Friday, May 3rd, 2024

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

# IGP petitioned to probe Kwadaso MP over alleged bribery incident during Ejisu by-election

civil society organisation, Election Watch Ghana, has petitioned the Inspector General of Police (IGP) to investigate Professor Kingsley Nyarko, the Member of Parliament for Kwadaso, for alleged electoral misconduct.

The petition follows a viral video from the Ejisu by-election on April 30, which showed Professor Nyarko handing a white envelope to two temporary officials of the Electoral Commission.

Although the Electoral Commission promptly removed the officials featured in the video, Election Watch Ghana is urging the IGP, Dr. George Akuffo Dampare, to arrest the MP.

The group stated that prosecuting the MP is crucial for restoring public confidence in Ghana's democratic institutions upholding the rule of law.

"We condemn this strongly brazen act of corruption, which undermines the integrity of our already dying democracy. We request that your office take immediate action to investigate and prosecute the MP for Kwadaso, Kingsley Nyarko for his involvement in this electoral malpractice.

"We believe that swift action is

necessary to maintain public trust in our democratic institutions and to uphold the rule of law. We will be monitoring this case closely and expect a prompt response regarding the actions your office will take to address this matter," the statement added.

In response to the allegations, the Electoral Commission clarified that the envelope given to its officials was intended for lunch expenses, not as a bribe.

Professor Kingsley Nyarko has also denied any wrongdoing, maintaining that he did not offer a bribe to the officials. He has expressed his willingness to cooperate with the security agency investigating the matter.

Source: The Independent Ghana | Andy Ogbarmey-Tettey



Professor Kingsley Nyarko, MP for Kwadaso

#### Rains to intensify, move to higher grounds - GMET warns public

The Ghana Meteorological Agency (GMET) has issued a warning to residents in flood-prone areas, urging them to relocate to higher ground as rainfall intensifies.

Intense rain was observed in various parts of the country on Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning, with GMET forecasts indicating more rainfall in the upcoming days.

Deputy Director in charge of forecasting at GMET, Joseph Tetteh Portuphy, advised citizens to exercise extra caution during this period.

He emphasized the risk of flooding due to even minimal rainfall saturating the ground, potentially causing flash floods.

Mr Portuphy urged proactive measures such as desilting gutters and immediate relocation to higher ground upon receiving rainfall forecasts for those in flood-prone areas.

"We should know that we are getting into the flooding period, because any little rain, the ground will be saturated. Once the ground is saturated, any additional rain will cause a flash flood. So, this is the period that at least we need to desilt the gutters.

"And also make sure that at least those of us who are in houses, areas that are flood prone, the moment you hear that it is going to rain please, take caution and

move to higher ground or find somewhere and go

stressed the temporary nature of the relocation, advising residents to return home after the rains have subsided.

Source: The Independent Ghana | Phoebe Martekie Doku



File Photo

#### OSP hasn't been able to prove corruption allegations against Cecilia Dapaah – AG

General ttorney Minister for Justice, Godfred Dame, has clarified that there is no evidence of corruption or procurement breaches involving former Minister of Sanitation and Water Resources, Cecilia Dapaah, and her husband, Daniel Osei Kufuor.

This clarification stems from correspondence exchanged between the Chief Executive Officer of the Economic and Organised Crime Office (EOCO), Maame Yaa Tiwaa Addo-Danguah, and Attorney General Godfred Dame.

The Office of the Special Prosecutor (OSP) referred Cecilia Dapaah's case to EOCO, prompting EOCO to seek direction from the Attorney General.

Following a review of the OSP case against the former minister and a report submitted by EOCO, the Attorney General's office found no evidence of corruptionrelated offenses or procurement violations by Cecilia Dapaah and her husband.

The AG's communication stated, "A study of the docket from the OSP and the report by your office indicates that: a. investigations by the OSP did not establish any evidence of corruption, corruptionrelated offences, or procurement breaches against the suspects; b. the OSP has returned money and other properties retrieved from the suspects in the course of their investigations to them, and the suspects have been accordingly discharged by the OSP."

