

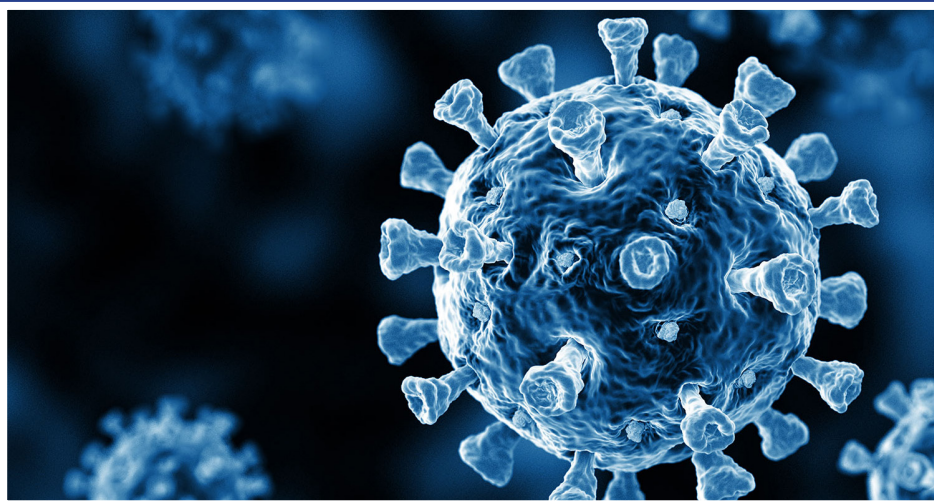


**MOMAG warns customers against using their Ghana Card to register SIM cards for others**

Page 5

**New Kumasi Airport to be inaugurated today as International airlines contemplate direct flights to Kumasi**

Page 2



**COVID-19 is not yet over - GHS**

Page 3

**Ghana losing favourable business destination position due to exit of multinational firms - GNCCI**

Page 8



**Best Western PLUS**

Accra Beach Hotel, Nungua

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

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



# General News

## New Kumasi Airport to be inaugurated today as International airlines contemplate direct flights to Kumasi

Today marks a significant milestone for Kumasi, as the new Kumasi International Airport is set to be inaugurated, drawing interest from major international airlines for direct flights to Ghana's Ashanti Regional capital.

Currently, at least four airlines from the Middle East, Africa, and Europe are in talks about the possibility of establishing direct routes to Kumasi.

These airlines have completed extensive commercial assessments and have approached the Ministry of Transport, the Ghana Civil Aviation Authority, and the Ghana Airports Company Limited with formal inquiries.

The airport's runway, at 1,981 meters, is ready to handle A319s, A320s, and Boeing 737s. To boost its capacity, there are plans to extend the runway to 2,320 meters, allowing for larger aircraft and smoother operations.

The inauguration ceremony will be led by President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo and Asantehene Otumfuo Osei Tutu II.

This event will also kick-start further testing of equipment at the new terminal, which is set to take over all domestic passenger services from the old terminal in

June.

Joining the President and Otumfuo will be Transport Minister Kwaku Ofori Asiamah, Managing Director of the Ghana Airports Company Limited Yvonne N. A. Opare, among other notable figures.

The Kumasi International Airport, located in the bustling city of

Kumasi, has seen five years of redevelopment.

The new terminal, designed to handle over 800,000 passengers a year, is equipped with advanced passenger processing facilities and navigation aids, with Jet A1 fuel also available.

**Source: Independent Ghana**



*Kumasi Airport*

## COVID-19 is not yet over - GHS

The Ghana Health Service (GHS) has clarified that reports of COVID-19 being declared over as inaccurate, citing 31 new cases recorded last week.

Programmes Manager at the Expanded Programme on Immunization, Dr. Kwame Amponsah-Achiano, emphasized the ongoing need for public vigilance and vaccination.

Dr. Amponsah-Achiano stated, "COVID is not gone, so we should not think that COVID is a thing of the past. We keep hearing that the pandemic was declared over but the pandemic has never been declared over."

