



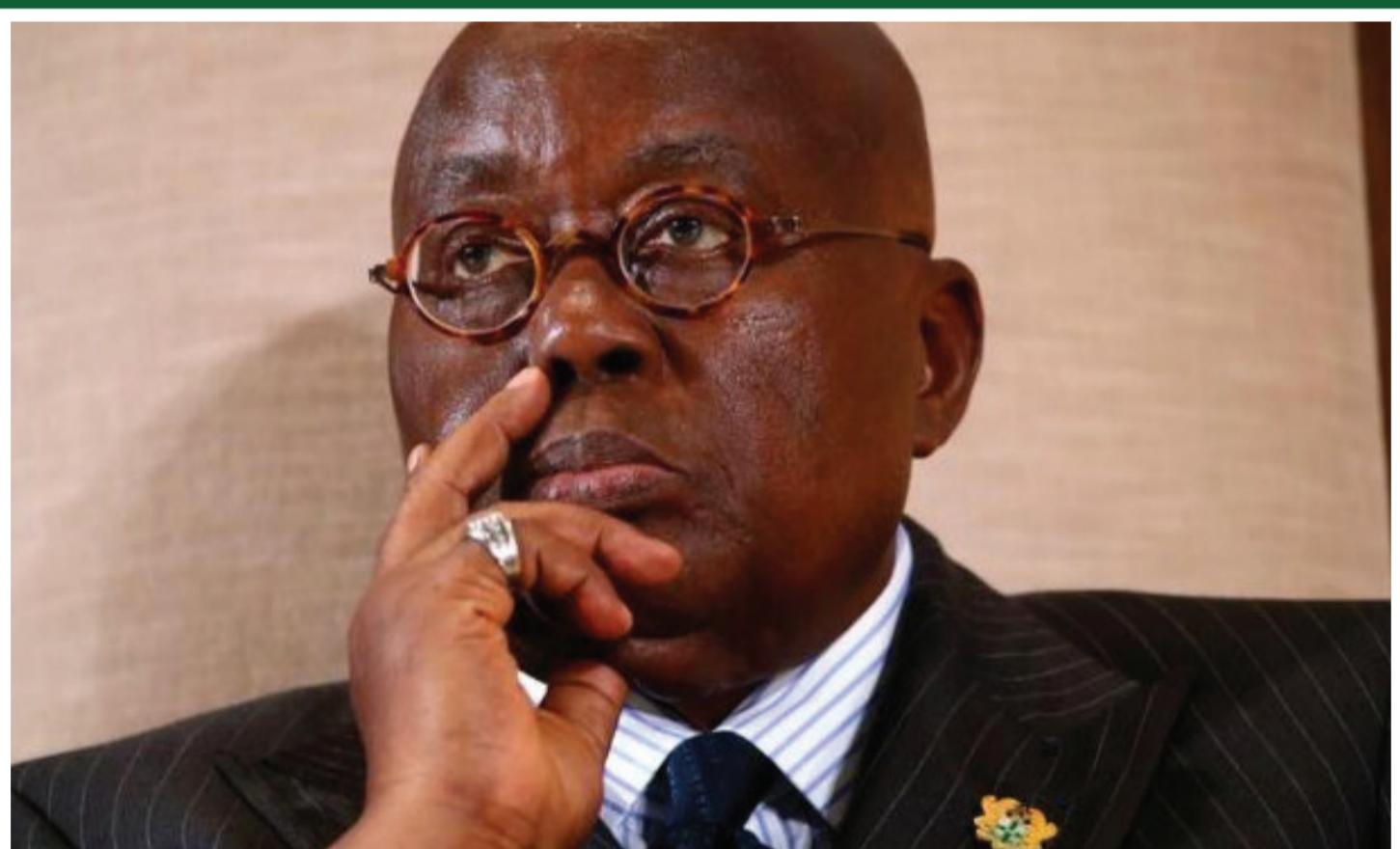
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Global Watchdog Mocks Ghana Over Crazy Agyapa Deal



Global Watchdog for illegal offshore movement of funds and shaddy investments has flagged Ghana's controversial Agyapa Royalty deal as fraudulent and an attempt by its promoters to rob Ghana of its resources and hand it over to "Shadow Bank-

ers" on Wall Street.

Tax Justice Network has done an extensive investigation into the Agyapa Royalty deal and it concludes that it is clearly a fraudulent deal taking full advantage of opaque tax haven loopholes to hide the true identities of the private owners of

Agyapa, which is being speculated to be a "powerful Ghanaian."

From the investigations of TJN, the law firm that helped Agyapa Register in Jersey-Ogier Global Limited; one Tom Williamson who signed as company secretary, and the other signatories

such as Felicia Ashley and Yaw Baah makes it increasingly plausible that a group of people in the government may be the true hidden owners of Agyapa Royalties.

Felicia Ashley is directly connected to Finance Minister Ken Ofori-Atta, while Yaw Baah, is a lawyer connected directly to Gabby Asare Otchere-Darko, President Akufo Addo's favourite cousin and his right-hand-man at the Jubilee House, who was incidentally one of the main transaction advisers.

The suspicious nature of the deal has forced TJN to recommend the deal to be "urgently cancelled and repudiated — and investigate all the parties involved for possible cor-

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ruption and self-dealing."

