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# General News

## Gov't to monitor quality of food under school feeding programme with AI – Gender Minister

Minister for Gender, Children and Social Protection, Dakoa Newman has disclosed that the government is prepared to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools to check the quality of food under the Ghana School Feeding Programme (GSFP).

The minister made the disclosure at a press briefing in Accra on August 8, 2024. Dakoa Newman also announced that the GSFP will soon shift from manual to digital operations.

This upgrade is intended to boost transparency, minimize delays, and optimize resource distribution within the programme.

With the new digital system, prospective caterers will need to apply online and submit a non-refundable fee of GH¢200. The revamped information management system will oversee caterer selection, data collection,

and payment processing.

“This process is opening it up to every prospective caterer to apply online. They will have to pay GH¢ 200.00 Ghana. They’ll create a profile, they make payments, then they can work on the form,” she said at the Minister’s Press Briefing organised by the Ministry of Information to provide updates on the GSFP and Affirmative Action (Gender Equity) Act, 2024.

“We’re going to be running an information management system to manage the entire process. To manage the caterer selection module, the data collection module, and to manage the payments section of it. Everything will be run online going forward,” she elaborated.

The system will undergo a pilot phase in the New Juaben South and Krachi East districts before being implemented nationwide for the 2024/2025 academic

year.

“Immediately, the pilot starts so that the rolling out of the national process will also start. You will see another publication for all 16 regions this time, not just for the two districts that have been advertised at this point,” she explained.

Mrs. Newman emphasised that the digital platform will help to eliminate discrepancies and

leakages that have plagued the programme in the past.

However, she advised prospective caterers to ensure they meet certain criteria, such as having at least GH¢5,000 in their accounts for pre-financing their operations and possessing a valid health certificate, before submitting their applications.

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



Dakoa Newman, Minister for Gender & Social Protection

## Political parties object EC's proposal to close 2024 polls at 3pm

The Electoral Commission (EC) has disclosed that its proposal to close polls at 3 pm on election day was rejected by political parties.

This proposal aimed to replace the traditional 5 pm closing time in order to prevent the late-night collation of results, a suggestion initially recommended by election observers.

EC's Director of Training, Dr. Serebour Quaicoe, shared this information during a seminar organized by the Institute for Democratic Governance, which focused on “EC Procedures for Electoral Disputes and Publication of Election Results.”

“Voting ends by 3 o'clock, by 5, we should have finished the polling station results. So it will now be left with the transmission of the results. But when we met our colleagues, they said, ‘for this year

we shouldn't touch the law,’” Dr. Quaicoe explained.

He also revealed that the EC plans to limit the number of voters per polling station to 750, a measure intended to speed up the counting process and avoid it extending into the night.

He noted that polling stations that completed their activities during daylight hours in previous elections were typically free from election-related disturbances.

“We had wanted to close elections by 3 o'clock because our understanding and thinking is that most of the confusion occurs at night. And now that we have decided that no polling station should have more than 750 voters—some time ago, some used to have even 2000 at a polling station,” he said.

Dr. Quaicoe further added, “In

2020, the threshold was 749; this time it's 750. No polling station will have more than 750 voters. And with this, it should not take us three hours, if everybody was to be there on time. The ones who are

able to do the threshold, we should be able to finish on time. And from experience, counting does not go beyond 2 hours.”

*Source: The Independent Ghana / Abigail Twumwaa Ampofo*



File Photo

# General News

## NLA goes after unauthorised lotto operators

Director General of the National Lottery Authority (NLA), Samuel Awuku, has reiterated the Authority's determination to eliminate illegal lotto operations nationwide.

During an Editors' Forum in Accra, Mr. Awuku assured the public that the NLA is ramping up efforts to regulate unlicensed operators and ensure all lotto activities adhere to legal standards.

He stressed that the NLA will take all necessary actions to curb illegal operations and warned those involved to legitimize their activities or face strict legal consequences.

"We are taking decisive action to clamp down on illegal lotto operators. The NLA is committed to ensuring that everyone in the industry operates legally and contributes to the development of the sector," he stated.

Mr. Awuku highlighted the collective efforts of the NLA team in revitalizing the Authority's brand over the past three years, a period marked by significant achievements.

He was honoured as CEO of the Year at both the 7th and 8th CEO Summit and Excellence Awards and also received the CEO of the Lottery Award in 2023.

