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# General News

## THE TOLLS ARE BACK! Ken Ofori-Atta reintroduces road tolls in 2023 budget

The Finance Minister, Ken Ofori-Atta, has announced that beginning next year, private and public transport operators will pay a fee for passage on some selected public roads and highways.

This was contained in the 2023 budget statement and economic policy submitted by the minister to Parliament.

“The fiscal policy measures to underpin the 2023 Budget for consideration and approval by Parliament include the reintroduction of tolls on selected public roads and highways,” part of the statement read.

The road toll has been one of the numerous measures put in place by the government to generate more revenue to engage in infrastructural development.

However, the government, in November 2021, ceased the collection of road tolls due to its inefficiency.

Deputy Finance Minister, John Kumah, told the media that the collection of the toll was inequitable since it affected just a particular group of individuals and could not bring in the needed revenue.

“The rich were enjoying the road

toll, and the poor were paying more. So we thought it should be scrapped and put it on something that can cover everybody. The whole year, Ghana was getting GH78 million from road tolls,” he said.

Presenting the 2022 budget statement, Mr Ofori-Atta stated that the government has looked elsewhere to equitably generate revenues for the construction and maintenance of the roads.

The Electronic Transaction Levy (e-levy) was introduced, and its proceeds are to be used for the construction of roads.

Since its implementation in May 2022, the e-levy, at a rate of 1.5%, has failed to generate the amount of revenue expected by the government.

Following this development, the Finance Minister in July this year, while delivering the 2022 mid-year budget review, informed Ghanaians there would be a reintroduction of the road toll, however, on the 22.7-kilometre Accra-Tema Motorway and Extension Project to offset the cost of construction.

While presenting the 2023 budget statement on November 24, 2022, the Finance Minister reiterated the reintroduction of the road tolls as well as the need to leverage “technology in the collection to address the inefficiencies characterized by the previous toll collection regime.”

Also, Mr Ofori-Atta announced a reduction of the e-levy from a rate of 1.5% to 1%. The GH100 threshold is no longer applicable.

Meanwhile, the minority in Parliament, which opposed the removal of the road tolls last year, has welcomed the government’s decision to reintroduce the toll.

While debating the 2023 budget statement on November 30, Minority Spokesperson on Roads and Transport, Govers Kwame Agbodza, said, “we welcome the decision by the Roads Minister to bring back road tolls.”

“We take no pride in saying we told you so. Mr. Speaker, it was populist, unnecessary, and they were there shouting, we are going to do it because we have e-levy...today they have brought a law here that they want to bring back road toll,” he added.

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



## Minority warns ministers over absence during 2023 budget approval

The Minority Caucus in Parliament has issued a stern warning to sector ministers not to absent themselves from the approval of 2023 budget estimates.

The ministers risk not having their budget allocation approved if they fail to adhere to this directive.

Minority Leader Haruna Iddrisu, who raised the concern, lamented over the fact that some ministers do not show up during such occasions.

“When we get to the approval of

budget estimates and ministers don’t appear in person in Parliament by themselves, we will not support the approval of the budget allocations to those ministries.”

“Ministers must take this House very seriously, and only ministers appointed by the President to oversee the sectors of those ministries must rise from their seats to move motions to ask for budget allocations and approval

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# General News

## Minority warns ministers over absence during 2023 budget approval

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by this House. Failure to do so will mean that we will stump down a number of those motions," he said on the floor of Parliament.

Debate on the 2023 budget statement presented by Finance Minister, Ken Ofori-Atta on November 24, 2022, commenced on November 29.

Most ministers were absent when Parliament began deliberating on the budget statement presented.

Only 21 members from the majority side showed up. This has left the minority agitated.

According to the Minority led by Tamale South MP, Haruna Iddrisu, ministers who subsequently fail to appear before the House while members debate the government's plan for their respective sectors, risk having their budget allocation disapproved.

"We will hold this government

accountable, and we intend to strengthen oversight, and it begins with this our decision. If ministers don't appear in person to move motions for budget allocations, then they should expect the fiercest resistance from this side of the House," he noted.

The group also called for the timely debate of the censure motion against the Finance Minister, Ken Ofori-Atta, since it was not captured in the business statement for the ensuing week.

"On the motion of censure against the Finance Minister, the words in Article 82 do not give Parliament perpetuity to discuss the matter, we are within defined time limits to consider the motion and take decisions as appropriate, so whatever committee has been set up, we need to bring closure to it," he added.

*Source: The Independent Ghana/ Jessie Ola-Morris*

## WASSCE 2022: WAEC cancels results of 518 candidates

The results of some five hundred and eighteen (518) candidates who took this year's West Africa Senior Schools Certificate Examination (WASSCE) have been cancelled, according to the West African Examination Council (WAEC).

