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General News

We will provide a credible voter register for 2024 elections - EC

The Electoral Commission (EC) has committed to a comprehensive voter exhibition process to ensure a reliable voter register for the upcoming December 7 elections.

This pledge comes in response to the National Democratic Congress (NDC)'s call for the immediate release of the provisional voter register ahead of the scheduled exhibition.

The NDC's Director of Elections, Dr. Boamah criticized the EC on Facebook, accusing them of delaying the release of the register due to incompetence and suggesting a deliberate effort to present a flawed register to political parties.

He expressed concern that this delay could potentially lead to significant unrest if not addressed promptly.

"Deeply concerned that the posturing and incompetence of the EC and its IT Department can plunge Ghana into anarchy if not remedied immediately," he said.

In a media engagement, EC's Director of Training, Dr. Serebuor Quaioco dismissed these allegations.

He urged the NDC and other

stakeholders to be patient and participate in the exhibition process, which will address any issues and ensure a high-quality final register.

"Why would we fight the same people who are going to help us do the work? We all know the quantum of work to be done...So, they should understand it and once we give it to them, they and the voters and

everybody will help to contribute and by the time we finish the eight-day exhibition, we will identify all the challenges and rectify them.

"They should all expect that when everything is done we will give them the final register. So, we will do good work and give them the final register which will be a quality register," he stated.

Dr. Quaioco emphasized the importance of collaboration, noting that the EC is committed to delivering a reliable final register after the eight-day exhibition period, which will allow for the correction of any identified problems.

Source: The Independent Ghana / Sebastian Akaho-Tay



File photo

Govt to return 262 acres of Achimota Forest to Owoo family - Lands Minister

Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Samuel Abu Jinapor, has confirmed that a deal has been struck to return 262 acres of the Achimota Forest to its original owners, the Owoo family.

During a press briefing on Wednesday, August 14, 2024, the Minister explained that the land was scheduled for return based on a 2013 decision made by the erstwhile Mahama government, with Cabinet approval given on September 5, 2013.

As a result, the current administration is bound by the decisions made by the previous government.

"As far as September 5th, 2013, President Mahama's government granted a cabinet approval for the return of this land to the Owoo family and at the time I became the Minister, a total of 362 acres of land had been concluded."

"Leases have been given in respect of those lands, decisions have been made that 362 of the Achimota lands be returned to the Minister for one consideration or the other and that transcended from President Kufour's government to Akufo-Addo's government up to 2021 when I became the Minister," he said.

In 2022, an Executive Instrument - continued on page 3



Samuel Abu Jinapor, Minister of Lands and Natural Resources



General News

Government to return 262 acres of Achimota Forest to Owoo family

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144 issued by President Akufo-Addo to reclassify 362 acres of forest land for return to the Owoo family received a public backlash.

However, Mr Jinapor has said that the acreage has been reduced to 262 acres after negotiations to address concerns about the ecological integrity of the forest.

"We've set up a team, we went into negotiations with the Achimota Forest because we are concerned about the ecological integrity of the forest and we wanted a buffer. We wanted a buffer for what the Owoo family will have and

what will now constitute today's Achimota forest."

"We were able to negotiate a reduction of 100 acres out of the 362 acres, which had been cast in iron by the previous government and the current administration had been bound legally by the previous government for the release of 362 acres of the Achimota government," he noted.

The Minister continued, "As we speak today, we've negotiated a reduction of 100 acres and now the parcel of the land that is supposed to be released back to the family is

262 acres."

"Now, we've structured the agreement in such a way that even for an individual to take possession of the land given the ecological sensitivity of the forest reserve, we've put in place stringent measures before the person can take possession of the land."

"So as I speak today, even though the transaction was concluded a year ago, nobody is taking even a square metre of the Achimota Forest Land", the minister revealed.

Meanwhile, the Owoo family has long claimed ownership of

the Achimota Forest land, which they assert was taken by the state in 1927 without proper compensation.

This issue resurfaced in 2022 after the death of Kwadwo Owusu Afriyie, also known as Sir John, whose will allegedly included parts of the forest.

The incident reignited public debate over the family's historical grievances and the rightful ownership of the land.

Source: The Independent Ghana / Abigail Twumwaa Ampofo

Okyenhene's Secretary sues Media General, Hopeson Adorye for defamation

The Akyem Abuakwa State Secretary, Mr Daniel Marfo Ofori Atta, has dragged Media General Ghana Limited and member of the Movement for Change, Hopeson Adorye to court for allegedly defaming him.

