

Russia's National Day Gains Significance As Symbol Of Unity Amidst Global Changes



H. E. Sergei Berdnikov, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Ghana

Each year, Russia's National Day assumes a greater significance, symbolizing the unity of its nation and people as they navigate through the ongoing revolutionary changes in the world. Bearing witness to a profound and irreversible transformation, the imbalanced model that had long fueled the economic growth of former colonial powers is now undergoing a remarkable shift. Presently, not only the future of Russia but the entire world rests in our collective hands, demanding a shared responsibility. The growth of national consciousness and cultural diversity, among other

cont. on page 3

Asokwa MP Rallies Support For Alan

...As He Files Nomination



Member of Parliament (MP) for Asokwa, Madam Patricia Appiagyei has declared support for Alan Kyerematen as the next flagbearer of the ruling New Patriotic Party (NPP). The MP was speaking to the media yesterday when Alan Kyerematen submitted his nomination forms at the Party Headquarters in Accra. She said she is ready to rally support

cont. on page 2

OBAASIMA SUMMIT '23:

Achieving Social Justice For A Better Future



Gender equity has been gaining considerable ground over the past decade due to the advocacy of gender activists who

seek to tip the scale of gender imbalance and end the subjugation of women as an inferior gender. Despite the efforts of these activists and

advocates, the advancement of the cause of women empowerment and gender equity continues to flow at a slow ebb particularly due to the

cont. on page 5

Few Days After Fire Disaster Hon. Alfred

page 5

Obeng-Boateng Sympathises With Bibiani College Of Health Sciences

...Donates Cash For Students' Unkeen



The INSIGHT

EDITORIAL

THE UNEMPLOYMENT MENACE

The unemployment crisis currently facing the country has been viewed as a national security threat.

This is because the number of youth joblessness keeps rising despite the creation of jobs by the government.

And this comes at a time when over the years successive governments in one way or the other have invariably promised to create jobs and make youth unemployment a thing of the past.

Most of these promises were as a result of the realization of the danger posed to the country's peace, security and stability over the lack of jobs for the teeming number of youths who graduate from both second cycle and tertiary institutions in search of non-existent jobs.

The dreams and aspirations of these individuals are heightened by the unrealistic promises of the ruling political establishment and which often turn out to be a mirage.

For example the Kufuor administration once asked the teeming unemployed, especially the youth to queue for a national register to be compiled and jobs provided them. It later turned out to be a false hope. Currently, there is rising youth unemployment with its attendant consequences to the nation.

The government claims to have made strides in growing the economy but data or figures as to how many jobs have been created so far is anybody's guess – none.

The Insight is of the strong opinion that the government needs to endeavour to activate the Komenda Sugar Factory and many others that are dormant or have been shut down for one reason or the other.

The citizens need jobs and cannot afford to wait any longer when there are existing factories that need little or no funding to get them running.

Perhaps it is time to speed up efforts to address the youth unemployment.

Asokwa MP Rallies Support For Alan ...As He Files Nomination

from front page

for Alan Kyerematen who she described as “God sent” for the women of Ghana.

According to her, the conduct of Alan Kyeremanten during his term as trades minister and his hard works, have inured to the benefit of women in the country. “Alan Kyeremanten recognises the hard work women do and will make our work more profitable. He hasn't let women down when he was the trades minister. He put in place measures that helped women and their businesses flourish,” she said.

Hon Patricia Appiagyei also enumerated that Alan Kyerematen is the only person among the aspirants who will change Ghana for good and every single Ghanaian will benefit.

“As an MP, my constituents and those of my colleague MPs will benefit. Our society will change for the better. Let us accept the need for good change and vote massively for Alan. Aduru no So,” she said.

She also pledged to gather women of her constituency to champion the Presidential bid of the Trade and Industry Minister should he be elected as the Presidential Candidate of NPP.

She averred that it is easier for the NPP to present Alan Kyerematen to the Ghanaian voter than any other candidate who would be difficult to sell.

Patricia Appiagyei noted that Alan is a candidate that can be presented to the Ghanaian voter with heads held high as he is marketable and that will surely make the NPP build their campaign on the potentials of the candidate.

She touted his credibility and said, Alan has been widely regarded as a formidable contender to lead the party.

Alan Kyeremanten whose nomination forms were accepted by the Committee, said the success of the election will depend on how free and fair it will be hence, charged the



party hierarchy to endeavour to conduct a free and fair election.

He also charged delegates to vote for him as the people of Ghana are rooting for no other person than Alan Kyeremanten to become the next president and change Ghana for better.

THE INSIGHT

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from front page

influential factors, is accelerating the emergence of new centers of economic growth and geopolitical influence. As Russia solidifies its position as a leading global power, it has begun to pose a formidable challenge to Western hegemony. In response, the United States and its partners have actively kindled the conflict in Ukraine over the years, effectively triggering a new form of hybrid warfare against Russian nation. In February 2022, a special military operation was initiated to protect Russian-speaking people in their historical lands, safeguard state security, and neutralize the dangers coming from the Ukrainian puppet government.

