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

#### Plot to remove IGP: COP Mensah, 2 others accused of breaching professional conduct

The ad hoc Parliamentary committee investigating the alleged plot to oust Inspector General of Police (IGP) Dr. George Akuffo Dampare has recommended disciplinary actions against three implicated officers.

Chaired by Samuel Atta Akyea, MP for Abuakwa South, the committee identified COP Alex George Mensah (Rtd), Supt. George Lysander Asare, and Supt. Emmanuel Eric Gyedi for professional misconduct.

According to the committee's findings, their actions constitute a serious breach of police regulations, warranting sanctions under the disciplinary procedures.

The committee has urged Parliament to convey conclusions to the President, citing Section 19 of the Police Service Act, 1970 (Act 350), which empowers the President to impose appropriate sanctions.

"The House should communicate

its findings to the President pursuant to Section 19 of the Police Service Act, 1970 (Act 350) which vests disciplinary powers in the President, to determine the appropriate sanctions for COP George Alex Mensah, Supt George Lysander Asare and Supt Eric Emmanuel Gyebi who have misconducted themselves professionally by breaching among others the following: Section 17(d) of the Police Service Act, 1970 (Act 350) which states

that:

"It shall be misconduct for a police officer to engage in any activity outside his official duties which is likely to involve him in political controversy or to lead to his taking improper advantage of his position in the Police Service.

"Regulation 82(1) (c) of the Police Service Regulations, 2012 (C.I 76) which states that: "It is a major offence for an officer to engage in an activity outside official duties which is likely to "Involve the officer in political controversy or lead to the officer taking improper advantage of that officer's position in the service," the report said.

The trio was implicated in a leaked tape plotting the removal of IGP Dampare alongside former New Patriotic Party (NPP) Northern Regional Chairman, Daniel Bugri Naabu.

Source: The Independent Ghana | Phoebe.M.Doku



COP Alex George Mensah (Rtd) on the left, Dr. George Akuffo Dampare, IGP on the right

#### We never agreed to a haircut – IPP debunks Finance Minister's claims

The Chamber of Independent Power Producers, Ghana (IPPs), has refuted claims by Finance Minister Dr. Mohammed Amin Adam about reaching an agreement on debt restructuring.

CEO of the Chamber, Dr. Elikplim Kwabla Apetorgbor, emphasized that no such agreement has been finalized since their last meeting in April 2024.

Apetorgbor criticized the Finance Minister's statements, calling them misleading and stressing the need for transparency in communication.

He stated, "It has come to our attention that the Minister of Finance has made public statements indicating that a deal has been reached with Independent

Power Producers (IPPs) regarding to refrain from making such debt restructuring. We must inaccurate statements and to state that this categorically assertion is misleading inaccurate."

He further clarified, "The last CenPower and Amandi among engagement with some of the IPPs and the Government of Ghana's negotiating team occurred in April [2024] and since then, no agreement on any terms has been reached. The posture and generalisation that the government has secured a debt restructuring agreement with the IPPs are misleading and amount to public deception."

Apetorgbor urged the Finance to avoid Minister making inaccurate statements and called for honest communication.

"We urge the Minister of Finance

engage in transparent and honest communications," he added.

According to reports, the IPPs have accepted the government's proposal, while others like Karpowership, Twin City Energy, and Sunon have

Source: The Independent Ghana | Sebastian Akaho-Tay



Dr. Elikplim Kwabla Apetorgbor, CEO, Chamber of Independent Power Producers (IPPs)

#### Robbers shoot, rob Church of Pentecost pastor at Awutu Papaase

The Awutu Papaase District Pastor of the Church of Pentecost, Samuel Koblah Narh, suffered critical injuries during a shooting incident in which he was also robbed of his Toyota RAV4, registered GW 545-22, and his mobile phones.

The attack took place in Awutu Papaase, located in the Awutu Senya West District of the Central Region, as Pastor Samuel Koblah Narh returned from an evening service.