He highlighted the shift from emergency management to ongoing COVID control, including vaccinations and mask-wearing in enclosed spaces.

He added, "We will still encourage that people keep on wearing

masks and make hand hygiene and hand washing with soap and running water a household thing for everybody until COVID is declared over."

This comes at a time when the Ghana Health Service (GHS) provided clarification regarding the withdrawal of the AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine, attributing it primarily to commercial reasons.

AstraZeneca, a key vaccine used during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, has globally announced the withdrawal of its vaccines.

This decision comes as the pharmaceutical company cited the presence of an uncommon adverse effect known as Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome (TTS).

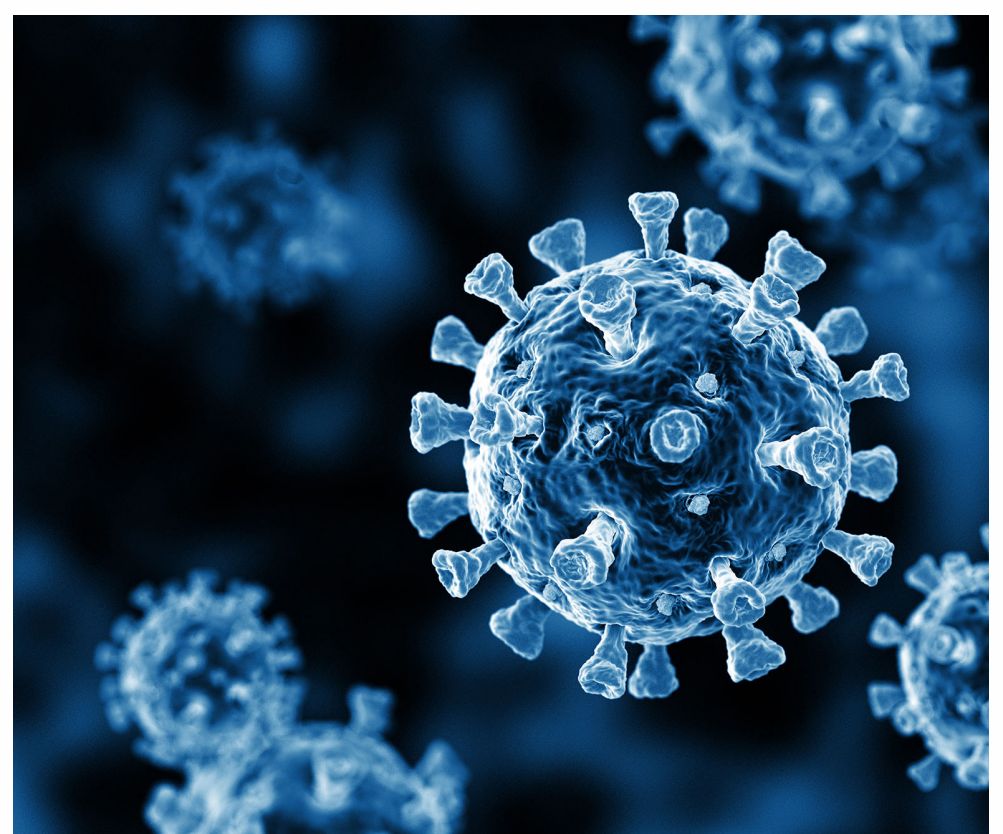
TTS is characterized by the formation of blood clots that can block veins or arteries, potentially leading to severe complications

such as strokes or heart attacks.

Symptoms may manifest as unilateral leg pain and swelling, chest discomfort, or numbness on one side of the body. In response

to these risks, AstraZeneca has chosen to remove its vaccines from circulation.

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



*Covid 19 Disease*



# General News

## REGSEC to rid Kumasi of stray cattle

The Ashanti Regional Security Council has launched a proactive measure to address the issue of stray cattle roaming the streets of Kumasi, Ashanti Region, by establishing a specialized task force.

