

MORE WAHALA FOR GHANAIANS

...As \$3 Bn IMF Deal Pushes Electricity Tariff, VAT, E-Levy Rates Up



Ken Ofori-Atta, Minister of Finance

The excruciating economic hardship being endured by many Ghanaians will in the coming weeks intensify with arrangements being put in place by the Ghana government to secure a US\$3 billion extended credit facility from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Already, electricity tariff has witnessed an upward adjustment and will soon be increased further along with an increase in the rates of the Value Added Tax (VAT) and the recently introduced Electronic Transaction Levy (E-Levy) as part of IMF conditionalities

to secure a US\$3 billion extended credit facility. Austerity measures have always been part and parcel of IMF conditions to struggling economies in a bid to get financial

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NPP Flagbearer Race: Ayikoi Otoo Tells Bawumia To Wait For His Turn



Ayikoi Otoo, former Ghana's High Commissioner to Canada

A former Minister for Justice and Attorney General, Nii Ayikoi Otoo, has asked Vice President Dr Mahamudu Bawumia to shelve his ambitions of leading the governing New Patriotic Party (NPP) to the 2024 general

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Mahama

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The INSIGHT

— EDITORIAL

THE UNEMPLOYMENT MENACE

The unemployment crisis currently facing the country has been viewed as a national security threat.

This is because the number of youth joblessness keeps rising despite the creation of jobs by the government.

And this comes at a time when over the years successive governments in one way or the other have invariably promised to create jobs and make youth unemployment a thing of the past.

Most of these promises were as a result of the realization of the danger posed to the country's peace, security and stability over the lack of jobs for the teeming number of youths who graduate from both second cycle and tertiary institutions in search of non-existent jobs.

The dreams and aspirations of these individuals are heightened by the unrealistic promises of the ruling political establishment and which often turn out to be a mirage.

For example the Kufuor administration once asked the teeming unemployed, especially the youth to queue for a national register to be compiled and jobs provided them. It later turned out to be a false hope. Currently, there is rising youth unemployment with its attendant consequences to the nation.

The government claims to have made strides in growing the economy but data or figures as to how many jobs have been created so far is anybody's guess – none.

The Insight is of the strong opinion that the government needs to endeavour to activate the Komenda Sugar Factory and many others that are dormant or have been shut down for one reason or the other.

The citizens need jobs and cannot afford to wait any longer when there are existing factories that need little or no funding to get them running.

Perhaps it is time to speed up efforts to address the youth unemployment.

NPP Flagbearer Race: Ayikoi Otoo Tells Bawumia To Wait For His Turn



Ayikoi Otoo, former Ghana's High Commissioner to Canada

from front page

Ayikoi Otoo who was an Attorney General during the tenure of former president John Agyekum Kufour's administration, gave the advice to the Vice President on Accra-based Joy FM last Friday, April 14, 2023.

According to him, age is still on the side of the Vice President, hence, the need for him to wait his turn.

He said the party has a tradition and, thus, it is the turn of former Trade and Industry Minister Alan Kyerematen.

"Nobody is saying that the Vice President is not a good material but in a tradition and going by what we have seen, all we are saying is that he can also bid his time," he explained.

"After all the statistics have shown that the Vice President is not yet 60," he added.

The legal luminary who once served as Ghana's High Commissioner to Canada in justifying his support for the former Trade and Industry Minister, Mr

Kyerematen, explained that, "The Vice President may have the resources and the rest but getting to the end, people who know the tradition will tell the delegates to take the money and chop and as well do the right thing."

THE INSIGHT

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MORE WAHALA FOR GHANAIS

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from front page

bailout and Ghana's feverish arrangements to get the 3 billion dollar credit facility in this second quarter of the year is what has necessitated a hike in power tariff including some taxes in a bid to mop up excess liquidity and also control inflation.

Some of these conditions were outlined by Finance Minister Ken Ofori-Atta and were part of the preparation of the ambitious 2023 budget, with a front-loading of the fiscal consolidation programme and a comprehensive set of structural reforms, notably public expenditure review. Also, the Bretton Wood institution expects to see continued monetary policy tightening by the Bank of Ghana to bring inflation under control.

Accra-based Joy FM reports that these were captured in

the Investors Presentation by Ken Ofori-Atta and supported by the Governor of the Bank of Ghana, Dr Ernest Addison. Ofori-Atta noted that the government adjusted revenue and expenditure measures to improve debt sustainability and restore macroeconomic aimed at addressing structural bottlenecks contingent liabilities of state-owned enterprises, commitment controls and arrears accumulation as well as domestic revenue mobilisation.

