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General News

Roads Ministry to launch call center and maintenance app

The Ministry of Roads and Highways, led by Minister Francis Asenso-Boakye, is set to launch a dedicated call center and mobile application to quickly address public concerns about road defects.

According to a statement from the Ministry, the new Maintenance App will allow citizens to report issues like potholes by uploading photos and providing precise location details directly from their smartphones.

At the Ghana Highway Authority's 50th-anniversary event in Accra, Minister Asenso-Boakye stressed the importance of improving road maintenance practices nationwide.

He noted that while successive governments have made significant investments in road development, they have not matched these with adequate

investments in maintenance.

"Successive governments have made significant investments in road development without a corresponding investment in road maintenance."

To address this disparity, the Ministry has committed to allocating "60% of its annual maintenance budget to support the call centre and app initiative".

"Prioritizing maintenance, particularly in critical areas like pothole patching and spot improvements, will help address the country's poor road maintenance culture."

The anniversary celebration, themed "Ghana Highway Authority at 50 – Development and Maintenance of Quality Highways: Retrospect and Prospect," was attended by the Chief of Staff at the Office of the President, Akosua Frema Osei-Opare.

She praised the Ghana Highways Authority for its crucial role in boosting the nation's economic development and connectivity over the past fifty years.

"The Authority has enabled the seamless flow of goods and services across the nation, connecting rural and urban areas and ensuring equal access to opportunities for all citizens, regardless of location,"

she noted.

She also honored the dedicated service of the Authority's staff, including notable individuals such as Ing. Kwesi Abbey Sam, Ing. H.O.A Quaynor, Ing. B.L.T. Sakibu, and Ing. Sylvia Asare, a pioneer for female engineers.

Source: The Independent Ghana / Phoebe Martekie Doku



Francis Asenso-Boakye, Minister of Roads & Highways

Thirty-four prisoners participate in 2024 BECE

Thirty-four prisoners are set to participate in this year's Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE) in Ghana, marking their transition from Junior High Schools to Senior High Schools and Technical Institutions.

All candidates are male, comprising 27 juveniles from the Senior Correctional Centre (SCC), 5 from Nsawam Maximum Security Prison, and 2 from Sunyani Central Prison.

According to the Greater Accra Regional Public Relations Officer, DSP Loretta Valentina Amoah, the inmates have received thorough preparation from qualified teachers of the Ghana Prisons Service and the Ghana Education Service.

She expressed confidence in their abilities to excel in all subjects.

However, she also noted challenges such as insufficient teaching and learning materials, hindering the

inmates' preparation.

DSP Valentina Amoah called on the public to support the inmates, especially the juveniles, by donating textbooks and past exam papers to aid their studies.

In an engagement with the media, inmate candidates expressed gratitude to their teachers for the rigorous preparation and pledged

to perform well in the exams, aiming to make their educators proud.

The Ghana Prisons Service introduced formal education on a pilot basis at the Senior Correctional Centre in 2007, extending it to other prisons later, to equip inmates with basic literacy skills and certificates for easier

reintegration into society.

Since the first batch of 21 juveniles and young offenders successfully sat for the BECE in 2009 with a 100% pass rate, subsequent cohorts have also achieved perfect pass rates, including last year's 51 prisoners who sat for the exam.

Source: The Independent Ghana / Sebastian Akaho-Tay



File Photo

General News

“Cook-a-thon embarrassment” must not happen again – Information Minister ‘warns’ media

Information Minister, Fatimatu Abubakar, has issued a stern reminder to the media to meticulously verify all information before publication, warning that failure to do so could lead to national chaos and embarrassment.

Her caution comes in the wake of a recent incident involving a Ghanaian chef who falsely claimed recognition by Guinness World Records for a cook-a-thon, an assertion that was widely reported by major media outlets without proper verification.

In an interview in Accra on Monday, Madam Abubakar described the false reporting as a national embarrassment that must not be repeated.

She emphasized the potential dangers of such inaccuracies, particularly if they were to occur within the political sphere, especially concerning election-related matters.

