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# General News

## Illegal miners risk lives by digging under new gas pipelines – Genser Board Chair warns

Chairman of Genser Energy, Nana Otwasuom Osae Nyampong VI has sounded the alarm on illegal mining activities jeopardizing newly installed gas pipelines in the Ashanti region.

Nyampong stressed the urgent need for intervention, urging local Chiefs to educate their communities about the dangers associated with these activities.

He highlighted the perilous risk posed to both miners' lives and the structural integrity of the gas pipeline project.

According to Nyampong, the miners' excavation near the gas pipelines, coupled with the presence of combustible gas, creates a potentially explosive situation.

"Those on the right of way have begun prospecting for minerals along our gas pipelines, simply put

galamseyers have begun digging under our pipeline to see if they can strike its reach overnight, it is a very dangerous enterprise because when you are digging, you are using some force and a little sparkle of fire may touch the gas, and you will lose your life with the explosion that will happen.

"We will appeal to the Chiefs who own these lands on the right of way to educate their citizenry that there is no gain saying that you are going to look for gold, and you may not come back home. You shouldn't exchange your life for wealth which you may not even get," Nana Otwasuom Osae Nyampong VI stated.

He urged residents to prioritize safety over potential gains and refrain from risking their lives in pursuit of uncertain wealth.

In related news, Genser Energy expressed gratitude

to stakeholders involved in the successful construction of a 110-kilometer natural gas pipeline.

This infrastructure will power the 250-megawatt Kumasi 1 Thermal Power Plant (K1TPP) and future plants, marking a significant milestone in Ghana's power sector.

The Anwomaso Gas Pipeline,

comprising 12,000 steel pipes imported from the US, spans from Prestea to Anwomaso.

This project, in collaboration with the Ghana National Petroleum Corporation (GNPC), aims to bolster Ghana's power sector and provide affordable energy for regional industries.

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



File Photo

## GAF Command and Staff College appoints Major General Essien as its Commander

Major General Michael Essien has taken over as the commander of the Ghana Armed Forces Command and Staff College (GAFSCS), succeeding Major General Bismack Kwesi Onwonah, who has been appointed Chief of Army Staff (COAS).

The transition ceremony took place on Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at his office in Otu Barracks, Teshie, marking an important moment in the college's history.

In the presence of Chief of Staff (COS) at the General Headquarters, Major General Joseph Prince Osei-Owusu, Major General Essien officially assumed leadership of the institution.

During the ceremony, Major General Essien received a comprehensive briefing on the operational, logistical, and administrative aspects of the college from his predecessor, laying the groundwork for his tenure.

The event included a quarter guard and a band display, symbolising the departure of the former commandant and the beginning of the new leadership, highlighting the significance of this transition for the college and

its stakeholders.

Handover ceremonies provide an opportunity for the outgoing Commander to bid farewell to officers and staff of the command, while also facilitating rapport-building between the incoming

Commanding Officer and the command personnel, ensuring a smooth transition of leadership and continuity of operations.

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



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Major General Michael Essien, Commander, Ghana Armed Forces Command and Staff College (GAFSCS)

# General News

## Scholarship Secretariat demands GHS20m in defamation suit against Multimedia, NDC

Registrar of the Ghana Scholarship Secretariat, Dr. Kingsley Agyemang, has initiated a defamation lawsuit against Member of Parliament for South Dayi Constituency, Rockson Nelson-Defeamekpor, and Multimedia Group Limited.

This action stems from discussions and criticisms surrounding alleged corruption within the secretariat. There were concerns that scholarships, intended for deserving candidates based on merit, were instead awarded to a select few who did not meet the qualifications.

Dr. Agyemang, who also serves as the New Patriotic Party Parliamentary candidate for Abuakwa South, alleges that on April 13, 2024, during an appearance on the Newsfile

program on Joynews, a subsidiary of the Multimedia Group, the South Dayi MP made defamatory statements about his character and reputation.

