

NATIONAL CATHEDRAL

NPP's Nana Akomea Says Use Of State Funds For Project Inappropriate



Nana Akomea, former National Communication Director of NPP

Former National Communication Director of the New Patriotic Party (NPP), Nana Akomea, has urged the government to reconsider its plan for the construction of the National Cathedral of Ghana. According to him, the cathedral should

be left in the hands of clergymen like Dag Heward-Mills, Mensah Otabil, Nicholas Duncan-Williams, and Charles Agyinasare, who have in their churches constructed magnificent edifices using funds from their members.

Speaking in an interview on Good Morning Ghana last Friday May 5, 2023, Nana Akomea added that using state funds for the project is inappropriate given the country's economic challenges and is creating

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The World Must Speak Up Before The Propagandists Get Their War With China

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Cedi To Depreciate Against US Dollar By 30% In 2023 – EIU



Ken Ofori Atta

The woes of the Ghana cedi are expected to continue as the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) is predicting a 30 percent depreciation of the local currency against the US Dollar in 2023. The projection is however lower than the 44 percent depreciation of

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OSSEI AIDOOH, DR. DORCOO, CELEBRATED FOR PROMOTING FITNESS IN TEMA



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The INSIGHT

EDITORIAL

CLOSE THEM DOWN!

Several months after the Ghana Standards Authority in collaboration with the Criminal Investigation Department of the Ghana Police Service closed down a gas cylinder manufacturing plants in Accra and other areas for operating illegally it has now emerged the some others are operating with bravado.

This development is indeed worrying. Indeed, there are several of these gas plants littered across every nook and cranny of the country and the worry is the danger their operations pose to residents especially in residential areas apart from operating illegally.

Over the years the country has recorded a huge number of domestic fires, which had claimed several lives and property and it is upon this basis that such illegal cylinder manufacturing companies need not be allowed to operate.

Often, these stations are closed down only to be seen a couple of days later, operating brisk business, a clear indication that something has gone amidst.

There is therefore, the need for the state regulatory agencies to ensure that standards are adhered to and especially safety issues not compromised upon.

Again, the is the need for the regulators to ensure that those gas plants and filling stations that operate in residential areas and are sited close to, or sandwiched between houses are stopped from such dangerous operations.

Those that are operating illegally need to be closed down now.

OSSEI AIDOOH, DR. DORCOO, CELEBRATED FOR PROMOTING FITNESS IN TEMA



Two illustrious members of the community in Tema, Ghana's premier harbour city, were the toast of patrons, friends and family alike when a tennis court built by the Ghana Gas Company Limited was commissioned over the weekend.

Former Majority Leader and Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Lawyer Abraham Ossei Aidoo, and former Managing Director of the Tema Oil Refinery, Dr. Alphonse Kwao Dorcoo, were the focus of praise and admiration at the commissioning of the Premier Tennis Court on Saturday. This is because the project is said to have materialized through their instrumentality. Information has it that Hon. Kennedy Agyepong, Board chairman of Ghana Gas and the hardworking Managing Director of Ghana Gas, Dr. Ben K.D Asante, played Major roles in the establishment of the sporting facility. Likewise Mr. Yaw Adu Baffoe and Mr. Napoleon Wobil, reputable businessmen. "Even after serving this country so well, you still find the space to contribute more and today through your resourcefulness, we have this court, an insignia of how important exercise and fitness is to you," said Mr. Edward Ababio, who is the Chairman of the Premier Tennis Club.

Mr. Edward Ababio, who had also chaired the commissioning ceremony urged the two gentlemen to continue being fruitful to mother Ghana, saying the younger generation will learn from them. Lawyer Ossei Aidoo and Dr. Alphonse Kwao Dorcoo are credited to have lobbied for the project. The ceremony had been attended by some of Ghana's big names in sports and politics including former Black Stars captain, Asamoah Gyan, Tema Central MP, Hans Yves Nii Noi Nortey, Mr. Benjamin Halm of uncle James Cargo services Ltd and MP for Tema East, Isaac Ashai Odamtten. Each attendee took time to praise the two gentlemen for the initiative.

"You have always been exemplary, from your days in public office when Lawyer Ossei Aidoo served as MP for Tema West and rose through the ranks to become Majority Leader and Minister for Parliamentary Affairs," said Hon Ashai Odamtten. He continued, "And as Managing Director of TOR after your appointment in 2013, Dr. Dorcoo, brought all of his best experience and know-how to the refinery keeping TOR

in functional service. If after all of your toils for mother Ghana, then I think we the young ones can only be grateful that we have your examples to guide us in our own endeavours in public life and after public life," the Tema East MP said. Former Black Stars Captain, Asamoah Gyan, was also full of praise for the two elderly gentleman. He took the opportunity to encourage people to make exercise a part of their lives. The big name attendees include Alhaji Farouk, a businessman, Mr. Wiafe Kodom, a transporter, Dr. Adam Narh, former MD of Nestle, Dr. Thomas Mensah Afful, a medical practitioner, Miss Afia Boadiwaa, a businesswoman, Mr. Kofi Badu, an I.T expert, Mr Jacob Adorkor, a former Director at GPHA Ken Mtare, financial consultant, Mohammed Saifu, a clearing agent and Stephen Ashitey Adjei, alias Moshake, a hammer-type politician with the umbrella family and a media prostitute. Mr. Ebenezer Paa Kofi Grant, a retired educationist who was the master of ceremony mesmerised the gathering with his humorous nature. Master Desmond Ayaaba, a juvenile tennis star who was also celebrated for his wonderful performance in international circles at the well-attended function.

