Wednesday, July 24th, 2024 🛱 www.tigpost.co











Only 19% of Ghanaian taxpayers fulfill their obligations - Finance Ministry

Page 6

## Minority's #OccupyBoGdemo rescheduled to August 13







\$50 million Chinese funded Jamestown Fishing Harbour completed

Page 2

Ghana generated \$1.81bn for exporting more in first half of 2024 - Finance Minister









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

## About 5,685 people, 1135 households affected by 2023 Akosombo Dam spillage in Ada - NADMO

The Akosombo Dam spillage 2023 has severely impacted the Ada district, displacing 5,685 people and affecting 1,135 households across 28 communities, according to Ebenezer Teye Nartey, the Ada-East Director of the National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO).

At a recent Volta River Authority (VRA) meeting held at the Ada East District Assembly, Nartey disclosed that 776 affected individuals sought refuge in designated safe havens, while 4,909 residents remained in their flooded communities.

The disaster also damaged 283 farms, disrupted the livelihoods of seven fishermen, and affected livestock farmers and ovster miners.

Eight schools, including five on an island and three on the mainland, were also damaged, along with a Community Health Planning and Services (CHPS) compound and a clinic.

Local businesses, particularly those dependent on fishing and agricultural products, faced significant disruption, forcing many cease to operations temporarily.

Initial evacuations involved over 120 individuals from communities such as Alorwusedekope, Aflive, Kewuse, Kweunor, and Azizakpe, who were relocated to safe havens. New shelters were later established at Azizanya Methodist Basic School, with support from the Volta River Foundation and various NGOs.

During their nine-week stay

from October 15 to December 19, 2023, the displaced received guidance, counseling, medical supplies, prayers, and security and administrative support.

Cash donations from the Anglican Church in Tema and the World Food Programme were distributed, ranging from GHS 700 to GHS 1,800 based on needs.

Despite the efforts, only GHC 15,000 of the GHC 95,000 spent on relief efforts has been paid, leaving

an outstanding balance of GHC 80,000.

Nartey recommended providing support in the form of start-up capital, settlement centers for the vulnerable, and access to potable water for the affected areas.

He also emphasized the need for better community and media engagement to prepare residents for future spillages.

Source: Independent Ghana | Sebastian Akaho-Tay



File Photo

#### \$50 million Chinese funded Jamestown Fishing Harbour completed

Jamestown he Fishing Harbour has been completed on time, with operations set to start before the end of the year. Funded by a 50-million-dollar grant from the Chinese government, the harbour was built over four years.

Covering 60,000 square meters, the new facility is equipped with state-of-the-art features, including an ice-making plant with a daily production capacity of 60 tons, a cold store with a 200-ton fish capacity, two workshops, a fish market with space for 200 vendors per day, additional stalls, an administrative building, and a crèche for children.

Before the official handover and commissioning later this year, the Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority (GPHA) leadership, including Director General Michael Achagwe Luguje, visited the site to review the completed work.

Pleased with the results, Director Luguje expressed confidence that GPHA will leverage its expertise in managing fishing ports for this new

facility. He also encouraged the fishing community to collaborate with GPHA to ensure the harbour is well-maintained for the benefit of all Ghanaians.

"Naturally, the fishing ports themselves by nature are not huge income-generating facilities and will continue to be expensive to maintain, but we have to add that as part of our collective GPHA responsibility. We see the fishing harbours more as welfare projects that are supposed to at least enhance the community and livelihoods, so that is the angle we are looking at. We have that responsibility to make sure that they are efficiently managed. Definitely, users of the facility will use them at a fee. They will make some contribution towards covering the operating cost. We can only just be grateful to the government and, of course, to the Chinese government for this partnership that has led to this facility," he said.

General The Manager of Engineering at GPHA, Ing. Komla Ofori, provided Eye on Port with additional details about the facility's features and benefits.

"Approximately 4,000 people will work here on a daily basis, making the site quite crowded. We have used the site optimally to get the best facilities in this small space. I believe that even the land facilities far exceed what the sea can bring, so if you're expecting canoes bringing fish here, the volume of fish that will come in here will not be enough for the land facilities that we have. Ice, for example, may have to be sold to people on land who may need ice for other things or fish brought from elsewhere for storage, depending on what the situation will be," he said.

