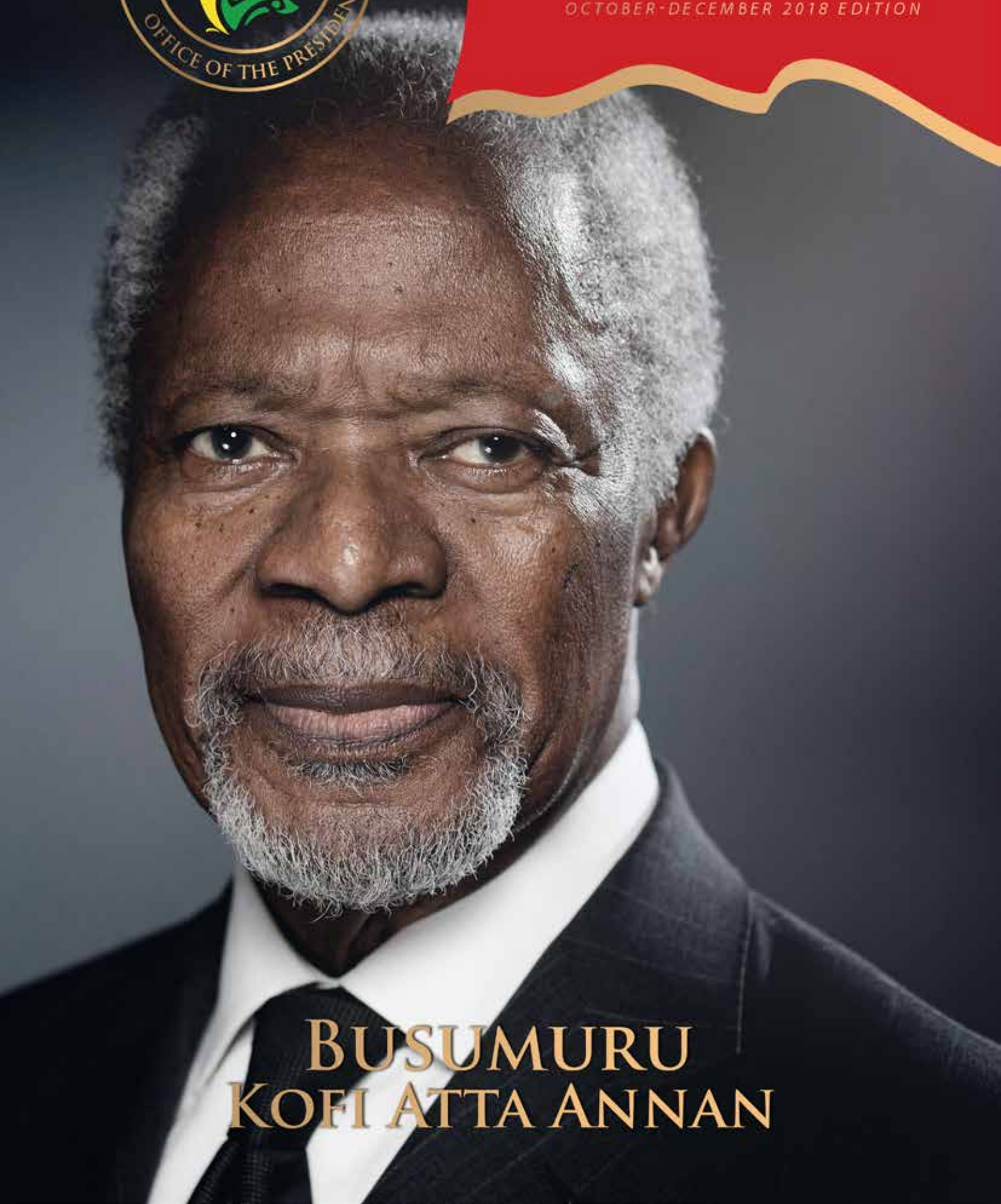




THE GHANA DIASPORA

OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2018 EDITION



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KOFI ATTA ANNAN



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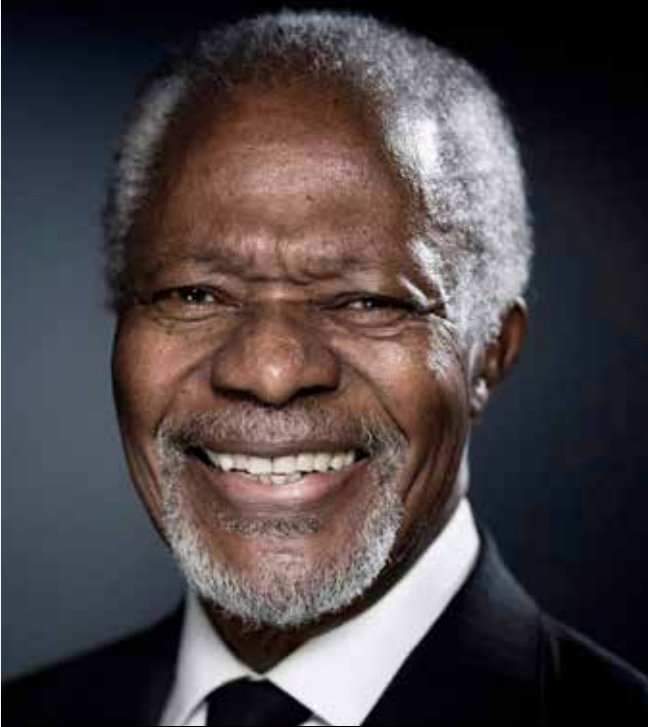
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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Charming, cosmopolitan, consensus-builder, elegant, eloquent, gentle-mannered, modest, polyglot, proud African, peacemaker, quintessential diplomat – these words are still inadequate to capture the fullness of the personality of Kofi Annan, one of the truly iconic figures of modern times.

Even though he was my senior, we were good friends for most of my adult life. His father, H.R. Annan, was one of the stalwarts of the Danquah-Dombo-Busia political tradition, serving as the Ashanti Regional Minister under Prime Minister Dr Kofi Abrefa Busia's Progress Party Government of the Second Republic. Although he never openly acknowledged, in my presence, the attachment to the tradition, his advocacy of human rights, respect for the rule of law and the principle of democratic accountability was the very essence of that tradition.

Highly admired Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan was the first from sub-Saharan Africa to occupy this exalted office, which made him the world's top diplomat. He brought considerable renown to

our country by this position and by his conduct and comportment in the global arena. Indeed, the outpouring of tributes from the world over is an accurate measure of the man, a man who gave his life to making peace where there was conflict, to defending the voiceless who were powerless, promoting virtue where there was evil. Despite the unjustified attacks on him, trying to fix him with responsibility for the genocides in Rwanda and Srebrenica when he was head of UN peace operations, he never lost his moral compass, as he showed when he stood up to the might of the United States of America when she was embarking on her ill-fated intervention in Iraq. Kofi Anna's epic but unavailing effort to establish the supremacy on international law over the actions of even the world's greatest power won him the admiration of all rights-think persons. History has vindicated him. I recollect with fondness, that eventful day of Friday, 11 August 2006, when, as Foreign Minister as the time Ghana occupied one of the non-permanent seats on the UN Security Council, I chaired the meeting of the Council which took the decision that halted Israel's incursions into Lebanon by voting Security Council Resolution 1701. Seated to my immediate right, when that vote was taken, was my compatriot, Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan. What a proud-day it was for me and for Ghana.

Kofi Anna was an ardent believer in the capacity of the Ghanaian and African to chart his or her own

course on to the path of progress and prosperity. He found the vision of a Ghana Beyond Aid, indeed of an African Beyond Aid, very appealing. Undoubtedly, he excelled in the various undertakings of his life, leaving in his trail most pleasant memories. His was a life well-lived.

He gave me sensitive, deeply appreciated advice when I became President of the Republic. The last time I saw him was when he came to my office at Jubilee House, on Friday, 10 March. To inform me, much to my discomfiture, that he could no longer continue to serve as Chancellor of Ghana's premier university, the University of Ghana, Legon, since he had served two terms permitted by the statutes of the university. I bemoaned my ill-luck, even though, as life would have it, the university has found in Mary Chinery-Hesse, his old and trusted friend-, a worthy successor.

A devout Christian, an outstanding Ghanaian, who served his country, Africa and humanity with dignity and humility, has left us to join his maker. Ghana, Africa and the world have suffered greatly from his passing.

I am wholly humbled by the opportunity given to me, by the Grace of God and the generosity of the Ghanaian people, to decree, as President of the Republic, most fittingly, a state funeral in his honour.

He had strong, loving ties to his maternal and paternal origins, and has left behind his constant companion, his beloved, devoted wife, Nane Maria, and their cherished children, Ama, Kojo and Nina. On behalf of the Government and people of Ghana, my wife, Rebecca, and our children, I extend our profound condolences to his entire family on its irreparable loss and wish him peaceful rest in the bosom of the Almighty. He deserves it. God bless him.



MESSAGE FROM EDITOR IN-CHIEF CHIEF OF STAFF (AKOSUA FREMA OSEI OPARE)

All too soon the year 2018 is grinding to a close. 2018 was a mixed bag. On the positive side, Government rolled out very impactful initiatives including one village, one Dam aimed at achieving all year-round agriculture productivity, the Presidential Business Support Programme to provide financial assistance to entrepreneurs and the Double Track System aimed at increasing enrollment in our Senior High Schools.

All these initiatives are intended to improve upon the productive capacity of our people thereby creating jobs and wealth for the youth.

On the flip-side was the death of one of Ghana's illustrious son and global peace icon Mr. Kofi Annan. Mr. Annan, the former UN Secretary General who passed on August 18, after a short illness had endeared himself to the world as an astute international statesman committed to the world peace and security. It was therefore not surprising that several world leaders and dignitaries came to Ghana to pay their last respects and bid him farewell. As we move into 2019, I would urge all Ghanaians including those in the diaspora to continue to support the President, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo and the government to roll out many more initiatives to achieve our transformative agenda. Diasporians should continue to support development programmes back home as well as make meaningful contributions towards policy formulation.



Ghana and the world bid farewell to Kofi Annan

Ghana on September 13, 2018 bid farewell to Kofi Annan, former Secretary-General of the United Nations and the only black African to hold the post at a state funeral attended by African leaders and international statesmen who hailed his record as an advocate for humanity and world peace.

Mr Annan was 80.

World leaders and international dignitaries gathered at the solemn ceremony, which took place at the Accra International Conference Center, to pay their last respects to the former United Nations Secretary-General in a ceremony that concluded two days of viewing.

Mourners included Princess Beatrix, the former Queen of the Netherlands, and her daughter-in-law Princess Mabel, who were close friends of Annan.

Presidents from across Africa joined UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, Annan's family; his widow of 35 years, Nane Annan, his children Ama and Kojo, and his step-daughter, Nina to grieve together.

The Presidents of Namibia, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ethiopia and Sierra Leone attended, along with Niger's Prime Minister and Angola's Vice President.

Former leaders from Europe and Africa also joined the ceremony, including Graca Machel, wife of the late South African President Nelson Mandela.

Gutteres Tribute

Guterres in his tribute to his mentor and former predecessor said the late Kofi Annan was the United Nations and the United Nations was him.

He noted that Annan "Was an exceptional global leader- and he was also someone virtually anyone in the world could see themselves in: those on the far reaches of poverty, conflict and despair who found in him an ally; the junior UN staffer following in his footsteps; the young person to whom he said until his dying breath always remember, you are never too young to lead- and we are never too old to learn."

He added that Kofi Annan was courageous, speaking truth to power while subjecting himself to intense self-scrutiny. "And like his predecessor as UN Secretary-General, Dag Hammarskjold, he had an almost mystical sense of the role of the United Nations as a force for good in a world of ills."

Guterres, who was selected by Annan to be the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, said the world has lost a standard-bearer of global cooperation. The United Nations has lost an embodiment of its mission, he said. "Now that I occupy the office Kofi once held, I am continually inspired by his integrity, dynamism and dedication. To him, indifference was the world's worst poison."

He said Kofi Annan opened the doors of the United Nations, bringing the organization closer to the world's people and engaging new partners in protecting the environment, defending human rights and combating HIV/AIDS and other killer diseases.

Even after serving as secretary-general he continued to work on the front lines of diplomacy, said Guterres. "He helped to ease post-election tensions in Kenya, gave his all to find a political solution to the brutal war in Syria and set out a path for ensuring justice and rights for the Rohingya people of Myanmar," Guterres added.

Wife's tribute

In an emotional tribute to her husband, Mrs Annan said her husband "Always believed that his inner strength and sense of hope came from his deep roots here and I want to thank Ghana for giving us such an extraordinary human being".

She said her husband "challenged all of us to work for a better world right where we are; in our homes, in our villages, in our towns and in our cities. All you needed to do is to take one small step and another.

Reading a tribute at the burial service of her late husband in Accra, Nane Lagergren disclosed that Kofi Annan was always excited to return to Ghana after serving humanity in different parts of the world.

"I remember how excited he always was returning home, home to Ghana. On arrival he will draw in the air, feel the breeze and he will look so happy. He always believed that his inner strength and sense of home came from his deep roots here, and I want to thank Ghana for giving us an extraordinary human being," she added.

"My love, you are now back home where you started your long journey. May you rest in peace and may your wisdom and compassion continue to inspire us and guide us wherever we are."

President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo Tribute

President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo also paid a glowing tribute to the late former UN Secretary General, Busumuru Kofi Atta Annan.

He said the late Annan was "charming, cosmopolitan, consensus-builder, elegant, eloquent, gentle-mannered, modest, polyglot, proud African, peacemaker, quintessential diplomat".

The President said "these words are not enough to capture the fullness of the personality of Mr Annan, who was one of the iconic figures of modern times".

He said as the first UN Secretary General from sub-Saharan Africa, Mr Annan, through his conduct and comportment in the global arena, brought fame and glory to the nation, and that the myriad of tributes from around the world attested to his peacemaking nature and commitment to defend the voiceless.

Recounting attempts by some individuals to unjustifiably fix the late Annan with the responsibility for the genocides in Rwanda and Srebrenica when he was the UN Head of Peace Operations, the President said Mr Annan never lost his moral compass.

"Kofi Annan's epic but unavailing efforts to establish the supremacy of international law over the actions of even the world's greatest power won him the admiration of all right-thinking persons. History has vindicated him," President Akufo-Addo stated.

Reminiscing over his time as Ghana's Foreign Minister, especially when Ghana occupied one of the non-permanent seats at the UN Security Council in August 2006, the President described how proud he was as Chairman of the UN Security Council meeting that took the decision to halt Israel's incursion into Lebanon by voting Security Council Resolution 1701.

He said he felt very proud as a Ghanaian because during the proceedings and the voting the then UN Secretary General, Mr Kofi Annan, was right beside him at that critical decision-making period.

For President Akufo-Addo, Mr Annan was an ardent believer in the capacity of the Ghanaian and the African to chart their own course of progress and prosperity and also found the visions of Ghana Beyond Aid and Africa Beyond Aid very appealing.

He described Mr Annan as his good friend for most of his adult life, saying he cherished the pieces of advice the late diplomat offered him after he had been elected President of Ghana in December 2016



Biography of Kofi Annan

Kofi Atta Annan was born in Kumasi, on the Gold Coast of Ghana, on April 8, 1938, entering the world with his twin sister Efua Atta. In the official biography handed out to attendees, it is said that Kofi Annan's peace-making tendencies in later life came from being a twin, as Ghanaian elders believe that twins are "naturally accommodating because they have to share a womb."

Kofi Annan's parents instilled in him and his four siblings an independence of thought. His father, Henry Reginald Annan, saw no contradiction in being an African in identity, and a European in outlook, a nationalist and traditionalist, a proponent of political change and an upholder of traditional values. He believed in hard work and discipline. Clearly, this parental advice was foundational for Annan's life's work.

