



POSSIBLE GOV'T DIVERSIONARY TACTICS FINGERED IN WESTERN TOGOLAND UPRISING

A number of sceptics are taking the latest secessionist move at Western Togoland with a pinch of salt, with some suspecting the Akufo Addo administration manipulations

sion of parts of Volta Region from Ghana, allegedly blocked movement of people and vehicles into their territory spanning a substantial part of the Volta Region.

This attack came

ders on clear illegality.

The admission, and the fact that the EC has been accused of scheming to rig the December general elections for the governing New Patriotic Party, particularly by intimidat-

Accountability (ASEPA). In a statement released today, ASEPA says it smells foul play

ASEPA noted: "Folks it is almost impossible to dissociate the complicity of the ruling NPP Government from



to distract attention from the monumental mess the Electoral Commission (EC) has caused to the recently compiled Voters' Register.

Earlier Friday morning, September 25, 2020, the infamous separatist group which seeks to cause a seces-

just a day after news broke of the Electoral Commission (EC) of Ghana admitting to the Inter-Party Advisory Committee (IPAC) that it had fouled up the over US\$150 million voters' registration exercise and it may be forced to stage a new registration that bor-

tion and mass deletion of voters' names from the Volta Region, which is incidentally the biggest political stronghold of the opposition National Democratic Congress (NDC).

The coincidence is just too telling for policy think-tank Alliance for Social Equity and Public

what is happening in Volta today unless someone proves all of us wrong. First of all, how on earth did the security apparatus not pick this Intel on what was about to happen today?"

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"Recently we all saw the massive military deployments that was sent to the Volta Region during the Voters Registration exercise, when we complained the Government told us, they were working on intelligence and that we don't know the threat that exists along our borders. How on earth were our security forces able to pick intelligence on external threats during the voters' registration exercise, for which reason they deployed heavy security to some border towns but failed to pick this internal Intel that these separatist groups were up to some mischief in their own territory?" Queries ASEPA

A leading member of the NDC legal team, Edudzi Kudzo Tameklo did not mince words in his suspicion that the Akufo Addo administration was behind the Western Togoland's latest uprising.

"Don't be fooled This so-called blocking of roads in the Volta is the work of the current

national security architecture to justify the deployment of the military by Nana Addo and his hype men during the election to intimidate voters in the Volta and Oti regions. We are smarter than them," Mr. Tameklo said in social media post today.

Meanwhile, Security Analyst and Executive Director of Jaticay Centre for Human Security and Peace Building, Adib Saani, has reinforced the perceptions that the government may not be entirely telling the truth by claiming the sudden uprising of the Western Togoland separatists who also call themselves Homeland Study Group Foundation (HSGF), took the intelligence apparatus of the government by surprise.

This view is particularly pertinent because about a year ago, the government picked up several key members of the separatist group, flew them to Accra for interrogation and strangely released them.

"When this Togoland issue started, some of us within the security,

space did not spare any moment or mince words, raising serious concerns about their activities and the existential threat they posed to the security of Ghana," Saani said in a statement.

"Unfortunately, over the past few years, they have become more audacious and brazen and we can only expect more. They are able to make strong political statements and control the narrative. They seem to be succeeding in bullying government into submission. They have succeeded in disrupting lives and holding the nation hostage."

Meanwhile, on Facebook, the Ghana Police Service on its page is cautioning travellers to be aware of "security operations" in some communities in the Volta Region.

Incidentally, this caution is syncing perfectly with warnings from critics that run-up to the election time, the security situation in the Volta Region will be such that prospective voters in the NDC stronghold will be dis-

couraged from coming out to vote.

Meanwhile, the territory of Western Togoland and Ghana had had a not-so-smooth path as the region was formerly a German. After Germany's defeat during the First World War, the colony of Togoland was divided between France and Britain as protectorates. The western part of Togoland became part of Britain's Gold Coast colony, which became independent in 1957 to form modern-day Ghana. Togo gained independence from France in 1960.

Western Togoland is a member of the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO) and the HSGF thinks its union with Ghana has outlived its usefulness and would therefore want to declare its independence for its 4 million inhabitants.

The group has tried several failed attempts at independence. The latest was in March 2020 where some 80 members were arrested but freed inexplicably.



SACRED COW KENNEDY AGYAPONG PLEADS NOT GUILTY

The loudmouthed Assin Central Member of Parliament, Kennedy Agyapong wants his contempt proceedings to be halted, pleading not guilty for the caustic attacks he launched on a trial judge sitting on an ongoing case involving him.

In what has been reported as an attempt to arm-twist justice in his favour and unprecedented behavior of the justice system for a criminal contempt case, no media house was allowed in court, except for the state newspaper Daily Graphic.

Already, investigative journalists, Kevin Ekow Taylor has alleged that President Akufo Addo himself has been in discussion with the Chief Justice Anim Yeboah to ensure that the stalwart of the ruling New Patriotic Party (NPP) is not jailed for his blatant attacks on the judiciary.

