

DEMONSTRATION

In Solidarity With The People Of Palestine



Photo via Times of Gaza. Palestinian Health Ministry reports within the span of 24 hours, Israeli airstrikes killed 700 Palestinians, as well as collapse of health system in Gaza

Thousands of people from all walks of life are expected to pour onto the streets of Accra next Thursday to protest against the brutalities being carried out on the Palestinian people in Gaza. The demonstration is organized

by the Accra Collective of the Socialist Movement of Ghana (SMG) and the Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC). Organizers say they notified the Greater Accra Regional Commander of the Ghana Police Service last Friday in accordance with the Public

Order law. The demonstration is expected to start from the Obra Spot at the Kwame Nkrumah Interchange, proceed to the Farisco junction, through to the National Theatre to the Arts Centre.

cont. on page 3

IMF Pushes World's Poorest Countries Into "Starvation Diet" As Debt Burdens Spiral

page 9

After Donating Food Items Worth Over GH¢350,000.00

Goodness Energy Appeals To Govt To Support Keta Flood Disaster Victims



Michael Hoetzade, Director of Operations for energy giants and petroleum retail outlet, Goodness Energy over the weekend appealed to the government and other benevolent individuals and organizations to go to the aid of some hundreds of flood disaster victims at Keta in the Anloga District of the Volta Region.

cont. on page 2

No Dzaase Has Installed Michael Okpoti As Chief Of Oyarifa – Says Royal Family Of Oyarifa Agbawe Clan



page 5

The INSIGHT

EDITORIAL

After Donating Food Items Worth Over GHC350,000.00

Goodness Energy Appeals To Govt To Support Keta Flood Disaster Victims

from front page

According to him the situation there is dire with the several hundreds of the displaced victims struggling to survive. Michael Hozade made the appeal after Goodness Energy last Wednesday October 25 presented assorted food items worth over GHC350,000.00 to some hundreds of victims of the flood disaster which ensued following water spillage at the Akosombo and Kpong Dams.

The hundreds of beneficiaries were from the Tregui, Kodzi and Fiakor communities at Keta in the Anloga District of the Volta Region. Following the water spillage at the Akosombo and Kpong dams, thousands of residents at North, Central and South Tongu districts including some communities in Ada in the Greater Accra region were submerged and residents displaced by the flood waters with their livelihoods wiped out.

Even though attention and support has been extended to those in Battor, Mepe among others, not much support has been received by those victims in Keta. Donating the items which included 200 bags of rice, beans, corn, garri, sugar, oil, cassava dough, sachet water among others totaling over GHC350,000.00, Michael Hozade said the gesture was to extend support to communities affected by the flood disaster.

He noted that Goodness Energy is a very compassionate company that cares for the welfare of all with its director being a philanthropist.

Mr. Hozade in view of the situation at Keta appealed for support for the victims saying Goodness Energy was touched by the plight of the flood victims and wanted to extend support to alleviate their loss since most of them had their livelihoods wiped out. He called on the government and other philanthropist to also come to the aid of the affected communities since their situation now is dire.

Meanwhile, Mepe and other

surrounding communities affected by the floods on October 24, 2023 also received various relief items from business magnate Ibrahim Mahama following the devastating flooding of various communities after the spillage of the Akosombo Dam.



THE INSIGHT

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

Secretary - Gifty Agyemang

Design and Graphics - Godwin K. Attah

Production Manager - Kweku Menz

PUBLISHERS

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

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

DEMONSTRATION

In Solidarity With The People Of Palestine

from front page

invites all peace-loving people to show their revulsion at the murder of innocent women and children by participating in the demonstration. At the last count more than 7000 Palestinians mostly civilians, women and children had been murdered by the apartheid colonial occupationist regime in Israel.

Even though the organizers estimate that 1000 people will take part in the protest, some Ghana watchers predict that the number will be exceeded. Meanwhile, Natalia Marques reporting from the United States of America (USA) for the Peoples Dispatch says students across dozens of campuses in North America on Wednesday, October 25, staged walkouts in protest against Israel's genocidal war against Gaza.

The walkout, taking place at university campuses in the United States and Canada, was organized by the Palestinian Youth Movement, Dissenters, and Students for Justice in Palestine. The students demand an end to Israel's siege on Gaza, an end to US funding of Israel, and that their universities divest from weapons corporations which supply the Israeli occupation.

Campuses which participated in the walkout included Brown University, several City College of New York campuses, Florida State

University, Howard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, McGill University, Stanford University, and the University of Chicago. Students at the historically Black Howard University, located in Washington, DC, staged a walkout. As one student [stated](#) at the demonstration, "Our message to Joe Biden is that Howard University students, HBCU students, do not support the drastic and violent escalations that are happening now in Gaza. We want Biden to implement an immediate ceasefire, and we want Biden to stop giving unconditional military aid to apartheid Israel every year."

At the [Columbia campus](#) in upper Manhattan, at least 500 students walked out of classes at 1 pm in a walkout organized by Columbia Students for Justice in Palestine alongside Jewish Voice for Peace, despite the intimidation tactics of Zionists. Earlier in the day, a TV truck paid for by the far-right wing group Accuracy in Media circled the campus, broadcasting the names of students who have stood up against Israel's siege on Gaza in some capacity with the label "Columbia's Leading Antisemites". Accuracy in Media is the same group that circulated a [similar truck](#) around Harvard's campus, also doxxing pro-Palestine students.