This was made known in a statement issued by WAEC on Thursday, December 1, while citing the presence of foreign material in the examination hall as the basis

for the cancellation.

Additionally, WAEC has withheld the entire results of 117 candidates, pending the conclusion of investigations into alleged cases of impersonation detected during the examination.

Meanwhile, the results of 8,486 candidates who failed to return learning support materials supplied to them or destroyed school property cannot be accessed

online at the council's website.

Furthermore, "the scripts of candidates from 179 schools in certain subjects are being scrutinised for reported cases of collusion."

"Following a request from the Ghana Education Service (GES), the results of 8,486 candidates who failed to return learning support materials supplied to them and/or destroyed school property cannot

be accessed online at the Council's website," WAEC noted.

The Council has however advised the affected candidates to visit their schools for their results.

A total of 422,883 candidates, made up of 219,130 females and 203,753 males, sat for this year's exam.

*Source: The Independent Ghana/ Diana Nutsugah*



# General News

## Manhyia Hospital nurses strike over NSS director's conduct against their member

The Ghana Registered Nurses and Midwives Association (GRNMA) at the Manhyia District Hospital in Kumasi, Ashanti Region, has declared a strike action in response to the Ashanti Regional Director of the National Service Secretariat, Mr Alex Opoku Mensah's (NSS) verbal attack against one of its members.

The strike action, according to the group, will begin today, Friday, December 2, 2022.

Mr. Opoku Mensah was heard in a viral audio exchanging harsh words with a lady who is reportedly a nurse at the Manhyia District Hospital where his daughter is undergoing horsemanship training.

This was due to a misunderstanding between the daughter of the NSS director and the nurse.

Mr Opoku Mensah faced heavy

criticism following the audio's dissemination and has since been relieved of his duties at the NSS secretariat in the Ashanti Region.

His suspension was the result of an NSS management meeting with Mr Opoku Mensah on the matter, during which it was decided that he should be suspended to allow a committee comprised of members from the National Service Scheme, the Public Services Commission, and the Ministry of Education to investigate the matter.

The GRNMA, on the other hand, is clearly dissatisfied with Opoku Mensah's suspension and has decided to embark on a strike to express their displeasure with what happened.

Regional chairman of the GRNMA, Jones Afriyie-Anto, while engaging the media, said after commencing

the strike at the Manhyia District Hospital on Friday, they will direct all its members in the Ashanti Region to lay down their tools on Monday, December 5.

He added that the association has formally reported the issue of verbal abuse to the police and expects that the necessary actions

will be taken.

Meanwhile, Mr. Opoku Mensah has apologised after his conduct was widely condemned by the majority of Ghanaians on social media.

**Source: The Independent Ghana/ Jessie Ola-Morris**



## Mahama makes donation to three children homes to celebrate 64th birthday

Former President of Ghana, John Dramani Mahama, has donated food items and toiletries worth thousands of Ghana cedis to three children's homes in Accra.

The supplies, which include cooking oil, noodles, toilet paper rolls, milk, and cereals, were provided to Chances for Children-Nsawam, New Life Home (Nungua) and Royal Seed located at Ofaakor.

The former statesman made the generous donation as part of activities to celebrate his 64th birthday on Wednesday, November 29, 2022.

Mr Mahama received a hearty welcome from the children he later engaged. In showing appreciation, the beneficiaries showcased a choreography they had put together to celebrate the former president.

This is not the first time Mr John Mahama has paid a visit to

the Children's Homes. In 2015, he made a similar visit. In his second visit, the former president congratulated the founders and managers for the facelifts to their facilities.

In a Facebook post on Thursday, Mr John Mahama thanked the Homes for the "opportunity to spend the day with the children."

"Thank you all, once again, for the best wishes and your prayers," he added.

On the special day, the wife of the former President, Lordina Mahama, praised her husband for being a "dependable" spouse as well as an "inspiring father."

"Our good Lord has blessed you with robust health, a great sense of judgement, and a pure heart. There is nothing more I could have asked for in a life partner.

"I love you now, more than ever

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before. Happy birthday, John. Forever and a day, Lordina," she shared on Facebook.

Mrs Mahama also asked for God's

continued blessing upon her husband's life.

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



**Former President John Dramani Mahama, making a donation.**

# General News

## Organised Labour rejects 18% salary increment

Organised Labour has, for the second time, rejected the government's proposed increase in the base pay of public sector workers.

On Wednesday, November 30, 2022, the government proposed an 18% increase during a meeting with organised labour.

Unfortunately, negotiations between the government and organised labour over an increase in the base pay of public sector workers ended in a stalemate.

Dissatisfied with the proposed 18% increase, the Executive Secretary for the Civil and Local Government Staff Association of Ghana (CLOGSAG), Dr Isaac Bampoe Addo, stated that the group will not settle for anything less than 60%.