In 2019, the Ghanaian government, through the Ministry of Transport and the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, initiated the construction and upgrade of fishing harbours and landing sites in twelve coastal towns across Ghana.

These towns include Axim, Dixcove, Moree, Mumford, Winneba, Senya Breku, Gomoa Fete, Ekumfi, Elmina, Teshie, Jamestown, and Keta.

The aim of these projects is to ensure a sanitary environment for fish processing and handling while reducing and managing post-harvest losses for fishermen.

The Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority is overseeing the development of these twelve fishing ports and landing sites, fulfilling its role as the national body responsible for construction, management, and operation of all ports and related infrastructure in Ghana.

Source: The Independent Ghana | Amanda Cartey



**Fishing** Harbour, **Jamestown** 

#### 2021, 2022 security services applicants to pay for medicals, not new application fees - Interior Minister

The Interior Ministry has announced that individuals who applied online for enlistment into the security services in 2021 and 2022 will only need to pay for their medical examinations, not new application fees.

decision came after a consensus between the majority caucuses minority Parliament following a closed session with the Minister of Interior, Henry Quartey.

The decision addresses concerns raised by the Minority, who had threatened to summon the Minister over allegations of secret recruitment involving a backlog of 11,000 applicants.

Speaking to journalists after parliamentary meeting,

Minister Quartey emphasized the government's commitment to a transparent recruitment process.

"The recruitment exercises for the security agencies under the Ministry of Interior will be advertised with a clause for those who went online to apply in 2021 and 2022 and, for some reason, have still not been able to go through the process. But I must be quick to add and bring clarity that no money must be paid," the minister stated, referring specifically to application fees.

Minister Quartey further clarified the issue of medical fees, noting that these costs are not controlled by the government or the security and intelligence agencies.

"The security and intelligence agencies and, for that matter, the government does not control what we call medicals. If you go out there as a private citizen to do medicals, you have to pay for the

medical fee; that is not the doing of the security and intelligence agencies," he explained.

Source: The Independent Ghana | Andy Ogbarmey-Tettey



Hon. Henry Quartey, Interior Ministry

#### Bagbin's sacking order humiliated my constituents and I - Sefwi Wiawso MP

ember of Parliament (MP) for Sefwi Wiawso, Dr. Kwaku Afriyie, has stated that the actions of Speaker of Parliament Alban Bagbin on Monday, July 22, 2024, were profoundly humiliating to both him and his constituents.

Alban He asserted that Bagbin's manner of addressing demonstrated gross disrespect towards him and his constituents.

Dr. Afriyie, who maintains he was justified in his objection to the Speaker's remarks, explained that while he is willing to endure the embarrassment, he stands firm in his belief that Alban Bagbin should not have made the comments he during the announcement President Akufo-Addo's of nomination of new Supreme Court justices.

In an interview with Joy News, Dr. Afriyie stated that he will not pursue further actions against Alban Bagbin, as he doubts such efforts would yield any significant

"I want to speak to the substance of the issue and not how I was treated. That is a small amount of humiliation that I'm willing to suffer. I feel humiliated and my people too were humiliated. That's why I said that I was brought up in a palace and referenced my constituency, and he said he represented Ghana.

"I represent the people of Sefwi

Wiawso, so if you humiliate their representative from speaking his opinion on a matter of procedure and process, then I will stand by it," he said.

Alban Bagbin, the Speaker of Parliament, ordered the removal of Kwaku Afriyie, the Member of Parliament for Sefwi Wiawso, after he allegedly made contemptuous remarks in Parliament.

Theincidentoccurredfollowingthe

Speaker's announcement of new Supreme Court judge nominations. Although the specifics of Afriyie's comments were not picked up by the microphone, Speaker Bagbin evidently found them disrespectful and subsequently instructed the MP to leave the chamber.

"I will not entertain such disrespect. Marshal, please take him out," the Speaker ordered.

