



## Adjustment of IMF, World Bank deals vital in rebuilding of the economy - Mahama

- Page 2



## ECG, GRIDCo announce limited load management over closure of some power plants in Tema

- Page 3



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# General News

## Adjustment of IMF, World Bank deals vital in rebuilding of the economy - Mahama

By Abigail Twumwaa Ampofo

President-elect John Dramani Mahama has expressed his determination to review Ghana's ongoing programmes with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank to align them with the country's current economic realities.

Speaking during a courtesy call by the United Nations Resident Coordinator, Charles Abani, on December 11, Mr. Mahama remarked, "Looking at the existing programmes, we need to tweak them to meet the realities of today. One of our main concerns is the issue of debt repayments."

The former President called for expedited engagements with the IMF and World Bank to "help put the new government that will be inaugurated next year on the same springboard with our development partners to begin rebuilding the economy and the country."

Ghana is presently engaged in a

36-month Extended Credit Facility (ECF) worth \$3 billion with the IMF. Additionally, the country has secured two significant agreements with the World Bank: \$250 million for the Ghana Financial Stability Project and another \$250 million to support the Ghana Energy Sector Recovery Programme.

Ghana began its negotiations with the IMF on September 26, 2022, under the leadership of the Ministry of Finance and the Bank of Ghana, to secure an IMF-supported programme. This led to the approval of the \$3 billion Extended Credit Facility arrangement in May 2023, with funds disbursed in tranches over a period of 36 months.

So far, Ghana has received four tranches totaling approximately \$1.9 billion. The most recent disbursement of \$360 million was approved on December 2, 2024, following the completion of the third review.

The third review discussions focused on advancing fiscal consolidation

while protecting the vulnerable, maintaining a tight monetary policy, and promoting a flexible exchange rate to bring inflation back to single digits and rebuild foreign reserves. It also emphasized reforming policy frameworks and institutions to entrench macroeconomic stability and debt sustainability, addressing energy and cocoa sector challenges, preserving financial stability following the domestic debt restructuring, strengthening governance and transparency, and bolstering private sector-led

inclusive growth.

The IMF reports that the programme's performance has been broadly satisfactory, with all end-June 2024 performance criteria and indicative targets met. However, structural reforms have faced delays, and significant challenges persist in the energy and cocoa sectors. Parliamentary gridlock has also delayed critical reforms required to unlock further budgetary and developmental support.



John Dramani Mahama, President Elect

## Ghanaian doctor saves life of passenger mid-air on KLM Accra-bound flight from Amsterdam

By Amanda Cartey

Ghanaian doctor Dr. Joyce Emefa Addo-Klah became a lifesaver during an emergency aboard KLM Royal Dutch Airlines Flight KL 589, traveling from Amsterdam to Accra on December 11, 2024.

About four hours into the flight, a passenger suddenly fell ill, prompting a flight attendant to urgently call for medical assistance. Dr. Addo-Klah, who works at LuccaHealth MSC, quickly intervened. Grabbing her medical bag from the overhead storage, she hurried to attend to the unwell passenger.

Traveling with her husband, who is a doctor specializing in obstetrics and gynecology, and their son, Dr. Addo-Klah displayed remarkable readiness and professionalism. She promptly assessed the passenger's condition and administered an injection from the airline's emergency medical kit, helping to stabilize them.

To ensure privacy and ease the

concerns of other passengers, the sick individual was moved to the business class section for closer observation.

Dr. Addo-Klah's calm and confident handling of the situation reassured many passengers, who had initially been alarmed by the emergency announcement. She worked closely with the cabin crew, explaining every step she took while using the medical supplies, further demonstrating her expertise and leadership.

The passenger remained stable for the rest of the flight, and the aircraft landed in Accra without further incident.

The flight crew expressed their heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Addo-Klah, acknowledging her critical role in averting what could have been a much worse situation. As a token of appreciation, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines rewarded her on board and offered her a discounted ticket for her next trip.



KLM flight

# General News

## Tamale Mayor's driver arrested for allegedly looting bags of rice from NAFCO warehouse

By Phoebe Martekie Doku

The driver of Tamale Mayor Sule Salifu has been arrested for allegedly looting bags of rice from the National Food Buffer Stock Company Limited (NAFCO) warehouse in the Northern Region. He is currently assisting the police with investigations after they intercepted the Mayor's vehicle, which was used to transport the stolen rice.

