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General News

Second edition of #StopGalamseyNow demo slated for March 6

By Andy Ogbarmey-Tettey

Human rights activist Oliver Barker-Vormawor has announced plans to stage the second edition of the #StopGalamseyNow demonstration on March 6, a day set aside to observe Ghana's independence, as part of efforts to intensify the fight against illegal mining, also known as galamsey.

In a post on X, Barker-Vormawor expressed frustration over the ongoing degradation of water bodies and forest reserves, particularly the Tano Anwia Forest in the Aowin municipality of the Western North Region.

He revealed that despite earlier demonstrations by Democracy Hub, which resulted in arrests, over 50 acres of the forest reserve have been destroyed by illegal miners.

"Erastus Asare Donkor says as we speak, there are groups still inside the Tano Anwia forest reserve mining illegally and further degrading the forest. This pic was taken this morning! It's been nearly 5 months since we were arrested for protesting Galamsey. It seems to me that this existential threat must bring us back to the streets," he stated.

Barker-Vormawor criticized the issuance of over 2,000 mining licenses by the previous

administration, arguing that these permits allow legal mining to cause the same harm as illegal operations.

"These licenses must be revoked! Our approach to irresponsible mining cannot include allowing people to do 'legally' the exact things they did 'illegally.' #StopGalamsey Demonstration now on 6th March. Notice served!" he added.

Last September, Democracy Hub mobilized Ghanaians to protest against the destruction caused by illegal mining activities. The demonstration, however, led to the arrest of over 50 protesters, including Barker-Vormawor, on charges of unlawful assembly and property damage. The detentions sparked widespread criticism, with human rights groups condemning the police for holding suspects beyond the constitutionally permitted 48-hour limit. Some of the detainees have since been released.

Illegal mining continues to plague several communities, contaminating water sources and posing severe health risks. Despite government interventions, the persistence of the activity has fueled public outrage, with many alleging that influential figures shield illegal miners from prosecution.

In the final days of Nana Akufo-

102 mining-related licenses were issued, JoyNews reports. Data from the Ghana Mining Repository reveals a flurry of activity between January 1 and January 6, 2025, including 21 small-scale mining licenses and 81 prospecting licenses, mining leases, and mining support service approvals.

Notably, 67 licenses were issued on January 1, a public holiday—New Year's Day. These licenses were granted to 67 different companies, including African Mining Services Ghana Limited, Aky Mining Services Limited, and Afrique Atlantic Services Ghana Limited. On January 6, the administration's final day, five additional small-scale mining licenses were issued to Joekay Mining and Trading Limited and Isaac Brothers Limited Company for operations in the Western Region. In total, 92 companies received the 102 licenses during Akufo-

Addo's final week in office. A closer breakdown reveals that on January 2, 11 licenses were issued to eight companies, including small-scale mining permits for BURKUYE TK1 Limited Company, Vicwus Mining Limited, and Mavic Mining. On January 3, 19 licenses were issued, focusing primarily on small-scale gold mining; companies such as Sorbet Investment Ghana Limited and Rio & Co Ltd received 13 of these permits.

Since assuming office on January 7, John Mahama's administration has issued only one mining license—to Newmont GoldRich Limited on January 19.

The upcoming demonstration on March 6 seeks to reignite public discourse and pressure the government to take decisive action, including revoking the contentious mining licenses.



File Photo

Antique Lemonade Arts Foundation officially launches legacy blog website, Ghananipa

By Abigail Twumwaa Ampofo

The Antique Lemonade Arts Foundation on Monday, January 27, officially launched a legacy blog, Ghananipa, designed to preserve the contributions of Ghanaians who have significantly aided the nation's development in their respective fields.

Speaking at the launch event held at Dyna Space, located inside The Signature Apartments at East Legon, Chairperson of the Antique Lemonade Arts Foundation, Franka-Maria Andoh, recounted the origins of the platform.

She explained that the idea was conceived in April 2023 when it became clear there was scanty information on selfless and

creative pioneers, during one of the foundation's creative gatherings, which brought together both established and emerging talents.

"We thought it was not right that it took such effort to find information on someone who had contributed greatly to the arts in Ghana during his lifetime. This I must say was the genesis of the Ghananipa project" Maria Andoh revealed.