Mr Ofori-Atta also said the government is committed to rebuilding reserve buffers, mobilising external concessional financing from multilateral and bilateral partners, and suspending external debt service payments. Also, he said the government will safeguard social protection programmes and ensure the

burden of adjustment is fairly distributed.

Additionally, he noted that social spending will be targeted to protect the most vulnerable from the impact of the economic crisis as well as fast-track the implementation of growth-oriented socio-economic policies, such as Ghana CARES to mitigate the impact of the pandemic and support economic recovery. As part of measures to secure the bailout, the government is aiming at reaching a 1.5% of Gross Domestic Product primary surplus in the medium term, bringing inflation below 8% in the medium-term and restoring external buffers with gross international reserves reaching 3 months of import cover by 2026.

Also, the government is targeting a real Gross Domestic Product growth of 5% over the medium-term and being competitive with exports surpassing 37% of GDP



Ken Ofori-Atta, Minister of Finance

in the medium term.

Meanwhile, former President John Dramani Mahama has called on the government to take full responsibility for the economic hardship Ghanaians are facing and focus on expenditure reduction.

According to him Ghana is currently on its knees for a bailout with the International Monetary Fund amidst intensifying hardships, the rising cost of living, and a depreciating cedi. Mr. Mahama, who is contesting the flagbearer position of the National Democratic Congress (NDC), made the statement when he addressed party executives in the Krachi East

Constituency on his campaign tour. He urged the government to focus on social intervention programmes and reduce expenditure, taking into consideration that the present IMF programme would be different from all bailouts the country had ever engaged in.

"This will be the first of its kind the nation embarks on an IMF program with debt restructure". He said the NDC's greater concern was that the government rejected every reasonable and constructive suggestion from others on working together for economic improvement.

Mahama; He Wants Govt To Take Full Responsibility For Country's Economic Hardship



John Mahama is a former President

Former President John Dramani Mahama on Monday called on the

government to take full responsibility for the economic hardship Ghanaians are facing

and focus on expenditure reduction.

"Ghana is currently on its knees for a bailout with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) amidst intensifying hardships, the rising cost of living, and a depreciating cedi," he said.

Mr. Mahama, who is contesting the flagbearer position of the National Democratic Congress (NDC), was addressing party executives in the Krachi East Constituency on his campaign tour.

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focus on social intervention programmes and reduce expenditure, taking into consideration that the present IMF programme would be different from all bailouts the country had ever engaged in.

"This will be the first of its kind the nation embarks on an IMF program with debt restructure".

He said the NDC's greater concern was that the government rejected every reasonable and constructive suggestion from others on working

together for economic improvement.

"Government must stop blaming the Ukraine-Russia war for the economic hardship in the country and explain the exact challenges to the citizenry," he said.

Mahama is expected to visit Krachi, Nkwanta North, and Nkwanta South and end his campaign tour at the Akan Constituency in the Kadjebi District.

Source -- GNA



INTERNATIONAL NEWS REPORT

Compiled By Peoples Dispatch

First Quarter Of 2023 Deadliest For Migrants Crossing Central Mediterranean Since 2017: UN Report



(Photo: IOM Greece/Twitter). The report also notes that delays by countries in launching Search and Rescue (SAR) operations and hindrances caused by them to private rescue operations were responsible for the deaths of over 200 people

According to a new report published by the United Nations' International Organization for Migration (IOM) last Wednesday, April 13, the first quarter of this year has been the deadliest on record since 2017 for migrants in the Central Mediterranean region.

The report, prepared under the IOM's Missing Migrant Project, recorded a total of 441 migrant deaths between January 1 and March 31 in the Central Mediterranean region. It states that this is at most a conservative figure and actual numbers may be higher, with the IOM still

investigating some incidents in this period.

The Central Mediterranean region includes the coasts of countries such as war-ravaged Libya and Tunisia, from where the number of people from sub-Saharan Africa migrating to Europe has increased following President Kais Saied's [racist remarks](#). A number of these migrants have sought to travel to Italy.

On Tuesday, at least 10 people from sub-Saharan Africa were killed and more than 20 others went missing after their boat sank off the Tunisia coast while trying to cross to Europe. The overcrowded boat had over 100 migrants on board. The Central Mediterranean route has been described as

the most dangerous for the migrants fleeing wars, conflicts, and poverty. According to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, one of [every six people](#) who leave the African coast to go to Europe as migrants/refugees dies on the way.

