

THE CORPORATE GUARDIAN

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THE INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MAGAZINE

Facts Are Timeless



• For Decision Makers

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Realizing the
vision through
Airports
Development

GCB BANK:
Your Bank for Life,
70 YEARS of being
Truly Ghanaian

Hon. Dr. Yaw Osei Adutwum (MP)
Ministry of Education, Ghana

GHANA:
CREATING
RELEVANTLY
SKILLED
NATIONWIDE
MANPOWER

The Ghana Export-Import Bank



Export Trade Products»

Export Trade Facility

- This is a Short-Term revolving facility for Ghanaians (especially SMEs) to be able to meet export demands and enhance their capacities.
- It is to fill gaps in exporters' working capital thereby providing the needed funds for seamless operations and for multiple cycles.
- The facility is to enable exporters purchase raw materials and meet other operational needs to execute export orders and market demands.

Who Qualifies?

- An Exporter with evidence of previous exports.
- Must have a verifiable export order or export contract
- A company with at least 30% Ghanaian shareholding and
- A Company or business with ability to deliver on its export orders.

HEAD OFFICE: AFRICA TRADE HOUSE,

📍 Ambassadorial Enclave,
Liberia Road, Ridge, Accra
P. O. Box MB 493, Accra
📞 0302 234 668 📲 0302 234 664
📍 0302 235027 / 0243 690 520
📍 HQ: GL-040-2630
✉️ enquiry@eximbankghana.com
🌐 [f](https://www.facebook.com/geximgh) [in](https://www.linkedin.com/company/gexim-ghana/) [t](https://twitter.com/geximgh) [@geximgh](https://www.instagram.com/geximgh/)

Export Trade Products»



Receivable Discounting Facility »

Receivable Discounting Facility

- This is a Short-Term revolving facility for Ghanaians to discount their export receivables providing the needed cash flows for multiple transaction and meet export demands.
- This will enhance their export capacities.
- It is to fill gaps in exporters' working capital thereby providing the needed funds for seamless operations.

Who Qualifies?

- An Exporter with bill of lading and invoices evidencing exports.
- Must have a verifiable export order or export contract.
- A company with at least 30% Ghanaian shareholding.



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- 📍** Ambassadorial Enclave,
Liberia Road, Ridge, Accra
P. O. Box MB 493, Accra
📞 0302 234 668 **📠** 0302 234 664
📍 0302 235027 / 0243 690 520
📠 HQ: GL-040-2630
✉️ enquiry@eximbankghana.com
🔗 [@geximgh](https://www.eximbankghana.com)

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FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

MONEY MATTERS with Toma Imirhe



Ghanaians, not the IMF, can restructure the economy

Demand management is returning to Ghana with more intensity than the last time around. The International Monetary Fund programme has a bigger hole to plug than the previous one during the second half of the previous decade so the demand management policies that will be introduced to do it will be all the more intense.

This situation will be all the more of an economic shock for Ghanaian households and businesses alike because it is coming on the back of six years of supply side expansionary economic policy, supported by monetary easing at the beginning of this decade to soften the economic impacts of the COVID 19 pandemic. Living standards will be sorely challenged; already the steep increases in public utility tariffs are an indicator of the shape of things to come.

Unfortunately, history suggests that ultimately it will all be for nothing. This is the 17th time Ghanaian is receiving an IMF bailout. Each of the previous programmes have restored Ghana's capacity to meet its bills through demand management policies similar to the ones now being implemented. But after the belt tightening requisite for this, when the programme ends, it is back to business as usual, and within a short time Ghana finds itself back in a situation that requires yet another IMF intervention.

This is because of the very nature of IMF programmes, which unlike the World Bank do not focus on long term economic restructuring but provide relatively short term fiscal and balance of payments fixes. If sustained those short term fixes would ensure sustainability of the fiscal and external positions as at the time the programme ends, but since they are politically unpopular and not growth oriented they are quickly done away with thereafter.

Therefore it up to Ghana to engage in the long term economic restructuring required to sustain both growth and fiscal viability without relying on the politically unpopular, living standards damping policies insisted on by the IMF.

Basically this means Ghana needs to do two things, both of which can only work if the populace itself agrees to the need and does not respond to state policies to implement them by punishing the implementing government at the next polls, which any party in opposition would encourage for self serving purposes despite being aware of their crucial necessity.

One is to reduce imports. This cannot be enforced by government because of the trade liberalization rules enforced by the World Trade Organization to benefit the advanced nations of the world at the expense of less developed nations. This means that lower dependence on imports, particularly consumer goods, must be a matter of choice not law. Ghanaians therefore need to sacrifice short term price un-competitiveness and quality

shortcomings of made in Ghana goods for long term industrialization and the benefits of job creation, higher domestic tax revenues and better price stability resulting from a more stable exchange rate.

The argument that imports are necessary because of inadequate local supply capacity is self defeating. It is only short term supply shortages that can encourage investment into local production of the goods that are in short supply. As long as Ghana can rely on imports to bridge such shortages investment will go into importation of the product rather than local production because the recouping of the investment made and the profits come faster and thus financing is easier to secure. It is the short to medium term price increases resulting from supply shortages that would reward investment in local production instead, until local production scales up its capacity to the level of demand.

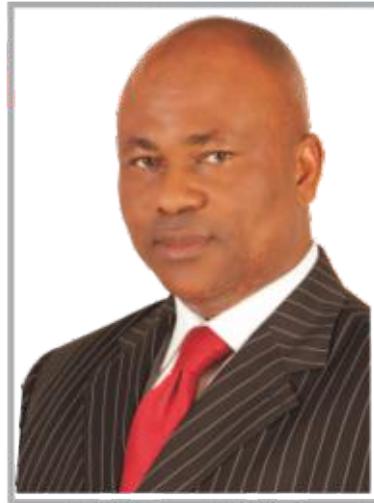
The second thing is fiscal balance. Every political administration in Ghana is persuaded to borrow for consumption in order to please the electorate and retain power with all its trappings both legal and illegal. The opposition – which desperately wants to win power and enjoy those legal and illegal trappings themselves – continuously, convinces Ghanaians that they can do more to please them, thus forcing the government to borrow in order to provide as much as they can after skimming the top off the public purse for themselves.

Therefore the only way out of Ghana's recurring fiscal challenges (apart from government being financially honest which, if truth be told, is simply asking far too much), is for the opposition to publicly admit to the fiscal shortfalls of the state and put fiscal sustainability above the provision of public goods and services (which the country cannot afford from its own resources) as a priority. This would enable the incumbent government to operate within the country's financial means without being punished for it by an electorate that has been convinced by the opposition that they are victims of lack of competence or commitment on the part of the incumbent government rather than lack of financial resources. Here, the political opposition needs to remember that eventually the shoe will be on the other foot.

Unfortunately recent history suggests that the populace is not ready for any of this and the political class – both rulers and opposition - are willing to engage in complete fiscal irresponsibility in order to win and subsequently retain power and so enjoy the trappings, both legal and illegal.

An IMF programme cannot solve these problems – only Ghana's political class and its electorate can. Until we do we will continue to resort to one IMF programme after the other in an endless cycle.

FROM THE PUBLISHER



Oscar Ugoh Sam

Making the best of the new IMF programme

Finally, Ghana has entered into its latest medium term financial bail out programme with the International Monetary Fund and indeed has already received the first tranche of the US\$3 billion in total programme support, this amounting to US\$604 million. The approval of the programme has come just one year after government first entered discussions with the Fund, while at that time still insisting to the Ghanaian public that it did not intend to ask for a bail out.

It is incongruous however that government is expecting to be applauded for getting approval for a bail out in what it claims to be record time, considering that it had previously insisted that it would not resort to the Fund at all, a stance that now seems to have been taken simply in order to down play the sheer magnitude of Ghana's economic problems and also in part because it had claimed that resorting to the Fund is evidence of economic management failure, a position which it had used successfully in 2016 to discredit the Mahama administration in order to wrest political power from it at that year's general elections.

The truth however is that since late 2021 when the international capital markets effectively closed its doors to Ghana, an IMF bailout was the only option left to government.

This is why the Corporate Guardian magazine refuses to be drawn into the argument as to whether going to the IMF was the right thing to do on the grounds that it was the only thing to do.

Rather, over the course of the programme's execution we are going to focus on ensuring that it is rolled out in the best way possible, within the economic management parameters that will inevitably be applied and which will inevitably constrain government's policy flexibility. Simply put, we have lost the right to make our own economic management decisions for the next three years.

We are in no doubt that many aspects of the programme will be bitterly painful for most Ghanaians. The IMF does not exist to cushion the living standards of the populace of a client country. Indeed it does not even emphasize economic growth.

Rather its programmes are designed to enable a client country recover the ability to pay its bills, which is crucial for a country like Ghana which relies inordinately on imports and foreign financing to pay for them.

However in order to restore that ability, the IMF insists on more efficient fiscal management and a restructuring of economic activity towards the sustainability of public financing and expenditure. Clearly Ghana needs both and this is the biggest benefit which the country stands to receive.

Therefore over the coming three years, this magazine will monitor, evaluate and support compliance with the IMF programme. This does not mean we wholesale support the programme or the government implementing it (which will change mid way through the programme, no matter the outcome of next year's general elections); it only means we acknowledge that we have no choice in the matter so as a country we need to make the best of an already bad situation and derive as much benefit as possible to compensate for the inevitable downside effects - on households and businesses alike - of draconian demand side economic policies.

Ghana is about to enter a challenging period of economic restructuring which will require all stakeholders to be on the same page, no matter the ensuing difficulties we will all face. The Corporate Guardian, over the period will do its best to ensure this happens.

TEAM FACTS ARE TIMELESS

PUBLISHER
Oscar Ugoh Sam

ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER
Chuck Bruce Mpamugo

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Toma Iimirhe

CONSULTING EDITOR
George Kingson

MANAGING DIRECTOR
Stella Sam

DIRECTOR (OPERATIONS)
Rev. Tonywhite

GEN. MANAGER
Ramatu Dakpo

MARKETING MANAGER
Princess Fortune Sam

ASSISTANT MANAGER
Belinda Amponsah

HEAD SPECIAL PROJECTS
Erica Degbato

CONTRIBUTORS
Richard Adjei
Mike Inyangudo (Abuja)

Amina Issa Oumarou (Niamey-Niger)
HEAD, S. AFRICA
Lebo Vundah

ADMINISTRATION
Justina Rukaya Issaka

ONLINE EDITOR
Samuel Ugo

CREATIVE DIRECTOR
Frank Tetteh Bio

LAGOS BUREAU CHIEF
Alex Ogundadegbe

SPECIAL DUTIES
Abu Amidu

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GHANA PROJECT OFFICE
13 Home School Street
South La Estate, Accra
P. O. BOX OS 1585 OSU, ACCRA

TEL: (233-244) 234763/427754

Email: thecorporateguardian@yahoo.com

SOUTH AFRICA OFFICE

1ST Floor, Sandton City Office Tower
Cnr Rivonia Road & 5th Street
Sandhurst Extension 3, Sandton
TEL: +27 11 883 0291 / 883 0290
FAX: +27 11 803 0277

Email: info@thecorporateguardian.com

LAGOS OFFICE

3, Bayode Oluwole St., Off Fadeyi Aladura St.,
Ikeja, Lagos - Nigeria.
Tel: 234-1-7236337, Mobile 234-8038105522

ABUJA OFFICE

Suite 305, Akwa Ibom House,
Ahmadu Bello Way,
Central Area Abuja.
Tel: 234-8039678995

Tony White Meribe - Bureau Chief

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WhatsApp No.: 0501409080

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Kofi Adomakoh, Managing Director, GCB Bank

YOUR BANK FOR LIFE, 70 YEARS OF BEING TRULY GHANAIAN

The role of banks in an economy has never been in doubt, however I wonder if the leadership of the Gold Coast ever thought that the Bank of Gold Coast, established in 1953, which later became Ghana Commercial Bank and now GCB Bank PLC, would in 70 years be such a pillar in Ghana delivering relevant and unrivalled financial solutions to individuals, SMEs, private and public sector entities, no matter the economic or social climate.

"GCB has returned Profit Before Tax (PBT) at a Compounded Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 11 per cent since 2016, along with average annual deposit growth of 22.8 per cent, among other strong showing across multiple indicators.

We remain the largest and the most liquid commercial bank in Ghana with a balance sheet size of GHS18.26 billion in 2021,"

This year, 2023, GCB Bank PLC (GCB) is 70 years old and over the seven decades, the Bank has proven to be a great example of resilience, relevance and solid performance.

In all these, GCB stands out with a huge pedigree as a truly Ghanaian enterprise attending to Ghana's needs and interests in the financial sector.

GCB has, therefore, become systemic to the economy with ever-increasing relevance alongside its significant contributions and efforts.

According to the Managing Director of GCB Bank, Kofi Adomakoh, "the institution has remained steadfast in fulfilling its mandate as the go-to financial partner for industry, commerce, and the Ghanaian people for the past 70 years.

Focused on supporting indigenous businesses and contributing to the growth of the Ghanaian economy, GCB has successfully competed against established foreign banks while staying true to its mission.

Over the years, the bank has evolved into an indigenous institution with a strong heritage and reputation as a major player in a highly competitive sector.

Despite the constantly changing landscape, GCB remains committed to innovation, keeping pace with modern trends and technological advancements, and leading by example."

GCB has earned its position as one of Ghana's top-tier banks not only through its 70 years of operation but also due to its impressive performance across all relevant metrics, coupled with a demonstrated commitment to stay current with developments in banking.

The bank has made an unrivalled contribution to Ghana's financial sector, resulting in a strong track record of success. Growing up, one could find a GCB branch in almost every location where a Post Office was present.

This extensive nationwide branch network enabled GCB to play a crucial role in both its business development and the extension of financial services to people and businesses across Ghana.

This contributed significantly to financial inclusion and the monetization of the economy.

Today, with 186 branches across all 16 regions, GCB's network has played a significant role in the bank's impressive performance.

"Our extensive footprints, strong and resilient balance sheet, well-diversified business and revenue mix and value-focused investments in risk management and digital technology position us to deliver superior solutions to clients and enable us to improve returns to our shareholders," says GCB's Deputy Managing Director, Finance, Socrates Afram.

Strong showing "GCB has returned Profit Before

Tax (PBT) at a Compounded Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 11 per cent since 2016, along with average annual deposit growth of 22.8 per cent, among other strong showing across multiple indicators.

We remain the largest and the most liquid commercial bank in Ghana with a balance sheet size of GHS18.26 billion in 2021," he added.

GCB is, however, more than just a profit-driven institution - it is a true Ghanaian brand with dominant Ghanaian ownership that has made significant contributions to the country.

With over 3,500 Ghanaians employed across its footprints nationwide, GCB has consistently supported national development.

In support, GCB's Chief Digital & Marketing Officer, Eric Coffie, says, "GCB Bank is a well-recognized brand in national policy and community development, with its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) efforts making a substantial impact.

The bank has contributed to education, health, culture, tourism, sports, youth development, financial inclusion, poverty alleviation, and environmental initiatives.

GCB is a domestic systemically important bank, strategically positioned to provide pivotal financial services to the private and public sectors of our economy.

It is a top-tier employer in Ghana's financial sector and it plays a strategic role in supporting important urban and rural communities across the length and breadth of Ghana as well as key national development initiatives and projects such as the 1D1F industrialization initiative, providing funding and business advisory support to qualifying companies to ensure the success of the programme.

The bank also played a key role in the Coronavirus Alleviation Programme Business Support Scheme (CAPBUSS) and YouStart Programme, from which over a hundred thousand businesses and individuals benefited."

"Additionally, GCB administers the GCB Real Estate Investment Trust (GCB REIT), a Rent-to-Own mortgage housing scheme for public sector



Socrates Afram, GCB's Deputy MD, Finance

workers aimed at reducing the housing deficit.

GCB has maintained a policy of developing impactful and measurable CSR projects across the country, and it has been very successful in achieving this goal over its 70-year journey," Mr Coffie concludes.

In line with its truly Ghanaian nature and focus, GCB appreciates the need to offer support to keep the country's agenda on course while seizing the opportunity to entrench its dominance.

Little wonder the bank was on hand to undertake the unprecedented single-day transaction in 2017, when it assumed select deposits and assets of two indigenous banks, UT Bank and Capital Bank, under a Purchase and Assumption (P&A) transaction during the financial sector clean-up.

Largest client base

The P&A transaction further strengthened GCB's position with the largest client base, branch network and deposit book to help more Ghanaians and businesses meet their financial and banking needs.

All these efforts and successes have not been without challenges for GCB.



Eric Coffie, GCB's Chief Digital & Marketing Officer

For a bank with the largest branch network, employee population and, I dare say, operational infrastructure, GCB has shown great resilience and resourcefulness by remaining consistently top-tier.

The Deputy Managing Director, Operations at GCB, Emmanuel Odartey Lamptey, explains, "Our client-centric focus will remain the fulcrum that will drive further enhancements in operational resilience and internal control, continued improvement in our processes and leadership development and training within the bank with the view to offering superior client experience.

While we recognise the successes we have achieved over the years in delivering banking solutions to our clients through our nationwide branch network complemented by our digital offerings, we will continue to invest in technology to deliver dependable, efficient, digital-first and quality services to our clients."

Strong leadership

For seven decades, GCB's successive strong leadership teams continue to stretch the frontiers of excellence with continuous improvement in risk



Emmanuel Odartey Lamptey, Deputy Managing Director, Operations, GCB

management, corporate governance, customer experience and CSR within a competitive and congenial work environment that prioritises succession planning and talent development.

These have paid off not just in performance but have led to recognition and acclaim.

For example, in 2022, GCB was adjudged the number one financial services sector player in the Ghana Club 100, the coveted league of Ghana's best 100 companies.

The bank also received the Best Bank in Ghana in Anti-Money Laundering (AML) Compliance and the Best Bank in Compliance in Africa (2019), Most Compliant Bank (2017/2018), and the Safest Bank in Ghana (2017) awards just to mention a few.

70 years of resilience, relevance and solid performance makes me pose the question about what the future holds for GCB, particularly in the face of the challenges confronting the domestic banking sector in the wake of the Domestic Debt Exchange Programme (DDEP).

"As the largest indigenous bank and significant market player with substantial exposure to cedi-denominated bonds, GCB is impacted, however, we have tweaked our strategies around the bank's resilience and strong risk management

structures coupled with the experienced management and staff who remain committed to successfully manage the impact," says Kofi Adomakoh in a reassuring tone.

He expressed unwavering confidence in the bank's ability to successfully navigate the current challenges and emerge as a more resilient institution, committed to supporting Ghana's socio-economic development.

"With the backing of the Board and other direct stakeholders, the bank's management has launched an accelerated programme and implemented effective strategies to safeguard and optimise its capital, strengthen its balance sheet, and generate sustainable profits and returns for its shareholders.

For the years ahead, GCB shall remain focused and true to our promise of being your bank for life through all the phases, delivering relevant and unrivalled solutions for your benefit," he concludes.

For me, GCB is a truly Ghanaian icon partnering us through all the phases of life with a 70-year unblemished record of national support, I can only say, "Happy 70th anniversary, GCB and more wind in your sail".



Dr. Kasser Tee, President, CIMG

WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT OF CIMG, DR. KASSER TEE DELIVERED AT THE LAUNCH OF THE CIMG CHARTERED MARKETER HELD AT THE LABADI BEACH HOTEL ON APRIL 29, 2023

- The Chairman, Prof. Stephen Adei, a Fellow and Patron of the CIMG
- Members of the Governing Council
- Distinguished Guests
- Members of CIMG
- Marketing Students of CIMG Accredited Study Centres locally and abroad
- Media Men and Women
- Our Virtual Audience

It is my pleasure to welcome you to this occasion, as we gather here tonight to launch the CIMG Chartered Marketer brand and to induct new members into the register of Chartered Marketers in Ghana. Today, therefore, marks an important milestone in the history of marketing and the Chartered Institute of Marketing, Ghana (CIMG), as we witness the official launch of the Chartered Marketer brand in our market.

For the new inductees, you have every reason to be happy, as your induction coincides with

this launch. Attaining the status of Chartered Marketer is aspirational to every professionally qualified Marketer. This ceremony, therefore, is in recognition of your diligence and dedication, going through the Continuing Professional Development process post qualification and many years of practice and/or Teaching at higher levels.

You have, indeed, reached the peak of your profession and must celebrate this with pride. We count on you to let this manifest in your practice, going forward. You are expected to help change the narrative in industry. Help your

organisations to avoid the temptations of marketing myopia, and instead, think of the long-term perspective of the business by building everything you do around the interest of the customer.

Mr. Chairman, it is important for us to let industry know what marketing is not. Marketing is certainly not Sales, not Advertising, not being Smart, not just being Creative, not being humorous, not just being pleasant, not being a smooth talker. Marketing exists, simply, to create value for the long-term interest of the business. We do this by building the business around the customer, being aware about our environment, through research.

We research about the customer to identify existing and future needs, about competitors to identify their kind, their strengths and weaknesses, their likely response profiles, the market to identify trends, internal issues within the organisation, about products, pricing, distribution channels, promotion, among many others. We must therefore be adequately prepared, at any point in time, to propose sound strategies for marketing success.

Don't sit back for Marketing communications or

Advertising firms to drive your marketing. Rather, employ their services to push your strategy. Ensure that every marketing communications message you put out there supports and favourably aligns with your marketing strategies, which invariably must be based on the organisation's business strategy.

Mr Chairman, I am exceedingly glad to see the CIMG add this prestigious sub-brand, Chartered Marketer, to its many enviable brands. I have no doubt whatsoever that this beautiful brand will also stand the test of time. Let me pause here to congratulate all inductees tonight. Please take inspiration from the Holy Bible.

In Matthew 5:16, we are admonished as follows: "In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven". I urge you to let your good works manifest in how you are able to support the various corporate and product brands you handle in your organisations. The success you chalk, will definitely bring glory and pride to CIMG.

Mr. Chairman, It is my hope that this event will

inspire others to enrol on the CIMG Professional Marketing Qualifications, a deliberately crafted set of marketing qualifications put in place to certify Marketers, including owners of businesses who require a thorough understanding of marketing to ensure business success.

And, Mr Chairman, I have just been reminded that the launch of the Professional Marketing qualifications took place on April 29, 2021, exactly 2 years today. In between, we have organised 3 examination diets that is December 2021, June 2022 and December 2022. Preparations are under way for June 2023 examinations. The overall summary is that it has been a huge success, so far.

For business owners and top-level executives, I encourage you to register and participate in these programmes, even if your intention is just to acquire the knowledge without necessarily sitting for examinations. You may not need the certificate to practice, but you certainly need the knowledge for the sake of your business.

I thank you all for your attention.

Thank you.





