

STOP MCDAN NOW!

Ada Songor Lagoon Association Protests Electrochem's Salt Mining Concession



Daniel Mc Korley

Over two thousand residents mostly indigenes drawn from more than 40 communities within the Ada Songor lagoon enclave yesterday held a peaceful demonstration in Accra to protest salt mining concession contract given to Electrochem Company Limited owned

by businessman, Daniel Mc Korley popularly known as Mc Dan by the government. Clad in red, the protesters marched through some principal streets of Accra to register their displeasure over the salt mining contract which has deprived most

of the indigenes of their livelihoods. Salt winning has been the mainstay of over 500,000 indigenes of the Ada Songor lagoon communities for more than 400 years until the Nana Akufo-Addo led government gave the huge salt concession contract out to Mr. Daniel

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Pay Us Our Monies, Customers Of Defunct Gold Coast Management Demand As They Picket At SEC



Some aggrieved customers of the defunct Gold Coast Fund Management Company yesterday ended a 3-day demonstration at the premises of the Security and Exchange

Commission (SEC) to demand payment of their locked-up funds from the Commission. The group, among other things, gave the SEC a 3-day ultimatum to have their locked-up funds paid.

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One Month One Sanitary Pad Initiative Outdoored By Pan African TV's Ivy Narki Teye

ONE MONTH ONE PAD TO PROVIDE FREE SANITARY PADS TO 20 GIRLS EVERY MONTH

AN IVY ABENA DEDE NARKI TEYE INITIATIVE

CALL 0247361864 TO RECEIVE A PACK OF FREE SANITARY PAD FOR SPONSORSHIP

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Ahead Of King Charles III Coronation

'It Feels Like Game Of Thrones': Call To Swear Allegiance To King Branded 'Feudal'



King Charles III. Not everyone is happy with the invitation to swear allegiance to their new king. (Reuters)

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One Month One Sanitary Pad Initiative Outdoored By Pan African TV's Ivy Narki Teye

The lack of access to menstrual hygiene products, such as pads and tampons, due to financial constraints is very prevalent here in Ghana. The effect of this is debilitating; aside girls missing school days as a result, they also face stigma and shame. It is in light of this that in my own small way, I have decided to take up this initiative of providing 20 girls with sanitary pads monthly. I'll be more than pleased to see all of you come on board. Together, we can make a difference, this is according to Pan African TV broadcaster Ivy Abena Dede Narki Teye.

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The INSIGHT

EDITORIAL

PROSECUTE THEM!

The call by a section of the public for persons behind government's payroll fraud or 'Ghost Names' to be prosecuted

is a suggestion in the right direction.

The prosecution of these individuals most of whom are public servants has been long overdue. Despite the introduction of electronic payment system, the fraud still goes on, an indication that the crime is being perpetuated by a well-organised criminal network.

Clearly, should the state agencies especially the Office of the Special Prosecutor and the Auditor General up their game by ensuring the prosecution of these criminal gangs and thieves as suggested, instead of the existing arrangement of surcharging them, this nation-wrecking practice will grind to a halt.

There is no denying the fact that the 'soft' handling of these 'thieves' behind the 'ghost names' is what has emboldened them and made their exorcism difficult.

There certainly has to be a shift from surcharging to prosecution. Until that is done, eradicating this canker which only enriches these few individuals in our society will be difficult, if not a mere rhetoric.

With the level of technological advancement, there cannot be any excuse for allowing 'Ghosts' in the government's payroll.

The ghosts have to be hunted out and the only way to do that is to prosecute the individuals behind the 'mystery' of 'ghost names'.

Ahead Of King Charles III Coronation

'It Feels Like Game Of Thrones': Call To Swear Allegiance To King Branded 'Feudal'

By James Hockaday

Millions of people in the UK and the Commonwealth have been invited to vocally swear their allegiance to [King Charles III](#) as they watch his coronation ceremony.

Those watching the crowning on 6 May have been asked to say: "I swear that I will pay true allegiance to your majesty, and to your heirs and successors according to law. So help me God."

It has been described as an Homage of the People and his seen by some as a break from tradition that will make the ceremony more of a "people's coronation" – as previously only peers would make such a pledge.

Not everyone is happy with the idea, however, with some likening it to something from North Korea, or Game of Thrones. Anti-monarchy demonstrator Symon Hill, [who was arrested in September after shouting "who elected him"](#) at the proclamation of Charles as King in Oxford, said the proposal is like something out of George Orwell's book 1984.

He tweeted: "If it were 1 April, you'd think this was a joke: public are asked to take part in a ludicrous 'Homage of the People', swearing allegiance to Charles Windsor in front of their TV during the coronation." Political economist and chartered accountant Professor Richard Murphy wrote: "I don't mind swearing. It's the allegiance to an outdated legacy of eugenic feudal power that I have a problem with." Even some who do support the British monarchy thought the invitation went a step too far, suggesting it may be a sign that enthusiasm for the Royal Family has faded following the death of Queen Elizabeth II. Speaking to GB News, journalist Martin Townsend said: "I think it's very odd. There is a little bit of insecurity about it, and equally I think it plays into that narrative of a slightly vain king.

"I think this plays into that narrative that perhaps he's not as popular as the Queen or since the Queen passed away six months ago, perhaps respect for the monarchy has slightly dwindled.

"The coronation – I want a big feast of pageantry I want to see some extraordinary ceremonies going on.

"I still think being asked to pledge allegiance to the King feels very Game of Thrones to me and it doesn't feel like the British monarchy."

Green peer Jenny Jones tweeted: "Asking us to chant our allegiance does seem an odd request when so many of us think that the monarchy is an outdated institution that needs drastic reform.

"And I really think that the king is rich enough to pay for his own coronation, not us taxpayers. The ££ could go to #nurses." Street artist Mark McGowan, also known as the Artist Taxi Driver, added: "This is absolutely insane... they want us all to swear allegiance to the King... just wow!! "Sooooo creepy and North Korean, like sheep, it's medieval it's controlling it's abusive, people are suffering and they want you subjugated... simply appalling, not



King Charles III. Not everyone is happy with the invitation to swear allegiance to their new king. (Reuters)

doing it not ever."

