

## 'CARE' GH BLOWS ALARM OVER ONGOING SECRET REGISTRATION

### ...Calls On Electoral Commission To End Unlawful Practice



**Jean Mensa, EC Chairperson**



**David Kumi Addo, "CARE" GHANA Boss**



**C**are for Free and Fair Elections Ghana ("CARE" GHANA), a Civil Society Organisation has blown the lid on what it says is the secret registration of voters being undertaken by the Electoral

Commission (EC) of Ghana in breach of the law. According to "CARE Ghana the Electoral Commission even before the passage of the Constitutional Instrument (CI) in parliament

which will govern voter registration and election 2024 in general has already been carrying out voter registration exercise at its headquarters at the blind side

*cont. on page 3*

## SMG Worried Over New Mosquito Breed ...Urges Govt, Public To Take Precautionary Measures

**T**he Socialist Movement of Ghana (SMG) has expressed concern over the discovery of a dangerous malaria-causing mosquito breed in some parts of the

Greater Accra region. According to the SMG the announcement that Anopheles stephensi, a new breed of mosquito that transmits malaria

has been found in Tuba and Dansoman in the Greater Accra Region is very disturbing.

*cont. on page 5*

### I Paid GH¢1m Debt That Allowed Fomena MP To Agree To Join Majority Caucus – Ken Agyapong



**Andrew Asiamah Amoako**

**Ken Agyapong**

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### Palestinian Christians Accuse Israeli State Of Violating Their Freedom Of Worship *page 4*

# The INSIGHT

## — EDITORIAL

### TACKLING NON COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

**H**ealth experts have now identified Non Communicable Diseases (NCD) such as diabetes, stroke, hypertension and cancer as the main cause of morbidity and mortality in our public and private hospitals now.

Until recently, communicable diseases such as dysentery, typhoid fever, cholera among many others which are occasioned by untidy environment and lack of personal hygiene have been our bane.

Obviously, the growing cases of morbidity associated with NCDs are clear indications that these lifestyle diseases have become highly ingrained in our daily practices which need to be worked on.

It is regrettable that seeming improvement in general living conditions of some of the people considered part of the so-called growing Middle Class in the Ghanaian society has brought in its wake a deterioration of the health conditions of the majority of the people. It is even alarming especially as the health sector claims it concentrates higher percentage of its national budget to tackling diabetes and hypertension.

According to the Ghana Health Service records hypertension and diabetes, two preventable diseases attributable to lifestyle of the people are due to excessive drinking of alcohol, lack of exercises, and eating non-healthy diets.

This means that if the majority of the people could adopt healthy lifestyles such as exercising, drinking lots of water and eating well, there will be improvement in the health of the people and these NCDs could be reduced if not prevented.

# I Paid GH¢1m Debt That Allowed Fomena MP To Agree To Join Majority Caucus – Ken Agyapong

**T**he Member of Parliament (MP) for Assin Central, Kennedy Agyapong, has disclosed the vital role he played for his party, the New Patriotic Party (NPP), to form the majority caucus of the 8th Parliament of Ghana.

Ken Agyapong, an NPP presidential hopeful, narrated that the party needed the MP for Fomena, Andrew Asiamah Amoako, who is an independent MP, to join their side in parliament so that they will become the majority in the House.

Speaking to delegates of the NPP in Tema, Ken Agyapong said that it took his intervention and his GH¢1 million for the condition given by Asiamah Amoako, who is now the 2nd deputy speaker of parliament, to be met, which made him join NPP in the House.

“If not for me, the NPP will not have majority in parliament after the 2020 elections. Because after the election, NDC had 137 parliamentarians, NPP also had 137 and there was one independent candidate.

“We wanted the independent candidate to join us and the condition he gave was that the NPP chairman for Adansi Fomena must resign before he joins us.

“I spoke to the Adansi Fomena NPP chairman and he told me that he will have resigned but a rural bank, he owes GH¢1.5 million will take him to court if he is no longer the chairman of the party in the constituency,” he said in Twi.



2nd Deputy Speaker of Parliament Andrew Asiamah Amoako (left), MP Ken Agyapong (right)

Ken Agyapong added that he paid GH¢1 million of the debt of the Adansi Fomena NPP Chairman, which led him to resign, for Asiamah Amoako to join NPP MPs to form the majority caucus.

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

## THE INSIGHT

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# 'CARE' GH BLOWS ALARM OVER ONGOING SECRET REGISTRATION

## Calls On Electoral Commission To End Unlawful Practice

*from front page*

of political parties, the key stakeholders contrary to the law. A statement issued yesterday by 'CARE' Ghana signed by David Kumi Addo, Executive Director said, "The Electoral Commission (EC) is secretly registering voters at the EC head office whiles we await the passage of Electoral Commission's C. I. that will establish clear rules and notice of how the voters' registration exercise will be carried out. A voter registration exercise shredded in secrecy is a significant opportunity to manipulate election results. Originally, public announcements and notices of commencement are advertised before every voter registration exercise begins". "Our checks indicate that, major key stakeholders including political parties, Civil

Society Organizations (CSOs) and the media are unaware of the ongoing voter registration exercise and are therefore surprised at the conduct of the EC. Prior notice of a voter registration exercise significantly eliminates suspicion and bolster stakeholder trust in the electoral process since it creates awareness and enables equal participation", the statement said. Attempt to get the EC to respond to the allegation proved futile. This is the full text of the statement by 'CARE' Ghana';

