

Afaglo Commends NDC For Peaceful Polls

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Marrer Ghana Limited and Susatgad Boat Building and Fishing Industries, Mr. Novihoho Afaglo has extended a hand of appreciation to all National Democratic

Congress (NDC) members across the country for voting overwhelmingly and peacefully in the just ended party primaries. Mr. Afaglo again relished congratulation message to all party members and delegates in

the Volta region for exhibiting unity and love at the polls. "It is with great joy that the message put across to aspirants and delegates to ensure they vote massively for former

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Mr. Novihoho Afaglo



Dr. John Kwakye

IMF MONEY COMING NA LIE! — IEA BOSS

Dr. John Kwakye, the Director of the Institute of Economic Affairs has discounted claims that the first tranche of the

International Monetary Fund (IMF) bailout cash will arrive today Wednesday or this week as claimed by the government.

According to Dr Kwakye his checks conducted on the IMF Board meeting schedule do not

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China Issues Report On U.S. CIA's Cyberattacks On Other Countries

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Ahead Of 2024 Elections German Based Philanthropist Jalali Yunusah Urges NDC To Unite For Victory



By Muhammed Faisel Mustapha

German based philanthropist and Executive Director of Health4yu, Alhaji Jalali Yunusah has called on supporters of

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Duffuor Congratulates Mahama, As Kojo Bonsu Calls For Focus On 2024



Dr. Kwabena Duffuor

John Mahama

Kojo Bonsu

page 5

The INSIGHT

EDITORIAL

DEAL WITH THIS HEALTH MENACE

The revelation that there is upsurge in stroke cases among young people per records at the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital in Kumasi is very deeply worrying.

There is clearly no doubt that non-communicable or lifestyle diseases appear to have fast taken over from communicable which used to be our bane as a country. According to the Neurologist, Dr. Fred Stephen Sarfo those as young as 13 are now developing the condition which one suffers when a blood vessel that carries oxygen and nutrients to the brain is either blocked by a clot or bursts resulting in lack of blood to the brain and thus death of the brain cells.

According to the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital it records between 800 and one thousand cases, each year with more than 300 dying and the rest becoming permanently disabled.

With its high risk factors being hypertension, diabetes, high alcohol intake and lack of exercise among others, there is the need for improved or change in lifestyle including other health measures to adequately deal with the situation. Stress is also another causative or factor and health authorities need to intensify public education to reverse the tide. The revelation that there is upsurge in stroke cases among young people per records at the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital in Kumasi is very deeply worrying.

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Afaglo Commends NDC For Peaceful Polls



Mr. Novihoho Afaglo

from front page

President John Dramani Mahama sank deep in their heat to the extent of him getting 98.9%," he stated. This, Mr. Afaglo said depicts that the coming 2024 election will be a record set in history and will keep asking God to give him strength and protection.

He again congratulated the incumbent Ketu South Member of Parliament, Mrs. Dzifa Abila Gomashie on retaining her seat adding the last Saturday May 13 victory was well deserved.

Speaking to the Press, Afaglo acknowledged the roles played by the Election Committee of the various constituencies both National and Regional Executives of the party, the Electoral Commission and the Ghana Police Service for ensuring peace prevailed during the election. He again called on all losing aspirants, MPs and hopeful presidential candidates to come onboard, rally support and work together by ensuring that come 2024 the NDC will wrestle power from the New Patriotic Party.

"I want to use this opportunity to call on all NDC party members across board to come together, put behind us issues that may retard our progress, but rather, preach the

good news of the party and flagbearer John Dramani Mahama to ensure the party's victory," he stated.

At the end of last Saturday's NDC primaries, former President John Mahama pulled 297,603 votes representing 98.96% to win the flagbearership race to lead the part ahead of 2024 elections.

Mr. Afaglo reiterated the point of rallying every one for victory as the main target.

THE INSIGHT

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IMF MONEY COMING NA LIE! – IEA BOSS

from front page

show that Ghana will be meeting the Board even by May 24 as claimed by officials.

It would be recalled that Minister of State responsible for Finance, Mohammed Amin Adam stated that the Fund will likely approve the first tranche of a \$600 million loan for Ghana by Wednesday, May 17, 2023.

The Minister said the government expects the IMF Executive Board to approve the credit facility after meeting all pre-conditions and requirements particularly after financing assurances have been granted by official creditors, China and the Paris Club.

“We expect a deal on Wednesday. With the disbursement, there is going to be \$600 million as a first tranche just immediately after the approval,” he told Reuters via phone. Even before the first tranche is approved and thus arrives today, some economists

and analysts have questioned the possibility of Ghana to receive the first tranche of the \$3 billion from the International Monetary Fund today (Wednesday) or this week as stated by the government.

