

IMANI EXPOSES GOVT

Over Alleged Clandestine Deal To Lease State-Owned Tema Oil Refinery



Bright Simons, Vice President IMANI Africa



Matthew Opoku Prempeh, Minister for Energy

Months after it was announced that the Tema Oil Refinery (TOR) was on its knees and subsequently shut down for not refining oil, shady deals over the purpose of the deliberate collapse of the refinery have been exposed.

Vice President of IMANI Africa, Bright Simons who seems to have blown the lid claims that the government's Public Procurement Authority (PPA) is quietly leasing the Tema Oil Refinery to a shadowy group called Torentco

Asset Management (TAM). Mr. Simons explained that the refinery is to be leased to TAM for 6 years where Torentco is allowed to refine up to 8 million barrels of oil a year by paying \$1 million

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Why Russia Won't Let Ukraine Be A Bleeding Wound

page 9

Hiowe Gblaka Family Vows To Reclaim Its Lands At Afienya, Santeo, Zenu, Others

...Declares Colonial Era Robert Jackson Report Null And Void



Simpim Aferdi Katamanso Yilagbeye I.

The Hiowe Gblaka Family of Doryumu-Dodowa in the Afienya District of the Greater Accra Region has vowed to reclaim all lands belonging to the family which have been illegally taken over by Prampram and Nungua stools among others

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Reduce Cost Of Utility Tariffs For Manufacturing Companies -- AGI Appeals To Govt

page 2

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.

Reduce Cost Of Utility Tariffs For Manufacturing Companies -- AGI Appeals To Govt



Tsonam Cleanse Akpeloo is Chairman of AGI

The Association of Ghana Industries (AGI) has appealed to the government to reduce the utility tariffs for manufacturing companies and industries producing and contributing to the development of the country.

The AGI Greater Accra Regional Chairman, Mr. Tsonam Cleanse Akpeloo, made the call at a breakfast meeting in Tema, which was hosted by the Ghana Investment and Promotion Centre (GIPC).

Mr. Akpeloo, who is an economist and a technology entrepreneur, stated that Ghana was one of the few nations in the world where industry paid more in electricity costs than home enterprises.

He pointed out that taxes and power accounted for 30 percent of production expenses, making it difficult for manufacturing firms to prosper and compete globally.

According to Mr. Akpeloo, who is also the CEO of Suku Technologies, the majority of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) were still adjusting to the impacts of COVID-19, and several businesses had to suspend production as a result.

To increase production and effectively compete in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), he said there was an urgent need to preserve the interests of Ghanaian SMEs through the lowering

of taxes on raw materials.

Additionally, he said, "We are asking for complete support for indigenous businesses, policy clarity, and a policy environment that is so clear that those who are eager to invest in Ghana understand that their money will be safe."

He stressed that the three taxes implemented early in the year—the Tax Amendment Act, Exercise Duty Amendment Act, and Growth and Sustainability Act—along with VAT and levies, had a significant impact on local producers' ability to advance.

He also mentioned that the tax structure was extremely burdensome for local businesses.

Source -- GNA

THE INSIGHT

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IMANI EXPOSES GOVT

Over Alleged Clandestine De

from front page
every year as annual rent.

He added that the group will also pay an additional rent amount of \$1.067 million per month.

Under the deal, Mr. Simons contended that Torentco will pay \$0.5 for each extra barrel if it refines more than 8 million barrels.

He wrote on Twitter on June 16, 2023: "Ghana's PPA is trying to

pass the buck of tackling the govt's shady lease of state-owned Tema Oil Refinery to Torentco (TAM). Here is a crude summary of the deal. Many murky issues!"

"\$22m is all one needs to take over TOR's assets & exploit? Has TOR been deliberately sabotaged?" he asked.

This is the full details of the deal as presented by Bright



Bright Simons, Vice President IMANI Africa



Matthew Opoku Prempeh, Minister for Energy

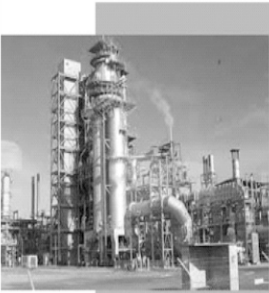
Here are the simple facts of the deal by government of Ghana to quietly lease the state-owned Tema Oil Refinery (TOR) to a shadowy group called Torentco Asset Management (TAM).

- The refinery will be leased to TAM for 6 years.
- TAM is allowed to refine up to 8 million barrels of oil a year by paying \$1 million every year as annual rent.
- There is also an "additional rent" amount of \$1.067 million per month.
- If TAM refines more than 8 million barrels, it pays \$0.5 for each extra barrel.
- So, if TAM stretches the refinery to its full limit and refines 16.5 million barrels, it pays \$17.2 million rent.
- The sales value of that output would be about \$2.148 billion.
- Of course, no plant can continue to produce at its full rated capacity, so both the rent & sales value amounts are indicative but ratios are consistent.
- Refining costs per barrel in a small refinery = ~\$10 and crude costs ~\$75/barrel. TOR's 600 workers (to be seconded) cost ~\$6m/Yr. Total OPEX = \$20m.
- TAM will invest \$22 million to revamp the refinery.
- TAM will pay \$800k reserve + \$0.4 per barrel for maintenance. So, at maximum production limit, O&M costs = \$7.4m.
- Thus, gross profits for TAM on transaction = ~\$700m

