

# COCOA

## Mahama Says New Price By Govt Rip-Off



**Former President John Dramani Mahama**

**F**ormer President John Dramani Mahama has expressed disappointment at government's recently announced hike in the farm-gate cocoa price for cocoa farmers in the upcoming 2023/2024 crop season.

According to him the new increment is “deceptive and a rip-off of hardworking cocoa farmers and their families who continue to play a critical role in Ghana's economy through the commodity”.

*cont. on page 3*

## Towards Decolonizing Sub Saharan Africa

*By Munir Daair*



*Munir Daair*

**T**he tragedy of Africa is that the African has not fully entered into history ... They have never really launched themselves into the future.”

Nicolas Sarkozy, President of France 2007-2012.

“When the missionaries came to Africa they had the Bible and we had the land. They said 'Let us pray.' We closed our eyes. When we opened

them we had the Bible and they had the land.”  
Desmond Mpilo Tutu, Archbishop of Cape Town 1986-1994

“We have to be honest and acknowledge that a big part of the money in our banks comes precisely from the

*pages 6&7*

## I Strongly Support Recent Coups In Africa, Declares Prof Lumumba



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*Prof Patrick Loch Otieno Lumumba*

## Towards Ensuring Progress & Devt Upper Manya Krobo MP Inspects Road *page 3* Projects In Constituency



*Hon. Bismark Tetteh Nyarko, MP for Upper Manya Krobo Constituency inspecting the road project*

## Adoagyiri Youth Flee Town Over Alleged Assassination Threats From Thugs Linked To Paramount Chief

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# The INSIGHT

## EDITORIAL

### THE UNEMPLOYMENT MENACE

**T**he unemployment crisis currently facing the country has been viewed as a national security threat.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# COCOA

## Mahama Says New Price By Govt Rip-Off



*from front page*

John Mahama in a Facebook post on Monday immediately after the government's announcement argued that given the international market price of cocoa reaching a 46-year record high of \$3,600, it was imperative for government to have provided cocoa farmers with a more equitable share of the international Free On Board (FOB) price.

## I Strongly Support Recent Coups In Africa, Declares Prof Lumumba

**R**enowned African academic, Prof P.L.O. Lumumba, has stated that he fully supports the recent military takeovers seen on the African continent.

According to him, these coups were necessary because the leaders of the affected countries were using all manner of unlawful means to stay in

*cont. on page 3*

## THE INSIGHT

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# I Strongly Support Recent Coups In Africa, Declares Prof Lumumba

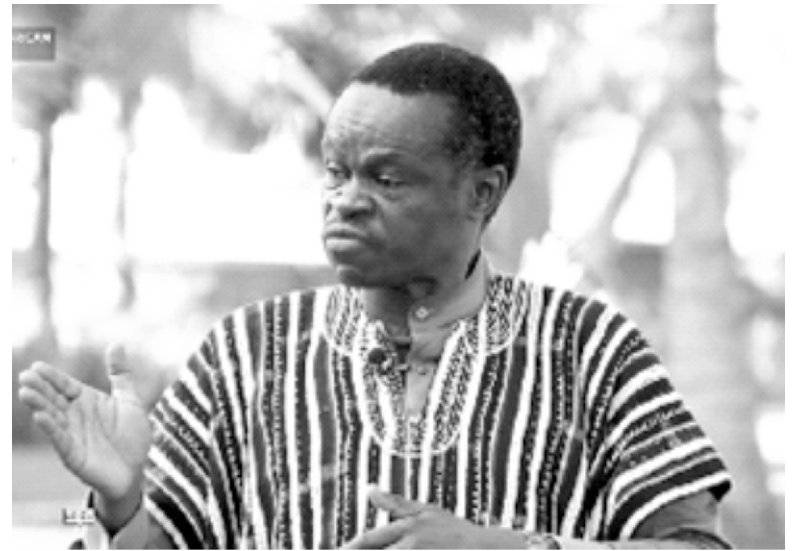
from page 2

power.

Prof Lumumba, who made these remarks in an interview on Accra-based Onua TV, last Wednesday, September 6, 2023, said that these coups give the affected countries a fresh start and an opportunity to rethink the governance system that would benefit their citizens. He added that the coups were also necessary to free the African countries involved from their colonial masters, France. "Yes, I do (support the military interventions) ... you remember the Malabo Declaration of 2022 by African Heads of State in Equatorial Guinea against

terrorism and unconstitutional changes of power. "But when you look at the regimes that we are talking about, in the countries in question, they come to power through sham elections; elections that are choreographed from France, elections that are own through rigging and bribery. So, even their occupation of power itself is illegitimate. He added "And some of them own allegiance to Paris rather to their people, to the extent that their people cannot guarantee a change of government. What is wrong if our men and women in military intervene for a short time for the purposes of preparing us to go into a

different face where we can improve governance". The academic also called for the re-examination of democracy as the system of governance for African countries because it appears not to be working for the good of the citizenry. "I feel very reluctant to use the word democracy; because it has been abused. Democracy is a word that has been handed over to us by Europe and America... and in their minds, it means periodic elections which they come and monitor and tell us that you have done a good job," he noted. The African Continent has been hit by 10 military overtakes from 2020 to date