While millions of people across the world will be excited to watch the coronation, a poll conducted shortly before the ceremony suggests [support for the British monarchy is at an all-time low](#).

Pollsters found only three in 10 Britons think their monarchy is "very important" – the lowest proportion on record.

Meanwhile, a YouGov poll conducted in Scotland found [less than half \(46%\) of people think Britain should continue to have a monarchy in the future](#), with almost three-quarters of Scots saying they do not care about the coronation.

There's no doubt that King Charles III has a big pair of shoes to fill given the popularity of his mother Elizabeth II throughout her 70-year reign. While not everyone is feeling enthused about the coronation, others are very excited, including John Loughrey (left) and Sky London, who have already pitched up along the Mall. (AP)

The last poll taken before the death of Britain's longest-reigning monarch showed [81% of people held her in a positive regard](#), a rate she'd managed to hold for more than a decade.

In light of this weekend's coronation, Yahoo News has launched a series of polls to gauge the public mood as the Royal Family enters a new era of its history.

THE INSIGHT

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STOP MCDAN NOW!

Ada Songor Lagoon Association Protests Electrochem's Salt Mining Concession

from front page

Mc Korley in 2019 to mine for a contractual period of 50 years. Following the privatization of the Songor Lagoon, thousands of residents whose livelihoods depend on the lagoon and salt winning have been having running battles with armed thugs employed by the salt winning company which brutalizes the residents in a bid to prevent them from undertaking their legitimate business.

As a result, several of the indigenes have suffered injuries resulting from gun shots and other machete wounds inflicted on them by landguards and other hoodlums hired to protect the concession.

Unhappy about developments in the area, the Ada Songor Lagoon Association (ASLA), together with Ada East Salt Producers Association (DESPA), the Libi Wonor, custodian of the Libi Shrine of Terkperbiawe, clan, elders and youth of Ada Songor Lagoon basin organized the march yesterday to draw the government's attention to their plight.

Some of the placards held by the protesters read, "Parliament Review the Electrochem Concession Agreement", "Mc Dan leave our Songor Lagoon", "Enough of the Bloodshed", among many others.

Nene Dadebom, who addressed the protesters and handed their petition to government urged the government to consider PNDC Law 287 which recognizes the exclusive rights of indigenes within the songor enclave and also the implementation of the Master Plan for Salt Development in Ghana.

A press statement issued by the Ada Songor lagoon Association traced the history of salt mining in the area and why they want the contract reviewed.

This is the full text of their statement;
PRESS STATEMENT AT THE MAY 4th, 2023 MARCH FOR JUSTICE DEMONSTRATION

Neneme, Naaneme, Nyemime, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Press, Observers, All Ghanaians and Adaali-abime at home and abroad. On behalf of the Leadership of Ada Songor Lagoon Association (ASLA); The Libi Wornor; The Terkperbiawe Clan Stool Father of Ada, The Terkperbiawe Queen Mother, The Chiefs, Elders, and the Youth of all our communities around

the Songor Lagoon Basin, we wish to welcome you to this press conference to tell you; the nation and the whole world about atrocities which are being committed against us on our own land by agents of Daniel McKorley popularly known as McDan and the security agencies and to particularly carry a message to him that he has no legitimate right to abuse us on our own land.

We shall fearlessly and forcefully fight for our rights as guaranteed in the nation's constitution by all legitimate means at our disposal. We would like you, ladies and gentlemen of the press to carry our message to the nation and the world that gross human rights abuses are being perpetrated at Ada Songor Lagoon by agents of Daniel McKorley and the security forces on our own land with the sole intention of grabbing our land and resources for the sole benefit and that of his cronies in this Government. Before we continue, may we request that we once again clap for a few minutes for many of our fellow Adaali-abime from Bonikope; Tofloko; Salom; Matsekope; Luhuor; Medie and Kablevu who since McDan started his illegitimate operations on our own land, have been very seriously abused and severely brutalised by the State Security Agencies and land guards. The Songor Lagoon which our ancestors with the help of the Gas and the Ewes fought 2 wars against the Ashantis over and which we currently lived on, worked on, for hundreds of years is now being claimed by this notorious land grabber as his own with the help of Nana Akufo-Addo's NPP Government. (A MINUTE OF CLAPPING

.....)
Once again let us not forget all those who were similarly brutalised previously by S C Appenteng and his agents in the 1970s. ANOTHER MINUTE FOR CLAPPING
Let us observe a minute's silence for our Sister, Daughter; Mother and Auntie, Margaret Kuwornu whose life was cut short by police bullet on 17th May 1985 at Boni-kope. Our dear Numo Sebi Agbenyefia who died last year and was buried at Goi with a police bullet stuck in him. Let us finally observe a minute's silence for our late President J J Rawlings whose wisdom; love of justice; passionate belief in human values; the rights of the common man and woman and sense of fairness gave us the Master Plan. As we stand here today one of our compatriots, Bro. Sampson Agbove of Salom still has several police bullets in him causing severe health problems for him all the time. There are 50 of our fellow Adaali-abime, fellow citizens who are being persecuted and prosecuted by the authorities for just being on their own land and to create a monopoly on sea salt production for McDan alone. May we also remember all those