THE INSIGHT

ACTING EDITOR - BENJAMIN AKUFFO
(0244669960)
benjaminakuffo65@yahoo.com

Secretary - Gifty Agyemang

Design and Graphics - Godwin K. Attah

Production Manager - Kweku Menz

PUBLISHERS

Militant Publications Limited
P. O. Box NT 272

Accra-Newtown, Accra

Tel: 0244379344/0242836930

Email: theinsightonline20@gmail.com

LONDON CONTACT

5A Wesminster Bridge Road, London SE 1- 7XW

Tel: 0171-6201430

E-mail: prattc22@aol.com

NATIONAL CATHEDRAL

NPP's Nana Akomea Says Use Of State Funds For Project Inappropriate

from front page

needless confusion.

"I think that the idea of a National Cathedral is a good one, (but) the worry that many Ghanaians have is the way we are going about it – the use of public funding.

"I believe that the Christian religious leaders - the Duncan-Williams, Dag Heward-Mills, Agyinasare - with what they have done on their own without state support, just leveraging the contributions of their congregations and fundraising, if they are

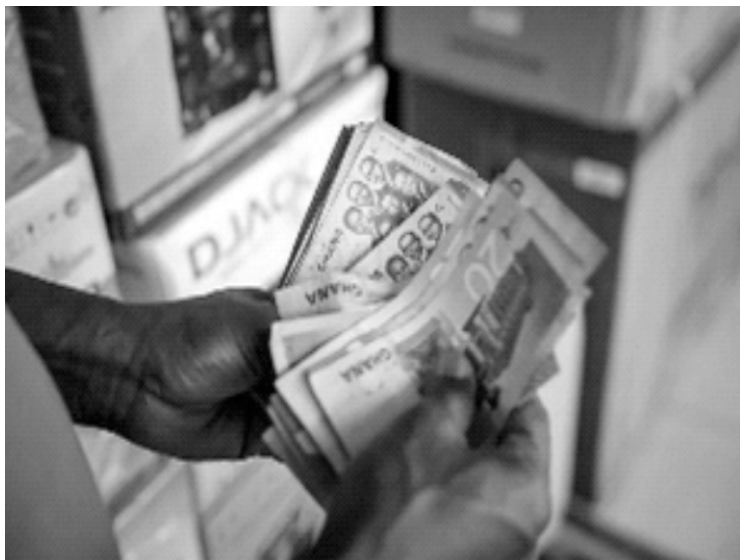
put together, they can build this cathedral.

"I'm worried about this involvement of state funds in the project. And it is obvious that the use of state funds has brought all of these difficulties that Samuel Okudzeto is championing. I don't think it is too late for us to look at reengineering the whole funding and get these individuals and give them all the support for them to build this thing for us," he said.



Nana Akomea, former National Communication Director of NPP

Cedi To Depreciate Against US Dollar By 30% In 2023 – EIU



from front page

the Cedi against the US Dollar in 2022.

In its 2023 Country Report on Ghana, the UK-based firm said the local currency is expected to depreciate significantly in 2023.

"We now expect the

currency to weaken to ₵12.46:US\$1 at end 2023 (from ₵10.95:US\$1 as at mid--April)."

The EIU explained that the cedi's depreciation will primarily be driven by increased demand for hard currency due to rising

inflation, repatriation of foreign-based currency by Ghanaian-based multinationals, high import prices and weak investor concerns.

Meanwhile, the EIU said Ghana's quest to secure an Executive Board approval from the IMF will ease the cedi's depreciation in the second half of 2023.

"We expect further gradual depreciation in 2024--2027, to GH₵14.70: US\$1 at end 2027, but at a much slower pace than in 2022--2023 as debt-restructuring uncertainties abate. Ghana's sustained depreciation reflects the country's structural current-account

deficit and higher inflation than its trading partners".Touching on Ghana's international net reserves, the UK-based said the country will average 3.3 months of import cover over 2023-2027, which represents the globally regarded prudential minimum

of three months.

As of May 2, 2023, the cedi is selling at GH₵12.10 pesewas to the dollar on the forex or retail market while the British Pound is selling at GH₵15.20 and the Euro going at GH₵13.40.



