

# ADA SONGOR

## Communities Appeal To Govt To Halt Excesses By McDan's Electrochem Against Indigenes



Over 40 communities within the Ada songor lagoon enclave have appealed to the government of President Nana Akufo-Addo to call businessman Daniel McKorley and his Electrochem company limited to order over alleged brutalities meted out to the indigenes by land guards and other armed thugs allegedly affiliated to the company.

At a press conference organized by chiefs, elders and opinion leaders from some of these communities namely

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### 'Chop-Chop' At BoG Ablakwa Blasts Governor Addison Over Defence On US\$250m Head Office Project



Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa, MP for North Tongu

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## How BRICS Summit Commenced In South Africa With Focus On Expansion, De-dollarization



Banners for the BRICS summit at Johannesburg. Photo: Xinhua News Agency. The summit of BRICS leaders is expected to take crucial decisions related to the bloc's expansion and its role in carving out more space for the economies of the Global South in the world economy

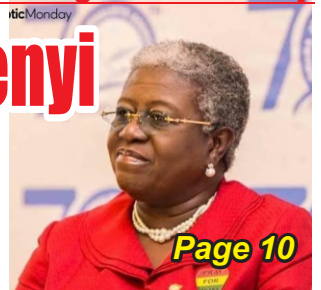
The 15th leaders' summit of BRICS, an organisation of fast growing emerging markets and developing countries comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) started at Johannesburg in South

Africa on Tuesday, August 22 with plans for expansion and de-dollarization. The three-day summit, which concluded yesterday August 24, had been

*cont. on page 5*

### BEIGE Bank And Banking Sector CleanUp

## Gifty Affenyi Dadzie Accused



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### You Can't Impose A Chief On Us – Adoagyiri Residents Tell Okeyehene



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# The INSIGHT

## EDITORIAL

### No to war!

**T**he insight joins millions of people throughout Africa who have declared their principled opposition to the decision of some leaders of the economic community of West African states (ECOWAS) to wage war on Niger to restore a deposed president.

We note that the opposition to the war-mongering of some ECOWAS leaders has come from mass democratic political formations, the youth and students' movement, women's organizations, the trade unions and faith based organizations. The insight is fully convinced that the declarations of these West African leaders are reckless in the extreme and its consequences will be dire for the working people who are already suffering, unemployment, high prices and lack of access to social services.

It is interesting that the Nigerian government which has woefully failed to defeat boko haram is eager to embark on an adventure to wage war on the people of Niger.

It is also striking that Senegal which has been plagued into political chaos in joining the bandwagon of the reckless and its thwarting to wage war for the restoration of the democratic order in Niger.

The most amusing president must be alhassan outtara of la cote d'ivoire who is himself a beneficiary of a coup staged by the French army against laurent gbagbo.

How Qattara can claim to be a democrat amended his country's constitution to give himself a third term.

We ask president Akuffo-Addo not to even dream of deploying Ghanaian soldiers in this senseless war especially at a time when the Ghanaian economy is in complete mess.

The insight stands firmly with all the forces of peace in West Africa and reject the war –mongering antics of our failed leaders.

## ¢50,000 Awarded Winner Of Season 4 Of Presidential Pitch By President

By Florence A. Anim

**R**elu Interactives have been adjudged the winner of Season 4 of the

Presidential Pitch and the President,

[Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo](#) has

pledged a personal 50,000 Ghana

Cedis.

The winner took home a cash prize of 150,000 Ghana Cedis cash. Other winners including participants who couldn't make it to the 10 finalists received, 30,000, 50,000, 70,000, 120,000 Ghana Cedis each.

Participants will be provided with continues business advisory services, mentoring and any form of support to help them grow. They will be attached to top Ghanaian companies to study to gain knowledge to be able to expand their operations.

In his welcome address, the Chief Executive Officer of the National Entrepreneurship, and Innovations Programme-NEIP, Kofi Ofori Nkansah advised the contestants to consider themselves as global entrepreneurs to produce products that meet both local and international standards.

He noted that President Akufo-Addo is determined to create an ecosystem that supports entrepreneurs to thrive and enables job creators.

Mr. Nkansah also congratulated the finalists of this year's event and urged them to continue to work hard to expand their businesses and

create jobs for the youth.

Speaking at the ceremony, President Akufo-Addo said all the 10 finalists of this year's Presidential Pitch Programme would, over the next three years, receive free mentorship, coaching and business advice services.

While congratulating all 10 finalists, aged between 18 and 35, the President urged them to work hard, expand their businesses, create more jobs, and support the growth of the Ghanaian economy.

He disclosed that, the Presidential Pitch P is a government initiative aimed at supporting young men and women who have defied the odds to enter business. He paid tribute to finalists of the past three seasons who have created a total of 700 direct and indirect jobs, mostly in rural communities, and stressed the need to encourage entrepreneurship in the country to help turn the country's economy around.