who suffered and passed away during the 20-year reign of terror by S C Appenteng. Today, we are suffering worse brutalities and atrocities fully backed by Nana Akufo-Addo's government. I would now like to introduce to you the Chiefs and Elders who are here with us today. (Call the names of the Chiefs, Elders Youth and key ASLA Representatives from the towns) Thank You. Ladies and Gentlemen of the Press, our fellow Ghanaians and Adaali-Abime here today; we called this press conference to specifically send a strong message to the Government to order McDan to immediately cease all his activities at the Songor Lagoon and rather implement the Master Plan for Salt Development in Ghana in accordance with the spirit and provisions of PNDC Law 287. Our demands are specifically as follows: 1) The recommendations of the "MASTER PLAN FOR SALT DEVELOPMENT IN GHANA" be implemented in accordance with the provisions of PNDC Law 287; The PLAN which was drawn by the Minerals Commission, Inter-Ministerial Technical Teams and International Consultants on Salt Production from Cuba, ECIMACT be implemented for sustained peace and development in the Ada Traditional Area. 2) Investigations should be conducted into: i) The gross violation of the human rights of the people living around the Songor Lagoon as a result the several military and persistent police raids on the communities. ii) Why the Ada Chiefs who are siding with McDan maintain that, they only signed a Memorandum to cover an area of 12,423 acres (50.30Sq Km) to McDan, however the Company's business plan submitted to Minerals Commission for the mining license covered an area of 63.00Sq Km but Mining Leases covering an area of 158.34Sq Km was granted to his company, Electrochem Ghana Ltd. Ladies and gentlemen of the press, this is unethical, and unfair! iii) By a letter dated 1st August 2020 and signed by Nana Bediatuo, Secretary to the President, it is only the "Ada Songor Salt Project" which was divested to Electrochem Ghana Ltd. The "Ada Songor Salt Project" site was the former Vacuum Salt's area of operations, which is concession No.5 of the "Master Plan for Salt Development in Ghana". Currently all the proposed 8 concessions together with all the areas reserved for the cooperatives and indigenes have been granted to McDan's Electrochem to create an unholy monopoly of solar sea salt production and marketing in Ada. iv) The activities of land guards in the communities who are more or less private militia operating to intimidate the people. v) To establish who were behind the raid on Ada Radio which was ostensibly to silence some of the news presenters of the station with probably Mr. Noah Dameh being the main target. vi) The persecution and prosecution of over 50 residents of towns and villages around the Songor Lagoon Basin who have been variously detained for long periods in police cells and facing criminal prosecution since 2020. These poor people would have to travel



every month from Ada to Tema to attend court during the last 2 years. For most of the time also the proceedings do not come on. vii) The persistent persecution and prosecution of Mr. Noah Dameh; a hard working; conscientious and honest journalist of Ada Radio who took it upon himself to educate and explain the impact of Electrochem's Mining Leases and Business Plan to the people. Mr. Noah Dameh like all conscientious journalists in the country was just going about his duties as best as he could. viii) To establish whether the operations of Songor Salt Project, a State-Owned Organization with striving business and financially viable at the time of acquisition by Electrochem; was properly valued and adequate compensation was paid to the State together with the Land Owners, the Terkperbiawe Clan of Ada or not. ix) Declassification of sea salt farming and harvesting as a mining activity and therefore remove it from being regulated under the Mining Law. Solar Sea Salt unlike Rock Salt (Halite); gold; bauxite; manganese is not mined nor dug from the belly of the earth; it is farmed and harvested. It is inexhaustible and can easily be produced where we have dry land, sea water and good sunshine. 3) We call on all Human Rights Organizations home and abroad to take our cause as their own and hear our cry for justice in our predicament. We respectfully call on the Ghana offices of The European Human Rights Commission, The United Nations Human Rights Commission, The ECOWAS Committee of Legal Affairs and Human Rights together with our own Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) to step in to see to it that what is just and fair is done in our case. 4) Lastly and very important we call on the International Finance Corporation (IFC) a division of the World Bank and all international and local banking and financial institutions to

completely refrain from financing ElectroChem Ghana Ltd least they are seen to be and accused of financing and supporting an enterprise purposefully causing gross human rights violations to create a monopoly on sea salt production for the benefit of McDan. 5) We would also sincerely like the Government to take note that Nene Abram Kabu Akuaku III, Paramount Chief of Ada Traditional Area; Officials from the Paramountcy and The Ada Traditional Council do not speak for us; the people of Ada Songor Lagoon Basin. 6) Therefore, any arrangements or agreements regarding the Songor Lagoon with them without the direct involvement of the Libi Wornor, the entire Terkperbiawe Divisional Council, The Chiefs and Elders of the towns and villages around the Songor Lagoon, together with the leadership of The Association would not be acceptable to us. 7) Daniel McKorley, no doubt has supporters amongst the people of Ada who go about peddling untruths that all the people of Ada have agreed and are in support of his activities around the Songor Lagoon except for some very few individuals. Ladies and gentlemen of the press NOTHING CAN BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH! 8) The over 5,000 people who signed the petitions we submitted to the President of the Republic and the Honourable Speaker of Parliament today together with the thousands participating in this demonstration attest to that! 9) We the members of the Ada Songor Lagoon Association together with the Chiefs, Elders and Youth of the Songor Lagoon Basin shall fearlessly and forcefully fight on and on and on until our rights to our livelihood are restored by the implementation of the Master Plan for Salt Development in Ghana. Thank you all for honouring our invitation and in anticipation of your unflinching support and help always up to the time we achieve JUSTICE!

Signed:

Hon. Ebenezer Adjaottor

(Ass. Secretary) Tel: 0593846164



INTERNATIONAL NEWS REPORT

Compiled By Peoples Dispatch

First Republic Bank: The Second Largest Crash In US History, Another Example Of Bailout



First Republic is the third bank to fail in the US since March (Photo: Can Pac Swire). First Republic Bank, holding USD 233 billion in assets, collapsed and was sold to banking giant JP Morgan Chase. First Republic is the third bank to fail in the US since March, surpassing the spectacular failure of Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) on March 10

On International Workers' Day, the First Republic Bank became the second largest bank to fail in US history. The USD 233 billion institution was seized by the government and sold to banking behemoth JP Morgan Chase. First Republic is the third bank to fail in the US since March, surpassing the [spectacular failure](#) of Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) on March 10. SVB's depositors were bailed out by the US government to the tune

of [USD 151 billion](#). Up until May 1, SVB had been the second largest bank failure in the history of the country. Capitalists in the United States did not predict that this title would be usurped less than two months later. Following SVB, Signature Bank, a New York-based institution with a large real estate lending business, also failed only two days later. Amid the banking crisis panic, First