Announcing the initiative at a press briefing, Regional Minister Simon Osei Mensah emphasized the goal of reclaiming the city from the intrusion of these animals.

During an inspection of newly planted trees as part of the Green Ghana Day initiative, the Regional Minister underscored the detrimental impact of wandering cattle on the region's greening endeavours.

Acknowledging the difficulty of

containing cattle, Mr. Osei Mensah elucidated the reasoning behind forming an external task force.

He noted that task force members would receive compensation for their services and would be tasked with safeguarding the planted trees from cattle interference.

Mr. Osei Mensah assured that the allocated budget would cover the task force's expenses for an initial one-year period and could be renewed contingent on resource availability.

"You know, it is not easy to catch a cow. It is extremely difficult, so we are going to get some of those people who are good at it to do the work for us. We are going to engage them, we will pay them, and it will

be their responsibility to ensure that the trees that we planted will not be consumed by or destroyed by the cattle.

"We will pay them during the period that is for a whole year, and

if it is possible to have adequate resources to sustain it, then we sustain them the following year too."

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



File Photo

## Akufo-Addo faces backlash for refusing to release KPMG report on 'scandalous' SML-GRA deal

Investigative journalist Manasseh Azure Awuni has criticised President Akufo-Addo over the Presidency's decision to withhold the complete KPMG audit report on the revenue mobilisation agreement between the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) and Strategic Mobilisation Ghana Ltd (SML).

Mr Awuni asserted that any attempts to conceal what he described as a "stinky" deal would be futile. The refusal to disclose the full KPMG audit report has raised concerns about transparency and accountability in the handling of public funds.

Citing specific provisions within the RTI Act, the Presidency has declined to release the report, citing concerns over confidentiality and the sensitivity of the data involved. In a letter addressed to the MFWA and signed by the Chief Director to the Chief of Staff, H. M. Wood, the Presidency expressed regret over its inability to fulfil the request for the full KPMG audit report.

In response, Mr Awuni expressed scepticism regarding the confidentiality claims surrounding the KPMG report. He vowed to hold all individuals implicated in the agreement accountable for

their actions, emphasising that transparency and accountability are essential pillars of democratic governance.

"The SML deal stinks. If they think hiding the KPMG report will make us forget the SML scandal, they should think again. The SML scandal will not die. And those behind in the past and in the future will face justice, no matter how long it takes."

In addition, he pointed to former President John Dramani Mahama's release of the full GYEEDA report during his tenure, underscoring the significance of transparency in addressing matters of public concern.

"Even when we did not have the Right to Information Law, President John Mahama released a white paper and released the full GYEEDA Report as well. The Akufo-Addo-led opposition NPP was the loudest in asking President Mahama to release that report, which was also a subject of my investigation in 2013."

"What is Akufo-Addo hiding from us?" he asked.

Meanwhile, it is reported that President Akufo-Addo plans to have the full KPMG audit

report published to foster transparency.

KPMG, an auditing firm, has completed and presented its report on the contract between the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) and Strategic Mobilisation Ghana Ltd (SML) to President Akufo-Addo.

The President initiated the commissioning of KPMG to audit the contract on January 2, 2024, with an initial deadline set for January 16, 2024, later extended to February 23, 2024.

As per the audit findings, SML received a total of GH¢1,061,054,778.00 from 2018 to date while fulfilling some of its obligations. However, the report also highlighted that SML's efforts

had led to an increase in revenue within the downstream petroleum sector.

In contrast to the audit report's assertions, SML has disputed the claim of receiving GH¢1,061,054,778.00 for its contract with the GRA. They argue that KPMG cited the figure "without reference to the investments made and the taxes paid" during the review period.

In response to the report, Sulemana Braimah, Executive Director of the Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA), mentioned that the foundation had submitted a Right to Information (RTI) request to the presidency for the full KPMG Audit Report.