EOCO further sought direction

from the AG's office regarding the money laundering allegations leveled against the former minister and her husband by the OSP.

In response, the AG dismissed the OSP's referral to EOCO for money laundering investigations unfounded.

The OSP had initially pursued a case against the former minister and her husband following allegations that two of their house helps stole \$1 million and €300,000 in cash, along with other valuables from their Abelemkpe residence.

Special Prosecutor Kissi Agyebeng concluded that his office lacked the jurisdiction to prosecute or take further action against the former minister.

Consequently, he referred the case to EOCO, suspecting that the substantial sums of money discovered at Cecilia Dapaah's properties and bank accounts might be linked to money laundering and structuring activities.

Source: The Independent Ghana | Phoebe Martekie Doku



Cecilia Dapaah, Former Sanitation Minister on the left, Kissi Agyebeng, Special Prosecutor

## 2024 polls: Election Watch Ghana files RTI request to demand information on EC's BVR kits

**■** lection Watch Ghana has **◄** filed a Right to Information (RTI) application demanding serial numbers of all Biometric Verification Register (BVR) kits to be used for the upcoming limited voter registration exercise.

Jude Balma, the convener of the in the upcoming electoral process, group, in a signed statement, is also requesting the corresponding registration centres where each BVR kit will be deployed for the exercise.

We are writing to request information on the BVR under the Right to Information Act, 2019 (Act 989). We request the following, as you already know.

The serial numbers of all Biometric Verification Register (BVR) kits to be used for the limited registration exercise starting this month (May).

And secondly, the corresponding registration centres where each BVR kit will be deployed.

Election Watch Ghana indicated that releasing the information on the BVRs is crucial for transparency and accountability as they are ready to bear any cost involving the theft of laptops and that comes with their request.

"I believe this information is crucial for transparency and accountability in the electoral process even though we know you think otherwise, but we would appreciate it if you could provide this information in a digital format to enable our agent on the grounds to work effectively.

We are ready to bear any associated cost that our demand will come with, and we will promptly pay for faster facilitation" they added.

The limited voter registration exercise is scheduled for May 7 and the May 27, 2024, and aims to ensure that new eligible voters, who have recently turned 18, have the opportunity to be included in the voter register.

Meanwhile, there has been a case

BVR kits belonging to the EC. One person has been granted bail, while three others remain on remand. This incident has raised concerns about the security of sensitive electoral equipment.

Source: The Independent Ghana | Abigail Twumwaa Ampofo



Jean Adukwei Mensa, Ghana Electoral Commission Chairperson

## Akufo-Addo lied, 'dumsor' is not over - IES

The Executive Director of the Institute of Energy Security (IES), Nana Amoasi VII, has challenged President Akufo-Addo's claim that Ghana's power supply issues, known as "dumsor," have been effectively resolved.

During the annual May Day celebration in Accra, the President confidently declared that the era of power challenges was over.

"Over the period, the issues surrounding transformers and gas supply have been successfully resolved resulting in sufficient improvement in power supply reliability," the president said.

However, in an interview with the media, Nana Amoasi VII disagreed with the President, stating that his assertions did not align with the current situation.

highlighted that several areas, including Weija, Ekumfi, Mankessim, Nungua, and Tema Community 2 and 25, experienced power outages between Tuesday Wednesday, indicating ongoing deficits in the power

system.

Nana Amoasi VII stressed the importance of the President's statements reflecting the actual circumstances, rather than relying solely on advice from his advisors. He expressed concern that the President's advisors might not be providing him with an accurate assessment of the ongoing power challenges.

He urged the President to be cautious in his pronouncements, as they could potentially mislead the public about the true state of the country's power supply.

"The first thing that we picked from the president's statement is that today he is admitting that, under his tenure, there has been dumsor. And so he made it clear in his statement that the load shedding that we are seeing is probably normal...To say that the issues have been dealt with is misleading, and we pray that the handlers of the president will rather lead him than mislead him. Sometimes the president looks awful in the eyes

of industry players, the watchers, and even consumers."