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Projects - Oil And Gas



Client: Tema Oil Refinery (TOR) Ltd.
Project Name: PMC for CDU Expansion
Project Type: Project Management Consultancy (PMC) for Crude Distillation Unit expansion from 45,000 BPSD to 60,000 BPSD EPC (in Consortium with Litwin SA, Switzerland).
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Bright Simons
@BBSimons

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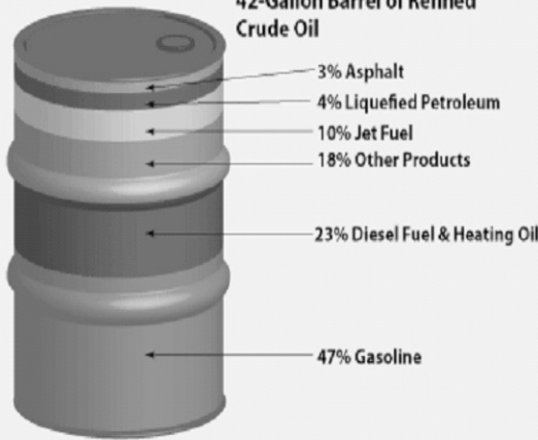
SECANT Technologies

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8:12 PM · Jun 16, 2023 · 329K Views

Products Made from a Barrel of Crude Oil



Source: U.S. Department of Energy.

7.1 Annual Rent

- (a) Beginning on the Closing Date, the Lessee shall pay to the Lessor annual rent of one million US dollars (USD 1,000,000) each Lease Year during the Term (the "Annual Rent").

4

7.2 Additional Rent

- (a) The Lessee shall pay to the Lessor an amount equal to one million and sixty-seven thousand US dollars (USD 1,067,000) each month during the Term (the "Additional Rent").
- (b) The Additional Rent for the first calendar month of the first Lease Year, commencing on the Closing Date, shall be paid within 90 days of the Closing Date.
- (c) The Additional Rent for each subsequent calendar month during the Term shall be payable in advance, on the first Business Day of each calendar month.

7.3 Bonus Payment

- (a) If, in any Lease Year following the third anniversary of the Closing Date, that the Lessee Processes more than eight million (8,000,000) Barrels of Oil using all or any part of the Leased Assets, the Lessee shall pay to the Lessor an amount equal to fifty US cents (USD 0.5) per Barrel of Oil Processed by the Lessee using all or any part of the Leased Assets in excess of such threshold (the "Bonus Payment").
- (b) The Bonus Payment in respect of each Lease Year during the Term in which it is payable, shall be paid on the first Business Day of the following Lease Year, provided that the Bonus Payment due in respect of the final Lease Year of the Term shall be payable on the first Business Day after the Expiration Date or the Termination Date, as applicable.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS REPORT

Compiled By Peoples Dispatch

Communists In Austria Demand Freeze On Rents Amid Soaring Housing Crisis

The Communist Party of Austria (KPO) has intensified its campaign demanding immediate government action to tackle the housing crisis in the country. The party protested the insensitive and inadequate response of the government under the Austrian People's Party (FPO)-Greens coalition in tackling homelessness and the soaring rent crisis. Last week, the KPO launched a petition demanding a freeze on rents until 2029. The party claimed that the housing subsidy of €250 million (USD 269.50 million) announced by the government earlier this year instead of a rent break will fizzle out and only end up in the pockets of property owners. According to the [KPO](#), the category interest rates in Austria increased by 5.5% for 140,000 tenants from July

2023—the fourth increase in just 15 months. “Since the start of this government in 2019, we have been paying an average of almost two months' rent per year. Even though a rent cap guideline is envisaged in the Austrian tenancy law already, this applies to fewer and fewer apartments on the market,” KPO stated.

In March, KPO spokesperson Tobias Schweiger had noted that “In the middle of 2021, the average cost of housing in Austria was €550 (USD 593.23). The average cost of housing had already risen to €574.3 (USD 619.33) in the middle of 2022. After that, further increases were added to the free market and category rents. With the coming benchmark rent increases, the average rents

(i.e. all rents in total) are at least €615 (USD 663.22). With rising operating cost, that's an average increase in housing cost of 12% over two years.”

A [report](#) by *Zeitung der Arbeit* on June 11 stated that there were 20,000 registered homeless people in Austria, a number which may have increased by now. The number of unregistered homeless people is also very high, according to the report. The report cites a study by Statistics Austria stating that around 12,000 homeless people are present in the capital Vienna alone. Many tenants have also undergone temporary homelessness due to rent increases, evictions, high inflation, etc. The major [suggestions](#) put

forth by the KPO to tackle this crisis include: 1) expansion of the existing municipal housing and cooperative housing facilities and putting an end to their privatization, 2) introduction of binding rent caps which will cover a maximum of the rental facilities available in the market and ensuring that housing costs do not exceed over a quarter of the income, 3) abolition of fixed-term leases and capping of value retention clauses, 4) expropriation and re-municipalization of large real estate companies. The ongoing cost of living crisis triggered by the war in Ukraine and profiteering by multinationals has exacerbated the housing crisis in several countries in



(Photo: via KPO+ Salzburg). The Communist Party of Austria claims that the average housing cost in the country has increased by 12% over the past two years. The party has called for measures such as expansion of municipal housing and introduction of building rent caps

Europe. Progressive sections and housing rights groups in countries like the UK, Ireland, [Germany](#), [Portugal](#), [Luxembourg](#), Serbia, and [Netherlands](#), among others, have been organizing various campaigns demanding concrete actions from governments in this regard.

