



We'll name and shame customers who owe us by May – GWCL

Page 2

Elon Musk's Starlink set to cut off Ghana in global regulatory crackdown!

Page 5



Galamsey will cost Ghana its premium position in international cocoa market – COCOBOD

Page 9

Govt allocates GHC26m to institutional suppliers for Free SHS programme

Page 2



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



General News

We'll name and shame customers who owe us by May – GWCL

The Ghana Water Company Limited (GWCL) has announced plans to publicly name and shame customers with outstanding bills by the end of May 2024.

This decision comes as the company faces a significant challenge with accumulated debts totaling approximately 1.2 billion cedis over the past decade.

According to the Public Relations Manager at GWCL, Stanley Martey, stricter measures are necessary due to the adverse effects of customer indebtedness on the company's operations.

Martey emphasized the importance of timely bill payments in maintaining infrastructure, ensuring service continuity, and funding expansion projects.

"We need to take more harsher steps. We are giving customers who are indebted to us up to the middle of May to settle their bills. If they fail to do

that, then we will name and shame," Stanley Martey stated.

Highlighting the crucial role of water bill revenues, Martey explained that these funds are essential for sustaining and improving water infrastructure and services nationwide.

He further emphasized the company's commitment to collaborating with customers to find feasible payment solutions, including flexible arrangements for those facing financial challenges.

"Accumulated debts hinder the company's ability to sustain its operations efficiently, maintaining existing systems, infrastructure, uninterrupted services, and undertaking expansion projects to provide essential water services to the unserved and underserved communities.

"The revenue generated from water bills is crucial for sustaining and improving the water infrastructure

and our services across the country. The company aims to collaborate with customers to find feasible solutions, including implementing flexible payment arrangements for those with substantial debts and obvious challenges.

"Customers are being notified that

the company will use all legal means possible to retrieve all arrears."

He warned that GWCL would utilize all legal avenues to recover outstanding dues from defaulting customers.

Source: Independent Ghana / Sebastian Akaho-Tay



Stanley Martey, Public Relations Manager at GWCL

Govt allocates GHC26m to institutional suppliers for Free SHS programme

Government has allocated GHC26 million to institutional suppliers responsible for furnishing school uniforms, physical education kits, and stationery for the Free Senior High School (Free SHS) programme.

In a statement released by the Ministry of Education on Monday, April 15, the allocation aims to ensure the smooth functioning of educational institutions and underscores the government's commitment to promoting quality education.

"The Ministry of Education is pleased to announce the disbursement of GHC26 million to institutional suppliers responsible for the supply of school uniforms, physical education kits, stationary, etc as part of the Free Senior High School programme," the statement read.

"This allocation emphasizes the government's commitment to promoting quality education and ensuring the efficient functioning of

educational institutions."

The Ministry reiterated its dedication to facilitating the seamless distribution of resources to enhance the quality of education across Ghana.

The Free Senior High School programme, launched in 2017 under President Nana Akufo-Addo's administration, has seen over GH¢8.4 billion (\$705 million) invested to date.

While the programme has enabled more than a million pupils to access secondary education, concerns have been raised about rising inequality in education and its impact on government resources.

Analysts have highlighted issues such as neglect of physical infrastructure, including dormitories and science laboratories, as well as complaints about inadequate teaching materials, meal quality, and class hours.

Source: Independent Ghana / Amanda Cartey



SHS students



General News

Transport sector is deregulated; you have no power to control fares - COPEC tells Transport Ministry

The Chamber of Petroleum Consumers (COPEC) has criticized the Transport Ministry for its recent directive to the Ghana Police Service regarding the enforcement of new transport fares.

COPEC argues that the Ministry lacks the authority to regulate transport fares in a deregulated market.

In response to drivers' concerns about the need to increase fares due to rising fuel prices, the Ministry issued a directive on Monday, April 15, instructing the Ghana Police Service to monitor and apprehend commercial drivers who charge fares exceeding the approved rates.

The Ministry stated that negotiations for new public transport fares are currently ongoing with Road Transport Operators.

COPEC's Executive Secretary, Duncan Amoah, however, disputes the Ministry's authority in this matter, insisting that it cannot compel transport unions to adhere to its directive.

Mr Amoah contends that the

Ministry's directive is ineffective and inappropriate as it has failed to address the underlying factors contributing to the alleged fare increases.

"The Transport Ministry has no basis in law to determine transport fares, especially in a deregulated market like we have, where the cost of fare is passed on and not regulated by government. The cost of insurance is simply added on year in, and year out.