“The media has the responsibility

to verify every information before publication...it’s dangerous to spread falsehood because it could lead us into chaos,” she stated.

Reflecting on the incident involving Chef Smith, who organized a press briefing to declare himself the record-holder for a cook-a-thon, the Minister highlighted the critical role of the media in ensuring the accuracy of information disseminated to the public.

She underscored the possible repercussions of spreading unverified information, which could create serious conflicts or chaos, especially in politically sensitive situations.

In a bid to decentralize government communication and keep citizens informed about governmental projects, Madam Abubakar announced that her Ministry would soon launch a series of regional town hall meetings and exhibitions across the country.

Scheduled to commence at

the end of July, these events aim to enhance transparency and accountability regarding government initiatives.

The town hall meetings will feature regional and sector ministers, along with key government appointees, who will answer questions from journalists and community members about various government projects.

Topics will include infrastructure developments in roads, health, education, water, and sanitation,

as well as other local issues of concern.

Madam Abubakar expressed confidence that these regional meetings and exhibitions would facilitate better communication between the government and the populace, allowing for direct feedback and fostering greater transparency regarding government projects.

Source: *The Independent Ghana*



Fatimatu Abubakar, Information Minister

BECE: Drone adopted to transport exam materials to hard-to-reach areas in Afram Plains

The Ashanti Region has 110,742 candidates registered for the 2024 Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE), including 55,175 males and 55,567 females.

To ensure all candidates start their exams on time, especially in hard-to-reach areas like Sekyere Afram Plains, drones are being used to transport examination materials.

This initiative was prompted by last year’s challenges when heavy rains made the usual routes impassable, necessitating drone delivery to maintain exam schedules.

The Ashanti Regional Director of Ghana Education Service, Dr. William Amankrah Appiah, emphasised the importance of these measures during the rainy season to avoid disruptions.

“Last year we resorted to the use of drones to send the examination materials, because it rained continuously two days before the exam, rendering the route to the district inaccessible. We had to engage WAEC and agreed to use the drone and it worked. So this year too, the rainy season has set in, and we don’t want to take any chances, hence, using the drone to transport the materials”, Ashanti Regional Director of Ghana Education Service, Dr William Amankrah Appiah.

Adequate preparations have been made to ensure a smooth examination period, with a focus on discouraging examination malpractice among students.

“We have been encouraging them to have the confidence to study and write the exam well without cheating”, Dr Amankrah said after

touring some examination centres in the region.

Many candidates expressed their determination to perform well, reflecting their aspirations to secure placements in their preferred secondary schools.

“I was nervous days before the examination day, but the fear is gone after entering the

examination centre. We will try our best to write well and get better results to continue to the senior high level”, Asantewaa Comfort said with confidence.

“We have done eight mocks to prepare for this day, so we are very well prepared”, another candidate, Elisha Owusu stated.

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



File Photo

General News

Voter registration mop-up exercise begins Aug 1

The Electoral Commission (EC) will conduct a mop-up voter registration exercise from August 1 to August 3, 2024.

This initiative aims to register individuals who turned 18 after the limited voter registration period and those who missed the previous registration opportunity.

Additionally, the EC has scheduled a voter exhibition from August 20 to August 27, allowing registered voters to verify their details and make necessary corrections ahead of the elections.

Chairperson of the Electoral Commission, Jean Mensa, announced this at a press

conference on Monday, July 8, during a visit from the Election Security Taskforce.

She stated, "I would like to put on record that the mop-up of the voter registration exercise will take place from August 1-3, 2024, and it is to afford persons who turned 18 after May 29 or persons who have not previously registered the opportunity to get onto our register; this goes to persons who are eligible," she disclosed.

The taskforce, led by Inspector General of Police Dr. George Akuffu Dampare, briefed the commission on election security performance in the first half of the year.

The EC emphasized the importance

of these exercises in ensuring a comprehensive and accurate voter register, underscoring its commitment to facilitating a

fair and transparent electoral process.