Israeli Forces Kill Five Palestinians, Including 15-Year-Old, In Jenin Raid



Injured Palestinians are taken to hospital onboard ambulances as Israeli forces raid Jenin on June 19, 2023. (Photo: Nedal Eshtayah/Anadolu Agency/Al Jazeera). Close to a 100 Palestinians were wounded in the raid. Israeli forces shot at ambulances and paramedics and tried to prevent them from reaching the injured and providing medical attention

Israeli security forces have [conducted](#) a massive raid in the city of Jenin in the occupied West Bank killing five and wounding others. Latest reports state that at least five Palestinians were killed

and 91 others injured in the raid. One of those killed was a minor. A Palestinian journalist was also wounded. Israeli forces claimed the raid was to [arrest](#) two armed Palestinians. One of the targets is reportedly the son

of an “imprisoned Hamas leader.” Reports noted that the Israeli forces deliberately targeted journalists by surrounding them from all sides and shooting at them with live ammunition and sniper fire. The Israeli forces reportedly also shot at ambulances and paramedics and tried to prevent them from reaching the injured and providing medical attention.

The Palestinian health ministry has said that among the 91 injured, at least 10 are in a critical condition. Those killed were identified as Khaled Asa'sah (21), Qassam Abu Siryie (29), Qassam Sariya (19), and Ahmad Saqer (15). A large contingent of Israeli soldiers, fully equipped with armored military vehicles, advanced weapons, drones, and military helicopters, took part in the raid. Palestinian

residents protesting the Israeli invasion were attacked by Israeli soldiers with toxic gas, stun grenades, and live ammunition. The soldiers also invaded the home of a former Palestinian detainee who was recently freed. Palestinian armed fighters from the Jenin battalion of the al-Quds brigade, the armed wing of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, resisted the raid by shooting back at occupation forces, causing injuries and damage to their vehicles. Seven Israeli soldiers were injured in retaliatory fire from Palestinian fighters. The Israeli army announced that one of the soldiers was in a critical condition.

The raid was condemned by Gaza-based Hamas and the PIJ, who expressed solidarity with

the fighters trying to stave off the Israeli invasion and called for Palestinians to protest in large numbers. Neighboring Egypt also denounced the raid, calling it a violation of international law, and asked the international community to put pressure on Israel to immediately de-escalate the situation. Israel has been carrying out similar raids across the occupied West Bank, killing and wounding hundreds of Palestinians including women and children. Since the beginning of this year, Israel has killed at least 166 Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, a large majority of them in similar violent raids.

In Memory Of Ali-Masmadi Jehu-Appiah

By Kwesi Pratt Jnr.

Ali-Masmadi Jehu-Appiah was more than a militant in the struggle of oppressed people to build a new prosperous, just and peaceful world. He composed songs and sang them in a compelling voice. He taught us to sing his revolutionary songs which always inspired us into action.

Ali was also an exceptional writer. He could paint reality with the appropriate words. He dragged us all into his exciting world with writings which incited hatred for oppression and spurred on the working class and their allies into actions of liberation.

When he spoke it was full of wisdom. His speeches had logical consistency. He had mastered the art of using his voice to convey powerful images and to stir up emotions to enhance the struggles of the downtrodden.

He had a hands-on attitude to everything. He would pick up a painting brush, dip it into ink and begin writing placards for a demonstration. He took part in poster campaigns and placard parades. He was an active part of any and all the anti-imperialist manifestations he got to know about.

I met Ali briefly in his days at the University of Cape Coast and he shocked me on first contact. He had been introduced as Jehu-Appiah and that meant a lot. It was obvious that his roots could be traced to the Mozama Disco Christo Church headquartered in Mozama in the Central Region of Ghana. Ali did not speak about Jesus Christ and the blood he spilled in order to save humankind from sin. He did not feature in our conversation and there was no condemnation of Satan. The young man was simply

angry at the system of apartheid which was being entrenched in South Africa with the active help of Western powers. He was ready to do every and anything to end the injustice against the Black people there and perhaps everywhere. Ali's passion against all forms of oppression and exploitation remained part of his make-up until he passed away.

He was an active participant in the struggle against the military regime which ruled Ghana from 1972 to 1979. He privately and publicly condemned the deterioration in the living standards of Ghanaians and insisted that all governments ought to be accountable to the people whose power they exercise. In 1991, Ali joined the Movement for Freedom and Justice (MFJ) at its very foundation and became one of its leading activists. This was in spite of his huge mistrust of the right-wing which had been encouraged to take over the leadership of the movement.

His prophetic statement then rings true today. He always warned "we should be careful with these people (right-wingers) they are with us today because they want power. If they get it they will not be different from the soldiers and neo-colonialists."

Ali's courage was put on display, one fine afternoon in Accra. Akoto Ampaw and I and a few comrades had been arrested on a demonstration to protest the high cost of living and military brutality. We had been placed in the cells at the Central Police Station and we were wondering what was going to happen next.