"In the course of the panel's discussion on the recent investigations into activities at The Scholarship Secretariat by a group of journalists known as The Fourth Estate, the 2nd Defendant offered the platform to the 1st Defendant to defame the plaintiff by stating that the plaintiff has been using state funds to undertake international travels every week with first-class tickets," a statement of claim filed by Dr. Agyemang's lawyers on April 17, 2024, stated.

Dr. Kingsley Agyemang asserts that the Member of Parliament's assertion, disseminated both nationally and internationally

through online platforms, was false and motivated by ill intent to portray him as a reckless spender of public funds, thereby tarnishing his reputation in the eyes of the public.

In his legal action, the Registrar of the Scholarship Secretariat has petitioned the Accra High Court for a directive compelling

the defendants to retract the statements and issue an apology for the alleged defamatory remarks.

Additionally, he seeks an award of GH¢20,000,000 in damages against them.

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



*Dr Kingsley Agyemang, Registrar, Ghana Scholarship Secretariat*

## Thank you for your patience - Akufo-Addo commends Ghanaians amid 'dumsor'

President Akufo-Addo has acknowledged the recent challenges in power supply, assuring the nation of the government's commitment to resolving, it as soon as possible.

He expressed gratitude for the patience shown by Ghanaians during the recent power outages and reiterated ongoing efforts to address the challenges.

Speaking at the inauguration of the Kumasi 1 Thermal Plant in the Ashanti Region on Wednesday, April 17, President Akufo-Addo acknowledged the difficulties faced not only by the people of Ashanti but also by citizens across the nation.

Meanwhile, Chairman of Parliament's Mines and Energy Committee, Samuel Atta Akyea, has cautioned against politicising electricity issues. He emphasised the universal need for reliable power supply regardless of political affiliations.

"It is useless when propaganda is what people want to embark upon. I thought when it comes to

electricity or power generation, I said and I will repeat it, it doesn't have party colours. Everybody in Ghana needs electricity. And therefore when there is an undertaking to build on the power base of this nation and people want to pooh-pooh it, it doesn't accord with common sense. What kind of government do you want to come and inherit? A government that will not have the use of electricity?"

"I don't know our sense of governance. Our sense of governance is that Ghana should be the ultimate beneficiary. If it is NPP, fine. If it is NDC, that is what it should be. But when it is not coming from your government and you want to undermine it, it leaves much to be desired."

On April 2, 2024, the Public Utilities Regulatory Commission instructed the Electricity Company of Ghana to provide a load management timetable, following escalating concerns regarding persistent power cuts nationwide.

Despite calls from some Ghanaians for the power distribution

company to release a load-shedding timetable, their appeals remained unanswered. ECG's management released a statement maintaining that the power outages were attributable to technical issues and clarified that no formal load-shedding schedule would be implemented.

In a recent development, the Public Utilities Regulatory Commission (PURC) imposed a substantial fine

of GH¢5,868,000.00 on members of the Electricity Company of Ghana (ECG) board who served between January 1 and March 18, 2024. This penalty was imposed for their violation of Regulation 39 of L.I. 2413, which stipulates that consumers must be notified in advance of any power interruptions.

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



*Nana Akufo-Addo, President of Ghana*

# General News

## Akufo-Addo appoints Kwasi Agyei as acting Controller and Accountant-General

A Chartered Accountant and member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, Ghana, Kwasi Agyei, has been appointed as the new acting Controller and Accountant-General by President Nana Addo-Dankwa Akufo-Addo.

His appointment follows the resignation of Kwasi Kwaning-Bosompem, who served as the Controller and Accountant-General (CAG) for nearly five years.

Mr. Agyei assumed his new role after a brief handover ceremony at the Treasury head office in Accra last Monday, where he expressed gratitude to the former controller for his exceptional leadership, stating that he had learned a great deal from him.

A statement signed by Cephas N. Dosoo, the Head of Public Relations of the Controller and Accountants-General, and released to the Daily Graphic, conveyed Mr. Agyei's appreciation to President Akufo-Addo and Finance Minister Dr.

Mohammed Amin Adam for the opportunity to serve the nation in this capacity.

Mr. Agyei expressed awareness of the responsibilities and challenges ahead and called for the support and dedication of all department staff.