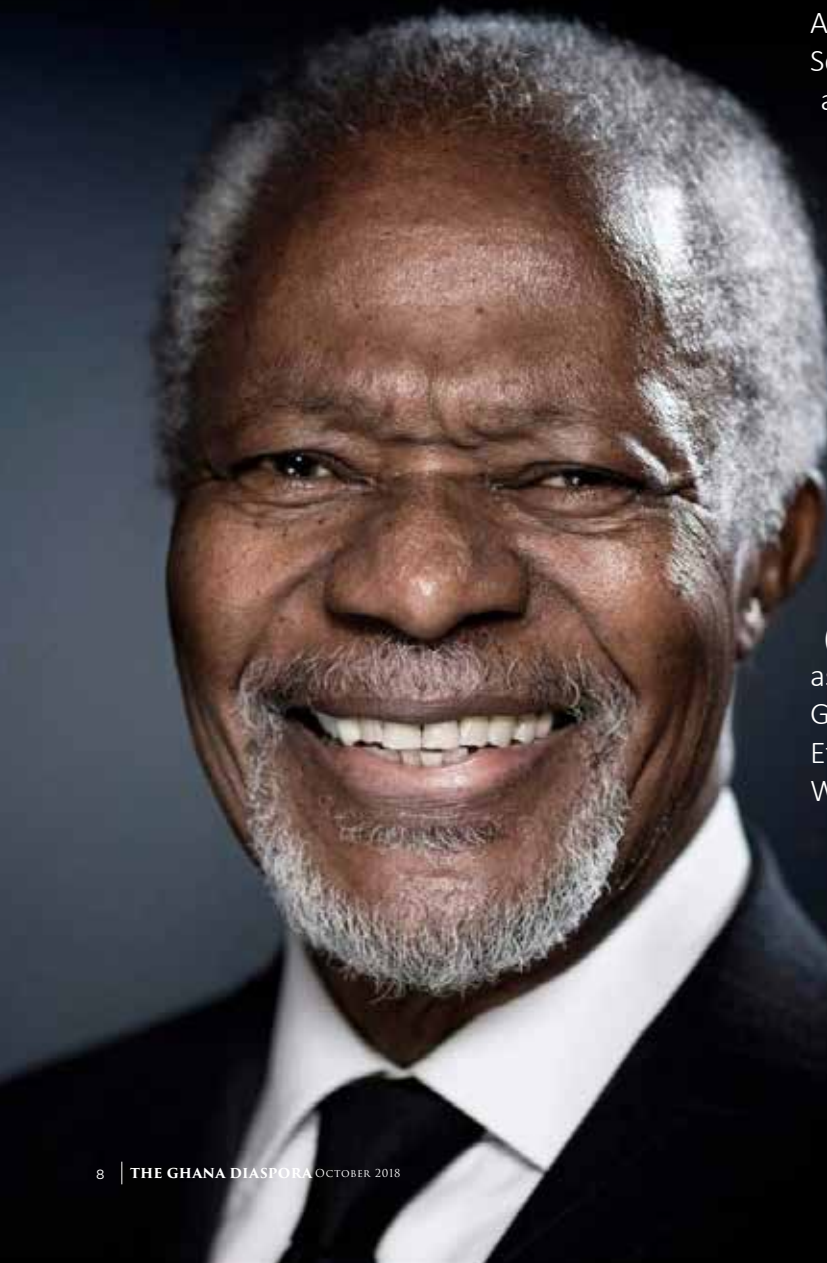
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After receiving his early education at the Mfantsipim School in Ghana, Annan attended the College of Science and Technology in the capital of Kumasi. At the age of twenty, he won a Ford Foundation scholarship for undergraduate studies at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota, where he studied economics. Even then he was showing signs of becoming a diplomat, or someone skilled in international relations. Annan received his bachelor's degree in economics in 1961. Shortly after completing his studies at Macalester College, Annan headed for Geneva, Switzerland, where he attended graduate classes in economics at the Institut Universitaire des Hautes Etudes Internationales.

Following his graduate studies in Geneva, Annan joined the staff of the World Health Organization (WHO), a branch of the United Nations. He served as an administrative officer and as budget officer in Geneva. Later UN posts took him to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and New York City, New York.

While his tenure at the UN was not without its controversies, Kofi Annan confounded expectations, and in 2001, the Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded the Nobel Peace Prize to both Annan and the United Nations. Gunnar Berge, the chairman of the Oslo-based panel, said that Annan, was "probably the most effective secretary-General in its history."



In 2002, Annan was conferred the title Busumuru, the highest traditional honour of the Asanteman in recognition of his service to humanity and promotion of peace throughout the world. Busumuru is the name of the golden sword used by the king to swear allegiance to the Ashanti kingdom at his coronation. Annan was the first to be granted the title since the Ashanti kingdom was founded in 1680.



Mr Kofi Annan and family



Mr Kofi Annan and some world leaders

Consider Ghana first

- President urges investors at United Nations General Assembly(UNGA)

President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo has asked global businesses to consider Ghana as their first business investment destination in Africa.

He told them to take advantage of the numerous incentives that had been introduced by the government of Ghana to ensure that investments are safe, protected by law and successful. The President was addressing Fortune 500 business executives on the sidelines of the ongoing 73rd United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session in New York, USA, on September 24, 2018.

"I urge representatives of Fortune 500 companies to look at Ghana and not to ignore it. Regardless of where the investments are, I am confident that through our policies we can bring greater dignity to the lives of millions of people in Ghana and beyond," he stated.

He said the government was establishing the most business-friendly economy in Africa to enable the private sector to thrive.

Value addition

The President also outlined the government's vision to shift to industrialisation, which it intends

to do by placing emphasis on value addition to the country's natural resources.

He said the government has taken steps to modernise agriculture to enhance productivity, implement a clear industrial policy and rationalise the financial sector to support growth in agriculture, manufacturing and other sectors of the economy.

The president said the modest successes chalked up by the government were being recognised globally and already some global businesses were showing eagerness to do business with the country.

Citing examples, he said two global car giants in Germany and China had announced plans to establish vehicle assembly plants in Ghana.

He said Google and Exxon Mobil were also in the process of

establishing businesses in the country.

Foreign direct investments

He said the rapid enhancement of foreign direct investment was an essential ingredient in realising the transformational agenda.

"That is why we are building in Ghana a strong productive economy capable of generating dignified prosperous existence for its people," he pointed out.

Resilient economy

He said the government was creating a resilient and robust economy and described macro-economic indices as pointing in the right direction.

Shedding more light on the performance of the economy, he said at the beginning of his mandate in January 2017, the



government was confronted with an economy that was in steep decline, having obtained a growth rate of 3.6 per cent in 2016, the lowest in 22 years.

But by dint of hard and prudent management, President Akufo-Addo said, GDP grew by 8.5 per cent in the first year of the government.

For the second year (2018), he said, the government expected growth of 8.3 per cent which, he said, according to the IMF, would make Ghana one of the world's fastest-growing economies. He assured the investors that that strong economic growth would be maintained, so that the country could provide stability to stimulate rapid growth and investment.

Not an easy task

President Akufo-Addo noted that attaining all the development goals of his government would not come easy.

"I have no illusions about the task ahead. But I know we can rise to the occasion, as we did when we led the continent in the struggle for the liberation of Africa from colonialism and imperialism," he stated.

"The Black Star is going to shine and we will build a Ghana beyond aid," he said.

Roundtable discussion

Meanwhile, the President had earlier held a roundtable discussion with the US-Africa Business Centre/GIPC Concordia-Summit, where a memorandum of understanding was signed to facilitate investment into Ghana. He was also honoured with the 2018 Outstanding Leaders Award by the US Chamber of Commerce in recognition of his leadership and commitment to championing trade and investment as the means to grow Ghana's economy.

President eulogises Mandela

The President had also delivered a message at the high-level meeting on Global Peace to commemorate the centenary of Nelson Mandela's birth.

President Akufo-Addo, who was the third speaker, eulogised the greatness of Nelson Mandela and charged the global leadership to emulate the peaceful life Mandela led on earth.

Bilateral meetings

President Akufo-Addo also held bilateral meetings with the President of Slovenia, Mr Borut Pahor, and the President of Austria, Mr Alexander Van der Bellen, at separate functions. At both events, the discussions were very engaging and President Akufo-Addo said Ghana was open for business and looking for partnerships.

He explained to the leaders of the two countries the efforts being made in Ghana to attract investors.

Later in the evening, the President and his wife, Mrs Rebecca Akufo-Addo, attended a reception hosted by the President of the US, Mr Donald Trump, and Mrs Trump on the occasion of the 73rd UNGA.



New Public Sector Reform Launched

Our Public sector plays frontline roles in the development of the country. For this reason the government has, over the years' undertaken reforms to improve public sector performance. These reforms have provided an opportunity for assessment of the relevance of the ideas, visions and commitments needed to leverage the public sector as a catalyst for growth and development.

However, the outcomes of past reforms have been modest at best. They have not led to sufficient improvement in job creation and wealth maximization in key sectors of the economy and public service delivery has not been fully aligned with the needs of the citizenry.

Today a significant challenge facing the country is unemployment, particularly among the youth. While the public sector is saturated, the private sector has not been leverage efficiently to create the much needed jobs. The vision of the government is to create a responsive, efficient and effective public sector which places the catalytic role of government at the centre of all its policies to support the private sector in job and wealth creation. To realise this, the government intends to strengthen the collaboration between the public sector and the private sector.

At the core of this strategic plan in the desire to improve the performance of the public sector to be responsive to the needs of citizens and the private sector for sustained national development. The strategy also aims at reorienting public sector actors and institutions to provide the enabling environment for rapid gains in private sector competitiveness. The government is committed to supporting the public sector to deliver cutting edge services to citizens and the private sector to lead the job creation agenda on a sustainable basis. With this strategy, the government's charge to the public sector is to cease to be self-serving, but rather focus on the delivery of efficient public services to boost private sector performance to create jobs and wealth for the citizenry.

In line with that, the President, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo on Wednesday, August 8, 2018, launched the National Public Sector Reform Strategy (NPSRS), 2018-2023.

The Strategy, according to President Akufo-Addo, "Will lead to the creation of a new public service that is fit-for-purpose, which will help guarantee the delivery of high quality services for the Ghanaian people and the private sector." The President indicated that when

Ghana attained independence in 1957, an efficient public service, the envy of many in the Region, was bequeathed to the nation.

"It has, over the years, contributed its quota to our development and progress. In spite of its modest achievements, the Ghanaian people, in recent years, have expressed dissatisfaction with the systems of service delivery in the public sector. Whether it is about absenteeism or lateness, incompetence or corruption, the public sector is, today, unhappily, not seen in good light," he said.

The President noted that the 2018 to 2023 NPSRS will review and modernise the current structures, systems, processes and internal management functions of the public sector, to support government's development priorities.



“It will also help create the conditions necessary for the private sector to thrive, and, thereby, create employment opportunities for the youth, all within the context of our overall vision of a Ghana Beyond Aid,” he assured.

President Akufo-Addo stressed that a major goal of the Reform will be to strengthen the human resource capacity of the public sector to improve its delivery.

To this end, he indicated that public sector training institutions will be resourced to help develop the requisite skills and knowledge needed for the delivery of modern services.

Below is the Executive Summary

The effectiveness of a country's public sector is key to its success and development. NPSRS, 2018-2023 is based on the new direction of the government to make the public sector not only effectively and efficiently responsive to citizens, but also to the private sector. The strategy is also expected to contribute to the government's developmental agenda which is to create the conditions for the

Ghanaian private sector to grow and provide more jobs, especially for the youth. The thrust of this resilient growth so as to attain upper middle-income status.

Ghana's public sector consists of government and all publicly controlled or publicly funded agencies, enterprises, and other entities that deliver public programmes, and services. Public sector institutions are the main channels through which the government pursues its development agenda. However, these institutions collectively

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Ghana's public sector consists of government and all publicly controlled or publicly funded agencies, enterprises, and other entities that deliver public programmes, and services. Public sector institutions are the main channels through which the government pursues its development agenda. However, these institutions collectively face a multiplicity of structural, institutional and fiduciary challenges which hinder effective service delivery.

Successive governments have attempted to improve public sector performance. Some reform

initiatives have been successful while others have failed because of poor coordination among Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), inadequate funding for implementation, poor working conditions-both in terms of service conditions and tools to work with-and the lack of continuity when governments change.

This strategic plan is informed by the increased demand for services resulting from the growing population and the desire of the private sector for improvements in the functioning of the public sector. Institutional, structural and functional inconsistencies and deficiencies; perceived corruption in the public sector; and increasing dissatisfaction among the citizenry with the performance of the public sector are among the associated reasons necessitating a new strategic direction. The new direction in the NPSRS, 2018-2023 is to address some of these issues. In line with this, the focus of this strategy will be to establish an open impartial public sector at both the central and local government levels. There will be a deliberate effort to recruit and cultivate competent and respected professionals to deliver high-quality services to stimulate private sector growth and development for jobs and wealth creation. The strategy will also factor in changing global technology and the emergence of new areas of business as well as new dimensions to governance processes by modernizing the work environment and service delivery channels through the application of innovations in information and communications technology (ICT).

The strategy, therefore, is centred on three principles which are



expanded into six pillars. These Principles, for short referred to as the 3Ps, are: a new direction in Purpose, building the capacity of the Personnel (or the People) who deliver public services, and streamlining the Processes.

The key pillars of the strategy are as follows:

Pillar One: Citizen-and Private Sector-Focused Public Sector

Pillar Two: Capable and Disciplined Work Force

Pillar Three: Strengthened Public Sector Regulatory Framework

Pillar Four: Modernised and Improved Work Conditions

Pillar Five: Strengthened Local Governance Structures

Pillar Six: Digitised Public Sector Services and Systems

The strategy will be implemented by MDAs and Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs). The Cabinet and the Office of the Senior Minister will provide strategic direction of the reform. Additional coordination mechanisms will be established to facilitate implementation. These include the Public Sector Reform Advisory Committee (PSRAC), Public Sector Reform Directorate (PSRD) OF THE Office of the Senior Minister, Public Sector Reform Sector Working Group (PSR-SWG), and Entity Public Sector Implementation Committee (EPSRIC).

The key to the success of this strategy will be political leadership, reorientation of public sector agencies, and adequate funding. However, monitoring and evaluating outcomes of

programmes and projects will be necessary to ensure adherence to timelines and achievement of expected outcomes. The strategy outlines the institutional framework, communications strategy and funding arrangements needed to ensure successful reform.

Through the proposed six pillars and related activities, the strategy will engender improved outcomes in terms of how citizens and private sector businesses engage with public sector institutions and access public services. It will provide Ghanaian business operators with real competitive advantage and will provide Ghanaian business operators with real competitive advantage and will be a key enabler of growth. Greater use of advanced technology and data sharing will also be the norm.



Ministry of Foreign Affairs building



Ministry of Defence building





GHANA REVENUE AUTHORITY

The Excise Tax stamp

The Excise Tax stamp is a specially designed stamp with digital and other security features which is affixed on excisable goods to show that taxes and duties have been paid or will be paid. The stamp is affixed on specified excisable goods in Ghana whether locally manufactured or imported into Ghana.

Why is the Excise Tax Stamp being introduced?

- To control the importation and local production of excisable goods (products) for revenue purposes.
- Check the illicit trading, smuggling and counterfeiting of excisable products.
- Check under-declaration of goods.
- Protect and increase tax revenue.

Which goods (products) attract Excise Tax Stamp?

- Cigarettes and other tobacco products;
- Alcoholic beverages whether bottled, canned, contained in kegs for sale or packaged in any other form;
- Non-Alcoholic carbonated beverages whether bottled, canned or packaged in any other form.
- Bottled water. etc
- Any other excisable product prescribed by the Minister.

Will the stamps be affixed on only locally manufactured goods?

No. The specified excisable goods whether locally manufactured or imported shall be affixed with stamp.

What is the starting date?

Point of sale Enforcement starts 1st March, 2018

Should the taxpayer register to get the tax stamp?

Yes. A person who intends to manufacture or import the affected product is required to apply for registration. An importer or manufacturer qualifies to be registered if the applicant has a valid Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN). The importer or manufacturer can apply in writing to GRA to be registered. The registration could also be done online through the excise tax stamp portal www.ghanataxstamp.com

Is the Excise Stamp a new tax?

No. The Excise Tax Stamp is not a new tax. It is a means of identifying goods on which excise tax has been paid or will be paid.

Excise Tax Stamp?

Yes. Three (3) months after the coming into force of the law, any specified excisable product found displayed without the tax stamp will be liable to seizure and the person selling/distributing or displaying the products shall be liable to a fine not exceeding three hundred percent of the duty involved or a term of imprisonment of not more than five years or both.

Please Note –

Stocks of excisable products on sale or manufactured before the coming into force of the Act may continue to be sold without the stamps up to 28th February, 2018. From 1st March, 2018 however, the importer, retailer, wholesaler or manufacturer must take inventory of the goods and obtain the stamps to affix on the outstanding products. Manufacturers of excisable products are required to file monthly excise duty returns in the usage of the stamps as prescribed.

GRA Head Office, Off Starlets '91 Road,
(Opposite Accra Sport Stadium)
P.O. Box 2202, Accra, Ghana



VEEP challenges youth to venture into Entrepreneurship

The Vice President, Dr Mahamudu Bawumia, has challenged Ghanaian youth to cultivate the spirit of entrepreneurship in order to create jobs and reduce graduate unemployment. He said government was creating the necessary environment and incentive for Ghana's young men and women to challenge the status quo and think outside the box in order to contribute their quota to national development.

Dr. Bawumia said this when he launched the National Student Entrepreneurship Initiative (SEI) at Ghana Secondary School, Tamale last month.

The SEI is an effort by the Government to create an entrepreneurial ecosystem that promotes job creation and improvement in livelihoods. Under the Initiative, the Ministry of Business Development will train and stimulate at least 10,000 students annually to think entrepreneurship and engage two million students over the next five years.



"We are convinced that if teenagers are introduced to thinking about business concepts and the right management structure to businesses, they can expand and hone their ideas and begin to execute those ideas even before they complete their tertiary education," Vice

President Bawumia said.

Citing the results of a recent survey, the Vice President expressed disappointment that an overwhelming

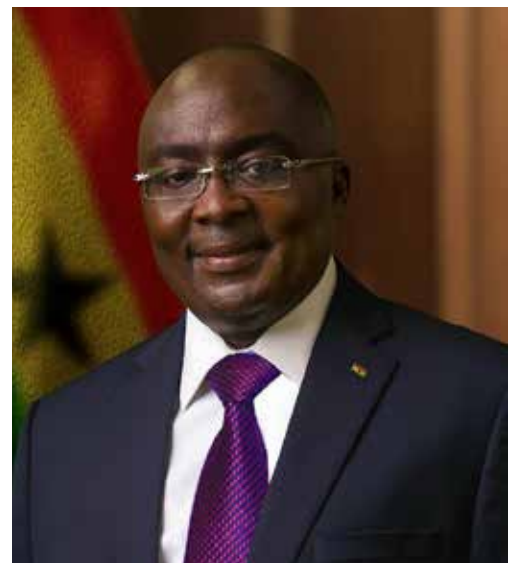
percentage of

secondary school students preferred already established white-collar jobs instead of working to set up their own.

The survey revealed that at least 68 per cent of the respondents, both male and female, preferred to be in civil service, medicine, nursing, engineering, law and architecture as well as other already established jobs.

