

GALAMSEY MAFIA

NDC Calls For Probe Into Frimpong Boateng's Damning Report



Sammy Gyamfi

Few days after the leakage of a damning report on illegal mining by Professor Kwabena Frimpong Boateng, former Minister of Environment, Science and Technology, has ignited accusations and counter accusations over the disastrous illegal mining menace, the National Democratic Congress (NDC) has called on Parliament to

investigate the matter. The NDC also wants the Special Prosecutor to deal with it urgently. Addressing the media in Accra yesterday on the galamsey menace regarding the damning report by Prof Frimpong Boateng, Sammy Gyamfi, the National Communications Officer of the NDC said, "The NDC hereby calls on the Special Prosecutor to take

a keen interest in this matter and launch a full-scale investigation into this matter with the aim of prosecuting anyone found culpable".

"Given the considerable public interest in this matter and what it portends for Ghana's image among the global comity of nations, we wish to call on

cont. on page 2

Quest For \$3 Billion Financial Bailout

IMF Dodges Ghana In Scheduled Approval Meetings



Ken Ofori-Atta, Minister for Finance

The quest for a \$3 billion financial bailout by the government of Ghana from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) appears to be getting trickier everyday as the fund seems to be *cont. on page 3*

Why Obsolete Cold War Attitudes Are Holding Europe Back

pages 8

Looming Danger As Bawku's Tribal Conflict Reaches Accra



Ambrose Dery, Minister of Interior

...Family Escapes Attack By Armed Gang

page 3

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.

GALAMSEY MAFIA

NDC Calls For Probe Into Frimpong Boateng's Damning Report

from front page

Parliament to set up a publicly-televised and bi-partisan probe into this matter in order to ascertain the truth”.

“We in the NDC have always maintained, President Akufo-Addo's proclaimed fight against galamsey was the biggest scam ever to be perpetrated on Ghanaians,” he said.

He said the party feels vindicated by the damning content of “the report authored and presented by the former Minister of Environment and Science and former Chairman of the Inter-Ministerial Committee against Illegal Mining, Prof. Frimpong-Boateng”.

The party said its long-held position that there has never been any genuine commitment or any attempt to fight galamsey by the Akufo-Addo government has been validated.

Sammy Gyamfi also called for investigation into a 'Gold Mafia' report aired by Aljazeera recently.

This is the full text of the NDC Statement;

A PRESS CONFERENCE ADDRESSED BY COMRADE SAMMY GYAMFI ESQ., NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER OF THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS.

25th April, 2023

THE SPECIAL PROSECUTOR AND PARLIAMENT MUST PROBE FRIMPONG BOATENG'S "GALAMSEY" REPORT AND ALLEGATIONS OF MONEY LAUNDERING INVOLVING PRESIDENT AKUFO-ADDO IN THE LATEST "GOLD MAFIA" UNDERCOVER INVESTIGATION BY AL JAZEERA.

AL JAZEERA'S GOLD MAFIA INVESTIGATION

Good morning to you, our media partners here present, in the sixteen regions of Ghana and across the world.

The National Democratic Congress (NDC) has sighted an undercover investigative work that was recently broadcast by international news network, Al Jazeera. The said documentary forms part of a four-part investigation by Al Jazeera's Investigative Unit (I-Unit), which uncovered an international Gold Smuggling mafia and Money Laundering racket operating in various parts of Africa.

Friends from the media, of particular

concern to us and indeed, the people of Ghana, is the reference to a relationship between the deadly racket and the President of Ghana, His Excellency Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo and other high-ranking officials of the ruling NPP government.

In the One-hour, thirteen-minute video documentary, one Alistair Mathias who has gained notoriety for designing money laundering schemes for corrupt African Leaders, could be seen boasting about his close relationship with President Akufo-Addo and other high-profile African leaders.

In the particular portion of this new investigative documentary that has got many tongues wagging, the said Alistair Mathias who is described as a Canadian citizen and a financial architect operating a gold smuggling syndicate in Ghana called Guldrest, confided in Al Jazeera undercover reporters who posed as Chinese Businessmen, about his constant dealings with President Akufo-Addo.

Some of the underhand dealings this shady character revealed include how the Akufo-Addo/Bawumia NPP government for instance can award his company, Mathias Holdings an inflated contract worth \$100 million, which he in turn subcontracts to another company for a value of about \$80 million, thereby making a staggering profit of \$20 million on the contract.

Friends from the media, the mastermind of these crimes further revealed how the padded amount on such deals is then shared among the parties – corrupt officials in the

cont. on pages 6&7

THE INSIGHT

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Quest For \$3 Billion Financial Bailout IMF Dodges Ghana In Scheduled Approval Meetings

from front page

ignoring Ghana in its deliberations, thus delaying the release of the badly needed financial support. Only yesterday, information posted on the IMF website on its calendar of activities for April ignored Ghana as the Government of Ghana did not feature in the schedule of meetings for the Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for the rest of April 2023. This comes after the government missed an initial March 2023 deadline to present Ghana's \$3 billion bailout programme to the IMF board announced by President Nana Akufo-Addo and the Minister for Finance Ken Ofori-Atta. The schedule of meetings for the board, on the IMF website, shows that it will meet five countries including Moldova, Central African Republic, Nepal, Eswatini and Lao People's Democratic Republic between April 26, 2023 and May 3, 2023. The IMF, however, indicated that