More than [20,700](#) people have either died or gone missing at sea in the Central Mediterranean region alone since 2014. The total number of such deaths/disappearances in the entire Mediterranean is over 26,000.

The report also notes that delays by countries in launching Search and Rescue (SAR) operations and hindrances caused by them

to private rescue operations were responsible for the deaths of over 200 people. There were instances where countries did not respond to distress calls by people stranded at sea in small, overcrowded boats without food, water, or other essential amenities, leading to their deaths.

The European Union reportedly spent over US\$ 64 million [last year](#) to fund countries like Libya to prevent the flow of migrants to Europe, and has been found to be [complicit](#) in large-scale human rights violations and crimes committed against migrants by such countries.

Progressives In Belgium Demand Extension Of Time Period Allowed For Abortion

The Workers' Party of Belgium (PTB-PVDA) has demanded that the coalition government in the country legally extend the time period stipulated for abortion from within 12 weeks to within 18 weeks from conception. On Sunday, the PTB called on the government to reconsider a bill for reforming abortion laws that had been proposed by several parliamentary parties earlier. The PTB also asked that the six-day mandatory counseling for pregnant women who wanted abortions be abolished, and that sanctions against women who decide to abort after the legally stipulated 12 weeks after conception be removed.

Abortion has been legal in Belgium since April 1990. However, the law stipulates that abortions are only allowed within a maximum of 12 weeks from conception. Late abortions are only permitted in cases of severe complications to the mother's health or fetal

defects. According to the PTB, "701 Belgian women traveled to the Netherlands in 2020 and 2021 to have an abortion because in Belgium it is only allowed up to 12 weeks. They have to pay 1,000 euros (US\$ 1,072) and they risk sanctions in Belgium."

Dr Sofie Merckx, MP from the PTB, cited a recent scientific expert report, [stating](#) that "abortion should be allowed up to 18 weeks, the mandatory six-day thinking period should be abolished and women should no longer be penalized. This is what we've been asking for years! But the government is blocking the dossier when there is a wide majority in parliament to pass the proposal. Now that the experts are clear, it's time to act, it's about time to amend our 30+ year old law! My Body, My

Choice."

Dr Hanne Bosselaers from *Médecine pour le Peuple* (MPLP) told *Peoples Dispatch* that "since 2019 Belgian government parties refuse to accept a legal proposition to extend the right to abortion up to 18 weeks of pregnancy. From a health for all perspective, [MPLP] condemns this lack of action for women's rights."

"Today a panel of academics and experts confirms the necessity of these protective measures. The time is now to change the law in favor of women's rights!" she added.

Feminist groups and other progressive sections in Belgium have intensified their demands for reform in the abortion law after spikes in misogyny, attacks on women's rights, 'pro-life'



An abortion rights rally in Belgium. (Photo: Lydie Neufcourt, Facebook). In response to increasing misogyny and restrictions on reproductive rights, groups within Belgium are pushing back demanding that abortion be allowed within 18 weeks from conception

protests, and anti-abortion laws being enacted across the world, including in Europe. In Poland, under the government led by the conservative Law and Justice (PiS) party, the Constitutional Court [banned](#) abortions in October 2020, courting widespread protests from the women's rights groups. In

January, women's rights groups and leftists [protested](#) bids by the far-right Vox party in Spain's autonomous community of Castilla y León to restrict abortions. Women's groups in Malta are also [struggling](#) for the right to abortion in the country.

Over 400 People Displaced In Miawani, Ahiave After Heavy Rainstorm

More than 400 people in two island communities in the Pru East District of the Bono Region East Region have been displaced after a heavy rainstorm in the two communities. The rainstorm destroyed several buildings in Miawani and Ahiave, leaving the affected residents with nowhere to stay. Similarly, the rainstorm destroyed the roofs of the only basic schools in the two communities, likely affecting academic work next. Ghana Web can report that many of the affected residents have been forced to sleep in the open due to

the situation. According to Yaw Donkor, a resident of Miawani, many buildings had their roofs ripped off, rendering them homeless. "There was a heavy storm in the area that ripped off all our roofing sheets. As we speak we do not know where to sleep because all the affected people are stranded." Another affected resident, Elijah Okomonkwe added residents are still counting their losses following the rainstorm and it will take time for residents to return to their normal lives. "We have never seen such a storm before. It has destroyed so many things here, it ripped

off the roofs. Our documents have been destroyed as well." Ama Monica expressed her worry over the destruction of the only school in the community because children will not have a place to have classes when they attend school. "Our house has been destroyed but I am worried that children cannot go to school as the school building has also been affected."