Hon. Dr. Yaw Osei Adutwum (MP)
Ministry for Education, Ghana



GHANA: CREATING RELEVANTLY SKILLED NATIONWIDE MANPOWER

By Toma Imirhe

Since the beginning of 2017, the development, expansion and modernization of Ghana's educational system has been on of the top priorities of the President Nana Akufo Addo administration. To be sure, the commencement and subsequent full implementation of the free Senior High School (FSSHS) policy has dominated public attention and commentary, being a policy promise that was instrumental in the administration winning political power at the 2016 general elections in the first place. But this policy, revolutionary as it is, is just one part of arguably the most holistic and far reaching educational sector reforms ever attempted by any government in Ghana's over six and a half decade history as a politically independent nation.

The overall objectives of these reforms are to not only expand access to education, but also to improve both its quality and most importantly its relevance to the country's socio-economic growth and development, thus churning out youth with the right skills that make them needed by employers or capable of becoming self employed, either as entrepreneurs or providers of professional services.

Ultimately therefore, the incumbent administration is aiming to transform one of Ghana's biggest socio-economic challenges – that of inordinately high youth unemployment – into a foundation upon which the country can accelerate its economic growth and development in a most inclusive manner, using its huge potential human resources as the primary driver for creating a strong and

sustainable, internationally competitive economy which can provide improved living standards for all its citizens.

Actually, Ghana's turnout of educated potential workers is already running well ahead of the economy's capacity for absorbing them, thus creating a worryingly high unemployment rate, especially among the youth. However the President Nana Akufo Addo administration has correctly diagnosed the problem as being one of producing the wrong fit for the country's human resource needs, which if corrected can accelerate economic growth to rates than can not only absorb the turnout of employable people, but use them increase the absorptive capacity of the economy still further, thus creating a "virtuous" circle of accelerating economic growth.



"A key objective of our efforts to improve quality education is to ensure that our students become globally competitive. That is why I am passionate about the education of every Ghanaian child".



Ministry of Education
REPUBLIC OF GHANA

**H. E. Nana Addo
Dankwa Akufo-Addo**
President of the Republic of Ghana



the types of education it delivers and how these are delivered – and this is what the transformative reforms being implemented over the past seven years set out to do. To be sure the herculean nature of the task will not allow for a short term fix; the national educational sector reforms begun in 2017 are only expected to be completed in 2030.

The reforms themselves cover a full range of the various aspects of the educational sector's activities.

Transforming Teacher Education and Learning; Tertiary Education Reforms; Teacher Professionalization and Licensing; Pre-Tertiary Curriculum/Assessment reforms; School supervision and inspection reforms ; Secondary Education Reforms (Free SHS) ; Ghana Educational Service Institutional and Human Resource Reforms; ICT in education reforms; Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) reforms; and Legal, Institutional and regulatory reforms .

At the centre of all these reforms is the content of educational curricula with the aim of making them more relevant to the needs of Ghana's economy and society.

Here government is taking deliberate steps, in close collaboration with the private sector, to

more closely align the skills sets of the youth with the needs of private enterprise, especially with regards to technical knowledge and digital skills. Explains Yaw Osei Adutwum, Minister for Education, who recognizes the importance of a functional top quality education and who also brings genuine passion to his job alongside exemplary expertise: " Our ultimate aim is job creation to ensure economic opportunities for

every Ghanaian and this works both ways; as more Ghanaians get productive jobs, their employers get more productive assets that can increase their economic productivity which in turn improves Ghana's economic performance to the benefit of everybody. At the same time a functional, education that delivers relevant skill sets enables a person to be self employed, delivering needed professional services or be an





"To achieve a more robust educational system consistent with the 4th industrial revolution, we must integrate relevant academic content with experiences that nurture the skills and mindsets needed to participate meaningfully for socioeconomic transformation".



Ministry of Education
REPUBLIC OF GHANA

Hon. Dr. Yaw Osei Adutwum
Minister for Education



entrepreneur, employing others."

A pivotal aspect of government's curriculum reform is an intense focus on scientific and technological skills. To this end government is emphasizing Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) in conventional education as well as Technical, Vocational Education and Training (TVET).

Crucially for private enterprise, government is actively seeking to upgrade technical and science

learning, where shortcomings have proved detrimental to the growth of industry, particularly manufacturing which is a key reason why the country is inordinately import dependent. Science and mathematics learning is being emphasized at the pre-tertiary levels and technical and vocational curricula has been reformed in close collaboration with industry to fit its specific needs.

Pivotal, the Ghana TVET Service has been

established to strengthen the erstwhile weak linkage between training and industry; consolidate the erstwhile multiplicity of standards, testing and certification; improve the erstwhile inadequate availability of instructors and facilitators; and correct the erstwhile lack of instructional support and infrastructure, including equipment.

At the centre of the TVET Transformational Agenda has been the passage of Pre-Tertiary



Kumasi Tours



Hon. Dr. Yaw Osei Adutwum, MP, Minister for Education, paid a courtesy call on His Royal Majesty, Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, the King of Ashanti

Education Act 2020 (Act 1049) and the realignment of all TVET Providing Institutions under nine Ministries with 248 TVET Institutions. The TVET Service is charged with the mandate to provide recommendations for Technical and Vocational Education and Training policies and programmes; equip learners with relevant employable and entrepreneurial skills for the labour market; facilitate practical workplace experience, learning and apprenticeships; and ensure equal emphasis on all sectors of technical and vocational education and training. It also has responsibility to promote equity and inclusiveness in access and participation in technical and vocational education and training with special

emphasis on gender and persons with disabilities.

Since its creation the Service has modernized and upgraded TVET infrastructure through the upgrading and modernization of 35 Technical Institutes; Upgrading of Ghana TVET Service Headquarters; Construction of two Foundries ; Establishment of Applied Technology Institutes; and the Distribution of 37 Buses, 21 Double Cabin Pickups, two Tractors, three Toyota Fortuner and a Toyota Land Cruiser.

Under government's watershed Free TVET for all policy, the Service in its very first year placed 57,326 Ghanaians into the programme with an actual enrolment of 47,319 in 188 out of 248



Kumasi Tours





Project Visit: A model Junior Secondary School in Kumasi



Institutions. Formal TVET training is delivered by 248 TVET providing institutions nationwide through a 3-year programme for all post basic education graduates and a 2-Year Proficiency programme in the various TVET Institutions.

The Ghana Education Service itself is also applying technology to improve both access to education and the quality with which it is delivered. Initiatives in this regard include the National Digital Literacy Project, Smart Classrooms, etc. It is also leveraging on digital technology to achieve closer collaboration with the Ghana Library Authority; is seeking to provide digital learning Devices for Learners; use a Dashboard to better assess real time situations;

and deploy a GES App for Human Resource reforms.

Beyond the operations of the GES itself, government is using digital technology to dramatically expand access to education. It is deepening the implementation and uses of the Campus i-portal which provides free access to educational content for the core subject areas for all SHS students. It continues to provide a 24 hour dedicated television channel for the delivery of lessons on the GBC Digital Terrestrial TV platform and the National DTT platform as a free to air broadcast. Add to all these a robust state of the art Learning Management System to enable teachers create supplementary content and





Hon. Dr. Yaw Osei Adutwum, MP, Minister for Education, with President Nana Akufo-Addo

deliver online instruction and assessment , provide made in Ghana digital devices pre-installed with digital content for SHS students and teachers and complete the free provision of WiFi in all SHS and tertiary institutions and teacher training colleges.

In a wider level, since 2017, government has prioritized curriculum revision. First to be completed was the curriculum for kindergartens

and primary schools which is now standards based and in line with the needs of the 21st century. Following intense teacher training, roll out commenced in 2019. The new curriculum emphasizes the acquisition of fundamental reading, writing arithmetic and creative skills and core competencies including creativity and innovation, critical thinking and problem solving, communication and collaboration, cultural identity and global citizenship, personal





development and leadership and digital literacy. Another key objective is the improvement in the sheer quality of education as measured by academic outcomes. Government noted that learning outcomes were low across all pre-tertiary levels of education. For instance both in 2013 and 2015 Early Grade Reading Assessment and Early Grade Mathematics Assessment results showed that by the end of P2 only 2% or less of pupils could read with

fluency and comprehension whilst majority of pupils did not perform well in mathematics beyond the procedural level. Indeed in the National Educational Assessment (NEA) conducted in 2016 only 11% of Primary 6 pupils were proficient in mathematics. However the plethora of reforms introduced since 2017 are producing positive results. The NEA proficiency rate has since 2018 risen above 20% and continues to rise by the year.





Project visit by Harvey Manson Jr. the CEO of the Recording Academy



Kwabenya KG

Similarly at the WASSCE level, hitherto performance was poor. From 2011 to 2017, 75% of all candidates failed to achieve qualification for tertiary education. For instance in 2015, 49% of candidates scored F9 in mathematics and 37% scored F9 in Integrated Science. To reverse the situation the incumbent government has invested heavily in the supply of relevant instructional resources – including teachers – to schools, particularly with regards to science and mathematics,. Since 2019, the pass rate in mathematics has exceeded 65%, while the proportion scoring F9 is now close to single digits. Similarly the pass rate in Integrated Science has climbed from 45% in 2016 to over 63% by 2019 and this continues to rise by the year., while the proportion scoring F9 in that subject has fallen from 37%^ in 2015 to single digits currently.

The emphasis on science and mathematics is already yielding palpable but inevitably slow results. The ratio of students in science to those studying humanities rose from 34.66% during the 2018/19 academic year to 35.61% two years later

Importantly government is taking concrete steps to ensure that nobody gets left behind in the effort to improve learning outcomes. This is no mean task considering its sheer size and the consequent complexity of the logistics involved. There are 15,226 Kindergartens, 15,622 Primary Schools, 11,696 Junior High Schools and 679 Senior High/Senior High Technical Schools under the purview of the GES, with inevitably wide disparities in available resources and consequent learning outcomes.

These schools provide educations for 7,140,632

Learners altogether, broken down into 1,192,828 kindergarten Learners; 3,269,223 Primary School Learners; 1,417,086 Junior High School Learners; and 1,261,495 Senior High School Learners.

Pivotal to achieving full accessibility and consequently full inclusion with regards to education is the free SHS initiative. Prior to the introduction of free SHS available data showed that annually, some 100,000 JHS leavers failed to proceed to SHS simply because their parents or guardians simply could not afford it. With financial challenges no longer an issue, the rate of transition from JHS to SHS has jumped dramatically and indeed continues to rise. Indeed for the 2018/19 academic year the transition rate of 788.20% was higher than the rate before the advent of free SHS by at least a third. Two years later, by the 2020/21 academic year the rate had risen even further to 85.40%. A key initiative in this regard is the US\$219 million Ghana Accountability for Learning Outcomes Project (GSLOP) which seeks to improve the quality of learning in 10,000 low performing basic education schools across the 260 districts and strengthen education sector equity and accountability in Ghana. For these beneficiary schools learning grants are to be disbursed as a top-up to their capitation grants. The programme is designed to provide support and resources for teachers, support for school management, accountability systems and monitoring and evaluation. About 2.3 million pupils and 76,000 teachers will benefit from this initiative.

Key to improved quality of education is government's focus on improving the quality of



The newly and extend modern National Library at Airport Residential Area.



the teachers themselves. While public attention has been focused mainly on the incumbent administration's restoration of teacher training allowances, this is only a minuscule part of a much more holistic effort to raise the quality of teaching at all pre tertiary levels of education.

At the centre of this has been teacher education. Hitherto, teachers in basic level schools – kindergarten to JHS – had required a minimum qualification of a Diploma in Basic Education from Teacher Training Institute while for those teaching in secondary schools (SHS or equivalent) was a bachelor's degree. However previous research had ascertained that the diploma level of teacher education was inadequate for basic school level education. Consequently government has upgraded all its colleges of education to universities of education, conferring Bachelor of Education degrees, following a revision of their curricula, and affiliation of each to a public university.

Alongside this government is implementing the licensing of professional teachers under the purview of the National Teaching Council in line with the Education Act (Act 778 of 2008). As at

2022 there were 265,557 licensed professional teachers across Ghana

Importantly, as part of school management reform, the incumbent government has introduced management pathways for teachers who show an early interest in and aptitude for schools management. Indeed to ensure that public schools are well managed and properly staffed with qualified professional teachers the GES currently has **376,059** Employees (Teaching and Non-Teaching) under the managerial purview of **16** Regional Education Offices and spread across **260** District Offices. Indeed managing the 21st century schools with vastly improved learning curricula to meet the needs of the new economy is a vital activity of its own.

But considering how prudently government is making education more relevant to Ghana's socio-economic needs than ever before and is expanding both its quality and access to it nationwide, upgraded quality in how the educational sector is managed is only to be expected.



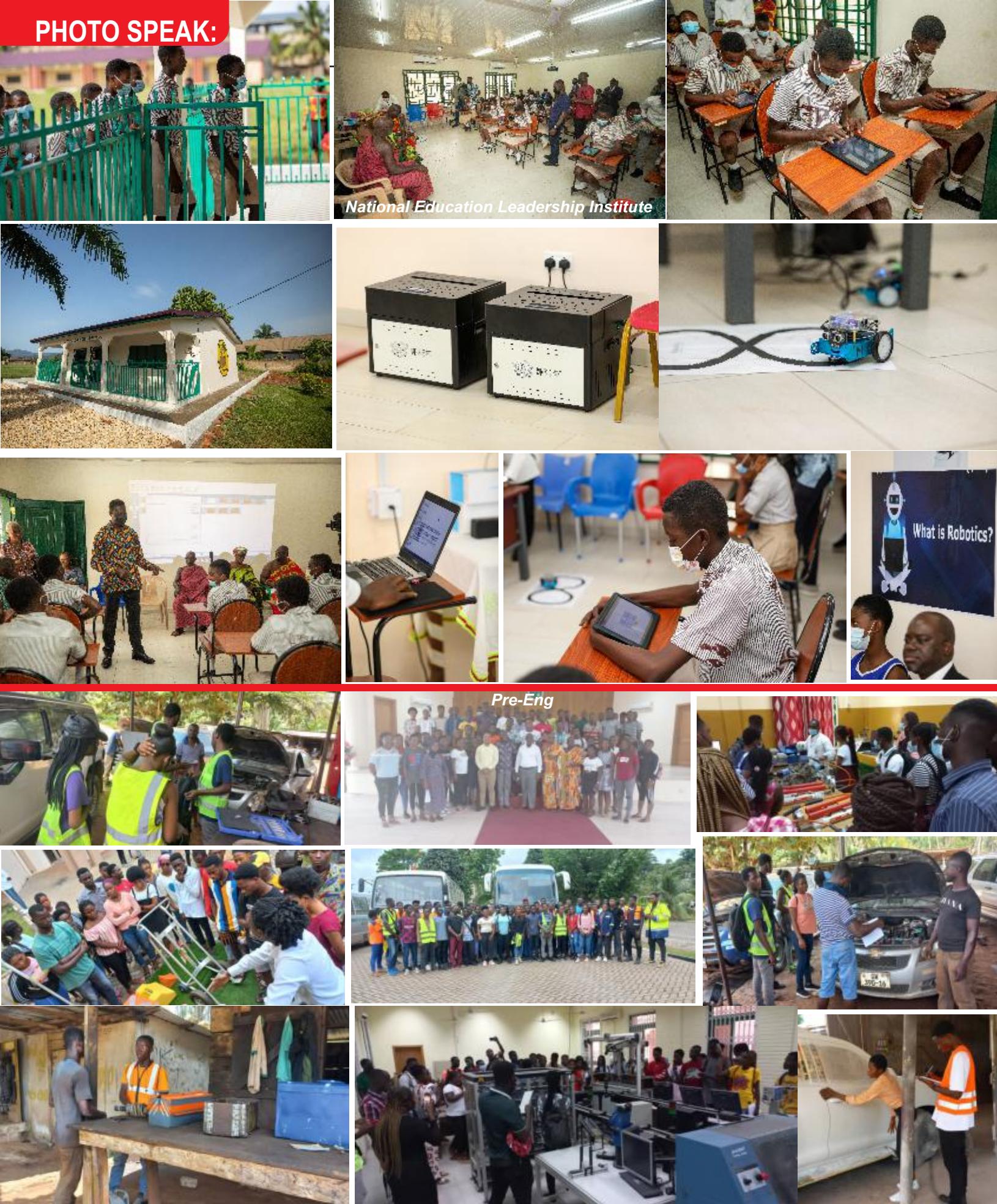
PHOTO SPEAK:



OSEI ADUTWUM SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL



PHOTO SPEAK:



Newly built Laboratories









Abomosu STEM School



Bosomtwe Girls STEM high School



Jachie STEM School

Scholarship Students from Bosomtwe



Nana Yaw Adutwum





The Man: HON. DR. YAW OSEI ADUTWUM (MP)

Hon. Dr. Yaw Osei Adutwum (MP) is currently the Minister for Education of the Republic of Ghana and the Chairman of the Ghana Commission for UNESCO. He is the Member of Parliament (MP) for the Bosomtwe Constituency in the Ashanti Region of Ghana.

He was the CEO and Founder of New Designs Educational Group, California, USA. He has decades of experience in educational policy, planning, and administration.

He is a philanthropist extraordinaire! Within a period of two years, he has single-handedly sponsored 97 students from the Bosomtwe Constituency to pursue programmes in Engineering and Medicine at universities across the country.

He has committed to the people of Bosomtwe to send many more eligible constituents to the university to train as

Engineers and Medical Doctors.

He was born on 9th April 1964 in Kumasi and hails from Jachie, in the Ashanti Region of Ghana. He obtained his bachelor's certificate from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) in 1990 and a postgraduate Diploma in Teaching (Teaching Credentials) from Chapman University, City of Orange, California, the USA, in 1999.

He obtained his Master of Education in Educational Management and Administrative Services Credential from the University of La Verne, California, the USA, in 1997.

He was awarded a Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Educational Policy and Administration from the University of Southern California (USC), Los Angeles, the USA, in June 2008.

He has participated in several UNESCO conferences and workshops as a Resource Person. He is a member of several professional bodies, recent of these is the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development 2 (ASCD), USA.

He is a member of the Advisory Board of the Capacity Building Center (CBC) in the School of Education and Information Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).

The Hon. Minister is also a member of a High-level UN Advisory Group for Mission 4.7, a new global initiative to put into practice the vision articulated by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on education. Until his appointment as the Minister for Education, he was the Deputy Minister for Education in charge of General Education.



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Quality Education is the Hallmark of DPS



Mr. Mukesh Thakwani (Mr. Mike) B5 Limited, founder Chairman

The Growth of B5 PLUS LIMITED

B5 Plus limited is a certified ISO 9001:2015 QMS (Quality Management System) Company and a Lean Organization. The B5 plus Steel Industry was started in the year 2002 by its founder Chairman Mr. Mukesh Thakwani (Mr. Mike), with the vision and mission to become the world's most recognized steel industry through the excellence of its employees, its innovative approach and its overall conduct.

The company's mission is underpinned by its steadfast commitment to realise high growth in all spheres they operate in. The indomitable spirit of this steel company stays buoyed up with its focused vision and relentless efforts of its employees under the astute guidance of Mr. Mukesh Thakwani, who has been at the company's helm from its inception and has carried it forward to its present position of prominence. Governed by Mr Mukesh Thakwani, one of the best entrepreneurial visionary endowed with an enterprising spirit and the ability to discern future trends , the company has grown by leaps and bounds within a short span of time. Duke of Edinburgh's International Awards Association has honoured Mr. Thakwani for his generous contribution towards the socio-economic development of the country. Mrs. Tanya Thakwani is a currently the Shareholder of B5 Plus limited and is actively involved in the running the operations of DPSI, an international school in Ghana. She has completed BSc, B.E.D and have certifications in Montessori Pedagogy from Montessori center international and have

attended several workshops on Psychology, Leadership from reputed universities like Cambridge University UK.

She is also a Certified Counselor. Her sole aim is to impart quality educationthe hallmark DPS International. Mrs Tanya is a true educationist who envisaged to build capacities of the spirit of inquiry, creativity, entrepreneurial and moral leadership among students. Her focus is making DPSI carve a niche for itself on the map of West Africa. Having single-minded devotion to her goal, there is no doubt that her dreams will be transcended beyond everyone's expectations.

THE MARKET B5 Plus (www.b5plus.com) established close to two decade ago has become the leading steel manufacturing, pre-engineering fabrication and trading company in Ghana with a complete range of steel products suitable for construction from small scale projects to huge ones like mining industry, shipping engineering, automobile industry and real estate projects. We are also dealing in chemical products, thanks to our expertise in sales, distribution and most importantly, our unwavering passion to deliver reliable products. B5 Plus is the largest of all its kind, not only in Ghana but in the whole West Africa. We create value for our customers by ensuring they're always well stocked, maintaining the most extensive footprint of facilities and bolster our market leadership position in all the segments they serve. It has the total

Manufacturing and Trading facility in Ghana and other neighbouring Countries in West Africa. Our services are extended to Corporate Sectors, Traders, Construction, and Mining Sectors and to end consumers in ECOWAS countries.

We have constructed one of the largest, strategic 'state of art' steel manufacturing plant in Africa at Larkpleku Village, Prampram, under the 1D1F (One District One Factory)programme. We have constructed this plant in line with the Government vision and their mission to promote the "Made in Ghana" products. We have procured 642 acres of land under 1D1F. The first phase of the Plant was constructed in 100 acres of land which comprises of a SMS (Steel Melting Shop) a Rolling Mill with a production capacity of 250,000 MT per annum and a Pre- Fab manufacturing Plant with a production capacity of 60,000 MT per annum. We will be producing 1.5million MT in different phases. In second phase we will be manufacturing steel profiles and Aluminium Products. In third phase we will be manufacturing cold rolled products. The manufacturing facility operates 24 hours a day 7 days a week with Sunday as the Maintenance day.

The steel factory at Tema is nestle in a sprawling 75 Acres of continuous land amidst the Heavy industrial area in Tema and it is criss-crossed with inland roads and reinforced concrete



storage areas. The facility also includes factory blocks, warehouses, Head office, Engineering Stores, Automobile workshop with state-of-the-art facilities equipped, weighing scales and several auxiliary offices. To facilitate logistic, transport and material handling service, the company has ultramodern world-class material handling machines and equipment. It has also initiated the R & D department for project re-engineering and continuous development to help reduce the dependency on imported spares and increase the production capacity with respect to local conditions. The company always endeavours to produce higher quality product with the help of advance machines in order to reach the acme of excellence. We are locally purchasing scrap to nourish our Plant as these are the significant raw materials that will be used in manufacturing of Iron and Steel Products and we need these raw materials for running our operations smoothly without any bottlenecks and is key for sustainable growth. Based on the current operations we require approx. 40,000 MT of scrap per month which we will procure partly locally and our requirement will go up in the near future once we augment our production. We are also in the process of building a ship breaking factory which will support our steel industry. Dismantled ships also generate quality of reusable steel scraps which serves as input for our SMS. We will be manufacturing

Aluminium Ingots, Steel balls etc in different phases. We will be saving approx 100 Million USDs per annum in foreign exchange for the Country as B5 Plus will be manufacturing locally in the first phase and we will be saving USD 200 Million per annum in 2nd phase for the Country. NETWORK B 5 Plus has the largest network of wholesalers, dealers and distributors in Ghana, Togo, Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria, Benin, Freetown, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Guinea and Mali. Ghana was an Importer of the steel material from the neighbouring countries in West Africa and now it has become a net Exporter of steel materials to all the neighbouring countries due to the concerted efforts of B5 Plus. The wholesale distribution centres in Accra, Kumasi, Takoradi, Tamale, Kasoa, Agloboshie and the Manufacturing centres and distribution centres in 25 Branches across West Africa provide extended credit and prompt service to our customers all over west Africa. The expertise of B5 Plus, the reputation for the best qualities, market know-how and timely delivery of service to meet the requirement of huge construction projects and regional market paved the way for its becoming the premier steel industry.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Outstanding Manufacturing Innovation Award -

B5 PLUS LIMITED for the Ghana Business and Innovation Awards 2023

Premium Quality Iron and Steel Brand Awards 2022 -B5 PLUS GROUP – 7 th Global Business Quality Awards 2023.