According to reports, the armed robbers ambushed him at his home. As he arrived, they

entered with him and fired shots, injuring him in the shoulder as he attempted to communicate with

The robbers then forcibly removed him from his car and drove away with it. Initially treated at Winneba Trauma and Specialist Hospital, Pastor Samuel Koblah Narh has since been transferred to the Church of Pentecost Hospital in Madina for further medical

One of the church elders, Elder Godfred Viglo, who was speaking to the media, appealed for public assistance, urging Ghanaians

and the Ghana Police Service to help apprehend the suspects and recover Pastor Koblah's stolen vehicle.

Source: The Independent Ghana | Phoebe.M.Doku



Samuel Koblah Narh, Pastor, Church of Pentecoste, Awutu Papaase District

#### IMF releases \$360m to Ghana for post-COVID economic recovery

■ hana has obtained approval from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Board for the second review of the IMF-supported programme for Economic Growth (PC-PEG) post-COVID-19.

approval enables the This immediate disbursement Special drawing rights (SDR) 269.1 million (approximately US\$360 million) to Ghana.

The IMF praised Ghana's overall performance under the program, noting that all quantitative performance criteria for the second review and nearly all

The institution also highlighted significant progress in debt restructuring and advancing key structural reforms.

According to the IMF's statement on Friday, Ghana's reform efforts are yielding positive results, with stronger-than-expected growth resilience, rapid inflation decline from 2022 highs, and substantial improvements in fiscal and external positions.

In a statement on X, Finance Minister Dr. Mohammed Amin Adam affirmed Ghana's steadfast commitment to implementing robust reform measures aimed ensuring macroeconomic stability.

Dr. Adam expressed gratitude to PresidentAkufo-Addoforhisstrong leadership and acknowledged the IMF's unwavering support for Ghana's economic goals.

"Ghana has today secured IMF Board Approval for the 2nd review of the IMF-supported PC-PEG. This will trigger the release of the third tranche of \$360million under the ECF. We remain committed to implementing our strong reform programme, towards ensuring macroeconomic stability."

"I thank the President for his strong leadership; the IMF for their commitment to Ghana; our bilateral & development partners for their staunch support; & all the hard-working staff of the @MoF Ghana for their tireless efforts

to entrench Ghana's economic stability #GhanaRising," stated.

Ghana's journey was far from over, but the progress made under the IMF-supported program was a testament to their determination and commitment to economic stability and growth.

Source: The Independent Ghana | Sebastian Akaho-Tay



Dr. Mohammed Amin Adam, Minister of Finance

#### 'Wee toffee' now a common snack for SHS students in **Upper East Region - Report**

troubling trend has emerged in the Upper East Region as "wee toffee," a concoction made of marijuana, condensed milk, and sugar, becomes increasingly popular among Senior High School (SHS) students.

This issue has raised significant concerns about the potential impact on students' health and academic performance.

Roger Atambire Abaa, Executive Director of Life Out of Alcohol and Drugs Ghana (LOAD-Ghana), expressed his alarm over this development during a World Drug Day awareness event.

He urged school authorities and relevant stakeholders to take decisive action to combat the proliferation of this substance in schools.

Mr. Atambire called for heightened

vigilance and proactive measures to curb the production and consumption of "wee toffee" within and around school environments. He stressed the importance of addressing this issue for the wellbeing of students.

"If you visit the various SHSs, it is bad. The wee toffee is common among the students. Where they get them, one can't tell, but these learners are consuming these substances like there is no tomorrow, and I think authorities

ought to strengthen efforts that can curtail this growing behavior amongst the learners," stated.

Source: The Independent Ghana | Phoebe.M.Doku



Wee Toffee

#### More babies contracting HIV from infected mothers despite **PMTCT interventions**

AIDS Control Programme has reported an increase in HIV infections among infants from their mothers, despite the implementation of the Prevention of Mother-to-Transmission (PMTCT) Child program.

PMTCT aims to ensure that no child is born with HIV by providing antenatal services, such as HIV testing during pregnancy, access to antiretroviral treatment (ART), safe childbirth practices, and appropriate infant feeding.

Recent data from the National HIV estimation indicates that 12,108 mothers aged 15 to 49 are currently undergoing PMTCT treatment, while an additional 13,445 mothers in the same age group require PMTCT services.

Amid this Programme Manager of the National AIDS Control Programme (NACP), Dr. Stephen Ayisi-Addo, speaking at the 2023 dissemination of National

HIV estimates, Dr. Ayisi-Addo expressed concern over the persistent transmission of HIV newborns in healthcare facilities.