He emphasized that the success of any organization depended largely on the happiness and well-being of its staff, assuring that staff welfare was paramount to him. He pledged to create a work environment that fostered growth, recognized achievements, and prioritized employee welfare to maintain high productivity and achieve goals.

Mr. Agyei urged all department staff to support him in making CAGD a better place for all.

The outgoing Controller and Accountant-General, Kwasi Kwaning-Bosompem, expressed excitement that the acting CAG had been appointed from within the department, believing it would motivate staff.

Mr. Kwaning-Bosompem noted

massive improvements and technological transformations under his leadership, particularly in payroll, national accounts, and public financial management policies and programs, and thanked stakeholders for their support.

The Deputy Controller in charge of Audit and Investigations, Wisdom Komlan Messan, thanked the former controller for his exceptional leadership and assured Mr. Agyei of the staff's support as he assumes his new role.

Mr. Kwasi Agyei officially assumed office on Monday, April 15, 2024, bringing over 20 years of experience in the public sector.

He previously served as Deputy Controller and Accountant-General in charge of Treasury, holding degrees in Accounting and Finance, Economics, and an MBA.

He has also served on various boards and held key positions in different organizations.

*Source: The Independent Ghana / Amanda Cartey*



*Kwasi Agyei, Acting Controller & Accountant-General*

## Biosafety Authority declares 14 new GMOs safe amid public concern

The National Biosafety Authority (NBA) has recently addressed public apprehensions by confirming the safety of 14 newly registered genetically modified (GM) products. These products, which include eight maize and six soybean varieties, are intended for direct consumption, animal feed, or processing.

Following the announcement on April 10, 2024, of the registration and authorization of these GM products, there was a wave of concern regarding their potential health and environmental impact.

The NBA has responded with a clear message, stating, "The authority, therefore, wishes to assure Ghanaians of the safety of GM product(s) that have received the NBA's approval."

The NBA has clarified that these products are not meant for cultivation within the country but are registered to streamline their importation by individuals or organizations.

This approval process, as per the NBA, adheres to the Biosafety Act, 2011 (Act 831) and the Biosafety (Management of Biotechnology) Regulations, 2019 (LI 2383), ensuring a rigorous evaluation and risk assessment.

The GM products in question were submitted by Bayer West-Central Africa S.A., Syngenta South Africa, and the Savanna Agricultural Research Institute (SARI). The NBA has also indicated that any party interested in importing these products must obtain an import permit in compliance with the law.

Countries such as Argentina,

Australia, Uruguay, Singapore, Thailand, the USA, and South Africa have already granted similar approvals, deeming these GM products as safe as their non-modified counterparts.

CEO of the NBA, Mr. Eric Amaning Okoree, has voiced his concerns over the resistance to GM seeds, stressing the importance of embracing modern plant breeding technologies for agricultural advancement and food security in Ghana. He reassured the public, saying, "We wish to reiterate the fact that the improved yield and sustained food security will rather benefit farmers than impoverish them, as speculated by a section of the public."

The NBA's statement aims to dispel myths and assure the public of the robust biosafety system in place to safeguard the introduction of

GMOs in the country.

Mr. Okoree emphasized the commitment to ensuring the safety of officially released GMOs, highlighting the potential benefits for Ghanaian farmers and the nation's food security.

*Source: The Independent Ghana / Abigail Twumwaa Ampofo*



# General News

## Housing Ministry seeks investors to 'resurrect' Saglemi Housing Project

The Ministry of Works and Housing has opened the floor for investors to propose plans to revive the Saglemi Affordable Housing Project.

The project, which aims to provide 1,506 housing units in the Greater Accra Region, is seeking the expertise and capital of both local and international investors to bring it to fruition.

Minister Kojo Opong-Nkrumah, during a press briefing in Accra, highlighted the government's pivot to "a model that leveraged private sector innovation, expertise, and capital."

He invited "innovative proposals that present a balanced approach to achieving the project's socio-economic importance and ensuring its financial feasibility for potential private sector participants."