African Public Service Optimum Awards 2022-B5 PLUS LIMITED, Best in Support of Public Sector in Steel Manufacturing in Africa.

GHANA BUISNESS ICON OF THE YEAR AWARD 2022, Mr Mukesh Thakwani – Made in Ghana Summit 2022.

GEPA, 29th Presidents National Awards for Export Achievement2019– Gold Award for Export of Iron /Steel Circles, Rods, Sheets – B5 PLUS LIMITED

5th Ghana Industry CEO Award – 2022 - GH TITANS – Mr Mukesh Thakwani CEO (B5 plus)

5th Ghana Industry CEO Award – 2022- Ghana Most Respected CEO -2022 , Mukesh Thakwani, Manufacturing Award

Best Company in supporting local content - 2022, Sustainability and Social Investment Award.

9 th Made – in – Ghana Awards 2022 – Iconic Iron & Steel Brand Awards – As one of the Top Made in Ghana Iconic Brand.

ARCE -2022 – Outstanding Business in Manufacturing & Fabrication

GIPC, GHANA CLUB 100, B5 PLUS LIMITED.

Brand innovative Awards 2022 – Manufacturing Brand of the year Award.

National Top Brands – Top 100 Brands across Industries.

Ghana Shipper Awards 2022 – Importer of the Year.

Ghana Shipper Awards 2022 – Dry Bulk Importer of the Year.

Ghana Business Standard Awards 2022 – Steel Manufacturing Company of the year.

Ghana Corporate Brand Awards 2022 – Manufacturing Company of the Year 2022

2 nd National Governance & Business Leadership Awards 2022– Entrepreneur & National Building Honor Award – Manufacturing – Mr. Mukesh Thakwani.

2 nd National Governance & Business Leadership Awards 2022– Company of the decade Award -B5 plus Limited. 2 nd National Governance & Business Leadership Awards 2022– Job Creation icon of the decade Award -Mr Mukesh Thakwani.

Ghana Business Quality Award – Quality Manufacturing Leadership Award -Mr. Mukesh Thakwani.

Ghana Business Quality Award – Premium Quality West Africa Iron & Steel Brand of the Year.

12th Ghana Entrepreneur & Corporate Excellence Award -2022 – Mr. Mukesh Thakwani Group Chairman -B5plus Group -Ghana Entrepreneur Hall of Fame Award (Iron & Steel Manufacturing Industry)

Ghana – West Africa Business Excellence Awards 2022 – Excellence in Health and Safety Awards (Manufacturing) B5plus Limited.

Ghana – West Africa Business Excellence Awards 2022 – Social Entrepreneur of the Year –

Mr. Mukesh Thakwani (CEO).
 Responsible Business & Leadership Excellence Awards – B5plus Limited Responsible Manufacturing Company of the Year Steel & Metal 2021.
 Responsible Business & leadership Excellence Awards – Responsible Mining Support Services company of the year -2021
 Responsible Business & Leadership Excellence Awards – Mukesh V Thakwani – CEO – B5plus Limited – Manufacturing Standard Achievement Awards.
 Ghana CEO Awards – CEO of the Year – Manufacturing.
 International Business Achiever of the Year (CSR) – B5plus Limited
 AGI Awards – Best CSR Company of the Year.
 Ghana Most Respected CEO 2021 – Mr Mukesh Thakwani CEO B5 Plus Limited in Manufacturing Metals.
 National Customer Choice Awards – overall Manufacturing Company of the Year.
 National Customer Choice Awards – Industrialist of the Year Mukesh Thakwani.
 Sustainability & Social Investment Awards – Best Covid- 19 Healthcare Response Initiative Awards.
 Sustainability & Social Investment Awards – SSI Foreign Personality of the Year.
 CIMG working for Ghana - Product of the Year – B5plus Limited – Pre- Engineering Buildings.
 National Business Honors – national Steel Manufacturing Company of the year. National Business Honors – National Business CEO of the Year.
 Ghana CEO Summit – Mukesh Thakwani CEO.
 MIGA – Outstanding Manufacturing Industry of the Decade Award.
 MIGA – Mukesh Thakwani CEO , Made in Ghana Hall of Fame Award.
 Honorary Doctorate Degree Award – Mukesh Thakwani – SSBM
 Ghana Manufacturing Awards – Steel Manufacturing Company of the Year.
 National Governance & Business Leadership Awards – Business Leadership Personality of the Year (Overall) Mukesh Thakwani CEO.
 The Business Executive Excellence Award - The Baron Mr Mukesh Thakwani in Manufacturing (Metal) Sector – 2021.
 International Business Achieved Award – SSMB 2021 – B5plus Group.
 The African Global Trade & Investment Awards 2021 – Mr Mukesh Thakwani – Facilitator of Glafrica Trade & Investment.
 The African Global Trade & Investment Awards 2021 – B5plus Limited.
 Global Iron & Steel Company of the Year – SSMB 2020.
 Most Corporate Governance Complaint in Fabricated Metal Industry Category. B5plus Group Corporate Governance Excellence Awards -2020 – Institute of Directors – Ghana.
 Corporate Ghana 2020 – Hall of Fame Award to “Mr Mukesh V Thakwani.
 Ghana Philanthropy Award 2020 – “B5plus Card



foundation” for outstanding Philanthropic intervention which transformed many lives and positively impacted society as your contribution to the development of Ghana.
 Ghana's Most Respected CEO “Mr Mukesh Thakwani” – Manufacturing (Metals) – Ghana Industry CEO Awards.
 Acknowledged by The 4th International Conference on Trade & Finance (AFCFTA Edition) for the year 2020.
 Leadership Excellence in Interaction by HESS “Mr Mukesh Thakwani” – CEO B5plus Limited for the Year 2020.
 Best Company in Products Safety & Quality Management Practices for the Year 2020 by HESS.
 Manufacturing Facility Excellence Award by HESS for the Year 2020.
 Outstanding Iron & Steel Entrepreneur of the Decade 2010-2020 by Ghana Entrepreneur & Corporate Executive Award – 2020.
 Outstanding Business Leader of the Year – Ghana Business Standard Awards 2020.
 Contribution to the Growth and Development in the Heavy Industry – Ghana Development Awards 2020.
 Contribution for making Ghana the Leader in West Africa's Iron & Steel Products Industry –

Ghana Development Awards – 2020.
 Outstanding Steel Manufacturing Company of the Year - Ghana Business Standard Awards - 2020.
 Manufacturing Company of the Year- Ghana Business Awards 2020.
 Dream Project of the Year – Ghana Business Awards 2020.
 Corporate Ghana Hall of Fame for the year 2020.
 Appreciation from Ghana Institute of Architects for the Sponsorship towards the Event.
 Best Company in Partnership for Community Development of the Year – Sustainability & Social Investment Awards 2020.
 National Social Development Award 2020 “ Mr Mukesh Thakwani –CEO B5plus Limited”.
 B5 Plus won” Steel Manufacturing Company of the Year” at 2020 Ghana Manufacturing Awards.
 Mr. Mukesh V. Thakwani CEO, B5 Plus won” Personality of the Year” award at 2020 Ghana Manufacturing Awards. Outstanding Iron & Steel Entrepreneur of the Decade Award for the Year 2010-2020 by EFG Foundation.
 Overall Best Industrial Company of the Year- 2019 at the 8th AGI Industry and Quality Awards.
 Outstanding Business Leader of the Year for 2019 by Ghana Business Standards Awards.
 Non-Traditional Exporter of the Year and Dry



Mr. Mukesh Thakwani with President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo

Bulk Exporter of the Year 2019 by Ghana Shipper Awards.

West African Construction Awards 2019 – Steel Company of the Year.

West African Business Excellence Awards 2019 – Outstanding Steel Manufacturing Company of the Year.

Ghana Manufacturing Awards 2019 – Steel Manufacturing Company of the Year.

Ghana Manufacturing Awards 2019 – Personality of the Year.

Ghana Club award No.21 for the Year 2019.

Honoured during the Presidential Outstanding Youth Award 2019 by Millennium Excellence Foundation.

Made in Ghana Street Fair – 2018 - B5plus Foundation Care.

Dry Bulk Exporter of the Year 2018 by Ghana Shipper Awards.

GIPCAward Club 100 No 23 for the Year 2018.

Business Icon of the Year by Ghana Business Quality Awards 2018.

Best Metal, Building Sector Award by Association of Ghana Industries for the Year 2018.

Ghana's Most Respected CEOs of the Year by Ghana Industry CEO Award 2018.

Best Regional Award -2018 by Ghana Chamber of Commerce.

GIPC Ghana Club 100 2017 awards -No. 48.

AGI Awards – 2017 - Metal, Building &

Construction Sector.

Ghana Expatriate Business Awards - 2017 - Top Expatriate Metal and Steel Company. A Citation was issued by His Excellency Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, The President of Ghana, to B5 Plus Limited, in the Metal & Steel sector in recognition to Service to Mankind and for demonstrating dedication in commitment to create an enabling environment at the Nation and Local Levels in order to achieve sustained economic growth and development while supporting Ghana's effort for Peace, Stability & Security.

The Business Executive Award -2017 - Most outstanding Company of the Year.

GIPC Ghana Club 100 2016 awards – No 19.

West African Regional Magazine Achievers Awards 2016 - Best Entrepreneur Building materials sector.

Ghana Industry Awards 2016 - Fastest Growing Company of the year.

The Business Executive Awards – 2016 - Ghana Development Award.

3rd Business Executive Excellence Awards 2016- Best Heavy Industrial Company of the year.

West African Regional Magazine Achievers Awards – 2016 - Foreign Investor In Education Sector.

Ghana Chamber of commerce 2016 - Fastest

Dynamic Growing Iron & Steel company of the year.

AGI Award 2016 - Fastest Growing Company of the Year.

Ghana Manufacturing awards 2016 - Steel Manufacturing Company of the Year.

Head of States Business Awards 2015 - Import/Export Award.

The Business Excellence Awards 2015 - Best International Company in Building Materials.

The Business Excellence Awards 2015 - West African Personality of the year.

AGI Award 2015- Best Company in Corporate Social Responsibility.

West African Regional Magazine Achievers Awards - Best Company Building & Construction materials.

Made in Ghana Hall of Fame Awards - Best Enterprise in Steel and Metal Products.

The BUZZ Awards 2014 - Excellence in Business Management.

The BUZZ Awards 2014 - World leader Businessperson.

Europe Business Assembly Awards 2014 - Best Enterprise 2014.

Made In Ghana Awards 2014 - Hall Of Fame Awards for Steel & Metal Products For The Year.

Association of Ghanaian Industries Wards 2014 - Best Company in Metals, Building and Construction Sector.

Pillars of Modern Ghana Awards 2014 - TNG

Steel Company of the Year 2014.

Ghana Revenue Authority - Most Improved Tax Payer of the Year 2013, GRA Customs Division.

European Quality Award – 2013, B5 Plus Limited Iron and Steel Company has received “European Quality Award “and the Best Industry of the year award for Quality Iron and Steel Products. THE PRODUCT As a supplier, we give priority to the onus of ensuring quality as well as the security of supply. Our integrated supply chain helps us maintain a high standard of the quality of the product and prompt and safe delivery. This reduces the potential need for rework, increases reliability of service and saves the valuable time of to our customers and their money. List of Products Mild Steel:- Angle Bars, C Channels, Cheq. Plates, Flat Bars, H Beams, I Beams, Rect. Pipes, Round Bars, Square Bars, Square Pipes, Steel Plates, Steel Round Pipes, T Bars, U Channels. Marine or Mining:- Forged Steel Balls, Seamless pipes SCH 40, Seamless pipes SCH 80, Wear Resistance Plate Aluminium:- Aluminium Plate, Aluminium Cheq Plate. Roofing & Nails:- Galvanized Roofing Aluzinc sheet, Nails Concrete & Fencing:- Barbed Wire/ Razor Wire, Binding wire, Expanded Metal Mesh, Galv. Chain Link, Galv. Wire Mesh. Stainless Steel:- Stainless Pipes SCH 10,40 & 80, Stainless Plates, Stainless SQ Pipe, Stainless Angle Chemicals:- Hydrochloric Acid, Hydrogen Peroxide, Sles, Labsa, Caustic Soda Flakes, Caustic Soda pearls Galvanised:- Galv. Equal Angles, Galv. Plain End Pipes, Galv. Rect. Pipes, Galvanised Round Bars, Galv. SCH 40 Pipes, Galv. Square Pipes, Galv. Threaded Pipes, Galvanised Gratings, Galvanised Plates, Galvanised Wire, Galvanised Cheq Plate Reinforcing Bars:- (Iron Rods), HT Iron Rods, MS Iron Rods Others:- C PURLIN (CHANNEL), ZZ Profile, LAME (Lovers) Concrete & Fencing:- BRC Mesh Pre- Engineered Steel Buildings & Structures:- Detailing/ Drawing, Production (AWS)/ Exports, Erection, Steel Buildings, Civil Works, Structural Solutions THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW Employment & Social Contribution: B 5 Plus has created employment for 15,000 people direct & indirectly. It has also contributed vitally to the development of shipping, banking, transport-logistic, real estate, mining, Oil, Gas, Fabrication, and automobile industry as a customer or supplier. The vision of B5 Plus is to accomplish the benchmark not only in the quality of its products but also in “Corporate Citizenship” through the excellence of its people. The employees who join as novice get transformed into full-fledged stalwarts who become proficient in their respective fields. The progress of the employees is closely monitored, analysed and assessed by exposing them to a battery of in-house training and seminars conducted by the experts who are always willing to share their expertise with them. The philosophy of B5 Plus has been to give back to the society generously by creating ample opportunities to everyone. There is a direct relationship between sustainability of business, well being and the development of the society. B5 plus care foundation which is a charitable organization takes care of the



underprivileged children in Ghana by providing them with basic needs including free education and basic medical care.

They organize blood donation camps and free health check up campaign every year. B5 Plus is actively involved in CSR activities through B5 Plus care foundation. As a part of social responsibility the group has undertaken activities like

Free medical camp,

Contributed monetarily in Construction of police station in Kpone

Medical equipment donations to NGOs operating in Ghana

Donation to adult home managed by Catholic Church in Tema

Medicines to NGOs operating in Ghana

Free education to students

Donation to Lord Krishna Academy

Numerous social causes and festivals

Donated personal protective items like masks, common & medical protective suits, surgical masks, face shields etc for health workers and Society.

B5 Plus has also donated to AGI (Association of Ghana Industries)

B5 Plus has also donated to “FEED- A- KYAYO Project.

B5 Plus have distributed food stuff to 2000 plus underprivileged families in remote areas of Ghana like Larkpleku, Chipoli, Ningo, Prampram, Kpone and Dwahanya. The items that we had distributed includes 12.5 Kg rice, Oil 1 Litre, Milk

Powder, Sugar, Bath Soap, Key Soap, Tomato paste, Vegetable Oil, Toilet rolls etc.

B5 Plus limited donated to the COVID-19 Trust Fund in order to support the governments fight against the novel corona virus pandemic.

In order to support the ongoing fight against COVID-19 in Ghana and as part of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), B5 Plus limited pledged to donate oxygen to all Government hospitals free of cost. B5 Plus Limited provided Free Oxygen Refilling for all Government and Private Hospitals from March 2020 onwards till April 2022. In line with the corporate belief that the capacity building is quintessential for long-term development and growth, B 5 Plus has promoted a world-renowned school in Tema, named DPS International, Ghana, which are the centre of excellence in learning and the all-round development of children in Ghana and the neighbouring countries. It is committed to Continuous increase in the product range,

Continuous improvement in the productivity, quality and efficient utilization of the resources, To provide world-class quality at the competitive price

B 5 Plus has also brought in the concept of commitment and efficient service into market. B5 Plus has the infrastructure, expertise, capacity and the vision to support the developments in West Africa. It's vision for Ghana is to Manufacture and Export quality steel to the markets of the West African countries and beyond.



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Daniel Asiedu, MD OmniBSIC

OmniBSIC Bank, posts GH¢52.12m profit in 2023 Q1

OmniBSIC Bank Ghana Limited ended the first quarter of 2023 on a positive note, with a stellar performance that defies the challenges facing the local banking sector.

The bank's strong performance resulted in profit before tax growing by 500 per cent to GH¢52.12 million in the first three months of 2023.

OmniBSIC Bank's results showed that profit before tax was GH¢8.69 million in the same

quarter of 2022 but surged to GH¢52.12 million last quarter on the back of strong growth in all revenue lines.

It rose from GH¢58.02 million in the first quarter of 2022 to GH¢176.28 million in the same quarter this year.

The bank grew its loans and advances by 37.4 per cent to GH¢618.13 million in the first quarter of this year.

Loans and advances were GH¢ 449.87 million

in the same period last year but increased on the back of more support extended to businesses and the economy in the first quarter of this year.

While deposits from customers also more than doubled from GH¢1.78 billion in the first quarter of last year to GH¢3.53 billion in the same quarter this year, deposits with banks and other financial institutions rose from about GH¢84.66 million to GH¢242.97 million within the same period.

Realizing the vision through

Ghana Airports Company Limited was incorporated in 2006 with the responsibility for planning, developing, managing and maintaining all airports in Ghana including Kotoka International Airport and the regional airports namely Kumasi, Sunyani, Tamale, Wa and Ho.

The Company has a vision of positioning Ghana as the Preferred Aviation Hub and Leader in Airport Business in West Africa. The mission of the Company is to provide world-class airport facilities and services for the benefit of stakeholders.

Over the past years, the capacity of the various Airports infrastructure and services have been expanded to respond to growing demand. Kumasi and Tamale Airports are being upgraded into International status whilst the rehabilitation of the Wa and Sunyani airports have been completed and opened for commercial operations.

Kumasi Airport

Work on Phase Two (2) of the Kumasi Airport Project began in 2018. It includes the construction of a new Terminal Building to handle one million passengers per annum, two boarding bridges, a road network, perimeter fence, a substation and parking lot among others. The cost of the expansion work is estimated at £66,350,000.

Phase three of the Kumasi Airport Expansion Project involves the extension of the existing runway pavement from 1,981 meters to 2,320 meters, construction of new taxi link and two Apron Parking Stands, an Air Traffic Control Building, and a Fire Station among others. The cost for this phase is estimated at £58,900,000.

The Kumasi Airport is currently served by two domestic carriers namely: Africa World Airlines (AWA) and Passion Air. The Project Contractor is Messrs Contracta Construction UK Ltd.



Kumasi International Airport

Tamale Airport

Work on Phase two of the Tamale Airport Project commenced in July 2019 and is currently at 99% completion. The expansion work is being carried out by QG Construction UK Limited and comprises an Expandable Modular Airport Terminal Building designed for Annual Passenger throughput of 400,000 capacity. The features of the Terminal Building include a VIP lounge; two Boarding Gates; two self-service check-in Kiosks; eight check-in desks; airline offices; commercial retail areas; a Multi-Purpose Terminal to include Hajj travel facilitation and a 5km Road Network among others. The cost of the

project is estimated at US\$70,000,000.

Tamale Airport, designated as an alternate to KIA, is currently the third busiest domestic airport in the country for flights originating from Accra's Kotoka International Airport.

The two main domestic airlines, Africa World Airlines (AWA) and PassionAir, operate daily services with multiple frequencies to the Northern Regional Capital.



Tamale Airport

Sunyani Airport

In March 2016, the operations at the Sunyani Airport were halted due to safety concerns caused by visible deterioration of the airport's airside pavements (runway, taxi link and apron). The GACL commenced rehabilitation works at the cost of GHS52.25 million on October 25, 2019. However, due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 case management restrictions in 2020, the project was halted. The project works recommenced in January 2022 and was completed in July 2022.

The completed project works encompasses the reconstruction and extension of the existing 1,280- meter runway to 1,400-meters, paved and grooved to ensure safe aircraft operations. It also includes rehabilitation of existing taxilink, rehabilitation and upgrade of existing apron, resurfacing of internal roads, minimal renovation of the existing Terminal Building to process 100 passengers per hour. The Terminal Building has been fitted with a public address (PA) system, Flight Information Display Systems (FIDS), Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV), fire detection and protection systems, lighting and ventilation systems, Sewage disposal, water storage and distribution for terminal operations.

The Sunyani Airport was officially commissioned on August 3, 2022 by the President of the Republic, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo at a colorful ceremony. Passion Air has since commenced a 6 times weekly flight.



Sunyani Airport

Airports Development

Flagship Project – Airport City 2

GACL's flagship project dubbed Airport City 2 is a dynamic and sustainable mixed-use development within the environs of the Kotoka International Airport which will feature a new world class urban districts accommodating modern office complexes, private residences, high-end and budget hotels, conference facilities, recreational facilities and shopping centres amongst others.



Airport City 2

The designated project site is about 272 acres of land within the airport enclave. The plan is to develop the site into a high-end mixed-use commercial, residential, lifestyle and entertainment precinct that dovetails into the general landside infrastructure expansion program at the Airport. The development will be complemented by a top-notch multimodal transport system including adequate public and non-motorized transportation.

These development projects reinforces Ghana Airports Company Limited's vision of becoming the Preferred Aviation Hub and Leader in Airport Business in West Africa.

Airport Service Quality Award - Best Airport by Size and Region in Africa (2019, 2020 & 2021)

Since enrolling on the program, KIA has been adjudged Best Airport by size and region (2-5million passengers a year) by the Airports Council International (ACI) in 2019, 2020 & 2021.

In 2018, Ghana Airports Company Limited (GACL) took a strategic decision to register Kotoka International Airport (KIA) as a member of the Airports Council International's (ACI) Airports Service Quality (ASQ) Departures Program. The Program's main objective is to provide research tools and Management Information to better understand passengers' perceptions of Airport Services and Facilities.

Over 80% of the world's 100 key airports are members of the ACI ASQ program. ASQ Programme is conducted in over 330 airports in 82 countries worldwide and covers more than half of the world's 7.5bn annual passengers.

The ASQ Departures Programme by ACI is the only world-renowned and established Global Benchmarking Programme which measures passengers' satisfaction whilst they are traveling through an Airport. ACI's global ASQ programme is the only monitoring tool recognizing excellence, and also provides Airports with objective measurement and Benchmarking to help



drive their performance. The Programme requires the administration of Quarterly Passenger Surveys covering 34 Key Service Areas, including eight major categories, such as Access, Check-in, Passport Control, Security, Directional notices, Airport facilities, Airport Environment and Arrival Services.

Safety Award

Kotoka International Airport was adjudged 'Winner' of the ACI Safety Awards 2022 – Excellence in Safety Management Systems (SMS) for the West Africa sub-region.

Airports Council International, Africa, envisioned these awards to recognize excellence and professionalism in the management of Aerodrome Safety. The awards provide an opportunity for all airport members, irrespective of size including the Domestic and International Aerodromes to celebrate successes in this vital aspect of airport operations. It also presents an opportunity to celebrate the pledge of airports to continuously improve their safety and quality commitments.





Mr. Lawrence Agyinsam (CEO of GEXIM from March 2017 till date)

The Ghana Export-Import Bank

Act 2016 (911) established Ghana- Export-Import Bank (GEXIM) to support the Government of Ghana's quest for a feasible and sustainable export-led economy.

GEXIM is the leading development and policy financial institution supporting the One-District-One Factory (1D1F) Initiative and has to date, financed over 200

projects in the country amongst other groundbreaking initiatives being undertaken by the Bank since 2017 to date.

As part of our efforts to support the Government's

drive to reduce Ghana's import bill by financing and developing import substitute products, GEXIM has deepened its strategic partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration to use its extensive network to champion Ghana's industrialization agenda.

The Bank's strategic engagements with relevant institutions and organizations locally and internationally are in line with its mandate to reposition the Ghanaian economy into an export-led one.

In April 2021, the Management of GEXIM held an information session with the then-newly appointed diplomats to represent Ghana at various diplomatic missions around the world. The session gave the diplomats an insight into the Bank's agenda to transform the Ghanaian economy and highlighted the critical role of foreign missions in achieving this.

On the occasion of Ghana's 65th independence anniversary, GEXIM presented assorted Made-In-Ghana products to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration to be sent to the various Ghanaian missions abroad. It is an opportunity to get foreign missions to promote Made-In-Ghana products globally and utilize their platforms to globalize our staples.

In April 2022, the Bank participated in Fruit Logistica 2022, the world's leading stage for new ideas and concepts for the entire fresh produce value chain in Berlin, Germany. Fruit Logistica 2022, an International

Trade Fair for Fruit and Vegetable Marketing, witnessed over 40,000 trade visitors. There, the Bank held meetings with key stakeholders on creating market access for Ghanaian producers and technical support for Ghanaian farmers.

To discuss operationalizing an existing agreement for a USD300 million guarantee to be provided by the United States Exim Bank, which was signed by the two banks in 2019, officials of GEXIM met with representatives of the Exim Bank of the United States of America in May 2022.

This meeting took place on the sidelines of the 2022 Spring Meeting of the International Union of Credit and Investment Insurers (Berne Union) held in Istanbul, Turkey. Reta Jo Lewis, the new President, and Chair of the Board of Directors, led the US Exim team. In addition, the meeting afforded the two teams the opportunity to explore ways of deepening the existing relationship as well as identifying ways of building synergy and possible collaboration in areas of mutual interest and benefit.

Following the launch of the National AfCFTA Policy Framework and Action Plan in August 2022, a team from the AfCFTA Coordination Office led by the National Coordinator, Dr. Fareed Arthur paid a courtesy call to the Management of GEXIM. This was to discuss areas of building synergies towards the harmonization of existing laws, programs, policies, and regulations to boost Ghana's trade



Atlantic LifeSciences Limited a pharmaceutical manufacturing plant at Larkpleku in Ningo Prampram in the Greater Accra Region

with Africa under the AfCFTA.

Ending global hunger is one of the greatest challenges and opportunities of our time. The US Government as part of its Global Hunger and Food Security Initiative has introduced “Feed the Future”, to give families and communities in some of the world's poorest countries the freedom and opportunity to lift themselves out of food insecurity and malnutrition.

GEXIM is collaborating with USAID for the Ghana Feed The Future Trade and Investment (GTI) Activity to integrate the principles of enterprise-driven development and market systems development that spurs enterprise-level productivity and growth by improving the systems in which firms operate. It is refreshing to state that GEXIM in August 2022 created a home for Made-In-Ghana products at its headquarters, on the ground floor of the Africa Trade House. Dubbed GEXIM MiG Town, an outfit stock of assorted, innovative, well-packaged Made-In-Ghana products ranging from food and ingredients, beverages, skin, beauty care products, textiles, apparel, garments, leather footwear, and many others. Open to the general public from Mondays to Fridays between 9:00 am and 6:00 pm, it is designed to be a one-stop shop for everything Made-In-Ghana at unbeatable prices and the highest quality.

The Bank participated in the maiden edition of Expo Ghana 2022. A business forum and special exhibition of Made-in-Ghana products was held in London, United Kingdom in July 2022. Whilst in London, the Deputy Chief Executive Officer responsible for Banking, Rosemary Beryl Archer, met with the management of Wanis International Foods, one

of Europe's leading food and drink wholesalers with an unrivaled range of over 10,000 world food products from over 900 brands.

The Bank is therefore making strides in its efforts to deepen international relations with the state and non-state actors.

Financing the private sector in key sectors such as the pharmaceutical industry has been our focus.

To this end, His Excellency, President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, in April 2022 commissioned Atlantic Life Science Limited, a pharmaceutical manufacturing plant at Larkpleku in Ningo Prampram in the Greater Accra Region as part of efforts to boost the local manufacture of serum and vaccines. Atlantic Lifesciences Ltd is a \$35 million plant with one of the highest production capacities in West Africa and is expected to manufacture infusions and anesthetic medicines, serum, vaccines, ear, eye, and nasal drops for the West African market. The Bank invested \$10 million into the project. This underscores the government's continued support to the private sector to take advantage of the economic opportunities in the country and Africa.

In August 2022, His Excellency, President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo inspected the Global Amass Processing Limited, a yam and cassava processing company in Bimbilla, in the Northern Region. The company is one of the footprints of GEXIM's intervention in Ghana's industrialization drive. The company has taken advantage of the availability of local raw materials to process yam and cassava flour for both domestic and foreign markets. The company produces 1000 cartons of Yam Fufu

Flour daily under the brand name Almas Yam Fufu Flour, requiring the purchasing of 10,000 tubers of yam daily.

Following Ghana's emergence as the highest Global exporter of yam in 2021 according to the Ghana Export Promotions Authority, GEXIM has committed to invest \$10 million into the yam value chain to boost productivity and increase export.

In 2023, the Bank will deepen engagement with Stakeholders within the export value space to boost Ghana's Export in particular and work closely with AfCFTA local Coordination Office to facilitate the implementation of the National AfCFTA policy framework and Action plan.

The Bank will also step up support to qualified businesses to export on AfCFTA platforms of the International Union of Credit and Investment Insurers (Berne Union) held in Istanbul, Turkey. Reta Jo Lewis, the new President, and Chair of the Board of Directors, led the US Exim team. In addition, the meeting afforded the two teams the opportunity to explore ways of deepening the existing relationship as well as identifying ways of building synergy and possible collaboration in areas of mutual interest and benefit.

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MAJOR GENERAL KOTIA PROFILE

Soldier, Peacekeeper, Academic, Government Chieftain

Major General Emmanuel Kotia is a man of many professional parts, all of which are of crucial use in his role as the Commissioner General of the Ghana Boundary Commission

The sheer professional pedigree of Major General (Dr) Emmanuel Wekem Kotia, reflects the vital importance of both the Ghana Boundary Commission (GhBC) itself and job of chairing it. Simply put he is one of Africa's most accomplished – and deservedly globally respected – experts on military issues, conflict resolution and peacekeeping all rolled into one. A doctorate degree holder in political science; a two star general with several tours of duty under his belt commanding Ghanaian battalions on

United Nations and ECOWAS international military missions across several continents; and a globally respected academician who is a visiting professor at universities in both the United States and the United Kingdom; as well as a visiting lecturer at institutions all around the world including America's West Point, the most globally respected military academy in the world; he is highly educated, deeply skilled and vastly experienced across military activities, conflict resolution and peacekeeping. Add to this his iron-clad self-discipline which he applies to himself and demands of those who work with him.

This makes him much more than highly adequate for the task of chairing the institution that secures and protects Ghana's boundaries and thus its territorial integrity; it makes him perfect. Of course though, it is not just the GhBC that enjoys his extraordinary expertise and experience. His current executive position is that of Deputy Commandant and Senior Lecturer at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre in Accra, a position he has held since 2016. But from there, he meets a plethora of responsibilities, ranging from military, through academic to state governance including that of providing strategic direction and technical prowess to GhBC.

The foundation for his sterling professional success has been his academic aptitude. Having started out by getting a diploma from the Ghana Armed Forces Command & Staff College (GAFSC) in 1999, he went on to obtain a post graduate certificate in Public Administration from the Ghana Institute for Management and Public Administration (GIMPA) and a Competencies Certificate in Peace Support Operations.

But this was just the beginning. In 2004, he secured a bachelors degree in political science from the University of Ghana, Legon. A year later he had bagged a masters degree in Global Security from Cranfield University in the UK. He crowned all these with a doctorate degree in political science from the

University of Ghana in 2012.

Although still a career soldier, Major General Kotia has been embraced both at home and abroad by the academia, both mainstream and military. He is a Clinical Professor for the PhD programme in International Conflict Management at the Kennesaw State University graduate school in Atlanta, USA.

He is also a visiting professor at the Graduate School of International Relations, University of Bedfordshire, Luton, United Kingdom and has been a visiting lecturer at the Georgia Institute of Technology, International Relations Department, Atlanta, Georgia, and USA in 2013.

But perhaps most instructively he has been a visiting lecturer at the globally acclaimed United States Military Academy (USMA), Department of Social Sciences, West Point, New York, from 2013 to date.

Back at home in Ghana he is a lecturer at the Ghana Police Command and Staff College, Winneba and a senior lecturer at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) where he teaches courses in Gender, War and Conflict in Africa; National Security Framework; and Contemporary and Emerging Security Issues at the Masters of Arts course in Conflict, Peace and Security; and Master of Arts course in Gender, Peace and Security.

Between 2009 and 2013 he lectured at GIMPA School of Governance and Leadership at the post graduate level. He is currently also a senior lecturer as the Ghana Armed Forces Command and Staff College (GAFSC); an external examiner for the Political Science Department, University of Ghana; an external evaluator for the National Accreditation Board, Ghana (Responsible for assessing courses at Universities for accreditation); as well as an academic thesis supervisor for post graduate courses at both the KAIPTC and the GAFSC.

As the Deputy Commandant of KAIPTC, he is

responsible for the administration and supervision of Directors and is the supervising authority over the Women, Peace and Security Institute and other agencies under the office of the Commandant. Before his current position at the Centre he was Chief Instructor, from 2012 to 2016 and before that he was the Centre's Course Director. Prior to taking up those positions at the Centre he had held several purely military positions (although several of them involved international peacekeeping operations) culminating in his becoming a Directing Staff/Lecturer at the GAFSC in Accra.

Between 2005 and 2009 he was Commanding Officer, 66 Artillery Regiment of the Ghana Army, responsible for the general direction of operations and control of all the Ghana Armed Forces Artillery guns and resources on charge. This was after serving as Commanding Officer of the Ghana Battalion of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

Prior to that he had held various positions - three of which were at the 66 Artillery Regiment, and others at GAFSC and Ghana Military Academy. His military career has also included four tours of duty - each at ever higher levels of authority - at the UNIFIL, as well as peacekeeping assignments with the United Nations Mission in Congo (MONUC), as **Deputy Commanding Officer** of the Ghana Battalion in 2002; Military Observer to the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), between 1994 – 1995; staff officer at the United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR), 1993 – 1994; Deputy Company Commander of the Ghana Battalion at the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) 1992 – 1993; and Artillery Forward Observation Officer of the Ghana Battalion that formed part of ECOWAS Monitoring Force in Liberia (ECOMOG).





The Institution That Protects Ghana's Territorial Integrity

The Ghana Boundary Commission, may be little known but is the institution of state that ensures that the country's boundaries are known and respected, thus ensuring that its natural resources remain its own. Its vital importance explains why it is headed by one of Ghana's most accomplished professionals – a career soldier and globally respected military and conflict resolution academician

The Ghana Boundary Commission (GhBC), an agency under the supervisory purview of the Ministry of Land and Natural Resources, is one of the lesser known of the country's institutions of state, at least among the general public. But although unknown to most, it is also one of Ghana's most important government agencies, a status that has been enhanced to that of an agency of absolutely critical importance since Ghana became a commercial producer of oil and gas a little over a decade ago, and thus became a target for surreptitious maritime domain grabs by its neighbours.

The GhBC was established in March 2010 by Parliament through Act 795. Its overriding mandate is to act as Ghana's trustee in partnering the country's neighbours to secure its territorial integrity, ensuring international boundaries are protected and respected based on international best practice in demarcating and delimiting national boundaries.

This is of crucial importance for a heavily resource endowed country such as Ghana.

Despite the country's history of good, peaceful relations with its geographical immediate neighbours, it is inevitable that some interests within them – with the technical support of both their indigenous and international technical collaborators – are looking on with envious eyes. As Ghana continues to discover oil and gas fields, as well as solid mineral resources, such as gold and most recently lithium, that are increasingly close to its borders, attempts at grabbing them by changing the country's international borders are virtually inevitable.

It is instructive that Côte d'Ivoire instigated first ever significant Ghana's maritime boundary dispute in 2007, just as the latter announced the discovery of its first ever discovery of oil and gas in commercial quantities in what came to be dubbed the Jubilee oilfield. It is equally instructive that in 2018, just a year after Ghana had won judgment over the Côte d'Ivoire's claim at a specialized international maritime court, and shortly after Ghana had begun issuing exploration licenses in the easternmost part of the country following positive geological survey

findings by the Ghana National Petroleum Corporation, the Republic of Togo instigated a similar maritime boundary dispute. Under international law Ghana was forced to suspend oil exploration and fishing activities in the disputed areas. The dispute is still being resolved, with Ghana being represented by the GhBC.

To head off such situations, preferably before they even arise, the GhBC was created with the vision of its serving to ensure that Ghana's boundaries are secured and managed within the framework of international law, peace and security and the Africa Union and ECOWAS protocols of African and sub-regional integration.

To achieve this the Commission is active across five core areas. One is the securing of the land and maritime boundaries of Ghana. Here, the GhBC's task is to demarcate, delimit, secure and maintain Ghana's land and maritime boundaries in collaboration with neighbouring countries. Another is to lead government's processes for the settlement and resolution of

boundary disputes and issues of boundary security in accordance with international law and good neighborliness.

The Commission also seeks to improve cross border governance and community development through bilateral co-operation and joint programmes with neighboring countries. Add to this the responsibility for providing research and evidence based policy advice and support to government on appropriate strategic positions towards the management and maintenance of Ghana's boundaries.

But the immediate focus of the GhBC has been to build its institutional capacity as an agile and effective national security organization for securing Ghana's boundaries. This is a pivotal priority after its having taken ten years from the establishment of the Commission as a legal entity in 2010 to the putting in place of operational and administrative machinery – including the appointment of its first chief executive – in July 2020.

Indeed only government stepped up the evolution and capacity building of the GhBC when it was confronted with novel boundary disputes on both its western and eastern maritime boundaries, winning the former at a specialized international maritime court in 2017 but then facing a new one on its eastern boundary just a year later.

To be sure though, government has made up for its slow start with the sheer quality of institutional governance and technical skill it has deployed to the GhBC over the past few years.

The Commission has a 15 member inter-ministerial Governing Body which is the highest policy making body of the agency, setting strategic policy direction and the medium to long term agenda, as well as approving work plans and budgets and reviewing the Commission's performance against operational objectives and targets. Its members include the Ministers for Lands and Natural Resources; Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration; Defence; and Justice. High level representatives of the Ministries of Energy; Food and Agriculture; Transport and Local Government also serve on the Body. Add to these, representatives of the Ministry of National Security, the Customs and Excise Division of the Ghana Revenue Authority; the Ghana Institutions of Surveyors and Geoscientists respectively.

But the strongest evidence of government's belated but now unwavering recognition of the vital importance of the GhBC is the pedigree of its Commissioner General – Major General Dr Emmanuel Wekem Kotia, arguably the most skilled experienced and globally reputed peacekeeper and conflict resolution professional to be produced by Africa as a whole. (See following story.) A career soldier and globally respected academician specializing in keeping the peace and resolving conflicts, the choice of



Major General (Dr) Emmanuel Wekem Kotia

Major General Kotia to head this key institution of state demonstrates a prudent "carrot and stick" stance by the Government of Ghana which sends a clear message to its neighbors – Ghana is ready and willing to live peacefully and in cooperation with its neighbours based on mutual respect for each other's boundaries and negotiated resolutions of any disputes; but is at the same time ready to defend those boundaries against illegal encroachment with its military.

The GhBC is now deep into its core work. Importantly, the Commission has focused on negotiations with the Republic of Togo over the long standing maritime dispute with Ghana. To this end GhBC, in 2021, re-opened negotiations with Togo, which had stalled for several years and significant progress has been made since then towards a permanent resolution.

A Joint Ghana-Togo Maritime Technical Committee has been established, which has agreed on a road map to deal with the dispute. Coordinates of the land boundary between Ghana and Togo – an important pillar for determining the starting point for delimiting the maritime boundary – have been agreed on as have the nautical chart, baseline and starting point for delimiting the maritime boundary.

Expectedly all this will enable Ghana's oil and gas exploration – as well as fishing activities – to

continue at its eastern end, where recent surveys have shown huge potential for new oil and gas finds.

The GhBC is also being very proactive, holding discussions with the National Boundary Commission of Nigeria on joint processes towards the proper delimitation of the common maritime boundary between the two countries and their overlapping continental shelf beyond the Exclusive Economic Zone.

Work is ongoing with regards to Ghana's land borders too, although this is less pressing than the immediate maritime boundary concerns.

To be sure there is lots of work to be done. Ghana's total land boundary amounts to some 229 kilometers, comprising a 789 km land border with Togo; 661 km with Cote d'Ivoire; and 556 km with Burkina Faso to the north.

Add to all this the 200 nautical miles Exclusive Economic Zone which Ghana enjoys just as with every other coastal nation.

All this means a lot of skill, effort, negotiations and legal expertise will have to be deployed by GhBC. But if the pedigree of its chairman is anything to go by, the Commission can be relied on to retain the territorial integrity of the country and with it the vast natural resources that interests within the country's neighbours will inevitably continue to covet.



Mr David Eduaful, MD Labadi Beach Hotel

Labadi Beach Hotel Makes History With Experienced Ghanaian As First MD

Ghana's premier five-star hotel, Labadi Beach Hotel has appointed Mr. David Eduaful as Managing Director of the hotel. David Eduaful is an accomplished hospitality professional with over 30 years of experience in the industry. He is the first ever Ghanaian Managing Director of a five-star hotel in the country having previously served in various capacities in the hotel.

With his extensive knowledge and expertise, David has successfully played both a strategic and operational role in the hotel. His diverse local and international experience has provided him with a comprehensive understanding of different aspects of the sector.

David's educational background includes an Executive Masters in Business Administration from the University of Ghana Business School and a Degree in Marketing from the Central University in Ghana.

Commenting on the landmark appointment, Professor Douglas Boateng, Acting Chairman of the Board said "David's commitment to service delivery quality, client relationship management and unquestionable passion for the hospitality industry continues to receive admiration from the supervisory Board of the hotel and his peers".

Since its inception in 1991, the Hotel has led Ghana's hospitality industry, providing exceptional services to its cherished guests, and thus contributing immensely to the Tourism sector and by extension the economy of Ghana.

Set amidst tropical landscaped gardens, adjacent to one of Ghana's most popular beaches in the Country's central business district, the hotel caters for business and leisure travelers.

Labadi Beach Hotel which started with 104 rooms in 1991 can now boast of 164 rooms including 2 Presidential Suites, 4 Executive Suites, 4 Superior

Suites, 5 Bars, 2 restaurants, a 900- seater multipurpose conference and banqueting facilities, a Spa with plunge pool, well-equipped Gym, Lagoon for fishing, 2 plush Leisure and lap pools on a sprawling tropical landscaped garden overlooking the natural Maale Lagoon.

Clientele of the hotel have included the British Monarchy, Heads of state, Prime Ministers, and very important personalities who continue to make it their preferred resort for business and leisure activities.

Speaking to the press, Mr. David Eduaful said, "The success story of this indigenous brand can be attributed to its innovative approach, an adaptation of the highest standards of operation and service delivery through its dedicated and most passionate staff who go the extra mile to exceed the expectations of customers".

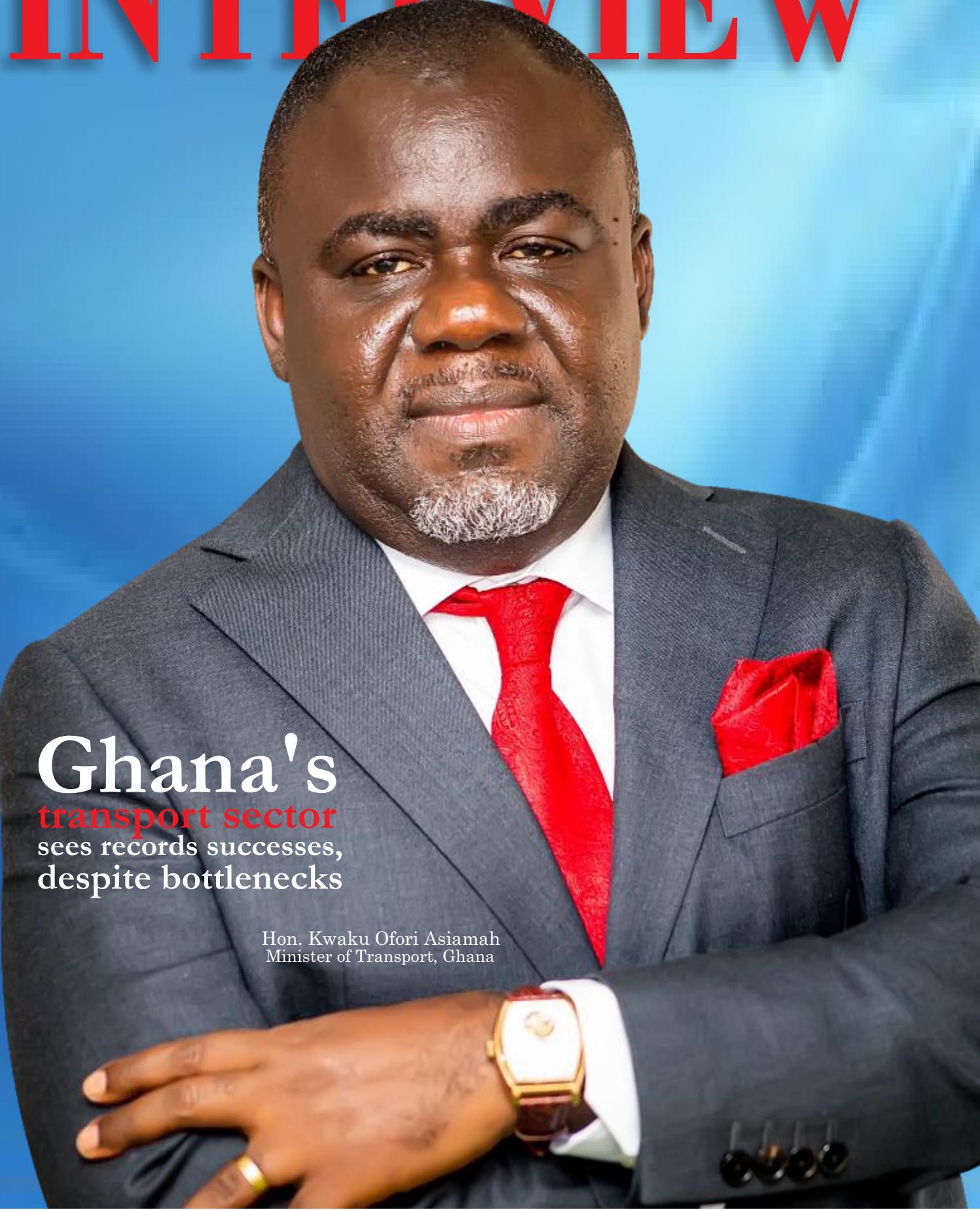
Labadi Beach Hotel has consolidated its lead in the Hospitality industry by winning many awards including recently the coveted CIMG Hospitality Facility of the Year 2018, 2019 and 2021 respectively, Best Maintained Facility 2019, Best Events Hotel Venue 2019 & 2020 respectively, Best 5-star Hotel of the Year award 2020 & 2021 respectively, Most Secure Hotel of the Year 2021, Most Digitalized Hotel of the Year 2021 organized by the Ghana Hotels Association and Hospitality Company of the Year 2022 awarded by Ghana Business Awards.

In March 2023 the hotel paid a GHc10 million dividend to SSNIT, its sole shareholder.

"With the unwavering support of the Board of Directors coupled with his strong leadership skills, and support from his management team, we are confident that David Eduaful will continue to make the hotel the most admired both locally and regionally". Professor Boateng further stated on behalf of the entire board.



THE INTERVIEW



Ghana's
transport sector
sees records successes,
despite bottlenecks

Hon. Kwaku Ofori Asiamah
Minister of Transport, Ghana

Ghana's transport sector sees records successes, despite bottlenecks

By Martin-Luther C. King

Despite diverse challenges, Ghana's transport sector continues to record outstanding successes and make tremendous contributions to the country's gross domestic product, gdp, value, Minister of Transport, Honourable Kwaku OforiAsiamah, has said.

The sector comprises of four subsectors

namely, road transport, water and inland, aviation and the railway subsectors. In 2022, it contributed some GHS 2735.75 million to Ghana's GDP, as at September of that year, according to the trading economy platform.

Speaking exclusively to *The Corporate Guardian Magazine* recently in Accra, Mr.

Asiamh said the sector's importance cannot be downplayed as it literally impacts every sector of the economy.

"The importance of the transportation sector cannot be overemphasized as its contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the economy of Ghana is visibly evident. The movement of goods and services, and carriage of passengers within the country and outside of the country is made possible through the transportation sector. It contributes to every other sector of the economy like Agriculture, Health, Education as well as the manufacturing sector. The trading economy platform recorded GHS 2735.75 million as contribution of the transport sector to the GDP as at September, 2022. The Government over the years has implemented and continues to implement other programmes to improve transportation in the country. Programmes like the Tema and Takoradi Ports expansion works, rehabilitation of the Sunyani and Wa airports, upgrade of Kumasi and Tamale airports to international status and the construction of Terminal Three (T3) at (the Kotoka International Airport), KIA, Accra. Also the government is constructing a railway line from Tema to Mpakadan to augment the Eastern Corridor roads and primarily facilitate the movement of goods to and from the northern sector of the country," the minister said.

However, bottlenecks still beset the sector. These include, for the road transport sub-sector, weak enforcement of road traffic laws, lack of comprehensive programme for driver training, and dwindling bus fleet. The maritime sub-sector also faces its own peculiar challenges ranging from lack of adequate funding for Volta Lake Transport Company infrastructure development, handling of freight export at the airport to unseaworthy vessels and illegal activities in the country's maritime domain.

Similar problems beset the aviation industry, including lack of working capital for the aircraft accident and incident prevention and investigation bureau.

But no matter the enormity of the challenges, Transport Minister assured of the government's 'keen attention' to addressing them, regardless. This keen attention has reduced the road crash incidence on Ghana's roads; and, made the aviation sector one of the safest in the sub region, he said.

"Safety of transportation in Ghana has received keen attention from successive



governments. Thousands of deaths and injuries have been recorded through road accidents for the past years but the government has also put in place various measures to deal with road crashes. Traffic management programmes, like public sensitizations, mandate enhancement of Road Safety Commission to an Authority, retooling of the Motor Transport and Traffic Directorate of the Ghana Police Service are some of the programs being implemented. This has reduced the road crash incidence on our roads. Again, the aviation sector is one of the safest in the sub region. In 2019, Ghana received an award in Aviation safety called the ICAO Council President Certificate in Aviation Safety. This was in recognition of strides Ghana made in 2018 towards the resolution of safety oversight deficiencies and improvement in the EI of related ICAO SARPs. The water and inland transport sub sector, has also seen relative safety due to measures been put in place by the government to ensure safe transportation in Ghanaian waters. In summary, the transportation in Ghana is safe and more programs are being rolled out to ensure safer transportation system in the country,” he asserted.

According to him specific steps being taken to resolve the challenges in the road transport sector include,

- reassessment of the issue of enforcement;
- provision of basic equipment and PPEs to the Ghana Police Service to help them with their work;
- directive to the Drivers and Vehicles Licensing Authority and National Road Safety Authority to come out with a proposal for refresher training for drivers;
- procurement of a hundred (100) intercity buses for the Metro Mass Transit Ltd (MMTL) as part of measures to improve mass transportation, with a first batch of 45 buses already delivered and operationalised and contract signed for delivery of the remaining 55; and
- completion of Value for Money Audit for the supply of 500 units of intercity buses for public and private sector operators.

Similarly, in the maritime transport sector, they include,

- commencement of the



procurement processes, following Cabinet and Parliamentary approvals, for a loan facility from the Korean Exim Bank, to engage a consultant and contractor to execute the Volta Lake Transport Improvement Project;

- directive to the Ghana Shippers' Authority and Ghana Airport Company Limited to address shipper complaints on freight handling at the airport; and
- directive to the Ghana Maritime Authority and Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority to scale-up monitoring and enforcement activities on the country's maritime and inland waterways.

Also, in the aviation sector, the steps include,

- amendment of the Ghana Civil Aviation Authority Act 678, 2004 to Act 906 in 2016;
- amendment of Act 906, 2016 to 985, 2019;
- passage of an act to establish the Aircraft Accident and Incident Investigation and Prevention Bureau to investigate, prevent, regulate and oversee the management of aviation incidence; and
- plans by the Ministry of Transportation to engage with Aircraft Accident and Incident Prevention and Investigation



Hon. Kwaku Ofori Asiamah, Minister of Transport

Bureau to look at the Bureau's work programme.

In addition, studies have been initiated that will lead up to the building of an airport at either the Western or Central region, or in-between the two regions.

The Transportation Minister's very words: "As part of programs to make Ghana an aviation hub, the government has initiated studies to build an airport at Western, Central region or in between the two regions. Currently, feasibility study on the western/central airport has been prepared and submitted to the ministry for further deliberations. Other studies are ongoing at other selected locations of regions without airports. The government since assuming power in 2017, has continued all project it inherited from the previous government and notable among them were the Kumasi Airport upgrade to international airport Phase I and upgrade of Tamale Airport to international airport phase I. the government after completing the phase I of the above mentioned project, also

secured funding for the construction of Phases II and III of the Kumasi airport and Phase II of the Tamale Airport. Tamale Airport Project has been completed and is awaiting commissioning, while work is still ongoing on the Kumasi Airport project."

The minister said the government was also prioritizing the safe launching and landing of artisanal fishers as well as prevention and reduction of post-harvest losses. Accordingly, it has embarked on the development of 12 fishing landing sites and 2 fishing ports, with select communities along the coast benefitting from the spin-off facilities such as the breakwater, quay wall, fish markets, net mending sheds, ice-block making plant as well other social amenities. The beneficiary towns include Axim, Dixcove, Winneba, Mumford, Abandze, Senya Beraku, Gomoa Fetteh, Teshie, Keta, Osu, Otuam, Moree, Elmina, James town.

Ghana, he revealed, has engaged the Korean Government for the execution of the Volta Lake Improvement Project, which component includes the provision of vessels and equipment, integrated management services, landing stages and reception facilities, shipyard slipway and other equipment. At completion, the project will strategically position the Volta Lake Transport Company to provide effective transportation on the Volta Lake, according to the minister.

He also elaborated on similar strides being made in the road transport sub-sector.

For instance, government, as part of measures to improve mass transportation and effectively manage the traffic incidence in the country, plans to introduce electric buses for both intra and inter-city transport. Additionally, certain specific laws and regulations are being reviewed, even as the Drafting Instructions of the Road Traffic Amendment bill has been completed and awaiting parliamentary passage.

Similarly, the National Road Safety Authority has successfully launched a campaign themed *Arrive Alive*, and introduced Phase II of another campaign dubbed *Stay Alive* both of which, he said, combine education, advocacy and enforcement to fight the menace of road crashes. The campaigns, he noted, have emboldened passengers to speak up against bad driving on Ghana's roads; and, resulted in about 20% reduction in road crashes in 2022 as against the 2021 figures.

Additionally, before transport fares are adjusted either upwards or downwards, the Ministry, he said, meets with the transport operator unions to discuss the adjustments. And, this practice which has subsisted over the years, has fostered very cordial relationship between the Ministry and the transport operators. However, he lamented, paucity of resources continues to hamper his ministry's preparedness to do even more than it is doing now.

"In an economy best described as lower middle income, or a developing economy, the most known challenge that hinders development is the lack of resources to execute project. The Ministry has initiated a lot of policies and programmes to position Ghana as an aviation hub in the sub-region, but lack of adequate financial resource is slowing the pace of progress. Government, realizing these constraints, is pursuing other forms of project financing like the Public Private Partnership (PPP) among other tested forms. This will ensure the participation of private investors in the development process," he stated.

END

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I USE PAINTING TO MASK MY PAIN

– Ijeoma Ogwuegwu

The pain is there and there's hardly anything I can do about it. And it can switch in seconds. It can go from manageable pain level to pain so excruciating that you are screaming.

IJEOMA OGWUEGBU, WRITER AND ARTIST, WAS DIAGNOSED WITH FIBROMYALGIA IN 2019

How exactly can one describe Ijeoma Ogwuegbu? For one, to say she is strong would be a gross understatement. You might also be tempted to say resilient, but that's word she doesn't quite like. Let's just say then that this very special woman and artist, who has been battling Fibromyalgia since January 2019 is one of those our young women whose story won't fail to inspire you. Find out more in this chat with The Interview.

You were diagnosed with fibromyalgia in 2019; how did it all began?

I developed fibromyalgia January, 2019. It started after I felt a sharp pain in my back from there it got worse and I eventually got diagnosed November, 2019.

Was your diagnosis straightforward or you had to jump through loops and hoops to discover what was wrong with you?

My diagnosis wasn't straight forward. I started having symptoms in January and only got diagnosed in December of the same year. I had to go to so many places; hospitals for tests.

In the end it cost me almost a million naira trying to find out what exactly was wrong

with me and it was only towards the end and it was by chance.

I was writing a lot about my symptoms on Facebook and a friend saw it and replied that what I was talking about sounded like a rheumatological issue, and that they had a rheumatologist that I could see. So, I had to go see a rheumatologist and that's when I got my diagnosis.

What exactly is fibromyalgia in layman's terms?

In layman's terms fibromyalgia just means your body is interpreting everything that comes to it as pain.

A subtle breeze can feel like crushing pain and you have stabbing pains all over your body.

Then it also affects your brain in the sense that you can't remember things.

You can't store memory; you lose some memories from the past.

Imagine waking in the morning and you won't feel refreshed. That's one of the symptoms of fibromyalgia. You sleep and when you wake up, it's like you didn't sleep at all. It's like you went to war in your dream and your whole body aches

Many Nigerians are not aware of this condition and therefore may not understand what you

are going through; Can you tell us more about it?

So, basically, it just affects your body and your brain and you are in constant pain every moment of the day.

The only thing that changes is whether the pain is high or low.

Some people have to use a wheelchair.

I currently use a walking cane because it affects the joints, bones, skin and muscles;



you have pains in all of these areas.

Basically, imagine waking in the morning and you won't feel refreshed. That's one of the symptoms of fibromyalgia.

You sleep and when you wake up, it's like you didn't sleep at all. It's like you went to war in your dream and your whole body aches.

Sometimes, the pain is so bad that you actually scream out loud, and sometimes you find yourself just crying.

I told someone that I cry at least once a day just because of the pain.

What are the most challenging aspects of Fibromyalgia you've had to deal with?

I have become kind of disabled because of it.

Then when you go out you realise that so many disabled people can't even access even buildings.

Sometimes buildings are not built in a way that allows disabled people to move around.

For instance, if you have a wheelchair or a walking cane, sometimes a building four or five flights of stairs without a lift.

So, there is no way for you as a disabled person to actually assess so many buildings in Nigeria.

And even the new buildings are being built in Nigeria without the same kind of consideration that is necessary.

So, that's one major thing for me; the fact that we are building and basically pretending that an entire segment of the society which are the disabled do not exist.

You recently completed a 60 by 100inches dot art painting; how does that make you feel?

Sometimes just seeing that painting is almost like an out of body experience because I just think 'wow was I the one who actually did this'.

And it makes me feel good because I started painting mostly because I wanted to feel something other than pain; something that would move me and making arts and seeing other people experience my art is actually very moving for me because it's good to feel like the thing you felt that made you do it is something that other people can feel as well.

It took me almost two and half months to finish it because there are some days I couldn't work at all because I was in so much pain.

And then, there were days I worked because I was in so much pain, because I wanted to allow my mind to travel in other ways.

The pain is there and there's hardly anything I can do about it.

And it can switch in seconds. It can go from manageable pain level to pain so excruciating that you are screaming.

Really, there is not much that you can actually do about it.

So, it's like this is what's happening in your body; this is what happening to your body, so what are you going to do?

Are you going to be this person that is in constant pain or are you going to be someone who survives in spite of the pain or whatever it is you are feeling in your body?

How has this affected you, especially as a single mother of three children?

Yes, it affects my parenting a lot but I have been blessed with children who are just so resilient, though I don't want to use the word 'resilient' for them because that's not a word I like.

But every time something happens, just watching how they react to it and deal with it, is so inspiring to me personally because it helps see that, yes, you might be in pain, you might be hurting in so many ways but you know, you can still move forward fully acknowledging your pain.

And I'm very comfortable in doing that in the sense that they let me know how they're feeling and what they're feeling, whether it's sadness, anger, whether it's pain about the situation.

They let me know about that and I try to be there for them in that sense. In other ways there are so many things we can't do.

I can't run around with them.

There are so many places I can't go to with them but when we are together I try as much as possible to make it something that's memorable for them or something that they remember because I know that personally for myself I remember so many moments with my parents and some of those thoughts are very comforting now.

So, I want to also give them that so they have a kind of my memory bank.

Sometimes just seeing that painting is almost like an out of body experience because I just think 'wow was I the one



who actually did this'

Do you think there's an enabling environment for people like yourself to thrive?

In Nigeria we cannot say that there is an enabling environment for anyone to survive.

The way our country is at the moment is not conducive for anyone. Nobody should have to live the way we live in Nigeria with all the forms of stress we are forced to endure and terrible government, bad roads, and just the lack of value for human lives.

Nobody should have to go through that.

Then of course when you think about it, it's not working for anybody; able or disabled. It's not working for anybody so I can't even say that there is a conducive environment.

There is no conducive environment in Nigeria for a human being to exist in a way that they are valued.

Your last word

I'm grateful for the attention that my work is getting and because it's something that is conducive for my body physically right now.

It's not perfect because I still have to make sure I don't over work, I still have to make sure I don't stay in one position for too long because that can be crippling.

And I hope that this becomes something that I can look back to in the future and say, 'you know what, that happened and I was part of it, and I'm better for it.'



Sandra Mills

Head, Corporate Communications
and Marketing, GIFEC

Corporate Personality **MS. SANDRA MILLS**

“Leadership is the art of giving people a platform for spreading ideas that move”

Ms. Sandra Mills is a Communications Professional with over 13 years' practical experience and extensive knowledge in diverse areas of communications, stakeholder management, monitoring and evaluation, and project sustainability. Currently the Head of Corporate Affairs at Ghana Investment Fund for Electronic Communications (GIFEC), Ms. Mills is responsible for planning and supervising the operations of the Unit, which is to primarily, maintain a favourable relationship between GIFEC and its publics.

A prolific writer, she is responsible for the writing of Speeches, Press Releases, Articles, Annual Reports and other writeups for GIFEC.

She has superintended the improvement of channels of communication and instituted new ways of setting up a two-way flow of information and understanding with GIFEC's publics, and significantly projected the Fund's activities and achievements, thereby enhancing the Fund's image.

She has effectively improved internal communication channels, by providing prompt update of all GIFEC-related activities and achievements to staff.

As Head of Corporate Affairs, she has ensured the branding of all GIFEC-equipped ICT labs, facilitated the commissioning of 30 GIFEC projects, and increased GIFEC's online presence by 50% in 2022 alone.

Ms. Mills has worked in other Units within GIFEC, including Sustainability and Partnership, Research, Monitoring and Evaluation, which has deepened her appreciation for effective and efficient Project Management, as a key cost-saving mechanism and project sustainability, as well as the communication of achievements thereof, to the public.

She has worked with the International Institute of ICT Journalism – Penplusbytes, as the Programmes Associate, in varied areas of journalism, communications and the application of modern Information and Communications Technology (ICT) tools for the advancement of communications,

journalism and elections in Africa.

In this role, she provided leadership in the writing and editing of press releases, articles, proposals and quarterly reports to Donor Partners. She also assisted in training interns, and gained knowledge and experience in the compilation and writing of financial reports for the organisation. Through her work and experience, Sandra has enhanced her communications, interpersonal and team management skills. She is results-oriented, an excellent multitasker and coordinator.

Ms. Mills holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration from the Central

University and a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Ghana, Legon. She also has a Certificate in Public Relations from the University of Cape Town, South Africa and a Certificate in Project Cycle Management from the Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER) – University of Ghana. She is also a Certified Sustainability Practitioner and has received extensive training in Leadership, Emotional Intelligence and Business Communications.

Ms. Mills enjoys music, singing, dancing, playing word games and jigsaw puzzles.





Nancy Assor
ASIEDU-AMRADO

Nancy Assor ASIEDU-AMRADO

(Chartered Marketer)

I am governed by being disciplined, well organized, staying focused, pursuing excellence, and seeking God's divine direction to excel.

In a field dominated by men, many women have been excelling in their various roles. AirtelTigo, one of the leading telecommunications companies, recognizes and values the contributions of women to its business. In a move to embrace equity, the company is highlighting some women whose impact on the organization has been significant.

In this week's profile, Nancy Assor Asiedu-Amrado shares her achievements within the company, the influence of mentorship on her career, and her commitment to helping other women thrive.

Background

Mrs. Nancy Assor Asiedu-Amrado, is a marketing professional and the Head of Brands and Communications at AirtelTigo. She was born at Atibie-Kwahu in the Eastern Region and is a native of Akyem Hemang in the Fanteakwa South District. She is married to Surv. Alex Asiedu Amrado and has three children.

Education

Assor started her basic school education at CKC Baptist International School at Mpraeso Kwahu and later continued at Nana Kwaku Boateng Experimental school in Koforidua (a school that has produced many distinguished personalities in Ghana including our eminent NSMQ Quiz Mistress, Professor Effah Haufman, Sammy Awuku, Abeiku Santana, just to mention a few). Growing up, she had a dream to pursue General Science at Aburi Girls to become a pharmacist, but before her BECE results were released, Assor had a change of mind to pursue Business instead.

Except for her brother Jones who understood her strong conviction and the burning desire to switch subjects, no one else in the family was convinced. It took a lot of persuasion for her dad to come to terms with her new interest despite having the good grades, to pursue General Science. Her dad had to now find a school in the Eastern Region that offered Business since her preferred choice, Aburi Girls did not offer the program. He successfully found one school on top of the cool mountain, Okuapeman Secondary School and that propelled her to pursue Bachelor of Education (Social Sciences, Accounting and Management) at the University of Cape Coast.

How did you end up in your role as a Head of Brand?

My first job experience was in 'Marketing' during my National Service at Vanguard Assurance Company Ltd. My second job was also in 'Marketing' at L'Oreal West Africa and I honestly loved the job! I fell in love with marketing, abandoned my ACCA professional courses, enrolled in an MBA Marketing program with Central University College which was then affiliated to the University Coast, and later upgraded to even have a Post Graduate Diploma in Marketing from the Chartered Institute of Marketing, UK. My mantra in life is *'passion drives purpose'* hence, I gravitate towards my passion and endeavour to stay focused to achieve my goals.

I was employed as a Brand and Marketing Communications specialist at Vodafone for nearly five years. I progressed to the position of Brand Segment Manager for Vodafone Business Solutions, and later became the Brand Segment Manager for Youth, HVC &

Progressives. During my time there, I successfully executed several brand campaigns, including "The Future is Exciting. Ready?" It came as no surprise when I received a call from AirtelTigo, inviting me to submit my CV for the Head of Brand Management position. I was keenly interested and promptly applied. The recruitment process involved exams, presentations, and multiple interviews. I emerged successful and was offered the role with a strong recommendation from Gifty Bingley.

What is the most important message you want to send to young women thinking about their careers?

I agree that the path ahead can often be uncertain and challenging. It may involve twists and turns, but it's essential to be perceptive and intuitive in finding your true purpose. It's important to keep learning and approach situations in a practical way, while being open to new experiences and not fixating on one unattainable goal. Avoid blindly following the masses, and instead, pursue your passion. Most importantly, pray





without ceasing and let the good Lord direct your path.

At your level, what actions do you take towards gender equality in your workplace?