In a writ of summons, the plaintiff, Mr Ofori Atta, noted that some words used by the 1st Defendant (Hopeson Adorye) on the 2nd Defendant's (Media General) platform on July 26, 2024, on Onua Maakye show were unjustifiably used without any sort of proof.

On the said show, Mr Ofori Atta says Mr Adorye was "given the unfettered and unrestrained opportunity and indeed was encouraged to run an unjustified commentary on a document titled 'Agyapade3' in relation to himself, the entire membership of Ofori Panin Fie and Okyeman."

Mr Adorye is said to have mentioned Mr Ofori Atta's name as the co-writer of the Agyapadie document.

"I mentioned it. D. M. Ofori Atta. It stated that he is a co-writer. He is a friend of mine and I know him. And if you glance at the page that talks about the hijacking of GBC (laughs), it will never work. Now the judiciary governance in Ghana (laughs). It has been stated in here in the document. Let's pack the court so that in the next twenty years they can be in control. Are you surprised more people are being nominated

to the Supreme Court?" a part of the writ read.

Mr Ofori Atta is therefore praying the court to recover the sum of GH¢10,000,000 as general damages including aggravated and/or exemplary damages for defamation.

He also wants the defendants to offer an apology and retraction of the words complained of.

Again, he has asked the court for a perpetual injunction restraining the Defendants whether by themselves, their servants, agents or assigns from repeating similar or other defamatory words against him.

The controversial 38-page document titled 'Agyapadie,'

which prominently features the Okyenhene, Osagyefo Amoatia Ofori Panin, alongside President Nana Akufo-Addo and his late father, has resurfaced, reigniting discussions about its contents.

The document, whose author remains unidentified, is believed to outline strategies for a particular family or clan to establish significant influence and control over key sectors of Ghanaian society, including the economy, politics, media, judiciary, telecommunications, and banking.

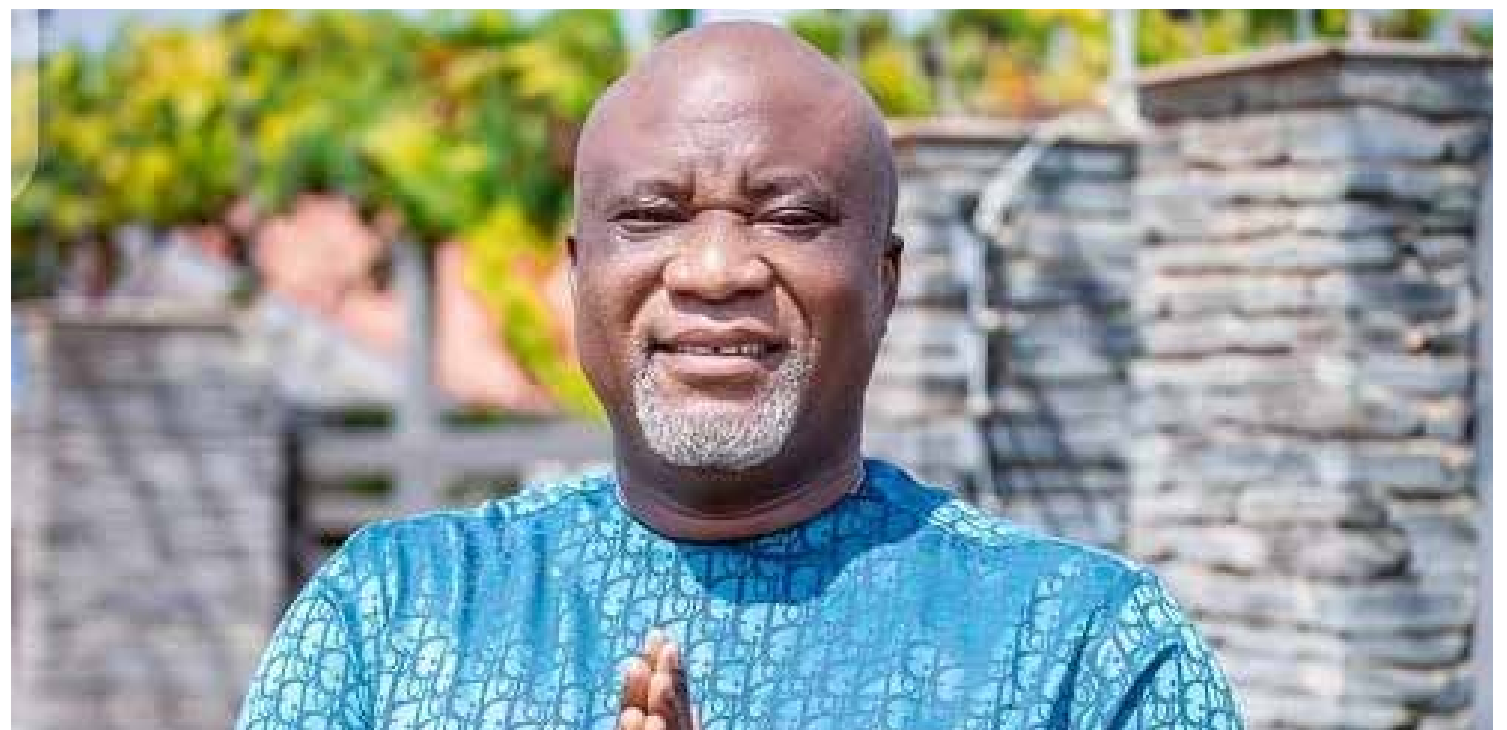
On August 1, 2024, President Akufo-Addo addressed growing speculation about the document, which is purported to be a strategic plan of the Akyem faction within the