Organised labour is demanding a 60% increase in the base pay on the single spine salary structure to compensate for the current harsh economic conditions.

Addressing the media after the crunch meeting, Dr Bampoe Addo argued that the 18% offered by the government is not enough to alleviate their plight amidst the current economic crisis.

He further added that with the projection of a rise in Value Added Tax (VAT), the group is considering adjusting their demands from 60% to 65%.

He said, "As you are aware, we have read the budget, and there is an indication that there will be an increase in VAT of 2.5%. This is fresh information that they have brought to that table. Because the budget has indicated certain issues in relation to VAT and the tax bracket to increase our burden."

Also expressing his dissatisfaction with the government's 18% proposal, a representative of the Trades Union Congress (TUC) insisted that they won't back down on their demand.

TUC noted that the demands of the Labour Union, for years, have been ignored by the government, therefore, they will fight until the right thing is done.

"We've been considerate for years and many things have gone wrong, so I think that this is the time to right the wrongs. The Single Spine Salary Structure is the most indecent structure in this country and we think that this is the opportune time to right the wrongs. So we have not been difficult...we are the

same people that took the four and seven percent and so we won't take anything below 60%."

However, the Deputy Minister for Employment and Labour Relations, Bright Wereko-Bobby, has expressed dissatisfaction about the turn of events.

He noted that the government does not have the means to meet the 60% increase in base pay being demanded by organised labour.

He said, "We have met, but labour insists on a figure, so we will go back and reconvene. We have tabled something and labour says that they are unwilling to take it. So it is a clear state of frustration, of course, you do not expect me to be happy when there is this state of affairs."

**Source: The Independent Ghana / Stella Amoyaw**



## Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire to partner in fight against illegal mining at river boundaries

National coordinator of the Ghana Boundary Commission (GBC), Major General Emmanuel Kotia, has announced a partnership between Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire to combat illegal mining along their shared river borders.

Major General Kotia announced this during a two-day GBC meeting in Accra on November 3, 2022.

This comes at a time when the government is stepping up its efforts to combat illegal mining, with a focus on preserving Ghana's water bodies and forest areas.

This is not the first time Ghana has

collaborated with Cote d'Ivoire to protect natural resources along shared borderlines.

A Joint Technical Commission (JTC) was set up by the Ghanaian and Ivorian governments in August this year to reaffirm and materialize land and maritime boundaries.

One of the known rivers shared between the two countries is the Tano River, which rises near Techiman and flows southward for 250 miles (400 km) to enter the Gulf of Guinea (Atlantic Ocean) at Aby Lagoon, Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast).

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# General News

## Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire to partner in fight against illegal mining at river boundaries - Continued from page 5

River Tano and the River Bia have almost lost their aquatic life due to illegal mining activities.

Also, the activities of illegal miners have cost residents their major source of water.

Meanwhile, the deputy minister for lands and natural resources, Benito Owusu-Bio, intimated that

his ministry will set up a taskforce to monitor illegal mining on the country's water bodies, adding that "the government has procured speedboats, and soon they are going to start operations and monitoring of the river bodies."

He assured of the government's commitment to clamp down on illegal mining.

The executive secretary of the Ivory Coast Boundary Commission, Diakalidia Konate, said they would continue to collaborate with Ghana to increase awareness of illegal mining.

"One of the major things we will be focusing on is illegal mining," Konate said. "Our commission and Ghana's will be working

together to organize sensitization programs for communities along the boundaries for them to be aware that the activities they are engaging in can affect their lives."

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

## NSS suspends Ashanti Regional Director for verbally abusing nurse

Management of the National Service Scheme (NSS) has suspended its Ashanti Regional Director, Mr Alex Opoku Mensah.

The suspension comes after Mr Opoku Mensah was seen in a viral video making some derogatory comments towards a nurse at the Manhyia Hospital in the Ashanti Region.

Following the incident, some health professionals, including the Ghana Registered Nurses and Midwives Association, called for his dismissal.

As a result, a meeting between the embattled NSS Ashanti Regional Director and the management of NSS was scheduled for Wednesday, November 30, to deliberate on the matter.

After the meeting, a decision was made to suspend Mr Opoku Mensah.

The management of NSS, in a statement, disclosed that the "decision is to allow further investigation into the alleged verbal assault on a nurse on duty at the Manhyia Government Hospital in Kumasi."

A committee made up of members from the National Service Scheme, the Public Services Commission, and the Ministry of Education has been established in the interim to look into the situation and deliver a report to the NSS management within a month.

Mr. Opoku Mensah is expected to appear before the Committee on

Monday, December 5, 2022,

Meanwhile, barely 24 hours after Mr Opoku Mensah was suspended, the leadership of Ghana Registered Nurses and Midwives Association (GRNMA) has directed its members at the Manhyia District Hospital in Kumasi, Ashanti Region, to lay down their tools.