**Prof Patrick Loch Otieno Lumumba**

with the latest victim being the Central African country; Gabon. There have been seven coups in West African countries, including two in Burkina Faso,

one in Guinea, two in Mali, one in Niger and one in Chad. Two coups in Central Africa, all in Gabon, and one in North Africa, Tunisia.

## Towards Ensuring Progress & Devt

# Upper Manya Krobo MP Inspects Road Projects In Constituency



**Hon. Bismark Tetteh Nyarko, MP for Upper Manya Krobo Constituency inspecting the road project**

**M**ember of Parliament (MP) for Upper Manya Krobo Constituency in the Eastern Region, Hon. Bismark Tetteh Nyarko has demonstrated his commitment to overseeing the development of his constituency by embarking on a tour of various ongoing road infrastructure development project sites. The purpose of this inspection was to assess the progress of ongoing works and ensure that projects are being executed effectively and efficiently.

Accompanied by the leading members of the National Democratic Congress (NDC) in the Poliwa Electoral Area of the constituency in the persons of Nicholas Buawolor, Emmanuel Kwesi Lawer, Albert Paynson-Kwao, and other Branch Executive members, Honourable Nyarko meticulously examined each site, closely observing the work being done and engaging with contractors and project managers. The inspection allowed the MP to assess the quality, timeline, and adherence to budget of each project, ensuring that resources are being utilized optimally and that the projects align with the needs of the local community. This hands-on approach demonstrates the MP's dedication to ensuring transparency, accountability, and effective implementation of

development initiatives. It came to light that certain communities in the Upper Manya Krobo constituency have not seen any earth moving machine in their community since they were born. This was deduced from the reaction of an elderly man at SUTRI-AKWENOR when the Honourable Member of Parliament for the Upper Manya Krobo constituency went to inspect some new road projects he is constructing to ease the plight of the people. The projects are Omlase - Tubuorso and Zuyumunor - Sutri-Akwenor roads and that these communities, hitherto, had been inaccessible due to streams that flow across paths. Honourable Nyarko has

constructed bridges over the streams and these communities are now accessible through motorable roads. The MP was glad that his meager share of 4% of the District Assembly Common Fund (DACF) is impacting in the lives of needy communities. Some community leaders who met the MP on the road said, vehicles have started plying the road to convey their farm produce to the market since the construction. They expressed their appreciation to the MP and further pledged their unalloyed support to the MP and former President John Dramani Mahama. "I advise you to stay focused on your good vision for the people and never be distracted by your political opponents who have nothing good for

us", an elderly woman chipped in an advice. Speaking to the media during the tour, Honourable Nyarko expressed satisfaction with the progress made at several roads infrastructure project sites. He commended the contractors and workers for their dedication and emphasized the importance of timely completion to enable the community to benefit from these essential facilities and services. The MP also addressed a few concerns raised by residents during the tour. He assured the constituents that their feedback would be taken into consideration, promising to work closely with the relevant authorities to address any issues promptly and to ensure that the projects meet the expectations and needs of the community.





# INTERNATIONAL NEWS REPORT

## Compiled By Peoples Dispatch

### Widespread Outrage In Greece Over Government Handling Of Floods, Wildfire

**A**s Greece and other parts of the eastern Mediterranean are reeling from the impact of successive climate change-induced disasters, popular discontent and anger has been on the rise against the government's handling of the crises. Following the deadly wildfires in the months of July and August, torrential rains and storms have caused massive flooding in the Thessaly region in Greece. The death toll continues to climb from the devastating floods last week. According to reports, with the discovery of four more bodies, a total of 15 people have been confirmed dead in the floods and other related catastrophes caused by the heavy rain from September 4 to 7. Around 5,000 people have been evacuated from the flood-ravaged parts of Thessaly, inundated by the overflowing Pineios river. It has

been estimated that around 73,000 hectares of farmland have been ravaged by the flood water and mud during the rain. Along with Greece, parts of Turkey and Bulgaria were also hit by Storm Daniel with at least 11 people confirmed to have died in these two countries. Coming within weeks of the nationwide wildfires that started in July, which were caused by an extreme heat wave named Cerberus and claimed 28 lives, the floods prompted progressives in Greece to call out the lack of preparedness under the conservative New Democracy-led government of Kyriakos Mitsotakis. Extreme climate events have become increasingly common in Greece and many parts of Europe. Progressive groups and opposition parties have also blamed the Mitsotakis