Less than two per cent of the respondents preferred to be in business, the Vice President said, hence the decision to set up the Student Entrepreneurship Initiative.

"The current situation at the



Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia,
Vice President of the Republic of Ghana

Senior High School (SHS) level betrays a clear lack of the entrepreneurial conversation in their set-up" he said.

Vice President Bawumia was optimistic that the Initiative would produce the next crop of Ghanaian entrepreneurs.

"The tendency that these 'STUPRENEURS' (Student entrepreneurs) will leave senior high schools, university, and other tertiary institutions with high sense of business awareness and confidence, would go a long way to increase the rate of business formation in the country.

"I encourage you students to

take advantage of the Student Entrepreneurship Initiative to come up with business ideas and be assured that the Government would support you to realise your dreams of becoming successful entrepreneurs."

The Minister for Business Development, Alhaji Dr Ibrahim Mohammed Awal, urged the students to take advantage of the various programmes being rolled out by the Ministry to develop their entrepreneurial skills and take control of their destinies.

"We want to impact two million students over the next five years in tertiary and second-cycle institutions," he said. "Out of this two million, we are expecting that 35% of them would have started their own businesses before they leave school and we will support it."

Dr. Awal noted the SEI is expected to engage thousands of students through Entrepreneurship training annually which will come along with an inter-schools' competition for which competing schools will be challenged to come up with ideas of creating business, which is one of the functions of entrepreneurs.

To generate excitement among SHSSs, the SEI will roll out a business plan competition that will set out what businesses the entrepreneurial clubs want to pursue.

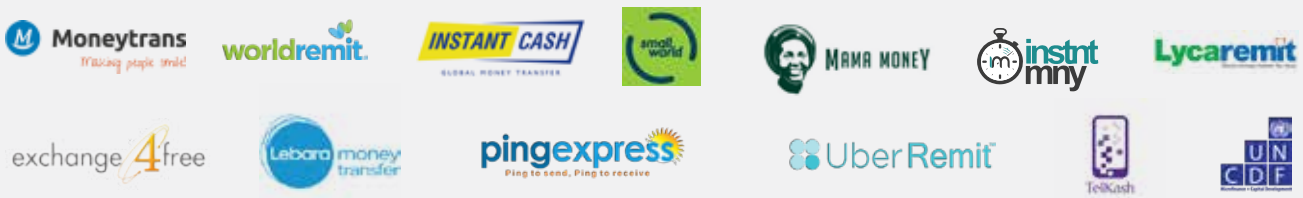
The grand finale of the competition will be held in Accra early next year where students of the various schools will present their ideas to a special jury. Winners will then be moved around the world to experience the audacity of entrepreneurship and to understand the real world of business.



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Mrs Rebecca Akufo - Addo

First lady addresses China Summit on HIV/AIDS

The First Lady of Ghana, Mrs Rebecca Akufo-Addo, delivered an address on behalf of the first ladies of West Africa, at the recent annual meeting the 2018 FOCAC (Forum on China-Africa Cooperation) Beijing Summit.

Dubbed the 'Joint Initiative of the China-Africa Thematic Meeting on HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control', the forum shared ideas on the campaign against HIV/AIDS.

Speaking on the theme 'China and Africa: Join Hands for a Future Free of AIDS', the First Lady called for better collaboration, saying, "The global response must be strengthened, It must be accelerated beyond the statistics and the discourse are real people, mothers, fathers and the youth who are the future of our countries. Beyond the discourse is the issue of expensive anti-retroviral therapy, well beyond the reach of many."

Mrs Rebecca Akufo-Addo also stressed the need to intensify outreach activities to young people through frequent community health outreach programmes by creating a more user-friendly environment where young people can access non-judgemental services. She mentioned the strides Ghana has made in this regard through an initiative of using persons living

with HIV as ambassadors for promoting healthy lifestyles and showing people that there is life after HIV.

The First Lady of China, Peng Liyuan, who doubles as World Health Organisation (WHO) Goodwill Ambassador for TB (Tuberculosis) and HIV/AIDS announced at the meeting that China will launch a three-year programme with African countries and relevant international organisations, for Chinese and African youths to focus on community health promotion as part of its effort to increase support for African countries in HIV/AIDS prevention and control. Dr Tshepo Motsepe, the First Lady of South Africa and the FOCAC Co-Chair, said "it is critical to focus efforts and resources on prevention of the disease," which is a global problem.

Madam Sika Kabore, First Lady of Burkina Faso also reiterated their commitment to strengthening ties and work to ensure a future free of AIDS.

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of WHO, spoke on the importance of data collection and the need to have tailored services to cover the vulnerable and the marginalised.

UNAIDS Executive Director, Michel Sidibe commended the China-Africa co-operation in HIV/AIDS prevention.

Educating the youth

Double-Track System takes off >>

The double-track system of the Free Senior High School (SHS) policy took off on September 11, 2018 with mixed reactions from parents and students.

Although the registration of students was mostly smooth as reported across the country, there were few hiccups that frustrated parents and their children. But government has so far addressed these challenges and the policy is being rolled out effectively. The double-track SHS system was introduced by the government this year to cater for the increase in enrolment. According to the government, the move was to ensure that no qualified child was left out of SHS admission.

Double track

A total of 490,514 candidates who sat the 2018 Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE) qualified to be in SHS and technical institutes for the commencement of the double-track educational system.

They constituted 90 per cent of the 521,710 candidates who registered for the BECE this year.

Out of the number of candidates that qualified for placement, 423,134 were automatically placed, while 67,362 could not be matched with any of their choices.

The double-track system is a process where students and staff are in school or vacation at the same time within an academic year. The double year-round system divides the entire student body and staff into two different tracks. So while one track is in school, the other is on vacation.

How the double track system will be run

This new system will run in all the categories A and B senior high schools in the country.

The new programme creates a calendar of two

semesters in a year for the SHS 1 class, containing 81 days per each semester and 41 days of vacation for a sandwich class.

Over 8,000 teachers are being recruited to handle the sandwich classes, so teachers are not deprived of their holidays.

Under the new system, teaching hours are increased from six hours per day to eight hours per day. The system has students under the GREEN TRACK and GOLD TRACK. The GREEN TRACK were those who resumed on September 11, 2018, whereas the GOLD TRACK will resume on November 8, 2018.

Free SHS Policy

Students for the double-track SHS formed the second batch of students for the Free SHS programme.

Under the Free SHS, there are no admission fees, no library fees, no science centre fees, no computer laboratory fees, no examination fees and no utility fees.

Apart from that, the government provides free textbooks, free boarding and free meals. Day students also get a meal at school for free. The programme also covers agricultural, vocational and technical institutions at the high school level.

**423,134
were
automatically
placed**

Double-Track System

The Minister of Education, Dr Matthew Opoku Prempeh in July announced that the flagship 'Free SHS' programme will start the double track system in order to boost enrolment.

He said the system will ensure more students are enrolled unto the programme, as compared to the current situation.

According to Dr Prempeh, the new system will close

an enrolment gap of 180,000 adding that as it stands now only 90,000 spaces are available for the 2018 September intake.

This new initiative will give students more instructional and contact time with teachers.

On August 7, 2018, Dr Prempeh announced that 400 out of the 696 senior high schools (SHSs) had been selected to begin government's adopted double-track system.

He explained that the schools that have been oversubscribed by students would be the ones to run the system since the students are more than the available infrastructure.

He indicated that the Ministry of Education cannot place students in schools that were not part of the selected schools. Given that, it has to enrol students in their preferred schools to avoid agitations by students and parents.

Dr Prempeh reiterated that the double-track system was a temporal intervention to solve infrastructure deficit within the second cycle to enable all qualified Ghanaian children enrol in a senior high school.

He hinted that some private schools have been added to the selected ones, all in a bid to reduce the burden on public schools.

He further explained that the double-track system

will only affect first-year students who have gained admission to begin school in September.

He noted that a teacher can only operate within one of the two tracks (Gold and Green), which implies that "a teacher can only get to teach, for example, green track students and go on vacation with them".

Touching on calls for parents who can afford to pay the fees of their wards to be allowed to do so, Dr Prempeh indicated that there was no mechanism to determine who is rich or poor, adding that "when every Ghanaian child is in school, we can have the luxury to determine who is rich or poor".

Cost of new system

The new system is expected to cost GH¢323 million comprising GH¢267.2 million for teaching and GH¢55.8 million for academic interventions.

GH¢1.3bn additional cost due to increase in enrolment

Without the double-track system, government will require GH¢1.3 billion to provide all that is needed to accommodate the increase in numbers.



Hon Matthew Opoku Prempeh,
Education Minister





“Mom Knows Best”



TOMATO PASTE

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Swearing of the new EC Boss

Ghana gets another female EC Chair

Ghana has gotten another female Electoral Commissioner, Mrs Jean Mensa, becoming the second successive woman to ascend to the highest position of superintending over Ghana's electoral institution.

She takes over from Mrs Charlotte Osei – the first female occupant of the seat under the 1992 Republican constitution.

The President, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo on July 23, 2018 sworn into office, Mrs Mensa as the new chairperson of Electoral Commission with two other deputies; Mr. Samuel Tettey and Dr. Eric Asare Bossman.

Mrs. Jean Adukwei Mensa

Mrs. Jean Adukwei Mensa until her appointment was the Executive Director of the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) and Co-ordinator of the Ghana Political Parties Programme. She is a lawyer by profession and has carved a niche for herself in the field of policy research and advocacy. She has been involved in the development of policies such as the Presidential Transition Act of 2012; the Revised 1992 Constitution of Ghana (draft); the Political Parties Funding Bill; and the Revised Political Parties Bill.

In 2010, she served as a Commissioner of 1992 Constitution Review Commission and is currently a member of the Government Committee tasked with preparing the Affirmative Action Bill. She is married with three children.

Samuel Tettey

Mr. Samuel Tettey was also till his appointment the Director, Electoral Services (Elections) at the Electoral Commission, a position he has held since January 2014. He has held several positions in the Electoral Commission, including District Electoral Officer in the Awutu/Effutu/Senya District, and Central Regional Director of the EC, a position he held from 2005 to 2011. He has been a member of many Election Observer Missions to countries such as the Kingdom of Lesotho, Guinea and Liberia. He is married with three children.

Dr Eric Asare Bossman

Dr. Eric Asare Bossman was the Head of the Department of Political Science at the University of Ghana, Legon.

He holds a Master of Arts Degree in International Affairs from Ohio University, and, also, has a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Political Science from West Virginia University.

He is the author of several policy papers in the areas of international politics, democracy in Ghana, and has teaching and research interests in the fields of Comparative Public Policy, Democratic Development, Public Policy Analysis, Human Rights, International Security, Globalisation, and Forced Migration.

Their appointments followed the removal from office, on Thursday, 28th June, 2018, of the former Chairperson of the EC, Mrs Charlotte Osei, and the two deputies, Mr. Amadu Sulley and Mrs. Georgina Opoku Amankwah, by President

Akufo-Addo, after the Committee established by the Chief Justice, Justice Sophia Akuffo, to investigate petitions brought against them, recommended their removal.

Further, the retirement from office of Mrs. Pauline Dadzawa, a Member of the Commission, on Monday, 30th April, 2018, created an additional vacancy in the Commission which also saw the swearing in of Ms. Adwoa Asuama Abrefa, a corporate legal practitioner as a Member of the Commission.



Charlotte Osei - Former EC Boss



Afari Gyan- Former EC Boss





Ghana to open an embassy in Norway

Ghana will soon open an embassy in Norway to boost bilateral relations between the two countries.

This was revealed by Ms Shirley Ayorkor Botchway, Ghana's Minister of Foreign Affairs, in New York following a meeting between President Nana Akufo-Addo of Ghana and Norway Premier Erna Solberg – both co-Chairs of the Advocacy Group of Eminent Persons for the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Ms Botchway said Norway already has an embassy in Ghana and noted that the West African country will also put up one in Oslo, the Norwegian capital.

President Akufo-Addo and Ms Solberg also looked at the bilateral relations between our two countries. We are working very well; we have some Norwegian companies in Ghana who are doing business, with

some in the oil and gas industry.

“The President also did announce to her that very soon, we will be opening an embassy in Oslo.”



Foreign Affairs ministry

Let's legislate Compulsory Education - *President*



President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo has strongly advocated the need for the country to move to compulsory legislation in the educational system.

“We must have a law that says that every single Ghanaian child should go to school and stay in school until the end of senior high school (SHS) education,” he stressed.

Speaking to some members of the Ghanaian community in New York, USA, recently, the President gave a strong indication that by the end of his term of office, there would be a law to that effect.

“I am hoping that by the end of my term, we will be in a position to accommodate every school-going child to be in school in Ghana,” he told the Ghanaian community during a dinner organised in his honour by the Ghana Permanent Mission at the United Nations.

Present at the dinner were the Foreign Minister, Ms Shirley Ayorkor Botchway; Ghana’s Envoy to the UN, Mrs Martha Pobee; a Deputy Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, Madam Patricia Appiagyeyi; the Executive Secretary to the President, Nana Asante Bediatuo; the CEO of the National Identification Authority (NIA), Prof. Ken Attafuah, and the CEO of the Ghana Investment Promotion Council (GIPC), Mr Yofi Grant.

Free SHS

President Akufo-Addo declared that such legislation was very important for the free SHS policy to fully achieve its objective. He said a couple of weeks ago, Ghana entered the second year of its free SHS programme.

This year, he told the gathering, the country had to accommodate double the number of students during the first intake of 90,000 to 180,000 students.

And because the government was very determined to continue with the programme, he said, “we had to devise a way by using the existing facilities in the schools to make sure that we broaden access, hence the introduction of the double-track system”.

Interestingly, he said, he did a tour of the Central Region and soon discovered that “my new name is Nana Double Track”.

“God willing, the first or Green Track system has worked very well,” the President said, adding that he trusted that in November the second or Golden Track would also work so well.

President Akufo-Addo lauded the Minister of Education and his deputies for their hard work and promised that the government would stay focused and study.

“That is an important achievement that we have made,” he stated, and expressed the hope that by the end of the term, “we will be in a position to be able to accommodate everybody in Ghana”.



Some members of the Ghanaian community in New York at the meeting with the President

Financial difficulties

On the difficulties facing the financial sector, President Akufo-Addo said the Bank of Ghana (BoG) had to take some very difficult decisions to save the sector.

Unfortunately, he said, it was the indigenous banks that had major challenges of liquidity, insolvency and bad governance that could have jeopardised the deposits of thousands of depositors.

President Akufo-Addo said the central bank had to take the difficult but essential measures to protect deposits and make sure that the process of consolidation in the banks was undertaken with all seriousness.

“I know it is a difficult period in Ghana, but a period of reforms is always difficult to accommodate,” he indicated.

The President mentioned that 10 years ago in Nigeria they had 89 banks and many of them had challenges similar to what currently confronted Ghanaian banks.

Today, he said, as a result of reforms, Nigeria had about 25 banks, which were among the strongest banks in Africa.

“We want to have that in Ghana; we want to be able to have Ghanaian banks that are strong enough not only in Ghana but also in Africa and are in a position to compete with other banks,” he stated.

But, according to the President, the present capitalisation, methods of work and corporate practices of the banks in Ghana were not permitting that, hence the prudent steps taken by the BoG to correct the wrongs in the system.

“I have no doubt that at the end of the day, we are going to have a stronger banking sector among the indigenous banks and they will be in a position to facilitate the financing of our development in a more coherent manner than we have seen,” he stated.

Increase in crude oil prices

President Akufo-Addo also spoke about the dramatic increases in crude oil prices that had brought a lot of pressure on the national budget.

He said that was taking place at a time when the US dollar had also gained strength considerably in the foreign exchange market in the world, which had led to the rapid depreciation of the Ghanaian cedi.

“Ultimately, the method of fighting this challenge is not about printing more currency or supply of more dollars by the BOG,” he reasoned, and argued that it was the expansion of the economy from the medium to long-term that was required.

“We have to approach the foreign exchange matter from medium to long-term by expanding our supply base and capacity to export not just crude and raw materials but also expand industrial activities,” he stated.

That was why, according to the President, the programme of rural industrialisation would come in to play a major transformative impact when it was fully embarked on in the country.

He also assured the people that the crisis or difficulties were not issues that could not be contained “but we are going to do so and we will not be complacent”.

Ghana Mission

Ghana’s Envoy to the UN, Ms Pobee, in her remarks, said the mission had chalked up some successes over the period but had also encountered some serious challenges.

Nevertheless, she said, the mission was committed to working very hard to ensure that Ghana’s profile was raised higher among the comity of nations. She lauded the Ghanaian community in New York for their sense of bonding, saying that greatly assisted the mission to overcome some of its challenges. She promised that Ghana’s mission in the UN would continue to build on the success story of the country to make things even better for all Ghanaians.



Hon. Matthew Opoku Prempeh, Educational Minister





National Pension Regulator Authority

Ghana in 2010 started the implementation of a new contributory 3-Tier Pension System with the main objective of enhancing retirement income of workers and pensioners. The scheme comprises of two mandatory schemes and a voluntary scheme.

The contributory 3-Tier Pension Scheme consists of 1st and 2nd-Tier Mandatory Schemes for formal sector workers but optional for informal sector workers and a 3rd Tier Voluntary Provident Fund and Personal Pension Scheme.

The 3rd-Tier voluntary scheme is made up of Provident Fund and Personal Pension Schemes. The Personal Pension Scheme component is specifically designed for the Informal Sector workers and the Self-employed who constitute over 85% of the working population with an objective of providing a flexible pension scheme arrangement for workers in that sector.

It is estimated that about 10% of Ghanaians are in the diaspora and considered to be the richest constituency, contributing in remittance over \$2billion annually.

