

ELECTIONS 2024

EC To Create 25 New Constituencies



Dr Bossman Asare, Deputy Commissioner of EC

The Electoral Commission (EC) has disclosed that it will initiate processes leading to the creation of new constituencies including the Guan District when Parliament resumes from recess in October 2023. Deputy Commissioner of the EC in charge of Corporate Services, Dr Eric Bossman Asare, made the revelation in an interview with Accra based TV 3 on Monday, September 11, 2023. Dr. Bossman was reacting to issues in the media about the Limited Voter Registration exercises, which took off on Tuesday, September 12, at the

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Ada Communities Blast President Nana Akufo-Addo Over Songor Salt Concession

By Kwesi Asamoah Acheampong

Some chiefs and elders in some communities at Ada have heavily descended on President Nana Akufo-Addo over recent statements he made at the commissioning of the Electrochem Company Limited's salt operations at Ada. According to them some portions of the President's

statements that sought to commend Electrochem for embarking on such a gigantic project which is said to be the largest in West Africa did not portray happenings on the ground. Addressing a press conference at Aminapa, Medie yesterday, Ebenezer Adjaottor, Deputy Secretary of the Ada Songor Lagoon Associations said the



president erred by commending Electrochem. According to him there is a Master Plan governing the Ada Songor lagoon project which dates back to several decades and which is recognized under the PNDC Law 287, something he claims Electrochem's current

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Russia Says It Expects Long War In Ukraine



Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday indicated he was bracing for a long war in Ukraine, saying that Kyiv could use any ceasefire to rearm and that Washington would continue to see Russia as an enemy no matter who won the 2024 U.S. election. Speaking for several hours at an economic

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How Ghana Surrendered Its Independence To The US



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The INSIGHT

EDITORIAL

FIGHTING CORRUPTION

Recent revelation that some public and state institutions are perceived to be the most corrupt though unsurprising should be a wakeup call and a matter of concern to all.

Clearly, there is the need for institutional reforms and image cleansing to restore confidence in the generality of Ghanaians. Over the years these issues have been swept under the carpet, or officers held for various offences left off the hook, a development that appears to have emboldened many to perpetrate or deepen the rot in the system. Quite apart from the perception index, the country also loses a whopping 14 billion cedis annually through corruption.

This is in spite of the establishment of several anti-corruption agencies and institutions both private and state-owned to fight the cancer in the country.

The taxpayers' money is increasingly spent on these anti-corruption agencies annually by the government and other international organisations but the problem keeps worsening.

There is the need to build a strong public opinion against the canker if it is to be eradicated.

It is also important that the laws of the country are carried to the letter if any official or individual is found to be complicit in any corruption related offence.

Most importantly, prosecution of corrupt public officials has to be devoid of partisan politics or colourisation.

ELECTIONS 2024

EC To Create 25 New Constituencies



from front page

District offices of the Electoral Commission across the country.

While responding to a question by the TV3 presenter Roland Walker, the Deputy EC Commissioner said the Guan District will get a new Constituency by the Commission as the process is being initiated to create some new constituencies for the 2024 elections.

"We are in the process of creating some new constituencies and Guan District is one of them. If not because parliament is on recess, we should have started the process in parliament," Dr Bossman said.

Dr. Bossman Asare however failed to mention how many additional new constituencies would be created alongside the Guan Constituency.

However, information picked by **EXPRESSNEWSGHANA**, indicated that the EC is considering 25 new constituencies as part of the process leading to the 2024, general elections.

Currently, the country has 275 constituencies and the two major political groups, the National Democratic Congress (NDC) and the New Patriotic Party (NPP) have 137 each with an Independent MP for Fomena.

Parliament went on recess on July 29, 2023, and is expected to be resuming in October, for the 2024 budget. At the 2020 general election, the EC could not hold elections for registered voters in the Guan District to elect a Member of Parliament due to the absence of a constituency.

The Commission claimed at the time that it was unable to create the Constituency because the C. I needed to create a constituency that could not mature in the 7th Parliament.

The Constitutional Instrument (CI) for amendment of the creation of a Constituency has to be laid and stay in Parliament for 21 sitting days and come into force if 2/3s of the Members of Parliament allow its journey. It is



after the passage of the amended C I that the EC can contemplate demarcating the country for more constituencies.

Article 42 of the 1992 constitution of Ghana states, "Every citizen of Ghana of eighteen years of age or above and of sound mind has the right to vote and is entitled to be registered as a voter for the purposes of public elections and referenda." Article 45 (a) and (b) state, that "the Electoral Commission shall have the following functions, (a) to compile the register of voters and revise it at such periods as may be determined by law and (b) to demarcate the electoral boundaries for both national and local government elections."

THE INSIGHT

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Russia Says It Expects Long War In Ukraine

from front page

forum in Russia's Pacific port city of Vladivostok, Putin said Ukraine's counteroffensive against Russian forces had so far failed and the Ukrainian army had sustained heavy losses of 71,000 men in the attacks.

Only when Ukraine was exhausted when it came to men, equipment and ammunition would it talk peace, he said in reply to questions from a Russian television presenter acting as a moderator.

But he said Kyiv would use any cessation of hostilities "to replenish their resources and restore the combat capability of their armed forces."

Putin said many potential mediators had asked him if Russia was ready to stop fighting but said that Russia could hardly do so when it was facing a Ukrainian counteroffensive.

For there to be any chance of talks, said Putin, Ukraine would first have to



Russian President Vladimir Putin chairs a meeting outside Moscow

cancel its self-imposed legal ban on peace talks and explain what it wanted.

"Then we shall see," Putin said.

Russia controls about 18% of Ukrainian territory, including Crimea which it annexed in 2014, and a swathe of eastern and southern Ukraine which it seized after invading Ukraine on Feb. 24 last year in what it called a special military operation.

The war has sown devastation across cities and the countryside, and killed or injured hundreds of thousands of combatants and civilians.

For several months, Ukraine has been battling to try to regain some of the lost territory and has retaken some villages but not yet made significant breakthroughs against heavily fortified Russian

lines which are strewn with landmines.