The West bears sole responsibility for instigating and escalating the conflict in Ukraine, callously sacrificing the lives of the Ukrainian people for their own vested interests. Faced with their inability to overcome Russia on the battlefield, the mentors of the Kiev regime have resorted to implementing numerous economic sanctions and engaging in increasingly aggressive informational warfare. Western media outlets fabricate falsehoods, distort historical facts, assail Russia's cultural heritage, and cast doubts on its contributions to various domains such as art, science, sports, and more. In the overarching atmosphere of Russophobic rhetoric, the West consistently produce inaccurate or false narratives concerning Russia and the ongoing events of the special military operation in Ukraine. A concerted campaign has been unleashed to falsify history, particularly with regards to diminishing Russia's crucial role in the World War II and its extraordinary contribution to the eradication of Nazism. This reprehensible propaganda extends beyond historical revisionism which is being accompanied with the demolition of monuments, memorials,

and cemeteries honoring the heroic efforts of the Soviet Union and its people in liberating Europe. Regrettably, such wanton acts are currently unfolding in the Baltic States, Poland, and Ukraine. This blatant situation vividly illustrates the West's inclination to forget the lessons of that war, fostering the dangerous notion of their own superiority and political supremacy.

The West's aggression extends beyond military and information warfare, it also seeks to entangle Russia in an economic battle. The European Union and the United States have openly declared an all-out economic and trade war, disregarding Russia's crucial role as a major global supplier of basic agricultural products, including wheat, fodder crops, and fertilizers, particularly to Africa and the Middle East. To date, the EU, the USA, and their partners have imposed over a thousand restrictive measures targeting Russian individuals, enterprises, and companies. Western financial and commercial entities, fearful of penalties for violating the sanctions regime, have ceased almost all cooperation and severed ties with Russia. The deliberate obstruction of Russian food products and fertilizer exports to Africa and other parts of the world, coupled with the prevention of Russia's access to the markets of the third countries, exemplify the European Union's actions.

Despite numerous attempts to disrupt Russia's economic ties and undermine its financial system, Russia's resilience remains unyielding. The economic stability and robust balance of payments allow to overcome challenges and redirect trade policies from the West towards Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Russia is open for the constructive dialogue with those seeking honest partnerships and those who share fundamental values such as respect for rights, equality before the law, and a commitment to global security. The current situation in global affairs also profoundly affects the functioning of the United Nations Security Council and its five

permanent members, who have been carrying the vital responsibility of preserving peace. Yet, crises persist, and the international security situation continues to deteriorate. Rather than engaging in political interaction with all parties involved in conflicts and actively seeking compromises, the West undermines confidence in international institutions and fosters negative trends within the United Nations.

In the present circumstances, urgent actions are required to restore faith in effective multilateralism and work towards a more inclusive, responsive, and participatory international governance architecture. Adapting the UN and reforming the Security Council to align with new realities becomes an imperative. Russia stands for the need to enhance the representation of African, Asian, and Latin American countries in the Security Council. Russia favors African nations' desire for a more equitable and multipolar world, seeking to eradicate the social and economic inequality perpetuated by the sophisticated neo-colonial policies of certain developed nations. The Russian Federation is dedicated to support Africa in its efforts to become a prominent and influential global development center. Enhancement of the Russian-African cooperation in various sectors, including food and energy security, is a top priority.

Additionally, Russia is committed to strengthen ties in diverse domains such as humanitarian and scientific spheres, healthcare, and other related fields and to expand trade and investment with African nations. On January 14th, 2023, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Ghana celebrated the 65th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between two countries. During Ghana's early years of independence, its first President, Kwame Nkrumah, pursued a policy of economic sovereignty, seeking to reduce the influence of Western countries that controlled key sectors of the economy and industrial production. Ghana decided to forge trade and economic relations with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. In the early 1960s, the Soviet Union actively participated in

the construction of several industrial facilities in Ghana, including fishing enterprises, a refinery, concrete, brick and tile factories, paper mills, cotton factories, and a 200 MW hydroelectric power station on the Black Volta River as well as many others.

By 1966, the projects stipulated by the agreements were either operational or near completion. A research nuclear reactor was ready for startup, and a gold refinery was set to open. Notably, the Soviet Union provided favorable credit terms with low interest rates for these projects, and repayments were initiated only after the enterprises began production and generated their first income.

Unfortunately, a coup d'état took place on February 24, 1966, resulting in the overthrow of Kwame Nkrumah and effectively curtailing Soviet-Ghanaian cooperation. Soviet specialists were forced to leave the country, and bilateral trade dropped to almost zero. Overall, the period from 1961 to 1966 marked a "golden era" in Soviet-Ghanaian relations, characterized by rapid development and a high level of trust that enabled the implementation of complex and financially demanding projects within a short timeframe.

In 1981, President Jerry Rawlings revitalized bilateral cooperation, aiming to comprehensively develop Ghana and overcome its technological backwardness through increased collaboration with the Soviet Union. In December 1982, a new Agreement on technical and economic cooperation was signed with the USSR. In the late 1980s, several other agreements were concluded between the Soviet Union and Ghana, including consular conventions, protocols on the mutual recognition of educational documents and scientific degrees, political consultations, and the establishment of an intergovernmental Soviet-Ghanaian commission on trade, economic, technical, and scientific cooperation.