According to him, this trend is as a result of inadequate testing and poor adherence to medication among women pregnant consequently leading to a hike in transmission of HIV by newborns from their mothers.

"We are talking about 90 per cent of all ANC attendance for HIV testing, so those who come in late do not get the treatment to prevent the mother from transmission to the baby.

"We need to be able to improve the ANC testing coverage. We need to improve so that people will have supervised delivery on their routine services offered when pregnant women come to the facility," he added.

He further went on to emphasise that not all identified mothers

receive the necessary antiretroviral treatment to prevent motherto-child transmission as some pregnant women face challenges accessing PMTCT services due to transportation issues, prompting a new strategy to decentralise ARV therapy across all centres.

Also, out of approximately 6,000 PMTCT facilities, only 730 are equipped to provide antiretroviral therapy (ARV).

Acknowledging gaps in the implementation of infant feeding guidelines, the Programme Manager attributed this partly to the shortage of trained service providers available to educate mothers effectively on safe feeding practices, potentially exposing babies to the virus.

"It is our aspiration determination to make sure that we address all these issues improve and on strategic interventions to improve on the figures and reduce mother to child transmission to at least 2 per cent, which is an elimination target" he noted.

Source: The Independent Ghana | Abigail Twumwaa Ampofo



File Photo

## Gov't should commit more resources to restore vibrancy of Ghana Publishing Company Limited – Otumfuo

he king of the Ashanti Kingdom, Asantehene Otumfuo Osei Tutu II has called on the government to allocate more resources to revitalise the Ghana Publishing Company Limited.

During a meeting with board members at the Manhyia Palace, he emphasised the critical importance of local publishing in preserving cultural heritage and fostering economic growth.

The Ghana Publishing Company Limited, once a flourishing entity, has faced years of inactivity due to financial challenges.

The Asantehene urged policymakers to create supportive

frameworks to boost the company's efficiency and ensure its long-term viability.

"We have neglected the company, but revival is possible. As a limited liability company, I am optimistic about your progress," he said.

"This company is crucial because it handles all gazetting. Government support through deliberate policies and resource allocation will significantly aid its development," the Asante King added.

Managing Director of the Ghana Publishing Company Limited, David Asante shared plans to digitise their services and expand regionally. "We plan to open several regional branches and introduce electronic gazetting to digitise our services," he announced.

In a move to strengthen operations, the Ghana Publishing Company has recently inaugurated an office in the Ashanti Region.

Additionally, the company donated GHC100,000 to the Asantehene to support the Heal Komfo Anokye project.

Source: The Independent Ghana | Sebastian Akaho-Tay



Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, Asantehene

## Parliament forms committee to take into consideration pension scheme for MPs

Second Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Andrew Asiamah Amoako has announced the establishment of an eight-member ad hoc committee to investigate the feasibility of implementing a dedicated pension scheme for former Members of Parliament (MPs).

This decision follows recommendations from both the Minority and Majority Chief Whips during a tribute session in memory of the late MP for Talensi, John Akologu Tia on Friday June 28,2024 at a Parliamentary session

"Honourable members, I think this is very important for all of us. So a committee has been set up and looking at the members that have been assembled to look into it, I think we can be rest assured that they will come out with something good for us" he said.

According to him, the committee has been tasked with delivering its findings and recommendations within two weeks.

He expressed confidence in the

committee's ability to address MPs' welfare concerns effectively.

"So, we thank the members and we hope that they work out expeditiously for us" he added.

Meanwhile, the committee's formation aims to address longstanding concerns about the financial and welfare conditions of former MPs.

Majority Leader Alexander Afenyo-

Markin had initially suggested creating an ad hoc committee to review MPs' conditions of service, but the matter had already been referred to the House Committee for consideration.

The MPs have raised issues such as the lack of comprehensive insurance schemes and health coverage for MPs after their tenure, highlighting the health challenges many face post-service.

Recent developments indicate a growing demand within Parliament for better support structures for current and former MPs, particularly focusing on health benefits and insurance beyond the ex-gratia payments they receive.