Speaking from where students had gathered at

the heart of the campus, a Palestinian student organizer with Columbia SJP said, "We've been getting death threats. There has been a truck going around with students' faces and names, and people have been facing doxxing simply for speaking out in support of Palestinian rights. So that's why I'm fully covered from head to toe."

Earlier in the month, a self-identified Columbia University officer of administration had [said](#) about students protesting in solidarity with Palestine, "I hope every one of these people die." "We have yet to hear any concrete action about this, any statements [from Columbia]," said the Palestinian student, who wished to remain anonymous. "No concrete action has been taken to protect students. So until that happens, we have to keep covering ourselves." "I was too scared to come to class last week. People have been taking pictures of me," said the student. Assistant Columbia Professor Shai Davidai went viral for claims that pro-Palestinian student groups were threatening the safety of Jewish people on campus. After giving a tearful speech at a pro-Israel vigil on



BLAISE TULO, CONVENOR, ACCRA COLLECTIVE, SMG

campus, Davidai took to X, claiming that, "I pleaded with my employer to help me protect the lives of thousands of Jewish students from pro-terror student organizations who openly laud Hamas—an internationally recognized terrorist organization." "There are student organizations on my own campus who see my beautiful children as legitimate targets," he continued.

Brooklyn College students also staged a walkout. "[Israel claims that] bombing hospitals and destroying mosques on the holiest days in Islam, killing little kids and maintaining an open air concentration camp is somehow keeping Jewish people safe," said a student speaker and self-

identifying anti-Zionist Jew at the demonstration, in front of dozens of students. "British colonialists created the apartheid state to keep Jews as far away from them as possible," he continued. "American imperialists send billions of bombs per year for the same reason. Do we really think these countries give a sh-t about Jewish people? The United States has never cared about the Jewish people. They sent ships full of Jewish refugees back to Germany during the Holocaust. Netanyahu shakes hands with neo-Nazis like Donald Trump and Mitch McConnell."



INTERNATIONAL NEWS REPORT

Compiled By Peoples Dispatch

Israel Escalates War On Gaza, Launching Brief Ground Offensive



At least four members of Al-Jazeera journalist Wael Al-Dahdouh's family were killed and several others were buried under the rubble when Israel bombed their residential quarters (Photo: Wafa). US continues to block all efforts to achieve a humanitarian ceasefire in the Security Council despite reports of lack of basic amenities inside occupied Palestine

large number of Palestinians have also been killed in the occupied West Bank (over 103) since October 7 by the Israeli occupation forces. Additionally, over 100 Palestinians were detained by Israeli occupation forces from different parts of the occupied West Bank on Thursday morning.

Although Israel has amassed a large amount of its troops on the Gaza border, it has been delaying a full fledged ground offensive due to uncertainty about the situation inside Gaza, and also due to the US insistence that it secure the release of hostages taken by the Palestinian resistance on October 7. Despite releasing some people in recent days, according to unconfirmed reports, Palestinian resistance forces still have over [200 hostages](#).

Meanwhile, Israel's large-scale and indiscriminate aerial bombardments inside different parts of the besieged Palestinian territory

continued overnight on Wednesday and in the early morning of Thursday. The number of Palestinians killed in over 250 airstrikes, as claimed by the Israeli forces, crossed several dozens as Israeli bombings continued to target residential buildings and civil infrastructure.

Palestinian journalists and their families are among the fatal victims in the last 24 hours by Israeli strikes.

Palestinian radio journalist Duaa Sharaf and her child were killed in an Israeli bombing in central Gaza on Thursday morning.

On Wednesday, at least four members of the family of *Al-Jazeera* journalist Wael Al-Dahdouh were killed and several others were buried under the rubble when Israel bombed their residential quarters.

A total of [23 Palestinian journalists](#) have been killed since October 7 in Israel's indiscriminate air strikes inside Gaza.

The US scuttles another UNSC attempt at immediate ceasefire

On Wednesday, the UN security council once again [failed to adopt](#) a resolution demanding immediate ceasefire in Gaza, due the US refusing to remove the sentence proclaiming Israel's "inherent" right to self defense from its draft resolution. The resolution had used the word "humanitarian pause" instead of "ceasefire" demanded by other countries. The draft resolution received 10 votes in favor, but was vetoed by Russia and China. The UAE also voted against the resolution with Brazil and Mozambique abstaining. China later [explained](#) its negative vote against the US resolution in a statement. It claimed that the resolution was introduced in haste, without any attempt to create a consensus, and that it is "seriously imbalanced and confuses basic right from wrong."

Russia presented an alternative draft resolution demanding an immediate

ceasefire and withdrawal of Israel's order to evacuate northern Gaza.

The US and its Western allies opposed Russia's draft, ensuring that it did not get enough votes to pass.

This was the [fourth time](#) since the beginning of the Israeli war on Gaza that the US and its allies have scuttled the attempts by other countries to bring a resolution demanding immediate humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza.