Appeal for support

The Chief of Miawani, Nana Twumasi Ankrah (VIII) has appealed for support for the affected individuals as the devastation is too much for them to bear. "Many people have been



The rainstorm destroyed several buildings

displaced by the rainstorm likewise the only basic school so we are appealing to all Ghanaians to come to our aid. We are also appealing to NADMO to come to our aid because this is the time we

need most". Meanwhile, all efforts by this reporter to speak to officials of NADMO on the incident at the time of filing this report were unsuccessful.

Source -- GhanaWeb

Mahama To Establish Governance Advisory Council In 2025



Former President, John Dramani Mahama

Former President [John Dramani Mahama](#) has said he will establish a Governance Advisory Council as part of his vision to improve political governance, help curb corruption, and ensure respect for human rights in the country. Addressing National Democratic Congress (NDC) executives and supporters as part of his campaign to lead his party to the 2024 elections, Mr. Mahama said membership of the proposed Governance Advisory Council would include representatives of Civil Society Organisations, religious leaders, traditional leaders, and ordinary Ghanaians. According to Mr. Mahama,

who is promising to wage a sustained war against corruption and poor governance when elected in 2024, the functions of the Council will include the annual release of a State of Governance in Ghana report. "Every year, the Council will release a report on the state of human rights, corruption, and a report on our governance, which will serve as a guide for government to know whether we are on the right track with regards to issues of governance, corruption, human rights, media, and other freedoms including torture and crime," President Mahama said.

The establishment of the Governance Advisory Council, as promised by President Mahama, will be yet another significant step in his quest to promote better governance and fight corruption. In his first term as President, Mr. Mahama introduced a Code of Ethics for Ministers of State and Government Appointees. The code of ethics reflected his government's vision to maintain a clean government imbued with systems, clear procedures and guidelines for performance and delivery. He reminded ministers of state that while there are issues that would be accepted in the traditional and cultural context, they are unacceptable under governance ethics and legal conduct. "One of the strongest ways to prevent unacceptable conduct and abuse of office by public officials is to demarcate the ethical boundaries within which actions and inactions could be deemed to be acceptable or unacceptable," he noted. **Source:** starrfm.com.gh

Kenya Not Seen As Debt Restructuring Candidate, IMF's Africa Chief Says



IMF African Department Director Abebe Aemro Selassie speaks with the Governor of the Central Bank of Kenya Patrick Njoroge at the headquarters of the International Monetary Fund during the group's Annual Meetings in Washington, U.S., October 13, 2022. REUTERS/James Lawler Duggan

WASHINGTON, April 14 (Reuters) -

Kenya is not expected to seek a restructuring of its debt despite current strains and a looming bond payment, the head of the International Monetary Fund's Africa Department chief said on Friday. Abebe Aemro Selassie was speaking to reporters at the IMF

and World Bank spring meetings. Kenya has a \$2 billion Eurobond maturing in June 2024. The country's central bank governor told Reuters earlier this week that the government was "quite relaxed" about it. **Source -- Reuters**

OPEC: Why Saudis Aren't Afraid Of The US Anymore

By M. K. Bhadrakumar

The shock in oil production cuts from May as [outlined by the OPEC+](#) on Sunday essentially means that eight key OPEC countries have decided to join hands with Russia to reduce oil production, signaling that OPEC and OPEC+ are now back in control of the oil market.

No single oil producing country is acting as the Pied Piper here. The great beauty about it is that Saudi Arabia and seven other major OPEC countries have unexpectedly decided to support Russia's efforts and unilaterally reduce production. While the eight OPEC countries are talking about a reduction of one million b/d from May to the end of the year, Russia will extend for the same period its voluntary adjustment that already started in March, by 500,000 barrels. Now, add to this the production adjustments already decided by the OPEC+ previously, and the total additional voluntary production adjustments touch a whopping 1.6 million b/d.

What has led to this? Fundamentally, as many analysts had forewarned, the Western sanctions against Russian oil created distortions and anomalies in the oil market and upset the delicate ecosystem of supply and demand, which were compounded by the incredibly risky decision by the G7, at the behest of the US Treasury, to impose a price cap on Russia's oil sales abroad.

On top of it, the Biden administration's provocative moves to release oil regularly from the US Strategic Petroleum Reserve in attempts to micromanage the oil prices and keep them abnormally low in the

interests of the American consumer as well as to keep the inflationary pressures under check turned out to be an affront to the oil-producing countries whose economies critically depend on income from oil exports.