## THE INSIGHT

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

**Secretary** - Gifty Agyemang

**Design and Graphics** - Godwin K. Attah

**Production Manager** - Kweku Menz

### PUBLISHERS

**Militant Publications Limited**  
P. O. Box NT 272  
Accra-Newtown, Accra  
Tel: 0244379344/0242836930  
Email: theinsightonline20@gmail.com

**LONDON CONTACT**  
5A Wesminster Bridge Road, London SE 1- 7XW  
Tel: 0171-6201430  
E-mail: prattc22@aol.com



# 'Chop-Chop' At BoG Ablakwa Blasts Governor Addison Over Defence On US\$250m Head Office Project

**M**ember of Parliament for North Tongu, Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa has issued a detailed response to governor of the Bank of Ghana, Ernest Addison, with respect to his explanations on the US\$250m new head office for the central bank. In a social media post dated August 22, the lawmaker who recently published correspondence between the BoG and the Ministry of Finance insisted that the governor – who he repeatedly referred to as 'misgovernor' - failed to redeem himself on even one leg of the issues raised. The lawmaker posed a series of questions he said the governor deliberately refused to respond to.

Among others: coming clean on the current cost of the project, failure to explain how the price escalated from initial US\$81m plus to US\$122m plus and the national security excuse for restricted tendering. On the claim that the project was started when the bank was not in dire straits, Ablakwa fired back: "MisGovernor Addison claims he started his ostentatious legacy project in good times. How can anyone describe a project whose procurement process commenced in 2020 during the peak of COVID-19 as a good time?" "Actual construction began in 2021 and has continued throughout the 2022 crisis period of the central bank and in the face of Ghana's current economic IMF-bailout bankruptcy, with the cost now three times its initial estimate — this must certainly be the definition of reckless, sleazy and destructive leadership," he stressed. Ablakwa reechoed the calls for Addison to resign because "we have had enough of his naked untruths. His rather belated attempt to hide under the cloak of national security won't save him." The governor at a recent press conference explained issues to

do with recent losses as captured in the 2022 annual report while the BoG also issued a statement on the now controversial new head office which according to the minority is valued at US\$250m.

**This is Ablakwa's full reply to the BoG governor;**

## A Response to MisGovernor Addison

MisGovernor Addison still refuses to disclose to Ghanaians the latest cost of his majestic "legacy head office" project despite his verbose press conference and additional mumbo jumbo press statement.

Is MisGovernor Addison embarrassed to publicly mention the colossal figure of US\$222.79million which excludes the cost of land? (Copy attached). Why is MisGovernor Addison unable to explain to Ghanaians why his insensitive opulent legacy office project keeps spiraling out of budget from an initial PPA approved amount of US\$81.8million to the current US\$222.79million (excluding land cost)? Why is MisGovernor Addison still advertising the spectacular recklessness and gross mismanagement that has led to the BoG making unprecedented losses of GHS60.8billion and negative equity of GHS55.1billion. MisGovernor Addison claims he started his ostentatious legacy project in good times. How can anyone describe a project whose procurement process commenced in 2020 during the peak of COVID-19 as a good time?



## Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa, MP for North Tongu

Actual construction began in 2021 and has continued throughout the 2022 crisis period of the central bank and in the face of Ghana's current economic IMF-bailout bankruptcy, with the cost now three times its initial estimate — this must certainly be the definition of reckless, sleazy and destructive leadership. Why is MisGovernor Addison running away from, and refusing to address the litany of procurement breaches including illegally commencing construction based on his expansive revised design specifications before seeking approval from the Central Tender Review Committee? (See CTRC's categorical indictment attached) MisGovernor Addison should also be told that we have had enough of his naked untruths. His rather belated attempt to hide under the cloak of national security won't save him.

He carried out his ill-advised Restricted Tender relying on Section 38 (b) of Act 663 which refers to disproportionate procurement typically in minor projects, not a multi-million dollar project such as the BoG head office. Clearly, this provision has absolutely nothing to do with national security. (See Restricted Tender Letter attached). Similarly, he relied on Section 72 (5) (b) of Act 663 which relates to a national emergency or a catastrophe to wrongly single source MULTICAD. (See letter attached). Again, this provision has absolutely nothing to do with his belated efforts to hide under the weird cloak of national security. MULTICAD's articles of incorporation obtained from the Office of the Registrar of Companies is clear about a 10th December, 2021 registration not re-registration as BoG claims.

MisGovernor Addison has simply confirmed my discovery that Ronesans Holdings is not registered in Ghana. The ex post facto attempt to claim they partnered with a local firm doesn't save Addison. At least, despite all the atrocities of the National Cathedral project managers, they ensured Rizzani de Eccher of Italy was registered in Ghana with their local partners: Barbisotti and DeSimone when they formed a JV known as RIBADE. MisGovernor Addison must be told in the face that Ghanaians have had enough of his recklessness, mismanagement and untruths. Yesterday, Ghanaians expected a contrite apology, an immediate resignation, and a suspension of his gravely insensitive, sleazy and majestic office project which has become an iconic symbol of his reckless mismanagement. Instead of holding on to his job after this fantastic disaster, he should just resign and save our ears from his reams of gobbledygook.