"The cost of fuel goes up at will. As and when the dollar goes up, as and when international markets go up, as and when taxes go up, your fuel prices are rising."

"Why is the Transport Ministry in all of these discussions? And so we think that the Transport Ministry should not arrogate onto itself constitutional powers that it does not have at present to even call for the arrest of a driver or drivers simply because they are trying to recover costs of their operation.

"I am not suggesting the drivers should just go ahead and charge too much, but if there is a need for them to go up in transport fare, so be it."

Meanwhile, the Association of Passengers Ghana has expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of transparent communication from transport operators concerning proposed increases in transport fares nationwide.

The association voiced concerns that the ambiguity surrounding approved fares might escalate tensions between passengers and transport operators.

Source: The Independent Ghana / Andy Ogbarmey-Tettey



Duncan Amoah, COPEC's Executive Secretary

ECG's attribution of power outages (dumsor) to transformer faults false – PURC

The Public Utility Regulatory Commission (PURC) has challenged the Electricity Company of Ghana (ECG) over its attribution of power outages, commonly known as dumsor, to transformer faults during peak hours.

After scrutinizing data provided by ECG, PURC discovered significant disparities in the company's claims. Out of 647 outage incidents investigated from January to March 18, 2024, only three were genuinely due to transformer overload.

The analysis of 715 transformer details further revealed that a substantial number of transformers were operating below full capacity, with 31 under 70% load, 595 between

70-100%, and 89 overloaded beyond 100%.

Contrary to ECG's claims, the majority of outages during peak hours were attributed to load management operations by GRIDCo and other unrelated faults.

Furthermore, PURC noted that out of 4,142 total outages in ECG's operational areas during the same period, 165 were planned outages, representing 3.98% of the total.

However, only 40 of these planned outages were supported by public notices, while 125 lacked notices altogether.

Additionally, 38 out of the 40 notices

- continued on page 4



Power outage



General News

ECG's attribution of power outages (dumsor) to transformer faults false – PURC

- Continued from page 3

failed to comply with the required three-day statutory notice, as per Regulation 39 of L.I. 2413.

“ECG's attribution of the outages

between 7 pm and 11 pm to transformer overload was therefore not factually accurate,” the statement noted.

Consequently, PURC has imposed a fine of GHS5,868,000.00 on ECG board members for their failure to adhere to statutory notice requirements during planned outages, which occurred 163

times this year.

Source: *Independent Ghana* / *Sebastian Akaho-Tay*

FDA heightens surveillance to prevent entry of rejected Johnson & Johnson children's cough syrup into Ghana

The Food and Drugs Authority (FDA) has implemented measures to prevent the smuggling of a batch of children's cough syrup produced by Johnson & Johnson into Ghana.

Authorities in six African countries have recalled a batch of children's cough syrup manufactured by Johnson & Johnson in 2021.

This action follows a warning from Nigeria's drug agency about elevated levels of a toxic and potentially lethal

substance.

Tanzania and Zimbabwe's drug regulators are the most recent to recall the syrup as a precautionary measure.

However, Zimbabwe's Medicines Control Authority stated that there is no record of the syrup being imported into the country.

In response to this development, the FDA issued a statement on Friday (April 12), stating that their surveillance indicates that the

contaminated syrup in question is not present in Ghana.

This conclusion was reached after reviewing importation data from 2021.

“The FDA hereby assures the public that LOT No. 329304 is not available on our market, having reviewed all the data on the importation of the product to Ghana from 2021.”

“Ongoing market surveillance efforts across the country so far confirm

the absence of the lot in Ghana. The Authority has also heightened its surveillance activities at the ports with the view to prevent entry of LOT No.329304 onto the Ghanaian market.”

“The public is hereby cautioned to look out for the affected lot of Benylin Paediatric Syrup and report to any offices across the country,” the FDA statement said.

Source: *Independent Ghana* / *Amanda Cartey*



Late John Kumah, former MP for Ejisu constituency



General News

Elon Musk's Starlink set to cut off Ghana in global regulatory crackdown!

Ghanaians who have signed up for Elon Musk's Starlink, despite its unlicensed status in the country, are about to lose access to the satellite internet service from April 30.

This move affects not only Ghana but also other countries like Niger, Chad, Egypt, Angola, South Africa and Burkina Faso, where Starlink's internet connection is currently unavailable according to the Starlink Availability Map as of 16th April 2024.