"These awards are not just a personal achievement but a testament to the hard work and dedication of the entire NLA team. We have made significant strides in repositioning the NLA as a trustworthy and efficient authority, and we will continue to uphold these standards," Mr Awuku added.

The Editors' Forum, which gathered media professionals and stakeholders, served as an opportunity for the NLA to

highlight its achievements and present its future plans. It also facilitated discussions on the challenges confronting the lottery industry and the measures the NLA is implementing to tackle them.

The NLA's efforts to combat illegal lotto operations are part of a larger strategy to strengthen

the integrity and sustainability of Ghana's lottery sector.

Mr. Awuku urged the public to support the NLA's initiatives by reporting any unlawful activities, ensuring that the industry flourishes within a fair and regulated framework.

*Source: The Independent Ghana / Amanda Cartey*



*Samuel Awuku, Director-General, National Lottery Authority*

## Akufo-Addo hasn't tainted Ghana's relation with Burkina Faso - Foreign Ministry

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration has refuted allegations that President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo is responsible for Ghana's deteriorated relationship with Burkina Faso.

In a statement, the Ministry described the claims as "wholly unfounded and lack substantial evidence or merit."

This follows allegations by former President John Dramani Mahama that President Akufo-Addo's recent commentary and engagement with the United States government had affected the relationship between Ghana and Burkina Faso causing "diplomatic tension" between the two states.

During a media interaction in the Upper East Region, Mahama said, "We know what is happening in Burkina Faso, and we should be working closer with our comrades in Burkina Faso. Unfortunately, this government has created tension between us and Burkina Faso because our President went

to open his mouth too widely, gossiping about your neighbour, so it has created some diplomatic tension."

The Ministry noted in a statement on Saturday, August 10, that under President Akufo-Addo, diplomatic efforts had consistently been directed towards fostering constructive and respectful relations with all nations including Burkina Faso.

"It is recalled that a ministerial visit to Burkina Faso in 2022, followed by a visit of the President in 2023 received the highest level of courtesies and hospitality and reinforced the commitment of the two fraternal countries to building stronger bonds of cooperation across all fields, for the mutual benefit of our two people and our region," it stated.

The Ministry added that the leadership of President Akufo-Addo has been dedicated to advancing diplomacy in a manner that upholds the values of diplomacy and promotes peaceful engagement on

the global stage.

"It is crucial to emphasise that Ghana is committed to maintaining diplomatic relationships with Burkina Faso. Our interactions with Burkina Faso are guided by the principles of mutual respect and cooperation."

"The Ministry therefore called for a focus on building bridges and strengthening ties with our neighbour rather than spreading falsehood that only serves to undermine the spirit of international cooperation," it further noted.

The reported diplomatic rift began when President Akufo-Addo, speaking alongside U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken on December 14, 2023, alleged that Burkina Faso had hired Russian mercenaries and offered a mine as payment to the Wagner Group.

"Today, Russian mercenaries are on our northern border. Burkina Faso has now entered into an arrangement to go along with Mali in employing the Wagner forces there,"

Akufo-Addo stated, describing it as a troubling development for Ghana.

Burkina Faso's Foreign Ministry expressed its disapproval, stating that Ghana should have sought direct communication with Burkinabe authorities to obtain accurate information.

To address the fallout, Ghana's National Security Minister, Mr. Kan-Dapaah, led a high-level delegation to Burkina Faso, including security chiefs and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration.

Following these efforts, both nations reaffirmed their commitment to jointly combat terrorism in the West Africa region.

*Source: The Independent Ghana / Abigail Twumwaa Ampofo*



*Nana Akufo-Addo, Ghana's President*

# General News

## Ghanaian community in UK hasn't been abandoned amid riot - Ghana's High Commission

The Ghana High Commission in the United Kingdom and Ireland has refuted claims that it has neglected the Ghanaian community amid the recent unrest across the UK.

In a statement, the High Commission asserted that despite the sporadic nature of the nationwide disturbances, it has remained vigilant, closely monitoring the situation, and keeping consistent communication with leaders of registered Ghanaian associations throughout the UK.

The Commission highlighted the proactive steps it has taken to ensure the safety of Ghanaians, including advising community leaders to caution their members against venturing into areas of unrest.