Tamale has witnessed an increase in unlawful activities, such as looting and attacks, linked to post-election violence, raising concerns about individuals exploiting the political climate.

Speaking to the media on Thursday, the Regional Organizer of the National Democratic Congress (NDC), Alhaji Baba Zee, denied the party's involvement in the looting and placed the blame on the Mayor, who is also the New Patriotic Party (NPP) parliamentary candidate for

the Tamale Central Constituency.

Alhaji Baba Zee called on the police to conduct a thorough investigation into the incidents and hold all culprits accountable for looting state property across the region.

"We made a follow-up because we don't want anyone tomorrow to come and say that the NDC youth in Tamale ransacked this place and took away the items kept here. When we arrived, we saw this car parked here. We followed it, and it belongs to our Mayor. It's loaded with rice, so whatever is happening in Tamale, to be precise, is not the work of NDC people, nor is it the work of NDC youth," he said.

Earlier this week, a group of youths stormed the Tamale Metropolitan Assembly, damaging property and looting food items from a warehouse. Eyewitnesses noted that some individuals wore NDC-branded T-shirts while carting away supplies allegedly intended for

community distribution.

The police have arrested several suspects linked to the looting and vandalism incidents in Tamale and the property destruction

in Damango. The accused face nine charges, including unlawful damage, assault, causing harm, and obstructing electoral officers in the performance of their duties.



Bags of stolen rice

## ECG, GRIDCo announce limited load management over closure of some power plants in Tema

By Andy Ogbarmey-Tettey

The Ghana Grid Company (GRIDCo) and the Electricity Company of Ghana (ECG) have announced limited load management across parts of the country following the temporary shutdown of some thermal power plants in Tema.

The shutdown was triggered by operational issues at the Tema Regulatory and Metering Station, caused by ongoing pipeline cleaning by the West African Gas Pipeline Company (WAPCo) in Nigeria.

In a joint statement released Wednesday, GRIDCo and ECG explained that the shutdown has resulted in a shortfall in electricity generation. "This has caused a shortfall in power supply, requiring some limited load management in parts of the country," the statement read.

The issue stems from WAPCo's cleaning and inspection of a 56km x 30" onshore pipeline section between Itoki and Badagry in Nigeria, which forms part of the West African Gas Pipeline (WAGP).

During the process, a larger-than-expected volume of liquids and debris was received at the Lagos Beach Compressor Station. This triggered operational upsets at WAPCo's Tema facility, necessitating the temporary closure of some thermal power plants for safety and investigation.

WAPCo, in its update, noted that investigations are ongoing to resolve the challenge. "During the cleaning exercise, a larger-than-expected volume of liquids and debris was received at the Lagos Beach Compressor Station. This has triggered some operational upsets at our Tema Regulatory & Metering Station requiring a temporary shutdown for safety reasons and investigation," the company stated.

Both GRIDCo and ECG expressed optimism that WAPCo will resolve the issue soon to allow gas supply to resume and power generation to normalize. "We are optimistic that WAPCo will soon resolve the challenge and restore gas supply," they stated.

They assured affected customers that the situation is being

monitored closely and updates will be provided as necessary. "We express our gratitude to our key stakeholders for their patience during this process and apologize for any inconvenience caused," the statement added.

In the meantime, GRIDCo and ECG

have urged customers to conserve power where possible and stay informed through official updates.

WAPCo reaffirmed its commitment to addressing the operational challenges and thanked all stakeholders for their understanding during the process.



ECG

# General News

## EC relocates Eastern Region results collation to Police training school

By Abigail Twumwaa Ampofo

The Electoral Commission (EC) has relocated the results collation process for the Eastern Region to the National Police Training School (NPTS) at Tesano in Accra.

As a result, the Ghana Police Service has intensified security measures following disputes over results collation. The collation for the four outstanding constituencies is ongoing under a reinforced security presence of police and military personnel to ensure a smooth and secure process.

One constituency's collation has been successfully completed, leaving three constituencies where collation is still underway. Similar arrangements have been made in the Ashanti and Bono East

Regions, with the police awaiting confirmation from the Electoral Commission (EC) on the dates for these exercises. The police have assured the public that adequate security has been provided to enable EC officials to carry out their duties without obstruction.

