

Ghana's revenue-enhancing measures must expand tax base, rely on efficient taxes - World Bank

Page 10



North East, Ashanti Regions to hold Council of State election rerun on Feb 17

Page 3



Best Western PLUS.

Accra Beach Hotel, Nungua

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

Reservations: 233 (0) 54 83 25 18 4 bestwesternplusaccra.com

General News

Sawla SHS authorities ordered to revoke dismissal of 30 students

By Phoebe Martekie Doku

The Ghana Education Service (GES) has directed the management of Sawla Senior High School (SHS) in the Sawla-Tuna-Kalba District of the Savannah Region to recall more than 30 students who were placed on indefinite suspension last Wednesday.

Speaking to the media, the Sawla-Tuna-Kalba District Director of GES, Anthony Kwasi Yeboah, emphasized that the school lacked the authority to impose such a sanction. As a result, he instructed the headmaster to ensure the immediate return of the affected students.

“Yes, they [students] had left the school before the headmaster and his assistant came to me [district education office] and told me about the suspension. So, I told him to recall the students because he has no authority to suspend them,” Mr. Yeboah told JoyNews.

He further stated that he would visit the school to engage with the administration and facilitate the students’ smooth reintegration into academic activities.

The students were suspended following an investigation by a seven-member committee into allegations of misconduct and possession of mobile phones on campus. However, most of the affected students, who are second-year girls,

were suspended without prior consultation with the district or regional GES offices and without notifying their parents.

The directive to reinstate the students came after a report by Myjoyonline highlighted

the suspension, prompting further scrutiny of the school’s disciplinary actions.

GES has reassured the public that it will continue to monitor the situation to ensure that due process is followed.



Sawla SHS students

Stop inflating BECE registration fees - GES cautions school heads

By Phoebe Martekie Doku

The Ghana Education Service (GES) has issued a stern warning to basic school heads against imposing unauthorized charges for Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE) registration.

In a statement dated February 12, GES acknowledged growing concerns on social media about reports of unapproved fees being demanded from students. It emphasized that such charges are illegal and must be stopped

immediately.

“Management wishes to emphasize that these fees are unauthorized, and all heads are advised to cease this practice immediately,” the statement read.

To ensure compliance, GES has directed regional directors to inform district directors to closely monitor schools and caution headteachers against imposing unapproved fees. Any headteacher found guilty of collecting such payments must

- Continue on page 3



BECE candidate writing exams

General News

Stop inflating BECE registration fees - GES cautions school heads

- Continued from page 2

refund them immediately, or face strict disciplinary action.

Additionally, GES reiterated that late registration for BECE

candidates will not be permitted under any circumstances. All eligible students must be registered within the official period set by the West African

Examinations Council (WAEC). The public has been urged to take note of these directives, and parents who are asked to pay such fees are encouraged

to report the matter to the appropriate authorities.

The 2025 BECE is scheduled to take place from June 9 to June 16.

North East, Ashanti Regions to hold Council of State election rerun on Feb 17

By Andy Ogbarmey-Tettey

The Electoral Commission (EC) has scheduled a rerun of the Council of State elections in the North East and Ashanti Regions on Monday, February 17, following disruptions that prevented the process from being completed.

In the North East Region, the rerun has become necessary due to a tie between the two leading candidates, who both secured six votes each, making it impossible to declare a winner.

Meanwhile, in the Ashanti Region, electoral proceedings were abruptly halted after a violent disturbance. A group of individuals stormed the voting center, overturning tables, destroying ballot boxes, and scattering election materials. The chaos forced EC officials to suspend the process.

The disruption is believed to have been triggered by the unexpected loss of Yaw Owusu Obimpeh, the National Democratic Congress (NDC) candidate, who was widely seen as the frontrunner. His agitated supporters allegedly

instigated the unrest, demanding a reassessment of the results.

Despite a strong police presence, security personnel struggled to restore order, prompting the EC to call for additional reinforcements. In response, the Commission has formally requested the Ghana Police Service and the National Election Security Taskforce to strengthen security measures at the rerun venues.

Following the disturbances, Ashanti Regional Police Commander, DCOP Frank Abrokwa, has been relieved of his

duties.

In a related development, the Minority in Parliament is calling for the immediate prosecution of those responsible for disrupting the election of the Ashanti Region's representative to the Council of State.

Addressing journalists in Parliament, the Ashanti Regional MPs caucus of the New Patriotic Party (NPP) has strongly opposed any move to rerun the election, arguing that a presumptive winner had already been identified before the disruption occurred.



Voting centre

General News

Minority condemns Cantonment raid as OSP manhunt Ofori-Atta

By Phoebe Martekie Doku

Minority Leader Alexander Afenyo-Markin has strongly condemned the raid on former Finance Minister Ken Ofori-Atta's residence, calling it illegal and lacking any legal basis.

Speaking in Parliament on Wednesday, February 12, the Effutu Member of Parliament (MP) questioned the legality of the operation, which was reportedly carried out by unidentified security personnel.

"There was no such law supporting the actions. The contention here is that the man's home was raided unlawfully. That conduct was unconstitutional... we're not sending the right signals to the electorate," the Minority Leader stated.

Eyewitness reports and security footage indicate that approximately 12 individuals were involved in the raid, with five in military gear, one in police uniform, and the rest dressed in civilian attire. The motive behind the operation remains unclear, and it is uncertain whether any items were seized.

Initial reports speculated that the Office of the Special Prosecutor (OSP) was behind the raid, but Special Prosecutor Kissi Agyebeng denied any involvement during a press briefing on Wednesday. He clarified that his office neither authorized nor conducted the raid.

Mr. Agyebeng further suggested that the raid could have been orchestrated to tarnish the OSP's reputation and hinder its ongoing investigations into Ofori-Atta.

Security footage from Ofori-Atta's residence later revealed one of the individuals involved in the operation as a well-known businessman with ties to the National Democratic Congress (NDC), who was recently acquitted in a court case.

On Thursday, February 13, Majority Leader Mahama Ayariga, who also condemned the raid, confirmed that Richard Jakpa was linked to the operation. He expressed regret over the incident and issued an apology to Ken Ofori-Atta, calling the situation regrettable.

Meanwhile, the OSP has declared Ofori-Atta wanted for failing to appear for questioning regarding corruption-related investigations.

At a press conference, the Special Prosecutor accused Ofori-Atta

of causing financial loss to the state in several transactions, including a contract between Strategic Mobilisation Ghana Limited and the Ghana Revenue Authority for revenue assurance in the petroleum and mining sectors, the termination of a contract with Beijing Xhao Chen Technology BXC, and procurement irregularities linked to the National Cathedral project.

Further allegations include a contract for servicing and maintaining 307 Mercedes-Benz ambulances for the National Ambulance Service and the misuse of the Ghana Revenue Authority's tax refund account.

Ofori-Atta's legal team has cited medical reasons for his decision to leave the country indefinitely, a move communicated to the Chief of Staff.



Alexander Afenyo-Markin, Minority Leader

General News

EU supports cholera fight with GHS 1.6 million amid surging cases

By Abigail Twumwaa Ampofo

The European Union (EU) has pledged GH¢1.6 million (€100,000) in humanitarian aid to help contain Ghana's ongoing cholera outbreak, which has spread across multiple regions since October 2024.

In a statement, the EU announced that the funds would be channeled through the Ghana Red Cross Society (GRCS) to enhance response efforts. The support will facilitate the distribution of essential supplies, including chlorine for water purification, handwashing stations, and intensified public health education campaigns.

Priority will be given to vulnerable communities, particularly those in displacement camps and informal urban settlements, where poor

sanitation increases the risk of infection.

The outbreak has affected 36 districts across the Greater Accra, Central, Western, Eastern, and Ashanti regions. Despite vaccination efforts, the number of cases continues to rise. As of February 8, 2025, confirmed cases had surged to 550, with the death toll reaching 45.

The Central Region remains the hardest hit, recording 69 new infections and two additional fatalities between February 6 and February 8.

The EU estimates that approximately 150,000 people will benefit from the intervention, particularly those facing heightened exposure due to limited access to clean water and proper hygiene facilities. The Ghana Red Cross, which is leading

on-the-ground efforts, has been actively engaging communities in preventive measures and sanitation improvement initiatives.

This support is part of the EU's broader contribution to the

Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) under the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), aimed at strengthening global emergency response capabilities.



European Union (EU) Head office

Govt considering increasing NSS allowance - NSA Director

By Andy Ogbarmey-Tettey

The government is exploring the possibility of increasing the National Service Scheme (NSS) allowance as part of efforts to ease the financial burden on personnel, Acting Director of the Ghana National Service Authority (NSA), Felix Gyamfi, has revealed.

In an interview with the media on Wednesday, February 12, Mr Gyamfi assured that President John Mahama is prioritizing the welfare of service personnel and actively considering an increment.

"I think President Mahama understands the circumstances that we are in, and having reduced the corruption, the thievery, and the scheme by that much, I'm sure already he's thinking about, 'Okay, can we claw back some of the money that we have saved?'

So it's in the pipeline a little bit," he disclosed on JoyNews.

Service personnel have repeatedly called for an upward review of the GH¢715 monthly allowance, citing inflation and the rising cost of living. While no specific timeline has been set for the adjustment, Mr Gyamfi's comments suggest that discussions are ongoing.

The NSA Director also confirmed that all outstanding allowances from August to December would be disbursed effective Thursday, February 13.

He explained that once the figures were presented to the President, he immediately ordered the full settlement of the arrears.

Gyamfi blamed years of corruption and poor financial management for the persistent delays in payments, arguing that

the scheme had been significantly weakened by these issues.

"Why has it become so? I think in the last eight years, it all became part of humongous corruption,

the incompetence that we had to deal with because you didn't understand why a service person's meagre allowance due them will not be paid on time," he lamented.



Felix Gyamfi, Acting Director of the Ghana National Service Authority (NSA)

General News

Finance Ministry proposes March 10 for presentation of 2025 budget

By Amanda Cartey

The Ministry of Finance has proposed Monday, March 10, for the presentation of the 2025 Budget Statement and Economic Policy to Parliament.

However, this date remains subject to parliamentary approval, pending further discussions. Ghana's Financial Administration Act mandates that the budget be presented before March 31, 2025.

Ahead of the full budget presentation, the Finance Ministry has issued spending guidelines to various ministries, directing them to prioritize projects and submit proposals within a set timeline before a final budget meeting is held.

In January, Parliament approved a GH¢68.1 billion mini-budget to cover government spending for the first three months of the year.

The 2025 Budget is expected to focus on economic recovery and job creation, particularly through the government's 24-Hour Economy initiative. Additionally, Finance Minister Dr. Cassiel Ato Forson is likely to announce the removal of certain taxes, including the betting tax, the COVID-19 levy, and the Electronic Transaction Levy (E-Levy).

However, these tax cuts could result in a revenue shortfall of nearly GH¢10 billion, posing a significant challenge for the government. Another major concern is Ghana's energy sector debt, which could further slow economic recovery efforts.

The budget will also be shaped by Ghana's ongoing program with the International Monetary Fund

(IMF), ensuring that policies align with IMF requirements.



Dr. Cassiel Ato Forson, Finance Minister

Bawumia to deliver keynote address at Harvard University's Africa Business Conference starting today

By Amanda Cartey

Former Vice President of Ghana, Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia, takes center stage at this year's Africa Business Conference at Harvard University, delivering a keynote address that explored Africa's economic transformation and the role of digital innovation in shaping the continent's future.

The conference, scheduled for February 14 and 15, is one of the most prestigious gatherings of business leaders, policymakers, and innovators committed to driving Africa's development.

Organized by the Africa Business Club at Harvard Business School, the event with the theme "A myth or mandate for Africa's progress" provides a platform for thought-provoking discussions on sustainable growth, governance, and economic resilience.

As an economist with a track record of financial and digital reforms in Ghana, Dr. Bawumia's insights offered a compelling perspective on economic stability and digital transformation. His keynote address underscored the need for African economies to embrace digitalization, expand financial inclusion, and strengthen governance structures to drive long-term growth.

The Africa Business Conference is renowned for attracting influential voices who shape Africa's economic landscape. This year's lineup features a diverse range of speakers known for their impact in business, policy, and innovation. Their discussions aim to generate solutions to pressing challenges and inspire a new generation of leaders committed to Africa's progress.

Dr. Bawumia's participation reaffirms Ghana's growing role in Africa's economic dialogue. His address is expected to contribute to broader conversations on how the continent can leverage technology, improve fiscal policies, and foster economic resilience in an increasingly

digital world.

The conference remains a vital forum for collaboration, knowledge sharing, and visionary leadership—elements essential to Africa's continued development.



Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia, Former Vice President of Ghana

General News

Court dismisses Anas' Number 12 case against Nyantakyi

By Abigail Twumwaa Ampofo

The High Court, presided over by Justice Marie-Louise Simmond, yesterday, February 13, discharged former Ghana Football Association (GFA) President Kwasi Nyantakyi, bringing an end to his five-year trial linked to the Number 12 exposé.

The ruling followed the prosecution's failure to present investigative journalist Anas Aremeyaw Anas, a key witness in the case. Nyantakyi had been facing charges of conspiracy to commit fraud and corruption, as well as fraud and corruption, after being secretly filmed in the Number 12 exposé.

Released on June 6, 2018, the exposé featured undercover

footage of Nyantakyi accepting bribes and promising to use his political connections to advance the interests of an undercover reporter posing as a businessman. He was also accused of accepting bribes to influence player selections for Ghana's national team.

The trial was marred by a legal battle over whether Anas, known for wearing a mask in public, should be allowed to testify with his identity concealed. Initially, the High Court ruled that Anas could wear his mask in open court but must first reveal his face to Nyantakyi in chambers. However, the Court of Appeal overturned this decision, ordering Anas to testify without his mask.

When the case was called on Thursday, February 13, state

prosecutors requested a one-month adjournment, stating they needed guidance from the Attorney General after failing to produce Anas as a witness. However, Nyantakyi's lawyers argued for the dismissal of the charges due to

a lack of prosecution.

In her ruling, Justice Simmond sided with the defense and discharged Nyantakyi, effectively bringing the long-running case to a close.



Kwasi Nyantakyi, Former Ghana Football Association (GFA) President

Bawku conflict death toll surges to 54 as violence escalates

By Amanda Cartey

A tragic attack on travelers in Walewale, suspected to be linked to the ongoing chieftaincy conflict in Bawku, has claimed the lives of two passengers and left a bus completely destroyed by fire.

The bus, traveling from Kumasi to Garu, came under attack by armed men after stopping in front of the ADB Bank in Walewale. These latest casualties have brought the total number of deaths in the conflict to 54 since its resurgence in October 2024.

The violence in the region has intensified in recent days. On February 12, a gunfight in Bawku claimed three lives, while a similar attack near Wulugu on the Bolgatanga-Tamale highway on February 11 left three passengers dead, with their bus set ablaze.

The Bawku chieftaincy dispute remains one of Ghana's most protracted and contentious conflicts, deeply rooted in historical, ethnic, and political

factors. At the heart of the issue is the struggle for chieftaincy legitimacy between the Mamprusi and Kusasi ethnic groups in the Bawku Traditional Area. While the Mamprusi assert historical rights to the Bawku skin, the Kusasi claim it based on demographic majority and political support gained in recent decades.

Amid growing tensions, the Asantehene, Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, has urged rival factions to prioritize peace for the area's development. He cautioned that prolonged violence would lead to poverty, stagnation in infrastructure, and worsening living conditions. He called on all parties to reflect on their actions and seek peaceful solutions for the sake of future

generations.

Meanwhile, Defence Minister Dr. Edward Omane Boamah has assured the public that the government remains committed to resolving the Bawku conflict through traditional mechanisms as part of a broader effort to restore lasting peace.



File photo



**Best
Western
PLUS.**



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

Amenities:

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

Accra Beach Hotel

51 Beach Drive, Nungua P: 233 (0) 302 71 11 11 - B
Reservations: 233 (0) 54 63 25 18 4 bestwesternplusaccra.com

Wherever Life Takes You, Best Western Is There.®

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

Business

Ghana to host Africa Oil Week for the first time this September

Ghana is set to host the 2025 Africa Oil Week (AOW) for the first time, under the leadership of Minister for Energy and Green Transition, Hon. John Abdulai Jinapor. This was announced by the sector Minister during a press conference held on February 12, 2025.

“Ghana is proud to host AOW 2025, where we will lead discussions on utilizing our vast natural resources, strengthening upstream infrastructure, and showcasing new licensing opportunities. This event will be a turning point for Africa’s oil and gas sector, and we look forward to welcoming the global community to Accra this September” he announced.

This marks a historic shift from its traditional host country and venue in Cape Town, South Africa, where it

has been held for the past 30 years. The four day event scheduled to take place at the Kempinski Hotel in Accra from 15th to 18th September is expected to see key stakeholders in the oil, gas, and energy sector come together to unlock investment, drive strategic energy partnerships, and shape the future of Africa’s upstream industry.

Hon. John Abdulai Jinapor, Minister for Energy and Green Transition, Republic of Ghana reaffirmed his commitment to ensuring Africa maximises its natural resources for socio- economic transformation and energy security.

He emphasised the urgent need for African unity and investment mobilisation to navigate the continent’s evolving energy landscape.

“Africa must take charge of its energy future. We are at a pivotal moment where the global energy landscape is shifting rapidly, and we must work together to secure investment, accelerate production, and leverage technology to decarbonise our upstream sector.

The Africa Oil Week (AOW) 2025 will serve as a premier platform for African governments to highlight upstream opportunities, while the private sector explores investment prospects within the regional energy industry.

Ghana will also host a dedicated National Showcase, where the new administration will reveal its strategy to position the country as a leading upstream destination through forward-thinking regulations, incentives, and policies.

In addition to policy and regulatory discussions, AOW 2025 will offer exclusive insights into the geology of the Keta and Voltarian basins, presenting new exploration opportunities for the international oil and gas community.

“We expect to see exciting developments from international oil and gas companies in these basins, and it is a privilege to have exclusive presentations on their potential at AOW 2025,” added Paul Sinclair.

Furthermore, AOW 2025 will serve as a platform for the Ghanaian government to unveil its ambitious new production targets, aiming to increase daily output from the current 120,000-130,000 barrels per day of significantly higher benchmark.



John Abdulai Jinapor, Minister for Energy

Business

Ghana's revenue-enhancing measures must expand tax base, rely on efficient taxes - World Bank

By **Andy Ogbarmey-Tettey**

The World Bank has emphasized the need for Ghana to adopt a more effective approach to revenue mobilization by broadening its tax base and implementing efficient tax policies.

The government of Ghana has announced its decision to abolish draconian taxes such as the Electronic Transfer Levy, betting tax, among others and focus on addressing the issue of tax compliance to increase tax revenue to 16% of GDP.

In its latest Public Finance Review report, titled "Building the Foundations for a Resilient and Equitable Fiscal Policy," the World Bank highlighted critical areas requiring urgent reform to ensure sustainable economic stability.

According to Robert Talierno, the World Bank Country Director for Ghana, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, Ghana must focus on fair and sustainable fiscal adjustments while protecting key social and economic investments.

"Ghana needs to persist in its ambitious fiscal consolidation efforts, ensuring that adjustments are both fair and sustainable," he stated. "It is crucial to protect pro-poor and pro-growth investment while enhancing domestic revenue mobilization. Additionally, Ghana must address the increasing fiscal liabilities stemming from the energy and cocoa sector."

The World Bank outlined four high-level policy priorities Ghana must implement to strengthen its fiscal system:

Strengthening Fiscal Discipline and Transparency

The report recommends that Ghana enforce a fiscal rule to limit procyclical spending while ensuring better expenditure controls and oversight of liabilities. It suggests replacing the current fiscal balance rules

with a combination of "an expenditure and a debt rule (with well-defined escape clauses and limits on external borrowing)." Additionally, it advises granting institutional independence to the fiscal council and improving transparency through engagement with Parliament, civil society organizations, and the media.

Improving Public Financial Management (PFM)

To enhance fiscal discipline, the World Bank stresses the need for structural reforms in budget preparation and execution. The report calls for "improving the budget preparation process to enhance its credibility, strengthening commitment controls and cash management (notably by expanding the scope of the GIFMIS and the TSA) to improve budget execution." It also recommends leveraging technology to boost transparency and trust in government operations.

Containing Liabilities and Expenditures and Contingent and Rigid

The report highlights the risks associated with unchecked public spending, particularly in the energy and cocoa sectors. It calls for deepened reforms in these areas to limit fiscal liabilities. Among the measures suggested are "reducing rigid expenditures by containing the public sector wage bill, rationalizing public spending on goods and services, and limiting transfers to government units."

Expanding Domestic Revenue Mobilization (DRM)

To reduce reliance on external financing, Ghana must pursue equitable and sustainable revenue generation strategies. The World Bank underscores the importance of operationalizing the country's Medium-Term Revenue Strategy (MTRS) and implementing key tax reforms, including "removing VAT exemptions, reforming the CIT by phasing out tax holidays and exemptions, and strengthening safeguards against profit-shifting." The report also urges enhanced oversight of tax expenditures to ensure transparency and efficiency.

The World Bank advises Ghana to

ring-fence investments in sectors that drive human development, economic transformation, and climate resilience.

Human Capital Development: Protecting funding for primary education, healthcare, and social assistance programs like LEAP.

Agricultural Transformation: Increasing capital expenditures, improving monitoring of government spending in the sector, and ensuring the profitability and transparency of the cocoa industry.

Economic Infrastructure: Enhancing transport networks, ICT infrastructure, and urban planning to facilitate trade and economic growth.

Climate Resilience: Investing in cost-effective climate solutions that provide both environmental and economic benefits, such as improved water management and low-carbon energy initiatives.

The report concludes that Ghana's long-term economic recovery hinges on bold policy reforms, efficient spending controls, and a modernized revenue collection system.



Robert Talierno, the World Bank Country Director for Ghana, Liberia, and Sierra Leone

International

WHO: Bridging the Cancer prevention, diagnosis and care gaps in Lesotho

In a country where cancer prevention, diagnosis, and care have historically been limited, the personal journeys of survivors like Maatang Chaka and Joalane Tsupane are beacons of hope and resilience. Tebo, a 49-year-old mother from Maseru District, and Joalane, a 19-year-old leukemia survivor, represent the strength and determination of many cancer patients in Lesotho.

Their stories of survival and advocacy highlight the urgent need to bridge the gaps in cancer services in the nation.

Chaka's battle with stage 3 breast cancer began in 2011 while she was working in the mines of Mokhotlong District. Reflecting on her journey, she recalls, "It started as a pain in my right breast.

After a medical examination, I was told there was a lump. At that time, I didn't know about cancer, so I couldn't understand how serious my situation was." Today, she finds joy in sharing her story to give hope and support to other cancer patients. Thanks to financial support from the Government of Lesotho, she sought treatment in South Africa. By 2018, Chaka was declared cancer-free.

For the 19-year-old childhood cancer survivor Joalane Tsupane, her cancer journey began at the tender age of one year when she was diagnosed with leukemia. As a young girl, she experienced constant body pain, hair loss, bleeding, fever, and loss of appetite. Supported by the Government of Lesotho, Tsupane embarked on a long road to recovery and was declared cancer-free in 2019.

Tsupane points out a significant challenge: the knowledge gap about childhood cancer in the community. "There is a need to increase awareness about childhood cancer. Information should be made available for all, especially our parents," she emphasizes.

Motsamai Kekeletso, a dedicated caregiver with Friends with Starlight Oasis of Hope Foundation, echoes this sentiment. Her organization provides palliative care to cancer patients. "I started helping people suffering from chronic diseases because I realized there was no home for the elderly in our community," she explains. "I love taking care of cancer patients and feel fulfilled providing support in their most vulnerable state."

In 2023, the Senkatana Oncology Clinic in Maseru District reported approximately 1,888 new cancer cases in Lesotho, with around 500 of them being cervical cancer cases. Addressing this growing concern, the Government of Lesotho, under the Ministry of Health, has commenced construction of the nation's first Cancer Care facility. This new center will offer radiotherapy services, reducing patients' need to seek treatment abroad.

During the 2025 World Cancer Day commemoration, Minister of Health Hon Selibe Mochoboroane announced, "The government of Lesotho is making strides in establishing a dedicated cancer treatment center to address

these challenges. We are training medical professionals and support staff from within and outside Lesotho. With guidance from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the center aims to be a state-of-the-art facility."

Hon Mochoboroane also acknowledged the vital contributions of development partners, highlighting the successful administration of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine to about 93% of girls aged 9 to 14 in 2024.

He added, "Development Partners are actively providing educational resources, equipment, and expert assistance to support the ministry's efforts. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are crucial in reaching underserved communities, offering education and support services, including palliative care, to families in need."

Dr. Innocent Nuwagira, World Health Organization (WHO) Country Representative to Lesotho, stressed the importance of integrating cancer prevention, screening, treatment, and palliative care into broader health

services to close the existing healthcare gaps.

He noted, "Between 30% - 50% of cancer deaths could be prevented by modifying or avoiding key risk factors like tobacco use, alcohol, unhealthy diets, physical inactivity, chronic infections, and air pollution. While prevention is the most cost-effective long-term strategy, early detection and management are key to reducing cancer deaths."

Manyathela Kheleli, Brand Marketing Manager, and Sponsorships of Standard Lesotho Bank, announced that the bank had contributed 1.9 million maloti to support the construction of the cancer facility. He also called on other corporate entities to join in and make the project a reality.

With the new cancer facility, Lesotho's cancer patients will no longer need to travel to South Africa or elsewhere for treatment and care, marking a significant step forward in the country's healthcare journey.

Source: WHO



Participants at the World Cancer Day Walk

International

Legal proceedings against Shell for oil pollution impacting Nigeria

Shell was in court on Thursday facing accusations of being responsible for oil pollution in Nigeria, which has deprived thousands of access to clean water and devastated agriculture and fishing.

Lawyers assert that numerous leaks and spills from Shell's pipelines and infrastructure have severely harmed the environment in the Bille and Ogale communities of the Niger Delta.

In response, Shell contends that most of the pollution resulted from criminal activities, including pipeline sabotage, oil theft, and illegal refining.

The company maintains it is not

accountable for pollution caused by third parties, but claims its regional subsidiary, SPDC, undertakes clean-up efforts for all spills, "regardless of the cause," including those currently under legal examination.

Representatives for 13,000 local Nigerians argue that Shell and its subsidiary "failed to implement basic measures" to prevent oil theft and other activities that led to the spills, asserting that there has been "barely" any clean-up.

The law firm Leigh Day contends that the pollution violates individuals' rights to a clean and healthy environment.

The initial trial, which begins

today in the High Court in London, will determine whether Shell can be held accountable for pollution resulting from theft and illegal activities.

A full trial is scheduled for next year.

This case will also evaluate whether oil pollution by a private company constitutes a violation of a community's fundamental human rights under the Nigerian Constitution and the African Charter on Human and People's Rights.

Leigh Day states that if the case is successful, it would mark the first instance of a UK multinational being found guilty of

breaching human rights through environmental pollution.

Residents of Ogale and Bille have been advocating for a clean-up "to international standards" and seeking compensation since 2015, claiming that pollution has left them without clean water and unable to engage in farming and fishing.

Chief Bennett Okpoki, leader of the Bille community, expressed, "It has been a long, hard fight to get here, but we are happy to see Shell finally facing trial."

Source: Africanews



File photo

Our excellent customer service and high quality printing
make us the most reliable printing partner for all the projects
you need done, right now.

Your Print Solutions Partner



Universal
CRYSTAL PRINT GHANA LTD.

No. 13 St. John's Road, Achimota
P.O.Box AN 19472 Accra North

+233 (0) 302 409 210
+233 (0) 302 409 211

www.universalcrystalprint.com
info@universalcrystalprint.com