Source: The Independent Ghana | Abigail Twumwaa Ampofo



#### Gov't to implement measures to curb surge in health professionals seeking greener pastures

hana's Minister for Health, Dr. Bernard Okoe Bove has outlined measures to tackle the increasing departure of Ghanaian medical professionals seeking better opportunities abroad.

This issue, raised by concerned professionals, healthcare seen nearly 4,000 nurses leave for Europe and America in 2023 alone, posing a potential crisis for Ghana's healthcare system.

Addressing the Ghana Dental Association's 33rd Annual General Congress in Kumasi, Dr. Okoe Boye emphasised strategic initiatives to mitigate these challenges.

He proposed fostering partnerships and Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) between training centres and district health facilities.

This approach aims to enhance practical training opportunities, that healthcare ensuring professionals valuable gain major experience outside hospitals.

"According to the Ghana Nurses and Midwives Association, nearly 4,000 nurses left Ghana for Europe and America in 2023 for better jobs. Without equivocation, one of the critical challenges the health sector will face in the next decade is a shortage of essential health care workers."

"If the ongoing trend is not checked, it will pose significant challenges to the provision of quality and accessible health care for all. I am quite optimistic that the Ghana Dental Association and other professional bodies in the country are thinking through how to prevent such a phenomenon in their ranks."

Furthermore, Dr. Okoe Boye underscored collaborative efforts with professional bodies and educational institutions to ramp up annual training capacities.

"One of the things that the ministry is going to promote and sponsor has to do with partnerships, MoUs between the training centres and the let's say the district facilities, the health centres and possibly even the CHPS compounds."

"I think as professionals who always want to improve or increase our knowledge, we are comfortable when we are given log books that say that as part of your training at Komfo Anokye go to a particular district for some one month as part of the training.

So, if we fashion this very well and the relationship between the Ghana Health Service facilities, most of the government facilities outside the teaching hospitals are under Dr. Kumah Aboagye."

"If we can have MoUs between these facilities and the teaching hospitals or the regional hospitals or the big centres where dentists are comfortable to practise, then through this route, we'll find a way to make sure that every Ghanaian gets to have an experience with the dentist.

And so, I believe MoUs are the way

"The second strategy or policy

would be to work together with GDA, Ghana Education Service, and the teaching hospitals so that we can increase the numbers that we train annually."

This concerted approach seeks to bolster local healthcare services and stem the outflow of skilled medical personnel from Ghana.

These initiatives, discussed during the congress themed "Strengthening the GDA: All-Inclusive Membership Tomorrow's Success," reflect the ministry's proactive stance in addressing critical healthcare workforce shortages in Ghana.

Source: The Independent Ghana | Sebastian Akaho-Tay



#### Cement price hikes: Unpatriotic Ghanaians taking advantage of the situation – Gyampo

niversity of Ghana (UG) professor Ransford Gyampo has criticised individuals who exploit economic difficulties to raise prices arbitrarily, labelling them as unpatriotic and accusing them of exacerbating hardships for Ghanaians.

Speaking on TV3's "Key Points" on Saturday, June 29, Gyampo emphasised the need for price control mechanisms to curb such practices, though he stressed the importance of dialogue in implementing these controls.

"We can't allow unpatriotic people to continue that bogus claim of 'are you not in Ghana' to be inflicting hardships on Ghanaians let us not blame the politicians alone, sometimes we must blame ourselves," he said on the Key Points on TV3 Saturday, June 29.

He stressed "People hide under the difficulty of the current situation to unnecessarily look for profit and that should be worrying to Ghanaians, that is unfair and unpatriotic.

"If the Cedi is depreciating and it must have an impact on the prices so be it but they should not hide behind the Cedi fall and hike prices.

"We should have a certain price control mechanism to control unpatriotic people but in doing so we shouldn't have KT Hammond to lead the charge, such a major policy you don't engage in.

"I admit that some are taking undue advantage of the situation. I favour some price control to ensure unpatriotic Ghanaians milk Ghanins dry using the hardship for the Cedi to arbitrarily increase prices but it should come about as a result of some dialogue."

Gyampo's comments come amid a broader debate on price hikes in Ghana.