They also provided real-time updates on the locations of riots in London and other cities, ensuring that Ghanaians could avoid these dangerous areas.

Moreover, the Commission has

been working to verify reports of alleged attacks on Ghanaians, though ongoing investigations have not confirmed any harm to Ghanaian nationals.

"Among some measures which may not be fully disclosed for now, through these interactions, the Mission has requested the aforementioned leaders to communicate to their constituents the need to be cautious in their daily activities and to avoid areas where groups were gathering to protest.

"Indeed, while doing so, the Mission also shared locations of rioting both in London and across the UK with them and advised that our nationals remain vigilant in those towns and cities.

"The Mission additionally reached out to some of the leaders of the associations to assist it in verifying reports of Ghanaians who have allegedly been attacked. The ongoing checks are, however, yet to reveal that any Ghanaian has been harmed," the High Commission

stated.

The statement also assured all nationals, including those with dual citizenship, that the High Commission remains committed to fulfilling its responsibilities under the Geneva Convention to protect civilians, and will continue to defend the lives of all Ghanaians and people of Ghanaian descent in the UK.

The fatal stabbing of three young girls at a dance class in the seaside town of Southport, in the north of England, has been followed by the

worst unrest the UK has seen in more than a decade.

The violence, in towns and cities across England and in Northern Ireland, has been fuelled by misinformation online, the far-right and anti-immigration sentiment.

Communities have responded with a series of rallies against the riots, with thousands gathering on Wednesday 7 August.

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



Ghana High Commission Signage

## Korle Bu dialysis centre reopens next week after a 2-week closure - Management

Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital (KBTH) has announced that its Dialysis Centre will fully reopen next week after being closed for the past two weeks.

This comes after the unit shut down for about two-weeks over a reported shortage of essential consumables.

The closure of the unit left patients in urgent need of care with no choice but to seek treatment at costly private facilities.

Those unable to afford such care are left without options, raising serious concerns about the well-being of vulnerable patients.

Following a public outcry, the management of the unit in response issued a statement on Saturday, August 10, 2024,

hospital management announced that a substantial supply of crucial dialysis consumables has been secured and is currently in the process of being delivered from the Tema Port.

"The hospital has secured a significant quantity of essential consumables for dialysis, which are currently being processed for delivery to Korle Bu from the Tema Port.

"The Ghana Revenue Authority and Ghana Supply Company are providing vital support to expedite this clearance on an emergency basis to ensure that we continue to deliver top-notch care to our valued patients.

"As a result, we anticipate that the outpatient section of our Dialysis Centre will return to full operations

early next week," it stated.

The hospital also extended an apology to patients for any inconvenience caused by the closure, expressing gratitude for their patience and understanding during the period.

"To prevent future shortages and improve our service delivery and cost efficiency, the Minister of Health, Hon Dr. Bernard Okoe

Roye, has procured 30 additional dialysis machines with a year's supply of consumables for Korle Bu.

The specifications of the new machines will allow us to access their essential consumables from the open market at competitive prices," it added.

**Source: The Independent Ghana / Abigail Twumwaa Ampofo**



Korle-Bu dialysis centre

# General News

## Run to your supporters if you don't have enough money - EC tells 2024 election aspirants

Director of Information Technology (IT) at the Electoral Commission (EC), Dr. Serebour Quaiocoe, has advised presidential candidates to seek financial support from their supporters to cover the filing fee.

Dr. Quaiocoe, who previously served as the EC Director of Electoral Services, made these comments during a forum held by the Institute of Democratic Governance (IDEG) in Accra on Friday.

"Contesting an election is not an individual issue, if you don't have the money you should be able to mobilize from your supporters.

"So if you are saying you want to be the president of Ghana and you are not mobilizing people to pay 100,000 then how are you

going to do the campaigning?" he admonished.

Male presidential candidates for the 2024 elections are required to pay GHC100,000 to the Electoral Commission (EC) upon submission of their nomination forms.

The commission will accept nominations for Presidential and Parliamentary candidates from Friday, August 2, to Friday, September 13, 2024.

According to the EC, female candidates and persons with disabilities will pay an amount of GHC75,000.

"Candidates vying for the position of President will be required to make a payment of One Hundred Thousand Ghana Cedis (GHO 100,000.00) at the time of submitting their Nomination

Forms. Payment shall be by Banker's draft and addressed to the Chairperson of the Electoral Commission. Female Candidates and Persons with Disabilities are required to pay Seventy-Five Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH0 75,000)," a statement from the EC dated August 1, read.