# INTERNATIONAL NEWS REPORT

## Compiled By Peoples Dispatch

### Progressive Luisa González And Millionaire Daniel Noboa Head To Run Off Elections In Ecuador

On Sunday, August 20, [10.3 million Ecuadorians](#) took part in the early general elections to elect the country's next president, vice-president and 137 members of the National Assembly amid a wave of violence that has brought homicide rates to record levels. At around 9:00 pm, after counting 60% of the votes, president of the National Electoral Council (CNE) Diana Atamaint gave a [public address](#) and confirmed the trend that Ecuadorians will return to the polls for a runoff election on October 15 to elect the country's since no candidate hit the threshold to win outright. With [92.92%](#) of the votes counted, Luisa González of the left-wing Citizens Revolution Movement party (RC) won the first round with 33.31% of the votes, while Daniel Noboa of the right-wing National Democratic Action alliance (ADN), to many people's surprise, trailed just under 10 points behind her, securing 23.66% of the votes. They will now head to the second round in October. Following them was Christian Zurita Ron with 16.4% of the votes. Zurita is the substitute of Fernando Villavicencio, who was assassinated on August 9 while leaving a campaign

rally in the capital Quito. The key concerns among voters as they headed to the polls on Sunday were the sharp increases in crime, which the government of incumbent conservative president Guillermo Lasso blames on drug-trafficking gangs; and the struggling economy, which has caused a rise in unemployment and migration. González, a protégé of former president Rafael Correa (2007-2017), has promised to address the security crisis by reinvesting in and strengthening the institutions and entities in charge of managing security, which she alleges Lasso and ex-president Lenín Moreno dismantled. She also promised to address the root causes of violence, such as poverty and inequality. She has vowed to increase public spending and revive Correa's large-scale social welfare programs and public infrastructure projects. "Thank you, dear Ecuador, for this citizen victory! We continue in this struggle, in which you have already given us a first victory and there will be a great and definitive second victory,"

[said](#) González. Noboa, son of prominent banana businessman and former presidential candidate Álvaro Noboa, has pledged to bring in more foreign investment, and has suggested several anti-corruption measures including sentences for tax evasion. "Thank you Ecuadorians, together with you begins a New Ecuador with the hope of peace, security and employment. We are in the second round, we are ready to work and restore peace to every family," [said](#) Noboa. According to political analysts, the results have put González in a very difficult position for the run-off. Many predict that most of the candidates who did not make it past the first round may rally behind Noboa in the second round, similar to what happened in the 2021 elections wherein Lasso beat Andrés Arauz in the second round.

#### Legislative elections

The Citizens Revolution Movement swept the legislative elections, obtaining 39.37% of the votes or 54 seats. However, the right-wing forces won the majority of seats in the



Luisa González of the left-wing Citizens Revolution Movement party (RC) won the first round of Ecuador's presidential elections held on August 20. (Photo: Luisa González/Twitter). González of the left-wing Citizens Revolution Movement won the first round with 33.31% of the votes, while Noboa of the right-wing National Democratic Action Alliance secured 23.66% of the votes

unicameral parliament.

The right-wing Movimiento Construye won 20.66% of the votes or 28 seats, the ADN won 14.67% of the votes or 20 seats, the right-wing Social Christian Party (PSC) won 11.83% of the votes or 16 seats and the center-right Actuemos alliance won 4.53% of the votes or 6 seats.

#### Referendum

On Sunday, in addition to snap presidential and legislative elections, referendums on banning oil drilling in the Yasuní National Park and metal mining in the Chocó Andino Biosphere Reserve were carried out. In both consultations, Ecuadorians overwhelmingly voted against the

exploitation of natural resources. With more than 90% of the ballots counted, about six in 10 Ecuadorians rejected the oil exploration in the Block 44 area, situated within Yasuní rainforest, a protected area in the Ecuadorian Amazon and one of the world's most biodiverse regions. 59% of Ecuadorians voted in favor of leaving the oil underground in the hydrocarbon block instead of exploiting it. At the same time, 68% of the citizens supported prohibiting the exploitation of metal mining on an artisanal scale in the Chocó Andino area north-west of Quito.

### Palestinian Councils In Israel Protest Suspension Of Funds

Palestinian Municipal Councils in Israel on Monday [staged](#) a strike against a recent decision by far-right Israeli Finance Minister, Bezalel Smotrich to withhold financial allocations and payments worth 200 million Israeli shekels. Smotrich claimed while suspending the funds that the money would end up in the hands of "criminal and terrorist elements." Council leaders and employees also held demonstrations outside government offices in Jerusalem. Smotrich's comments have been

widely condemned, including by his fellow cabinet ministers. Smotrich [announced](#) the withholding of roughly 200 million Israeli shekels (USD 52.75 million) meant for Palestinians municipalities despite the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu promising on August 9 that the funds will be released. According to reports, residents of Palestinian-majority areas in the state of Israel have been subject to

decades of discrimination and marginalization when it comes to financial and other resources needed to maintain and develop the civil and commercial infrastructure. This has led to a huge gap between the conditions and facilities available in these areas and those in the much more developed and well-funded Jewish-majority parts of Israel. Palestinians, dismissing the minister's racist and xenophobic claims, called them "false and

ridiculous," and insisted that the money is "survival money, not a luxury" and that this is a "struggle for our lives." The secretary of the Arab Follow-up committee, which [organized](#) the protests on Monday, Mansour Dahamsha, told news outlets that the protests are a first warning step and they will be followed by other actions if the Israeli government does not reverse its decision and do away with its racist and fascist approach towards Palestinians

living inside Israel, on top of the extremely violent and oppressive approach it has to Palestinians living under Israeli occupation. Palestinian politicians and members of Knesset such as Ayman Odeh also took part in the demonstrations. Israeli security forces tried to suppress and break up the protests, and were seen pushing and physically assaulting many of the protesters.



