has been classified by rights groups as an attack on the democratic rights of the people. The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) said the proposed legislation was in clear violation of international human rights law. The government gazetted the bill on March 22. If enacted, it will give wider powers to law enforcement agencies to arrest anyone or seize articles on mere suspicion.

"The new bill will be presented in parliament in the third week of April. It will replace the PTA," said Sri Lankan Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena. Under the provisions of the bill, any suspected individual can be incarcerated for two days (48 hours) before being presented before a magistrate. The suspect can then be held in remand for one year without any criminal procedures, which can be later extended in three-month increments by a high court. Those opposing the new bill fear it will open the way for even harsher

measures against political opponents by branding any dissent in the country as acts of terrorism. Activists maintain that the bill has more to do with crushing the mass opposition against the IMF-dictated austerity measures than ending terrorism. The bill also gives more power to the armed forces and coast guard to search any person, vehicle, vessel or train or any premises or land without any prior authorization, warrant or oversight, which the rights defenders fear will lead to abuse of power. Ambika Satkunanathan, former member of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL), argues that even as countries across the world have been taking initiatives to abolish the death penalty, Sri Lankan authorities have included its use in this latest law. "The Anti-Terrorism Bill empowers the Attorney General to suspend and defer instituting criminal proceedings, or in instances criminal proceedings have begun, to withdraw the indictment upon certain conditions if the offence has not caused death or grievous bodily



(Photo: via Money Control). Sri Lanka's latest anti-terror legislation gives greater powers to law enforcement agencies, which human rights groups fear will be used to suppress the democratic rights of citizens

injury nor endangered the State and the people of Sri Lanka," she wrote in [theThe Morning](#).

On March 31, ICJ's Senior Legal Adviser Livio Zilli in a [statement](#) commented that "purported threats to national security, whether or not arising in connection with acts of 'terrorism', should not be used as a justification for the death penalty." "If enacted as currently formulated, these vague and overbroad offences, similar to and building up on those contained in the PTA, are open to abuse and, as such, they violate Sri Lanka's international legal obligations and the country's own constitutional guarantees under Article 13," Zilli added.

# World Bank; Report Reveals Rising Cost Of Living To Hamper Ghana's Economic Growth In 2023

For countries like Ghana and Ethiopia, which have a higher inflation differential, growth recovery in 2023 would be accompanied by rising inflation, the World Bank has said in its April 2023 the African Pulse report. "In those countries, the rising cost of living is already weighing on consumers and investors and may hamper economic growth". The report said amid high inflation and weak growth prospects in 2023, the fear of stagflation is rising across some countries in the region. The report noted that Sub-Saharan African economies as well as the global economy are experiencing an episode of high inflation that is driven by the COVID-19-related lockdowns and supply chain disruptions, and exacerbated by the war in Ukraine, among other factors. The war in Ukraine, it pointed out, escalated supply chain disruptions further and intensified volatility in energy and commodity prices.

Many central banks across the globe responded by tightening their monetary policies to curb inflation. For example, the US Federal Reserve has increased its monetary policy rate by 450 basis points since March 17, 2022. However, inflation declined slowly to 6.4 per cent by January 2023—a rate that is still above the Fed's 2 per cent inflation target. The slow disinflationary process can be attributed not only to remaining supply chain issues but also rising wages and higher consumer savings from government stimulus checks. Further interest rate hikes to curb inflation add more pressure to tighten global financial conditions and elevate the risk of a global economic slowdown, the report indicated.