Ali and some other comrades who had not

been arrested by the Police showed up at the station. They came to tell the Police that they also deserve to be arrested. Their argument was that they took part in the demonstration and its organisation and there could not be any justification for keeping only a few of us in the cells. He was not afraid of arrest and detention. He believed that being arrested and detained in the pursuit of a just cause was an honour which should not be bestowed on a few but shared equitably for all those who join the struggle for a new society constructed on the foundation of social justice, democracy and prosperity for all.

In the early 1980s and 1990s many Ghanaians sought greener pastures outside the country. They went to Europe, the USA and other places to seek refugee status claiming that they were escaping from military dictatorship with its associated brutalities. For many of them it was just a kenkey and fish issue.

Ali's self-imposed exile in Europe was not in search of greener pastures. The pastures in Mozama and Ghana were greener for Ali than what he could have found in Europe or anywhere else in the world. His family was in a position to provide all his wants and needs. He was also a well-educated gentleman capable of hardwork to raise the resources to look after himself and immediate family.

He had to escape into exile because there was a real threat to his life and the lives of other comrades and it is important to note



The late Ali-Masmadi Jehu-Appiah

that he never gave up the struggle even in the exile. He spoke out loudly and wrote brilliant articles condemning injustice even in his host country.

I called Ali on a working visit to UK once. He asked "what are you doing there?" and when I told him that I was there to lobby influential institutions and individuals to support the campaign for the observance of human rights in Ghana. He said "I am joining you." The next day he showed up at my home and stayed for a week. That was Ali, ever ready for action.

Another most important thing in the life of Ali was the formation of the organisation, Food Sovereignty Ghana (FSG). One fine afternoon, I got a call from Ali and he sounded frantic. He said we needed to act quickly to stop the spread of genetically modified food in Ghana. He proposed the

formation of Food Sovereignty Ghana to champion that cause. Ali provided the resources and leadership for the emergence of FSG and remained its chairperson and leader until he passed away.

Although I am not a religious person, I can see how his association with the Mozama Disco Christo Church shaped him. Like the founder of the church, he refused to accept that human beings can be defined by the colour of their skin and insisted on the equality of all men and women.

He insisted that the culture of the African people cannot be inferior to any other culture. Ali was a true Africanist who spent his life advocating Pan Africanism under the banner of scientific socialism.

May the force of his ideas and actions continue to inspire us.

Full Text Of Finance Minister Ken Ofori-Atta's Update On Ghana's IMF Programme And Growth Agenda

from page 7

Coverage will be expanded to all 2.5 million extremely poor individuals by 2024. We plan that by end September, 2023 an indexation mechanism will be introduced in the LEAP Programme to prevent erosion of value over time;

ii. Increasing the budgetary allocation for the School Feeding Programme to compensate for higher cost of meals and also to ensure a more efficient management of the programme;

iii. increasing the Capitation Grant over time as part of measures to improve foundational learning; and iv. ensuring prompt payment of the NHIS from the Consolidated Fund. There will also be a review of the package of benefits and tariff structure for the Scheme.

Towards a Sustained Partnership

36. Ladies and Gentlemen, it must be clear that there is enormous work ahead. To sustain and optimise this partnership with the IMF, Ghana proposed and negotiated six (6) Quantitative Performance Criteria, nine (9) Structural Benchmarks, and three (3) Indicative targets.

Specifically, these performance indicators have been carefully selected to enable us to achieve our reform objectives as well as build resilience to better withstand future global and domestic shocks, as they are certain to occur.

37. We would like to emphasize that, contrary to other commentaries, these performance indicators emanate from our Cabinet approved PC-PEG.

38. To support the effective implementation of reforms and interventions of the IMF backed PC-PEG Programme, Government has put in place a clear implementation strategy. This strategy includes:

i. Sensitisation of key stakeholders including Cabinet, EMT, Council of State, Parliament, National House of Chiefs, Organised Labour, Employers

Associations (including AGI & Chamber of Commerce), MDAs, MMDAs, Investors, CSOs and Think-Tanks, FBOs, the General Public, NDPC Commissioners, Heads of SOEs, Development Partners, and the Media. We have already engaged Cabinet, EMT, Southern Sector Regional Ministers and MCEs, organized by the Ministry of Agriculture, Council of State, Chief Directors and Heads of Covered Entities, PPME Directors in MDAs, MoF Staff, and a cross-section of the Media. Today, the General public has accordingly been apprised. The rest will follow shortly.

ii. Implementing a comprehensive communication strategy for the PC-PEG Programme;

iii. Ensuring that Public Funds and their usage, including the IMF Funds, are audited by the Auditor-General of Ghana;

39. Programme implementation will be monitored on a monthly basis at various levels including Cabinet, Economic Management Team, and the Economic Policy Coordinating Committee or EPCC.

40. Additionally, we are introducing six (6) Thematic Working Groups (TWG) which will meet weekly and will be chaired by the Minister of State and Deputy Ministers of the Ministry of Finance, Deputy Ministers of other relevant ministries, and Deputy Governors of the Bank of Ghana. In fact, specifically, the following TWGs have been established:

i. Energy Sector SOEs/Cocobod Structural Reforms; ii. Public Financial Management Structural Reforms; iii. Financial Sector Structural Reforms; iv. Tax Policy and Revenue Administration Structural Reforms; v. Macro-Fiscal Policy/Reforms; and vi. Growth and Social Protection.