**Source: The Independent Ghana**



Nana Akufo-Addo, President of Ghana



# General News

## Ghanaians' attitude is a significant barrier to effective waste management - Zoomlion

Prominent waste management firm in Ghana, Zoomlion has pointed to attitudinal challenges as a key obstacle to efficient waste management in the nation's capital.

In an interview on the Citi Breakfast Show with Bernard Avle, Sophia Kudjordji, Corporate Affairs and Communications Officer at Zoomlion Ghana Ltd, expressed concerns about ongoing waste issues despite significant investments in the sector.

Despite expanding their workforce to enhance clean-up operations, challenges persist due to public attitudes towards waste disposal and weak enforcement by law

agencies.

Kudjordji lamented, "Despite significant investments in waste management, it's disheartening to see the amount of waste still present. We've increased our clean-up teams, but attitudes, behaviors, and enforcement gaps pose significant challenges."

Accra, the capital, has long struggled with flooding, worsened by clogged drains filled with waste.

Zoomlion reported that 70% of waste in Accra is collected, with 30% remaining uncollected.

Moreover, major waste management firms, including

Zoomlion, handle 80% of waste, while local operators handle the rest.

Source: *Independent Ghana*: Sebastian Akaho-Tay



File Photo

## Train accident: GHS800K bail granted to four accused persons

An Accra High Court has granted bail of GH¢200,000 each to four individuals implicated in the train accident at Abortia in the Volta Region.

Presided over by Justice Mrs. Lydia Osei Marfo, the court mandated the accused—Koku Koudjo, a 34-year-old gas welder; Patrick Kwaku Sosu, a 52-year-old laborer; Alaza Prosper, a 28-year-old laborer; and Fiadugbe Emmanuel, a 31-year-old laborer—to provide sureties with justifications. They must report to the police every Friday.

Additionally, the court directed the accused and their sureties to submit copies of their Ghana Cards to the Court's Registry. It cautioned that bail revocation would follow failure to appear in court, and tardiness would prompt a bench warrant for arrest.

The case has been adjourned to June 6, 2024, for the prosecution to file their disclosures.

Facing charges of abetment of unlawful damage, the accused are alleged to have aided jailed truck driver Abel Dzidotor in causing damage to the Diesel Multiple Unit Train.

In granting bail, the court acknowledged that investigations involving the accused were nearing completion. It affirmed that damage assessment could proceed while the defendants were on bail.

Representing the prosecution, Assistant State Attorney Christabel Selma Anafure informed the court that the state had requested experts to assess the damage and advocated for the accused to remain remanded.

In response, defense counsel led by Richard Laapo highlighted a bail application made on behalf of the accused. Mr. Laapo argued that the Republic's request for an adjournment should not preclude the court from exercising its discretion in granting bail.

He emphasized that the assessment of damages should not affect bail decisions.

"Per the submission of the Republic, they have invited experts to value the damage caused or suffered by the train.

"The assessment of the damage has no bearing on the grant of bail by the court," he said.

The prosecution's case alleged that the complainant, Dr. Divine Olutey, an Engineer with the Ghana Railway Corporation, was involved in the April 18, 2024 incident.

The accused, travelling in a Hyundai Gold Truck driven by Dzidotor Abel, purportedly attempted to cross the railway tracks instead of using the designated underpass.

Despite knowledge of the

inaccessibility of the railway lines to motor vehicles, they allegedly used it as a shortcut.

Subsequently, the truck became stuck on the tracks, leading to a collision with a Diesel Multiple Unit train during a test drive.

Both vehicles incurred damage, prompting legal action.

Source: *The Independent Ghana* / Phoebe Martekie Doku



File Photo



# General News

## MOMAG warns customers against using their Ghana Card to register SIM cards for others

In a bid to protect its customers against fraudsters and fraudulent activities, the Mobile Money Advocacy Group Ghana (MOMAG) has issued a warning to mobile phone users regarding fraudulent activities associated with SIM card registration.

The group in a release dated May 9, 2024 explained how “unscrupulous agents” use register SIM cards using the Ghana card other customers unbeknownst to the owners of the card.

