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# General News

## Akufo-Addo appoints 3 Court of Appeal Justices to the Supreme Court

President Akufo-Addo has nominated three Court of Appeal Justices to fill the vacancies on the Supreme Court bench left by three Justices who retired earlier this year.

The appointed Justices—Henry Anthony Cofie, Yaw Asare Darko, and Richard Agyei Frimpong—will step in following the retirements of Justice Nene Abayeteeye Ofoe Amegatcher in February 2023, former Chief Justice Kwasi Anin-Yeboah in May 2023, and Justice Jones Dotse in June 2023.

The President's decision has been forwarded to the Parliament's Appointments Committee for consideration and report, as announced by the First Deputy Speaker, Joseph Osei-Owusu.

"Over the last few months, in February, May and June respectively, three vacancies have been created on the Supreme Court bench which now by

convention having regard to its excessive jurisdiction comprises the Chief Justice and 15 other court justices.

These vacancies have occurred as a result of the mandatory retirement of Justice Nene Abayeteeye Ofoe Amegatcher, on 3rd February 2023, former Chief Justice Kwasi Anin-Yeboah on 24th May 2023, and Justice Jones Dotse on 8th June 2023. There are now 13 justices of the Supreme Court including the Chief Justice, Gertrude Torkornoo," an excerpt of the President's letter to Parliament read.

But South Dayi MP, Rockson Dafeamkpo, asserts that it is unconstitutional for the President to nominate new Judges since by law, the Apex Court required a minimum of nine Justices.

Public Relations Officer (PRO) of the Ghana Bar Association (GBA), Saviour Kudze, disagrees, saying it is not wrong for President Akufo-

Addo to replace retired Supreme Court Judges.

"I don't think that there is any issue about this thing in the sense that the constitution gives us a minimum number of Justices that must be appointed, it does not give us a sealing but practically, what has been happening is that we have been hovering around 15,16.

"Over the years, what has always been done is that when people retire or unfortunately die,

new appointments are made to replace them so if at this time you are saying that once we have a minimum of nine, there would be no need for an appointment, I will not agree with that," he told the media.

The Supreme Court bench is currently composed of the Chief Justice and 13 additional Justices.

*Source: The Independent Ghana / Andy Ogbarmey-Tettey*



Nana Akufo-Addo, President of Ghana

## Host post-budget workshop in Parliament to save GHC1.7m - Kofi Adams appeals

Member of Parliament for Buem Constituency, Kofi Adams, has proposed a shift in the traditional out-of-town post-budget workshops held by Parliament.

Mr Adams who made this suggestion in parliament last week noted that conducting a workshop within the parliamentary chamber to reduce costs, especially in light of the forthcoming 2024 budget presentation by the Finance Minister was a step in the right direction.

His submission was a response to deputy majority leader Alexander Afenyo-Markin, who had then informed the house about an upcoming post budget workshop in the Eastern Region.

Mr Afenyo-Markin following Mr Adams' suggestion, strongly opposed the idea, and instead questioned him about his unwillingness to sacrifice his salary, to assist in revenue

mobilisation.

Unperturbed, Mr Adams reiterated his stance, stressing the significance of exploring cost-saving measures considering the current economic climate.

"This year's post-budget workshop, my position is that considering the situation we find ourselves in, it is really possible to have the post-budget workshop held here in Parliament instead of stepping out of Parliament," Mr Adams stated.

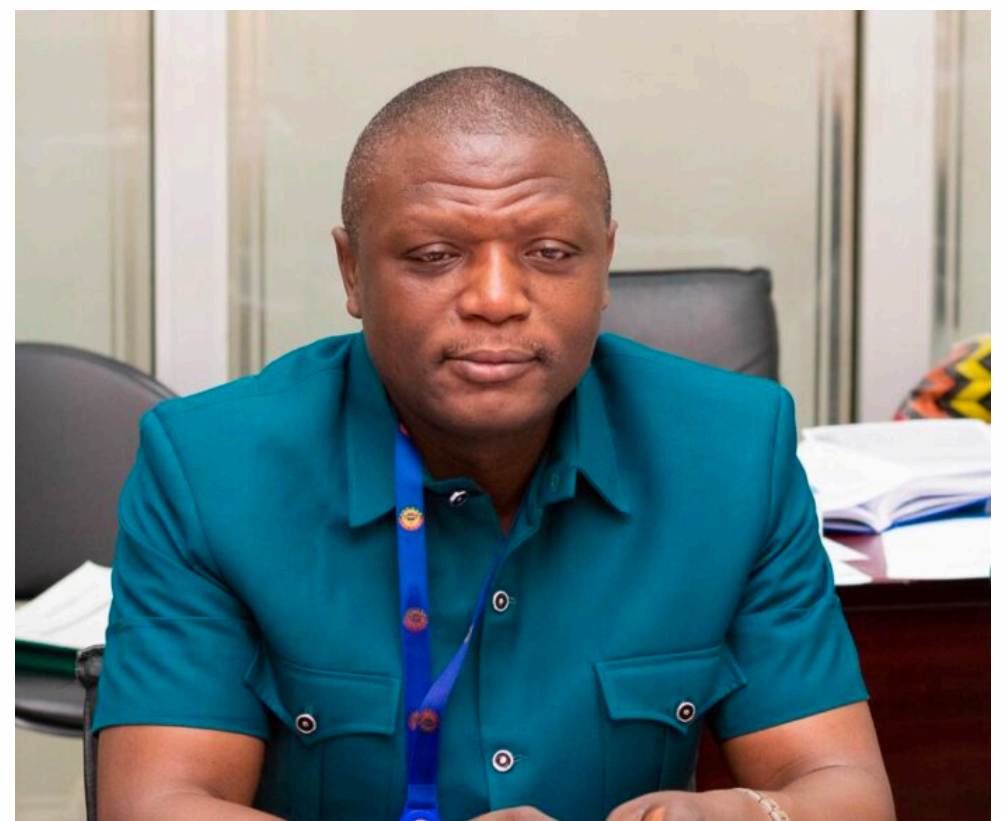
He presented a straightforward calculation, highlighting the potential savings.