The silence of the Attorney-General Gloria Akufo after initially expressing strong reservations about the deal is being regarded by the international watchdog as a sign of complicity.

TJN says it would not hold its breath until international local and bodies open investigations into the scandalous Agyapa Royalties deal and prosecutions meted out accordingly.

TJN described the Agyapa Royalties deal as "strange, murky, and exceptionally unpopular", saying it was worse than the notorious plan of Angola to mortgage its oil revenues by channelling it through similar tax havens as the Akufo Addo administration has done with Agyapa Royalties in Jersey, the world's third most aggressive tax haven.

The global investigator of shady global transactions noted that the Akufo Addo administration may have pushed the Agyapa Royalty deal through so that members of the administration can line their pockets during the elections in

the fears that it might lose at the December polls.

"It is election year in Ghana — so incumbents are likely keen to maximise personal rewards upfront before they may perhaps lose power," Tax Justice Network which has exposed many shady financial engineering of crooked countries, companies and capital market markers.

TJN expressed shock at the Agyapa Royalty deal, saying "The sheer brazenness of all this is breathtaking," in reference to the eagerness of Finance Minister Ken Ofori-Atta and the Akufo Addo administration to sign off Ghana's gold royalties to predatory exploitation by Wallstreet bankers with the way the Agyapa Royalties deal has shifted all risks away from the international brokers and the shadowy shareholders of Agyapa Royalties and have placed all the potential risks on Ghana.

"Essentially, a mysterious company based in the UK tax haven of Jersey, Agyapa Royalties, has inserted itself into the middle of what looks like a highly unwise financing arrangement," stated TJN.

"...Ghana deal seems to have added a further element: the insertion of this mysterious private party into the middle of the financing streams, under opaque terms. Even Angola rarely went that far (with one spectacularly murky exception involving Russian debts, for true connoisseurs of shady dealing)," TJN published on its website today on www.taxjustice.net

According to TJN, the Agyapa Royalties deal is completely consistent with what it called the Wallstreet Development Consensus which involves local policymakers pushing legislations that makes it increasingly easy for poor taxpayers to underwrite risks and costs of big brokerage firms and investment companies.

"Put crudely, shadow banking essentially involves creating ever more "sophisticated" tools for providers of capital to maximise rewards for themselves, while shifting risks, costs and losses onto the shoulders of others. This kind of financial 'inward investment' can be likened to a crowbar: a tool for providers of capital to jimmy open the national safe and

make off with the proceeds," said TJN.

The twist from TJN is the latest non-governmental organisation that has warned against the fraudulent nature of the Agyapa deal. Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) that had warned against the deal have been described by Akufo Addo government and its agents as "all-knowing".

Under the deal, the Minerals Investment Fund supposedly uses Agyapa Minerals Royalties as a Special Purpose Vehicle, to borrow US\$-1 billion from investors through listing on the London Stock Exchange, using government's royalty receipts from mining companies as collateral.

The deal is however shrouded in so much secrecy that even the Minority in Parliament do not know who the Directors of the SPV or investors are even though the law has been crafted in such a way that overseas directors of Agyapa which will be incorporated in a tax haven in the UK (Jersey) cannot be removed in future. This is in spite of the fact that these overseas directors will have control over the local subsidiary of called Agyapa Royalties Ghana (ARG).



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Akufo-Addo Grandfathered Nationwide Voter Registration Violence

-Gen. Mosquito



General Secretary of the opposition National Democratic Congress (NDC), Johnson Asiedu Nketia (General Mosquito) has said that the violence that marred the recent voter registration exercise nationwide were carried out under the aegis of President Akufo-Addo.

At a press conference today, he said the President's conduct and shocking ap-

roval of the exercise are indicative that he grandfathered the widespread violence that led to the killing of at least two people.

"Two incidents that have occurred recently, leading to my heightened suspicion that, whatever crimes that had been committed during the registration exercise countrywide and in particular Banda had happened with President Akufo Addo's

complicity," General Mosquito alleged.

Mr. Asiedu Nketia said this while addressing claims by the NPP that he imported some 66 Ivorians into the country even though according to him, every piece of evidence, including the confession of the Ivorians themselves who had been interviewed by the press establishes that they were imported into the country by the governing

New Patriotic Party (NPP).

Presenting evidence, the NDC chief scribe played videos of the arrested Ivorian nationals confessing that they were brought into the country by an NPP man called Yao after they had been paid Ghc300 each, to register as Ghanaian voters.

In the video, one Ivorian spoke halting Twi and confessed that he was in his country when he and his other colleagues were organized and told to come to Ghana and register as voters.

Mr. Asiedu Nketia said he felt compelled to lay the evidence down because of claims by the General Secretary of the NPP, John Boadu, that he (Asiedu Nketia) was the one who had brought in the Ivorians.



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Explosive: Deputy Regional Minister Reveals Jean Mensah Is NPP's "Mother"

The Electoral Commission's announcement that minors and foreigners have found their way on to the new biometric voters' register recently compiled for the 2020 election was apparently a prelude to a planned mass expungement of names of registrants perceived to be members of the main opposition party, according to released secret tapes.

An explosive tape recording capturing the voice of the Deputy Regional Minister for Bono East, Mr. Oti Gyaaka, reveals how the Supreme Court, the military, the Police and all other significant State institutions have entered into a conspiracy to rig the 2020 elections for Akufo-Addo and neutralize the NDC forever in Ghana politics.