Their trick is that they “will register two of the cards, with the excuse that the first one was not successful due to network challenges. They secretly keep the other cards and later use them for fraudulent activities or sometimes sell them at exorbitant prices to people without Ghana Cards,” MOMAG explained.

A large number of people who fall victim to these fraud MOMAG says are females.

“Incidentally, quite a greater number of the victims are females – Over 90% Again, some of our Ghanaian ladies who befriend some male of foreign nationals are coaxed into registering SIM Cards with their Ghana Cards. Some of these men will then use the SIM Cards to perpetrate fraudulent activities,” MOMAG added.

In light of this, the group has taken proactive measures by informing the “ National Communications Authority (NCA) on this issue in the year 2023, but no action has been taken yet. We humbly appeal to the NCA to take necessary action to protect citizens by curbing this menace. This, we believe, will prevent or reduce such fraudulent activities”.

MOMAG is ready to provide the numbers used by these fraudsters to the NCA to assist in any investigation.

“To nip this issue in the bud, we strongly suggest that the

authorities take immediate action, by launching a public awareness campaign through electronic (radio and television) and print media to educate the public to shun the use of their Ghana cards to buy SIM cards for friends,” MOMAG added.

While they advised the public against leaving their damaged cards with MoMo agents, they also sent caution to these dubious agents involved in these unscrupulous acts.

“...the public should be educated to collect their damaged SIM cards

from agents if they are told the card is damaged or gone bad during the registration process. What is more, we are sending a word of caution to these bad Agents, who are aiding the fraudsters by registering SIMs or selling “registered SIM Cards” (pre-registered) to them. We urge such Agents to stop such activities immediately. Should the association get hold of such bad agents, we would report them to the police to face the full rigours of the law”

*Source: Independent Ghana / Abigail Twumwaa Ampofo*



File Photo

## Don't choose a running mate from Ashanti Region - Dormaahene tells Bawumia

Dormaahene, Osagyefo Oseadeeyo Agyeman Badu II, has advised the New Patriotic Party's (NPP) flagbearer, Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia, against focusing solely on one particular region when selecting a running mate for the 2024 elections.

The Dormaahene expressed concerns about the potential repercussions of such a decision when Dr Bawumia, on Wednesday, May 8, engaged the Bono Regional House of Chiefs to seek their counsel and convey his campaign message.

Osagyefo Oseadeeyo Agyeman Badu II explained that failure to consider qualified candidates from various regions could alienate voters from other regions and undermine the ruling party's electoral prospects in the upcoming elections.

“I have seen you haven't selected a running mate yet, even if you

have, I haven't heard. Sometimes a certain region wants to prove that it is only from there that you are supposed to select your running mate,” he submitted.

He continued, “But I don't see it that way. Please, there are lots of people in the other regions, so if your focus goes on just one particular region, only they will vote for you and the rest of us will vote against you.”

The Dormaahene gave a list of well-known locals and highlighted their qualifications for running mate.

“Please, I want to plead with you, for me, I am in the Bono region, and we also have qualified candidates here. Even though I am not saying selecting others from other regions is not good, but we also want the best for our people, Martin Adjei Korsah, Ignatius Baffour Awuah and Kwaku Agyemang Manu all qualify for such positions,” he

added.

It is reported that Energy Minister, Dr Matthew Opoku Prempeh, who hails from the Ashanti Region, is the front-runner in the race for the running mate title.

Meanwhile, other schools of thought, including the immediate past Speaker of Parliament and

a member of the governing New Patriotic Party's Council of Elders, Professor Aaron Michael Oquaye, believe a running mate from the Ashanti Region is the best option for the ruling party should it want to break the 8-year governance cycle.

*Source: The Independent Ghana*



Osagyefo Oseadeeyo Agyeman Badu II, Dormaahene

# General News

## Public disagreements between EOCO-OSP on Cecilia Dapaah case embarrassing - Ghana Integrity Initiative

Executive Secretary of the Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII), Mary Addah has expressed deep concern over the escalating public feud between the country's two state anti-corruption bodies, the Economic and Organized Crime Office (EOCO) and the Office of the Special Prosecutor (OSP).