The collapse of the Soviet Union in the 1990s led to another downturn in Russian-Ghanaian political and economic relations. It was only in the early 2000s when bilateral cooperation began slowly restoring with the establishment of the Russian-Ghanaian Chamber of Commerce and the Russian-Ghanaian parliamentary group of friendship, serving as a

starting point for the progressive revival of relations at the present stage.

It is worth mentioning that in October 2019, a Ghanaian delegation led by H.E. President Nana Akufo-Addo participated in the first Russia-Africa Summit in Sochi. A wide range of issues, including the development of scientific and educational cooperation was discussed there. In particular, the Ghanaian side requested to enlarge the governmental quota for Ghanaian students to study in Russian higher educational institutions on a tuition-free basis, which was raised from 70 to 110 scholarships. Currently, more than 900 Ghanaians are pursuing bachelors, masters, and specialist's programs in Russia, with over 300 of them on a free of charge basis. Within the framework of the Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation established in 2014, there is a promising collaboration in the peaceful utilization of atomic energy. The cooperation between the Russian governmental corporation "Rosatom" and the Ministry of Energy of Ghana holds a great potential for positive outcomes. The fourth meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission, tentatively scheduled to be held in Accra this year, is expected to bolster and enhance the relations between Russia and Ghana.

The bilateral trade between Russia and Ghana has witnessed growth and diversification in recent years. Over the past decade, trade volume has steadily increased, with both countries actively working toward diversifying their economic cooperation. In 2022, the total trade turnover surpassed 220 million US Dollars, showcasing substantial progress made in bilateral relations. Russia warmly welcomes H.E. President Nana Akufo-Addo's decision to accept the invitation to participate in the second Russia-Africa Summit, scheduled to be held at the end of July this year in St. Petersburg. This visit will undoubtedly provide a fresh impetus to the mutually beneficial partnership between Russia and Ghana.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS REPORT

Compiled By Peoples Dispatch

Cuban Official Condemns Wall Street Journal's Claim About Chinese Base As “Unfounded”

Cuba's Vice Foreign Minister Carlos Fernández de Cossío has held a press conference wherein he [rejected](#) accusations leveled by US corporate media giant *The Wall Street Journal* that the island had reached a “secret” agreement with the Chinese government to establish a spying base. He said the information the *WSJ* published was “completely dishonest and unfounded”. The report authored by Warren P. Strobel and Gordon Lubold called the alleged agreement a “brash new geopolitical challenge by Beijing to the US” and claimed that the “eavesdropping facility in Cuba, roughly 100 miles from Florida, would allow Chinese intelligence services to scoop up electronic communications throughout the southeastern US, where many military bases are located, and monitor US ship traffic.” The “exclusive report” was published in the early hours of June 8 and cited “US officials familiar with highly classified

intelligence” as its key source for the information about the agreement. The rest of the report uses contextual information and conjectures to make the primary allegation more convincing. The authors claimed that Beijing would likely cite the fact that the US has military and intelligence activities close to China to justify its alleged base in Cuba. They highlight that “US military aircraft fly over the South China Sea, engaging in electronic surveillance” and that the US sells arms to Taiwan and sails Navy ships through the Taiwan Strait. The authors also point to Cuba's current economic crisis in an attempt to make their point even more convincing stating “China has agreed to pay **cash-strapped** Cuba several billion dollars to allow it to build the eavesdropping station.” (emphasis added)

The report released by the Dow Jones-owned outlet has been widely criticized and many have questioned the veracity of the claims given the similar occurrences such as the “Havana Syndrome” allegations which formed the basis for the application of over 200 unilateral coercive measures by the administration of Donald Trump and was eventually debunked.

Vice Foreign Minister Cossío [stated in the press conference](#) that “All these are fallacies promoted with the deceitful intention of justifying the unprecedented tightening of the blockade, destabilization, and aggression against Cuba and of deceiving public opinion in the United States and the world.”

The official also affirmed that Cuba is a signatory of the



Carlos F. Cossío addressed press on June 8 to address the allegations made in the *Wall Street Journal*. Photo: Luis de Jesús. The US-based media outlet published an “exclusive” report alleging that Cuba and China had reached a “secret” agreement to build a spying base on the island.

Declaration of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace and as such “reject[s] any foreign military presence in Latin America and the Caribbean, including that of numerous bases and military personnel of the United States, especially in the military base that illegally occupies a portion of the national territory in the

province of Guantanamo.” Manolo De Los Santos, co-executive director of The People's Forum [wrote](#), “Trump invented ‘Havana Syndrome’ as the excuse to place 243 new sanctions on Cuba. Biden is more imaginative and invents a Chinese ‘Spy Base.’ What will come next in Washington's aggressive foreign policy towards Cuba?”