government for continuing the hyper-austerity followed by successive Greek governments since the historic debt crisis. This, they point out, has seriously hampered the systemic ability to respond to such emergency situations. In the meanwhile, members of the Communist Party of Greece (KKE), Communist Youth of Greece (KNE), and All Workers' Militant Front (PAME) are actively volunteering to help people in the flood-affected region. Collection centers have been opened in various parts of the country to deliver food, clothes, medicines, and other essentials to the people in flood-affected parts of Thessaly. On September 11, the parliamentary group of the Communist Party of Greece

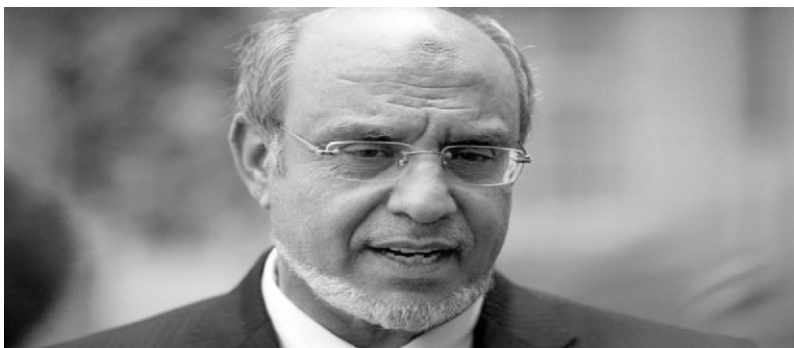


*Demonstration in Athens demanding concrete measures to save people from recurring climate disasters (Photo: 902.gr). Around 5,000 people have been evacuated from the flood-ravaged parts of Thessaly and around 73,000 hectares of farmland have been ravaged. The Greek Left has criticized the austerity policies of the government for eroding the systemic ability of the country to respond to such crises*

(KKE) submitted a set of demands to the Minister of Climate Crisis and Civil Protection, calling for immediate measures to deal with the floods in Thessaly. Earlier on September 9, working class movements and student and youth groups organized a major

mobilization in Athens, demanding that the ND government take concrete measures to protect the people from recurring natural and human-induced disasters. In the rally the protesters raised the slogan "Drowned in rains, burned in fires, human lives are not the

### Former Tunisian Prime Minister And Opposition Leader Released After Interrogation



*Former prime minister and former secretary general of the Ennahda Movement, Hamadi Jebali was detained and interrogated on Tuesday September 5. His detention and that of other Ennahda movement members come amid an escalation of repression against opposition forces in the country by President Kais Saied*

**O**pposition leader Hamadi Jebali was last week Tuesday detained and interrogated by the Tunisian security forces for several hours. His detention came hours after Mondher Ounissi, interim president of the Ennahda movement was arrested by the Tunisian security forces. The former secretary general of the Ennahda movement Hamadi

Jebali was elected prime minister of Tunisia in the first general elections held following the Tunisian revolution and ouster of authoritarian ruler Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. Jebali served as prime minister from December 2011 to March 2013. According to one of Jebali's lawyers, Mukhtar al-Jamai, he was questioned by the judicial unit responsible for financial

corruption cases. The former prime minister was released after several hours and no charges were pressed, but the investigation will continue. Meanwhile, Ounissi, was arrested on Tuesday by security forces a day after they started an investigation into an audio tape that allegedly featured his voice. The audio recording surfaced on social media platforms earlier last week, and Ounissi is allegedly heard making accusations against his party colleague of taking money from illegal sources. Ounissi has claimed that the audio recording was fabricated. Another top leader of Ennahda, Abdul Karim Haraoui, head of its Shura Council, was put in house arrest earlier in the week. The state has also closed

Ennahda's headquarters and banned meetings in any of the party's offices across the country. Ennahda, the largest party in the defunct Tunisian parliament, and other opposition groups in the country have been condemning the wave of state repression which began when President Kais Saied usurped power in what they call a political coup in July 2021. At that time, Saied dismissed the prime minister and the entire cabinet and later dissolved the parliament. Kais Saied also suspended the 2014 constitution and promulgated a new constitution despite widespread opposition. Tuesday's detentions come five months after the arrest of the former head of the parliament

and prominent Ennahda leader, 82-year-old Rached Ghannouchi. He was arrested and accused of indulging in alleged criminal activities including corruption and supporting terrorism. Ghannouchi was convicted and sentenced to one year in prison in May after he was found guilty of incitement of violence and terrorism. Ghannouchi's family has accused the Saied government of refusing him legal aid. In the beginning of the month, the African court of Human and People's Rights ordered the Tunisian government to remove all barriers and allow all political prisoners access to their lawyers and medical care.