Source: The Independent Ghana | Phoebe. M. Doku



Dr. Kwaku Afriyie, MP for Sefwi Wiawso on the left, Alban Bagbin, Speaker of Parliament, on the right

#### Minority's #OccupyBoGdemo rescheduled to August 13

The Minority in Parliament rescheduled second protest calling for the removal of Bank of Ghana Governor Dr. Ernest Addison and his deputies. Originally set for July 30, the protest will now take place on August 13.

In a statement issued to the police on July 23, the National Democratic Congress (NDC) attributed the delay to the party's 2024 campaign launch in Tamale on July 27.

The that Minority noted many members would attend the campaign event, leaving inadequate time to prepare for the protest.

"Following our discussion and conclusion of the date with your office, the National Democratic Congress (NDC) announced the 27th of July 2024 as the date of the launch of our national campaign in Tamale. that this date is so close to our planned demonstration in Accra, the 27th July date has become inconvenient. Pursuant to sections 1, 2, and 3 of the Public Order Act 1994 (Act 491), I hereby write to request for the rescheduling of the demonstration from its original date of Tuesday 30th July, 2024 to Tuesday 13th August 2024, between the hours of 8 am and 6 pm. The route remains the same," the statement read.

The Minority's second protest against Dr. Ernest Addison and his deputies is due to allegations of financial mismanagement and a lack of accountability.

They believe the current BoG

mishandled leadership has the nation's finances and are demanding their removal to address these issues.

This marks the second protest led

by the Minority against the BoG governor and his board, with the first occurring on July 10, 2024.

Source: The Independent Ghana | Abigail Twumwaa Ampofo



Dr. Cassiel Ato Forson, Minority Leader

## Don't pay July salaries of Colleges of Education Teachers - Govt to Accountant General

overnment has collaborated **Tertiary** with Ghana Education Commission (GTEC), to instruct the Controller Accountant General's Department to halt the salaries of all instructional staff at Colleges of Education for July.

In a letter dated July 22, 2024, the Commission indicated that this order, prompted by the Minister for Education, Dr. Yaw Osei Adutwum, is due to the Colleges of Education Teachers Association Ghana (CETAG) not ending their current strike, which began in June.

"At the instance of the Minister for Education on the non-adherence of CETAG members to call off an illegal strike from June 2024, you are by this letter requested to stop the salaries of all teaching staff of the Colleges of Education (CETAG) except for the College Principals for July 2024. By this letter, the College Principals are not to validate the July 2024 salaries of all teaching staff," the letter signed by the Head of IPP at GTEC, Prof.

Ahmed Jinapor Abdulai, stated.

Meanwhile, CETAG, which has maintained that its strike action over the non-implementation of the outstanding arbitration award by the National Labour Commission (NLC) is legal, has warned of legal action against any attempt by the government to freeze their salaries.

Colleges of Education Teachers Association (CETAG) leadership pledged to fight any unlawful attempts to freeze academic year. their members' salaries and will continue their indefinite strike until the government enforces the arbitral award and agrees to the negotiated service conditions.

In a press briefing in Accra, CETAG President Prince Obeng-Himang stated that the strike will persist until all unresolved issues are resolved.

"Any attempt to illegally freeze salaries would lead to legal action, as the strike is a legitimate response to the government's delay in implementing the arbitral

award and negotiated service conditions," he cautioned.

CETAG insists that its ongoing strike, which started in June, is legally justified and criticized the National Labour Commission (NLC) for disseminating false information about their actions.

The Association refuted claims that members have received their Book and Research Allowance arrears for the 2022/2023

Since the strike began, all academic activities at Colleges of Education nationwide have been disrupted, as members protest the the agreed-upon conditions.

Additionally, CETAG has denied allegations that its members are administering quizzes and tests during the strike.

They clarified that students who miss over 21 days of lectures or classes are ineligible based examinations affiliate universities' attendance policies.

"CETAG advises students, principals, and affiliate universities to respect this policy and warns of legal action against any violations," Obeng-Himang stated.

