



**Import Restrictions Bill faces another setback, Speaker sets new date for presentation**

Page 8

**GES releases 2023 SHS placements, over 100K candidates miss out on preferred choices**

Page 2



Ministry of Education  
REPUBLIC OF GHANA



**Speaker Bagbin affirms conviction against LGBTQI+**

Page 8

**Gold-for-oil policy to end soon as cedi stabilises - BoG**

Page 7



**Best Western PLUS**

Accra Beach Hotel, Nungua

**For business or leisure, there's always a little something extra.**

Reservations: 233 (0) 54 83 25 18 4 [bestwesternplusaccra.com](http://bestwesternplusaccra.com)

# General News

## Bawumia's running mate will "definitely" come from the Ashanti Region - Kate Gyamfua

National Women's Organizer of the New Patriotic Party (NPP), Kate Gyamfua, has disclosed crucial details about the party's choice for Dr. Mahamdu Bawumia's running mate in the upcoming 2024 elections.

In an interview on Peace FM on November 22, 2023, Gyamfua stated that the party has already reached a decision on the potential running mate and has conveyed their choice to Vice President Bawumia.

She revealed that the chosen individual must be a male or female Member of Parliament (MP) from the Ashanti region.

When questioned about the exclusivity of this requirement, Gyamfua asserted that the selected running mate is already aware of

their candidacy.

"The person knows who they are. If male, he knows himself; if female, the same way. The flagbearer will appoint his own running mate, and he knows who we want so he will do justice accordingly. We have communicated to him who we want to be the running mate. The person should be an MP. And will they come from the Ashanti region," she said.

This revelation provides clarity on the party's considerations for the crucial role of Bawumia's running mate, narrowing the field to male MPs from the Ashanti region and offering insight into the party's strategic direction leading up to the 2024 elections.

Following the November 7 presidential primaries, President

Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo handed over the NPP's leadership to Bawumia, who is now tasked with selecting his running mate for the 2024 elections.

Dr. Bawumia is yet to announce his running mate for the 2024 elections.

Names that have come under consideration as potential running

mates include Ursula Owusu-Ekuful, Minister of Communication, Adutwum Minister of Education and MP for Bosomtwe, Deputy Finance Minister, and Ejisu MP John Kumah, Mathew Opoku Prempeh Energy Minister among others.

**Source:** *The Independent Ghana*



Kate Gyamfua, National Women Organizer, NPP

## GES releases 2023 SHS placements, over 100K candidates miss out on preferred choices

The Ghana Education Service (GES) has announced the release of the Senior High School (SHS) placements for Junior High School (JHS) students who sat for the 2023 Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE).

According to a statement issued by the GES on November 28, 2023, out of the 598,839 results released by the West African Examinations Council (WAEC), 585,797 candidates have qualified for placement.

However, only 81.56% (477,772 candidates) have been automatically assigned to one of their selected choices, reflecting an improvement from the previous year. The remaining 18.44% of qualified candidates (108,025 individuals) were unable to be matched with their preferred choices.

The statement explained that to access placement information, interested parties can visit the CSSPS portal to obtain a placement pin code from an approved vendor, log onto the site, enter the ten-

digit index number and add 23 as the year of completion (Example: 123456789023), enter the pin code details (serial number and pin), click on Submit and wait for the placement to appear and print the enrolment form, placement slip, and prospectus.

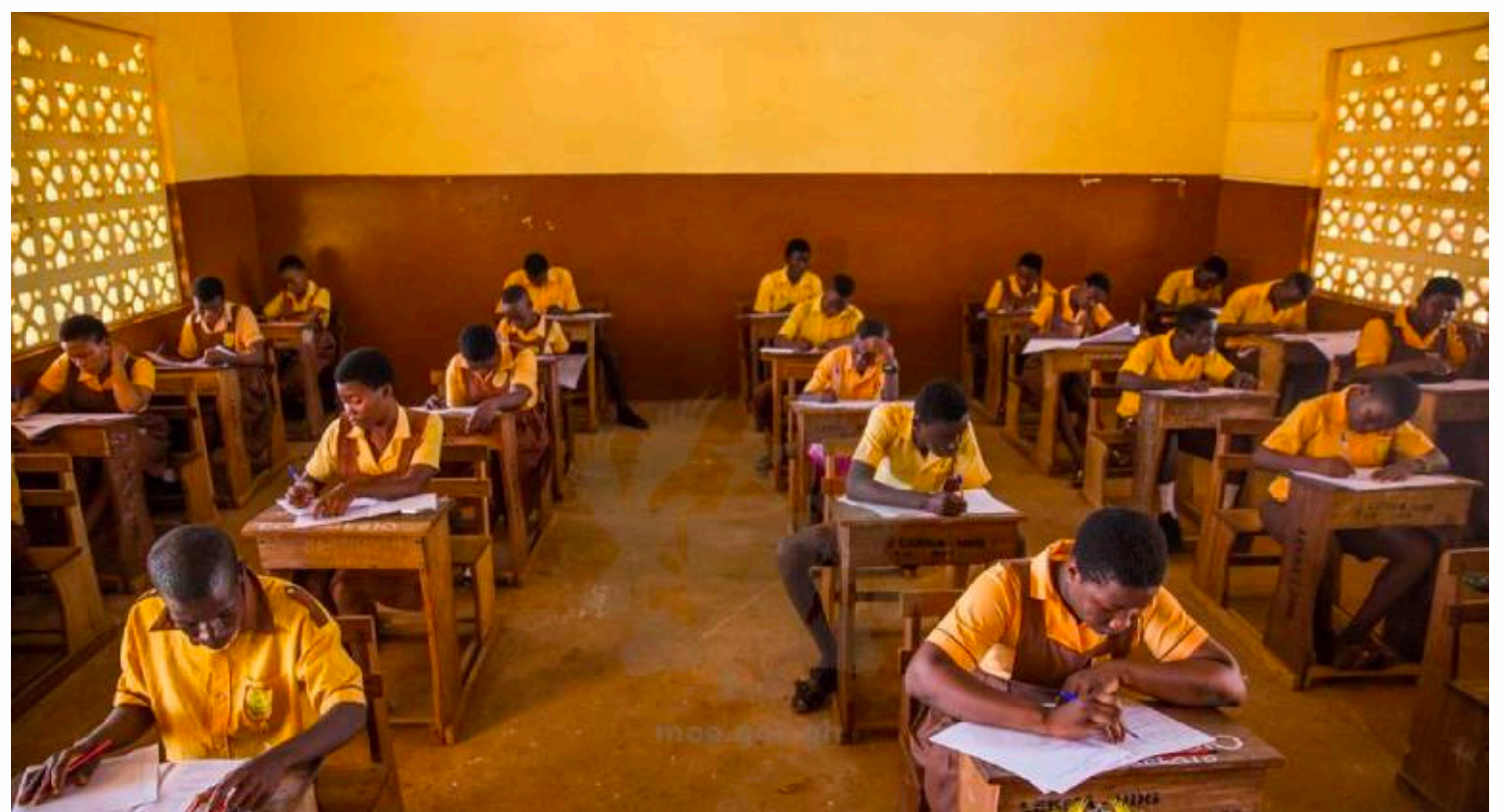
For self-placement, the statement noted that if a student is not matched with any of their choices

