

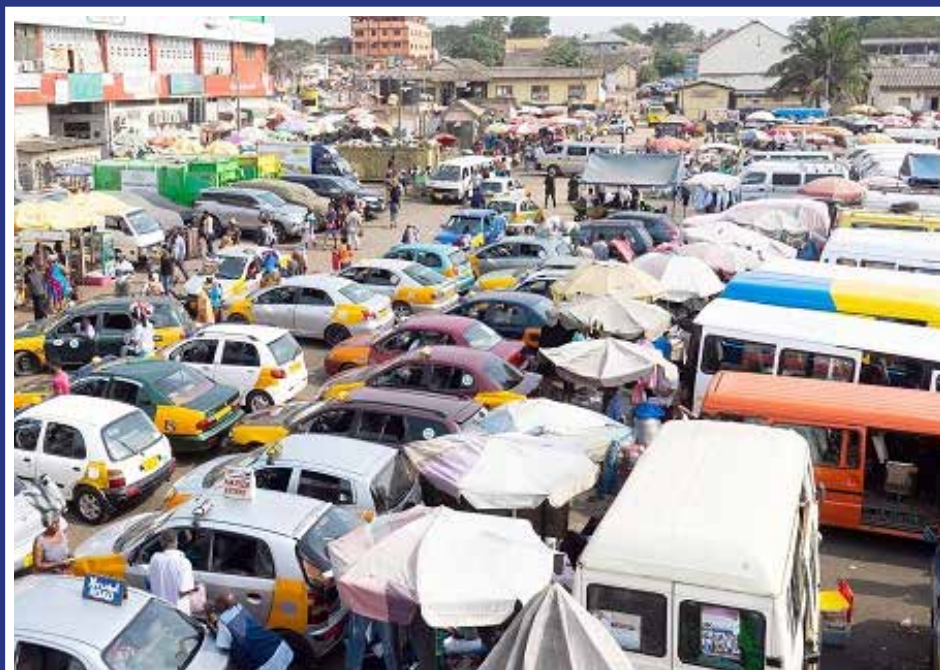


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# General News

## Disregard 15% increment in transport fares announcement - GPRTU to public

The Ghana Private Road Transport Union (GPRTU) has advised Ghanaians to ignore the recent announcement of a 15% increase in transport fares by the Transport Operators Association.

The fare hike was set to take effect today, Monday, July 22, 2024. GPRTU recognized the impact of rising fuel prices on transportation costs but emphasized that any fare adjustments require thorough stakeholder consultation, which has not yet occurred.

As a result, GPRTU has instructed commercial transport operators to continue charging the current fares.

Industrial Relations Officer for GPRTU, Abass Imoro, stated, "We are not coming out with an increment. We are saying no, it is not just any ordinary increment in fuel which attracts fare adjustment. We recently increased lorry fares so we haven't gotten there. It is unfortunate, for those who came out with that publication.

"We know what is happening but we have to go by the laid down system before any increment is done. So the public should disregard the press release by those people who said

fares will be increased."

Mr Imoro expressed hope that the fare increase will be retracted before the scheduled date.

"I will be surprised if drivers have

increased the fares and are charging. We strongly believe they will retract it even before Monday," he added.

With regards to fuel price hikes, Shell, among others, has raised the price of petrol to GH¢15.10 per litre and

diesel to GH¢15.25 per litre, setting a trend likely to be followed by other OMCs, further exacerbating fuel costs for drivers and commuters alike.

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



Lorry station

## Parliament ratifies Timber Utilisation Contracts to bolster trade

Parliament has given the green light to the Timber Utilisation Contracts (TUCs) for timber exploitation.

This approval, which ratified eleven out of nineteen TUCs initially proposed, meets constitutional requirements.

With this decision, Ghana can now issue Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Licences, facilitating the export of timber and timber products to European markets.

Ghana is poised to become the first African nation and the second worldwide after Indonesia to issue FLEGT Licences for timber.

On March 31, 2022, the Cabinet sanctioned the conversion of 156 timber concessions and permits into TUCs, in accordance with Section 19 of Act 547, which was subsequently

presented to Parliament for approval.