It is against this background that the National Pensions Regulatory Authority (NPRA) last year

launched a pension scheme called **“The Diaspora Pension Scheme”** during the diaspora summit in Accra on 6th July 2017.

This scheme is expected to provide the country with huge capital for investment while serving as retirement savings for the members when they return home.

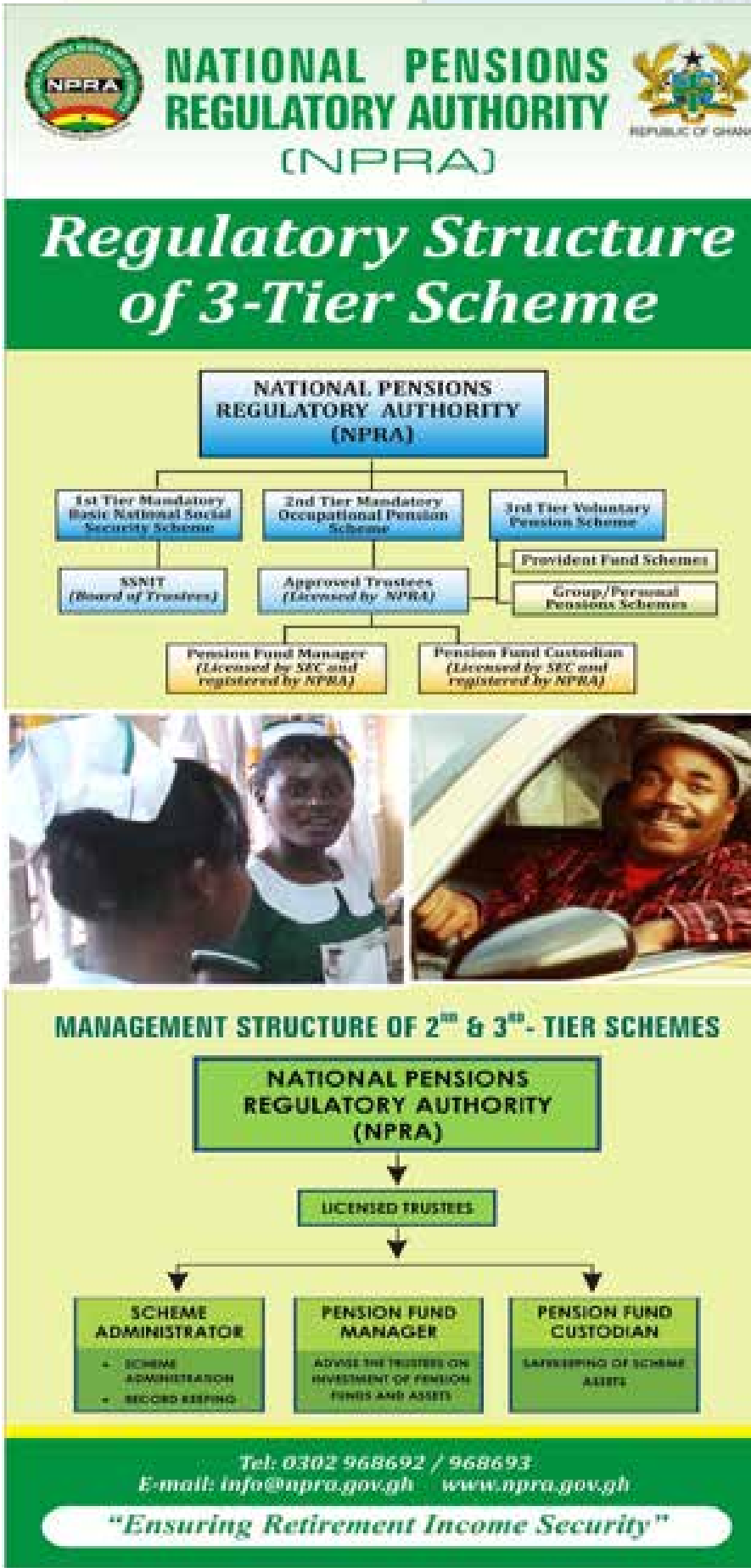
The Future of “The Diaspora Pension Scheme” include:

1. *The scheme will be a “Defined Contribution Scheme” which means it is your contributions and the investment returns.*
2. *It is savings which translates itself in compounded capital and investment.*
3. *You can join from any part of the world.*
4. *It is voluntary, with the levels set up by your ability to pay.*
5. *It will be tax free.*
6. *Being a contributor, you will also be assisting significantly in the economic development of the country.*
7. *It will be a provision for your old-age poverty alleviation.*
8. *It can be accessed from the age of 55 upwards.*
9. *It will be privately managed by Trustees licensed by the NPRA*

Note: A number of Corporate Trustees have expressed their interest in creating products aimed at providing schemes for the diaspora.

For further information on “The Diaspora Pension Scheme”, kindly contact:

National Pensions Regulatory Authority
Onwona House, Kanda Highway, Opposite Accra High School
P. O. Box GP 22331, Accra, Ghana
Tel. 233 (0) 302 968692/3



First Lady promotes exclusive breastfeeding



The First lady, Mrs Rebecca Akufo-Addo, has called on the Ghana Health Service and the Ministry of Health to take urgent steps to prioritize breastfeeding as one of the major public health interventions in the Country.

She said early beginning of breastfeeding in infants and sustained exclusive breastfeeding among babies, especially in the first six months, in life would not only help reduce higher mortality rates among children, but would also save the country millions of Cedis that would have been used in the treatment of diseases affecting mothers and their babies.

Speaking at the launch of the 2018 world breastfeeding week in Kumasi, Mrs. Akufo-Addo, pointed out that, it was time the misconceptions on breastfeeding were clarified to encourage mothers to accept it as a cultural norm and give it to their babies at all times.

This year's celebration was on the theme "Breast feeding: Foundation of life" and seeks to create awareness on the important role breast milk plays in the health and growth of babies and young children.

Breast feeding, according to health experts, is the most nutritionally potent food for infants and toddlers. It helps to reduce malnutrition, provides essential elements for brain development and reduces hunger and poverty in families.

Mrs. Akufo-Addo stressed the need to improve the country's health

systems to promote, protect and support breast feeding in maternity facilities and make them baby friendly, especially, in the first days of life.

Employers must also comply with the maternity protection provisions in labour contracts, by creating baby-friendly corners and spaces in work places to enable lactating mothers to breastfeed their children.

The First Lady called on all to get on board to improve breastfeeding habits because it has economic and development benefits.

She admonished corporate entities and major stakeholders to invest in the promotion and campaign towards exclusive breastfeeding.

According to Mrs. Akufo-Addo, it was important for "Us to create the systems to offer the right kinds of support for breastfeeding to happen successfully and for as long as necessary to enable us derive all the benefits of breastfeeding for our children and our nation."

To achieve this, the First Lady who is also Head of the Rebecca Foundation, maintained that everybody can contribute by creating the enabling policies, health services and systems, workplace, family or community environment to let this happen in our dear country."

On making breastfeeding a shared responsibility, the First Lady stated that, for all newborn babies to be given an early start to breastfeeding requires action on the part of multiple players, including governments, employers,

healthcare institutions, healthcare workers, traditional leaders, families and communities.

"It is against this background that I wish to call on all to be part of the campaign to support breastfeeding and identify roles they can play to support women wherever they find themselves".

"I wish to commend corporate organizations who have already taken the initiative. Of particular mention are Barclays Bank High Street, UNICEF, TIGO-Airtel, Databank, General Electric, Ghana Airport- Domestic Terminal, the World Bank Accra Office and others who have been collaborating with the Ghana Health Service to promote breastfeeding at our workplaces."

Mrs Akufo-Addo expressed appreciation to all health workers, development partners and other stakeholders for their continuous dedication to the cause and entreated them "to do more by prioritizing breastfeeding promotion as an important public health intervention."



First Lady Rebecca Akufo- Addo and mothers



One Village One Dam takes off

- promote food production

Self sufficiency in food production is fundamental to national development. Nations that are able to feed themselves are also able to embark on sustained socio-economic transformation. It is in line with this thinking that the government has placed renewed emphasis on the agriculture sector, and has embarked on a comprehensive policy to make Ghana not only self sufficient in food production, but also to become a net exporter of food. It is also to facilitate rapid integration to global and regional value chains. Considering that Ghana's agricultural sector is key to national development, a range of measures have been instituted by the government to enhance agricultural productivity. The measures included the Planting for Food and Jobs programme under which government subsidises fertilizer and seeds for farmers, and the One-District One-Factory policy. Another major initiative is the One-village One-dam policy which

took off recently in Bongo in the Upper West Region. The policy was government's manifesto pledge to boost agriculture via a well-planned irrigation policy and facilitate community-owned and small-scale irrigation facilities in the three Northern Regions of Ghana. President Akufo-Addo during his recent working visit to the Upper East Region inspected the site where a One-village One-dam project is being constructed. The President disclosed that government would construct 570 dams in the Northern, Upper East and Upper West regions under the policy.

The Builsa area in the Upper East Region would receive 20 dams to support all year irrigation activities in the area. He said 10 dams each would be constructed in the Builsa North and the South, and indicated that two each would be constructed in Sandema, Wiaga, Chuchuliga, Siniesi and Kadema to improve farming activities in the District. President Akufo-Addo who

addressed the Chiefs and people of the Builsa Traditional Area, said it was imperative for Ghana, especially the three regions of the north to establish proper infrastructure for the enhancement of agriculture to improve their livelihoods. The President who also cut the sod for the commencement of construction of one of the dams in the Savelugu municipal area said the government was committed to ending the perennial water crisis in the region. According to Emmanuel Larbi, the CEO of Hi-Limit, the construction company in charge of the project, the facility will be an integrated agriculture and renewable energy with a 3,600 cattle dairy farm.

The cattle dung from the dairy farm will be processed into methane gas which will be used to pump water to the irrigated farms with some of the gas being used to power electric supply to communities in the catchment area of the irrigated farms.

Rebecca Foundation champions maternal health

First Lady- Mrs Rebecca Akufo-Addo

1. You have embarked on a comprehensive project to support maternal and child health in Ghana. What was your motivation for choosing maternal health?

Maternal health was an obvious choice for me because women play a significant role in our society, especially as sole income earners in most households in Ghana. Ensuring that their health care needs are adequately taken care of reduces the risks of maternal health complications and the impact on their families. Through my foundation, The Rebecca Foundation, we hope to provide support for women and children particularly the vulnerable and marginalized in our society.

2. What impact has your foundation made so far on women and children?

The most pressing need came last year after seeing a documentary called “Next to Die” by Seth Kwame Boateng of Multi-Media. As a matter of fact, he came to my office to give me a copy of the documentary. I was shocked and saddened when I saw that babies at the komfo-anokye hospital were dying daily due to lack of space. We collaborated immediately with other stake holders and within 6 months built a new 350 cot facility at Komfo-Anokye. It has been in operation for months now and I am happy to say that the issue of 4-6 babies dying a day has been reduced considerably.

Currently, there is another project underway at the Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital where my foundation, The Rebecca Foundation is building a new intensive care unit for children. We hope to complete this by December. This will put Korle-Bu teaching hospital in a better position to handle emergency issues with regards to



children. I believe our effort will impact maternal and infant mortality positively.

We have also facilitated surgeries for the less privileged in our society especially children.

We have also donated medical equipment and supplies to various hospitals mostly for maternal and child care. This is something we

will continue to do.

3. Any challenges facing the foundation in its efforts to improve maternal health?

Honestly, our biggest challenge is in finding resources to support the various issues that are brought to our attention. There is a lot of cost involved in providing solutions and I am thankful that some organizations and individuals have come forward to support as well pledge their support our work. I will entreat anyone who truly wants to help us make a difference to do so unreservedly. There is still a lot to be done.

4. Any words of encouragement for your sponsors?

I am very thankful to sponsors of the Rebecca Foundation. I wish I could list every single one of them. It gives me great joy to see how people are willing to support our cause and I will encourage them to continue supporting us. My team and I cannot do it alone and we need all the support we can get. I thank them once more.



Mrs Rebecca Akufo - Addo, First lady of the Republic of Ghana





Stephen Oduro, the diasporan determined to make SIC a five star insurance company

Appointed on September 5, 2017 as the new Managing Director of SIC, Mr Stephen Oduro has made it a point to make SIC a five star insurance company that brings insurance to the doorsteps of its clients.

Being a diasporan who had lived in the United States for over 30 years, he is happy to be home to contribute his quota and serve in the Akufo Addo led government.

With years of progressive experience in leading financial application systems development projects, designing, installing, and implementing for banking, insurance, brokerage and healthcare industries. Mr. Oduro is determined to infuse technology into the core operations of SIC.

“My experience with different companies and corporate America has given me some ideas that I am currently implementing and management can attest to that.”

SIC being the premier insurance company in Ghana has a rich history, “SSNIT came out of SIC, SIC was also instrumental in establishing the then Merchant

Bank and Ghana Reinsurance also came out of SIC and may others.”

He, however, thinks the company has relied a lot on its past glories forgetting that competition was keen.

It was for this reason that he has been resolute to raise the standard of operations and do things differently. Mr Oduro said the company has started aggressive marketing which includes him being on the field with his staff to see to it that their targets were met.

Another initiative he has instituted for the growth of the company is an open door policy where his staff come to him to discuss issues of concern to them on Fridays from 12pm to 5pm, this he indicated has enabled him to know a lot about the company and the staff.

“Open door policy is not common in Ghana when I started a lot of my staff did not welcome the initiative. All the places I worked over the years I was able to go to my boss or superiors to talk about issues bordering me and did not see why that could not be done in Ghana.”

Awards

A year after he took over the affairs of the company, SIC bagged five awards at the 2018 Ghana Insurers Awards. They won the General Insurance Company of the Year, Brand of the Year in Insurance, Indigenous Company, CSR Leadership, and ICT Leadership award.

With regard to the Corporate Social Responsibility award, he said SIC supports the Otumfuor Educational Fund, Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital, the Ghana Medical School with insurance cover for students that go abroad to study as well as built a library for Ho in the Volta Region.

Future of SIC

Mr Oduro says he wants to see SIC to be very visible in a very good way, keeping to its promises.

“Competition is keen, and so long as the competition is fair I promise SIC will be among the best. Despite all the challenges that the company has faced over the years it is still the insurance company with the most capacity and I am hopeful that in the near future we will be the best.”

Lauds President for engaging more diasporans

Mr Oduro lauded President Akufo Addo for bringing in a number of diasporans, "I think he is the first president to bring a lot of diasporans on board. That in itself is bringing new ideas to the table."

"I think he is the first president to bring a lot of diasporans on board. That in itself is bringing new ideas to the table."

He said giving the experience of diasporans when given the opportunity they would be able to help the country in diverse ways. "The type of discipline you get prepares you".

He advise fellow diaporans to come back home to help in the development of the country, but was quick to add that before they take that step they should get to know the environment a little bit. "If you have lived outside Ghana for years the first thing you get when you come back is a cultural shock and you might want to pack up and leave".

Advice for the industry

Mr Oduro believes there are innovations that the insurance industry must embrace, like allowing insurance companies to own and operate their banks. "We collect premiums and we invest it so that when there is a claim we are able to pay".

Childhood and Background

Born in Ghana, Mr Oduro had his secondary education at the Ofori Panyin Secondary school after which he left the country



on scholarship to the US to study Computer Science.

He is a product of the Rutgers University - Graduate School of Management, Newark, New Jersey with an MBA in Computer and Information Systems with Financial Application and a B.B.A from City University of New York.

He is married with two adorable daughters.

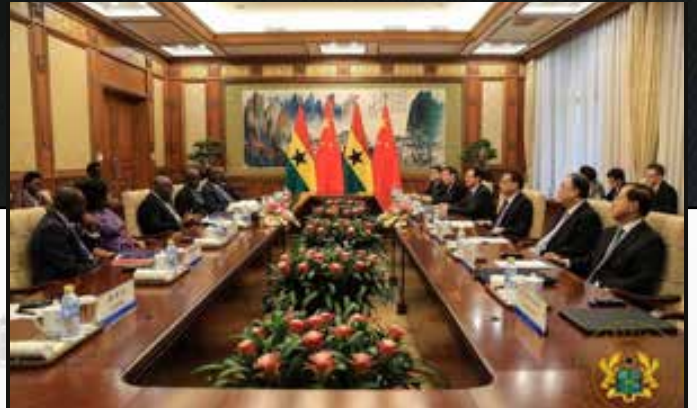




PRESIDENT NANA ADDO DANKWA AKUFO-ADDO'S VISITS



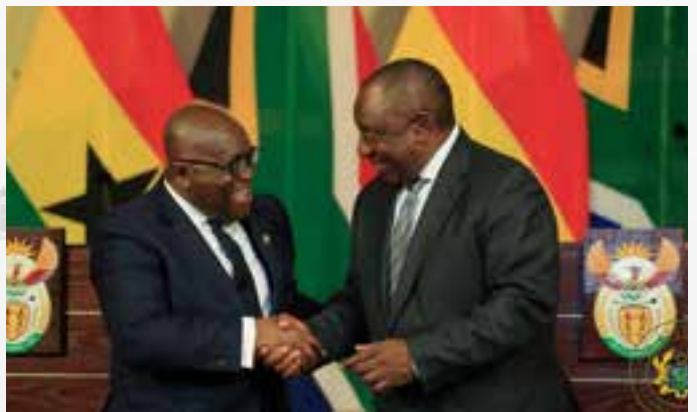
Visit to China



Visit to China



Visit to Buckingham Palace



Visit to South Africa



Visit to Buckingham Palace



Visit to South Africa



Visit to Germany



Visit to Germany



PRESIDENT NANA ADDO DANKWA AKUFO-ADDO'S VISITS



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Visit to London School Of Economics



Visit to Texas



Visit to Texas



Visit to Oxford University



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HIGH PROFILE VISITS 2018



Visit By German Chancellor Angela Merkel



Visit By German Chancellor Angela Merkel



Visit By German Chancellor Angela Merkel



Visit by Otumfuo Osei Tutu II



Visit by Otumfuo Osei Tutu II



Visit by Otumfuo Osei Tutu II



Visit by President George Weah



Visit by President George Weah



INTERVIEW WITH **AMBASSADOR AT LARGE**

Dr Edward Mahama, the Ambassador-at-Large is inviting Ghanaians living abroad to come home and help in the building of the country, adding that Ghana has a fertile ground for them to start a business.