Source: The Independent Ghana / Phoebe Martekie Doku



Jean Mensa, EC Chairperson

Five firms bid to complete Saglemi Housing project

The Ministry of Works and Housing has received five bids for the completion of over 1,500 unfinished units in the Saglemi Housing project.

These bids are currently under review by an independent entity selected with assistance from the Public Procurement Authority, as announced by the sector minister, Kojo Opong Nkrumah.

The minister stated that the evaluation entity would be chosen on Wednesday to assess the bids, ensuring a transparent process in securing a partner for the project.

Following the submission of bids, Mr. Opong Nkrumah informed the media that an accounting firm would present the evaluation report within seven days.

Subsequently, the preferred bidder will be selected to finalize the Saglemi Housing project.

"We have received five bids. From today, we have already requested the Public Procurement Authority to help us select an independent evaluation entity. And I do understand that about four organisations have been

pre-qualified by the Public Procurement Authority, out of which we will select one.

"On Wednesday, as I mentioned, we will select the independent evaluation entity and we will handle these bids to the independent evaluation entity. And according to our work programme, within seven days we

are expecting to receive the revert from the independent evaluation entity, which will tell us which of these five bidders is a preferred bidder."

The housing project, launched in 2012, has faced persistent controversy and setbacks. Initially planned to provide 5,000 affordable housing units, the

project was later reduced to 1,506 units and ultimately halted due to legal complications.

The partially constructed buildings have been subject to vandalism and theft, compounding the challenges faced by the project.

Source: The Independent Ghana / Phoebe Martekie Doku



Saglemi Housing Project



General News

I brought up Napo, he's very hardworking - Asantehene

The ruling New Patriotic Party (NPP) on Tuesday, July 9, organised the grand unveiling of the Energy Minister, Dr Matthew Opoku Prempeh, as the running mate of the party's flagbearer, Vice President Dr Mahamudu Bawumia, at Kumasi Jubilee Park in the Ashanti Region,

The Overlord of the Asante Kingdom, Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, was formerly informed of the party's decision after the NPP's National Executive Council (NEC) convened on 4 July 2024 to discuss NAPO's nomination, resulting in unanimous approval of his candidacy.

On his part, the Asantehene extolled the Energy Minister as a hardworking individual. He further revealed that Napo's modesty and

industrious attitude stem from the fact that he played a part in Dr Opoku Prempeh's upbringing.

He gave crucial advice to Dr. Matthew Opoku Prempeh (NAPO), urging him to remain humble and supportive of the party's flagbearer and Vice President, Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia, if they secure victory in the December 2024 elections.

Otumfuo Osei Tutu II emphasised the importance of loyalty and humility. He urged NAPO to ensure Dr. Bawumia never regrets selecting him as his running mate.

"Don't let Bawumia regret choosing you," Otumfuo reiterated. "Be humble, listen to him, and do as he says. These are just excerpts of our indoor conversation."

Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia formally

informed the National Officers of the NPP about his selection of Dr. Matthew Opoku Prempeh as his running mate on 1 July 2024.

The people of Ashanti Region

are enthused about the party's decision to select a royal from Asanteman as the running mate of Dr Bawumia.

Source: *The Independent Ghana*



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

AG wins \$915m Eni & Vitol case as International Arbitration Tribunal rejects claims

The International Arbitration Tribunal has delivered a final verdict in the high-profile case involving Eni & Vitol versus Ghana and the Ghana National Petroleum Corporation (GNPC), marking a significant legal victory for Ghana.

The Tribunal's decision, which favors Ghana, denies Eni and Vitol their claims for monetary damages and dismisses all allegations against GNPC.

Initially, Eni and Vitol sought damages amounting to \$7 billion, a figure that was later reduced to \$915 million plus interest as proceedings progressed.

However, the Tribunal's final award denied these monetary claims entirely, providing a substantial relief to Ghana from a potential financial burden.

In addition to rejecting the monetary claims, the Tribunal dismissed all claims against GNPC.