Source: Independent Ghana | Sebastian Akaho-Tay



Dr Yaw Osei-Adutwum, Education Minister

## There should be a limit on the number of judges at the Supreme Court - Speaker Bagbin

peaker of Parliament Alban Bagbin has called for a legislative cap on the number of justices serving on Ghana's Supreme Court. Currently, the constitution mandates nine judges for the Supreme Court but does not set an upper limit.

Speaker Bagbin's call comes after President Nana Akufo-Addo nominated two new justices, Justice Sophia Rosseta Bernasko Essah and Professor Richard Frimpong Oppong, to replace the retiring justices Nii Ashie Kotey and Mariama Owusu.

Addressing Parliament, Speaker Bagbin stressed the need for a clear upper limit on the number of Supreme Court justices.

"We're being called through this letter as a House to look into the issue of a full complement of the Supreme Court, should it be 13, 15, 20, 40, or 100. It's for this House to decide," he stated.

Bagbin urged Parliament to consider legislative reforms, taking into account the needs of Ghana's 33 million people.

recommendation President's nominations, which have been referred to the Appointments Committee review.

This discussion is part broader conversations about of Ghana's composition judiciary. Recently, the Chief Justice recommended five judges to President Akufo-Addo for consideration for the Supreme Court.

The nominees include Justice Afia

Serwaa Asare Botwe, Justice Cyra Pamela Koranteng, Justice Edward Amoako Asante, Justice Eric Kyei Baffuour, and Justice Angelina Mensah Homiah.

These recommendations debate have sparked

criticism, particularly from the opposition National Democratic Congress (NDC) and various organizations.

Source: The Independent Ghana | Andy Ogbarmey-Tettey



Alban Bagbin, Speaker of Parliament

#### Frank Annor-Dompreh fined GHS 7.2k for contempt of court

Parliament Nsawam-Adoagyire Constituency in Eastern Region, Frank Annor-Dompreh, has been found guilty of contempt by the High Court in Accra.

Presided over by Justice Abena Oppong Adjin-Doku, the court convicted Annor-Dompreh after he admitted to the offense.

Despite his high profile, the court opted against a custodial sentence, noting that he should have been more aware of proper conduct.

On Tuesday, July 23, Justice Adjin-Doku sentenced Annor-Dompreh to a fine of 600 penalty units, which amounts to GHS 7,200.

The MP was held in contempt for obstructing the work of Court Bailiffs and Police Officers who were executing orders related to a land dispute.

The land dispute involving Frank Annor-Dompreh centers around a contested piece of land in the Eastern Region of Ghana.

The High Court (Land Court 1) had issued orders for the execution of certain actions related to this land.

However, when Court Bailiffs and Police Officers arrived to carry out these orders, Annor-Dompreh obstructed their work, leading to

his contempt charge 12.

Source: The Independent Ghana | Abigail Twumwaa Ampofo



Hon. Frank Annoh-Dompreh, MP for Nsawam-Adoagyire

6

## General News

## Only 19% of Ghanaian taxpayers fulfill obligations - Finance Ministry

81% staggering registered taxpayers in Ghana are not meeting their tax obligations, according to Deputy Minister of Finance, Dr. Alex Ampaabeng.

Out of approximately 7.9 million registered taxpayers, only about 1.5 million are actively paying taxes, representing a mere 19% of the taxpayer base.

Dr. Ampaabeng disclosed this information at the launch of the 8th Ghana Economic Update by the World Bank. He highlighted the significant challenges in the country's tax collection system and emphasized the government's commitment to addressing these issues. "We are committed to improving our fiscal environment and increasing tax revenue," Dr. Ampaabeng stated.

He outlined the government's

efforts, including a comprehensive clean-up of the tax database in collaboration with the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA).

"Reducing the human interface in tax collection and enhancing digital methods are crucial steps in this process. The Ministry of Finance is working closely with the GRA to address tax infractions and ensure better compliance," he added.

Ghana's tax collection rate has been notably low compared to its peers. Between 2017 and 2021, the country's average tax collection was 13.2% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), significantly below the Sub-Saharan Africa average and 8 percentage points short of the estimated tax capacity of 21.2% of GDP.