Government wants diasporans to take control over of the commanding heights of the economy and to do that diasporans must get involved, he said.

Being a diasporan himself who return to Ghana in the 1990s, Dr Mahama believes Ghanaians must be the ones to build the country. Basically, they must have the determination to come, secondly they must identify their place in the society what they are bringing on board. “And unlike most Ghanaians you must come home and say this is what I’m bringing for Ghana and I am not looking for anything from Ghana.”

Citing example of how some of his colleagues came

to Ghana and went back, he said the desire alone to come was not enough and one must come to the conclusion that “When I come down this is where I want to make the difference. People have to come with the determination to come and change and build things and unless people get that conviction they will always come and leave.”

He said the oil industry is a budding one with a lot of potentials and Ghanaians must take active role in it, “One of the things Ghanaians in the Diaspora can do is to network and build trust among themselves and form companies that can compete in the sector.”

“Ghanaians in New York for example could float a company and come and buy an oil block and they will have the commanding heights of the Ghanaian economy because the oil is going to take over sooner or later.”

Challenges diasporans face

Touching on the challenges diasporans face when they come back home and the reasons they decide to go back, Dr Mahama said “If it is a family, firstly, the man must find a niche and the wife must also find a niche and they must find schools for the kids to go to. These are the three things that go together.”

He advised good schools to make themselves available for children coming from abroad.

The next challenges he spoke about was politics, he said people face difficulties like what political hat they were wearing, adding that “Ghanaians are too tribalistic in their politics most times your tribe by birth is not as important as your tribe by choice whether you are NDC or NPP.”

He added that system in the country sometimes makes it difficult diasporans to flourish.

Measures

If we want to encourage Ghanaians to come home the Diaspora Office must be prepared to lay the ground running with good linkages. People should not come without the Diaspora Office knowing, he said.

“For example one can say I’m coming from Japan, this is my area, this is what I want to do and this is the city I want to live. Then the Diaspora Office can then see if it can soften the landing for them so it becomes easier for them to be integrated into the society.”

Dr Mahama noted that the Business Development Ministry was a great idea, but unless it was implemented sincerely it would just be an idea. He advised that the ministry to put together initiatives that can encourage Ghanaians in the diaspora to come and start some business in the country.

He also advised diasporans to link up with the ministry to know what was available for them.

Position as an Ambassador

On his position as an Ambassador at large he said his understanding of the job is that he was the chief messenger of the president. “He sends me wherever he wants or where he or the Vice President can’t go, which works out for me because I’m not given a particular country to stay in and I still get to enjoy my private practice as a medical doctor.”

Motivation for taking up the position

“The President and I talked about this Diaspora issue some time back and he has heard me campaign about it since 2000. When I came home I held this belief that for Ghana’s development see the Ghanaians in the diaspora as catalyse and what we need is to get a critical number of them to come within a certain period and timeframe. What Ghana needs now is an attitudinal change which will only come when we have that critical mass of Ghanaians who will come with the right attitude.”

Attitudes like lateness, procrastination among others can be changed when those people come and they are in the system with the right attitudes, I believe that can make the difference, Dr Mahama noted.

He concluded by saying that the Diaspora office has been compiling data on Ghanaians living abroad, and the data when completed would allow them to then say to contact people and say ‘the nation needs you’.



Dr Edward Mahama, the Ambassador-at-Large



Diaspora Engagements

1. London School of Economics Africa Summit

21st April 2018-Youth Ambassador, Jake Obeng Bediako facilitated a special meeting for President Akufo-Addo to engage the Ghanaian Society of London School of Economics, comprising of students and faculty following to his public address at the LSE Africa Summit. This session provided the President with an opportunity for closer interactions with Ghanaian diaspora youth on the theme 'Diaspora Youth: A tool for development'. The session was moderated by Bradley Poku-Amankwah, co-director of LSE Africa Summit.



2. The Diaspora Business Conference 2018

Washington DC, 9th March 2018-Facilitating Diaspora Business Interest in Ghana-Deputy Director-Nadia Musah





3. Capacity Building Training-Regional Training of Trainers on Migration Data Collection and Management

Dakar-Senegal 5-9 March 2018-Administrator-Yaw Awuah Boadu Ayebofo

The regional training was organized by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to build the capacity of selected individuals from public institutions, academia and non-governmental organizations. The training aimed to build the capacities of master trainers from Burkina Faso, Gambia, Ghana and Senegal in order to establish a core group of experts to support further trainings at the national level on Migration Data Collection and Management.

The countries were selected because they play important roles as countries of origin and/or transit along the main migratory routes and working to put in place comprehensive responses to better combat trafficking in persons and protect vulnerable migrants.

4. 16th Annual Conference Ghana Physicians & Surgeons Foundation

Los Angeles, USA, 27th-29th April- Director-Akwasi Awua Ababio



5. Ghana Diaspora Forum, Toronto-Canada,

16 June 2018-Nadia and Jake Obeng Bediako-Youth Ambassador



6. GUBA Awards Ceremony, London,

14th July 2018-Director-Akwasi Awua Ababio-The GUBA Awards ceremony attracted high calibre of Ghanaians and African Political luminaries as well as business and entrepreneurial personalities.





Youth Diaspora Forum Report

Date: June 16 2018

Venue: Toronto Plaza Hotel, Toronto ON

Time: 11am- 2pm

Speeches

Nadia Adongo Musah, Deputy Director – Diaspora Affairs Office

- Diaspora Affairs Office is the first of its kind, the office reports to the Chief of Staff who reports to President
- The President has appointed over 55 Diasporans to come and assist in his agenda of 'Ghana Beyond Aid' and they are serving in various roles in public and state agencies. This is evidence of the President's passion to see Diasporans participating in nation building
- The Office share ideas on what will work for Ghanaians in the diaspora and works in a facilitator role to ensure that Diasporans have smooth transitions to Ghana and are able to contribute to national development and discourse freely

Jake Obeng-Bediako – Youth Ambassador for Diaspora Affairs

- Youth in diaspora are ready to contribute their skills and creativity to Ghana's development and should be supported and directed to opportunities in place for them
- It is necessary that Ghanaian youth in Ghana and the diaspora collaborate with one another to move Ghana forward in the direction of the vision we have for Africa's future
- We are here to dialogue and be the trailblazers effecting youth-led change and transforming the global narrative of Ghana and ultimately Africa.

Panel Discussion

Panelists: Nadia Adongo Musah (DAOOP), Jake Obeng-Bediako (DAOOP), Gabriel Odartei (GCAO –Youth Wing), Mr Emmanuel Doudu (GCAO), Mr Thomas Seshie (Consular General), Mr Prince Akyereko (NPP Canada), Vivian (GCAO –Youth Wing)

Moderator: Priscilla Henewaa



1. How does the government of Ghana plan to support youth in Toronto to transition business and ideas as soon and smooth as possible?

The Diaspora Affairs Office can direct these young people to local networks and agencies who will be able to help them directly. The office is set up for diasporans – older and younger generations alike—to ensure the implementation of their creative ideas and initiatives are supported. For young people, specifically, there is also the National Entrepreneurship and Innovation Plan (NEIP) which provides funding and consulting support for young people between the ages of 20-35 years seeking to do business in Ghana. Also, the Ministry of Business Development in a bid to promote youth entrepreneurship in Ghana has launched the Presidential Pitch and opened up applications for young people to send in their business ideas for scrutiny and training by a panel of captains of industry. The final event, which is to take place later this month, shall reward the top 10 applicants with loans of 30,000 Ghana Cedis and upwards to further their businesses. This competition is of course open to diaspora youth as well.

1. How are we making it easier for Diaspora Youth to be employed at the Consulate General in Toronto to learn and contribute to Ghana from the diaspora? The first step will be to comprehensively register all Ghanaians (especially the youth). Knowledge of who

2. What are some of the challenges that young diasporans are facing with setting up in Ghana?

The biggest challenge that was previously faced was wrong information through informal networks. Hence the establishment of the Diaspora Affairs Office to provide accurate information, support, formality and reliability due to direct connection with the government of Ghana.

The Diaspora Affairs Office ensures that information is correct, accurate and capable of pointing diasporan in the right direction.

4. How are we making it easier for Diaspora Youth to be employed at the Consulate General in Toronto to learn and contribute to Ghana from the diaspora?

The first step will be to comprehensively register all Ghanaians (especially the youth). Knowledge of who they are, what they do, and their track record would ensure that when opportunities arise in the near future, the consulate will have a pool to select from.

5. How do young people in Toronto get involved in organization and government?

It will be necessary to work closely with the Youth Ambassador and funnel their initiatives through his office as he works as a government official seeking to represent their interests. In addition, young people can start to build these networks on their own and organize themselves into recognised groups. Through their activities and initiatives as a collective, it will become much easier to advocate for the increased participation of young people in government.

6. How should young people use technology to bridge the gap between themselves and Ghana?

Ghanaian government is getting better, using technology to connect with people but there is room for improvement. Ghanaian youth across North America must use social media and other communication and collaboration tools to increase connectivity across borders.

7. What is the prospect for young people moving towards Agriculture?

Agri-business is a huge initiative for Ghanaian government and it is aimed towards making young people innovative in their own communities. Agri-business is very multi-faceted and should not be written off by diasporans since their access to information, education a global network has equipped them to create solutions and attract funding for this sector.

Q&A Session

1. How does funding/grant process work? How does government support diaspora youth with business innovation plans? Do people get funding based on ideas?

- If the idea is workable and innovative based on the criteria, there will be funding. The idea must be innovative and the assessors and consultants must be satisfied with the feasibility of the idea.

2. How is Ghanaian government marketing Ghana to Diaspora Youth?

- Through the work of the Youth Ambassador who the President appointed to rally young Ghanaians in the diaspora around causes and initiatives that would pique their interest in Ghana
- Through Tourism—The Diaspora Affairs Office in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism is working to ensure that the projects such as the Marine Drive and Akwaaba Hotels and festivals such as Chale Wote Festival and Black Star Film Festival, Afrochella and the the Full Circle Festival among others receive publicity in the diaspora via the Diaspora Magazine.
- The ministry of Tourism is also working closely with Ghanaian influencers and supporting them to showcase Ghana's beauty and history. It is the collective responsibility of diaspora youth to also support these initiatives by subscribing, liking, following or sharing this content. Marketing of Ghana is a collaborative effort.

3. What is being done about digital literacy for young people?

The Diaspora Affairs Office has supported some Diasporans who are launching the Ghana Tech



Summit in Accra next month and carrying it on every year for the next 12 years. This is intended to cause and sustain a wave of digital literacy in Ghana thus opening more doors in coming years for even more effort in that space.

2. How can we get dual citizenship in Ghana?

The application must be made through the consulate general and then sent to the Ministry Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration and then the Ministry of Interior

The process has been streamlined such that the Consulate General has worked to make improvements and amendments. See the Consulate General website for more information.

3. How do we support music artists in Ghana? What does support look like in supporting musicians coming out of Ghana?

The industry should develop frameworks so that when resources are more readily available, they can be directed at it and policies can be developed more effectively.

Inefficiencies at Ghana's Ports should be consigned to History

Esther Gyebi-Donkor, General Manager- Marketing and Corporate Affairs

Introduction:

The presidency is waving the flag for change. The "Port Efficiency" revolution has swept through the Maritime Industry at whirlwind speed over the past few months and players in the industry have to keep pace with the change.

The intention of the government is to facilitate trade. The relevance of trade facilitation stems from the fact that it results in direct benefits to both Government and the Business Community. Some of the benefits to government are: increased effectiveness of control methods; more effective and efficient deployment of resources, high revenue yields; improved trader compliance; accelerated economic development and increased foreign investment. Benefits to traders include: reduced costs and delays; faster custom clearance and release through predictable official intervention; simple commercial framework for doing international and domestic trade and enhanced competition. Port efficiency gives the Port the capabilities of reducing delays in clearing cargo from the port which matches the needs of the customer and the mission of Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority (GPHA).

GPHA'S Efforts

Port efficiency had been trumpeted as a major part of GPHA's strategic plan over the years, but I must concede that in spite of all its benefits, GPHA is not adequately empowered legally to establish an e-clearance (paperless) implementation system at the Ghanaian Ports due to the uncooperative nature of most of the stakeholders operating in the Ports. They operate based on their individual laws and are autonomous.

Years earlier, GPHA had already set the ball rolling for a Paperless Port. In a major departure from the previous reliance on the use of paper-based documentation, GPHA adopted e-Solutions for the booking of berths online, (E-vessel Booking), E-gate System, Microsoft Dynamics AX 2012 R3 geared to improving management processes and the acquisition of the Jade Master Terminal which is a Terminal Operating System to be interfaced with the Port Community System and the systems of other major Stakeholders in the Maritime Industry. The E-Booking was launched at the end of 2015, awareness created and implementation started in 2016. Part of the E-Gate System (E-ID Cards and Biometric Identification Systems) for the entry of Port users is in use.

The poor performance of a Port

and container terminal can also be partly due to lack of investment in infrastructural development, equipment and workforce. From the infrastructural development point of view, GPHA has got tons of it to show. The fact that GPHA is solely responsible for the provision of both infrastructure and superstructure, GPHA has systematically recorded progress in the provision of port infrastructure and superstructure (berths, quays, jetty, gantry cranes, Harbour Mobile cranes and other facilities and equipment,) in the bid to make our ports efficient over the years.

Government's Effort Towards The Port Efficiency Drive

There is excitement at GPHA that, having the Presidency playing the lead role in the Port Efficiency Crusade, it is expected that the Port will receive the necessary cooperation from other institutions and stakeholders to provide the needed result and make up for lost time. All of a sudden there is a display of a perfect collaboration and coordination among the Stakeholders, all avoiding the "blame game" that we used to witness. The respective stakeholders are currently poised to maximize the new developments around us for the realization of the "Port Efficiency" agenda.

On Wednesday May 17th, 2017,

the Vice President, Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia announced three major executive directives at a Port Efficiency Conference organized by the Presidency with the Vice President as the Chairperson which is intended to bring reforms in the Ports of Ghana. The directives, which according to the Vice President were necessitated by complains of inefficiencies at the Ports of Ghana is also expected to make doing business at the Ports of Ghana easy and reduce the cost involved in clearing goods. It is also to enhance the collection of tax revenues (Customs Revenue) at the ports.

Speaking during the closing ceremony of the Port Efficiency Conference that brought together hundreds of industry experts in Ghana and across the world, Dr. Mahamadu Bawumia directed that:

1.The Customs Division of the Ghana Revenue Authority should remove all customs barriers on the transit corridor by 1st September, 2017.

2.There should be mandatory Joint inspection by regulatory agencies at Ghana's Ports effective 1st September, 2017.

3.The Vice President also directed that from 1st September, 2017, the Import Clearing Process at Ghana's Ports should be 100% paperless. The Vice President perceived that upon the commencement of the paperless processes in the Port, physical human contacts will be reduced to significantly lessen corruption. He also noted that, the mandatory joint inspection at the Ports will be a departure from the situation where more than 16 agencies inspect imported items individually and in the process extort from importers at the ports

in the name of collecting samples for testing. He equally expressed optimism that with the removal of customs barriers on the transit corridor, the level of harassment on transit truck drivers will also reduce.

Indeed, the Vice President announced that, during the 1st week of the paperless operations, Customs revenue at the Port of Tema increased by over 50%.

Preparations Towards Complying with the 1st September Deadline were undertaken. Indeed, every stakeholder agency working in the Port swiftly began preparations in readiness to comply with the Vice President's directives.

Several engagements were held and the Vice President established a committee that was chaired by the Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry and Member of Parliament for Tema West, Carlos Kingsley Ahenkorah. Fora were held and training programmes were organized by Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority, the Ghana Customs, its Service providers (West Blue and GCNet), Ghana Shippers' Authority, the Ghana National Chamber of Commerce and Industry and so on.

Gpha's Paperless Implementation Process

- GPHA has three Terminals namely Golden Jubilee Terminal (GJT), GPHA Reefer Terminal and GPHA Transit Terminal

- The GPHA Terminals handle the complex delivery systems especially GJT which hosts multiple simultaneous activities (Less Container Load-LCL-Consolidation, Full Container Load-FCL and Containerized Vehicles) as compared to other Private Terminal that handle only FCL.

- GPHA had barely a month to

organize the software used for the paperless and to interface with GCNet/GICCS and Westblue (to automate its processes)

- All major Stakeholders were involved in the preparation stage by GPHA putting a committee in place to regularly meet to discuss and agree on the processes to adopt.

- A number of training sessions and sensitization programmes were organised for stakeholders before implementation.

- Since the Vice President's scheduled Piloting which was to start from 15th August 2017 for selected Companies did not materialize, there was no opportunity to Pilot the GPHA system before 1st September.

- GPHA has refined and optimised its cargo clearance process to eliminate the demand for paper documentations (except for Waybills).