Rival Groups In Libya Finalize Draft Electoral Law Raising Prospects Of National Elections



(Photo: Moroccan Diplomacy/Twitter) The disagreement over the electoral law was one of the main issues which led to the postponement of national elections scheduled in December 2021 under the UN-mediated peace agreement

Rival groups in Libya last week came to an agreement on the draft of a new electoral law at a meeting in Morocco, various sources have reported. However, the formal ceremony to sign the agreement was postponed at the last moment without explanation amid reports of some issues not being resolved.

Augila Saleh, speaker of the Libyan

parliament or House of Representatives (HoR) which backs one of the rival governments, and Khaled al-Mishri, leader of the High State Council (HCS) which backs the interim government based in Tripoli led by Abdul Hamied Dbeibah, [traveled](#) to Morocco to sign the draft of the electoral law finalized by the 6+6 meeting.

The 6+6 Joint Committee, made up of

representatives from the two rival governments, had been meeting in Bouznika, Morocco, since May 22. The meeting concluded on Tuesday after the finalization of the draft. The text of the new law has been finalized and “all that is left is for the parliament to ratify,” Omar Boulifa, a representative for the HCS who participated in the 6+6 meeting was [quoted](#) as saying by *The New Arab*. The draft law addresses issues related to the role of the president and the parliament, and eligibility of candidates, *Al-Wasat* reported. These were among the reasons cited for the postponement of the December 2021 national elections that had been scheduled as a part of the UN led peace process. The elections were [postponed](#) due to disagreements over the electoral law passed by the Libyan parliament

based in Tobruk. According to the *Al-Wasat* report, finalization of the draft law was announced despite disagreements, not specified, expressed by at least 61 members of the Libyan parliament who signed a joint letter on Saturday criticizing the committee for “overstepping” its mandate. Reacting to the objections, Khaled al-Mishri [said](#) on Wednesday that attempts will be made to address the outstanding issues in the coming days even though the 6+6 committee's work is final and binding. The UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) issued a [statement](#) on Wednesday on the outcome of the meeting in Morocco saying that all outstanding issues related to the electoral law should be

resolved soon in consultation with all stakeholders in Libya with the objective of holding the national elections in 2023. It also warned against the actors adopting “delay tactics aimed at prolonging the stalemate, which has caused so much suffering for the people in Libya.” Libyans have been suffering from over a decade of conflict triggered by the NATO-led intervention in 2011 which displaced Muammar Gaddafi. Various war lords, backed by different regional and global powers with an [objective to control the country's oil](#) and other natural resources, have been fighting against each other since then and have divided the country into their own zones of influence.

OBAASIMA SUMMIT '23: Achieving Social Justice For A Better Future



lack of support from policy makers, law makers and corporate players.

In furtherance of its mission to spark a change in the status quo, the OBAASIMA Foundation has since its inception in 2019 been urged on by the uninhibited desire to train, nurture, mentor and empower young women to overcome socio-cultural, political and economic challenges which they are faced with.

The foundation's activities for the year which included their famed

campus tours and market storms was climaxed as always with the biggest annual female gathering, the OBAASIMA summit, at the National Theatre on Friday June 9.

The event took the agenda to even greater heights as various speakers from the political and corporate world took turns to speak to the attendees on the future of gender equity under the theme; The Future Can Be Different.

These Speakers included;

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration Hon Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey, Member of Parliament for the North Tongu Constituency, Hon Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa, Member of Parliament for the Klottey-Korley Constituency, Hon Dr. Zanetor Agyeman-Rawlings, Director General of the National Lottery Authority, Sammy Awuku, CEO of the Ghana Library Authority, Hayford Siaw, Deputy National Women's Organizer of the NDC, Dzifa Tegah, Head of Public Affairs at The Parliament of Ghana, Kate Addo, Joy News editor, Araba Koomson, Journalist of the year Portia Gabor, Asaase Radio's Naa Ashorkor, Managing Partner of Mahogany Consult, Baaba Coffie, Vice President of Uniliver Nigeria, Yaw Nsarkoh, CEO of Brave Connect GH/Brave Pad Fund, Tracy Owusu Addo and CEO of 2927 Restaurant, Event Center and Pub, Judith Cato Addison.

At the event, Managing Partner of Mahogany Consult and Lecturer at the Wisconsin International University Baaba Coffie, recounted the impact her speech made during the maiden edition of the summit in 2019.

She touched extensively on the issue of fertility in Ghana and how Ghanaian laws and policies were silent on it. She described her longstanding issues with fertility and how it inspired her speech in the 2019 edition of the summit. This speech she says sparked a reaction from Former Deputy Transport Minister Honourable Joyce Bawa Mogtari, who was also a speaker at the event, to push for her inclusion in the presentation of a private members bill in Parliament led by Member of Parliament for the North Tongu Constituency, Honourable Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa which sought to regulate assisted conception in Ghana, a bill which is still before the House.