ruling New Patriotic Party (NPP).

The president and the government New Patriotic Party (NPP) have dismissed the document as a fabrication, attributing its circulation to political adversaries aiming to discredit the party and its affiliates.

The Okyenhene, Osagyefo Amoatia Ofori Panin, has also denounced the document as a baseless creation by those intent on sowing discord and inciting animosity towards the Ofori Panin family and the Okyeman community.

Source: The Independent Ghana / Andy Ogbarmey-Tetty



Hopeson Adorye, Member of the Movement for Change

General News

Police evicts illegal occupants from GACL land at Sepe

Police officers have evicted illegal occupants on the land owned by the Ghana Airport Company Limited (GACL) at Sepe in the Asokore Mampong Municipality.

The eviction of the squatters was carried out on Thursday, August 16, 2024, under a court order obtained by GACL.

The affected squatters include truck drivers, mechanics, and individuals who have set up temporary structures, such as church buildings, on the land.

In February this year, squatters were informed to vacate the area through notices posted on the walls surrounding the land upon

orders from the GACL.

The land, located near the Agenda 111 Hospital project site, is being cleared by court bailiffs with police support, while squatters are in the process of relocating their belongings.

Speaking to the media, Assembly Member for the Sepe Timpom Electoral Area, Awudu Abubakar Yakayaka, stated that the local opinion leaders were not consulted prior to the enforcement of the court order.

As the demolition continues, many, including families with children, are being left homeless.

Source: The Independent Ghana / Phoebe.M.Doku



Illegal occupants of Sepe land evicted

NDC refuses to sign peace pact ahead of 2024 polls

National Chairman of the National Democratic Congress (NDC), Johnson Asiedu Nketia, has stated that the opposition party will not be signing any peace accords as the country prepares for the upcoming elections.

During a media engagement on Wednesday, August 14, 2024, Mr Asiedu Nketia cast aspersions about the effectiveness of such agreements, citing previous experiences as a basis for his scepticism.

“Signing a peace declaration doesn’t mean anything to the party, as previous pacts have not yielded any real results,” he stated.

The Chairman stated that preventing violence requires proactive measures rather than symbolic gestures.

“If you allow violence to brew, it will happen whether you sign a declaration or not. That’s why, more than a year ago, I started talking about the need to remove the building blocks for a violent election,” he explained.

He further criticised the focus on signing peace agreements after

tensions have already escalated, urging authorities to address the root causes of potential violence before it spirals out of control.”

“At any stage when something is happening, I call on those who, in the future, will call us to sign a declaration to speak up and stop it from happening.”

“Otherwise, if you let these issues build up and then say, ‘Let’s play a peace football match, sign a declaration, and hope for a peaceful election,’ it won’t work. We did all this and more in 2020,” he said.

Mr Asiedu Nketia, affectionately known as General Mosquito, pointed out that despite the involvement of bodies like the Council of State and the Peace Council in previous peace declarations, the 2020 election was still marred by violence.