Ukraine says it will not rest until every last Russian soldier is ejected from its land. The West says it wants to help Ukraine defeat Russia - an aim Kremlin officials say is an unrealistic pipedream.

U.S. ELECTION

Putin said the prosecution in the United States of former President Donald Trump was politically motivated and demonstrated the "rottenness" of the U.S. political system.

But the Kremlin chief said that no matter who won next year's U.S. election, he expected no change in Washington's policy towards Russia. "There will be no fundamental changes in the Russian direction in U.S. foreign policy, no matter who is elected president," Putin said. "The U.S. authorities perceive Russia as an existential enemy."

Putin also defended his pivot towards Asia, which he said was accelerated by the war and the

West's attempt to constrict the \$2.1 trillion Russian economy.

Speaking ahead of a meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, Putin said the West was trying to deter China from having close relations with Russia, but that such attempts had failed as ties with Beijing were at an unprecedented level.

The West's decision to supply Ukraine with cluster bombs and depleted uranium munitions was a crime, he said. Such supplies might prolong the war, he added, but they would not change its ultimate outcome.

He also criticised the West's decision to supply Ukraine with F-16 jets and any possible U.S. supply of Army Tactical Missile Systems (ATACMS).

The Biden administration is close to approving the shipment of longer-range missiles packed with cluster bombs to Ukraine, Reuters reported this month.

(Reporting by Reuters; Writing by Guy Faulconbridge Editing by Andrew Osborn and Angus MacSwan)

Source -- Reuters

How Ghana Surrendered Its Independence To The US



By Owei Lakemfa

Ghana, the shining Black Star which in 1957 lit the way to independence for all of Africa, is today, a slave colony of the United States, US. The declaration 65 years ago by its leader, Kwame Nkrumah that: "The independence of Ghana is meaningless unless it is linked up with the total liberation of Africa," gave momentum to the independence movements across the continent.

Ghana followed up its declaration by providing offices and bases for liberation movements on the continent. For this reason and the moves by Nkrumah to unite the continent into a single United States of Africa, his stiff opposition to Apartheid, transforming Ghana into the universal headquarters of the Pan Africanist movement and seeking to make Africa independent of external powers, his administration was overthrown.

The coup that toppled the Nkrumah administration was planned by the American Central Intelligence Agency, CIA, whose Deputy Director, Ray Cline, coordinated it from Washington, while its station chief in Ghana, Howard Bane, saw to its execution. Over 1,600 Ghanaians were killed in the coup with many injured.

The primary tasks of the coup plotters were to reverse all the gains made by the Nkrumah leadership, expel all liberation fighters given refuge and hand over the country to external forces.

One of the major beneficiaries of the 1966 coup was Edward Akufo-Addo who was named the Chief Justice. Four years into the coup, he was named the President of Ghana. Today, 50 years after he left office, his son, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo as President of Ghana, is continuing the demolition work by surrendering the independence of Ghana to the same American establishment that executed the criminal February 24, 1966 coup. The current President Akufo-Addo had in April 2018 sworn that Ghana has "not offered a military base, and will not offer a military base to the United States of America." But it is a matter of nomenclature as the military base was baptised as West Africa Logistics Network, WALN. Under it, America is given the right to run Ghana as a colony although the latter still maintains the privilege of marking March 6 as 'Independence Day.'

As part of the Agreement, Ghana, through an American contractor, McDan, has handed over Terminal 1 of the Kotoka International Airport in Accra to the Americans free of charge!

The 'Agreement' itself is worse than the humiliating Japanese piece of surrender to the US after defeat in the Second World War. It grants American soldiers and civilian contractors the privileges, exemptions and immunity equivalent to diplomatic missions under the Vienna Convention. American soldiers can wear their uniforms and carry arms in Ghana as if they are in the US and can enter and exit Ghana without passports just with their identity cards! That is a right even Ghanaians don't have!

Agreed facilities and areas provided by Ghana, like the runway, can be of exclusive use by American forces who are also authorised to exercise all rights and authorities for the use, operation, defence, or control of such places, including using force. Also, the Americans can undertake construction activities on, and make alterations and improvements to agreed facilities and areas like the airport and seaport and are authorised to control entry to such places. The agreement also provides that Ghana furnishes, without rental, all agreed facilities and areas while the Americans are afforded priority in access to and use of facilities that have been provided for joint use. Buildings constructed by US forces shall become the property of Ghana, provided that it "shall be used by United States forces until no longer needed by United States forces."

The Americans are also empowered to retain title to all equipment, material, supplies, relocatable structures and other moveable property.

Under the Agreement, US forces are authorised to preposition and store defence equipment, supplies and materials - which does not exclude chemical and biological weapons and laboratories. They also have the right to remove such items from the territory of Ghana.

Ghana is obliged to ensure the protection, safety and security of American forces, contractors, property and official information. In other words, Ghanaian officials and citizens can be hunted like Julian Assange for alleged leakage of US information.

The agreement says if the Americans are not physically present at their facilities and areas, such places "shall remain

locked and secure, and security for such facilities and areas shall be provided by Ghana."

The Americans have the powers to conclude contracts for the acquisition of goods and services, including construction, in Ghana in accordance with United States laws and regulations. Ghana agreed that the acquisition of goods and services in the country by or on behalf of American forces shall not be subject to any taxes, customs duties or similar charges.

Also, the Americans are not liable to pay any tax (including VAT) and are empowered to "import into,

and export out of, and use in Ghana any personal property, equipment, supplies, material, technology, training or services in connection with this Agreement." Such importation or exportation are exempted from any inspection, licence, other restrictions, customs duties, taxes or any other charges assessed within Ghana. In other words, any American soldier can smuggle anything in and out of Ghana. The agreement also provides that aircraft, vehicles and vessels operated by US forces may enter, exit and move freely within the territory and territorial waters of Ghana. So, America can wage war on Ghanaian territory. Also, such aircraft, vehicles and vessels are not subject to the payment of landing, parking or port fees, compulsory pilotage, navigation or over flight charges; or tolls or other use charges, including lighter age and harbour dues levied by Ghana.