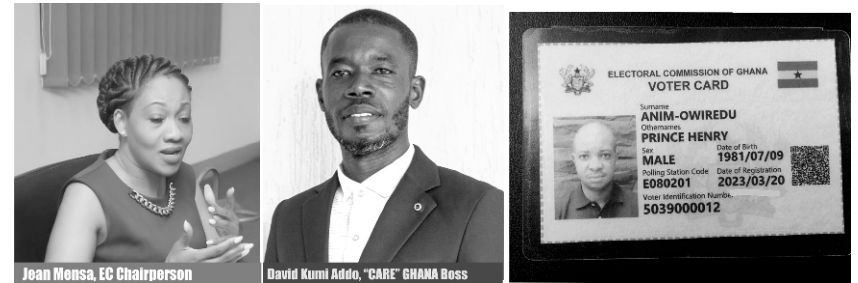
### **PRESS STATEMENT**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
17th April, 2023

### **"CARE" GHANA CALLS ON EC TO IMMEDIATELY CEASE THE ONGOING SECRETE VOTER REGISTRATION EXERCISE**

It has come to the attention of Care for Free and Fair Elections Ghana ("CARE" GHANA) that, the Electoral Commission (EC) is secretly registering voters at the EC head office whiles we await the passage of Electoral

Commission's C. I. that will establish clear rules and notice of how the voters' registration exercise will be carried out. A voter registration exercise shredded in secrecy is a significant opportunity to manipulate election results. Originally, public announcements and notices of commencement are advertised before every voter registration exercise begins. Our checks indicate that, major key stakeholders including political parties, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and the media are unaware of the ongoing voter registration exercise and are therefore surprised at the conduct of the EC. Prior notice of a voter registration exercise significantly eliminates suspicion and bolster stakeholder trust in the electoral process since it creates awareness and enables equal participation. The recent attempt by the Electoral Commission (EC) to lay before Parliament a Constitutional Instrument (C.I.) met stiff opposition as a result of the challenges associated with



aspects of the document. Parliament rejected the C. I. and recommended that the Electoral Commission amend portions of the C.I. that is in contention. Majority of Ghanaians have raised issues with portions of the C. I. that seeks to eliminate the existing guarantor system since it may inhibit close to four million people from participating in the establishment of Government. This is an attempt to subjugate the 1992 constitution. Unfortunately, instead of focusing on correcting the anomalies to facilitate the express passage of the C.I., the EC has rather decided to embark on a complex safari that poses danger to the credibility of Ghana's electoral process. Similar action by the EC in the last voter registration exercise resulted in an incident that led to the killing of a young graduate teacher. A

Constitutional Instrument (C.I.) generally accepted builds public trust and promotes electoral integrity. Clearly that, the conduct of the EC amounts to voter registration fraud purposely to aid the manipulation of the 2024 Parliamentary and presidential elections. We, therefore, call on the Electoral Commission to immediately halt the ongoing voter registration exercise and provide an explanation for its conduct.

Thank You

Signed

**DAVID KUMI ADDO**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ("CARE"**  
**GHANA)**  
**0559026124/0273009907**

Signed.

Bernard Senyo Nyendu  
For Convener

## Afram Plains: Ambulances, Hundreds Stranded As Ferry Breaks Down



Both ends of the river banks are overwhelmed with traders, cargo vehicles and ambulances

Tension is mounting among commuters from Adawso to Ekye Amanfro in the Eastern Region as the ferry which transports passengers on the Afram River has developed a mechanical fault. Speaking to some drivers on

Wednesday morning, they described the situation as worrying indicating that the ferry couldn't transport commuters from Adawso to Ekye Amanfro since Tuesday, April 11, 2023, around 10:00 am.

Both ends of the river banks are overwhelmed with traders, cargo vehicles and ambulances. Traders are terrified their goods, especially perishable ones, awaiting transport may not

survive if the long waiting continues from the morning of Wednesday, April 12, 2023. Goods such as bananas, yams, and meat are hoarded in cargo cars as well as ambulances conveying ill persons are on halt awaiting the ferry to resume operation. The main cause of the ferry's sudden breakdown is unknown. However, it is alleged that one of the pontoon's engines has spoilt for the past six years of which

authorities have refused to fix. In an interview with the Member of Parliament for Afram Plains South, Joseph Appiah Boateng on Nkawkaw-based radio station Agoo Fm, he expressed his dissatisfaction of the long waiting and the neglect of the Afram Plains by the ruling NPP government. He said the Akufo-Addo government has refused to approve funds for the construction of bad roads within

the areas of Afram plains. He served notice to lead a demonstration should the government fail to pay attention to their needs. The Queen mother for Mamakrobo, Nana Yaa Serwa Bonsu on her part pleaded with the government to intervene and resolve issues about the ferry and poor road network in Afram Plains.



# INTERNATIONAL NEWS REPORT

## Compiled By Peoples Dispatch

### Palestinian Christians Accuse Israeli State Of Violating Their Freedom Of Worship



(Photo: Mostafa Alkharouf/Anadolu Agency/Getty). The Greek Orthodox Church in occupied East Jerusalem asked Palestinians to defy restrictions imposed by the Israeli occupation forces ahead of Orthodox Easter which was celebrated on April 16

After repeatedly attacking Muslim worshippers inside the Al-Aqsa mosque compound over last couple of weeks during Ramadan, the Israeli occupation forces imposed restrictions on Easter festivities at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in occupied East Jerusalem, leading to strong objections from Christians in Palestine. Citing security concerns, the Israeli forces restricted the

number of worshippers inside the church—considered one of the holiest in Christianity—during the Holy Light festivities, and put barricades across the old city.