It said one of the salient features in the current inflationary episode is the increase in food prices—which had started prior

to the pandemic—due to pent-up demand as the global economy lifted COVID-19 restrictions and harsh weather conditions. Many Sub-Saharan African countries have experienced high headline inflation fueled primarily by food inflation. Nearly three-quarters of the countries in the region with available data for January 2023 recorded a two-digit year-over-year rate of food inflation—with Zimbabwe (264 per cent), Sudan (58.7 per cent), and Ghana (61 per cent) exhibiting the highest rates. It noted that rising inflation erodes purchasing power, holds back growth, and, if not addressed, leads the government to run the risk of de-anchoring inflationary expectations—with dire consequences for financial markets. "Many countries have also accumulated mounting debt burdens since the pre-pandemic era. In this context, what are the risks of stagflation in Sub-Saharan



African countries, and what are the policies needed to engage in a sustainable growth path with a stable macroeconomic environment?" "It considers countries at risk of stagflation as those that meet two criteria: (1) their income per capita in 2023 is still below that of 2019 (prior to the pandemic), and (2) the projected average inflation rate in 2023 is higher than the corresponding rate for advanced economies". The report said evidence shows that about 38 per cent of Sub-

Saharan African countries have a greater risk of stagflation. "Many countries in this group have also recorded two-digit unemployment rates—particularly Southern African countries, Angola, and Nigeria, among others". Countries with a low inflation deviation from advanced countries (say, less than 0.025) show moderate to robust growth under a relatively stable inflationary environment.

## Traders Accuse Government Of Buying 2023 V8s When It Is Supposed To Ensure Fiscal Discipline

The General Secretary of the Traders Advocacy Group Ghana (TAGG), Emmanuel Nana Opoku Acheampong, has accused the government of importing state-of-the-art vehicles for the use of its appointees in face of an economic crisis. According to him, the government has imported some 2023 models of V8s when it is expected to ensure fiscal discipline. This government, he said, lacks fiscal discipline and is only interested in piling up taxes on the people. He said the government has not shown good faith to Ghanaians importing some of these luxury vehicles at a time many well-meaning citizens are calling on the government

to cut down on frivolous expenditures. He said the country cannot pay its debts which has resulted in the decision to give some bondholders a haircut. Meanwhile, he bemoaned, the government, thinking about the luxury of its appointees, has introduced three new revenue mobilisation taxes without consulting the business community. He noted that the three taxes which were passed by parliament for the country to secure a US\$3 billion bailout from the International Monetary are detrimental to the growth of businesses in the country. He explained the taxes will not spur

growth for the country. Mr Opoku Acheampong made this accusation while discussing the repercussions of the introduction of three new revenue taxes on businesses while speaking on Accra-based Asempa FM on Wednesday, April 5, 2023. Parliament has passed three revenue mobilisation bills that are critical for Ghana's bid to secure a Board-level agreement from the International Monetary Fund regarding a \$3-billion extended credit facility to bailout the ailing economy. They are the Excise Duty Amendment Bill 2022, the Growth and Sustainability Levy Bill, 2022, the Ghana Revenue Authority Bill 2022 and the Income Tax

Amendment Bill 2022. Even though the minority caucus had indicated its opposition to the bills and threatened to vote against passed all three on Friday, 31 March 2023. Ahead of last Friday's vote, both the Governor of the Bank of Ghana, Dr Ernest Addison and Minister of Information, Mr Kojo Oppong Nkrumah, had, separately urged parliament to pass the bills quickly to help salvage the economy. Mr Nkrumah warned that Ghana's already-imperilled economy will take a further tumble if the bills were not passed. "If we don't do what we have to

do for the country, we will have major challenges", he noted, indicating that the bills are "a set of measures we must ensure is worth passing". "This is a major bridge we have to cross in closing this revenue gap and ensuring that there is more liquidity", Mr Oppong Nkrumah told Accra-based Citi TV. Mr Oppong Nkrumah said the economic situation is dire and needs urgent salvaging. "We are not in a good place because we don't have access to the international capital market", he explained.

Source: [classfmonline.com](https://www.classfmonline.com)



# 100 Days Of Lula's Presidency: What Has Changed In Brazil Since January 1?

*By Brasil de Fato*

The administration of Brazilian president Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva of the Workers' Party of Brazil (PT) completed 100 days in office on Monday April 10. Traditionally, this is the milestone in which a first assessment of the new presidential administration in the country is made, with the presentation of new measures to be adopted.