Starlink announced the impending disconnection in a communiqué, stating, "As we continue to receive regulatory approvals to turn on Availability Map, we would like to remind you that this is in violation of the Starlink Terms and starting April 30th, 2024, you will be unable to connect to the internet except to access your Starlink account where you can make updates to your account. This restriction does not apply in areas designated as 'Available' on the Starlink Availability Map."

Ghana reportedly had Starlink service availability in Q4 2023. However, the

current status on the availability map now reads, "Service date is unknown at this time."

It is important to note that the National Communications Authority (NCA) of Ghana declared Starlink's operations illegal on December 7th, 2023, citing the lack of a license and approval for its equipment.

The public was cautioned against purchasing Starlink's equipment or services, and distributors were ordered to cease operations immediately.

However, in March 2024, there seemed to be a possibility of Starlink getting licensed in Ghana amidst widespread internet disruptions in West and Central Africa.

Ursula Owusu-Ekufu, the Minister of Communications and Digitalisation, mentioned in Parliament that "We have licensed satellite gateway air stations, landing rights, and satellite air station networks. One web has already been licensed. Starlink is in the process of being licensed, and other operators are being encouraged

to land in Ghana."

Despite this, nearly a month has passed with little information on the progress of Starlink's licensing in Ghana. Currently, Starlink cannot confirm when its services will be available in the country, though they are "working as quickly as possible to obtain the necessary regulatory approvals from local governments globally."

Starlink, a SpaceX initiative, aims to provide high-speed, low-latency internet worldwide, focusing on rural and remote areas previously without reliable connectivity.

The company is still seeking regulatory approvals to expand its services and encourages supporters to advocate for approval in their respective countries.

Source: The Independent Ghana



Starlink

You have 3 months to declare your foreign income - GRA tells Ghanaians

The Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) has announced that it is giving taxpayers a chance to voluntarily declare their foreign income accounts within a space of three months starting from May 1, 2024.

Taxpayers who comply with this directive stand a chance of getting interest on their accounts waived, Commissioner-General of the GRA, Julie Essiam, announced this policy on April 15.

This announcement comes after the government's decision to tax the foreign incomes of Ghanaian residents as a replacement for the suspended Value Added Tax (VAT) on electricity

The GRA has already started implementing this tax declaration policy on foreign income accounts.

They are now preparing letters to send to individual account holders.

"So, by May 2, 2024, those letters might have gone out," Julie Essiam wrote via X.

She added, "If individuals come forward within three months and say that, this is the amount in this account, the interest on the account will be waived and that is the voluntary disclosure aspect of this measure."

According to the GRA boss, this measure is not new but has been part of the law for some time, although it has not been implemented effectively.

"This measure is already in the law, as the minister said, so it is not a new measure. The difference is that its implementation and application have

- continued on page 6



Julie Essiam, Commissioner-General of the GRA



General News

You have 3 months to declare your foreign income - GRA tells Ghanaians

- Continued from page 5

not been implemented effectively," the GRA Commissioner-General said in her brief remarks at the joint IMF, BoG and Ministry of Finance presser held in Accra on April 13, 2024.

Julie Essiam added that "The GRA, with support from the Organization for African, Caribbean, and Pacific

States (OACD), has refined the processes and structures to ensure effective implementation.

"So for us to implement this measure, we have, with the aid and assistance of the OACD, gone through sustainable processes and structures to ensure that when we implement this

measure, the sustainability of this measure is going to go beyond 2024 in our revenue numbers".

This action is part of Ghana's government and the Ministry of Finance working together to address the country's fiscal needs, particularly in revenue collection.

Julie Essiam expressed confidence that this step will provide a long-term solution. It's expected to effectively replace the projected revenue target of GH¢1.8 billion, marking a substantial change in Ghana's tax policy.

Source: Independent Ghana | Abigail Twumwaa Ampofo

PURC orders ECG Board to pay GHS5.868M for 'dumsor'

The Public Utilities Regulatory Commission (PURC) has issued a six-week ultimatum to the Board Members of the Electricity Company of Ghana (ECG) to pay a fine of GHS5,868,000.

The Board members of the Electricity Company of Ghana (ECG), who served from January 1st to March 18th, 2024, are required to pay the regulatory charge for overseeing power outages without notifying consumers during this period.

The board, including ECG MD Samuel Mahama Dubik and eight others, will be affected by this fine. Former board chairman Keli Gadzekpo, who resigned three weeks ago, will also be subject to the fine, along with Majority Chief Whip Frank Annor Dompren and five other individuals.