This is one of many success stories chalked by the OBAASIMA Summit as it has not

just walked the talk of gender equity and advocacy but has lived up to its mission of social Justice through public policy, influencing national policy and bills on the advancement of women's rights. The Summit through its carefully curated guest list and itinerary has influenced many decisions at national and corporate level including the enactment of policies that seek to give laxity to women in their respective workplaces. Speaking to close the event, Ama Pratt, Ex. Director of the foundation and General Manager of Pan African Tv, announced that the OBAASIMA Foundation is piloting the OBAASIMA Academy, a movement that seeks to tap into the vast pool of female students in the various tertiary institutions with the aim of raising a generation of women who are confident, assertive, ready to be the next generation of aspirational inspirational women who will bring about the change that we all seek.

Few Days After Fire Disaster

Hon. Alfred Obeng-Boateng Sympathises With Bibiani College Of Health Sciences ...Donates Cash For Students' Upkeep



Few days upon hearing the unfortunate event of a fire outbreak at Bibiani College of Health Sciences, the legislative member for Bibiani-Anhwiaso-Bekwai Constituency could not rest on his oars but rush to the scene for first-hand information and reassurance.

This occurred in the early hours of Saturday, 10th June 2023. The MP was taken around the accident scene by the Principal of the College, Mr. Thomas Aziema. The

Member of Parliament expressed his heartfelt condolences to the entire College for the devastating effect of the fire disaster.

In a brief ceremony in the school, Hon. Alfred Obeng-Boateng recounted how distressed he felt upon hearing the bad news on 6th June 2023.

He was, however, happy that no life was lost as a result of the fire outbreak. Hon. Obeng-Boateng empathized with them for the trauma they went through on that fateful day.

The MP counselled the students that all is not lost because they have a President, MP, and MCE who care. "Since there is life, all is not lost." He hinted that a letter has been sent to the Presidency through the Chief of Staff and he is optimistic of a quick response and positive result. Before this, the Minister of Health, and the

NADMO Directors for the Municipal and the Region were also contacted for assistance. The MP donated Ghc20,000.00 to support the students for personal care. Hon. Paul Andoh, MCE for Bibiani-Anhwiaso-Bekwai Municipality also expressed his sympathy and promised to act quickly to secure relief items from the Municipal Assembly for the College.

The leaders of the institution expressed their appreciation for the gesture and promised to use it for the intended purpose.

Accompanying the MP and MCE were: Solomon Boamah, Research and Elections Officer, Joseph Badu, Organizer, Badu Job, Youth Organizer, Ibrahim Mohammed, Deputy Nasara Coordinator, and Ben Kumi, Deputy Organizer.

Source-- Osei Koranteng Communications Officer.



THE DEATH THROES OF THE 4th REPUBLIC

By Dr. Arthur Kennedy

My fellow Ghanaians, we are witnessing the death of the 4th Republic! Last week, we learned that Prof. Frimpong-Boateng, the only Minister on the IMC on galamsey who spoke up against it, was arrested and granted bail by the Office of the Special Prosecutor when he honoured their invitation to help with their investigation. Really?

Our children and pregnant mothers are drinking mercury-laced muddy water, Our forests are being decimated, Chinese galamseyers have invaded our rural communities, Cocoa farms are being converted into galamsey pits, Presidential staffers, ministers, DCEs, and party gurus are brazenly doing galamsey, AND Frimpong Boateng has been arrested?

This reminds me of the story of the police officer who was

stopped by a man frantically waving. "Officer, Officer, the market is on fire! Can you help us get the fire service?"

The officer stopped and pondered for a minute.

"Well, Sir, you are under arrest," he said, pulling out his handcuffs. When the incredulous man asked why he was under arrest, the officer said, "We need to make sure you didn't start the fire. You are coming with me to the station." As the officer handcuffed the man and pushed him into the back of the Police car, the man kept saying, "But the market is still burning!"

Yesterday, on Newsfile, Mr. Kissi Agyebeng, the special prosecutor, tried to help us make sense of the law. I must confess that he did not succeed with me. Of course, I may be one of those he had in mind when he said some people who had not been to law school think they know law. I don't know law but I have commonsense.

Even while disdaining the idea of

"consecrated saints" in a veiled reference to Prof. Frimpong-Boateng, the Special Prosecutor, referred to himself as "the conscience" and "the spirit of the nation." That was a bit grandiose for the man who was described by Hon. Kennedy Agyapong with words I am embarrassed to set down here after his defence of Anas in a case against the NPP presidential aspirant.

The Special Prosecutor also asserted that he is immune to political pressure--but not to traditional pressure. That would be reassuring news to those who thought he had bowed to political pressure when he declined to prosecute a well-connected presidential staffer while prosecuting others in the Northern Development Authority case earlier this year. The idea that he would not decline the summons of his Omanhene but can withstand pressure from the Flagstaff House would please those who believe him.

The notion that giving Prof. Frimpong-Boateng, a self-

recognition bail would be undeserved special treatment really surprised me. 4 decades ago, when I was charged with subversion, conspiracy to commit subversion and concealment of subversion, by the much-maligned PNDC, I was granted bail on my own recognisance! And when I met the then IGP, Mr. Omane alone, he apologized for all that I had been through. Even in those days of revolution, some men of power showed decency and decorum.

And despite all the bluster, the man who set up the IMC and received regular reports of its work, President Akufo-Addo has not been questioned as far as we know. Why not?

We must not look at this case in isolation.