**Brasil de Fato** spoke to specialists and representatives of people's movements to find out how these first 100 days are being evaluated. Check out the highlights:

## Defense of democracy

Vera Chaia, Professor of Politics at the Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo (PUC-SP), highlighted the importance of the actions of Flávio Dino (Ministry of Justice) in the face of the [January 8 terrorist attacks](#). "In the beginning, Flávio Dino stood out the most, due to the need to reverse this process and bring peace to Brazilian politics,

with an impressive arrest of Bolsonaro's terrorist supporters on January 8. Dino and Lula's performance in the resistance was important in Brasília," explains Chaia.

## Economy

Fernando Haddad, in his role as head of the Ministry of Finance, has played an essential role in the construction and presentation of budget. "He has dealt with the most sensitive area, which is the economy, and the whole proposal of his ministry to improve the Brazilian economy, bringing another political dynamic to our economy," Chaia commented. For political scientist Mayra Goulart, the highlights were "the presentation of the budget plan and the defense of an economy that prioritizes social policies and social development." She also points out that Haddad and Simone Tebet, who heads the Brazilian Ministry of Planning, "positioned themselves strongly, but without an open confrontation with the market."

## People's movements

People's movements told **Brasil de Fato** that for the first time since 2016, when Michel Temer assumed power after the coup against Dilma Rousseff, there is an open dialogue with the federal government and the possibility of taking demands to

Brasília.

The central demands include the regularization of Indigenous lands and quilombola lands, as well as the regularization of settlements for agrarian reform. On March 21, the government granted land titles to three quilombola communities. So far, no settlements have been regularized nor have Indigenous lands been demarcated.

In the view of Iury Paulino, from the national coordination of the Movement of People Affected by Dams (MAB), the challenge for the movements "is to defend the government from fascist attacks, but, at the same time, press for the advancement of people-focused agendas." For Paulino, and on a more emergency basis, the government will have to take a position regarding the renewal of licenses such as that of the Belo Monte Hydroelectric Power Plant, whose construction expelled 55,000 people from their land and whose operation dries up the water for 130 kilometers of the Volta Grande do Xingu, in the Amazon.

"The recognition of our lands," emphasizes Val Eloy Terena, coordinator of the Brazil's Indigenous People Articulation



**Crowds at Lula's swearing in on January 1. Photo: Twitter. Lula's administration has significantly shifted the direction of politics in Brazil, sharply departing from his predecessor Jair Bolsonaro**

(APIB), is "the main demand of the movement," because "without territory, there is no way to discuss agendas such as health, education, politics for women, children and youth."

For Dinaman Tuxá, APIB's executive coordinator, "in practice, the government's most incisive action was the task force to combat mining in the Yanomami Indigenous land. We are also seeing the creation of dialogue to contain the most tense spaces, such as the creation of crisis offices for conflict areas."

With regards to agrarian reform, the Landless Rural Workers' Movement (MST) emphasizes that it believes it is necessary to structure the National Institute for Colonization and Agrarian Reform (INCRA) and for the definitive settlement of 65,000 families who live in camps.

"INCRA is like Funai (National Indigenous Peoples Foundation) of the landless people in Brazil. It is the authority responsible for inspecting, classifying properties, contacting the owner, negotiating, acquiring, updating registrations," explains José Damasceno, from the MST's national board.

## Environment

The "zero deforestation" policy was one of the main campaign promises, in contrast to the environmental devastation left by Jair Bolsonaro. As president, Lula has implemented vital measures for the preservation of biomes, but he still has not definitively reversed the destructive actions in the Amazon and the Cerrado. And experts predict that it is a much

longer process.