Rev. Dr. George Dawson-Ahmoah, Executive Secretary of the Cement Manufacturers Association of Ghana (CMAG), also spoke on the program, attributing the rising cost of cement to the depreciation of the Cedi.

He explained that the increased cost of imported clinker, a key ingredient cement production, significantly impacted prices.

Dawson-Ahmoah criticised Trade Minister K.T. Hammond for attempting to regulate cement prices without consulting industry stakeholders, suggesting that the price hikes are a direct response to unfavourable economic conditions, arbitrary not decisions manufacturers.

Minister Hammond defended his

actions, stating that efforts had been made to encourage voluntary compliance with fair pricing but, failing that, legislative measures were necessary.

He argued that the unchecked price increases and inconsistent quality of cement products were unfair to Ghanaians.

However, his attempt to introduce a legislative instrument to regulate prices was met with resistance from the Minority in Parliament, who demanded prior discussion of the proposal.

Source: The Independent Ghana | Sebastian Akaho-Tay



University of Ghana





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## Business

#### Fall of Cedi to blame for increasing prices in Ghana – **Cement Manufacturers**

roducers of cement in Ghana attribute the rising prices of cement to the depreciation of the Cedi.

**Executive Secretary of the Cement** Manufacturers Association Ghana (CMAG), Rev. Dr. George Dawson-Ahmoah expressed during a media engagement on Saturday, June 29, that the rapid fall of the local currency has significantly affected their operations.

This, in turn, has forced them to increase cement prices, as clinker, a key component in cement production, is imported and thus directly impacted by the Cedi's depreciation.

Dr. Dawson-Ahmoah Rev. emphasised that while other factors contribute to price hikes, the main current issue is the currency depreciation.

"It has a huge impact on the pricing of cement. There are other factors but currently this is a major concern now and that is what has motivated the Minister to rush to parliament to regulate prices. Why didn't he do it last year?" He

He questioned why the Trade

Minister, KT Hammond, only recently rushed to Parliament to regulate prices, implying that similar action wasn't taken the previous year.

"Why is the Minister avoiding or just running away from this discussion? Previously, position has been that these prices of cement, the increase of prices of cement, is not done in a vacuum. It is not done just because we wake up in the morning and do it," he said.

"It is as a result of a negative trend in the economy, which is warranting such increases, and that is the issue. And like I said, what is happening now with cement prices is just because of the rapid and consistent depreciation of the cedi against the foreign currencies.

"We don't know anything about it. And with my common knowledge inlegislative instruments, don't you involve stakeholders before it gets to Parliament? Don't you involve stakeholders in the process?" he quizzed on Tuesday.

Dawson-Ahmoah argued regulation through Legislative Instrument (L.I.) unnecessary and criticised the lack of consultation with industry stakeholders regarding the L.I.

KT Hammond responded by stating that he had engaged with the cement manufacturers, urging them to address the price issues.

"I asked them to ensure that something was done about it. In my absence, I was told that the minister wasn't going to be able to do anything.

"They would not listen, they wouldn't do it, and they would go the way they want. "Encouraging them to do it is a moral persuasion. If moral persuasion fails, there is a system in the country, there's a constitution, and we are preyed on by a rule of law. If we don't accept the moral principle, at least some sort of economic principle, the good people of Ghana must benefit. I don't think it is fair for the way they are pricing and the

way, haphazardly each one of them decides and dictates how much a bag of cement should be sold for.

"This is quite apart from the quality that they are producing. Some of the companies are producing substandard products. We have had to deal with this matter," he said.

However, he noted their reluctance to comply, indicating that moral persuasion had failed, emphasised the need for regulatory measures to ensure fair pricing for Ghanaians. He also raised concerns about some companies producing substandard cement products.

An attempt to present the document in Parliament on Tuesday, June 26, was blocked by the Minority, who insisted that the L.I. should be discussed before proceeding.

Source: The Independent Ghana | Sebastian Akaho-Tay





Ghana cedis & US Dollars

#### Business registration is not a lifetime commitment, it needs to be renewed - ORC

The Office of the Registrar of Companies (ORC) has stressed that business registration is not permanent and requires periodic renewal.

Registrar of Companies Jemima Mamaa Oware, in a meeting with market associations in Greater Accra, highlighted the lack of awareness among traders about the need to re-register their businesses and submit annual returns.

