

Eradicating Poverty Through Scientific Socialism Chinese Ambassador Speaks On How Over 100 Million Were Lifted From Abject Poverty

The Chinese Ambassador to Ghana, H.E. LU Kun, has praised the achievements of the Communist Party of China (CPC) which has lifted over 100 million Chinese from absolute poverty through scientific socialism. According to him ever since the new

era of Socialism with Chinese characteristics, his government has lifted over 100 million rural residents above the poverty line. Addressing guests at China's National Day Reception in Accra on Tuesday to mark the 74th Anniversary of the founding of the

People's Republic of China, Ambassador LU Kun noted that such an impressive achievement enabled his government to meet the targets of the United Nations SDG 10 years ahead of schedule. "In the past 11 years, we've made

cont. on pages 6&7



GNPC BROKE!

Faces Eviction From Rented Office Complex



Dennis House

Strategic state agency, the Ghana National Petroleum Corporation (GNPC) is reportedly facing serious liquidity challenges and as such unable to

pay its rent for adjoining office complex at Tema. As at the time of going to press, *The Insight* gathered that the GNPC had barely twenty four hours to

redeem its financial commitment to the owners of Dennis House, the rented office complex situated next to its main head office, Petroleum

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Towards Ensuring Collective Defense Socialist Movement Of Ghana Hails Establishment Of Alliance Of Sahel States By Burkina Faso, Mali And Niger

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Tema Indigenes In Crisis, Akufo-Addo Must Step In, Sakumo Shrine Secretary Cries Out



The Secretary to the Tema Sakumo shrine has sounded the knell on what he says is an existential crisis that the indigenes of Tema, Ghana's premier industrial city, are facing. In a statement released to the public on

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Nii Darku I not Development *page 2* Chief Of Pokuase – Nii Dodoo Family



The INSIGHT

EDITORIAL

DEAL WITH THIS HEALTH MENACE

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

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

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

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

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Nii Darku I not Development Chief Of Pokuase – Nii Dodoo Family



The attention of Nii Dodoo Clotley family has been drawn to a publication by one of the media outfits – The New Crusading Guide Newspaper on the 22nd August, 2023 in respect of the above subject which has been republished by other media outlets.

The family of Nii Dodoo Clotley wishes to bring to the attention of the public that the headline as stated above and some paragraphs that sought to describe one Nii Darku I as the Development Chief of Pokuase were misleading and outright falsehood.

The publication further stated that the said Nii Darku I has been spearheading developmental projects in Pokuase and has been able to unify the people of Pokuase and surrounding communities. That front-page article was published alongside the photograph of Nii Darku I, and Aaron Dodoo in a full-blown traditional regalia.

We would like to put on record that the FAMILY DOESN'T KNOW NII DARKU I, let alone, installing him as Development Chief.

Again, we would like to state that Nii Darku I, whose real name we have discovered to be Rockson Adu Boahene, and who has been dismissed from the National Security still parades himself as a security operative hiding behind some influential persons in government.

It is imperative to state at this point that Aaron Dodoo, who was featured in the publication in full traditional regalia is not the chief of Pokuase as the picture seems to portray.

The family is by this publication warning the general public not to recognize or engage him in any business transaction as the chief of Pokuase.

Signed:

Nii Amoo Dodoo

(Principal Family Elder, Nii Dodoo Clotley Family of Pokuase)

THE INSIGHT

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GNPC BROKE!

Faces Eviction From Rented Office Complex



Ranking Member on the Mines and Energy Committee, John Jinapor
from front page

House in Tema. GNPC, inside sources told this paper has by close of day today to make payment or be ejected this October. Attempts by *The Insight* to get the property owners to speak on the eviction notice given GNPC were unsuccessful as they declined to speak on the matter. Management of GNPC was also tight-lipped on the issue which has set confusion and disagreement amongst its officials. Sources close to the GNPC told this

paper that the situation is so dire to the extent that the corporation after series of court actions has by close of this month to pay its rent or be ejected. The main head office, Petroleum House is currently choked and any eviction could have disastrous consequences on the corporation's operations. This paper gathered that former GNPC boss, Alex Mould rented the premises in a bid to decongest the main Petroleum House. The rented office complex was kept in operation under the former boss K.

K. Sarpong until the corporation which used to sponsor the Ghana Black Stars in time past began facing financial challenges under the current management headed by Opoku Ahweneeh Danquah.

Coercing GNPC to seek \$431 million loan without parliamentary approval illegal - Minority Meanwhile, the Minority in Parliament has accused the Presidency of "coercing and compelling" the Ghana National Petroleum Corporation (GNPC) to seek a \$431 million loan agreement from Lukoil International Trading and Supply Company (LITASCO) SA, a Swiss company operating refineries and retail network in Europe.

It said the act by the Presidency was unconstitutional, unlawful and blatant disregard to the directive and resolution of Parliament.

Per a memo intercepted by the

Minority, the Presidency called a meeting on September 14, 2023 at 11 a.m. and directed the GNPC to seek for board approval to raise the amount without parliamentary approval, a directive some board members of the corporation kicked against.

Those who were present at the meeting were the Chief of Staff, the Executive Secretary to the President, the Minister of Finance, Deputy Minister of Energy, the chief executives of Karpower and LITASCO and other executives of both companies, it said.

Don't commit illegality

Speaking to the press in Parliament last Wednesday (Sept 20), the Ranking Member on the Mines and Energy Committee, John Jinapor, called on the Chief Executive of the GNPC and the board to decline the directive from the Presidency.

"If you proceed with this directive, you will be committing an illegality. You do not have that mandate and that power to enter into such an agreement without parliamentary approval.

"The Minority wish to serve notice that we shall use every necessary tool available to ensure that we what is right and legal," Mr Jinapor warned.

Parliament's directive

The MP for Yapei Kusawgu just before Parliament rose in August this year, the Committee on Mines and Energy, under the chairmanship of Samuel Atta Akyea, submitted a report of the committee on the 2023 work programme of the GNPC. He said one of the key issues that came up for consideration was a request by the GNPC to raise an amount of \$620 million in a form of loan facility from LITASCO SA. He said Parliament took a decision that it could not approve that amount in the GNPC's work programme.