"I did just a simple calculation and realized that for just accommodation for the honorable Members of Parliament, if you are using an average of 1,700 per room, that makes the amount to 1.4 million Ghana Cedis plus. Before you talk about transport, feeding, and other stuff."

Mr Adams continued to emphasize his view, stating, "My view is that we could save this money and use it for many other very important things. As Parliament, we should lead the way to say that if we

should cut down the cost of doing business for the government, we must also lead the way and save this money."

*Source: The Independent Ghana / Amanda Cartey*



Kofi Adams, MP for Buem Constituency

# General News

## All our demons come out during election period, stop divisive ethnic and religious comments - Dr Ibn Chambas

Former United Nations Envoy to West Africa and the Sahel Region, Dr. Mohammed Ibn Chambas, has advised Ghanaians to exercise caution regarding divisive religious and ethnic sentiments ahead of the 2024 general election.

Speaking at the “Empowering Citizens and Enriching Nation-Building” forum organized by Star Ghana at the British Council in Accra on Friday, November 10, Dr. Chambas stressed that the selection of the country’s leaders should go beyond religious and ethnic considerations. He emphasized that citizens should evaluate political parties based on their messages, policy suggestions, and strategies for managing the nation’s affairs.

He stated, “The commitment to the betterment of our country is a collective responsibility and must transcend political, religious, and ethnic boundaries. Unfortunately,

we are seeing some divisive tendencies in our society, and we must all be careful about them, especially when we have elections in 2024. When it comes to election year, all our demons come out.”

Dr. Chambas encouraged both citizens and political parties to prioritize issue-based campaigning for the upcoming 2024 general election.

“So please let us focus on messages when we are choosing our leaders in this country,” he emphasized.

He highlighted that despite Ghana’s significant strides in democracy, persistent challenges hinder the nation from fully reaping the benefits of this progress.

Discussions about the 2024 elections have primarily revolved around Vice President Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia, the flagbearer for the New Patriotic Party (NPP), and former president and 2024 flagbearer for the National Democratic Congress

(NDC).

In the selection of the NPP flagbearer, there were reports suggesting the ruling party would only consider individuals of Akan descent, but this notion has been debunked. Currently, discussions focus on which candidate can garner enough votes from the northern part of the country. Both candidates hail from the northern part of Ghana.

Amidst this, Ningo-Prampram MP, Samuel Nartey George, has labeled the Vice President as “a religious prostitute” due to his closeness with the Christian community despite being a Muslim. This comment has faced condemnation, particularly from those in government, who argue that such statements risk breaking religious unity and tolerance in the country.

*Source: The Independent Ghana / Andy Ogbarmey-Tettey*



*Dr Mohammed Ibn Chambas, Former UN Envoy to West Africa and Sahel Region*

## Govt signs power agreements to boost generation capacity, enhance efficiency

The Ministry of Energy, representing the government, has recently finalised two Power Purchasing Agreements (PPA) aimed at augmenting the nation’s power generation capacity by around 720 Mega Watts (MW).

The signed agreements involve 370MW AKSA in Tema and 350MW AKSA in Kumasi, both operating under the new PPA policy, replacing the former “Take or Pay” arrangement.

This move not only facilitates a sensible expansion in power generation but also strives to refine efficiency in both generation and distribution nationwide.

Speaking at the weekly Minister’s Briefing hosted by the Ministry of Information in Accra, Energy Minister Dr. Matthew Opoku Prempeh dismissed claims that the government has not added any mega Watts of power. He stressed that the newly signed PPAs distinctly focus

on efficiency, marking a departure from previous agreements.

The government has also instituted various measures within the power sector to enhance overall efficiency. Notable actions include converting the 200MW KTPP plant and the 220MW CENIT/TTIPP plant from open cycle thermal plants to combined cycles, alongside retrofitting the 132 MW T3 plant.

Dr. Opoku Prempeh underscored the government’s commitment to power sector development, prioritising distribution and increased integration of renewable energy into the generation mix.

Solar energy’s contribution has reached 3.2% of the targeted percentage for generation by 2030, with ongoing projects including a 100MW solar Photovoltaic (PV) facility under construction at Bui.

Addressing challenges in the power transmission sector, the minister

outlined steps taken, including upgrading the 161KV Volta-Achimota Mallan Transmission line and completing the Kumasi-Kintampo section of the 330 Kumasi-Bolgatanga transmission line project.

Feasibility studies have been concluded for the third Bulk Supply Point (BSP) in Kumasi, the Dunkwa 330KV substation, and the Static Var Compensation at Ahodwo substation.

As part of the Electricity Company of Ghana’s (ECG) reforms, measures have been introduced to enhance efficiency in revenue mobilisation, incorporating boundary metering and distribution transformer metering. Approximately 16,000 distribution transformers have been surveyed, with metering set to commence next year.