“Signing or not signing is not the issue. What we need to address are the building blocks that lead to violence,” he insisted.

He also highlighted concerns about the illegal recruitment of about 10,000 individuals into the security services, warning that

this could be a brewing source of unrest. “It’s brewing now,” he added.

In the 2020 election, the NDC challenged the results, labelling them as “flawed” and accusing state security forces of voter intimidation in their key areas.

The 2020 general election was marred with electoral violence, leading to eight fatalities and 61

incidents of electoral and post-electoral violence nationwide, including six cases involving gunfire.

The incidents occurred in constituencies including Awutu Senya East, Odododiodio, and Ablekuma Central.

Source: The Independent Ghana / Abigail Twumwaa Ampofo



Johnson Asiedu Nketia, National Chairman of NDC



General News

Outpatients devastated as Korle Bu's renal unit attends to inpatients only

The Renal Unit at Korle Bu Teaching Hospital (KBTH) has been made available exclusively to inpatients, despite earlier announcements that outpatients would also have access.

The Renal Unit was shut down two weeks ago due to a shortage of consumables. The closure reportedly resulted in the death of three individuals.

Upon reopening of the unit, recent reports reveal that while inpatients are being treated, outpatients still cannot access the dialysis centre.

A spokesperson for the Renal Patients Association, Kojo Baffour Ahenkora, has voiced concern about the lack of official communication regarding when the facility will be available to outpatients.

Despite these challenges, Mr Ahenkora remains hopeful that the hospital will soon extend its

services to outpatients.

On the matter, the Head of Public Relations at the hospital, Mustapha Salifu, says the facility is expected to resume outpatient services by next week.

Mr Mustapha Salifu who spoke to the media indicated that the hospital has received additional medical supplies to support the outpatient department (OPD) services.

"The renal team will work out the schedule for the OPD to begin as soon as possible to bring relief to our patients," he said.

The Public Relations Officer stated that with the procurement of 30 new dialysis machines, which are expected to be installed by the end of the year, the issue of consumable shortages should hopefully be resolved.

"The new machines have their own consumables that can last for a year unlike what we have

now which require that we order their consumables from the manufacturers."

"They will also help reduce the pressure on the available machines now since we have not less than

50 patients a day coming in to receive dialysis which takes not less than four hours per session to complete," he said.

Source: The Independent Ghana / Phoebe.M.Doku



File photo

Ghanaian nurses to Barbados: Govt begins recruitment

The Ministry of Health has commenced the recruitment of Ghanaian registered nurses to Barbados, a small island country in the south-eastern Caribbean Sea.

This information was made public by the ministry via a statement dated August 15, 2024, posted on its social media platforms on Thursday.

The recruitment exercise is expected to end on Thursday, August 22, 2024.

The release indicated that the anomaly that affected the portal for the recruitment of these nurses has been rectified.

Following the resolution, prospective applicants are requested to formally access the form on hr.moh.gov.gh, click on Barbados application and follow the instructions to apply.

Meanwhile, the ministry has thrown a word of caution to the public over

an alternative application portal with regard to recruitment.

"The public is kindly informed that, the Ministry of Health does not have an alternative application portal and middlemen with regards to the recruitment of the Nurses' to Barbados. Any suspicious activity should be reported to the Chief Director of the Ministry," the release read.

In an unrelated event, the recruitment of 15,200 nurses and midwives, which commenced on Monday, August 5, 2024, is ongoing and set to end on Friday, August 23, 2024, at 6:00 pm.

Qualified candidates are invited to apply through the Ministry of Health's online application portal. Applicants should log in to <https://hr.moh.gov.gh> and follow the instructions to complete their application.

The Ministry has assured the public

that the recruitment process will be conducted transparently. As such, individuals are warned against any third parties claiming to offer assistance for a fee.

It strongly advises all applicants

not to make any payments for recruitment services. Any money paid under these pretences is done so at the applicant's own risk.

Source: The Independent Ghana / Andy Ogbarmey-Tettey



Ghanaian Nurses

General News

Supreme Court can't be coerced into accepting LGBTQ rights – Justice Yonni Kulendi

A Supreme Court judge, Justice Yonni Kulendi, has stated that the apex court will not be influenced by external pressures to adopt practices such as homosexuality, which are not in line with Ghanaian norms.

He emphasized that Ghana's Constitution holds supreme authority and is not subject to the influence of other nations' laws or practices.