He said Parliament was explicit

that the corporation should lay the terms and conditions of the intended loan in accordance with article 181 of the Constitution for the House to consider same and make a determination.

"To utmost shock, we have come across a document that the Presidency is using coercive force and the power of the Presidency to compel the GNPC to proceed and execute this loan agreement without parliamentary approval," he said.

He pointed out that some of the board members kicked against such illegality.

Collateralising TEN Field oil

The MP added that another document that was also intercepted at the board level of the GNPC had what he described as the deed of indebtedness, the JOHL Crude Oil Supply and Purchase Agreement, Jubilee Oil Holding Limited (JOHL) prepayment facility agreement, the guarantees facility agreement and the crude oil supply and purchase agreement.

"The key has to do with the fact that GNPC is raising this facility from LITASCO LUKOIL and in return they are giving our oil out to this company for the next five-and-a-half years.

"Indeed, all the oil in the TEN Oil Field have been incomed by including royalties and our carried and participating interests will be escrowed into this company

More importantly, Mr Jinapor explained that every year a minimum of 3.8 million barrels of crude oil would be given to LITASCO for the loan being raised.

"No one even knows exactly what they want to use this money for apart from some repayment of debt.

"This is a government that received over \$1.4 billion of oil receipts in 2022, the highest ever, and despite receiving this huge oil revenue from our oil sales, you want to take \$431 million today and mortgage our future for the next five-and-a-half years and escrow the whole of TEN field oil," he added.

50% Of Africans Lack Access To Sufficient Food - Report

The 2023 Africa Agriculture Status Report has indicated that 50 per cent of Africans lack access to sufficient food, Graphic.com has said. It said six hundred and fifty million people in Africa lack economic or physical access to sufficient food.

The report noted that if the goals of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) were fully realized, many Africans would escape extreme poverty by 2035. President of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), Dr Agnes Kalibata, while speaking on the report said, "As the continent faces the dual challenges of rapid population growth and climate



change, finding new financing mechanisms will be paramount in shaping a prosperous and secure food future for all its citizens," she said.

AfCFTA, which came into effect in January 2021, is the largest free trade area globally. Covering 55 African countries with a combined population of

1.3 billion people and a combined Gross Domestic Product (GDP) exceeding \$3.4 trillion, AfCFTA aims at eliminating barriers to trade in Africa.

The free trade area will help African economies build robust and more resilient economies to absorb any shock – internally or externally.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS REPORT

Compiled By Peoples Dispatch

Nazi SS Veteran Receives Standing Ovation In Canadian Parliament

On September 22, during Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's visit to the Canadian Parliament, Yaroslav Hunka, an elderly Ukrainian immigrant living in Canada was given a standing ovation for fighting "for Ukrainian independence against the Russians in the Second World War." According to a relative of Hunka's, he was even [granted a private audience](#) with both Zelenskyy and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. It was later revealed that Hunka is a veteran of the 14th division of Hitler's Waffen-SS (1st Galician). This particular division was involved in [mass murders](#) of Polish, Jewish, and Ukrainian people. In 1944, Heinrich Himmler spoke of the division's "willingness to slaughter Poles," as highlighted in a [Forward article](#).

Also in 1944, three months before Himmler's comment, the 14th division of the Waffen-SS perpetrated the Huta

Pieniacka massacre, burning up to 1,000 Polish people alive.

Last Friday, Canadian Speaker of the House of Commons Anthony Rota declared Hunka a "Ukrainian hero, a Canadian hero." "We thank him for all his service," he said, adding beforehand that he was "proud" that the man lived in his electoral district.

Following numerous calls for his resignation, Rota stepped down on September 26.

Hunka's celebration in the Canadian parliament generated an international scandal, resulting in mass denunciations of Canadian leaders such as Rota and Trudeau. Even Poland's Education Minister announced he is ["taking steps"](#) towards Hunka's extradition.

Anthony Rota issued an apology following the controversy, appearing to take sole responsibility for the incident and essentially absolving all



Yaroslav Hunka is applauded in the Canadian Parliament. Polish education minister claims he is "taking steps" for the Canadian-Ukrainian Nazi's extradition

other Canadian officials of guilt. "I have subsequently become aware of more information which causes me to regret my decision," Rota [stated](#), emphasizing that "no one, including fellow parliamentarians and the Ukraine delegation, was aware of my intention or of my remarks before I delivered them." "That's definitely convenient for Canada's political class," [writes](#) Ali

Abunimah in *Electronic Intifada*, touching on the larger issue of Nazi apologetics in the [Canadian government](#) and [Canada as a whole](#), "who can now all pretend they had no idea how deeply entrenched veneration of the Waffen SS Galicia division is among many in Canada's politically influential Ukrainian diaspora."

Trudeau has used Rota's apology as an opportunity to distance himself

personally from the incident. "The independent speaker of the House has apologized and accepted full responsibility for issuing the invitation and for the recognition in Parliament. This was the right thing to do," Trudeau's office [stated](#). A government representative, Karina Gould, has also denied that the Prime Minister had a private audience with Hunka. Trudeau also took the opportunity to bizarrely blame "Russian disinformation" for the controversy. The Prime Minister told press that, "I think particularly of Jewish MPs and all members of the Jewish community across the country who are... commemorating Yom Kippur today, I think it's gonna be really important that all of us push against Russian propaganda, Russian disinformation and continue our steadfast and unequivocal support for Ukraine."