**Background**

Mr Opoku is reported to have marched to the Manhyia District Hospital and confronted a nurse who drew the attention of his daughter to a task she had failed to execute.

His daughter, a House Officer, is said to have failed to log into the E-health system and update the patient's prescription order. The patient would have been billed for unissued drugs but for the intervention of the nurse.

Mr Opoku's daughter, who was displeased by the incident, reported the matter to her father, who accused the nurse of being envious of his daughter.

The matter was brought to the Ghana Registered Nurses and Midwives Association's attention after the media reported the story.

Reacting to the issue, the Association faulted the Ashanti Regional Director for the National Service Scheme, adding that Mr Opoku "had absolutely no right to

enter Manhyia District Hospital and verbally abuse and threaten the nurse in question, who was on duty at the time."

According to the association, Mr Opoku Mensah should have followed due process by reporting to a medical superintendent or a nurse manager under whom the nurse works.

Nevertheless, Alex Opoku Mensah has rendered an unqualified apology for his recent actions.

"This has never been my style, but for a genuine reason to mediate

a persistent issue between my daughter (a doctor) and a colleague nurse, who I as well consider my daughter. I do apologise for any mishap and assure all, there shall not be a repetition of such," he wrote in a Facebook post.

**Source: The Independent Ghana / Stella Amoyaw**



**Mr Alex Opoku Mensah, Ashanti Regional Director**

# General News

## Cut down the fantasy projects and invest in clinical research - Otumfuo to gov't

**A**santehene Otumfuo Osei Tutu II has highlighted the need for policymakers and stakeholders to invest in clinical research to equip the country in combating future pandemics,

Otumfuo believes that “some of our projects are mere fantasy projects,” thus the need to look at what is more relevant for us.

He made these remarks in his speech at the 25th anniversary of the Kumasi Centre for Collaborative Research (KCCR) at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) on Wednesday, November 30, 2022, in Kumasi.

When the country was confronted with the COVID-19 pandemic, Ghana relied heavily on two medical research institutes, the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research and the Kumasi Centre for Collaborative Research.

Recognizing the country's current economic hardship as a result of the COVID pandemic's negative effects, the Asantehene urged the government to cut spending and invest in the health sector.

“If we take a very serious view of health, even in this precarious economic situation, I still believe we can cut corners somewhere and invest in the health delivery

system,” he stressed.

He wants the government to equip research centres in the country and address the research capacity gaps in order to prepare the country for any looming health crisis.

The Asantehene, who praised the tertiary institution for its efforts to combat the pandemic, donated GHC1 million to help fund its research in the near future.

He stated that the sum represents KNUST and the Asante Kingdom's contribution to clinical research.

### About KCCR

The main objective of the centre is to

develop a series of world standard research programmes through the acquisition of research grants, and to also develop training facilities and educational programmes for Ghanaian postgraduates and technical staff.

The President of Ghana at the time, the late H.E. Jerry John Rawlings, and the then Chancellor of KNUST, Otumfuo Opoku Ware II, the Asantehene, provided approval for its establishment on October 28, 1997.

*Source: The Independent Ghana / Abigail Twumwaa Ampofo*



*Asantehene Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, King of Asante Kingdom*

# General News

## Address our request for Ofori-Atta's dismissal - NPP MPs to Akufo-Addo

Spokesperson for anti-Ofori Atta NPP MP's in Parliament, Andy Kwame Appiah-Kubi, has called on President Akufo-Addo to resume discussions on the dismissal of Finance Minister, Ken Ofori-Atta.

The Asante-Akim North MP in October led the some 98 NPP MP's to demand the removal of Mr Ofori-Atta, whom they have registered a vote of no confidence in.

Following their demands, President Akufo-Addo during a meeting with legislators, called on the NPP MPs to allow Mr Ofori-Atta to complete Ghana's engagement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), as well as present the 2023 budget statement and economic policy.

The disgruntled MPs budgeted and on November 24, the Finance

Minister delivered the budget statement to the House chaired by Speaker Alban Bagbin.

It's been a week since Mr Ofori-Atta made known the government's revenue and expenditure plans for next year.

According to Mr Appiah-Kubi, it is high time the president stays true to his word and engages the Majority on the fate of the Finance Minister.

"The budget is the budget of the president but pursuant to our position, we agreed with the president to respect a roadmap to address our request and that means that when we get to the end of it, the president will also perform what we asked him to do."

"We agreed with our president to wait till ABC is done, and we agreed to do that, and now we expect the

President also to honour his part of the roadmap," he said while engaging the media at Parliament on Wednesday.