Environmentalists that spoke to **Brasil de Fato** are confident that the results should appear in the upcoming years, as long as there is stricter inspection and fewer concessions to agribusiness. Ane Alencar, Director of Science at the Amazon Environmental Research Institute and coordinator of the Cerrado and Fogo biomes at MapBiomas, says that data from the Real Time Deforestation Detection System (Deter) indicate a significant reduction in deforestation up to March 24: in the Amazon it went from 941 km<sup>2</sup> to 710 km<sup>2</sup> and, in the Cerrado, from 1288 km<sup>2</sup> to 1244 km<sup>2</sup>.

"It is already something to celebrate, especially in the case of the Amazon. But we need to consolidate this reduction. And this consolidation will happen as the government becomes more structured and organized," says the MapBiomas member.

The Brazilian Environmental Governance Observatory (OGAM), created in 2022, calls on the Lula government to expand civil society participation in the National Environmental Council (Conama). The organization is the most important for dialogue between the federal government and civil society, but it had been emptied by Bolsonaro.

*This piece first appeared in [Brasil de Fato](#).*

## Why Over 150 Youth Leaders From US Will Travel To Cuba For International Workers' Day



*Last year, the International People's Assembly organized a brigade with 100 youth to join Cuba's May Day celebrations. Various left organizations and social movements in the US are sending young leaders on a delegation to Cuba to learn more about the island's history and present, directly from Cuban youth and movement leaders*

This coming International Workers' Day, grassroots organizations across the United States are collectively sending 150 youth leaders to take part in Cuba's May 1 celebrations. This brigade is following in the footsteps of last year's [May Day brigade](#) coordinated by the International People's Assembly

(IPA).

Participating organizations include Black Men Build, the Party for Socialism and Liberation, BYP100, the Palestinian Youth Movement, the Peoples Forum, and Black Lives Matter Grassroots. The Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Center, a Christian grassroots organization in Havana, is hosting the visit. Peoples Forum executive director Manolo De Los Santos said of the visit, "As young leaders in the United States we want to affirm our right to learn, exchange, and build with the Cuban people who live under cruel sanctions and are kept on the list of State Sponsors of Terror for no credible reason." He added, "this historic delegation will renew the historic

bonds of solidarity between people of Cuba and the United States despite Biden's aggressive foreign policy."

While reactionary legislators in the US want to enshrine Cuba's membership on the politicized "State Sponsors of Terrorism" list [into law](#), people in the US have a different view of Cuba. Cuba has slowly become more and more favorable in the eyes of the US population, with favorability climbing from 10% in 1997 to 42% in 2023. Youth especially are more likely to [oppose](#) US sanctions against Cuba. Many of the young leaders traveling to Cuba express the desire to fight the blockade against Cuba once they return home.

# Economic Recovery: Sam Jonah Warns Govt Over Austerity Measures, Full Text

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE CHANCELLOR OF UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST, DR (SIR) SAM ESSON JONAH AT THE 5<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE 55<sup>TH</sup> CONGREGATION**

Chairman of Council;  
Vice-Chancellor;  
Members of the Governing Council;  
The Honourable Central Regional Minister;  
Osabarima Kwesi Atta II, Paramount Chief of the Oguaa Traditional Area and Entourage;  
Vice-Chancellors of Sister Universities;  
Pro Vice-Chancellor and Pro Vice-Chancellors of Sister Universities;  
The Registrar and Registrars of Sister Universities;  
Nananom;  
Members of the Diplomatic Corps;  
Other Government Functionaries;  
Members of Parliament for Cape Coast North and Cape Coast South;  
Members of Convocation;  
The Clergy;  
Staff, Students and Alumni of University of Cape Coast;  
Distinguished Guests;  
The Media;  
Ladies and Gentlemen;  
A very warm welcome to you all on this momentous occasion of the 5<sup>th</sup> Session of the 55<sup>th</sup> Congregation Ceremony. I am delighted to preside over this Session which is dedicated to persons who completed their programmes of study at the end of the 2021/2022 academic year

Today, we celebrate the hard work, dedication, and achievements of our postgraduate students as they transition into the next chapter of their lives. Unfortunately the transition is occurring during a time of great uncertainty and adversity for our nation. We are facing unprecedented times against the backdrop of

complex, volatile and uncertain economic and geopolitical developments. This situation has fostered a growing sense of hopelessness and helplessness particularly amongst our youth, a development which has the potential to undermine the security and stability of our nation.