Act 547, effective from March 18, 1998, requires a TUC for timber harvesting, replacing the Concessions Act of 1962 (Act 124) which previously governed timber rights.

The TUCs represent a significant policy shift aimed at improving the efficiency and competitiveness of timber resource management.

Section 19 of Act 547 specifies that timber rights granted before the Act's implementation were valid for only six months, necessitating the application for TUCs within that period.

Despite this, it took nearly 25 years for these concessions and permits to transition into TUCs.

The recent ratification by Parliament marks a substantial advancement in the legal timber trade, aligning with

**- continued on page 3**



Parliament house



# General News

## Parliament ratifies Timber Utilisation Contracts to bolster trade

- Continued from page 2

European Union standards.

A statement from the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources on Thursday, July 18, highlighted that this ratification completes the

process of granting timber rights and underscores the government's commitment to sustainable forest management.

This development also aligns with

Ghana's obligations under the Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) with the EU regarding FLEGT Licences.

It supports efforts to combat deforestation and forest degradation,

enhances environmental governance, and contributes to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Source: *The Independent Ghana* / *Phoebe.M.Doku*

## Students at College of Education abandon campus as CETAG strike intensifies

Students at Bimbilla College of Education have been compelled to leave campus due to the ongoing strike by the Colleges of Education Teachers Association of Ghana (CETAG).

The strike, which began on June 14, 2024, has left students stranded and uncertain about their academic future.

It was triggered by the government's delay in implementing an arbitral award and agreed-upon service conditions.

Despite an order from the National Labour Commission to end the strike, CETAG has remained firm in its demands, leading to a

complete shutdown of academic and administrative activities at the college.

With no resolution in sight, many students are running low on funds and options. Final-year students are particularly worried that the strike will disrupt their academic calendar and affect their scheduled graduation in September.

First-year students also fear that their education could be compromised by the ongoing strike.

In an interview with the media, students voiced their frustration and concern over the uncertainty of their academic progress.

Some have resorted to private study sessions to prepare for upcoming end-of-semester exams, despite the lack of formal instruction.

The next scheduled meeting to address the strike is set for August 6, 2024 and students are urging the government to address CETAG's grievances promptly as well as facilitate a resolution, particularly given the significance of the current election year.

Meanwhile, the Director-General of the Ghana Tertiary Education Commission (GTEC), Professor Ahmed Jinapor Abdulai had asked striking members of the Colleges of Education Teachers Association

of Ghana (CETAG) to return to the classrooms.

This was due to claims by Mr Ahmed Jinapor, that the government, through the Finance Ministry, had paid all research and book allowances owed to CETAG members.

In light of these developments, it remains to be seen whether CETAG members will heed the call to return to the classrooms and resume their duties, or if further negotiations will be necessary to resolve the cause of the ongoing strike.

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



Bimbilla College of Education

# General News

## Global IT outage hasn't affected KIA's operations – GACL

The Ghana Airports Company Limited (GACL) has confirmed that operations at Kotoka International Airport (KIA) remain unaffected by the global IT outage that has disrupted numerous airports and airlines worldwide.

Industries globally, including airlines, banks, retail outlets, and broadcasters, since last Friday are facing a major IT outage. This has resulted in grounded flights and significant delays, particularly for major U.S. airlines.

Despite assurances from Microsoft that the issue has been resolved, problems persist, with blue error screens appearing on public displays across the United States and other locations.

In a statement released on Friday, GACL management clarified that KIA's IT systems are functioning normally and all flights are operating according to schedule.

"We assure the general public that Kotoka International Airport's IT systems are intact. However, due to the global nature of the glitch, some flight delays and interruptions from affected countries may have a slight impact on Accra," the statement read.

Among the 24 international airlines operating at KIA, only one has had to cancel some scheduled flights.

"All other operations remain uninterrupted and on schedule," the statement concluded.

The GACL assured that it will continue to monitor the situation closely and provide necessary updates to the traveling public as the situation evolves.

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



Kotoka International Airport (KIA)

## Providing security during elections is not part of our job - EC

Chairperson of the Electoral Commission (EC), Jean Adukwei Mensa, has clarified that the EC is not responsible for ensuring security during elections.

Her statement comes as a response to misconceptions about the Commission's role in the electoral process.