Republic Bank received a USD 30 billion lifeline from 11 of the largest banks in the country. This attempt to stave off First Republic's failure would prove unsuccessful. The total assets of the 2023 bank failures now [surpass](#) those of the bank failures of 2008, the first year of the Great Recession. The US Treasury Department has claimed that the nation's banking system is "sound and resilient" following First Republic's collapse. First Republic's failure is directly tied to the Federal Reserve's raising of interest rates. The US Federal Reserve has decided to address the inflation crisis by hiking up interest rates. As a result of increased interest rates, the economy slows. Prices go down because of this generated economic slump and economically unsound businesses begin to close, and banks lend less money. From top to bottom, every player in the economy becomes more discerning, and overinflating

the value of commodities becomes harder, thus decreasing inflation. The effects of a this blow in the name of combating inflation include mass unemployment, as well as politicians using an economic crisis as an excuse to cut social services. Capitalists could have been held accountable for causing the inflation crisis, but they have not been. The US government chose not to implement measures such as price caps, higher taxes on the wealthy and corporations, and the nationalization of private institutions such as banks. Ultimately, through raising interest rates, the Federal Reserve is forcing workers to bear the brunt of the inflationary crisis, rather than capitalists, who have been in charge of raising prices in the first place. Another side effect of the rising interest rates has been these latest bank failures. As interest rates on loans and investments go up, they begin

to lose their value, and bank clients begin to pull their money out of the banks. Because banks are designed to gamble with clients' deposits, not actually save them, when too many people pull their money out at once, the bank collapses. JPMorgan Chase was already one of the largest banks in the world before its latest acquisition of First Republic. The megabank also acquired Washington Mutual in 2008, after it collapsed in what is still the largest bank failure in US history. JPMorgan Chase owns over 10% of all deposits in the US, making it technically ineligible to acquire another deposit-taking institution, according to US regulations. For this, authorities made an exception. JP Morgan's acquisition of First Republic shows how moments of crisis under capitalism often result in further monopolization.

NHS Workers Undeterred By Government Attempts To Stop Strikes

Rishi Sunak's government in the UK is on a mission to curb the wave of strikes by health workers which began at the end of 2022. In April, the majority of members of the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) and Unite the Union rejected Health Secretary Steve Barclay's offer of a 5% salary increase and one-off payment, announcing they would continue striking for a better deal. Instead of reopening negotiations, the government took the RCN to court over what health workers have called a "technical discrepancy" over the organization's strike mandate. The High Court [ruled](#) in favor of the government, shortening the strike originally scheduled to take place between April 30 and May 2 to less than 24 hours. Despite the court decision, nurses' picket lines filled all over England over the weekend. The High Court's decision highlights the anti-trade union sentiment in existing laws, says Holly Johnston from NHS Workers Say No. "It will

become more and more difficult for trade unions to have lawful strike action," she told the *People's Health Dispatch*. The government's battle against trade unions is not taking place in the courts alone. The offer which was put forward to the trade unions was formulated in a way that made it difficult for many health workers to reject. "We can understand why some members would accept the pay offer. Because people are too poor to be able to afford to keep on striking. They are too poor not to have the lump sum in the pay package," explains Johnston. "The government has done that on purpose. It's a deliberately attractive offer to some staff because they are too poor not to take it. It won't do anything in the long term for recruitment and retention, but we can understand especially why the lower paid staff would take it," she says. **NHS Staff Council vote result to**

impose government proposal The tactic has partially paid off, it seems, as the NHS Staff Council [voted](#) in favor of the government's offer on May 2. The RCN and Unite mirrored their members' negative vote during the council session, but were outnumbered. The results of the Staff Council vote will lead to the imposition of the government's offer on all health workers represented by the trade unions, but this does not mean that the health workers' actions will stop anytime soon. The RCN is already planning a new strike ballot to begin on May 15—one that would cover the whole NHS instead of individual workplaces. If successful, the ballot would give the RCN the mandate to escalate strikes in the following six months. "As NHS Workers Say No, we want to see more coordination between the trade

unions, more solidarity actions. We do support the British Medical Association in their actions. And we do believe intensifying the strikes, coordinating the strikes, balloting across the NHS is the way to go," says Johnston. Even if the government's offer is imposed on everyone, Johnston says that health workers will continue to strengthen the networks they have been building for the past years. "The unions are shifting into becoming more active unions. There's still a long way to go, but we are seeing these internal shifts which are promising," she explains. In addition to that, Johnston says that the health workers continue to be backed by the public as they plan further industrial action. "People are getting more and more angry about the conditions



Health workers at a picket line during a nurses' strike in England. (Photo: Sheila Mckeown/Twitter). Nurses, ambulance workers, and other health workers in England continue to plan for industrial action escalation as government looks for way to stop strikes without improving working conditions

within the NHS, but the majority of them see that it's not the fault of individual staff members. It's a direct result of over a decade of cuts, austerity, and deliberate underfunding of the NHS," she points out.

People's Health Dispatch is a fortnightly bulletin published by the [Peoples Health Movement](#) and *Peoples Dispatch*.

GARHC Recognizes Ackwerhs As Royals Of Hwakpo As It Strikes Out Appeal By The Puplampus

The Greater Regional (GAR) House of Chiefs has confirmed the legitimacy of the Ackwerhs of Hwakpo as the rightful heirs of the Hwakpo stool. This, perhaps, could draw the curtains down on the battle between the Puplampus who have laid claim of the stool and the Ackwerhs who have also held that they are the rightful heirs of Hwakpo. The Ada Traditional Council, in November last year, unanimously ruled that the Ackwerhs, but not the Puplampus, are the rightful heirs and custodians of Hwakpo. Unsatisfied by the ruling and, thus, had the right to appeal, the Puplampus, who have installed a self-styled chief and whom the Ada Traditional Council says it does not recognize, filed for an appeal of the ruling by the Ada Traditional

Council at the council. Months after filing for the appeal, the appellants, according to the Ada Traditional Council, had failed to meet the conditions of their own appeal, including cash sums of GH¢10,000 on the one part and GH¢2,000 on the other part. Following the elapsed time to meet the appeal conditions, the Ada Traditional Council, wrote to the GAR House of Chiefs to strike out the case before it by the appellants, a request a four-member panel of the GAR House of Chiefs presided over by Mr Alexander Essien, the magistrate, granted and fined the Puplampus GH¢2,000 in addition. The Ackwerhs were represented by Nomo Ernest Samuel Ackwerh, Nene Agbasi Dzikunu Ackwerh and Nathan Nomotey Ackwerh while the appellants were represented by Dr. David Buernor Puplampu and Isaac Buerterey Puplampu (the Self-

styled Chief).