# How BRICS Summit Commenced In South Africa With Focus On Expansion, De-dollarization

*from front page*

expected to make crucial decisions related to grouping's expansion and ways of reducing dependence on the US dollar in global trade.

BRICS is an acronym or stands for Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. It was created in 2009 in order to pave the way for a multipolar world with a greater say for the Global South in the world's economic and political decision-making, as well as greater mutual economic cooperation among its members. Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa all attended the summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin joining them virtually.

In the absence of Putin, Russian foreign minister Sergey Lavrov led

his country's delegation in the in-person meetings.

According to [Sputnik](#), for the first physical BRICS summit since the COVID-19 outbreak, the host South Africa invited 67 heads of state or governments and 20 heads of international organizations, including the Secretary General of the UN. A majority of the invitees, including Iranian president Ebrahim Raisi and Indonesia's president Joko Widodo, all confirmed their attendance. This made the BRICS summit the largest gathering of non-western leaders ever, according to [Sputnik](#).

## Major Agenda

With the objective of fostering closer economic cooperation among its members in the coming period, the theme of this year's summit was *BRICS and*

*Africa: Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development, and inclusive multilateralism.*

"An expanded BRICS will represent a diverse group of nations with different political systems that share a common desire to have a more balanced global order," South African President Ramaphosa [said](#) on Sunday.

The BRICS summit discussed the need and ways to expand the membership of the grouping to make it more representative and diverse. BRICS already represents more than 40% of the world's total population and a quarter of its GDP. At least 40 countries have already expressed their desire to join the group, among whom at least 23 have formally applied. These include Iran,

Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, and Cuba.

The group was also expected to decide on ways to boost mutual trade in the currencies of its members in order to reduce dependence on the US dollar. The move reflects the growing desire among the countries of the Global South to challenge the hegemonic policies adopted by the West against its members and to counter their diktats. Some of the BRICS countries have already decided to trade in their domestic currencies instead of the US dollars.

Two members of BRICS, Russia and China, have also faced sanctions and trade restrictions imposed by the US and its western allies.

Greater and closer economic cooperation among the

members is also on the agenda, along with an enhanced role for the New Development Bank (BRICS Bank) created in 2015. Speaking to *Democracy Now*, Vijay Prashad, Chief Correspondent, Globetrotter, noted that Brazil, South Africa, and India had been seeking permanent seats at the UN Security Council for many years but had been denied. "For these countries, BRICS is an instrument to push forward their political views which they feel are not taken seriously, particularly by the Western countries, who they feel have blocked them from permanent seats in the Security Council," he added.

## Suspected Terrorists Shoot Ghanaian Driver At Burkina Faso Border, Burn Several Trucks



**A** Ghanaian driver, transporting food items from Niger to Ghana has been shot by suspected terrorists at the Burkina Faso border, Accra based Joynews has reported.

According to details provided by Joynews, the drivers of the trucks decided to use the Burkina Faso route as an alternative after the closure of the Niger borders following the military coup.

The trucks which tried going past the Burkina Faso border after waiting without success for security escorts were met by

a group of terrorists who attacked the drivers of the vehicles.

They also reportedly burnt a number of trucks; about 4 to 15 in total.

Massahoudu Dambala, owner of the Damabala Enterprise which owns some 35 trucks involved in the carting of food items from Niger to Ghana narrated what happened to Joynews.

"They were standing there waiting for escorts but they were not coming so one of the cars decided to go ahead and when they succeeded, ours also said let's try and see.

Immediately we started moving, the jihadist people started coming out.

"They tried to stop them but

they refused, not knowing that they were many.

They started shooting them so some of them returned and some abandoned their trucks. Our car was in front so when they got there, they burnt the car. The car had about 450 bags of beans so they burnt the car together with about 3 or 4 cars," he said.

He however confirmed that the driver survived and is receiving treatment in a medical facility in Niger.

Meanwhile, other trucks containing food items including onions have been abandoned with the content rotting away.

## Cut Petroleum Taxes In Two Weeks Or We Hike Fares By 20% - Transport Union To Government

**T**he Coalition of Transport Union and Association, representing a significant portion of Ghana's transportation industry, has issued a stern ultimatum to the government. They demand the elimination of multiple taxes from the petroleum price build-up within the next two weeks, failing which they threaten to increase fares by a substantial 20%. In a recent statement, the coalition highlighted their primary objective, which is to alleviate what they referred to as "unnecessary pressure" faced by both drivers and consumers in the country. The burden of several taxes and levies, specifically the Sanitation and Pollution Levy, the Energy Sector Levy, the Energy Sector Recovery Levy, and the Special Petroleum Tax, is at the core of their grievances. The Sanitation and Pollution Levy, intended to fund environmental initiatives, has come under fire for its contribution to the rising cost of transportation. Additionally, the

Energy Sector Levy and Energy Sector Recovery Levy have been heavily criticized for their role in inflating fuel prices, thereby increasing the cost of living.