IEA's Dr. John Kwakye is of the strong opinion that his checks conducted on the IMF Board meeting schedule do not show that Ghana will be meeting the Board even by May 24. On Monday, May 15, 2023, he wrote on Twitter, “My check on IMF Board Meeting Schedule for the coming week shows the following: May 17, Benin; May 22, Indonesia; May 24, Cote d'Ivoire; May 25, Mali. So where is Ghana? Unless somebody is seeing a different schedule. Please share it if you are.”

On the same tangent, Vice President of policy think tank IMANI Africa, Bright Simons noted that the government must be cautious as it seems to be overplaying its cards and stampeding the technical processes of the IMF. He wrote: “Ghana is back to its

usual mode of stampeding technical work at the IMF. It has announced Board approval & release of \$600m next week when significant work remains ongoing as to the precise details & timing of tranches etc. Ghana risks overplaying the political cards it holds”

He also added that “It is not clear why the politicians feel the need to do this. It is very unusual behavior. Every sophisticated investor knows that whilst the full commencement of the IMF program is an important milestone it is not itself a turning point. The govt should keep its eye on the ball.”

On the other hand, Dr Amin Adam was however optimistic that the funds will be disbursed into the Bank of Ghana account within a week of the IMF Board's approval. Speaking on the second tranche of the \$600 million loan, the minister of State said the government expects the funds to also hit the Central Bank's account in November or December after a successful review of the first loan tranche under the programme.



Dr. John Kwakye

Dr Amin Adam added that the rest of the funds will be disbursed in equal tranches of \$360 million after the IMF has conducted its semi-annual reviews of the extended credit facility.

“The funds will boost Ghana's coffers and help it work towards the target of foreign reserves amounting to the equivalent of three months of imports by 2026,” the minister of State told Reuters.

This is the IMF's calendar;

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

An IMF Executive Board Calendar Archive is also available.

Last Update: May 12, 2023 10:30:00 ET

Sort By:

IMF | BOARD MEETINGS

May 17, 2023
Country: Benin
Title: Benin - Second Review under the Extended Fund Facility and the Extended Credit Facility Arrangements
Country: Luxembourg
Title: Luxembourg - 2023 Article IV Consultation
May 22, 2023
Country: Indonesia
Title: Indonesia - 2023 Article IV Consultation
Country: South Africa
Title: South Africa - 2023 Article IV Consultation
May 24, 2023
Country: Cote d'Ivoire
Title: Cote d'Ivoire - 2023 Program Negotiation
Country: Rwanda
Title: Rwanda - First Review under the Policy Coordination Instrument (PCI) and Resilience and Sustainable Facility Program
May 25, 2023
Country: Mali
Title: Mali - 2023 Article IV Consultation
Country: Kosovo, Republic of

Ahead Of 2024 Elections

German Based Philanthropist Jalali Yunusah Urges NDC To Unite For Victory

from front page

the National Democratic Congress (NDC) to unite to ensure a massive victory for the party in December next year. He urged the delegates especially those whose preferred candidates could not make it in the just ended Presidential and Parliamentary primaries to bury their grievances and forge ahead in unity for the difficult task ahead which is to rescue Ghanaians from the hands of the NPP government. He called on all aspirants who could not sail through in the primaries to bring their supporters on board and endeavour to unify all fronts of the party to support their elected Parliamentary candidates to ensure a resounding victory for



the former President John Dramani Mahama in next year's polls. Alhaji Jalali Yunusah expressed optimism about the chances of the NDC in winning the upcoming elections but emphasised the need for unity across all the Constituencies in the country to ensure a big win for the NDC. According to him, what the NDC needs now is unity and cooperation to form a formidable front adding that the New

Patriotic Party NPP is desperately trying to hold on to power which he described as a demonic attempt to punish Ghanaians for four more years. He called on all Ghanaians especially the NDC supporters to see the 2024 elections as Jihad to rescue Ghana and re-write the bad name President Akufo-addo and Mahmoud Bawumia have reduce Ghana to in the international Community of nations. He said discrimination, segregation and pull him down syndrome as well as influencing the voter to vote skirt and blouse will not help the party win election 2024. “Akufo-addo and Bawumia have failed the nation and have made Ghana a country without as soul

and the only party that can redeem the image of Ghana is John Dramani Mahama and the NDC”. He added that the NPP has no message going into election 2024 hence they will adopt all means to break in the camp of the NDC through various Constituencies by creating confusion among NDC executives and its members. This he said will disorganize the party and will cause it to lose focus so as to pave way for them (NPP) to easily make their way to break the so-call eight. He therefore reminded all NDC executives to know that what is ahead of them after winning the election is more than the offer that will be giving to them by the NPP to betray the NDC. Alhaji Jalali Yunusah further

urged aspirants who lost and their supporters to drop whatever issue they have and support the party to win power. He said, looking at the performance of the NPP government so far, Nana Addo and Bawumia are disaster for this country and the only hope for Ghanaians is John Mahama and NDC. He congratulated the former President John Mahama and all Parliamentary aspirants who sailed through the primaries for the massive victory. He urged them to see the victory as a victory for NDC and called on them to accommodate all views and opinions that will bring unity before, during and after the 2024 elections.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS REPORT