The Church of the Holy Sepulchre, located near the Al-Aqsa mosque, is believed by Christians to be the place where Jesus was crucified, buried, and resurrected. The present church was built in the 12th century.

For Greek Orthodox Christians, Holy Light is considered to be the most important religious festival of the year, when thousands of people visit the church on the Saturday before Easter to witness what they believe is a miraculous holy fire [Orthodox Easter will be celebrated on April 16] .

The leaders of the Greek Orthodox Church in the city, after a meeting with the Israeli security forces on Wednesday, April 12, accused the Israel state of adopting a “heavy handed” approach in the matter and called on Palestinians to participate in the festivities in large numbers and defy the state restrictions. Some sections of Christians also accused the Israeli state of persecuting them. Donald Binder, chaplain to the Anglican archbishop of

Jerusalem, told Al-Jazeera that Israeli forces often lock the Armenian and Christian quarters on the days of holy ceremonies, preventing people from attending them.

“Christians are being kept out of their quarters of the holy city on the holiest day of the year for them,” he said.

The Palestinian Authority (PA) also extended its support to a call given by the Higher Presidential Committee to Follow Up on Church Affairs in Palestine to join the festivities in large numbers defying Israeli restrictions.

Leaders of the Orthodox Church in the city, such as Patriarch Theophilos III, Father Mattheos Siopsi, and others, addressed reporters after their meeting with the Israeli security forces failed and said that the restrictions were

unreasonable, unjustified, and a violation of international laws related to freedom of worship, Wafa news agency reported. In a joint Easter message last month, churches in occupied East Jerusalem condemned the increasing violence against Christians under Israeli occupation authorities in recent times. They also cited the attack on slain journalist Shireen Abu Akleh's funeral procession by the Israeli security forces.

Christians have come under various forms of attacks since the extremist right-wing government under Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu came to power. There have been incidences of Christians being killed in Israeli raids or being attacked by extremist Jews on the streets. Even their cemeteries have been vandalized, according to reports.

### Massive Rallies Across Portugal Demand Affordable And Dignified Housing

Major rallies have been staged across Portugal demanding policies to tackle the housing crisis. Rallies were held in the cities of Lisbon, Porto, Viseu, Aveiro, Coimbra, and Braga under the banner of the coalition “Home to Live In.” Activists from various groups including Habita, Stop Evictions, the Portuguese Communist Party (PCP), and Left Bloc (BE) participated in the actions.

Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Costa launched #MaisHabitação (More Housing) on March 31, a program to promote affordable rents, strengthen confidence in the rental market, and utilize already existing units for housing purposes. Yet, housing rights activists denounced the program as a Trojan Horse that will use the public budget to subsidize speculative incomes. Activists have demanded a ceiling on rents and property prices, more funds for social housing, increased wages and an end to evictions.

The Stop Evictions collective has said that over 20,000 people have taken part in mobilizations across the country, involving the participation of around 100 organizations. They also denounced police intimidation against demonstrators in Lisbon. Cities across Portugal are facing an acute housing crisis marked by soaring rents and property prices, even as hundreds of thousands of houses remain unoccupied. According to the registry of the Portuguese National Institute of Statistics, there are around 723,215 empty houses in the country. Earlier in February this year, the Portuguese government unveiled its plan, which includes suspending new licenses for Airbnbs in the country and ending golden visas for international home buyers. Leftist parties and housing rights groups have criticized the government for remaining silent on demands such as instituting a rent

cap, expropriating unoccupied houses, taxing and controlling rent sharks and speculation in real estate, and increasing investments in social housing.

On April 1, while addressing the housing mobilization in Lisbon, Catarina Martins from BE said that “The government tried to empty the demonstration with the More Housing package, but the people realized that this package is insufficient. We don't want more tax breaks, we want to get rid of the existing ones, we want prices regulated, and people to have a salary to pay rent on. People don't have to have aid to pay rent, because when the aid ends, people can't afford their house.”

“There must be ceilings on rents, it is necessary that houses that are empty are available to people and above all it is necessary that houses



have prices that people can afford. Considering the price of housing in Portugal as one of the biggest problems in the country” and that Lisbon “is one of the most expensive cities in the world taking into account wages,” she added. On Saturday, Paulo Raimundo from the Portuguese Communist Party (PCP) stated that “the housing problem is a central problem and

the measures that the government has advanced have no implications in the lives of people” These days, the Portuguese working class has been also organizing protests titled Vida Justa (Fair Life) to demand an increase in wages and pensions as well as better job security.



# SMG Worried Over New Mosquito Breed ...Urges Govt, Public To Take Precautionary Measures

from front page

A statement issued yesterday by the Accra Collective of the SMG —signed by Bernard Senyo Nyendu, for the Convener said, “The Accra Collective of the Socialist Movement of Ghana is deeply worried about the malaria spreading new breed of mosquito which has been found in some parts of the Greater Accra Region and calls on the Government of Ghana to take immediate steps to deal with the threat of an escalation in malaria transmission”.