Dr. Opoku Prempeh also touched on challenges in the petroleum downstream sector, citing excess forex demand and increased global

prices leading to pump price escalations. Prudent negotiations, including the implementation of a forex auction window for BIDECS and the establishment of a credit reference bureau for all dealers, have been instrumental in mitigating forex exposure on BOST and BIDECS through the government’s Gold for Oil policy.

*Source: The Independent Ghana / Amanda Cartey*



*Dr Matthew Opoku Prempeh, Energy Minister*

# General News

## BECE candidates, other students hurt by Akosombo dam spillage - NAGRAT

President of the National Association of Graduate Teachers (NAGRAT), has voiced concern about the repercussions of the Akosombo Dam Spillage on students in the affected areas.

The spillage, resulting in the displacement of over 20,000 individuals in the Lower Volta Basin, has brought all activities, including schooling, to a standstill as the affected communities remain submerged.

Mr. Carbonu, addressing the media, underscored the devastating impact of the flooding on academic pursuits, with schools closed for over a month in all Lower Volta Basin communities.

He urged the government to promptly implement measures to assist students affected by the

flood, particularly in relation to the Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE).

Highlighting the urgency of the situation, he noted that these students would be taking the same exam as those unaffected by the Akosombo Dam Spillage and still attending school.

“The students who are in there have been greatly affected by this disaster. They have not been able to go to school since this happened, and they are going to write the same exams as kids from Accra, Kumasi, and other places not affected by this.”

“The senior high schools in the areas have also been closed down, and what we need now is an intervention for them to catch up on the time they have lost. Now some of the schools and houses

are not habitable, and this is something we need to tackle to get academic exercise back on,” he said on Rainbow Radio Accra.

He also encouraged teachers to reconsider their decision not to return to the communities in the Lower Volta Basin to resume their duties, emphasizing the importance of supporting and guiding both the environment and the prospects of future

generations.

“Teachers should bear in mind that they will soon go back to teach the kids and should accept that situations have changed on the grounds of the disaster and must use every resource, no matter how little, to help these kids catch up.”

*Source: The Independent Ghana / Amanda Cartey*



File Photo

## Asantehene spearheads campaign to raise \$10m for ‘Heal Komfo Anokye Hospital Project’

Asantehene Otumfuo Osei Tutu II has initiated the “Heal Komfo Anokye Hospital Project” to address the pressing issues facing the health facility located in the Ashanti Region.

Seeking support from Members of Parliament, government officials, corporate bodies, and the public, the Asantehene aims to raise \$10 million to alleviate the challenges faced by this crucial healthcare institution, which serves over ten regions in Ghana.

The hospital infrastructure’s decay has adversely impacted healthcare services, leading to frequent breakdowns of essential equipment. Various structural issues, such as abandoned projects, deteriorated buildings, leaking roofs, and extensive cracks, contribute to the challenges confronting this tertiary health facility.

Aging construction methods exacerbate ventilation issues, posing a significant concern for the hospital, which is over 70

years old. After an independent assessment, Asantehene Otumfuo Osei Tutu II emphasized the urgent need to address these challenges to preserve the facility’s integrity.

“Not long ago, the new chief executive officer of KATH visited me and asked for my help. He informed me that the facility is however facing numerous challenges. I told him that I had even disguised myself and had visited the facility on two different occasions and that, I was aware of the numerous challenges.

“I came to the facility again to independently assess the situation. I told him that we would make sure we raise the needed amount to give this facility a facelift. This hospital serves 12 out of the 16 regions. The situation is embarrassing. There is not enough equipment but the doctors are doing their maximum best. This should be devoid of politics. We have to ensure the challenges are addressed. The facility will outlive all governments so we should do well to support this initiative”.

The health facility’s Chief Executive Officer, Prof. Otchere Addai Mensah, has underlined the pressing need for immediate attention, cautioning against a possible catastrophic structural failure if the issues remain unaddressed.

“The sad state of affairs is getting worse by the day and we are reaching a point where if nothing was done immediately the whole ‘GEE Blocks’ could soon suffer a catastrophic structural failure with dire consequences for healthcare services in the region and beyond.

We should not forget that daily, our specialist OPD services alone are accessed by about a thousand patients from all over Ghana,” he said.

Upon achieving the fundraising goal and completing the initiative, the “Heal Komfo Anokye Hospital Project” will stand as a key legacy project in commemoration of the upcoming 25th anniversary of Otumfuo Osei Tutu II’s enstoolment as the Asantehene next year.

*Source: The Independent Ghana / Andy Ogbarmey-Tettey*



Asantehene Otumfuo Osei Tutu II & His campaign team

# General News

## WAEC cancels 2023 WASSCE results of 41 candidates

The West African Examinations Council (WAEC) has announced the provisional results of candidates who took the 2023 Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE). The results show that 42 candidates had their entire results cancelled, while 292 others had their results withheld for various offences.

According to a statement issued by WAEC and signed by Mr John Kapi, the Head of Public Affairs, the offences included possession of mobile phones in the examination hall, bringing foreign material into the examination hall, and collusion among candidates.

A statement from WAEC, signed by Mr John Kapi, Head of Public Affairs, outlined the consequences. It revealed that

110 school candidates and two private candidates had their entire results withheld, while 180 school candidates and four private candidates experienced the withholding of subject results for various offences.

The Council plans to dispatch the results of school candidates to their respective institutions through the Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Directors of Education.

For private candidates, the results can be accessed on the Council's website [www.waecgh.org](http://www.waecgh.org). Additionally, school candidates can check their results online at the Council's website if they wish to do so.