# Jean Mensa, Bossman Asare Cited For Contempt Over Ongoing Limited Voter Registration Exercise

Ayitah Precious, a resident of Otsebleku near Afienya in the Greater Accra Region, has taken legal action against the Chairperson of the Electoral Commission, Jean Mensa, and Deputy Chairman Bossman Asare, alleging contempt of court in the ongoing limited voter registration dispute.

In a sworn affidavit, Ayitah Precious, the applicant, made several claims regarding the limited voter registration exercise and the response of the Electoral Commission.

The affidavit outlined the following; "the Electoral Commission had announced the commencement of the limited voter registration exercise on September 12, 2023, at its district offices across the country.

"Ayitah Precious resides approximately 44.3 kilometers from the Electoral Commission's district

office in Prampram and expressed concerns about the cost and logistics of traveling to the district office to register."

The applicant argued that the decision to conduct the limited registration exercise solely at district offices rather than existing electoral areas would prevent many eligible voters, including herself, from participating.

Ayitah Precious filed an originating motion on notice in the High Court in Tema and an interlocutory injunction application to restrain the Electoral Commission from proceeding with the limited voter registration exercise. Despite serving the injunction application on the Electoral Commission, the institution continued with preparations for

the registration exercise, issuing a press release on September 11, 2023, confirming the exercise's start date.

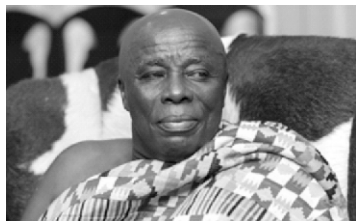
The applicant's legal counsel contended that the actions of the Electoral Commission, proceeding with the registration exercise while the injunction application was pending, constituted contempt of court.

Ayitah Precious and her legal team argued that the actions of the Electoral Commission could jeopardize the outcome of the court proceedings and interfere with the administration of justice. They urged the court to hold Jean Mensa and Bossman Asare in contempt and seek custodial prison sentences as a remedy.



*Jean Mensa, Chairperson of the EC*

## Adoagyiri Youth Flee Town Over Alleged Assassination Threats From Thugs Linked To Paramount Chief



*Okyehene Amoatia Ofori Panyin*

Youth in the Adoagyiri community in the Eastern Region are beginning to flee the community over threats of death from a unit allegedly contracted by a paramount chief in the area.

Information available indicates that, some persons alleged to be from the Okyehene Task Force Unit sent messages to some five (5) youth of Adoagyiri who were said to be 'target for elimination'.

This development has since sent shivers down the spines of the youth who are beginning to flee the community to save their lives.

According to the message the people claimed to have received from the said Unit, the Akyem

Abuakwa Traditional Council headed by the Okyehene is alleged to be perceiving the five as the main cause of troubles in the area and also very instrumental in kicking against the undue takeover of Adoagyiri Stool.

According to the youth, similar incident had occurred in a neighbouring community; Ntuaso, where the same Unit stormed the community and some persons were killed. Tension has reportedly risen in the Adoagyiri area near Nsawam, in the Eastern Region due to chieftaincy matters.

It emerged that the Okyehene had ordered the installation of a chief in Adoagyiri which was vehemently opposed by the Kingmakers of Adoagyiri who are of the view that the said installation was wrong since the Okyehene has no authority to install a chief in Adoagyiri.

According to the Elders in Adoagyiri historical records show that Adoagyiri from time

immemorial has been part of Akyem Kotoku and falls directly under the Gyase Division, and holds the title as Ankobeahene of Akyem kotoku traditional council from the first chief Nana Dompoh Mpesempese to date. They said, documents available indicate that all substantive Adoagyiri chiefs have been part of the Akyem Kotoku state, including the records and evidence of Okoanadwo Adu korkoor II as chief of Adoagyiri and Ankoabehene of Akyem Kotoku State with gazette number "No-59" issued on 18th June 1955 by the National House of Chiefs.

This however, has been resisted by the Okyehene who has insisted on installing a chief in Adoagyiri; which he carried to the latter with the installation of a new chief which has since sparked the recent confusion and controversies.

## #OccupyBoGdemo: Minority, Police Reach Agreement On Route

The Ghana Police Service has indicated that it has reached an agreement with the minority caucus of parliament on the route for their demonstration against the Governor of the Bank of Ghana and his two deputies, #OccupyBoG# demo. In a letter addressed to the minority leader, Dr Cassiel Ato Forson, sighted by GhanaWeb, the police stated that it has accepted the proposed route by the National Democratic Congress (NDC) in a letter dated September 11, 2023.