Reacting to the developments in the UNSC on Wednesday, Vasily Nebenzya, Russian ambassador to the UN, [said](#), "We regret that the Security Council failed to take another opportunity to respond to the unprecedented crisis in the Middle East. It has fallen short of expectations."

Brazilian president Luiz Inacio Lula Da Silva also [regretted](#) the delay in the achievement of ceasefire in Gaza, claiming that what is happening in Gaza, "is not a war, it is genocide that has killed nearly two thousand children."

57,000 US Auto Workers Win Tentative Agreement With Ford

United Auto Workers (UAW) leaders last Wednesday announced that Ford, among the three largest automakers in the US, had capitulated and reached a "historic" tentative agreement with the union. With the new TA, 57,000 workers at Ford stand to win more in raises than they have received in the past 22 years. In addition, according to the union, workers have won the cost of living allowances (COLA) that union leadership had given up during the 2009 Great Recession, a three-year wage progression, an end to divisive wage tiers at the Sterling Axle and Rawsonville plants, better retirement benefits, and the right to strike over plant closures.

According to UAW leaders, the gains from this TA are valued at over four times the gains from the previous Ford contract in 2019. The TA provides a 25% increase in base wages through April 2028. The agreement raises the

top wage at Ford by over 30%—to more than USD 40 per hour. For starting wages, the agreement raises them by 28% to over USD 28 per hour. Temporary workers, the lowest paid workers at Ford, are not left out, and shall see wages increase by over 150% over the span of the agreement.

"Thanks to the power of our members on the picket line and the threat of more strikes to come, we have won the most lucrative agreement per member since Walter Reuther was president," said UAW vice president Chuck Browning in a [video](#) announcing the TA.

This comes amid major escalations in UAW's ongoing "Stand Up Strike" against Ford, Stellantis, and General Motors. The union has been strategically calling auto plants on strike incrementally, depending on the status of negotiations, giving negotiators maximum flexibility and leverage. The tentative agreement was

reached on day 40 of the strike.

Union leaders claim that this victory is due to the successful escalation of the stand up strike. "We knew we were getting close," said UAW President Shawn Fain in announcing the TA on Wednesday night. "But we also knew that companies needed a major push if we were going to make sure we got every penny possible in this agreement."

On Monday, October 23, UAW called on the Sterling Heights Assembly plant to strike, Stellantis' biggest and most profitable plant. The very next day, UAW struck GM's biggest and most profitable plant, Arlington Assembly.

Ford knew that they were next, claims Fain. "That was checkmate," Fain said, and the day following the start of the Arlington Assembly



Members of UAW Local 862 Ford Kentucky Truck Plant have been on strike up until recently (Photo: UAW). Historic tentative agreement has workers standing to win more in raises than they've received in that past 22 years

strike, Ford caved to union demands.

On October 29, the union's nation Ford Council will vote on whether to send the tentative agreement to membership for final ratification. Local leaders will then assemble regionally to talk through the TA

with membership. Then, members will get the final say and vote on whether or not to ratify the agreement.

Workers striking at plants belonging to Stellantis and GM will still remain on the picket line until tentative agreements are reached

Incumbent MP Henry Quartey To Face Tough Competition In Ayawaso Central Constituency

In a recent study conducted by Global InfoAnalytics, emerging data suggests that the incumbent Member of Parliament (MP) for the Ayawaso Central Constituency, Henry Quartey, will be facing a formidable challenge in the upcoming elections, with the seat possibly shifting to the National Democratic Congress (NDC).

The study indicates that 100% of voters who supported the NDC in the 2020 elections are still firmly standing with the party. For the New Patriotic Party (NPP), 65% of the previous supporters remain loyal, while 11% have shifted allegiance to the NDC, and a substantial 21% remain undecided.

Shockingly, another 21% of NPP voters have expressed their intention not to vote. The statistics reveal a stark contrast in voter enthusiasm and apathy within the Ayawaso Central Constituency, potentially paving the way for a political shift in the 2024 elections. In a Facebook post, Global InfoAnalytics shared these findings, sounding a warning for the NPP: "You can see the voter enthusiasm and apathy in Ayawaso Central, and that could cause the NPP to lose the seat in 2024."

The Dome Kwabenya Constituency is another area that has attracted attention in

this research.

According to the study, 23% of voters who cast their ballots for the NPP's candidate in the 2020 elections are now leaning toward the NDC candidate, indicating a significant shift in allegiance. Meanwhile, 48% of NPP supporters from the previous election continue to back their party, with 9% remaining undecided and 20% expressing their intention not to vote. For the NDC, the research reveals strong support from its previous voters, with 87% of them still firmly behind the party's candidate. However, 2% are open to voting for the NPP

candidate, and 4% remain undecided. Shockingly, 8% of NDC supporters have indicated that they do not plan to vote. Among those who did not vote in the previous election, 15% are inclined to vote for the NDC, while 9% are considering the NPP. Surprisingly, 15% remain undecided, and a significant 61% have expressed their intention to abstain from voting.

These trends could potentially shape the outcome of the upcoming elections in both the Ayawaso Central and Dome Kwabenya constituencies.