The New Patriotic Party (NPP) leader in Parliament, Alexander Afenyo-Markin, has accused the National Democratic Congress (NDC) of deliberately delaying the collation of election results in some constituencies in the Eastern Region. According to Afenyo-Markin, the NDC is aware they have lost parliamentary seats in the affected constituencies and are intentionally frustrating the process.



EC collation office

## Stop purchasing vegetables from food vendors - WRCC directs public amid rising cholera cases

By Phoebe Martekie Doku

The Western Regional Coordinating Council (WRCC) has issued a public advisory urging residents to refrain from purchasing vegetables from food vendors.

The directive comes in response to the alarming rise in cholera cases across the region. In a press release, the Council also recommended thoroughly cleaning any vegetables intended for home use before consumption.

"The Western Regional Coordinating Council (WRCC) has announced urgent measures to address the escalating cholera outbreak, which has reached critical levels in the region," part of the statement read.

The WRCC has warned that anyone caught violating the ban on vegetable sales by food vendors will face legal action under the Public Health Act, 2012 (Act 851). The Council stressed the importance of following this directive to prevent the further spread of the disease.

Ghana is grappling with a cholera outbreak, raising urgent concern among health officials and communities across the nation. As of December 7, 2024, health officials have recorded 789 suspected

cholera cases, 8 deaths, and over 60 new cases each day. The Sekondi-Takoradi and Effia Kwesimintsim Municipal areas account for about 95% of the infections.

Research indicates that 96% of cholera cases are linked to food

vendors, particularly those selling contaminated vegetables like leafy greens, salads, and peppers.

Meanwhile, the Ghana Health Service (GHS) is urging the public to resume COVID-19 hygiene practices to help curb the spread of the

disease. Dr. Dennis Laryea, Deputy Director of Disease Surveillance at the GHS, stressed that early medical intervention can prevent fatalities, noting that some patients delayed seeking care, resulting in avoidable deaths.



Vegetables

# General News

## Return all govt vehicles by January 2025 - Akufo-Addo orders appointees

By Andy Ogbarmey-Tettey

President Nana Akufo-Addo has directed all outgoing Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Regional Ministers, and other political appointees to return official government vehicles by Friday, January 3, 2025, as his administration comes to an end.

The Office of the President emphasized that the longstanding directive, first issued at the end of President Akufo-Addo's first term in 2020, "remains in full effect" as the President's second and final term draws to a close.

Unlike past administrations that allowed political appointees to purchase one official saloon vehicle through valuation by the State Transport Company Ltd., President Akufo-Addo has reiterated that "this practice will not be applicable under his administration."

The directive applies to all political appointees, including Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Regional Ministers, Special Assistants, Special Aides to the President and Vice President, and individuals serving as Chairpersons or

Members of Statutory Boards and Corporations under the Presidential Office Act, 1993 (Act 463).

"No official vehicle shall be acquired by any appointee of the current administration as the term concludes," the statement emphasized. The Office of the President has instructed appointees to return all government vehicles in their possession to the Chief Directors of their respective Ministries by the stated deadline.

The directive, according to the Presidency, underscores President Akufo-Addo's "commitment to accountability and the responsible management of state resources."

The Office expressed confidence that all appointees will comply fully with this measure and ensure a smooth transition as the administration concludes its term.

President Akufo-Addo has pledged his commitment to ensuring a seamless transition for President-elect John Mahama as he prepares to assume office.

Speaking ahead of a meeting at the Jubilee House on Wednesday, which

focused on the inauguration of a joint transitional team, President Akufo-Addo emphasized the need for a smooth process that protects the interests of Ghanaians.

The President told journalists, "to assure him of my full support and that of my government over the transitional process to make sure that this administration takes off in the best of conditions."

President-elect John Mahama, in response, expressed his

appreciation and reiterated the importance of collaboration during and beyond the transition period. "I'm happy at the assurance he has given us that we're going to work together in the interest of Ghana to ensure a seamless transition, and I believe that even after that transition, it will be necessary for us to continue to keep a channel of communication so that Ghana's democratic credentials are consolidated and we all work together in the national interest," he stated.