through the automatic placement system, they will be redirected to the Self-Placement Portal. From there, individuals can select a school based on region, residential preference, school, and program of choice. The form the Authority noted can then be printed, and the admission process initiated by visiting the selected school.

The GES urged parents, students

and the general public to follow the guidelines provided and avoid any fraudulent activities that may jeopardise the placement process. It also assured the public that it is working hard to ensure a smooth and successful placement exercise.

**Source:** *The Independent Ghana / Phoebe Martekie Doku*



File Photo

# General News

## Govt's annual import expenditure stands at US\$10.8b - MP reveals, backs import restriction

The government's move to restrict the importation of certain food commodities has received the endorsement of a Member of Parliament (MP), Collins Adomako-Mensah, Afigya Kwabre North.

The MP supports the Minister of Trade and Industry, Kobina Tahir Hammond, who is advocating for a regulation with the aim of bolstering Ghana's currency and supporting local industries.

The regulation is set to limit the importation of strategic products, including rice, fruit juice, margarine, cement, fish, sugar, and 16 others. However, this initiative has faced strong opposition from the minority in parliament and various business associations.

During a press briefing on Thursday, November 22, the Minority Leader criticized the regulation as a flawed policy and called for its immediate withdrawal. "We are urging the President to have a rethink because this is not a policy that we should encourage, and they have to withdraw it," he implored.

A coalition of business associations, including the Ghana Union of Traders Associations (GUTA), Food and Beverages Association of Ghana (FABAG), Importers

and Exporters Association of Ghana, Ghana Institute of Freight Forwarders (GIFF), Chamber of Automobile Dealership Ghana (CADEG), and Ghana National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GNCCI), has strongly opposed the proposed import restrictions bill.

They contend that the bill, if enacted, would have adverse effects on their businesses. In response, these associations have submitted a petition to Parliament, urging lawmakers to reject the bill presented by the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

Despite the opposition, Hon. Collins Adomako-Mensah supports the government's stance on import restrictions, asserting that such measures are essential to foster the growth of local businesses and fortify the Ghanaian cedi.

During an appearance on Peace FM's "Kokrokoo" morning show, the MP provided a detailed breakdown of the annual importation costs incurred by the government, revealing a staggering expenditure of \$10.8 billion.

Enumerating the major imports and their associated costs, Hon. Collins Adomako-Mensah highlighted that the yearly imports

include \$164 million for tripe, \$200 million for beverages, \$100 million for toilet papers and tissues, \$100 million for fresh tomatoes, \$800 million for rice, and \$300 million for sugar. Other significant imports comprise poultry and meat (\$400 million), textiles and apparel (\$250 million), cooking oil (\$300 million), tiles and ceramics (\$200 million), plastics (\$500 million), papers (\$600 million), iron and steels (\$600 million), furniture (\$250 million), and home appliances (\$900 million).

The MP emphasized that a substantial portion of the importation costs is attributed to tin tomatoes, cars, and spare parts, amounting to \$1 billion and \$2 billion, respectively.

"These are the monies we spend to import these things each year... All these things I have stated are quoted in dollars, not cedis. What

it means is that we have to make sure that we have this import cover to ensure that when a trader wants to import something, government should be able to or must make sure that it has this amount of dollars," he stated.

"Once you continue to transfer the money outside, you are creating jobs outside," he added, and he asked the host, Kwami Sefa Kayi; "Is it still shocking to you that there is pressure on our cedi?"

To him, when the government restricts imports, "businessmen in Ghana can see an opportunity out of it," hence enhancing local production.

He, however, called on the government to hold a stakeholder meeting to keep the associations, especially the opposing parties, abreast of the policy.

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



Collins Adomako-Mensah, MP for Afigya Kwabre North

## NCCE to organize flagbearers and parliamentary candidates debate ahead of 2024 election

The National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE) has outlined its plans for the upcoming year, including the organization of a debate for flagbearers of contesting political parties and parliamentary candidates in preparation for the 2024 General Election.

The Chairperson of the Commission, Madam Kathleen Addy, emphasized that the debate aims to provide a platform for flagbearers and independent candidates to communicate their policies and programs to the public. Additionally, parliamentary

candidates will have opportunities to engage with electorates in their constituencies.

"Apart from these, the debate will also serve as a tension breaker. Because whilst political party candidates may create different platforms for their campaigns, this common platform will let them come together and show to the people that, look, we are not enemies, we are just competing candidates at an election," she added.

The announcement was made during a courtesy call by a delegation from the United Nations

(UN) office in Ghana, addressing election and security concerns.

Madam Addy mentioned the establishment of inter-party dialogue committees at "buffer zones" for conflict resolution at the grassroots levels in every constituency. "The committees hold meetings at the grassroots levels to see how things that could escalate probably into conflict can be nipped in the bud," she stated.