its schedule is subject to change and "the agenda for each meeting is typically finalized the day before the meeting" Ghana missing out on the IMF board's meeting for April casts doubt as to whether Ghana will be getting the \$3 billion bailout in mid-May as some proponents of the government have indicated. This is because the IMF board might take weeks to approve Ghana's bailout even if it receives the country's programme in the first week of May 2023. The Fund is expected to assess whether the country's policies are consistent with debt sustainability when it receives the programme from the government of Ghana. "This assessment is based on a Debt Sustainability Assessment (DSA) conducted jointly by the IMF

and World Bank to determine whether the government is able to meet all its current and future payment obligations. "It is a forward-looking exercise that needs to take into account the authorities' policies. In the case of Ghana, the DSA document will be presented to the Board at the same time as the program request," a statement on the IMF website read. Meanwhile, the Minister for Finance, Ken Ofori-Atta has indicated that Ghana has met all the pre-conditions, hence government will get a programme with the IMF. "What the IMF is looking forward to before it can go to its board for Ghana's programme approval is the assurance from the Paris Club of Bilateral Creditors that that group is committed to extending the needed

financing support," Ofori-Atta said.

This is the schedule of the IMF for the rest of April 2023 and the 1st Week in May:

IMF EXECUTIVE BOARD CALENDAR

IMF Executive Board Calendar

IMF Executive Board Calendar

As part of the Fund's increased transparency, the tentative calendar of the formal meetings and seminars of the Executive Board for the next seven days is shown below.

Please note that the calendar is subject to change, and that the agenda for each meeting is typically finalized the day before the meeting. The calendar posted below contains the latest available information.

An IMF Executive Board Calendar Archive is also available.

Last Update: April 24, 2023 16:47:28 ET

Sort By:

date | country | session

April 26, 2023

Country: Moldova, Republic of

Title: Republic of Moldova - Third Reviews Under the Extended Credit Facility and Extended Fund Facility Arrangements



April 27, 2023

Country: Central African Republic

Title: Central African Republic - 2022 Article IV Consultation, Request for a Three-Year Arrangement Under the Extended Credit Facility

May 1, 2023

Country: Nepal

Title: Nepal - 2023 Article IV Consultation, First and Second Reviews of the Extended Credit Facility (ECF) Arrangement, Requests for Waivers of Nonobservance of Performance Criteria, Extension of the Arrangement, and Releasing of Disbursements

May 3, 2023

Country: Eswatini, Kingdom of

Title: Kingdom of Eswatini - 2023 Article IV Consultation and Request for Access Under the Food Shock Window of the Rapid Financing Instrument

Country: Lao People's Democratic Republic

Title: Lao People's Democratic Republic - 2023 Article IV Consultation

Looming Danger As Bawku's Tribal Conflict Reaches Accra ...Family Escapes Attack By Armed Gang



Ambrose Dery, Minister of Interior

By Mohammed Farouk, Achimota

The ever escalating tribal conflict in Bawku in the Upper East Region has taken a new twist as individuals and families are getting attacked in other places in the country with the latest being a 38 year old woman in Accra, Samira

Abdul Rahman who is still in shock over an armed attack on her house over the weekend by suspected thugs from one faction of the conflict. The thugs apparently were acting on suspicion that Samira's dad was sponsoring another faction in the ongoing conflict in that part of the country with arms.

The victim fortunately escaped the fury of the heavily armed gang because she and her family had travelled outside the country for a vacation.

According close sources, Samira's dad, one Abdul Rahman Idriss, lives in Bawku but stays with his daughter whenever he travels to Accra to do business.

The opposing faction apparently got a hint that Abdul Rahman Idriss (Samira's father) was getting finance from his son and daughter, resulting in the son getting killed recently in Bawku by unknown gunmen. They, therefore, plotted the attack on Samira by sending mercenaries all the way from Bawku to 'silence' Samira in

Accra with very dangerous weapons.

Things did not go as planned for the gang, however, as they stormed Samira's matrimonial home where she lives with her husband and children only to meet her and the entire family's absence due to a short vacation outside Ghana. The gang, however, made their presence felt and made it clear what their mission was to neighbours who were awoken by the loud chants in the middle of the night. During the raid, they also destroyed a lot of property in the house. Apparently, this is not the first time Samira has been targeted. According to

sources, she once escaped a near death incident in her previous place of abode in Tema, also in the Greater Accra Region, which warranted her move to her new location in Achimota, a suburb of Accra. That's not all. Samira and the extended family in Bawku are still living in fear because the father, Abdul Rahman Idriss, has gone missing, he has not been heard from, and all efforts to locate him have so far proved futile. The suspicion is that the thugs may have gotten to him, possibly killed and dumped his body somewhere.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS REPORT

Compiled By Peoples Dispatch

Over 420 People Killed In Fighting In Sudan. Foreign Countries Accelerate Evacuations



(Photo: Sudan Doctors Union) According to the World Health Organization (WHO), 3,700 people have been injured since fighting broke out on April 15. The humanitarian crisis, including mass displacement, has continued to worsen as multiple ceasefires have failed to hold

At least 427 people have been killed as clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) entered their ninth consecutive day on Sunday, April 23. In a statement on Monday, April 24, morning, the Sudan Doctors Union (SDU) reported that various areas of the capital Khartoum were being bombarded, which had resulted in civilian deaths in the Kalakla area. It added that a hospital, already overcrowded with people with serious injuries, had also been hit with the number of people injured reaching 50. According to the World