Saudi Arabia Says Establishment Of Palestinian State Prerequisite For Normalization With Israel

A Saudi Arabian delegation on an official two-day visit to Palestine on Tuesday [called](#) for the establishment of a Palestinian state in the occupied territories as a prerequisite for any normalization of ties with Israel. The delegation met with various officials including Palestinian Authority (PA) President Mahmoud Abbas and Foreign Minister Riyad al-Maliki. The visit also saw the appointment of the first ever Saudi ambassador to Palestine. The visit was the first by Saudi government officials since the signing of the Oslo accords between Palestine and Israel in 1993. The two sides discussed Palestinian concerns in relation to the Saudi-Israeli normalization talks. Saudi ambassador to Jordan, Nayef al-Sudairi, who was appointed as the non-resident ambassador to Palestine, noted that the Saudi government is "working towards establishing a Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital." He [added](#) that the delegation's visit

"reaffirms that the Palestinian cause and Palestine and the people of Palestine are of high and important status and that in the coming days there will be a chance for a bigger cooperation between Saudi Arabia and the state of Palestine."

The newly appointed ambassador will be based out of Jordan's capital Amman and travel to Ramallah for official purposes whenever needed as there is currently no Saudi embassy or consulate in Palestine.

According to reports, Palestinian and Saudi officials have in the recent past held talks to discuss Palestinian demands for their support to Saudi-Israeli normalization. Significant among these demands are status changes to areas in the occupied West Bank, particularly to Area C which is currently under the full control of the Israeli military. Palestinian officials want Area C to be reclassified under Area B, which would give civilian control of the area to the PA but

security control would be retained by Israel. Other demands include Israel resuming final-status negotiations towards the establishment of a Palestinian state, but this time with a "clear time table," and for the Saudis to open a consulate in Jerusalem.

Even as reports have speculated that the Saudi-Israeli talks have gathered pace and are making progress, the Saudi government has [insisted](#) that it will stick to the resolution of the Arab League of not establishing relations with Israel until the occupation of Palestine ends and a just and peaceful resolution is reached on all outstanding issues in relation to the occupation. In this regard, the Saudi ambassador made a reference to the Arab initiative proposed by Saudi Arabia in 2002 and noted its importance in any normalization talks with Israel, calling it a "fundamental pillar of any upcoming agreement."

However, several other Palestinian groups and political factions have expressed concerns regarding the Saudi-Israeli talks, noting that normalization with Israel without any conditions could have the effect of emboldening the Zionist state to further entrench its occupation and perpetrate more violence and oppression against Palestinians. Hamas, which controls Gaza, has said that Saudi-Israeli normalization would encourage Israel to escalate its violent and increasingly regular attacks and raids in the occupied West Bank, particularly on the Al-Aqsa mosque.

Earlier, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) had also warned against Saudi-Israeli normalization, calling it an extremely dangerous prospect. It noted Saudi Arabia's significance for the Arab and Islamic world and said its normalization of ties with Israel would be a bigger deal than other countries that have done the same over the past few years, and would also serve as a catalyst for more



Newly appointed Saudi ambassador to Palestine, Nayef al-Sudairi (L), with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas. (Photo: Middle East Online). The statement came during an official two-day visit by a Saudi delegation to Palestine, which also saw the appointment of the first ever Saudi ambassador. Meanwhile, Palestinian organizations and activists have

countries to follow that path. The PFLP also warned the Palestinian Authority against making concessions on long-standing Palestinian demands and issues to gain any short term monetary benefits or diplomatic promises which might not be delivered on in the future.

The normalization of Saudi-Israeli ties is being strongly pushed by the United States as part of the Abraham Accords. According to reports, Saudi Arabia has asked for security guarantees and support for its domestic nuclear program. Over the past few years, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan, and Morocco have normalized ties with Israel.

Towards Ensuring Collective Defense

Socialist Movement Of Ghana Hails Establishment Of Alliance Of Sahel States By Burkina Faso, Mali And Niger

SOCIALIST MOVEMENT OF GHANA (SMG)

27th September 2023

STATEMENT ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ALLIANCE OF SAHEL STATES

The Socialist Movement of Ghana salutes Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger, on the adoption of the 16th of September 2023 Liptako-Gourma Charter, establishing l'Alliance des États du Sahel ("Alliance of Sahel States").

The Alliance enables a qualitatively superior response to the security crises that have plagued our region since NATO first destabilised it with the destruction of Libya. We must not respond to security threats just as isolated Neo-colonies advancing the mineral and energy interests of the West. We can respond as a united, sovereign, and credible force protecting our homelands and people.

We can now demand that all foreign powers stop the proliferation of bases and withdraw from our territories. We respectfully ask that those who mean us well express their intentions through providing

training and combat logistics and through fair trade and investment relations. We expressly reject the proposed EU military and police initiative for West Africa to be considered in Brussels in October 2023.

In addition to its military and security significance, the Alliance is potentially a significant step forward for Pan-Africanism.

Since the agenda-setting 5th Pan-African Conference held in Manchester, UK, in 1945, Africans have struggled in many ways for continental unity – political institutions that allow collectively and scientifically planned economic development that optimally ties our human and natural resources with our needs and aspirations; and that enables Africans, through a single anti-imperialist continental foreign and defense policy, and an African High Command, to finally free ourselves from Western neocolonialism and deal with the rest of the world on a fraternal, equitable, and secure basis. Milestones in this struggle include the independence of Ghana in 1957, which Dr. Nkrumah

dedicated to the total liberation and unity of Africans. They include the series of All Africa Peoples conferences held between 1958 and 1963 and the Pan African conference sessions over many years. More problematic milestones, but milestones, nevertheless, include the founding of the OAU (now AU) in Addis Ababa in 1963 and the later establishment of Regional Economic Commissions, like our own ECOWAS, in all five continental regions of Africa. In too many cases, however, these bodies have served more as tools of neo-colonialism than of African Unity – the most recent example of this is the shameful decision of ECOWAS to take military action to restore French interests and puppet rule in Niger last July. Importantly, it includes the moves towards cross-national unity of progressively-led countries. We refer to the Union of African States (Ghana-Guinea-Mali) of 1958, which Prime Minister Lumumba had committed Congo to before the West overthrew him and the Sahel-Benin Union

involving Burkina Faso), Niger, Dahomey (Benin), and la Côte d'Ivoire.