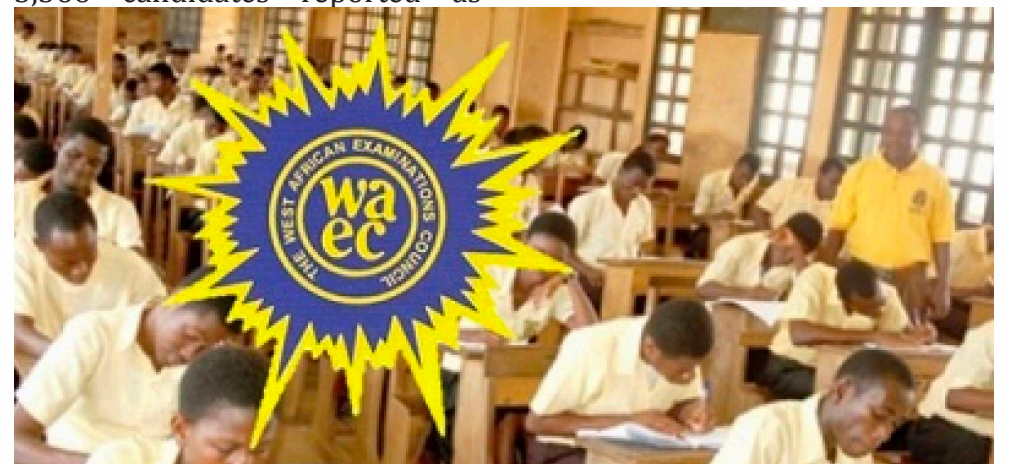
Meanwhile, the total number of candidates for the school examination reached 600,900,

comprising 300,404 males and 300,496 females from 18,993 participating schools. This inclusive figure featured 53 candidates with visual impairment, 366 with hearing impairment, and 54 candidates with other special educational needs. The examination took place at 2,137 centres nationwide, with 3,366 candidates reported as

absent.

The BECE for private candidates witnessed an entry figure of 1,839 candidates, including 942 males and 897 females. Fifteen centres, primarily in regional capitals, facilitated the examination, with 61 candidates recorded as absent.

**Source: GNA**



File Photo

## Reduce the checkpoints, they are affecting transit trade heavily – GSA to Police

The Ghana Shippers Authority (GSA) has urged the Police to support growth of the nation's transit trade sector without disrupting its flow.

Addressing a workshop organized by the Authority for Police officers to enhance the nation's trade routes, Head of the Freight and Logistics Department at GSA, Fred Asiedu Dartey, acknowledged the loss of transit business to neighboring landlocked countries due to excessive Police checks on highways.

Mr Dartey noted that 80% of road-related harassment was attributed to the Police, causing delays and extortion at checkpoints, which deterred international traders. As a result, traders have been redirecting their activities to ports in Togo, Ivory Coast, and other more favorable destinations within the sub-region.

Emphasizing the economic significance of transit trade, Mr Dartey highlighted its substantial annual contribution to the national economy, stressing the need to sustain this sector.

He highlighted the substantial number of checkpoints, citing 63 from the port of Tema to Hamele and a total of 53 from Tema to Paga, suggesting that while the structure of Police checkpoints is justified, it should not impede the smooth flow of trade.

"We need to do something. Drivers spend 1 to 3 hours at checkpoints over petty issues, and extortion is affecting the patronage of Ghana's ports. The police should not sell the birthright of the nation for a pittance on the corridors," Mr. Dartey stated.

The challenges affecting transit corridors were further discussed, involving taxes on services, interference from middlemen, and delays at border crossings.

Additional hurdles such as language barriers, demurrage charges, and banking complexities were identified during the discussion.

Officers were reminded of the complexities of international trade and encouraged to collaborate with relevant agencies to ensure

proper protocols are followed.

"Trade facilitation is very crucial and transit trade is key. We should not impede the development of transit trade because it will affect the prospects for the development of the nation's ports," Mr Dartey said. lowed in managing diverse situations.

CEO of the Ghana Shippers Authority, Ms. Benonita Bismarck, highlighted in her speech that transit trade facilitation is in harmony with the goals of the AfCFTA and emphasized the Authority's commitment to championing it.

"Contrary to the widely held perception that Ghana does not derive any benefits from the transit trade through its corridors, the outcome of a study in 2015 showed that tangible financial

benefits accrued to operators along the transit value chain," she said.

In a bid to enhance the sector, the Shippers Authority initiated an MoU with landlocked countries to strengthen essential collaboration.

Additionally, land has been procured in Ghana's Central Region for erecting a freight park and a one-stop complex. These structures are expected to be replicated along major corridors.

The Chief Executive expressed optimism that these initiatives would positively impact the growth of transit trade, highlighting the need for all stakeholders to contribute to its enhancement.

**Source: The Independent Ghana / Amanda Cartey**



File Photo

# General News

## We don't have enough gas - Energy Ministry hints on more power outages

Minister for Energy, Dr. Mathew Opoku Prempeh, has expressed concerns regarding a potential impact on electricity supply due to an impending shortage of gas for power generation.

He attributed this issue to an over-reliance on gas plants, a departure from the historical reliance on liquid fuels for energy production.

Dr. Prempeh elaborated that the nation is currently facing a dual challenge. The shift towards a predominantly gas-based energy system has rendered the power infrastructure susceptible, such that any disruption in gas supply could trigger the shutdown of all power generation systems, resulting in a nationwide blackout.