Per the revelations, the NPP rigging machine has many moving parts and one of them is Jean Aduwei Mensah, the Electoral Commission Chairperson, who Mr. Gyaaka refers to as the "mother" of the NPP and will expunge the names of many voters registered in NDC strongholds when the data gets to her.

The Deputy Bono East regional Minister was



addressing a group of NPP goons that had been camped at a secret location late in the night before the start of the just-ended voter registration.

The revelation that Jean Mensah is the "mother" of the NPP who will cancel the names of supposed NDC registrants after they have been registered speaks directly to the suspicion that surrounded the announcement by the EC boss that the new biometric voter's register she just compiled has minors and foreigners on it.

Immediately Jean Mensah made the announcement, experts alerted the NDC to challenge Jean Mensah's claims, fearing she was up to something fishy.

According to investigative journalist, Kevin Tay-

lor, Jean Mensah had had a meeting with President Akufo-Addo and demanded that a week to the 2020 election her husband and her children be flown out of the country.

Meanwhile, in the secretly recorded voice of Oti Gyaaka, he urges the vigilantes to use violence and intimidation to cow voters in the NDC strongholds from coming out to register, saying the Invisible Forces and Delta Forces goons he was addressing had the license to kill.

According to him, the NPP had already got the Judiciary, the Police, the military, the media and other State institutions on their side and that when the murder happens, they also had set up a process to quickly run to the media and blame it on the NDC.

The Police would not act and even if the Police acts and the case eventually gets to the courts, the judges will make the cases foolish.

"We have met with all the registration officers and spoken to them; they are all for us. The Police, security personnel and soldiers are all on our side. Whatever provisions we are supposed to make for them, we have made for them. We have done what is supposed to be done, the ball is now in the court of you those on the ground," said Gyaaka in the explosive secret tape.

"As you are going, go with boldness and alertness work; if you go to a place where you must pass, pass, if you also get to a place where you must alight, alight. Understand that the assignment we have given you, you are supposed to do it with bold faces, nobody should go and wear masks. Even if it is killing that you kill, if the person dies, we will run to the press and blame NDC, we will blame them first. There are so many arrangements that we have made. I won't speak too much," the voice alleged to be that of Gyaaka said.



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MultiChoice Talent Factory brings New York Film Academy Webinar Series to African viewers

The MultiChoice Talent Factory (MTF), MultiChoice's flagship shared-value initiative, is proud to announce the launch of a virtual pop-up event The 20/20 Series on the MTF Portal www.multichiocetalentfactory.com. MTF has partnered with the New York Film Academy College of

to screenwriters, producers and more. The 20/20 Series includes industry professionals spanning filmic disciplines. Guests so far have included award-winning filmmaker and MTF Academy Director (West Africa) Femi Odugbemi, writer, director and producer Sarah Pirozek and Golden Globe nominated actor Pip-

looking for new ways to share NYFA's approach to film education with aspiring African filmmakers and members of the vibrant African film industry. The NYFA partnership with the MultiChoice Talent Factory is a tremendous benefit in this regard and we are honored that as part of this collaboration MTF will host

ing visual and performing arts schools, NYFA has been an important partner to MTF. Strategic partnerships with internationally acclaimed organisations like NYFA have helped MTF unlock unique opportunities to empower Africa's creative industries to tell authentic stories to a global audience.

"The launch of NYFA's The 20/20 Series on the MTF Portal is part of MultiChoice's commitment to amplify creative voices and constructively impact entertainment industries in Africa. The 20/20 Series enables critical discussions on film and TV, inspires film and TV creatives across the African continent and assists in building global connections into the future."

- Yolisa Phahle, MultiChoice Group CEO General Entertainment.

To watch The 20/20 Series, which is now available on the MTF Portal, visit the MTF Portal. If you haven't registered on the portal yet, please click on the link to register for free: <https://multichiocetalentfactory.com/user/register>.

Join the MTF social media conversation on the hashtag #MultiChoiceTalentFactory and follow/join:

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Visual & Performing Arts(NFYA) to bring this web series to African filmmakers exclusively through the MTF Portal.

Created and moderated by NYFA's Creative Director of Filmmaking and Cinematography, Liz Hinlein, each episode of The 20/20 Series features a conversation between Liz and creative visionaries across the globe, bringing viewers into their homes, hubs and workspaces to share their artistic practice and process.

From cinematographers

er Perabo, and many more. Liz Hinlein, who curated the discussions to provide insight into the creative vision of artists, has also opened up the conversation to audiences, giving them the chance to ask questions.

"African storytelling is extraordinarily unique and has roots that are deep in traditions and history like no other. New York Film Academy has been privileged to host thousands of African creative storytellers over the years as students and we are always

NYFA's The 20/20 Series."

- NYFA President Michael J Young

The MTF and NYFA partnership kicked off in 2018, during the inaugural year of MTF, and in 2019, this relationship saw three MTF students - one from each of the three academies in West (Lagos), East (Nairobi) and Southern (Lusaka) - given the once in a lifetime opportunity to participate in an eight-week long film workshop at NYFA campus in New York City.

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EC Data Transmission System Has Been Routed To An NPP Master Computer



In a worrying twist run-up to the 2020 general elections, the main opposition party has released an explosive secret recording capturing the Deputy Bono East Regional Minister, Oti Gyaaka, announcing that the Electoral Commission's data transmission has been routed to a master computer in the possession of the governing party.