- GCNet /GICCS platform is being used to do the following:

- An online user interface has been created that enables customers to make request for delivery services from any location once they have access to GICCS (Office /Home)

- Consignee/Agent is able to receive preliminary electronic invoice that covers the standard charges of the delivery operations

- It gives the Consignees/agents the opportunity to make in-bank payment without physically coming to GPHA Revenue Center. (Ecobank and ADB)

- GPHA receives payment notification from the payment platform (Banks through GICCS), schedule and position containers for delivery.

- Westblue platform is being used to schedule cargoes for examination. An interface has been created on the Mandatory Joint Inspection

Platform (JIMIS) that enables the terminals to schedule containers due for physical examination for joint inspections before delivery.

Successes Of GPHA's Process

- Clearing Agents can request for GPHA terminal charges without visiting the Revenue Centre to queue and experience delays.
- All GPHA Terminal Charges can be paid with electronic payment platforms
- All clearing agents taking delivery of cargo would have to be verified (ID Cards) both at the point of making request for delivery and on the terminal before service is delivered.
- Hard copies of Delivery Orders are not taken from Agents by GPHA staff
- There is no upfront charge for partial unstuffing unless the activity is undertaken on the field
- Supplementary bills are raised for any other chargeable activity that takes place on the field.
- Waybills are generated for Agent and validated at the exit gate by GPHA Security.
- Multiple Security check points have been eliminated
- Containers are scheduled and positioned on time
- Automatic electronic billing serves as a control of billing errors and the risks of revenue losses
- Deployment of an App that will give direct access to consignees to see the invoices generated by GPHA for the service provided so that the Agent cannot inflate the charges (Yet to be deployed)

With the enthusiasm demonstrated by the Vice President, His Excellency Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia, Port efficiency has become a priority

Post Paperless Implementation

for all. All stakeholders would have to be committed to the implementation of the change and deal positively with the challenges as they emerge.

The Presidency's Paperless and joint inspection directives (full automation) and the subsequent implementation from 1st September 2017, is a significant step towards ensuring Port efficiency in the Ports of Ghana but that will not be all.

The question is should we wait for further directives from the presidency? No! All stakeholders in the industry should review their processes and make it efficient as part of the change. Various stakeholders would have to pay attention to issues of concern raised by their respective customers and stakeholders.

Unsatisfactory services provided by many organizations operating in the Ports and their inabilities to respond quickly enough to an ever changing Port customer needs is for Government and the general public an unsatisfactory status quo.

It is believed that the industry needs a radical change, a drastic action to make the Ports efficient and to increase government revenue collected at the Ports by Customs. The implementation of the three directives given to the Port Community by the Vice President, from 1st September, 2017 is just the beginning of a series of moves by government to make the Country's Ports more attractive to Port Users.

From 1st September 2017, Ghana's

Ports are operating with minimal paper involvement in the clearing of imports with a lot of transactions being undertaken electronically. This has been difficult in the past because we have multiple agencies currently handling several parts of Cargo Clearance flow. Given the current weak legal backing/support that GPHA as the body who should spearhead the implementation of initiatives has, one can only say that the Presidency's intervention and enthusiasm is timely and welcomed.

The implementation came with some challenges but the situation has since improved. Most of the pending issues can easily be resolved if the actors are committed to do the right thing and discipline themselves. It is the hope of many Ghanaians that, these three directives will improve Ghana's process of doing business; facilitate trade, reduce cost, eliminate corruption and make Ghana's Ports the Trade Hub in the Sub-Region.



Ghana Ports Harbour Authority logo

No Visa For Dual Citizens?

"Pursuant to Ghana Dual Citizenship Law of 2000 (Act 591) Article 16(1), a citizen of Ghana may hold the citizenship of any other country in addition to his citizenship of Ghana".

"A dual citizen may apply and hold a Ghanaian passport, go to Ghana without entry visa, has indefinite stay while in the country. He or she can register and vote there on Presidential and General elections and Referenda and enjoy all the rights except those prohibited by law pursuant to Act 591 (16) (2)".

"... 6. A Declaration that the administrative requirement of the Republic of Ghana for a dual citizen to obtain a dual citizenship card is discriminatory, unreasonable, burdensome, serves no legitimate constitutional purpose and thereby is null, void and of no effect as it contravenes the letter and spirit of Article 17 of the 1992 Constitution.

7. A Declaration that the administrative requirement of the Republic of Ghana for a dual citizen to obtain a dual citizenship card is discriminatory, unreasonable, burdensome, serves no legitimate constitutional purpose and thereby is null, void and of no effect as it contravenes the letter and spirit of Article 15(1) of the 1992 Constitution..."

<https://www.myjoyonline.com/opinion/2015/August-28th/samson-lardy-writes-can-dual-citizens-vote-in-ghanaian-elections.php> Accessed on August 10, 2018.

All Ghanaians are equal before Ghanaian laws and should be treated as such, whether they are resident in Ghana or live elsewhere and/or have a second citizenship. Standing for elections and holding public offices is indisputably a preserve for Ghanaians, who do not have any other citizenship. Unfortunately, Ghanaians, who hold dual citizenship and have never renounced their citizenship or by virtue of been born to Ghanaian parents on foreign soils and automatically acquired dual citizenship are discriminated against on the immigration laws of the land, contrary to the normal practice around the globe. The practical examples around the world is a country deciding whether or not its citizens are able to hold citizenship of other countries. The constitution of Ghana allows its citizens to hold the citizenship of any other country in addition to their citizenship Ghana. What Ghanaians, especially, those who hold dual citizenship want constitutional lawyers to explain to them is whether Ghana has the right to confer dual citizenship on any Ghanaian, as it is written boldly on all websites of the Ghana Missions/ Embassies to apply for dual citizenship certificate. Ghana has a right to confer a single citizenship, and therefore a single citizenship certificate for any of its citizens. Is it not unconstitutional for our foreign missions to state it boldly on their websites asking Ghanaian citizens in the diaspora to

pay certain amount of money and make application for dual citizenship certificate after the supreme court has ruled against same in the case of Asare v Attorney General in 2012? In that ruling, isn't it stated clearly that a Ghanaian, who has also attained a citizenship of another country does not need to do anything to become a dual citizen, because by virtue of having additional citizenship without renouncing his or her Ghanaian citizenship, that person has dual citizenship? May I ask, if there were a card or certificate to show one has only Ghanaian citizenship? Very soon, when the application and issuance of the Ghana card (the national ID card) go public, can't any Ghanaian, whether they hold dual citizenship or not, apply for the card and hold same? Why should a Ghanaian apply for a visa when returning to his or her own home country? Why isn't Ghana passport enough travel document for a Ghanaian in the diaspora to return home and exit the country to his or her destination on that country's passport? There are Ghanaians, who fortunately or unfortunately, are born to Ghanaian parents and by virtue of been born in certain countries, are equally citizens of those countries. They did not choose it, but have dual citizenship automatically, and are or could be Ghanaian passport holders. If such people qualify for the Ghanaian passport and they were issued without any questions by a Ghanaian Embassy/Mission/Consulate, why should they travel to Ghana on a visa,

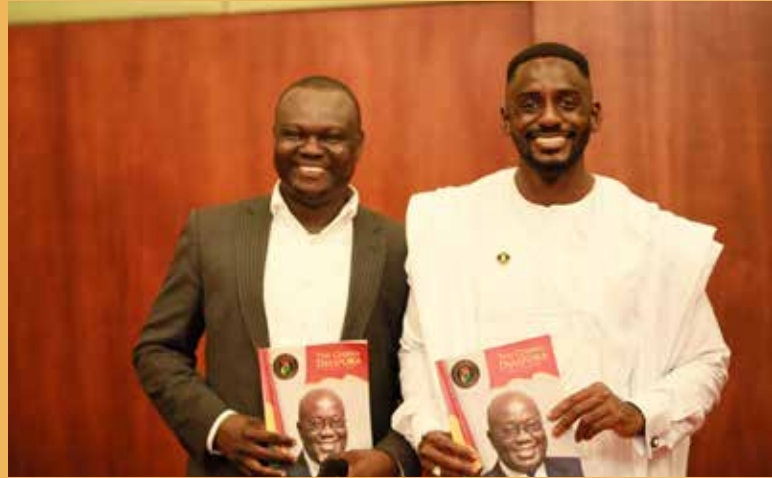
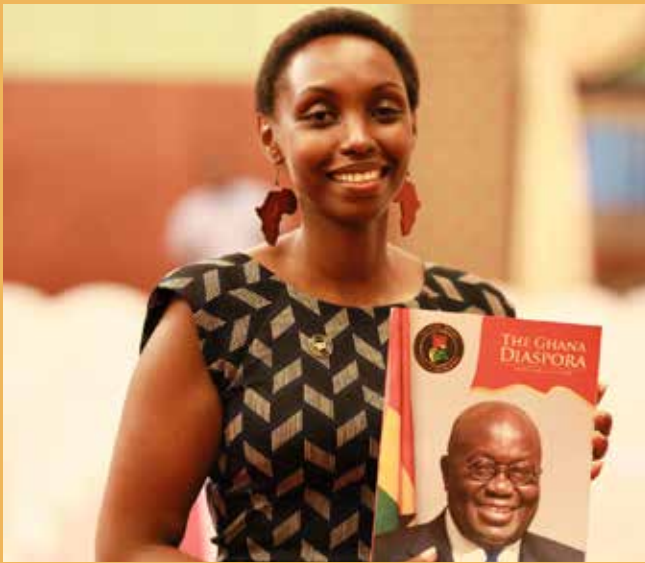
whilst their other country do not put them through that hassle. There is no natural justice in this visa regime on a section of Ghanaian citizens, especially after the supreme court ruling on Asare v Attorney General in 2012.

There have been many writers in Ghana and abroad, who have written articles with similar or same concerns. There are also many more Ghanaians in the diaspora, who feels treated unfairly on the need to apply for visa or dual citizenship travel document in order to visit Ghana, even when they are Ghanaian passport holders. There are many instances where Ghanaians in the diaspora feel their new residential countries or their other countries treat them better than their original home, Ghana. The handling of the dual citizenship and the visa regime is a clear example. Ghanaians in the diaspora, by numbers, form bigger constituency than most of the 275 constituencies back home and even contribute much better to our economy in the form of remittances and investment than most of the constituencies, which are represented by an MP to fight on their behalf. Who represents and addresses the concerns of this huge constituency then? Please, scrap this "unconstitutionality" and promote freedom of movement of your citizens in the diaspora. Build bridges and not walls.

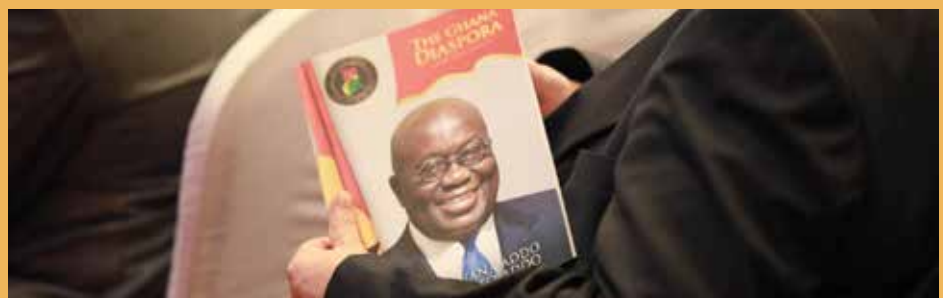
**Eben Johnson – Finland
(Letters Without Signatures)**

<https://www.newsghana.com.gh/are-embassies-engaged-in-dual-citizenship-fraud/>

DIASPORA MAGAZINE LAUNCH



DIASPORA MAGAZINE LAUNCH





DIASPORA AFFAIRS GETS YOUTH AMBASSADOR



Jake Obeng-Bediako

Youth Ambassador for Diaspora Affairs

Jake Obeng-Bediako was appointed Youth Ambassador for Diaspora Affairs in February 2018 and is responsible for championing diaspora youth engagement initiatives of the Diaspora Affairs Office of the President. He holds a BA in History from Columbia University,

a Masters of Philosophy(MPhil) in African Studies from the University of Cambridge and a Graduate Diploma in Law from BPP University. Jake is passionate about creativity, community and promoting youth involvement in every sphere of society. Through his experiences in research and African policy development at the United Nations and Africa-focused student recruitment at the Columbia University Office of Undergraduate Admissions, Jake has demonstrated his zeal to work for the benefit of Africa and the African. With experience as a successful Afropolitan blogger and Curator-in-Chief of the Debonair Inner Circle, a community of young passionate millennials, Jake is now committed to transforming the global narrative of Ghana through his work at the Presidency. By mobilizing Ghanaian diaspora youth to be reunited with their domestic counterparts. Jake intends to encourage Ghanaian youth to access and act on their birthrights and responsibilities as the current and future leaders of the nation.

PRESIDENT NANA ADDO
DANKWA AKUFO-ADDO



DIASPORAN APPOINTMENTS

GREAT ASPIRATIONS



Kow Essuman, Esq.
Counsel, Office of the President



Kweku Odame-Takyi
Director General MDPI



Mr Alhassan Yakubu-Tali
Deputy Managing Director of ADB



Lydia Atiemo
Deputy CEO Finance and
Administration, YEA



Ghana, China ties on new path

Bilateral relations between Ghana and China has span over decades and have played a leading role in the development of Sino-African relations. It is for this reason that Chinese President Xi Jinping and President Nana Akufo-Addo, have agreed to introduce a new vitality into bilateral relations to ensure that relations between Ghana and China take the lead on the African continent. Consequently, the two countries have signed eight Co-operation Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MoU), in different sectors of their respective economies, aimed at deepening the ties of co-operation and the bonds of friendship that exist between the two countries.

List of 8 MoUs signed

The agreements are the “One belt one road Memorandum of Understanding”, “Memorandum on Regional Aviation Co-operation”, “Agreement for Co-operation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy”, and “Co-operation to carry out Maternal and Child Health Project”. The rest are “Framework Agreement on Financing Insurance Co-operation” (\$2 billion Sino-Hydro deal), “Economic co-operation on Phase 2 project of the University of Health and Allied Sciences at Ho”, “Co-operation on the expansion of the Cape Coast Stadium”, and “Co-operation on the supply of police vehicles to the Ghana Police Service.”

Ghana, China trade hits \$6.67bn

In 2017, the volume of trade between Ghana and China has hit \$6.67billion by the end of 2017. This is an 11.67 percent increase over the 5.98 billion recorded in 2016.

President Akufo-Addo is on a state visit to China. He will also participate in the 2018 Beijing Summit of the China-Africa Cooperation Forum scheduled for 3-4 September.

Ghana is invited to join the Asian Investment Bank for Infrastructure.

**Ghana, China
trade hits
\$6.67bn
by the end of 2017**

Ghana as reliable friend, good common dev partner

Noting the long tradition of Sino-Ghanaian friendship, Xi said China has always regarded Ghana as a reliable friend and a good common development partner. Bilateral relations have played a leading role in the development of Sino-African relations. Both sides should breathe new life into their relationships and enrich them further, make high-level visits more frequent and continue to understand and support each other, Xi said.

Expand cooperation in various fields

China is ready to create synergy between the two countries' development strategies, expand cooperation in various fields and strengthen interpersonal and cultural exchanges.

Protect common interests

Both sides should strengthen communication and coordination on international and regional affairs to better protect the common interests of both countries and developing countries, Xi said.

Xi was confident that, under their joint leadership, Ghana and China would “enrich our friendship, take our bonds of co-operation to new heights, and, thereby, deliver greater benefits to our two peoples.”

Describing Ghana as a “trustworthy friend and good partner for development”, the Chinese President assured President Akufo-Addo of his commitment “to intensify our co-operation, give support to each other’s concerns, and ensure that China-Ghana relations take the lead in China-Africa relations.”

\$30m grants to support economic policies

President Xi Jinping also indicated that China will provide a grant of 200 million Chinese Yuan, the equivalent of \$30 million, to Ghana, to assist in the effective implementation of the economic policies of President Akufo-Addo.

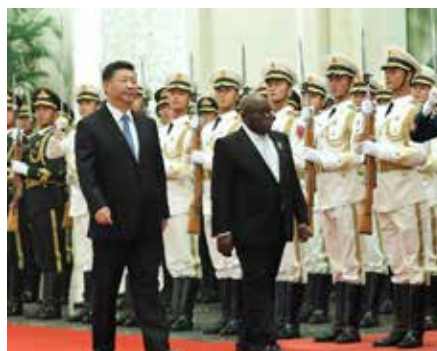
1,000 boreholes in Ghana

Additionally, the project embarked on by the Chinese government to construct 1,000 boreholes across some parts of Ghana, which will help in ensuring access to potable water, he said, would be completed.

Jamestown Fishing Port Complex, new cocoa processing facility The Chinese President also assured Ghana of China’s commitment to financing the construction of the Jamestown Fishing Port Complex and the construction of a new cocoa processing facility, in line with President Akufo-Addo’s vision of adding value to Ghana’s raw materials.

\$7.3m grant in military assistance

On defense co-operation, President Xi Jinping announced the provision of a 50 million Chinese Yuan (\$7.3 million) grant, in military assistance, which would also aid in the construction of the headquarters of Ghana’s Armed Forces.



Extradition treaty between Ghana and China

Furthermore, the defense co-operation, he added, would also encompass the strengthening of Ghana’s capability to help improve maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea, training of Ghanaian peacekeepers, strengthening the capacity of Ghana’s Police Service, and the establishment of a legal assistance and extradition treaty between Ghana and China.

Investment in priority govt policies

President Xi also pledged that his government would encourage Chinese firms to invest in Ghana, and take advantage of flagship programmes such as 1-District-1-Factory, Programme for Planting for Food and Jobs, infrastructural development initiatives, particularly in the roads, railway and energy sectors, amongst others.