As the 2024 elections draw closer, these statistics will likely serve as a crucial



Henry Quartey, Member of Parliament (MP) for the Ayawaso Central Constituency

indicator for political candidates and parties in crafting their strategies to secure victory in these key constituencies.

There Is Something Wrong With NPP – Afriyie Akoto Laments 'Unfairness'



Dr Afriyie Akoto, NPP flagbearer hopeful

Dr. Owusu Afriyie Akoto, New Patriotic Party (NPP) flagbearer hopeful has criticized what he called favouritism within the party and its possible repercussions as the November 4 delegates' congress draws near.

He emphasized the importance of a level-playing field and how that can engender party cohesion and prepare for the upcoming election against the NDC.

Speaking in an interview on JoyNews on October 25, 2023, Dr. Afriyie Akoto stressed that engineering the November 4 Congress to favor one candidate could have detrimental

consequences

"I am prepared to give the benefit of the doubt and hope that everything will be alright because the implication of all this is the unity of the people. "If we are not seen to be having a level playing field after 4th November, it is going to be very difficult to unite the party against the NDC, and for me, that is my worry," myjoyonline.com quoted him to have said.

Commenting on Alan Kyerematen's resignation from the party, Dr. Afriyie Akoto acknowledged the reasons cited for his departure. He indicated that, unlike Kyerematen's approach, he believes that under the leadership of Mike Ocquaye as the chairman of the presidential election committee, corrective measures could be taken. He expressed worry about the open declaration of support

for one candidate by government appointees, parliamentarians, and party managers, contrary to established guidelines. "Of course, I don't manage information the way he has done and I still believe that with a person like Mike Ocquaye in charge, things can be corrected.

"But we have rules and regulations which say that if you are a party official you don't come out to say that you are supporting this person or that person but look at what is happening. "The whole government, the whole parliament, the whole party, most of the party managers, and so on have come out openly to say that they support one person and it goes against the rules. "So, there is something wrong with the party."

University Of Ghana To Break Ground For Computer Assembling Plant On Campus – VC

The Vice Chancellor of the University of Ghana, Professor [Nana Aba Appiah Amfo](#), has revealed that the University is far advanced with plans to build a computer assembling plant on the school's premises. According to her, this is part of the Vice Chancellor's Digitization Initiative to equip students with the necessary technological skills alongside the training they receive in school. She said this initiative has far advanced and will fully become operational within a year. Speaking in a JoyNews interview, she said "And we actually looking to assemble laptops right here on campus. So, we've gone through the process to select the companies, and signed the agreements, so very soon we should break ground for the assembling plant. "Right at the beginning we are getting to supply, we've signed that agreement. Getting the assembling plant and all will take a bit of time but Ot the

same time we've also signed the agreement to start that so I believe that within a year we will be able to move over to get the laptops assembled here," she said.

Prof. Amfo said a project committee has been set up with the Director of ISSER, Prof Peter Quartey as chair, to facilitate the progress of the initiative.

She said the goal of the project is to reach 40,000 students out of the 75,000 population of the University.

The 'One Student One Laptop Initiative' seeks to employ innovative mechanisms to equip students and staff of the University with affordable and free laptops/handheld devices through partnerships with established Information Technology (IT) companies to enhance teaching and learning and reduce the digital divide. In line with this objective, the project has been designed to explore mechanisms and channels that would help secure free laptops for students who cannot afford them.

Can Capitalism Solve The Environmental Crisis?

Asks Zoe Alexandra

Every year government officials, think tanks, NGOs, and representatives of the “private sector” convene in the Conference of the Parties (COP) to discuss what actions world leaders should take regarding the climate crisis. This illustrious meeting is sponsored by the world's largest transnational companies such as Unilever, Danone, Bayer, Nestlé, and others, companies that are responsible for a large part of the environmental devastation that has brought our world to the brink.

As such, the discussions which take place in such a space, are rarely ever able to point to the real culprit and much less so, demand the changes which are necessary to save life on the planet. The more radical resolutions, fought for, tooth and nail, by those countries most impacted by climate devastation, are rarely respected.

Spaces such as the III International Dilemmas of Humanity Conference, become all the more important in today's context, wherein experts, members of people's movements, and activists from all over the Global South have come together to discuss the primary questions facing humanity, such as the climate crisis. As in the other discussions, the debate on the climate crisis on Day 3 of the conference was focused less on the impacts of the climate change which are today well known, and more on the necessary solutions to save life on the planet. Speakers also debunked the same solutions that are formulated by ruling elites and

big business to allegedly address the climate crisis, highlighting that capitalism is incompatible with life. The speakers on the environmental crisis panel included Theodora Pius of the National Network of Small-Scale Farmers Groups in Tanzania (MVIWATA), Tikender Singh Panwar researcher and political activist from India, Houcine Rhili of the Nomade Association in Tunisia, and Carlos Barrientos of the Committee of Peasant Unity of Guatemala. The Tanzanian leader spoke about the struggle of the peasantry in Tanzania and across the world, which continue to constitute a significant portion of working people. In Kenya, peasants are 70% of working people and are on the frontlines of the struggle against climate change. “People are trying to defend their rights to use and access land. People are defending the forests, their rights to use water, and seeds. We are defending life on land, for human beings, animals, and everything that exists,” Pius said. She sharply condemned that the solutions proposed by capitalists and corporates to address the environmental crisis are both anti-people and further climate devastation. “The capitalists have created a crisis, and they have come with the solution. GMO is their thing. They are forcing everyone to believe that GMO should be used as a strategy to resolve what the Africans are facing with climate change.”