According to him, the rigged transmission places the governing New Patriotic Party (NPP) in control of determining who the next President of Ghana becomes.

'I want you to be assured that in this registration, we have made all

arrangements to ensure we never lose. All machines that we are taking there, we have routed all of them to a master computer in our office and so everything that the EC machines record will be routed directly,' Mr. Gyaaka said in Twi.

He was addressing members of the Invisible Forces and the Delta Forces at a secret location in the deep of the night ahead of the just ended voter registration across the country which was the most violent Ghana has ever seen.

Consequently, per the Deputy Regional Minister's revelation, the 2020 election has already been rigged by the NPP. In the

secretly recorded address to his troops, Oti Gyaaka tells them that the registration must necessarily be violent so that pro-NDC voters will be scared to register.

According to him, the registration was to be an important watershed for Ghana politics because the NPP government was aiming to ensure that it uses the new register to keep the NDC out of power and governance forever and so everything must be done to ensure that pro-NDC voters, especially people in NDC strongholds, do not register.

But even where they get to register, he said there were other contingency

plans for the rigging agenda.

"Again we have places which are strongholds of our opponents. We will allow them to write their names without any issues, but by the time it gets to the Electoral Commission if the names were for example, 1000, it will be reduced to 600. And with that remaining 600, what is slashed off, we will go and add it to the numbers in our stronghold so that our numbers will increase," said Gyaaka while narrating the nefarious plan.

According to the Deputy Regional Minister, the main weapon for the operation should be violence and intimidation. "Wherever you hear of confusion, storm there with violence and courage just like we told you. The Police officers who will be around there, we have sorted all of them out. Whatever will happen, they will support you so that when you intimidate the opponent, they won't come out and register and through that, we will get MP, get DCE, get President. If you get President, without MP, you have gained nothing, the same way, if you get MP without President, you have gained nothing."



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RTI Coalition Condemns Ghc2,000 Price tag On NCA Information

The vanguard of the passage of the Right To Information (RTI) Law, the RTI Coalition has condemned a shocking price tag of Ghc2000 that the National Communications Authority (NCA) recently slapped on information requested by the Media Foundation for West Africa.

In a statement, the RTI Coalition pointed out that the huge price tag flies in the face of the law and the purpose of the RTI law.

"...these kinds of responses from public institutions such as the NCA, only send

wrong signals to the public and suggest that the RTI Act is rather making it more difficult to obtain information instead of facilitating easy access to information, hence discouraging its use," the Coalition wrote.

It added, "Exercising a fundamental human right such as the Right to Information should not be costly; otherwise it is no more a right."

The reaction follows the NCA's response to a request by the MFWA for some information that the information can be given only if the MFWA pays Ghc2000.

As the MFWA had requested the information from the public institution under the RTI law, the NCA had implied that it was taking liberties with a strange lacuna that has developed in the law because of Parliament's delay in fixing a price at which information can be gotten.

And the atrocious price tag given by the NCA follows in the style of a similar one that a court had slapped on the MP for Ashiaman, Ernest Norgbey, after Mr. Norgbey went to court to force an obscurantist Electoral Commission to give him information on some pro-

curement it had undertaken.

The RTI Coalition said in its statement that the developments are unacceptable.

"It is important for public institutions to bear in mind that, public information is already paid for by taxpayers and therefore charging requesters to search for public information is tantamount to double charging," the group said.

It said it had taken note of the Information Minister's promise to investigate the NCA incident but was unhappy that the wrong signal has already been sent out.

"The RTI Coalition condemns these developments and calls on the Government to take immediate practical steps to prevent such acts from happening again."

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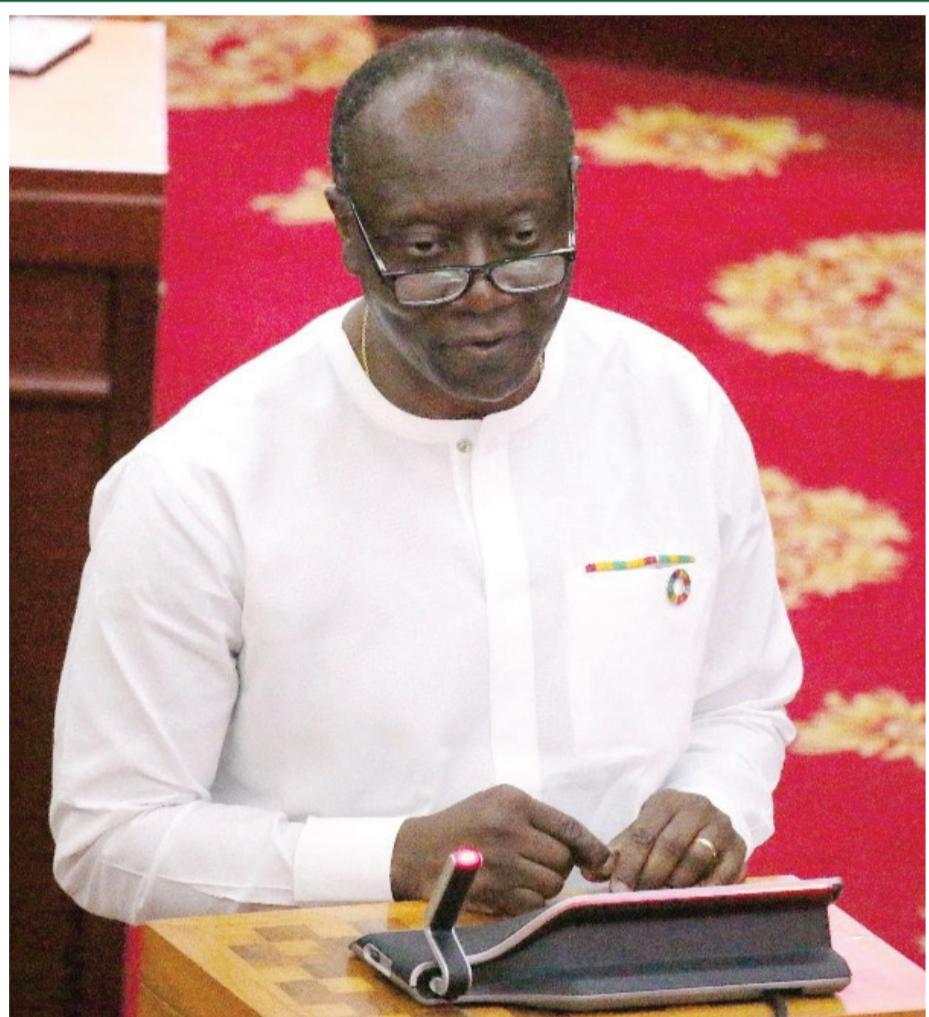
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Ken Ofori-Atta Sets Sight on Borrowing GHC22.7bn within Election Period