Ken ofori Atta



INTERNATIONAL NEWS REPORT

Compiled By Peoples Dispatch

The World Must Speak Up Before The Propagandists Get Their War With China



Serbs pay homage to the victims of a mass shooting at a Belgrade school. Photo: Balkan Insight. Gun ownership in Serbia is among the highest in Europe and a massive proliferation of small arms took place in the country and in around the Balkans during the civil wars in the 1990s which led to the disintegration of the erstwhile Yugoslavia.

car in the village of Dubona, south of Belgrade. Eight people were killed and 14 were injured. After an extensive manhunt, police reportedly arrested the culprit by Friday morning. On Wednesday, a 13-year-old boy shot dead 8 fellow pupils, as well as a security guard at the Vladislav Ribnikar Elementary School in Belgrade. In the aftermath of the shooting, Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic called for tight restrictions on gun ownership in the country. Gun ownership in Serbia is among the highest in Europe and according to reports, as per an estimate in 2019, there are 39.1 firearms per 100 people in

Serbia. According to this estimate, Serbia is the country with the third highest gun ownership rate in the world, behind the US and Montenegro. Masina [reported](#) that in 2018, according to the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MUP), 973,790 firearms were registered in Serbia, while it is estimated that there are at least 220,000 in circulation, and about 900,000 illegal weapons. Observers have pointed out that the proliferation of small arms became rampant in Serbia and in other parts of the Balkans during the civil wars which led to the disintegration

of erstwhile Yugoslavia in the 1990s. In its statement issued on May 4, the Union of Communist Youth of Yugoslavia (SKOJ) [said](#) that "in the past few years, we have witnessed an increase in violence and depression among young people, with more cases of teenage suicides in the previous few months. Young people today face great pressure from the environment they live in, culminating in tragic events like this one. In the future, SKOJ will devote itself, especially to the fight for the mental health, safety, and rights of students. We cannot return the lives of the victims –

instead, it is the duty of all of us to ensure that an event like this never happens again." The political platform Solidarity [stated](#) that "what is certain is this tragedy demonstrates in the most horrific way the need for gun control and bans around children.... Even before this tragic event, Serbia had devastating statistics on the number of children and women killed in violence, now it is more than clear that some things need to systemically change." The Party of the Radical Left (PRL) in Serbia also expressed condolences to the families and friends of all the victims of the mass shootings.

In two separate incidents of mass shootings, 17 people were killed and more than a dozen people injured in Serbia last week. On May 4, Thursday, at midnight, a man with an automatic weapon opened fire from a moving

South African Court Rules In Favor Of NUMSA And Others In Load Shedding Case, Asks State To Ensure Power Supply To Critical Facilities



Photo: IndustriALL. The Court has granted urgent relief sought by NUMSA and 18 other applicants to exempt public hospitals, schools, and police stations from rotational power cuts, recognizing that load shedding infringed upon constitutional rights. A decision on Part B of the application seeking final relief is awaited.

In a crucial ruling last Friday May 5, the North Gauteng High Court in Pretoria decided in favor of the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (NUMSA) and 18 other applicants seeking relief from severe power outages that have affected much of the country. It ordered the Minister of Public Enterprises to take "all reasonable steps" within 60 days to ensure that there is sufficient supply or generation of electricity to prevent any interruption due to load shedding to all public health establishments, all public schools, and the South African Police

Service and police stations. In March, the United Democratic Movement (UDM) and NUMSA joined political parties, trade unions, and civil society groups (UDM and Others) in [calling upon](#) the court to declare load shedding (or rotational power cuts) as unconstitutional, citing the infringement of certain rights, including those enshrined in the Bill of Rights. As such, the application not only named the state-owned energy utility company Eskom, but also President Cyril Ramaphosa, the Ministers of Mineral Resources and Energy and Public Enterprises, and the South African government as a whole. South Africa has been in the throes of a worsening electricity crisis as Eskom has struggled to meet the country's energy demands for over 15 years, resorting to load shedding in the process. Record power outages over the past year have inflicted major [economic losses](#) and disrupted access to crucial public services including hospitals. Conditions are set to [worsen](#) as electricity demands increase during the winter, with Eskom [preparing](#) protocols for Stage 9 load shedding, which could see outages lasting for over 14 hours a day. The application submitted by UDM and Others is divided into two parts: Part A,

which sought urgent relief and which was granted on Friday, called upon the Court to exempt the country's critical sectors, including health care, from load shedding. In the submission to the Court, the applicants "put forward extensive evidence of egregious breaches to the rights to life and access to health caused by load shedding," with Dr. Lufuno Rudo Mathivha from the Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital stating in her affidavit that "there have been several instances where patients succumb and the cause of death is described in many different ways in circumstances where the cause of death may actually have been due to load shedding." Similarly, the applicants outlined the impact of load shedding on the right to education, which are "particularly keenly felt in rural and township schools," as noted in the judgment: "Iniquities created by our country's past injustices are, by the simple act of load shedding, being perpetuated against a vulnerable segment of society" In his affidavit to the Court, President Cyril Ramaphosa had stated that "none of the government respondents have a Constitutional responsibility to

supply electricity to the people of the Republic." However, the applicants argued that it was because of the President's obligation to respect and promote the Bill of Rights that he must respond to the "humanitarian crisis" of load shedding, emphasizing that "the fundamental rights entrenched in the Bill of Rights... cannot be given effect to without electricity." In its ruling, the Court declared "It is clear that, whatever the President and his cabinet Ministers averred, the consequences of policy decisions resulted in the current need by Eskom to continue to implement various levels of load shedding." The ruling added, "We find that there have been repeated breaches by the State of its Constitutional and statutory duties and that these breaches are continuing to infringe on citizens' rights to healthcare, security, and education." "Even

if the relief sought were to be considered as only amounting to an interim interdict, we find that a *prima facie* right has been established and that the interferences also create apprehensions of irreparable harm in the form of prejudice to the right to life... as well as other Constitutional rights..." In a statement welcoming the judgment, NUMSA said, "This is a victory for the entire country, not just for NUMSA alone, but also for the entire working class." The applicants are now gearing up for the Court's verdict on Part B of the application, which will be for final relief, seeking a comprehensive review of the actions of the government, the President, ministers, and Eskom as they relate to their failure to uphold their constitutional and statutory obligations to ensure a reliable supply of electricity.