The Tribunal also refused the Claimants' request to declare that

Ghana had breached the Petroleum Agreement by not withdrawing or preventing reliance on the Unitisation Directives by third parties.

Furthermore, the Tribunal rejected the Claimants' demand for Ghana to inform the High Court, Court of Appeal, and Supreme Court that the Unitisation Directives were issued in violation of the Petroleum Agreement.

Nonetheless, the Tribunal acknowledged that the Unitisation Directives, "in the circumstances in which they were issued," did breach the Petroleum Agreement.

Specifically, the directives were found to be contrary to applicable regulations, violating Article 26(2) of the Agreement. Despite this, the Tribunal upheld Ghana's sovereign right to unitise oil fields to ensure efficient exploitation of oil deposits.

Regarding legal fees and costs, the Tribunal decided that since both parties had partial victories, each would bear their own legal expenses.

Reacting to the award, Attorney-General and Minister of Justice Godfred Yeboah Dame expressed a mix of satisfaction and caution.

He noted that while he would have preferred a complete dismissal of all claims against Ghana, he was pleased with the Tribunal's rejection of the claims and the dismissal of all monetary compensation demands by Eni and Vitol.

This outcome spares Ghana a significant financial obligation.

Attorney-General Dame also welcomed the Tribunal's affirmation of Ghana's sovereign right to unitise its oil fields. He stressed that while the principle of unitisation itself is not unlawful, the process must comply with applicable regulations, a point the Tribunal found lacking in this dispute.

Looking forward, the Attorney-General emphasized the importance of determining the best path forward for all parties involved.

He reaffirmed his office's commitment to vigorously contesting all international arbitration claims aimed at imposing judgment debts on the country.

Recent victories against Beijing Every Way, Cassius Mining, and Messrs Micheletti Company Limited highlight this resolve.

Source: *The Independent Ghana*



Hon. Godfred Yeboah Dame, Attorney General & Minister for Justice

General News

CJ's action to request extra Supreme Court judges irregular – GBA

The Ghana Bar Association (GBA) has raised concerns over the procedure followed by Chief Justice Gertrude Torkornoo in recommending additional judges to the Supreme Court.

In a letter to President Akufo-Addo, Chief Justice Torkornoo cited a heavy workload and numerous pending cases as reasons for the nominations, which has sparked criticism from legal experts and the opposition NDC.

GBA spokesperson Saviour Kudze said the Chief Justice's action was irregular.

"I think that it is just a simple mistake and that is the way I should think because I am not sure that it was intentional. These things sometimes happen," he added.

According to Kudze, the correct procedure involves all recommending bodies GBA, Attorney General's Office, and the CJ's Office submitting their nominees to the Judicial

Council.

"What is done is that the three recommending bodies, the GBA, the Attorney General's Office and the CJ's Office bring various lists and submit them to the Judicial Council. The Judicial Council will now send those names with an advice to the President and the President will now decide to appoint everybody on the list, or some of them or even reject the list.

"Just that he also does not have the right to prepare his own list. He has to get back to the Judicial Council for the process to begin all over," he stressed.

The Judicial Council then forwards a consolidated list to the President for consideration, ensuring transparency and adherence to constitutional norms.

Meanwhile, the NDC has condemned the Chief Justice's recommendation, arguing that it lacks constitutional backing.

"Nowhere in the constitution is

the Chief Justice named as the one to recommend persons to the president for appointment to the Supreme Court. We wish to state, without any equivocation, that the Chief Justice's letter is illegal and of no effect.

"Her actions have completely turned over due process on its head and compromised her independence as the head of the judicial system.

We are concerned about a worrying pattern that irresistibly suggests that the president is only appointing loyal members of his party to this court to have control over the judiciary to escape post-regime accountability," Fifi Fiavi

Kwetey stated.

They assert that only the Judicial Council, not the Chief Justice individually, should recommend candidates for Supreme Court appointments to maintain judicial independence and uphold due process.