41. Ladies and Gentlemen, on this path towards a reformed, diversified and resilient economy, we stand ready to engage and receive inputs from all stakeholders, to implement the IMF-backed PC-PEG Programme. Accordingly, civil society, think-thanks,

organised labour, FBOs, and private sector actors will be engaged in our policy dialogue towards effective implementation of the Programme.

Completing the Debt Restructuring

42. Despite the considerable progress, there remain key outstanding operations, especially in debt restructuring. We are at advanced stages of completing the debt exchange programme in relation to the cocoa bills and the US\$ denominated local bonds. We have also rolled-out a programme to engage Independent Power Producers (IPPs).

Consistent with the MOU signed with Organised Labour in December 2022 on the exemption of pension Funds, they continue to be exempted. Government is currently engaging Organised Labour and Pension Fund Corporate Trustees, in line with the MOU, to explore mutually beneficial options within debt sustainability limits and to promote macroeconomic stability and economic recovery in the spirit of social partnership.

43. We have also successfully worked with the Paris Club (PC) and other creditors to determine the parameters of our official debt restructuring under the G20 Common Framework for Debt treatment. In the coming weeks, we will seek to complete the MOU with the OCC on the terms of bilateral debt treatment. Government will sustain engagements with private creditors on external debt to reach agreement with the private creditors in the shortest possible time.

44. In light of the above, we will count on all stakeholders, especially the media, to be circumspect on their reportage on the economy, to avoid derailing the progress being made.

Our love of country must supersede all and as the late P.A.V Ansah, a University of Ghana communications school professor, said "Journalism 101 teaches media students that they have three basic roles: to inform, educate and entertain.

However, for developing countries there is a fourth: foster national cohesion. National cohesion is the

foundation upon which Any and Everything else is built.

45. Ansah had journalists in mind when attaching his addendum to the classical text. But as we watch events unfold in Mali, Burkina Faso, Nigeria and elsewhere in our region, this is, in fact, a role that holds true for Everyone.

46. The misreporting on China was unnecessary and unfortunate. Unfounded accusations against Government Officials leading the recovery are untenable and serve no useful purpose. Undoubtedly, the need for accuracy must override speed in these circumstances.

Conclusion

47. Ladies and Gentlemen, we are certainly at the beginning of a promising journey towards not just recovery, but also resetting our economy. As a number of you have said to me, we have turned the corner.

48. Government is committed to restoring Ghana's economic fortunes within the shortest possible time through a combination of front-loaded fiscal adjustment and structural reforms while creating the conditions for private sector-led growth.

49. Going forward, we will continue to count on the support of all Ghanaians, including the general public, to achieve the objectives set out in the IMF-backed PC-PEG. We engaged the IMF Technical Mission last week (8th to 15th June, 2023) to discuss recent economic developments and the implementation of the IMF-supported PC-PEG. In this regard, we undertook a joint assessment of Ghana's preparedness for the 1st Review of the Programme scheduled for September, 2023. This will pave the way for the IMF Board to consider and approve the 1 st Review and the disbursement of the second tranche of US\$ 600 million in November, 2023. As the IMF attested to in their Press Release on 15th June, 2023, "Against a complex global economic backdrop, the Ghanaian economy is showing signs of stabilisation, with softening inflation, an increase in international reserves, and less volatile exchange rate".

50. As a people, we must continue to be inspired by the momentum that propelled us to secure support in near-record time to implement the PC-PEG. We have a history of

accomplishments in these situations. In 2017, we re-negotiated a derailed IMF programme, imposed stringent conditions on ourselves and collectively achieved them ahead of schedule.

51. From a macro-fiscal standpoint, the results were remarkable. Between the period 2017- 2019,

i. Economic growth double; with an average of 7% annually; ii. Inflation coming down to single digits (7.9% in 2019 from 15.4% in 2016); iii. The fiscal deficit, which was about 6.5% was brought down to 5%; and iv. Exchange rate depreciation reduced significantly to under 5% in 2017, averaging 8.7% between 2017 and 2019.

52. Alongside these achievements, we made significant investments in education, health, infrastructure and revitalized the financial sector to promote private sector entrepreneurship. We re-emerged as a bright Star on the regional and global stage, prior to the Pandemic.

53. Ladies and Gentlemen, we are being called upon to do this again and surpass this stellar performance. We must push past these 'dark clouds' that suddenly gathered and reclaim our manifest destiny. We must resolve and resort to our collective inner strength and overcome this new challenge for our country.

54. We must do this, inspired by assurance that the Good Book provides in Joel 2:25, that, I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten. We shall surely be restored, if we persist on this path to recovery and transformation.

The Lord has Rescued us, we will Recover all, he will Restore what the locusts have destroyed, and Ghana shall experience His Revival!

55. We will surely rejoice in the restoration of our nation; if we persist on this path of recovery and transformation. The Battle is indeed the Lords!!

56.Thank you once again for your attention.