The leadership of the New Patriotic Party and former Board Chairman of the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA), Professor Stephen Adei, are among those displeased by the majority's demand.

Professor Stephen Adei believes that Mr Ofori-Atta is among the few politicians in Ghana with integrity.

"Our leaders [Members of Parliament] must be very careful when they want to impugn the person's integrity and almost brand him as a thief. I have no doubt at all that Mr Ken Ofori-Atta has more integrity than 99 per cent of all politicians I know in Ghana," Prof Adei said.

Currently, Parliament is

deliberating on a censure motion filed by the minority against Mr Ofori-Atta.

This comes after the ad hoc committee instituted by the Speaker to look into the matter has presented its report to the Speaker.

The committee co-chaired by MP for Bolga East, Dominic Ayine and Adansi-Asokwa legislator, Kobina Tahir Hammond, engaged the Finance Minister, Minority leader Huaruna Iddrisu and his colleague, Dr Cassiel Ato Forson, Public Interest Accountability Committee (PIAC) and the Ghana National Petroleum Corporation (GNPC) on the matter.

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







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# Business

## GRA extends ban on export of cereals

Ghana will continue to halt the exportation of grains and soya beans from the northern part of the country following an extension by the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA).

The Customs Division in Tamale of the Ghana Revenue Authority, in a letter dated November 30, directed the station heads in Tatale, Wonjuga, Bunkpurugu, and Saboba to enforce the ban on exportation.

The Assistant Commissioner of the GRA, Raphael Owurani-Bediako, indicated that the produce is supposed to be sold to "the local buyers."

This is expected to check the cost of grains and soy beans,

which are volatile due to the supply of the produce.

In September 2021, Ghana placed an export ban on produce such as maize, rice, soybeans, and other grains.

This was to mitigate the effects of the Russia-Ukraine war on the country. The war is partly to blame for the disruption to global trade.

The export ban was extended from March to September 2022.

Prior to the geographical instability, the government of Ghana in 2018 exported 2,008 metric tonnes of yellow maize and 2,174 metric tonnes of white maize to Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso, respectively, after implementing the Planting for

Food and Jobs initiative.

Meanwhile, Agro-Agri-Afrique de l'Ouest has projected that the production of maize and rice will decline for the 2022-23

campaign due to prolonged dry spells and the unavailability of fertilisers.

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



## NPA increases UPPF, BOST margins on fuel

Oil Marketing Companies (OMC) and other industry players have been directed to increase the Unified Petroleum Price Fund (UPPF) and Bulk Oil Storage and Transportation Company Limited's (BOST) margin on fuel.

The Unified Petroleum Price Fund Margin is a margin incorporated in the build-up of petroleum prices to compensate transporters who move petroleum products far into the hinterland and other parts of the country, while the BOST Margin is a tax imposed on petroleum products used to cover the maintenance and operating costs of petroleum product depots and undertake expansion programmes at depots.

In a letter dated November

30, the National Petroleum Authority (NPA) instructed OMCs to increase the UPPF margin from 36 pesewas to 47 pesewas on every litre of fuel sold at the pumps.

The reviewed UPPF margin, which was 36 pesewas on petrol and diesel, will now be 47 pesewas each.

Kerosene, LPG, and premix fuel have also gone up by 11 pesewas.

The recent UPPF revision, according to NPA, is to ensure that freight rates reflect the current economic crisis in the country.

The Authority also asked industry players to increase the BOST margin by 2 pesewas, from 9 pesewas to 11 pesewas. This is the second time this year

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# Business

## **NPA increases UPPF, BOST margins on fuel** - Continued from page 10

that the National Petroleum Authority has increased the UPPF.

On July 1, 2022, NPA adjusted the prices of UPPF from 20 pesewas to 29 pesewas for

petrol and diesel.

The margin on kerosene and LPG was increased from 21 pesewas and 18 pesewas to 30 pesewas and 27 pesewas, respectively.

This development might force some oil marketing companies to reverse the recent reduction in prices at the pumps.

Prices of fuel products, on November 30, 2022, started

seeing some reductions. Diesel was selling at ₵19.77, while petrol went for ₵16.26.

**Source: The Independent Ghana/ Stella Amoyaw**

## **Over 700 youths to be employed for construction of Eastern Corridor roads**

The construction of the Eastern Corridor roads, from Ashaiman roundabout to Akosombo Junction, will afford over 700 youths in the country the opportunity to gain employment and be recruited into the construction industry.

This was contained in a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Youth Employment Agency (YEA) and INZAG Germany GmbH, a German construction firm, on November 29, 2022.

Construction work, including the rehabilitation of the 64.5km

Ashaiman to Akosombo dual carriage road, is expected to commence at the latest by early next year.