The Ken Ofori-Atta-led Finance Ministry is planning to borrow a staggering GHC 22.7 billion within the next three months.

This curious "mad scramble" for funds are coming within the election calendar, consequently raising eyebrows about how the Akufo Addo administration is throwing all caution to the winds to engage in reckless spending that will send Ghana into an economic spin after the

general elections in December.

Already, the government is pushing for some US\$ 500 million unbudgeted funds in the scandalous Agyapa Royalties deal.

According to the Bank of Ghana issuance calendar, Ghc19 billion of the targeted amount will be used to settle principal and interest of existing loans, while the remaining GHC3.05 billion, which will be in fresh issuance will be used to finance

government projects.

Out of the total amount to be raised, ₦9.2 billion will be issued via a 91-day Treasury bill, the calendar shows.

According to the Finance Ministry, the 91-day and 182-day Treasury bills will be issued every week, whiles the one year Treasury note will be issued every fortnight.

Already, the Akufo Addo administration has been bashed for its extreme borrowing appetite as it has ballooned Ghana's public debt portfolio to GHC 255 billion in bare-

ly four years of its administration.

The Breton Woods Institutions of the World Bank and the IMF, as well as global rating agencies like Fitch, are warning Ghana that its sovereign credit ratings may be downgraded to negative if large fiscal deficit and public debt are not curtailed.

This warning appears to be a tall order for the government which has shown all hints that its fiscal overspending will go through the roof during the election period.

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NDC's People's Manifesto Has No Empty Promises – Running Mate

Prof. Jane Naa-na Opoku Agyemang, the running-mate to former President John Dramani Mahama and flagbearer of the National Democratic Congress (NDC), has promised that the party's manifesto contains no unrealistic plan.

In an address to the Chiefs and people of Bekwai, as part of her campaign tour of the Western North region, she said the manifesto, which is to be launched on September 7, is also largely bespoke for the needs of the people.

Prof. Agyemang says: "Developing a manifesto is not about gathering some 10 people in a room to write a document on what



they think the people need. You end up with misplaced priorities and empty promises. The question is, who are you doing it for, and

what are the people saying are their actual needs and wants?"

The NDC manifesto is valued at US\$10 billion in what it calls the "Big Push

"Agenda" by President John Mahama.

Key among the policies in the manifesto is to make technical and vocational education (TVET) free.

The push she said would make TVET more attractive and accessible to the youth to address youth unemployment in a proactive manner.

The plan for enhanced TVET, will also feed into the set-up which upgraded polytechnics to technical universities, by the previous NDC administration.

Prof. Opoku Agyemang called on all well-meaning Ghanaians who wish to see Ghana rescued to turn out and vote massively for the NDC on election day.