"Whilst the constitutions and laws of other nations may have expressly legalized homosexuality, glorified gay marriages, and by way of affirmative actions, promulgated legislation to propagate, outdoor, evangelize, preach, and sell the notions of homosexuality to every fabric of those societies, Ghana as a nation, and for that matter this (Supreme) Court, cannot by 'peer pressure' be cajoled into adopting a similar stance."

"Our oath is to uphold the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Ghana. Thus, we shall neither engage in legislative drafting nor usurp the lawmaking powers of Parliament in order to substitute our wisdom for that of the lawmakers by superimposing foreign perceptions of propriety

and/or normalcy on our laws and established social structures," the Supreme Court judge said in a 57-page judgment released on August 13, 2024.

"We must, therefore, as judges, avoid any extent of judicial activism that will mislead us into assuming the role of Parliament," Justice Kulendi stated while pointing to the case of Republic v Fast Track High Court, Accra; Ex parte Daniels [2003-2004] SCLR 364 at p.370," Justice Kulendi stated.

On July 24, 2024, the Supreme Court, led by Justice Paul Baffoe-Bonnie, unanimously rejected a petition filed by law lecturer Dr. Obiri-Korang, on August 26, 2024, challenging the constitutionality of laws criminalizing homosexuality.

The seven-member panel, which included Justices Avril Lovelace-Johnson, Omoro Amadu Tanko, Ernest Gaewu, Yaw Darko Asare, and Agyei-Frimpong, upheld that Section 104(1)(D) of Act 29 is not discriminatory and does not infringe on individual privacy, whether for homosexuals or other sexual orientations involving unnatural carnal knowledge.

The court affirmed that the criminalization of unnatural carnal knowledge under Section 104(1)(b) of the Criminal and Other Offences Act, 1960 (Act 29) is consistent with the 1992 Constitution. As a result, the panel dismissed Dr. Obiri-Korang's lawsuit in its entirety.

"It is, therefore, not unconstitutional," the panel said, and on that premise, dismissed the Plaintiff's action in its entirety.

On February 28, 2024, Ghana's Parliament unanimously passed the Human Sexual Rights and Family Values Bill, 2021.

The bill which is yet to be passed by President Akufo-Addo to become law criminalizes the mere identification as an LGBTQ+ community member and "related activities," including same-sex relationships, the use of sex toys, and cross-dressing.

Presently, the content of the bill has not been made public as the President has been advised against receiving the bill from the Clerk of Parliament due to the legal action against the bill currently at the Supreme Court.

Source: The Independent Ghana / Sebastian Akaho-Tay



Justice Yonni Kulendi, Supreme Court judge

2024 NDC manifesto to be launched August 24

The National Democratic Congress (NDC) has announced that it will officially launch its manifesto for the 2024 general elections on Saturday, August 24, 2024, in the Central Region.

This highly anticipated event will outline the party's policy proposals and vision as it seeks to reclaim power in the upcoming elections.

The NDC recently launched its Youth Manifesto in Accra, setting the stage for the full manifesto launch. To ensure the success of this significant event, the party has formed a nine-member planning committee chaired by Dr. Peter Boamah Otokunor, the party's Director of Interparty and Civil

Society Relations.

The committee includes several notable figures within the party. Dr. Peter Boamah Otokunor will serve as chairman, with Barbara Serwaa Asamoah Esq., Deputy General Secretary, as a member.

Other members of the committee are Comrade Sammy Gyamfi Esq., the Communications Officer, and Comrade Elikem Kotoko, the Deputy National Organizer. Mr. Ludwig Hlordze, Director of Protocol and Logistics, also serves as a member, along with Nana Oye-Bampoe Esq., who is the Secretary to the Manifesto Committee.

Additional committee members

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Nana Otu Darko, Radio Presenter at Accra FM



General News

2024 NDC manifesto to be launched August 24

- Continued from page 6

include Mrs. Beatrice Annan Esq., the Deputy Spokesperson for the John Mahama Campaign, Hon. Elvis Afriyie Ankrah, former Minister of Sports, and Dr. Bernadette Hoffman. The planning committee is expected to release further details about the venue, time, and other logistical arrangements for

the manifesto launch in the coming days.

The NDC's 2024 election campaign officially kicked off with an energizing launch on Saturday, July 27, in Tamale, Northern Region.