The dispute arose when COP Maame Yaa Tiwa Addo-Danquah of EOCO announced the return of the Cecilia Dapaah cash case docket to OSP, citing insufficient evidence for further investigation.

This move was met with a swift rebuttal from Samuel Appiah Darko of OSP, highlighting EOCO's prior return of the same docket.

Addah emphasized the counterproductive nature of airing such disputes in the media, stressing the importance of collaboration and unity in combating corruption.

She urged the agencies to focus on substantive issues like the Cecilia Dapaah case and emphasized the need for lifestyle audits.

"Bringing these issues into the media is not the best way to go. It's good to work together and collaborate. It is not healthy for the fight against corruption to listen to some of these sentiments going on.

"There are issues around lifestyle audit that we need to pay attention to. What the people of Ghana want is these investigative bodies to be prosecuting corruption and not doing the internal wrangling," the GII boss advised.

Moreover, Addah voiced concerns over funding restrictions hindering Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in their anti-corruption efforts.

"Civil Society want to do more to fight corruption in the country. We are doing a lot. But on another score, because of the restrictions

on our funding sometimes you will even want to do more. Sometimes you want to mobilise the citizens on the streets, but you do not have the resources to do so. We do not have the mandate to do investigations so you see, we are not as much as we will wish. We work within limited places because of resources," she said.

Despite these challenges, she noted the potential for collaboration between CSOs and anti-corruption

agencies in the Commonwealth to bolster the fight against corruption across Africa.

The Commonwealth Regional Conference on corruption highlighted shared experiences and lessons, fostering optimism for a more effective anti-corruption campaign moving forward.

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



*Kissi Agyepong, Special Prosecutor on the left, Cecilia Dapaah, Former Minister for Sanitation and Water Resources on the right*

## Former TOR boss, Asante Berko, to be taken to US for trial over alleged bribery

Former Goldman Sachs Group Inc. banker Asante Berko is appealing a UK court decision to extradite him to the US, where he faces allegations of bribing Ghanaian officials during his time at the investment bank.

Berko is accused of collaborating with Ghanaian officials and others in a bribery scheme that benefited himself, the bank, and a Turkish energy company seeking to construct a power plant in Ghana.

Prosecutors argue that Berko should be extradited to face trial in the US.

During a recent London appeal hearing, Berko's legal team argued that the extradition order should be dismissed.

They contended that the charges did not constitute grounds for extradition, especially considering that most of the alleged acts occurred in London.

However, attorneys representing the US government argued in favour of extradition, claiming that Berko and other unnamed co-conspirators bribed Ghanaian officials with over \$700,000.

They allege that the group arranged to be reimbursed for these bribes through fraudulent invoices issued to the energy company.

The reimbursements were then funnelled from Turkey, through US bank accounts, and ultimately to Ghana.

In addition to facing extradition, Berko was also sued by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) in 2020 for the same conduct.

He settled the SEC's lawsuit by

agreeing to pay more than \$329,000 in fines without admitting or denying the allegations.

A spokesperson for Goldman Sachs did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the matter.

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



*Asante Berko, Former Banker, Goldman Sachs Group Inc.*





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

### Amenities:

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

### Accra Beach Hotel

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

**Wherever Life Takes You, Best Western Is There.®**

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



# Business

## E-VAT implementation to enhance revenue collection has been successful - GRA

The Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) has provided an update on the ongoing implementation of the Electronic Value Added Tax (E-VAT) system, confirming that the rollout is proceeding as planned.

Addressing recent concerns regarding the status of the E-VAT initiative, the GRA reaffirmed its dedication to swiftly and comprehensively implementing the system.

The E-VAT system aims to improve revenue collection, combat tax evasion, and enhance transparency in tax administration.