In a recent briefing to Parliament ahead of the 2024 elections, Madam Mensa on July 19, emphasized that the EC's duties are strictly related to election management and not security.

She explained that the EC collaborates with the National Election Security Task Force, which is led by the Inspector General of Police, to safeguard voters and election materials at polling stations across the country.

"Our role is to collaborate with them by providing details of all our centres and our printing arrangements, enabling them to work with us and protect the ballots, especially during transportation to the regions," Madam Mensa said.

She further clarified, "We have often heard that the Electoral Commission is responsible for security, but we

want to emphasize that this is the mandate of the security agencies. The police are co-responsible for security before, during, and after elections, and they make all security decisions independently of the Electoral Commission."

On the subject of security provision, the Ghana Armed Forces (GAF) has reaffirmed its commitment to upholding professionalism and ensuring peace and stability during

the upcoming December elections.

Chief of Defense Staff, Lieutenant General Thomas Oppong-Peprah, emphasized the pivotal role of the GAF in safeguarding Ghana's democratic processes and maintaining national security.

Also, Inspector-General of Police (IGP), Dr. George Akuffo Dampare, has assured the public of the Ghana Police Service's preparedness to oversee

security operations throughout the upcoming December 7 general elections.

He conveyed this commitment during a gathering at Accra's Alisa Hotel on Thursday, July 4, where he engaged with a distinguished group organized by the Christian Council of Ghana.

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



Jean Adukwei Mensa, Chairperson of the Electoral Commission (EC)

# General News

## Tension mounts as NDC, NPP point fingers over billboard, poster destruction

The Mahama 2024 Campaign has issued a strong warning to the New Patriotic Party (NPP) regarding any attempts to remove or obstruct billboards featuring its flagbearer, John Dramani Mahama, or National Democratic Congress (NDC) parliamentary candidates.

The campaign team reported that the Chief Executive of the Tema Metropolitan Assembly (TMA) had taken down a billboard of Mr. Mahama, which was installed by Alliance Media in Tema.

In a statement released on Friday, July 19, the Mahama 2024 Campaign condemned this action, labeling it as “unacceptable and a needless provocation aimed at inflaming political tensions in the country.”

“Alliance Media, a legally registered Ghanaian advertising business, has the rightful permission to mount Out-of-Home (OOH) and Digital Out-of-Home (DOOH) sites nationwide. They diligently pay the required annual fees to the TMA and other assemblies. Therefore, it is utterly unacceptable for the TMA chief executive to tear down their legally placed billboard, which the Mahama Campaign rented and paid for.”

The Mahama 2024 Campaign expects

Alliance Media to pursue legal action against the TMA for this incident. They warned the TMA Chief Executive and the NPP that such provocative acts, which incite political clashes and violence, are detrimental to the progress of democracy in Ghana.

“We have noted a similar act in the Ablekuma North constituency, where the NPP blocked a billboard mounted by the NDC parliamentary candidate. And despite the NPP’s unwarranted provocation in various parts of the country, we note that institutions like the National Peace Council and religious and civil society organisations are watching,” they added.

The Mahama 2024 Campaign emphasized that such actions would no longer be tolerated. “If these provocations continue, we will be forced to instruct our members to take necessary measures to prevent such acts across the country.”

They urged the NPP to campaign peacefully and respect the rights of others to promote their political candidates and messages.

“Violence and destruction of property have no place in our political discourse. As President Mahama noted in an opinion piece on Tuesday,

there must be “peace and decorum in our political discourse, especially in the run-up to high-stakes elections such as those we face in December this year,” the Mahama 2024 Campaign further stated.

Meanwhile, the New Patriotic Party (NPP) leadership in the Tamale South constituency has expressed strong dissatisfaction over the defacement of their parliamentary candidate Alhaji Fuseini Musah’s posters during the recent Fire Festival celebrations.

According to the NPP, posters of their candidate were vandalized along the Lamashegu and Tamale Teaching Hospital roads, while posters of the NDC candidate, Haruna Iddrisu, remained untouched. This has led to accusations from the NPP, alleging that the NDC is responsible for the incident.

“This deliberate defacing and removal of banners belonging to our diligent parliamentary candidate, Alhaji Fuseini Musah, and Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia is both unfortunate and distasteful,” Razak said.