Compiled By Peoples Dispatch

Erdoğan Upsets Opposition Hopes Of Victory, Run-Off With Kılıçdaroğlu Expected In Turkey's Presidential Race



(Photo: Turkish presidency via TRT World). The incumbent People's Alliance led by the Justice and Development Party (AKP) secured a majority with close to 50% of all votes and 321 seats in the 600-seat parliament. For the post of president, a run-off will most likely be held two weeks from now as neither Recep Tayyip Erdoğan nor Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu was able to secure 50%+1 votes

In the Turkish parliamentary elections held on Sunday, May 14, the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP)-led People's Alliance retained its majority. However, there was no clear winner in the presidential elections and a run-off is likely to be held between incumbent Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and his challenger Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu. As per Turkey's Supreme Election Council (YSK), over 87.20% of the electorate or 55 million citizens voted in the elections. The results have

defied public opinion surveys published prior to the vote which stated that Kılıçdaroğlu was ahead of Erdoğan. Kılıçdaroğlu was expected to also benefit from the withdrawal of Muharrem İnce, one of the four presidential candidates. The results have also dashed the opposition's hope of benefiting from the serious popular grievances against Erdoğan's government, which include prolonged high inflation deepening the cost of living

crisis, the issue of Syrian refugees, and the mismanagement of the February earthquake relief. Meanwhile, several opposition leaders have accused state broadcaster *Anadolu Agency* (AA) of misrepresenting and manipulating the presentation of the results.

Presidential race

For the post of president, a run-off will most likely be held two weeks from now as neither of the lead candidates were able to secure 50%+1 votes after counting of over 99% votes.

Erdoğan emerged as the front runner with over 49.4% votes. He was contesting the election on the agenda of continuing his economic and foreign policies. Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu, the joint candidate of the Nation Alliance led by the Republican People's Party (CHP), who was leading in the pre-election surveys, failed to win even 45% of the votes. He was contesting on the agenda of

"change" which included going back to the parliamentary system as well as radical changes in foreign policy with a pro-Western approach.

Erdoğan's government had brought a constitutional amendment in 2017, which was approved by a referendum, converting the country's parliamentary system of governance into a presidential one.

The third presidential candidate, Sinan Oğan, won over 5% of the votes, which surprised many election observers. Oğan is a former member of the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) and was the candidate of the far-right ATA alliance.

The fourth candidate, Muharrem İnce, had withdrawn from the contest days before the vote, claiming a smear campaign against him by his former party (CHP) colleagues.

Parliamentary election results

In the parliamentary elections, the

incumbent People's Alliance led by the AKP secured a majority with close to 50% of all votes and 321 seats in the 600-seat parliament. The alliance however lost around 3% votes and 23 seats compared to the last elections held in 2018.

As per the results, the AKP alone will have 266 seats. It had 295 seats in the last parliament. Its alliance partner MHP won 50 seats and another ally five seats.

The opposition alliance won 213 seats—the CHP winning 169 and the İYİ or Good Party winning 44 seats. The alliance obtained around 35% of the votes and saw a significant increase in seats, but could not reach the halfway mark.

The Labour and Freedom Alliance led by the leftist People's Democratic Party (HDP) won 66 seats, with the HDP alone securing 62 seats and Turkish Workers' Party (TİP) winning four. It obtained around 10% of the total votes.

The HDP was contesting the election under the banner Green Left Party (YSP) in order to avoid potential

Bail For Imran Khan Sparks Protests By Ruling Coalition In Pakistan

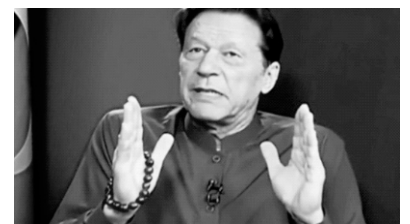
On Monday, May 15, activists of the Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz), Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP), and Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F)—that together form the ruling Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM)—staged a sit-in protest outside the Supreme Court in Islamabad against its ruling granting relief to former Prime Minister Imran Khan after his arrest last week. The sit-in was attended by PML-N's senior leader Maryam Nawaz and JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rahman. Members of the ruling coalition led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had raised concerns about "double

standards of the judiciary" and announced protests against the Supreme Court's decision to grant Khan relief on Friday, May 12. On Friday, Khan was granted protective bail for two weeks by the Islamabad High Court in a number of cases, including the Al Qadir Trust case under which he was arrested on May 9. Khan's bail followed the Supreme Court ruling his arrest to be "invalid and unlawful" on Thursday, May 11. The court said it took up the case as "the right to access to justice was denied (to Khan) and the sanctity and safety of the high court were violated."