Akufo-Addo, President of Ghana

## Lack of investment and effective planning responsible for 2024 post-election violence - Criminologist

By Andy Ogbarmey-Tettey

A criminologist at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Jones Opoku-Ware, has attributed the recent chaos following the 2024 general elections to ineffective planning by security agencies.

He pointed out that resources are often concentrated on the lead-up to and the duration of elections, while post-election issues receive little attention.

Discussing the unrest in certain regions after the general elections, Mr. Opoku-Ware remarked, "We didn't pay much attention to the aftermath of the election. If you look at the security arrangements, a lot more focus and resources are dedicated to the period before and during the election, but we usually overlook what happens after the election results are declared."

The criminologist also clarified that, contrary to popular belief, violence can emerge not only from the losing parties but also from those who are anticipated to win. He remarked, "The violence may not necessarily come from people who have lost but probably from those who are likely to be declared as winners."

Following the December 7 elections, several regions across the country have witnessed post-election violence. In the past three days, a number of state institutions, including the Forestry Commission in Sunyani, the National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO) in Accra, Electoral Commission offices in various districts, and the Metro Mass Transport yard in Kaneshie, have been targeted by groups of thugs.

In some cases, looters have stolen government property such as computers, agricultural supplies,

and other assets.

As of now, the Ghana Police Service has apprehended 110 individuals believed to be involved in these acts of violence across the country. The most recent arrest, on December

10, involved four people allegedly stealing building materials intended for the construction of the Agenda 111 Hospital in Awutu Bereku, Central Region.



Jones Opoku-Ware, Criminologist

# General News

## Mahama's transition team raises alarm over last-minute recruitment by the Akufo-Addo govt

By Abigail Twumwaa Ampofo

The transition team for former President John Mahama has raised concerns over what it describes as a “massive last-minute recruitment” by the outgoing government, ahead of the transition of power.

Speaking during a media engagement on Wednesday, December 11, the spokesperson for the transition team, Mr. Felix Kwakye Ofori, claimed that several state agencies are making appointments in a hurried and irregular manner, with many of the new recruits allegedly being supporters of the New Patriotic Party (NPP). The team claims these appointments are being fast-tracked just before the government leaves office.

“It has come to our attention that quite a number of state agencies are engaging in last-minute recruitment, and these are being done in a manner where NPP supporters are being pushed through the system to gain employment just before the government exits power,” he said.

He cited the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) as one institution

that has issued over 700 backdated appointment letters, noting that these recruits did not go through the proper application and interview processes, nor did they complete mandatory medical checks.

A similar occurrence, he said, is happening at the Bank of Ghana, where “150 people are being given appointment letters,” which he condemned as “highly irregular.” “GRA alone has issued appointment letters to people who have not gone through any credible appointment process, not submitted applications for employment, nor been duly interviewed, and have not undergone mandatory medicals, yet they have received backdated letters making them employees,” Mr. Kwakye added.

He slammed the outgoing government for disregarding a precedent they set in 2016 when they sent letters to the Mahama government to halt all recruitment before handing over power to the Akufo-Addo-led government in 2017.

In addition to these recruitment concerns, Mr. Kwakye also raised alarms about large sums of money

being paid to certain companies, one such example being the Electricity Company of Ghana (ECG), which the team claims is on the verge of paying GHC 290 million to a company called Hubtel.

The transition team has expressed its concern that these actions could lead to further instability and irregularities as the new

government prepares to take office. Meanwhile, Tamale North Member of Parliament and member of the subcommittee on the Transition Team, Alhassan Suhuyini, has announced that all appointments made after the December 7 election will be reviewed and potentially reversed when the new government assumes office on January 7.



President elect John Dramani Mahama and President Akufo-Addo

## Ghana's Major General Anita Asmah appointed as UNDOF Force Commander

By Amanda Cartey

Major General Anita Asmah of Ghana has been appointed as the Head of Mission and Force Commander for the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has announced.

Major General Asmah succeeds Lieutenant General Nirmal Kumar Thapa of Nepal, who will complete his term in mid-December 2024. The Secretary-General thanked Lieutenant General Thapa for his strong leadership and commitment to United Nations peacekeeping.

Major General Asmah brings 31 years of experience in leadership and command within the Ghana Armed Forces and in UN peacekeeping missions. Recently, she served as the Director General in the Ghana Armed Forces' Department of Defence Civilian Establishment. She was also the Deputy Force

Commander of UNDOF from 2021 to 2023.