The Special Petroleum Tax, which was initially introduced as a means to stabilize petroleum prices during market fluctuations, has also been singled out as a significant contributor to the financial strain experienced by drivers and consumers alike. Leaders of the Coalition emphasized that they are not seeking to disrupt the economy but are compelled to take action due to the growing financial burden on their members and the public. They argue that the removal of these taxes and levies would lead to more reasonable fuel prices, ultimately benefiting both drivers and consumers.

# Angry Jomoro Residents Demonstrate Against Govt Over Osagyefo Power Barge



Residents of Jomoro demonstrate over missing Osagyefo Power Barge

On Monday, August 21, 2023, some angry residents of Jomoro Municipality of the Western Region, staged a mammoth demonstration against the government of Ghana over the disappearance of the Osagyefo Power Barge. The Osagyefo Power Barge is a 125MW barge-mounted gas turbine electric power generating station located at Effasu Mangyea in the Jomoro Municipality of the Western Region. The 125 MW power barge was ordered by the Ghanaian government in 1995 with financial assistance from the Economic

Cooperation Fund of Japan. It was intended to generate electricity from natural gas obtained from offshore production fields. The project development called for 450 MW of combined cycle power barges to be belated in a man-made lagoon. The barge was built in Italy at Navalmare Yard, completed in 1999, and delivered to Ghana in October 2002. But since then, the power barge has not been utilized. However, in 2022, some residents reported to some local media houses in the area about the disappearance of the power

barge. Some months ago in 2023, the Member of Parliament for Jomoro, Dorcas Afo-Toffey reported the incident to Parliament where she was allowed to question the Deputy Energy Minister, William Owuraku Aidoo about the barge. In his response, the Deputy Energy Minister stated that the power barge had been decommissioned without passing through the right process. He, therefore, described the decommissioning of the facility as illegal. The MP, therefore, urged the Deputy Minister to deal with the people who decommissioned the project without the government's consent. But since then no arrest has been made. Demanding for the whereabouts of the Osagyefo Power Barge, the angry residents, walked through the principal streets of Ekpu and Half Assini and later ended at the Jomoro Municipal Assembly to present their petition to the Municipal Chief Executive. Shockingly, the leaders and

organisers of the protest stormed the Municipal Assembly without seeing the MCE. They waited for some hours but the MCE did not return. They, however, left the premises with the petition. They expressed their disappointment in the MCE and accused her of benefitting from the sale of Osagyefo Power Barge to a scrap dealer. The residents are, however, alleging that the power barge has been sold out to a scrap dealer who has dismantled it in a deal that will see 60 percent of the proceeds going to the Ghana National Petroleum Corporation (GNPC) with 40 percent going to the private dealer. The protestors are, therefore, calling for either a share of the proceeds to be given to Jomoro or the entire barge brought back. Patrick Ekye Kwesi, the president of the Nzema Youth League, said he supports whatever the youth would do to get to the bottom of the

issue. He said the barge could be used for so many things but its disappearance was strange to the people of Nzemaland. He added that it's not true the power barge got spoiled and they would do all they could as youth to get to the bottom of the matter. They seized the opportunity to call on the president of Ghana, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo to as a matter of urgency, sack the Jomoro MCE, Louisa Iris Arde for sitting unconcerned to allow a scrap dealer to decommission the power barge which belongs to the state. They also promised to petition the office of the Special Prosecutor to investigate the decommission of the barge. Since the demonstration, the MCE, Louisa Arde has refused to speak to the media to share with the rest of the world her side of the story.

## Black Community Activist Bernadete Pacífico Murdered In Brazil

By Brasil De Fato

Being included in Brazil's Human Rights Defenders Protection Program (HRDPP) didn't prevent [Maria Bernadete Pacífico](#) from being murdered August 17 in her *terreiro* (the place where Candomblé religious rituals take place) in the city of Simões Filho, Bahia, in front of her three grandchildren. The program, which should guarantee Bernadete protection in her daily life, had failures, and the federal government did not provide the quilombola leader with the robust assistance to safeguard her life. Due to the amount of threats that Bernadete had received, her attorneys had demanded since 2027 that the program install an image surveillance system. The surveillance system was installed in 2019 and has seven cameras, but four were broken. In July of this

year, in a meeting with one of Brazil's Supreme Court ministers, Rosa Weber, the *quilombola* leader talked about the surveillance system. "Today, this is how I live. I cannot get out. I get searched, my house is full of cameras. I feel bad, but that's how it is," Bernadete explained to Weber. On the occasion, she told the minister that she had received death threats. According to reports from the *quilombolas*, relatives and friends of Bernadete, the threats were made by illegal loggers in the region of Simões Filhos, inside the *quilombo* (Brazilian settlements founded by Afro-descendants and/or former slaves). Although not yet acknowledged by the government, it is an Environmental Protection Area. Another failure of the program, highlighted by Bernadete's