Let us also recall the Covid money that was squandered and the silence.

Think of the contract for Frontiers Health whose author could not be identified and the silence.

Think of the Woyome case and how the only Minister sacked

was the one who complained, Martin Amidu.

Recall how Domelovo was unceremoniously sent on leave to save the Senior Minister and how the courts refused to pass judgment till the government had time to clean up the dirt.

Remember Kan Dapaah's counsel to the courts on fairness.

As Micah 7:3 makes clear, "The powerful dictate what they desire, thus they pervert justice".

This is how a criminal state functions. The powerful siphon resources into private hands and those who speak up are punished. Has this President and this government PROTECTED the public purse or PILLAGED it?

MLK said "We will remember not the voice of our enemies but the SILENCE of our friends".

Let us speak up, not for Frimpong Boateng but for ACCOUNTABILITY and the rule law.

May God bless you and save Ghana.

Arthur Kobina Kennedy
(June 11th, 2023)

The Four Main Reasons The OSP Arrested Prof Frimpong-Boateng – Report



warrant for the arrest of the former secretary to the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Illegal Mining, Charles Bissie.

A report by Kessben TV has highlighted some of the major activities of the dissolved IMCIM that are under investigation by the OSP.

These are details of the investigation as given in the news report:

1. GH¢300 million budgetary allocation to the IMCIM
One of the major issues the OSP is investigating is the monetary allocation of over GH¢300 million to the IMCIM to fight galamsey. Prof Frimpong Boateng as the chairman of the committee has been asked by the OSP to account for the usage of the money.

2. Number of excavators seized under the operation of the IMCIM.

The number of excavators seized in the course of the fight against galamsey has become a matter of contention. It can be recalled that in 2020 there was a commotion on over 500 seized galamsey excavators going missing.

Prof Frimpong-Boateng has stated that some persons in the Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo government gave the excavators to their relations to use for illegal mining. The OSP has now asked him to account for the excavators that were seized.

3. Gold seized during galamsey operations.

The former science and technology minister has also been asked to account for gold bars seized during the fight against glamsey under his watch through joint operations with the military including Operation Galamstop and Operation Vanguard.

4. Cars and other equipment acquired for the fight against galamsey.

Prof Frimpong-Boateng, as the chairman of the dissolved IMCIM, has also been asked to account for vehicles and other equipment the committee acquired for the fight against galamsey.

Pensioner Bondholders To Drag Govt To CHRAJ Over Delayed Payments

Pensioner bondholders have indicated they will soon drag the government to the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) over the government's lackadaisical posture towards paying their outstanding coupons and interest on their principal.

A meeting held between them and the government on Thursday, June 8, 2023, ended inconclusively as they accused the government of failing to honour agreed timelines.

The pensioner bondholders insist that overly delayed payments must attract additional interest.

They have served notice to return to their picketing at the Finance Ministry on Friday, June 9, 2023, if they do not receive notification of payment by the close of the day, Thursday, June 8, 2023.

"We've said that if the government is paying we will not be picketing but as of yesterday we have not seen any alert that the money is being paid. The Deputy Minister says the Bank of Ghana says it has instructed for money to be sent to the banks but no bank has so far told any client that it has received money and is paying. So after the meeting, we'll continue with our picketing and if we don't receive an alert this evening we'll continue with our picketing tomorrow."

"Government also has said that it has instructed Accountant General to prioritize payment of subsequent coupons and we are hoping that they will do that. That also if it doesn't come the way it should come, our



Pensioners picket Finance Ministry

picketing will continue," Dr. Adu Anane Antwi, Convener of the Pensioner Bondholders Forum said in an interview with Starr FM Thursday. He advised that if the government wants to succeed with its proposal, it should put together a proposal that says it is going to buy back the pensioner bonds at principal plus interest.

"We have said if the government wants to buy us back, it should buy us at principal plus interest but we cannot force the government to do that. We will allow the government to bring whatever proposal it wants to submit. It will be for us to decide whether we will accept the proposal or not. We can only advise the government that if it wants to succeed with the proposal it is bringing, then it should bring a proposal that says it is going to buy us back at principal plus interest just as it did when it was converting the old bonds into new bonds."

Former Minister of Science and Technology, Prof [Kwabena Frimpong-Boateng](#), was arrested on May 16, 2023, for corruption-related offences when he led Ghana's fight against illegal small-scale mining (galamsey) as head of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Illegal Mining (IMCIM). He was arrested by the Office of the Special Prosecutor (OSP) when he honoured an invitation to appear before it in an ongoing investigation into corruption-related matters in the work of the IMCIM. He was released on a GH¢2 million bail. Now, the OSP has also secured a

Kakhovka Dam Breach Is A Perfect Crime



The breach in the Nova Kakhovka dam. Photo: Maxar. The breach in the Nova Kakhovka dam is a catastrophe of colossal proportions. However, identifying who is responsible is made difficult by the fact that both Ukraine and Russia can be deemed as “winners” or “losers” after the incident