"So that is why if people see lights out when they go out now, it is more extensive than previously because previously the liquid fuels were in the various thermal plants scattered around," he noted.

The Energy Minister stressed the

significant challenge posed by the present scenario, wherein all power systems are interconnected through a sole gas pipeline. This is a departure from the past, where multiple dispersed thermal plants were fueled by various liquid fuels.

"So it goes through the tubes that goes around. So when you have a major cut at one end, the devastation is horrendous and we don't have enough gas for our generation as we speak, we don't have enough gas," he stressed.

He noted that this issue is exacerbated by the country's limited gas reserves, compounded by its dependency on the West African Gas Pipeline. Any delays or failures in payment to the pipeline, he explained, restrict the nation's access to gas, exacerbating the existing power challenges.

"So as we speak, this is a major challenge for us that from the West we have gas that we cannot put in because West African Gas Pipeline Company is not allowing us, it's restricting us and that's why

sometimes we find that there are challenges with power networks," Dr Prempeh stressed.

Dr. Opoku Prempeh however highlighted the government's endeavors in handling the nation's power situation through power agreements.

Government has signed two Power Purchasing Agreements (PPA) to bolster the country's power generation capacity by approximately 720 Mega Watts (MW).

The agreements involve 370MW AKSA in Tema and 350MW AKSA in Kumasi, operating under the

new PPA policy, which replaces the previous "Take or Pay" arrangement. This initiative not only ensures a prudent increase in power generation but also aims to enhance efficiency in both generation and distribution across the country.

Despite the obstacles, he urged Ghanaians to adopt energy-efficient devices to conserve power, recognizing the hardships experienced during previous years of insufficient electricity supply.

**Source: *The Independent Ghana* / *Andy Ogbarmey-Tettey***



*Dr Mathew Opoku Prempeh, Energy Minister*

## Akufo-Addo outlines five key approaches to ensure global peace and security

President Akufo-Addo addressed the 2023 Paris Peace Forum, hosted by French President Emmanuel Macron, presenting five key approaches to enhance global peace and security.

He emphasised two economic factors, one related to climate, and discussed two others concerning global governance and multilateralism.

Highlighting the importance of every citizen's opportunity to develop fully and contribute to global stability, the President listed urgent conditions for reform. He stressed the need for a global financial architecture overhaul, stating that the current system is "not fit-for-purpose when it comes to addressing inequalities."

President Akufo-Addo also

advocated for fostering economic equity and promoting inclusive economic growth through investments in education, healthcare, and social safety nets. He asserted the necessity of transparent governance, strong civil societies, and an independent media to hold leaders accountable.

The President also encouraged prioritising global security and climate action for sustained economic development.

"Conflicts perpetuate inequalities, and their prevention should be a global priority. Simultaneously, we must take meaningful steps to combat climate change and support climate adaptation, while transitioning to sustainable, green economies," he stated.

President Akufo-Addo called for

the reform of global governance institutions, particularly highlighting the need to reform the UN Security Council. He noted correcting the longstanding injustice in the Council's structure and composition, especially for African nations.

"We cannot continue to preach

democracy and fairness around the world when our global security organisation is not seen by the majority of its members as having a structure that is effective, fair, and just," the President declared.

**Source: *The Independent Ghana* / *Amanda Cartey***



*Nana Akufo-Addo, President of Ghana*

# General News

## Security taskforce raid mining site in Tewa, 'kill' 2 and injure 4

A team of security officers is under scrutiny after allegedly initiating a gun attack on a community mining site in Mfante, Tewa, Ashanti region, resulting in the tragic deaths of two individuals.

The incident occurred last Friday afternoon in Mfante, a suburb of Tewa within the Ahafo Ano North district.

The deceased, identified as Abdul Samed Razak and Hashmil Usman, were part of a group protecting the mining site when the security task force conducted a swoop. Four others from the group sustained injuries, with two in critical

condition.

In an effort to curb illegal mining, the security personnel, numbering around 80, reportedly set fire to mining equipment, including Chanfang and other earth-moving machinery at the location.

According to an eyewitness, the unarmed civilians were fatally shot as they attempted to engage the task force in a peaceful dialogue. The deceased brothers suffered gunshot wounds, one to the head and the other to the neck.

Their remains have been taken to the Tewa Government Hospital. The reason behind the alleged gun

attack remains unclear.

Samed, aged 35, is survived by a wife and four children, while his younger brother, Hashmil, passed

away at the age of 25.

**Source: The Independent Ghana / Andy Ogbarmey-Tetty**



File Photo

## ADB contributes GHS1m to support 39th National Farmers Day

The Agricultural Development Bank (ADB) has contributed an amount of GHS1,000,000 to the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA) in support of the 39th National Farmers Day celebration.

Best Farmer for the year 2023 will be given the cheque during an awards night at the University of Mines and Technology (UmaT) in Tarkwa, Western Region.

The theme for the 39th edition of the National Farmers Day Celebration is "Delivering Smart Solutions for Sustainable Food Security and Resilience." This annual event honors farmers for their invaluable contributions to the country's development and aims to leverage innovation and technology to enhance the organization of the national award ceremony.

ADB has consistently been the lead sponsor of this celebration in recent years. During the presentation of the cheque, the Deputy Managing Director of ADB PLC, Eno Ofori-Atta, reaffirmed the bank's dedication to increasing investment in the agricultural sector.

Their commitment is aimed at improving food security,

supplying raw materials to agro-based industries, and generating employment opportunities for the youth in the country.