Khan's arrest was the culmination of a long tussle with the civilian and military establishment ever since he was forced to quit after a no-confidence motion in 2022. Imran had alleged that his overthrow was orchestrated by the military, claiming that his independent foreign policy was among the reasons. In the subsequent months, his popularity surged even as the PDM government, which comprises Pakistan's traditional ruling parties, failed miserably in dealing with the economic issues faced by the people. Following Khan's arrest, violent protests by supporters of his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party erupted

across the country. Several vehicles were set on fire and state-owned buildings were attacked. The Punjab police reportedly arrested 3,500 people in a crackdown against PTI workers.

Following his bail, Khan alleged that at least 7,000 PTI activists, including several women, had been jailed while "security authorities are busy facilitating thugs take over the Supreme Court." On Monday, Khan called on his supporters to offer funeral prayers to the "martyrs" who had lost their lives during the



(Photo: Twitter/PTI official via GeoTV). The ruling coalition in Pakistan has launched a sit-in protest outside the Supreme Court to oppose the court's order granting relief to former Prime Minister Imran Khan after his arrest last week

protests following his arrest.

The ruling government has vowed to arrest "all those involved in facilitating, abetting and perpetrating the disgraceful incidents of arson, ransacking, sabotage and damaging public and private properties." Prime Minister Sharif has also asked Khan to join the investigation in the Al Qadir Trust case against him, reported Dawn

China Issues Report On U.S. CIA's Cyberattacks On Other Countries

China on Thursday released an investigation report revealing an "empire of hackers" of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) of the United States, one of the major intelligence agencies of the country's federal government. Over a long period, the CIA has been secretly orchestrating "peaceful evolution" and "color revolutions" around the world, continuously conducting espionage activities, said the joint report by China's National Computer Virus Emergency Response Center and Beijing-based Internet Security Company 360.

The report disclosed important details of the weapons the CIA used for cyberattacks and details of specific cybersecurity cases

taking place in China and other countries.

The CIA has been involved in overthrowing or attempting to overthrow more than 50 legal governments of other countries, though it only admitted involvement in seven, causing turmoil in relevant countries, the report said.

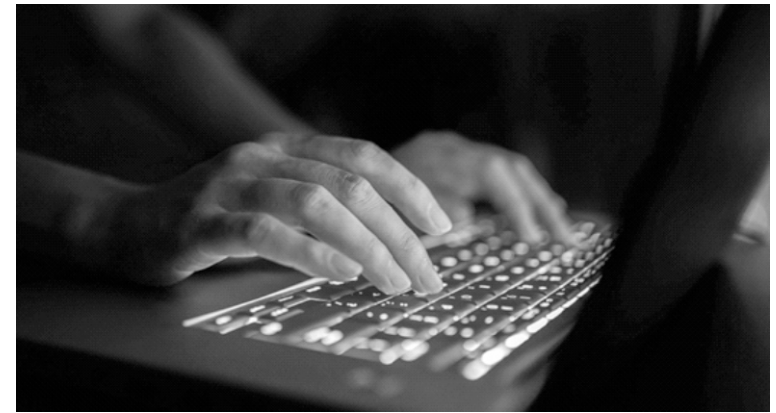
Cyberspace hegemony

In 2020, the 360 company discovered an unknown cyberattack organization, which carried out a slew of cyberattacks toward China and other countries by utilizing cyber tools related to "Vault 7" – a series of documents that WikiLeaks began to publish in 2017 to expose the CIA's activities and capabilities in

electronic surveillance and cyber warfare.

Such cyberattacks can be traced back to the year 2011, and continue to this day. The targets of such espionage actions expand to fields such as countries' key information infrastructure, the aerospace sector, scientific research institutes, the petroleum industry and tech companies, as well as government agencies.

The CIA has complicated inner workings. By the end of 2016, there were already over 5,000 hackers in the CIA's hacking division – Center for Cyber Intelligence, producing more than a thousand hacking systems, Trojans, viruses and other "weaponized" malware, according to WikiLeaks. Yuyuan Tiantian, a



social media account affiliated with China Media Group, commented that the complexity of the organizational structure enables the CIA to tailor different tools to steal information.

For example, the agency divulged users' secrets through smart TVs with their attack toolkit, Weeping Angel, developed by the Embedded Devices Branch. The toolkit can make TVs "pretend" to be switched off but in fact, they are still overhearing. The report also noted that the Chinese technical team obtained a sample of an information interception tool that is exclusively used by the U.S. National Security Agency (NSA), indicating that the CIA and the NSA may jointly attack the same target, share attack weapons with each other, or provide technological or personnel assistance to each other.