"I am sure any pronouncement that he made is contingent on what they tell him but he must be very careful because the handlers are not putting out what the issues are. The value is the same. We've just seen a bit of change last night, but if the president says that yesterday we didn't experience dumsor

anywhere around the country, that is untrue. I can recount some few places we have checked," he stated.

Netizens on social media who continue to experience intermittent power outages have also criticized President Akufo-Addo for his recent remarks.

Source: The Independent Ghana | Andy Ogbarmey-Tettey



Nana Akufo-Addo, President of Ghana

#### Investment in data systems can bolster development ambitions - Mohammed Amin

hana's Finance Minister designate, Dr. Mohammed Amin Adam, emphasised the pivotal role of quality and timely data in accelerating development for developing nations.

At a World Bank Partnership Washington, Roundtable DC, he urged governments and development partners to prioritise investments in data systems.

Highlighting the significance of robust data governance frameworks and open data policies, he stressed their role in addressing critical developmental challenges.

"I will like to use this occasion to call on policy makers to prioritise investments in data systems as that is the way to go if we have to fast-track our development ambitions," he said.

Dr. Adam called for increased collaboration and investment to narrow the global gap in highquality data generation, crucial for supporting developmental efforts.

"As we forge ahead, it is critical that we remain committed to leveraging the power of data to address pressing challenges, drive innovation, and create a better future for all. Together, with a clear vision and a strong commitment to data-driven policymaking, we can chart a path towards prosperity and resilience for generations to come.

"The strides made by the Ghanaian government, in collaboration with development partners and international organisations, underscore collective commitment to harnessing the

power of data for the betterment of society," he emphasised.

Dr Amin Adam, therefore, called for more investment and collaboration to harness the power of data and to close the big gap both globally

and at the country level in timely generation of high-quality data to support developmental efforts.

Source: The Independent Ghana | Sebastian Akaho-Tay



Dr. Mohammed Amin Adam, Finance Minister

#### Bawumia promises to involve Chiefs in small scale mining licensing

**▼**lagbearer and Vice President of the New Patriotic Party (NPP), Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia has assured chiefs that they will play a significant role in the licensing process for smallscale miners in their communities when he is voted into power come 2024 polls.

Thishesaidiscrucialforformalising small-scale mining operations and ensuring adherence to best mining practices.

He made this disclosure during campaign activities in the Western Region, on Thursday, May 2, ahead of the 2024 general elections, Dr. Bawumia told the Chiefs that without their involvement.

the formalisation of small-scale mining activities would not be possible.

"We want to formalise the smallscaling business, but we cannot be successful without the involvementof the chiefs. The chiefs have to be part of the licensing of the miners in their localities, they have to be part of the whole process" he stated.

In light of this, he recommended an amendment of the mining act to suit the involvement of chiefs. This act consolidates and updates the laws relating to minerals and mining in Ghana.

"So we will have to make the

necessary amendments to the Mining Act to be able to do more of these, decentralise the Minerals Commission to be in the various districts, decentralise the **Environmental Protection Agency** (EPA) so that they [miners] don't go into the water bodies" he added.

The Mining Act of Ghanais primarily governed by the Minerals and Mining Act, 2006 (Act 703), which has been amended by subsequent legislation, including the Minerals and Mining (Amendment) Act, 2015 (Act 900) and the Minerals and Mining (Amendment) Act, 2019 (Act 995).

These Acts are designed to foster

responsible and sustainable mining practices while managing the country's mineral resources effectively.

Source: The Independent Ghana | Abigail Twumwaa Ampofo



Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia, NPP Flagbearer and Vice President of Ghana

#### Prof. Atuguba chides Chieftaincy Ministry for backing Akufo-Addo's 'stand up' orders to Chiefs

The Dean of the University of Ghana School of Law, Raymond Atuguba, has criticised the Ministry of Chieftaincy for justifying the President's request for chiefs to stand when greeting him.

During an appearance on JoyNews' AM Show on Thursday, May 2, Atuguba expressed disapproval of the Ministry's decision to release a letter justifying the President's request, stating that they should have known better.