The letter indicated that the accepted route for the demonstration is it starting from Obra Spot and ending at Independence Square. The police indicated that its Accra Regional Police Command would provide the security for the demonstration and urged the NDC MPs to stick to the route. "You are hereby reminded of the following: To keep to the route of Obra Spot – Adabraka Ridge Roundabout – National Theatre Traffic Light High Court Complex

Traffic Light – Atta Mills Highway U-Turn to Independence Square as indicated in your letter Number OML/PH 23/0005 dated 11th September 2023. "... To take the necessary steps to ensure that there is no Breach of Peace. That Demonstrators conduct themselves in a peaceful manner before, during and after," parts of the letter read. Meanwhile, the minority caucus has postponed their planned protest to occupy the premises of the Bank of Ghana, where they intended to demand the resignation of the governor and his deputies. The new date for the protest is now set for Tuesday, October 3, 2023. This is the second time the Minority has postponed their plan. The original date for the demonstration was September 5, 2023, but was postponed to September 12, 2023, and subsequently to October 3, 2023

## Quarry Company Behind Shama Explosion Was Engaged In Illegal Activities - Minerals Commission



A scene from the explosion site at Shama

**M**inerals Commission has said that the company at the center of an explosion that occurred at Shama, in the Western Region, was involved in an illegal act when the disaster occurred.

According to a statement on its findings from the explosion that happened on the night of Saturday, September 9, 2023, the Commission said that the company, Sta Addsams Enterprise, was engaged in site cleaning and preparatory works without its approval.

**The statement also indicated that the explosion happened in the residential area of the company.**

“A routine monitoring visit by the inspectors from the Takoradi Office to the site revealed that the enterprise was engaged in site cleaning and preparatory works and had conducted run of the machines and equipment on site without the approval of the Commission.

“The enterprise was therefore notified by the inspectors that such activities are illegal and was directed

to cease any activity on the site until the lease is granted and all other permits and approvals for the storage, transportation and use of any substance to undertake operations are obtained,” it stated. It also confirmed the number of deaths in the explosion as five, with many others injured.

“Secondly, the site of the explosion is the residential facilities for the company. This included buildings and containerized structures. The inspectors also found at the site, empty drums believed to have contained diesel, other lubricants, cigarette pieces, oxy-acetylene cylinders were found at the scene. Additionally, all the facilities including light vehicles and equipment close to the residential structures on site were destroyed and five (5) persons are confirmed dead and some injured persons were sent to various hospitals within Sekondi-Takoradi for treatment,” the statement added.

Investigations are still ongoing in the matter.

**This is their full statement:**

MINERALS COMMISSION  
PRESS STATEMENT

**RE: EXPLOSION AT A QUARRY SITE  
IN ASSORKO IN THE SHAMA**

### DISTRICT OF THE WESTERN REGION

The Western Regional Head of the Minerals Commission at Takoradi (the “Commission”) was notified by the Assemblyman of the Anto-Abosso area in the Shama District at about 11.50pm on 9th September 2023, regarding an explosion at a quarry site.

A team of Mine Inspectors from the Takoradi Office of the Commission arrived at the site of the explosion at about 6.45 am on 10th September 2023. The area of the explosion is about 1.5 km away from the nearest settlement, Kobenandohkrom. The inspectors were joined by officials from other State institutions comprising NADMO, Environmental Protection Agency, The Ghana Fire Service, Ambulance Service, the Ghana Police Service and officials from the Shama District Assembly to inspect the site.

The Commission, after the preliminary investigations can confirm that the site of the explosion is a subject of an application by a company with the name Sta Addsams Enterprise. The company has applied for a Restricted Mining Lease for granite commonly referred to as a quarry. The recommendation for the company to be considered for the grant of a formal lease was

granted on 20th March 2023. At the time of the explosion, the company has not issued a lease by the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources.

Secondly, the site of the explosion is the residential facilities for the company. This included buildings and containerized structures. The inspectors also found at the site, empty drums believed to have contained diesel, other lubricants, cigarette pieces, oxy-acetylene cylinders were found at the scene.

Additionally, all the facilities including light vehicles and equipment close to the residential structures on site were destroyed and five (5) persons are confirmed dead and some injured persons were sent to various hospitals within Sekondi-Takoradi for treatment.

The administrator of the enterprise informed the inspectors that the company was working at night ostensibly to prevent them from being noticed by the inspectors of the Commission and the local task force comprising the police and members of the sand winners and quarry Association.

A routine monitoring visit by the inspectors from the Takoradi Office

to the site revealed that the enterprise was engaged in site cleaning and preparatory works and had conducted run of the machines and equipment on site without the approval of the Commission.