Investors interested in the project

are required to have a proven track record in large-scale housing developments, significant financial backing, and the technical and managerial skills necessary to execute such an undertaking. Bidding is open exclusively to limited liability companies.

Mr. Foster Osa-Akonor, part of the technical working group committee, reported that 1,506 housing units are partially completed, representing the first phase of the project.

He noted that out of 2,172.5 acres acquired, 651.75 acres have been developed, including the existing housing units and infrastructure.

The Saglemi Housing Project, initiated in 2012, was intended to create affordable housing for Ghanaians but faced setbacks after a change in government. Allegations of embezzlement

by former officials have marred the project, with only 668 of the proposed 5,000 units completed.

The Attorney General has raised concerns over the habitability of these units and the discrepancy in the project's cost, which ballooned from an estimated \$196 million to \$64 million spent.

Former Ministers of Works and Housing Alhaji Collins Dauda, Dr. Kwaku Agyeman-Mensah, Alhaji Ziblim Yakubu, the Chief Director at the ministry from 2009 to 2017, Andrew Clocanas, the Executive Chairman of Construtora OAS, the

Brazilian company responsible for constructing the affordable housing project at Saglemi, and Nouvi Tetteh Angelo, a Director of RMS, the Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) consultancy subcontractor, face criminal charges for allegedly causing financial loss to the state.

The ministry's call for proposals is a step towards not only completing the Saglemi Housing Project but also restoring trust in public housing initiatives.

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



Saglemi Housing Project

## Court makes U-turn on bench arrest warrant for CID boss, another for contempt

An Accra High Court has rescinded a bench warrant issued for the arrest of the Director General of the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) and the Head of the Legal and Prosecution Unit of the Ghana Police Service (GPS).

The court issued the arrest warrant on April 15, 2024, after the two officers failed to appear before it.

The warrant was rescinded after Superintendent of Police Sylvester Asare, the Head of the Legal and Prosecution Unit, rendered an unqualified apology to the court for failing to appear before it.

Superintendent Asare informed the court that they were made aware of the court's order after the warrant had been issued, and that it was not their intention to disobey the court's orders. He also stated that the vehicle in question had been released.

He further explained that as soon

as the Legal and Prosecution Unit heard about the court's warrant through the media, they got in touch with counsel for the applicant, and the matter was resolved.

The trial Judge Justice Lydia Osei-Marfo said "It is hoped that this occurrence would not happen again," and rescinded the bench warrant.

The trial judge noted that the respondents had purged themselves of the "contemptuous act" and forgave them, stating that the application was struck out as settled.

However, the court warned that it would be compelled to call the Police to order if they did not uphold the rule of law, emphasizing that no one was above the law.

### Background

Sureword Global Outreach, a subsidiary company, stated in an affidavit that on November 14, 2023, a customer named Noagbe

Julius approached Sure Rental to rent one of its vehicles for a day.

Sure Rental agreed to rent a Toyota Fortuner with registration number GN 2925-20 and filled out the rental form for the customer.

Later that day, a police officer reported to Sure Rental that Noagbe Julius had allegedly used the rented vehicle to convey substances suspected to be illicit drugs and had been apprehended and detained at the CID headquarters.

The CID then impounded the vehicle without any justification.

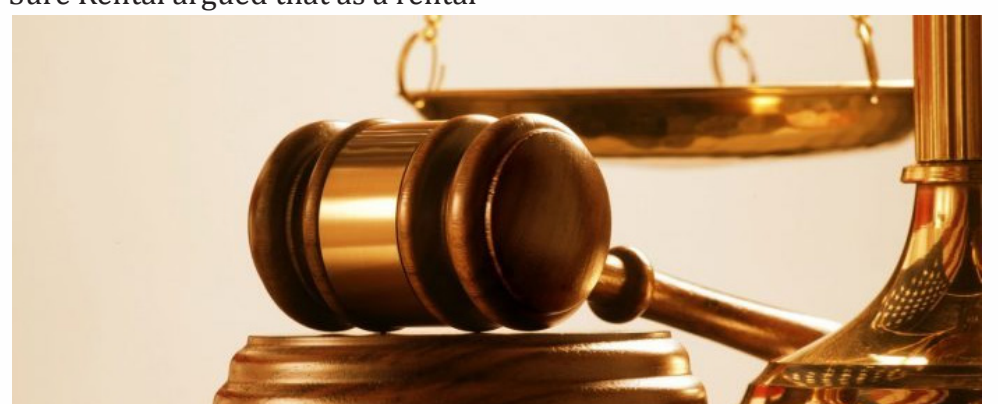
Sure Rental argued that as a rental

company, they did not control the activities of customers who had rented their vehicles and therefore could not be held liable for acts committed by such clients.