She appealed for financial and logistical support to conduct educational activities across the country in preparation for

the election, emphasizing the importance of drawing attention to politicians regarding their public statements to prevent tension, especially among the youth.

The Commission is also focusing on youth engagement through political party youth activist workshops and in-school clubs for young persons.

Madam Addy highlighted the critical issue of "religion" and "religious intolerance" for the upcoming election, and the Commission plans to organize inter-faith dialogue platforms to address and control these

*Continued on page 4*

# General News

## NCCE to organize flagbearers and parliamentary candidates debate ahead of 2024 election

*Continued from page 3*

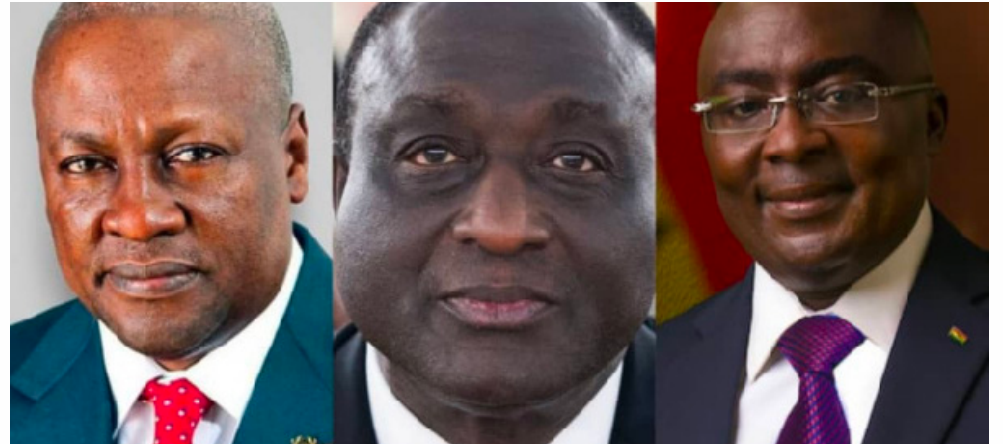
concerns.

Peace and Development Advisor (PDA) from the UN – Ghana, Madam Angeline Nkwenkam Nguedjeu, commended the NCCE for its efforts in ensuring peace and security in the upcoming election.

The UN delegation expressed its

mission to identify areas where the UN could offer support, including deploying election observers, and assured that gathered information would be submitted to the principals of the UN for their response.

**Source: The Independent Ghana**  
/ Phoebe Martekie Doku



Presidential Aspirants

## Lands ministry launches EJOBS4ALL programme to benefit 10,000 youth in mining regions

The Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources has launched a new initiative to provide meaningful employment opportunities for the youth residing in or originating from mining regions in Ghana.

The initiative, dubbed Entrepreneurship Jobs for All (Ejobs4All), is a collaboration between the National Alternative Employment and Livelihood Programme (NAELP), Queens University, Leadogo Incorporated Canada, and the Centre for Entrepreneurship and Development Initiative (CEDI Ghana).

The launch took place on November 28, 2024, as part of the ministry's efforts to address the challenges of illegal mining and unemployment in the country.

The initiative aligns with government initiatives, including declaring water bodies as Red Zones, banning certain activities in Forest Reserves, and implementing Operation Halt II to combat illegalities affecting water bodies, Forest Reserves, lands, farms, and the environment. The initiative also leverages the Minerals Development Fund and alternative livelihood programs to support mining communities with revenue generated from mining activities.

"We are, also, engaging with mining companies to ensure that they contribute, meaningfully, to the development of their host

communities," said the Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, Hon. Samuel A. Jinapor, during the launch. He described Ejobs4All as more than just a slogan but a beacon of hope and a commendable strategy to tackle unemployment, one of Ghana's critical challenges. He added that the initiative aims to empower Ghanaian youth, encourage innovation, and unlock the potential within mining communities.

Coordinator of NAELP, Dr. Louise Carol Serwaa Donkor, positioned Ejobs4All at the intersection of innovation, empowerment, and sustainable development. She emphasized its adaptability and commitment to addressing

contemporary challenges, particularly illegal mining and unemployment. The project integrates traditional strengths of the mining sector with cutting-edge practices aligned with global trends.

Founder and CEO of CEDI Ghana, Kingsley Kwaku Pinkrah, clarified that the initiative goes beyond addressing the adverse effects of illegal mining. Its primary focus is to establish avenues for sustainable livelihoods, promote innovation, and empower individuals to build businesses contributing positively to communities and the national economy.

The expected outcomes of Ejobs4All are transformative,

aiming for business growth in mining regions and job creation for individuals involved in illegal mining. The program received support from partners such as Matt Hawksley, Founder and CEO of Leaders In Doing Good (Leadogo) Inc. Canada, and Prof. Greg Bavington, Executive Director of Queens University.

This initiative aligns with NAELP's core mandate of promoting sustainable and resilient businesses in mining communities, actively absorbing the talents and ambitions of unemployed youth for regional development.

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



Samuel Abu Jinapor, Minister for Lands and Natural Resources

# General News

## Government owes over GH¢143 million in road compensation - Urban Roads Director

Director of Urban Roads, Engineer James Amoo-Gottfried, has revealed that the government owes a total of GH¢143,120,909.10 for road construction compensations nationwide as of September 2023.

He pointed out that compensation payments for affected structures and facilities on the La Beach and Borteyman road projects alone stand at a whopping GH¢56,509,022.29.

Amoo-Gottfried attributes the issue to local assemblies allowing encroachments on the right of way, suggesting that Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Assemblies (MMDAs) should bear the cost of relocating residents or compensate them.

He has proposed a deduction of these expenses from MMDAs' Common Fund or any other funds owed to them by the central government.

"The cost of resettling or compensation should be deducted from MMDAs' share of the Common Fund or any other

monies due them from the central government.

"We have appealed to the Ministry of Roads and Highways to consult the Ministry of Finance to prepare budgetary support to pay compensation for structures in the right way," ING. James Amoo-Gottfried suggested during a presentation in Koforidua, the Eastern regional capital.