This announcement has elicited varied reactions, with some

arguing that it could expose candidates to undue influence from their financial supporters.

The EC requires that completed Presidential Nomination Forms be signed by the candidate and at least two registered voters from each District Assembly.

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



Dr. Serebour Quaiocoe, Director of Information Technology

## Stop sharing messages created to cause chaos during this election - NCCE advises public

Chairperson of the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE), Ms. Kathleen Addy, has called on Ghanaians to be particularly cautious about the information they consume and share as the nation approaches the December elections.

She emphasized the need to address misinformation and disinformation to preserve the nation's peace and democratic integrity before, during, and after the elections.

Ms. Addy made these comments during a media interview on the sidelines of an event with Senior High Schools' Civic Education Clubs, called "Civic Fest," which took place in Accra over the weekend.

The event, organized by the NCCE with support from the European Union (EU), aimed to raise awareness among the youth about their civic duties and responsibilities while preparing them for a peaceful election.

This event was part of the Women and Youth in Democracy initiative, a collaboration between the EU and the NCCE, and was held under the theme: "Together We Can Build Ghana, So Get Involved."

Ms. Addy emphasized that controlling the spread of misinformation and disinformation, especially leading up to the elections, is essential for maintaining the peace Ghana has enjoyed for the past thirty years.

She stated that achieving this goal would necessitate dedication, self-discipline, and deliberate efforts from all citizens to avoid sharing information that could incite chaos.

"The thing with misinformation, and fake news and all of those things is that it starts and stops with us," she noted.

"When something falls in your inbox or you see something on your timeline that you know is probably false, that you can see is deliberately put there to cause

chaos, to cause people to be angry, to incite others to violence and misbehavior, when you see those things, let it end with you, don't you also go ahead and forward it.

"If all of us commit to that action alone, the misinformation and fake news problem will go down significantly," Ms Addy stressed.

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



Ms. Kathleen Addy, Chairperson, NCCE

# General News

## Govt still owes contractors GH¢75bn

The government, through the Ministry of Finance, is still grappling with the settlement of GH¢75 billion in arrears for approximately 10,000 ongoing road projects across the country.

These projects, collectively valued at GH¢135 billion, have faced significant financial challenges, despite efforts to manage public sector finances effectively.

The Ministry of Finance has so far disbursed GH¢60 billion to address outstanding payments, with GH¢10 billion of this amount paid just this year. However, a substantial portion of the arrears remains unsettled.

Chief Director at the Ministry of Finance, Madam Eva Mends, highlighted these challenges during a high-level expert panel discussion themed “Closing the Financing Gap in Road Infrastructure Development in Ghana.”

The event, organized by the Ghana Highway Authority in

collaboration with the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Roads and Highways, was part of the activities marking the Authority’s 50th anniversary.

The event sought to tackle the ongoing difficulties in securing sustainable financing for road infrastructure development and maintenance.

Madam Mends revealed that despite implementing measures like the certificate of commencement policy and the Government Integrated Financial Management System (GIFMIS) to enhance financial management, some road projects were initiated without the Ministry’s knowledge or proper budgetary allocations.

“Ministry of Roads and Highways will go ahead and make a commitment, sign a contract. Most of the time, we are not even privy to the contract. And that’s something; a systemic issue we will need to address,” Madam Mends remarked.

She further observed that many contracts lacked clear spending limits, enabling contractors to extend projects beyond the agreed budget, which has led to delayed payments and accrued interest, undermining value for money.

“There’s no way we can pay for all those projects in three years, even if we don’t award any contract this year. If we don’t award any contract for the next three years, we still will not be able to pay on time all the contracts that we currently have on our books,” she added.

Former Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Stanbic Bank and the Paramount Chief of Pishigu, Naa Dr. Alhassan Andani, commended the government for acknowledging its limitations in financing all the road projects and called for policy sustainability and payment prioritization to encourage private sector involvement in road infrastructure.

Dr. Andani also emphasized the importance of developing a master plan for classifying roads

based on their viability to aid in prioritization and appropriate financing. These classifications, he suggested, should include social roads, which could be financed by citizens, financial roads that attract private sector interest, and economic roads with long-term benefits.