We rank the Liptako-Gourma Alliance amongst these initiatives of genuine unity. We note that the Liptako-Gourma Agreement was preceded by talks on full national mergers between the three countries representing 60% of the West African land mass. We hope that the merger agenda is pushed to its full potential and that other countries join to help us address what is a common problem. We regret that the neo-colonial leadership of our own Ghana lacks the vision and urgency to participate in this Alliance.

We call on the leaders of the Alliance to declare an explicit Pan-African agenda to consolidate political support.

We call on Alliance Leaders to steadily devolve initiative to the organised masses and their institutions and to facilitate the direct cross-border engagement of these institutions (all shades of opinion) if they trust the People Alliance leaders can president over a process that delivers a new United, truly Sovereign country in West Africa – a Mecca for the Pan-

African agenda.

We repeat our call on ECOWAS to:

- rescind all threats of military intervention in Niger;
- lift all sanctions against Niger and increase solidarity with her poor and marginalised;
- pressure the new Niger authorities to specify a transitional programme that includes critical social constituencies and movements representing workers, women, culturists, traditionalists, Faiths, entrepreneurs, and political tendencies - especially marginalised constituencies in a reconsideration of Niger's national constitutional arrangements.

We call on the West African Peoples Organisation and all its member organisations to express solidarity with the Alliance and to reach out to the Pan-African mass movement in Alliance countries to step up the articulation of Pan-Africanism in their national political processes.

Long Live the Alliance of Sahel States!

Long Live West Africa!

Long Live Africa!

Signed

Kwesi Pratt Jnr.

General Secretary, SMG

Ghana Club Honours Kwaw Ansah, King Ampaw

By George Clifford Owusu

Ghanaian filmmakers, King Ampaw and Kwaw Ansah are used to plaudits and kind words about their work, but they appeared greatly moved when the Ghana Club in Accra presented them with citations on September 20 at the end of a two-day programme to celebrate them. Both men are members of the Club, and Kwaw Ansah said the gesture made him feel he had not worked in vain. King Ampaw also proudly stated he hadn't had any regrets since being introduced to the Club in 1979. Ghana Club, a social grouping for networking and pursuit of national interests, was founded in 1947. The initiative to honour the two well-known cinema professionals who are both in their 80s, tallies with the Club's slogan of 'Preserving the Past, Enriching the Future.'

The celebration took the form of screenings, interactions with the

filmmakers and a dinner and awards night which were tagged: 'Film Pioneers Achievement Gala.' King Ampaw's 'No Time To Die' film was shown on September 19. There was standing ovation for the director at the end of the screening. He explained that persistent negative impressions of war, famine and poverty perpetuated by Western media about Africa inspired him to make the lighthearted comedy to show that there's humour in Africa. Kwaw Ansah's 'Heritage Africa' was screened on September 20. The President of Ghana Club, Dr Adrian Oddoye, said that they were proud to have the two filmmakers as members. He stated it was appropriate to honour them as it was a wonderful launchpad for the Club's agenda to appreciate worthy contributors to the nation's progress in different spheres. David Addo-Ashong, the Club's Vice President, remarked that Ghana



King Ampaw (third from right) receiving his citation

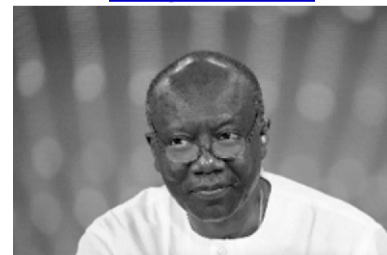
needed a renaissance and there could be a positive step forward for all if the achievements of some of our luminaries were acknowledged and emulated. A senior member of the Club, Jerry Obodai Sai, presented King Ampaw with his citation. Kwaw Ansah received his citation from Prof. Agyeman Badu Akosa. The citations praised the two men for their remarkable contribution to the world of cinema, adding: "Your dedication to storytelling and unique vision has not only captivated audiences in Ghana but worldwide; and also inspired future generations of filmmakers. Your impact and legacy will definitely preserve the past and ensure the future of Mother Ghana."

Ghana Among 6 Countries To Struggle With Debt-Servicing Burdens – EIU

The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) has said that Ghana, just like some six other African countries will have issues with debt servicing in 2023. According to its Updated 2023 Africa Outlook Report, these debt burdens may have certain substantial effects on its revenue. The six other countries are Tunisia, Egypt, Congo-Brazzaville, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. The report also noted that the African governments have ramped up their borrowing—domestically and internationally—and public sector debt ratios (relative to GDP) have pushed back towards the highs last seen in the early 2000s just before the enormous debt restructuring of 2005, implemented under the umbrella of heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) initiative. "Ghana, Tunisia, Egypt, Congo-Brazzaville, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Mozambique have enormous amounts of debt (relative to GDP) and their governments will grapple with debt-servicing burdens that eat up a substantial share of their revenue in 2023," the report said. It explained that "The need to service and roll over large amounts of debt at a time when domestic and international borrowing costs are on the rise will weigh heavily on some countries in 2023 and things could get even more painful in 2024 when more

capital repayments fall due." The EIU also mentioned that some major economies like Algeria, Angola, Ethiopia, Gabon, Kenya, Nigeria, and South Africa have seemingly manageable levels of public debt but may suffer from high and rising debt-servicing costs—especially Nigeria where the debt-to-GDP ratio is low but debt is hugely expensive to service. "Consequently, pressure will mount to implement economic reforms—including changes to subsidy regimes and tax structures—and cut back on public-sector spending, although large-scale changes will most likely be put off until upcoming elections settle and the political path becomes clearer," it concluded.

Source -- www.ghanaweb.com



Finance minister Ken Ofori-Atta

Tema Indigenes In Crisis, Akufo-Addo Must Step In, Sakumo Shrine Secretary Cries Out

from front page

Thursday, Mr. Stephen Ashitey Adjei, alias Moshake, lists the wanton theft and sale of lands belonging to the indigenes as the main factor behind the existential crisis.