Health Organization (WHO), 3,700 people have been [injured](#) since fighting [broke out](#) on April 15. Multiple ceasefire declarations have failed to hold, including a three-day truce that was confirmed by both the RSF and SAF on April 21 to mark the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Fitr. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) [reported](#) ongoing fighting over the weekend, including “unverified reports indicating clashes [had] intensified in Bahri and Omdurman on April 22.” In a separate statement released earlier on Monday, the SDU had reported

nine deaths—in Khartoum, Omdurman, Nyala, and Marawi—along with 36 injuries among civilians on Sunday. It added that hospitals had been difficult to access due to lack of mobility given the security situation in the country. A widespread internet blackout was also reported by internet watchdog Netblocks, “with connectivity at 2% of ordinary levels” late on Sunday night. As of Sunday, a total of 13 hospitals had been bombed and 19 had been forced to evacuate, the SDU said on Monday. 69% of hospitals adjoining the conflict zones are still out of service. These include 55 of the 79 basic hospitals in Khartoum and other States affected by the fighting. Existing medical facilities are also on the brink of collapse due to a lack of medical personnel, medical supplies and electricity. The SDU added that six ambulances had also been attacked, while others were not allowed to pass through to transport patients or receive aid. Tens of thousands of people have been forced to flee, with bulk of the displacement reported in the North, West, and South States of the Darfur region, the States of Khartoum, Blue Nile, North Kordofan, and the Northern State, according to [preliminary findings](#)

released by the International Organization for Migration's (IOM) Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) on April 22. People are fleeing not just due to the armed clashes, but also because of severe shortages of water and electricity—as observed in Khartoum's Bahri locality. People are also fleeing to Egypt, South Sudan, and Chad, according to the DTM report. Meanwhile, foreign countries including the US, UK, France, Germany, Russia, Italy, Spain, Jordan, and Canada have accelerated the evacuation of their citizens and diplomats. Turkey initiated evacuation efforts via road from the southern city of Wad Madani on Sunday. Egypt has evacuated its citizens through land ports. UN convoys have also transported foreign citizens to Port Sudan for evacuation. While the US has temporarily closed its embassy in Sudan, it has announced that its forces “will remain deployed in Djibouti to protect US personnel and others until the security situation no longer requires their presence.” Other countries including India, Libya, Tunisia, Japan, Sweden, Ireland, Ghana, and Kenya are also coordinating evacuation efforts. Nigeria has requested safe passage for 5,500 of its citizens, which includes students.

In a statement on April 22, the SDU warned that the ongoing evacuation efforts were an indication of not only the failure of the demand for a ceasefire, but pointed to the expectation that the conflict in Sudan will continue and “spread in residential neighborhoods” across large parts of the country. This has resulted in concerns—especially from foreign countries—of an increase in violence and casualties. SDU also said that evacuations would put Sudan's own defenseless citizens in greater danger, “as experience has shown that the parties to the conflict [the RSF and the SAF] are keen on [saving] the lives of foreign nationals only, without any regard for the lives of peaceful Sudanese citizens.” Amid calls by the US and the European Union for talks and a political settlement, Sudan's revolutionary forces have [reiterated](#) the need for an urgent ceasefire, while also steadfastly emphasizing that any meaningful solution to the crisis in the country must emerge from the demands of the years-long mass movement which had declared “No Negotiations, No Compromise, No Partnership” with the military.

Ecuadorian Prosecutors Requests Preventive Detention Of Former President Lenín Moreno

Ecuador's State Attorney General's Office, last Wednesday, April 19, requested the preventive detention of former President Lenín Moreno after he failed to appear before the court as mandated in the Sinohydro case. Moreno is accused of receiving alleged bribes for the construction of the country's largest hydroelectric plant. The Attorney General's Office also requested pre-trial arrest of eight other defendants, including Moreno's wife Rocío González and their daughter Irina Moreno González. On March 6, during a hearing for the formulation of charges, Judge Adrián Rojas ordered all 37 accused to appear biweekly before the National Court of Justice (CNJ) in Quito to ensure their presence in a possible trial for the crime of bribery.

From the beginning, Moreno, who currently resides in Paraguay and serves as commissioner of the Organization of American States (OAS) for Disability Affairs, had rejected the obligation established by the judge that forced him to travel to Ecuador every two weeks over his physical condition. He tried to revoke it through two appeals, including a request to appear at the Embassy of Ecuador in Asunción, Paraguay, instead. However, the court rejected both the preventive habeas corpus actions filed by the former president's defense. Initially, the Attorney General's Office had requested the provisional detention of all defendants, except Moreno and 12 others aged over 65. The former head of state's failure to

appear periodically led the Public Ministry to seek his preventive imprisonment, along with others. The hearing to review the request will be held next week. In February, the Attorney General's Office reported that the investigation into the Sinohydro case, formerly known as the INA Papers case, [revealed](#) a structure of corruption around the Coca Codo Sinclair hydroelectric project. It disclosed that between 2009 and 2018, the Chinese state company Sinohydro paid around \$76 million USD in bribes to the accused for the construction of the plant. The Sinohydro case was opened in March 2019, when media outlet *La Fuente* published an investigative



Ecuador's State Attorney General's Office requested the preventive detention of former President Lenín Moreno on April 19, in the Sinohydro case. Photo: Wikimedia. Moreno is accused of receiving bribes for the construction of the country's largest hydroelectric plant when he was serving as Ecuador's vice president

report, involving one of Moreno's brothers with alleged accounts in tax havens and a luxurious property in Alicante, Spain, in an apparent financial triangulation of an offshore company, the INA Investment. The report also revealed a series of links and alleged irregularities that linked

Moreno to the INA Investment, which led to an initial investigation by the Attorney General's Office into alleged bribes collected by Moreno when he was serving as vice president (2007-2013).