In addition, Major General Asmah has worked as a Staff Officer with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) from 2015-2016 and 2012-2013, and as a Military Observer with the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) from 2003-2004.

She has held other senior roles in the Ghanaian Armed Forces, including Director of Education, Deputy Military Secretary, and Course Director at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre.

Major General Asmah holds a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Ghana. She is fluent in both English and French.

The United Nations, founded in

1945, currently comprises 193 Member States. Its work is guided by the purposes and principles outlined in its founding Charter. The UN has evolved over the years to keep pace with a rapidly changing world.

However, one thing has remained the same: the UN continues to be the one place on Earth where all the world's nations can gather, discuss common problems, and find shared solutions that benefit all of humanity.



Major General Anita Asmah



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# Business

## IMF sets condition to review Ghana's high debt distress classification

By Amanda Cartey

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has outlined conditions that Ghana must meet in order to review the country's classification as being in high debt distress.

In a released staff report, the IMF noted that Ghana still carries this designation due to near-term breaches of the Debt Sustainability Analysis (DSA) threshold.

As a result, Ghana is expected to reach a moderate risk of debt distress by 2028, once all the targets have been met.

"In the baseline, Ghana is at high risk of debt distress due to near-term breaches of the DSA thresholds but is expected to reach moderate risk of debt distress in the medium term, with all DSA sustainability targets met by 2028. Ghana's exceptional financing gap is closed with international reserves reaching three months of imports

at the end of the program."

Ghana is expected to reduce its total debt relative to the economy and decrease spending on foreign debt payments by 2028. This will involve improving government revenue collection and spending efficiency. The IMF also wants Ghana to strengthen its support systems for the population, implement changes to better manage its currency, diversify its economy, and encourage stronger economic growth.

The IMF's announcement comes as the government states it has nearly completed the restructuring of the country's debts, with about 90% of the process already finished.

A recent report from the Bank of Ghana shows that Ghana's total debt has slightly reduced due to progress in restructuring foreign debts. The data reveals that Ghana's debt dropped by more than 46 billion cedis from September, reaching 761 billion cedis by the end of October 2024.



IMF

## Ghana to receive \$14million from Switzerland to foster local governance

By Andy Ogbarmey-Tettey

The Government of Ghana and Switzerland have signed a CHF 12 million (about USD \$14 million) grant agreement to support the implementation of the District Assemblies Common Fund Responsiveness Factor Grant (DACF-RFG).

The DACF-RFG is a performance-based grant system designed to incentivize Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Assemblies (MMDAs) to improve efficiency, transparency, and accountability in local governance.

The landmark signing ceremony, held in Accra, was attended by Ghana's Minister for Finance, Dr Mohammed Amin Adam, the Swiss Ambassador to Ghana, Simone Giger, and other key stakeholders.

The grant seeks to strengthen decentralized governance, enhance accountability, and improve the delivery of essential services at the local level.

Speaking at the event, Ghana's Minister for Finance, Dr Mohammed Amin Adam, expressed profound

gratitude to the Swiss Government for its unwavering support of Ghana's development agenda.

"Switzerland's financial contribution of CHF 12 million to the DACF-RFG underscores the strong and enduring partnership between our two nations," the Minister noted.

He highlighted Switzerland's commitment to the DACF-RFG framework, describing it as, "a testament to her shared vision for sustainable development and effective decentralization in Ghana." Dr. Amin Adam acknowledged challenges such as delays in fund disbursement that have occasionally hindered the program's effectiveness. However, he expressed optimism about the progress made and the commitment of stakeholders to addressing these issues.

Swiss Ambassador Simone Giger emphasized that local governance and decentralization were key pillars of Switzerland's cooperation with Ghana.

"From my visit to some project

sites in 12 regions of the country, it was clear citizens were direct beneficiaries of the support from the government of Switzerland, a situation she described as, 'heart-warming,'" Ambassador Giger remarked.

She commended Ghana for the judicious use of the DACF-RFG, highlighting its impact and reaffirming Switzerland's commitment to the program's success.