“The incident, which occurred during the Fire Festival, was a clear sign of disrespect for our candidates and an attempt to undermine our campaign.”

At a press conference, Abdulai Abdul

Razak, the NPP’s communications director for the Tamale South constituency, condemned the act as a blatant violation of political decorum and announced their intention to report the matter to the police.

He emphasized that such actions are illegal under the political parties law and called for legal action.

Razak noted that the posters of Hon. Haruna Iddrisu were left intact, which he finds peculiar and indicative of a targeted attack. He described the actions as irresponsible and intended to provoke conflict and confusion within the constituency.

The NPP has called on the NDC to address the behavior of their members and restore decorum to the campaign environment.

They have vowed to take the necessary legal steps to address what they perceive as a deliberate attempt to disrupt the electoral process.

“This act of vandalism is not only unreasonable but also shows a blatant disregard for the laws of our country. We are committed to ensuring that those responsible are held accountable,” Razak added.

**Source: The Independent Ghana / Phoebe.M.Doku**



NDC and NPP billboards

# General News

## We've not sent any athlete to compete in Oslo marathon - Ghana Paralympic C'ttee

The Ghana Paralympic Committee has responded to reports about a paracycling team representing Ghana which is said to have absconded to various Schengen states after arriving in Norway earlier this year, ostensibly to prepare for the Fjordkraft Bergen City Marathon.

The 11-member team failed to register and participate in the competition, which was scheduled for late April.

According to a document released by the National Security Authority on July 3, 2024, a member of the team was apprehended and detained by Norwegian security officials in late April while attempting to travel to Sweden.

The same document revealed that the team coach, George Gyamfi Gyasi, collapsed and was admitted to the Oslo University Hospital, where he subsequently died on May 17, 2024.

But according to president of the National Paralympic Committee (NPC), Samson Deen, the Committee has never sought to participate in any event which is a paralympic qualifier in Norway or Oslo.

"The Ghana Paralympic team has not sent anybody, any athlete. We have never applied for a visa at the Norwegian Embassy or sent anybody to get a visa to travel to Norway," Mr Deen said in an interview.

Ghana Paralympic Committee also noted that the documents being cited which had Mr Deen's signature were forged, adding that the individuals are not athletes the Committee are familiar with.

In response to these events, the Norwegian embassy in Accra has issued alerts to other Schengen and West African diplomatic missions to aid in apprehending and repatriating the team members. The search for the absconded athletes is currently ongoing.

Meanwhile, the National Paralympic Committee of Ghana has suspended Mr. Theodore Mawuli Viwotor, Mr. Ernest Yaw Ayisi, and the Enestay Foundation indefinitely for their involvement in the matter.

**Source: The Independent Ghana**



**Ghana Paralympic Team**

## IEA hasn't officially informed NDC about a presidential debate - Mahama's campaign team

The Mahama 2024 Campaign has issued a sharp rebuke to the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) Ghana following its recent announcement of a presidential debate ahead of the December elections.

In a statement issued on July 19, 2024, the campaign criticized the IEA for failing to engage or inform the National Democratic Congress (NDC) before making the announcement. The NDC, one of Ghana's major political parties, was taken by surprise by the IEA's plans.

The campaign's spokesperson, Joyce Mogtari, emphasized in a press release that the Constitution does not grant the IEA any authority to organize election-related activities.

"The Constitution of Ghana does not grant the IEA any authority to organize elections-related activities. The fact that the IEA has not shown the decency or respect to at least inform the NDC of its plans raises serious questions about its motives,"

Mogtari stated.

The Mahama 2024 Campaign, in its Friday release, accused the IEA of lacking the decency and respect to inform the NDC of its debate plans, which they believe raises questions about the institute's intentions.

Furthermore, the campaign alleged that the IEA is "acting as a front for the New Patriotic Party (NPP) and seeks to manipulate the electoral process in favor of the ruling party."

Highlighting Mr. Mahama's commitment to addressing the needs and concerns of the Ghanaian people, the statement mentioned that his campaign conversations have targeted a wide range of audiences.

The campaign accused the IEA of using the NDC's name to promote its activities, describing this as a blatant attempt to misrepresent the party.