Since 2015, the CIA massively

has taken advantage of zero-day vulnerabilities in its global cyberattacks, setting up "zombie botnets" and "stepping stones" around the world to launch attacks on network servers, network terminals, exchangers and routers, as well as a huge amount of industrial control equipment, according to the report.

In the joint investigation, the team captured a plethora of malware such as Trojan programs and plug-ins related to the CIA. All the cyberattacking weapons were strictly standardized, processed and underwent professional software engineering management, and only the CIA abides by these standards and specifications to develop cyberattack weapons. The investigation also found that the CIA's cyberattacks cover all networks, which enables the agency to easily steal sensitive data of other countries at any time.

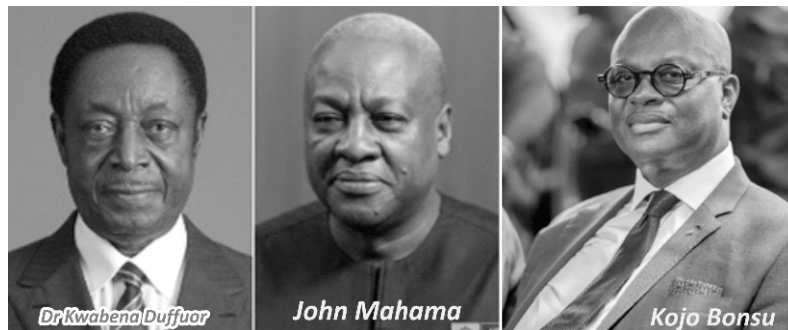
(With input from Xinhua)

Duffuor Congratulates Mahama, As Kojo Bonsu Calls For Focus On 2024

The presidential candidate of the National Democratic Congress (NDC), John Dramani Mahama, has stated that he has received a call from Dr. Kwabena Duffuor, congratulating on his win. Sharing this via a tweet, the former president of Ghana said that the former Minister of Finance, together with the former Mayor of Kumasi, Kojo Bonsu, have each called him to celebrate his win with him. "Both Dr. Kwabena Duffuor and Kojo Bonsu have called to congratulate me for my 98.9% victory in Saturday's presidential primaries.

"The contest is over. Cooperation is what we need to build #TheGhanaWeWant," he tweeted. John Mahama received an overwhelming endorsement in the just-ended presidential and parliamentary primaries of the NDC, polling a total of 297,603 votes representing 98.9%.

Ahead of the Saturday, May 13, 2023, elections, Dr. Kwabena Duffuor announced a



last-minute withdrawal from the race.

Meanwhile, the failed presidential hopeful, Kojo Bonsu, has called on members of the National Democratic Congress (NDC) to rally support for the elected flagbearer, John Dramani Mahama for a victory in the 2024 general election.

This was contained in a letter signed by Kojo Bonsu. In the statement, he said that despite the circumstances that came up before the primaries and the outcome, it is time for the party to focus on winning the 2024 general election.

"Regardless of the circumstances surrounding the electioneering process and the outcome of the election itself, we must not all join the rescue mission of liberating our mother Ghana from the

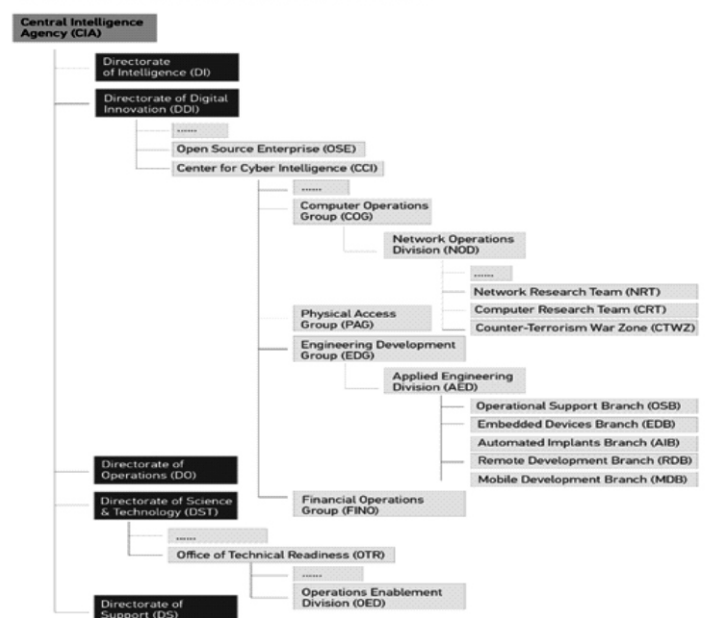
modern-day imperialism and colonialism practiced in a benevolent democracy under this NPP government," the statement said.