As a short-term solution, the Department of Urban Roads proposed the identification and mapping of all roads and transport routes within local assemblies, which shall involve documenting of structures within the Right of Way and monitoring corridors to prevent further development and illegal encroachment.

Additionally, the department suggests engaging stakeholders, including the land commission, land use authority, spatial planning authority, and telecommunications companies, to emphasise the importance of protecting the Right of Way.

Looking ahead to the medium term, the secretariat of

the National Engineering Coordinating Team (NECT) has revitalised the National, Regional, and Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Assembly (MMDA) Engineering Coordinating Teams.

These teams will coordinate all activities related to road reservations to minimise encroachment.

Discussing the state of the country's roads, Engineer Amoo-Gottfried noted that Ghana's road network is estimated to be 100,000 km.

However, as of 2022, the national road length is 94,203 km. He explained that 72% of Ghana's

roads lack bitumen, totaling 68,000 km.

In terms of urban roads, 47% are in good condition, 32% are considered fair, while 21% are deemed poor.

Engineer Amoo-Gottfried highlighted several challenges in road infrastructure, including funding limitations for unrestricted operations, a lack of credible road development plans for road reservations, insufficient enforcement of land use regulations, a lack of coordination of land use at all levels, and issues of encroachment.

**Source: The Independent Ghana / Abigail Twumwaa Ampofo**



File Photo

## Passport applications fees to increase soon - Deputy Minister hints

Government is exploring the possibility of increasing fees for passport acquisition processes to guarantee the delivery of enhanced services, according to Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Kwaku Ampratwum-Sarpong.

Defending the proposed move at a press conference on passports and consular services, Mr Ampratwum-Sarpong emphasised that Ghana's current rates are considerably lower than those of other countries in the sub-region, even though they share the same passport supplier.

"... and even Togo; \$40. Supplied by the same supplier who is supplying us with these passports. Ghanaian charges, we charge \$8, meaning we are having to

subsidise every passport. So, the money to buy the passports is being used to subsidise the passports for Kwaku Manu. Until Kwaku Manu is prepared to pay the realistic passport fees, we will continue to have these problems," he explained.

The recent surprise visit by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey, to the Passport Office in Accra has reignited debates on the appropriate cost of acquiring passports for citizens.

Expressing displeasure at the presence of individuals within the office engaged in overpricing and exploiting unsuspecting applicants, the minister took decisive action by dismissing

certain staff members seconded to the Passport Office.

Reports indicate that those dismissed were implicated in corrupt practices.

"Reports that officers, and there are nine or so agencies represented in any passport application centre... these people are involved in illegal activities, and when I say illegal activities, we know just two days ago the report in Daily Guide that the issue of goro people involved in our passport acquisition process has become rife. It is wrong.

"How can 100 Ghana for standard service of passport acquisition and 150 for expedited service be bumped up to 2,000 and 3,000? I hear they don't even charge 2,000 now; they are charging 3000 and it

is wrong.

"But I can say and we all will agree that a goro person is outside the passport office and they need somebody inside to work with, they cannot do it on their own, people are paying 2,000, 3,000 to acquire a passport, why should this be so?" she said.

While Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey, addressed passport fees, GhanaWeb cross-checked the official ministry website for detailed information.

On the ministry's website, the 'Passports' section provides specifics on fees, application types, passport application centres, and sample documents.

Continued on page 6

# General News

## Passport applications fees to increase soon - Deputy Minister hints

*Continued from page 5*

For Application Types, fees are outlined for various passport types: expedited application 48 pages at GH¢200, expedited application 32 pages at GH¢150, standard application 32 pages at GH¢100, and standard application 48 pages at GH¢150.

Additionally, the website lists the locations of passport offices nationwide, alongside Proof of Profession: A work ID card with the applicant's name, position, and organisation listed on it, or an introduction letter from the applicant's employer,

if the applicant is currently employed.

If the applicant is enrolled in school right now, a student ID. Proof is not required for applicants who are housewives, homemakers, jobless, or work in non-formal industries like mechanics, hairdressers, seamstresses, traders, etc. Applicants who are self-employed or registered business owners need to present their business registration certificate as identification.

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



File Photo

## Import Restrictions Bill faces another setback, Speaker sets new date for presentation

Import Restrictions Bill, whose passage is being led by Minister of Trade and Industry, KT Hammond, has faced another setback in Parliament on November 28, 2023, as the minister has once again been barred from presenting the Legislative Instrument (LI) in the house.

This marks the third time the minister has been prevented from laying the LI before Parliament.

This comes after the Trades Minister proposed the Export and Import (Restrictions on Importation of Selected Strategic Products) Regulations, 2023, which sought to limit the importation of 22 selected strategic goods, such as rice, noodles, and 'yemuade' among others, into the country.

Despite holding pre-laying meetings with the Caucus of the House, KT Hammond's efforts to present the LI were thwarted when the Minority staunchly opposed the move.

The minority warned that several local businesses were against the LI as various business groups had petitioned Parliament to reject the LI, insisting that their concerns needed to be addressed.

Minority Chief Whip Ibrahim Ahmed warned the government to tread cautiously in its passage

of the bill, while former minority leader Haruna Iddrisu expressed concern about the potential impact and reactions from affected countries against Ghana.

"Mr. Speaker, the matter is a very serious one that hinges on the survival of businesses in this country. Mr. Speaker, we are not just objecting, and care should be taken. Let's reflect on the serious issues that have been raised on this floor, and the minority has raised objections. Which of them didn't go back to come and fight for this country? And this is one of them."

"Mr. Speaker, just yesterday, six associations—Ghana Union of

Traders' Associations (GUTA), Food and Beverages Association of Ghana (FABAG), Importers and Exporters Association of Ghana, Ghana Institute of Freight Forwarders (GIFF), Chamber of Automobile Dealership Ghana (CADEG), and Ghana National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GNCCI)—wrote a petition, having confidence in members of this house, that we should take that petition into consideration."