His comments came in response to a statement by the Minister for Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs, Stephen Asamoah Boateng, who explained that the President's request "is not intended to undermine the dignity or autonomy of traditional leaders."

incident The that sparked this controversy occurred at a ceremony in Damongo, where President Akufo-Addo's bodyguards allegedly instructed a traditional ruler to stand up and greet him.

This incident followed a video that surfaced showing President Akufo-Addo instructing chiefs at a funeral to rise before shaking hands with him.

According to the statement signed by Mr Boateng, chiefs standing up to greet the President "is a recognition of their esteemed role in Ghanaian society by embracing the Head of State, thereby showing brotherly love and mutual respect."

In response, Prof. Atuguba emphasised that chiefs hold absolute authority and power within their traditional domain, and therefore, they deserve the utmost respect from the President.

"It shouldn't be coming from the Chieftaincy Ministry. They should know better. They should know that whoever goes to the palace of the Asantehene should not expect the Asantehene to rise for him.

"They should know that whoever goes to the palace of the Okyehene should not expect the Okvehene to rise for him. Whoever goes to the palace of the Yagbonwura should not expect the Yagbonwura to rise for him," he said.

Prof. Atuguba emphasised that the Constitution upholds specific usages and customs, requiring visitors to adhere to them when entering a traditional domain. He highlighted that every traditional chief, regardless of the size of their

domain, commands authority and deserves respect within their jurisdiction.

"The littlest chief in Ghana, when he or she presides over a traditional ceremony, is boss and even the president within that traditional ceremony is subject to that littlest chief. The situation changes when you move to the international conference centre and Independence Square."

"When you go there, no one

can take precedence over the president, vice president, speaker of parliament and the chief justice. No, because that is a formal event that comes under Article 57(2) of the constitution.

"At that point, all the chiefs including the biggest chiefs in Ghana must rise for the president and the others in that order of precedence, he said."

Source: The Independent Ghana | Sebastian Akaho-Tay



Professor Raymond Atuguba, Dean, UG School of Law

## **GNPC** announces Joe Dadzie as new CEO

National Ghana **\**he Petroleum Corporation (GNPC) is pleased announce the appointment of Joseph Abuabu Dadzie as its new Chief Executive.

Mr. Dadzie assumes the role of Mr. Opoku-Ahweeneh Danquah, whose tenure ended on April 26, 2024.

Before his appointment, Mr. Dadzie served as GNPC's Deputy Chief Executive overseeing Commerce, Strategy & Business Development.

Previously, he held the position of General Manager, Commercial at the Corporation from June 2017 to August 2020.

Mr. Dadzie brings over 25 years of experience as a Financial and Management Executive across various sectors including energy, oil and gas, telecommunications. and banking.

expertise encompasses finance, corporate management, governance, strategic planning, and leadership.

From April 2013 to August 2015, he served as Chief Operating/ Finance Officer at Surfline Communications Limited, and from September 2008 to March 2013, as Chief Finance Officer at Woodfields Energy Resources.

Between 2003 and 2008, he held roles at Standard Chartered Bank including Senior Manager (Financial Institutions) and Director, Commodity Corporates.

Mr. Dadzie has contributed as a board member to four institutions in banking, energy, and financial services.

international experience His attachments with includes organizations such as Codi International BV (Netherlands), New York Mercantile Exchange

(NYMEX), Societe Generale (Paris la Defense), Total Petroleum Services (London and Paris la Defense), and the UBS Trading (Stamford floor Connecticut, USA).

He holds a Master's degree in Business Administration (Finance) and a Master of Science degree in General Management from

Nyenrode Business Universiteit, Breukelen, Netherlands.

Additionally, he obtained a Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Chemical Engineering from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology.

Source: The **Independent** Ghana



Joseph Abuabu Dadzie, CEO, GNPC

## Gov't hands over partly completed Appiatse community 2 years after tragic explosion

The government officially commissioned and handed over a partly reconstructed Appiatse community to the victims of the Appiatse disaster on Thursday, May 2, 2024.

The first and second phases of the construction have been completed, with the third phase vet to take place.