"As we speak, almost every inch of Ashaiman, which originally was the farmland of the indigenes of Tema has been sold. And within Tema itself, people keep stealing and selling our lands everyday resulting in a situation where the average indigene of Tema does not own a land," Moshake wrote. "This being our hometown, what is to become of us when the last plot of land is stolen or sold out; where would we go to?" he asked rhetorically, adding, "It is not hard at all to see that we the people of Tema are now facing an existential crisis". Moshake added.

Mr. Ashitey Adjei, who is popularly called Moshake, warned that the developments are causing tensions among the youth and that unless president Akufo-Addo commissions an investigation into the issue, the tensions will degenerate into chaos.

Meanwhile, the wanton theft and illegal sale of lands is just one of many factors putting the indigenes of Tema in existential crisis according to the statement by Moshake. "Our youth face unemployment even though we host Ghana's premier industrial city with enclaves of companies that employ outsiders all the time."

Also, he said the Tema Manhean residential areas which belong to the indigenes have been invaded with dangerous refineries which can wipe out the whole area in the event of an accident that leads to an explosion. According to him, "while these issues are festering, most of the elders of Tema have kept quiet and turned their face away because they themselves are accomplices in the crimes that are threatening the very existence of the indigenes of Tema."

And the situation, he said, is not helped by the fact that Tema has not had a paramount chief since the death of the Tema Mantse, Nii Adjei Kraku II three years ago.

Moshake explained that as the host of Ghana's premier industrial city, the indigenes of Tema have sacrificed a lot. "In the 50s, Ghana's first president, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, had sought to relocate

us to our farmlands in Ashaiman, Adjei Kojo and Zeenu in order to pave way for the construction of the Tema harbour, with Sir William Halcrow, a British consulting engineer who was to ensure the implementation of the Tema plan from Milton Keynes in Britain. We briefly relocated, however because Ashaiman was too far from the sea and we primarily are fishers, the relocation did not go through. President Nkrumah then decided on the compromise solution of relocating us to the current Tema Manhean which is closer to the sea, where one can easily use a canoe to go for fishing." Moshake wrote. According to him, the people did not receive compensation for the land that was taken for the Tema harbour, the construction of the Tema Township and heavy industrial area but there was an arrangement for compound houses to be built for the people in Tema Manhean, our current location.

"Also, an arrangement was made for indigenes to be allocated houses in every Community of Tema. Along with this, companies were also to prioritize the indigenes of Tema in matters of employing staff."

The statement said that even though the quota system is still supposed to be in operation, nobody knows what has become of it as a few elders have hijacked it.

"And so, many of our youth remain unemployed even though we have many big and prestigious companies on our lands."

"These same elders who are few are also behind the illegal sale of Tema lands."

He wrote that the elders are so greedy and dubious that they have also hijacked and are running many public toilets donated by VALCO which they do not account to anybody.

"Again, as a benefit, there was agreement that the Volta Aluminium Company would offer Tema youth scholarships. The last time I checked VALCO was still giving the scholarship quota however, no one can tell how these offers are used because the same greedy elders have hijacked these scholarships," Moshake wrote. He pointed out that as part of the agreement to grant the Meridian Port Services to build a Port in Tema, it was pointed out that the port could be an instigator of tidal waves

that would harm the people and so MPS should also reserve an employment quota for the indigenes as well as certain social corporate responsibilities. However, the MPS quota is also in controversy.

Moshake who recently went on a one-man demonstration against MPS, said that the problems with MPS are beginning to repeat themselves in as far as another big company, the Sentuo Oil refinery is concerned. "I have personally met with the Chairman of Sentuo Group of companies, Mr. Xi Ninquan, before and he has told me that they are willing to build storey buildings to house the indigenes since the refinery's location is dangerous to the indigenes. However, due to lack of leadership, Sentuo themselves are not too sure what to do." Moshake stated.

He lamented that "this is so because as things stand now, Tema does not have a traditional leader who can organize the people for development," wondering why since the demise of Nii Adjei Kraku II, no new Tema Mantse has been enstooled.



This is not the first time that Moshake has raised these issues, in 2002, he criticized the elders over the indiscriminate sale of Tema lands. Then in 2010, he petitioned late president Mills over the sale of a piece of land behind the Tema Naval base to a company called Wilmar. Mills in response, commissioned the Steve Obimpeh Committee which reversed the sale. Over the illegal charge of property rates from Ewe fishmongers who have been settlers on a piece of land called the U-Compound for over 50 years, Moshake again petitioned President Akufo-Addo and the few greedy elders and their collaborators at the Tema Metropolitan Assembly, were stopped. Jubilee House would

subsequently summon then MCE, Felix Mensah Nii Annang-La and warn him.

In his statement, Moshake vows that he will never relent until the few nefarious elders and their collaborators are exposed and stopped.

"I will also like to serve notice that if these issues that I have raised are not resolved, we the youth in Tema will embark on a massive demonstration," he concluded.

CAR Leader Blames West's 'Plundering' Of Africa For Migrant Crisis

Central African Republic President Faustin-Archange Touadera last Thursday accused the West of triggering a migration crisis by pillaging Africa's natural resources through slavery and colonisation. Taking the podium at the United Nations General Assembly, Faustin-Archange Touadera addressed the migrant crisis on the Italian island of Lampedusa, where thousands of African migrants arrived last week, overwhelming the local community and causing a major headache for the European Union.

"These young people who symbolise the present and the future of our continent are desperately seeking to join the countries of the European continent in search of an El Dorado," Touadera said. "This escalation of the migrant crisis is one of the appalling consequences of the plundering of natural resources of countries made poor by slavery, colonisation and Western imperialism, terrorism and internal armed conflicts," he added.

