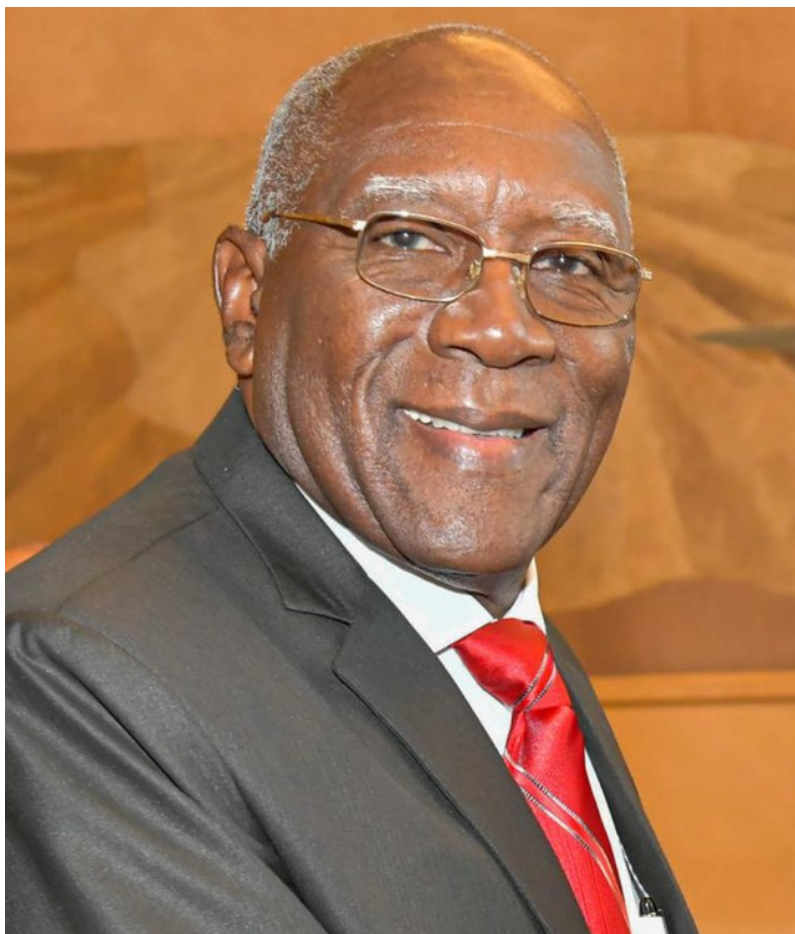


STOP ATROCITIES IN PALESTINE!

...Says Cuba's Vice President as He Demands Lifting of Sanctions against Cuba



Cuban Vice President, H. E. Salvador Valdez Mesa

By Frederick E Aggrey

The Cuban Vice President, H. E. Salvador Valdez Mesa has called on the international community to take immediate steps to end the Israeli atrocities in occupied Palestine. According to him what is happening under the watch of the global community is shameful considering the killing of women, children and the elderly by the Israeli occupationist forces.

In an exclusive interview with Pan African Television's Talk Show programme hosted by veteran journalist Kwesi Pratt Jnr. in Accra, the Cuban Vice President said the brutalities being committed by Israel against the Palestinians should be condemned by all peace-loving peoples of the world and thus called for an unconditional ceasefire to protect lives and properties.

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Railway Authority Denies Demolition Of Asuma Banda's Mosque, 300 Other Private Properties



The Asuma Banda Mosque is also reported to be lined up for demolition

The Ghana Railway Development Authority has denied claims that it plans to demolish business mogul Asuma Banda's Mosque and other 300 private properties on the Nyaho Hospital Stretch road at Dzorzulu in the Ayawaso West Municipality of the Greater Accra region.

cont. on page 5

Child Labour Poses Serious Risk To Ghana's Cocoa Sector, Foreign Earnings – MELR Warns

The Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations has warned that the effects of child labour in the country's cocoa sector if not checked could pose serious risks and danger to Ghana's foreign exchange earnings.

According to the Employment and Labour Relations Ministry despite the devastating effects of child labour in the country, a section of the populace still does not appreciate the magnitude of the problem and still

doubts if indeed there is child labour in the country. Kizito Ballans, Chief Director of the Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations expressed the concern at a one day training workshop on child

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Appeh Apetorgbor Vows To Snatch Pru East Seat From NDC

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The INSIGHT

EDITORIAL

ADDRESS THIS FUNDING GAP!

The Ghana AIDS Commission is not happy about its dwindling budgetary allocation.

Officials of the Ghana AIDS Commission who appeared before the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament a fortnight ago were full of lamentations that they received only GHC3 million instead of the GHC14 million budgetary allocation to them in 2022.

According to the officials the funding gap or challenge greatly affected their work as it had dire consequences on the delivery of its mandate.

Clearly, the funding bottlenecks accounts for the recent rise in cases of HIV/AIDS infections in the country since monies needed to embark on sensitization programmes are not forthcoming as expected.

This development justifies the saying that you cannot eat your cake and have it which means that rise in infection need be blamed on reduced funding.

The rise in the cases of HIV infections in the country is very worrying as measures needed to address the canker appear to be suffering funding challenges and this must be of concern to all

The Ghana Aids Commission and several world bodies and stakeholders succeeded to a large extent in creating the awareness of condom use and abstinence in time past but the sudden rise in cases of HIV infections simply means that something is not being done or gone wrong.

It is the view of this paper that the government in spite of the economic challenges should provide the commission with the needed funding in a bid to address this menace.

Child Labour Poses Serious Risk To Ghana's Cocoa Sector, Foreign Earnings – MELR Warns

from front page

labour and forced labour for members of Social Mobilization Partners Against Child Labour

(SOMOPAC) in Accra.