The platform is a comprehensive archive featuring in-depth profiles, articles, interviews, and photographs. It highlights the inspiring journeys of Ghana's cultural icons, overlooked contributors, and other influential figures. Visitors to the site will have

access to a rich collection of stories celebrating these heroes.

The Ghananipa platform will tell and preserve the stories of renowned Ghanaian leaders through pictures,

articles, interviews, and more as well as amplify the voices of ordinary individuals who are using their gifts to make a difference and change lives.



Franka-Maria Andoh, Chairperson of the Antique Lemonade Arts Foundation



General News

Govt to reassign staff from 'collapsed' ministries into other agencies

By Amanda Cartey

The government has announced plans to reassign staff from defunct ministries to other agencies, ensuring job security for all affected employees. Minister of State-designate for Government Communications, Felix Kwakye Ofori, assured the public that no employees would lose their jobs as a result of the ongoing restructuring. He emphasized that employees whose roles remain essential to government operations will be redeployed to agencies where their expertise is needed.

"Nobody will be laid off. What may happen is that there are some agencies where recruitment will not continue because their functions are becoming obsolete. We don't need additional human resources," Felix Kwakye Ofori stated in an engagement with the media.

He further clarified that the restructuring process would focus on reallocating staff to areas in

need of personnel, rather than initiating dismissals. This move comes in response to concerns about the future of public sector workers following President John Dramani Mahama's decision to dissolve or restructure several ministries, including the Ministry of Information.

The reorganization is part of the government's broader initiative to modernize public service operations, enhance efficiency, and create a system that better serves the needs of Ghanaians.

As part of this effort, the administration has merged or abolished several ministries. For example, the Ministry of Information has seen its responsibilities transferred to the presidency. Likewise, the Ministry of Water and Sanitation has been merged with the Ministry of Works, Housing, and Water Resources.

Other notable changes include the complete abolition of the Ministry

of Railways and the Ministry of National Security. Additionally, the Ministry of Chieftaincy has been merged with the Ministry of Local Government, Chieftaincy, and Religious Affairs. The Ministry of Youth and Sports has also been split into two entities: the Ministry of Sports and Recreation and the Ministry of Youth Development and Empowerment.

These adjustments reflect President Mahama's commitment to creating a leaner, more responsive, and cost-effective government, aligning with efforts to improve public service and reduce redundancies.

The reorganization is expected to streamline the government and better allocate resources to areas of greatest need, all while maintaining job security for employees affected by the changes.



Felix Kwakye Ofori, Minister of State-designate for Government Communication

Barker-Vormawor appears before Parliament today over bribery allegation against Appointments Committee

By Andy Ogbarmey-Tettey

Parliament has summoned Human Rights activist Oliver Barker-Vormawor over his recent allegation against members of the Appointments Committee.

Mr Barker-Vormawor is said to have accused members of the committee of demanding money from ministerial nominees appointed by President John Mahama before vetting and approval, respectively.

He made the claims in a post on Facebook on January 24. He wrote, "So all the monies the ministerial appointees are being asked to pay to the Appointments Committee just to get approved, are those ones not affected by ORAL? Strange Republic."

The Clerk of Parliament has been directed to summon the human rights activist.

Chairman of the committee, Bernard Ahafor, refuted this claim and directed the clerk of the committee to invite Barker-Vormawor for a probe on Wednesday.

He said, "Our attention is drawn to the media statement by Oliver Barker-Vormawor to the effect that the Majority Members of the Committee have been demanding money before approving the nominees and the Chairman must submit himself to ORAL. Let me place on record that I am ever ready to submit myself to ORAL. The second aspect was to the effect that all the committee members are taking money from the nominees before vetting and approval."

"We need to stop this attitude. So therefore I Bernard Ahafor, First Deputy Speaker of Ghana's Parliament and Chairman of the Vetting Committee wants to place it on record that myself and the committee members do not demand money from any nominee before vetting and for approval," the Chairman added.

Human rights activist Oliver Barker-Vormawor has expressed readiness to appear before Parliament following a summons issued over his recent allegation that members of the Appointments Committee

demand bribes from ministerial nominees before vetting and approval.

In a post shared on X, Barker-Vormawor wrote, "This is how

a Democracy improves. I look forward to appearing before the Appointments Committee tomorrow. Thank You."