Western governments and aid organisations have poured billions of dollars into African countries suffering from hunger, armed conflict and other crises over the years, but critics say delivery of the aid is often hampered by corruption from local governments and militants. Touadera's statement contrasted sharply with comments Wednesday by Italy's right-wing Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni,



Central African Republic President Faustin-Archange

who blamed the crisis on migrant smugglers and charged that Africa was in fact a rich continent. Lampedusa, Italy's southernmost island, located less than 150 kilometres (90 miles) from the Tunisian coast, has long been a landing point for migrant boats from North Africa. But it was inundated last week, when some 8,500 people -- more than the entire local population -- arrived in 199 boats over the course of three days, according to the UN migration agency. EU officials scrambled to respond and the president of the European Commission, the EU's executive arm, was scheduled to visit the island on Sunday. Touadera lauded the "solidarity and the incredible efforts" by the countries hosting the migrants but said that Africa must be given a greater say in solving the migrant crisis.

"The UN must go beyond our common commitment to revive global solidarity by involving African countries in the search for global

solutions to the migration crises and the existential issues facing young people on the African continent," he said.

In her UN speech, Italy's Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, who heads the post-fascist Brothers of Italy party and took office in part on pledges to crack down on migration, called human traffickers a "mafia who earn as much as drug smugglers".

"I believe it is the duty of this organisation to reject any hypocritical approach to this issue and wage a global war without mercy against the traffickers of human beings," she said. Meloni said Italy would work to address root causes and help African nations "grow and prosper".

"Africa is not a poor continent. To the contrary, it is rich with strategic resources," Meloni said. Fissures quickly emerged in Brussels on how to respond to the Lampedusa crisis.

While Meloni called on Italy's EU partners to share more of the responsibility, France said it would not welcome the migrants from the island but is willing to help return them to friendly countries, such as Ivory Coast and Senegal.

EU border patrol agency Frontex on Wednesday said it would boost support to Italy following the surge of arrivals on Lampedusa.

Addressing the General Assembly later in the day, Kenya's President William Ruto said investments in technology, infrastructure, green initiatives and agriculture in Africa will enable its young people find the livelihoods they desire at home and reverse the tide of migration in the opposite direction.

Source -- theafrican.co.ke

Nigerian Literary Giant Wole Soyinka Releases New Novel In France



Nigerian writer and activist Wole Soyinka at RFI's studios in September 2023. © Catherine Fruchon-Toussaint/RFI

By Melissa Chemam

Nigerian author Wole Soyinka's third novel, "Chronicles from the Land of the Happiest People on Earth", has been released in French. The Nobel laureate tells RFI about his inspiration behind the book, which takes place in an imaginary version of Nigeria.

This novel is the fruit of a long lived experience. "Anger, frustration and also puzzlement" are how this book came about, Soyinka told RFI's Catherine Fruchon-Toussaint. Anger against the country's growing level of corruption and global dysfunction.

"The title comes from external sources: I read one of these Gallup polls conducted around the world, one about which are the happiest people in the world," Soyinka explains.

"I was astonished to find that Nigeria was among the top six, maybe even top three or four. So I started asking myself how we came to earn such an unlikely title. "That's the question I tried to answer in that work." **Wole Soyinka's third novel has just been published in translation in France.** © Editions du Seuil

The novel follows the adventures of Papa Davina, a wannabe guru who comes back from the United States and finds an unlikely following as the creator of his own religion. "They're fascinating characters, these Papa Davinas of the world – whether they come from Christianity or Islam," Soyinka says. "They are really theatrical, even if it's as very bad theatre. The question is how people are so seduced with what, for me, is just an act."

Facing such developments are two friends, a doctor and an engineer, Dr Menka and his oldest college friend, bon vivant and Yoruba royal, Duyole Pitan-Payne, trying to stay sane in a country on the verge of social

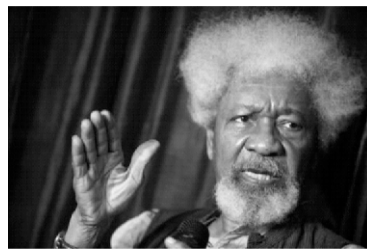
explosion.

With their adventures and dialogues, Soyinka tries to focus on the humane side of a morally collapsing society.

Described by Nigerian-British poet and novelist Ben Okri as a "shocking story of political corruption in a country much like his homeland", the novel has already been lauded by the French press for its satirical elements mixing humour and horror. Born in 1934, Akinwande Oluwole Babatunde Soyinka was the first writer from the African continent to receive the [Nobel Prize for Literature](#), which he was awarded in 1986.

He grew in the pre-independence era when, as he told RFI, "religious conflicts were easily resolved inside communities".

But corruption skyrocketed in Nigeria, to "an industry level". Since the mid-1960s, Soyinka's



Soyinka often intervened to guide Nigerians on political issues. © AFP/File

voice has brought the most caustic criticism against dictatorships and bad governance in his country, which can be read as universal fables as well.

He has spent more than five decades using his writing to reflect, discuss and criticise the society around him – in his native Nigeria, but also elsewhere in Africa and the rest of the world.

It was first as a playwright that he managed to satire the social wrongs with works such as "The Invention" (1957), "The Swamp

Dwellers" (1958), "The Lion and the Jewel" (1959), "My Father's Burden" (1960), and "Kongi's Harvest" (1965).

Encouraged by the immense success of his first plays in London's theatre scene, Soyinka moved to the British capital and worked as a play reader for the [Royal Court Theatre](#). He then returned to his homeland.

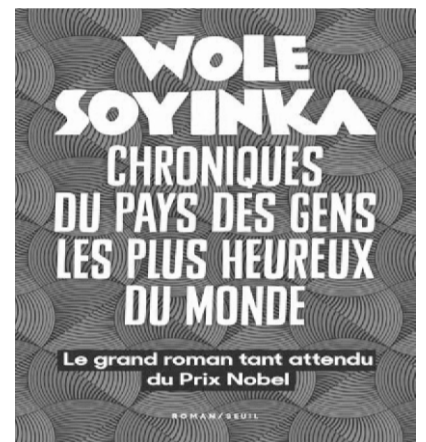
What followed were essays, poetry, then memoirs, operas, short stories and two novels: "The Interpreters" (1965) and "Season of Anomy" (1973).