As the only female on the Marketing leadership team at my workplace, I make it a priority to mentor and empower the females who join my team. I encourage them to work hard, stay focused, remain organized, and pursue their careers relentlessly, while also reminding them of the importance of being well organized and speaking up when necessary.

On the backdrop of 2023's International Women's Day theme 'Embrace Equity', do you think society is embracing equity? In your line of work, is equity something we are inching closer to?

In the past, women did not have as much empowerment in society, but this narrative is slowly changing among the elites. Despite there appearing to be equal opportunities for everyone, men still seem to be favored for certain key positions over women. Women often limit themselves to lower-tier roles, such as deputy, vice, assistant, etc., which in my opinion is not enough. Why can't a woman with the necessary qualifications become the President, Chairperson, CEO, Moderator of a church, or General Overseer? We need to embrace equity and allow equal opportunities for both genders. There should not be any restrictions, or we risk suppressing the talents and innovations that women possess, which can contribute to making society or the world a better place for humankind. I motivate the women on my team to excel in their areas of expertise and encourage them to speak up and provide valuable input in their line of duty.

What advice will you give women struggling in a male-dominated industry?

Women should be aware that passion is what motivates purpose. If women remain focused and chase their objectives without

fear of failure, they will achieve success. It requires a high level of skill, confidence, endurance, good health, and a stable mental state to excel. Therefore, no matter how difficult the journey may be, women should maintain psychologically fortitude, seek assistance when necessary, and persistently pursue their aspirations.

What do you think helped you get so far in your career?

Getting to where I am now required continuous learning, following my passion/burning desire to achieve my personal goals, building self-confidence, being receptive to feedback from line managers, colleagues, and parents, and most importantly, prayer. My favorite Bible verse is Matthew 6:33, "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all other things would be added onto you".

Do you feel you have achieved what you wanted to?
Even though I have seen astronomical growth in my career, won many enviable marketing and corporate awards for all the telecommunication companies I have worked with, I still see myself to be on a journey to achieving my goals. May God be my help as I keep moving.

What positive changes have you seen regarding women in the workplace since you started your career?

I was fortunate to have my first boss as a woman, Afua Korang, and she was a great source of inspiration to work with. Throughout my career, I have had the opportunity to work with several other women in leadership roles, such as Akua Nyantakyi, Uche Ofodile, Akisi Ackah, Ethel Anamoo, Angela Mensah-Poku, Mitwa Ng'ambi, Evelyn Sam, and other amazing women in the workplace who have made a significant impact not only on my career but also on the careers of others. I have great admiration for women in the

workplace because they are dedicated to working hard to contribute to the development of Ghana while also earning a living to support their families. Additionally, they actively mentor and support younger colleagues, creating a supportive community of growth and development.

What three values that govern the way you live your life?

I am governed by being disciplined, well organized, staying focused, pursuing excellence, and seeking God's divine direction to excel.

Has mentorship played a role in your career? How important is it for women to lift each other up?

Certainly, mentorship has been instrumental in my career development. When I first started in the telecommunications industry, I was fortunate to work closely with experienced marketing professionals such as Uche Ofodile, Georgina Mensah and Akisi Ackah who provided me with invaluable guidance and support, allowing me to gain confidence in my role. I am profoundly grateful for their mentorship.

What do you see as the biggest barrier to embracing equity of women in the economy, especially in Technology/ STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) and what more needs to be done?

Fear is a significant barrier that hinders women from pursuing careers in STEM. Overcoming this barrier requires having the right conversations to encourage and empower young women. Women who have made significant strides in STEM can play a vital role in mentoring and inspiring the next generation to embrace STEM with confidence and pursue it relentlessly. It's crucial that we support determined women who lack the resources to pursue STEM through government and corporate organizations. For it is said that 'If you educate a man, you educated one person but if you educate a woman, you educated the whole nation.'

The AirtelTigo International Women's Day Profiling campaign is aimed at celebrating women in their respective workplaces. The campaign is designed to recognize and highlight the significant contributions made by women to the growth and success of the company. Through this campaign, AirtelTigo aims to promote gender equity and encourage women to strive for excellence in their careers. Overall, the campaign seeks to promote gender diversity and inclusivity in the workplace. (culled:btfonline}

AirtelTigo, Ghana's most innovative telecommunication network is pleased to announce that *it has changed its brand name, AirtelTigo to AT with effect from today 22nd June 2023. The name is in tandem with our promise, and it is for this reason that we have simplified our name to AT.*

In November 2017, Airtel and Tigo merged and became one company – AirtelTigo. Since that merger, the company has traded under the name AirtelTigo offering various telecommunication services from data to mobile money services and other mobile voice services.

The name change will apply to all sub-brands; **ATMoney**, **AT Business**, **AT Premier**, and **AT Insurance**. Our social media and website domain names would change accordingly.

The new name, **AT** will also apply to all future communications, marketing materials, and branding efforts. All trade materials reflecting AirtelTigo will subsequently change to reflect the new brand, AT, whereas the brand colours will remain the same.

Speaking during a round table discussion, **Leo Skarlatos, Chief Executive Officer** of AirtelTigo stated “AT is a bold and strategic move aimed at reflecting our brand promise of simplicity making it easier for our customers to identify and engage with us. Our stakeholders should note that this change is only applicable to the brand name and logo, and will not impact our management structure, products, or services. We will continue to offer the same



Leo Skarlatos, CEO, AT

WE ARE **at:** LIFE IS SIMPLE



innovative services that our customers have come to know and trust, with an enhanced focus on user experience and customer satisfaction”.

He assured customers of AT's commitment to making life simple for its customers. “We believe that this name change will only serve to strengthen our brand identity and represents our dedication to growth and simplicity. Mr. Skarlatos reiterated.

For more information, please visit the official **AT** website at www.at.com.gh or our social media handles @theATGhana

So now, call us **AT**, life is simple.



Ghana's banking industry survives government's debt restructuring

Financial results of Ghana's banking industry for 2022 and the 1st quarter of 2023 indicates that they have survived the inevitable challenges imposed by government's domestic debt exchange programme. TOMA IMIRHE uses the performance of the two biggest banks to assess the situation.

It appears that Ghana's banking industry has turned the corner after suffering the worst hit on their profitability in the past nearly four decades. Financial performance results for the first quarter of 2023 indicate that the industry is returning to profitability – or at least is on the verge of doing so – after impairment charges on their investments in government medium and long term debt securities imposed on them because of the terms of the recently concluded Domestic Debt Exchange Programme (DDEP) wiped away their net incomes for 2022. The latest financial performance results, covering the first three months of this year, are good news indeed, as they indicate that the worst fears of industry analysts – that the DDEP could send the industry into a tail spin – are proving unfounded. But the losses incurred for 2022 due to a massive increase in impairment charges have already been absorbed by most banks and their liquidity has remained basically intact, as depositors have

increased their bank deposits - since investment in government securities has lost much of its luster – rather than reduced them. Ghana's two biggest banks – Ecobank Ghana and GCB Bank – illustrate how the industry is navigating the perils thrown up by the DDEP. The Ecobank Group declared a record pre-tax loss of GHc27.218 million for 2022, a complete reversal of its pre-tax profit of GHc893,732 million made in 2021. The cause of this dip in fortunes was clear: net impairment charges rose to a record level of GHc1,705.126 million last year, about seven times the GHc277.754 million incurred in the previous year. Instructively the bank had achieved its usual growth in all aspects of its operations last year. Net interest income had risen to GHc2,521.988 million, up from GHc1,545.005 million in 2021 while income from net fees and commissions had similarly climbed to GHc355.984 million, up from GHc317.571 million. This had resulted in total net income rising

to GHc2,968.058 million for 2022 up from GHc2,115.181 million in 2021. But there are early indications that the worst is over for Ghana's biggest banking group. Net impairment charges for the first quarter of 2023 amounted to GHc346.592 million as the bank not only wiped off the rest of its DDEP imposed income losses, but also some other impairment charges which had inconveniently arisen at the same time. This still meant a pre tax loss of GHc11.963 million for the first three months of the year, but this was reduced by the tax implications to just GHc7.789 million in after tax losses. Importantly though, the bank's revenues are still on the increase, which means the spike in impairment charges has not dampened its income generating capacities.

For the first quarter of 2023, its net interest income nearly doubled to GHc714.252 million, up from GHc370.674 million during the corresponding period of last year. A dip in fees

and commission income and GHc71.867 million in losses from trading – another fall out of the DDEP – meant that net income rose more slowly, to GHc752.234 million, up from GHc538.400 million for the first three months of last year, but the overall results indicate an improvement.

GCB Bank has done even better, already back to profitability for the first quarter of 2023, with GHc297.933 million in pre-tax profits, which is even better than the GHc237,212 million it made during the corresponding period of 2022. Indeed, this means that during the first three months of 2023, GCB Bank clawed back nearly half of the GHc706.252 million pre-tax loss it made for the whole of 2022. Like every other bank GCB's loss for 2022 was the result of the impairment charges incurred from the DDEP which amounted to GHc1,814.474 million, and which took away nearly two thirds of the bank's operating income for the year of GHc2,971.441 million.

For the first quarter of 2023 impairment losses fell to GHc111.309 million although this was still much higher than the GHc68.180 million incurred during the corresponding period of last year. Indeed with impairment charges resulting from the implementation of the DDEP now behind them, Ghana's banks are now back on the road to recovery. But even before that journey is completed, certain positives are already emerging for the industry. At the same time it appears that the worst fears arising for the banks out of the DDEP are not coming to pass after all. Those fears relate to liquidity in the banking system, which most industry analysts – as well as the industry regulators themselves – fretted would become insufficient with both principal investments and interest streams locked up by the terms of the new bonds issued by government to replace the old ones.

However, trends have emerged to prove those fears largely unfounded. Firstly, the sharp increase in interest income on short term treasury bills – which still account for at least half of their investments in government securities and which were unaffected by the DDEP – has largely made up for the foregone interest on the medium to short term investments in government bonds. But the other factor working in favour of the banks with respect to liquidity has been the strong growth in customer deposits. With declining confidence in government as a repository for their investments the banking public has stepped up their investments with the banks themselves, providing them with an unexpected major source of renewed liquidity. For instance customer deposits with Ecobank Ghana grew by about half, from GHc13,228.449 million by the end of 2022 to GHc20,423.861 million by the end of 2022 and further to GHc22,968.961 million by the end of March this year. While Ecobank is used to annual growth in deposits of about 20% due to its innovative deposit products suite and the sheer convenience of its digital platforms, a 50% increase is most unusual and can be traced back



Daniel Sackey, MD Ecobank

largely to the shift by investors from government to the banks.

All this has been supported by the Bank of Ghana's prudent increase in cash reserve requirements and directives not to give away cash flow in the form of dividends to shareholders. But the biggest potential gain for the Ghanaian economy from the DDEP is its impact on bank lending to the private sector. Prior to the DDEP banks regarded investing in government securities as a riskless but highly profitable strategy, to the detriment of needy and deserving private enterprise borrowers. Now, with much of the market for government securitized debt closed down and doubts still hanging over the other half – short term treasury bills – banks are being forced to turn to lending to private borrowers as an outlet for their deposits and shareholders funds.

Actually some banks had seen the melt down that prompted the DDEP coming and had cut back on their investments in government securities ahead of it. This is why, for instance Societe Generale Bank was hardly affected by the DDEP at all, having invested nearly all its resources into loans to private enterprise and to households.

Ecobank is another rare breed that was not

thoroughly enticed by high and supposedly risk free returns on government securities. But even Ecobank has palpably turned further towards private sector lending as a result of government's fiscal melt down. As at the end of 2021, its investment portfolio was worth GHc6,229.493 million, marginally more than its loan book of GHc5,693.754 million. But by the end of 2022, with the DDEP having been introduced Ecobank had reversed its situation with its loan book of GHc8,856.042 million easily outstripping its investment portfolio of GHc6,743.075 million.

The DDEP has taken its toll in several ways, but there are also some promising signs on the horizon. But for the banks and their customers the biggest relief is that the banks have retained adequate liquidity levels to meet their obligations to depositors. The bottom line then is that Ghana's banking industry looks set to survive its biggest liquidity challenge since the 1980s. That their survival is the result of the increased strength given them by the recent financial sector reforms should be cause to applaud the nation's central bank for its foresight.



Samuel Abu Jinapor, Minister for Land and Natural Resources

The Lands & Natural Resources Minister Who Stays Above The Political Fray

Samuel Abu Jinapor has kept Ghana's governance of its natural resources on track as most people around him have become embroiled in controversy. This is of crucial importance for a country where too many leaders and public commentators seem ready to sacrifice its socio-economic development for short term political gain.

When President Nana Akufo-Addo was looking for someone to serve as Minister for Land and Natural Resources during his second and final term in office, he turned to a young man that he not only knew had the right skill set, but whom he could also trust explicitly. That is how Samuel Abu Jinapor became the current Minister for Land and Natural Resources.

The choice has turned out to be the right one. The

Minister has been like the calm eye of a storm that has arisen over the use and possible abuse of Ghana's forest reserves, first by the late "Sir John" Kweku Afriyie as CEO of the Forestry Commission and more recently by the country's notorious community of illegal small scale miners who have become public enemy number one because they have heavily polluted key water resources as well.

It is instructive that Samuel Abu Jinapor has

largely remained above the fray, his name and reputation not being associated with any of the many alleged wrong doings in the management of Ghana's natural resources. At the same time he has cautiously taken a prudent course, refusing to defend those government officials clearly involved in misusing forest reserves and water bodies but at the same time pointing out flaws in the accusations that are simply dubious politicking by political opponents and

unenlightened criticism by public commentators. His efforts to get the roots of the controversies have been applauded all round because of his continued unblemished credibility and his unerringly sensible approach to evaluating and tackling the key issues.

Nana Akufo Addo has thus been proved right in his appointment. To be sure he had every reason to trust the young man who had already proved himself with his exemplary performance and conduct as the youngest ever Deputy Chief of Staff (Operations) during his first term in office taking up the job when he was just 34.

But he showed the world his extraordinary prowess a full decade earlier when he dazzled both the Ghanaian and the British press as a 24 year old communications aide on then President John Agyekum Kufuor's official visit to the United Kingdom.

Over the past four years he has grown from strength to strength. In 2020, whilst still performing his demanding task as Deputy Chief of Staff, he contested the parliamentary seat of Damongo, the maternal hometown of former President John Dramani Mahama the 2020 Presidential Candidate of the National Democratic Congress (NDC), and won that highly competitive election with a significant margin of victory, becoming the first MP from the New Patriotic Party since the inception of the fourth republic. Instructively he has since been nicknamed, "Man of Action" by his constituents.

Even more importantly he has proved a man of action at the ministry he heads as well. The Ministry has three sub-sectors namely: Forestry; Land; and Mining. With recent developments, this means Jinapor has one of the toughest tasks in government, with the political opposition out for blood ahead of the 2024 general elections.

But Jinapor is calmly refusing to be distracted by political noise, rather remaining focused on his primary mandate of governing Ghana's land and natural resources. Indeed, he is quietly pursuing the successful completion of the new medium term development planning framework policy objectives relevant to the mandate of the Ministry.

These include ensure sustainable extraction of mineral resource and effective linkage of extractive industry to the rest of the economy; Developing efficient land administration and management system; Expanding and protecting forest conservation areas; reducing environmental pollution; Conserving marine areas and reducing coastal erosion; enhancing climate change resilience; and promoting proactive planning for disaster prevention and mitigation as well as promoting sustainable groundwater resources development and management.

Born in 1983 Samuel Jinapor graduated from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology with a Bachelor of Science degree in



Physics and specialized in Biomedical Physics

His intellectual thirst led him to train as a lawyer and consequently, he was called to the Ghana Bar in 2012, becoming and then becoming a qualified Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Ghana.

He earned his master's degree in law (LL.M) in Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) from the Faculty of Law, University of Ghana, in May 2017. In the course of his studies, amongst others, he successfully took academic sessions in International Commercial Arbitration, Labour Law, Law and Society.

Jinapor was born in 1983 to Abdulai Jinapor, a former police officer and Chief of Buipe in the Savannah Region of Ghana. He attended the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in physics in 2006. He proceeded to the University of Ghana in 2008 where he earned a Bachelor of Laws in 2010. That same year, he was admitted to read LLB at Ghana School of Law, Makola, and Accra. He was called to the Ghana Bar in 2012 as a Solicitor and Barrister of the Supreme Court of Ghana. He also holds a Master of Laws in Alternative Dispute Resolution from the Faculty of Law, University Of Ghana.

As a newly enrolled lawyer, he undertook his

pupillage with the reputable Messrs. Kulendi@Law, an Accra-based commercial and corporate law firm, from October 2012 to August 2013. He studied under the tutelage of the renowned lawyer, Yonny Kulendi, who is now a Justice of the Supreme Court of Ghana. Within a relatively short period, Hon. Jinapor rose to the position of Senior Associate. In this capacity, he developed the skills for quick thinking and oratory, and he served as an advocate in major commercial and corporate litigations. Whilst at the firm, Hon. Jinapor acted as a transactional lawyer for several complex, commercial negotiations, both domestically and internationally. Again, as Senior Associate, he was periodically assigned to manage a team of lawyers from diverse backgrounds. Over the years, he had the rare opportunity of representing major foreign companies in Ghana as a Solicitor and Legal Advocate, both in Ghanaian Courts and Arbitral Tribunals.

These are the professional dynamics that have moulded one of Ghana's most competent political governance professionals. The result is a minister who has risen above the virulent ongoing political controversies afflicting his portfolio and has remained focused on doing the right thing even when those around him from both sides of the political divide are doing all the wrong things.



AFRICA MEETS IN THE US

This September, one of the biggest and most influential gatherings of sovereign government and multilateral institution chieftains and policy makers, direct and portfolio investors, top tier corporate executives, technocrats, economic/business consultants, diplomats and other stakeholders will converge on the Hyatt Regency Crystal City in Washington DC, America's capital. This is for the Africa Infrastructure Climate Change and Investment Summit (AICIS).

Attendees will have the opportunity to participate in creating a strategic action plan for leveraging climate change initiatives and mobilizing government and institutional investors to capitalize on US\$12 trillion worth of investments and partnership opportunities in infrastructure, green energy transition and climate change in Africa. Accompanying this key effort at fostering long term relationships that benefit both African and American businesses, and promoting Africa's economic growth and development, will be an exhibition.

Altogether some 1,500 participants are being

expected, including exhibitors and stakeholders from other sectors who have recognized the sheer scope of the networking opportunities.

Attendance will be of the high caliber, the invited guest list headed by present and former African heads of state, the United Nations, the African Union, private sector chieftains and the heads of leading civil society organizations. The four day event will last from September 3–8, 2023 and will include plenary and executive workshop breakout sessions on oil and gas, power/electricity, renewable energy, security, trade, mining and agriculture with special sessions for diaspora investors.

The Summit aims to bring together over 1,500 participants including government officials, institutional investors, business investors and small and medium sized enterprises and project owners to exploit the investment and partnership opportunities, valued at some US\$12 trillion African market for infrastructure, green energy transition and climate change. It will provide a platform to assess Africa's economic and security infrastructure, identify new development partners





Dr. Moses Owharu, Director-General

and focus on increasing and mobilizing development resources. All with ultimate objective of facilitating Africa's accelerated economic development through commercial and development interventions involving the US. It also aims to offer trade partnership opportunities between Africa and the US at both the government and private business levels. Importantly the Summit will support industrialization of the continent through its efforts to facilitate economic activity under the African Continental Free Trade

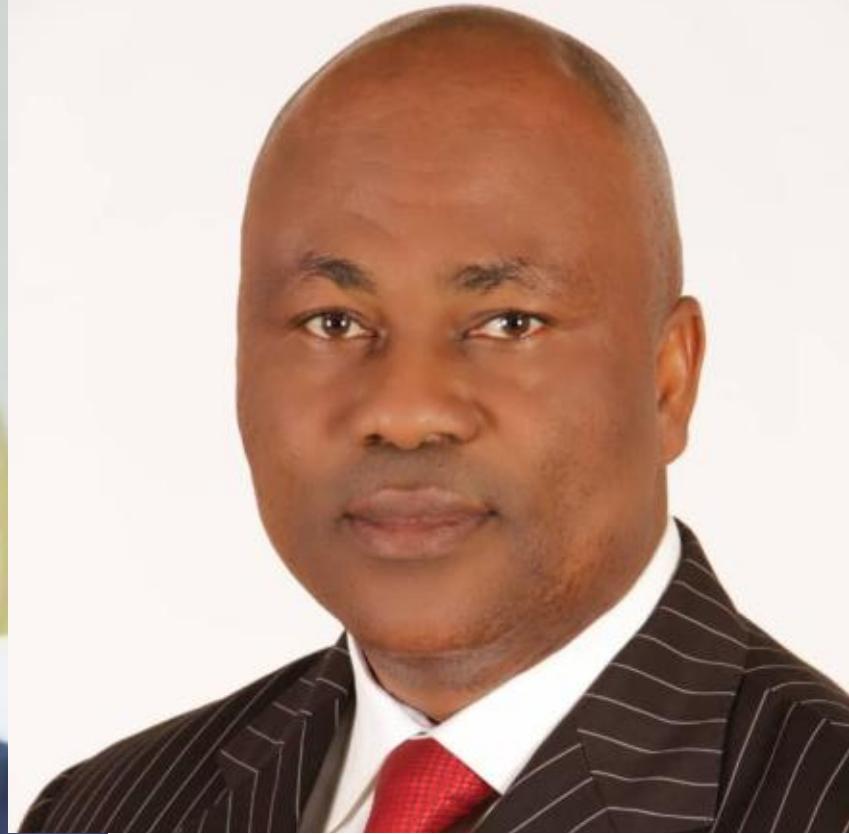
Agreement, AfCFTA. I also aims to increase Africa's capacities with regards to its micro, small and medium sized enterprises, by offering platforms for improving entrepreneurial capacity, identification of talent attraction of both foreign and local investment they need.

To give the Summit the necessary influence to achieve the impacts intended, an array of institutional collaborations and partnerships are being secured. Invited partners/collaborators include the US Department of Energy and Department of Commerce; African countries Ministries of Energy, Industry, Trade and Investment as well as Foreign Affairs; The Business Council for Sustainable Energy; Clean Energy Business Network; Discover Global Markets Initiatives ; the business development forum of the US Department of Commerce; various Climate Investment Funds; US Corporate Council on Africa; Global Migration Research Institute; African diplomatic missions in the US; and several others.

Underpinning these collaborations will be the services of four eminent personalities who are acting as special advisors for this landmark event.

Two of these are Nigerians: King Alfred Diete Spiff a former Nigerian army general and Rivers state governor who is now the African Union's envoy to the Traditional Rulers Council and Dr Yakubu Dadu, a top diplomat. The others are top tier professionals engaged in academia: Professor Chris Scragg and Professor Shah Sirji.