57.God bless our homeland Ghana and make us great and strong. 58. God bless us all

Why Russia Won't Let Ukraine Be A Bleeding Wound

By M. K. Bhadrakumar

With the Ukrainian offensive underway for a fortnight, all eyes are on the battlefields, and, crucially, Russia's options ahead. In a little over three weeks from now, the NATO will be holding a summit in Vilnius and the West has choices to make too. We are arriving at a fork in the road.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization or NATO expected the Ukrainian forces to punch through key Russian fortifications by now. In reality, they are struggling to get anywhere near the sprawling layered fortifications and in that desperate attempt, are taking massive losses, entrapped in minefields and taken to pieces by Russian artillery and missiles and the dreaded multi-role attack helicopters known as Alligator.

The signposts are best seen in Russian President Vladimir Putin's [Kremlin press conference](#) on Tuesday, lasting over three hours, with war correspondents. In just a week's time after Ukraine's offensive began, "25–30% of the supplied equipment (from NATO) has been destroyed," Putin said. Putin underscored three things. First, the goals set for the special military operations are "fundamental for us" because "Ukraine is part of the effort to destabilize Russia." What does that mean?

It means Russian operations will not end without realizing the twin objectives of "demilitarizing" Ukraine and uprooting the present neo-Nazi regime in Kiev. The security and welfare of the Russian population also remains a cardinal objective — no more pogroms. Putin said Russia is going about realising these objectives "gradually, methodically."

Second, Putin flagged: "The Ukrainian defense industry will soon cease to exist altogether. What do they produce? Ammunition is delivered,

equipment is delivered and weapons are delivered — everything is delivered. You won't live long like that, you won't last. So, the issue of demilitarization is realized in very practical terms."

Third, the Kremlin's preference so far has been to continue to grind down the Ukrainian military, whilst giving "selective responses" whenever any red lines were crossed — e.g., Russian strikes on Ukraine's energy system, the destruction of the headquarters of the Ukrainian military intelligence. By the way, in that Kiev strike, Russia claims to have seriously injured Ukraine's spy Chief Kyrylo Budanov, the poster boy of Western media.

Going forward, Putin said, "Everything will depend on the potential that is left at the end of this so-called counter-offensive. This is the key question." After taking such "catastrophic losses," it is up to the leadership in Kiev to rationally think about "what to do next," Putin said.

He added, "We will wait and see what the situation is like and take further steps based on this understanding. Our plans may vary depending on the situation when we deem it necessary to move. That includes NATO equipment." Putin ridiculed the West's grandiose talk about matching Russia's vastly superior defense industrial capacity. He said: "And when they say they will start producing this or that: well, please go ahead. Things are not so simple during a recession... They are not as decisive as we are here in Russia. There is no passion there, these are fading nations; that's the whole problem. But we have it. We will fight for our interests, and we will achieve our goals."

Given these stark realities, Kiev should roll back the offensive. But that is not going to happen. Kiev is under immense pressure from Washington to claim some dramatic success. That said, the Ukrainian reserves are not infinite, either. Around 35,000 to 40,000 strong Ukrainian reserves are facing a massive Russian deployment manifold stronger in numbers (in hundreds of thousands) and

advanced weaponry, and enjoying air superiority. There is a distinct possibility that at some point, the Russian forces may go on the offensive too. Against this backdrop, the West claims that the NATO allies are "looking at an array of options to signal that Ukraine is advancing in its relationship" with the alliance, to borrow the words of the US ambassador in Brussels Julianne Smith. Andres Rasmussen, former NATO chief and at present the official advisor to Ukrainian President Zelensky, has threatened that a group of NATO countries may be willing to put troops on the ground in Ukraine if member states including the US do not provide tangible security guarantees to Kiev at the Vilnius summit.

Specifically, [Rasmussen claimed](#) that "Poles would seriously consider going in and assemble a coalition of the willing if Ukraine doesn't get anything in Vilnius. We shouldn't underestimate the Polish feelings, the Poles feel that for too long Western Europe did not listen to their warnings." The rhetoric took a heightened tone lately at the meeting of Heads of State and Government in the format "Weimar Triangle" (France-Poland-Germany) on [June 12 in Paris where a consensus emerged](#) that Ukraine should receive some security guarantees. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz declared, "It is evident that we need something like this, and we need it in a very concrete form." French President Emmanuel Macron also called for a rapid agreement on "tangible and credible security guarantees."

Indeed, this is all bluster. The idea of Poland "putting boots on the ground" is so patently absurd. The Polish military will wither away in a confrontation with Russia. But what such theatrics show is that nerves are on edge as the specter of defeat in Ukraine is endangering NATO's unity. So, Jens Stoltenberg, NATO secretary-general, stepped in to



Russian President Vladimir Putin: Kiev has lost 186 tanks, 418 armored vehicles, losses mounting, St. Petersburg, June 16, 2023. NATO expected the Ukrainian forces to punch through key Russian fortifications by now. In reality, they are struggling to get anywhere near the sprawling layered fortifications and in that desperate attempt, are taking massive losses

inject some realism into the discussion, pointing out that for the present what matters most is that Ukraine survives as a nation. Stoltenberg stated: "I believe it's not possible to give precise dates (for Ukraine's admission as NATO member) when we are in the midst of a war... the most urgent task now is to ensure that Ukraine prevails as a sovereign, independent nation... because, unless Ukraine prevails, then there's no membership to be discussed at all, because it's only a sovereign, independent, democratic Ukraine that can become a NATO member." Stoltenberg took the cue from Washington. In fact, he was speaking while on a visit to Washington, in an [interview with PBS](#).