According to a press release issued by the GRA on May 8, 2024, a successful E-VAT pilot involving 50 taxpayers has been concluded. The pilot phase paved the way for a smooth and successful implementation of E-VAT, prioritizing minimal disruption to taxpayers' operations.

During the pilot phase, VAT revenue increased by over 58%, resulting in additional contributions exceeding GH¢384 million. The efficiency of electronic VAT invoicing contributed GH¢124 million to this increase, representing 32% of the total revenue boost.

The rollout of the E-VAT system is progressing in phases, with the pilot phase successfully completed. The ongoing initial rollout phase focuses on onboarding large taxpayers, who contribute 80% of VAT collections. The revised timeframe for Phase 1 spans from April 22 to May 31, 2024.

Initial results from Phase 1 onboarding are highly promising, with a 175% progress rate achieved compared to weekly onboarding targets.

The second phase, slated for completion by the end of December 2024, will target the onboarding of medium and small taxpayers.

The final implementation phase will integrate all other VAT-registered taxpayers into the E-VAT system.

The GRA expressed confidence in the significant positive impact of the E-VAT system on VAT contributions and assured stakeholders of its unwavering commitment to its comprehensive and rapid implementation.

The authority acknowledged the cooperation and partnership of all stakeholders in the E-VAT implementation process.

Taxpayers seeking further information or assistance regarding the E-VAT system are encouraged to contact their nearest GRA office or visit the authority's website.

Deployed in accordance with the amended Value Added Tax Act 870, the E-VAT system certifies every taxpayer-issued invoice in near-real-time for revenue assurance purposes.

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



GRA Building

## Ghana losing favourable business destination position due to exit of multinational firms - GNCCI

Chief Executive Officer of the Ghana National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GNCCI), Mark Badu-Aboagye, has expressed concern over Ghana's diminishing appeal as a favourable business destination in the West African Sub-region.

According to him, the purchasing power of the average Ghanaian has declined over time, leading to reduced patronage of goods and services. This economic trend has contributed to the closure or exit of some small-margin businesses from the Ghanaian market.

Engaging the media, Mr Badu-Aboagye attributed the rising cost of living in Ghana to these economic conditions, which have resulted in businesses folding up and frequent employee layoffs, worsening the unemployment situation.

According to him, the exit of multinational companies from

Ghana is "sending a signal that there's something fundamentally wrong with the business environment."

"If you take for instance, Jumia and also Glovo, in a situation as we find ourselves with a high operational cost, high interest rates and the rest, you realized that the companies that will fall quickly and earlier are those with the smallest margin, because their business model depends on the ability of the Ghanaian to purchase a product."

"If Ghanaians are not buying it means Glovo and Jumia will not be there to distribute. And of course Ghanaians are not buying because sales have gone down, purchasing power has gone down and the businesses that are supposed to make profit to take care of employees are also closing down," he added.

He therefore noted that Ghana is

"gradually losing our position as a favourable investment destination in West Africa."

In late April, the delivery service platform Glovo announced its intention to cease operations in Ghana from May 10, 2024. Additionally, there were media reports in early May suggesting that French bank Société Générale (SG) Ghana planned to exit the country's banking sector.