Although the trades minister mentioned that almost all their concerns have been addressed in a revised draft of the policy document, the Speaker of

Parliament opted to postpone the laying of the bill to a new date, Thursday, November 30, 2023.

Speaker Bagbin instructed the Minister to provide the updated draft policy document to members of the Subsidiary Legislation Committee. This measure aims to ensure that all concerns are thoroughly addressed before presenting the document to the House, thereby preventing any further delays.

The draft policy will mature 21 days after it is laid before Parliament.

**Source: The Independent Ghana**  
/ Abigail Twumwaa Ampofo



Parliament of Ghana

# General News

## Akufo-Addo violating constitution over refusal to assent to witchcraft bill - Minority

The Minority in Parliament has raised concerns, accusing President Akufo-Addo of violating the constitution by failing to approve the amendment to the Criminal and other Offences Act within the stipulated time frame.

The proposed amendment, which was passed in July, specifically targets the criminalization of accusations related to witchcraft and the activities of witch-finders.

Despite the urgency and relevance of the amendment, the President has yet to provide his approval. This delay has heightened tensions, especially in light of several incidents involving killings linked to accusations of witchcraft.

The Minority contended that the President's inaction constitutes a breach of the constitution, prompting calls for parliamentary intervention.

Minority Leader Cassiel Ato Forson has asserted that the failure of the President to assent to the bill represents a clear constitutional violation.

He emphasized the need for Parliament to take decisive steps to address this breach, urging his colleagues to act if the President persists in withholding approval.

"So clearly Mr. Speaker there is a constitutional breach and this

house must take steps to deal with the constitutional breach that we have seen and the criminal amendment bill and the witchcraft accusation bill.

"And Mr. Speaker it's important that we take steps to deal with that. And the constitution guides us as to what we have to do if the president fails to assent to bills that have been approved by this house," he said.

Supporting these claims, Tamale South MP Haruna Iddrisu has referenced Article 106 of the constitution, which mandates the President to inform the House in writing if he refuses to assent to a bill. Mr Iddrisu stressed the importance of Parliament holding the President accountable to prevent the establishment of a dangerous precedent.

He warned that failure to take action could have severe consequences for the nation's legislative process and its future.

"The constitution provides that where the president refuses to assent to a bill he shall within 14 days after the refusal: a) State in a memorandum to the speaker any provisions of the bill which in his opinion should be reconsidered by parliament, including his recommendation for amendment if any; or b) Inform the speaker that he has referred the bill to the council of state for consideration

or comment under article 90 of this constitution."

Mr Iddrisu further emphasized that allowing the President to refuse assent without consequences could set a dangerous precedent, potentially impacting important bills in the future.

"The constitution provides that where the president refuses to assent to a bill he shall within 14 days after the refusal:

"a) State in a memorandum to the speaker any provisions of the bill which in his opinion should be reconsidered by parliament including his recommendation for amendment if any; or

"b) Inform the speaker that he has referred the bill to the council of state for consideration or comment under article 90 of this constitution."

He stated that should Parliament refuse to act to put the President in check, this might set a very dangerous precedent which could

cause the nation dearly in the future.

He underscored the constitutional obligation for the President to communicate his reasons formally, urging the House to address this matter promptly and assert its authority in safeguarding the constitutional process.

"Mr. Speaker I am raising this issue because this house should never ever serve a precedent where the president refuses to assent to a bill and can walk away as if he has the mandate and authority to do so.

"If he has, he owes this house the fidelity to the provisions of article 106 the constitution. Other than that some important bills tomorrow may pass and the president will walk this wrong path. It's wrong constitutionally, he has no reason, if he has reason he must write to you formally," he said.

**Source: The Independent Ghana / Phoebe Martekie Doku**



Ato cassiel Forson, Minority Leader

## Gold-for-oil policy to end soon as cedi stabilises - BoG

The Bank of Ghana (BoG) has announced that the Gold for Oil policy, which was put into place in February 2023 to stabilise fuel prices, will be phased out gradually. The Central Bank believes that the programme is no longer required because it has served its purpose.

The Gold for Oil policy was a crisis management policy that allowed the government to use gold as collateral to secure oil supplies

from international markets. The policy was introduced at a time when the cedi was depreciating very sharply and fuel prices were soaring.

"The Gold for Oil policy was a crisis management policy. We came in at the time in 2022 when the currency was depreciating very sharply and then prices at the pump became unbearable," said the BoG Governor, Dr. Ernest Addison, during a press conference

on November 28, 2023.

"So as things normalise, the rationale for these interventions may not be as strong as it was when we were in the middle of the crisis. So this is why we may have to get out of that operation," he added.

The BoG's decision comes at a time when the Ghanaian economy is showing encouraging signs of recovery. The cedi has strengthened against the US dollar,

and inflation is showing signs of moderation. As of November 28, bureaus were selling \$1 at GH¢12.25 and GH¢11.59 on the BoG interbank.

In a separate development, Bulk Oil Storage and Transportation Company Limited (BOST) has refuted allegations that it imported fuel containing manganese under the Gold for Oil policy. Recent reports linked the importation of manganese-laden gasoline to the

# General News

## Gold-for-oil policy to end soon as cedi stabilises - BoG

Continued from page 7

perceived underperformance of vehicles on the market.

Nonetheless, BOST vehemently disputes these assertions. According to a statement issued on Monday, November 27, BOST has not imported any product under the Gold for Oil policy that does not meet National Petroleum Authority (NPA) and Ghana Standards Authority (GSA) specifications.

"We, therefore, implore the public to disregard the claims

of our detractors regarding the importation of manganese-laden fuel," the statement read.

BOST clarified that it has brought in 23 cargoes under the Gold for Oil policy, emphasising that none of these cargoes failed the quality assessments conducted by the Ghana Standards Authority (GSA). The company urged the public to permit regulatory authorities to conduct a thorough investigation into the origin of the manganese-laden fuel.

"Grant the regulatory authority of the petroleum downstream the time and space to investigate the exact source of the said product and also to tighten the regime to clamp out the room for the importation of

potentially problematic products onto the market," BOST said in its statement.