However, current Deputy Energy Minister Herbert Krapah, who chairs the board, will not be affected as his tenure falls outside the period covered by the regulatory orders.

The Public Utilities Regulatory Commission (PURC) issued this directive in a letter to ECG on Monday, April 15.

"The Board Members of ECG in office between 1 January to 18 March 2024 shall pay the regulatory charge of Five Million, Eight Hundred and Sixty-Eight Thousand Ghana Cedis (GHS5,868,000.00) into a dedicated fuel account under the joint control of the Ministry of Energy and the Ministry of Finance on or before 30th May 2024," the regulatory body ordered.

The PURC had previously requested information from ECG regarding tariff revenue allocation under the

Cash Waterfall Mechanism (CWM), regulatory audit data, operational information, and other relevant data, with deadlines of March 25, March 27, and April 2, 2024.

It said, "The Commission established from its analysis of data submitted by ECG that there were 4142 outages to consumers within ECG's operational areas between January and March 2024. Out of this number, 165 representing 3.98% of the total outages were ECG-planned outages.

"Further analysis showed that of the 165 ECG planned outages, 40 were supported by public notices, while there were no notices for the remaining 125 outages. Further, 38 of

the 40 notices did not comply with the requisite three-day statutory notice prescribed under Regulation 39 of L.I. 2413. This indicates that in 163 instances of planned outages, ECG did not comply with the law".

The Commission noted that these board members were consistently responsible for providing strategic direction to ensure the provision of safe, adequate, efficient, reasonable, and non-discriminatory service to consumers.

Additionally, the regulator has fined ECG GHS36,000 for its failure to submit all of its current bank and investment accounts to the Commission.

"The details of ECG's bank accounts submitted were incomplete, contrary to the Order. 3.3 Submission of Information Related to Operational Matters."

"The Commission hereby imposes an initial regulatory charge of 3,000 penalty units on ECG in accordance with Regulation 45 of LI 2413, amounting to Thirty-six Thousand Ghana Cedis (GHS36, 000)."

It said "ECG shall pay the initial regulatory charge of GHS36, 000 to the Commission on or before 22 April 2024.

Source: The Independent Ghana | Andy Ogbarmey-Tettey



Samuel Dubik Masubir Mahama, Managing Director of ECG



General News

I don't have money to buy Ghana - Cheddar debunks claims about wanting to buy the country

The Founder of the New Force Movement, Nana Kwame Bediako (Cheddar), has refuted allegations suggesting his intention to purchase Ghana if not elected in the upcoming December polls.

In a statement to the media, Bediako dismissed these claims as attempts to tarnish his reputation, affirming that he has never entertained the idea of buying the nation.

While acknowledging his ambition to amass wealth over time, Cheddar clarified that such ambitions do not extend to purchasing Ghana. He described the allegations as unfounded and aimed at sowing discord among the public.

Bediako outlined his vision to create wealth through various avenues, including empowering individuals to become millionaires. He suggested that by facilitating the creation of millionaires and benefiting from their success, he could potentially surpass the nation's wealth.

He said, "If I create a million millionaires and take 10% from each

person, I will definitely be richer than the country, so be careful. Ghanaians might not want me today, but when I return, I will be back to buy the country."

Addressing the issue on the X platform, Cheddar reiterated his commitment to leveraging his knowledge and wisdom for the country's development. He reiterated his lack of financial means to purchase Ghana and cautioned

against misinformation.

"I don't have money to buy Ghana. Let's not make people use us to destroy our own. That is betrayal. What I have is wisdom and knowledge. It's by dint of the grace of God that's why I can say that any form of help that I can render to this country to make it better for the youth," he affirmed.

He emphasized his desire to leave a positive impact on the youth and be

remembered for his contributions to their welfare, highlighting his motivation for joining the presidential race.

"I want to be remembered for my impact in the lives of the youth when I am no more here that is why I have decided to join this race and nothing else," he added.

Source: The Independent Ghana / Phoebe Martekie Doku



Nana Kwame Bediako (Cheddar), Founder of the New Force Movement

Former MASLOC CEO sentenced to 10 years imprisonment

Former Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Microfinance and Small Loans Centre (MASLOC), Sedina Tamakloe, has been handed a 10-year prison term with hard labour.

Additionally, a former Chief Operating Officer of MASLOC, Daniel Axim, has been sentenced to 5 years in prison with hard labour.