Ghana also agreed to accept American driving licences and the Americans are empowered to operate telecommunication systems, and the right to use all

necessary radio spectrum free of cost.

Other than contractual claims, no claims for damage, loss or destruction of property, or death or injury to any military personnel and civilian employees shall be entertained. So, American forces can damage property or kill Ghanaians without being charged. Any third party claims, say by a Ghanaian citizen, will be handled by the American Government in accordance with US laws and regulations.

The agreement can only be terminated by one year's written notice to the other party through diplomatic channels. There is of course no reciprocal agreement giving Ghana any right or privilege in the US; it is purely an 'Agreement' between a slave and slave master.

The Supreme Court of Ghana had on Tuesday, May 5, 2020 ruled as unmeritorious, a suit against this slavish agreement brought by the Ashanti Regional Youth Organiser of the opposition NDC, Brogya Genfi. This was how Ghana surrendered its independence to the US.

Owei Lakemfa, a former secretary general of Organisation of African Trade Union Unity (OATUU), is a human rights activist, journalist, and author.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS REPORT

Compiled By Peoples Dispatch

144,000 US Autoworkers Set To Strike

By Natalia Marques

At midnight on Thursday, today, the master contract for 144,000 US autoworkers employed at the three largest car manufacturers (General Motors, Ford, and Stellantis) will expire. Workers have been preparing for months for this moment, using the UPS Teamsters' [historic contract win](#) as inspiration. The United Auto Workers, which represents the 144,000 workers employed at the "Big Three" automakers, has organized [grassroots actions](#) such as practice pickets. This year's contract campaign is the first mobilization of the rank-and-file union members for contract negotiations in the [unions history](#).

The Big Three have already rejected key demands such as the cost of living adjustment (raises tied directly to inflation, dubbed COLA). In a September 8 update, UAW President Shawn Fain revealed that Stellantis and Ford proposed lump-sum bonuses that exclude certain workers rather than COLA. Ford's proposal does tie wage increases to inflation but only when inflation goes up by a

very high threshold, which would mean no COLA raises for the next four years.

"That's not COLA. That's not even Diet COLA. That's Coke Zero," said Fain on September 8.

The companies have only put forward new counter proposals this past weekend, [writes](#) Luiz Feliz Leon in *Labor Notes*, although even these fall far short of what workers want. "It's unfortunate the companies have waited until the last moments to get focused on the needs of 150,000 autoworkers, our families, and our communities," said Fain on Monday.

In 2022, in the first direct election in UAW for top officers, union members elected current President Shawn Fain, who has been trailblazing a path for [radical change](#) within the union. Fain is determined to abandon the model of concessions to the Big Three that UAW leadership has pursued for decades, and win back the victories of the socialist-influenced UAW of the 1930s and 40s. The UAW's [demands](#) such as a 32-hour workweek, raises tied

to inflation, the elimination of tiers which divide workers, and the ending of plant closures, reflect the goals of a new iteration of leadership.

Autoworkers are [ready to strike](#).

UAW has [USD 825 million](#) in its strike fund to make sure that workers can make do without pay. Last month, [97%](#) of workers at the Big Three voted to authorize a strike. In two days, this could very well become a reality—the first time autoworkers at all of the "Big Three" strike at once.

A battle for all workers

If they manage to win their demands before September 14 (President Fain has made it clear that backing down from demands is not an option), UAW workers will raise standards for the entire US working class, currently in the depths of [economic despair](#).

If a potential strike is not averted, UAW workers will embark on a battle not only for their set of very radical demands but against some of the most powerful elements of capitalism



The master contract for 144,000 unionized workers expires on September 14. Workers are ready to strike the three largest automakers in the nation

itself. In a recent [report](#) at *Truthout*, Derek Seidman labeled the Big Three the "three-headed behemoth of big capital." Seidman's report reveals the links between the leadership of the largest automakers in the country to some of the most notorious union busting corporations in the country, including Amazon and Walmart, as well as to the tools and masterminds of US imperialism such as the Council on Foreign Relations and the top weapons producers (General Dynamics, Northrop Grumman, Lockheed Martin) that bloat the US military budget.

As Seidman writes, "GM CEO Mary Barra herself served on the board of General Dynamics, the [fifth-biggest](#) US defense company, from 2011 to

2017, during which she was compensated in the [millions](#). GM Director [Thomas Schoewe](#) currently serves as a [director](#) of Northrop Grumman, the [third-biggest](#) US defense company. GM Director Wesley G. Bush is the former head of Northrop Grumman, serving as CEO until [2018](#) and chairman until 2019. Another GM director, [Linda R. Good](#), is the retired executive vice president of Information Systems and Global Solutions at Lockheed Martin, the [top](#) US defense company."

In 2022, General Motors CEO Mary Barra made [USD 29 million](#) in total compensation, Ford CEO Jim Farley made over [USD 55 million](#) from 2020 to 2022, and Stellantis CEO Carlos Tavares made nearly [USD 23.5 million](#) in 2022.

"Our wages have increased by less than 12% since 2007. Adjusted for inflation, Big 3 workers are earning \$9/hour LESS than we were 15 years ago," writes the UAW reform organization, Unite All Workers for Democracy, in a contract campaign [leaflet](#). "Are you ready to take on the companies and win what we deserve?"

5,000 Presumed Dead Due To Flooding In Libya



Flood-affected area in Derna, Libya, September 11, 2023. (Photo: The Eastern-based government of Libya/Handout via Xinhua). The city of Derna was among the worst affected due to the bursting of two dams in its vicinity. The flooding took place due to heavy rains caused by the storm Daniel in the Mediterranean Sea

Thousands have died and many more are reported to be missing after heavy rains caused by the storm Daniel in the

Mediterranean Sea resulted in large-scale flooding in several towns along the eastern coast of Libya on Monday, September 11. The city of

Derna was the worst affected. Latest reports say at least 5,000 people are presumed dead and at least 10,000 people are missing. According to the reports, Derna was completely cut off from the rest of the country for several hours due to the bursting of two nearby dams. The floodwater washed away buildings and vehicles in the city and caused large-scale death and destruction. The mayor of the Derna said that at least 20% of the city was destroyed.