Source: *The Independent Ghana* / Abigail Twumwaa Ampofo



File Photo

## Speaker Bagbin affirms conviction against LGBTQI+

The Speaker of Parliament, Mr Alban Sumana Kingsford Bagbin at the weekend affirmed his conviction to remain resolute and stand against LGBTQI+ in the country.

"These days they are fighting and killing each other because of that, and they are struggling in their country.

"They know that it is not right, and they know that it has nothing to do with human right because we are not talking about gender, we are talking about sexuality," Mr Bagbin stated this when he addressed a colourful durbar of chiefs and people of Suma-Ahenkro to climax the 2023 Suma Royal Retreat at Suma-Ahenko.

The weeklong celebration was on theme "if the son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed," a theme picked from the

Holy Scriptures, the celebration brought together Suma-Ahenko natives and royals, both home and abroad to plan for the development of the town and to strengthen family ties.

Mr Bagbin stressed that "it is rivalry, you are either a man or a woman and that is what God created you, and God knew why he did not leave Adam alone but created eve.

"In America, I am sure you heard the difference between President Biden and former Trump. The former President Trump is strongly against LGBTQI+ and President Biden and his people are for it.

"Every day they are struggling in the United States, some states have passed laws prohibiting it, others have accepted it. But we in Ghana say capital no.

"I am the Speaker of the Parliament of Ghana and represent the good people of Ghana; and do not represent the Americans or the British.

"We don't dictate to them what to do and they can't dictate to us what to do," the Speaker of Parliament indicated, a statement that received amorous applause from the excited crowd.

Odeneho Dr Afram Brempong III, the Paramount Chief of Suma Traditional Area, described LGBTQ+ and related sexual perversions as alien to the nation's culture and expressed the hope that the Speaker and Parliament would remain resolute in standing against the practice.

Source: *GNA*



Mr Alban Sumana Kingsford Bagbin, Speaker of Parliament

## Otumfuo has done nothing wrong, keep his name out your mouth! - Berekum Chief 'warns' Dormaahene

Berekum Kontihene, Osahene Asomah Agyeman Sabi II, has responded to Dormaahene's recent claims regarding the enstoolment process of a new Berekumhene, urging him to refrain from making inaccurate statements.

In an interview posted on Facebook, Kontihene clarified Dormaahene Osagyefo Oseadeeyo

Agyemang Badu II's assertion that Berekum has four royal houses, stating that, according to a Supreme Court ruling, there is only a single royal house.

Responding to Dormaahene's claims that Asantehene had favoured a particular royal family in the succession matter, Kontihene countered, "Asantehene did not alter any ruling house

arrangement; it was a Supreme Court ruling which is the existing policy. So, if Dormaahene says something like that, he is wrong, Otumfuo has done nothing. Keep his name out."

Emphasising Dormaahene's role in Berekum matters, Kontihene asserted, "Dormaahene is, for all intents and purposes, not our spokesman. If he doesn't have the

facts, there is no need to sit on social media and peddle claims... that is why I want to absolve Otumfuo."

He added, "Otumfuo came to dignify Berekum because if you can recall, all Berekum Paramount Chiefs went to swear an oath of allegiance at Manhyia Palace. We owe allegiance to the Golden Stool, so it is not for Dormaahene

Continued on page 9



# General News

## Otumfuo has done nothing wrong, keep his name out your mouth! - Berekum Chief 'warns' Dormaahene

Continued on page 8

to speak for us.”

In response to his ban from attending the late Paramount Chief's funeral, Dormaahene lamented the situation, emphasising his rightful role in honouring the late chief.

He expressed the pain of the incident and hinted at the potential importance he might hold for Berekum in the future.

This exchange marks the latest chapter in an ongoing public dispute between Dormaahene and Asantehene concerning the influence of the Ashanti overlord outside of his immediate jurisdiction.

Source: *The Independent Ghana*



Nana Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, Asantehene on the left, Osagyefo Oseadeeyo Agyemang Badu II, Dormaahene on the right

## Speaker Bagbin to meet President Akufo-Addo on Criminal Offences Amendment Bill

Speaker Bagbin to meet President Ghana's Speaker of Parliament, Rt. Hon. Alban Kingsford Sumana Bagbin, is scheduled to engage with President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo on November 28, 2023, regarding issues surrounding the Criminal Offences Amendment Bill 2023.

The Speaker expressed dissatisfaction on Monday, November 27, 2023, over the President's failure to communicate Parliament's approval or disapproval of the Criminal Offences Amendment Bill 2023. The bill aims to criminalise attacks on alleged witches and prohibits individuals from operating as witch doctors or witchfinders.

In response to the Speaker's

concerns, the Presidency released a statement clarifying that the bill was only presented to Parliament on the same day the Speaker raised the issue, Monday, November 27, 2023.

Member of Parliament for Tamale South, Haruna Iddrisu, addressed the matter on the floor, emphasising the importance of respect among the legislature, judiciary, executive, and parliament. He noted, "There must be some respect between the legislature, judiciary, the executive, and parliament."

The Speaker, reacting to the situation, stated, "What I can say for now is for us to hold on a bit because there are some developments I'm following on."

He added, "Immediately after my pronouncements, a few pieces of information were shared with me. I will follow it up, and I will be in the office of the president on

this matter today. After that, we could follow up tomorrow, as we progress."

Source: *GBC*



Mr Alban Sumana Kingsford Bagbin, Speaker of Parliament

## "Do you really listen to yourself when you are talking?" - Speaker Bagbin and Ursula 'face off' in parliament

A heated exchange occurred in Ghana's Parliament as Speaker Alban Bagbin confronted Minister for Communications, Ursula Owusu-Ekuful, during a debate on a yet-to-be-laid Legislative Instrument (L.I.).

The parliamentary discussion revolved around the proposed restriction of the importation of strategic products into the

country, with active participation from both the Minority and the minister.

Ursula Owusu-Ekuful caught the Speaker's attention by questioning the legitimacy of discussing the L.I. when it had not been officially laid before the House.