SOMOPAC is a network of journalists who have committed themselves to fight child and forced labour in the country.

Mr. Ballans warned that child labour if not handled well in Ghana could affect the country's cocoa sector and the foreign exchange earnings. Throwing light on the problem, the chief director who cited recent statements by President Nana Akufo-Addo indicated that the phenomenon if not dealt with could see Ghana's cocoa sale blacklisted in the international market and thus affect its foreign exchange earnings.

He however noted that discussions about the problem in some platforms tend to see the matter exaggerated which is not healthy in efforts to address the canker.

Child Labour according to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) is any work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development".

Child labour specifically refers to work, hazardous or not, that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children, and interferes with their schooling by depriving them of the opportunity to attend school, or obliging them to leave school prematurely, or requiring them to attempt to combine school attendance with excessively long and heavy work and this is common in the fishing and mining communities including galamsey areas and cocoa farms among many other areas.

Forced Labour is the harshest and worst forms of Child Labour and this according to ILO Convention 182, categorizes four of which are all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale, trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom or compulsory labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict.

The other is the use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances and the use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties and Work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children (hazardous work).

There are also the unconditional worst forms of child labour which are known as the unconditional forms of child labour, meaning they are prohibited without regard to the age of the child, the nature of the tasks executed, the conditions and circumstances in which those tasks are executed.

Even though there exists child labour, there is also Child Work or Light work which means that not all work done by children is classified as child labour.

Child work is Children's and adolescents'

participation in economic work that does not affect their health and personal development or interfere with or prejudice their schooling or their participation in vocational orientation or training programmes is generally regarded as positive.

Child work (light work) includes activities such as helping their parents around the home, assisting in a family business or earning pocket money outside school hours and during school holidays for a few hours and under adult supervision.

These kinds of activities contribute to children's development and the welfare of their families. It provides them with skills and experience and prepares them to be productive members of society during their adult life.

Even though the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8.7 calls for total eradication of child labour by 2025 from the world, much remains to be done by respective countries and in sub Saharan Africa which constitutes more than half of the global canker.

In a bid to contain the problem in Ghana, Esther Ofori Agyemang, Head of Child Labour Unit at the Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations called for behavioural change in a bid to nib the practice in the bud.

Mawulib Avutor who is a Steering Committee Member on Child Labour Issues and works with CHRAJ wants all forms of child labour issues reported and dealt with promptly.

Mr. Andrews Tagoe, Chairman of the Technical Committee on Child Labour and Coordinator of SOMOPAC urged the media to intensify campaign against child labour issues in the country.

He said over 300,000 children in Ghana through some of their initiatives have been taken out of child labour and taken to school for improvement in their livelihoods but more remains to be done.

THE INSIGHT

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STOP ATROCITIES IN PALESTINE!

...Says Cuba's Vice President as He Demands Lifting of Sanctions against Cuba

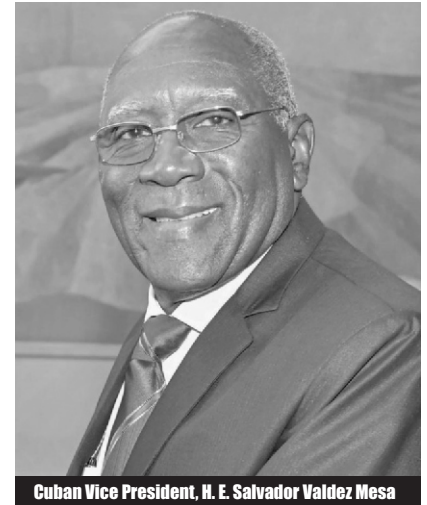
from front page

On the sanctions imposed by America and her allies on Cuba, H. E. Salvador Valdez Mesa revealed that the blockade has been very distressful for his people. He called on the international powers to lift the sanctions on his country as a matter of urgency and in the spirit of equity, fairness and natural justice. The Cuban veep revealed that the blockade has been very distressful for his people. He said further that the blockade is a natural injustice to his people, given the fact that there has not been a single evidence to justify it. He said that so far no one has been able to come out with a single evidence to justify the imposition and further deepening of the blockade and sanctions against his people. He opined that the blockade has been serious and main obstacle

to Cuba's development, having been internationalized over the years. According to him, the blockade which has been strengthened and internationalized since 2019 prevents Cuba from trading in technology, exports, medical and other services, totally blocking every external financial assistance and inflow, primarily aimed at strangling Cuba to submission. He noted that the impact of the blockade which is intended to suffocate and cripple his country's economy is not only felt by Cuba alone, but all countries having various cooperation with Cuba. To him, despite the fact that Cuba has paid its dues on global unity and brotherhood, the unjustifiable blockade has negatively impacted strategic sectors of their national economy such as in the areas of energy, finance, industries, transportation and the rest. He said further that the

sanctions have also stopped foreign investment into the country. Justifying why the blockade should be lifted, he indicated further that Cuba is a country that shares and helps and this is evident in the medical cooperations in Africa and other parts of the developing world. He reminded the West how Cuba had to intervene militarily in Angola when it was needful, even as today Cuba is still intervening in global affairs in the areas of doctors, teachers, professors, technicians, etc in efforts to share what they have with the rest of the world. To him, Cuba is not like some of the world powers that have their special forces spread around the world, taking advantage of vulnerable countries in ways that promote their agenda. He further acknowledged

the valuable help that African countries have offered Cuba in calling for the removal of the blockade and the delisting of Cuba as a state sponsor of terrorism. He asserted that, if the blockade is lifted and the country delisted as a terrorist sponsoring state, Cuba would deepen and strengthen its international cooperation and contributions to not only Africa, but the rest of the world. The Cuban Vice President also called on the Non-Aligned Movement to be made more relevant in the face of current global happenings. He called for a more stronger and relevant NAM that factors into consideration the ever increasing global diversity, especially with the movement's members. He called on all stakeholders to act forcefully to strengthen and deepen the role of the



Cuban Vice President, H. E. Salvador Valdez Mesa

movement and tackle the economic and political complexities facing the world now, especially in the wake of global exploitation by the rich and affluent nations and individuals. More importantly, he called on the movement to seize the spaces and systems of the United Nations and come up with very important agreements and interventions that would help shape the world system we all desire.