Russia is not taking its eyes off the battlefield. In reality, Moscow is shoving down the Western throat a historic strategic defeat. The choice for the West narrows down to negotiating with Russia on its terms, or to expect a military solution, which might mean the obliteration of Ukraine as a nation and the eviction of NATO.

Make no mistake, Russian offensive plans have been drawn up. There is talk among opinion makers in Moscow about creating new facts on the ground — a De-Militarised Zone along the Polish border. Now, that entails Russian forces crossing the Dnieper and liberating Kiev as well as liberate Kharkov and Odessa, two other Russian cities

historically. Russia has no interest in annexing the western regions of Ukraine, which is hostile territory that Stalin annexed.

But Western Ukraine has other neighbors — Poland included — who would have unfinished business of partition of their historical lands to settle. The unresolved nationality question is explosive, as Poles still remember the killings by the Ukrainian nationalists aligned with the Nazis. [Historians say](#) that more than 100,000 Poles, including women and even the smallest children, perished at the hands of their Ukrainian neighbors in a nationalist drive in areas that were then in southeastern Poland and are mostly in Ukraine now. To put it mildly, what remains of Ukraine under the weight of a crushing military defeat no one can predict. The Kremlin will exercise its options depending on the exigencies of the situation. Moscow seems to have concluded that there is no real alternative to a military solution. It will not allow Ukraine to remain a chronic wound infected by the microbial species from the transatlantic universe. Cauterization of the wound is necessary, albeit with potential risks.

Hiowe Gblaka Family Vows To Reclaim Its Lands At Afienya, Santeo, Zenu, Others ...Declares Colonial Era Robert Jackson Report Null And Void

from front page

based on what it says are erroneous colonial era Robert Jackson Report which illegally handed its lands to the said stools.

Addressing a press conference on Monday at Doryumu over the issue, the Simpim of Hiowe Gblaka, Simpim Aferdi Katamanso Yilagbeye I, said the Seh-Shai Lands which are the Hiowe Gblaka lands are family lands and not stool lands to be affected by the stool boundary demarcation. He described the Robert Jackson Report of 1952, a colonial era land redemarcation report as flawed insisting that the main colonial era land demarcation report of 1946 is what the family recognizes as authentic and would work with. Simpim Yilagbeye I noted that the injustice done them through the Robert Jackson Report will no longer be countenanced and allowed to stand stressing that the Hiowe Gblaka family is ready to use all means necessary to reclaim their lands from the Prampram and Nungua Stools if dialogue fails to ensure return of their lands at Afienya, Santeo and Zenu among others.

This is the full text of their statement as read by Simpim Aferdi Katamanso Yilagbeye I;

HIOWE GBLAKA FAMILY
DORYUMU-DODOWA
19TH JUNE 2023
PRESS CONFERENCE ON SEH-SHAI LANDS AS BEING CLAIMED BY THE PRAMPARAM FAMILIES
PER THE ROBERT JACKSON'S REPORT ON LANDS IN 1956

We are the owners of all lands as enshrined in the 1946 Gold Coast Map and Site Plan.

That We as the allodia owners of the Lands in the name of -Seh-Shai numbered 60 on the map will chase our lands as we know.

That the Prampram Families operating under the guise of the Prampram Stools as per the Robert Jackson's Report on Lands have been using Robert Jackson's Report on Stools as their family lands.

That all lands at Sehyoe/Shai Hills up through Afienya to Santeo are all Seh/Shai lands as per Site Plan Number 60 on the Gold Coast Map of 1946.

That the essence or the reasons for the institution of the Robert Jackson Report which began in 1952-1956 was that he came to identify those on the lands then at the time not owners long before the British Gold Coast government took power in 1850.

That to prove that the Robert Jackson Report on lands was fraught with inconsistencies, the Chiefs and people of Odumse wrote a letter to the then District Commissioner of Dangme-Shai District on 3rd November 1961 Stating inter-alia that the lands they occupied at their Odumse Village was offered them by the people of Seh-Shai over hundred years ago.

Attached

That consistent with the character of the Pramprams, they went there to Odumse to demand the payment of taxes at the rate of £2.2 from each farmer but the Odumse people refused to pay.

That this same Robert Jackson Report irrespective of these facts, gave the Odumse lands to the people of Old Ningo even though the Old Ningos in Odumse themselves through their letter to the District Commissioner in the 3rd of November 1961 acknowledged that the Odumse lands belonged to the people of Shai or was given to them by the people

of Shai.

That this same Prampram Family through Numo Alfred Aferdi Quaye and one Nathan Narh Wussah sued some members of the Hiowe Gblaka family in Suit No. FAL/479/14 at the Accra High Court.

That another suit captioned Numo Teye Akrong and Nene Tetteh Eyum III was instituted against

1. Numo Alfred Aferdi Quaye of Prampram
2. Kwaku Nargertey
3. Harry Nargertey
4. Kofi Nargertey
5. Nene Simpim Aferdi Katamanso Yilagbeye I
6. Jacob Anane (aka Kobby) in Suit NQ. E1/33/2015 at the High Court (Lands Division) Tema.

That Numo Teye Akrong and Numo Tetteh Eyum III discontinued their case against the Hiowe Gblaka Family member after chancing on the Archival Document of March 24th 2017 from the National Archives, well authenticated which states that the Gbugblan State was created by Numo Nartey and his family who migrated from the Hiowe Gblaka family in 1680. Document Attached for perusal.