She expressed her confusion, stating, "Mr. Speaker, I believe that the L.I. has not been laid. So I have

no idea what they are debating in this House today. There is nothing before the House."

The Speaker interjected, questioning Ursula's presence from the beginning of the session. Ursula responded that she had been present since the morning, even before the prayer.

The Speaker challenged her, highlighting a contradiction in her

response and questioning, "Do you really listen to yourself when you are talking?"

Ursula affirmed that she indeed listens to herself, leading to further contention. The Speaker expressed doubt, stating, "I don't think so," and Ursula defended herself, asserting that she had been present since the beginning of the proceedings.

Continued on page 10

# General News

## “Do you really listen to yourself when you are talking?” - Speaker Bagbin and Ursula ‘face off’ in parliament

Continued from page 9

“This is the first time I am appearing in the House this week. I have been here since the beginning of proceedings today, and I do listen to myself very carefully,” she is reported to have said.

In response, the Speaker ordered Ursula to resume her seat, emphasising, “Hon. Minister, this is not the Ministry of Communication; this is parliament. Resume your seat!”

Later, Speaker Bagbin clarified that he raised the issue on the floor after Minister of Trade, Kobina Tahir Hammond, brought it to his attention.

Despite initial conviction by KT Hammond, Bagbin sought the

opinion of the House before allowing the instrument to be laid, resulting in the ongoing debate on the L.I.

Source: *The Independent Ghana*



Mr Alban Sumana Kingsford Bagbin, Speaker of Parliament, on the left, Ursula Owusu-Ekuful, Minister of Communication on the right



## For business or leisure, there's always a little something extra.

### Amenities:

- Delicious Breakfast
- 24 Hour Parking
- Complimentary continental breakfast
- Pool with waterfall
- Refrigerators in all rooms
- WiFi Internet
- 37 min from the airport

### Accra Beach Hotel

51 Beach Drive, Nungua P: 233 (0) 302 71 11 11 - 8  
Reservations: 233 (0) 54 83 25 18 4 [bestwesternplusaccra.com](http://bestwesternplusaccra.com)

Wherever Life Takes You, Best Western Is There.®

Each Best Western® branded hotel is independently owned and operated.

# Business

## High manganese in fuel not to be blamed on Gold-for-oil policy – BOST

The Bulk Oil Storage and Transportation Company Limited (BOST) has denied accusations of importing fuel with elevated manganese levels as part of the government's Gold-for-Oil initiative.

In response to growing concerns about the potential adverse effects on vehicle performance, BOST issued a comprehensive statement on Monday, November 27, unequivocally dismissing assertions that the Gold-for-Oil policy is the cause of the heightened manganese content in the country's fuel.

The statement emphasized BOST's unwavering commitment to adhering to the stringent regulations set by the National Petroleum Authority (NPA) and the product specifications outlined by the Ghana Standards Authority.

"We wish to state unequivocally that we have not imported any product under the policy which is off the specifications per the regulations of the National Petroleum Authority and the product specifications of the Ghana Standards Authority."

"We, therefore, implore the public to disregard the claims of our detractors regarding the importation of manganese-laden fuel," parts of the statement read. According to BOST, all 23 cargoes imported under the Gold-for-Oil policy have successfully passed rigorous quality tests, conducted by the Ghana Standards Authority. In urging the public to disregard claims made by detractors, BOST emphasised its dedication to maintaining the highest standards in fuel quality.

The company highlighted its compliance with the regulatory

framework and urged the public to have confidence in the thoroughness of the regulatory authorities overseeing the petroleum downstream sector. Furthermore, BOST called for a comprehensive investigation by the regulatory authorities to ascertain the exact source of any alleged manganese-laden fuel. The company asserted that such an investigation would contribute to tightening the regulatory regime, preventing the importation of potentially problematic products

into the market.

"Grant the regulatory authority of the petroleum downstream the time and space to investigate the exact source of the said product and also to tighten the regime to clamp out the room for the importation of potentially problematic products onto the market," the BOST statement added.

**Source: The Independent Ghana / Phoebe Martekie Doku**



BOST Signage

## High Court grants GRA power to recover GH¢179.4m

An Accra High Court has issued a landmark ruling on the tax assessment of Maersk Drillship IV Singapore, declaring that its income arising from its Ghanaian Permanent Establishment is assessable, rejecting the company's claim of exemption under the Petroleum Agreement.

The total money involved is a substantial sum of \$15.5 million (\$15,513,221.16) in tax revenue. This comprises \$12.8 million (\$12,805,543.20) in direct taxes and \$2.7 (\$2,707,607) million in indirect taxes.

Breaking down the figures, GRA has established an official exchange rate of GH¢11.5668 to the dollar.

Utilising this conversion rate, the total tax revenue of \$15,513,221.16 transforms into GH¢179.4 million (GH¢179,438,326.513488).

The court, comprising Justices Mrs Janapare A. Bartels-Kodwo, Alex Poku-Acheampong, and Jerome Noble-Nkrumah, delivered the judgement in response to an appeal filed by Maersk Drillship IV Singapore.

The crucial issues addressed by the court included determining the party whose income was under assessment, the assessability of the income, and whether the income was exempt from income tax under Ghanaian law and the Petroleum Agreement.

Maersk Drillship IV Singapore contended that the assessed income was related to its business operations and, therefore, exempt from further taxation, citing provisions in the Petroleum Income Tax Act and the Petroleum Agreement.

However, the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) disagreed, arguing that the income in dispute belonged to Maersk Drillship IV Singapore as a distinct entity separate from its Ghanaian registered external company.

After analyzing the facts and applying the law, the High Court determined that the income in question was that of Maersk Drillship IV Singapore, a separate legal entity from its Ghanaian Permanent Establishment.

The court established that this income, remitted by its Ghanaian

Permanent Establishment, is assessable under Section 3 of Act 896.

The court further clarified that under Section 3(2) (b) of Act 896, non-resident entities earning income through a Ghanaian permanent establishment are subject to Ghanaian income tax.