It added that winning the 2024 election is the ultimate prize of the party, and that calls for a relentless effort from party members.

"What is ahead of us is bigger than any split milk. We cannot afford to lose any single effort going into the 2024 general election and we must be relentless in our united pursuit of victory," it added.

Kojo Bonsu, after the primaries, pulled 1.1% of the total vote cast which translates into 3,181 votes whereas the former president, pulled 98.9%, translating into 297,603 of the total vote cast.

The inner workings of the CIA



Source: WikiLeaks, Yuyuan Tiantian

CGTN

Police Invites Frimpong-Boateng Over Galamsey Report



Prof. Kwabena Frimpong-Boateng

The police service has written to Prof Kwabena Frimpong-Boateng as it opens an investigation into his 37-page galamsey report, from which a docket is to be built for prosecution.

This was revealed by Attorney General Godfred Dame.

He said that the docket would eventually get to his office for

the already-started due process to continue, thus, debunking perceptions that he has removed himself from the matter.

Prof Frimpong-Boateng, who chaired the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Illegal Mining, accused some government officials and appointees of the president at the Jubilee House, of not only engaging in galamsey

but also frustrating his fight against it while in office as the Minister of Environment, Science, Technology and innovation.

He named the director of operations at the presidency, Mr. Lord Commey, as one of the bigshots behind galamsey in the country.

The world-renowned heart surgeon also accused the president's cousin, Mr. Gabby Asare Otchere-Darko, of intervening to frustrate attempts by the committee to stop Imperial Heritage Limited from decimating some forest reserves through illegal mining activities. Prof Frimpong-Boateng also said Information Minister Kojo Oppong Nkrumah, orchestrated media attacks on him so as to court disaffection against him in

the eyes of President Nana Akufo-Addo as far as his fight against galamsey was concerned. Additionally, Professor Frimpong-Boateng named Mr. Joseph Albert Quarm, a former Member of Parliament for Manso Nkwanta, as being neck-deep in illegal mining. They have all denied the allegations.

Speaking on the matter, the Attorney General said, although he is interested in the report, he wants due process to be gone through without him being seen as "railroading" it.

"I am interested in it, but of course, certain fora have been invoked: I understand CHRAJ sees of it, the OSP sees of it. If now I, as Attorney General were to review the report, what would you think? I'm sure it will lend

itself to all kinds of suspicions," he told Kojo Yankson.

"I think that really, I can look at the report and review it, but if I do so, you the same media, will say: 'He's just a government's lawyer.' Yes, let independent people look at it," Mr. Dame stated.

He said since the docket would eventually land on his table, his intervention is not needed now.

"So, really, I've not removed myself from the process, I'm part of it. It's just due process that will have to be followed".

He advised the media against sanctifying the report prematurely. "But a caution and admonition that I would like to give you, the media is that do not raise the level of it and do not accord any sanctity to the report until it has gone through the test prescribed by law."

Source: [classfmonline.com](https://www.classfmonline.com)

John Mahama's Victory Speech After Primaries

The elected flag bearer of the opposition National Democratic Congress (NDC), John Mahama has called on the rank and file of the NDC to focus on leading Ghana out of the current abyss.

Mahama said this in his victory speech delivered minutes after he had been declared winner of the presidential primaries of May 13, 2023.

This is the full statement by Mr. John Mahama;

Fellow Akatamansonians, and the good people of Ghana. A while ago, the results of the 2024 presidential primaries was officially declared. I am humbled by the overwhelming vote of

confidence reposed in me by the party.

I want to thank God for bringing the NDC this victory. Traversing the country for all these days, weeks and months without any fatalities can only be by God's special grace. My profound gratitude goes to the delegates of our party for their warm welcome, active engagement, and participation during my tour.

In your usual astute manner, you turned up in your numbers, across the country, to vote in our party's presidential and parliamentary elections. I also want to thank Dr. Kwabena Duffuor and Mr. Kojo Bonsu for their contest. My appreciation

also goes to Mr. Ernest Kobia who pulled out to support me in this contest. Their taking part in this primary has cemented our party's enviable record as the most democratic political tradition in the country. Let us disagree to agree, but let us keep our collective sights firmly on the supreme objective of the NDC leading Ghana out of the current abyss the country is in.

I also ask for cooperation among all elected parliamentary candidates and their respective aspirants and supporters in the constituencies. Our party is the winner because there are no individual winners and losers in this intra-party



contest.

I want to thank my campaign and operational teams for keeping their focus and delivering a clean campaign.

I thank our donors and financiers for your support; the media for propagating our message and all our religious and traditional leaders who prayed on our behalf for the peace and success we have achieved

today.

On Monday, at the University for Development Studies (UDS) in Tamale, I will join a teeming number of the rank and file of the NDC and Ghanaians in general, to deliver my formal acceptance speech. See you in Tamale. May God bless us all, and I thank you for your kind attention.