Her rallying cry is to “reclaim the

rights to use the commons.”

The Indian left scholar Singh Panwar in his talk pointed out that even the world's top scientists are conscious that the current system is leading humanity on a path to destruction, “The IPCC report points out that there has to be a systemic shift.” However, he highlighted, “They are not communists...they cannot go beyond this vocabulary.” He emphasized: “we know what this systemic shift means: the end of capitalism and the birth of socialism.”

Houcine Rhili, whose country Tunisia in recent years has been suffering from frequent droughts and heat waves, said that the battle of discourse is central to combating climate devastation. For example, the US military is one of the single largest polluters on the planet, more than 140 countries combined, yet the poor countries of the global South, and poor people themselves are often pointed to as those responsible. “We [must] fight and undermine the narrative of the capitalist system and fight against this idea which accuses the poor of being responsible for global warming.”

Rhili also pointed out some of the false solutions to the crisis proposed by capitalism such as the green energy alternatives, which extract natural resources from the south to power the north. He declared, “Egypt, Libya, and Tunisia and all



Houcine Rhili of the Nomade Association of Tunisia. Photo: Rafael Stedile. On the third day of the International Dilemmas of Humanity conference, participants discussed how to address the environmental crisis from a socialist perspective and issues of human dignity

countries of sub Saharan Africa will witness huge extraction of resources from their land and even loss of land. The extraction of green hydrogen requires huge quantities of water.”

He added, “I can assure you that these transnational companies will use our sea and ocean water and gases in order to provide clear alternative energies for themselves and we will be unable to provide the lowest quantity of water to provide our dignity. There is no dignity without water, water is life.” Ntima Makhetha, of UNITE union in Lesotho, also pointed out the contradictions that occur when the South has to produce green energy for the north, “Our country sold water...but in our country 70% of our people don't have access to water, and right now the country is embarking on a hydrogen deal to export energy to other countries but it can't even feed itself. It is said

that clean energy will help with climate change, but what about us the people who are living there, how do we survive?”

Indigenous and peasant revolutionary Carlos Barrientos sentenced that the environmental crisis must not be seen as separate from the survival of humanity, but that the struggle for the survival of both the people of the world and the planet are one in the same, “We have to understand that we are sons and daughters of mother earth and what corresponds to us is to fight for life and for socialism.”

Mental Health Issues Take Huge Toll On Economy

The economic impact of mental health conditions has come into sharp focus, revealing staggering losses that are reverberating across the globe.

According to recent data, mental health issues are costing the global economy a mind-boggling US\$1.5trillion in lost productivity every year. In Ghana, a nation already grappling with its own mental health crisis, the toll is alarming.

Currently, 21 percent of adults in the country are experiencing moderate to severe psychological distress resulting in a productivity loss equivalent to 7 percent of GDP – indicating the widespread impact mental health challenges are having on the economy and workforce.

It is in this light that experts at the 2023 EAP Africa Summit have emphasised an urgent need for comprehensive mental health support systems, within both workplaces and the broader healthcare infrastructure. This 4th edition of the EAP Africa Summit that came off in Accra was themed 'Making EAP culturally relevant to boost well-being, productivity and fiscal outcome: a Pan African perspective'.

Employee Assistance Services: a crucial organisational resource Dan Boissoneault, President-Employee Assistance Professionals Association (EAPA) International, stressed the importance of organisations investing in Employee Assistance Programmes (EAP). He said EAPs play a vital role in supporting work organisations and their employees in various aspects of mental health and wellbeing with their services – encompassing a range of functions including referral of employee clients for diagnosis, treatment and assistance, as well as case monitoring and follow-up services.

“The immediacy of global conflicts, weather changes and organisational transitions can significantly impact employees, their families and communities. EAPs recognise the workplace's importance as a motivator and a space where solutions can be found.” By saving jobs, EAPs not only save lives but also contribute to the well-being of communities. The power to effect change lies in the hands of EAP professionals who, armed with

core technologies and connections, can bring about meaningful impact,” he said.

He urged organisations to champion the subject matter, and explore the services and collaboration of EAPs to help navigate challenges and manage the well-being of their employees. Managing Director-Supreme Healthcare Management Services and EAP-Africa (Subsidiary) in Ghana, Patience Osekre, said with mental health conditions impacting one in four individuals worldwide, the need to prioritise mental wellbeing has never been more urgent. She revealed that in a bid to improve the accessibility and scope of mental health resources, Supreme Healthcare Management Services and KPMG have partnered to unveil the Authentic Caring Employer Award (ACE) – an initiative that aims to celebrate and elevate excellence in workplace mental health practice, with the goal of creating mentally healthy workplaces which support sustainable success.

She said despite the growing awareness surrounding mental health, there is still a long way to go

in terms of destigmatising the issue.