Meanwhile, Member of Parliament for Obuasi West, Mr. Kwaku Kwarteng, urged politicians and the media to manage public expectations regarding road projects, especially during election periods.

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



File Photo

## Nkroful chiefs, Napo smoke the peace pipe over ‘derogatory’ Nkrumah comment

The Chiefs and people of Nkroful have accepted an apology from Dr. Matthew Opoku Prempeh, the running mate of the flagbearer for the New Patriotic Party’s (NPP), Dr Mahamudu Bawumia, after he made controversial remarks about Ghana’s first president, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah.

During his introduction in Kumasi on July 9, Dr. Opoku Prempeh claimed that President Akufo-Addo had outperformed Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, which led to widespread criticism.

While some people completely disagreed with the comparison, others took issue with the way it was presented.

Following the backlash, Dr Opoku Prempeh issued a public apology for his statements. However, the

chiefs of Nkroful, Dr. Nkrumah’s birthplace, insisted that he apologize in person before they would accept it.

During his visit to the Nzema area, the former Energy Minister stopped by Nkroful to personally apologise for his remarks.

“I lived with Nzema people when I was growing up. Nzema people and I are one people. I will never disrespect Nkrumah in any way, anybody who attempts to disrespect Nkrumah will face the consequences of his actions.

“Nkrumah has done so much for the country. I was misconstrued, but I apologised to Ghanaians and I stand here before you to apologise for my comments again, forgive me, we’re all one people,” NAPO said.

In response, the chief of Nkroful,

Nana Kwasi Kutua accepted the apology.

“NAPO’s comments received wide condemnation from Ghanaians because it was uncalled for. We hail the actions of Ghanaians, we thank them. We need to recognise that Nkrumah did a great job for the country.

“We’re a peaceful people, we don’t like violence, and we don’t want a situation where chaos will erupt in Ghana because of the Nzema

people. We heard that NAPO apologised to Ghanaians for his comments. But he needed to come to Nzema to personally apologise to the traditional leaders and reaffirm his regrets.

“Today, he has asked for forgiveness from the chiefs, this is what we have all been waiting for, and so we accept his apology.”

*Source: The Independent Ghana / Abigail Twumwaa Ampofo*



Dr. Matthew Opoku Prempeh, Energy Minister



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# Business

## High interest on loans killing our businesses - Adzoatsi Rice farmers

Rice farmers in Adzoatsi, situated in the Ketu North Municipality of the Volta Region, are grappling with crippling financial challenges due to exorbitant interest rates on loans.

Despite producing high-quality rice, which they believe could rival imported varieties, these farmers are finding it increasingly difficult to sustain their operations.

The farmers argue that the rice they cultivate is not only of superior quality but could also play a significant role in reducing Ghana's dependence on imported rice. However, they are hindered by a lack of market access and support from the government and financial institutions.

During a visit by the Ghana News Agency to their farms, the farmers expressed frustration over the heavy financial burden imposed by local moneylenders.

These lenders charge interest rates as high as 50%, making it nearly impossible for the farmers to repay loans and reinvest in their

farms.

"For every GHC 1,000 we borrow, we are expected to repay GHC 1,500 after four months, which is after the harvest," the Secretary of Section 1, CDE Water Users Association, Mr. Wonder Nutekpor, explained.

"Even if you take the loan just a month before the harvest, the 50% interest rate still applies. It's killing us."

The farmers also highlighted the lack of proper infrastructure, such as drying facilities, which exacerbates their challenges. Forced to dry their rice in open areas, they often suffer significant losses due to flooding from rain or water from the nearby Kplikpa Dam.

"We don't have proper places to dry our rice. We end up using areas where the rain and dam water wash away our hard work," lamented Madam Mary Avuworda, another farmer.

"After all that labour, if you're lucky to get something, it all goes

to repay loans."

Despite these obstacles, the farmers remain confident in the quality and quantity of their rice, which they produce every four months.

They believe their output, combined with rice from other regions, could feed the entire nation and even create a surplus for export. However, without immediate intervention, their businesses are at risk.

The farmers are calling on the government, NGOs, and other

stakeholders to address the pressing issues they face, including the poor state of access roads, inadequate drainage systems, and the lack of affordable financing options.

They emphasize that improving these conditions would not only enhance their productivity but also make their rice more competitive in the market, reducing Ghana's reliance on imports and boosting the local economy.