Oliver Barker-Vormawor, Human Rights Activist

General News

Eliminate bureaucratic hurdles and improve efficiency - Mahama charges AU

By Amanda Cartey

President John Dramani Mahama has urged the African Union (AU) to tackle bureaucratic inefficiencies and improve its decision-making processes to more effectively address Africa's challenges. Speaking at the High-Level Retreat on African Union Institutional Reforms held at Kenya's State House in Nairobi, Mahama stressed the importance of evolving the AU into a more agile, efficient, and impactful institution capable of responding to the continent's growing needs.

"The African Union must evolve to become more agile, efficient, and impactful in addressing these new challenges," Mahama said. "The AU must streamline its decision-making processes to ensure they are timely and results-oriented." He pointed out that bureaucratic

inefficiencies and overlapping mandates within the AU have eroded the confidence of both African citizens and international partners.

"Bureaucratic inefficiencies undermine the confidence of our citizens and international partners. Overlapping roles hinder effective decision-making. By streamlining AU commissions, clarifying roles, and eliminating redundancies, we can establish a more agile organization better equipped to address the evolving needs of our continent," Mahama explained.

In addition, Mahama urged African leaders to develop initiatives that prioritize the inclusion of women and young people in leadership roles, emphasizing the critical role these groups play in driving Africa's progress.

"Africa's future lies in its youth, as over 60% of our population is

under the age of 25, yet their voices are largely absent in policymaking," Mahama said. "We must institutionalize a framework that allows our young people and women to lead at all levels of governance. I am happy to report that in Ghana's recent history, we elected a woman as our Vice President."

The two-day retreat, which concluded on January 28, provided a platform for leaders to discuss the institutional reforms needed to strengthen the AU's governance and operational efficiency, ensuring it remains responsive to the needs of the continent.



John Dramani Mahamah, President of Ghana

Safety of children with cerebral palsy at risk over closure of care facility in Ashanti Region

By Phoebe Martekie Doku

Over 20 children with cerebral palsy and their families in the Ashanti Region are at risk of losing their only sanctuary, the Appiahene CP Respite and Home in Kenyasi. The privately-run centre, which has provided essential care for these children, is now under threat of closure due to severe financial constraints and unpaid rent.

Without a government-run care facility available in the region, a non-governmental organization took the initiative to transform a privately-owned property into the area's sole facility dedicated to children with cerebral palsy. However, the financial burden of sustaining the centre has become too overwhelming to bear.

Solomon Evans, a university graduate who, like many others, has relied on this facility for years, now faces uncertainty about where he and others will go next.

"For now, I'm very confused and don't know where to go. I'm just waiting on my mother [Founder of the home]," he said, his voice tinged with sadness and confusion. "The whole thing feels like a dream I want to wake up from. I don't understand

why we have to leave."

Founder Martha Opoku Agyemang, who poured all her personal resources into the initiative, is now facing financial exhaustion and is unable to sustain the home's operations.

"Funding has been difficult. Caring for these children is very expensive. We are late on rent, and now the owner needs the facility for something else," she explained, her voice heavy with concern.

Agyemang and the children now face the bleak reality of being forced out due to their inability to meet the mounting expenses. The home has long been an essential pillar of support and solace for both the children and their caregivers, offering a safe space that otherwise would not have existed in the region.

Speaking to the media, some parents shared their distress. One parent described their experience caring for Kojo Mensah, an orphan whom they had taken in as their own. "It's difficult caring for him. Bringing Kojo here has been a great help to me. I've been crying since I got here today. I don't know what I'm going to do now. I will take him home and hope help comes," they said.

Another parent, visibly saddened, shared the struggles of caring for a child with cerebral palsy. "It's not easy. I have four other children, and taking care of him at home was stressful. The stigmatization alone was too much," she said, wiping away tears. "When I arrived today, I saw the demolishing. Aunt Martha asked me if I could take him home for the time being."

Cerebral palsy (CP) is a group of neurological disorders that affect movement, muscle tone, and coordination. It is caused by brain damage or abnormal brain development, often occurring before or during birth, or in the early stages of a child's life.

The condition can result in difficulties with motor skills, muscle

control, and balance, and can range from mild to severe. People with cerebral palsy may have difficulty walking, speaking, and performing everyday tasks, but the severity of these challenges varies from person to person.

CP is a lifelong condition, but with therapy and medical intervention, many individuals can lead active and fulfilling lives, although they may require special care and support to help with mobility and other activities.