After the hearing, Numo Ernest Samuel Ackwerh, the head of the Ackwerhs, expressed his elation at the ruling, saying, "Again, our brothers (the Puplampus) have lost again and this should bring finality to this unnecessary and time-wasting litigation. "It is clear that the Ackwerhs are the heirs and custodians of Hwakpo and from here, we are going to hit the ground running with the developments we have earmarked to open up Hwakpo. We will welcome their developmental contributions but they should not make any wrong move because we are going to be guided by the laws of the Republic of Ghana, our traditional customs and norms to ensure that Hwakpo remains peaceful and developed for our generations." The family head of the Ackwerhs



however called on the Puplampus to settle all the fines previous courts have imposed on them." they owe almost every court since they started this litigation with us in the 90s" he said. Rev. Nathan Ackwerh who also spoke with journalists advised the Puplampus to desist from causing troubles as every step they take

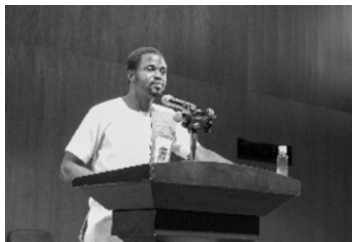
has gone against them, adding that the truth will always be on the side of the Ackwerhs who will equally not look on to be cheated.

Press Freedom Day: Stop Living In Denial, Dangers Of Journalism Are Real - Manasseh Awuni Tells Govt

Ghanaian investigative journalist and the Editor-in-Chief of The Fourth Estate, [Manasseh Azure Awuni](#) has appealed to the government to help end impunity for crimes against journalists.

Speaking at the Ghana International Press Center to mark the celebration of World Press Freedom Day, Mr. Awuni stated that the media space is becoming unattractive to journalists, forcing them into the corporate world while deterring young ones from taking up journalism as their career path.

"When an investigative journalist was murdered in the Netherlands, the EU said this was an attack on democracy. An investigative journalist was killed in Malta and it led to the resignation of the Prime Minister. An investigative journalist was killed in Ghana here and the president of the republic went to the bar conference and said this is not an attack on press freedom. If that was not it, what is it?", Mr. Awuni queried.



Ghanaian investigative journalist, Manasseh Azure Awuni

He also recounted instances where he had to travel abroad for safety because of numerous death threats on his life. "I have reported several death threats to the police headquarters but nothing came out of it. I've had to leave the country on two occasions and I know other journalists who have gone through hell during this period. It is not fiction, the dangers are real," he said. He added that apathy on the part of authorities toward impunity against journalists is not helping in bringing an end to crimes against journalists. He called on the government, information ministry, and other stakeholders to "sit up."

Source -- [gbcghanaonline.com](#)

Gold Mafia: We Don't Owe Akufo-Addo An Apology – Al Jazeera Suggests

International cable TV giants, Al Jazeera, have suggested that they do not owe President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo and the Ghana government an apology for the contents of the fourth installment of its Gold Mafia documentary. Government via an April 25, 2023 letter signed by Nana Bediatuo Asante, demanded that Al Jazeera retract and apologizes for portions of its documentary that suggested that Akufo-Addo had dealings with a self-acclaimed money-lauder and gold smuggler, Canadian Alistair Mathias. Following the publication of the letter, a journalist with Accra-based TV3 wrote to the Doha-based channel seeking among others responses to whether the channel had received the letter demanding a retraction and apology from government and whether they would respond to same. In a response shared on the May 4 edition of the New Day programme, TV3 published an email response from Al Jazeera which suggested that the channel had taken care of all concerns raised by Akufo-Addo before the said documentary aired. "We have responded to the letter from the president of the Republic of Ghana, correcting some parts of its content and clarifying various points. "Prior to the publication of Gold Mafia, we wrote to the president outlining the claims made by Alistair Mathias. The president's response appears near the end

of the documentary," their response noted. **Watch the specific part of the documentary Al Jazeera referred to as shared by a presidential staffer Sammy Gyamfi claims Akufo-Addo's letter didn't reach Doha**

National Communications Officer of the National Democratic Congress (NDC), Sammy Gyamfi, alleged last weekend that the government was only throwing its weight about in a letter threatening legal action against Doha-based international news channel, Al Jazeera. The letter dated April 25 was in connection with the Gold Mafia serialized documentary in which president Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo is mentioned by a self-confessed money launderer, one Alistair Mathias; as a friend and one-time lawyer. Sammy Gyamfi had sometime last week described the letter as 'COMIC RELIEF' but in his latest jibe at government he claimed that the said letter to Al Jazeera had yet to reach their team in Ghana let alone the headquarters in Doha, Qatar.

"The letter that Nana Asante Bediatuo has written and has brandished over social media and they are doing guy-guy, we have threatened Al Jazeera, we have given them seven days, I just checked and the letter has not reached Doha.

"The letter has not even reached the Ghanaian team here in Ghana representing Al Jazeera. So they are just throwing their weight about," Sammy alleged on the April 29 edition of The Key Points, a political talk show on TV3. "Can you intimidate Al Jazeera?" Sammy added before challenging the show host to also call the channel and confirm whether or not they had indeed received the said letter signed by secretary to the president, Nana Asante Bediatuo.



Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo

Thank you for your inquiry.

We have responded to the letter from the President of the Republic of Ghana, correcting some parts of its content and clarifying various points.

Prior to the publication of Gold Mafia, we wrote to the president outlining the claims made by Alistair Mathias. The president's response appears near the end of the documentary. **TWEET AT US #JOHNNIESBITE**

Pay Us Our Monies, Customers Of Defunct Gold Coast Management Demand As They Picket At SEC



from front page

Since 2019, the customers of the fund management institution, have been demanding for their funds after the SEC revoked the license of Gold Coast Management Company, which operated under the registered name, Black Shield Capital Limited. After four years of waiting, the SEC is yet to pay the funds of the about 55,000 customers whose funds were with the institution before the revocation.