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



File Photo

## GRA-Tullow \$387m tax dispute to be resolved by London court in November

The international court is set to deliver its ruling in November this year regarding the \$387 million tax dispute between Tullow Oil and the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA).

This comes as Tullow Oil reported a significant increase in profit before tax from its Ghanaian operations, reaching \$411 million, while the company paid \$144 million in taxes for the first half of 2024.

Tullow Oil remains optimistic about the court's decision, firmly asserting that it does not owe the contested amount.

Richard Miller, the Chief Financial Officer of Tullow Oil, confirmed that the case will be concluded in November.

"We should get the results of the

Ghana arbitration no later than somewhere in November."

He further added that "there's a range of possible outcomes, obviously the one that we expect is that we will be successful, and nothing will be owed".

In February 2023, Tullow Oil plc (Tullow) revealed that Tullow Ghana Limited (TGL) had sought arbitration from the International Chamber of Commerce in London over two contested tax assessments issued by the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA).

The disputed assessments pertain to the denial of loan interest deductions for the fiscal years 2010 to 2020, and the funds received under Tullow Oil plc's corporate Business Interruption Insurance policy.

Tullow argues that these tax

assessments, amounting to \$387 million plus penalties, infringe on TGL's rights under its Petroleum Agreements. Tullow's move to arbitration does not alter the previously reported overall exposure.

Tullow is confident that resolving these issues through international arbitration will provide clarity and serve the best interests of all stakeholders.

Meanwhile, the company has reported a significant boost in profits from its operations in Ghana, achieving a pre-tax profit of \$411 million for the first six months of 2024.

This marks an impressive increase of over 50% compared to the \$266 million earned during the same period in 2023, as detailed in Tullow's half-year financial results

released to investors on August 7, 2024.

It has also contributed \$144 million in taxes to the Ghanaian government for operations from January to June 2024.

This profit however represents the highest figure recorded by any of Tullow's subsidiaries this year.

*Source: The Independent Ghana / Amanda Cartey*



Tullow Oil Logo



# International

## Sierra Leone court sentences soldiers to long jail terms for failed coup

A military court in Sierra Leone has sentenced 24 soldiers to lengthy prison terms for their roles in a failed attempt to overthrow the government of President Julius Maada Bio last November.

The sentences were read out in court late on Friday with the judge handing out prison terms ranging from 50 and 120 years on those convicted.

They were among 27 men court-martialled for participating in the attempted coup on Nov. 26 that saw gunmen attack military barracks, two prisons and other locations, freeing about 2,200 inmates and killing more than 20 people.

The sentencing follows the jailing in July of 11 civilians, and police and prison officers for their role in the insurrection.

A seven-member military jury found most of the court-martialled soldiers guilty by unanimous

verdict after hours of deliberations. The men faced a total of 88 charges including mutiny, murder, aiding the enemy and stealing public or service property.

All but one of those arraigned were rank and file soldiers. A lieutenant colonel was found guilty and received the longest prison term of 120 years.

Before handing out the sentences, Judge Advocate Mark Ngegba – himself a former military officer – said “when we reach this conclusion for sentences it is to send a message of zero tolerance for such an act in the military”.

Of the remaining three, one was found not guilty, another sentenced earlier due to pleading guilty, and the third’s trial will conclude at a later date.

Family members of the convicts wailed inside the court as the sentences were read out.

The failed attempt followed an election which President Bio

narrowly won to secure a second term.

His victory was disputed by the main opposition APC party, while

some local and international observers also questioned the transparency of the vote.

**Source: Reuters**



File Photo

## Death toll rises after landslide at Uganda rubbish dump

The death toll from a landslide at a vast rubbish dump in Uganda’s capital Kampala has risen to 13, according to police, as rescue personnel continued to dig for survivors.

After torrential rain in recent weeks, a chunk of rubbish from the city’s only landfill site broke off late on Friday, crushing and burying homes on the edge of the site as residents slept.

On Saturday, the Kampala Capital City Authority had put the death toll at eight.

“The latest we have is 13 dead, but rescue services are continuing,” police spokesman Patrick Onyango said on Sunday.

At least 14 people have been rescued so far, he said, adding that more could still be trapped but the number is unknown.

Tents have been set up nearby for those displaced by the landslide,

the Uganda Red Cross Society said.