Deputy Minister of MoFA and Chairman of the Planning Committee, Yaw Frempong Addo, emphasized that the celebration serves as a reminder to stakeholders and the public to stand in solidarity with hard-working farmers. Their sacrifices, perseverance, and tireless efforts contribute significantly to ensuring food sustenance in the country.

He said: "Ghana cannot take for granted the constant supply of our food and nutritional needs by our farmers despite the numerous challenges they face."

Despite the surge in food prices, the Deputy Minister emphasized that food remains both available and accessible. He added that the government is actively addressing challenges to ensure the affordability of food across the country.

Mr. Frempong highlighted that this year's planned activities for the celebration would have a unique approach. Among the activities is a five-day exhibition of agricultural products called

"Agrifest," scheduled to take place at the ministerial enclave from November 27 to December 1, 2023.

"Agribusinesses from all 16 regions would come on board to exhibit their agricultural products and show to the whole world what Ghana is doing in terms of food security. There will also be a special desk placed at a vantage point to explain phase two of the Planting for Food and Jobs (PFJ) programme to the citizenry for better understanding and participation so that Ghana will completely end or reduce the importation of food items."

A parade will traverse the main streets of Accra to raise awareness for the upcoming 39th National Farmers Day Celebration.

The Deputy Minister also informed the media about a farmers' market set to take place at Independence Square in Accra as part of the

festivities. This market will offer a variety of affordable food items, including yams, cassava, plantains, rice, and poultry products.

While the districts and regions will uphold their customary exhibitions and awards, the national event will have a different format.

It will be an indoor awards night hosted at the University of Mines and Technology (UmaT) in Tarkwa, Western Region. Nominees will be invited to attend and receive their awards during this ceremony.

"We are ready to receive donations, we are appealing to everyone to come on board as it has always done over the years to help make this year's event a success," he said, pleading with corporate organizations and stakeholders to support this year's celebrations.

**Source: The Independent Ghana / Amanda Cartey**



ADB Representatives makes a donation

# General News

## Low patronage in voters register exhibition could affect District elections - NCCE

Western Regional Directorate of the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE), Mr Justice Yaw Ennin, has expressed worry over the low turn-out during the just ended nationwide voter register exhibition exercise by the Electoral Commission.

Mr Justice Yaw Ennin, who raised concern about people's lack of enthusiasm about the exercise in an interview with the Ghana News Agency in Takoradi, said citizens' lack of interest resulting in the low turnout could affect voters' participation in the upcoming District Level Elections (DLEs).

He said DLEs had generally been characterised by low voter turn-out over the years, and that the 2023 elections could suffer the same fate.

Mr Ennin said, "The DLEs are the bedrock of our democracy, so if the citizens are disinterested, then

that is a cause for worry."

He attributed the situation to low publicity on the part of stakeholders and said more needed to be done to whip up public interest in the upcoming DLEs.

Aside publicity, there was the need for stakeholders to revisit the call for a referendum to seek the inputs from Ghanaians to amend Article 55 (3) of the 1992 Constitution to allow the participation of political parties in district level elections.

The NCCE Director said involving political parties in DLEs would help resolve the issue of less citizens' participation, since those parties had more resources to convince and mobilise their supporters for such an exercise.

He stressed the need for the citizenry to be interested in making decisions that would enhance the

country's decentralisation system and drive transformation in their communities.

On ensuring inclusivity in local governance, Mr Ennin said: "Marginalised groups like youth, women and Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) must be encouraged to participate in local governance to value their inputs

and bridge the developmental gaps in their various areas."

He appealed to the authorities to ensure institutions responsible for public education like the NCCE were adequately resourced to help them carry out their mandates successfully.

**Source: GNA**



File Photo

## NPP to hold Extraordinary Constituency Delegates Conference on Dec. 2

The New Patriotic Party (NPP) has slated Saturday, December 2, 2023, to hold an Extraordinary Constituency Delegates Conference.

This decision was reached during a meeting by the National Executive Committee (NEC) and aims to elect the party's Parliamentary Candidates in constituencies where the NPP currently lacks parliamentary representation.

According to a press statement released on Friday, November 10, and signed by the NPP's General Secretary, Justin Kodua Frimpong, the vetting process for aspiring Parliamentary candidates in these constituencies will take place in the regional capitals from Tuesday, November 14, to Thursday, November 16, 2023.

The statement also instructed the Regional Executive Committees to convey the dates, times, and venues for the vetting process to

their respective constituencies and aspiring parliamentary candidates.

The Extraordinary Constituency Delegates Conference is intended for all Orphan Constituencies, except for Ketu North, Akatsi North, Yilo Krobo, Jomoro, Fomena, and Bawku Central.

Furthermore, the NEC has modified the date for the party's

Parliamentary Primaries in constituencies where incumbent Members of Parliament (MPs) are in office. The updated date for these primaries is January 20, 2023, with the nomination period commencing on December 20, 2023, and concluding on December 22, 2023.

"The party shall soon issue detailed guidelines to govern the

conduct of the primaries in these constituencies," the statement said.

The party expressed hope for the cooperation of all stakeholders in ensuring the success of the primaries and extended best wishes to all aspiring candidates.

**Source: The Independent Ghana / Andy Ogbarmey-Tettey**



NPP Flag





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# Business

## Strong manufacturing sector catalyst to import substitution - Industrialist

An Industrialist, Dr Anthony Oteng Gyasi, has asked the government to develop the manufacturing value chain with policies that will make domestic industries produce more value-added goods.