The World Bank report, launched alongside Ampaabeng's address. highlighted where Ghana's tax policy and compliance mechanisms could be improved.

The report suggested rationalizing large tax expenditures and addressing inefficiencies within the tax policy framework to

enhance revenue collection.

It emphasized the need for a balanced approach that mitigates revenue losses while considering the social impacts.

Source: The Independent Ghana



Dr. Alex Ampaabeng, Deputy Minister of Finance

## Cabinet greenlights re-introduction of road tolls

inister for Works and Housing, Kojo Oppong-Nkrumah, has noted that the Minister for Roads, Francis received Asenso-Boakye, has cabinet approval to begin the process of re-introducing road tolls.

The Housing Minister made this knowntothemediaonthesidelines of the 2024 mid-year budget statement presentation.

"Already, the Minister for Roads has received Cabinet approval to start the process of reintroducing these tolls," he said.

Finance Minister Dr Mohammed Amin Adam has indicated that the establishment of a framework for the re-introduction of road and bridge tolls will be done in 2025.

He made this known while presenting the 2024 mid-year budget statement on Tuesday, July 23, 2024.

Effective November 2021, government ordered the suspension of the collection of road tolls across the country in a bid to ease traffic congestion at toll booths and in the hope that a portion of the e-levy revenue would be committed to maintaining the roads.

The e-levy has failed to generate the necessary funds since its passage; a development that has now led to the need for the reintroduction of road tolls.

Moreover, the flagbearer of the NPP,

Dr Mahamudu Bawumia, during a recent campaign tour of the Volta Region, proposed a reintroduction of the tolling system.

Source: The *Independent* Ghana



File Photo





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

#### Amenities:

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

#### Accra Beach Hotel

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

Wherever Life Takes You, Best Western Is There.®

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

## Business

#### Liabilities in cocoa and energy sectors could affect Ghana's "modest recovery" - World Bank

■ he World Bank's latest Ghana Economic Update indicates that while the country has made "steady progress" towards economic stabilization, significant liabilities in the cocoa and energy sectors could pose risks to Ghana's "modest recovery."

Released on Monday, July 22, the eighth edition of the report attributes the recent economic improvement to a firm monetary policy stance, comprehensive debt restructuring, and a series of structural reforms aimed at supporting long-term growth.

Despite this, the report points out that challenges such as financial sector stress and contingent liabilities in critical sectors like cocoa and energy could impact the economy's stability.

Mr. Stefano Curto, Lead Economist for Ghana, Liberia, and Sierra Leone at the World Bank, noted that the macroeconomic situation has seen considerable improvement over the past year.

"Growth in 2023 was more resilient than projected, reaching 2.9 percent. Ghana has made commendable strides on fiscal consolidation," Curto stated.

However, he emphasized that the sustainability of these efforts is contingent on enhancing the country's tax revenue while minimizing the impact on growth and the vulnerable populations.

The report stresses the need for robust measures to enhance tax revenue mobilization and the full implementation of policies related to the ongoing \$3 billion International Monetary (IMF) loan-support program.

Curto recommended streamlining the complexities associated with personal income tax, Value Added Tax (VAT), excise duty, and corporate income tax, as well as rationalizing tax exemptions.

Economist Mr. Kwabena Gyan Kwakye projected a 3.1 percent growth for Ghana by the end

of 2024, with the potential for economic growth to reach 5 percent by 2025 if stabilization efforts are fully implemented. He also called for continued efforts in expenditure management to sustain economic progress.

Dr. Alex Ampaabeng, Deputy Finance Minister, acknowledged the challenges in the country's tax administration system but assured that reforms were underway to enhance domestic revenue mobilization.

highlighted the National

Revenue Policy and a mediumterm revenue strategy designed to adapt to the evolving business landscape.

Dr. Ampaabeng mentioned that the Ministry of Finance is collaborating with the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) on data cleansing to better identify and engage taxpayers. Currently, Ghana's database includes approximately 7.4 million taxpayers, with 1.9 million active and 5.4 million inactive.