The new community features about 120 family-sized bungalows arranged in a grid layout. Present at the handing-over ceremony were Vice President Dr Mahamudu Bawumia, and Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, Samuel Abu Jinapor, among others.

The Vice President reassured the residents of the government's commitment to complete the third phase of the project.

A tragic incident hit Appiatse on January 20, 2022, after an explosion triggered by a vehicle transporting mining explosives saw the loss of 13 lives.

This catastrophe left numerous residents displaced and without shelter, prompting urgent reconstruction efforts.

Following concerns raised by some residents about the sluggish pace of the reconstruction process, the Public Relations Officer (PRO) of the Appiatse Reconstruction Committee, Mr. Thywill Quarshie, provided updates in July 2023.

He disclosed that the first phase of the reconstruction project, consisting of 124 housing units, was nearing completion. These units include a range of accommodation options, from onebedroom apartments to sevenbedroom residences, designed to accommodate the victims of the disaster.

Mr Quarshie further reported that the majority of the buildings had already been roofed, with plans in place to commence external works such as electrical

installations, plastering, painting. Additionally, significant progress had been made in completing the drainage system, while construction of the road network within the township was underway.

The Appiatse Relief Committee

received generous donations totallingGH¢62 million as of August 2023, dedicated to supporting reconstruction ongoing and rehabilitation efforts in the Appiatse community.

Source: The Independent Ghana | Andy Ogbarmey-Tettey



File Photo





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# Business

#### Reduce importation of goods to stabilise the cedi – TUC boss to Ghanaians

**¬** ecretary-General the Trades Union Congress (TUC), Dr. Anthony Yaw Baah has advocated for the reduction of import dependence and embracing local products to stabilise the cedi against global currencies.

At the 2024 National May Day Parade themed "Election 2024: The Role of Workers and Social Partners in Securing Peaceful Elections for National Development," Dr Baah highlighted the cedi's 250% depreciation since 2016, attributing it to overreliance on imports.

He said, "because of our overreliance on imported goods whose prices were directly affected by the exchange rate of the cedi in terms of the major international currencies such as the US dollar and the pound sterling."

This trend, he noted, severely impacts living standards, emphasising the urgent need for change.

Leaders, including President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo and representatives from various sectors, convened at the Independence Square in Accra for the event.

Dr Baah stressed that the current exchange rate of GH¢14 to \$1, compared to GH¢4 to \$1 in 2016, significantly reduces purchasing power, exacerbating the challenges faced by workers in meeting basic

He also said the labour front had some concerns about the activities of the SSNIT and, therefore, called on President Akufo-Addo for dialogue about their concerns.

#### May Day

The day is marked as a holiday to celebrate the contributions of workers to national development and nation-building. The May Day celebration has been a platform for workers to directly advocate better conditions of service and bring up

other work-related issues.

This year's event was marked on the theme: "Election 2024: The Role of Workers and Social Partners in Securing Peaceful Elections for National Development". The organisation of the celebration, which was led by the Trades Union Congress (TUC), saw workers in Accra converge on the Black Star Square.

The atmosphere at the Black Star Square was filled with excitement as the workers, without any restrictions, interacted one another. In all, about 43 workers from the various labour unions were honoured for their distinguished and meritorious services.

Source: The Independent Ghana | Sebastian Akaho-Tay



File Photo

## Oil prices to stay above \$80 per barrel till 2025 - EIU projects

The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) expects global oil prices to stay above \$80 per barrel until late 2025, according to its recent latest projection.

This will have a significant impact on inflationary pressures for many countries, especially experiencing currency depreciation against the US dollar. The UK-based firm, citing data from the International Energy Agency, noted that the global oil market entered a deficit in the first quarter of 2024 due to geopolitical tensions and supply-demand pressures driving prices up.

"We have revised our oil price forecasts, with dated Brent Blend expected to remain above US\$80/ barrel until late 2025. This will increase inflationary pressures in many countries as their currencies weaken against the dollar."

The EIU also predicts that oil prices will trade near \$90 per barrel for the next few months of this year.