The nominees put forward by Chief Justice Torkornoo include Justice Afia Serwaa Asare Botchwey, Justice Cyra Pamela Koranteng, Justice Edward Amoako Asante, Justice Eric Kyei Baffuour, and Justice Angelina Mensah Homiah.

Source: The Independent Ghana / Sebastian Akaho-Tay



Chief Justice Gertrude Torkornoo

Hopeson Adorye hot over GHC1m defamation suit

Convener of Citizen Eye Ghana, a non-governmental organisation, Alex Kwaku Tetteh, has filed a defamation lawsuit against Hopeson Kofivi Adorye, the Operations Director of Movement for Change, a political organisation.

Tetteh is seeking GHC1 million in damages, as well as a retraction and apology from Adorye over statements made during a media appearance.

According to the lawsuit, Tetteh claims that Adorye made defamatory comments about him during a call-in segment on the morning show "Ade Akye Abia" on Okay FM, an Accra-based radio station, on May 7, 2024.

During the broadcast, Adorye allegedly said, "...When he (referring to the plaintiff) drinks Akpeteshie (a local gin) and smokes 'wee' in addition, he speaks

total rubbish as if he speaks from his anus..."

Tetteh asserts that these comments were intended to portray him as a drug addict, criminal, unintelligent, and alcoholic.

He argues that the statements have caused serious harm to his reputation, bringing him into public scandal, disrepute, odium, and contempt.

In addition to the financial damages, Tetteh is demanding a retraction and public apology from Adorye.

He insists that the retraction and apology must be given prominent airtime on Okay FM and be published on the radio station's website and social media platforms.

Furthermore, he requires that the retraction and apology be published on the front or back page

of the Daily Graphic newspaper for three consecutive days.

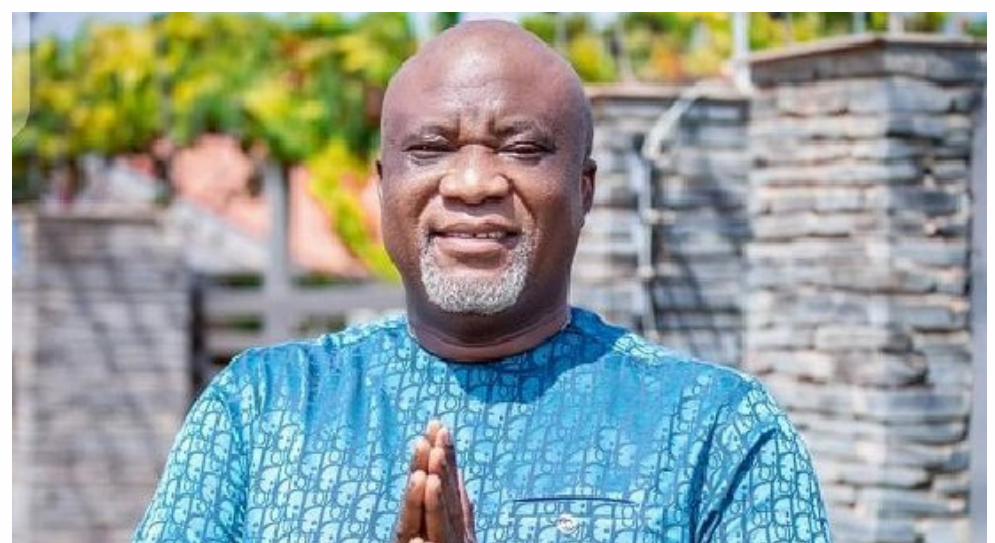
Tetteh highlights that the defamatory statements were not only broadcast live but also streamed on various social media channels associated with Okay FM, giving the issue extensive publicity.

He fears that unless the court intervenes, Adorye may continue

to make similar defamatory statements about him.

As a result, Tetteh is seeking exemplary damages and a perpetual injunction to prevent Adorye or his agents from further publishing or distributing the defamatory comments.