Family Health Univ. College Commended For Training Healthcare Professionals



Professor Ernest Aryeetey, a former Vice Chancellor of the University of Ghana, has commended the Founders of Family Health University College (FHUC), Professor Enyonam Yao Kwawukume, and Dr. Susu Bridget Kwawukume, for their sound vision, which has worked for the past 10 years in the provision of healthcare education for a lot of people. He recalled when the Founders visited him, as Vice Chancellor of the University of Ghana, in 2013, to discuss their dream of running a private medical school in the country; through their diligence and persistency, he emphasized, their vision has materialized and expanded into beautiful physical structures and large numbers of students that graduate through the Medical School and the School of Nursing and Midwifery, each year. Professor Aryeetey

disclosed this when he spoke as Special Guest of Honour at the Matriculation and Graduation ceremony for the Medical School and the School of Nursing and Midwifery of the Family Health University College. He said in today's dynamic world, it has become necessary to equip young people with requisite knowledge and skills for their chosen careers so that they can contribute meaningfully to their communities. He challenged the graduands to dream about how they would use their acquired knowledge and skills from the University College to influence the society positively even as the Founders of the Institution have done. He also emphasized that education, which is crucial to the development of every society, is an empowering force, and that it breaks down barriers to opportunities. He however added that any education that does not lead to service is one that hinders growth and development. He entreated graduands, who would be entering the World of Works, to use the sound education and skills that the University College has provided to render quality service to their patients, and to humanity as a whole, irrespective of where they may be assigned to work. On his part, the President and Founder of Family Health University College (FHUC),

Professor Enyonam Yao Kwawukume, assured parents and guardians that their children and wards are at the right place of learning, because the Institution is a leader in the training of healthcare professionals and boasts of a well-endowed Hospital facility, which gives her students an edge over other private training institutions. He added that the FHUC's comprehensive educational curriculum ensure that her students are well equipped for the challenges of the healthcare profession. He said that the experienced and competent faculty and administrators are always willing to assist the students to develop in the knowledge and skills that they need to succeed. He welcomed the matriculants to the Family Health University College, and assured them of support from the entire University College community as they pursue their studies. He advised the students to take good care of themselves and to maintain healthy routines since 'a healthy mind surely lives in a healthy body'. He further reminded them of the University College's relaxation facilities such as a swimming pool, basketball court, beach resort, and Family Rooms with diverse in-door games, which can help them to relax and to rejuvenate. Professor Kwawukume advised the graduands to go forth in a spirit of

diligence and resilience, and to remember to use their time wisely, and also to take leadership roles when an opportunity presents itself. He charged them to use the knowledge and skills that they have acquired to make a positive change at any place that they would find themselves. He also reminded them that graduation does not signify an end to learning therefore they should commit themselves to a life of continuous learning. A total of fifty-six (56) fresh men and women matriculated in the Family Health Medical School. Twenty-seven (27) members of the Class of 2025 Medical students graduated with a BSc in Medical Sciences. These students were charged to work hard as they begin their Clinical years. The Family Health School of Nursing and Midwifery, on the other hand, matriculated three hundred and twenty-nine (329) fresh men and women, comprising two hundred and fifty-eight (258) for BSc Nursing and Midwifery programme and

seventy-one (71) for Nurse Assistant Clinical (NAC) programme. The Family Health School of Nursing and Midwifery was privileged to graduate her maiden twenty-seven (27) BSc Nursing and BSc Midwifery students; Family Health School of Nursing and Midwifery is accredited by the Nurses and Midwives Council (NMC), and the Ghana Tertiary Education Commission (GTEC). Additionally, the School graduated fifty-five (55) Nurse Assistant Clinical students during this year's Matriculation and Graduation ceremony. The Family Health Medical School is committed to the holistic training of Medical professionals in the advancement of human health. The school offers a six-year Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MB ChB) programme for SSCE and 'A' Level candidates, and a four and a half-year Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MB ChB) Graduate Entry Medical Programme (GEMP) for first degree holders in science-related disciplines. The Medical School has recently been approved by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduate (ECFMG), making its students and graduates eligible to apply for ECFMG Certification in the USA, and also the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE).