Appreh Apetorgbor Vows To Snatch Pru East Seat From NDC



Appreh Apetorgbor

By Joseph Nana Yaw Cobbina

The aspiring New Patriotic Party (NPP) parliamentary candidate for Pru East Constituency, Appreh Apetorgbor has vowed to take the seat from the National Democratic Congress (NDC) candidate in the 2024 elections. Mr. Apetorgbor expressed his readiness to contest and win the

parliamentary seat for the New Patriotic Party in the upcoming elections being confident of his abilities and track records to secure victory for his party. He has thus advised his opponents to step aside and focus on securing their resources as he is determined to bring the NPP party into power. As a renowned and well-respected figure in the constituency, he believes that his extensive experience and dedication to his community makes him the ideal candidate for the Pru East parliamentary seat. As the current party chairman and an aspiring parliamentary candidate, he aims to unite residents and

bring about positive change in the constituency. Speaking in an interview with the media, the aspiring NPP parliamentary candidate, Yussif Appreh Apetorgbor conveyed his aspiration to lead Pru East to new heights saying he is poised to transform the constituency when given the mandate. "I am well aware of the challenges facing our constituency, and I firmly believe that I have the capacity to address them. I am ready to utilize my resources and networks to push forth the agenda of the NPP, and ultimately bring about development and progress for our people" he assured.

He acknowledging the potential competition he may face within his own party and thus extended a message to his fellow contenders urging them to step aside in order to secure their resources, given his strong chances of winning the Pru East parliamentary seat for the NPP. He firmly believes that his position within the community and his track record of success makes him the frontrunner candidate. According to him, the Pru East Constituency, which located in Bono East Region, has been traditionally held by the National Democratic Congress (NDC) party for decades now. However, with Apetorgbor's commitment and

determination to bring the NPP to power, the political landscape of the constituency may witness a significant transformation in the upcoming elections. He emphasised that as the campaign season gains momentum, all eyes will be on Mr Yussif Appreh Apetorgbor and his rivals as they battle for the opportunity to represent Pru East in parliament. The election results will undoubtedly shape the future direction of the constituency and potentially determine which party will govern in the coming years.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS REPORT

Compiled By Peoples Dispatch

UNRWA Claims Deliberate Attempts Are Being Made To Strangle Its Activities In Gaza

The United Nation Relief and Work Agency (UNRWA) has claimed that there is a deliberate attempt to strangle its activities in the besieged Gaza strip by Israel which may lead to the shutting down of all its humanitarian activities. Speaking to the press on Thursday, November 16, Philippe Lazzarini, head of the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, said there is a risk of the agency shutting down all its humanitarian work in the region due to lack of fuel and consistent attacks on its activities.

"I do believe there is a deliberate attempt to strangle our operation and paralyze the UNRWA operation," Lazzarini said.

Created in 1950 for Palestinians who were forced to leave by Israel during the *Nakba*, UNRWA provides shelter to around 800,000 Palestinians displaced due to ongoing Israeli bombings in Gaza which began on October 7. It also coordinates food and medical aid in the region, apart from providing other humanitarian relief to Palestinians affected by Israeli attacks.

Israel has been bombing Gaza's residents and civil infrastructure, including hospitals, since October 7, killing nearly 11,500 Palestinians and injuring over 29,000. It has also



UNRWA camps in Khan Younis, Gaza. Photo: UN News. More than 103 workers of the UN refugee agency have been killed and over 60 of its camps sheltering displaced Palestinians have been bombed by Israel since October 7

launched a ground offensive attacking hospitals and shelters for the displaced.

Workers and facilities under attack

Over 70% of Gaza's total 2.2 million people has been displaced due to Israeli bombings and ground invasion.

"We have just witnessed over the last few weeks, the largest displacement of Palestinians since 1948. It's an exodus under our watch. A river of people being forced to flee their homes," Lazzarini said.

Several of its schools used for sheltering the displaced have been bombed. According to Lazzarini, at least 60 such shelters have been bombed since October 7 killing dozens of Palestinians and injuring hundreds.

At least 103 UNRWA workers too have been killed in Israel's indiscriminate attacks.

Lazzarini also stated that the breakdown of telecommunication services in the region makes it difficult to coordinate the humanitarian aid delivery activities and persistence of this

can "provoke or accelerate" the breakdown of whatever civil order is remaining in Gaza.

UNRWA announced that due to lack of coordination, the aid delivery through the Egyptian border at Rafah would be suspended on Friday.

Lazzarini also described the overall humanitarian situation in Gaza as having "severely deteriorated," highlighting that more than 70% of Gazans are completely deprived of access to clean water and sanitation with sewage flowing onto streets.

According to Lazzarini, nearly 30% of all Palestinians taking shelter in its camps have exhibited symptoms of skin illness due to lack of sanitation.

Israel using fuel as weapon of war

"It is appalling that fuel continues to be used as a weapon of war," Lazzarini had tweeted on Wednesday.