The Mahama 2024 Campaign concluded by assuring Ghanaians of the NDC's dedication to meaningful and respectful engagement with the

public, ensuring that all voices are heard and their needs addressed.

Meanwhile, the flagbearer of the New Patriotic Party (NPP), Vice President Dr Mahamudu Bawumia has dared former President Mahama to a debate

on the economy.

The NDC has however criticised the Vice President for prioritising a presidential debate over ensuring the recovery of the economy.

**Source: The Independent Ghana**



**John Dramani Mahama, NDC Flagbearer**



# General News

## Chiefs of Hwidiem to protest over poor roads

The Chiefs of Hwidiem in the Asutifi South District and Kenyasi Number 1 and 2 in the Ahafo Region have issued a firm ultimatum to the government, demanding the swift resumption of work on the Hwidiem-Kenyasi road.

At a press conference in Kenyasi, the Chiefs voiced their frustration over the ongoing delays in road repairs, which they argue are severely affecting their communities.

The contractor, Kofi Job, has been given a strict deadline to resume work or face repercussions.

The Chiefs have warned that if their demands are not addressed by August 6, 2024, they will stage a large-scale demonstration.

Nana Agyemang, representing the three communities, criticized the government's lack of response despite repeated appeals for urgent intervention regarding the deteriorating road conditions.

"The road continues to worsen with no intervention from the authorities. We urge all citizens to join us in the upcoming demonstration.

"While we are committed to resolving this issue peacefully, we may have no choice but to continue with protests until the roads are fixed. We hope that the government and other stakeholders will heed our call and take immediate action," he added.

Meanwhile, President Akufo-Addo has asserted that his administration has surpassed the combined road infrastructure achievements of the Mills/Mahama era.

Speaking at the sod-cutting ceremony for the dualization of the Anwiankwanta-Ahenema Kokoben Road on Monday, July 15, Akufo-Addo emphasized the scale of road development during his presidency.

"We have completed 12,830 kilometres of roads since 2017, a stark contrast to the 4,636 kilometres achieved from 2009 to

2016," President Akufo-Addo stated, highlighting the extensive roadworks including asphalt overlays, new constructions, bridges, and ongoing interchange projects.

"The progress made sets a high standard and serves as a blueprint for what can be achieved with dedication

and strategic planning. Successive governments must ensure sustained investment in infrastructure to address the road deficit and meet the evolving needs of our rapidly growing population," the president said.

*Source: The Independent Ghana / Amanda Cartey*



File photo

## Anti-LGBTQ bill may not be enacted under Akufo-Addo's administration - Martin Kpebu

Lawyer and human rights activist, Martin Kpebu has expressed doubts about the likelihood of the anti-gay bill, officially known as the Human Sexual Rights and Family Values Bill of 2021, becoming law under the second term of President Akufo-Addo.

This bill seeks to restrict the rights of lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgenders, queers, and other individuals with non-heterosexual orientations.

Mr Kpebu argued that due to the Supreme Court's tight schedule, there may not be sufficient time to address the bill's constitutionality before it reaches President Akufo-Addo for assent.

"It will only take a miracle for it to become law. Lawyers are going on vacation and will only deal with emergency cases. This gay bill does not qualify as an emergency case. The court will resume hearings after mid-October, but there are still quite a number of steps to take before the court reaches a decision. Practically, this bill is not likely to become law," Mr. Kpebu explained.

His assertion follows the Supreme Court's decision to postpone its ruling on the injunction applications filed by Broadcast Journalist Richard Dela Sky and Researcher Dr. Amanda Odoi regarding the transmission of the controversial anti-LGBTQ bill to President Nana Akufo-Addo.

Last week, the apex court announced that it will deliver its ruling on the injunction applications concurrently with the final judgment.

Chief Justice Gertrude Torkornoo, presiding over a five-member panel, emphasized that an expedited trial would better serve the interests of justice in this matter.

The decision comes amidst heightened public interest and legal scrutiny surrounding the Human Sexual Rights and Family Values Bill recently passed by Parliament.