Swiss Ambassador to Ghana, Simone Giger and Ghana's Minister for Finance, Dr Mohammed Amin Adam



# International

## High health-care costs in Africa continue to push over 150 million into poverty

Source: WHO

On Universal Health Coverage Day, a new report by the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional office for Africa finds that most African countries continue to rely heavily on out-of-pocket payments<sup>[1]</sup> (or out-of-pocket health spending) to fund their health services, and urges countries to reduce the financial strains that high health-care costs place on their population.

The practice of out-of-pocket payments, warns the report, continues to: place a financial burden on over 200 million people, including pushing over 150 million people into or deeper into poverty (latest data, from 2019) across the WHO Africa Region; exact a heavy price on people's health; and hamper progress in attaining universal health coverage. In fact, globally, half of all people impoverished because of out-of-pocket payments live in Africa – a rising and worrying trend.

“Having to pay for medicines and other health-care costs out of their own pocket can instantly bend the trajectory of someone's life toward financial hardship and ill health. Such payments force many people to spend less on other basic needs such as food, housing and utilities, which, in turn, may worsen their conditions. This also creates a major barrier for the poorest and the most vulnerable who cannot get, as a result, the care they need,” said Dr Matshidiso Moeti, WHO's Regional Director for Africa.

“Despite countries' efforts to build more sustainable health financing systems, more needs to be done so that people across Africa have access to the quality health services they need, when and where they need them, without

having to fall into financial hardship,” added Dr Moeti.

Between 2000 and 2019, the period analysed by the report, the number of people making ‘catastrophic’ out-of-pocket payments (i.e. spending over 10% of their household budget on medicines and other health-care costs) rose every year by 2.5 million people (from 52 million in 2000 to 95 million in 2019). That said, progress, albeit at a slower pace than globally, has been made during the same period, with the overall number of people pushed into or deeper into poverty because of out-of-pocket payments having halved between 2000 and 2019.

A look at the report's key data and findings in detail

In 2019, out-of-pocket payments accounted for over a quarter of health spending in 31 countries. In 11 countries, out-of-pocket payments were more than a half of health spending, and in three other countries, they exceeded 70%.

The number of people pushed into poverty and the number of people living in extreme poverty (on less than \$2.15 a day) pushed further into poverty because of out-of-pocket payments has decreased, having halved from 302 million people in 2000 to 152 million in 2019. However, it did not decrease as fast as in the rest of the world, where it dropped by over three quarters during the same period (from 1.3 billion people or 22.2% of the global population in 2000 to 344 million people or 4.4% in 2019).

Worryingly, half of all people who are impoverished globally because of out-of-pocket payments live in the WHO

Africa region, a trend that has been on the rise since 2000, when, globally, only two out of ten impoverished people were in Africa.

Catastrophic out-of-pocket payments have increased, although at a slower rate than globally. More efforts are needed to reverse this trend. This includes exempting poor people from paying out-of-pocket for the treatment they need.

The number of people pushed into or deeper into poverty because of out-of-pocket payments is of particular concern given that, on average, a person in Africa is spending less (about \$35 per year in 2019) on healthcare than anywhere else in the world.

People living in multigenerational households or households headed by

older persons (60 and over), adults living with children and/or adolescents and people living in rural areas are more likely to feel the financial burden of having to make out-of-pocket payments.

Countries that invested more domestic government funding in health services and systems tended to have lower levels of catastrophic out-of-pocket payments and impoverishment due to such payments.

Medicines and outpatient care were the main drivers of out-of-pocket payments and related financial hardship.

Countries continue to face challenges with generating, analysing and using financial risk protection monitoring data.



File Photo

## Ten soldiers killed in terrorist attack in western Niger

Source: Africanews

Ten soldiers were killed and seven others injured in a terrorist attack near Niger's border with Burkina Faso, the army confirmed on Wednesday.

The attack occurred Tuesday in the village of Petel Kole, where hundreds of militants on motorcycles targeted a military position. The army reported that 26 attackers were “neutralized.”

Meanwhile, claims of another assault in Chatoumane circulated on social media, but Niger's junta

dismissed them as “unfounded.” Military officials accused adversaries of spreading falsehoods to weaken troop morale.

Since a military coup in July 2023 ousted President Mohamed Bazoum, Niger has faced escalating violence from militant groups linked to Al-Qaeda and DAESH.

Over 1,500 civilians and soldiers have been killed in attacks this year, a sharp rise from 650 fatalities reported in the previous year, according to ACLED.



Nigerien soldiers

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