Israel imposed a complete blockade on the supply of fuel and all other essential commodities inside Gaza on October 9 as a part of its war against the Palestinians.

Israel allowed a limited supply of fuel through the Rafah border on Wednesday. UNRWA has argued that it is not enough.

A truck carrying 23,000 liters of fuel was allowed to enter Gaza. However,

this half a tanker of fuel is only for the UN trucks.

Despite the shortage of fuel being the cause of shutting down of a large number of health facilities in Gaza, Israel has refused to allow the use of fuel received through aid by hospitals. UNRWA estimates that 160,000 liters of fuel is required every day just to keep the basic humanitarian work such as hospitals, ambulances, and aid delivery running.

"I do believe that it is outrageous that humanitarian agencies have been reduced to begging for fuel," Lazzarini added.

Without fuel and electricity, it is not possible to run water supply or sewage cleaning operations.

The infrastructure has also been damaged in the Israeli bombings which would require heavy repair work before any meaningful resumption of supply of water or sewage cleaning can be carried out. Several other UN agencies warned about the looming food crisis in the region and fear of widespread starvation among the Palestinians due to Israeli blockade.

Irish Left Slams Government For Abetting Israeli War Crimes

Left parties in Ireland have slammed the ruling coalition of Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael, and the Greens for their abetting war crimes committed by Israel in the ongoing genocidal war on Gaza. On November 15, ruling bloc parties in the Dáil Éireann, the lower house of the Irish parliament, voted down proposals by the Sinn Féin and the Social Democrats, calling for the expulsion of the Israeli ambassador in Ireland.

One motion called for imposing economic sanctions on the apartheid state of Israel and to refer the Israeli war crimes to the International Criminal Court (ICC). Another motion was also voted down which called for the Irish government to use its influence in Brussels to seek a suspension of

the EU-Israel trade deal, invoking a human rights clause in the agreement, and suspend Israel from participation in the Horizon Europe research funding initiative. Left-wing, Republican groups in Ireland including Sinn Féin, Workers Party of Ireland, People before Profit, Communist Party of Ireland (CPI), Connolly Youth Movement (CYM), Peace and Neutrality Alliance (PANA), and Trade Union Left Forum, among other have been calling for the expulsion of the Israel's ambassador to Ireland, protesting the ongoing Israeli bombardment of Gaza.

Major Palestine solidarity

mobilizations have also been organized in multiple cities, including Dublin, demanding an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and to end the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian lands.

On November 12, peace activists and anti-imperialist groups led by Shannon watch assembled at the Shannon Airport denouncing the long-running use of the civilian airport by imperialist powers of the US-led North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Activists read out a list of names of children who have been killed in Gaza since October 7, as well as lists of children killed in Israel and other conflicts in West Asia. Activists have also denounced

the increased transit of the US military through Belfast International Airport. Earlier on November 6, protesters occupied the Department of Transport offices in Dublin, calling on transport minister Eamon Ryan and workers in the department to stand with the Palestinian people by halting any transportation of weapons bound for Israel through Shannon Airport.

Chris Andrews, a Sinn Féin MP, stated in the Dáil "We are witnessing genocide in Gaza. There has to be a cost to Israel. Ireland must step up and refer Israel to the International



Activists mobilize protests at Shannon Airport, demanding an end to use of the airport to transport arms to Israel. Photo: Communist Party of Ireland. Legislative proposals by left parties called the Irish government to hold Israel responsible for its genocidal war were voted down by the governing coalition in the Irish Parliament

Criminal Court. The double standards are sickening. There was no problem referring Russia to the ICC."

The ongoing bombardment of Gaza by Israel has already killed more than 11,300 people and has displaced 1.5 million people.

Railway Authority Denies Demolition Of Asuma Banda's Mosque, 300 Other Private Properties

from front page

In a press statement in reaction to reports that it is planning to demolish more than 300 structures along the railway right of way at Roman Ridge, including the Nyaho Clinic stretch and Alhaji Asuma Banda's Mosque area, the Authority said that even though it has taken steps to reclaim some of its lands that have been encroached on, there is no plan to abruptly remove the illegal occupants.

It added that it is engaging with all the stakeholders involved to ensure that the reclamation of the lands does not lead to undesired consequences.

"The Ghana Railway Development Authority has over the years been confronted with significant challenges concerning encroachment and/or trespass on its lands across the country. To abate these challenges the Authority, has taken legal steps to recover these lands from unauthorised occupants.

"The Authority has pressed into service plans to eject illegal occupants along the Railway right of way at Roman Ridge, including the Nyaho Clinic stretch and Alhaji Asuma Banda's Mosque area. In this regard, extensive engagements and consultations are underway to ensure a comprehensive approach that avoids surprises to the affected parties," part of the statement reads.

On the Asuma Banda's Mosque, the Railway Development Authority



The Asuma Banda Mosque is also reported to be lined up for demolition

stated that there are no plans to demolish the mosque.

"Contrary to the publications, the Alhaji Asuma Banda's Mosque is not earmarked for demolition. The Authority has engaged with the leadership of the mosque, assuring them that there is no plan to demolish the mosque. Accordingly, we gave them the accrued ground rent invoice for them to make payment. We urge the public to take note of this clarification and disregard any misinformation suggesting otherwise."

It also refuted the assertion by *The Insight* that its Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Susan Delali Akosua Kudjoe, issued an eviction notice without the knowledge of the Chief Executive Officer, Yaw Owusu.

Background:

A report by *The Insight newspaper* last Monday November 13 2023 had said that the demolition follows a notice issued by the Ghana Railway Development Authority (GRDA) ordering all occupants to leave the area.