As the Appiahene CP Respite and Home faces its uncertain future, the hope remains that the community will rally behind the children and their families to find a solution before the doors close for good.



Cerebral Palsy kids

General News

Danish govt hands over state-of-the-art Maritime Simulation Centre to Ghana Navy

By Andy Ogbarmey-Tettey

The Ghana Navy has officially opened a cutting-edge Maritime Simulation Centre at the Naval Training Command (NAVTRAC) in Nutekpor, with funding from the Danish Government. The facility, named the Lill-May Didriksen Simulation Centre in honour of the first female officer in the Royal Danish Navy, features advanced technological capabilities, including a 270-degree Full Mission Bridge Simulator, three 120-degree Part-Task Simulators, two Instructor Stations, briefing and server rooms, as well as offices for instructors.

The inauguration ceremony, which took place on Monday, January 27, reaffirmed the shared commitment to strengthening maritime security and operational capacity in the Gulf of Guinea.

Ms. Marietta Brew-Oppong, Legal Counsel to the President of Ghana and Guest of Honour, lauded Denmark's longstanding support for Ghana's maritime sector. She acknowledged Denmark's instrumental role in combating piracy and maritime crimes in the Gulf of Guinea, which she referred to as a vital global trade corridor.

"Thanks to international efforts and partnerships like this, we have seen significant improvements in

combating piracy and maritime crimes," Ms. Brew-Oppong remarked. She expressed confidence that the new facility would enhance maritime training and bolster the Ghana Navy's capabilities.

Vice Admiral Issah Adam Yakubu, Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS), described the new simulation centre as a "game-changer" for the Navy's training programmes. He emphasized that the advanced simulation technology would allow personnel to master complex navigation and operational scenarios in a controlled environment, ultimately improving readiness and safety.

"This project represents a leap forward in Ghana's maritime domain," Vice Admiral Yakubu stated, while also acknowledging Denmark's unwavering support over the years. He highlighted other Danish-backed initiatives, including the UNODC-supported "Ship-in-a-Box" facility for regional maritime training and the construction of a world-class swimming pool with diving capabilities for the Navy.

The Deputy Chief of Navy of the Royal Danish Navy, Commodore BO Overgaard, also reaffirmed Denmark's commitment to addressing security challenges in the Gulf of Guinea. He underscored the importance of partnerships in

tackling issues such as piracy, illegal fishing, and armed robbery, which threaten both trade and regional stability.

"The Bridge Simulator is an advanced piece of technology that reflects the trust and collaboration between our nations," Commodore Overgaard said, describing the project as a model for sustainable development that enhances safety and prosperity in Ghana and the wider region.

The facility offers the added advantage of enabling effective training without taking operational ships out of service, a feature that Commodore Overgaard described as critical to improving efficiency and readiness.

Commodore Solomon Asiedu-Larbi,

Flag Officer Commanding NAVTRAC, highlighted the Simulation Centre's role in positioning NAVTRAC as a center of excellence for maritime training in Ghana and beyond. He credited years of meticulous planning and collaboration for bringing the project to fruition.

"This venture solidifies NAVTRAC's reputation as a leader in maritime training, and we are deeply grateful to Denmark for their invaluable contribution and to the CNS for his visionary leadership," he said.

The Maritime Simulation Centre is expected to significantly enhance Ghana's maritime security efforts, ensuring operational readiness and contributing to the broader goal of securing the Gulf of Guinea's critical trade routes.



Newly Built Maritime Simulation Centre

A-G withdraws case against ex-COCOBOD boss Opuni and Seidu Agongo

By Abigail Twumwaa Ampofo

Attorney-General Dr. Dominic Ayine has officially dropped all charges against Dr. Stephen Kwabena Opuni, the former CEO of COCOBOD, and businessman Seidu Agongo.

The announcement was made on Tuesday, January 28, at the Accra High Court, presided over by Justice Aboagye Tandoh.

State Attorney Ms. Enam Loh Mensah informed the court that the Attorney-General had instructed the withdrawal of the charges, and a formal notice of withdrawal was subsequently filed.

Dr. Opuni and Mr. Agongo had been facing 27 charges, including defrauding by false pretenses, causing financial loss to the state, money laundering, and corruption. The case stemmed from claims made in 2018 about the alleged

supply of substandard fertilizers by Agricult Ghana Limited, a company owned by Seidu Agongo. The fertilizers were said to have been sold to COCOBOD without proper testing or approval, resulting in financial losses for the state.