By M. K. Bhadrakumar

The breach in the Nova Kakhovka dam on the Dnieper River in war-ravaged Ukraine on Tuesday is no doubt a catastrophe of colossal proportions, a veritable ecological and human disaster that may outlive the war itself. However, the striking thing about the White House reaction to the event from John Kirby, Coordinator for Strategic Communications at the National Security Council, is that he [tactfully avoided endorsing](#) Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky's finger-pointing at the Russians. Kirby said, “We've seen the reports that Russia was responsible... We're doing the best we can to assess those reports. And we are working with the Ukrainians to gather more information. But we cannot say conclusively what happened at this point...” Kirby wouldn't be drawn into a turf that fools only enter, where angels fear to tread. And, interestingly, his remark has been on similar lines as UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's also — “it's too early to say definitively.” Sunak, who was *en route* to Washington on June 6, said the UK defense intelligence is

to “thoroughly investigate” with the aim of establishing who was responsible for the catastrophe. Of course, it is entirely conceivable that Britain will eventually find a way to somehow put the blame on Russia. But for the present, it has nothing concrete in hand to vilify Moscow. Indeed, what complicates matters is that by the classical Latin canon *cui bono* (for whose benefit?) about identifying crime suspects, both Ukraine and Russia can be deemed as “winners” or “losers” alike. This needs explaining. Take Ukraine first. It is a winner as Russia apparently shot itself in the foot by destroying the dam, since the topography of the place is such that it is the lower eastern side of the Dnieper in the Kherson region, which the Russians held, that are more affected by the flood. Second, the flood has washed away the mines and much of the fortifications Russians had painstakingly prepared to prevent a large-scale Ukrainian offensive. The Ukrainian forces would now get an open path when the flood abates. Third, it is a [huge propaganda stunt for Kiev](#) to drum-beat, with able help from western media, that Russians committed a war crime. Zelensky wrote on Facebook: “Russian terrorists. The destruction of the Kakhovka hydroelectric power plant dam only confirms for the whole world that they must be

expelled from every corner of Ukrainian land. Not a single meter should be left to them, because they use every meter for terror. It's only Ukraine's victory that will return security. And this victory will come. The terrorists will not be able to stop Ukraine with water, missiles or anything else.” This big psychological victory also coincides with the launch of Kiev's expected “spring offensive.” Besides, Kiev is a big-time winner if the destruction of the Kakhovka dam affects the cooling system of the reactor(s) in the Zaporozhye Nuclear Power Plant (which would make it a first-rate European crisis) and/or imperil water supply for the Crimea (which could alienate Russian public opinion.) Equally, Kakhovka dam was a hydro-electric plant, and there could be power shortage in the Russian-held areas. But the biggest “win-win” for Kiev will be that there is nothing stopping its future amphibious assaults in the strategic Kherson region once the water levels out, since Russia has already used the trump card of engineering floods from the Kakhovka dam to wash away the Ukrainian landing forces on the eastern bank of the Dnieper. On the other hand, when it

comes to Russia, the big question that begs an answer is: Why would it want to destroy the dam when it always had the easier option to create huge floods to drown the Ukrainian deployments by simply lifting the floodgates at any point? In a [rare statement of its kind](#), Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu offered an explanation that after having suffered very heavy losses in the first 2-3 days of the ongoing Ukrainian offensive in the Donetsk direction, Kiev has an urgent need to “redeploy the units and hardware from Kherson direction to its offensive area” in the north and resorted to the terrorist act to flood the region “to prevent Russia's offensive actions.” It is a logical explanation but there is a contradiction insofar as by thinning out the deployment in the Kherson front, especially the positions inside the marshy islands in the Dnieper river near Kherson where force multipliers like drone repeaters and relays were deployed, Ukrainian forces have placed themselves at a disadvantage, which the Russian side can always take advantage of once the flood subsides. Clearly, Russia is the winner if it decides to cross the Dnieper in Kherson Oblast and liberate the historic Odessa region (and link up just beyond with the Russian troops isolated in Transnistria, Moldova), now that there is no

more dam for the Ukrainian side to flood the region and impede the Russian operation! Second, it is a net gain that the floods have submerged all the ammunition depots the Ukrainians had been building up in Kherson for an offensive in the southern region. Third, the current floods prevent any amphibious assaults by the Ukraine, which enables the Russian military to take its eyes off the Kherson front and concentrate instead on the northern front where the main thrust of the Ukrainian offensive seems to be developing. Meanwhile, according to Russian media reports citing expert opinion:

- Mass evacuation of Novaya Kakhovka town due to the destruction of the dam will not be necessary, as the bulk of the population had left the city in the fall during the regrouping of troops from the Kherson direction;
- The water level is expected to drop to normal within 72 hours;