According to the report, the notice, which was signed and issued on September 22, 2023, by Susan Delali Akosua Kudjoe, the Deputy Chief Executive, General Services at GRDA, for the Chief Executive Officer of the authority, indicated that it was the final notice it was giving to the affected property owners.

"You are by this letter notified, and final notice is hereby given you to vacate occupation of the

said land by 30th September 2023...

"The consequences of your failure to comply with the order will not be in your interest, as there will be no further notice of our action," the letter is reported to have indicated.

The report also said that the notice was distributed to over 300 occupants of the land, including caretakers of the Asuma Banda Mosque.

The newspaper further added that this demolition notice, however, had been issued without the consent of Yaw Owusu, Chief Executive Officer of GRDA, although it was issued on his behalf.

"What is worrying is that the Deputy CEO Susana Delali Akosua Kudjoe, who is hell bent on carrying out the demolition exercise with the support of one Edem Danku, Deputy Director, Estate and Commercial Unit of the Authority, is alleged to have ignored attempts by the Member of Parliament (MP) for Ayawaso West Wuogon, Lydia Alhassan, to have the exercise shelved entirely because of the repercussions it will have, not only on the political fortunes of the ruling New Patriotic Party (NPP), but the livelihoods of over 1,000 residents on the railway land stretch.

"Already, one Daasebre Dr Asumadu Nyarko Appiah, Chief of Akyem Wenchi and Oseawuomanhene of Akyem Abuakwa Traditional in the Eastern Region recently laid claim to all the railway lands on that stretch claiming that the Ghana Railway Development Authority sold all that stretch of land to him despite the occupants also claiming to have a 50-year lease agreement with the authority," the report added.

Meanwhile, the Insight newspaper said it has also gathered that several of the people who are to be affected have vowed not to move, insisting that they have legitimate documents from the Ghana Railway Company to support them.

Editor's Note: *The Insight would like to put on record that it stands by its initial publication based on incontrovertible information backed by factual evidence in its possession and insists that the letter by Deputy CEO of Ghana Railway Development Authority, Susan Delali Akosua Kudjoe did not have approval by the CEO of the authority, Mr. Yaw Owusu.*

Bright Simons 'Mocks' Govt's GH¢1 Trillion GDP Projection

The Vice President of IMANI Africa, Bright Simons, has mocked the government's projections of attaining a Gross Domestic Product of GH¢1 trillion by 2024.

According to him, that would not necessarily be an achievement taking into consideration the current state of the country's inflation rate and the high exchange rate levels.

Reacting to that provision in the 2024 budget, Bright Simons wrote via the X platform that the target, "Had a nice belly laugh with this. Rapid exchange rate depreciation and high inflation will indeed take a country's GDP quickly over the

"trillion" mark for sure. But it takes exceptional chutzpah to mount that as an achievement!" Btw, in 2005, Ghana's GDP was 97 TRILLION!)."

Delivering the 2024 budget before parliament on November 15, 2023, the Minister of Finance, Ken Ofori-Atta, said President Akufo-Addo's last year in office will see the projection of GH¢1 trillion Gross Domestic Product mark for the first time in Ghana's history.

Expressing confidence in the prospects of the 2024 budget, he said the government will implement fiscal consolidation measures and growth strategies

aimed at achieving this target. "Mr. Speaker, the 2024 budget is even more significant because we will cross the GH¢1 trillion Gross Domestic Product (GDP) mark for the first time in our economic history. Let me repeat, Mr. Speaker, Ghana's economy under President Akufo-Addo's final year in office is projected to be valued at over GH¢1 trillion in 2024 from GH¢219.5 billion in 2016," he said while presenting the 2024 budget in parliament on November 15, 2023.

He added: "It is important to recall that despite the 'poly-crises' since March 2020, we have, together, taken a GDP of GH¢219.5 billion in 2016 and

almost quadrupled it. We are crossing the GH¢1 trillion GDP mark this year."

The presentation of the 2024 budget is in accordance with Article 179 of the 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana and Section 21(3) of the PFM Act 2016 (of ACT 921) which requires the minister to provide the fiscal policy of the year contained in the Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the government.

This year's budget will be the first after Ghana signed on to the \$3 billion loan facility for economic recovery after being saddled with high debt issues.



Bright Simons, Vice President IMANI Africa

This year's budget is also the President's last budget in power. It is expected to address the country's high inflation rates and unstable exchange rates among other economic issues.

No Ordinary Ghanaian Can Boast About The Achievements Of The NPP – Nana Yaa Jantuah

The General Secretary of the Convention People's Party (CPP), Nana Yaa Jantuah, has questioned the specific works and progress the ruling party, New Patriotic Party (NPP) claims it has supervised in the country. She explained that it is not easy for the ordinary Ghanaian to pinpoint any interventions made by the NPP government to salvage the difficulties being experienced in the country. Speaking on Accra based UTV, the politician added that Ghana is a failed state under the NPP.