Prosecutors also accused Dr. Opuni of bypassing procurement procedures to facilitate the deal, asserting that it harmed cocoa farmers and cost the government money. However, both Dr. Opuni and Mr. Agongo consistently denied the accusations, maintaining their innocence throughout the trial. They were granted bail of GH¢300,000.00 each while the case proceeded.

The trial, one of Ghana's most high-profile legal battles in recent years, involved several witnesses, including experts, government officials, and cocoa farmers.

The case experienced numerous delays due to changes in judges and procedural issues, leading to frustration for all parties involved. Critics of the trial suggested that it may have been politically motivated, and some legal experts questioned

the strength of the evidence against the accused.

On Tuesday, the State Attorney provided no explanation for the decision to drop the charges, leaving Dr. Opuni and Mr. Agongo free from all legal issues related to the case.



Stephen Kwabena Opuni, Former CEO, COCOBOD

General News

I'll ensure regional balance in military recruitment - Defence Minister-designate vows

By Amanda Cartey

Defence Minister-designate, Dr. Edward Omane Boamah, has pledged to ensure regional balance in military recruitment, aiming to promote fairness and inclusivity within the Ghana Armed Forces (GAF).

Speaking before the Appointments Committee on Tuesday, January 28, Dr. Omane Boamah emphasized his commitment to equity, stating his determination to ensure all regions of Ghana are adequately represented in the military.

"I am a student of equity, and I believe it is crucial for the military to reflect the diversity of our nation.

We must ensure that every region is given equal opportunity to serve in the military, fostering unity and cohesion across the country," Dr. Omane Boamah stated during his vetting.

He further highlighted the importance of creating a military force that is not only highly skilled but also representative of Ghana's diverse communities.

"When recruitment is balanced across the regions, we are not just building an army; we are strengthening national integration and ensuring that every part of the country feels included in the broader goal of national security," he added.

Dr. Omane Boamah assured the committee that addressing regional disparities in military recruitment would be a top priority if confirmed. "I will do everything in my power to ensure no region is left behind in the recruitment process. The military should be a true reflection of Ghana's rich diversity," he concluded.

The Defence Minister-designate also urged Ghanaians to refrain from seeking enlistment into the GAF if they do not meet the required qualifications, warning that unqualified applicants could face significant risks during training.

"Knowing the Ghana Armed Forces and from my experience 17 years ago, if you succumb to the rigorous procedures and rules of

engagement without meeting the necessary qualifications, you are likely to suffer. Some recruits even lose their lives during training," he remarked.

Dr. Omane Boamah explained that GAF training is intentionally rigorous to ensure recruits meet the physical, mental, and emotional standards necessary for operational excellence.

As a medical advisor, he

underscored his dedication to maintaining these standards and emphasized his responsibility to counsel unqualified applicants to reconsider their decisions.

"I will be the first to advise such a person not to proceed," he stated, highlighting the importance of adhering to the recruitment process to safeguard the welfare of recruits and maintain the Armed Forces' operational standards.



Dr. Edward Omane Boamah, Defense Minister-designate

Alex Segbefia appointed Chief of Staff to Vice President, Ofosu Ampofo now Policy Adviser

By Abigail Twumwaa Ampofo

President John Dramani Mahama has announced the appointment of Alex Percival Segbefia as the Chief of Staff to the Vice President, along with other key appointments aimed at strengthening the Office of the Vice President.

These appointments are expected to play a vital role in advancing the administration's "Resetting Ghana" agenda, which focuses on building a prosperous and inclusive nation.

The announcement was made by Felix Kwakye Ofosu, Minister of State-designate for Government Communications, in a Facebook post.

Alex Percival Segbefia, a seasoned Ghanaian lawyer and politician, will serve as Chief of Staff to the Vice President. Segbefia previously served as Deputy Chief of Staff under President John Atta Mills from 2009 to 2013, Deputy Minister of Defence from 2014 to 2015, and Minister for Health from 2015 to 2017 during President Mahama's administration.

Mrs. Alberta Graham has

been appointed as Head of Administration. Currently the Director of the Directorate of Consular and General Services at the University of Cape Coast, Graham has considerable expertise in administrative writing, meeting management, and professionalism. Professor Theresah Patrine Ennin, now Presidential Staffer and Special Aide to the Vice President, is a Senior Lecturer in African Literature at the University of Cape Coast. She holds a PhD in African Languages and Literature from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her academic work focuses on African literature, critical theory, and gender studies. In 2018, she was recognized as an American Council of Learned Societies/African Studies Association Presidential Fellow.