In an effort to address this, the ORC is actively educating stakeholders on renewal requirements.

Madame Oware revealed that many traders were unaware of their obligations to renew their

registrations and file financial statements.

She assured that ORC inspectors would assist traders with renewal issues to ensure compliance.

Madame Oware outlined the simple renewal process, including mobile renewals via \*222# and payments through Ghana.gov to prevent fraud.

She emphasized that the ORC does not use mobile money accounts and warned against unauthorized payments, advising traders to make payments at the onsite bank or through Ghana.gov. to prevent fraud

She also addressed the possibility of extending renewal deadlines,

that the mentioning ORC is considering amnesty requests from market associations based on participation rates.

However, she noted that any extensions would depend on business owners' responsiveness, with penalties increasing after July

From June 30, 2024, businesses that fail to renew will incur monthly penalties starting at GH¢1,000.

The renewal fee for a business name is GH¢60, and for a company, it is GH¢90.

The ORC's initiative aims to streamline the renewal process and ensure compliance, particularly within the informal sector.

Source: The Independent Ghana | Abigail Twumwaa Ampofo



Jemima Mamaa Oware, Registrar of **Companies** 

# International

#### Biden assures donors he can still win election despite debate backlash

resident Joe Biden has reassured his supporters and campaign donors that he remains confident in his ability to win the upcoming presidential election against Donald Trump.

Speaking at fundraising events in New York and New Jersey, Biden addressed concerns following his recent debate performance, which had sparked doubts among some Democrats.

"I didn't have a great night, but neither did Trump," Biden admitted, while promising, "We're going to win this election."

The debate drew criticism for Biden's performance, with some describing his responses as shaky.

Notable Democrats, including former House Speaker Nancy commented that performance "wasn't great," and former communications director Kate Bedingfield called it "really disappointing."

Despite this, Biden pledged to continue fighting and emphasised the importance of the election. New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy expressed strong support, stating, "We are all with you 1,000%."

The Biden campaign acknowledged the debate did not meet expectations but dismissed any notions of stepping aside.

Campaign Chairwoman Jennifer O'Malley Dillon noted that internal polling indicated "voters' opinions were not changed," emphasising that media narratives often lead to temporary shifts in polls.

Former President Barack Obama also weighed in, supporting Biden by reminding voters of the stakes: "This election is still a choice between someone who fought for

ordinary folks his entire life and someone who only cares about himself."

In contrast, Trump claimed victory in the debate, criticising Biden's competence. However, Biden's campaign reported raising over \$27 million following the debate, suggesting continued donor confidence.

While a post-debate poll by Data for Progress indicated that 62% believed Trump won, Biden's team remained focused on the long game, stressing that the race is still close.

Source: The *Independent* Ghana



Joe Biden, President of USA

#### At least 18 killed in suspected suicide attacks in Nigeria

t least 18 people have been killed and 30 injured in a series of deadly blasts in Nigeria thought to have been carried out by female suicide bombers.

One of the bombings is reported to have killed six people and injured others at a wedding ceremony on Saturday, in the northeastern Borno state.

The state's emergency management agency said the co-ordinated attacks targeted a wedding, the victims' subsequent funeral and a hospital in the town of Gwoza.

No-one has claimed responsibility for the attacks, but the Nigeriacentred Islamic State West Africa (ISWAP) insurgents Province have previously claimed deadly bombings in Borno.

In the last four months, attackers have twice targeted people through suicide and improvised explosive devices in Borno state.

Borno state has been at the centre of a 15-year insurgency by Boko Haram Islamist militants, which has displaced more than two million people and killed more than 40,000.

Boko Haram gained international notoriety in 2014 when it kidnapped more than schoolgirls from the town of Chibok, also in Borno state.

Authorities said 18 deaths had been confirmed on Saturday, a toll that included children, adults and pregnant women.

Some local media have reported a much higher toll - Nigeria's Vanguard and This Day newspapers said at least 30 had been killed in the blasts.

A curfew has been imposed by the military.

Gwoza was seized by Boko Haram in 2014, and taken back by the Nigerian forces in 2015 - but the group has since continued to carry out attacks and kidnappings near

the town.