Source: The Independent Ghana



Hopeson Kofivi Adorye, Operations Director, Movement for Change



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Business

Any form of new tax will kill private businesses - ISSER to gov't

Director of the Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER), Professor Peter Quartey, has advised the government against the potential introduction of new taxes in the upcoming Mid-Year Budget Review.

He emphasized that such measures could severely hamper private sector growth in Ghana, which is already struggling under the current economic conditions.

The Finance Minister is set to present the Mid-Year Budget later this month, and Prof. Quartey has voiced strong opposition to the introduction of new taxes.

He argued that private enterprises are currently grappling with significant challenges due to the ongoing economic difficulties in the country, compounded by stringent policies from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) program, including debt

restructuring initiatives.

"We do not want to see new taxes. It is certainly going to kill the private sector. Looking at government's own programmes and policies, bringing new taxes will kill the private sector," Prof. Quartey warned during an interview with Joy Business.

He advocated instead for the removal of some existing taxes to alleviate the burden on businesses.

Prof. Quartey highlighted that the government could improve revenue collection by better coordinating and implementing the existing tax framework.

"Government must heed to the call not to introduce higher taxes but design measures to make the existing levies work," he suggested.

He also referenced the innovative policy ideas proposed by Vice

President Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia, urging that these be incorporated into the Mid-Year Budget Review to provide much-needed relief to businesses.

"We have seen some statements from the Vice President and the flagbearer of the New Patriotic Party (NPP). I believe they can work in the budget," Prof. Quartey noted.

He further argued that these forward-thinking policies should not be reserved merely for campaign promises to be implemented post-2024 elections but should be integrated into the current economic strategy to foster growth and stability.

Source: The Independent Ghana



Professor Peter Quartey, Director, ISSER

Ghana faces potential EU ban on fish exports over illegal fishing practices - UG Lecturer

A Senior Lecturer at the Department of Marine and Fisheries Science at the University of Ghana, Dr. Angela Lamptey, has raised alarms over Ghana's risk of being banned from exporting fish and fish products to the European Union (EU) due to persistent illegal fishing practices.

Speaking at a recent meeting organized by Iwatch Africa with coastal communities in Ghana, Dr. Lamptey emphasized that Ghana has already received a yellow card from the EU.

This yellow card signifies that Ghana's fishing methods are deemed unsustainable and pose threats to consumers and the environment.

She expressed concerns that if Ghana does not rectify these issues promptly, it could face a full ban on its fish exports to the EU market, leading to significant economic repercussions.

"The situation is becoming critical as the EU's scrutiny of our fishing industry intensifies. If we fail to address the deficiencies in our monitoring systems and legal frameworks, other countries may also impose similar sanctions," Dr. Lamptey cautioned.

Highlighting the findings of Iwatch Africa's report on the fishing industry, Dr. Lamptey pointed out that a significant portion of Ghana's fishing sector is controlled by large-scale vessel operators, many of whom are foreigners.

The report revealed that 32% of companies analyzed in Ghana's fisheries sector have ties to politically exposed persons (PEPs), with over 80% showing connections to Chinese ownership interests.

Shockingly, 25 companies failed to disclose their PEP status as required by law, without facing legal consequences.

"These findings underscore the

urgent need for comprehensive reforms in our fishing industry," Dr. Lamptey stressed.

She reassured stakeholders that efforts are underway to address these challenges, including legislative reviews aimed at introducing stricter penalties for offenders and enhancing regulatory oversight.

"We are working tirelessly to improve our compliance with international standards. It is crucial for all stakeholders to collaborate effectively to ensure Ghana avoids a ban and preserves

its reputation as a responsible fish-exporting nation," Dr. Lamptey emphasized.

To resolve the matter, Dr. Lamptey called for patience as Ghana works towards rectifying its fisheries sector's shortcomings.

She expressed optimism that with concerted efforts and timely reforms, Ghana can regain the EU's confidence and maintain its foreign exchange earnings from fish exports.

Source: The Independent Ghana



File Photo

International

Shell joins chase for 'big prize' off South Africa's west coast

Shell (SHEL.L), is seeking government permission to drill up to five ultra-deep offshore wells off the west coast of South Africa, a draft scoping report from independent environmental consultancy SLR showed on Tuesday.