Several other coastal towns, such as Bayda, al-Marj, Tobruk, and Taknis, were also affected by the

flooding. A large number of people have been displaced. At several places, [roads](#) were washed away, leaving many people trapped and cut off from the rest of the country.

Both the governments in Libya — the one led by Abdul Hamid Dbeibah in Tripoli and the other under Osama Hammad in Benghazi — issued separate orders declaring Derna a disaster region.

Authorities have declared a state of emergency in the flood affected-regions and several bodies were announced to

coordinate the relief work.

Both the Libyan governments, as well as the UN mission in Libya, have called for international support to deal with the situation. Hammad said that his country was in no condition to carry out all the relief and reconstruction work required, *AP* reported.

Various countries in the region including Egypt, Turkey, UAE, and Algeria have announced that they are dispatching relief material and doctors.

Koforidua High Court Registrar Thwarts Effort To Injunct EC Over Voters Registration



Attempt by a resident of Digya Island in Afram Plains North in Eastern region to stop the Electoral Commission from going ahead to conduct the voter's registration exercise was thwarted at the Koforidua High Court on Monday September 11, 2023.

Counsel for the applicant Lawyer Isaac Minta Larbi was frustrated by the Registrar in his attempt to file originating processes against the EC regarding the upcoming voters registration exercise of the EC scheduled to take place on September 12, 2023.

Lawyer Isaac Minta Larbi issued an application to be filed early Monday morning for and on behalf of his client who contacted him on Friday regarding the fact that because of his location on the island there was no way he could

travel to Donkorkrom where the EC district office is located to take part in his registration to exercise his civic right to vote.

In a document sighted by Starr FM the plaintiff said "That I reside at Xedro, Digya Island in the Afram Plains North District in the Eastern Region of Ghana, which has no direct route to the district office of the Electoral Commission in Donkorkrom.

That the district office of the Electoral Commission which is located at Donkorkrom is not accessible from where I live at Xedro, Digya Island.

That if I even have to manage to find a way there I would have to cross the Volta Lake from Digya Island using the pontoon which would travel for about three (3) hours on the lake alone, before getting to the nearest village where I would now have to ask for directions which would take me through places I have never been before and cannot go through as a teen".

The plaintiff continued "that the villages surrounding Digya Island after the lake are as deprived as that of Digya Island with no roads,

electricity, schools, clinics, etc for which reason it is not possible to even travel through those places to try to locate Donkorkrom to the District Office of the EC.

That a simple check on Google Maps to try to travel from Digya National Park to Donkorkrom shows that there is no road to Donkorkrom from Digya National Park let alone from the Digya Island which is located somewhere in the middle of the Volta Lake. Please See Exhibit "DIGYA" attached herein.

That I have been told that if I have to go to Donkorkrom from Digya Island I would have to board the pontoon for three hours to go to the nearest village and then find a way to go through Ho in the Volta Region, travel to Koforidua in the Eastern Region and then go through Nkawaw before travelling on the pontoon again to Afram Plains before travelling again to Donkorkrom. And when I am done with the registration I would have to go through the same route before getting back to Digya Island. That this is impossible for me to do."

With such a serious predicament of the client Lawyer Isaac Minta Larbi was compelled to issue the necessary process to be filed urgently to be served on the EC. Unfortunately, the High Court in Koforidua frustrated the filing of the application.

The Registrar delayed the process until it was late in the day before the application was filed by which time serving the EC was practically impossible.

"Even after the filing which took place very late in the day, the Registrar was directing bailiffs to go to Accra and serve the EC when service can be effected everywhere irrespective of the address which is stated on the face of the document. This attempt to frustrate the filing and service of processes in court when citizens of this country have the right to go to court is very unfortunate" Lawyer Minta Larbi stated .

He said the "Registrars of the courts do not have any power to interfere in the filing of processes in court but unfortunately this is happening at a time when critical action needs to be taken if not it may be too late. We

can't have a court whose officers can manipulate and frustrate litigants. That would be the very first step towards the denial of justice.

The Counsel for the plaintiff also indicated that "Our other information reaching us is that even the application which was filed at the Supreme Court is also being frustrated.

Our checks reveal that efforts were made for the case to be heard today but the Registrar of the Supreme Court kept on giving different excuses including even saying that the Chief justice is not around to order him to do so. As a result the application filed by the NDC, and the other political parties have been ignored by the court.

If the officers of the court can even frustrate you in filing processes at the court then the court is degrading itself to the level where even the smallest confidence people can have in it would be eroded"

Source -- starrfm.com.gh

Ada Communities Blast President Nana Akufo-Addo Over Songor Salt Concession



operations is a departure from. Under the current arrangement, Ebenezer Adjaottor accused the salt mining company of claiming 41,000 acres of lands as forming its concession when he contends the original arrangement has only 12,000 acres of the lands. "We would also air our views on the totally disingenuous and palpably false statements made by His Excellency President Nana Akufo-Addo at ElectroChem Ltd.'s operations area during the commissioning of Electrochem's salt mine."

"We would like to express our profound disappointment and total disgust to the stand and position of the President of the Republic on the Ada Songor Lagoon issue. It is most shocking to let you know that on 6th September 2023, McDan, himself in person, on his tripod, led a team of police officers towards Medie and Aminapa to lay claim to the lands on which those towns and surrounding communities namely Lufenya; Tooku; Kwalaakpooyom; Obane; Elavanyo Pute ; Totope and many others are situated. "Mr. President, in the case of Ada Songor; we bet you, the Paramount Chief of Ada, Nene Abram Kabu Akuaku III who sat at the function would not hesitate to swear on the graves of his ancestors that he only

signed a Memorandum for 12,423 acres of land covering the Songor Salt Project to McDan." The deposed Terkpebiawe Wetsoyi, Baasaki would not hesitate to swear at the Shrine of Nana Libi that he signed a memorandum of 12,423 acres to cover only the Songor Salt Project area to McDan."

"You, Mr. President, your Secretary Nana Bediatuo Asante on 19th August 2020 signed a letter to The Hon. Minister of Lands and Natural Resources granting Presidential approval to the divestiture of "SONGOR SALT PROJECT" to McDan's ElectroChem (Ghana) Ltd. Songor Salt Project was a state-owned company operating at Vacuum Salt site or Area 5 on the Master Plan map.