But, what exactly are the demands of the aggrieved customers as they picket at the SEC?

Demands of the aggrieved customers:

Paramount to the demands of the customers, is for the Security and Exchange Commission to refund their locked-up funds.

“This condition is killing people and this administration says there is nothing they can do about the death of the pensioners. Pensioners who have worked hard to save this nation with their sweat and blood. They have made their monies, they have put it down for the future and if a government policy- this company didn't collapse by itself, Gold Coast Fund Management Company was solvent until the Akufo-Addo government cast it with the financial clean-up exercise,” the convener, Charles Nyame told the media.

The customers are also demanding clarity of information on when their

funds will be paid. “This condition is killing people and this administration says there is nothing they can do about the death of the pensioners. Pensioners who have worked hard to save this nation with their sweat and blood. They have made their monies, they have put it down for the future and if a government policy- this company didn't collapse by itself, Gold Coast Fund Management Company was solvent until the Akufo-Addo government cast it with the financial clean-up exercise.

“It was a policy by government which was precluded with a lot of assurances by government that it was doing the exercise to protect the investments of investors and here we are, five years on,” he added. The customers have also suggested to the government to go the bond market to borrow coupons so they can be paid. “And if government hasn't gotten any money at all, pension bond market is still available, government can borrow to pay our coupons. This is life and death,” he suggested. Meanwhile, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has noted that it has received the complaints and agitations of aggrieved customers of the defunct Gold Coast Fund Management.

The Head of Communications and External Affairs, Dr. Godwin Ansah, who received the petition on behalf of the Director General of SEC, assured the petitioners that their concerns will be addressed.

This is after customers of Gold Coast Fund Management

picketed the SEC premises for three days to demand the payment of their locked-up funds.

“We cannot agree with the numbers by their representatives, but we were very clear in terms of what we have done so far,” he was quoted as saying.

According to him, a chunk of depositors' monies has been paid.

“Over 73, 000 claims have actually been paid with about ₵1.3 billion. Also, as far as 61,000 claims have been covered with ₵750 million which have been used to settle these customers,” he said.

He added that SEC will work to ensure that depositors across the country are settled in the shortest possible time.

“We will continue to address these issues and support the process to ensure the needful is done,” he added. This is the full text of the statement by customers of the defunct Gold Coast Fund Management Company as they ended their picketing yesterday;

Aggrieved Customers of Gold Coast Fund Management
 Email: mrcharlesnyame@gmail.com
 Tel: 0247222613
 04-05-2023

The Director General
 Securities and Exchange Commission
 Cantonment, Accra

Dear Sir,
 PETITION

We are a pressure group called; Aggrieved Customers Of Gold Coast Fund Management with membership of over fifty-five thousand (55,000) unpaid remaining customers of Blackshield Capital Limited, hitherto known as; Gold Coast Fund Management (GCFM) owned by Dr.

Papa Kwesi Nduom. It has been over four (5) years since our investments got locked-up with GCFM which is a government regulated institution under the Asset Management Sector regulated by Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

The lock up of our investments was mainly due to Government's policy of a Financial Sector Clean-up Exercise in Ghana initiated in 2018.

Affected depositors of other Fund Management Companies have been bailed out long ago and it is most unfortunate that the government is discriminating against us.

This discriminatory act on the part of government is in contravention of the 1992 Constitution that requires the government to treat all its nationals equally without discrimination.

Government taking over the debt and validating customers claims with initial payment of Ghs 50,000 per each investment makes the government liable to the customers on the grounds of absorption of responsibility to pay.

Affected depositors would have taken action to retrieve their deposit since 2018 but for the government taking over the responsibility to pay us.

It had been the case of Group Nduom that government owes them and the evidence available clearly confirms same. There can be a set off in the absence of malice to give relief to us.

It is however unfortunate that we the ordinary citizens are now made to bear the brunt of a government decision for the past four years in such a dastardly manner. You can imagine how we have been surviving for all these years, especially, the pensioners and sick persons among us.

Pensioners among us who have their investment locked up till date, form more than 70% of our membership and it is incomprehensible that government would shield its responsibility with a condition of securing order from court before it pays these dying pensioners.

Following the brief background numerated in the previous paragraphs, we would like to humbly petition the Securities

and Exchange Commission as follows;

1. The SEC, should as a matter of urgency engage the Finance Ministry to resend on the condition of securing a Liquidation Order from Court before disbursing the remaining 5.5 billion Parliamentary approved bailout package.
2. The Minister for Finance should as soon as practicable advance the 5.5 billion Ghana Cedis Parliamentary approved bailout package to the GCB Capital for immediate disbursement to defunct Fund Management Customers to curb the needless death and hardship.
3. The SEC, should ensure with immediate effect, that, section of Gold Coast Customers who invested in the Gold Money Market Fund portfolio are paid, since the SEC claims that the Gold Money Market Fund investment is secured in the Government of Ghana Treasuries.

We request the Commission to respond positively to the demands of our petition in the space of a week in order to curtail our further planned agitations. Your utmost cooperation is anticipated.

.....
 Charles Nyame (Convener and Spokesperson)
 Tel. 0247222613

.....
 Rosemond Grunitzky (Organizer)
 Tel. 0244769634



Zelensky Says White House Told Him Nothing About Discord Intelligence Leaks

By Isabelle Khurshudyan, (c) 2023, The Washington Post

KYIV, Ukraine - Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has not had any conversations with the White House about a massive leak of top-secret U.S. intelligence documents, he said in a wide-ranging interview with The Washington Post on Monday, calling the disclosures damaging to both Washington and Kyiv. Zelensky learned about the disclosures like everybody else - in the news. "I did not receive information from the White House or the Pentagon beforehand," Zelensky said. "We did not have that information. I personally did not. It's definitely a bad story."

"It is unprofitable for us," Zelensky added. "It is not beneficial to the reputation of the White House, and I believe it is not beneficial to the reputation of the United States."