That another Prampram Family by name Kukuyi family granted a 518 Acres of lands within the lands in dispute to Messrs Rahma Properties in Suit No. E1/87/2014 at the Tema High Court (Lands Division) the Hiowe Gblaka on notice of the grant went to court through Simpim Aferdi Katamanso Yilagbeye I and secured a consent judgement as per the attached Document.

That in Suit No FAL/479/14 Numo Alfred Afedi Quaye and Nathan Narh Wussah secured and injunction order from Justice Ernest Obimpe on the 1st day of August 2016 but some was overturned on the 29th day of June 2017 by His Lordship Justice S. Herbert Ocran. Attached is the order revoking the Injunctive Order.

That' the Hiowe Gblaka Family through Simpim Aferdi Katamanso Yilagbeye I has been active in protecting our family lands such that when I heard the news that some Ningo family led by one Asafoatse Oketekiye Blebo Odiakodom IV was in Court at an Accra High Court. Cocoa affairs in

Suit No. 936/2012, against (1) lands Forestry and I\lines Minister h (2) The Attorney General rushed in to join the Suit but the pressure from Hiowe Gblaka made the applicant to withdraw the action. Attached is the ruling by Alhaj Justice Abdullah Iddrisu.

That one Nene Ngma Abbey instituted a case against one staff Sergeant Robert Mensah in Suit No E1/135/2015 at the High Court (land Division) and the Court in its ruling in an injunction application filed against Sgt. Robert Mensah denied injuncting him. The case is still pending and the said Nene Ngma Abbey is also from the same Prampram and also on the lands in dispute. Attach is the ruling.

That we wish to state that the persons fronting for Numo Seth Narh Lartey who sent Numo Martey Kwashie of Naazem We (substituted by Asafoatse Osabu Omensu IV) of upper town Prampram were from the same Numo Alfred Afedi Quaye (late) and have all the chances of continuing their case in Suit No. FAL/479/14 if they claim that the lands in dispute belong to their family not hiding behind a suit made between the same Prampram families to secure a CONSENT IUDGEIVIENT sought to manipulate the justice system



to ferment trouble on the disputed land.

The leadership of the Hiowe Gblaka Family will not sit down and “aliens” take over our ancestral lands through inconsistent reports such as the Report Jackson's frivolous report which gave out our family lands to Prampram Stool lands irrespective of overriding evidence that the 1946 Gold Coast Map and its Site Plan which was barely six years old before Robert Jackson's abortive and inconsistent report came into being. How can six or ten years apart as the case was in the 1946 Gold Coast I\lap and Site Plan and the Robert Jackson's Report which just came about and beat about the bush.

How again can Robert Jackson describe his report of 1956 on the Odumse lands as Old Ningo Stool lands while the Chief and people of Odumse's letter to the District Commissioner of Shai Dangme District in 1961 said they were on the lands over hundred and over years.

We will fight for our lands covered by the more emphatic Gold Coast Map and Site Plan. It is our duty to fight for what was bequeathed to us by our ancestors.

Thank you.

Youth Warned To Desist From Drugs ...As Sempe Akwashongtse Joins Gbese Mantse To Perform Odadao Rites

The Sempe Muslim Akwashongtse, Nii Adotey Odaawulu I, on Thursday joined the Gbese Mantse, Nii Ayi-Bonte II and the people of Ga Mashie to perform the Odadao rites at the forecourt of the Gbese Palace in Accra.

The Sempe Muslim Akwashongtse who represented the Sempe Mantse, His Majesty Nii Adotey Otintor was accompanied by the Sempe Gbegbe Mantse, Nii Adote Faamlite, Asafo group and some

family members who were all clad in their usual splendid regalia.

The Odadao is a magnificent and important rite for the people of Gamashie and is performed to pave way for the month-long ban on drumming and noisemaking in Ga states to be officially lifted.

The atmosphere was charged with the firing of musketries with traditional priests and priestesses, Asafoatsemai as well as various Asafo groups who were seen thrilling the crowd with dances after the

Gbese Mantse, Nii Ayi-Bonte II, had played the Odadao twin drums to signify the end of the ban.

The Sempe Muslim Akwashongtse was spotted in the crowd displaying his cultural dancing skills. Clad in a beautiful royal regalia he caught the eye of the spectators who showered him with praises and admiration.

Nii Adotey Odaawulu I, expressed worries over attempts by some individuals to agitate for the amendment and modification of the Ga customs and traditions.

He stated that no individual can amend or modify the custom and traditions of the GaDangme people because it dates back several centuries.

He urged the various stakeholders who are suggesting the amendment to adjust themselves to the laws of the traditional authorities so as to co-exist peacefully at all times.

Nii Adotey Odaawulu I, used the occasion to warn the GaDangme youth to desist from drug abuse and other social vices as it can truncate their future progress.

He added that the youth are the important group of people that enhance democracy and governance in any society and it is his dream to see many more GaDangme youth climbing the political ladder to the top.

He thererfore advised them not to ruin their future with drinking and smoking of substances that will jeopardize their ambition and urged them to embrace each other for them to progress in their endeavour.

He also urged them to join hands in doing business irrespective of religious, and political inclinations.

Source: Muhammed Faisel Mustapha