They also argued that the continuous detention of the vehicle was without basis and unlawful, as the vehicle had not committed any crime and was not needed as evidence in court.

Sure Rental prayed to the court to order the release of the vehicle for the effective running of their business.

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



File Photo

# General News

## “I am proud of him” - Otumfuo hails NAPO over GENSER Kumasi Pipeline Project

Asantehene Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, has commended Energy Minister Dr. Matthew Opoku Prempeh for his outstanding efforts in bringing the project to fruition at the inauguration of the GENSER Kumasi Pipeline Project in Anwomaso, Kumasi on Wednesday, April 17, 2024, the Asantehene.

GENSER Kumasi Pipeline Project, also known as the Kumasi Gas Distribution Network Project, aims to enhance the distribution of natural gas in Kumasi.

He highlighted the Energy Minister's unwavering dedication to the project, emphasizing the pivotal role he played in its conception and execution.

“Some even said my son and grandson had even been bought by GENSER, however it was out of his pure love for Ghana and the Ashanti region. I am proud of him”

the Asantehene said.

The Asantehene used the opportunity to call for the deepening of private sector collaboration as part of efforts to ensure massive industrialisation in the country.

Delivering remarks at the event, the Energy Minister paid tribute to some key persons who contributed immensely to the realization of the project.

“Being credited by the company for my modest role in conceptualizing and shepherding the project, I, in all humility also pay glowing tribute to the brilliant minds who contributed immensely to the realization of this project – notably, the Vice President Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia, past Ministers for Energy, Technical Advisors and indeed, the dynamic team at the Ministry of Energy” Dr. Opoku Prempeh said.

He continued “This project, I have no doubt, will rejuvenate the industrial sector of the Ashanti Region by enhancing the supply of natural gas to key stakeholders, ultimately positioning the region as pivotal industrial hub within the overarching context of the NPP government's industrialisation agenda”

Following the successful completion of this pipeline project, private and public entities including the VRA, AKSA, CENIT, among others have resolved to relocate or build new power plants at Anwomaso to utilise the facility.

*Source: The Independent Ghana / Abigail Twumwaa Ampofo*



*Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, Asantehene on the left, Matthew Opoku Prempeh, Energy Minister on the right*

## Ghanaian lawyers not going by Kwame Nkrumah's vision for law in Ghana – Prof Atuguba

Dean of the University of Ghana School of Law, Professor Raymond Atuguba, has voiced a stern critique of Ghanaian lawyers, accusing them of abandoning the multidisciplinary and socially-driven standards set by the nation's first president, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah.

In a candid interview on JoyNews' AM Show, Professor Atuguba lamented the current state of the legal profession in Ghana, asserting that lawyers have become more preoccupied with representing specific interests rather than serving the collective needs of society.

This shift, he argues, is a stark contrast to Dr. Nkrumah's ideal of lawyers as agents of national development and problem-solving.

Professor Atuguba stressed, “Dr Kwame Nkrumah wanted lawyers to use their skills to aid in the

construction of the developmental state. Secondly, Dr Kwame Nkrumah had a vision of law that was multidisciplinary. So in that speech he delivered on January 4, 1962, he said that the law does not exist in a vacuum but exists in a social environment and so he

wanted lawyers who were talented and multidisciplinary to aid the development and problem-solving backed by critical thinking but the Ghanaian lawyers have strayed away from these principles.”

The critique by Professor Atuguba highlights a growing concern over

the divergence of Ghana's lawyers from the foundational principles envisioned by Dr. Nkrumah for the legal profession's role in nation-building.