Chief Executive Officer of YEA, Kofi Baah Agyepong, noted that due to the lack of requisite skills for road construction among Ghanaians, artisans from neighbouring countries have had to be contracted.

This challenge, he said, is being rectified by the YEA, hence the agreement with INZAG Germany GmbH, to train more of the youth to acquire the requisite skills for masonry, plumbing, tiling, steel bending,

carpentry, and P. O. P. Designing, among others.

An online portal will be opened by the Youth Employment Agency for prospective employees to register.

According to Mr Agyepong, the income taxes, social security contributions, and all other statutory payments would be paid to the workers by INZAG Germany.

Additionally, he mentioned that protective clauses have been inserted to cater for risks and other occupational hazards that might unlikely occur to any worker during working hours

or in the process of discharging their duties.

“Equally we have outlined procedures to provide the proper forum for complaint, disciplinary actions and dispute resolutions in the event a such unwarranted situation occurs,” he continued.

Meanwhile, the INZAG team has clarified that payment of salaries would vary among the various categories of workers, from skilled to unskilled labourers.

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



# Sports

## 2022 World Cup: Ghana's qualification hinges on beating Uruguay

**G**hana will today play Uruguay in the ongoing 2022 World Cup tournament happening in Qatar.

At exactly 3pm GMT, Otto Addo's side will ensure they do not break the hearts of Ghanaians by qualifying to the next stage, as well as beat Uruguay to atone for the sins of the former team led by Asamoah Gyan.

The two teams have history. For Ghana, it is a bad memory as Luis Alberto Suárez Díaz, who at the eleventh hour, decided to become a goalkeeper, robbed Ghana of a semi-final slot in the 2010 World Cup held in South Africa.

Former Black Stars captain Asamoah Gyan failed to capitalise on the penalty awarded to Ghana.

On the other hand, coach Otto Addo says he is not searching for revenge.

In his interactions with the media, he has stated that their match against Uruguay is just "normal" and is optimistic that the Black Stars will progress from Group H.

"For me, it's a normal game, but like everyone, I was really sad in 2010 when that incident [of Luis Suárez denying Ghana a certain goal] happened, and we missed our chance to proceed to the semis. But it is 12 years ago, and Friday will be a different match with a different approach," Addo said, as quoted by the Ghana FA website.

"We are confident enough to know that we can beat them and make it to the next round. We are gradually picking up, and I know the boys will show a lot of fight and a lot of passion. I am sure our efforts will be

rewarded, and we will go to the next stage."

On his part, Uruguayan forward, Suárez, says he owes Ghanaians no apology for the Black Stars' quarter-final exit at the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

"The first time, I don't apologise about that," he told the media at a press conference ahead of Uruguay's final group game against Ghana at the 2022 World Cup.

"I take the handball – but the Ghana player missed a penalty, not me. Maybe I apologise if I injure a player, but in this

situation, I take a red card [and] the referee says penalty, it's not my fault," he stated.

In Group H, Ghana are second with three points following a 3-2 win over South Korea, while Portugal have already advanced with two wins over the Black Stars and Uruguay.

Uruguay drew with South Korea and are at the bottom of the group with a point, the same as the latter, who have a superior goal difference.

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



## Ghanaian fans arrested in Qatar for selling World Cup tickets

**S**ome Ghanaian football spectators in Qatar have been arrested and processed for court for selling world cup match tickets to some individuals.

The unfortunate incident was confirmed by the Minister for Youth and Sport, Mustapha Ussif during a visit to the Ghanaian contingent.

Prior to the commencement of the 2022 world cup, Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) brought out several rules and regulations.

The regulations included a ban on the resale of tickets.

Prior to the tournament, FIFA announced that the resale or attempted resale of tickets by any other means aside from the

Official Ticket Resale Platform is prohibited and attracted sanctions.

On its website, FIFA emphasised that "the Official Ticket Resale Platform provides an opportunity for an original purchaser of a ticket purchased in accordance with the Online Ticket Terms of Sale for General Public (including a purchaser of

a ticket on the Resale Platform) to obtain a refund of a portion of the price they paid for any such ticket that they no longer wish to use for themselves or a guest, subject to FIFA Ticketing being able to resell the ticket to a resale ticket purchaser."

The number of Ghanaians arrested is currently unknown.

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# Sports

## Ghanaian fans arrested in Qatar for selling World Cup tickets

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However, the Minister unhappy about the development has appealed to Ghanaian supporters to desist from selling match tickets the ministry had secured for them.

Cautioning supporters, he said, “the police and the security agencies are always at the stadiums, monitoring things. We have toiled to get you tickets, we don’t want any of you to go out and sell them.

“So far the authorities have arrested some people and are taking them to court, they

have sent the evidence to the Ambassador. We don’t want anybody to fall into this,” the Minister warned.