Dr. Samuel Ofosu Ampofo, appointed as Policy Adviser on political affairs, is a prominent Ghanaian politician and former National Chairman of the National Democratic Congress (NDC). He has served as Minister for Local Government and Rural Development and Eastern Regional

Minister.

Maame Ama Pratt has been named Press Secretary. She is a well-known Ghanaian media personality and entrepreneur, and the daughter of veteran journalist Kwesi Pratt. Maame Ama is the host of the television talk show *The Couch* with Ama Pratt, which highlights social issues and human-interest stories. She holds degrees in Law, English, and Sociology from the University of Buckingham and has worked in public relations and banking, including roles at Ghana Commercial Bank and Zenith Bank. Prof. Sharif Mahmud Khalid will serve as Policy Adviser on economic matters. He is an Assistant Professor of Accounting and Financial Management at the University of Sheffield Management School, where his research focuses on corporate governance and social responsibility, particularly within Africa and emerging markets. Prof. Khalid has authored significant works, including *Critical Corporate Governance and CSR: An African Extractive Sector Perspective*. Other appointments include Ms.

Daniella Mavis Mathias as Secretary to the Vice President; Dr. Hamza Zakaria and Prof. Sharif Mahmud Khalid as Policy Advisers on economic matters; Ms. Mansa Amoah as Policy Adviser on finance; and Dr. Miriam Rahinatu Iddrisu as Policy Adviser on social sector issues.

These appointees bring a diverse range of expertise from academia, politics, governance, and business. Their collective efforts are expected to support the Vice President in implementing policies that align with the administration's vision of resetting Ghana and addressing the country's developmental challenges.



Alex Segbefia, Newly Appointed Chief of Staff to the Vice President



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Business

Diageo sells 80.4% shareholding in Guinness Ghana Breweries to Castel Group

Source: Diageo

Diageo plc on January 28 announced the sale of its 80.4% shareholding in Guinness Ghana Breweries plc to Castel Group, building on its relationship with Castel as a partner in Africa.

Diageo will retain ownership of the Guinness brand, and other Diageo brands currently produced by Guinness Ghana, which will be licensed to Guinness Ghana under a new long-term license and royalty agreement. Diageo will continue to drive the brand and marketing strategy for the iconic Guinness brand, in partnership with Castel, to promote continued growth and development in the country.

Diageo's flexible and asset-light beer operating model allows it to select the most appropriate structure and route-to-market based on local conditions, supporting greater efficiency and profitability, while Diageo continues to drive the brand and marketing strategy.

Castel Group has significant and extensive expertise across West and Central Africa, and are a partner to Diageo in 11 other markets in Africa.

All Diageo brands currently produced by Guinness Ghana (Guinness, Malta, Orijin, Smirnoff Ice and Alvaro, and mainstream spirits) will continue to be produced under new license and royalty agreements.

The transaction announced today, and the expanded long-term partnership with Castel, further demonstrates Diageo's active portfolio management and commitment to building an efficient operating model in West Africa that is structured to deliver long-term and sustainable growth.

This announcement follows the sale in September 2024 of Diageo's shareholding in Guinness Nigeria plc to Tolaram to accelerate the growth of Guinness in Nigeria; the announcement in October 2023 of a wholly-owned dedicated spirits company to strengthen Diageo's international premium spirits business and serve a wider geographic reach across West Africa; and the sale of Guinness Cameroon to Castel in July 2022.

Diageo's footprint across Africa consists of East African Breweries

Limited (Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda) and Diageo South West Central. Diageo is present in 34 countries with strategic beer and spirits distributors.

Commenting on the news Dayalan Nayager, President Diageo Africa and Chief Commercial Officer, said:

"Guinness Ghana is performing strongly powered by a fantastic team of people. Through this transaction, I look forward to the Guinness brand continuing to thrive and delivering further growth. I am excited to extend our partnership with Castel, a long-term partner in the region with a proven track record."

Gregory Clerc, Castel Chief Executive Officer, said:

"This acquisition exemplifies the entrepreneurial spirit that drives Castel and marks a new milestone in our growth ambition. It reflects our ability to go where we are least expected, exploring new horizons on a continent full of opportunities. With this 22nd African country, we reaffirm our dynamism, our boldness, and our confidence in Africa's potential."