In the face of these challenges, I would like to take this opportunity to address both the graduating class and the decision-makers in our society. Let me start with some observations on the state of the nation. Our economic situation is very very challenging. Interest rates are intolerably high and a combination of that, high inflation and a volatile currency make for a dangerous cocktail. As we have been witnessing, there are no pretty policy choices for dealing with this situation. This is not the time for blame gaming. We need to focus in a constructive spirit to get us out of the mess we find ourselves in. In this regard, let me say that a lot of sacrifices will be expected of all of us. It is not going to be business as usual and none of us should pretend it will be. My advice to key policy makers is that the times we live in call for a healthy dose of humility in decision making as we navigate the difficult path of economic restructuring. In this regard, it is crucial that we take our decisions with empathy and a keen understanding of the impact of our actions on the lives of our citizens. Our policies must not exacerbate the existing struggles facing by our people. In these challenging times, we must listen more and speak less. As a nation, we must come together to face these challenges head-on. We must

foster a spirit of unity, resilience, and determination. Let us work collectively to create opportunities for our youth and build a future that is filled with promise and prosperity. We must listen to the voices of our youth and consider their perspectives as we develop policies and strategies for the betterment of our nation. Engage with them, learn from their experiences, and work together to create an environment where everyone can thrive.

To the graduating class, I urge you to view these challenging times as an opportunity for growth, innovation, and change. Your UCC journey has given you the essential skills needed to weather the current storm. You have learnt to be versatile, innovative and adaptable. You have also learnt that in life, success in any endeavour is a product of hard work, commitment, dedication, discipline and of course the right attitude. Let me remind all of you that it is during the most trying moments in history that true leaders emerge, and your education has provided you with the tools to become those leaders. As you step into the world, remember to use your knowledge, creativity, and passion to make a positive impact on our society. I encourage you to stay curious, never stop learning, and don't shy away from challenges. Your journey may not always be smooth but preserve because it is through adversity that we grow stronger and wiser. The future of our nation lies in your hands. Use the knowledge

ands. Use the knowledge



**Dr Sir Sam Esson Jonah**

and skills you have gained here to make a difference, not only in your own lives but also in the lives of those around you. Remain true to the entrepreneurial and innovative spirit that UCC has instilled in you. Today, you join the ranks of the many proud alumni of the University of Cape Coast, and I have no doubt that you will make us proud.

I would like to take this opportunity to applaud the dedication and hard work of our esteemed faculty members. Your unwavering commitment to the success of our students is truly commendable. You have guided, mentored, and inspired these graduates, helping them realize their full potential and preparing them for the challenges that lie ahead. Thank you for your invaluable contributions to the academic and personal growth of our students. To the parents and guardians present, I express my heartfelt gratitude for your unfailing support and encouragement throughout your wards educational journey. Your love, sacrifices, and belief in their abilities have played a crucial role in their success. It is a moment of great pride for you as well, as you witness the fruits of your labor and dedication.

The University of Cape Coast prides itself on being an entrepreneurial and innovative institution with a well-earned reputation for producing relevant research aimed at tackling the myriad of developmental challenges that Ghana faces today. Our university has been steadfast in its mission to equip students with the skills, knowledge, and resilience needed to address pressing issues, and we remain committed to this cause.