Both individuals were convicted on 78 counts, including causing financial loss to the state, theft, conspiracy to steal, money laundering, and violating public procurement laws.

The trial began in 2019, and on February 24, 2023, the court granted a prosecution application to proceed with the trial in Attionu's absence. She had been permitted to travel to the United States in 2021 for medical treatment but failed to return.

Background

Sedina Tamakloe Attionu, the first accused, and Daniel Axim, the second accused and former operations manager of MASLOC, face charges related to alleged theft and financial loss to the state amounting to GHC93 million, among other offences.

Together, the two face a total of 78 charges, including conspiracy to steal, theft, unauthorized commitments leading to financial obligations for the government, improper payments, money laundering, and violations of the Public Procurement Act.

During their tenure at MASLOC, the two accused allegedly embezzled a total of GHC3,198,280 and caused a deliberate financial loss of GHC1,973,780 to the state. Additionally, they purportedly made unauthorized commitments

resulting in financial obligations for the government totalling GHC61,735,832.50.

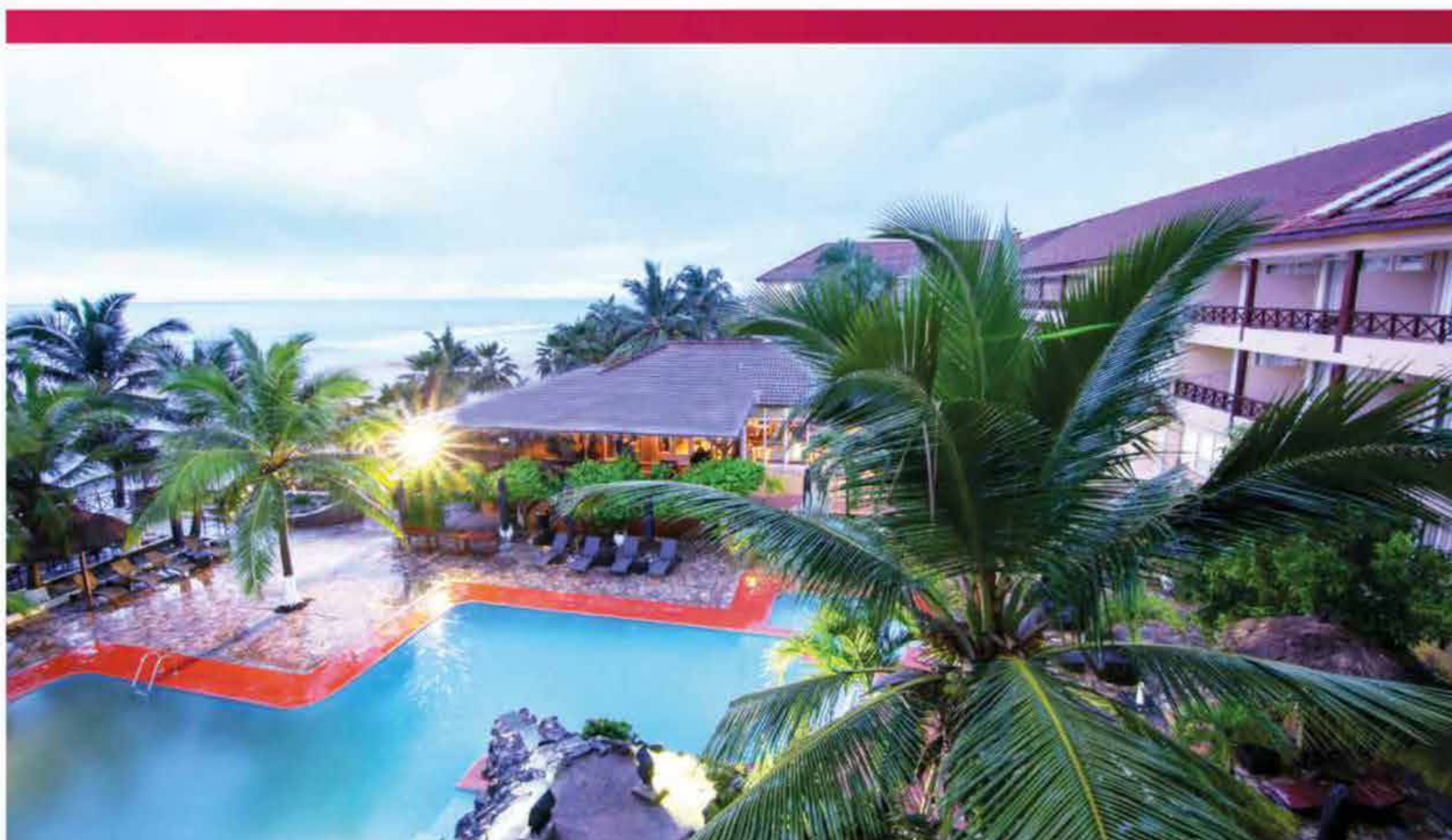
Other charges against them include a loss of GHC22,158,118.85 to public property, improper