Ghana Black Stars are presently second in Group H after losing to Portugal in their first encounter and overcoming South Korea in the second group on Monday.

In order to progress to the round of 16, the Ghana black stars will have to beat or draw with Uruguay in today’s march.

**Source: The Independent Ghana | Stella Amoyaw**



## 2022 World Cup: Maradona would be ‘super happy’ I broke his record - Messi

Argentine forward Lionel Messi claims that Diego Maradona would be very thrilled following his victory as Argentina’s most capped player at a World Cup.

Argentina’s 2-0 victory over Poland on Wednesday earned them first place in Group C and a match up with Australia in the round of 16. Paris Saint-Germain star Lionel Messi was heavily involved in the victory.

“I only learned about this record recently,” Messi said when told about his latest achievement.

“It’s a pleasure to be able to continue achieving these kinds of records. I think Diego would be super happy for me because he’s always shown me a lot of affection. He was always happy when things went well for me.”

With the score tied, Wojciech Szczesny stopped a penalty shot from Messi, who was playing in the competition for the 22nd time overall—one more than his old mentor Maradona.

Messi could yet take another record from Maradona, as the 63 chances he has created at World Cups in recorded history are second only to his compatriot, who created 67.

The 35-year-old scored in Argentina’s opening two games in Qatar, a 2-0 victory over Mexico and a shocking 2-1 loss to Saudi Arabia, before going scoreless against Poland.

His seven shots against Poland were his most without a goal for Argentina, since a 1-1 draw with Iceland at the 2018 World Cup (11).

However, thanks to goals from Alexis Mac Allister and Julian Alvarez in the second half, Argentina got the victory they needed and are now the heavy favourites to beat Australia.

“After the first goal, everything went our way,” said Messi, who was part of the Argentina squad that finished runners-up to Germany at the 2014 World Cup.

“We started doing again what we had been trying to do since the start of the World Cup, but hadn’t been able to achieve for various reasons.

“Having been able to do it today, it gives us confidence for the future.”

On Saturday, Messi will try to score in the World Cup’s knockout rounds for the first

time because all eight of his previous goals came in the group stage.

In 23 attempts, he has failed to score after the opening round, although in the final 16 of the 2010, 2014, and 2018 competitions, he did contribute.

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



**Lionel Andrés Messi and Diego Armando Maradona**

# International

## Nigeria to abolish English in Junior Schools

The Nigerian government has announced a policy aimed at promoting the teaching of primary school pupils in local languages rather than in English.

Education Minister Adamu Adamu told journalists on Wednesday that the new framework known as the National Language Policy had been approved for implementation.

It stipulates that instruction for the first six years in primary schools will be in the mother tongue.

English is Nigeria's official language, and all learning institutions use it as the common language of teaching and learning.

But local languages will now take centre stage, with the

education minister saying "pupils learn much better" when they are taught in their own mother tongue.

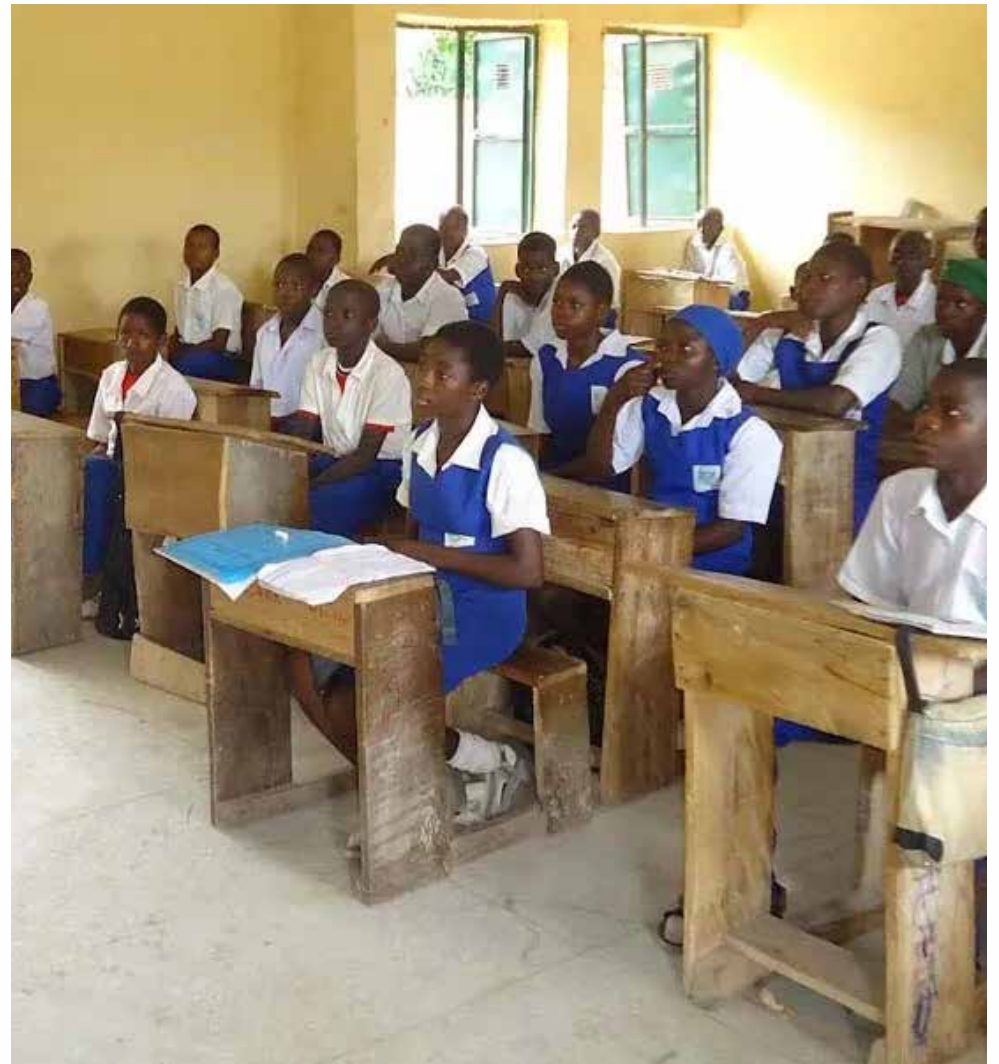
He acknowledged that implementing the new policy would be challenging because it would "require a lot of work to develop materials to teach and get the teachers."