Why NDC Disagrees With IGP; Sammy Gyamfi Writes



PRESS STATEMENT

For Immediate Release:

20th April, 2023.

RE: POLICE MEET LEADERSHIP OF NPP AND NDC OVER HAPPENINGS ON THE POLITICAL FRONT.

The National Democratic Congress (NDC) has taken notice of a recent statement authored by the Ghana Police Service under the above caption, dated 17th April,

2023.

The party would like to confirm that indeed, upon the invitation of the Inspector General of Police, the leadership of the NDC participated in a meeting with the top brass of the Ghana Police Service on 17th April, 2023, to discuss some pertinent issues of concern to us.

While commending the Police for the cordial nature of the discussions, and for their initiative in establishing a Police Election Security

Secretariat to work with Political Parties to enhance election security and other politically-related matters, the NDC at the said meeting disagreed with the Police on a number of critical issues as follows:

1. The leadership of the party disagreed with the position of the Police that the inflammatory and incendiary comments made by Bryan Acheampong to the effect that, the New Patriotic Party will not hand-over power to the NDC in 2025, did not pass the test of criminality. We made the point, and still stand by same, that the statement by Bryan Acheampong breaches Section 207 of the Criminal and Other Offences Act, 1960 (Act 29), to wit, offensive conduct conducive to the breach of the peace.

We contended and still maintain, that the said comments by Bryan

Acheampong was intended, and did actually incite supporters of the ruling NPP to act in a manner that has the tendency and likelihood to breach public peace in the aftermath of the 2024 General Elections.

2. The leadership of the NDC registered our displeasure over the handling of Police investigations into the murder of Silas Wulochamey, a 28-year-old teacher trainee graduate, who met his untimely death after he was stabbed by bandits associated with the New Patriotic Party at Banda Kabrono during the 2020 Voter Registration Exercise.

Following this dastardly act, seven persons were arrested by the Police in connection with the heinous crime. Regrettably, the party noted, that nearly three years on, investigations into this serious matter have stalled, as the suspects have been unceremoniously granted bail without justifiable basis, while the Police claims to be unable to obtain a pathologist report. The party found these excuses untenable and unsatisfactory, and condemned the Police's handling of this important matter.

3. Representatives of the party at the said meeting further expressed dissatisfaction over the inaction of the Police in investigating the killing of some Ghanaians during the 2020 General Election in the Techiman South and Ablekuma Central Constituencies. In this regard, the party vehemently rejected the Police's claim that it was unable to identify the Military Officers and other people in uniform, who shot and killed these innocent Ghanaian citizens.

The party made the point forcefully, that the said military

officers were under the Command of the Military High Command, and were deployed to these locations on that fateful day under strict instructions. It could not therefore be said that their identities were unknown. In any case, some of these incidents were captured on camera and several videos in circulation, which could provide a lead to the Police in their investigations. The party therefore charged the Police to expedite action on these serious murder cases.

4. The party expressed displeasure at the inhumane and degrading treatment that was meted out to a young activist of the party called Mohammed Nasir, who was arrested in connection with disturbances at the recent NDC National Youth and Women conference in Cape Coast. Mohammed Nazir was beaten and tortured for four days continuously while in Police custody.

The National Democratic Congress hereby wishes to reiterate these concerns, and to once again remind the Ghana Police Service to take a relook particularly at their stance on Bryan Acheampong's incendiary comments, consistent with their position on similar recent events. We expect the Police to act on this matter with the speed and urgency with which they acted in apprehending and prosecuting other political actors for making similar statements in recent time.

The party further expects the Police to act with dispatch in addressing the other concerns above-stated.

We believe that, this is the only way, the Police can engender the confidence of the Ghanaian people in the new interventions they have introduced.

Signed,
SAMMY GYAMFI ESQ.
NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Major Mahama's Name Mentioned In Frimpong-Boateng's Galamsey Report

The country was dismayed when news of a lynched soldier broke. It was reported that the death of the late Captain Maxwell Adam Mahama was caused by a mob in Denkyira Obuasi, a mining community in the Central Region, on suspicion of being an armed robber.

At the story's break, government officials, institutions and individuals expressed their sentiments on the matter and suggested ways to deal with the suspects involved.

Unfolding reports suggested that the soldier who was gruesomely murdered was stationed in the Denkyira Obuasi community on detachment duties.

He was later given a sympathy promotion for his heroic act of dying in the line of duty. Captain Mahama became Major Mahama at the time of his burial.

Six years on, a report authored by Professor Frimpong-Boateng, former chairman of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Illegal

Mining (IMCIM), has confirmed the allegations that Major Mahama died while providing security to a galamsey site belonging to C&J Aleska. The report by the professor, titled "Report on The Work of The IMCIM and the Way Forward," was written and presented to the president in 2021 but leaked to the media.

What the report said about the death of Major Mahama:

Prof. Frimpong indicated in his report that Major Mahama was manning a mining site owned by C&J Aleska at Denkyira Obuasi prior to his death. According to him, Major Mahama was killed while "providing security for Donald Entsuah and his C&K Aleska."

In his words, "Many Ghanaians will remember the C&J Aleska, a mining company co-owned by Donald Entsuah and a Canadian



Professor Frimpong-Boateng (Left) late Major Maxwell Adam Mahama (Right)

National, Simon Ayman, that caused a lot of destruction in the town known as Denkyira Oduase, near Diaso.