"It seems Ghana as a state has failed now. We are in a failed state. They shouldn't have even been allowed to present the budget. What has been worked on or improved upon since the last budget? You can't take for granted to keep feeding us with just words void of action. You cannot do that. You spoke about Youstart, how far with that initiative? They are just



General Secretary of the Convention People's Party, Nana Yaa Jantuah

playing with the youth of this country. How many people were able to benefit from this Youstart?" she quizzed. Nana Yaa was, however, interjected by a member of the NPP communication team on the panel, Alexander Akwasi Acquah, who argued that the Youstart is kicking and running but the former who could not have any of it retorted with "They are all just on record. You are always the only ones who know what you have done. You will not get any ordinary to defend the interventions of the NPP as they have not benefitted from them." Meanwhile, the Minister of Finance, Ken Ofori-Atta, presented the 2024 budget to the Parliament House today, Wednesday, November 15, 2023. During his address, the

finance minister declared that the NPP government has done a lot to improve the conditions of living in the country. He reiterated that the government has been able to multiply the very meagre resources it came to meet into several folds. This achievement, he added, is the "Lord's doing". "Mr. Speaker, as members recall, we came into government in 2017, in a period of despondency and meagre resources of 2 fish and 5 loaves. Today, we can only marvel at how far the Lord has multiplied our resources," he said. Ofori-Atta added, "Mr. Speaker, I stood here in March 2017 and asked that the country's paltry 2 fishes and 5 loaves be multiplied. Indeed, as the young boy gave all he had to the multitude, so have we and the Lord, in response, has blessed our nation, and this we should not forget."

NDC Chieftain And Senior Lecturer At Legon Steve Ahiawordor Reported Dead

MyNewsGh.com has confirmed the death of the University of Ghana's senior Political Science lecturer, Prof Steve Kofi Mensah Ahiawordor. Family sources who confirmed his death said they would issue an official announcement in line with family traditions. The lecturer, who was also a lawyer, was a chieftain of the opposition National Democratic Congress (NDC) in the Volta Region and in the Ayawaso West Wuogon constituency. He was a board member of the National Health Insurance Authority, (NHIA) under the late Atta Mills administration and

later a board member at the Bulk Oil Storage and Transportation (BOST) under the John Mahama administration, a family source told MyNewsGh.com. The late academic held a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Ghana in 1981. Ahiawordor held a Certificate in American Foreign Policy Decision Making from the University Of Michigan in 1995. In the same year, he was called to the Ghana Bar as a Barrister at Law, at the Ghana School of Law. In 1993, he obtained an M. Phil degree In Political Science



Prof Steve Kofi Mensah Ahiawordor.

from the University Of Ghana. The deceased has been the subject of numerous false death reportage in the past.

Belize Joins Diplomatic Backlash Against Israel Over Gaza Bombardment

Belize has suspended ties with Israel due to its "indiscriminate bombing" of the Gaza Strip, the latest in a string of diplomatic rebukes of Tel Aviv. The Belize government announced on Tuesday that it was recalling its ambassador and retracting its request for accreditation for its honorary consul in Tel Aviv. Belmopan issued a statement denouncing the Israeli military's "unceasing" attacks on the besieged Palestinian enclave and blocking of aid. "The government of Belize has repeatedly condemned the actions of the [Israeli military] in Gaza", said the government statement. "We have appealed to Israel to implement an immediate ceasefire and to allow unimpeded access to humanitarian supplies into Gaza. "Despite our requests, Israel has not stopped its violations of



Smoke rises from Gaza on November 15 [picture Alexander Ermochenko/Reuters]. Belize's decision follows similar moves by fellow Latin American states Bolivia, Colombia, Chile and Honduras.

international humanitarian law nor allowed relief workers to alleviate the suffering of millions," the statement continued. Belize's decision follows similar moves by several other Latin American states. Bolivia broke relations with Israel on November 1, while Colombia, Chile and Honduras have recalled their ambassadors. Rifts have also deepened between Tel Aviv and several Middle Eastern and African states. Turkey, Bahrain, Jordan, Chad, and South Africa have all withdrawn their top diplomats since the war broke out.

Genocide, War Crimes: South Africa Refers Israel's Military Operations In Gaza To ICC

Cyril Ramaphosa, the South African president has announced that efforts are underway to drag the State of Israel before the International Criminal Court (ICC) for genocide. He said the ongoing military action by Israel in Gaza has turned the Palestinian town into a concentration camp. He reiterated South Africa's position on the ongoing Israel-Gaza conflict stating that the world must unite to stop the carnage. "Gaza is now a concentration camp where genocide is taking place. "We have accordingly...referred this whole Israeli government operation



Cyril Ramaphosa, President of South Africa

to the International Criminal Court ...because we believe that war crimes are being committed there," he said in an interview. South Africa became the first African country to openly criticize Israel's military operation which started after Hamas' October 7 attack on Israeli territory. Pretoria has also recalled its diplomats from Israel in the wake of the development. Ramaphosa made the comments on the sideline of his state visit to Qatar.

The Israeli Attack On Palestinian Health Workers In Gaza And The Failure Of The American Medical Association

By Rupa Marya and Vijay Prashad

On November 11, 2023, the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS) stated that Israeli tanks were within twenty meters of the al-Quds hospital, the second-largest hospital in Gaza City. They reported that there was “direct shooting at the hospital, creating a state of extreme panic and fear among 14,000 displaced people.” Many of those killed have been medical personnel. A group called Healthcare Workers Watch-Palestine, formed in November 2023, has been keeping a list of healthcare workers in Gaza killed by Israeli attacks (226 are known to have been killed from October 7 till November 13).

The day before, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) reported that the PRCS is “caring for hundreds of injured people and bed-ridden, long-term patients” at al-Quds. “Evacuating patients, including those in intensive care, on life-support, and babies in incubators, is close to, if not impossible in the current situation,” said the IFRC. This and other hospitals as well as medical missions and medical workers “are protected under international humanitarian law,” noted the IFRC. The legal framework they referred to is straightforward:

1. Article 19 of the 1949 Geneva Conventions (Protection of medical units and establishments). “Fixed establishments and mobile medical units of the Medical Service may in no circumstances be attacked, but shall at all times be respected and protected by the Parties to the conflict.”
2. Rule 25 of the International Humanitarian Law (Medical Personnel). “Medical personnel exclusively assigned to medical duties must be respected and protected in all circumstances.”