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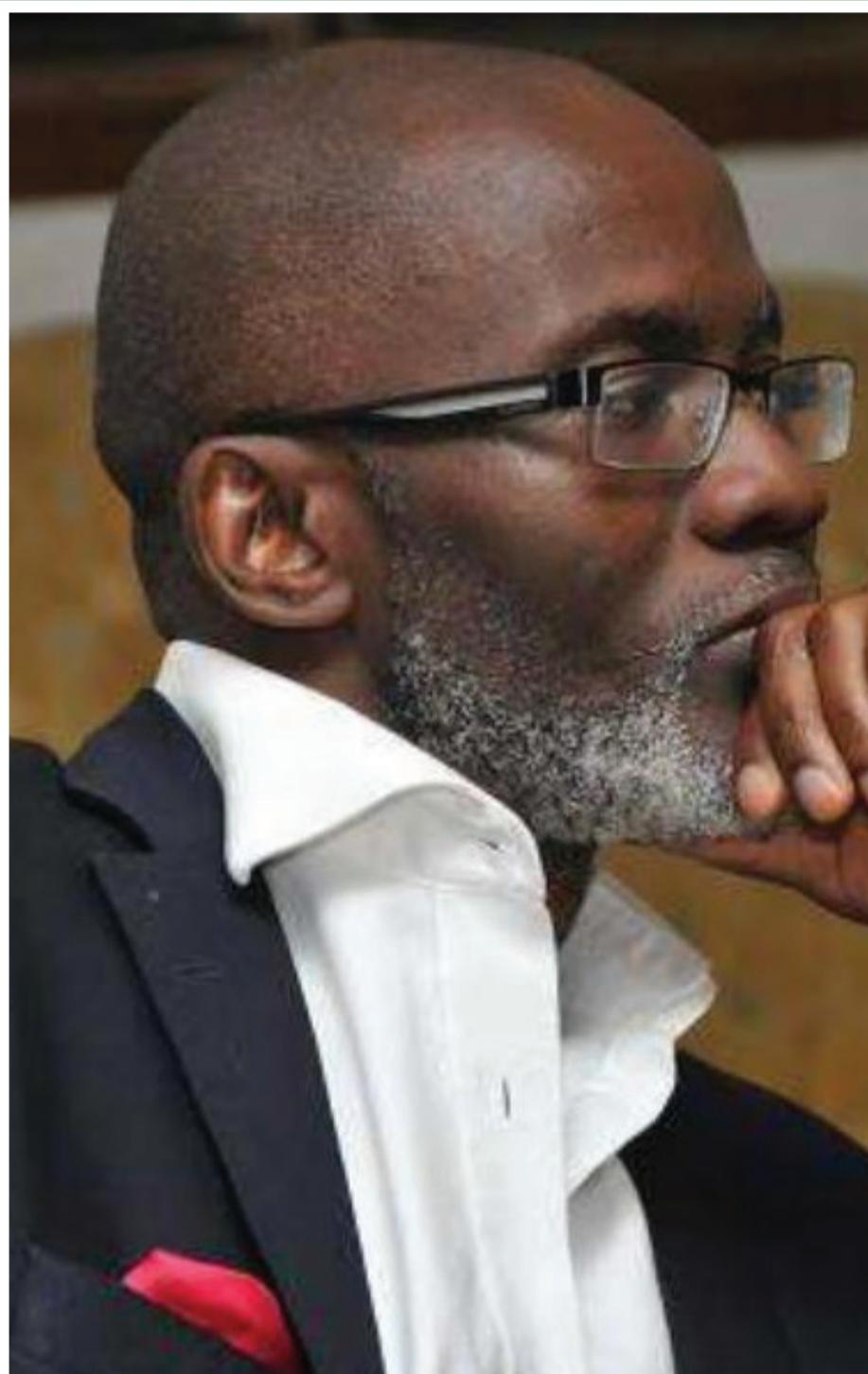
Octopus Gabby In Court Again Over Dirty Agyapa Deal

Gabby Asare Otchere-Darko, the powerful cousin of President Akufo-Addo, has flashed a lawsuit again over his alleged involvement in the stinky Agyapa Royalties deal.

The ubiquitous right-hand-man of President Akufo Addo, linked to several controversial deals in the past few years, has sued Mrs. Zita Benson, a former Tourism Minister in the erstwhile Mills government, for defamation for suggesting that he has his long tentacles in Agyapa deal.

According to Gabby, Mrs. Benson's allegations are "absolutely false," and a deliberate attempt to defame him.

In a video post on Facebook, the former Tourism Minister pointed out the involvement of Gabby's



law firm, Africa Legal Associates LLP, in the deal as legal advisors even though Ghana has a fully functioning Attorney General and proceeded to link

Gabby's Radio Station-Asaase FM to the royalties deal that has set off widespread red flags in Ghana and abroad.

"Who are the peo-

ple involved in Agyapa? Our own senior Minister, Osaf Marfo's son is behind it. Gabby Otchere Darko is in it as a lawyer and he claims he doesn't know about it. He claims he did not know about it and is even going to court but today he himself confirmed that is privileged to be the lawyer of Agyapa," she said.

However, according to Gabby in the write seen by Whatsup News, he is never involved in the Agyapa deal as a shareholder as is being alleged.

This is not Gabby's first time of heading to court over the same allegation. Barely a month ago, he also sued the MP for Bia East, Richard Acheampong, for similarly pointing out that the octopus smells with suspicion over the Agyapa dirty deal.