"During the last NDC regime, several mining companies signed MOUs with the Ghana Army that regulated the supply of security services to the mining companies. At one point, the soldiers at the site of C&J Aleska were under the command of Captain Mahama. This fine army man was killed whilst providing security for Donald Entsuah and his C&K Aleska..." he added.

Why Obsolete Cold War Attitudes Are Holding Europe Back



In 2022, NATO powers allocated huge sums to Ukraine—about \$50 billion from the US, €52 billion from the EU and its member states, and £2.3 billion from Britain (Photo: NATO). Europe desperately needs an independent foreign policy, and this notion is gaining support as the economic crisis across the region deepens

By Fiona Edwards

Recently, the United States has been followed by a number of European countries in supporting a cold war policy toward Russia and China. This has created increasing problems in Europe—bringing a major war to the continent, creating serious economic difficulties, and intensifying a decline in living standards. In this context, the case for Europe establishing an independent foreign policy has gained support, as a way of ensuring security and prosperity.

The US brings hot war to Europe

Starting with the most extreme expression of the situation, the war in Ukraine has claimed tens of thousands of lives. The UN calculates nearly [18 million people](#) need humanitarian assistance and millions have been displaced. This tragedy was avoidable. The underlying cause of the war was the US policy to expand NATO up to Russia's border, including the proposal that Ukraine join NATO when Russia has repeatedly made clear that that is a 'red line' threat to its security interests. The US continued to push for NATO expansion despite this. The absence of an

independent European foreign policy has been demonstrated in the policy of major European governments during the past year, with these governments supporting US policy in Ukraine.

This has been extraordinarily expensive. In 2022, NATO powers allocated huge sums to Ukraine—about [USD 50 billion](#) from the US, [52 billion euros](#) from the EU and its member states, and [2.3 billion pounds](#) from Britain. In 2023, there has been an escalation in military aid sent. After pressure from the US, Germany approved the deployment of their Leopard tanks, while the British government is sending depleted uranium munitions. Militarization in Europe is clearly on the rise, in the past year, with major European governments increasing military spending—something the US has called for over many years.

Last year, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz pledged [100 billion euros](#) in military spending, committing Germany to spend 2 percent of GDP on defense going forward. President Emmanuel Macron is increasing France's military spending to around [60 billion euros by 2030](#)—approximately double 2017's allocation. Britain, historically the US's

closest European ally, already spends [2.2 percent of GDP](#) on the military, [48 billion pounds a year](#).

The US, in turn, has [100,000 troops](#) stationed in Europe and numerous military bases, [including 119 in Germany](#). The impact of this has negatively affected Europe's interests. Without an effort to negotiate peace in Ukraine, rather than escalation, many will die and be displaced. Meanwhile, across Europe, there is an impact of high energy prices as a result of sanctions on Russia, while increased military spending diverts resources away from addressing the cost-of-living crisis. Europe has become more dangerous and poorer. The US has not supported recent proposals for peace in Ukraine, such as those from China, which means a prolonged war. European countries could pursue a different path and play a role in backing negotiations to end the conflict.

Global cooperation is the key to economic prosperity

Economically, Europe faces a parallel crisis. Slow economic growth, high inflation, and government austerity policies are hitting living standards while some European governments' policies toward Russia and China have made the situation worse.

Europe has been seriously damaged by participation in sanctions against Russia. These have increased energy prices while the US has profited from selling more expensive liquefied gas to Europe to replace cheaper Russian gas delivered by pipelines. Journalist Seymour Hersh has made a serious case that the US was also responsible for blowing up the Nord Stream pipelines between Russia and Germany. But European governments have failed to support the call

for an independent investigation into this attack on Europe's energy infrastructure.

The US has also urged Europe to pursue a more anti-China posture. This recently led to Europe's relationship with China deteriorating. The Comprehensive Agreement on Investment between China and the EU, agreed in principle in December 2020, has not been signed despite the economic opportunities it opens for Europe. European governments are also being asked to join the US attacks on China's technology industry, some recently banning TikTok from government work phones with pressure for a wider ban.

The economic consequences of this direction would be serious for Europe. China is the EU's largest trading partner and the most rapidly growing major economy. The IMF's latest [growth projections for 2023](#) estimate China will grow by 5.2 percent—six times faster than the euro area's 0.8 percent. The potential benefits for Europe of increasing win-win economic cooperation with China are therefore considerable.

The struggle for an independent foreign policy

The US's new cold war policy has therefore tended to produce chaos in Europe. In light of this, there are now signs some major European politicians do not wish to continue down this course. President Macron made a widely reported comment following his April 2023 visit to China. [He stated](#) that Europe must not be a “follower” of

the US when it comes to Taiwan, a key issue, and should instead pursue “strategic autonomy.” This followed significant economic deals struck between France and China during Macron's visit. It remains to be seen whether Macron will have the political strength to follow through on such an independent approach, particularly given the backlash these comments immediately received from Washington.

In March 2023, Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez struck a similarly independent tone, [stating](#), “Relations between Europe and China do not need to be confrontational. There is ample room for win-win cooperation.”

Globally, the pursuit of an independent foreign policy is a growing trend. Such an approach has sustained peace in Asia with most countries focusing on economic development rather than confrontation. The recent breakthrough restoring diplomatic relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran, established with China aiding negotiations, opens up the possibility of overcoming a number of conflicts in the Middle East. In Latin America, Lula's recent reelection in Brazil strengthens the political forces in favor of regional independence and development.

Trends in Europe seeing an independent foreign policy as important for the region's future are therefore in line with this overall global development.