Last November, 20 people were killed by Boko Haram insurgents while returning from a funeral service in neighbouring Yobe state.

The attack happened a day after militants killed 17 people in a raid on Gurokayeya village, after villagers refused to pay a so-called harvest tax, police said.

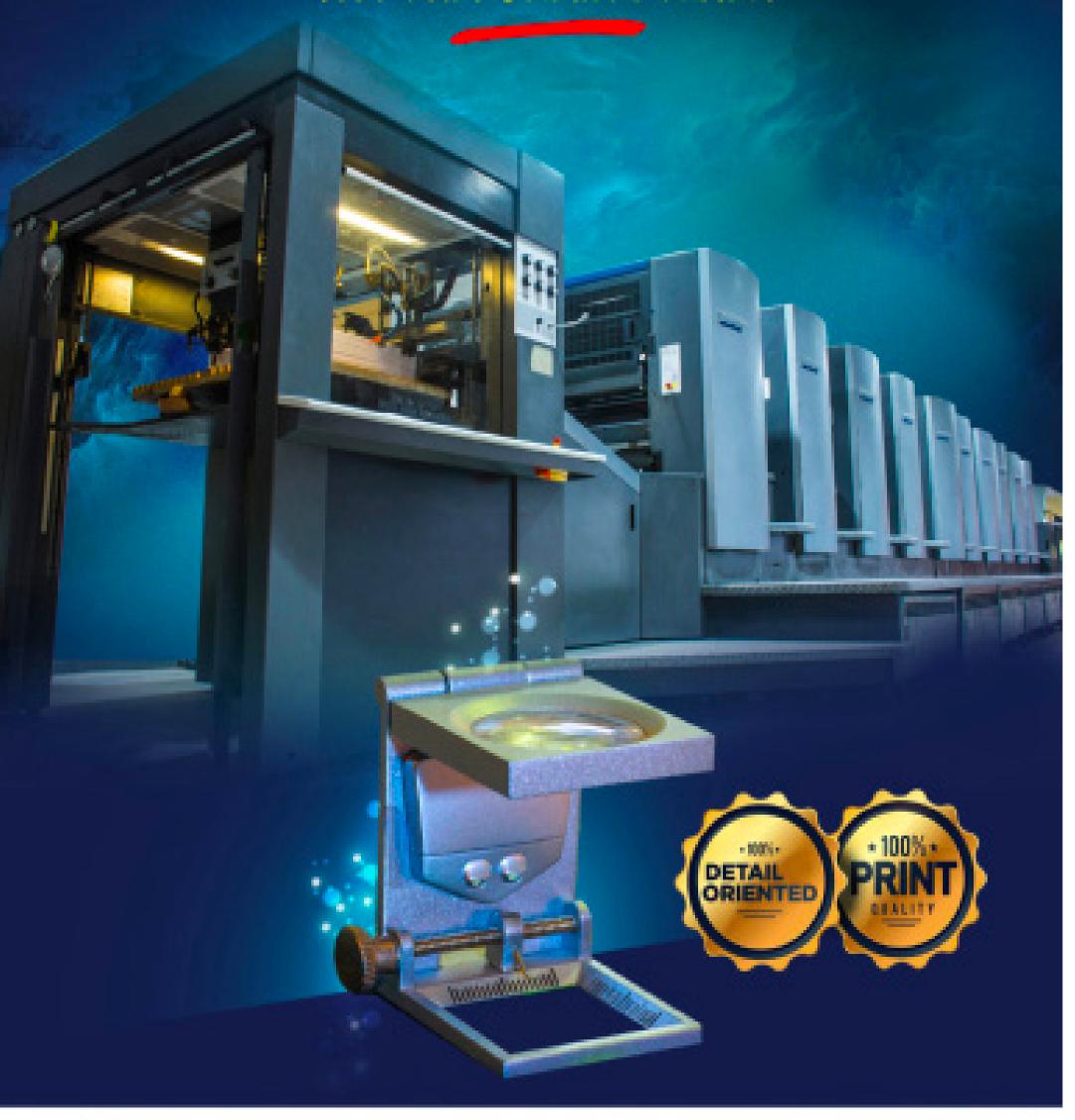
Source: BBC.com



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