The OPEC+ calls the production cuts "a precautionary measure aimed at supporting the stability of the oil market." In the downstream of the OPEC+ decision, analysts expect the oil prices to rise in the short term and pressure on Western central banks to increase due to the possible spike in inflation. What stands out in the OPEC+ decision is that Russia's decision to reduce oil production by the end of the year has been unanimously supported by the main Arab producers. Independent but time-coordinated statements were made by Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Kuwait, Iraq, Algeria, Oman and Kazakhstan, while Russia confirmed its intention to extend until the end of the year its own production reduction by 500,000 barrels per day, which began in March.

Significantly, these statements have been made precisely by those largest oil producers in OPEC, who have a record of fully utilizing their existing quota. Put differently, the reduction in production is going to be real, not just on paper.

Partly at least, the banking crisis in the US and Europe prompted the OPEC+ to intervene. Although Washington will downplay it, in March, Brent oil prices fell to US\$70 per barrel for the first time since 2021 amid the bankruptcy of several banks in the US and the near-death experience of Credit Suisse, one of the largest banks in Switzerland. The events sparked concern about the stability of the Western banking system and fear of a recession that would affect oil demand. There is every likelihood that tensions may increase between the US and Saudi Arabia as higher oil prices will push

inflation and make it even more difficult for the US Federal Reserve to find a balance between raising the key rate and maintaining financial and economic stability.

Equally, the Biden administration must be furious that practical cooperation is still continuing between Russia and the OPEC countries, especially Saudi Arabia, notwithstanding the West's price cap on Russian oil and Moscow's decision to unilaterally cut production in March.

However, the Biden administration has only a limited range of options to respond to the OPEC+'s surprise move: one, go for another release of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve; two, pressure US producers to increase domestic oil output; three, back legislation that would allow the US to take the dramatic step of suing OPEC nations; or, four, curb the US' export of gasoline and diesel. To be sure, the OPEC+ production cut goes against the Western demand to increase oil output even as sanctions were imposed against Russian oil and gas exports. On the other hand, the disruption in oil supplies from Russia contributed to the rising inflation in the EU countries.

The US wanted the Gulf Arab states to step in and step-up oil production. But the latter did not oblige because they felt that there wasn't enough economic activity in the West and there were clear signs of recession contrary to expectation.

Thus, as a result of the sanctions against Russia, Europe is facing the complex situation of inflation and near-recession known as stagflation. In reality, the adaptive and agile OPEC+ read the situation correctly and has shown that it is willing to act ahead of the curve. At a time when the



The surprise OPEC+ reduction consolidates the Saudi-Russian energy alliance, by aligning their production levels and placing them on equal footing. It is a slap in the face for the US

world economy is struggling to grow at a healthy rate, the demand for oil would be relatively less, and it makes sense to cut oil production to maintain the price balance. All that the Western leaders can complain about is that the OPEC+ cut in oil output has come at an inappropriate time. But the woes of Western economies cannot be laid at the door of OPEC+ as there are inherent problems which are now coming to the surface. For instance, the large-scale protests in France against pension reform or the widespread strikes in Britain for higher wages show that there are deep structural problems in these economies, and the governments seem helpless in tackling them. In geopolitical terms, the OPEC+ move came after a meeting between Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak and Saudi Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman in Riyadh on March 16 that focused on oil market cooperation. Therefore, it is widely seen as the tightening of the bond between Russia and Saudi Arabia. In fact, in May, as the largest members of OPEC join Russia in its unilateral reduction, the balance of quotas and the ratio of market shares between and amongst the participants in the OPEC+ deal will return to the level set when it was concluded in April 2020.

The big question is, how Moscow might profit from the OPEC+ decision. The rise in crude oil prices particularly

benefits Russia. Simply put, the production cuts will tighten up the oil market and thus help Russia to secure better prices for the crude oil it sells. Second, the new cuts also confirm that Russia is still an integral and important part of the group of oil producing countries, despite the Western attempts to isolate it. Third, the consequences of Sunday's decision are all the greater because, unlike the previous cuts by the OPEC+ group at the height of the pandemic or last October, today, the momentum for global oil demand is up, not down—what with a strong recovery by China expected. That is to say, the surprise OPEC+ reduction further consolidates the Saudi-Russian energy alliance, by aligning their production levels, thus placing them on equal footing. It is a slap in the face for Washington.