Another challenge is the number of languages spoken in Nigeria - more than 600.

It's not immediately clear when the government will start implementing the new system.

The Nigerian authorities suggest they will first provide teaching materials and teachers for the local languages before the implementation begins in earnest.

Source: BBC



## South African President Ramaphosa faces impeachment

Mr. Ramaphosa, who is accused of a cover-up involving millions of dollars in cash, is up against the biggest threat of his time in power.

Cyril Ramaphosa on Wednesday moved to the brink of becoming the first South African president to face impeachment after a report found evidence that he might have broken the law in relation to a stash of money stolen at one of his properties.

The finding by an independent parliamentary panel essentially amounts to a recommendation that Mr. Ramaphosa face a hearing in Parliament that could lead to his removal if two-thirds of the lawmakers vote against him.

The panel cast doubt on the president's explanation for

how the large sum of U.S. currency came to be hidden in — and stolen from — a couch in his living quarters. "The information presented by the president on the storage of the money is vague and leaves unsettling gaps," the report said. Although his ultimate fate remains to be decided, Mr. Ramaphosa now confronts the deepest crisis of his presidency, with his future as South Africa's leader in grave doubt.

The National Assembly is scheduled to meet next week to debate the report and decide whether to convene the removal hearing. Analysts say it seems likely that lawmakers will choose to proceed.

Mr. Ramaphosa faces other challenges, as well.

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Cyril Ramaphosa, South Africa's President

# International

## South African President Ramaphosa faces impeachment

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In about two weeks, his party, the African National Congress, will convene its national conference, and he is expected to face a fierce battle for a second term as its leader.

His detractors within the deeply divided party have been pushing for his removal since allegations surfaced in June

that he had millions of dollars stashed at his game farm, and that he had started an off-the-books investigation after the money was stolen.

With an impeachment hearing perhaps imminent, those foes are likely to smell blood in the water. "His opponents inside the A.N.C. will be going for his head," said Bongani Ngqulunga,

who teaches politics at the University of Johannesburg.

"The conclusions of the panel require careful reading and appropriate consideration in the interest of the stability of the government and that of the country," he said.

Mr. Ramaphosa rose to power in 2017 after campaigning as

an anti corruption crusader. His campaign for re-election as A.N.C. leader — and as president of South Africa — got a lift last week, when nominations released from his party's rank and file showed him ahead by a wide margin.

**Source: The New York Times**

## African continent finally to receive 1st monkeypox vaccines

Africa's top public health body says the continent is set to receive its first batch of monkeypox vaccines as a donation from South Korea.

The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention said

Thursday that the 50,000 doses would be used first for health workers and people living in the hardest-hit areas. No timing was given for the doses' arrival.

The continent this year has recorded 202 deaths from

monkeypox — formerly known as monkeypox — with a fatality rate of 19.3% across 13 countries, yet African health authorities for months have pursued vaccines mostly in vain as major outbreaks were reported in rich, Western

countries for the first time. Acting CDC director Ahmed Omgwale noted 51 new monkeypox cases in Congo in the past week and said Ghana and Nigeria are the other most affected countries.

**Sources: Africa News**



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