The event was attended by

thousands of enthusiastic supporters, eager to witness the party's roadmap to victory.

Key NDC figures were present, including Chairman Johnson Asiedu Nketia, General Secretary Fifi Fiavi Kwetey, and MP for Tamale South Haruna Iddrisu. Other notable attendees included

media personality Kofi Okyere Darko (KOD), National Youth Organiser George Opare Addo, and Communication Officer Sammy Gyamfi, all of whom underscored the party's strong, unified front.

Source: The Independent Ghana / Andy Ogbarmey-Tettey

I have not bribed NDC MPs with security agency slots - Interior Minister

Minister of the Interior, Henry Quartey, has dismissed claims highlighting his attempt to bribe opposition Members of Parliament by offering them opportunities to recruit their constituents into security services.

During an interview with the media on Wednesday, August 15, the National Chairman of the National Democratic Congress (NDC), Johnson Asiedu Nketia, claimed that Mr Quartey made the offer in an attempt to silence NDC MPs who were against the recruitment of around 10,000 party supporters into the police force.

Mr Asiedu Nketia voiced serious concerns about the potential

impact of such actions on the upcoming election, warning that it could threaten peace if the Interior Minister were secretly involved in these activities.

However, Mr. Quartey has strongly denied these claims. He acknowledged informing his colleagues that recruitment portals for security services were open and advised them to inform their constituents to apply before the general announcement was made.

The Interior Minister clarified that his actions were not intended to bribe opposition MPs but were instead meant as a goodwill gesture. He emphasized that he never asked them to submit lists of their constituents, as General

Mosquito had alleged.

"Of course, MPs have got constituents who may have also bought forms. Is it wrong to say that if there are forms, they should go through the same process?"

"I am not saying that bring me files so I can put you there. So this statement, first of all, let me say categorically that I did not bribe any Member of Parliament," he said.

Mr. Quartey also stated that he brought it up during a private meeting with legislators, clarifying that his intention was not to bribe anyone for any reason.

"I have not bribed any Member of Parliament by offering them two -

two and all that."

The Interior Minister emphasized that the security service is a neutral entity, and he cannot jeopardize the country's peace and stability by staffing these institutions with party loyalists.

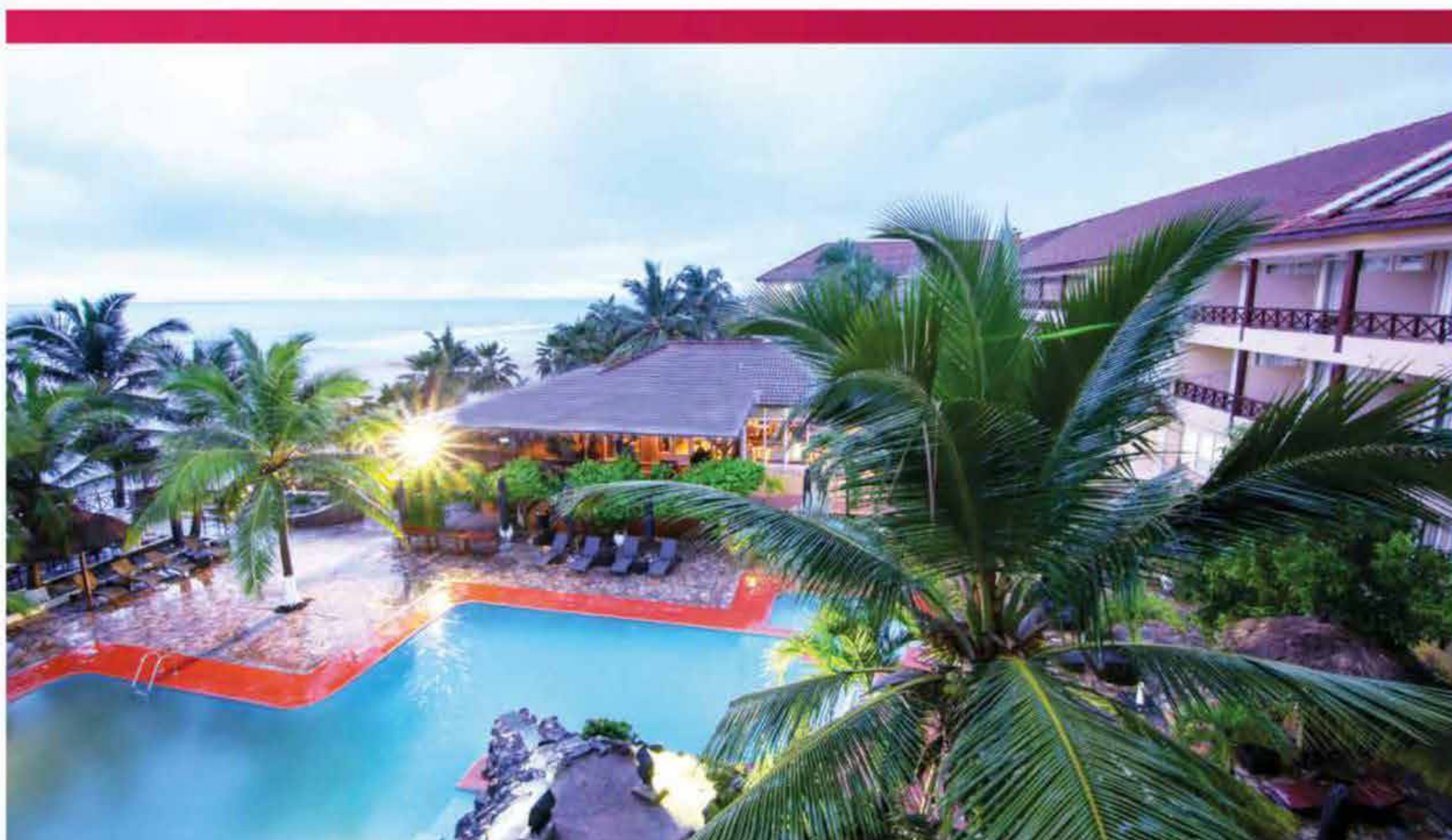
"We don't have political police, political soldiers, and political fire. Why do I say so? I have always made this statement and asked them [security agencies] to come and speak to it, which they have not done," he added.