Already, malaria is commonly and usually known to be gotten by people who are bitten by an infective female *Anopheles* mosquitoes and the discovery of the new stephensi breed which health experts say is difficult to be dealt with is raising serious concerns.

Malaria is a serious and sometimes fatal disease caused by a parasite that commonly infects a certain

type of mosquito which feeds on humans. People who get malaria are typically very sick with high fevers, shaking chills, and flu-like illness. Globally, the World Health Organization estimates that in 2020, 241 million clinical cases of malaria occurred, and 627,000 people died of malaria, most of them children in Africa. Because malaria causes so much illness and death, the disease is a great drain on many national economies. Since many countries with malaria are already among the poorer nations, the disease maintains a vicious cycle of disease and poverty.

The SMG statement noted that by implementuing effective and robust measures such as environmental management and individual-level precautions, we can effectively combat malaria parasites.

The statement entreated all to ensure that their environment is clean and sanitation sustained to

prevent the new breed of mosquitoes from breeding and multiplying to cause harm to the public's health.

This is the full text of the SMG statement;

April 17, 2023

## STATEMENT ON THE NEW BREED OF MOSQUITO

The Accra Collective of the Socialist Movement of Ghana (SMG) is deeply worried about the malaria spreading new breed of mosquito which has been found in some parts of the Greater Accra Region and calls on the Government of Ghana to take immediate steps to deal with the threat of an escalation in malaria transmission.

Malaria is a serious and sometimes fatal disease caused by a parasite that commonly infects a certain type of mosquito which feeds on humans. People who get malaria are typically very sick with high fevers, shaking chills, and flu-like illness.

Globally, the World Health Organization estimates that in 2020, 241 million clinical cases of malaria

occurred, and 627,000 people died of malaria, most of them children in Africa. Because malaria causes so much illness and death, the disease is a great drain on many national economies. Since many countries with malaria are already among the poorer nations, the disease maintains a vicious cycle of disease and poverty.

Usually, people get malaria by being bitten by an infective female *Anopheles* mosquitoes. Only *Anopheles* mosquitoes can transmit malaria and they must have been infected through a previous blood meal taken from an infected person. When a mosquito bites an infected person, a small amount of blood is taken in which contains microscopic malaria parasites. About 1 week later, when the mosquito takes its next blood meal, these parasites mix with the mosquito's saliva and are injected into the person being bitten.

Because the malaria parasite is found in red blood cells of an infected person, malaria can also be transmitted through blood transfusion, organ transplant, or the shared use of needles or syringes contaminated with blood. Malaria may also be transmitted from a mother to her unborn infant before or during delivery (“congenital” malaria). The Ghana Health Service (GHS), through its surveillance system, said it had detected the presence of a new breed of mosquito that transmits malaria, *Anopheles stephensi*, in Tuba and Dansoman in the Greater Accra Region.

What the public must also know is that this breed of mosquito cannot be killed by normal insecticides which are the usual killers of mosquitoes.

It is the first time the country has detected the mosquito breed which is usually not in West Africa but abounds in Asian countries.

Indeed, it is crucial to be concerned about the persistence of this mosquito species, as it could potentially lead to a surge in the mosquito population within our country. This, in turn, heightens the risk of malaria transmission. To mitigate this risk, we must take proactive measures to implement effective environmental management practices. The presence of a robust mosquito species, such as *Anopheles stephensi*, that can thrive in water sources and withstand harsh environmental conditions, poses a significant concern. If this species becomes established in the local mosquito population, it is likely to result in an increase in overall mosquito numbers. This, in turn, could lead to a



Kwaku Agyeman-Manu, Minister of Health

heightened risk of malaria transmission. Therefore, it is imperative to take proactive measures to prevent the proliferation of such mosquito species through effective environmental management practices.

The correlation between a rise in mosquito population and an elevated risk of malaria prevalence cannot be overlooked. Mosquitoes play a pivotal role in transmitting the malaria parasite from one person to another, and a surge in their population can heighten this risk. It is, therefore, imperative to take preventive measures, including effective environmental management, to mitigate the expansion of mosquito populations and reduce the potential for increased malaria transmission.

By implementing effective measures, such as environmental management and individual-level precautions, we can effectively combat malaria parasites. When each person takes responsibility for treating mosquito bites appropriately, even if a mosquito does bite, it will not be able to transmit parasites from one person to another. This collective effort at the individual level can contribute significantly to reducing the transmission of malaria and minimizing its impact on communities. The Socialist Movement of Ghana would like to entreat all and sundry to ensure their environment is kept clean and sanitation is sustained to prevent these new breed mosquitoes from breeding and multiplying to cause harm to the public's health.

We also call on the Government of Ghana to immediately resume consultations with the Cuban Government on the revival of the malaria eradication project which was abandoned about six years ago. There can be no good reason for the increase in the transmission of malaria, when many countries around the world have effectively eradicated the disease.

## We Financed 2020 Budget To Save Economy From Total Collapse - BoG



Dr. Philip Abradu-Otoo, Director of Research at the Bank of Ghana

Director of Research at the Central Bank, Dr. Philip Abradu-Otoo, has insisted that the decision to provide financing for government's budget in the wake of the post COVID-19 era was necessary. According to him, the Ghanaian economy was on the brink of a collapse and therefore required the Central Bank to provide support to government to avert further crisis. Speaking at the University of Ghana's 75th Anniversary Public Lecture on “Ghana's Economic; The need for Paradigm Shift”, Dr Abradu-Otoo said the BoG was left

with no choice but to move ahead with salvaging a looming economic collapse.