"In McDan's own business plan to the Minerals Commission on which the mining licenses were granted to him, he stated that he had a land of 63.0 Sq Km or 15,567.62 acres. However, today as we stand here McDan is claiming that he has land of 41,000 acres to produce salt. Mr. President, Nene Ada, and Baasaki how did McDan obtain the 41,000 acres of land?"

Who granted such a lease to him? How much money did he pay for it? Who did he make payment to? And where is the money? Mr. President, we have asked these questions before and we shall continue to lawfully ask them until we obtain answers. It is our duty to our fellow Adaali-abime and Ghanaians as a whole", the statement quizzed.

"McDan in his statement claimed that he has already employed 3,000 people in his operations. In his Business Plan, he stated he will employ only 200 people.

How come the number of his employees has increased by 1500% in such a short time?

We have to find out whether McDan is paying the social security contributions together with the appropriate tax deductions for his employees", the statement again quizzed.

The statement by the Ada Songor Lagoon Associations (ASLA) comes at a time when Electrochem has ruled out the organization as not being recognized in the area and thus accusing the leadership and the members of pursuing their own selfish interests by serving as a front for other business interests who want a stake in the Ada songor lagoon salt concession.

Electrochem has also said that contrary to the group's assertion of claiming over 41,000 acres as forming its concession, its initial land size from the Minerals Commission for prospecting was the 12,000 acres and which jumped to 41,000 after the final lease agreement of 15 years was signed with the government of Ghana.

Shipping Lines, Agents, Importers Conniving To Evade Taxes – GRA



Ghana Revenue Authority

The Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) has said it is enhancing efforts to ensure that importers who engage in the falsification of trade documents to evade taxes are brought to book. According to the Authority, there is a growing rate of the act which is causing losses to the state. Therefore, it is liaising with the various agencies to ensure that perpetrators of such crimes are caught and dealt with. GRA also noted that this is after an intelligence in February 2023 where some two companies and importers had falsified trade documents on their bills of loading in clearing goods from the Tema Port. Commissioner of Customs at the

GRA, Alhadji Seidu Idrisu Iddisa, said "The Ghana Revenue Authority has noted with great concern an emerging practice where some custom house agents and the importers connived with some shipping lines to falsify trade documents especially the invoices and misdescribe the goods to obtain priority clearance leading to payment of lesser duties to the state."

"We are currently investigating both the shipping lines and the agents and Importers to find out about the degree of collaborations that took place," he added.

NDC Accuses EC Of Working To Deprive Prospective Ghanaian Voters Participation In Limited Voters Registration Exercise



Press Briefing by Hon. Johnson Asiedu Nketiah, The National Chairman of the National Democratic Congress on the Limited Voter Registration Exercise by the Electoral Commission of Ghana on Tuesday, 12th September, 2023

1. Ladies and gentlemen, as you may be aware, the NDC, CPP, APC, LPG & GCPP last week Thursday, filed a suit against the Electoral Commission (EC) of Ghana in the Supreme Court over the Commission's unlawful and unreasonable decision to restrict centres for the Limited Voter Registration exercise to their District Offices.

The PNC has subsequently thrown their weight behind the suit with the hope of joining same in the Supreme Court.

2. This suit was filed simply because the EC's decision to restrict the centres of voter registration to their 268 district offices has the potential to deprive many eligible voters of their right to be registered as voters and to vote in public elections.

3. Pending the final determination of the substantive matter, the parties have duly filed an Application for Interlocutory Injunction in the Supreme Court to restrain the EC from proceeding with the announced limited voter registration exercise; which as you are well aware, the exercise commenced today, Tuesday, 12th September, 2023.

4. Even though registration has commenced, this suit at the Supreme court is only the first of a series of actions that we intend to take to compel the EC to conduct limited voter registration at the electoral area level to give all eligible voters access to the

process in line with the letter and spirit of Article 42 and 45 of the 1992 Constitution, Regulation 2(1)(2) of C.I 91 and the EC's own time-tested practices.

The basis of this suit are that; 5. Article 42 of the 1992 Constitution provides that every citizen of Ghana, 18 years and above and of sound mind is entitled to be registered as a voter and to vote in public elections and referenda.

We firmly believe the EC's decision to restrict registration centres to their district offices will deprive many eligible Ghanaians of their right to be registered as voters and lead to voter suppression.

6. Also, whereas Article 45(e) of the 1992 Constitution mandatorily enjoins the EC to undertake programs to expand the registration of voters, the EC's decision to restrict registration centres to their district offices will reduce access to voter registration. Hence contravenes Article 45(e) of the Constitution.

7. Again, the EC's decision to restrict registration centres to their district offices violates Regulation 2(2)(b) of C.I 91 (Amended by C.I. 126) – the law that governs centres for voter registration. Regulation 2(2)(b) of C.I 91 provides:

“In designating a place as a registration centre, the Commission shall take into consideration

- (a) the suitability of the place for use as a polling station on election day; and

(b) the accessibility of the place to prospective applicants for registration.”

Given the fact that the district offices of the EC are not suitable

for use as polling stations on Election Day, the decision by the EC to restrict voter registration to its district offices is not only unreasonable but unlawful.

Also, given the long distances that many eligible voters will have to travel and the exorbitant fares they will have to pay to transport themselves to district offices of the EC under the excruciating hardships Ghanaians are presently confronted with, the decision is insensitive, unreasonable, unlawful and unconscionable.

8. Ladies and gentlemen, it's instructive to note that Regulation 30 of C.I 91 enjoins the EC to revise the voters' register annually and to do so at the electoral area level. Yet, the Jean Mensah-led EC has violated the law in the last two years by not conducting any limited registration in 2021 and 2022.

This has created a huge backlog of about 2.8 million eligible persons including unemployed youth who are entitled to be registered. This huge backlog is the more reason why the EC's decision to restrict voter registration to their district offices is unconscionable and preposterous.