The oil major plans to drill exploration and appraisal wells in the area as energy companies shift their focus south of Namibia, where a string of discoveries in its prolific Orange Basin holds the potential of more finds.

The Orange Basin extends southwards into South African waters and has also attracted the interest of rival TotalEnergies (TTEF.PA), which in March took up acreage in Block 3B/4B, also off the west coast.

Shell Offshore Upstream South Africa B.V. and its joint venture partners need environmental

authorisation from the government before they can operate in the Northern Cape Ultra Deep Block (NCUD) in the Orange Basin.

Water depths in the region range between 2,500 metres (8,200 ft) and 3,200 metres (10,500 ft).

"All the buzz from Namibia is extending into South Africa," said Jamie McGreevy, lead analyst for Namibia and South Africa at Welligence Energy Analytics.

"If you consider the scale of the opportunity as well as the size of giant discoveries in Namibia, it is really the big prize that they going after and that can be transformational for South Africa," he told Reuters.

Mounting environmental pressures, including a raft of court actions to halt drilling, and cumbersome bureaucracy has stifled South Africa's ambitions to develop its nascent oil and gas

potential as companies flock to neighbouring Namibia.

The latest blow to South African hopes came earlier in July when TotalEnergies signalled its intention to withdraw from its position in Block 11B/12B on the southern coast over market challenges.

The offshore block holds the significant Brulpadda and Luiperd gas condensate discoveries, seen as vital to South Africa's goal of

becoming energy independent.

Released for public comment until Aug. 8, SLR's draft environmental social impact assessment is the first step ahead of more detailed studies into the impact exploration and potential oil spills may have on the environment.

Shell, which commissioned SLR to conduct the study, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Source: Reuters



Shell Logo

Liberian president cuts his salary by 40%

Liberia's President Joseph Boakai has announced that he will slash his salary by 40%.

His office said he hoped to set a precedent for "responsible governance" and demonstrate "solidarity" with Liberians.

Government salaries have been under intense scrutiny recently as Liberians complain about the rising cost of living. Around one in five people live on less than \$2 (£1.70) a day in the West African state.

Mr Boakai revealed in February that his annual salary was \$13,400. The cut will bring it down to \$8,000.

Mr Boakai's move echoes that of his predecessor, George Weah, who took a 25% cut in his salary.

Some in the West African nation have hailed Mr Boakai's decision, but others wonder whether it is truly a sacrifice given that he also receives benefits like a daily allowance and medical cover.

The presidential office's budget is almost \$3m this year.

Anderson D Miamen, from non-profit organisation the Centre of Transparency and Accountability in Liberia, said the president's pay cut is "welcoming".

"We just hope that the public will clearly see where the deductions will go and how they will be used to positively impact the lives of the people," he told the BBC.

W Lawrence Yealue II, whose organisation also campaigns for government transparency, described the president's decision as "very commendable" and said that "leadership has to be provided from the top".

He added that hoped Mr Boakai's benefits would be reviewed in the budget for the next financial year.

As well as reducing his salary, Mr Boakai has pledged to "empower" Liberia's Civil Service Agency to make sure public servants "receive fair compensation for their

contributions to the country".

Last week a group of lawmakers complained they had not received their official cars, which they needed to perform their duties.

As a form of protest, they turned up to parliament in tuk-tuks, known locally as keh keh, a common mode of transport for ordinary Liberians.

Mr Boakai took office in January after defeating Mr Weah in a run-off election.

He vowed to tackle corruption and financial mismanagement.

As well as declaring his assets

since taking office, Mr Boakai has ordered an audit of the presidential office. The results have not yet been released.

Mr Boakai has also beefed up the General Auditing Commission and the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission.

Mr Weah's government was plagued by allegations of corruption, and lavish spending, which triggered mass protests as the cost of living spiralled for ordinary people.

Source: BBC



Joseph Boakai, Liberia's President

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