“So the Central Bank's point of view, we realised we needed an economy to protect. So, there were choices that had to be made, should we allow the economy to collapse or we should stick strictly to issues of fiscal dominance and then who picks up the pieces after the economy has collapsed,” he stressed.

“But that financing that we did in 2022 went mainly to deal with investors; domestic investors whose bonds had matured and government needed to pay these bonds and for which government had no resources”, Dr Abradu-Otoo explained. The Director of Research added that the Central Bank supported the government as a lender to safeguard and protect the financial sector from a near collapse during the period. “Hundred percent of that amount [BoG financing] was due

to domestic bonds that had matured for which we had to step in to save these domestic investors. And that is where this fiscal dominance issue came in”. “So yes, it came in but we did that to save domestic investors”, Dr Abradu-Otoo concluded. Meanwhile, the Bank of Ghana and the Ministry of Finance have committed to zero financing for the 2023 fiscal year and beyond - both parties are expected to sign an MoU to that effect.

Speaking at the 111th Monetary Policy Committee press briefing on March 27, Dr Addison emphasised that the decision falls under the Staff Level Agreement reached with the Bretton Wood institution for an economic bailout for Ghana. He added that it also forms part of prudent macroeconomic policies which are expected to trigger a disinflation path and downward trends in the monetary policy rate which is now pegged at 29.5 percent.

# I Will Use My Experience To Transform Ghana; Not Lofty Promises - Mahama

Former President John Mahama has assured Ghanaians that he will not disappoint them when re-elected to govern the country in 2024. The 2020 flagbearer of the opposition NDC said he will not make promises he and his government cannot fulfill but will rather ensure that he works according to the party's policies which have been lined up already. Speaking to party executives during his tour of the Eastern Region on Tuesday, April 11, 2023, the presumptive flagbearer of the NDC pledged not to win elections on the back of enormous promises like President Nana Akufo-Addo did prior to the 2016 elections. Mahama said upon all the promises that helped him win the 2016 elections, Akufo-Addo has little to show although his government is the luckiest

one in the history of the country. "In 2024, I am not going to promise you 1 village 1 dam, 1 district 1 factory," he noted as he tagged them as lies. "In 2024, What I can pledge to you Ghanaians is my God-given experience. I will use that experience to transform this country into a better Ghana that we all want," John Mahama said at Akuapem Akropong. Mahama believes rising through the ranks to become a one-time president has given him a rich experience, especially after he has been in opposition for almost 8 years and has reflected on the concerns of Ghanaians on daily basis. The former president assured that he will not run a government that will try policies but rather an administration that is well experienced to transform the country at a faster pace. John Mahama went on and urged the party executives especially those at the branch

level to work harder and ensure they maximize their votes next year than they got for the NDC in the previous election years. He said the party has instituted a rewarding scheme to award branches and constituencies that will reach the targets the party will set for them ahead of the 2024 polls.

## Campaign

The 2020 flagbearer of the NDC is expected to visit thirty-one (31) constituencies in the Eastern Region where he will meet and interact with branch and constituency executives. He has been speaking about his vision of "Building Ghana we want together", and why securing a convincing win in the NDC primaries will be a great boost for the 2024 presidential election. An earlier statement from Mahama's Special Aide, Joyce Bawa Mogtari, said her boss



**John Dramani Mahama, Former president**

will also share his plans for improving the party's polling and electoral area campaign. That will be done through voter mobilizing and canvassing, and the effective utilization of campaign materials and resources said Bawa Mogtari. From the Eastern Region, President Mahama will spend a day touring some constituencies in the Greater Accra Region on Friday, April 14, before heading out to the

Oti Region. Former President John Mahama has so far toured 7 regions, touching the ground in at least 116 constituencies. He is expected to visit all 275 constituencies in the country before May 13, 2023, when the NDC will hold both its parliamentary and presidential primaries. Two other people are contesting Mahama for the flagbearer position to lead the NDC to the elections 2024.

## 20 Africa Return Migrants Undergo Business Coaching Training Workshop In Accra

The German Sparkassensitiftung for International Co-operation (DSIK) with her Cooperation Partner Migrant Labour General Workers' Union International (MLGWUI) has organised 5-Day Non-Residential Coaching Business Training Workshop for twenty (20) African Return Migrants referred to as Returnees at two separate centres: Ghanaian-European Centre for Migration and Development (GEC), Accra and Queen of Peace Credit Union Centre, (QOPCCU), Madina both in Greater Accra Region from 10th to 14th April, 2023 respectively. The Participants were selected out of 40 Micro Business Training Trainees organised from 20th to 24th March, 2023 at Credit Union Training Centre (CUtraC), Kasoa in Ghana. The German Sparkassensitiftung for International Co-operation DSIK has signed Memorandum of



Understanding (MoU) Agreement with the Migrant Labour General Workers' Union International (MLGWUI) in order to organising and offering business training for Return Migrants (Returnees) in business skills and financial services support as part of DSIK 'Economic Inclusion for Returnees and Potential Migrants' for African Migrants aimed to support them by gaining basic business skills and provide easier access to financial services and products to equip Returnees and Potential Migrants specifically from Germany and order countries with entrepreneurial

skills.