The trove of secrets leaked online through the Discord messaging platform revealed grim U.S. assessments about Ukraine's war with Russia, including Kyiv's shortfalls of weaponry ahead of a highly anticipated counteroffensive, and that Washington requested that Ukraine postpone its planned attacks on Russia to mark the anniversary of Moscow's invasion in February. Secretary of State Antony Blinken discussed the Discord leaks with his Ukrainian counterpart, Dmytro Kuleba, during a call in April, according to a U.S. official familiar with the matter. The call, which happened after news of the leak had broken, had been scheduled to discuss the recent meeting of NATO foreign ministers in Brussels, said the official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive diplomatic discussions.

At that time, Deputy



Zelensky says White House told him nothing about Discord intelligence leaks

Secretary of State Wendy Sherman also held a handful of calls with her counterparts to talk about the issue, though it is unclear if she discussed it with her Ukrainian counterpart.

The leak has created friction between Ukraine and the United States, its biggest backer in the war. Washington's inability to protect sensitive information could lead to Kyiv sharing less intelligence with the United States, some Ukrainian officials have privately indicated. But some of the disclosures in the documents are from signals intelligence, indicating that the United States is spying on top Ukrainian officials, including Zelensky.

Asked if that had strained trust between the countries, Zelensky said, "I cannot risk our state." He indicated that airing his private feelings wasn't worth the potential harm to U.S. support for Ukraine's war effort.

"Where I can speak frankly, I do it. But there are high risks," he added. "If it were my war against [Russian President Vladimir] Putin, and there were two of us on the battlefield, I would tell everyone what I think of them. But here the

story is a little different. We are all responsible." A White House official said that the administration is "in constant communication with our Ukrainian counterparts about a range of issues, including over the unauthorized disclosures." But the official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss a sensitive matter, said they would not comment on the details of those discussions.

Zelensky, who was entangled in President Donald Trump's first impeachment scandal, noted that it was not the first time that his life had been complicated by U.S. disclosures, and that he was now more focused on preparing Ukraine to retake territory occupied by Russian forces.

"I don't know if it's a manipulation or an accident, and so on, and why should I," he said. "Despite such information movements, I have to prepare the state for de-occupation, not for other steps. And this is my task. Do you remember how our conversation with Trump got out? They printed it. Well, to be honest, I didn't give my permission for that either."

Wearing a black sweatshirt with the yellow Ukrainian trident symbol, Zelensky met with a group of Washington Post journalists and editors for an hour in a conference room with large monitors mounted on three walls - the room he typically uses for his video-link meetings with foreign leaders. He at times appeared exasperated while commenting on the leaks and said he considers them a "TV show" that some people may be interested in but that ultimately aid Russia at a critical moment. Ukrainian officials and the country's Western partners have hyped a planned spring counteroffensive, expected to kick off this month, as Kyiv's chance to retake the battlefield initiative with new Western arms, including battle tanks.

Included in the intelligence leak was information about Kyiv's air-defense deficiencies and details about which brigades were being prepared for the counteroffensive.

"Somewhere it's a hype, somewhere it's a scandal," Zelensky said. "For us, anything that informs our enemy in advance in one way or another is definitely a minus for us. I don't see any advantages here."

One of the leaked documents

included an assessment of military casualties, dated Feb. 21 and labeled top secret. It said that U.S. officials believed that between 15,500 and 17,000 Ukrainian soldiers had been killed, with an additional 106,500 to 110,500 wounded. The same assessment said that between 35,000 and 42,500 Russian soldiers had been killed and 150,500 to 177,000 had been wounded. Those figures are in line with recent assessments by Western officials, who have said that more than 200,000 Russian soldiers have probably been killed or wounded.

The slide, titled "Assessed Combat Sustainability and Attrition," warns that the Pentagon has low confidence in the numbers it compiles because of information gaps, attempts by both Russian and Ukrainian commanders to maintain operational security, "potential bias" in Ukrainian information sharing, and "IO efforts" - information operations. Kyiv keeps casualty figures closely guarded so as to not dampen public morale.

"People ask me, who benefits from this? My answer is very simple: I don't have time to figure out who benefits from this. I'm looking at who doesn't benefit from it," Zelensky said.

Zelensky declined to confirm or deny the information in the leaks - or even describe the disclosures as "sensitive" - because that would acknowledge that the documents are real, he said. Ukrainian officials and the country's military intelligence agency have dismissed them as being "fake" or as part of a Russian disinformation campaign.

"It is not sensitive," Zelensky said. "If I answer you, that means it's sensitive, it means there are real documents. Please, stop playing games with me. I am the president of a country at war."

The Washington Post's John Hudson and Dan Lamothe in Washington contributed to this report.

How Prof Frimpong-Boateng Saved Ghana From A US\$88.24 Million Judgment Debt, Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa Writes

How Prof. Frimpong-Boateng Saved Ghanaians from a US\$88.24million Contentious Judgment Debt, Why His Credibility Cannot Be Impeached & A Clarion Call On Ghanaians To Continue Prof.'s Patriotic Example

Since the release of Prof. Kwabena Frimpong-Boateng's cataclysmic galamsey report by Kevin Taylor, I have observed a relentless and really despicable campaign targeted at the credibility of the internationally acclaimed heart surgeon.

The Akufo-Addo presidency has led the charge describing Prof. Frimpong-Boateng's shocking revelations as mere "hearsay" and a "catalogue of personal grievances." Other officials at the presidency such as Lord Commey have even questioned the Professor's "state of mind" when he authored the report.

The President's cousin and sidekick Gabby Asare Otchere-Darko has had his own version of choice words for the Professor describing him as a man with a "weak understanding of his ministerial position." Majority Group Leader Osei Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu joined the fray questioning why Prof. Frimpong-Boateng did not present the report to cabinet— a rather lame proposition considering that the Frimpong-Boateng 36-page report had indicted a number of his colleague Cabinet Ministers. Then there have been other NPP functionaries on the extreme fringes such as Chairman Wontumi and Charles Bissiw who have gone as far as to directly accuse Prof. Frimpong-Boateng of equally being guilty as those his report exposed — discredited claims in the face of the recent CHRAJ exoneration of Prof. Frimpong-Boateng.