Fiona Edwards is a writer and activist based in London and a member of the [No Cold War International committee](#). Follow Fiona on Twitter at [@fio_edwards](#).

This article was produced by [Globetrotter](#).

The 3 NPP Bigwigs At 'Each Other's Throats' Over Galamsey

The former chairman of the erstwhile Inter-Ministerial Committee on Illegal Mining, Prof Kwabena Frimpong-Boateng, authored a report in 2021, citing some NPP top officials as either interfering in the work of the government taskforce on illegal mining or obstructing the fight against illegal mining.

The report, which was submitted to the president through the Chief of Staff, got leaked into the public and has since stirred up emotions against the government with some questioning its involvement in illegal mining.

Key among the names cited in the report are Gabby Otchere-Darko, Kojo Opong-Nkrumah, Lord Commey, Charles Bisiw among others.

Some of the cited personalities have come out to refute the allegations levelled against them but Prof. Boateng has not failed to come back to reiterate his points every time.

Information Minister, Kojo Opong Nkrumah, and leading NPP member, Gabby Otchere-Darko are among persons who have expressed disappointment in the former minister following his submissions.

What the report accused Gabby of:

Frimpong-Boateng cited how Gabby, a leading member of the NPP and cousin to the president, called him in respect of a specific company, Imperial Heritage, when the taskforce was ready to dislodge it from Kobre Forest. In the report, Prof Frimpong-Boateng described how Gabby pestered him when the IMCIM was about dislodging the company.

"We were ready to dislodge Imperial Heritage from Kobre Forest when Mr. Gabby Asare Otchere-Darko called to inform me that he was the lawyer for Heritage Imperial Limited, a company that was destroying the Kobre and Apaprama Forest Reserves and in the process had also polluted and diverted the course of the river Offin, as can be seen in the satellite images below. I informed the President about the behaviour of Mr. Gabby Asare Otchere-Darko and he promised to deal with it."

What the report accused Opong Nkrumah of:

The report by Prof Frimpong-Boateng to President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo cited Information Minister, Kojo Opong-Nkrumah as scheming to run him down.

According to Prof. Frimpong-Boateng, the minister gathered and incited a team of journalists to attack him.

"On Saturday the 8th of February 2020. Mr. Kojo Opong-Nkrumah, the Minister for Information assembled a group of journalists from both NDC and NPP-affiliated media houses at the Forest Hotel in Dodowa to discuss a strategy to bring me Kwabena Frimpong-Boateng down. Whilst they were there, a journalist from among the group called a friend of mine, also a journalist, and informed him about the plot that was being hatched.

He further informed my friend to watch out for headlines in some newspapers in the days following the meeting," he stated in the report.

"On Monday, 10' February 2020, the INFORMER Newspaper, whose Editor was at the meeting had the Banner Headline on its front page as reproduced below:

"As if that was not enough, on Thursday, 13th February 2020, at the 71st Cabinet Meeting, Mr. Opong-Nkrumah in his regular report to Cabinet talked about news that was trending in the week.

"The first thing he mentioned was Frimpong-Boateng and 500 missing excavators," the former minister said.

As part of his report, Prof. Frimpong-Boateng alleged that some members of the Committee including Kojo Opong Nkrumah sabotaged his work.

"It must be noted that Mr. Opong-Nkrumah, as Minister for Information, was a member of the IMCIM and he never called me to find out what I knew about 'missing excavators' but he found it worthwhile to magnify it in press and also present the falsehood before Cabinet for reasons best known to him and his co-conspirators.

"If Kojo Opong-Nkrumah and the likes of him have presidential ambitions they should pursue it on merit and not attempt to destroy a hard-working patriot, whose only ambition is work to achieve a Ghana Beyond Aid," the report captured," he continued.

Gabby's response to Prof. Frimpong-Boateng:

Gabby in an interview with Accra based Citi FM, April 20, denied that he had interfered in the work of the Inter-Ministerial Committee

on Illegal Mining (IMCIM).

He explained that he was acting as a lawyer for the said company Imperial Heritage Company, which despite being properly registered had its machines seized by officers of the taskforce.

"Heritage had a mining exploration permit issued in July 2019, a forest entry permit issued in November 2018, and also an EPA permit yet the soldiers went and seized the equipment of Heritage and so I called the soldiers and was told that it was the Minister who had sanctioned them and so I asked the Minister what the issue was with the equipment seizures and the Minister said they were prospecting and not exploring and that was the conversation that we had," he said.

"My intervention was to understand why a legitimate company with all the requisite permits was stopped from doing their work and that is what lawyers do," he added.

Gabby in turn averred that the former minister had twisted the job of a lawyer to mean interference.

"The Minister deliberately twisted the inquiry by a lawyer of a client's issue to be an interference and the thing is, it was even a phone call that lasted not more than four minutes and he ended by saying Heritage shouldn't have been issued with the license," he added.