In his message to the Trainees on Day One, the Business Training Co-ordinator of DSIK, Mr. Benjamin Tawiah Adomako urged Trainees to take this opportunity of Business Coaching Training Workshop Session seriously to ensure they have good and successful business plans for submission and considered financial services and products support. Mr. Frank Aboagye, the Manager of Queen of Peace Credit Union did short presentation about financial product services CUA offers to individuals including Migration Business Loan Fund and urged the Trainees to join CUA. Justice Baako Ntarmah, the General Secretary and Head of Education International Relations of the Migrant Labour General Workers Union International (MLGWUI) who coordinated and

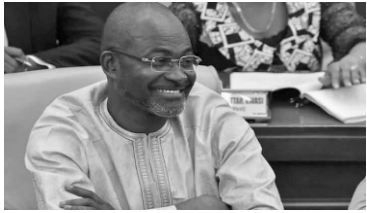
monitored two training sessions assured all African Return Migrants (Returnees) that Migrant Labour General Workers' Union International (MLGWUI) which is the migrant trade union organisation for African and Diaspora Migrants is working assiduously to ensure almost all Return Migrants are trained and gained with business skills and have access to finance services and products support for their own businesses. Mr. Justice Baako Ntarmah who is also known in labour migration and regional reintegration as "Comrade" reiterated his comradeship appeal on behalf of Returnees to Landlords(ladies) to consider and support Returnees with low rental accommodation for their immediate and happy reintegration into society. "Delay or Returnees inability to immediate access to decent accommodation and

employment gives another thought of labour remigration", Mr. Ntarmah bemoaned. Mr. Ntarmah thanked Facilitators Mr. Joseph, Madams Christabel, Abena and Doreen respectively for their cooperation with Trainees during the 5-Day Business Coaching Training Workshop Sessions. Among other topics and expectations, the Business Coaching Trainees went through Business Plan Assessment Submission for successful business plans and financial services support. All twenty (20) Trainees received Certificate of Participation with support in returning to their various homes.

**Report by Justice Baako NTARMAH, CORRESPONDENT of MIGRANT LABOUR WORKER SALARY BULLETIN**



# Kennewdy Agyepong Touts Achievements For Both Ghana And NPP



## HON. KEN'S ACHIEVEMENTS - NPP & GHANA AS WHOLE

- \*Hon. Ken is a Founding member of then US based Danquah-Busia club formed in 1991\*.

- \*NPP was formed in 1992 through Danquah-Busia club.\*

- \*In 1992 at age 32, Hon. Ken and his business partner sponsored NPP with 3million dollars loan facility they took from Cal bank with 8years payment plan\*.

- \*Hon. Ken in 1992 personally gave the then NPP flagbearer, Prof. Adu Boahen 300.000 dollars for his campaign.\*

- \*He donated Pickups to NPP in previous election years as follows:\*

\*1996 - 15 pickups\*

\*2000 - 50 pickups\*

\*2004 - 100 pickups\*

\*2008 - 245 Tata Pickups, 77 Russian Trucks.\*

~ \*2008 - He again gave out 2million dollars which enabled the party to embark on

Presidential runoff.\*

- \*2012 - He guaranteed for a 2million dollars loan the party took from a Chinese business person. He has to personally settle the loan when NPP lost the election\*

- \*2014 - Single handedly, Hon. Ken sponsored NPP for the Tamale Congress after then General Secretary, late Sir John issued letters to all regional chairmen stating NPP's inability for the National Congress because of financial challenges.\*

- \*In 2016 Hon. Ken Ohene Agyepong personally paid for 120 out of 240 pickups he purchased from USA for the party.\*

NOTE: \*HON. KEN HAS DONATED OVER 600 VEHICLES TO NPP PARTY SO FAR & STILL DOING SO.\*

- \*2016 - Again, Hon. Ken donated Eleven (11) 20footer containers of Used Clothes which were distributed to the electorates\*

- \*2021 - NPP is enjoying majority of Ghana's 8th Parliament because of Hon. Ken's magical works upon a serious demand from Hon. Asiamah as Independent MP. The MP was a decider for the party to become majority in parliament but after

consultation he demanded for his chairman Mr Akwasi Nti's resignation before he joins NPP to form majority since both sides were 137-137. Hon. Ken paid 1million out of 1.5 million bank loan Mr Nti had taken before he resigned for the Independent MP to joined NPP to form the majority we have today.\*

- \*Hon. Ken has sponsored and donated to most MPs - past and current.\*

\*NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS OF KEN\*

- \*Hon. Ken is building a 6million dollars cardio and dialysis center at 37 Military hospital.\*

- \*Additionally he has sponsored 11 Ghanaian medical soldiers to India who are specializing purposely for the facility.\*

- \*Hon. Ken has donated to the Ghana Armed Forces his five (5) fish ponds 1km each stretch at Atwima Kwanwoma to feed them.\*

- \*Hon. Ken paid 143,000 dollars for servicing of a Cancer Medical Machine at Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital (KATH) to start functioning again\*

- \*Hon. Ken is the only

politician who donated 1million dollars Hospital Beds and PPEs as token to support government in the heated era of COVID-19.\*

- \*Hon. Ken is the only politician who has donated 1000 KV plant to Tamale Teaching Hospital in the era of DUMSOR when medical practitioners were using Touch Lights during operations (surgery)\*