9. In 2019, the EC conducted limited voter registration in 1500 electoral area centres. Why will the EC reduce this number of registration centres to 268 now that they have a huge backlog of about 2.8 million persons to register? It simply doesn't make sense.

10. This irresponsible and unconscionable decision of the commission confirms the NDC's long held view that the Jean Mensah-led EC is determined to rig the 2024 elections through voter suppression. But she will fail because we are ready for them.

11. Aside it's potential to suppress registration and voting, the EC's decision to restrict voter registration to its district offices can promote and facilitate gerrymandering as agents of political parties will find it difficult to challenge persons who may be bused from one constituency to another to register.

12. Ladies and gentlemen, in addition to the NDC, there are 4

other political parties who are plaintiffs in the instant case at the Supreme Court. And as already indicated, the PNC has also thrown its weight behind the suit. In fact, CODEO, Care Ghana and other stakeholders in our electoral space have all criticized this unreasonable decision of the NDC.

Apart from the ruling and corrupt New Patriotic Party, no other political party or stakeholder has supported this decision by the EC. This clearly shows that the EC is the problem and not the NDC. And we know the only reason why the NPP is supporting this unreasonable and unlawful decision is because they are the masterminds and sole beneficiaries of same.

13. In an unusual twist – when our lawyers filed the injunction application last week Thursday – we were informed by the Registrar of the Supreme Court that the due date for the Application for Interlocutory Injunction to be moved will be given on Monday upon the expressed instructions of the Chief Justice of our dear Republic of Ghana.

The decision by the registry of the Supreme Court to defer giving a hearing date for the injunction application on grounds that the Chief Justice is currently out of Accra leaves much to be desired as the CJ should have delegated someone to act in her absence as the practice is.

The administration of justice in our apex court cannot come to a stand-still simply because the Chief Justice is indisposed or unavailable to give hearing dates. What happened to the e-Justice system the John Mahama led NDC administration toiled for? This deliberate delay should not happen in any civilized country. This is completely unacceptable! This is yet again another clear evidence of judicial manipulation and we condemn it in no uncertain terms.

14. We are aware that the EC has also been served with two applications for injunction from Courts of Competent Jurisdiction, specifically the High Court. Yet,

the lawless Jean Mensah-led EC has decided to flout these injunction applications by going ahead with the registration exercise in flagrant disregard of the letter and spirit of the rule of law. We wish to emphasise that the EC's decision to proceed with the limited voter registration exercise today despite being served with two injunction applications from the courts contradicts an important precedent set by they themselves during the 2023 NDC Presidential and Parliamentary primaries when they publicly announced the suspension of their supervision of our primaries on grounds of a suit and injunction application filed by Dr. Kwabena Duffour. What has changed? Why this inconsistency?

15. Ladies and gentlemen, notwithstanding these pending legal matters, the NDC is fully ready for the registration +exercise which was illegally commenced by the EC today. We are ready! Very ready. But we care for the poor registrants who must cater for the cost and constraints of being registered to vote.

We currently have our agents and officers in all 268 district offices of the EC.

We are keenly and actively monitoring the process and will ensure that the manipulations of the EC & the ruling NPP calculated to suppress votes and rig the process are defeated. NDC shall always stand and fight for the masses.

We therefore wish to call on all NDC officials at all levels, members, sympathizers and Ghanaians as a whole to encourage and fund and assist all eligible persons or prospective registrants to defy the EC and participate in the ongoing registration exercise.

Your vote is your power! Don't allow the Jean Mensah led EC to rob you of it no matter what. Relatedly, we have outlined some discrepancies in the registration process which commenced this morning. And we wish to share a few with you in order to jolt the EC into action. We expect the EC to act swiftly in order to avert any further loss of confidence in the Commission.

Thank you.

Mangosuthu Buthelezi, Zulu Prince Who Roiled South African Politics, Dead At 95

Mangosuthu Buthelezi, a veteran South African politician, Zulu prince and controversial figure during the apartheid liberation struggle, has died, the presidency said last Saturday. He was 95.

The founder of the Inkatha Freedom Party served two terms as Minister of Home Affairs in the post-apartheid government after burying the hatchet with the governing African National Congress party in 1994.

"I am deeply saddened to announce the passing of Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the Prince of KwaPhindangene, Traditional Prime Minister to the Zulu Monarch and Nation, and the Founder and President Emeritus of the Inkatha Freedom Party," President Cyril Ramaphosa said in a statement.

Buthelezi had a procedure for back pain in July and was later readmitted to hospital when the pain did not subside, according to local news website News24. He founded the IFP in 1975 as a national cultural movement that became a political force in what is now KwaZulu-Natal province, and his party was embroiled in bloody conflicts with the ANC in the 1980s and 1990s.

His last-minute decision to participate in the first post-apartheid election in 1994 brought peace between the two parties. The vote brought the ANC and its leader, the late Nelson Mandela, to power.

The Nelson Mandela Foundation said Buthelezi's life intersected at multiple points with Mandela's and that his legacy was an "imposing and complex one".

"In many ways, the two leaders



South Africa's leader of the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) Mangosuthu Buthelezi speaks to supporters ahead of the national elections, in Richards Bay, north of Durban, in South Africa, April 19, 2009. REUTERS/Rogan Ward Acquire Licensing Rights

came to embody an understanding of a reconciliation which had no need of forgiveness, nor forgetting of the past, nor even of learning to like one another - it was simply about determining to get on together," the foundation said in a statement.

South Africa's main opposition Democratic Alliance (DA) party described Buthelezi as a "great leader".

"Prince Buthelezi was a giant on South Africa's political landscape," DA leader John Steenhuisen said.

RIVALRY WITH THE ANC

Buthelezi was a champion of his people and a prominent figure in the struggle against apartheid but his rivalry with the ANC led to fraught days and much bloodshed before South Africa was able to elect its first Black leader. Critics dubbed Buthelezi a war lord but to his legion of followers in the rural Zulu heartland, he was a visionary.

For a decade before the end of white rule in 1994, Buthelezi - dressed in leopard skins and waving a short silver-topped stick - was a familiar sight at rallies while Inkatha was embroiled in conflict

with the ANC.