“Employees often hesitate to discuss their mental health openly, due to fear of judgment and misunderstanding. This was highlighted in a recent training session where an employee posed the question, “At what point will mental health be taken seriously in our society? It is clear that a shift in mindset and a transformation of the approach to workplace mental health is essential,” she said.

“The ACE initiative, along with its upcoming event on 18Th November 2023 at The Marriott Hotel Accra, aims to address this pressing issue and raise awareness about the importance of mental health issues in the workplace,” she added.

Acting Deputy Development Director and Head of Cross-Cutting Team at the British High Commission in Ghana, Dan Humble, on his part shared his outfit's new well-being strategy. A strategy that focuses on six key themes: preventing harm; promoting mental health; creating

a supportive culture; developing capabilities; leadership; and evaluation.

With an emphasis on continuous improvement, he stressed the need for organisations to address mental health issues and support their employees' well-being effectively.

Distinguished speakers and experts presented case studies, presentations and success stories, highlighting innovative approaches adopted by organisations across Africa, with topics like 'Setting Global Standards in Workplace Wellbeing; Tailoring Mental Wellbeing Support for every Generation at work: From Boomers to Gen Z', among others. Panel discussions facilitated in-depth conversations on topics ranging from mental health stigma to integrating traditional healing practices into modern EAP frameworks.

The summit was an eye-opener, as it gave opportunities for participants to contribute and participate in Q&A sessions.

Source -- thebftonline.com

IMF Pushes World's Poorest Countries Into “Starvation Diet” As Debt Burdens Spiral

By Tanupriya Singh

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank began their Annual Meetings in the Moroccan city of Marrakesh on October 9. Finance ministers and central bank governors from 190 countries were in attendance, with the meetings likely to address prevailing economic crisis in the global economy. The meetings were set to wrap up on October 15.

Since 2020, successive economic shocks have led to loss of USD 3.6 trillion of the global output, stated IMF chief Kristalina Georgieva in a [speech](#) on October 5, meant to kick off the series of meetings from October 9-15. Noting that low-income countries had been hit the hardest, she added that this trend was due to their “extremely limited capacity to buffer their economies and support the most vulnerable”.

What Georgieva's speech did not acknowledge is the enduring role of the IMF and the World Bank in hollowing out state capacity to address socio-economic challenges. With more than half of low-income countries facing debt distress, the US-dominated Bretton Woods institutions have continued to push their age-old, failed policies of austerity, characterized by cuts to essential public services, subsidies and benefits.

“With little or no fiscal space left— and with rising debt servicing costs— many governments are facing tough decisions. It means prioritizing spending and communicating clear medium-term fiscal plans to build credibility and reduce debt levels,” Georgieva said. The IMF chief cited the energy subsidy “reform” in Nigeria as one such example of a “tough decision” in the right direction. What is not included is that the move led to fuel prices [rising](#) by almost three times in the country.

According to a new analysis released by Oxfam International, 57% of the world's poorest countries, which are home to about 30% of the world's population, will have to cut their public spending by USD 229 billion over the next five years. At the same time, based on the current terms of various loans, low and lower-middle income countries will be forced to pay almost USD 500 million every day in interest and debt repayments from now until 2029.

With entire countries on the verge of

bankruptcy, spending on debt repayments has outstripped health care spending by four times in the most impoverished countries.

“The World Bank and IMF are returning to Africa for the first time in decades with the same old failed message: cut your spending, sack public service workers, and pay your debts despite the huge human costs,” [said](#) Oxfam's interim Executive Director, Amitabh Behar. This week also marks the first time since 1973 that the IMF and World Bank are holding their annual meetings on the African continent. “The IMF is forcing poorer countries into a starvation diet of spending cuts, driving up inequality and suffering,” Behar added.

With the failure of decades of neoliberal structural adjustment on full display, the IMF has tried to use various smokescreens to distort the potential impact of its directives— more “[a crisis of public relations](#)”, if anything. Loan agreements are called “homegrown” and much emphasis is placed on what the Fund calls “social spending floors”, which refer to thresholds set for public spending.

However, Oxfam laid out in its report that for every one US dollar that the IMF urged governments to allocate for public spending, it directed them to cut six times more via austerity measures. “Rather than canceling unpayable debts, rich countries want to use the Annual Meetings to fiddle with the Bank's balance sheet to squeeze out money for yet more loans...In the next room, poorer countries are still being told to slash spending on public services and social programs critical to fighting poverty, reducing inequality, and realizing the rights of women and girls,” Oxfam's interim Executive Director denounced.

Much of the burden of raising revenues placed on governments tends to take the form of expanding Value-Added Tax while cutting “regressive” subsidies. Meanwhile, foreign capital and the wealth of the rich is left largely intact. In a separate [report](#) titled the “*Middle East and North Africa Gap [MENA]: prosperity for the rich, austerity for the poor*”, Oxfam noted that the richest 0.05% in the region saw their wealth increase by 75% to reach almost USD 3 trillion by the end of last year. Instead

of taxing this wealth, governments resorted to cut maternity benefits, pensions and public sector salaries, the report says, citing examples of Jordan, Egypt, and Tunisia respectively. Half of the total income generated in the MENA region since the 1990s has gone to the top 10%, with only 11% left for people in the bottom 50%. “The prevalence of informal employment in the region- accounting for about 60% of total employment- is directly linked to the meager share of economic growth captured by the bottom half of the population,” the report states.