- \*Hon. Ken has the biggest Cold Store in Africa built in Ghana, serving Ghanaians and has employed many Ghanaians too.\*

- \*Hon. Ken is establishing in Ghana here, the Largest Steel Factory in Africa and the company will serve Ghanaians especially with over 1,000 employment.\*

- \*Hon. Ken has established Starch Processing factory at Atebubu-Amanteng serving Ghanaians.\*

- \*The critical thinker Hon. Ken currently pays over 7000 workers and his employees shall hit 10,000 by 2024.\*

- \*Hon. Ken rescued Abraham Atta of 'Beasts of No Nation' movie from the street, paid for his school fees and now glory be to God Abraham is an International Movie Star.\*

NOTE: \*There are lots of

Ghanaians he has and still paying fees for like that of Abraham Atta\*

- \*Hon. Ken has promised to take educational responsibility of a younger brother of the young soldier who got murdered in Ashiaman. Nonetheless, Hon. Ken has donated 20,000 Ghs to the late soldier's mum to run business with.\*

- \*Hon. Ken paid 400,000 dollars to rescue 1,000 Ghanaian women who got stranded in Lebanon to Ghana.\*

- \*Hon. Ken is the only politician who supported the people of Ashiaman when they were overtook by a heavy downpour in 2002.\*

- \*2023 - Hon. Ken has supported the conflict area in Upper East Region with 500 bags of 50kg Rice and Boxes of Oil and still do more.\*

- \*Hon. Ken has supported many Ghanaians and foreigners in critical areas of education, health, business, traveling, etc and still doing so.\*

\*Indeed Hon. Ken has served NPP and mother Ghana well with Patriotism and Passion. The time is now for pragmatic approach to growth. The right person, at the right time, for the right reasons.\*

#GhanaFirst

#ForNPP

#KenCanDoBetter

#Ken4Flagbearer2024

#Hope4theHopeless

#Voice4theVoiceless

#PHD\_KEN\_CAN\_DO

# Representation Of The Frente POLISARIO At The United Nations

## Press Release

**(New York, 11 April 2023)** - The Spokesperson for the UN Secretary-General informed yesterday that between 5 and 7 April a ground convoy of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) completed deliveries to two of the Mission's Team Sites in the Liberated Sahrawi Territories. The Spokesperson for the UN Secretary-General also appreciated that safe passage was provided to the Mission to overcome some of the logistical challenges it is facing in reference to the goodwill gesture announced by the President of the Sahrawi Republic (SADR) and Secretary-General of the Frente POLISARIO, Mr Brahim Ghali, in his

letter to the UN Secretary-General, Mr António Guterres, dated 29 March 2023. In his letter, the President of the Sahrawi Republic (SADR) and Secretary-General of the Frente POLISARIO referred to the challenges facing MINURSO since the breaching and torpedoing by the occupying state of Morocco of the 1991 ceasefire on 13 November 2020. He stressed that the occupying state is the only party responsible for the multiple consequences resulting from its continued breach on the presence and operation of MINURSO in the Territory, including the regular and safe provision of its supplies, by land and air, and other logistical issues.

The President of the Sahrawi Republic (SADR) and Secretary-General of the Frente POLISARIO recalled that the Frente POLISARIO, despite the breakdown of the ceasefire and related military agreements, remained committed to ensuring the security and safety of MINURSO military observers stationed in the Liberated Sahrawi Territories and facilitating the operation of the Mission by providing regular safe passage to its resupply flights and linkup ground convoys, among other things.

In this spirit, the President of the Sahrawi Republic (SADR) and Secretary-General of the

Frente POLISARIO announced that the Frente POLISARIO, as a gesture of goodwill to help MINURSO overcome some of the logistical challenges that it is facing, would provide safe passage, on an exceptional and provisional basis, to the Mission to conduct a logistical ground convoy to resupply its Team Sites in the Liberated Sahrawi Territories. The UN Secretary-General and Members of the Security Council, especially the Permanent Members, expressed their appreciation and gratitude for this initiative as a demonstration of sincere support to MINURSO to overcome some of the logistical challenges that it is facing since the collapse of the ceasefire.

They also expressed hope that this would help create conditions that are conducive to supporting the efforts of the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara, Mr Staffan de Mistura, to relaunch the UN-sponsored peace process in Western Sahara. Based on a common understanding between the United Nations and the Frente POLISARIO, between 5 and 7 April, a MINURSO ground convoy delivered supplies to the Mission's Team Sites in Tifariti and Mheiriz. Units of the Sahrawi Army (SPLA) escorted the convoy and ensured the security and safety of its personal throughout their transit and stay in the Liberated Sahrawi Territory.

# Assange Completes Four Years In UK Jail, Struggle Against US Extradition Continues

By Anish R M

April 11 marked four years since Julian Assange was forcibly dragged out of the Ecuadorian embassy in London in 2019 and put under arrest. Ever since his imprisonment, the Wikileaks founder has spent much of his time in the high-security prison in Belmarsh under judicial remand, without any charges or conviction, fighting a prolonged extradition process.

The extradition request from the United States began under the administration of former president Donald Trump, and continues under the present Joe Biden administration. From recent revelations, it is understood that the US attempt to prosecute Assange has been going on since at least the Barack Obama administration.