Dr Oteng-Gyasi, Board Chairman, Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA), said this at the 2023 University of Ghana Alumni lecture on the topic "The Fault, Dear Brutus".

He said it was important for the government to support domestic manufacturers to increase the production of finished products. That, he said would be a catalyst for the country's import substitution drive and ensure sustainable economic development.

He explained that existing natural resources, notably oil, gas, lithium, and manganese, could significantly contribute to Ghana's economic growth and stability with the right value chain policies. "The entire value chain is required to make the import substitution competitive for exporting so as to generate the

foreign exchange required to keep industries running and galvanise industrialisation," Dr Oteng-Gyasi said.

He called for intentional policies like that of the Asian countries whose import substitution policy increased production and the manufacturing sector's contribution to Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

"In other developed countries, particularly Asia, import substitution served as the beginning of an industrialisation agenda, which rapidly moved into vertical integration, raw material production, and other input based on identifiable value chains," he said.

The Industrialist noted for example that Indonesia's stainless-steel production increased from 24,000 metric tonnes in 2016 to five million metric tonnes in 2022, with a GDP contribution of \$43 billion due to its import substitution policy.

While lauding the government's introduction of the integrated aluminium development strategy,

Dr Oteng-Gyasi said such an initiative had not realised its full potential due to the absence of capital.

He called for an enabling environment for businesses to thrive, noting that many Ghanaian factories had failed due to the exchange rate vulnerability and the absence of a deliberate value chain policy.

Professor Nana Aba Appiah Amfo, Vice Chancellor of the University of Ghana, and Chairperson for the Lecture, complained about the

stagnation of development in the country.

"Ghana has yet to experience real development in all aspects of life since the overthrow of Dr Kwame Nkrumah, the first President of Ghana...", she said.

The Lecture was attended by members of academia, policymakers, including the Minister of Works and Housing, Mr Asenso Boakye, heads of civil society organisations, and students.

**Source: GNA**



File Photo

## IMF has set no deadline for disbursement of second tranche of funds - Finance Ministry

The Ministry of Finance has refuted reports that Ghana missed a November 1 deadline for the disbursement of the second tranche of International Monetary Fund (IMF) funds.

"The attention of the Ministry of Finance has been drawn to above-titled misleading publication on MyJoyonline, about Ghana missing a purported deadline of 1st November, 2023, for the disbursement of the second tranche of International Monetary (IMF) Funds," a rejoinder by the ministry read.

According to the Finance Ministry, there is no 1st November, 2023 timeline for disbursement of the second tranche of the IMF funds as "no deadline has been set by the IMF for the second tranche disbursement," which is due to

take place after the IMF Executive Board approves the first review.

The Ministry made mention of Table 9 on page 72 of the Memorandum of Economic and Financial Policies (MEFP) published on 17th May, 2023 by the IMF referenced by MyJoyOnline.

"The November 1 stated in this table is an indicative timeline for completion of the first review, based on the observance of the end-June 2023 performance criteria," the statement added.

The first review was successfully completed on 6th October, 2023, culminating in a Staff Level Agreement (SLA) on the same day. "Whilst the SLA milestone is an important step towards unlocking the second tranche of \$600 million under the programme, the timeline set by the Executive Board for the consideration and

approval of the first review, is not 1st November, 2023 as published by MyJoyonline. The exact timeline for the Board date is determined by the IMF Executive Board," the Ministry reiterated.

Following the clarification, the Ministry of Finance has encouraged the general public and media houses in particular, to seek the facts and truth about any information that comes to their attention, by reaching out to its outfit for clarification whenever

they are in doubt.

Meanwhile, the Ministry says Government of Ghana is making good progress in accordance with its strategic plan to engage the Official Creditor Committee (OCC) of the Paris Club; secure a Memorandum of Understanding on debt restructuring; and go before the IMF Executive Board for approval of the first review.

**Source: The Independent Ghana | Andy Ogbarmey-Tettey**



Ken Ofori-Atta, Finance Minister

# International

## Gaza City hospitals cut off by Israel's war on Hamas

Major hospitals in north Gaza remained cut off by Israel's onslaught against Hamas on Sunday, while at the largest a Palestinian official said three premature babies had died and dozens more were at risk from lack of power.

Al Shifa and other hospitals in north Gaza, the focus of Israel's month-old war to wipe out the militants and free hostages, were barely able to care for patients, medical staff said.

More people are killed and wounded daily by Israeli bombardment but there are fewer and fewer places for the injured to go.

Speaking from inside Al Shifa, Gaza health ministry spokesperson Ashraf Al-Qidra said Israeli fire was "terrorising medical officials and civilians alike".

Israel's chief military spokesperson, Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari, said on Saturday Israel's military would help evacuate babies from the hospital at the request of staff there.

Al-Qidra said that of 45 babies in total, three had already died and that they had not been told how to get the babies to safety.

A plastic surgeon in the hospital said bombing of the building housing incubators had forced them to line up premature babies on ordinary beds, using the little power available to turn the air conditioning to warm.

"We know this is very risky," Dr Ahmed El Mokhallalati told Reuters. "We are expecting to lose more of them day by day."

In the Indonesian Hospital in Beit Lahiya also in north Gaza, Mosab Subeih, a baby boy, had been rushed in from a house struck by an Israeli missile.

"He has a direct injury to the head and bleeding, and we have no surgeries," said one of the medics treating him with a manual resuscitator as power was cut.