China to increase scholarships to Ghana

With Ghana being the African country with the highest number of students studying in China, the Chinese leader stated that his country would increase the number of scholarships to Ghana, and also advocated for the deepening of collaboration between media organisations, think tanks, and universities of the two countries.

Spearhead UN Reforms

President Xi, in highlighting the importance of UN Reforms, urged Ghana to continue its advocacy on the reform of the matter and reiterated China’s support to this end.

China pledges support to tackle illegal mining

On the matter of illegal mining in Ghana, and the involvement of some Chinese nationals in the phenomenon, the Chinese President assured President Akufo-Addo that his government will “co-operate with Ghana and tackle the problem”, and indicated his full acceptance of the enforcement of Ghanaian law in the area of illegal mining. The Chinese President stressed the endorsement by his Government of the vision of building a Ghana Beyond Aid by President Akufo-Addo, and urged his Ghanaian counterpart to be resolute in realizing this vision not only for Ghana, but also for the entire African continent, as it would lead to the growth of independent, sovereign nations, acting in their own interests and with their own resources, which was the example of China.

Nana Addo reiterate commitment to galamsey fight

Highlighting some matters of critical concern to the country, President Akufo-Addo noted that his Government has been engaged in the fight against the menace of illegal mining, popularly referred to as galamsey, and told the Chinese President about the involvement of some Chinese nationals in the illegal activity. He emphasised that his administration would not relent in the fight to restore the purity of Ghana’s water bodies and the health of its environment. President Akufo-Addo urged his President Xi Jinping to intervene in the matter, stating that “we

want your help fully, so that we can remove this impediment to the strong co-operation between Ghana and China.”

Nana Addo makes case for investments from China

On the development of Ghana’s infrastructure, he also told his Chinese counterpart that Ghana is interested in receiving investments from China towards specific sectors of the economy, such as the railway and road network.

“We are thinking about a railway network that is intended to be a part of the Belt and Road Initiative, which will link our country to the Maghreb Region, and, thereby, recreate the old trade route that linked the Southern part of West Africa to North Africa,” he added.

Ghana never to return to IMF

With Ghana exiting the IMF arrangement by the end of 2018, an arrangement entered into by the predecessor administration, President Akufo-Addo stressed that “we are determined never to return into the focus of an IMF Programme.

“In order to do so, we are looking seriously at how we can secure sources of long-term finance that will allow us to deal with our infrastructural development, and also realise the vision of a Ghana Beyond Aid.”

Ghana considering \$50 billion Century Bond

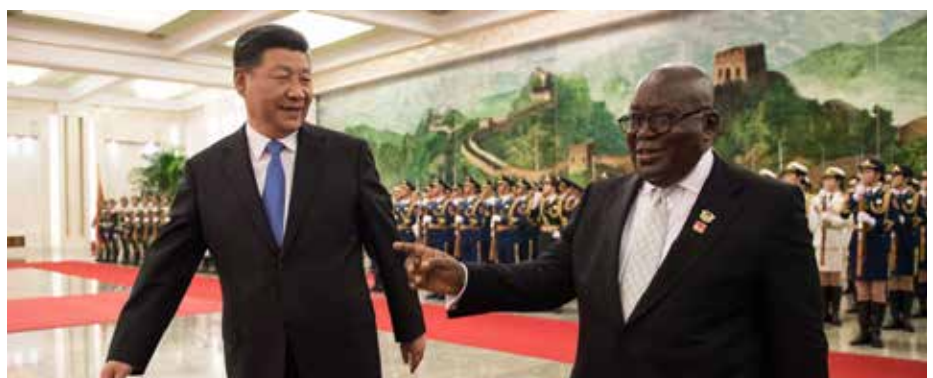
He told President Xi Jinping that, “The Ministry of Finance and the economists in Ghana are looking at floating a \$50 billion Century Bond. This will provide us with the resources to finance our infrastructural and industrial development. We are hoping that, at some stage, China will interest itself, and take a part of it as China’s contribution to Ghana’s development.”

Meeting with Chinese Premier

President Akufo-Addo later held bilateral talks with Mr. Li Keqiang, Premier of the State Council of the People’s Republic of China, where matters involving infrastructural development, communications, and oil and gas were discussed. The President told the Chinese Premier that a significant focus of his visit to China has to do with the \$2 billion Sino-Hydro transaction.

He explained that, “We are looking at this transaction to afford us the opportunity to expand and improve our road infrastructure, as well as the railway development of our country.”

President Akufo-Addo was hopeful that his visit to China will “reinvigorate our relationship, provide us with the opportunity to contribute to the success of the FOCAC summit, and also enhance the nature of the co-operation between our two countries.



Hangout Places In Ghana



Rattray Park,
Kumasi



GoCart,
Accra



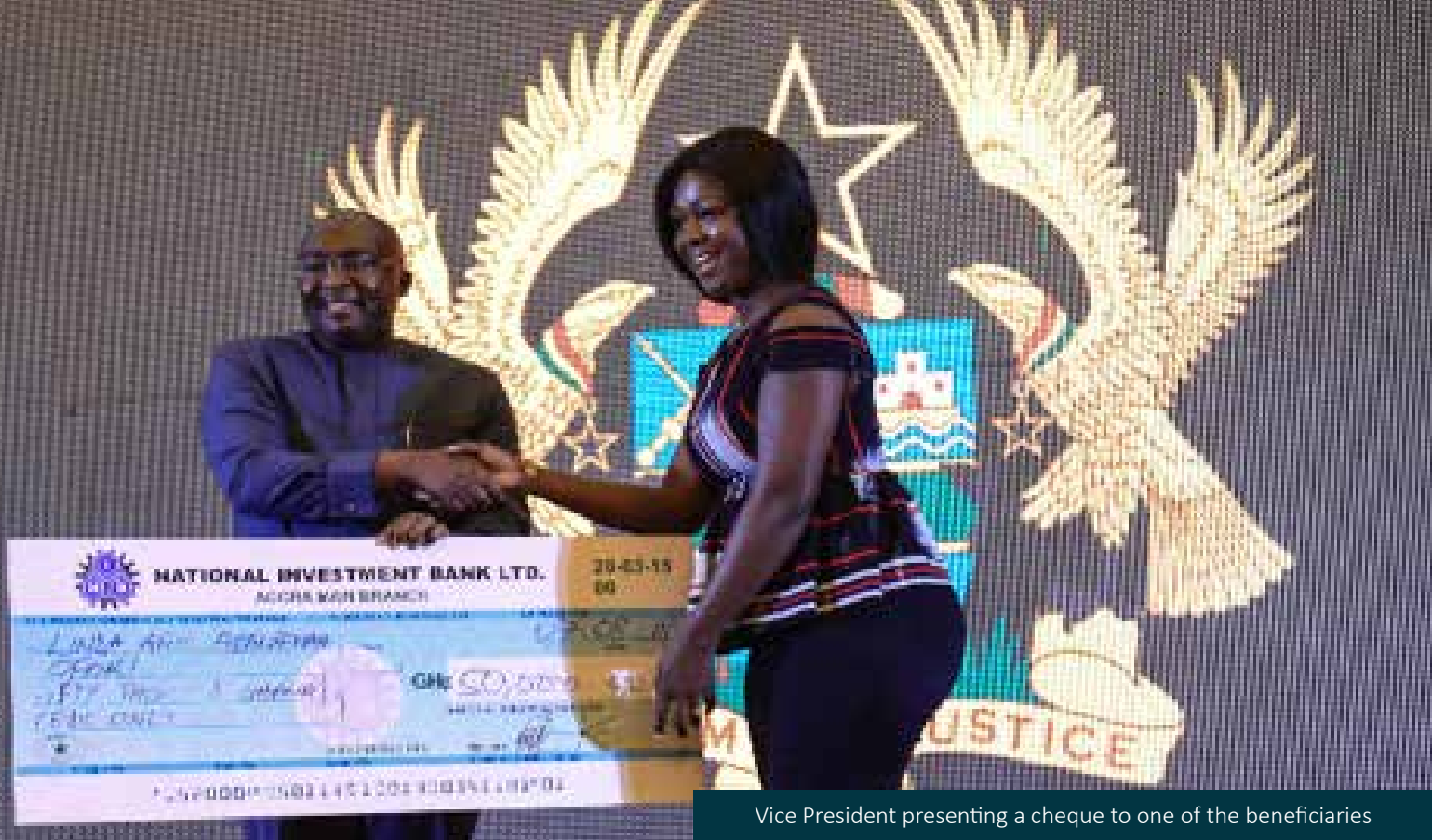
**Afrikiko
Riverfront
Resort,**
Akosombo



**Bojo
Beach,**
Accra



Tayiba,
Accra



Vice President presenting a cheque to one of the beneficiaries

Government shows commitment to local businesses

The Government of Ghana has demonstrated its commitment to support budding businessmen and women through an initiative dubbed: “the Presidential Business Support Programme”.

Under the programme, 1,350 entrepreneurs across the 10 regions of Ghana, have been assisted with an amount ranging from GH¢10,000 to a GH¢100,000 to start and expand their businesses.

The areas of focus of the 1,350 businesses selected for funding cut across agribusiness and agro processing, Information Communication Technology (ICT), sports tourism and recreation, sanitation and waste management, green and ecological businesses and health food and beverages. Others are fashion, clothing, accessories and beauty, media marketing and communications, manufacturing and industrial processing, real estate and construction, and transport logistics and professional services. At an event on Tuesday, 7th August, 2018, at Jubilee House, President Nana Addo Dankwa

Akufo-Addo noted that each of the 1,350 beneficiaries were to receive from the Ministry of Business Development, the implementing Ministry, continuous training and capacity building, mentorship and business advisory services, free accounting services and access to business networking opportunities

The beneficiaries, according to the president, are expected to employ more people in order to reduce the rate of unemployment in the country.

President Akufo-Addo said “you must be able to create some 30,000 direct jobs from employing other people within the next year, and several thousands of indirect jobs.”

“It is a happy-sad moment for me to know that seven thousand (7,000) micro, small and medium sized businesses applied for support under the Presidential Business Support Programme”, adding that he was happy because of the numbers of young Ghanaians wanting to start their own businesses and sad, because not all have access to the funding. The President noted that, that notwithstanding, all the 7,000 businesses underwent a well-structured training programme conducted in fifty private

incubation hubs across the country, to build their managerial capacity for their various ventures. The successful 1,350 winners, according to President Akufo-Addo, were competitively selected upon the recommendations of the private incubation hubs in a transparent, efficient and equitable manner.

“This, I am confident, will guarantee the success and sustainability of the businesses, especially as the rate of interest on the monies advanced has been pegged at 10%, as against the average prevailing market rate of 26%,” he said. President Akufo-Addo congratulated the selected businesses for not giving up but working hard to meet the set criteria, and urged them to seize the opportunity provided by the Programme, and demonstrate their entrepreneurial ability. The President assured the Ghanaian people and the business community that his government will continue to work towards the creation of a conducive environment for the private sector to thrive, stressing that “our macroeconomic indices point to the revitalisation and growth of the economy.”

With an impressive array of business people poised to make a difference, the President was confident that the nation is on the cusp of a new, bold beginning, which will repudiate the recent culture of failure. He encouraged the beneficiaries to go out and make Ghana proud.

In his remarks, the Minister for Business Development, Alhaji. Dr. Ibrahim Mohammed Awal stated that the Government under the leadership of President Nana Akufo-Addo is willing to give young entrepreneurs all the necessary support to grow their businesses and as well compete globally.

“The Ministry of Business Development has this year alone set up six initiatives aimed at nurturing young entrepreneurs in the country”, Dr Awal noted.

Amongst them he mentioned are the School Entrepreneurship Initiative (SEI), the Presidential Pitch, Women in Business Support Programme. Dr. Awal said the SEI aims at impacting 10,000 Senior High School (SHS) and University students with entrepreneurial mindset to change the narrative from job seekers to job creators. He announced that in line with government’s



agenda to make the Ghanaian economy an inclusive one, the Ministry of Business Development is in the process of setting up another initiative, dubbed Youth in Industry, where some 42 micro industries will be set up across the country to employ people.

“All the initiatives are in fulfilment of President Akufo-Addo’s commitment to support micro and small businesses, which constitute over 80 per cent of all businesses in the country to become competitive and contribute to the socio-economic development of the country”, he added.

The Chief Executive Officer of the NEIP, Mr. John Kumah, reiterated that the programme has since its inception sought to empower start-ups and businesses as part of government’s agenda of entrepreneurship development in the country.

The beneficiaries expressed their appreciation to the President and the government and assured that they would use the funding appropriately to expand and grow their businesses.



The Ghana Free Zones Authority (GFZA) was established on 31st August, 1995 by an Act of Parliament – the Free Zone Act, 1995 (Act 504), to enable the establishment of free zones in Ghana for the promotion of economic development; to provide for the regulation of activities in free zones and for related purposes.

The Ghana Free Zones Programme combines both the enclave and single-factory enterprise schemes which is designed to promote processing and manufacturing of goods through the establishment of Export Processing Zones (EPZs) and, encourage the development of commercial and service activities at sea-and air-port areas.



Priority Sector

As Ghana continuously re-strategises to diversify its export base, some sectors have been identified as priority areas for investment. Ghana has comparative advantage in these areas and the GFZA is well positioned to attract substantial investments in the under-listed sectors.

- Agro-Food Processing
- Textile/Apparel Manufacturing
- Seafood Processing
- Jewellery Production
- Pharmaceuticals
- Floriculture
- Metal Fabrication
- Ethnic Beauty Products
- Light Industry/Assembling Plant
- Oil and Gas
- Information Communication Technology (ICT)

Incentives

- 100% exemption from payment of direct and indirect duties and levies on all imports for production and exports from free zones
- 100% exemption from payments of income tax on profits for 10 years which will not exceed 15 percent thereafter
- Total exemption from payment of withholding taxes from dividends arising out of free zone investments
- Relief from double taxation for foreign investors and employees where Ghana has double taxation agreement with the country of the investors or employee
- Minimal customs formalities
- 100% ownership of shares by any investor - foreign or national - in a free zone enterprise is allowed



GHANA FREE ZONES AUTHORITY

CONTACT US ON:

(+233 302) 780535 / 785037 / 428620
/ 428590 / 024-217-4534

FAX: (+233 302) 780536 / 780537

P.O.BOX M626 ACCRA, GHANA

GP ADDRESS:

GL - 040-2630

Email: info@gfzb.gov.gh

Website: www.gfzb.gov.gh

GFZA - Promoting export oriented investment for National Development

Tackling Unemployment

- NABCo engages 100,000 graduates

About 54,500 applicants of the Nation Builders Corp(NABCo) programme will start work in October 2018. The applicants have been alerted of their placements in five modules of the programme; Civic Ghana, Revenue Ghana, Educate Ghana, Enterprise Ghana and Digitize Ghana modules of the programme.

Some 49,642 out of the 54,481 successful applicants have accepted their placements and subsequently submitted their letters of acceptance before the August 31, 2018 deadline. In all, 100,000 people are to be enrolled on the programme for the first year. The second batch of placement was completed on September 11, 2018 and involved those selected for the Heal Ghana and the Feed Ghana modules, while pre-deployment orientation for successful applicants was scheduled for September 17- 19 2018.

NABCo gave chance to those in the first batch who could not submit their acceptance letters before the August 31, 2018 deadline, a window of opportunity to do so when NABCo's internet portal was opened from September 11.

Graduate unemployment has been a headache to governments over the years. It is reported that, out

of 120,000 students who graduate from the country's tertiary institutions every year only 10,000 are absorbed into the public sector. While the private sector is not able to employ many.

It was for this reason that the government launched the Nation Builders Corps(NABCo) programme as an avenue to recruit 100,00



unemployed Ghanaian graduates as a step towards addressing graduate unemployment. The focus of the initiative will be solving public service delivery in health, education, agriculture, technology, governance and drive revenue mobilization and collection.

Launched by the President in Kumasi in May, the programme seeks to provide temporary employment to unemployed graduates; improve skills and employability for transition from programme to permanent employment; improve public service delivery; improve on government revenue mobilization and provide needed infrastructure to improve access to basic public

services.

Ken Ofori- Attah, Minister of Finance announced during his delivery of the mid-term budget review to Members of Parliament in Accra that government has released a sum of GHS 30M for the funding of NABCo.

Under the programme, graduates will be trained, equipped with the necessary work tools and deployed around the country to engage in the following programmes: Graduate Teachers under @ Educate Ghana programmes will focus on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and other relevant subjects in the primary and secondary schools across the country. Also, with the expansion of early childhood facilities and its mainstreaming with the basic education, skills upgrading of NABCo trainees would offer possible permanent jobs in kindergarten and preschool settings.

In the technology components of this module, fellows are required to apply their skills in areas such as: Library and Archival, non-formal education programmes, digital and mobile libraries programme.

The Ministry of Education has revealed its on-going programmes and has indicated an uptake of over 10,000 NABCo trainees.

Heal Ghana

Trained nurses and other health care workers in the 'Heal Ghana' programme will provide healthcare delivery to deprived and rural communities across Ghana. Critical sectors such as emergency medicine and ambulance services, as well as first aid are possible areas for the engagement of NABCo trainees. Crucially, the application of technology within health delivery further enhances possibilities for effective utilization of NABCo graduate trainees.

The health module would take note of the need for social care within the community: in particular, care for the vulnerable and persons with a range of disabilities, especially those within public institutions. The Ghana Health Service and the Ministry of Health are to assist the scheme with knowledge of areas within health delivery that require intensive workforce needs.