*Source: The Independent Ghana / Amanda Cartey*



*Professor Raymond Atuguba, Dean of the University of Ghana School of Law*



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# Business

## Prices of fuel likely to hit GHC18 in the next 6 weeks - IES

Ghanaians should brace themselves for higher fuel prices in the not-so-distant future, according to the Institute for Energy Security (IES).

The anticipated increase is attributed to rising global market prices and the depreciation of the cedi.

Despite crude oil currently being priced at \$84 per barrel, concerns arise over the potential for prices to surge to \$100 per barrel due to escalating tensions in the Middle East.

In an interview with the media, the Executive Director of the Institute for Energy Security, Nana Amoasi VII, highlighted the potential implications of this development on struggling economies like Ghana.

He predicted that within the next few weeks, the prices of diesel and petrol could soar to ₵18 per liter at the pumps.

“What we see is that within the next

six weeks, prices of international prices will go up and so we will be hit domestically. We also know that the cedi is not performing well against the dollar, the importing currency. That forex exposure will also hit us domestically.

“We also know that government may not be willing to reduce taxes and levies on fuel so we are not expecting any reduction in the coming six weeks. So we can project that prices of gasoline, LPG and gas oil may not drop in the next six weeks,” he said.

Meanwhile, the Head of Economic Regulation at the National Petroleum Authority (NPA), Abass Ibrahim Tasunti, has emphasized that the authority is unable to intervene in the pricing of petroleum products.

“NPA does not regulate the prices. We don’t tell the marketers that set your price at so and so. It is influenced by these key factors; the world market price, the exchange

rate and then the margin that they set. Taxes are also part of the price. “They know very well that taxes on petrol have not been increased but the prices of petrol are going up because of the world market price. All the petroleum products come from crude oil so once the crude oil price is going up, it affects all of them.”

On the other hand, the transport

unions are in discussions with the Transport Ministry regarding potential fare increases in response to recent fuel price adjustments.

Deputy Public Relations Officer with the GPRTU, Samuel Amoah, stated that drivers are proposing a 30 percent increment.

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



File Photo

## GPRTU pushes for 30% increase in transport fares

The Ghana Private Road Transport Union (GPRTU) is pushing for a 30% increase in transport fares.

Deputy Public Relations Officer, Samuel Amoah highlighted ongoing discussions with the Transport Ministry, emphasizing the need to alleviate the financial strain on drivers while ensuring sustainable service delivery.

This proposal marks a shift from GPRTU’s previous attempt at a 20% fare hike, which was rejected earlier due to procedural issues.

Amoah expressed optimism that the Ministry would recognize the urgency of fare adjustments to support transport operators and maintain essential services.

“The Ministry therefore invited us for a conversation, an invitation we accepted and presented all our reasons for the 20 percent

increment. Even at that time, the fuel price wasn’t as it is now.

“The 20 percent we came up with earlier, we considered the cost of spare parts, lubricants, and DVLA and Insurance taxes.

“Those were the major components that we focused on to come up with the 20 percent increment.

“Our expectation on Wednesday is that, surely, the Transport Ministry

will agree with us so that we can increase the fares for our drivers to have peace of mind to continue serving the nation.”

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



File Photo



# International

## Dubai airport re-opens after UAE suffers heavy rain

Operations at Dubai International Airport remain severely disrupted after heavy rains battered the United Arab Emirates and neighbouring countries.

The storm pounded the UAE on Tuesday, flooding roads and the sections of the busy international airport.

Flash floods have now killed 20 people in Oman and one in the UAE.

Some inbound flights have resumed on Thursday, but on the whole Dubai international airport, a major travel hub, is struggling to function.

Authorities at the world's second-busiest airport said on Thursday that they had started receiving inbound flights at Terminal 1, used by foreign carriers, but that outbound flights continue to be delayed.

They later announced that check-in was open at Terminal 3 for Emirates - the single largest carrier at the airport, and flydubai flights.

But they warned that a large number of travellers were waiting to check in and long delays were expected.