Having observed the ongoing vicious, atrocious and well-orchestrated campaign of calumny by a powerful but wounded NPP galamsey cartel seeking to damage the credibility of Prof. Frimpong-Boateng, raise questions about his true motives and dent his patriotic credentials; I decided to embark on an independent assessment of the Professor's tenure as Minister for Environment, Science,

Technology and Innovation. An objective review of piles of documents I have intercepted from multiple sources brings me to an irresistible conclusion that Prof. Frimpong-Boateng served his country with the highest grade of integrity.

The desperate bombardments on his credibility by a complicit NPP galamsey gang are therefore unpatriotic, unwise and a clear case of organized crime fighting back.

I can today reveal that it is to the credit of Prof. Kwabena Frimpong-Boateng's exemplary integrity and commendable vigilance that the Ghanaian taxpayer was saved from paying a staggering US\$88.24million in a controversial judgment debt to a company known as Apex Pollution Control Company Limited (APCCL) in 2020.

Volumes of intercepted documents show that Ghana's Attorney-General reached the controversial settlement in President Akufo-Addo's first term after arbitration with Apex Pollution Control Company Limited.

The Attorney General subsequently requested the Ministry of Finance to pay the entire US\$88,247,246.63 to APCCL in a letter dated April 16, 2020. Strangely, though Prof. Frimpong-Boateng's Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation was the supervising ministry for the abortive Apex deal, he wasn't consulted or made to provide any input by his colleagues in government throughout the various stages until the 6th of July, 2020 when Prof. was presented with a fait accompli by a letter from the Chief Director of the Ministry of Finance, Mr. Patrick Nomo confirming that the records of the Ministry of Finance "indicate that no request was received from the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation" and that the Attorney General's request of US\$88,247,246.63 should be validated and certified by the Internal Audit Unit of Prof. Frimpong-Boateng's ministry. (See evidence of letter attached).

Impressively, and in the utmost

interest of Ghana, upon receipt of the Finance Ministry's letter requesting validation, Prof. Kwabena Frimpong Boateng promptly sent a brutally frank and no holds barred memorandum to President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo dated July 21, 2020.

In the Professor's memo, he exposed how the US\$88.24million settlement was reached on his blind side soon after the change of power, the irregularities of the transaction, how NDC Ministers before him could not implement the project and most importantly how he was not in the position to approve the transaction. (See Prof. Frimpong-Boateng's nationalistic Memo to Akufo-Addo attached).

Similar to how President Akufo-Addo treated Prof. Frimpong-Boateng's galamsey report, this memo was totally ignored by the President. The memo remains contemptuously ignored almost three years on.

My ever reliable deep throat sources at the Presidency have narrated how numerous follow-ups and emails to the President's Secretary from Prof. Frimpong-Boateng on this matter didn't receive the much needed presidential attention.

The stash of documents in my possession further reveal that after Prof. Frimpong-Boateng successfully blocked the US\$88.24million payment when he served as Minister from 2017-2021 by refusing to carry out the requested validation, there is now renewed interest and fresh appetite to revive the deal seeing that Prof., who had acted as a formidable obstacle is no more in the way after President Akufo-Addo left him out of his second term.

It remains a mystery how a minister who remarkably helped the President protect the public purse in line with Akufo-Addo's own pledge to Ghanaians couldn't find favour with the President. Probably, Prof. Frimpong-Boateng took his boss's public assurances too

seriously.

From more intercepted official communication on the US\$88.24million Apex Judgment Debt, it is obvious the current Minister for Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Dr. Kwaku Afriyie has departed from Prof. Frimpong-Boateng's position when one reads his 21st June, 2021 letter to the Minister for Finance.

Strikingly, despite the concerns Prof. Frimpong-Boateng expressed boldly on this matter, there has been no shift in position by the Office of the Attorney-General on their US\$88.24million demand from the Finance Ministry. It's quite ironic when the Chief State Attorney, Mrs. Dorothy Afriyie-Ansah had stated in her arbitration response dated June 25, 2019 that the purported agreements Apex was relying on were unenforceable, there were no PPA and PPP AC approvals and that any incurred loss was self-inflicted due to an indecent haste.

Ghana's saving grace at the moment is a 14th June, 2022 letter signed by Finance Minister Ken Ofori-Atta addressed to Minister of Justice and Attorney-General, Godfred Yeboah Dame which exposes a fundamental flaw in how the colossal US\$88.24million was arrived at.

The Finance Minister argues convincingly, I must add, that demands for Return on Investment (US\$20,006,226.00) and Lost Income (US\$61,627,500.00) are essentially the same thing and amounts to double accounting by Apex and their collaborators.

Significantly, in the Finance Minister's considered view, Apex at best should be entitled to a possible negotiated amount of between US\$9.16 — US\$9.26million. That's a fraction of the original claim.

(See intercepted Finance Minister's letter & analysis to AG attached).

From my unimpeachable parliamentary oversight on this matter, both the Attorney-General and the Minister responsible for Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation are yet to agree with the Finance Minister's analysis even though the Finance Ministry sent the AG a reminder earlier this month.

The Finance Ministry's latest IRR analysis exposing the contentious demands of Apex and their collaborators offer unassailable vindication for Prof. Frimpong Boateng.

Clearly, for this and all Prof. Frimpong-Boateng has done for Ghana, and humanity in general; he must be gloriously celebrated and not viciously vilified.

Now, it is our collective patriotic duty to offer solidarity to the good old Prof. and resolve to defeat the criminal, soulless and murderous gang destroying our environment and waterbodies through galamsey; and equally stop the other group of apparent looters determined to ransack the little left in the battered public purse.

By exposing this US\$88.24million controversial, murky and opaque Apex/AG demand on suffering Ghanaian taxpayers living in a collapsed economy, I am hoping that legitimate agitations from the sovereign people of Ghana will sharply curtail the behind-the-scenes shenanigans and foil the elaborate scheme to deplete scarce national resources knowing that Prof. Frimpong-Boateng no longer has power to stop the rot.

Ghanaians can also count on the NDC Caucus in Parliament to thoroughly probe this matter when the House resumes.

SOA's Oversight shall return with more.

For God and Country.
Ghana First