During separate hearings, the Supreme Court addressed the concerns raised by Richard Dela Sky and Dr. Amanda Odoi. Mr. Sky challenges the constitutionality of the bill, arguing that it violates multiple provisions of the 1992 constitution and encroaches upon fundamental

human rights.

Dr. Odoi, on the other hand, expressed specific reservations about certain provisions within the bill and sought an injunction to halt its transmission to the President for approval. Her legal counsel, Dr. Ernest Ackon, contended that the bill's passage lacked a fiscal impact analysis, potentially infringing Article 108 of the constitution.

In response, the Attorney-General, Godfred Yeboah Dame, defended Parliament's actions, asserting that the Speaker's discretion in

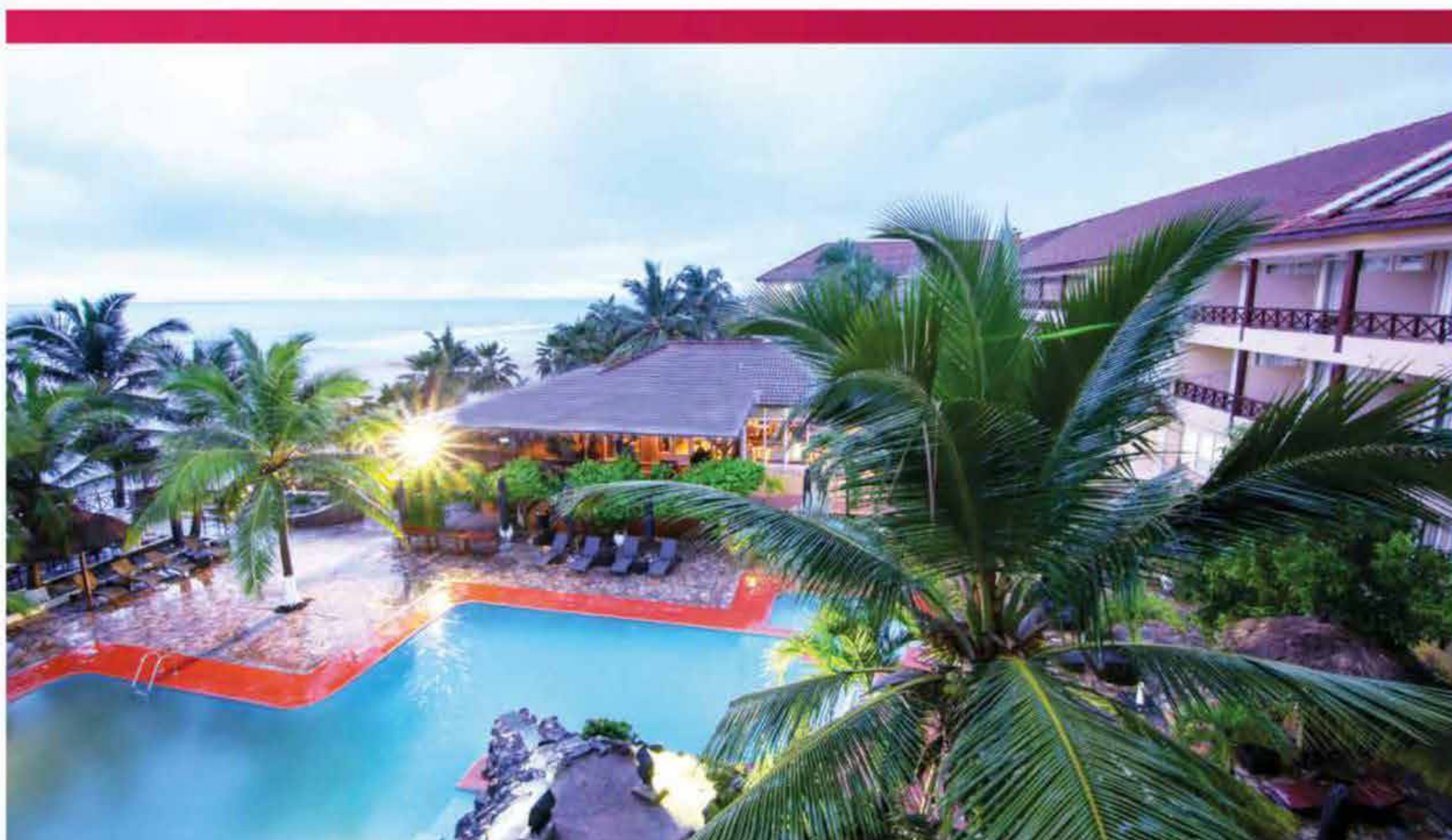
transmitting bills to the President is constitutionally bound and does not require additional fiscal scrutiny beyond what is explicitly stated in the bill.