Gold Mafia Exposé: South Africa Opens Criminal Probe Into Al Jazeera Documentary



South Africa President Cyril Ramaphosa and President Akufo-Addo

South African president Cyril Ramaphosa has announced that the government has launched criminal probe into a documentary into massive financial impropriety using the country's banking

system. The four-part documentary titled 'Gold Mafia' entailed a number of rogue businessmen who spoke about an extensive money laundering and gold racketeering business across a number of African countries.

Ramaphosa, responding to a question in Parliament said, the government took the allegations very seriously and that even though no arrests have been made, a formal probe had commenced. "The government takes the allegations made in the Al

Jazeera documentary titled Gold Mafia very seriously. We are committed to preserving the integrity of our financial system in the interest of the broader economy and ordinary citizens.

"With respect to actions currently being taken to investigate individuals who are alleged in the documentary to be criminally implicated an inquiry has been registered to investigate these syndicate and individuals," he stated.

He said no arrests had been made at the time he was speaking but that, "details of steps cannot be divulged," as the financial action taskforce investigates with the view to prosecute and prevent financial activities as were captured in the film.

Ghana was also mentioned in

one sequel of the film, with Alistair Mathias a self-confessed money launderer stating among others that he was friends with president Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo who was a lawyer of his at a point.

The president told Al Jazeera that he had no recollection of dealing with Mathias before his lawyer also denied that he acted at a point for Mathias or his company. Alistair himself denied knowing Akufo-Addo. After the documentary was aired, government wrote to Al Jazeera demanding a retraction and apology for some parts of their reportage but the Doha-based channel said it owed the president no apology because it had done due diligence in telling both sides of the story.

Government To Borrow GH¢2.73 Billion From Treasury Bills This Week

Government is seeking to borrow GH¢2.732 billion from treasury bills auction on May 19, 2023.

The target is expected to be generated from the 91, 182, and 364-day treasury bills.

This week, the government secured GH¢2.78 billion from the sale of treasury bills in its latest auction on May 15, 2023.

The target for the auction was GH¢3.33 billion.

Even though this was a bit higher than what the government got last week, it was GH¢550 million short of the target.

Interest rates have also slightly increased to an average of

between 20.43 percent to 27.59 percent.

According to the auction results from the Central Bank, the government secured GH¢2.31 billion from the 91-day bill, GH¢355.26 million from the 182-day bill, and GH¢115.60 million from the 364-day bill.

Interest rates, however, increased from 20.25 percent to 20.43 for 91-day bills from 22.82 percent to 22.96 percent for the 182-day bill, and from 27.36 percent to 27.59 percent for the 364-day bill.

However, the Minister of State responsible for Finance, Mohammed Amin Adam has

disclosed that the International Monetary Fund will likely approve the first tranche of a \$600 million loan for Ghana by Wednesday, May 17, 2023.

According to him, the government expects the IMF Executive Board to approve the credit facility after meeting all pre-conditions and requirements particularly after financing assurances have been granted by official creditors, China and the Paris Club.

"We expect a deal on Wednesday. With the disbursement, there is going to be \$600 million as a first tranche just

immediately after the approval," he told Reuters via phone.

Dr Amin Adam was however optimistic that the

funds will be disbursed into the Bank of Ghana account within a week of the IMF Board's approval.

TARGET FOR 91, 182 AND 364-DAY T/BILLS: GH¢3,333.00 Million

2. SUMMARY OF TENDER 1849 HELD ON 5TH MAY 2023 FOR TREASURY BILLS.

SECURITIES	TOTAL AMOUNT TENDERED	TOTAL AMOUNT SOLD
91, 182 AND 364 -DAY T/BILLS	GH¢2,567.80 Million	GH¢2,567.78 Million

3. TARGET FOR TENDER 1851

SECURITIES	AMOUNT
91 AND 182 DAY T/BILLS	GH¢2,732.00 Million

- I) The GOG Securities Wholesale Auction is opened to only Primary Dealers.
- II) All Primary Dealers are obliged to act as market makers in GOG Securities.
- III) The Investing Public interested in purchasing or selling GOG Securities may do so on the Secondary Market (Ghana Fixed Income Market) through Depository Participants (including Primary Dealers).

Still No Justice, A Year Since Shireen Abu Akleh's Killing



Palestinian-American journalist Shireen Abu Akleh was killed by Israeli forces in May last year while covering a raid in a refugee camp in Jenin. The senior Al-Jazeera journalist was killed and her colleagues also attacked while they were covering an Israeli army raid on a refugee camp in Jenin in the occupied West Bank

A year has passed since senior journalist Shireen Abu Akleh was killed by the Israeli security forces, but the fight for justice continues as no one has been held accountable for the crime yet. Justice in Akleh's case is significant both for freedom of the press in the occupied Palestinian territories and for ending Israeli impunity in crimes against Palestinians.