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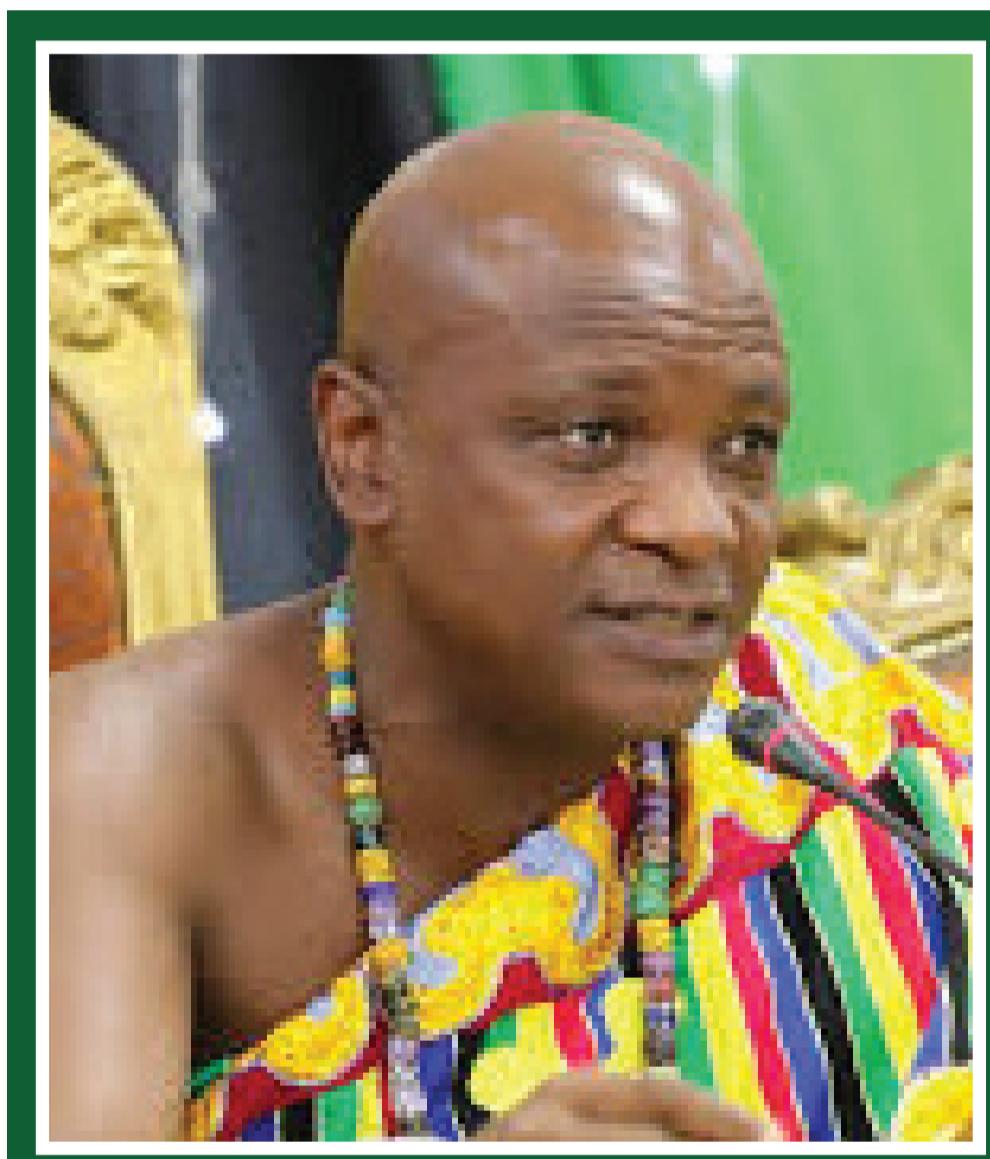
President of House Of Chiefs, Togbe Afede Hints At Agyapa's Shadiness

The President of the National House of Chiefs, Togbe Afede XIV has aired his opinion about the controversial Agyapa Royalties deal after attempts by faceless people dragged him into the discourse, using a forged letter purporting to be coming from him.

Togbe, who is also the Agbogbomefia of Asogli in the Volta Region said the arrangement for Ghana to incorporate Agyapa in a tax haven makes no sense to him.

"I, in particular, I'm very much hurt by the attempt to use my name to grant legitimacy to a transaction that has been very widely condemned for its secrecy and for the fact that the company involved, Agyapa, was incorporated in a tax haven. I do not see why desperation on the part of anybody who is associated with that transaction to want to use the name of innocent Togbe Afede XIV," the powerful Chief said.

The Chief who is also an investment banker made his thoughts known after some faceless people used his name to condemn for-



mer President John Mahama, for sharing a post that ascribes the opacity of the Agyapa dirty deal to the so-called Akyem Mafia.

A rather convoluted arrangement with the fingerprints of rip-off merchants all around it, Agyapa personifies a Special Purpose Vehicle that was set up using the Minerals Income Investment Fund (MIIF). The MIIF had been set up to pool the mineral incomes of Ghana for de-

velopment.

To give it the personality of a company, the Akufo-Addo government went to Parliament and used its majority advantage in Parliament to change the establishing law for MIIF. MIIF was then given the power to put together a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)-Agyapa and use it to borrow US\$1billion from the London Stock Exchange using 5% mineral royalties from

mining companies as collateral.

These investors are to give Ghana, first a lump sum of US\$500million, however, income that Ghana gets from its mineral resources, is US\$200million every year. Meaning in the next five years, the country can depend on its mineral incomes to raise the US\$1billion.

According to Togbe Afede XIV, "I've never commented on this kind of transaction and I have decided not to comment for good reason...tax havens typically serve two purposes; helping you to avoid tax or ensure secrecy."

"I don't see why a national transaction should be shrouded in secrecy in the first place and if we are trying to avoid tax or minimize tax. Who are we denying tax payments to? The corporation is incorporated in Ghana, tax will accrue to Ghana which will be paid by this company that is owned, supposedly, majority by Ghana so I do not see why we should be doing that investment," Togbe Afede said.



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"Bawuah" –Leader of Top-Secret Assassin Squad Pops Up



The Akufo-Addo government has allegedly put together an assassination squad and stationed it at the seat of Government, the Jubilee House.