The landfill site, known as Kiteezi, has served as Kampala’s sole rubbish dump for decades and has

turned into a big hill.

Residents have long complained of hazardous waste polluting the environment and posing a danger to residents.

Efforts by the city authority to procure a new landfill site have dragged on for years.

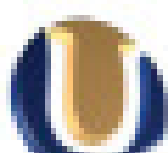
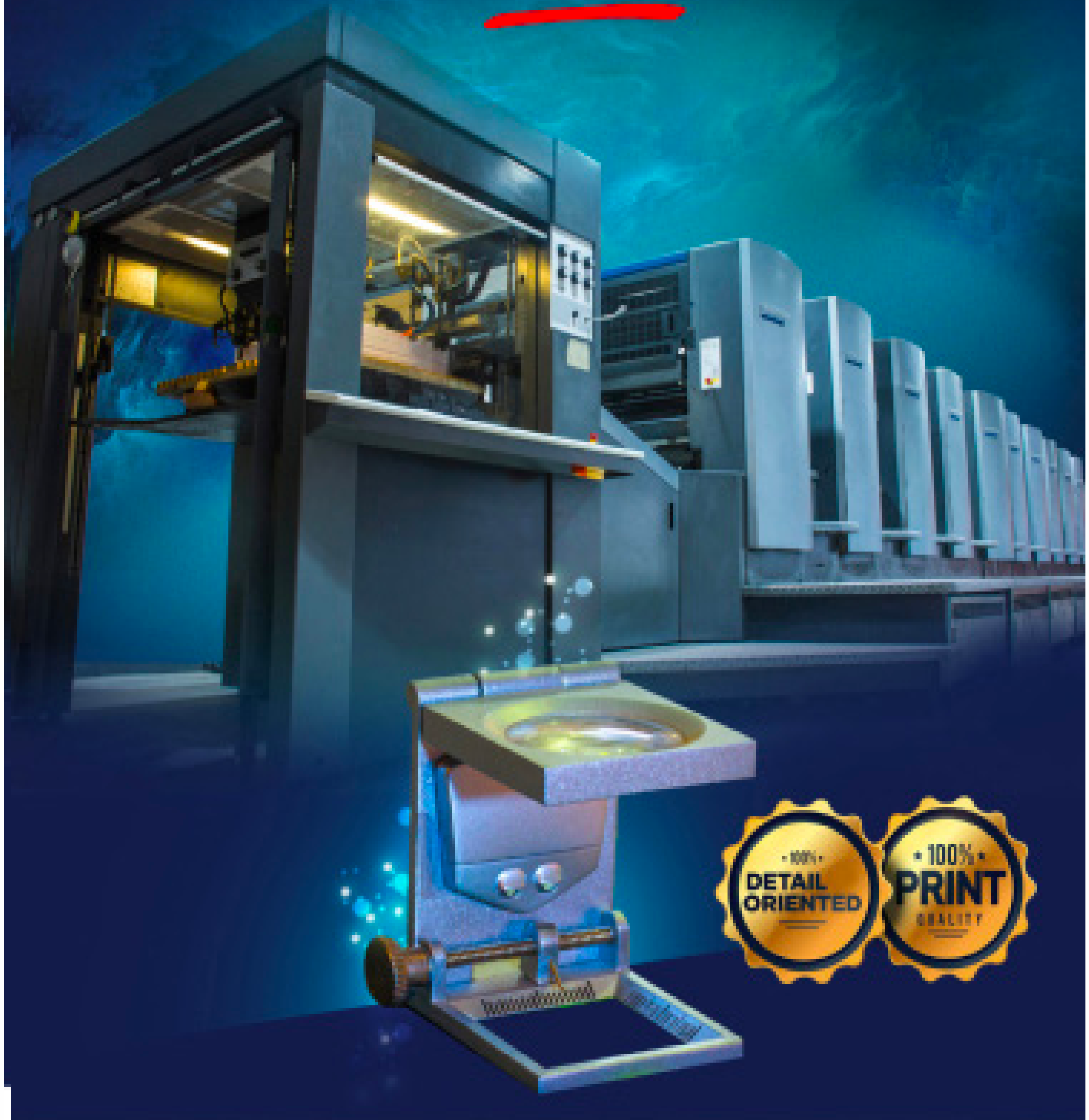
**Source: Aljazeera.com**



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