payments of GHC273,743.66, and money laundering amounting to GHC3,704,380, all while in their roles at MASLOC.

Source: The Independent Ghana / Phoebe Martekie Doku



Sedina Tamakloe, Former CEO of MASLOC



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

Wherever Life Takes You, Best Western Is There.®

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



Business

Galamsey will cost Ghana its premium position in international cocoa market – COCOBOD

The Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD) has raised concerns about the potential loss of Ghana's premium position in the international cocoa market due to illegal mining activities.

In an interview on The Point of View with Bernard Avle, Prof. Michael Kwarteng, Director of the Anti-Corruption Galamsey Unit of COCOBOD, highlighted the detrimental impact of illegal mining, or "galamsey," on cocoa production.

These remarks follow a warning by the former Chief Executive Officer of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Henry Kokofu, regarding a potential embargo on Ghana's cocoa bean exports due to the escalating activities of illegal miners.

"Per what we're seeing, if nothing is done to stop this act [illegal mining], we may lose even our position as the number one premium cocoa. In terms of quality, we all know that, in

the whole world, Ghana's cocoa is the best. If we continue to do this, then we're going to lose that, the quality of our cocoa beans is going to be affected seriously."

"I know our Cocoa Research Institute is researching that, and I'm sure they will come out with their findings. But per what we're all seeing, we stand the risk of losing, so he's right."

In response to the EU's report suggesting a potential ban on Ghana over cocoa cultivated on deforested land, he advocated for an evaluation of cocoa's benefits to the citizens of Ghana.

"I think we have not realized the benefits we're getting from cocoa production as a nation. COCOBOD is doing so much, cocoa production is offering us employment, even road construction. Our cocoa farmers rely on cocoa for their livelihoods. I think that as a nation, we should begin to assess the importance of cocoa

production," he opined.

Prof. Kwarteng expressed concern about the challenges cocoa farmers face in accessing water for irrigation on their farms due to pollution of most water bodies.

"There's no way we can put cocoa aside and concentrate on the minerals. All our water bodies are

going, now for farmers to get water to nurse their crops is even difficult, some buy sachet water and take it to the farms."

Ghana has experienced the lowest cocoa production in the past 10 years.

Source: Independent Ghana / Sebastian Akaho-Tay



Professor Michael Kwarteng, Head of the Illegal Mining Desk 'galamsey' office at COCOBOD,

T-bills: Govt hits 22% oversubscription as interest rates stabilize for the first time since January 1

Government's treasury bills have hit a 22% oversubscription rate, marking a period of stability in interest rates for the first time since the beginning of the year. This comes despite a surge in inflation to 25.8% in March 2024.

The yield on the 91-day bill has held firm at 25.73%, while the 182-day bill saw a slight decrease of 8 basis points, settling at 28.14%. In contrast, the interest rate on the 364-day bill experienced a notable increase, rising to 28.74% from the previous rate of 28.33%.

Looking ahead, uncertainty looms over whether interest rates will continue to decline as observed recently.

Following a two-week period of undersubscription, treasury bills experienced a turnaround, being oversubscribed by 22.25%.

The government successfully raised GH¢4.228 billion from the sale of these short-term instruments, surpassing the target of GH¢2.459 billion.

The majority of bids, approximately

85.2%, were for the 91-day bill, amounting to GH¢3.606 billion, all of which were accepted. Similarly, the 182-day bill received bids totaling GH¢505.19 million, with the entire amount being taken up. Additionally, the one-year bill

attracted bids amounting to GH¢117.64 billion, of which GH¢117.64 million were accepted.

Source: Independent Ghana / Abigail Twumwaa Ampofo



File photo



International

Israeli war cabinet meets to discuss response to Iranian attack

Israel's war cabinet has met to discuss its response to Iran's unprecedented drone and missile attack.

Officials did not make public whether a decision had been reached.