He therefore has urged the general public to ignore the comments passed by Mr. Asiedu Nketiah.

Source: The Independent Ghana / Amanda Cartey



Henry Quartey, Minister of the Interior



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Business

West Hills Mall, Accra Mall sold to South African company in over \$200m deal

South African real estate investment firm, Lango, has completed a landmark deal worth over US\$200 million, acquiring prominent retail properties including the Accra Mall, West Hills Mall, and Kumasi City Mall in Ghana.

This strategic move, according to International tabloids, is part of Lango's broader initiative to expand its footprint across African markets with a focus on retail real estate.

The transaction significantly boosts Lango's portfolio, which now spans high-quality commercial assets across four African countries: Ghana, Zambia, Nigeria, and Angola.

In Ghana, Lango already holds key properties such as the Achimota Retail Centre, Accra Financial Centre, and the headquarters of both Stanbic and Standard Chartered Banks.

The company's holdings also extend beyond Ghana, including Manda Hill

Shopping Centre in Zambia and The Wings office complex on Victoria Island in Lagos, Nigeria. Additionally, Lango is set to strengthen its position in Africa with acquisitions like the Ikeja City Mall in Lagos and further investment in the Kumasi City Mall.

Thomas Reilly, CEO of Lango, highlighted the importance of this transaction in solidifying the company's status as a dominant player in the real estate sector across Sub-Saharan Africa.

"This transaction is a significant milestone for Lango and not only fits squarely into our growth strategy, but is also highly accretive. The scale achieved by Lango undoubtedly positions it as a leading Sub-Saharan African firm in the industry. Lango will now have US\$875 million of assets under management across four countries, with arguably some of the best-performing landmark commercial properties across both the retail and office sectors in select

growth cities," Reilly stated.

Lango, which commenced operations in March 2018, has rapidly established itself as a leading name in African real estate, with assets now exceeding US\$600 million.

Focused on acquiring prime commercial properties in key gateway cities, Lango continues

to seek opportunities that deliver compelling and sustainable returns for its investors while bolstering its presence in major markets across the continent.

The firm's latest acquisitions are expected to enhance synergies across its diverse portfolio, enabling sustained growth and resilience amid varying market conditions.



West Hills Mall

Pamper taxpayers to help gov't generate more revenue - Dep Trade Minister to GRA

Deputy Minister for Trade and Industry, Michael Okyere Baafi, has called on the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) to handle taxpayers with care to enhance state revenue generation.