Posting on X, formerly known as Twitter, early on Thursday, officials urged people to go to the airport only if they have confirmed bookings.

The head of Dubai airport, Paul Griffiths, said: "It remains an incredibly challenging time. In living memory, I don't think anyone has ever seen conditions like it."

The surrounding roads remain gridlocked because of overcrowding with people trying to reach the airport.

On Wednesday, about 300 flights were cancelled and hundreds more were delayed.

The UAE recorded its heaviest rainfall in recorded history. Up to 259.5mm (10.2in) of rain fell on the usually arid country on Tuesday.

The state-run news agency called the rain "a historic weather event" that surpassed "anything

documented since the start of data collection in 1949".

Anne Wing, a British tourist who was with her husband and three children hoping to fly to London Heathrow, said: "It's horrific, we are squashed in like animals - it is dangerous and inhumane."

She added: "Passengers were shouting and rioting at the connection desk, there were no staff to be seen."

She said her family had not eaten since lunchtime, and all that had been provided were some "small cartons of water".

Airport authorities say that the staff are facing difficulties to get food to stranded passengers as all the roads leading to the airport are blocked by flood waters.

As many road closures are still in place, some motorists remain trapped in vehicles or stranded on the roadside due to the rising water levels around them.

Al Arabiya TV reported that in Ras al-Khaimah a 70-year-old man died after his vehicle was swept away by strong current.

Emergency services worked to clear the waterlogged roads on Thursday to assess people trapped

in traffic, offices and homes.

The main road that connects Dubai with Abu Dhabi - the capital of the UAE - was closed in the Abu Dhabi direction.

Many stranded passengers at Dubai airport have taken to social media, urging for more information.

Other "very anxious" and disoriented passengers, some travelling with young children, have posted that despite confirmed booking, their tickets are not being processed, because "check-in/bag drop/passport control [are] not open."

The airport, which last year served more than 80 million passengers, second only to Atlanta in the United States, warned recovery would take "some time".

Roads to hard-hit communities and facilities remain flooded and footage on social media showed dozens of submerged vehicles and long traffic jams. Most supermarkets and shopping malls also remain closed, and home delivery services are largely out of action.

Although the UAE reportedly had sunny spells on Thursday,

authorities have warned that more thunderstorms, heavy rain and strong winds were forecast in the region. In Oman, more than 1,400 people have been evacuated to shelters, while schools and government offices have been closed.

The UAE's president, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan has ordered a review of the country's infrastructure impacted by the severe weather. He asked authorities to assess the damage and provide support to affected families, including transferring them to safe locations.

Videos online nevertheless showed people wading through floodwater to reach their abandoned cars to check if they would start.

In a conciliatory message on X, Dubai's ruler, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, said: "Crises reveal the strength of countries and societies... and the natural climate crisis that we experienced showed great care, awareness, cohesion and love for every corner of the country from all its citizens and residents."

**Source: BBC**



Dubai Airport

# International

## Nigeria strikes deal with Shell to supply \$3.8 bln methanol project

Nigeria has struck a deal for Shell to supply gas to its proposed \$3.8 billion Brass methanol facility, resolving a major hurdle to a final investment decision on the project, the minister of state for gas said on Thursday.

Nigeria, which holds Africa's largest natural gas reserves of more than 200 trillion cubic feet, has struggled to tap the commodity

due to capital constraints and a lack of infrastructure.

Minister Ekperikpe Ekpo said in a statement that the Gas Supply and Purchase Agreement (GSPA), crucial for the Brass methanol project, will be executed next month following successful talks with Shell's Nigeria CEO and executives from other companies involved.

The GSPA will secure a long-term gas supply from a Shell-operated joint venture for the methanol production facility that will be built on Brass Island in the oil-rich coastal Bayelsa state.

"The NNPC/Shell joint venture partners are now fully committed to uninterrupted gas supply for the development of the Brass Methanol project," Ekpo said.

"Mr President is very passionate about this project and wants something positive to happen in respect of the Brass Methanol project before the end of May this year," Ekpo said.

The project includes a gas processing plant, a methanol production and refining site, and product export facilities.

*Source: Reuters*



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