Israel's allies have strongly condemned Iran's actions, but urged Benjamin Netanyahu's government to show restraint.

While Iran has signalled it considers the matter closed, the Israeli military's chief of staff said the attack would not go unanswered.

"Look, as we look forward, we weigh our steps, and this launch of so many missiles, cruise missiles, UAVs [unmanned aerial vehicles] to the territory of the State of Israel will be met with a response," Lt Gen Herzi Halevi said.

He did not specify a course of action, or give a timescale.

Former CIA head David Petraeus told BBC Radio 4's World Tonight programme that Washington does not want to risk the well-being of the global economy with any Israeli retaliation against Iran.

Gen Petraeus, who as a US Army general also commanded forces in Iraq and Afghanistan, said the Iranian attack was a "very big deal", and that the West had to understand how significant this was for Israel.

"The challenge now, of course, is that there are somewhat different perspectives on what to do next. If, for some reason, the Brent crude prices spike, or if there is some kind of freedom of navigation issue in the Gulf. And there is already some concern over Iran taking an oil tanker the other day."

Gen Petraeus, who is now retired, said the debate inside the Israeli government was about how to formulate a response that would show Israeli deterrence without "ratcheting up the escalation any further".

He added that Israel had a number

of asymmetric options that could allow it to respond without increasing tension.

Lt Gen Halevi was speaking from Nevatim air base in southern Israel, which sustained damage in Saturday's overnight attack but was said by Israel to be "still functioning".

Tehran said the operation was retaliation for a 1 April strike on its consulate in Syria, which killed senior Iranian Revolutionary Guards commanders.

The Israeli military said more than 300 drones and missiles were launched at Israel. It said almost all were brought down by its forces, with support from the US, UK, France and other countries, before reaching their targets. No deaths were reported and Israel said the damage was limited.

World leaders have urged restraint amid concerns about a major escalation in tensions in the Middle East.

US President Joe Biden spoke to Mr Netanyahu following the launch of the Iranian attack and reaffirmed

"America's ironclad commitment to the security of Israel".

But on Sunday, the US told Israel it would not join in any counter-strike on Iran, according to a senior White House official.

"We're committed to a ceasefire that will bring the hostages home and prevent the conflict spreading more than it already has," Mr Biden said on Monday, referring to the war between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

The war began when Hamas-led gunmen attacked Israeli communities on 7 October, killing about 1,200 people - mostly civilians - and taking about 250 others to Gaza as hostages.

Israel responded with an aerial and ground campaign, and more than 33,000 people - mostly women and children - have been killed in Gaza since then, according to the territory's Hamas-run health authority.

Addressing Iran-Israel tensions in the UK Parliament on Monday, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak called on "all sides" to "show

restraint". He added that he would speak to Mr Netanyahu to express solidarity and discuss how to prevent "further escalation".

Separately on Monday, violence continued to surge in the occupied West Bank following the killing of an Israeli teenager, Benjamin Achimeir.

The 14-year-old had taken a flock of sheep out to graze from a settler outpost near Ramallah when he went missing on Friday last week. The Israel Defense Forces later found his body.

The Israeli government has said he was the victim of a "terrorist attack".

The US has condemned retaliatory violence by Israeli settlers, which it said included the killings of two Palestinians - Jihad Abu Aliya, 25, and Omar Ahmad Abdulghani Hamed, 17.

On Monday, Israel said it would investigate the killings

Source: BBC



Israel's war cabinet and others meeting Sunday



International

Namibia: Zambezi Police search for eight escaped suspects

Zambezi regional police are on the hunt for eight of the 11 suspects who escaped from the Katima Mulilo police station holding cells on Monday.

The escapees are both Namibian and Zambian nationals. Regional police spokesperson inspector Kisco Sitali confirmed the incident to *The Namibian* on Tuesday.

He said the police had rearrested three suspects. He further revealed that the 11 suspects escaped at

around 01h00 by cutting the roof of the cell with an unknown object.

“They are trial-awaiting prisoners facing house break-in, robbery, murder, possession of wildlife products and domestic violence cases, among others. They are very dangerous and the public should not attempt to apprehend them but call the police immediately when they see them,” he said.

The suspects still at large are Joseph Paul Tupila (27), Nawa

Mbwita (24), Ben Mbwita (30), Mutolwa Masule (35), Ben Austo (25) Masiye Mishake Mishake (27), Musole Eric Kamutumwa (36) and Mwala Lubinda (34).

Masule, better known as Nine, is a notorious criminal with previous convictions, and this is not the first time he has escaped from custody.