The enterprise was therefore notified by the inspectors that such activities are illegal and was directed to cease any activity on the site until the lease is granted and all other permits and approvals for the storage, transportation and use of any substance to undertake operations are obtained.

In this regard, pending the completion of a full investigation into the cause of the explosion, the enterprise had no lease, approval or permit to undertake any activity or operation at the site.

Consequently, the activity of the enterprise was illegal. The Commission wishes to remind the media and the public that the Inspectorate Division is committed to ensuring that all quarry sites are licensed and all the requisite approvals and permits are obtained before operations are undertaken.

SIGNED  
MANAGER  
CORPORATE AFFAIRS

## We Want Better Roads Not Ballot Boxes – Residents Of Bogoso To Prestea Roar Over Terrible Roads

**P**restea residents in the Western region have staged a protest against the government over the poor condition of their roads.

The New Prestea Movement, a youth-led group, organized and led the demonstration.

Since 2017, four contractors have been hired to work on a nineteen-kilometre stretch, but they have not made significant progress, the demonstrators claimed.

Residents are unhappy with the rough roads and potholes from Bogoso to Prestea township.

With the red bands and placards, the group demanded to know where part of the mineral development cash is.

They have announced their intention to boycott the 2024 general elections if their roads are not repaired.

Kabiru Ibrahim, Chairman of the New Prestea Movement, emphasized the need for the government to prioritize the construction of the Prestea to Bogoso road.

“They shouldn't wait until election year,” he remarked. We don't want ballot boxes, but we do want nice roads. We have seen various administrations come and go throughout the years, but we still have horrible roads. We do not

want them to rush and build roads during an election year because roads built during an election year are not sustainable.”

Several others expressed their dissatisfaction with the poor state of the roads, claiming that it has harmed their livelihoods.

Some of them also told the media that various mining businesses operate in the area, but that the area has been denied its fair portion of the national cake. Meanwhile, Wisdom Cudjoe, the Member of Parliament for the



Residents are unhappy with the rough roads and potholes from Bogoso to Prestea township

Prestea Huni Valley constituency, claimed in an interview that all of his efforts to convince authorities to pay attention to their roads had failed. As a result, he is urging Ghana's

government to prioritise the Prestea road, which has been a major source of anxiety for communities in the area.

**Source --**  
[rainbowradioonline.com](http://rainbowradioonline.com)



# France Reportedly In Talks With Niger For Possible Withdrawal Of Its Troops

France is reported to be in talks with Niger's military about possible withdrawal of French troops from the West African nation in the wake of the fraying of ties following a coup in July, according to French media reports. Confirming the news, former French ambassador to Mali and Senegal Nicolas Normand told Al Jazeera that according to his sources, talks were ongoing between the French and Niger militaries to "partially" withdraw troops. Normand said that his source, who remains anonymous, indicated the discussions should not be seen as a recognition of the coup leaders, but a "technical" discussion between the two militaries. A defence ministry source, who asked not to be named, told AFP that discussions on the withdrawal of "certain military elements" were under way. The source did not give details. France has been at loggerheads with Niger's new military rulers after it refused to recognise the July 26 coup that ousted President Mohamed Bazoum – a French ally. France's President Emmanuel Macron has continued to back Bazoum, who remains in custody.

The coup leaders have called for the French ambassador and troops to leave Niger, with thousands of people rallying for days in the capital Niamey and backing the new regime's tough stance against the former colonial ruler. Some 1,500 French troops are based in Niger as part of France's wider fight against armed rebels in the Sahel region. Niger became a crucial hub for France after coups forced the withdrawal of French troops from neighbouring Mali and Burkina Faso. Meanwhile, Al Jazeera's Ahmed Idris, reporting from Niamey, said a protest took place on Tuesday outside the French military base, where organisers said people must not "let their guards down" until all French soldiers leave the country. "The news of the possible withdrawal from the Niger Republic may not be as satisfying to the organisers of these rallies and protests against France," he said. "They have consistently insisted that every single French soldier must leave Niger," he said, saying organisers were even putting together concerts at the base to keep the momentum

going.

On August 3, the coup leaders renounced several military cooperation agreements with France, including one with a month-long notice period that expired on Sunday. Niger's military-appointed Prime Minister Ali Mahamane Lamine Zeine said on Monday that "contacts" were under way about a "very swift" departure of French troops.

Zeine nevertheless said he hoped to "maintain cooperation if possible with a country with which we have shared many things".

A source close to Defence Minister Sebastien Lecornu told AFP on Tuesday that talks were in progress about "easing movements of French military resources" in Niger.