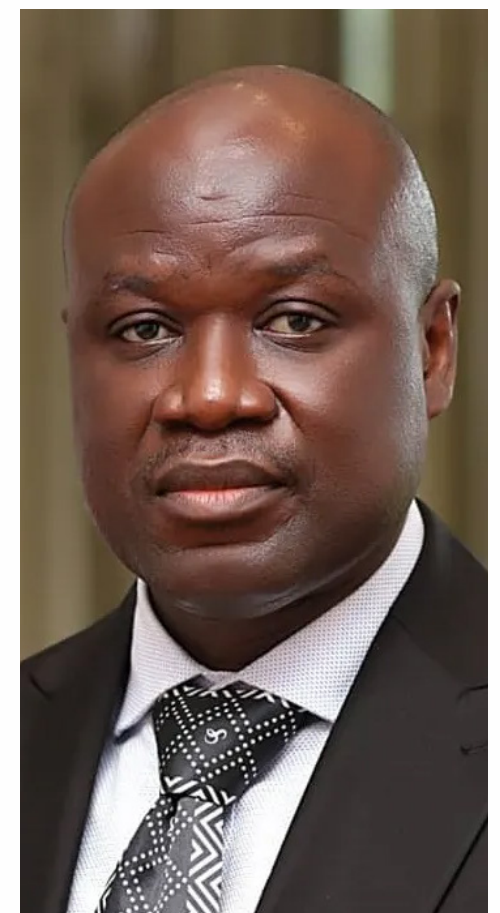
However, at SG-Ghana's 44th Annual General Meeting in Accra, Managing Director Hakim Ouzzani refuted these reports, stating that they were mere rumours and did not originate from the bank.

Professor Kojo Yankah, founder of the Pan African Heritage Museum (PAHM), has urged support for indigenous businesses following reports of expatriate companies exiting Ghana.

He views the departure of foreign companies as an opportunity for

local entrepreneurs.

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



Mark Badu-Aboagye, CEO, GNCCI



# International

## Microsoft to shut Africa development centre in Nigeria

Microsoft (MSFT.O), opens new tab is closing down its Africa Development Centre in the continent's most populous nation Nigeria, which will lead to job losses, a spokesperson said on Wednesday.

The centre, based in the commercial capital Lagos was opened in 2022 as part of Microsoft's push to deliver high-end engineering and innovation solutions for the company.

The company said it would, however, continue to operate in Nigeria, continuing to prioritize and invest in strategic growth areas.

"Microsoft has decided to close the Africa Development Centre in Nigeria, and as a result some of

our employees based in Nigeria will be impacted," the Microsoft spokesperson said.

"Organizational and workforce adjustments are a necessary and regular part of managing our business."

It was not immediately clear how many people would be impacted. In December 2022, Microsoft President Brad Smith said Africa represented a burgeoning talent pool in contrast to declining population growth elsewhere.

Microsoft at that time had more than 200 engineers in Lagos and more than 500 in Nairobi, Kenya.

*Source: Reuters*



Microsoft building

## Nigeria's powerful ex-minister charged with corruption

A former minister of aviation in Nigeria, Hadi Sirika, has appeared in court on corruption charges, along with his daughter and son-in-law.

Mr Sirika was regarded as one of the most powerful ministers in former President Muhammadu Buhari's government.

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has accused him of using his position to give undue advantage to a company linked to his daughter and son-in-law.

The three pleaded not guilty to all six charges at the High Court in the federal capital, Abuja, and were released on bail.

The prosecution alleged that in August 2022, Mr Sirika awarded a contract to a company linked to his daughter and her husband to build an extension at the airport in the northern city of Katsina.

The 60-year-old is also accused of giving the couple, Fatima Hadi Sirika and Jalal Sule Hamma, consultancy roles in the failed effort to get a national carrier, Nigerian Air, off the ground.

Prosecuting lawyer Rotimi Jacobs did not oppose their application for bail, but asked for stringent conditions to be set.

After hearing the arguments of both legal teams, the judge set it at 100 million naira (\$70,000; £56,000) each.

The three are also barred from going abroad. The case is due to resume on 10 June.

Mr Sirika is the second high-profile official from the former government to be charged with corruption.

Ex-central bank governor Godwin Emefiele is facing more than 20 charges, including illegally receiving about \$6.2m.

He too has denied all the charges, and is currently out on bail.

President Bola Tinubu took office in May 2023, with a pledge to tackle corruption.

Mr Buhari stepped down after his two term in office.

Mr Sirika served as his minister of aviation from August 2019 until the end of his term.

*Source: BBC*



Hadi Sirika, Former Minister of Aviation, Nigeria



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

## Your Print Solutions Partner



**Universal**  
CRYSTAL PRINT GHANA LTD.

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

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

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