About 20,000 people were killed and hundreds of thousands forced from their homes as fighting raged in KwaZulu and in men's hostels built to house migrant labourers who toiled in the gold mines near Johannesburg.

The price for peace was Buthelezi's participation in a government of national unity as Minister of Home Affairs - a ministry that became a byword for graft and incompetence under his watch.

"It's not pleasant, it's not easy for me. Neither is it easy for President Thabo Mbeki (Mandela's successor) to have me and my colleagues in the cabinet. We did it to end a low intensity civil war," Buthelezi told Reuters in an interview in July 2003. He was also cast in other roles away from politics.

Buthelezi played his own great-grandfather King Cetshwayo in the 1964 film "Zulu", which immortalised the 1879 defence of Rorke's Drift by British troops against thousands of Zulu fighters but also spread the image of the Zulus beyond South Africa as a mighty warrior race.

BANTUSTAN AND BALANCING ACT Longevity marked his political career. He only stepped down as the IFP's leader in 2019, aged 90.

Long-winded speeches were a Buthelezi trademark. Delivered in Zulu or English, they could go on for hours.

Attending the Black University of Fort Hare from 1948 to 1950, Buthelezi joined the ANC Youth League and rubbed shoulders in lecture halls with many of the movement's future leaders. He was expelled for his political activity there.

His political clout would be forged in the KwaZulu "Bantustan" one of the so-called self-governing homelands based on tribal affiliation - islands of rural poverty where most Black South Africans were literally confined under apartheid. A Zulu chief, Buthelezi became KwaZulu's chief minister in the 1970s, where he tried a delicate balancing act: refusing outright independence and criticising Pretoria's racial policies while still playing a role in the homeland farce. It was too much for the ANC, whose leaders in exile tried to court him throughout the 1970s before giving up in the face of rank-and-file opposition to what was seen as Buthelezi's collaboration with the apartheid regime. In the early 1990s, the violence in KwaZulu-Natal and in the townships around Johannesburg looked as if it might wreck the prospect of a relatively peaceful transition to democracy.

As IFP leader, Buthelezi threatened to boycott the 1994 election, but after mediation led by former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and former British Foreign Secretary Peter Carrington and with just weeks to polling day, he relented. As a minister in the subsequent government of national unity, Buthelezi stood in as acting president on occasion, notably sending troops into neighboring Lesotho in a controversial bid to quell a mutiny in the mountain kingdom.

But the ANC, using the power

of the purse at its disposal, would eventually cut into the IFP's voting base through an ambitious roll-out of infrastructure such as tarred roads, power and piped water to neglected rural Zulus.

Ashpenaz Nathan

Mangosuthu Gatsha Buthelezi was born on Aug. 27, 1928, in Mahlabathini, the son and heir of Chief Matoli Buthelezi and Princess Constance

Magago Dinuzulu.

Buthelezi grew up in a traditional household, spending his early years as a herdboy. In 1953 he was installed as acting chief of the prominent Buthelezi clan and four years later was confirmed as chief.

He was married to Irene Mzila, a nurse, eschewing the polygamy followed by many Zulu chiefs. They had three sons and four daughters.

Reporting by Bhargav Acharya and Nelson Banya Editing by Angus MacSwan and Frances Kerry

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It Was Not Proper For Akufo-Addo To Make Political Statements – Ghana Bar Association



Emblem of Ghana Bar Association (GBA)

The Public Relations Officer of the Ghana Bar Association (GBA), Saviour Kudze, has expressed concern about certain aspects of President Akufo-Addo's statements during the Annual Bar Conference in Cape

Coast.

This comes after the President [Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo](#) while speaking at the Annual Bar Conference of the Ghana Bar Association in Cape Coast, called out former President [John Dramani Mahama](#), on his recent remarks alleging that the Judiciary has been packed with judges aligned with the New Patriotic Party (NPP).

The president described the comments by the former

president as very dangerous to the progress of the country. He emphasized that such statements should not be made by someone of Mahama's stature.

While acknowledging that President Mahama's comments had already been criticized by various individuals and organizations, Kudze found fault with the president's call for people to vote against Mahama based on those comments.

"President Akufo-Addo even though he said former president Mahama didn't do well and all that, I admit but the only aspect I had a little concern about is going ahead to urge people to vote against him on that. "I don't think that it was proper for him to use that platform for that," he said.

According to him, it was not appropriate for President Akufo-Addo to use the platform of the Bar Conference to make such a

political statement.

"This is because, concerning what President Mahama said many more people have already done it, the Ghana Bar Association has also done that, but to go ahead to say that because of what he said people should more or less vote against him, to me amounts to doing some political campaign on our platform which is not acceptable," he added.

People's Redemption Movement – Putting Ghana On The Path To Recovery



David Ampofo, RPM Director of Elections

A political movement called People's Redemption Movement (PRM) which prefers to be known by its acronym, PEREMO has obtained a provisional licence from the Electoral Commission to start organising as a political party in the country. In an interview with the GhanaWeb, Rev. David Ampofo, the Interim Director of Elections of PEREMO indicated that the movement would leave no stone unturned in its quest to contest and win the 2024 general elections and put Ghana on the path to recovery. He stated that PEREMO will work hard to prove to Ghanaians that it has all it takes to form the next government.

He opined that there is empirical evidence to support the fact that the government of the first republic led by Osagyefo Dr. Kwame Nkrumah after gaining political independence placed our motherland on the path of economic independence. He reiterated that this fact is amply demonstrated by a plethora of developmental projects and factories completed within the short time of his regime that lasted only nine years.

Rev. David Ampofo bemoaned the neglect of Dr. Kwame Nkrumah's good works by successive governments which failed to follow the direction Ghana was going and woefully let the nation down. He said should PEREMO be given the nod to form the next government in 2025, it will revive Nkrumah's spirit to rapidly develop Ghana to make her economically independent.

The PEREMO Interim Director of Elections maintained that the solution to Ghana's economic problems is well specified in Kwame Nkrumah's 7-year development plan. He said the disregarded development plan documented that

our pursuit of economic independence should start from an agricultural revolution coupled with accelerated industrialisation based on appropriate technology.