Make no mistake, this is another signal regarding a new era where the Saudis are not afraid of the US anymore, as the OPEC "leverage" is on Riyadh's side. The Saudis are only doing what they need to do, and the White House has no say in the matter. Clearly, a recasting of the regional and global dynamics that has been set in motion lately is gathering momentum. The future of the petrodollar seems increasingly uncertain.

MK Bhadrakumar is a former diplomat. He was India's ambassador to Uzbekistan and Turkey. The views are personal.

Collaboration Needed To Define Ghana-Cote d'Ivoire Borders - Boundary Commission



International boundary pillar, Ghana-Cote d'Ivoire

The National Coordinator of the Ghana Boundary Commission, Major General Emmanuel Kotia, has attributed the removal of the international boundary pillar and the teak plantation between Ghana-Cote D'Ivoire to the activities of illegal

mining. The removal, according to him, has since raised concerns. To address this challenge, Major General Kotia said the commission is jointly working with the Minerals Commission, the Forestry

Commission and the Geological Survey Authority to devise a plan of action. In a report by 3news.com, he said that his outfit is also in talks with their Ivorian counterparts to jointly inspect and confirm the boundary lines and to put up new boundary pillars. The commission, he added, has helped construct a feeder road along the boundary line to Dollar Power to aid in their inspections work. The deputies of the minerals and the Forestry Commission have both expressed worries on the activities of illegal mining in the catchment area, the report added. Samuel Tika of the Minerals Commission said they were

prepared to work with the locals on how to regularize their activities because illegal mining was having an impact on their quality of life. Sulemana Nyadia of the Forestry Commission, who stood in for the Deputy Minister for Lands and Forestry, Benito Owusu-Bio, added that the agency will take action to address how the miners' operations were impacting the Mole National Park. Speaking on behalf of the chief, a certain Mahammah Tayiru lamented on how the Dollar Power Community lost its inhabitants through the invasion of the warlord, Samoro. The land, according to him, has since been left untended to until it was later occupied by Ivorian farmers

and herdsmen. It was in 2013 that Mohammed Seidu, also known as Dollar Power, and his crew revitalized the neighbourhood after learning that Ivorians on the land were into illegal mining. The Dollar Power Community, located in the northern part of Ghana, also called on the government to provide them with essential security and water supply. In May 2023, the Ghana Boundary Commission and its Ivorian counterpart will meet to discuss the modalities of enhancing boundary security. The meeting will also be used as an avenue to raise funds for the construction of international boundary pillars to serve both countries, the report added.

GES Suspends GHANASCO Headmaster, Housemaster Over Students Sleeping In Toilet-Turned-Accommodation

The Ghana Education Service (GES) has temporarily suspended the headmaster and senior housemaster of Ghana Senior High School (GHANASCO) in Tamale over a viral video that showed students of the school sleeping in a toilet facility turned into accommodation. According to GES, the school turning a toilet into an accommodation facility is unacceptable since records indicate that the school is supposed to have excess accommodation capacity for 300 students. In a statement issued on Sunday, April 16, 2023, the GES indicated that the headmaster and the housemaster had been suspended pending an investigation into the matter, which is expected to last two weeks.

"The attention of the Management of Ghana Education Service has been drawn to a viral video being circulated on social media

showing some students of Ghana Senior High School, Tamale, using toilet cubicles as dormitories. "This is very disturbing and unfortunate especially when records available to us indicate that, out of the 1790 vacancies declared by the school, only 1467 students have enrolled. The school is expected to have excess capacity to even house extra 300 students. It is thus, unacceptable to have students sleep in such a place. "The Headmaster and the Senior Housemaster have been directed to step aside to allow for further investigations into the matter by the Regional Director of Education and report back in two weeks," parts of the statement read.

Background: The Member of [Parliament](#) for Builsa South, Dr [Clement Apaak](#), shared a video alleged to be a shot of a toilet facility

of Ghana Senior High School (GHANASCO) in Tamale turned into a sleeping place for students. The said video, which was sighted by the media, showed student mattresses, chop boxes, bags and other student materials in the toilet compartment of a washroom. Some of the materials and the students could also be seen in the hallway of the washroom. In another video shared by the MP, a form one student named Godlove confirmed that he is one of the students sleeping in the toilet-turned-dormitory due to a lack of student housing. He said that the students have now resorted to open defecation, which has led to a health crisis in the school with students always falling sick. "Since we come as year one's, we have never been to a toilet to ease ourselves.

Every time open defecation and people passing by see us. "... we just sit at the back here to eat and the flies (from where we ease ourselves) will be disturbing us. Sometimes when the run is too much it blows the breeze here and the scent is unbearable. "As am standing here, I was

sick just last Friday ... I was diagnosed with typhoid and malaria," he narrated. Godlove pleaded with authorities to come to their aid by helping put up structures they can at least use as toilets.