International financial institutions, for their part, have pushed for measures that lead to the dismantling of comprehensive and universal public schemes in favor of targeted safety nets that end up excluding most of the population. These measures include direct cash transfers that are based on [effectively arbitrary](#) classifications of



Women wait outside a bakery in Oueslatia, Tunisia that is rationing bread due to shortages in subsidized flour. Photo: Chahd Lina Belhadj / Meshkal, February 26, 2022. As the IMF and World Bank commence their annual meetings, an Oxfam report shows how their failed policies of austerity will force the world's poorest countries to cut USD 229 billion in public spending while hemorrhaging billions in debt payments.

people into levels of poverty.

As Behar stated, “Austerity is an ideological fiction that has wrought incalculable damage...Who will deliver babies and save lives later when nurses

and doctors in public hospitals lose their jobs now?”

Six More Western Togoland Secessionists Convicted, 4 Others Freed



Six more persons who have been charged in the Western Togoland Restoration Front also known as Volta Secessionists have found guilty after over two years of trial and convicted.

The convicts who were part of a set of 10 are -Gabriel Gorvinoa, Cephas Zodanu, Benjamin Gbadado, Richard Doglo Ametepe, Cosmos Favor and Vincent Ramsayer Atsu Galey have had their sentencing deferred to November 1.

The remaining four – John Gbedemah, Godwin Awudza, Excel Liberty Aheto and Devine Nyadzinyo were acquitted and discharged after full trial.

The Criminal Division of the High Court in Accra presided over by Justice Mary Maame Ekue Yanzuh has deferred her sentencing to November 1, 2023.

Bail conditions for Cosmos Havor and

Gabriel Govina Godfrey have been revoked following their conviction and have been remanded with others to face their punishment in November 1.

They earlier please not guilty to the charges of ; being members of a prohibited organization, attending meetings of prohibited organization, and accepting contribution of a prohibited organization. After full trial, Prosecution was able to prove the case of six out of the 10 who have since been convicted while the remaining four have been freed. According to EIB Network's Legal Affairs Correspondent, Murtala Inusah, the latest convicts when added to the five and six who were jailed on March 21 and June 27 earlier this year respectively will bring the total number to 17 of persons punished.

Source: starrfm.com.gh

China's BRI And Africa's Infrastructure Development Ambitions ...The Trillion-Dollar Infrastructure Vision

Over the last decades, China has been at the forefront of championing multiple global initiatives, including the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the Global Civilization Initiative, amongst others. One such global initiative is the Belt and Road Initiative, which has become known shortly as 'BRI'. Launched in 2013 by President Xi Jinping, China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is one of the most ambitious infrastructure projects ever conceived in the history of our world. The BRI is earmarked to recreate the historic Silk Road trade route in order to open up the world market and establish a trade and investment network spanning the three continents of Africa, Asia, and Europe to facilitate greater global growth and development.

The Chinese leadership, aspires to maintain an open world economic system and achieve diversified, independent, balanced, and sustainable development with a shared future. The BRI is now not simply an economic initiative but also a global public good instrument, where they're rallying resources to achieve this ambitious plan.

BRI matters to developing countries

It's key to mention that the BRI is not a China-only story. The primary goal of the initiative is to address the vast infrastructure demand in developing countries.

As of August 2023, 155 countries were listed as having signed up to the BRI. The participating countries represent more than half of the world's GDP and nearly 75% of its population.

Beyond the numerous global discussions surrounding the viability and relevance of the BRI, the initiative is active, with a number of projects already finished or in progress contributing to economic growth and creating unlimited job opportunities.

As of October 2023, there have been over 3000 projects completed under the BRI generating over 420,000 jobs.

BRI member countries in the global south are aiming to maintain and increase their involvement in the BRI. To these receiving states, where infrastructure financing is desperately needed, geopolitical externalities are of secondary concern.

BRI & Africa's connectivity ambitions

It's imperative to ask questions that border on the significance of the BRI for Africa's own development future. How does the BRI fit into Africa's

infrastructure development agenda? – It's outright significant.

The primary infrastructure bottlenecks for the continent have long been identified as energy, water, sanitation, telecoms, and transportation. With 30 countries regularly facing power outages and slightly more than a third of Africans having access to electricity,

By 2025, the African Development Bank estimates that the African continent will need to spend up to \$170 billion annually to upgrade its infrastructure, with two-thirds of that amount going toward brand-new infrastructure and the remaining one-third going toward maintenance.

In Africa, demand for electricity will increase by 93% by 2035, around 47% of roads will need to be paved, ports must increase their average container handling performance from 20 to 25 to 30 moves per hour, and an additional 300 million people must have access to the Internet to keep up with the continent's economic growth.

The World Bank estimates that in order to achieve universal Internet access throughout Africa, \$100 billion will need to be invested in infrastructure, such as 4G stations, and at least 250,000 kilometers of fiber will be required to build and maintain broadband networks.