Thaddeus Sory, representing the Speaker of Parliament, argued against the injunctions, emphasizing that the legislative process remains ongoing until the bill receives presidential assent, thus placing it outside the Supreme Court's jurisdiction to intervene prematurely.

*Source: The Independent Ghana*



Martin Kpebu, Lawyer and human rights activist



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# Business

## Regional airports raised GHS13.13m revenue and spent GHS39.14m in 2022 - AG

A recent report by the Auditor-General has revealed the financial status of five regional airports in the country.

Covering the 2023 accounts of public boards, corporations, and statutory institutions, the report highlights that these airports collectively generated GH¢13.13 million in revenue for 2022, while their expenditures reached GH¢39.14 million.

This resulted in a significant deficit of GH¢26.01 million, necessitating a review of strategies to enhance regional airport development and maximize economic benefits.

The airports under scrutiny include Kumasi Airport (now Prempeh I International Airport) in the Ashanti Region, Tamale Airport in the Northern Region, Wa Airport in the Upper West Region, Sunyani Airport in the Bono Region, and Ho Airport in the Volta Region.

A breakdown of the financial figures shows Kumasi Airport incurred expenses of GH¢15.68 million while generating GH¢8.22 million in revenue.

Tamale Airport reported GH¢4.74 million in revenue against GH¢15.41 million in expenditures. Sunyani Airport earned GH¢95,626.58 but spent GH¢4.53 million.

Ho Airport did not generate any revenue but had expenses totaling GH¢1.38 million, and Wa Airport made GH¢77,250.48 in revenue with expenditures of GH¢2.15 million.

Auditor-General Johnson Akuamoah Asiedu attributed the poor financial performance to low passenger numbers, a limited number of domestic airlines, and underutilized rental facilities.

The report noted that these issues are affecting the financial stability of Ghana Airports Company Limited (GACL), due to high operational costs and insufficient revenue.

The report also cautioned that neglected facilities, such as those at Ho Airport, may deteriorate over time.

To address these issues, the report recommended that GACL management incentivize domestic

airlines to use these airports, launch marketing campaigns to attract more travelers, and seek concessionaires for idle spaces to generate rental income.

It also suggested collaborating with regulatory authorities to ease restrictions for potential airlines while maintaining safety.

In response, airport management acknowledged the commercial challenges but expressed optimism that new infrastructure and international flights could enhance viability.

They emphasized that developing these airports aligns with national policy and will create significant job opportunities both during and after construction.

GACL reaffirmed its commitment to investing in regional airports, highlighting their role in supporting national economic growth and providing essential social and public services across the country.

**Source: The Independent Ghana / Phoebe.M.Doku**



Airport

## Dek-Nock Investments shut down for unlawful deposit-taking operation

Dozens of Ghanaians are in a state of shock and agony after the Ghana Police Service and the Bank of Ghana (BoG) closed down Dek-Nock Investments, located in Nungua and Ashaiman in the Greater Accra Region.

The closure, which took place on July 19, 2024, was executed in accordance with Section 20(2)(g) of the Banks and Specialised Deposit-taking Institutions Act, 2016 (Act 930).

The BoG released a statement indicating that Dek-Nock Investments was involved in unauthorized deposit-taking activities, a violation of Section 6(1) of Act 930.

"The Ghana Police Service is conducting further investigations into the operations of Dek-Nock Investments," the statement said.

In a video gone viral on social media, several customers beseeched the company's premises demanding for

their money.

The BoG has urged customers of Dek-Nock Investments to remain calm as investigations continue, assuring that the public and all stakeholders will be kept informed about the next steps.

The statement emphasized the BoG's commitment, in collaboration with law enforcement agencies, to clamping down on illegal deposit-taking operations. Offenders will be prosecuted to maintain the integrity and stability of the financial system.