Shireen and her colleagues were covering a raid by the occupying Israeli forces on a refugee camp in Jenin in the northern occupied West Bank when they were attacked. Akleh was shot in the head and her colleague Ali al-Samoudi was injured in the attack but later recovered. Both were fired upon despite wearing press vests, clearly

identifying them as journalists. Immediately after she was killed, Israeli officials claimed that she was killed by Palestinian fighters during crossfire with Israeli forces. However, Israel was quickly forced to retract the claim after Israeli human rights group B'Tselem published an investigative video debunking it. On May 20, 2022 they announced that Israeli military police criminal investigation division would not investigate the killing of Palestinian journalist Shireen Abu Akleh, reportedly over fears that the investigation may demoralize the Israeli army which operates "under caution" and create controversy in Israeli society. In September 2022, Israel finally

admitted that she may have died in accidental fire caused by an Israeli soldier, but refused to hold anyone accountable.

Meanwhile numerous independent investigations by international and Palestinian human rights organizations were carried out which established that Akleh was unequivocally targeted by the Israeli forces and that her killing was intentional. During her funeral procession in the occupied West Bank held days after her murder, Israeli forces attacked mourners and charged at people who were carrying her coffin, almost making it fall to the ground. No one has been charged for this attack either.

Akleh's family, her colleagues, and the world community are still hoping that Israel will be held accountable for these crimes. On Sunday, May 7, her niece Lina Abu Akleh told Al-Jazeera during a memorial mass that they are "still fighting for justice."

Fight against Israeli impunity Justice for Akleh can open the doors to end Israeli impunity and establish freedom of the press in the occupied territories, where at least 20 journalists have been

killed by Israeli forces in the last two decades, and at least 16 others have been jailed. Despite Akleh being a US citizen, the US government has been reluctant to intervene in any meaningful way to seek justice in her case. It initially almost gave a clean chit to Israel by blindly relying on its version of Akleh's death being accidental. Her family responded by saying that the US was "insulting" her memory.

Only after pressure from Akleh's family, her colleagues, and others, the Biden administration in the US was forced to constitute an FBI inquiry in November, almost seven months after her killing. That investigation is also dragging, with no public information of any progress made so far.

Israel has already refused to cooperate with the inquiry. Then-Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz had called the US decision to constitute an FBI inquiry "a grave mistake" constituting external intervention in Israel's domestic affairs.

In fact, Israel has never held its

security forces accountable for killing journalists in the occupied territories. Even if an investigation was carried out, there was no guarantee that anyone would ever be punished. As Israeli human rights group B'Tselem said, "no one should expect that they [Israel] will deliver justice to Palestinians." The group also stated that instead of carrying out a meaningful investigation, Israel only whitewashes the crimes of its armed forces.

In a report issued just before the anniversary of Akleh's killing, the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) confirmed the claims made by B'Tselem. According to its report, Israeli armed forces have killed at least 20 journalists inside the occupied Palestinian territories since 2001, including Akleh, but till date no investigation has held a single Israeli responsible for any of those killings. 'Akleh's family, the Palestinian Authority, Al-Jazeera, and others have formally requested for or backed an International Criminal Court (ICC) investigation into her killing.

Youth Sub-Platform On SDGs Call For Stringent Action On Epidemic Financing

The Youth Sub-Platform on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has added its voice to the call by 567 people and Civil Society Organizations who signed a petition to get the Government of Ghana to establish a Public Health Emergency Fund in line with the National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS).

A statement issued from the platform said with Ghana faced with unprecedented crisis during the COVID-19

pandemic, there is a need for mitigation strategies including the establishment of the COVID-19 Fund put in place to address the havoc caused by COVID-19.

"Though the mitigation measures contributed to controlling the spread of COVID-19 to some extent, it is worth noting that knee-jerk responses to disease outbreaks have high consequences for a country's economy and could lead to high mortality rates.

It continued, "As a country, our experience in the wake of COVID-19 should guide us to implement and expand on the implementation of the NAPHS by establishing a Public Health Emergency Fund (PHEF) to rope in the needed investments for Epidemic Preparedness Financing and Response (EPFR)."

"Truth be told, public health emergencies are unforeseeable. No one knows when the next pandemic will hit us again, but we can

insulate ourselves from its debilitating effects by adequately preparing by establishing a Public Health Emergency Fund. With such a fund in place, we shall overcome threats posed by any pandemic," the statement noted.

The Ghana SDGs Youth Sub-Platform further called on President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, the Ministries of Finance, Health and other relevant stakeholders to take collective actions in ensuring



that the Public Health Emergency Fund is established to mitigate the adverse effects of disease outbreaks.