acquaintances, was the police presence. Only one police car would go to the association's headquarters led by Bernadete, in the morning and the afternoon. Police checked the place, saw that everything was fine, and then left the area. "What kind of protection is this?" asked David Menezes, the family's lawyer, in an interview with the Brazilian news website *G1*. In an interview with *Brasil de Fato*, Bernadete's son Jurandir Pacífico stated that the images recorded by the camera placed inside the *terreiro* were given to the Police. Those carrying out the investigation have yet to identify the murderers. **"I take responsibility"** On August 18, Brazil's minister of Human Rights and Citizenship, Silvio Almeida, lamented the death of Bernadete Pacífico. "We do not

want martyrs. We want human rights defenders to cross this path towards a fair society alive and together with us. The duty of the state now, in a left-wing government, is to improve mechanisms for the protection of human rights defenders," said the minister at a dinner organized by the Landless Rural Workers' Movement (MST) on August 18. "It's the state's responsibility. I am talking as the Minister of Human Rights and Citizenship. I take responsibility on behalf of the Brazilian state. We cannot accept such an absurdity that happened to Bernadete. We cannot accept these failures in the Brazilian state, and I am saying this as a minister." The minister also stated that there are a set of structural "problems" in Brazil that prevent the full protection of human rights

defenders. In this sense, he said that the Brazilian people must organize to change society. "We live in a country that despises human rights defenders. That is why there is a series of problems even when the state wants to protect human rights. The population that is dying does not depend only on goodwill. If the people are not organized, we won't get anything. The role of a popular government, a left-wing government, is to support people's organization. Society won't change without a crucial connection with the people," he said.



# ADA SONGOR: Communities Appeal To Govt To Halt Excesses By McDan's Electrochem Against Indigenes



## from front page

Toflopko, Bonikopey, Luhur, among dozens of others, they accused Electrochem of brutalizing the natives. The press conference which was addressed by Hon. Ebenezer Adjaottor, Deputy Secretary of Ada Songor Lagoon Associations at Toflopko cited several instances where indigenes in their bid to win salt have been attacked and wounded by land guards. They expressed worries about destruction of their pans by individuals allegedly linked to the company and appealed to President Akufo-Addo to take interest in developments at the area by ordering investigations into the operations of Electrochem. Only recently, the Paramount Chief of Ada Traditional Area, Nene Abram Kabu Akuaku III, had through Nene Agudey Obitchere, Mankralo of Ada in a visit to the presidency appealed to President Nana Akufo-Addo to let state security forces deal with indigenes who win salt calling them illegal miners whilst praising Electrochem, a private salt mining company owned by businessman Daniel McKorley for taking over nearly all salt winning activities from the locals (indigenes). The chief told the presidency that recent agitations through demonstrations by the locals were a threat to their peace and wanted state security to deal with those who foment trouble as they are disturbing Electrochem which he claims has brought 'wealth' to the area and that angered them. The indigenes who viewed his

claim as a betrayal of their interest descended on their paramount chief. The natives for over 500 years have depended on the Ada Songor lagoon for survival. The claim in the original agreement the government allocated 9000 acres but the company has stretched its activities to cover over 41,000 acres encompassing all the communities of Ada and want it to remain in its original operational area. Abraham Ahumah Tetteh Karim views the Electrochem activities as illegal and a threat to their survival. Nene Dadebom II, one of the chiefs in the communities has also vowed to resist the illegal operations of the company. "Ada Songor Lagoon Association, and the entire citizenry of Ada has this question to ask the members of Ada traditional council who are championing the course for McDan and his ElectroChem company to get monopoly right over the lagoon" some locals said in anger. "If the chiefs are aware that the entire concession belongs to the state, why did the chiefs secretly signed a memorandum of Agreement with McDan to use some portion of the lagoon and its adjoining lands to produce salt for fifty years subject for renewal for additional twenty five years? "Have they not committed a crime by leasing state property if they knew the resource belongs to the government as they are parading in the media space?

"Salt control the petrochemical industry, is it not a calamity to hand over the salt power to a single person and a single company to control the power of salt? "If the chiefs claim McDan and his electroChem company is worthier and can feed the entire Ada people whose livelihood relied on the songor lagoon since the making of Ada, why then that the company could not pay its

electricity bill and has been disconnected in the ECG mass disconnection exercise conducted recently with a media report that the company has been illegally using electricity power from ECG?, they queried.. "The people of Ada also want to find out whether or not the lease given to McDan includes using land guards, brutality, torture, arrest and prosecution of the locals who decides to be

non spectators but citizens as President Akufo Addo charged Ghanaians". Did the company has right to use land guards to wound the citizens with rubber bullets in the name of development. Ada people are calling for participatory development and not a development that is planned in the skies to dump on the citizens for the benefits of the chiefs alone leaving the entire Ada people behind.