That source noted that French forces had been "immobilised since anti-terrorist cooperation was suspended" following the military takeover. The French forces are mostly based at an airfield near the capital, which in recent days has been targeted by thousands of protesters calling on them to leave.

End of Francafrrique?

The coup has been seen as a new



major blow to French influence in the region following military takeovers in Mali in 2020 and Burkina Faso in 2022.

"The only authorities in Niger that we recognise – like the entire international community – are President Mohamed Bazoum and his government," French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna told the Le Monde daily newspaper on Sunday in a reaffirmation of her country's position. However, she emphasised that French troops were in Niger at the request of the Bazoum-led authorities to take part in "anti-terror" operations.

"Today, this mission can no longer be ensured, since we no longer have – de facto – operations carried out jointly with the Niger armed forces," she said. Colonna insisted, however, that the regional bloc the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), not France, was the prime player. She also echoed comments by Macron that the concept of "Francafrrique", where Paris had neocolonial ascendancy in the region, was no longer valid.

## Health Activists Announce European Campaign Against Effects Of Commodification Of Health



*Health workers and activists during a World Health Day 2023 protest. (Photo: European Network Against Commercialization of Health and Social Protection). A coalition of trade unions, health activists, and organizations launched an all-European campaign against the commercialization of health. The campaign will include decentralized discussions and actions across various EU countries and will culminate in a major protest in the week leading up to World Health Day*

Europe—have announced a renewed regional campaign. The initiative was announced during a public meeting held on Thursday, September 7, aiming to bring health to the forefront of the European Union's (EU) agenda. The coalition has expressed deep concern over the EU's prioritization of financial and fiscal matters, such as free competition and budgetary convergence, over public health. This approach, they argue, poses a danger to the well-being of European citizens and the state of health rights in the world. With an eye on the upcoming European Parliament election in May 2024, these

organizations plan to apply pressure on national governments and Members of the European Parliament, and encourage the adoption of health policies informed by the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has highlighted the need to prioritize health as an essential human right, and the organizations have asserted that "submitting it to the laws of the market is a crime.". The campaign will span the next seven months and will include decentralized discussions and actions across various EU countries. While the actions will address issues specific to local contexts, they will all align with key priorities

identified by EPSU, the European Network, and PHM Europe for the entire region. These priorities include ensuring adequate public funding to guarantee quality care and decent working conditions, improving the accessibility of health services across geographical, financial, and cultural dimensions, building democratic participation of health workers and patients in decision and policy-making, and adopting medicine policies that benefit both the people of Europe and of the Global South. One of the campaign's central objectives is to develop strategies and mechanisms to

address the shortage of health workers. It also aims to counter the brain drain from EU peripheral countries to the core and from low-income countries to Europe as a whole. The organizations leading the campaign have said that activities will begin in October 2023. These actions will include national debates featuring activists, health workers, and policy experts. The campaign will culminate in a powerful protest in Brussels in the week leading up to April 7, 2024—World Health Day.

In a joint effort to combat the growing marketization of health services in Europe, three organizations—the European Public Services Union (EPSU), the European Network Against Commercialization of Health and Social Protection, and the People's Health Movement (PHM)



# Ablakwa Accuses Akufo-Addo's Brother-In-Law Of \$5m Conflict Of Interest Transaction With BoG



MP Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa and President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo

The Member of Parliament for North Tongu, Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa, has accused the Director of Marine Metro Development Limited, Dr Kwame Nyantekyi-Owusu, who he claimed is a brother-in-law of President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, of conflict of interest in the award of a contract by the Bank of Ghana.

According to Ablakwa, Dr Nyantekyi-Owusu is a non-executive director of the board of the Bank of Ghana (BoG) but his firm, Marine Metro Development Limited, was initially awarded the contract for the construction of the new head office of the central bank and a payment of \$5 million was made.

The MP, in a post shared on X (formerly known as Twitter), on Monday, September 11, 2023, indicated that he has filed a Right to Information request at BoG to demand the details of the transactions.

“At 10:40 am today, this Right to Information Request was formally presented to the Bank of Ghana. “It basically relates to a US\$ 5 million (GHS57 million) conflict of interest transaction between the BoG & President Akufo-Addo's brother-in-law. For God and Country,” parts of the post read. The post had a copy of the Right to Information request which reads in parts as follows:

“What happened to the initial decision of the current management of the Bank of Ghana to construct its new head office at

the Accra Marine Drive Project, particularly, following a number of board resolutions and field visits to the Accra Marine Drive enclave between 2017 and 2020. How was Marine Metro Development Limited engaged by the Bank of Ghana and what are the terms of this engagement?