A decade after Nigeria gained independence, Soyinka had become a well-known opposition figure. During the civil war, he was imprisoned for 22 months. An involved activist, Soyinka even tried to launch a party of "progressives" in the late 2000s, and remains preoccupied with political plagues such as corruption and manipulation of the masses.

Soyinka has been involved with the [Présence Africaine](#) review for decades, meeting with other African intellectuals, writers and artists, especially from the French-speaking world, to exchange ideas on African cultures.

From these exchanges, he kept a keen interest in other African languages and writing styles, including references coming from the French language as spoken in West Africa.

Soyinka's latest novel is ripe with French words and expressions that reflect the reality of the streets of cities such as Lagos, where many French-speaking West Africans work and live.



US Refuses To Acknowledge Systemic Use Of Torture By Its Armed Forces In Iraq

By Abdul Rahman

Hundreds of Iraqi prisoners kept in US detention centers in Iraq, including the largest facility Abu Ghraib, endured various forms of torture and abuse by the US armed forces between 2003 and 2009. However, even after two decades, none of these Iraqis have been given any kind of redressal or compensation.

The first major evidence was the leak of photographs from Abu Ghraib in April 2004, within a year of the occupation in March 2003 and the establishment of this detention facility in Baghdad. The photos as well as victims' testimonies confirmed that various techniques of torture were used by US soldiers, including forcing detainees to remain naked, using dogs to attack them, as well as the use of water hoses, live fire, and electrocution. Some of the detainees were kept in solitary confinement naked for days and weeks despite the harsh



A cell block on Abu Gharib. Photo: USDOJ Office of the Inspector General, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons. A large number of those who were kept in Abu Ghraib and other detention centers run by the US and its allies in Iraq were innocent civilians. Many were subjected to various forms of torture and have not received justice to this day

winters.

Some of these techniques were later [defended](#) by US officials as "enhanced interrogation techniques." Torture in any form in prohibited under the Geneva conventions, the UN convention against torture, and other international laws. Even domestic US laws prohibit the use of torture. After the incriminating photos surfaced, then-US President George Bush tried to dismiss the issue by saying that these were the acts of some individuals. While Bush offered an apology, his Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld

promised compensation to the victims.

However, none of the Iraqi victims have received any compensation so far and most of the attempts made by them to seek some kind of redressal have been either blocked or are still pending in the country's legal framework.

No accountability, no redressal

According to a recent Human Rights Watch (HRW) [report](#), only 97 soldiers—implicated in 38 cases between 2003 and 2005—have faced any kind of punishment related to torture, with just 11 being sent for court martial. Investigations carried out by the US Army's Criminal Investigative Division (CID) in most of the other cases were dismissive and attempted to save the face of the army. No officer has ever been held accountable for these acts of torture. US authorities have repeatedly blocked victims trying to seek justice, and refused to admit that torture is widespread in the US

armed forces and not limited to a few rogue individuals.

In fact, no one except the Pentagon knows the real extent of the torture that was committed by US armed forces in Iraq. The US [refuses to release](#) the hundreds of photos it claims to have in its possession in this regard. The US administration was forced to release some photos in 2014 after a lawsuit by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).

The Pentagon's refusal to release all the photos is akin to censorship, depriving the people of knowing the full extent of the crimes committed by the US armed forces in Iraq, [claims](#) the ACLU and other civil rights organizations. The web of detention centers run by the US and its allies in Iraq and the number of people detained in them was massive, pointing to the possibility of high occurrence of torture. Around 100,000 Iraqis were officially held in Abu Ghraib between 2003 and 2009, when it was finally

shut down. According to a Red Cross [report](#) published in 2004, between 70% and 90% of the detainees there were arrested by "mistake." While Abu Ghraib was the largest detention center, it was not the only one. There were several other detention centers created by the occupation forces across Iraq, some of them overt and others covert, known as "back sites," in complete violation of all international laws. As one of the victims of US torture in Iraq, [Salah Hasan](#), told the *The Intercept*, "achieving justice begins with revealing all details about the torture and acknowledging them on the part of the United States, then giving reparations to the survivors who were tortured unjustly, for no reason."

“The Law Is Protecting Total”

By Rhiannon Osborne And Sara el-Solh

Uganda has recently witnessed a series of student-led protests which have brought global attention to the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project. These demonstrations, spearheaded by the student branch of the StopEACOP movement, have highlighted the devastating environmental effects of the pipeline but also the willingness of the Ugandan government to violently repress those defending their lives and livelihoods against it. On September 15, four students were [arrested](#) on their way to deliver a petition to parliament.

EACOP is a joint venture between French fossil fuel giant Total Energies and the governments of Uganda and Tanzania. Aiming to transport oil extracted from Uganda's Lake Albert oilfields to the coast of Tanzania where it can be sold to world markets, it is touted by Total as an exciting economic opportunity which will bring prosperity to those along its path. However this narrative conveniently sidesteps the very real threats the pipeline poses to the people and ecosystems living around it, which include far-reaching damages to land and livelihoods. The construction and operation of EACOP endangers water sources and disrupts agricultural activities; for communities dependent on these resources for survival, the project poses a direct threat to life. Alphonse, an engineering student and current coordinator of Students Against EACOP, conducted research as part of a university project which found thousands of people risk losing their lives if it is completed. With this in mind, he believes action is imperative: “How can anyone know this and not protest?”

The harm already done to people displaced by EACOP was highlighted in the recent [Peoples Health Tribunal of Shell & Total](#), held in May this year. Testimony givers from project-affected areas spoke of how displacement from their land, with little to no compensation, has damaged their health, livelihoods and communities. Over 118,000 people are having some or all of their land expropriated. This loss of land has led to a [“proliferation of famine, poverty and family breakage,”](#) the speakers said.

They described how Total came with promises to improve standards of living, but instead, the people affected by the project are now [“landless and are the poorest in the country.”](#) Many of these communities rely directly on agriculture, and are already witnessing the impacts of the climate crisis on their lands and lives.

These displacements and land grabs are closely reliant on the law, argues Athura Maxwell of Tasha Institute, one of the co-organizers of the Tribunal. “There are Ugandan, international and French laws favoring multinationals oil companies like Total so called investors in Africa and for most of issues associated to displacement of oil project affected persons, inadequate compensations of indigenous land and livelihood concerns, we find that the law is protecting Total by unclear courts interpretation of new laws like Duty of vigilance law in France, Law on compulsory land acquisition in Uganda,” he said while speaking about the legal dynamics of the pipeline. Alphonse agrees with him: “Total has influence everywhere in government. They have enough power to affect our laws.” Land acquisition law in Uganda means that the government can seize land—often without compensation—if they believe it to be in the “public interest” and Total has played politics to make this happen. Maxwell believes that Total is also involved in setting the (unfairly low) prices for compensation, with the government providing the perfect cover using their nebulous “public interest” legislation.

Many Ugandans, including testimony givers at the People's Health Tribunal, have spoken of being intimidated into signing documents, and [not understanding agreements](#) which were not communicated in their Indigenous language. Both Maxwell and Alphonse also described how the Public Order Management Act limits people from gathering and protesting. “We need to ask the police for permission for a gathering, so they are stopping gatherings of affected people who try to organize together to resist the project. And then there are punishments for activists who arrange these meetings.” Supposed



protective measures, such as the National Environment Management Authority and the laws against development in national parks, have all ruled in favor of Total despite their grossly inadequate social and environmental mitigation plan.

People's Tribunals as an alternative

This deliberate failure of legal systems to protect communities from state and corporate violence has led many social movements to organize for justice outside of this system. The People's Health Tribunal of Shell and Total, built on the [long tradition](#) of Peoples' Tribunals worldwide, is enabling communities actively silenced by the law to share testimony, and attendees to bear witness to atrocities committed. This is crucial for documenting evidence, raising public consciousness of violence, and building resistance. Maxwell shared how Tribunals are important to counter the lies of companies like Total: “Total is running a misinformation campaign on the benefits of oil and activists are being branded as 'anti-development liars,' so the Tribunal was very important to open people's eyes to the reality on the ground.”

Storytelling can be on the terms of the communities' themselves, not the rigid requirements of courts. There can be space to share emotions, relationships with land, community connections and ancestral relationships, thus helping to document the full extent of the harm caused by extractivism. Maxwell shared how the process of collective storytelling, and the space to be heard, has “strengthened many of the testimony givers to talk without fear.”

Gustavo Rojas-Páez [writes](#) about how testimony in the form of storytelling by Indigenous communities is often rejected in courts: “Since colonial times, courts around the world have rarely questioned the violent practices of the extractive

industries. In fact, they have struggled to understand claims posed by Indigenous peoples and their Cosmo visions, which often entail different practices about the relationship between humanity and nature.”

People's Tribunals such as that of Shell and Total also open up space to envisage reparative justice beyond the usually meager compensation which can be gained through formal courts. This included cleaning-up after extractive industries and restoration of land rights, but communities also emphasized self-determination and moving away from colonial, capitalist systems of extraction. Free from the hostile gaze of a justice system rigged against them, communities were able to radically reimagine a repairing of the people and the land. This vision is powerful; the demands outlined by communities in the [verdict](#) can then be taken up and used in campaigning locally and globally, it “sets a precedent and a starting point for us to campaign from.”

Strategic use of law

Despite how the law has been used to protect Total, Maxwell thinks that social movements can and should use law strategically—“we have to build strong enough facts and evidence to beat Total; build enough stories, write about what is happening on the ground, and expose their lies.” Maxwell has been part of efforts to take Total to court in France. France has a relatively new (2017) law called Duty of Vigilance, in which a transnational corporation is obliged to 'identify risks and prevent serious violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms, the health and safety of both people and the environment' which may result from the activities of the company, their subsidiaries, contractors and suppliers both in France and abroad. Communities brought a case in October 2019 arguing that Total did not have a sufficient vigilance plan. However, instead of holding this company to account, the French courts threw out the case in [February 2023](#) after years of delay. Meanwhile, the human and environmental rights abuses this case attempted to stop have been accelerating—“Total said we will control the flood and the dust, but the flood and the dust are now already among the people.” Now, Maxwell is part of a group [taking Total to court](#) under the same law demanding compensation for this “huge worsening in quality of life for

the project affected people—we want these people who have suffered to be given remedy.”

Whilst these cases are unlikely to deliver the full visions of reparative justice outlined in initiatives like the People's Health Tribunal, landmark cases like this can help to get much needed compensation for communities, delegitimize an industry, and open up space for further action. They are one tactic in a much wider strategy of organizing for environmental, health and racial justice.

Solidarity: What can we do?

It's easy to feel hopeless when faced with the full scale of these atrocities as well as the immense power wielded by violent corporations. Yet hope is essential. Hope allows us to dream of a better world and therefore, much like people's tribunals, encourages us to fight for it. There is much to fight for and many ways to contribute to this growing global resistance. Solidarity should always be the foundation of any actions supporting the fight against extractivism and to join this struggle it's crucial to understand the experiences of communities already on the frontline. Raising awareness by discussing these issues with friends and family is also a powerful way of planting small seeds that can grow and contribute to the global ecosystem of resistance. Whilst companies like Total are immensely powerful, they can and will be defeated by a global justice movement rooted in solidarity, reparative justice and visions of a world beyond extractivism.

Sara, Maxwell and Rhiannon are all part of the [Peoples Health Hearing Collective](#), who organized the People's Health Tribunal of Shell & Total. Alphonse is a coordinator of Students Against EACOP. Find out more about how to support and [donate](#) to Students Against EACOP: <https://tinyurl.com/supportSAEACOP>

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Sara el-Solh (she/her) is a physician-anthropologist using health as a lens through which to radically re-envision a just world. She currently researches and organizes around issues of migration, climate and access to healthcare.