"The complex event with its challenging logistics



Oscar Ugoh Sam

accompanying the technical and financial challenges of the long standing issues to be addressed in a new dispensation of environmental considerations is an ambitious undertaking" admits Oscar Ugoh, Advisor, Media and Publicity, Ghana and member of the event's planning committee. "But ABVIG, the international institution organizing the event has time and again proved its competence in successfully undertaking such undertakings."

Indeed, ABVIG focuses on promoting international trade and investment in infrastructure, energy, mining, trade and technology, aiming to facilitate foreign direct investment through its activities. With the endorsement of Ghana's Ministry of Trade and Industry, Nigeria's Federal Ministry of Industries, Trade and Investment and the Office of the office of the permanent representative to the ECOWAS Commission, ABVIG successfully organized the West African Energy Mining, Trade and Investment Summit, 2018 under the theme: Solving energy challenges and increasing economic growth for regional integration and development through harnessing energy, mining and trade opportunities in West Africa..

ABVIG went on to organize the second edition of this event in 2019, tagged Tackling Africa's Infrastructure and Economic Challenges , while enhancing investment and trade opportunities. This was held in Accra. ABVIG's partners include Aidez Small Project International. A partner of USAID, Project CARE International, WFP, among others. ABVIG participated in the USA Energy Summit in Pittsburgh in 2022 and the US-Africa Business Summit in December 2022.





GPC SECURES 2ND PLACE FOR BEST INVESTMENT PROJECT IN WEST, CENTRAL AFRICA

The Ghana Investment Promotion Centre (GIPC) has received recognition for its outstanding efforts in promoting investment opportunities and driving economic growth in Ghana. At the Annual Investment Meeting (AIM) held in Abu Dhabi, GIPC secured second place for the best investment project in West and Central Africa, showcasing the Centre's commitment in this domain.

GIPC over the years, has built a strong affiliation with the AIM Congress as a dedicated and successful premier Investment Promotion Agency (IPA).

This recognition is evident through AIM's consecutive conferral of the best IPA in Central and West Africa title for five years, spanning 2016 to 2021, and the runner-up

position for the best IPA in Africa in 2022.

In 2023, GIPC has once again maintained its strong position in the region, securing second place for the best investment project in West and Central Africa.

AIM Congress is a globally renowned conference that brings together investors, entrepreneurs, and government representatives from around the world.

The event serves as a comprehensive platform for various sectors to engage in open discussions on the latest investment trends and opportunities. AIM fosters an environment conducive to idea exchange and facilitates potential partnerships, unlocking new avenues of collaboration and growth for participants.

Commenting on the award, Yofi Grant, the

Chief Executive Officer of GIPC, expressed his appreciation, stating "we are deeply honored to have been recognized as securing one of the best investment projects in West and Central Africa at the Annual Investment Meeting. This award is a testament to our unwavering dedication to creating a business friendly climate in Ghana and promoting lucrative investment opportunities in the country."

Furthermore, Mr. Grant acknowledged the efforts of the GIPC team, partners, and investors for their support in achieving this remarkable feat. Their collaboration and effort according to him has been instrumental in paving the way for sustainable economic development in Ghana, attracting significant investments, and nurturing a favorable environment for

businesses to thrive.

Also, during the AIM Congress, the GIPC, under the leadership of its CEO, successfully concluded a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Namibian Investment Promotion and Development Board, represented by CEO Ms. Nangula Shejaval. This MoU establishes a framework for collaboration between the two agencies, specifically in the areas of investment promotion and facilitation.

In another notable development, an important agreement was reached between the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), represented by Secretary General Wamkele Mene, and the UAE Trade Center, represented by Chief Executive Officer Walid Hareb Al Falahi. This significant milestone was marked by the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), solidifying their partnership and shared objectives.

The collaborative efforts between AfCFTA and the UAE Trade Center aim to organize a series of side events at COP 28 in Abu Dhabi, scheduled for November. These events will include dedicated business forums designed to facilitate interactions between UAE and African businesses, fostering mutually beneficial partnerships.

Additionally, dialogue sessions will be conducted to deepen understanding and awareness of the AfCFTA, ensuring that stakeholders are wellinformed about the potential benefits and opportunities it presents.

The events will cover crucial topics such as trade facilitation, incentives offered by the AfCFTA, cost-effective logistics, and strategies to empower UAE businesses under the agreement. This joint initiative promises to strengthen trade opportunities and enhance economic ties between the UAE and Africa.



Yofi Grant, Chief Executive Officer, GIPC



GOIL Applauded By Ghana's Fishing Industry

The strategic position of Ghana Oil Limited, simply known as GOIL, in the country's downstream oil and gas industry has been reaffirmed through an unalloyed vote of confidence delivered recently by stakeholders in Ghana's local fishing industry.

This must be refreshing for the Board and management of the company after its key role in the industry generated unwarranted controversy, when it took steps to use the influence conferred on it by its market leadership to stem runaway price increases in petroleum prices at the height of the spike in global oil prices caused by the outbreak of the Russia Ukraine war, coupled with the sharp depreciation of the cedi against the United States dollar. GOIL's deliberate petroleum price undercutting, aimed at forcing competitors to similarly stem their own price increases was criticized by some commentators who argued that the company's pricing policy was short changing shareholders in order to support

government's socio-economic objectives. However GOIL chieftains retorted by explaining that its competitive pricing simply sought to win market share and enable the company improve its financial performance through bigger sales volumes. Eventually, they were proved right as GOIL's profits increased rather than fell following its price undercutting strategy.

This time around however, affirmation of GOIL's market leadership and its results are generating universal praise rather than pockets of controversy.

The latest acclamation is coming from Ghana's fishing industry, regulators, facilitators and operators all inclusive. It came during a fisheries recent stakeholders meeting held in Tema on fuel bunkering services for marine vessels.

At the meeting, the Minister for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, Ms Mavis Hawa Koomson lauded GOIL for its provision of exemplary quality marine gas oil and lubricants in adequate quantities and at the most

competitive prices available on the market. In her keynote address at the meeting she diplomatically asserted that local oil marketing companies in general were well positioned and



capable of providing quality products and services to sustain the local fishing industry but instructively singled out GOIL specifically for praise.

The Fisheries Minister underscored the importance of fuel bunkering operations in the industry and called for guaranteed, timely, safe and closely monitored bunkering services that would protect the crew members of fishing vessels from piracy and other extremist activities. She entreated offshore marine gasoil bunkering operators within Ghana's territorial waters to secure their supplies from oil companies that have the requisite operating permits from the relevant regulatory bodies. GOIL is the leader by both volumes and values in this regard.

Basking in the formal recognition given GOIL by the Minister – and which was applauded by operators themselves – the company's Head of Technical and Special Products, Mr J.B. Tagoe assured stakeholders that it would continue to partner them by giving them the best quality products and services the industry has to offer and at the most competitive prices and with the best credit facilities too.

"We have expanded and made ourselves visible at sea, providing the fishing industry with marine gas oil of the highest international standards" he enthused. "Quality is always the cutting edge differentiator for every customer and that is what GOIL provides'. Addressing fishing vessel owners he added that "GOIL also provides top quality marine lubricants that meet your engines specifications."

At the same meeting the CEO of AMSOL Ghana, GOIL's technical partners, reminded the industry of the need for local participation during the ongoing era of foreign exchange shortages; GOIL is the only indigenously owned oil marketing company among the biggest three operating in the country. He therefore encouraged Ghanaians to patronize GOIL's



Hon. Kwame Osei-Prempeh, MD GOIL

products because "when GOIL wins, the government and people of Ghana will derive the maximum benefits in terms of retention of profits locally."

With regards to the fishing industry in Ghana at least though, GOIL is well ahead of its two biggest competitors as well as every other oil marketing company. Indeed it is most instructive

that at the end of the meeting, stakeholders called for a roundtable discussion between them, the Ministry and GOIL specifically, rather than representatives of the oil marketing industry as a whole, demonstrating the company's unassailable dominance in bunkering for Ghana's fishing industry.





Dr. Kamal-Deen Ali

CEMLAWS raises food security concerns over current developments in Ghana's waters

By [Kofi Ahovi](#)

The Centre for Maritime Law and Security (CEMLAWS) has observed that the proliferation of foreign-owned industrial fishing vessels on Ghana's territorial waters, contrary to regulations is a threat to food security.

According to the CEMLAWS, although it was illegal for foreign-owned vessels to fish in Ghana, many fishing vessels flying the Ghana flags are foreign-owned with some Ghanaians acting as fronts.

This illegal practices on Ghana's waters threatens food security and the livelihoods of thousands of artisanal fishers who depend on the sector," Dr. Kamal-Deen Ali, Executive Director- CEMLAWS Africa warned at a media training.

These came to light during a training workshop for media practitioners on Distant Water Fishing (DWF) vessels in Accra organized by CEMLAWS and the Centre for Coastal Management (CCM) at the University of Cape Coast. The training was aimed at empowering the journalists to help

expose these and other issues in Ghana's fisheries sector.

The Fisheries Act 625 (2002) prohibits foreigners from operating industrial vessels or trawlers in Ghana.

Section 47 of Act 625 says an industrial or semi-industrial fishing vessel must be owned or controlled by a citizen of Ghana, the government, or owned or controlled by a company or partnership registered by law in Ghana.

Foreign vessels using Ghana's flag as a flag of convenience to have access to Ghana's fisheries.

Dr. Kamal-Deen Ali, observed that, one of the key challenges confronting the fisheries sector was the lack of information to inform decision-making and enhance transparency, adding that the country must ensure its resources were protected in all arrangements and at all times.

"Vessels must fish in a way that is sustainable and takes into consideration the rights of others

particularly those in the artisanal sector"

"We depend heavily on fish as a country so we cannot take the industry for granted; we must make sure that it is a resource that is protected," Dr. Kamal-Deen Ali stressed.

The Director of the Centre for Coastal Management, Professor Dennis Worlano Aheto, agrees that the lack of information in Ghana was making things difficult to ascertain destabilizing impact of DWFVs on Ghana and other countries included in the project.

He admitted that, activities of the DWFVs were creating socio-economic impacts on fishing communities.

Prof. Aheto, expressed regret over lack of resources and financing to empower the local people.

According to him, there must be a deliberate effort to ensure that the laws work in the interest of the local people and the country.

According to the Ghana Fisheries Management



Plan (2022-2026), currently, there are about 76 active industrial vessels in Ghana, which contributed to an estimated annual catch of over 37,000 metric tonnes in 2019.

It is estimated that one needs not less than US\$10 million as minimum capital to register and operate trawlers in Ghana.

The Executive Director of the International Secretariat of the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI), Sven Biermann, said the transparency in fisheries management yields multiple benefits such as strengthening the ability for effective oversight, accountability, public dialogue and also enhances the capacity to manage fisheries sustainably based on best available information.

The training workshop forms part a project titled; "Promoting local capacity to address the destabilizing impacts of foreign fishing vessels in the Gulf of Guinea and Mauritania".

According to Dr. Ali, the strategic objectives of the project was to increase CSOs monitoring, media reporting, and public awareness of destabilizing influences of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing (IUUF) and Distant Water Fishing (DWF) vessels in Ghana.

He said it is to achieve this objective that the implementation partners have developed a training package to equip journalists with adequate knowledge and skills for reporting competently on the fishing activities of foreign distant water vessels, and government's fishing-

related decisions and developments.

The project, which was being jointly coordinated by CEMLAWS Africa, and the Centre for Coastal Management (CCM), University of Cape Coast, is funded by the Department of State, U.S Embassy in Accra.

Some of the beneficiaries were delighted over the exposure and knowledge gained. They also look forward for more collaborative efforts to enable them produce more in-depth and facts driven stories on the fisheries industry and climate impact.

The journalists are also to educate the public on climate impact on the coastal environment to inform decision making.





His Majesty Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, the King of Ashanti

24-YEARS OF HIS MAJESTY OTUMFUO OSEI TUTU II'S REIGN

The Egyptians discovered gold in the Nile River as long ago as 5000 BC, according to the Minerals Council of Australia. The metal was considered divine and indestructible.

The royal tomb was called the House of Gold; the Sun God was known as the Mountain of Gold; and the Pharaohs became the Golden Horus.

The Egyptians believed ingesting gold could purify the body, mind, and spirit.

Research has also highlighted that for centuries, the Chinese believed gold could cure or prevent everything from small pox to measles.

Some rural villagers in China still cook their rice with a gold coin to replenish the minerals in their bodies.

Apparently, scientists have affirmed that gold is one of the many elements that make up the human body.

Gold flows through the human veins, although in very small quantities, perhaps to avoid human harvesting. God is a genius!

The weight of gold, or purity, is measured in karats. A high karat signifies the high purity of gold. 24 karat gold is 100 percent pure gold.

And such is the purity of the achievements of His Majesty Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, the King of Ashanti, and perhaps the reason the Bank of Ghana approved and issued a 24-karat gold coin to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the King.

I wish I had one. Ofori Attah Tomtom must read this.

As we mark the '24-karat golden years' of His Majesty Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, I cannot help but reflect on the remarkable statement made by the President of Ghana, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, that Otumfuo has served not only

Asanteman but the Ghanaian people and Africa as a whole with his visionary leadership, selflessness, and respect for people, whether they were his subjects or not.

In confirmation of the King's selflessness and abiding service to Ghana, the former President John Dramani Mahama recounted how Otumfuo was instrumental in Ghana's effort to secure an Extended Credit Facility from the IMF in 2016 to strengthen the economy.

He noted that in 2012, upon request from his government, Otumfuo agreed to travel to the United States to negotiate with the IMF through his institutional contacts with the World Bank, which, therefore, prepared the path for the country to qualify for the Extended Credit Facility.

Earlier, former President John Agyekum Kufuor extolled the King for his contribution to Ghana's exit from the Highly Indebted Poor Countries

(HIPC) initiative, at a time when the IMF was hesitant about Ghana's qualification. Former President Kufuor stated that the King persuaded the IMF and prevented the country from being taken out of the programme.

Recently, the Minister of Energy, Dr. Mathew Opoku Prempeh, narrated how the King used his position to secure US\$174 million in financial support for Ghana's educational sector when the World Bank was reluctant to release the funds.

He stated, "I asked the Asantehene, who was about to visit the World Bank in the United States, to intervene on our behalf, and consequently, the funds were released.

An American businessman and writer, Max dePree, once said the first responsibility of a leader is to define reality, and scholar Warren Bennis also added that leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality. Upon his assumption as King of Asante in 1999, Otumfuo first confronted chieftaincy and land disputes in his own territory.

He resolved chieftaincy and litigation cases that had lagged for several years. A typical case was the Effiduase traditional dispute, which had dragged on for 23 years. Other chieftaincy cases in Bekwai, Kokofu, and Akwaboah were solved in record time.

'Charity begins at home' is a popular quotation from Thomas Fuller, but the original quote was "Charity begins at home but should not end there". It is, therefore, not surprising that the King extended his mediation and arbitration skills to solve disputes outside of his jurisdiction. Former President 'Agyewodin' Flight Lieutenant Jerry John Rawlings, in a tribute to the King, wrote: "For over a decade, Otumfuo has worked tirelessly in partnership with Yagbonwura, Tuntumba Boresa Sulemana Jakpa I, and Nayiri, Naa Bohogu Abdulai Mahami Sheriga, to resolve the complex Dagbon crises. The processes leading to the enskinment of a new Yaa Naa are a clear manifestation of the virtues that His Majesty possesses as our celebrated King".

On his part, the Overlord of Dagbon, Yaa Naa Abubaki Mahama II, noted "Your Majesty, we cannot overemphasise our gratitude to you for the gift of peace you have presented to the people of Dagbon, and I shall commit the rest of my active life, be it long or short, to unite Dagbon and work towards everlasting peace, progress, and prosperity for the people".

Possibly, this singular feat is the paramount motivation for which the Africa Premier Leadership Award bestowed the title "Pillar of Peace" on His Majesty in recognition of the extraordinary role he played in restoring peace to Dagbon, among others. Ohene aye ade3, na y3npre no!

As world leaders adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in a historic UN



His Majesty Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, the King of Ashanti

summit in 2015 to mobilise efforts to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities, and ensure inclusive and equitable education, Otumfuo established the Otumfuo Education Fund in 1997 to enhance access to quality education through the provision of scholarships to needy but brilliant children in Ghana. Over 400,000 children had benefited from the fund by 2019. Besides, the King instituted an award scheme in 2009 to motivate and recognise the commitment of teachers and non-teaching staff of the Ghana Education Service who, in the course of their duty, go through challenging conditions in remote and deprived areas. Every year, 100 teachers are selected from all 16 regions of the country to receive an award.

Ohene aye ade3, na y3npre no!

W. Rodney, in 1969, wrote that before the slave trade began at the end of the 17th century, gold was the lever of power in the budding Ashanti Kingdom. The founder of the kingdom, Osei Tutu I, made gold mines royal possessions. He also made gold dust the circulating currency of the empire. In the 1700s, the economy of the Ashanti Empire largely depended on the gold trade, while the people mined responsibly, protecting water bodies and the environment.

Today, according to the Ghana Extractive Industries and Transparency Initiative, large acres of land in the Ashanti and Central regions have been devastated by galamsey operators and, to some extent, small-scale miners. Various

governments' strategies have not been able to succeed in flushing out illegal small-scale miners in the country. The expose and counterexposure between the Jubilee House and Professor Frimpong Boateng, former Environment Minister and chairman of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Illegal Mining, indicate clearly that all is not well in the fight against illegal mining.

Therefore, His Majesty, through the Commemorative Gold Coin Project, is instituting measures for the formation of the Asanteman Task Force Against Illegal Mining to restore sanity through responsible gold mining.

Ohene aye ade3, na y3npre no!

The accomplishments of the King are many and beyond the capacity of space, and I wish every journalist had the opportunity to travel with the King to cover his events. Mine has occurred many times, but the most profound trip was the journey to a country situated in the Indian Ocean, the Seychelles. The King was the guest of honour for the Fifth Annual Carnaval International de Victoria. The trip was super colourful and memorable. In the next episode, I will share with you my historical version of the King's visit to the Seychelles. For now, I am still looking for more space to highlight more achievements in the 24 karat golden years of Otumfuo Osei Tutu II. King of Kings ay3 ade3 na y3npr3 no... yeeeeee



IBRAHIM MAHAMA

*How Ibrahim Mahama has become one of Ghana's most successful entrepreneurs
Ibrahim Mahama is politically exposed simply because of his family ties, having never held a government position. Indeed this takes nothing away from his extraordinary success as a businessman who is contributing heavily to Ghana's economic well being*

Ibrahim Mahama is one of Ghana's most successful private businessmen, with huge investments across mining engineering, poultry farming and cement manufacturing. Indeed he learnt from the best. His mining industry mentor was the legendary Sir Sam Jonah enabling him to be of great service during the then Ashanti Goldfields (now AngloGold Ashanti) huge expansion both in Ghana and across much of Africa; and his (corporate) governance mentor was no less than John Kufuor himself who went on to become arguably Ghana's most revered president since the beginning of the 4th Republic. But being the younger brother of Ghana's

immediate past president (and very possibly the next president if his bid to reclaim the presidency works out) John Dramani Mahama, he is perhaps the most politically exposed private businessman in the country. This makes him a favourite target for politically motivated attacks some of them questionable at best and simply malfeasant at worst.; even his philanthropic decision to dredge Accra's Odawna River in the mid 2010's at his own cost was met with accusations of surreptitious plans to milk the state treasury. But it is instructive that most non-partisan business analysts and societal commentators in Ghana are even more vocal in the praise of this hugely successful entrepreneur than his critics

are in their attacks.

This for two good reasons.

One is his sheer success as an entrepreneur and the benefits this confers on the Ghanaian economy.

He is the founder of *Engineers and Planners*, the largest indigenous-owned mining company in West Africa. Ibrahim Mahama started his company Engineers & Planners in 1997 after his return from London. The company now employs over 3000 Ghanaian employees.

Ibrahim Mahama has also invested in Asutsuare Poultry Farms, which was started in 2004 and produces 150,000 eggs and 10,000 live broilers a day, proving that properly managed,

indigenous poultries can compete against foreign imports despite widespread arguments to the contrary. Mr. Mahama is also an investor at Dzata Cement Company, a fully Ghanaian-owned cement processing factory located in Tema. Construction of the factory began in 2011, and it started production in 2018, creating 1,200 direct jobs. Its installed production capacity is about two million tons of cement a year and just like Asutsuare Poultry Farms, is not only providing direly needed jobs for Ghanaians, but is also saving significant foreign exchange outlays as well through import substitution.

The other reason why he is widely appreciated and applauded by non-politically partisan observers is his exemplary commitment to philanthropy. For instance Mahama has been recognized in supporting the Northern and Zongo communities. Ghana has about 400 Zongo communities which have been described by many as deprived communities. He has catered for many in these communities, providing for education, healthcare, employment as well as funding projects within the communities. He is currently in the process of building a 550-bed dormitory for his former high school, Tamale Secondary School in the Northern Region of Ghana, after a fire destroyed an existing dormitory.

Another example of his benevolence is his championing of charity causes that create awareness on different types of cancer, which he has engaged in since he lost his mother to cancer in 2005.. He is a co-founder of the Joyce Tamakloe Cancer Foundation which has raised funds for several hospitals in Ghana as a contribution to the fight against cancer. The Foundation has provided free mammogram for over 1000 women across Ghana. The foundation has played a key role in ensuring breast cancer patients received treatment under the National Health Insurance in Ghana. Joyce Tamakloe Memorial Cancer Foundation Polo Championship was also set up in memorial of his mother who was a staunch member of the Accra Polo Club. The championship is also used a way of creating awareness of cancers.

Actually though, sheer envy may be another reason why he is sometimes castigated unfairly. Simply put he was born with a silver spoon in his mouth.

He was born in Piase in the Northern Region of Ghana to Emmanuel Adama Mahama, former Minister of Agriculture and the First Minister of the Northern Region under the first President of Ghana, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah. His mother, Joyce Tamakloe comes from Keta in the Volta Region of Ghana.

He moved to the United Kingdom, where he studied at the College of North London. After college, he went on to live in London, where he worked for a property development company before returning to Ghana - where his elder



**Courageous
Entrepreneur
for Excellence**

brother was already a Member of Parliament and Minister for Communications – to set up Engineers and Planners.

But even with his inherent advantages it is commitment to successful entrepreneurship and the goodwill derived from ordinary Ghanaians at the grass roots level that have taken him to the great heights where he now perches. This has been acknowledged in the form of various well deserved awards. Mahama received the 2018 African Achievers' Award in London, for African Industrialist of the year 2018 - during the 8th

edition African Achievers awards that took place in the House of Commons in London.¹ He was awarded the Ultimate Man of the Year at the 2022 Exclusive Men of the Year Africa Awards. To be sure Mahama is enjoying the fruits of his labour. His networth is estimated at some US\$ 680 million and he uses a Bombardier 604 luxury private jet named Dzata and was the first individual to buy one in Ghana. Little wonder that he is not distracted by his politically motivated detractors, nor those who simply envy his success.