“Why did the Bank of Ghana pay Marine Metro Development Limited an amount of US\$5 million which was received in the Ghana Commercial Bank account of Marine Metro Development Limited in December 2020? Considering that the Bank of Ghana is constructing its new controversial head office at a different location that is at West Ridge, why has Marine Metro Development Limited not refunded the US\$ 5 million it received from an alarmingly distressed central bank which has made unprecedented losses of a staggering GHS60.8 billion? “Incontrovertible incorporation documents obtained from the Office of the Registrar of Companies reveal that Dr. Kwame Nyantekyi-Owusu is a Director of Marine Metro Development Limited. (A copy is duly attached for your consideration). From the Bank of Ghana's 2020, 2021 and 2022 Annual Reports and Financial Statements, it is noted that Dr. Kwame Nyantekyi-Owusu has been appointed to and serves as a Non-Executive Director of the


board of Bank of Ghana. Does this not present an unmistakable and unmitigated case of blatant conflict of interest?”

The North Tongu legislator has been leading exposés of alleged corruption scandals in

the Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo government. He has alleged corruption allegations in the construction of the National Cathedral of Ghana among others.

This is Ablakwa's post and the documents he shared:

Source: [www.ghanaweb.com](http://www.ghanaweb.com)

 **Hon. Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa**  
Member Of Parliament For North Tongu Constituency

Your Ref. No.: ..... My Ref. No.: NIC/MP/19/2023/001

11<sup>th</sup> September, 2023.

Dr. Ernest Kwamina Yedu Addison  
Governor  
Bank of Ghana

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION UNDER THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT, 2019 (ACT 989) ON TRANSACTIONS AND ENGAGEMENTS BETWEEN THE BANK OF GHANA AND MARINE METRO DEVELOPMENT LIMITED**


Kindly take note that this is a Right to Information Request pursuant to the Right to Information Act, 2019 (Act 989) and Article 21 (1) (f) of the 1992 Constitution of Ghana.

In the course of carrying out my constitutional mandate of parliamentary oversight, I have become aware of certain matters pertaining to transactions and engagements between the Bank of Ghana and a company incorporated on 21st April, 2020 known as Marine Metro Development Limited.

Within the parameters of good governance which can only be firmly anchored on transparency, accountability and the people's constitutional right to know, particularly considering that the Bank of Ghana is a public institution which belongs to the good people of this nation, and in compliance with Section 18 of Act 989, I hereby seek information on the following:

1. What happened to the initial decision of the current management of the Bank of Ghana to construct its new head office at the Accra Marine Drive Project, particularly, following a number of board resolutions and field visits to the Accra Marine Drive enclave between 2017 and 2020?
2. How was Marine Metro Development Limited engaged by the Bank of Ghana and what are the terms of this engagement?

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 **Hon. Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa**  
Member Of Parliament For North Tongu Constituency

Your Ref. No.: ..... My Ref. No.: .....

3. Why did the Bank of Ghana pay Marine Metro Development Limited an amount of US\$5million which was received in the Ghana Commercial Bank account of Marine Metro Development Limited in December 2020?
4. Considering that the Bank of Ghana is constructing its new controversial head office at a different location — that is at West Ridge, why has Marine Metro Development Limited not refunded the US\$5million it received from an alarmingly distressed central bank which has made unprecedented losses of a staggering GHS60.8billion?
5. Incontrovertible incorporation documents obtained from the Office of the Registrar of Companies reveal that Dr. Kwame Nyantekyi-Owusu is a Director of Marine Metro Development Limited. (A copy is duly attached for your consideration). From the Bank of Ghana's 2020, 2021 and 2022 Annual Reports and Financial Statements, it is noted that Dr. Kwame Nyantekyi-Owusu has been appointed to and serves as a Non-Executive Director of the board of Bank of Ghana. Does this not present an unmistakable and unmitigated case of blatant conflict of interest?
6. What is the position of the Bank of Ghana's "Office of Ethics and Internal Investigations" on this apparent fetid conflict of interest?
7. How does the Bank of Ghana respond to accusations that it engaged in this repugnant and lawless conduct because Dr. Kwame Nyantekyi-Owusu is a powerful brother-in-law of President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo who is not new to questionable deals of this nature — recalling that a few years ago, and under similar troubling opaque circumstances, Dr. Nyantekyi-Owusu was the beneficiary of a US\$24million nepotistic tax-waiver for his struggling Pullman Hotel project which many industry experts now describe as a failed project?
8. Has the Bank of Ghana made additional financial commitments to Marine Metro Development Limited beyond the US\$ 5million in issue, especially being cognizant of internal memos in my possession suggesting that this was only an initial payment and also, having regard for recent promotional materials by Marine Metro Development Limited claiming that its David Adjaye redesigned Accra Marine Drive Project is valued at US\$1.2billion?

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