NYC Skyrockets To World's Most Polluted City As Wildfires Blaze In Canada

By Natalia Marques

As smog flows in from wildfires in Canada, New York City is now by far the [most polluted city in the world](#). At one point on June 7, the air quality index measured at an astonishing [377](#), the worst air quality level in the city's history. Breathing in this air for 24 hours would be the [equivalent](#) of smoking 20 cigarettes. The city is now ranked at a Code Maroon, the most severe air quality alert indicating that the air is hazardous to breathe. To highlight the uniqueness of this moment: historically, NYC does not rank above the worst 3,000 cities for air quality across the globe. New Yorkers are back to wearing the N-95 masks worn primarily at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, when the city was the [epicenter of the epicenter](#). Beyond New York City, millions of people across North America are being impacted by the hazardous levels of smoke that are a result of massive wildfires in Canada. As of June 7, abysmal smoke levels can also be found in [upstate New York](#) and Washington DC, the nation's capital. The smoke is a result of wildfires that have been raging across forests in Canada. As of June 6, an estimated 26,000 people have been evacuated in the North American country. There have already been over 2,200 wildfires in Canada this year. "The images that we have seen so far this season are some of the most severe ever witnessed in Canada," said Bill Blair, Canada's minister of public safety. The unsustainable exploitation of the Earth's resources has contributed to the conditions that are giving rise to more severe

wildfires. As deforestation to support the ever-expanding needs of the agriculture industry decreases precipitation, and fuel (trees, or forest debris) builds up as a result of timber extraction, wildfires become more frequent and more severe. The fragmentation of forests to make way for cities and industrial structures can also create higher levels of flammability and more ignition points. There is a [strong consensus](#) that climate change, caused by capitalist resource exploitation, increases the likelihood of wildfires by causing vegetation to dry out and combust. As a result, "when [fires] do start, they spread faster, they burn longer," Tina Landis, an environmental activist who works in air quality regulation, told *Peoples Dispatch*. In 2020, Landis published her book "Climate Solutions Beyond Capitalism." According to a 2022 United Nations [report](#), the effects of climate change on wildfire can be put into three categories: "direct effects on fire weather through drought, higher temperatures, and changes in the strength and seasonality of winds; indirect effects resulting from changes in the nature and availability of biomass/fuel; and; direct and indirect changes in the frequency and location of natural and human-caused ignitions via changes in dry lightning profiles, and changes in demographics and human behavior resulting from revised climate and land management policies." According to Landis, the root cause of the present severity of wildfires can be traced all the way back to the colonization of the Americas. "Indigenous people of these lands used to have controlled burns, to reduce the fuel and have a healthy forest ecosystem," referring to the practice of intentionally lighting wildfires to control

fuel build up and decrease the severity of fires down the line.

"The colonizers came, displaced those Indigenous people, broke that tradition, and also saw trees as a commodity. Fire suppression has been the way of maintaining forests for the last several centuries," she added. Fire suppression is the practice of trying to prevent all forest fires, even the healthy seasonal fires that maintain the balance in the ecosystem. This practice has directly contributed to more severe fires. "A lot of fuel has built up because [colonists

and industrialists] wanted to save those trees so they could sell them for the timber industry."

But Landis explains that our most recent economic system of capitalism has made some of the worst changes to our planet. Landis says, "Capitalism has caused the climate crisis. The commodification of the natural world, the need for endless growth and endless profits has destroyed ecosystems."

"Capitalism is really acting as a barrier to the changes that are needed," she says. "What we need to do is rapidly shift to renewable energy, which could be done here in a wealthy country like the US. But there's very little being done, and really we're going in the



A view of downtown Manhattan on June 7 (Image via EarthCam). Masks and stay-at-home advisories are back in New York City, now the most polluted city in the world by far as a result of wildfire smoke from Canada

opposite direction with all these [new fossil fuel projects](#) that Biden has recently approved, which will just exacerbate the rising temperatures and the drying of the climate."

WFP Expected To Cut Food Aid To Palestine Due To Lack Of Funding

Almost 200,000 Palestinians could be without critical humanitarian food aid from next month, [according](#) to the United Nations World Food Program (WFP). The agency had [said](#) earlier this month that almost 60% of the total Palestinians it was providing food vouchers for will stop receiving them by June due to an acute funding deficit.

Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza are suffering from decades of economic decline due to the constraints, barriers and restrictions imposed by the Israeli occupation as well as frequent Israeli raids and attacks. According to reports, the WFP will be forced to close down its operations in the West Bank and Gaza by August if there is no new funding by then. The WFP estimates that USD 51 million is required to continue its operations in Palestine until the end of this year. It has called for regular, stable funding to continue providing vital food aid to Palestinians in the coming years. The food aid program for Palestine has reportedly already been reduced by 20% for the ongoing month.



(Photo: UNRWA/Mohamed Hinnawi). The UN agency estimates that US\$ 51 million is needed to continue its operations in Palestine until the end of this year

Samer Abdeljaber, WFP representative and country director in Palestine, told news outlets that "desperate times call for desperate measures. We have no option but to stretch the limited resources we have to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable families are met. They will go hungry without food assistance."

Abdeljaber urged governments and donors from the private sector to "continue their support to WFP during this difficult time," adding that "continued donor support has

allowed us to provide a lifeline to Palestinians as well as build sustainable food solutions in Palestine. We need now, more than ever, to ensure that work does not stop."

According to the latest WFP statistics, 1.84 million Palestinians, or roughly about 35% of the total population, are currently suffering from food insecurity at various levels.

Source -- *Peoples Dispatch*