We are immensely proud that University of Cape Coast has created a conducive environment that fosters intellectual curiosity, personal growth, and academic excellence. Indeed, UCC has continuously provided the necessary resources and infrastructure to ensure that our students thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. UCC has been a beacon of hope and knowledge for countless students, and we remain committed to nurturing the talents and aspirations of future generations. This is our pledge. In conclusion, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to the class of 2023. May you go forth with courage, hope, and unwavering commitment to using your talents for the greater good. We are proud of your accomplishments, and we are confident that you will make a difference in the world. Thank you, and once again, congratulations!



# GHS Alarmed As One In 100 Children Is Diagnosed Of Type-1 Diabetes

**K**uami and his twin sister were abandoned by their mother and father at the hospital immediately after delivery. Their grandfather has since been taking care of them. However, Kuami, a graduate of EP senior High School was diagnosed of type 1 diabetes in 2022.

He has since lived on insulin but due to financial difficulties Kuami is unable to afford the medicine. "In August 2022, I was in shop then I was feeling that I want to urinate so I went to urinate when I came back, I was thirsty then I drink water then few minutes I was hungry then I ate so how the thing was going my grandfather said I should go to hospital. When we went they said it is diabetes so they gave me insulin to use every day but my grandfather said he doesn't have money to buy the insulin, one is ghc100 so he stopped buying the insulin. So I need help I want people to help me. My manhood is not working now that is worrying me" Kuami said.

Type 1 diabetes, once known as juvenile diabetes or insulin-dependent diabetes, is a chronic condition in which the pancreas produces little or no insulin by itself.

For Kuami and other people living with diabetes, access to affordable treatment, including insulin, is critical to their survival.

Eastern Regional Health Directorate raised concern over the alarming increase of type 1 diabetes among children.

The health directorate estimates that about 1 in 100 children in the region have type 1 diabetes which is expected to increase in the coming years.

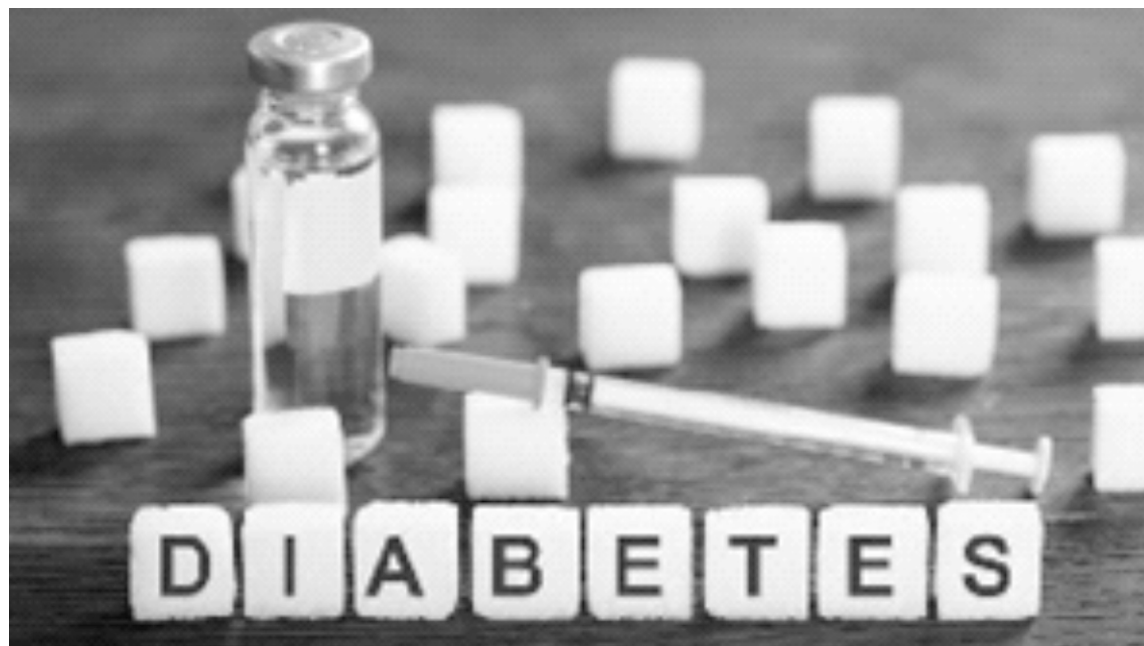
Dr. Abigail Doduwah Sackey, Eastern Region none-