For Africa to experience economic success and sustained growth, the infrastructure gap must be filled. Improved infrastructure would make it easier to conduct more intraregional and international trade, lower business costs, increase Africa's competitiveness both domestically and internationally, and act as a catalyst for the continent's economic transformation and diversification through industrialization, value addition, and sustainable and inclusive growth.

BRI is delivering infrastructure development across Africa, and the continent has a more positive view of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) than anywhere else outside China.

As of August 2022, 50 of the 55 countries in Africa had signed some sort of memorandum of understanding or other agreement on the BRI.

The African Union has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on BRI cooperation with China.



Some countries, such as Kenya, Tanzania, and Somalia (on the shores of the Indian Ocean), as well as Egypt and Djibouti (on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea), have strategic locations that make them natural BRI partners because they link Africa, Asia, and Europe.

For the rest of the many countries on the continent that have joined the BRI countries list, it's to help them meet their urgent infrastructural development needs.

Boosting intra-African trade

In January 2015, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, at the 24th African Union (AU) Assembly of Heads of State and Government, Africans adopted a shared strategic framework for inclusive growth and sustainable development called Agenda 2063.

It's meant to be a strategic guide to Africa's development in the next fifty years. The goal of Agenda 2063 is to fulfill seven aspirations, each with specific objectives that, if met, will bring Africa one step closer to realizing its vision for 2063.

The Agenda 2063 states category aspiration number two of Africa's quest to build a connected continent in all shapes and forms within the next 50 years.

Africans aspire to build "an integrated continent, politically united, and based on the ideals of Pan-Africanism and the vision of Africa's Renaissance."

This, according to the goals of these aspirations, would entail developing a world-class infrastructure crisscrossing Africa—"improving connectivity through newer and bolder initiatives to link the continent by rail, road, sea, and air; and developing regional and continental power pools, as well as ICT."

BRI is already delivering infrastructure development across Africa, and the continent has a more positive view of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

African infrastructure and economic growth may be unified and expedited as a result of China's participation in infrastructure projects on the continent, and the

Belt and Road Initiative's goal of enhancing connectivity among member nations resonates directly with Africa's own ambitions for the next 50 years.

No Dzaase Has Installed Michael Okpoti As Chief Of Oyarifa – Says Royal Family Of Oyarifa Agbawe Clan

The Royal Family of Oyarifa Agbawe Clan has said one Michael Okpoti who claims to have been installed chief of Oyarifa is not chief of the area as being claimed.

In a press statement, the Dzaase of Oyarifa, the family heads of Owusu We, Asua We, Awua We, Otopa We And Kpobi We said Michael Okpoti has not been nominated, selected nor enstooled as chief of Oyarifa pending outdoorings as claimed.

This is their full statement;
JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE BY THE ROYAL FAMILY OF OYARIFA AGBAWE COMPRISING OYARIFA OWUSU WE, ASUA WE, AWUA WE, OTOPA WE AND KPOBI WE ON THE 26TH OCTOBER 2023 AT OYARIFA COMMUNITY CENTRE

Ladies and gentlemen of the media, chiefs, elders and kinsmen of Oyarifa gathered here, we greet you and welcome you to this important press conference, We have invited you here at such a short notice to address an unfortunate development in respect of the Oyarifa Stool. In consonance with Articles 11 and 277 of the 1992 Constitution, the nomination, selection and enstoolment of the Chief of Oyarifa has always been done according to the customary law and practice of the people of Oyarifa. In effect, it is the Dzaase (Kingmakers) headed by the Dzaasetse (Chairman of the Kingmakers) who have the legitimate right as backed by law to nominate, select and enstool the Chief of Oyarifa anytime the stool becomes vacant.

We, the Dzaase of Oyarifa, the family heads of Owusu We, Asua We, Awua We, Otopa We And Kpobi We and the good people of Oyarifa wish to inform the general public particularly the people of Oyarifa that one Michael Okpoti has not been nominated, Selected nor enstooled as chief of Oyarifa



pending outdoorings.

To the utter dismay of the chiefs, elders and good people of Oyarifa, an unknown group of 'landguards' numbering about 60 thugs riding on motorbikes beseeched the Oyarifa town clad in war regalia firing gunshots into the air indiscriminately on Tuesday, 24th October, 2023 around 9:00pm. When we enquired to know what was happening, it was whispered that Michael Okpoti who is the son of Nii Mensah Kodja claims he has been nominated, elected and enstooled as the chief of Oyarifa Pending outdoorings so the display of the act of war was to forewarn the people Of Oyarifa ahead of the purported outdoorings and Swearing.

We wish to reiterate that the Dzaase of Oyarifa has not nominated, selected nor installed Michael Okpoti as the chief of Oyarifa let alone to talk of outdoorings and swearing. We must emphasise that the act of procession into the town on the 24th October, 2023 in a Rambo warlike style is a breach of the Public Order Act, breach of the peace we are enjoying in Oyarifa and has the tendency to cause fear and panic and also to disrupt lawful economic activities in the community. We have taken appropriate steps as required by law to injunct this unlawful act. Meanwhile, we hereby call on the President of the Republic, Inspector-General of Police, the Regional, Divisional and District Commanders to act with dispatch to forestall any bloody clash in the town today onwards.

We thank you.

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