Ongoing investigation keeps throwing up "Bawuah" as the surname of the leader of the squad who will be used to target some personalities run-up to the December elections.

These disturbing revelations are coming on the back of revelations by the opposition National Demo-

catic Congress (NDC) that it has seen secret tapes that unveils an insidious plan by the governing NPP to unleash large scale violence during the December general elections.

According to inside sources, the name of the killing squad's leader is hidden in plain sight so that spotting the exact "Bawuah" can be tricky. However, investigations have so far thrown up the names of likely candidates.

One is BAWUAH JOHN of Military regimental num-

ber 205807. This Bawuah was part of the 500 recruits whose training was terminated after they mutinied while at the Army Recruits Training School (ARTS) in December 2015.

The second is one Eric Bawuah Adomako, whose rank is not exactly known but is said to be ranked between Corporal and Sergeant and has service number 192143.

Eric Bawuah Adomako's initial Unit was the 5BN while his last unit is GHQ (Camp) according to insid-

ers. He was born in Tamale and was enlisted into the military on the 18th October 2000 with a BECE certificate and was dishonourably discharged on the 7th of July 2010 for misconduct.

Mr. Bawuah Adomako attended Basic NCO tactics; Regimental and had his younger brother, COL-LINS BAWUAH and himself, along with their father, Ex WO1 Bawuah, who worked as a storeman, living in ABF barracks during his father's service days.

The third potential agent is one L/Cpl BAWUAH BRIGHT, formerly of 3 Battalion; while the fourth is Staff Sergeant Bawuah who has reportedly been dismissed for extorting money from people under the pretext of helping them enlist into the army.

According to sources, the killing squad has between 50 and 5000 soldiers in rogue service and it is purposed to eliminate persons that are marked out for it.

The alleged existence of this killing machine is illegal as the Constitution of the Republic of Ghana recognizes only one standing army, the Ghana Armed Forces (GAF).



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ALL WE NEED IS A LITTLE HEMPERSTANDING!



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For me, the banner headline of the Daily Graphic "Operation 1019" destroys 67-acre cannabis farms at Boso, in the Volta Region of Ghana failed to stir up any emotions of a job well done by the Law Enforcement Agencies.

I was not amused to be honest, in the wanton destruction of cannabis even though it was and remains against the law to cultivate it.

It appears there is one law for one and another law for the other! I mean what has happened to the cocaine that went missing whilst in the custody of Custom Officers and the Narcotics Control Commission back in June of this year? Very little has been said about it since that time and both agencies remain at loggerheads as to whose custody it was in at the time of its miraculous disappearance. Those who were peddling the drug have made away and escaped eluding the possibility of arrest, prosecution and imprisonment. Case closed!

This is not the first time either. I will never forget the case of the ship MV Benjamin which docked at Kpone in Tema in 2006 and offloaded 77 parcels of cocaine transporting it away into the sunset; despite the fact that our authorities were alerted by foreign anti-drugs agencies. And then there is a more recent case of missing cocaine that occurred in 2017 where 500 kilograms of cocaine with a street value of \$30,000,000 also mysteriously went missing even though the container was under a 24 hour surveillance!



David Mc Dermot (pictured above) was one of Britain's most wanted cocaine fugitive and he was living right here in Ghana for three years! Did you know that Ghana is ranked the third highest transit cocaine destination behind Nigeria and South Africa? Sorry to burst your bubble but the point I am making is that cannabis is really not the problem that we are facing in Ghana today. It is in fact a side issue being manipulated and used as a fig leaf to hide the real drug problems and challenges and because of its lucrative nature it is being obscured.



As it stands right now hundreds of farmers currently cultivating marijuana illegally are eagerly awaiting the Legislative Instrument to be approved by Parliament. Once this takes place it will open the floodgates for these same farmers to begin a new chapter in their lives by cultivating Cannabis Sativa L (Industrial Hemp) legitimately. They will no longer be looking over their shoulder and worrying about the pending knock at their door. What's more, they will be contributing to the country's gross domestic product through the paying of taxes every time they cultivate.



How many times do I have to say

these farmers are a national asset and specialists within their field? They are an integral part of the industrial hempvolution that is set to take off in 2021 and should be recognized as such. Yes we will fly in experts from all over the world who will also apply themselves to assisting in our development adding value as they go along but they do not have the affinity with Ghana like our indigenous farmers do. Our farmers are Ghana and Ghana is our farmers!

All they need right now is a little hemperstanding because they are in the middle of a transition from illegal cultivation to legal cultivation. The cultivation of cannabis is a generational model that stretches back almost over a hundred years if not more. Families are able to keep a roof over their heads and feed and sustain themselves all because of the cultivation of cannabis. I am not suggesting in any way shape or form that farmers should break the law; certainly not! But those who have unlicensed firearms are given a period of time known as an "Amnesty" when they can bring in unlicensed firearms with no questions asked.

So why can't we bear in mind that in a few months' time the cultivation of cannabis indica (weed) will be outlawed like it has never been before? With the improved powers that the Narcotics Control Commission will have anyone caught will end up losing everything they own including their liberty. A little hemperstanding will lead the authorities to realise that we are in a state of transition. Livelihoods are at stake; men, women and children are all under threat with such potential raids, what purpose will it really serve targeting the small scale cannabis farmers and letting the big cocaine dealers go free?