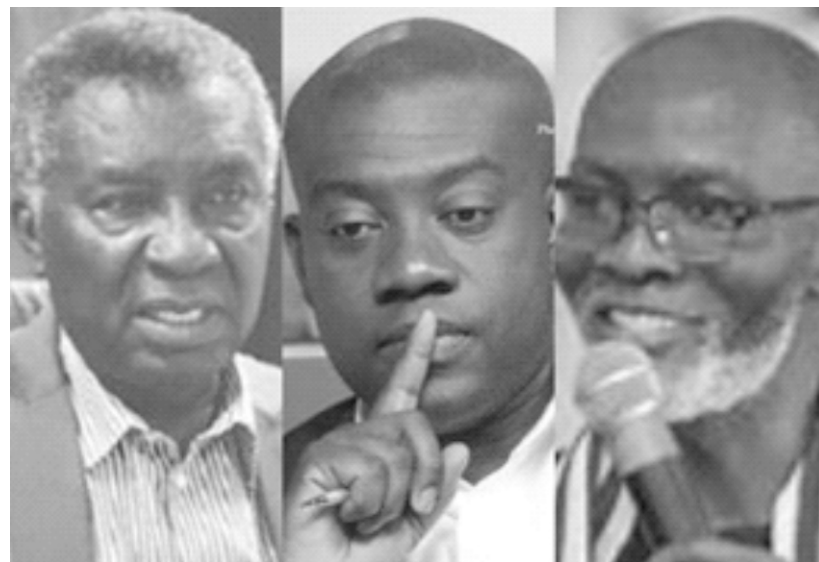
Prof. Frimpong-Boateng's come back:

The former minister in a statement, responded to the denial claims by the legal practitioner, Gabby Otchere Darko.

In the statement, Prof Frimpong-Boateng, lashed out the claims by Gabby in an interview with Accra-based Citi FM describing it as laughable and showed that he [Gabby Asare Otchere-Darko] has such a pixelated view of the illegal mining landscape in Ghana.

"Mr. Gabby Otchere-Darko seems to have forgotten that his client has a strong history of acting with impunity. Donald Entsuaah, who operated both C&G Aleska and Heritage Imperial Mining Co. Ltd. has a history of abusing mining permits and regulations," the statement said.

"You called to tell me that your client had a valid mining licence and all necessary permits. I told



Prof Kwabena Frimpong-Boateng, Kojo Opong Nkrumah, Gabby Otchere-Darko

you that Heritage Imperial Co. Ltd. did not possess documents permitting it to undertake active mining. That notwithstanding through your intervention the Chinese, who were arrested were released by the task force.

The many soldiers who were providing security service to your client's company attacked the IMCIM task force team and damaged the vehicle carrying journalists who were covering the IMCIM operations. The unfortunate scenes were captured on camera and shown on JOY TV," it added.

Opong-Nkrumah responds to Prof. Frimpong-Boateng:

The Minister for Information, Kojo Opong-Nkrumah, denied the allegations that he orchestrated a plot to bring down Professor Kwabena Frimpong-Boateng over the fight against illegal mining also known as galamsey in the country.

The minister in a statement released on Friday, April 21, 2023, Mr. Opong Nkrumah described as false and a fabricated account to court public disaffection against his person.

"Over the years, I had nothing but great admiration for Prof Boateng's public-spirited works and as an inspirational citizen. I feel gravely offended over the false claims he has made and the hurtful conclusions he has sought to exact about me precisely because of the great esteem in which I have held him.

"I trust that in the coming months and years, he will reflect deeply upon his own actions and comments which have led to his challenges. He should kindly leave me out of his personal fights. I am utterly disappointed, but I forgive him," the statement said.

Prof. Frimpong-Boateng claps back:

Also, to the claim and denial of involvement in illegal mining by the minister for information, Prof Frimpong-Boateng by a written statement, advised his 'son' on the basis that the Opong Nkrumah is of the same age as his (Frimpong-Boateng) fourth born, he said: "My advice is, always remember that political power is both short-lived and effervescent."

Below is excerpts of Prof Frimpong-Boateng's advice to

Dear Mr. Opong Nkrumah I have read your response to what I wrote about you in the report I sent to the Chief of Staff a little over two years ago.

You have denied what I wrote and that is normal. Very few people in your position will own up to their wrongdoings.

I have good advice for you, though. When I was part of the government, we were colleagues and I related to you as such. Now I will advise you as my son, just as I do my children.

After all you are the same age as my 4th born son. When I returned to Ghana from Germany to start the cardiothoracic project, you were just 6 years old as my 4th child. I will not lie to you or insult you or be harsh on you.

My advice is, always remember that political power is both short-lived and effervescent.

In about 2 years' time, you may no longer be in government and you may experience the real world as former high-profile political power holders do.

I will urge you to do your work diligently and avoid the coded and evil tactics Mr. Paul Adom Okyere boastfully and unashamedly told the world on 'Good Evening Ghana' that you employ to deal with your real and perceived enemies.

GALAMSEY MAFIA; NDC Calls For Probe Into Frimpong Boateng's Damning Report

from page 7

to G&G Aleska regarding the Dwuabo concession and directed that "in view of the fact that C&G Aleska does not have a valid Mining Operating Permit, and that the Ministry has not yet ratified your mining lease, you are directed NOT TO CARRY OUT ANY MINING OPERATIONS in the concession until your mining lease has been ratified."

Ladies and gentlemen, the mining activities of this company have resulted in the destruction of these two forest reserves, and the diversion of the course of the Offin River. Yet, this is the company the President's nephew, Gabby Otchere Darko sought to shield and defend.

What Gabby Otchere Darko sought to do was to essentially use his influence in the Akufo-Addo/Bawumia government, to defend a company which has been responsible for the destruction of the Diaso, Kobro and Apaprama forest reserves.

Mr. Otchere Darko's impunity must be called out and condemned by every well-meaning Ghanaian. Here is a company destroying our environment, yet enjoys protection from the military and no less a person than President Akufo-Addo's nephew.