Two similar phrases in both the Article and the Rule stand out: “in no circumstances” must the protection be withdrawn, and medical workers must be protected “in all circumstances.” Humanitarian law applies to all parts of

the world and all conflicts. This is now established by the Treaty of Rome (2002), which is the legal basis for the International Criminal Court. The Treaty of Rome says that it is a war crime if an army is “intentionally directing attacks against buildings,” including “hospitals and places where the sick and wounded are collected.” There is one exception: “provided they are not military objectives.” By claiming that the hospitals are above Hamas tunnels, the Israelis are claiming that the entire medical infrastructure in Gaza is a military target. This is a convenient way to skirt the absoluteness of international humanitarian law.

In the coming days, we can expect the Israeli propaganda machine to pump out images of IDF soldiers in the tunnels under decimated hospitals holding up guns and copies of *Mein Kampf* to counter the horrific real-time images of premature babies dying. While these are attempts to justify murdering healthcare workers and the patients they were caring for, they won't hold up against International Humanitarian Law. Israel has a documented history of bombing hospitals and other healthcare facilities in Gaza, and any doctor versed in patient care quality and safety would insist that underground spaces were constructed to conduct patient care far from the shrapnel of these air strikes. **“At all costs”**

Across the world on November 11, the American Medical Association (AMA) held a meeting of its House of Delegates while these terrible acts took place. When over 135 medical students and doctors in training in the AMA tried to hold a discussion about a resolution that would call for a ceasefire in Gaza, the AMA leadership shut them down. Those who supported the effort said that there was a “coordinated effort at the national meeting to shut the resolution down, with the Speaker not allowing delegates their allotted 90 seconds to speak about the resolution.” The AMA said that this resolution was “not relevant to advocacy.” “The AMA,” wrote the medical personnel who framed the resolution, “has a responsibility to uphold the wellbeing of healthcare workers and minimize human suffering, and it is clear that

these values are not being upheld by some of the most influential physicians in the country, nor is the democratic process being respected.”

This stands in stark contrast to the AMA's official position on Ukraine in 2022, when they threw their institutional weight behind a call for an immediate ceasefire and an end to Russian attacks on healthcare workers and facilities, emphasizing that international humanitarian and human rights laws must be and civilian and medical personnel lives must be protected “at all costs.”

Every life is sacred

A few days before the House of Delegates meeting, the flagship journal of the AMA, the Journal of the AMA (JAMA), published an article by Dr. Matthew Wynia from the Center for Bioethics and Humanities at the University of Colorado and the co-chair of the AMA's Taskforce on Truth, Reconciliation, Healing, and Transformation. His article “Health Professionals and War in the Middle East” makes three unimpeachable points:

- First, health professionals should condemn dehumanization and acts of genocide.
- Second, health professionals should vigorously oppose both antisemitism and anti-Muslim hatred.
- Third, health professionals have special responsibilities to speak out against certain war crimes.

We concur with all three of these points, including the final sentiment by Dr. Wynia: “In wartime, our profession must remain the living embodiment of religious injunctions to treat every life as sacred, because to save a single life is to save an entire world.”

Dr. Wynia's article in JAMA, published a few days before the AMA meeting, suggests that it would have been uncontroversial for the AMA to pass a resolution asking for a ceasefire. After all, a ceasefire would allow fellow medical workers to do their work without fear of bombardment, it would stop the killing of civilians, and it would allow for investigation into the attacks on medical facilities and medical workers. If “every life is sacred,” then a medical body must join in the call to prevent any further loss of innocent life.



UCLA Med School November 9, 2023. Healthcare workers and medical students across the US have rallied to demand an end to Israel's genocidal bombing of Gaza and have especially condemned the attacks on health infrastructure and workers. Photo: ANSWER Coalition. Amid Israel's unprecedented attacks on healthcare workers and infrastructure in Gaza, the AMA censored a resolution proposed by its members to call for a ceasefire

But this is not what happened at the AMA meeting, whose refusal to open the floor for discussion about a ceasefire resolution suggests the opposite approach. A closer reading of Dr. Wynia's article shows why medical professionals decided not to allow even a discussion of a ceasefire in Gaza. “Health professionals of goodwill and equally strong commitments to human rights have differing questions on these questions, which reflects the nature of the questions,” Dr. Wynia writes. Introducing moral relativism to the discussion, Dr. Wynia allows for ambiguity where there is none—none in legal terms and none in moral terms. How can “health professionals of goodwill” have a disagreement about the targeting of medical workers and medical institutions or indeed how can they disagree about the killing of civilians, including those who are injured and sick in hospitals? There is room for debate over what must be done when confronted by the evidence of attacks on medical workers and medical workers, but there is no ambiguity about their illegality and immorality.

Dying one by one

Israel has been spreading propaganda over the past several weeks about the presence of Hamas headquarters under one of Gaza's hospitals—Al-Shifa—to inject a space of moral confusion around protecting healthcare

workers and healthcare facilities. On November 5, a group of almost 100 doctors in Israel circulated a letter calling for the annihilation of all hospitals in Gaza, as if to sanction the IDF's direct attack on the most sacred spaces of our profession. On November 11, Israel also bombarded the Al-Shifa Hospital complex with 1,700 sick and injured patients inside and about 50,000 displaced people sheltering in its courtyard according to Dr Ghassan Abu Sitta, a surgeon who was stationed there at the time. Israeli attacks have completely destroyed the hospital. With the power now out in Al-Shifa, 39 newborns in incubators are now wrapped in blankets, dying one by one. Perhaps this is whom Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu referred to when he said the “children of darkness.” Israel's attack on Gaza's healthcare is an attack on the soul of the medical profession, for which JAMA has provided cover and the AMA supports through enforced silence. Why the American Medical Association can make such a blunt statement about Ukraine but want to remain silent about Palestine raises an important question: does the AMA advocate only for the issues outlined by the US State Department or are these the opinions of the doctors who make up its membership?