This is the full statement issued by the GES:

GHANA EDUCATION SERVICE

In case of reply, the number and date of this letter should be quoted.

Your Ref:

My Ref: GES/ PR/ RELEASE/88



Republic of Ghana

HEADQUARTERS
Ministry Branch Post Office
P.O. Box MB-45
Accra

16th April, 2023.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

RE: GHANASCO TOILETS TURNED INTO ACCOMMODATION FOR STUDENTS

The attention of the Management of Ghana Education Service has been drawn to a viral video being circulated on social media showing some students of Ghana Senior High School, Tamale, using toilet cubicles as dormitories.

This is very disturbing and unfortunate especially when records available to us indicate that, out of the 1790 vacancies declared by the school, only 1467 students have enrolled. The school is expected to have excess capacity to even house extra 300 students. It is thus, unacceptable to have students sleep in such a place.

The Headmaster and the Senior Housemaster have been directed to step aside to allow for further investigations into the matter by the Regional Director of Education and report back in two weeks.

Management wishes to assure all our stakeholders and the general public that it will continue to ensure that the students entrusted in our care operate in a safe school environment.

SIGNED
CASSANDRA TWUM AMPFO
HEAD, PUBLIC RELATIONS UNIT

The Story Behind Bob Marley's Invitation To Zimbabwe In 1980

from page 7

they laugh at me.” From the airport, they went straight to Job Kadengu's house in Belvedere.

Mhundwa together with Kadengu and Neville later went to Jameson Hotel where they had a torrid time with a white hotel manager who told them the hotel was fully booked.

They had a scuffle and police had to be called. Kadengu and Mhundwa had booked for Bob Marley and his team at the hotel. “A white manager was shocked to see a dreadlocked man – Neville and decided against the booking. Whites feared Rastafarians. We had a scuffle before we decided to leave the place. We checked around the city for lodgings but all hotels were fully booked,” Mhundwa said.

“I suspect it was racism by this Rhodesian. We went back to Belvedere and we told Marley about this.

He fumed and said: “I knew that they don't like I and I.” Fortunately Job had just bought Skyline Motel. “Job told Bob Marley that he had bought a motel about 10km or 15km outside Harare. So we went with Marley there.

The I-Threes and Marley's sons stayed at Kadengu's house. Marley liked the motel and saw no problem in staying there.

“He said: 'To me this place is like a 5-star hotel. We then picked band members. They stayed here for two or three days.’”

Before they left, Cde Tekere paid a visit to Marley and his team at Belvedere.

“Bob Marley was very happy to see Cde Tekere.

“I give it to Cde Tekere, 100 percent. He was the man behind Bob Marley's invitation to Zimbabwe. Of course, he would brief Prime Minister Mugabe and the cabinet about it.”

On April 17, when sound engineers did a sound check, Mhundwa said the PA system was powerful and was felt as far as Hillside, Queensdale, Sunningdale, Highfield and Mufakose.

“I had never seen or heard such a powerful sound system in my life. It was quite massive and it attracted a lot of people to Rufaro Stadium on the eve of our independence,” he said.

“We hired 10 trucks, 30 tonne trucks from George Elcombe (a transport logistics company) to ferry the equipment from the airport to the stadium. The equipment was massive and never seen in the history of Zimbabwe.”

At the time, Mhundwa was a DJ at ZBC Radio 3 where he worked from 1979 to 1986. His compatriots included Wellington Mbofana, Josh Makawa, Patrick Bhajila, John Matinde, Ray Chirisa and James Makamba among others.

“Bob Marley's show was quite massive and memorable. The mood was electric and the scenes

were wild.

The jubilation was out of this world. He did a show on the official programme on the eve of independence and another on April 18. His show attracted a massive crowd,” he said.

“His performance opened the floodgates for reggae music in Africa. It was a memorable and historic show.”

After the show, Mhundwa said he visited Mbare and Highfield with Bob Marley and his band. He also took him to the Blue Bar at Machipisa in Highfield.

“Bob Marley wanted to set up a Tuff Gong Studio here in Zimbabwe. He wanted to return here and set up a studio. We visited Mazowe, Mt Hampden and a few other areas to scout for a place he could set up a studio,” Mhundwa said.

“On that day, we went to Job's Nite Spot where he saw Lovemore Majaivana performing live. He said: “Lovemore is good and sings very well. I like the music played by Majaivana.” Kaengu later organised a trip for Bob Marley and the Wailers to visit the country's premier resort spot – Victoria Falls.