Meanwhile, the three suspects who were re-arrested have been identified as Mibonda Muswalezi (23), Mubita Mbangu (18) and

Swanelo Immanuel.

Anyone with information about the whereabouts of the escapees should call Katima Mulilo police station commander Chief Inspector Charles Mayumbelo on 081 237 9628, or deputy commissioner Joseph Nehemia on 081 243 3271, or report to the nearest police station.

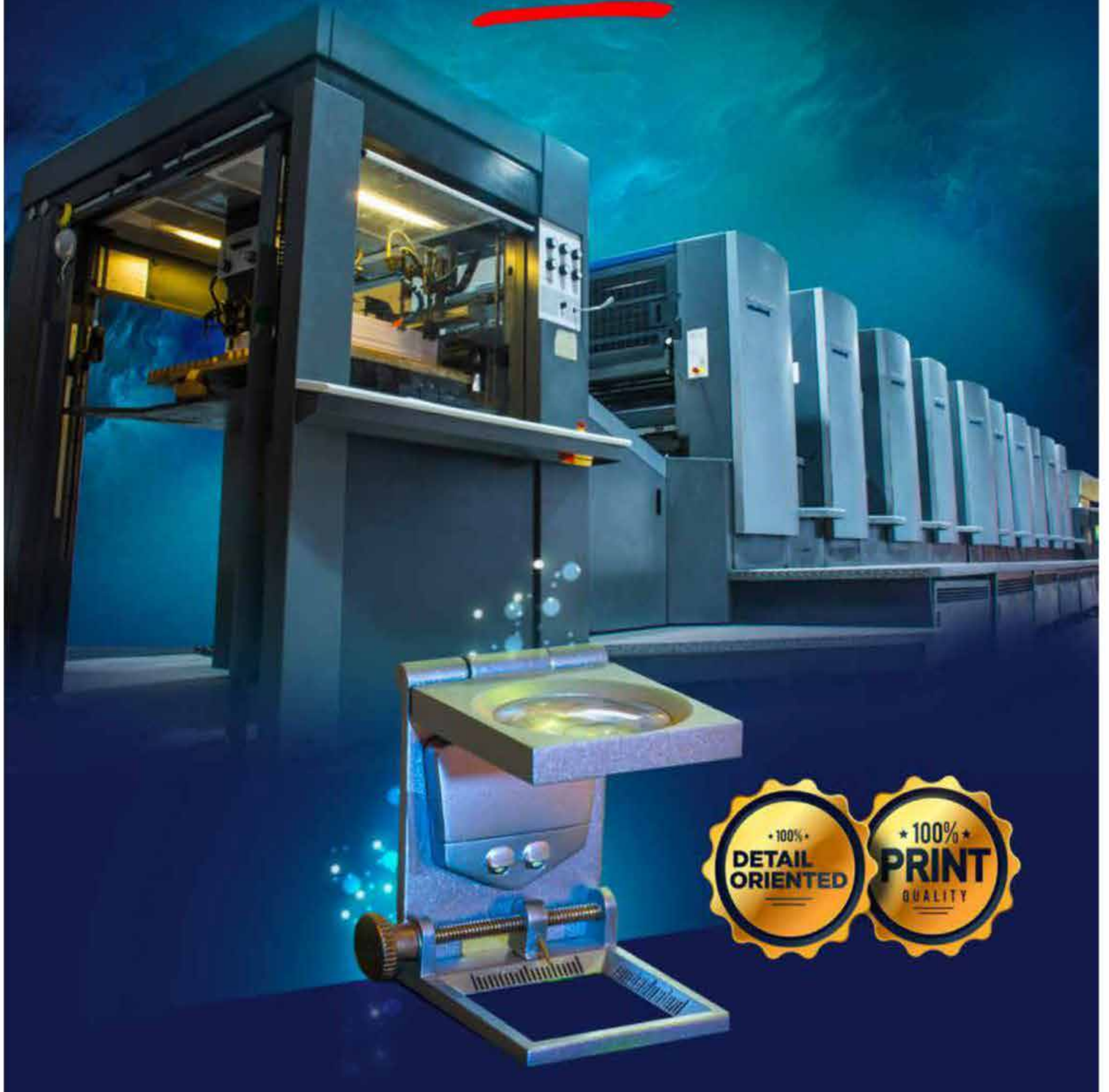
Source: *The Namibian*



File photo

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
info@universalcrystalprint.com