## You Can't Impose A Chief On Us – Adoagyiri Residents Tell Okeyehene

**K**ingmakers and people of Adoagyiri near Nsawam have risen up against the purported installation of a new chief by the Okeyehene of the Abuakwa traditional area, Osagyefo Amoatia Ofori Panin II. Last Saturday, Odehyee Kwame Ntiamoah from the Dwumana royal family of Adoagyiri was installed as Chief of Adoagyiri with the stool name Barima Adu Korkor III under heavy police presence and gun-wielding landguards who stormed the community under the alleged orders of Okeyehene. Meanwhile, addressing a Press Conference in Adoagyiri, the Odekyee Kronkron Nana Kwabena Agyemang indicated that the said installation of Kwame Ntiamoah is a nullity as it goes against their custom because, according to him, Adoagyiri does not fall under Abuakwa hence the Okeyehene has no right to install a chief for the people.

They also accused Kyebi District Police Commander, Chief Supt. Magnus Reindorf Sam of being in league with some self-seeking elders in Adoagyiri to illegally and unlawfully install one Odehyee Kwame Ntiamoah from the Dwumana Royal Family of Adoagyiri as Chief of Adoagyiri with the stool name Barima Adu Korkor III. At a press conference in Adoagyiri on Monday August 23, 2023 to set the record straight, the chiefs, youths and elders who were clad in red and black expressed disappointment in the Osagyefo Amoatia Ofori Panyi who

sent the Kyebi District Police Commander, Chief Supt. Magnus Reindorf Sam and team of notorious land-guards to Adoagyiri couple of days ago to illegally and unlawfully install Barima Adu Korkor III. Amidst beating of war drums and signing of war songs signifying that the chiefs, elders and residents of Adoagyiri Divisional Area under the Akyem Kotoku Traditional Area have equally resisted the purported installation of Odehyee Kwame Ntiamoah him. Although the press conference was addressed by Odekyee kronkron Nana Kwabena Agyemang was very successfully and peaceful, the event was under the strict supervision of the Ghana Police Service. At the starting the press conference, the visibly angry chiefs and elders of the Adoagyiri have performed liberation to call on their ancestors and river gods to restore peace by calling the said imposter chief to order since he has no capacity to ascend the Adoagyiri Stool. They also invoked several river gods of the Adoagyiri and Akyem Kotoku to deal with various politicians, police officers and individuals who had been in the league with those self-seeking elders to install the imposter

chief of the area. Fuming with anger the chiefs and elders of Adorgiri described the actions of Osagyefo Amoatia Ofori Panyi and Kyebi District Police Commander as criminal and unlawful since there is a substantive gazetted chief of Adorgiri in the person of Afutu Dompheh II who is life and kicking. They warned the Akyem Abuakwa Council that, Afutu Dompheh II is their legitimate Chief and stressed that per customs and traditions of Adorgiri, Osagyefo Amoatia Ofori Panyi has no traditional powers to invade Adorgiri to install a chief. They pointed out that the Adorgiri Divisional Area is not under the Akyem Abuakwa states as being claimed by Osagyefo Amoatia Ofori Panyi and followers at the Akyem Abuakwa Traditional Area, stressing that the Adorgiri community is traditionally and customarily under the Akyem Kotoku Traditional Area heard by Oseadiayo Dr. Frimpong Manso IV. They refuted the assertion by the members of of Akyem Abuakwa Traditional Council that Adoagyiri has no legitimate chief.

## BEIGE Bank And Banking Sector CleanUp

# Gifty Afenyi Dadzie Accused

**D**etails of meetings the former Managing Director of the First Africa Savings and Loans (FASL), Gifty Afenyi-Dadzie, held with the Receiver of Banks, have shown that the former allegedly misrepresented several important facts about their business with the BEIGE Group.

These details, contained in an elaborate report published by [starrfm.com.gh](http://starrfm.com.gh), show how the once 'godmother-godson' kind of relationship between Mike Nyinaku, Chief Executive Officer of the BEIGE Group, and Gifty Afenyi-Dadzie, was shoved aside in the interest of the FASL boss, after the banking sector cleanup. According to the details, following the collapse of the bank, and the freezing of all of its assets, including bank accounts – including that of FASL, Afenyi-Dadzie went behind the BEIGE Group to try and negotiate with the Receiver of Banks on a possible release of her account.

This was besides the fact that The BEIGE Group had 90% stakes in FASL.

How BEIGE Group became majority shareholders of FASL: In the [starrfm.com.gh](http://starrfm.com.gh) report, it stated that somewhere in 2017, Gifty Afenyi-Dadzie of AGLOW Ghana (Awurade hu Ghana Mmobo prayer Crusader), the then MD of FASL a subsidiary of the First Africa Group approached The Beige Group, the mother organization of Beige Bank of whom Michael Nyinaku, founder is accused of siphoning and stealing customers funds.

Having known each other for quite a while, with Michael Nyinaku usually referring to the Afenyi-Dadzie as his

godmother, when the latter approached the former to discuss the state of affairs of FASL, the BEIGE Group boss decided to help out.

At the time, FASL was encountering severe liquidity challenges as it was unable to meet the demands of its depositors, and as such, Gifty Afenyi-Dadzie requested for financial support from Micheal Nyinaku. The report added that thinking this was a temporary challenge and on the basis of the fact that Mike held her as a godmother, he gave her an amount of GH¢200,000 as a gift to augment her needs.