Feed Ghana

Agriculture is central to Ghana's transformation agenda. Therefore, NABCo trainees would be made valuable in the delivery of crucial services required for increased productivity. Trained Agricultural Extension and other allied workers in the 'Feed Ghana' programme will provide extensive support to farmers. E- Agriculture and the dissemination of scientific knowledge, mechanisation centres and seed and fertilizer programmes, the District Centres for Agricultural Transformation, District Warehouse and Logistical management, offer immediate pointers for engagement of NABCo personnel.

The Ministry of Food and Agriculture with compliments of the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development are the lead



enablers of this NABCo enrichment module. In addition to the private agribusiness component, this has shown a potential to absorb over 20,000 trainees.

Revenue Ghana

For the successful and effective delivery of national development, expenditures must be matched by improved revenue. There is no doubt that a lot of work is required in the revenue mobilization and collection in the country. It is for this reason that tertiary graduates in the 'revenue Ghana' programme could provide a workforce and minimal technology solution to generate the requisite revenue for the development of Ghana.

The GRA as a matter of urgency requires an action plan to address the challenges of revenue mobilisation. The GRA has indicated a staffing support need of about 6,000 personnel on the NABCo scheme.

Digital Ghana

In a knowledge era, most nations have achieved greatness by the application of technology to aid business, improve efficiency, cut cost improve earnings and increase productivity. For the transformation agenda of the government, H. E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo- Addo to succeed, Ghana has to follow the trend. The 'Digitise Ghana' enrichment module is a cross- cutting module that provides a converging solution

to most of the active and latent government programmes and initiatives.

This module offers an opportunity for the delivery of a number of flagship initiatives: National identification Scheme, Digital Address for every location in Ghana, Land Title and Land Administration(the Land Administration Project for example), Health and Safety Monitoring solutions in our industrialisation drive(e.g. Mines, factories, oil and gas), standardised Ghana(Ghana Standards Authority) Archival and Digitisation at Registrar- General's Department, Birth and Death Registry, Passport Application Centres as well as research, monitoring and evaluation hubs with Development Authorities to assist in recording and tracking progress of both the user sectors and projects, as well as the progress of NABCo personnel. This later point holds immense potential for knowing the impact gained in the attempt to deal with the specific cohorts of graduates as they transition into regular and permanent employment. This multi stakeholder platform has significant benefits for the Ministry of Monitoring and Evaluation as a workforce solution in every part of the country.

Civic Ghana

The Civic Ghana is designed to provide some resource base at the district and constituency level. Through this governance scheme, graduates shall be trained to assist within the constituency and district level, programmes that come under the purview of the development authority and the local authority. The aim is to bring government to the people in the most simplified and collaborative way.

Enterprise Ghana

Enterprise Ghana is the NABCo module designed to assist with the effort to industrialise all parts of the country. Current policy initiative is geared towards: A) a district industrial drive under the One- District, One Factory initiative and B) the drive to stimulate existing industries. Under both initiatives, opportunities exist for the recruitment of graduates by the private sector into both the existing factories and the new factories being built. Two areas offer immediate opportunities for the NABCo: 1) the Health and Safety Regime of Ghana (Ghana Standards could drive safety standards in collaboration with the Factories Inspectorate Department); 2) Export Promotion under the One District, One Product campaign (Ghana Export Promotion, Ghana EXIM Bank and Ministry of Business Development to train and engage 'made in Ghana ambassadors').





Importance Of Medical Volunteers In Ghana

Speech By Mr. Akwasi Awua Ababio, Director-Diaspora Affairs
As Guest Speaker - 16Th Annual Conference Ghana Physicians And Surgeons Foundation
Los Angeles-U.S.A 27Th- 29Th April 2018



Mr. Akwasi Awua Ababio,
Director-Diaspora Affairs

Your Excellency, Ambassador Adjei-Barwuah, Ghana's Ambassador to the U.S.A, the President, Dr. Victor Owusu-Yaw, the Executive Board and members of Ghana Physicians and Surgeons Foundation, Invited Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I thank the organizers sincerely, for the honour done me and the Diaspora Affairs Office, to address the Ghana Physicians and Surgeons Foundation's 16th Annual Conference under the theme Non-Communicable Diseases: Prevention and Management Dilemma. The theme for the conference is very important as key facts from World Health Organization as of 21st June 2017 shows a very worrying situation;

- *NCDs kill 40 million people each year, equivalent to 70% of all deaths globally.*
- *Each year, 15 million people die from a NCD between the ages of 30 and 69 years; over 80% of these "premature" deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries.*
- *Cardiovascular diseases account for most NCD deaths, or 17.7 million people annually, followed by cancers (8.8 million), respiratory diseases (3.9million), and diabetes (1.6 million).*

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen, the above statistics directly link the topic of my address-Importance of Medical Volunteers in Ghana coupling with brain drain of Ghana's medical professionals abroad over the last three decades. The importance of medical volunteers dates back in Gold Coast when in 1927 Dr. Noguchi from Japan came to Ghana to research into Yellow Fever but died from the disease. Today, the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research set up in 1979 at the University of Ghana is a medical research centre of International repute. We recognise the altruistic sacrifices you make daily in your chosen profession to save lives even at the peril of your lives.

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen, join me to commend the main initiators of this wonderful Foundation 16 years ago with a mission to assist in providing quality training for healthcare professionals in Ghana and to volunteer time and energy to work in Ghana either in hospitals, community health outreaches or as visiting faculty at the various medical schools.

Your Excellency, GPSF's initiative is a typical example of reverse brain drain-this is the time for Ghana to continuously benefit your human capital and knowledge acquired over the years living and working in USA.

His Excellency, President Nana Akufo-Addo recognizes the

enormous Ghanaian talents and resources abroad and he is determined through the Diaspora Affairs Office at the Presidency to harness and facilitate the integration of your expertise in Ghana's socioeconomic development. According to the World Health Organization, NCDs threaten progress towards the

***The value of
medical volunteers
cannot be
quantified in
monetary terms***

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes a target to reducing premature deaths from NCDs by one-third.

The importance of medical volunteers in Ghana cannot be underestimated as they play critical role in health service delivery in Ghana especially among rural communities. The value of medical volunteers cannot be quantified in monetary terms-Volunteers sacrifice huge manly hours free of charge to offer dire needed services to deprived people especially in our rural communities. Poverty is linked with NCDs and a major development challenge in Ghana. I am confident the GPSF is ready to take up the challenge by exploring stronger partnerships with allied professionals and institutions both home and abroad in order to be able to offer more medical volunteerism in Ghana.

Your increased medical volunteerism in Ghana will complement government's effort in early detection, screening and treatment of signs of NCDs-heart attacks, strokes, cancers, respiratory diseases and diabetes.

Over the last three decades medical volunteers have contributed towards to the following;

1. *Improvement in health and wellbeing to beneficiaries and volunteer health professionals also obtain sense of satisfaction as they give back to society and make positive contribution.*

2. *Sharing of ideas and best practices-Professionals abroad collaborates with local professionals-facilitates harnessing of expertise and capacity building.*

3. *Partnership agreement*

for post graduate medical training for physicians-Voluntary Faculty-We encourage you to explore such partnerships to support health services delivery-New University of Ghana Hospital.

4. *Philanthropic program and donation of health equipment and facilities to improve health-donation of modern health equipment.*

5. *Social and economic impact-bridge socioeconomic divide as medical volunteers bring services which could not be easily afforded by the people-expensive medical surgeries undertaken free of charge.*

6. *Social impact-Collaboration with social networks and NGOs in solving medical Challenges-Rebecca Foundation recently built Children medical award in Kumasi, Working with Chiefs and traditional authorities.*

7. *Access to health care personnel with specialized knowledge and training to manage acutely ill patients*

Conclusion

Diaspora Affairs will continue to collaborate with all relevant stakeholders to strengthen and facilitate medical volunteerism in Ghana by providing assistance in seeking tax exemption, facilitate free visa on arrival where necessary to facilitate your voluntary drives in Ghana.

I encourage you to share data on GPSF human resource as part of our poll of talented Ghanaians abroad from which government

can easily source for expertise-University of Ghana new Hospital Mr. Chairman, the Vice President, H.E Dr. Bawumia last week launched a campaign to provide one ambulance to each constituency, I will urge GPSF to use your network of professionals here in the U.S.A to support government's commitment to provide each constituency with an ambulance. The Diaspora Affairs, will be pleased to work with you on this project.

The government has no illusion brain drain mostly depends on the state of the country's development, and is adopting strategies and to reverse migration to our advantage. The Diaspora Affairs will continue to engage with you to solicit your ideas into the draft Diaspora Engagement Policy which could lead to the implementation of attractive packages to attract our Diaspora doctors, academics and other professionals to Ghana. Our government is committed to develop an environment which will provide rewarding opportunities and facilitate full integration of your attained knowledge and skills from overseas in Ghana's development.

I wish you a successful conference. Thank you and May God richly us all.



Facilitating Diaspora Business Interest In Ghana

Speech By Ms Nadia Adongo Musah Deputy Director-Diaspora Affairs
As Guest Speaker-The Diaspora Business Conference 2018 Washington Dc 9th March 2018



Ms Nadia Adongo Musah,
Deputy Director-Diaspora Affairs

Your Excellences, Dr. Barfour Adjei-Barwuah, Ghana's Ambassador to the United States of America, Ms. Martha Pobee, Ghana's Ambassador to the United Nations and Dr. Arikana Chihombori-Quao, African Union Ambassador to the United States of America, Honourable Mohammed Awal, Minister for Business Development, Invited Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen. I count myself highly privileged to have been given this unique honour to address this august event-The Diaspora Business Conference 2018. I thank you all sincerely, especially the Ghana Advocacy Group for the honour done me and the Diaspora Affairs Office. I extend to you, warm greetings from the Director, Mr Akwasi Awua Ababio and H.E President Nana Akufo-Addo. Your Excellences, Invited Guest,

Ladies and Gentlemen, I commend the Ghana Advocacy Group for its decision to organise the Diaspora Business Conference 2018 to provide a networking opportunity and as a source of information to Ghanaians living abroad, to encourage you to return home to invest. It is recognised that a renewed commitment of Ghanaians living abroad to support Ghana with knowledge transfer and resources could speed up the achievement of President Nana Akufo-Addo's vision of Ghana Beyond Aid and encourage you to take advantage by investing in

engage the Diaspora abroad.

The government under the distinguished leadership of President Nana Akufo-Addo prides your contribution to Ghana's development and is committed to ensure that you receive best services whenever you are in Ghana and to also reach you abroad with relevant information and opportunities that await you home, to encourage and motivate your continuous support for Ghana's development.

Your Excellences, Invited Guest, Ladies and Gentlemen, Ghanaians living abroad do not only contribute to family support, community development, private sector development in Ghana by sending remittances, but also by direct investments and knowledge transfer.

The Diaspora contributes eventually, to strong and growing private sector that creates jobs, generates income, and hence contributes to poverty alleviation. It is currently estimated that an annual inflow of about \$5.0 billion goes to Ghana through remittances from Ghanaians in the diaspora.

The government recognizing your enormous contribution has mandated the Diaspora Affairs Office at the Presidency to work in partnership with other State institutions, Ghanaian Associations abroad-professional and non-professional, International

It is currently estimated that an annual inflow of about \$5.0 billion goes to Ghana through remittances from Ghanaians in the diaspora.

government initiatives' home. I will take this opportunity to speak about the Diaspora Affairs Office and how we are strategically positioned to facilitate Diaspora business interest in Ghana and

organizations and NGOs to promote the interest of Ghanaians in the diaspora and explore more meaningful ways the diaspora could contribute to Ghana's socio-economic development for our mutual benefit. The Office, enjoys a fairly influential position within the government and it emphasises the importance the government places on diaspora contributions to the economy.

Your Excellences, Invited Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, working in partnership with other state institutions we provide you high access to government officials, knowledge about market access, business and investment opportunities in Ghana. We understand the challenges our diaspora compatriots face in their business dealings and in getting access to government services when home; inefficient customer service, delay in service delivery and general local business etiquette. While government is working fervently to remove bottlenecks and improve upon efficiency in government services delivery and general conditions for doing business in Ghana, the Diaspora Affairs Office, facilitates and open doors on your behalf to enhance your business dealings in Ghana with unrivaled customer focus to achieve valuable Diaspora/Homeland engagement to your satisfaction and our mutual benefit.

Over the last one year, the Diaspora Affairs Office has facilitated and supported the successful resolution of various issues between some Ghanaians abroad and government institutions brought to the attention of the Office. Some of the issues dealt with so far relates to land registration, food and drugs authority certification, business

registration and port clearance.

Your Excellences, Invited Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, the Diaspora Office will reach you in course of the year with programs such as Engaging the Diaspora for Trade and Investment to encourage diaspora entrepreneurship and investments in Ghana. The Office will work in partnership with private sector organizations to bring services to the diaspora community to channel remittances into investments in a more productive, effective and innovative way in order to develop businesses and to create jobs.

Also, through Diaspora Voluntary Initiative-the Office supports and encourages our diaspora community to return home to offer their services and skills freely to the needy and vulnerable communities in areas such as health care, education and community development. Ghanaians living abroad support Ghana in diverse philanthropic ways.

Last year Dr. Obeng led a team of medical experts to offer such services voluntarily. Let me take this opportunity to thank him and encourage others to reach out to our compatriots home in diverse philanthropic initiatives to improve lives.

From 19th March to 5th April, 2018 we will host another team of medical experts from Germany and USA on a free Medical Outreach program in Ghana. The team will be led by Dr. Kwaku Danso Agyei based in Germany. The outreach program apart from providing free medical consultancy, surgery and treatment to ordinary people, will see strong collaboration and transfer of knowledge and best practices between number of local medical practitioners and their foreign counterparts.

Your Excellences, Invested Guest, Ladies and Gentlemen, the Diaspora Affairs Office is laying the foundation for a productive and mutually beneficial relationship between government and Ghanaians living abroad. On 16th March 2018, the President H.E Nana Akufo-Addo will launch the maiden edition of a quarterly publication by the Diaspora Affairs Office dubbed "Ghana Diaspora" to disseminate information to the Ghanaian Diaspora, celebrate their achievement and contribution to the economy of Ghana. We are also compiling a database of talented Ghanaians, from which government can source for professionals and experts, required to fill specific and key sectors of the economy. The government has already appointed over fifty Ghanaians previously living abroad in key sectors of the government, demonstrating strong commitment to involve Ghanaians abroad. We have put together a team of experts to help the Office to lobby government, parliament and other stakeholders for the removal of legal limitations against Ghanaians with dual citizenship in Ghana's political and economic discourse. Your Excellences, Invited Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, We expect that this business conference will equip participants with the skills to build bridges between USA and Ghana by providing market access, sources of expertise, knowledge, investment and technology to spur Ghana's development. This is the time to deploy our vast pool of talents and resources abroad to support Ghana's development. I wish you a successful Business Conference 2018.

Thank you.

MADE IN GHANA



DIASPORANS TIE THE KNOT



MR AND MRS
TURKSON
ENGAGEMENT
& WEDDING



Ghana hosted 5th All African Music Awards



The African Union Commission (AUC) announced Ghana as the host country for the 5th All Africa Music Awards (AFRIMA).

This, the organizers noted, follows the “receipt of the Letter of Intent to Host AFRIMA dated April 18, 2018, addressed to the Commissioner of Social Affairs, African Union Commission, Mrs Amira Elfadil and signed by the Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture, Ghana, Catherine Afeku.” The 5th AFRIMA Host Country unveiling was done at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on Thursday, September 6, 2018.

It was done by the AU’s Acting Director for Social Affairs, Mariama Cisse Mohamed; Head of Culture, African Union, Ms Angela Martins, and President and Executive Producer of AFRIMA, Mr. Mike Dada.

In her response, Mrs Amira Elfadil congratulated Ghana “on overcoming the competition involved in hosting AFRIMA and winning the Host Country rights through a transparent process.”

The AU also thanked the Lagos State Government (Nigeria) for partnering and supporting the successful hosting of previous editions of AFRIMA.

“We are counting on the Republic of Ghana to fulfil all requirements and efforts to make AFRIMA 2018 a huge success. The 2018 edition of AFRIMA is also the 5th edition of the continental awards and the 5th AFRIMA remains steadfast to the AUC’s values of promoting African unity and celebrating cultural uniqueness through the program of events on the AFRIMA calendar between May and November 2018. “Music and Entertainment are key sectors of the African

culture industry stimulating the sustainable social development and growth of Africa. It is in this light that the AUC is determined to support these sectors to continue to contribute significantly to Africa’s development and favourable economic advantage on the global stage,” the AU Commissioner stated further.



The event, scheduled for November 21-24, to be known as the 5th All Africa Music Awards, AFRIMA – Ghana 2018, will have main awards programme spanning four days of exhilarating activities.

Activities scheduled to precede the main awards ceremony include the AFRIMA Welcome Soiree; Africa Music Business

Summit; AFRIMA Music Village; Media Interviews/ Meet & Greet; and a tour of the historic Elmina Castle in Ghana.

In partnership with the African Union, the All Africa Music Awards is the biggest music event on the continent and the awards ceremony will be broadcast live to 84 countries across the globe.





Stonbwouy

Samini

Jupiter

Kuame Eugene



AFRIMA
ALL AFRICA MUSIC AWARDS
LES TROPHÉES DE LA MUSIQUE AFRIQUE
جوائز الموسيقى الإفريقية



Sarkodie & the President



Nadia, Boris Kodjoe and the Hon. Afeku





TOMATO MIX



My wife is the best cook in the world!

Taste the love

Mission

To Regulate, Oversee and Monitor the Petroleum Downstream Industry in Ghana for Efficiency, Growth and Stakeholder Satisfaction

Vision

To be a Catalyst for Economic Transformation and Growth.



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