communicable disease coordinator said the situation is disturbing given that children with type 1 diabetes require lifelong management including regular monitoring of blood sugar levels, healthy lifestyle and insulin therapy which is very expensive and inaccessible in parts of the country leaving such children to their fate.

"According to recent studies, prevalence of type 1 diabetes in Eastern region is increasing at an alarming rate. It is estimated that about 1 in 100 children in the region have type 1 diabetes, and this number is expected to increase in the coming years. This is a cause for concern, as type 1 diabetes can have a significant impact on the quality of life of those affected, and can also place a heavy burden on the healthcare system. Children with type 1 diabetes require lifelong management, including regular monitoring of blood sugar levels, insulin therapy and healthy lifestyle"

She stated that, generally, there are about 150,000 people in Ghana living with diabetes and a significant proportion of these have type 1 diabetes but "unfortunately, insulin can be expensive and difficult to access in some parts Ghana, which can make it challenging for people with type 1 diabetes to manage their condition. Hence the need for early diagnosis and treatment to prevent complication".

Nsawam based non-governmental organization, Ark Development organization (ADO) has therefore secured funding from Panorama Global T1D Community Fund to implement a two-year community-based



intervention titled "Diabetes Support Program" with main focus on advocacy, wellbeing and holistic support, financial assistance, and livelihood support for persons with type 1 diabetes in Ayensuano, Nsawam- Adoagyiri and Suhum Municipalities. Launching the project at Nsawam, the Executive Director of Ark Development Organization (ADO) Emmanuel Kwarfo Mintah, said "research conducted by the organization on Type 1 Diabetes in the selected municipalities and district revealed that due to poverty many patients with type 1 diabetes are unable to access insulin and adhere to dietary advice. "High cost of medicines, especially at this time of very high inflation and exchange rates, difficulty in accessing treatment services because services are mostly available at urban centres, bad roads and high cost of transportation contribute to the challenges with access to essential services required for T1D patients." He said the project therefore intends to use innovative approaches

through education by throwing more light on Type 1 Diabetes and help its patients with access to proper healthcare services for treatment and medication.

"We are of the belief that people living with Type 1 Diabetes must have access to adequate resources for its treatment and health care services. As part of this project, we will be conducting health screenings for the members of the MMDAs selected to identify such cases with the help of Ghana Health Service. We will also educate on how to avoid contracting the Type 2 Diabetes through proper management of our various lifestyles. That patients living with T1D live healthy lives, do proper diabetes self-management well and eventually reduce T1D morbidity in the project districts".

Health Directors in Suhum and Nsawam municipalities lamented how financial challenges have become barrier to availability and accessibility to insulin for treatment of type 1 diabetes among patients in the municipalities

therefore lauded the intervention.

Dr. Abigail Doduwah Sackey, Eastern Region Non-communicable diseases Coordinator commended Ark Development organization for the project which she says will complement effort by Ghana Health Service in dealing with the rising cases of type 1 diabetes.

She said the health directorate is in the process of establishing more wellness centers across the region to encourage regular testing for non-communicable diseases for early diagnosis and treatment.

The World Health Organization has said, the number of people with diabetes for instance rose from 108 million in 1980 to 422 million in 2014. Prevalence has been rising more rapidly in low- and middle-income countries than in high-income countries.

Diabetes is a major cause of blindness, kidney failure, heart attacks, stroke and lower limb amputation. Between 2000 and 2019, there was a 3% increase in diabetes mortality rates by age.