The following is the full report as published by [starrfm.com.gh](http://starrfm.com.gh) on Monday, August 21, 2023: Defence lawyers in the case in which the founder of defunct Beige Bank is standing trial had demonstrated at the Financial High Court in Accra how they feel former Managing Director (MD) of the First Africa Savings and Loans (FASL), Mrs Gifty Afenyi Dadzie, concealed vital information from police investigators in order to have their client implicated.

The defence lawyers led by Thaddeus Sory during the course of the trial have held that Mrs. Afenyi Dadzie who was then MD of FASL did not make full disclosure of information on the status of the sale of FASL to The BEIGE Group when she met the investigators during investigation.

Mr Sory said Mrs Dadzie “was definitely untruthful” to the Commercial Crime Unit (CCU) and Special

Investigation Team (SIT) during the investigation processes. The story below, however, gives a more comprehensive account of how Mrs Gifty Afenyi Dadzie of AGLOW Ghana (Awurade hu Ghana Mmobo prayer Crusader) the then MD of FASL a subsidiary of the First Africa Group approached The Beige Group, the mother organization of Beige Bank of whom Michael Nyinaku, founder is accused of siphoning and stealing customers funds.

Mrs Gifty Afenyi Dadzie (GAD) and Mike Nyinaku have known each other for quite a while, with the latter usually referring to the former as his godmother. Gifty Afenyi Dadzie had been the managing director of First Africa Savings and Loans Ltd (FASL) which is a subsidiary of First Africa Group (FAG) whose managing director is Kwesi Tetteh Dadzie, husband of Gifty Afenyi Dadzie. Mike Nyinaku is the founder and CEO of The BEIGE Group Ltd (TBG) whose subsidiary was the then BEIGE Bank, now under receivership.

Sometime in July 2017, Gifty Afenyi Dadzie approached Mike Nyinaku to discuss the state of affairs of FASL. At the time, FASL was encountering severe liquidity challenges as it was unable to meet the demands of its depositors. Mrs. Gifty Afenyi Dadzie thus requested for financial support from Mr. Micheal Nyinaku. Thinking this was a temporary challenge and on the basis of the fact

that Mike held her as a godmother, he gave her an amount of GHS200,000 ( Two Billion old Cedis ) as a gift to augment her needs. Within a week of having given her the initial sum of GHS200,000 as a gift, Mrs. Afenyi Dadzie, approached Mike Nyinaku again requesting for more financial support for FASL. She explained that FASL had been given notice by the BoG that they were at risk of having their license revoked as a result of a continuous decline in their capital adequacy position. In principle, the company was in dire need of new capital injection far in excess of the initial amount gifted by Mike Nyinaku to GAD. Sensing that this could be a recurrent issue and considering his experience in the industry, Mike decided to make things more formal this time. Mike thus caused TBG to advance to First Africa Group, a loan of GHS200,000. This transaction was executed via a check dated August 8, 2017.

This second transaction paved the way for the parties to begin considering ways in which the problems of FASL could be solved more permanently. These discussions led to a decision for First Africa Group to off-load 90% of its interest in FASL to TBG at a value of USD 2.5M. The Acquisition The acquisition of 90% of the shares of FASL by TBG was sealed by a share purchase agreement dated September 4, 2017. Signatories to this agreement were Mike Nyinaku and Yvone Philips for TBG and Gifty Affenyi

Dadzie and her Husband, Kwesi Tetteh Dadzie for FAG.

In the preamble to the agreement FAG represented to BEIGE that they had secured the approval, certain clearances and permits of the Bank of Ghana for the sale of the shares. Clause 4.1 of the share purchase agreement specifically stated that upon the payment of USD1,500,000 of the purchase consideration, TBG would assume full control of FASL. The agreement further stipulated that upon the assumption of full control of the business, TBG would commence the process of transferring all business mandates from the seller to the buyer and these would include and not be limited to mandates to all bank accounts as well as other official mandates. The agreement also provided that the acquisition process be executed in accordance with certain key milestones.

Commencement date The commencement stage, transitional stage and cut-off stage. Activities marking the commencement stage was the execution of the share purchase agreement. Transitional date Activities marking the commencement of the transitional stage was the payment of a part of the purchase consideration – the performance of which is deemed as the act that puts a definite seal on the contract. Other activities that were to happen during the transitional phase was that TBG were to appoint its own officials



**Gifty Afenyi-Dadzie**

to understudy and also commence the process of taking over the management of FASL.

The understanding between the parties was that officials of TBG and FASL were going to act as joint managers of FASL until TBG pays USD1,500,000 of the purchase consideration. Once TBG pays USD1,500,000 of the purchase consideration, TBG will then assume full control of FASL.

Cut-off date The cut-off date was the day on which the remainder of the purchase consideration will be paid by TBG. This date was agreed and expected to occur no later than 90 days from the date of execution of the contract. And as a pre-requisite for this, FAG was to ensure that it had secured all other outstanding approvals and paperwork required to close the transaction. Following the execution of the Share Purchase Agreement on September 4, 2017, TBG made two instalments payments to FAG all amounting to GHS7M (USD1,589,684 in USD Equivalent at the time).

The first payment was made on September 5, 2017, and it involved an amount of GHS5M, the USD equivalent of which was USD1,136,519 at the time.