Once extradited, Assange will face an indictment for charges that carry a total maximum prison sentence of 175 years. He faces 18 charges, 17 of them under the infamous Espionage Act, and is the first publisher or journalist to be indicted under the controversial law. The charges pertain to the release and publication of leaked classified documents that exposed war crimes in Afghanistan and Iraq, along with several other violations of international law, by the US.

Last week, on April 3, in a statement to *Poynter*, the US Justice Department spokesperson Nicole Navas Oxman said, "I can confirm we are continuing our efforts to seek the extradition of Julian Assange." This indicates that the Biden administration has no intention of letting Assange free, overlooking calls from civil society groups, press freedom advocates, major media houses, UN rights experts, and even political leaders from the US and different parts of the world.

Currently, Assange is pursuing the final appeals process against the UK Home Secretary's decision to authorize the court-sanctioned extradition to the US, with dim prospects. Despite the ongoing US-led persecution and slow judicial

process in the UK, deemed as judicial kidnapping and a punishment through process, Assange's supporters are continuing the fight for his release.

## Ongoing actions to fight for release

On Tuesday, activists and concerned citizens in the US are set to participate in the "Assange Lobby Day". Participants will assemble at the Rayburn House in Washington DC, which houses offices of the members of the US Congress, and lobby with various legislators to co-sign congresswoman Rashida Tlaib's letter to the US attorney general Merrick Garland.

Tlaib's letter, released in March, criticizes the charges as posing "a grave and unprecedented threat to everyday, constitutionally protected journalistic activity."

"The prosecution of Mr. Assange, if successful, not only sets a legal precedent whereby journalists or publishers can be prosecuted, but a political one as well," the letter pointed out. "In the future the *New York Times* or *Washington Post* could be prosecuted when they publish important stories based on classified information. Or, just as dangerous for democracy, they may refrain from publishing such stories for fear of prosecution."

In another letter, Tlaib had also earlier called on her colleagues in the Congress to set aside differences and support her letter to Garland. "I know many of us have very strong feelings about Mr. Assange, but what we think of him and his actions is really besides the point here," she said. "The fact of the matter is that the in which Mr. Assange is being prosecuted under the notoriously undemocratic Espionage Act seriously undermines freedom of the press and the First Amendment."

The letter is a rare Congressional effort calling for Assange's release and has gained only a very limited support from within the Congress. Nevertheless, it has generated a great deal of interest among activists, who see it as an



*Once extradited, Assange will face an indictment for charges that carry a total maximum prison sentence of 175 years. The Wikileaks founder has spent four years in a high-security prison without a conviction or a charge, fighting a prolonged extradition process. Meanwhile, his supporters have shown no signs of easing the struggle for his release*

opportunity to turn up pressure on elected representatives.

The organization Defending Rights & Dissent has also released a call to action in support of the petition, calling Tlaib's letter "a breath of fresh air" and underscoring the need for legislators to take a stand, especially those from Biden's Democratic Party.

The International Peoples' Assembly which has a permanent campaign to free Julian Assange, has called on supporters to send letters to US President Joe Biden to drop the charges against the Wikileaks co-founder.

The group's policy director Chip Gibbons, a longtime advocate for Assange's release, pointed out the importance of Tlaib's letter considering Congressional inaction. "In spite of the rhetoric about opposing authoritarianism and defending democracy and press freedom, we really haven't seen a comparable outcry from Congress — until now," said Gibbons.

Supporters have called a rally outside of the Department of Justice on the evening of April 11. "What's happening to Julian Assange is happening to all of us," stated the rally announcement. "It's the criminalization of truth. The world is watching and the tide is turning. Journalism is not a crime."

In the meantime, Assange's

father and brother, John and Gabriel Shipton, are on a tour across North America, attending independent screenings of the film "Ithaka", documenting John Shipton's ongoing struggle, and interacting with activists and average people talking about the family's efforts trying to secure Assange's release.

## Is Australia finally intervening?

Assange is an Australian citizen, but his home country has for a better part of the entire judicial process distanced itself from his case. After several calls from activists and even legislators, and a change of government, Australia is finally showing signs of intervening. On Tuesday, 48 federal legislators across party lines in Australia signed a letter addressed to Garland, demanding that the US drop all charges against Assange and end his imprisonment. The letter argued that Assange "has been effectively incarcerated for well over a decade in one form or another" noting his confinement to the Ecuadorian embassy between 2012 and 2019.

"If the extradition request is approved, Australians will witness the deportation of one of our citizens from one Aukus

partner to another — our closest strategic ally — with Mr. Assange facing the prospect of spending the rest of his life in prison," the letter said.

"This would set a dangerous precedent for all global citizens, journalists, publishers, media organizations and the freedom of the press. It would also be needlessly damaging for the US as a world leader on freedom of expression and the rule of law." The letter released on the four-year anniversary of Assange's imprisonment also comes a week after Australia's new high commissioner to the UK, Stephen Smith, visited Assange in Belmarsh on April 4, and also stated that he expected to conduct more visits in the future.

After coming to power in May of last year, the Labour government under Anthony Albanese had indicated attempts to lobby for Assange's release, but made very little progress. Last month, Australian foreign minister Penny Wong's statement that "there are limits to what that diplomacy can achieve" on Assange case, dampened expectations of an Australian intervention. Nevertheless, the letter from lawmakers as well as the high commissioner's visit has renewed hopes for greater political intervention from the country.