What is even more condemnable but unsurprising, is the fact that Otchere Darko's behaviour was said to have been reported to President Akufo-Addo, yet he failed to rein in his errant and obstructionist nephew. How could the President have reined Gabby in, when his actions and inactions clearly show that he is himself an enabler, promoter and beneficiary of galamsey?

6. Ladies and gentlemen, the Frimpong Boateng report also fingered very senior and leading figures within the Akufo-Addo/Bawumia NPP government, for allegedly acting in ways that essentially compromised the fight and rather promoted the activities of people who were engaged in

illegal mining.

Former Senior Minister and now Presidential Advisor, Hon. Yaw Osafo Maafo, for instance is cited by the report to have allegedly used his influence to rather defend and whitewash an alleged money laundering activity by one Seth Mantey, a journalist who was arrested for laundering money from the sale of seized excavators. This he did on behalf of one John Ofori-Atta, then Regional Security Coordinator for the Central Region and Horace Ekow Ewusi, former Vice Chairman of the NPP in the Central Region, who was indicted by Frimpong Boateng for the 500 missing excavators.

In similar vein, Mr. S.K Boafo, a leading member of the New Patriotic and then Board Chairman of the Minerals Commission, was also cited for allegedly sabotaging the work of the IMCIM relative to the implementation of a successful community mining programme. 7. Friends from the media, it is sad to note that the Frimpong Boateng galamsey report identifies the Eastern Region, President Akufo-Addo's own backyard, as the headquarters of almost intractable and uncontrollable illegal mining activities. At the center of these activities are several New Patriotic Party bigwigs and government functionaries, notable among whom is alleged to be Capt. Kodah of the Presidential Security detail. He is reported to have demanded the release of excavators being used by illegal miners at Anyinam, who discharged mining residue directly into the Birim River. The said illegal mining site allegedly belonged to the MP for Asene Akroso Manso, Hon. George Kwame Aboagye, according to the report.

8. Perhaps, the height of impunity was when an NPP Youth Organizer for Kyebi was said to

have been excavating for gold in the backyard garden of President Akufo-Addo's house in Kyebi. Yet, President Akufo-Addo got no wind of this from National Security or his elaborate security detail. As I have already indicated, the only thing that can explain this scandalous revelation is that, President Akufo-Addo is himself complicit in the illegal mining menace.

CONCLUSION

Ladies and Gentlemen of the media, if there was any doubt that the so-called fight against illegal mining by the Akufo-Addo/Bawumia NPP government has been a sham, then this is the clearest evidence, yet again.

The report confirms one truth – that illegal mining activities have been a free-for-all enterprise for many in the Akufo-Addo/Bawumia NPP administration. From Ministers, Presidential Staffers and other associates in government, to National, Regional, Constituency and even Unit Committee Executives of the New Patriotic Party, their agents, Personal Assistants, relatives and financiers, many have been cited to have either engaged in or promoted illegal mining with reckless abandon.

The details of this report are simply scandalous, scary, sordid, pervasive and rotten to the core. We now know how the 500 seized excavators were sold by people entrusted to take care of those seized equipment.

There is now ample evidence about how military and police officers and other men in uniform who were funded by the state and tasked to help fight galamsey, were rather used to protect illegal mining sites belonging to government and NPP officials and their foreign

collaborators. It is sad to note that, Ghana today has a Commander-in-chief who sends soldiers into harm's way for parochial gain. Major Mahama's death and misuse of Ghanaian soldiers by this "Galamsey" Government is another reason for the public enquiry.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Frimpong Boateng galamsey report has indeed shocked the conscience of the nation, and no amount of half-witted and half-hearted explanations from the Presidency or government can whitewash this great infamy.

President Akufo-Addo's complicity in this whole scandal is further magnified by the fact that this stinking report has been on his desk since 2021, yet he has woefully failed to act on same. Ladies and gentlemen, we are of the view, that the only way to establish the truth and get to the bottom of the issues contained in the Frimpong Boateng report, is for Parliament to institute a publicly-televised and bi-partisan enquiry into this report, which essentially is an obituary of President Akufo-Addo's monumentally failed fight against illegal mining. The Special Prosecutor on his part, must act with alacrity by probing the Frimpong Boateng Galamsey report and prosecute all government officials, NPP functionaries and persons who have perpetrated serious crimes against the State as contained in the report.

The Ghanaian people deserve this probe, because millions of tax payers' money has gone down the drain in the name of

fighting illegal mining. Now that it has been confirmed that all the so-called fight was a charade, our nation stands united in crying for justice. Anything short of a bi-partisan enquiry into this matter, will be fiercely resisted.

Any country that has no firm grip over the protection of its forests, nature reserves, wet lands and biodiversity, is one that is doomed to extinction. It is sad to say, that Ghana is fast approaching this scary reality under the Akufo-Addo/Bawumia NPP administration, who are busy destroying all our vegetative buffers to satisfy their greed and selfishness.

As a further step to back our demands, the NDC shall formally submit a request to both the Parliament of the Republic of Ghana and the office of the Special Prosecutor to initiate the necessary investigations into the Gold Mafia documentary as it relates to Ghana and the Galamsey report of Prof. Frimpong Boateng.

It is our fervent hope and firm belief that, these very serious issues will not be swept under the carpet, and that the Special Prosecutor and Parliament will rise to the occasion in order to stop the continuous desecration of our Presidency and environment by President Akufo-Addo, his Vice, Alhaji Mahamudu Bawumia and the ruling New Patriotic Party.

We thank you for your attention. Signed.

**SAMMY GYAMFI ESQ.
NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER**