

# MAHAMA PUNCHES AKUFO-ADDO & BAWUMIA

**Over Economic Mismanagement, Corruption Others In Victory Speech**



**Former President John Dramani Mahama**

**F**ormer President John Dramani Mahama yesterday descended on President Nana Akufo-Addo and Vice President Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia over he says is their mismanagement of the Ghanaian economy which has brought untold hardship on the teeming majority of

the citizenry. According to the former president such as abysmal performance in government is unprecedented in the annals of the country. Delivering his acceptance speech at the UDS campus in Tamale after his resounding 98.9% win to lead the

opposition National Democratic Congress (NDC) into the 2024 election, ex-president Mahama said, "Ladies and Gentlemen, we must urgently commence building the Ghana we want together because our dear nation Ghana is sailing

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**Defend Palestinians Against Israeli Apartheid  
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**E&P Signs \$230m  
Caterpillar Equipment  
Financing Agreement  
With The Mansour Group**



**A**frican mining giant, Engineers & Planners has signed a \$230m Caterpillar equipment financing with the Mansour Group of Dubai and Egypt.

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**Stratcomm Africa  
To Equip 29 Women  
With Digital  
Communication  
Skills To Mark 29<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary** *page 8*

# The INSIGHT

## EDITORIAL

### THIS IS WORRYING!

**R**ecent happenings in the state of Palestine regarding the annexation of lands and the committal of atrocities by Israeli forces to say the least is highly repugnant.

Never a day passes without one form of violence or assault being perpetuated by Israel against the people of Palestine.

These acts including seizure of Palestinian lands have been carried out with the highest level of impunity, apparently due to the support provided by America.

Across the West Bank and other occupied territories, there have been protests over plans by Israel to annex more of such lands.

Clearly, this show of impunity and disregard for international law is highly condemnable and unacceptable.

There is no denying the fact that the Israeli authorities' constant destruction of Palestinian homes in Occupied West Bank for new Jewish settlement has been done with the full support of the United States, in spite of persistent international condemnation of such lawless and dastardly acts. Apart from the West Bank's Area C, Gaza has also been turned into a huge killing field as Israel has over the years committed acts of genocide with impunity.

Nobody has been spared the atrocities of the Zionist state which has killed women and children, the old and the young, abled and bodied persons and people with disability.

We firmly believe that Israel is emboldened to carry out these atrocities because of the support it receives from the US and its surrogates around the world.

Undoubtedly, what the world expect to see is the easing of tension and an end to the brutalities in Palestine.

## MAHAMA PUNCHES AKUFO-ADDO & BAWUMIA Over Economic Mismanagement, Corruption Others In Victory Speech

*from front page*

through perilous seas. Our socioeconomic foundation as a nation has, in the last few years, not only been threatened, but fractured and dislocated". The former president said "for the first time in our history, retirees and the middle class are facing existential threats to their survival and financial stability due to gross mismanagement of our economy by a grossly inept Finance Minister and Economic Management Team led by Dr. Bawumia", adding that, "Corruption and the raid on the public purse have come to a crescendo and the rights of journalists no longer matter to government". This is the full text of former president John Mahama's speech;

I want to start by acknowledging the Chairman and members of the Council of Elders of our great party, – National Chairman Johnson Asiedu Nketiah and the entire National Executive Committee – Regional and Constituency Executive Members, my kingmakers the Branch Executives, supporters, and sympathisers of the NDC. To our revered traditional leaders, opinion leaders, senior members of our party, Members of Parliament and the general viewing and listening public, I say thank you. I must add, very quickly, how happy I am to be speaking here at the University for Development Studies (UDS) in Tamale, having earlier launched my campaign at the University for Health and Allied Sciences in the Volta region – two universities established by our great political tradition, the NDC.

Appreciation

Yesterday Sunday 14th May was Mother's Day. Let me use this opportunity to extend my Mother's Day appreciation to Lordina and all Ghanaian women.

With profound gratitude, I humbly accept to be the Presidential Candidate of the National Democratic Congress. Thank you for your vote of confidence and for your unshaken conviction that I am the most suitable person with the experience and the vision to lead



our party, the NDC, to victory in 2024.

We must win the elections to enable us build the Ghana we want together. I pledge to lead you

to a resounding victory in December 2024.

Let me, on your behalf and on my own behalf, acknowledge the contribution of Dr. Kwabena

Duffuor, Former Mayor Kojo Bonsu and Mr. Ernest Koba towards enhancing the internal democratic systems of our party.

I also wish to thank the staff of the Electoral Commission for their support in making our Parliamentary and Presidential Primaries a resounding success. My special thanks go to Mr.

Serebour Quaicoo and his District Election Directors for working over and above the call of duty

to ensure a successful election.

To you the kingmakers of the NDC, I say thank you for electing me with an overwhelming and

unequivocal 297,603 votes, which is 98.9% of the of the total valid votes cast.

This margin of victory is deafening, emphatic and resounding. It is indicative of the unwavering

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## THE INSIGHT

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# Defend Palestinians Against Israeli Apartheid – SMG Tells Progressive Forces On Day Of Nakba



In the face of the massive aggression of the apartheid Zionist regime, the leadership, and the entire membership of Socialist Movement of Ghana (SMG) salutes the people of Palestine for their fortitude and heroism in defence of the principles of national liberation and the protection of fundamental human and democratic rights.

We call on the global community of progressive forces, including trade unions, students and youth organisations, women's movements, and political parties to extend meaningful solidarity to the people of Palestine.

The SMG demands an immediate end to the colonial and apartheid occupation of Palestine by Israel with the support of the reactionary centres in the world. Palestine must be a fully independent state with secure borders and its people ought to enjoy the right to realise their full human potentials.

We salute the people of Palestine on The Day of Nakba.

Victory to Palestine!

Signed

Kwesi Pratt Jnr.

General Secretary

**T**he Socialist Movement of Ghana (SMG) has called on the global community of progressive forces especially trade unions, students and youth organisations, women's movements, and political parties to extend meaningful solidarity to the people of Palestine as they fight against Israeli apartheid and aggression. The SMG in a statement released on Sunday May 14 2023 to mark the Day of Nakba called on all progressives to fight against Israeli apartheid in occupied Palestine. "The SMG demands an immediate end to the colonial and apartheid occupation of Palestine by Israel with the support of the reactionary centres in the world. Palestine must be a fully independent state with secure borders and its people ought to enjoy the right to realise their full human potentials", the SMG said in the statement signed by Comrade Kwesi Pratt Jnr., General Secretary of the

organisation.

Nakba Day is celebrated in Palestine as a bleak reminder of the destruction caused by Israel when on 14<sup>th</sup> May 1948, gangs of Israeli terrorists attacked Palestine and drove 800,000 Palestinians from their homeland into exile, killed innocent women and children, destroyed vital national infrastructure, and begun the apartheid colonial occupation that Israel has maintained for over 76 years. The SMG wants all progressives to join forces dismantle the apartheid system which has been instituted in occupied Palestine by Israel. This is the full text of the SMG statement;

**SOCIALIST  
MOVEMENT OF  
GHANA (SMG)**

May 14, 2023

**DEFEND  
PALESTINIANS  
AGAINST  
APARTHEID**

On this day in 1948, gangs of

Zionist terrorists attacked Palestine and drove 800,000 Palestinians from their homeland into exile, killed innocent women and children, destroyed vital national infrastructure, and begun the apartheid colonial occupation that Israel has maintained for over 76 years. This blatantly, racist aggression, that continues today shames amidst the silence of the ruling elites in the colonial metropolises and the citadels of global capitalism. Since January this year alone, close to 100 Palestinians have been murdered in occupied Palestine. The Israeli security forces organize at least 10 raids a day on innocent and peace-loving Palestinians, destroying their homes, farmlands, schools, hospitals, and electrical installations.

Israel's brutal settlement campaign also continues - massive seizures of Palestinian land that violate international law. Palestinian

refugees' right of return to their homeland is forcibly rejected. Residents of Palestine cannot travel across their own country without multiple permissions from the colonial occupiers.

The people of Palestine are living in very desperate conditions. They suffer from lack of access to energy supplies, vital medicines, construction materials needed to repair or replace homes destroyed by Israeli bombs and their access to employment is being reduced on a daily basis.

Only last week, the Israeli security forces carried out another dastardly and criminal operation. They assassinated commanders of the Palestinian resistance killing their wives, children, and relatives in the process. This was followed by bombing raids which have left at least 50 Palestinians dead more than 150 with various degrees of injury.



# INTERNATIONAL NEWS REPORT

## Compiled By Peoples Dispatch

### Pakistan Protests Continue As Imran Khan Is Sent To Custody For Eight Days



*Protests in Karachi, Pakistan after the arrest of former Prime Minister Imran Khan. Photo: CGTN. Imran Khan, who was arrested on Tuesday, was sent into custody of the National Accountability Bureau on Wednesday. He was also indicted separately in a case related to do with illegal sale of gits. Protests have broken out and are growing across the country with over a 1,000 people arrested.*

**M**assive protests are continuing in Pakistan after the arrest of former Prime Minister Imran Khan last Tuesday. On Wednesday, a court sent the leader of the opposition Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) into eight days of detention with the National Accountability

Bureau. A separate judge also indicted him in a case relating to unlawful selling of state gifts [known as the Toshakhana case]. Protesters set fire to buildings in various parts of the country. There have been reports of deaths during the protests though the exact toll is not clear

yet. The Pakistani newspaper *Dawn* reported that three people had been killed in the city of Peshawar. Other reports mentioned four deaths in various cities. Over 1,000 people have been arrested in Punjab province alone. The army has been deployed in the

Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces. Internet services have been suspended in the country. On Tuesday, protesters forced into the General Headquarters of the Pakistani army in Rawalpindi, chanting slogans against the government. In Lahore, the residence of the Corps Commander was attacked. In the early hours of Wednesday, protestors set fire to the central secretariat of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) party. Senior leader and secretary general of the Pakistan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, Asad Umar, was arrested at the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday, May 10. The political crisis in the country took a dramatic turn on Tuesday after Imran Khan was arrested from the IHC premises by paramilitary forces. Khan, 70, was present at the court for a hearing in one of the graft cases against him. The Islamabad police later released a statement saying that Khan had been arrested in relation to the Al Qadir Trust case. Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi,

who head the Al Qadir Trust, are accused of accepting a sum of PKR 5 billion during Khan's tenure as prime minister (2018-2022) in exchange for whitewashing PKR 50 (US\$ 0.18) billion that was channeled back by the UK government to Pakistan in relation to this case.

The Al Qadir Trust case is one of the several cases of corruption laid against Khan.

Footage of Khan's arrest shows paramilitary rangers grabbing him by the collar as he is pushed into a police van outside the IHC premises. Sharing the video, PTI's Twitter handle said, "Rangers abducted PTI Chief Imran Khan, these are the visuals. Pakistan's brave people must come out and defend their country."

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has issued no official statement on the arrest of Imran Khan. However, hours before the arrest took place, Sharif had taken to Twitter to pose counter questions to Khan, blaming him for "maligning Pakistan Army" and "mudslinging of the leadership of Army and Intelligence Agency."

### Israeli Airstrikes In Gaza Kill 13, Including 4 Children



*(Photo: WAFA). Tuesday's airstrikes come just days after an earlier round of Israeli bombing in Gaza in the aftermath of the death of Palestinian administrative detainee Khader Adnan, who had been on hunger strike for close*

**A**t least 13 Palestinians, including four children, were killed and dozens injured in the latest round of Israeli airstrikes on Gaza. The airstrikes,

which started late last Monday night, targeted a number of residential and civilian areas in the blockaded Gaza strip. Israeli military sources claimed that only military sites and compounds

belonging to the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) and other resistance groups were targeted. However, as per reports, homes and residential buildings in Rafah, Khan Younis, and Gaza city were targeted in the bombing campaign and suffered extensive damage. The airstrikes were carried out by a large contingent of 40 Israeli air force jets and drones and started at 2 am in the night, continuing for the next 2-3 hours. Israel said that it was specifically targeting three top Islamic Jihad leaders. Palestinian sources later disclosed that the three leaders—Jihad al-Ghannam, Khalil al-Bahtini, and Tariq Izz al-Deen—were assassinated in the

airstrikes, along with their wives and children. In response to the airstrikes, PIJ vowed "revenge" and said that the killings will not go "unpunished." Hamas also condemned the airstrikes and deaths and said that Israel bears "responsibility for the repercussions of this escalation." Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh said that "assassinating the leadership in a treacherous operation will not bring security to the occupier, but instead greater resistance." Tuesday's airstrikes come just days after an earlier round of

Israeli bombing in Gaza in the aftermath of the death of Palestinian administrative detainee Khader Adnan, who had been on hunger strike for close to 90 days. Following his death in prison, PIJ had reportedly fired a number of rockets towards Israel, accusing Israel of deliberate medical negligence that led to Adnan's death. A ceasefire was reached between Israel and Palestinian groups in Gaza in the days after Adnan's death. Tuesday's airstrikes were in violation of the ceasefire and were carried out without any provocation.



# Court Sets May 17 To Decide Ato Essien's Fate On AG's Motion For A Prison Custody

The high court, presided over by Justice Eric Kyei Baffour, has set May 17, 2023, for determination of an application by the Attorney General, praying the court to impose custodial sentence on the convicted former chief executive officer of Capital Bank, William Ato Essien, for failing to comply with the payment terms he reached with the state. This comes after the court threw out the application of founder of defunct Capital Bank, William Ato Essien to re-negotiate with the Attorney General. Ato Essien breached the terms of an agreement that saw him

escape jail term with commitment to refunding ₵90 million to the state, Myjoyonline.com reports. Ato Essien failed to meet the payment deadline for paying ₵20 million by April 28, 2023, after an initial payment of ₵34 million.

Based on his failure to meet the payment deadline, the Attorney General said they have no choice than to return to court to impose a custodial sentence. But the lawyers of Ato Essien, however, disagreed, asking the court to give meaning to the law allowing such an agreement.

Lead Counsel, Thaddeus Sory insisted the aim was to ensure recovery, while indicating that the businessman has simply come into some financial difficulty hence the inability to meet the terms of the agreement.

"Let's take a pragmatic look at this. We are urging section 10(4) of the interpretation act which requires the court to read every statute and take into account the purpose of the statute in interpreting an Act.

"We have attached an agreement which shows the inflows that were to come in.

"We also want to draw the court's attention to the fact that the



**Ato Essien, founder of defunct Capital Bank**

instant proceedings are proceedings to execute the judgement of the court which is intended to execute the judgement of the court which convicted the accused person.

"The court has inherent power in any situation to suspend execution of its powers if there is good reason to. We are drawing the court's attention to Article 126(4) of the 1992 constitution.

"My lord has residual power in so far as the final orders are concerned. You have the power to issue further directions," he stated. Deputy Attorney General Alfred Tuah Yeboah however insisted that the custodial sentence had become necessary.

"An accused person must respect the sanctity of his own agreement. That is the spirit behind section 35. In this particular case, the convict has breached his own agreement. "He has come to the end of the road. Accordingly, the invitation to this court to stay proceedings and grant leave to the convict to renegotiate with the prosecution is a dangerous invitation and must be declined.

"The grant of this application will rather send a dangerous signal to other persons that they can come to the court, agree on specific terms, breach those terms and come back to the court for an extension.

"The state is not interested in

renegotiating with the accused person. It will, therefore, serve no useful purpose in staying proceedings for the state to undertake an activity it is not willing to do," Mr Yeboah stated.

Justice Eric Kyei Baffour dismissed the application saying it was urging the court to interpret the law.

"First, being a convict before the court, I think mens rea is a requirement in a criminal trial before conviction. The stage at which we are is one of a consideration for the imposition of a custodial sentence and I do not think that the claim for the court to find the mens rea at this stage is well made. We have gone beyond that stage.

"I have also been called upon to apply or interpret section 35 of Act 459, purposively but not literally. Purposivism is not a blanket cheque to the judge to read into and import into the text of the statutory provision any imaginary or fanciful strained interpretation.

"I, therefore, fail to see the invitation by learned counsel in respect of the approach to the proper construction of section 35.

"I do not find it necessary to exhaustively respond to the issue of the amount paid by the convict and what should happen. I will deal with that in the motion of the Republic," he said.

## E&P Signs \$230m Caterpillar Equipment Financing Agreement With The Mansour Group

*from front page*

The list of equipment under this facility include, 50 units of CAT 785, 30 units of CAT 777, 5 units of CAT 992K, 20 units of CAT D9R. Other equipments include, Water Bowsers, Fuel Bowsers, Motor Graders and Backhoes.

This agreement signed between the mining giant owned by Business Mogul, Ibrahim Mahama and Caterpillar is significant in changing the face of mining in Ghana and the Sub Sahara Africa.

E&P is a wholly Indigenous Ghanaian owned mining and construction contracting company headquartered in Accra, Ghana. Since its inception in 1997, E&P has successfully completed world class projects including road construction, mining projects, tailings dam construction, landfill site construction, leach



pads construction, land reclamation amongst others. E&P has the capacity, experience and expertise to deliver on major hard rock mining projects. E&P has executed mining projects both in Ghana and in Liberia. Over the past 25 years E&P has gained considerable experience in hard rock mining. E&P is currently engaged in hard rock contract mining for Gold Fields

Ghana Limited's world class mine in Tarkwa, and Abosso Goldfields Limited in Damang. Between January 2010 and May 2014, E&P also undertook hard rock mining for Golden Star (Wassa) Limited. Most recently Abosso Goldfields Limited requested E&P to take over the Damang Complex Pit as the main mining contractor. The latest project for E&P is the Cardinal Namdini Mines in

# Stratcomm Africa To Equip 29 Women With Digital Communication Skills To Mark 29<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**S**trategic Communication Africa Limited (Stratcomm Africa), Ghana's premier total communication agency, is 29 years old and is marking this anniversary with the "29 for 29" initiative. This involves equipping and empowering 29 women with digital communication skills through mentorship, hands-on practical training and advisory services. The 29 women, made up of 19 female students in communication and 10 female entrepreneurs, will benefit from the yearlong programme leading up to the organisation's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in 2024. Recognizing the growing power of digital communication globally, Stratcomm Africa seeks, through this initiative, to help the entrepreneurs and students to appreciate the value of these critical communication channels. Sharpening the skills of the students in digital communication will prepare them better for today's job market and help them become versatile communication professionals who deliver with excellence. The initiative is a reflection of Stratcomm Africa's commitment to empowering young people, especially young women and a recognition of the power of mentorship in capacity-building and is being undertaken in partnership with Women in PR Ghana. Providing digital

communication support to 10 female-owned small businesses is designed to help them grow their businesses and improve their bottom line while contributing to national economic growth. Stratcomm Africa will, in this context, share with the female entrepreneurs some lessons from its own journey as a Ghanaian-owned company established and led by a woman over these 29 years. Mrs. Sharon Anim, Stratcomm Africa's Manager for Marketing Communication who is leading the "29 for 29" initiative, says, "For us at Stratcomm Africa, the commitment to professional excellence requires us to be constantly ahead of the curve; sharing our knowledge with future professionals as well as letting women entrepreneurs have the benefit of our expertise through this initiative will give us great satisfaction. My team and I are extremely delighted to have this opportunity to impact lives directly with what we love doing." Ms. Esther AN Cobbah, Founder of Stratcomm Africa, says, "As we mark 29 years of Stratcomm Africa in the communication industry and in business, we look back with gratitude and ahead with renewed resolve." Ms. Cobbah adds, "This milestone is a testament to Stratcomm Africa's unwavering commitment to excellence, innovation, and using communication as a tool for positive change in society. The journey to 29 years has not been an easy one. It has been a journey of challenges, learning, and

growth as well as joys. We have weathered many storms and navigated several difficult times, always emerging stronger and more resilient. Stratcomm Africa is poised to set new standards of communication excellence in this digital era. We salute all the clients who have given us the opportunity to serve as well as our staff, past and present, and everyone who has been part of the Stratcomm Africa 29-year journey. Above all we give glory to our God who remains our help, our strength, our hope."

## ABOUT STRATCOMM AFRICA

Established on 13th May 1994, Stratcomm Africa has delivered communication services to numerous organisations, public and private local and international, as well as individuals. Stratcomm Africa has grown from a home study table, through a shipping container office to an internationally acknowledged total communication agency. Stratcomm Africa's work continues to be recognized, locally and internationally, with awards and accolades. Stratcomm Africa believes in deploying its communication expert for social impact and has over the years introduced a number of initiatives in this regard. Almost eleven years ago, Stratcomm Africa initiated the Ghana Garden and Flower Movement and has through this vehicle been helping to mobilise Ghanaians to take actions to help address climate change. Fifteen years ago, Stratcomm Africa established women SHARE

an initiative for promoting female networking and support systems. Read it write it say it promotes reading among children through the use of innovative communication approaches. Last year,

Stratcomm Africa introduced Reputation Week, a period in which attention is drawn to the value that communication brings to society with opportunities being provided for capacity building in communication skills.

## 22 People Hospitalised After Eating Food At Funeral



*There victims are currently not in any life-threatening situation at the time of admission*

**T**wenty-two have been hospitalised due to acute diarrhoea following suspected food poisoning in Agou, a farming community in the Nkwanta South of the Oti Region. The victims are said to have eaten at a funeral on Sunday, May 14, according to a myjoyonline.com report. 13 of them have been admitted to Nkwanta South Municipal Hospital, while nine others are also on admission at Nkwanta St. Joseph Catholic Hospital. In an interview with the Medical Superintendent of Nkwanta Municipal Hospital, Dr.Theophilus Amoatey said the victims came with complaints of vomiting and acute diarrhoea, and they have since received treatment.

He also reported that the victims were served food including porridge, rice, banku, meat, and pito, a locally brewed drink made from wheat and maize. He added, however, that samples have been taken to the laboratory for examination, and a team of disease control management has been deployed to the community for proper investigation. At St. Joseph Catholic Hospital' the nursing officer, David Amenudzi, and colleagues who were on duty when the victims were admitted said "most of them were not in any life-threatening situation at the time of admission".



# The Unfairness Of Remanding Suspects With Ex Parte Orders In Nigeria

By Douglas Ogbankwa Esq.

The Administration of Criminal Justice Act, 2015, brought about a new vista in the Criminal Justice System in Nigeria. The domestication of the Law in some States, however introduced some disturbing trends in the Criminal Justice System. One of such disturbing trends is the seemingly arbitrary remanding of suspects without giving them or their Counsel an opportunity to be heard in Court, because the remand is done by an Exparte Order i.e. an Order in which even if your Lawyer was in Court he does not have a right of audience. The most grave thing that can happen to a human, aside being in a hospital or cemetery is being in prison. It defies legal logic and common sense to remand a person to prison without giving him an opportunity to say why he should not be there. This is simply Holden Charge being given another name. Another bizarre aspect of this issue, is that the Prosecutors do not add the proof of evidence to the Ex Parte Motion.

An apposite question to ask is why will the prosecutorial authorities not file a formal charge instead of putting people in prison sometimes for no just cause? I have been seised of facts of

some cases where these exparte orders for remand were actually hatchet jobs by some security agents to keep people in prison for no crime committed.

The fact that it keeps being renewed without the suspect still being heard exacerbates the injustice.

The offending section of the ACJLs of some States, in Edo State Section 190 to 196 is contrary to Section 36 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (As Amended), which provides for fair hearing.

One of the components of the principle of natural justice -Audi Alteram Partem (You must hear the other side), originated from the Garden of Eden, where even the all-knowing God still gave Adam an opportunity to explain himself, after his malfeasance. The Courts have also frowned at this profound injustice. For the avoidance of doubt, Section 36 (1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (As Amended) posits thus: "In the determination of his civil rights and obligations, including any question or determination by or against any government or authority, a person shall be entitled to a fair hearing within a reasonable time by a court or other tribunal established by law and constituted in such manner as to secure its independence and impartiality".

(This mean that every citizen of Nigeria in order to defend his/her rights and obligations as a citizen of Nigeria has the right to a hearing that is fair within a reasonable time in any lawful court or tribunal in the Country to enforce his/her rights against any Government or person, and such a Court or tribunal shall be formed in a way to secure its independence and impartiality). This right is inalienable and indispensable. The Supreme Court of Nigeria in case of \*FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA v. ALH. ABUBAKAR MAISHANU AND 2 ORS. LER (2018) SC./51/ 2015\*, reiterated the indispensability of the principle of fair hearing in criminal proceedings when it stated per "Hon Justice I.T. Mohammad J.S.C". (As he then was), thus: "The cardinal principle of fair hearing whether in relation to a civil or criminal matter is so sacrosanct. The Latin maxim puts it this way: "Audi Alteram Partem" i.e. let the other party be heard. It simply means: hear the other side(s) in a dispute before reaching a decision. It is a constitutional requirement (Section 36 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended). This court has made several

pronouncements that the principle of fair hearing has been incorporated in our jurisprudence that a man cannot be condemned without being heard. The principle is applicable in all cases in which a decision is to be taken in any matter, whether in a judicial, quasi-judicial or even in purely administrative proceeding involving a person's interest in a property, right or personal liberty. Let the other party be heard! See: Adigun v. AG Oyo State (1997)? NWLR (Pt.678) page; Oyeyemi v. Commissioner of Local Government, Kwara State & Ors (1993) 6 NWLR (Pt.299) 344". PER I.T.MUHAMMAD, J.S.C Justice I.T. Mohammed adumbrated on the issue further in the above indicated case, thus: "The primary objective of any court of law is the attainment of justice irrespective of the disposition or approach of a party to the prosecution or in defence of the matter placed before the court. It is the duty of the court to state the correct position of the law on the subject matter placed before it without unnecessarily entering into the arena by making submissions on behalf of any of the parties". Could it be said that there is justice for a defendant or suspect to be remanded without being heard? The answer is an absolute no! In this regard, we humbly submit that the continuous remanding of Citizens of this Country without giving them an opportunity to be heard is at variance and inconsistent with section 36 of the Constitution of the

Federal Republic of Nigeria. By the Doctrine of Covering the Field, the principle is an overt illegality that should not be allowed to stand. We humbly call for the Chief Judges of affected States where this injustice is currently being perpetrated to issue a Practice Direction, giving suspects or their Lawyers in Court an opportunity to be heard. Also My Should also issue a Practice Direction that the Proof of Evidence be attached to the Ex Parte Motion, to give the Judge a benefit of hindsight into the case, before taking a decision. In this light, the procedure should be instituted by way of a Motion on Notice or even if by an exparte motion, the motion should have the proof of evidence attached so that the Judge can evaluate the evidence, to obviate the need for innocent people to be sent to Prison and also the Judge should give the suspect an opportunity to be heard. Justice is not a one way traffic. It is a three way traffic, Justice for the victim, Justice for the defendant and Justice for the State.

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**Independence of the Judiciary and the**  
**Intellectual Hub.**

# MAHAMA PUNCHES AKUFO-ADDO & BAWUMIA Over Economic Mismanagement, Corruption Others In Victory Speech

from page 7

view the 2023 budget to reflect the realities of the economic situation today Ladies and Gentlemen, unemployment is a national security crisis. What must be done to help in ameliorating the challenge has not been done. From January 2025, the next NDC administration will transform the economy, diversify our exports, and ensure value addition to create more jobs. Agriculture and agribusiness shall be one of the key anchors of our economic transformation plan. We will launch a programme akin to the "Operation Feed Yourself and Industries" of the early 70's to make Ghana self-sufficient in basic staples and curb unnecessary imports. We will seek to make indigenous entrepreneurs capture the

"commanding heights of the Ghanaian economy." In our previous stint in Government, we sought to achieve this by strategically prioritizing the Tamne Irrigation project in the Upper East Region; we supported the Avnash rice processing factory here in the northern region; provided fish storage facilities along the Coast and prepared the Komenda Sugar Factory for take-off in the Central region among others. In the non-agriculture sector, Wankang ceramics factory, which came alive in the Western region and the Savanna Cement Factory

are but a few of the examples. We also injected GH¢51 million into the pharmaceutical sector for expansion and job creation — our foresight became a windfall when COVID-19 struck our shores. Let me restate what I said in Ho during the launch of my campaign for Flagbearer— we shall promote robust local participation in our banking, financial, telecommunications, tourism, mining, agriculture, agribusiness, and manufacturing sectors to grow the economy and create sustainable employment for the youth. We will restore

indigenous Ghanaian investment in the finance and banking sector and create a tiered banking system that will serve various segments of the market. We will give the opportunity for experienced banking hands who were laid off, to secure their careers once more and move from the menial jobs they were forced into. As far as practicable, banking licenses that were unjustly cancelled by this Government would be restored. Governance Ladies and Gentlemen, our nation is still at the crossroads with crippling debt, and an

inefficient and wasteful government. We cannot continue this pathway. It is a betrayal of the people, as a leader, to keep doing things the same way when the results leave them the poorer. I am committed to operating an effective government with not more than sixty (60) ministers. These Ministers together with other appointees of the government will not be entitled to exgratia payments after their tenure, as they will commit to that undertaking even before the necessary constitutional amendments, including a review of the controversial Article 71. I share the view that Ghanaians

# MAHAMA PUNCHES AKUFO-ADDO & BAWUMIA Over Economic Mismanagement, Corruption Others In Victory Speech

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in the diaspora must no longer have to renounce their foreign citizenship before they can stand for elections or hold public offices in Ghana.

I personally believe most of them make up for their absence with their remittances, and, if conditions improve, a lot of them will return to work home, in Ghana. In fact, some Ghanaians in the diaspora have proven to be extremely beneficial to our country. Professor Frimpong Boateng of the Cardiothoracic Centre fame returned from Germany to establish the National Cardiothoracic Centre that has saved many Ghanaian lives.

Since the Professor's return he has contributed his significant bit in medicine and in politics. Only recently amid an Aljazeera documentary accusing President Akufo-Addo and his government of organized crimes in collusion with a foreigner, it emerged that the heart surgeon had two years ago boldly exposed the duplicity of the NPP government in the fight against Galamsey.

He opened a can of worms, which I know this president, in his usual manner, will sweep under the carpet just as many corruption scandals have been cleared by the Clearing Agent. We shall investigate further and pursue justice on this matter.

The truth is, this government cannot just wish away the reality that Ghana is not looking good on the Corruption Perception Index of Transparency International. The President no longer makes corruption a pet topic in his speeches because corruption has defeated him hands down. In the government's bid to obscure corruption, they have resorted to suppressing press freedom and inordinate clampdown of Civil Society activists including even members of parliament who dare to expose corruption.

Let me assure you, as I stated in Garu in the Upper East during my campaign tours, that I will adopt a robust root and branch approach to fight corruption because corruption is a major source through which state resources are wasted. It will not matter whether the people involved are our own or from some other party.

We will continue the constitution review process commenced by President John Evans Atta Mills of blessed memory and take it to a logical conclusion. This will plug the loopholes and clarify some clauses in our constitution and make it more responsive to our current reality.

NDC Party Matters

Fellow Akatamansonians, Ey3 zu! Ghana's programme by the Fund, re Ey3 za! I began by thanking you, my party delegates, for voting massively for me on Saturday. I promise that I will fulfil every promise I made to you during my visits to your constituencies, in the sixteen regions of Ghana between March and Friday 12th May 2023. I will be working with the National Chairman and the leadership of the party to build a formidable National Democratic Congress – one that every Ghanaian will be proud to associate with.

Ghanaians should keep in mind that the NDC has provided the most impactful socio-economic and development projects across the country.

I make a firm promise to ensure that our 2024 campaign is fully decentralized, empowering the branches to lead the voter mobilization and voting day canvassing, supported by the constituency and regional executives and teams.

Empowering the branches, motivating them, and ensuring that we deploy the needed campaign materials and logistics, I remain convinced, will help our campaigning and canvassing in 2024.

We must all embrace and support an equitable distribution of party logistics to the branches.

This will strengthen the branches and encourage competition even as we plan to reward each branch adequately for meeting set targets.

In the next few months, we will begin redeeming our promise to help constituencies acquire their own offices and commence the organization of periodic orientation and training programmes at the Party School, for our executives.

Conclusion

Ladies and Gentlemen and the millions following us from Ghana and across the world, before I take my seat, I wish to reiterate some of my commitments to the people of Ghana. I want you to remember them so you can hold me accountable. I will keep each of the promises when I assume office on January 07, 2025, God willing.

1. Restore stability and inclusive growth to the economy and rejuvenate the almost collapsed banking and financial sector. This will involve sweeping reforms at the Bank of

Ghana because the Central Bank itself has been part of the problem.

2. I will ensure that Ghana never suffers such a deadly debt management programme that threatens to send elderly people holding government bonds to their early graves and wipe out the investments of the Ghanaian middle class.
3. Prioritize local participation in the banking, financial, telecommunications, mining, oil and gas, agriculture, manufacturing, and construction sectors to generate more jobs for the youth. The Ghanaian young women and men we interact with on daily basis and their colleagues in other African countries are simply tired of jobless GDP figures.

4. Actively attract viable and serious private sector investors to partner government to invest in the productive sectors of the economy for more jobs to be created. This will involve an emphasis on agriculture and agribusiness and will have a strong focus on making Ghanaians own their own micro enterprises

5. Complete abandoned and ongoing projects instead of rushing to start new ones. We will carry out an inventory of all hospitals, schools, electrification, water, and road projects which have stalled or been abandoned and make annual budgetary allocation for completing them.

6. Beyond the economic front, we will also be very thick on governance because transparent and accountable governance at all levels remains an assured fuel that fires the socio-economic transformation of successful nations.

7. We will establish a Governance Advisory Council to help improve political governance, curb corruption, and ensure the respect for human rights is upheld. The Council will include representatives of civil society organizations, religious leaders, traditional leaders, and ordinary Ghanaians, and among others, they will be empowered to release a State of Governance in Ghana report every year.

8. I will run the leanest but most efficient government under the fourth republic by

appointing not more than 60 ministers and deputy ministers.

9. I will work to abolish the payment of Ex-gratia and cut out waste and ostentation in Government.

10. We shall work with Parliament and all stakeholders to complete the constitution review

process and strengthen separation of powers.

11. Government procurement is recognized as a major source of corruption and misappropriation of public funds. We will among other measures, set up an Independent Value for Money office to scrutinize all government procurements above a \$5 million

threshold or as shall be recommended by Parliament.

12. I will give anti-corruption state institutions unfettered space to operate – The days of the

Clearing agent must come to an end on January 07, 2025.

13. I will also set up a Commission of Enquiry to investigate the matter of looted State Lands and make recommendations for resolving the vexed issue of expropriated Ga-Dangbe lands.

14. And to deepen our democracy, the Fourth Estate of the realm – the media – must also be given the conducive and collaborative atmosphere to operate as the fourth power that they ought to be without threats, harassments, and assassinations.

We are starting off in earnest, and I will be outlining other policies and strategies in the course of

the campaign and in our 2024 manifesto conversations. Let me emphasize that Ghana is in this severe and acute financial distress with suffocating levels of unemployment due to the reckless mismanagement of the economy by this Government. But there is hope! That hope can be fast-tracked if we choose vision with experience over experiment — especially at this critical time in our nation's life. The NDC delegates have shown the way by electing me with a definite 98.9%, or in mathematical terms, 99% of the valid votes cast — which is indicative of their elevated faith and conviction in my ability to provide honest, visionary, and responsible leadership.

They did so not only based on our solid record of achievements but also the concrete, sincere assurances I have given to transform our cherished country, Ghana, by building the Ghana we want together. That transformation will demand your cooperation, and that cooperation begins from today.

In building the Ghana we want together, we will need you – every Ghanaian (including disappointed NPP people) who are appalled by the arrogance, untruthfulness, mismanagement, corruption, and nepotism of this government. Join us in this rebuilding mission.

We will also need you – every Ghanaian who wants to have a project or programme in the agriculture including horticulture and aquaculture, manufacturing, building and construction, services and extractive industry sectors but has been impeded by the illicit demands of officials of this governments.

We will need you – every Ghanaian – who believes merit must be recognized and compensated and not favoritism taking the centre stage.

And we will need you if you genuinely believe we have had enough of the incompetence and mismanagement of this government.

ENOUGH IS INDEED ENOUGH! Ghanaians have suffered enough hardships and misrule from this bungling and rapacious AkufoAddo and Bawumia NPP government. Let us complete the task we have started by campaigning day and night for your humble servant, John Mahama, and our Parliamentary candidates.

My brothers and sisters, I urge you to campaign vigorously in every corner of the country, on radio, television, Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter, Tik Tok, Instagram.

We shall protect your votes.

Your votes will be counted.

Your votes will count. And your votes will propel the NDC into office, with a team led by me, John

Dramani Mahama, ready and willing with vision and experience to build the Ghana we want together with you.

Ladies and Gentlemen, victory will be ours in December 2024.

And there shall be work and happiness for all.

Thank you.

God bless us all, and God bless our homeland Ghana.