"Even with minimal disruptions to oil shipments and traders overlooking military escalation concerns, prices are likely to stay high due to the global market deficit. OPEC+ is expected to adhere to reduced output quotas. and Saudi Arabia will maintain

sharp voluntary cuts until mid-2024. gradually increasing production towards the end of the year."

"We anticipate a modest increase in US production in 2024 before stabilizing in 2025. Despite rising prices, the US oil rig count has decreased by 14% from last year,

prioritizing companies with shareholder dividends."

The recent projection from the EIU is anticipated to affect Ghana's economy, which is grappling with inflation, depreciation of the cedi, and an ongoing IMF program.

Source: The Independent Ghana



File Photo

# International

#### Nigerian gasoline prices soar as shortages worsen cost of living crisis

asoline shortages persisted in Nigeria's major cities Tuesday, causing a sharp increase in prices and exacerbating the country's cost-ofliving crisis.

Prices in some retail outlets in Lagos and Abuja rose above 850 naira, while those outside major cities, such as Kano, soared above 1000 naira, though the government-owned oil firm, NNPC Ltd, which imports the products sells at an average price of 617 naira.

President Bola Tinubu's government last vear removed subsidies and allowed private firms to import but foreign currency shortages and a cap on the price of petrol have meant

NNPC remains the sole importer. An NNPC spokesperson said that some outlets were taking advantage of this situation to

maximise profits.

Gasoline is widely used in cars and to power generators for households and small businesses and the current shortage is weighing on the economy, which is already struggling with the highest inflation rate in 28 years.

Many commuters were left stranded waiting for buses that were stuck in long queues at various retail stations.

Analysts say the price of basic food items would see a sharp increase if shortages persist. This will add to frustrations after the government raised electricity tariffs for some consumers.

"You have the money for transport but no bus, you have the money for to buy fuel but there is scarcity. No light (electricity), heat everywhere, and high costs of goods. What did we do to deserve our leaders," someone posted on the X platform.

The NNPC has attributed the shortages to logistical challenges, assuring customers that it has more than 1.5 billion litres of petrol, which was enough to last at least 30 days. But it is in debt and is unable to produce enough crude for its refineries.

Source: Reuters



File Photo

## 'We are still engaged with West African juntas' - US

The US is still engaged with Niger and Chad, despite withdrawing troops from the countries, the head of the US Africa Command has told the BBC.

On Wednesday, dozens of US troops left Chad after the country's military leaders raised concerns over their presence ahead of the 6 May elections.

Gen Michael Langley told the BBC it was a "temporary repositioning" of troops.

Last month, US troops left neighbouring Niger after being ordered out by the country's junta. military Russian instructors have arrived in Niger as part of a new agreement with the military leaders.

Several other military-led countries in the Sahel region have also recently strengthened ties with Russia and cut them with France, the former colonial power, as they try to fight an Islamist insurgency in the region.

The Sahel region is considered the new global epicentre of the Islamic State group.

Gen Langley said that violent extremist organisations were the biggest threat to Africa's stability. Last year, Niger and Burkina Faso both announced they were following Mali in withdrawing from the G5 international force set up to fight Islamists in the region. The three military-run countries have instead set up their own grouping - the Alliance of Sahel States.

The US set up a drone base in the central Niger city of Agadez, 750km (460 miles) north-east of the capital, Niamey, in 2016 to help monitor regional jihadist activity. But in March after Niger ordered US troops to leave. Military spokesperson Amadou Col Abdramane accused the US of raising objections about the allies that Niger had chosen.

Col Abdramane condemned the US for its "condescending attitude" and "threat of reprisals".

But Gen Langley said that the "ultimate goal" of the US was to continue a dialogue with those countries that have been taken over by juntas.

He told the BBC the US hopes to get the juntas "on a roadmap back to democracy".

"That's the ultimate goal of the US government - of our continued engagement with these countries that have been taken over by juntas.

He said that he had spoken several Chadian leaders. "They are still inviting us in for continued

relations because we've enjoyed a lot of success in helping Chad fight terrorism," he said.

"In Niger, our talks are still ongoing, whether we reset or reposition will just really be based on the threat, but also - every country we engage with is at the request of that country."

Source: BBC