Immediately following completion of this transaction, Guinness Ghana will remain listed on the Ghanaian Stock Exchange.

Completion of the transaction is expected this calendar year subject to the satisfaction of regulatory approvals.



Guinness

Ghana's petroleum fund sees remarkable growth to \$1.4bn

By Phoebe Martekie Doku

Ghana's Petroleum Fund has reached a significant milestone, growing to \$1.4 billion by the end of the second half of 2024, according to a performance report by the Bank of Ghana (BoG) on the country's Petroleum Funds. The report attributes this remarkable growth to a sharp rise in oil revenues, which led to notable increases in allocations to the Petroleum Funds. A total of \$543 million was generated from crude oil lifting during the period, in compliance with the provisions of the Petroleum Revenue Management Act (PRMA).

In addition to revenue from crude oil lifting, the country accrued \$144 million from corporate taxes in the oil and gas sector, surface rentals, and contributions from the Petroleum Holding Fund (PHF).

Out of the total revenue, \$454 million was allocated to the Ghana Petroleum Funds. This included

\$317 million directed to the Ghana Heritage Fund and \$136 million to the Ghana Stabilization Fund. These allocations have significantly bolstered the book value of the funds, raising their total to \$1.4 billion as of December 31, 2024.

The report provided a detailed breakdown of the oil revenue distribution between the Ghana Heritage Fund and the Ghana Stabilization Fund, ensuring compliance with the PRMA. The funds for 2024 are scheduled to be

disbursed on January 26, 2025.

The Ghana Petroleum Funds are owned by the Government of Ghana and comprises the Ghana Stabilisation Fund (GSF) and the Ghana Heritage Fund (GHF).



File Photo

International

South Sudan reverses ban on Facebook and TikTok following violent backlash

Source: *Africanews*

South Sudan has lifted its ban on Facebook and TikTok, imposed last week after graphic videos allegedly showing the killings of South Sudanese nationals in Sudan went viral, igniting protests and violence across the country.

The National Communications Authority confirmed on January 27 that the disturbing content has been removed from the platforms. These videos led to unrest and retaliatory attacks in South Sudan.

Napoleon Adok Gai, Director of the National Communications Authority, stated, "The violence fueled by social media highlights the importance of addressing online incitement while balancing

the protection of citizens' rights."

Rights groups hold the Sudanese army accountable for ethnically-

targeted attacks in El Gezira state following the army's capture of the state capital, Wad Madani. The Sudanese army has labelled the

incidents "individual violations," which were filmed and widely shared.



Facebook and Tiktok Logos

WHO supports efforts on the ground in response to Cholera in Angola

Source: *WHO*

The World Health Organization (WHO), in collaboration with Angola's health authorities, is intensifying efforts on the ground to combat the cholera outbreak that has affected the country since 7 January 2025.

With 1,016 reported cases and 43 deaths to date, WHO teams are actively supporting surveillance, case management, testing, and community-level interventions.

On January 25, WHO and health professionals from the Provincial Health Directorate of Bengo visited 10 water collection points, including nine rivers and one borehole in a residential area. Water samples were collected and sent to the National Institute for Health Research (INIS) for analysis to identify sources of contamination and guide mitigation strategies.

In addition to these efforts, WHO teams worked earlier in the week in affected municipalities in Icolo and Bengo Province. Key activities included:

Visiting high-risk areas such as Mercado do 30, Lagoa do Bairro dos Quiabos, and Chietu neighborhood, which have reported multiple suspected cases.

Assisting INIS teams in collecting samples of stagnant water and solid waste in critical areas like Mercado do 30, where accumulated waste poses significant health risks.

Providing calcium hypochlorite solutions for water treatment and preparing oral rehydration solutions (ORS) for patients.

While WHO's fieldwork strengthens local response efforts, these actions

are part of broader support that includes high-level collaboration with the Angolan government to develop the National Cholera Response Plan and assist in coordinating multi-sectoral efforts through the Interministerial Commission.

The focus on community-level interventions, such as water

sampling and rapid response to suspected cases, highlights WHO's commitment to complementing high-level advocacy with direct actions on the ground. Through ongoing collaboration, these efforts aim to contain the outbreak and protect vulnerable communities.



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