“Bob Marley went to Victoria Falls with Thompson Kachingwe. The team was so happy about the trip. Bob Marley was so amazed by the game, rainforest and the falls. He said the Falls were beautiful and wonderful,” Mhundwa said.

During his stay, Bob Marley also visited Mutoko where he met

some marijuana growers. He is said to have sampled the ganja and collected more herbs.

This marked another high point of the Marley tour – mixing and mingling with ordinary rural folks in Mutoko.

Bob Marley largely saw ganja as, according to Fred Zindi, a music critic and writer: “a gateway to understanding. It opens up the mind so as to be cognisant of the connection between oneself and Jah. It is a meditative tool meant to bring about self-realisation and mystical experiences. What it is not about is getting “stoned”. “Bob Marley loved Zimbabwe, he loved Africa. He cancelled big shows in the US to come and witness the birth of a new nation.

He charged a premium for the shows but chose Zimbabwe. For him, it was not about the money, but the people of Zimbabwe, the revolution and the liberation of Africans that mattered most,” said Mhundwa.

“He invited me to Jamaica and he was so happy about the tour to Zimbabwe. He wanted to come back for another show but he died a year later from cancer in 1981. I later visited Jamaica after his death and his team at the Tuff Gong Studio. They hosted me well and Neville took me around the homes of the Wailers.”

Mhundwa said Bob Marley was a true rastaman and

revolutionary.

“He was a kind and down-to-earth man, very generous to the poor. He lived a simple life. He loved the poor and wanted Zimbabwe and Africa to be free from bondage. Freedom to him was so precious. He stood for pan African liberation and freedom.

“He also wanted South Africa to be free. He spoke about Mandela's freedom too.”

Bob Marley held two concerts at Rufaro Stadium, at the first independence celebration which saw Prince Charles hoisting Zimbabwe's flag to mark the country's birth.

He sang before 100 000 people belting out tunes that included the anthem Zimbabwe, which had inspired black guerrillas in their fight against Ian Smith's white minority Rhodesian government.

In a big way, Bob Marley opened the gates for reggae music in Africa helping to raise the consciousness of African people throughout the last decades of colonialism and apartheid in South Africa and Namibia. His name has a permanent place in the hearts of most African people as his music continues to inspire many, giving them hope and resilience.

Source - The Chronicle courtesy
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Gifty Klenam Exposes Kennedy Agyapong Over Claims Of Donating 15 Pickups To NPP Campaign In 1996

Campaign Coordinator for the Alan Kyeremateng campaign, Gifty Klenam has debunked claims by Kennedy Agyapong that he gave the New Patriotic Party 15 pickups for the party's 1996 campaign. Kennedy Agyapong as part of his campaign has been highlighting the various contributions he's made towards the party. In a video which has gone viral, Kennedy Agyapong indicated that he

contributed 15 pickups to the political party to support the 1996 constitution.

He said “In 1996 I had gone broke and so I couldn't help much but I gave NPP 15 pickups. In the year 2000, I gave 50 pickups. In the year 2004 together with Mr Oppong Bio we gave 100 pickups. In the year 2008, myself and Mr Oppong Bio gave the party 245 brand new Tata pickups and also gave the party 77 Russian trucks in addition”.

But in a sharp rebuttal, Gifty Klenam

asked Kennedy Agyapong to name who he donated the pickups to since there were no pickups for the said campaign.

“In 1996, I Gifty Klenam, Obaayaa Afrifa, Theresa Kuffour Elizabeth Ohene and Cecilia Dapaah used a Toyota Corolla that belonged to President Kuffour all the way to the Volta Region. I remember we visited places like Agbotia, Anglo, etc.” She noted

“There was nothing like Pick up those times and that's why I get

very surprised to hear Ken Agyapong make claims of buying Cars in 1992.

The truth is that the Party did not even have cars. If he really gave us cars, where were they? Who took delivery at the Party headquarters? Why were we using this Prez Kuffour's Corolla to all these places about a week to the 2000 elections? Ken must be advised to stop throwing in lies for public consumption.” Gifty

Klenam ended.

Her position expressed was corroborated by Felicia Kufour who wrote “Please that car belonged to me, not even candidate Kufuor.Thanks for collaborating me. I was very involved in the activities of NPP politics then. Kakra Essamoah was the campaign committee secretary and I have asked him if he remember such donations and he said no. Dan Botwe was using some Russia car call LADA”.