Source: The Independent Ghana



World Bank Logo

## Ghana generated \$1.81bn for exporting more in first half of 2024 - Finance Minister

Minister **▼**inance ◀ Mohammed Amin Adam has indicated that for the first half of 2024, the trade balance (economic measure that represents the difference between the value of a country's exports and imports of goods and services) recorded a provisional surplus of US\$1.81 billion.

According to the Finance Minister, this was the result of a larger increase in exports which outweighed the increase in imports.

This is higher than the outturn of US\$1.60 billion recorded in the corresponding period of 2023.

He made this information known to the entire country when he delivered the 2024 Mid-Year Budget Review on the floor of Parliament on Tuesday, July 2023.

The improved trade surplus

resulted in larger current account surplus of US\$1.28 billion (1.5 percent of GDP) in

the first half of 2024.

"This compares with a Current account surplus of US863.0 million (1.1 percent of GDP), registered in the same period a year ago," Dr Amin further revealed to the

He also noted that developments in Ghana's external sector in 2023 was marked by a general reduction in external payments, resulting in a Current account surplus and reduced Capital & Financial account outflow.

"Consequently, the overall Balance

of Payments recorded a surplus of US\$461.6 million. The current account improved to a surplus of US\$1.41 billion, driven by a strong growth in remittances as the reforms in the Fintech ecosystem started to yield positive results," he added.

Source: The **Independent** Ghana



Dr. Mohammed Amin Adam, Finance Minister

## International

## Ethiopia landslide rescuers pull 229 bodies from mud

escue teams have so far retrieved the bodies of .229 people killed in two landslides in southern Ethiopia, a local official has told the BBC.

landslides occurred on Sunday evening and Monday morning, after heavy rains in a remote mountainous area of the Gofa zone.

The local authority said the search for survivors was "continuing vigorously" but that the "death toll could yet increase".

Footage showed hundreds of people gathered at the scene and others digging in the dirt in search of people trapped underneath.

In the background, a hillside can be seen partially collapsed and a large patch of red earth has been exposed.

The chief administrator of Goza zone, Dagmawi Ayele, told the BBC that the dead included both adults and children, while 10 people rescued alive were receiving treatment in hospital.

Heavy rains caused a landslide on Sunday, and as police officers, teachers and residents from nearby villages frantically continued with search-and-rescue operations on Monday, a second landslide occurred, burying them too under the mud, Mr Dagmawi said.

"We are still digging," he told the BBC.

Markos Melese, the Gofa disaster management head, said that 229 bodies had so far been recovered.

Gofa is part of the state known as Southern Ethiopia, located around 320km (199 miles) south-west of the capital, Addis Ababa.

Southern Ethiopia is among the

areas of the country that have been hit by particularly heavy rain and flooding in recent months, according to the UN's Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (Ocha).

But instances of landslides and floods go back further. In May 2016, at least 50 people were killed in floods and landslides following heavy rain across the south of the country.

Many factors contribute to flooding, but a warming atmosphere caused by climate change makes extreme rainfall more likely.

The world has already warmed by about 1.2C since the industrial era began and temperatures will keep rising unless governments around the world make steep cuts to emissions.

Source: BBC



File Photo

## Nigerian lawmakers pass minimum wage bill, ending labour dispute

igerian lawmakers passed legislation on Tuesday the minimum wage to 70,000 naira (\$44.16) a month, ending months of wrangling between the government and labour unions.

The wage bill, which passed at an accelerated hearing, amends the 2019 minimum wage law, cutting the review period for public wages to three years from five years.

Nigeria's main labour unions had agreed on the new minimum wage on Thursday after talks with the government after months of deadlock and the threat of strikes.

The bill passed without any opposition at the senate and the lower parliament. It will become effective as soon as President Bola Tinubu gives his assent.

The minimum wage will rise from 30,000 naira a month after Nigeria's two biggest union federations, the Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC) and the Trade Union Congress (TUC), argued that soaring prices and a weakening currency caused by reforms instituted by President

Tinubu were hitting workers living crisis in a generation, stoking hard.

Africa's most populous nation is grappling with the worst cost of fears of Kenyan-style protests that have rocked that country for nearly a month.

Source: Reuters



File Photo