Your Legacy Of Love Remains Relevant To All The Lives You Touched -- Egypt Kudoto Eulogises Dzifa Attivor Two Years On

Wednesday, November 16, 2023 marked the second anniversary of the shocking demise of the former Minister for Transport, Dzifa Aku Attivor.

Her Former Personal Assistant, Egypt Kobla Kudoto marked the day with a heartfelt and glowing eulogy, highlighting her humanity when she was alive which imparted positively on hundreds of lives. "Your legacy of love remains relevant to all the wonderful lives you touched when you were on earth. You transformed hundreds of lives: As a politician, you impacted your generation. As a mother, you touched many individuals. "As a philanthropist, you brought joy to many. As a traditional leader, you were a role model to all the young people of Abutia. As Dzifa Aku Attivor, your name was a household one among the footsoldiers of the National Democratic Congress", he wrote in an eulogy.

Egypt Kudoto is currently the NDC Volta Regional Vice-Chairman.

He recounted the late Dzifa Aku Attivor's immense contribution to Ghana's transport sector when she was the Minister for Transport as well as to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Volta Region NDC, Volta Diaspora Caucus, Abutia (her hometown) as well as persons from all kinds of backgrounds.

"Dzifa, as a philanthropist, you established the DedeFund and used it as the platform to reach out to many vulnerable and the downtrodden in society. You adopted the cured lepers village and you took total responsibility for their upkeep", Egypt Kudoto wrote.

This is the full text of the eulogy the Former Special Assistant penned to his late boss;

SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE GLORIOUS HOME CALL OF HON. MRS DZIFA AKU ATTIVOR

On this day, 15th November 2021, two years back, the world lost a sweet soul, and I also lost a precious beautiful Boss.

Your passing may have taken you away from me, but it cannot erase the bond that existed between the Transport Minister and her very loyal Personal Assistant.

Your legacy of love remains relevant to all the wonderful lives you touched when you were on earth. You transformed hundreds of lives: As a politician, you impacted your generation. As a mother, you touched many individuals. As a philanthropist, you brought joy to many. As a traditional leader, you were a role model to all the young people of Abutia. As Dzifa Aku Attivor, your name was a household one among the footsoldiers of the National Democratic Congress.

Dzifa the politician! Your almost seven years at the Transport Ministry were no doubt seen by many observers as the most productive period in the history of that Ministry. When you were assigned to the Ministry as one of the most loyal appointees of the President, you sacrificed your comfort and everything to implement and realise the President's vision of making Ghana the transportation hub in West Africa.

You paid equal attention to all the sub-sectors under the Ministry, the reason we can boast of the massive

improvements witnessed at our airports, seaports, lake transport, road transport services and railways. You travelled the length and breadth of this country, ensuring our drivers' licence offices were delivering effective services, and our Intercity transport services were in great shape, so we could control the carnage on our roads.

You were the favourite of our people living in the riverine communities because you attached absolute importance to safety on the Volta Lake. I have no doubt that phase two of the airport in your home region will receive special attention from the government of His Excellency John Mahama when he takes office in 2025.

To the team at the Transport Ministry, it was a family, and you performed your duty to perfection, as the head. The corridors and the reception of the Ministry were like a hospital's consulting rooms, where you received with open arms all who visited you at the Ministry.

To the NDC in the Volta Region, you were the mother of the Women's Wing and the favourite of the Youth Wing. No wonder the latter group referred to you as VIVA Mama!

To the Volta Diaspora Caucus, you were the indefatigable National Coordinator! You were the face of the caucus. Your love for the NDC and the caucus was exceptional and unparalleled. You always held the firm belief that victory was very much dependent on Voltarians



Dzifa Attivor died in 2021

both at home and in the diaspora. Your legacy will live on.

To the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Dzifa Attivor was the darling of the church across the country. You got President John Mahama to become an unofficial member of the church "in good standing." Apart from the Assemblies of God Church, the NDC standard-bearer attends the EP Church than any other church in Ghana.

Your contribution to the growth of the first university in the Volta Region - the EP University College - is there for all to see.

Dzifa, as a philanthropist, you established the DedeFund and used it as the platform to reach out to many vulnerable and the downtrodden in society. You adopted the cured lepers' village and you took total responsibility for their upkeep.

Dzifa, as the Development Queenmother of Abutia, you supported many developmental projects in the traditional area - donating computers for ICT education, you paying fees for several disadvantaged students. You also used your office as a Minister to lobby for the award of the Juapong to

Abutia road to a contractor, but for the change in government in 2017, that road would have been completed by now.

Dzifa, as a mother, you were not that sweet mother to only your three biological children - Esinam, Sena and Selorm; one could not tell the difference between your children and all those who you took care of.

Your spirit lives on, in every heart you have touched and every life you have changed, including the CURED LEPERS. Your laughter felt like sunshine, your smile was always bright. As you were, you will always be treasured forever in our memory.

Remembering you is easy, because I do that every day, but missing you is such a great pain that will not go away soon.

My Special Boss, my dearest sister, my reliable friend and great confidant, until that joyous day arrives, when we meet at the sound of the heavenly trumpet, continue to rest well.

Madam, hedenyui

*Egypt Kobla Kudoto
Former Personal Assistant to
Hon. Mrs Dzifa Aku Attivor*

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