"The Bank assures the general public of its commitment to promoting the integrity and stability of the financial system," the statement affirmed.

For further information, inquiries can be directed to the Other Financial Institutions Supervision Department of the Bank of Ghana via telephone numbers 0302-666174-6.

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



Dek-Nock Investments office

# International

## Nigeria fines Meta \$220 million for violating consumer, data laws

Nigeria fined Meta Platforms \$220 million, its competition watchdog said on Friday, after investigations showed data-sharing on social platforms violated local consumer, data protection and privacy laws.

Nigeria's Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (FCCPC) said Meta appropriated the data of Nigerian users on its platforms without their consent, abused its market dominance by forcing exploitative privacy policies on users, and meted out discriminatory and disparate treatment on Nigerians, compared with other jurisdictions with similar regulations.

Meta did not immediately comment, but the FCCPC said in a statement that the company had provided some documents and have retained counsels who have met and engaged with the agency.

FCCPC chief Adamu Abdullahi said the investigations were jointly held with Nigeria's Data Protection Commission

and spanned over 38 months.

The investigations found Meta policies don't allow users the option or opportunity to self-determine or withhold consent to the gathering, use, and sharing of personal data, Abdullahi said.

"The totality of the investigation has concluded that Meta over the protracted period of time has engaged in conduct that constituted multiple and repeated, as well as continuing infringements... particularly, but not limited to abusive, and invasive practices against data subjects in Nigeria," Abdullahi said.

"Being satisfied with the significant evidence on the record, and that Meta has been provided every opportunity to articulate any position, representations, refutations, explanations or defences of their conduct, the Commission have now entered a final order and issued a penalty against Meta," Abdullahi said.

The final order mandates steps and

actions Meta must take to comply with local laws, Abdullahi said.

In May, Turkey's competition board fined Meta 1.2 billion lira following investigations on data-sharing on its Facebook, Instagram, Threads and WhatsApp platforms.

Meta has faced pushback in Europe and other jurisdictions over alleged breaches of data protection laws. Meta's plan to use personal data to

train its artificial intelligence models without seeking consent has come under fire in Europe.

Meanwhile, South Africa's competition watchdog have announced plans to investigate whether digital platforms, including Meta unfairly compete with news publishers by using their content to generate ad revenue.

**Source: Reuters**



Meta

## Uganda protest organisers playing with fire, president says

Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni has warned protesters that they will be "playing with fire" if they press ahead with plans to stage an anti-corruption march to parliament on Tuesday.

Young Ugandans have been organising the march on social media to demand an end to corruption in government.

They have been partly inspired by their counterparts in neighbouring Kenya, who organised mass demonstrations that forced President William Ruto to drop plans to increase taxes. The protests have since morphed into calls for his resignation.

In a televised address, Mr Museveni warned the Ugandan organisers that their planned protest would not be tolerated.

"We are busy producing wealth... and you here want to disturb us. You are playing with fire because we cannot allow you to disturb us," he said.

Mr Museveni is accused by his critics of ruling Uganda with an iron hand since taking power in 1986, but his supporters praise him for maintaining stability in the East African state.

The president also accused some of the protest organisers of "always working with foreigners" to cause chaos in Uganda. He did not elaborate.

Police had earlier announced that they had refused to give permission for the march to take place when parliament opens on Tuesday.

One of the main protest leaders told AFP news agency that they would go ahead with it.

"We don't need police permission to carry out a peaceful demonstration. It is our constitutional right," Louez Aloikin Opolose was quoted as saying.

The UK and US governments imposed sanctions on Uganda's parliamentary speaker, Anita Annet Among, earlier this year after she was accused of

corruption.

She has denied any wrongdoing. The sanctions bar her from travelling to the UK and the US. The UK also said that it would impose an asset freeze on her.

The UK has enforced similar sanctions on two government ministers who were sacked by Mr Museveni after they too were accused of corruption.

Mary Goretti Kitutu and Agnes Nandutu have been charged in court over a scandal involving the theft of thousands of metal roofing sheets that were intended for vulnerable communities in the north-eastern Karamoja region.

Both have denied the charges.

**Source: BBC**



Yoweri Museveni, Uganda's President

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