He emphasized that the government's revenue department should recognize taxpayers as key contributors to government operations and, therefore, should provide them with the necessary attention.

Michael Okyere Baafi firmly stated that by following this strategic approach, more revenue can be generated to support national development.

The Deputy Minister shared these remarks at the National Sales Leaders Conference in Accra on Wednesday, August 14.

"One of the board meetings that I attended at the Ghana Revenue Authority, I was sharing a view with the board members that it is high time the GRA as an institution moved away from enforcement to being part

and parcel of the system."

"So that they can see the taxpayer as somebody who is important to government business, they have to pamper them and get their attention to get more. By doing so, we are sure we will be able to generate or get a lot of revenue for the state," he added.

His remarks follow allegations of discrimination against members of the Ghana Union of Traders Association (GUTA) by certain officials within the Customs Division of the Ghana Revenue Authority.

The trading community has also expressed concerns about the intimidation they experience from the GRA during tax collection.

In November 2023, Vice President Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia advised the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) to leverage the link between the Ghana Card and Tax Identification Number (TIN) to improve the identification and tax collection procedures for both individuals and businesses.

Dr. Bawumia criticized the current GRA approach, which concentrates solely on existing taxpayers, labeling it as "lazy."

He underscored the importance of adopting a more proactive and efficient strategy that specifically targets individuals and businesses that are not yet tax-compliant.

On robust tax collection, the GRA in

May this year indicated that the e-VAT system is currently being piloted and will soon integrate all VAT-registered taxpayers "to enhance revenue collection, combat tax evasion, and help promote transparency in tax administration, as demonstrated by the Pilot Phase.

Source: The Independent Ghana / Amanda Cartey



Michael Okyere Baafi, Deputy Minister for Trade and Industry



International

Nigeria's inflation falls for first time in over a year

Nigeria's headline inflation rate fell in July for the first time in well over a year, dipping to 33.40% in annual terms from 34.19% in June, data from the statistics agency showed on Thursday.

Analysts had said June's reading could mark the peak in inflation as currency devaluation effects start to fade.

July's slowdown will bring some relief to frustrated Nigerians, who protested this month over cost-of-living pressures and governance issues in Africa's most populous nation.

Price pressures have been stoked by President Bola Tinubu's decision to remove a decades-old fuel subsidy, devalue the naira currency and hike electricity tariffs.

The reforms are aimed at lifting

economic growth and shoring up public finances but have sent inflation soaring, eroding people's incomes.

The last month that annual inflation fell was December 2022.

The central bank has increased interest rates four times this year to try to get inflation under control, but after the last hike in July some analysts said that could be the final act in the bank's hiking cycle.

The Central Bank of Nigeria's next rate setting meeting is scheduled for late September.

A report by the National Bureau of Statistics on Thursday showed food and non-alcoholic beverages continued to be the biggest contributor to inflation in July.

Food inflation eased to 39.53% from 40.87% in June.

Source: Reuters



File photo

Libyans arrested in South African 'military camp' to be deported

South African prosecutors have dropped charges against 95 Libyans who were arrested on suspicion of receiving training at an illegal military camp.

The case was withdrawn because of insufficient evidence, said National Prosecuting Authority spokesperson Monica Nyuswa.

The men have only been charged with breaching South Africa's immigration laws and will be deported to their home country.

The Home Affairs department said in a statement it would ensure "the deportations are conducted swiftly".

One of the men's lawyers, Nico du Plessis, told Associated Press the group was "happy" the charges had been dropped.

The group is expected to be deported to Libya's second city, Benghazi.

Since the ousting and killing of Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi

in 2011, the country has suffered from chronic insecurity.

The group were arrested in July after South African police raided a farm in White River - a small town in the northern province of Mpumalanga.

At the time of the arrest, a police spokesperson said the group had "misrepresented themselves" on their visa applications by saying they would be training as security

guards.

Licensed firearms and military tents were allegedly found at the camp, along with cocaine and cannabis.

The camp was initially registered as a training site for a private security company but it appears to have been converted, a second police spokesperson, Donald Mdhuli, was quoted as saying by the AFP news agency.

Mr Mdhuli said the owner of the security company was a South African national and that the police were investigating if he had permission to run the site as a military-style camp.

Although the men will be deported, there will still be an investigation into the owners of the farm.

Source: BBC



The men had allegedly said they would be training as security guards in South Africa

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