He said a PEREMO government shall achieve this feat for Ghana through political maturity, integrity, radical reforms and by dint of hard work.

CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS

PEREMO shall pursue sweeping Constitutional reforms to sanitise and inject discipline into our governance system to ensure that the principles of rule of law and checks and balance are strictly adhered to. This will trigger rapid growth in every segment of our national life:

1. JUDICIAL:

(a) The Chief Justice and all senior Judges shall not be appointed by the President but through giving respect to their own hierarchy (b) There shall be a seal on the number of judges of Appeal and the Supreme Court (c) Promotion shall be strictly by seniority coupled with delivery (d) Apart from filing an appeal an aggrieved party can refer a judge's judgment to the General Legal Council for scrutiny and possible punitive action against the judge (e) The Judiciary shall have jurisdiction in all matters including chieftaincy (f) There shall be no trial by jury. All murder and related matters shall be tried by a single judge of the High Court (g) The death penalty shall be re-introduced (h) A person convicted of murder shall be executed without reference to a Presidential assent.

2. JUSTICE DELIVERY: To ensure expeditious, transparent and effective justice delivery the Office of the Attorney General, Auditor General and Inspector General of Police shall be independent of the government.

3. EXECUTIVE:

(a) A person shall not qualify to contest as President unless he has a minimum of first degree or an equivalent professional qualification (b) A person shall not qualify to contest as a President if he has attained 70 years of age or above unless he is already in office when

he attains the said age (c) With the exception of his own Ministers the President shall have no power to make any appointment (d) There shall be a seal to Ministerial appointments. For the avoidance of doubt the number of Ministers and their deputies together shall not exceed 32: The recognised Ministries shall be (1) Agriculture (2) Education and Sports (3) Foreign Affairs (4) Rural Development (5) Justice (6) Defence (7) Trade & Tourism (8) Lands & Natural Resources (9) Works & Housing (10) Transport (11) Environment Science & Technology (12) Energy (13) Health (14) Interior (15) Information (16) Presidential Affairs

4. INTERNATIONAL TRAVELS:

There shall be a seal on Presidential and Ministerial travels to avoid waste. All Ministers and state officials including Directors and Chief Executives shall travel by economy class. None of such officials shall be entitled to the use of state vehicles.

5. OFFICES AND BENEFITS TO BE SCRAPPED:

(a) Office of the Special Prosecutor (b) Council of State (c) Metropolitan Municipal & District Chief Executives (d) Chief of Staff (e) Ex Gratia payments

6. NATIONAL HOUSE OF CHIEFS:

The National House of Chiefs shall perform the functions of the Council of State in addition to their current mandate. The functions of the Judicial Committees of the various Houses of Chiefs shall be suspended. Chiefs shall have the right to play politics in Ghana.

7. LEGISLATURE: (a) There shall be a seal to the number of members of the Legislature which shall not exceed 200. Minimum educational qualification shall be a Diploma Certificate. (b) A Member of Parliament shall not qualify to be a Minister in the Executive arm of government. (c) A person can be a member of Parliament for 2 terms only.

8 ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER: Ghana's Electoral Commissioner

shall be a Court of Appeal judge elected by members of the Judiciary.

9. DISTRICT AND OTHER

ASSEMBLIES: Members shall be elected on partisan basis during national elections.

10. CORRUPTION: Having discovered that official corruption has been the bane of our development, we shall ensure that state officials found guilty on charges of corruption would be given harsh punishments, including death.

11. TRADE: (a) There shall be a ban on import of all food items. (b) Retail business shall be reserved for Ghanaians only (c) instead of imports we shall make foreign companies establish wholesale and manufacturing lines in Ghana to reduce reliance on foreign currency.

12. INDUSTRIALISATION: Ghana's factories and state enterprises established in the 1st Republic shall be revived. As much as possible the state shall build a very strong manufacturing base.

13. ROAD NETWORK: Roads, Highways and Railroads shall be given a major priority in national development.

14. AGRICULTURE: PEREMO shall launch an agricultural revolution to back the industrial drive of the country and to ensure that exports shall always exceed imports. Indeed agric and agribusiness must be able to employ more than 60% of the Ghanaian youth. State of the art mechanised farms shall be introduced in every district of the country.

15. EDUCATION: (a) 4 year secondary education where first year would be a preparatory ground for choosing courses in the subsequent year. Government shall grant free education to only the poor and needy students (b) There shall be no special grades for any course at the University provided the candidate obtains the minimum qualification (c) University fees shall be subsidized by government selfguaranteed loans.

16. SPORTS: To enhance dedication professional sportsmen

shall be on government payroll.

17. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: (a) State development plan shall be formulated and endorsed by Parliament as a national policy to be followed by all successive governments (b) Our flagship programme "AGRICULTURAL REVOLUTION" shall be backed by a world class Agricultural Science university to be built in Sekondi Takoradi.

18. UNEMPLOYMENT STIPEND: All unemployed persons shall be paid a monthly stipend not below GHC 600 for a period not exceeding 3 years within which the state shall ensure their engagement in meaningful employment based on their acquired skills.

19. HEALTH: A PEREMO government shall restore and replenish shall restore and replenish all the existing health facilities to acceptable standards. Doctors and other health workers shall have a pay rise to 300% of what is being received currently. Ghana shall train a large number of health professionals and export them at a reasonable benefit to the state.

20. ENERGY: All existing petroleum related contracts with foreign entities shall be reviewed to reflect Ghana's interest and to bring down prices of petroleum products.

21. TRANSPORT: There shall be national carriers for both sea and air such as the Black Star Line and the Ghana Airways Corporation.

22. REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT: There shall be Regional Development Corporations to enhance each region's pace of development.

23. SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME: There shall be a special development programme for the Western Region and other marginalised areas of the country.

24. EQUITY: Ministerial and other state appointments and entry into the security services ie Army, Police etc. shall be based on regional quota. Rev. David Ampofo concluded by saying that should the above-stated measures be meticulously and efficiently implemented, in its expanded form there is no doubt that Ghana shall be counted among the first world nations in less than ten years.

Source -- PRM Ghana