Since the income in question arose from the Ghanaian permanent establishment of Maersk Drillship IV Singapore, Section 3(2) (b) of Act 896 logically applies, making the income assessable for tax under the Income Tax Act.

Regarding the exemption from taxation, Maersk Drillship IV Singapore argued that, under the Petroleum Agreement, a portion of its business income withheld by its contractor incurs no further tax liabilities.

GRA countered, emphasizing that the shareholders of Maersk Drillship IV Singapore are the ones being assessed, and branch profit taxes do not apply to the company or its shareholders.

The court clarified that the income being taxed does not pertain to Maersk Drillship IV Singapore

but to its Ghanaian Permanent Establishment, a separate legal entity.

The ruling explained that the income earned by the Ghanaian Permanent Establishment is not subject to further taxes under the Petroleum Agreement when remitting profits to its parent company.

However, the court stated that a non-resident entity earning income from a Ghanaian permanent establishment is earning income as contemplated under Section 3(2) (b)(ii) of Act 896, and, therefore, Section 60 of Act 896 applies, making the income of Maersk Drillship IV Singapore from repatriated profits of its Ghanaian Permanent Establishment liable to branch profit tax.

**Source: GNA**



GRA Office Building

# International

## Untreated diseases could kill more than bombings in Gaza, WHO warns

Untreated diseases could eventually kill more people in Gaza than bombings if the health system is not restored, the World Health Organization says.

Diarrhoea and respiratory infections are widespread among children in overcrowded UN facilities where almost 1.1 million people are sheltering.

Patients with chronic illnesses like cancer are also receiving no treatment.

The warning comes as a truce between Israel and Hamas entered a fifth day, after a 48-hour extension was agreed.

The deal mediated by Qatar, Egypt and the United States should see an additional 20 Israeli women and children held hostage in Gaza being released in exchange for 60 Palestinian women and teenagers in Israeli prisons.

On Monday, 11 hostages and 33 prisoners were freed on the fourth and final day of the initial agreement, bringing the totals to 50 hostages and 150 prisoners released.

Nineteen foreign nationals, one of whom has Israeli citizenship, have also been handed over by Hamas under separate agreements.

Israel launched a military campaign in Gaza and imposed a siege in response to an unprecedented cross-border attack by Hamas gunmen on 7 October, in which at least 1,200 people were killed and

about 240 others taken hostage.

Gaza's Hamas-run government says more than 14,800 people have been killed in the territory since the war began.

The UN estimates that more than 1.8 million people in Gaza have fled their homes over the past seven weeks. About 60% of them are sheltering in 156 facilities belonging to the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, Unrwa.

WHO spokeswoman Dr Margaret Harris told a news conference in Geneva that an assessment of those shelters had found outbreaks of infectious diseases, with cases of diarrhoea among children aged five and older more than 100 times normal levels by early November.

No treatment is available for them, she said, without which infants in particular can deteriorate and die very quickly.

According to the UN, only five hospitals are partially operational in the north of Gaza, the area that has been the focus of the Israeli ground offensive.

Eight of the 11 hospitals are functional in the south, where the Israeli military has ordered civilians to flee. Only one of those hospitals has the capacity to treat critical trauma cases or perform complex surgery.

"Eventually, we will see more people dying from disease than we are even seeing from the bombardment if we are not able

to put back [together] this health system," Dr Harris warned.

Addressing journalists via video link from Gaza, Unicef spokesman James Elder reported seeing hospitals full of children with horrendous war wounds.

He described seeing one child missing part of his leg lying untreated on a hospital floor for several hours because of a lack of medical staff. Other injured children were lying in car parks and gardens outside, he said.

Displaced children and their families are also suffering because of a lack of proper shelter and clothing to protect them from the rainy and cold weather currently in Gaza.

Over the first four days of the truce, 800 aid lorries entered Gaza, with some reaching the north, according to US officials. That is an increase in comparison to the preceding few days, but it is still just a fraction of the usual number.

The UN agencies say that in such conditions, a resumption in

fighting should be unthinkable, they are calling again for a permanent ceasefire.

Israel's prime minister has promised that its military will "go to realising our goals with full force" when the pause ends.

However, Qatar's foreign ministry said on Tuesday that it would use the extension to seek a "sustainable truce that would lead to further negotiations and eventually an end... to this war".

"We are working with what we have. And what we have right now is the provision to the agreement that allows us to extend days as long as Hamas is able to guarantee the release of at least 10 hostages," spokesman Majed al-Ansari told reporters in Doha.

He added that mediators hoped to receive information from Hamas about the more than 150 Israelis and foreign nationals still being held hostage, who include children as young as 10 months old as well as a number of soldiers.

**Source: BBC**



File Photo

## Uganda plans \$150m China loan to improve its internet

Uganda's finance ministry has announced plans to borrow a \$150m (£118m) loan from China's Exim bank to develop the country's internet infrastructure.

Uganda's ICT minister and junior finance minister presented the proposal on Monday to the parliamentary committee on national economy.

The move highlights Uganda's

growing reliance on China for funding after the World Bank, one of its largest funders, suspended funding in August due to Uganda's adoption of a contentious anti-homosexuality law.

Uganda previously took out a controversial \$200m loan from the Chinese bank to expand the Entebbe International Airport.

The loan has been criticised by some as imposing exploitative

terms on Uganda.

Uganda is also in talks with Chinese export credit agency Sinosure for a

loan to help fund a \$5bn pipeline through which Uganda plans to export crude oil to Tanzania.

**Source: BBC**



Yoweri Museveni, President of Uganda

Our excellent customer service and high quality printing  
make us the most reliable printing partner for all the projects  
you need done, right now.

## Your Print Solutions Partner



**Universal**  
CRYSTAL PRINT GHANA LTD.

No. 13 St. John's Road, Achimota  
P.O.Box AN 19472 Accra North

+233 (0) 302 409 210  
+233 (0) 302 409 211

[www.universalcrystalprint.com](http://www.universalcrystalprint.com)  
[info@universalcrystalprint.com](mailto:info@universalcrystalprint.com)