The Palestinian Red Crescent said medical staff at the second largest hospital in northern Gaza, Al-Quds, were struggling to care for

those there with little medicine, food and water.

"Al Quds hospital has been cut off from the world in the last 6-7 days. No way in, no way out," said Tommaso Della Longa, spokesperson for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Shifa was also out of reach for the newly wounded, said Mohammad Qandil, a doctor at Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis in south Gaza, who is in touch with colleagues there.

"Shifa hospital now isn't working, no one is allowed in, nobody is allowed out," he said.

The World Health Organisation said it had lost contact with the hospital and was worried about people trapped there.

Israel has said doctors, patients and thousands of evacuees who have taken refuge at hospitals in north Gaza must leave so it can destroy what it says are Hamas command centres under and around them. Hamas denies using hospitals this way.

On Sunday, Israel said people could safely evacuate from three hospitals in northern Gaza, including Shifa via one of its exits. Hospital director Mohammad Abu Selmeyah told Al Arabiya television that there was no safe passage out.

With the humanitarian situation across Gaza worsening, 80 foreigners and several injured Palestinians crossed into Egypt in the first evacuations since Friday,

four Egyptian security sources said.

Poland said 18 of them were its citizens, and U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan told CBS News American citizens would be moved out of Gaza during Sunday.

At least 80 aid trucks had also moved from Egypt into Gaza by Sunday afternoon, two of the sources said. Jordan said earlier it had air-dropped a second batch into a field hospital.

Very little aid has entered Gaza since Israel declared war on Hamas more than a month ago after militants rampaged through southern Israel, killing about 1,200 people and taking more than 200 hostage, according to Israeli officials.

Palestinian officials said on Friday that 11,078 Gaza residents had been killed in air and artillery strikes since then, around 40% of them children.

Disease is spreading among evacuees packed into schools and other shelters and surviving on tiny amounts of food and water, international aid agencies say.

Speaking from inside Gaza City, Jamila, 54, said she and her family could hear the roar of tanks nearby.

"During the day, people try to look for essential items such as bread and water, and at night people try to stay alive," she said. "We hear explosions throughout the night, sometimes we can tell that some of these explosions are exchanges of fire between the resistance

fighters and the Israeli forces."

The mother-of-six said her family was scared to leave.

"We hear lots of bombings in the south, and there is no food. Things there don't seem different from our situation here," she said by phone, giving only her first name.

Palestinian health officials said 13 people had been killed in an Israeli air strike on a house in Khan Younis in southern Gaza on Sunday.

Residents reported increased fighting around Al-Shati refugee camp, by the coast in northern Gaza. The Israeli military said it had killed a number of militants there and called on civilians to use a four-hour pause to evacuate south.

The Gaza conflict has reignited conflict on Israel's northern border with Lebanon, which has seen the worst cross-border clashes since 2006.

Lebanon's Hezbollah group, which like Hamas is backed by Iran, said it attacked Israeli army troops near the Dovev Barracks on Sunday, "inflicting casualties".

The Israeli military said earlier that anti-tank missiles fired by militants had hit a number of civilians, adding that it was retaliating with artillery fire.

The U.N. peacekeeping force in Lebanon said one of its members near the town of Al-Qawzah in southern Lebanon had been wounded by a bullet overnight.

**Source: Reuters.com**



File Photo

# General News

## Iceland declares state of emergency, evacuates residents over threat of volcanic eruption

Iceland has declared a state of emergency, with police officials urging residents to evacuate the coastal town of Grindavík following an intense wave of earthquakes in the southwest of the country linked to a possible volcanic eruption.

Nearly 800 quakes were recorded between midnight and 2 p.m. on Friday, with the shallowest at a depth of 3-3.5 kilometers (1.86-2.18 miles), according to the Icelandic Meteorological Office.

In statements Friday, Iceland's Civil Protection Agency said a magma tunnel that is forming could reach Grindavík. But as of Friday evening, the Icelandic authority said it has been impossible to tell if and where the magma might break

through to the surface.

"Earthquakes may become bigger than those that have already occurred, and this sequence of events could lead to an eruption. However, there are still no signs that the magma is nearing the surface. Its progress is being closely monitored," the Civil Protection Agency said.

Magma is a mixture of molten and semi-molten rock found beneath the surface of the Earth that can cause an eruption when it finds its way to the surface, becoming lava.

Authorities urged residents to evacuate calmly and emphasized that there is no imminent danger.

"We want to reiterate that residents MUST evacuate their

homes and leave the town. But we also want to reiterate that this is not an emergency evacuation, there is plenty of time to prepare, secure things and drive out of town calmly," the Civil Protection Agency said.

"It is clear that we are dealing with events that we Icelanders have not experienced before, at least not since the eruption in Vestmannaeyjar. We faced that together, we will face this together and we will not lose heart," the Civil Protection Agency added.

The US Embassy in Iceland issued a volcano alert, warning about the increased signs of volcanic activity.

"If an eruption occurs, follow the instructions of Icelandic authorities. Volcanic hazards may

include lava, toxic gases, and heavy smoke from fires ignited by lava," it said.

The world-famous Blue Lagoon thermal pool in the area has already closed due to the ongoing seismic activity.

Since 2021, there has been an eruption almost every 12 months and the latest one took place in July south of Iceland's capital Reykjavik.

Iceland sits on a tectonic plate boundary that continually splits apart, pushing North America and Eurasia away from each other along the line of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. It is home to 32 active volcanoes.

**Source: CNN**



File Photo

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