Completion Of Abandoned Projects Protects The Public Purse – Mahama



Former President of Ghana, John Dramani Mahama

Former President, John Dramani Mahama, has said completing abandoned projects scattered across the country will help protect the public purse. He said a National Democratic Congress (NDC) government in 2025 would not rush to start new projects while existing ones were uncompleted, "We are going to take the ongoing projects that we were doing that they abandoned." He said all the E-blocks, the hospitals, the roads, electrification, GETfund projects including the ongoing projects that might not be finished would be completed. "When we say we will protect the public purse, we mean it, and one way of protecting the public purse is to finish these abandoned projects," the Former President, who is a Flagbearer hopeful for the NDC, told delegates in Sandema. Prior to the campaign durbar in Sandema, Mr Mahama addressed a similar gathering

at Fumbisi in the Builsa South District as part of his two-day campaign tour of the Region, to solicit support to lead the Party in the 2024 Presidential and Parliamentary elections. He noted that the Ghanaian taxpayer's money was sunk into the abandoned projects, and the taxpayer must benefit from the projects as early as possible. "When you see some of the E-blocks, they are virtually completed, they have roofed and fixed the doors, everything and they just refused to finish it because they will say Mahama built it. We will act differently. We will show them what a responsible government should be," he said. The Former President said there was economic hardship, "Life is hard. In 2016, I wouldn't say Ghana was paradise, but I can beat my chest and say our lives were far better in 2016 than today." He said farmers got subsidised fertilizers and were able to plough their fields at a cheaper rate, as compared to present, where they could not even hire a tractor to plough their fields owing to the cost involved. The cost of petrol, he said was Gh¢14.00 a gallon when the NDC was in government, he said, adding that "Today, with Gh¢14.00, you will get only one litre. Fertilizer is between Gh¢700.00 and Gh¢800.00 a bag, and you need about two or three bags per acre." The NDC Flagbearer hopeful said Ghana had retrogressed under the

New Patriotic Party's government and stressed that an NDC government would work to put the country back on track and restore hope to Ghanaians. Member of Parliament (MP) for the Builsa North Constituency, Mr James Agalga, said the NDC under the leadership of the Former President awarded the Chuchuliga-Sandema-Wiaga-Weisi road on contract. He said after the contract was awarded, within a space of five months, the Contractor had done 22 per cent of work, but the NDC lost power in 2016, "If we had won back power in 2017, that road would have been completed. "Unfortunately, NPP came to power and one of the first things they did was to abandon the road. They refused to pay the Contractor to complete works. The last time I asked the Minister for Roads a question in Parliament he confessed," he said. According to Mr Agalga, the entire Builsa North was yearning for the NDC under the leadership of Mr Mahama to return to power in January 2025 for the roads to be constructed, and recalled that the NDC constructed two "giant dams" in Sandema and Wiaga for irrigation purposes. The dams, he noted enabled the youth to engage in dry season vegetable farming to earn income.

Source -- GNA

Unresolved Murder: Police Bust Two New Suspects In 2019 Murder Of GPHA Manager



Late Josephine Tandoh was murdered in January 2019

Police have made new arrests in connection with the 2019 murder of Josephine Asante Tandoh, a manager of Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority (GPHA). The Daily Guide and The Chronicle newspapers are both reporting that police have recently nabbed two suspects linked to the murder. The suspects, Richard Kwabena Kwakye, alias Kwabena Boateng, 37-year-old former GPHA driver, and Dominic Owusu, a 51-year-old taxi driver, were apprehended after fleeing to Burkina Faso following the incident on January 13, 2019, the Daily Guide report said. This new development in the matter which has traveled over 3 years, is said to have a link with a top hierarchy of the company as the prime suspect

purportedly mentioned, the report added.

Two people had previously been standing trial over the incident.

They were Christian Agyei, 22, the deceased's house boy and Amos Apraku, driver who were facing committal proceedings till date.

When the case was called on Monday, the Prosecution informed the Tema District Court that they were withdrawing the charges leveled against the previous accused persons based on advice from the Attorney General and Minister of Justice, the Daily Guide report added. In the case of the two new suspects, the local newspapers are reporting that they were arraigned and remanded by a Tema District Court to assist with further investigations as police press on to ascertain the rationale behind the heinous crime.

They have been charged with conspiracy to commit murder contrary to section 23(1) and 40 of the criminal offences act 1960 (Act 29) and murder contrary to section 46 of the criminal offences act 1960 (Act 29).

Nationwide Outrage After Black Homeless Man Was Murdered By White Vigilante In NYC Subway



Jordan Neely, the famous Michael Jackson “impersonator” who went around the NYC subway system dancing and entertaining passengers, was murdered by a white transit rider on Monday. The Black homeless man was murdered by a white vigilante in the New York City subway system. “I don’t have food, I don’t have a drink, I’m fed up,” were some of his last words

By Natalia Marques

On May 1 in New York City, a white subway rider murdered Jordan Neely, a Black homeless man who was expressing his misery at going without food or water. In a train entering the Broadway-Lafayette station in lower Manhattan, Neely cried out to passengers, “I don’t have food, I don’t have a drink, I’m fed up,” [according](#) to a witness, continuing: “I don’t mind going to jail and getting life in prison. I’m ready to die.” The New York Police Department claims that Neely then proceeded to throw garbage at commuters, which prompted an argument and then a brawl with a 24-year-old white transit rider. The brawl ended in the rider, a US Marine veteran, putting Jordan Neely in a chokehold that lasted 15 minutes, ending in his death. The police took the veteran in for questioning, only to release him shortly afterwards. The NYPD has thus far refused to release the killer’s name.

Freelance journalist Juan Alberto Vazquez witnessed the killing and took a four minute video of Neely’s final moments. While the unidentified white man has Neely in a chokehold, multiple passengers hold him down. Neely’s death has been ruled a homicide by a medical examiner. The murder prompted outrage throughout New York City which quickly spread across the country. On Wednesday, 50 demonstrators packed onto the Uptown-bound F train platform at the Broadway-Lafayette to demand justice for Neely. New Yorkers who watched Vazquez’s video were quick to recognize Neely was the famous Michael Jackson “impersonator” who went around the subway system dancing and entertaining passengers. “I use to see [Jordan Neely] everyday on my commute to JFK8 Amazon pre-Covid,” [tweeted](#) Chris Smalls, leader of the Amazon Labor Union. “I’ll never forget enjoying seeing him dance and sing MJ for the people.” Meanwhile, right-wing pundits are smearing Neely’s character and arguing that the killer was justified based on the

frequency of subway violence perpetrated by homeless people. This is despite the fact that according to the NYPD’s own metrics, so-called “transit crimes” are [down 8%](#) from last year. The right-wing media has also repeatedly pointed to Neely’s 44 prior arrests as justification for his murder. However, homelessness itself is heavily policed and criminalized. Homeless people are detained repeatedly for crimes of poverty such as fare evasion and “disorderly conduct,” (both crimes which Neely was arrested for) an inevitable product of a life lived entirely in the public sphere. Homelessness can be a product of a criminal record, as former prisoners are repeatedly denied employment and housing in the US. At the same time, homelessness can be a cause of a criminal record. Being unhoused is in itself illegal in many ways: loitering, camping out, or using the bathroom in public are all crimes a person can be arrested for. Homeless people are [11 times more likely to be arrested](#) than those who are

not homeless. Still, violence perpetrated by homeless people in subways is not unheard of, and many New Yorkers have experienced this firsthand. Some of Neely’s arrests included [four for assault](#). However, this reality must be combined with a sincere analysis of the ways that homelessness and poverty drive people towards violent outbursts. Mental illness is [far more prevalent](#) in the homeless versus the non-homeless. Homelessness itself has been shown to [increase the likelihood of violent behavior](#).

When Neely was fourteen, his mother was [murdered](#) by her boyfriend while Neely slept only feet away. Christine Neely was 36 when she was killed, her body later discovered in a suitcase on the side of a highway in the Bronx in 2007. Neely testified at the murder trial.

“His moms died—she got killed too. And now him?! She got killed [by] her boyfriend. And now him? By somebody else?” Andre Zachery, Neely’s father, [told New York Daily News](#). “I don’t know what to say.” Neely died six years younger than his mother, at age 30.

It is unclear if Neely was suffering from a mental health episode, and Vazquez [claims](#) he did not assault anyone. Either way, shouting at people does not carry the death penalty in the United States. Neither does being hungry and thirsty. And yet, by releasing Neely’s killer and protecting his identity, it seems as if the NYPD has condoned the deployment of lethal vigilante violence. One of Neely’s father’s neighbors claimed that he used the Michael Jackson impression as a way to cope with his mental health

troubles. “He wasn’t violent. He was more a don’t-look-at-me-type of person. Anxiety,” she told the *New York Daily News*. “I felt like that’s why he did the Michael Jackson thing—he had better confidence. It just became like that’s all he wanted to do. Michael Jackson, Michael Jackson.”

Demonstrators on the F train platform demanded to know the identity of Neely’s murderer. On the wall someone had scrawled “Who killed Jordan Neely?” On the ground of the platform, someone had spray-painted “Jordan Neely was murdered here.”

Demonstrators say that the system failed Neely. Adolfo Abreu of grassroots organization Vocal New York told *Peoples Dispatch* about what he believes led to Jordan Neely’s desperate cry for help. “It’s a lack of New York State and New York City government prioritizing housing first solutions and funding programs to make sure that people can get help,” he said. “Instead, we’re cutting budgets for vital social services.” Demonstrators expressed vocal opposition to Eric Adams’ [cuts to social services](#) and deployment of the NYPD and others to [sweep homeless encampments](#) around the city. “Eric Adams cuts funding for public spaces, for spaces that are used by New Yorkers, all races, of all classes,” Isabelle Sturgis, a Brooklyn resident, told *Peoples Dispatch*. “They want this city to be a playground for the rich. They don’t want to have to see the homeless, they don’t want to have to deal with the homeless... [Homeless people] are New Yorkers. But they’re not seen as that. They’re not seen as New Yorkers.”

DSIK-MLGWUI GIVES HOPE TO 20 AFRICAN RETURNEES THROUGH BUSINESS TRAINING IN TAKORADI

The German Sparkassenstiftung for International Co-operation DSIK with its partner the Migrant Labour General Workers' Union International (MLGWUI) has organised 5-Day Residential Micro Business Training Workshop for twenty (20) African Return Migrants (Returnees) for Western and Western North Regions at Hotel Animens in Takoradi Ghana from 16, 17-21.04.2023. The project which is funded by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and implemented by the German Sparkassenstiftung Western Africa aims at supporting Return Migrants and Potential Migrants to build themselves a livelihood from their own business. To that end, Business Training and Business Coaching sessions are offered to these target group. The German Sparkassenstiftung for International Cooperation (DSIK) is the development-policy arm of the Sparkassen Finance Group. In West Africa, DSIK implements projects in priority areas designed to foster financial inclusion i.e., Capacity

Development, Financial Literacy, MSME Finance, and Institution Building. The German Sparkassenstiftung has been supporting financial institutions in developing and emerging countries by offering needs-oriented financial services. German Sparkassenstiftung pursues the objective to enhance the professionalism of its partner institutions, thus enabling them to offer their customers a permanent access to financial products. The German Sparkassenstiftung for International Cooperation (also referred to as DSIK) and the Migrant Labour General Workers' Union International (MLGWUI) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the training of Return Migrants. The Business Training Co-ordinator for DSIK, Mr. Benjamin Tawiah Adomako who would have wished to join the Participants during training session but could not do so due to another official business training programme that too him elsewhere, sent his training message to Participants to actively participating fully during the training session to enable them

acquire necessary knowledge to establish and manage their own businesses. During a media Interview after the training, Justice Baako Ntarmah, the General Secretary and Head of Education International Relations of the Migrant Labour General Workers' Union International (MLGWUI) took the opportunity assured all Return Migrants referred to as Returnees that their international migrant trade union organisation MLGWUI has done necessary efforts to seek capacity building training funds through partnership with International organisations and institutions to ensure almost all Returnees and Migrant Entrepreneurs get employment and/or have practical and managerial skills through Business and Coaching Trainings with financial services support. "Comrades, with our motto "Justice, Unity and Perseverance, please let us persevere by telling dear Returnee friends that 'Comrade, do not hid yourselves after voluntary return or on return on deportation ground.



Reintegrate yourselves with families and friends in communities for societal development'. I am looking to seeing you soon as a Self-employed Migrant with viable business enterprise(s)". "Dear Comrade Returnees, no place like home! Therefore there is hope after return from labour migration", Mr. Justice Baako Ntarmah, assured Migrants. Justice Baako Ntarmah who is known in labour migration in reintegration as Comrade urged Returnees to contact MLGWUI-FFMRC for Psychosocial Counselling and Employment-Businrss Training

and Coaching Trainings few days after their return home. On behalf of Trainees, The General Secretary and Head of Education International Relations of Migrant Labour General Workers' Union International (MLGWUI) thanks the Trainers, Mr. Randy G.E. Boateng and Madam Sharon Ekua Payne respectively for their spirit of business training passion and cooperation with Trainees during 5-Day training session. All twenty (20) Trainees who participated fully during 5-Day Returnees' Business Training Workshop received Certificate of Participation and returned with support.

Filling Fuel Tanks To The Brim Is Dangerous - NPA Cautions Motorists



File photo a fuel pump

The National Petroleum Authority (NPA) has cautioned fuel retail outlets and motorists against using ramps to aid the pumping of fuel into vehicles. It said tilting vehicles on ramps to fill them to the brim could damage fuel tanks – leading to explosions and destruction of vehicles and lives. The Eastern Regional Manager,

Mr. David Owusu-Kena, gave the caution at an NPA media engagement in Koforidua last Wednesday. The media engagement, organised by the Communications Department, was to highlight the Authority's activities in the petroleum downstream industry and respond to industry-related questions from the media. Mr. Owusu-Kena said fuel tanks

were not supposed to be filled to capacity, since fuel require, space for expansion. He said fuel in fully-filled tanks spills over onto the vehicle and on forecourts of fuel stations, which could spark a fire. Besides, he said, the expanded fuel could damage the fuel gauge and leak through old tanks into the exhaust pipe, which could start a fire that burns the whole vehicle – possibly causing injuries and loss of lives. Touching on requirements for siting a filling station, Mr. Owusu-Kena said prospective applicants need permits from the Environmental Protection Agency (EP), Ghana National Fire and Rescue Service (GNFRS) and a local assembly before the NPA's grants permits for constructing fuel stations. He said the Authority makes sure that the applicant had secured all the necessary approvals from the EPA, GNFRS

and assembly in order to ensure safety for residents and protection of the environment. Taking his turn, the Head of Planning-NPA, Mr. Dominic Aboagye, outlined measures the Authority has put in place to ensure uninterrupted fuel availability and supply in the country. The interventions include management of storage depots, the laycan allocation programme, and stock monitoring and reporting. Besides, he said, the Gold for Oil programme, the Bank of Ghana forex support to Bulk Oil Distribution Companies, and granting Special International Oil Trading Licences are key to preventing any risk of fuel supply disruption. Mr. Aboagye said local crude oil refining by the Akwaaba Oil Refinery and Platon Gas Oil Refinery is supporting the sector. He said local fuel refinery will be ramped up with the expected

restart of operations by Tema Oil Refinery (TOR) and completion of the Sentuo refinery. Welcoming the media on behalf NPA Chief Executive, Dr. Mustapha Abdul-Hamid, Corporate Affairs Director, Mrs. Maria Edith Oquaye, said last year's media engagements across the country focused on pricing and quality of petroleum products, and indicated that this year's sensitisation will be on requirements for siting filling stations and security of supply for petroleum products. For his part, a member of the Governing Board of NPA and Chairman of the Consumer Services sub-committee, Kwami Sefa Kayi, lauded the NPA for its sensitisation drive and urged the media to be more proactive by asking the NPA industry-related questions for clarification. **Source:** thebftonline.com

The World Must Speak Up Before The Propagandists Get Their War With China



The Congress of American Writers that was held in New York City took a firm stand against fascism and war. Photo: Daily Worker / People's World Archives.

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A leading Republican senator, Lindsey Graham, estimated, approvingly, that Obama's drones had killed 4,700 people. 'Sometimes you hit innocent people and I hate that,' he said, but we've taken out some very senior members of Al Qaeda.' In 2011, Obama told the media that the Libyan president Muammar Gaddafi was planning 'genocide' against his own people. "We knew...," he said, "that if we waited one more day, Benghazi, a city the size of Charlotte [North Carolina], could suffer a massacre that would have reverberated across the region and stained the conscience of the world." This was a lie. The only 'threat' was the coming defeat of fanatical Islamists by Libyan government forces. With his plans for a revival of independent pan-Africanism, an African bank and African currency, all of it funded by Libyan oil, Gaddafi was cast as an enemy of western colonialism on the continent in which Libya was the second most modern state. Destroying Gaddafi's 'threat' and his modern state was the aim. Backed by the US, Britain and France, NATO launched

9,700 sorties against Libya. A third were aimed at infrastructure and civilian targets, reported the UN. Uranium warheads were used; the cities of Misrata and Sirte were carpet-bombed. The Red Cross identified mass graves, and UNICEF reported that 'most [of the children killed] were under the age of ten'. When Hillary Clinton, Obama's secretary of state, was told that Gaddafi had been captured by the insurrectionists and sodomized with a knife, she laughed and said to the camera: 'We came, we saw, he died!' On 14 September 2016, the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee in London reported the conclusion of a year-long study into the NATO attack on Libya which it described as an 'array of lies' — including the Benghazi massacre story.

- The NATO bombing plunged Libya into a humanitarian disaster, killing thousands of people and displacing hundreds of thousands more, transforming Libya from the African country with the highest standard of living into a war-torn

failed state.

Under Obama, the US extended secret 'special forces' operations to 138 countries, or 70% of the world's population. The first African-American president launched what amounted to a full-scale invasion of Africa. Reminiscent of the Scramble for Africa in the 19th century, the US African Command (Africom) has since built a network of supplicants among collaborative African regimes eager for American bribes and armaments. Africom's 'soldier to soldier' doctrine embeds US officers at every level of command from general to warrant officer. Only pith helmets are missing. It is as if Africa's proud history of liberation, from Patrice Lumumba to Nelson Mandela, has been consigned to oblivion by a new white master's black colonial elite. This elite's 'historic mission', warned the knowing Frantz Fanon, is the promotion of "a capitalism rampant though camouflaged." In the year NATO invaded Libya, 2011, Obama announced what became known as the 'pivot to Asia'.

Almost two-thirds of US naval forces would be transferred to the Asia-Pacific to "confront the threat from China," in the words of his Defense Secretary. There was no threat from China; there was a threat to China from the United States; some 400 American military bases formed an arc along the rim of China's industrial heartlands, which a Pentagon official described approvingly as a "noose." At the same time, Obama placed missiles in Eastern Europe aimed at Russia. It was the beatified recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize who increased spending on nuclear warheads to a level higher than that of any US administration since the Cold War — having promised, in an emotional speech in the center of Prague in 2009, to 'help rid the world of nuclear weapons'. Obama and his administration knew full well that the coup his assistant secretary of state, Victoria Nuland, was sent to oversee against the

government of Ukraine in 2014 would provoke a Russian response and probably lead to war. And so it has.

I am writing this on April 30, the anniversary of the last day of the longest war of the twentieth century, in Vietnam, which I reported. I was very young when I arrived in Saigon and I learned a great deal. I learned to recognize the distinctive drone of the engines of giant B-52s, which dropped their carnage from above the clouds and spared nothing and no one; I learned not to turn away when faced with a charred tree festooned with human parts; I learned to value kindness as never before; I learned that Joseph Heller was right in his masterly Catch-22: that war was not suited to sane people; and I learned about 'our' propaganda.

All through that war, the propaganda said a victorious Vietnam would spread its communist disease to the rest of Asia, allowing the Great Yellow Peril to its north to sweep down. Countries would fall like 'dominoes'. Ho Chi Minh's Vietnam was victorious, and none of the above happened. Instead, Vietnamese civilization blossomed, remarkably, in spite of the price they paid: three million dead. The maimed, the deformed, the addicted, the poisoned, the lost.

If the current propagandists get their war with China, this will be a fraction of what is to come. Speak up.

This article was produced by [Globetrotter. John Pilger is an award-winning journalist, filmmaker, and author. Read his full biography on his website here, and follow him on Twitter: @JohnPilger.](#)