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ILLEGAL MINERS DESTROYING COCOA FARMS

The country's cocoa industry is facing one of its biggest threats ever as illegal gold miners continue a major onslaught on cocoa farms, including those recently rehabilitated under a national programme. The Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD) had warned that the industry could head for a disaster if the illegal activities were not checked. Raising the alarm, the Executive Director of Cocoa Health and Extension Services, Rev. Edwin Afari, said the National Cocoa Rehabilitation Programme being undertaken by COCOBOD at a cost of about GH¢4.8 billion was under severe threat from illegal mining (galamsey) activities.

He said the situation had gone from bad to worse over the past 10 years, and consequently, appealed to the Minerals Commission to refrain from giving mining concessions to miners in cocoa growing areas, while urging all stakeholders to help curb the negative impact of galamsey on cocoa production in the country.

Rev. Afari stated that illegal mining activities were alarming in the Western South cocoa region, including the Wassa Akropong corridor, and parts of the Ashanti Region including Manso Adubia, Antoakrom, and Anyinam in the Eastern Region where a lot of hectares of juvenile cocoa farms had been destroyed.

Rev. Afari said the project to rehabilitate swollen shoot-affected cocoa farms and moribund cocoa farms were being derailed by galamsey activities.

"We haven't even accounted for the harvesting that will be coming. It is just the investment; the compensation that we give to the landowners and farmers; planting of plantain suckers, cocoa trees, extension services, among others," he

further stated, adding "all the work we have done in there has gone to waste."

On a larger scale, Rev. Afari indicated that many forest areas where cocoa was grown had been taken over by illegal mining activities.

He stated that apart from the rehabilitated farms, illegal miners were buying out huge tracts of land meant for cocoa farming for illegal mining.

"Even if you don't sell your farm to them, they dig around it, preventing you from accessing the farm," he stated.

He said if stringent measures were not taken to reverse the situation, national cocoa volumes produced could be significantly affected.

RUSSIAN OIL TO BE STASHED IN GHANA AS POOL OF BUYERS SHRINKS

A cargo of Russian oil has been sent to storage tanks in Ghana, a nation that exports crude itself and is on the doorstep of two regional supply powerhouses.

The development suggests that traders could be scouring the market for new buyers of Russian barrels after the European Union

stopped almost all seaborne imports from the country in December. The bloc's measures made Moscow hugely reliant on Chinese and Indian purchases.

The tanker Theseus arrived in Ghana's territorial waters on in late February carrying about 600,000 barrels of Russian oil from a port in the Black Sea, according to tanker tracking data compiled by Bloomberg. Its cargo was to be pumped into storage tanks in Tema, people with knowledge of the matter said.

Russia is under pressure to sustain its oil revenue after the Group of Seven and the European Union imposed punishing sanctions on the country's energy industry.

Almost all European Union companies are prohibited from buying Russian crude and petroleum products, or providing important services such as insurance to nations that buy such exports above a capped price. In December, Russia's petroleum revenues dropped nearly 20% from the previous month after the price cap triggered big discounts on the nation's crude, according to the International Energy Agency.

The crude is being stored at tanks at the Tema Oil Refinery, the people said.

The shipment to Tema would be the first time Russian oil has been delivered to a West African country since at least October 2018, tracking data show.

Ghana itself is a small oil exporter, shipping an average of about 140,000 barrels a day over the past six months, according to tanker tracking data compiled by Bloomberg. It's also next to Nigeria and Angola, the two biggest suppliers in sub-Saharan Africa.

After sanctions were imposed on Russia, the nation directed crude exports toward China and India, upending global oil flows and the maritime industry.

With Europe previously having been by far the largest market for Russian oil, that narrowed the nation's pool of buyers dramatically. It also meant the barrels had to be discounted at the point of export to compensate for relatively high delivery costs.





3 BONDHOLDER GROUPS DEMAND IMMEDIATE PAYMENT OF MATURED COUPONS

Three bondholder groups are demanding the immediate payment of coupons and principals which matured on February 6th and 20th.

The group is made up of the Pensioner Bondholders Forum, Individual Bondholders Association of Ghana and Individual Bondholders Forum.

On Monday, February 27, they gathered at the Finance Ministry to check on the payment for coupons and principals for bondholders whose bonds had matured but had not been honoured.

This follows government's assurance that it will honour its commitments to domestic investors once their bonds mature.

Finance Minister, Ken Ofori-Atta had promised that outstanding bonds which matured on February 6 for which government defaulted, would be honoured after February 21.

Explaining the reason for the delay in payment, Mr. Ofori-Atta pointed out that the processing of coupon payments delayed due to the settlement period for the programme.

He, however, reiterated that the government is working to ensure that every bondholder is paid upon maturity of their bonds and urged the bondholders to remain calm.

Ghana to ensure payments of coupons, principals of old bonds resume on March 13

Ghana's finance ministry said on February 27 it was taking steps to ensure payments of coupons and principals of old bonds resume on March 13 following the conclusion of a domestic debt exchange programme.

It also said in a statement that the newly issued bonds had been settled and listed, and would become the new benchmark bonds for the fixed income market.

Ghana has to restructure its debt to secure a \$3 billion International Monetary Fund bailout.

It successfully closed a long-delayed domestic debt exchange programme on February 14 with registrations from around 85% of eligible bondholders.

Finance Minister Ken Ofori-Atta said two days later that substantive discussions with external bondholders were due to start in the next few weeks.



MTN PROMISES TO INVEST \$1BN IN GHANA FOR 5G TECHNOLOGY

MTN Group has announced it will invest about \$1 billion in Ghana over five years in 5G technology.

The investment comes after the Ghana Revenue Authority exempted the mobile operator's bill for back taxes in early February after the incident sparked a diplomatic reaction by South Africa's foreign minister.

The tax claim was initially issued after the authority audited the mobile operator for 2014 to 2018, and said it had under-declared its revenue by about 30% during the period.

According to MTN Group president and chief executive Ralph Mupita: "We will invest an equivalent of \$1 billion of capital expenditure over the next five years.

"We see 5G as a technology that could spur faster growth with industrial use cases in mining, agriculture, oil, ports, logistics and smart cities over time. There are short-term headwinds, but the investment case for Ghana remains very compelling," he said.

Mupita said MTN remained excited and highly committed to Ghana as a market.

"To be sure, macroeconomic conditions are very challenging in the near term. That said, we are

focused on the medium and long term, and we are seeing growth."

Mupita said the crowding in of private long-term capital would support economic recovery efforts and spur growth in their view.

"We are here to play our part as a partner for socio-economic progress," he said.

Russia's Lukoil looks to sell stake in Ghana's Pecan field

Russia's Lukoil is in talks with Indian companies to sell its stake in the Pecan oilfield off Ghana, which could help to break an impasse in submitting development plans for the field, sources familiar with the matter said.

Talks between Lukoil officials and Indian companies, including ONGC Videsh, the foreign investment arm of Oil and Natural Gas Corp, were held in February on the sidelines of the India Energy Week conference, two Indian and two Ghanaian sources said.

The Russian firm is talking directly to potential buyers as investment bankers are not getting involved due to Western sanctions on Russia, one of the sources said.

Norway's Aker Energy, controlled by Aker ASA, owns 50% of the deepwater block off Ghana where the Pecan field is located, while Lukoil holds 38%, Ghana National Petroleum Corp. has 10%, and Fueltrade has 2%.

Aker has said the submission of Pecan's development plan to Ghanaian authorities has been postponed amid fears the project could face sanctions because of the involvement of Lukoil. Aker ASA Chief Executive Oeyvind Eriksen has said his firm is in talks with Ghanaian authorities, and one option is for Lukoil to divest from the project.

Lukoil disputes that it poses a sanctions risk for the project.

"The company and its management are not subject to any sanctions, therefore there are no obstacles in this respect for the joint development of the oilfield," Lukoil said in a statement.

One Indian official said the development of fields in Ghana was costly because most of them have associated gas that cannot be flared, and establishing a liquefaction facility would require an investment of more than a billion dollars.





Bola Tinubu
President of Nigeria

President Tinubu Moves To Resolve Nigeria's Dispute With The UAE, Emirates Airline

By Toma Imirhe

The assumption of office by a new federal government in Nigeria – the recently elected President Bola Tinubu administration – is bringing new hope to hundreds of thousands of Nigerians who have been adversely affected by the most recent downward turn of events in the long running sour relationship between the immediate past Buhari administration and Emirates, the world renown national flag carrier airline of the United Arab Emirates.

Currently the government of the UAE has imposed a visa ban on Nigerians seeking entry into the country, whether for business or pleasure. This is debilitating for both countries; UAE has been a major source of imports into Nigeria while Nigerian importers and investors,

particularly in real estate, have been a key source of foreign exchange inflows into that country's vibrant economy.

However, less than a month after taking up office, newly elected President Bola Tinubu is taking concrete steps to resolve the issue, setting up a high powered committee of highly placed government officials to work with the UAE to settle their differences.

This may not be an easy task however. The ongoing visa ban is the main symptom of the seemingly toxic relationship between Nigeria under former President Buhari and Emirates, the UAE's national airline.

The main issue between the two is the failure of the Nigerian federal government to facilitate Emirates repatriation of US\$85 million in

earnings due to be sent home to support airline operations, but which had piled up in a growing back log or earnings locked up in Africa's biggest economy. This has led to the suspension of flights between the two countries by Emirates, pending when it can retrieve its monies locked up in Nigeria. The suspension of flights, began in November 2022 although an earlier similar suspension, begun in August last year was cancelled briefly based on promises of a resolution of the earnings repatriation problem. When those promises came to nothing the currently ongoing second suspension of flights began.

But the situation is even more complicated than this. Nigeria sees the ban on entry visas for its citizens as a direct retaliation for its



suspension of Emirates flights between Lagos and Dubai, which itself was a retaliation for UAE's Sharjah airport failure to give Nigerian private carrier, Air Peace, the three slots a week it was demanding. Nigeria claimed that this was unfair since it had given Emirates enough slots to operate daily flights between Lagos and the UAE as well as a weekly flight between that country and Abuja. Nigeria argued that this flew in the face of the accepted principle of reciprocity as practiced by the global commercial aviation industry.

But the UAE's General Civil Aviation Authority pointed out that the problem had only arisen because Air Peace had voluntarily moved its operations from Sharjah Airport to Dubai, then later moved back to Sharjah, by which time that airline had reallocated Air Peace's slots to other carriers since the Nigerian airline was no longer using them and Sharjah Airport was struggling to operate at 140% capacity. Effectively this means the problem was Air Peace's fault not the UAE's. However the Nigerian government see the ban on entry visas for its citizens as a way of preventing Air Peace from benefitting from its controversial ban on Emirates flights between Lagos and Dubai.

Disputes between Nigeria and Emirates go back even further than this though; in 2018 a Nigerian court ordered the seizure of an Emirates 777 dream liner in response to a Nigerian passenger being denied boarding over a ticketing dispute. Both sides are now hoping that with Buhari gone

and President Tinubu taking over, a new era of mutual goodwill will replace the erstwhile toxic relationship between the counterparties and his setting up of a high powered committee to resolve the dispute is seen as a concrete step in the right direction. Tinubu's early decisions to cancel the costly fuel subsidy and unite the dual foreign exchange markets are being seen as measures that will quickly improve the country's

foreign exchange position enabling Emirates to retrieve its locked up monies. Instructively though inability to repatriate locked up funds is affecting several airlines and other aviation industry supply chain operators active in Nigeria. The Central Bank of Nigeria recently released US\$265 million to industry operators but substantial sums remain outstanding.





Ghana Gas expands into cylinder making

Ghana Gas has made its first major diversification move expanding into manufacturing with its impending acquisition of Ghana Cylinder Manufacturing Company and the impending construction of its own manufacturing plant. TOMA IMIRHE documents how Ghana Gas is taking its already pivotal success to a new level.

Ghana National Gas Corporation, more popularly known as Ghana Gas is on the verge of completing a takeover of Ghana Cylinder Manufacturing Company, an acquisition that can be expected to breathe new life into the state owned enterprise charged with primary responsibility for manufacturing gas cylinders for retail use.

This coming at a most opportune time; government is reaching a critical stage in its once controversial, but now widely accepted plan to implement its LPG cylinder recirculation module whereby gas users will simply trade in their empty gas cylinders for already filled ones when they go to buy gas. This will put a stop to the current process whereby individuals take their cylinders to the gas filling station and have them refilled before taking them home to use the gas.

The impending new module was designed as a response to the fatal gas explosion which occurred at the Atomic Junction, a suburb in Accra, in 2018 which resulted in wholesale loss of lives and extensive damage to nearby properties.

The new module will enable government to take defective cylinders out of circulation and ensure that all gas sold is in cylinders which are safe to use.

But since there are still lots of ageing and outright defective cylinders in use nationwide this will require a significant increase in the production of new cylinders.

Ghana Gas offers a way to achieve this in two ways. Firstly it is already in the process of preparing to construct its own LPG bottling plant at Axim in the Western Region, having already received the six requisite licenses from the National Petroleum Authority for this purpose. Instructively the bottling plant will be located in the same area as the company's gas processing plant at Atuabo which, with a capacity to process close to 150 million standard cubic feet per day of raw gas, is easily the bigger of the two gas processing plants in Ghana, the other owned and operated by ENI Ghana as part of its operation of its Sankofa Gyame oil and gas field. Ghana Gas's planned bottling plant is designed

to take LPG from the source of production and bottle it into LPG cylinders which will then be marketed nationwide.

Therefore the impending acquisition of GCMC will complete the supply chain by providing the cylinders that will bottle the gas processed by Ghana Gas.

Importantly not only will the acquisition complete the supply chain itself; it will also provide GCMC with the requisite financial strength to step up its production levels. Indeed, financial constraints have hitherto curtailed the company's ability to attain the production levels required to successfully implement the cylinder recirculation module which is a key reason why its commencement has been delayed in the first place.

Ghana Gas is financially very solid – despite delays in payment it still suffers for gas supplied especially to state owned buyers such as Volta River Authority – and this eliminates the GCMC's biggest challenge.



Dr. Ben KD Asante, CEO, Ghana Gas

After the completion of the takeover, GCMC will operate as a subsidiary of Ghana Gas. This will translate into improved corporate governance. GCMC has just undergone a change at its helm with Madam Genevieve Sackey replacing Frances Awurabena Essiam as the company's CEO in March after the later resigned, having served in that position for six years.

Ghana Gas is carefully courting the new CEO even as she looks forward enthusiastically to GCMC being acquired. The Board of Ghana Gas recently hosted the new CEO and discussions reportedly went very smoothly.

To be sure, Ghana Gas is an excellent suitor, and not just because of its strategic position in the same supply and value chain that GCMC itself is also on, and the financial strength that it brings to the table.

Simply put, Ghana Gas has an exemplary track record of success which can be expected to influence the performance and conduct of GCMC in a most positive manner.

Ghana Gas is the primary reason why the country's hitherto perennial merchandise trade deficit has been transformed into a consistent trade surplus since the last quarter of 2016, by replacing erstwhile imported diesel oil for energy

generation with locally produced and processed gas. Indeed, even vehicles have followed electricity generation facilities into the use of gas rather than diesel or gasoline and the resultant sharp drop in the volumes and values of oil imports have enabled export revenues to outstrip import bills during every quarter since then.

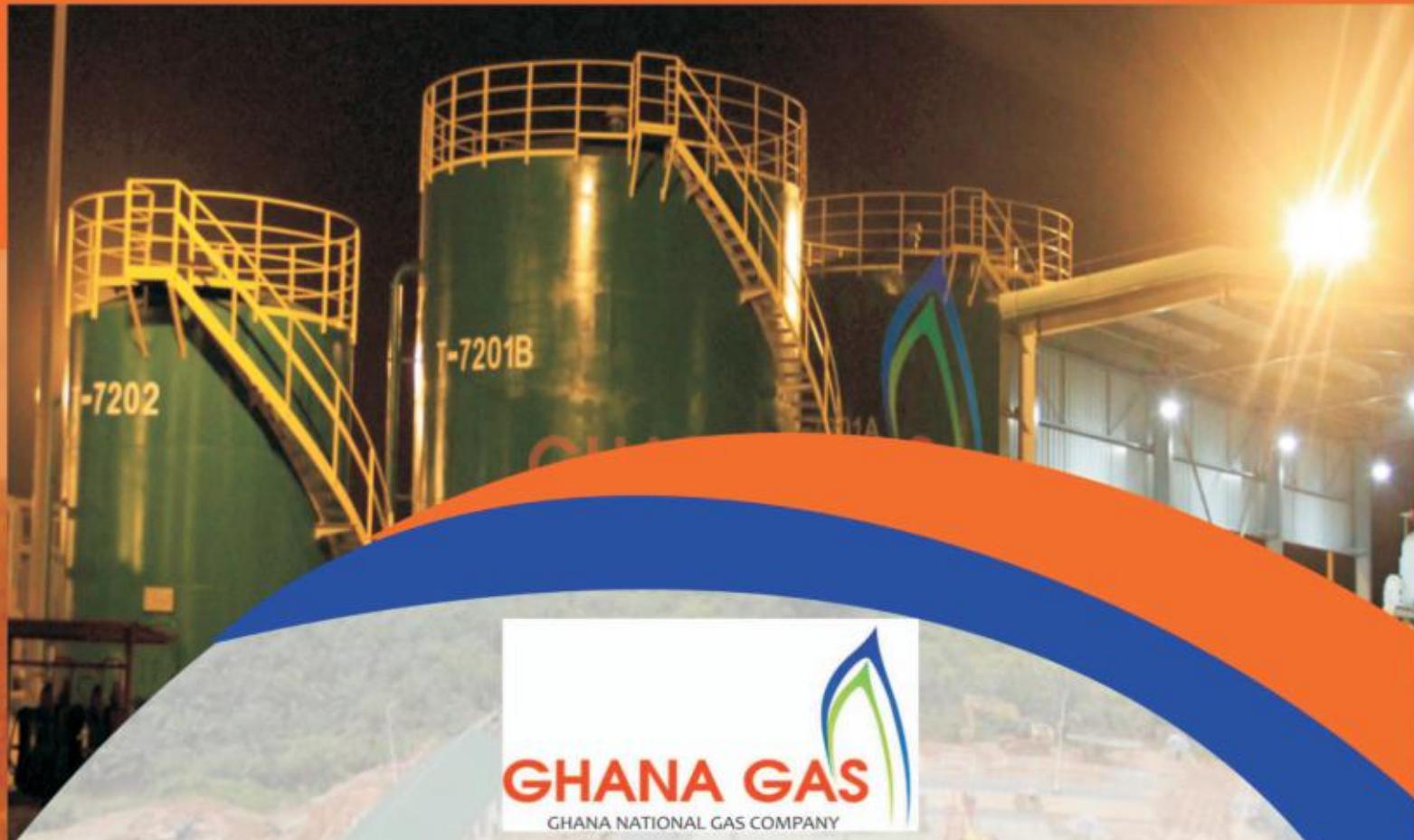
Perhaps the most important factor driving the corporate success of Ghana Gas is the professional capacity of its CEO, Dr Ben Asante, who is far and away Ghana's most accomplished gas expert. Applying Ghana Gas's financial muscle and technical expertise to ensure the success of the cylinder recirculation initiative is just one of the many projects which the visionary Dr Asante is looking to implement for the benefit of Ghanaians and the national economy.

Already he is pursuing plans to construct a second gas processing plant, to be sited north of the existing one at Atuabo. This would be pivotal; the planned second plant would increase the state's gas processing capacity from its current level of 150 mscfd to 240 mscfd and would eliminate the need to flare part of the gas currently being released by oil production from

the Jubilee and TEN fields. Currently Ghana has the capacity to generate 365 mscfd from both fields, which is twice the processing capacity at the Atuabo plant which is indeed running full out. Ghana Gas is also looking to use local gas buying and distribution companies to supply gas directly to industry. Already, three such gas intermediaries are being established in the Tema area where industrial demand is highest. Ghana Gas plans to take advantage of the reverse West African gas pipeline which goes from western Ghana to eastern Ghana to deliver gas from Atuabo and from the second planned plant when it comes on line.

There are also plans afoot to make Kumasi another hub for power generation with the Prestea-Kumasi Gas Pipeline Project about two thirds complete which will enable Ghana Gas supply lean gas to Nyinahin and Kumasi for mineral processing and power generation. There is also the Mainline Compressor Station at Atuabo- a third unit coming on board to increase the gas supply capacity.

Ghana Gas is now bringing its pedigree and sterling track record of visionary accomplishment to GCMC. This is a corporate marriage that stands to benefit everyone.



Ghana National Gas Company Limited (Ghana Gas) is a limited liability company, duly incorporated under the Companies Act of Ghana 1963 (Act 179). It was established in July 2011, as a wholly owned commercial enterprise of the Government of Ghana.

Ghana Gas' mandate is to build, own and operate infrastructure required for gathering, processing, transporting, and the sale of natural gas resources in Ghana.

In line with this mandate, Ghana Gas has constructed a 150MMScfd Gas Processing facility and interconnecting Pipelines in the Western Region, constituting Phase 1 of the Western Corridor Gas Infrastructure Project.

Currently, Jubilee gas is received and transported through the offshore pipeline (59km), which is interconnected to the Gas Processing Plant (GPP) at Atuabo. Processed Gas is then transported through the 111km onshore pipeline and distribution hubs to VRA and Industrial Gas Customers respectively. Our industrial customers include 2 ceramic companies who utilize the gas for the production of ceramic floor tiles.

On average, gas delivered to power generation customers produces an estimated 600MW of power to the national grid. Additionally, LPG and Condensate produced are sold to the downstream petroleum market, reducing the nation's dependence on imported fuel and savings on foreign currency.

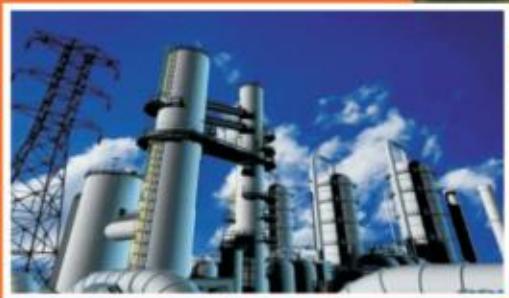
Plans are well advanced to commercialise Isopentane to generate electricity. In addition, a compressor will be installed to increase the existing pipeline capacity to about 405MMScfd of Lean Gas, which will potentially increase power production to over 1500MW.

Ghana Gas is proud to note that the Gas Processing Plant and associated facilities are now fully operated and maintained by an indigenous Ghanaian workforce.



GHANA GAS

GHANA NATIONAL GAS COMPANY



MISSION

To be a trusted and reliable
gas services company

VISION

To contribute to Ghana's Gas
economic development by providing
and operating the infrastructure
required for gathering, processing
and delivering natural gas resources,
in a safe, cost effective, responsible
and reliable manner to customers



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