Ken Agyapong has been in court over a land dispute. However, with the case still ongoing, he went on his Net 2 TV a few weeks ago and started raining strong expletives at the trial judge.

"You are a stupid judge. I will face you," Ken Agyapong said on the programme.

However, information from the courts indicates that when Mr. Agyapong's lawyers Kwame Gyan, took turns to argue against the jailing of Ken Agyapong for criminal contempt, saying the trial



Judge, Justice Amos Wuntah is not in a position to sit on the case because of bias and that Mr. Agyapong has petitioned the Chief Justice over the allegation.

Mr. Agyapong's lawyers also argued that he has also filed a judicial review application at the Supreme Court challenging the jurisdiction of the court to hear the case of criminal contempt against their client.

Mr. Agyapong also told the court that he had filed an application for stay of proceedings pending the determination of the case at the Supreme Court, insisting that it would be in the interest of justice for the case to be halted for all the three issues he argued to be resolved first at the Supreme Court.

However, a no-nonsense Justice Wuni ruled that a

stay of execution does not automatically mean that the ought to halt the proceedings.

With regard to the judicial review application, Justice Wuni held that unless the Supreme Court orders him that he had no jurisdiction, he was not bound by any law to halt the case.

On the issue of the petition to the Chief Justice, he ruled that he had already made his reply to the Chief Justice and therefore unless a directive from the Chief Justice, nothing stopped him from going ahead.

All other attempts by Mr Gyan to have the case adjourned proved futile as the presiding judge insisted that no law prevented him from continuing with proceedings.

Mr Agyapong then took the stand and pleaded not

guilty.

Law experts and critics have warned that if Mr. Agyapong is left off the hook, it will set a pretty bad precedence for judicial credibility in Ghana.

Critics pointed out a similar case in 2016 involving politically exposed persons loyal to the National Democratic Congress (NDC) who were jailed for criminal contempt in an almost less serious manner as Ken Agyapong's outbursts.

Radio presenter, Salifu Maase and two of his studio guests on Muntie FM: Alistair Nelson and Godwin Ako Gunn were found guilty of contempt for making threats against chief justice Georgina Theodora Wood over debates about the 2016 general elections.

The three were sentenced to four months in jail and fined \$2,500 each for "scandalising the court, defying and lowering the authority of the court and bringing it into disrepute."

They were eventually pardoned by ex-President John Dramani Mahama.

Whatsup News has gathered from experts that the latest case involving Ken Agyapong is more serious than the "Muntie 3" because Ken Agyapong is a party to the case to which he was harshly prejudging the ongoing trial involving him.



MORTUARIES FOR MUSLIMS IS THOUGHTFUL – FEDERATION OF MUSLIM COUNCILS

As the opposition National Democratic Congress (NDC) battles to cure the intense ridicule it faced for a promise to tailor some public mortuaries to the special needs of Muslims, a cross-section of Muslims, including the Federation of Muslim Councils (FMC) have applauded the rather unconventional manifesto promise.

FMC has graded the NDC's promise as very thoughtful and considerate of Muslims who over the years have had to endure the vandalism of Islamic taboos in respect of the burial of the Muslim dead.

"Indeed, the FMC has taken cognizance of the NDC's manifesto pledge... this promise undoubtedly smacks of good thoughts for Muslims in Ghana and must be embraced," the FMC said in a statement.

It comes in the heat of controversy over the promise after media houses aligned to the governing New Patriotic Party (NPP) had gone to press with the claim that the NDC had promised to



build more mortuaries for Muslims.

The reports had been attributed to the 2020 Presidential Candidate of the NDC, former President John Dramani Mahama, after he had referenced the NDC promise on the special purpose mortuaries for Muslims in an interview.

The interview which had been with TV XYZ and Woezor TV had featured the former President saying that he and his party have heard the calls from Muslims for special purpose mortuaries that help them bury their dead without vandalizing Islamic tenets concerning

burial.

According to Mr. John Mahama, the NDC had understood that Muslims are not particularly happy about how public mortuaries perpetrate taboos, including mixing male and female corpses, cross-gender handling of corpses and delays in burying dead bodies which are all frowned upon by Islam.

Consequently, the NDC had decided that when it is re-elected, it will provide special mortuaries that handle Muslim dead bodies in accordance with Islamic laws.

On its part, the FMC says that the political twists to the promise do

not fool it and that it has read the promise on page 82 of the NDC's Peoples Manifesto for itself and welcomes the promise, saying such special mortuaries will bring dignity to Muslims in Ghana.

It chided Muslims who are doing political mischief with the promise saying such behaviour betrays the Islamic faith.

"It is ...disingenuous for any Muslim or group of Muslims to stand in the way of Islam by impugning on the promise to provide decent and dignifying last respects to Muslim dead regardless who is making the promise," the FMC said.

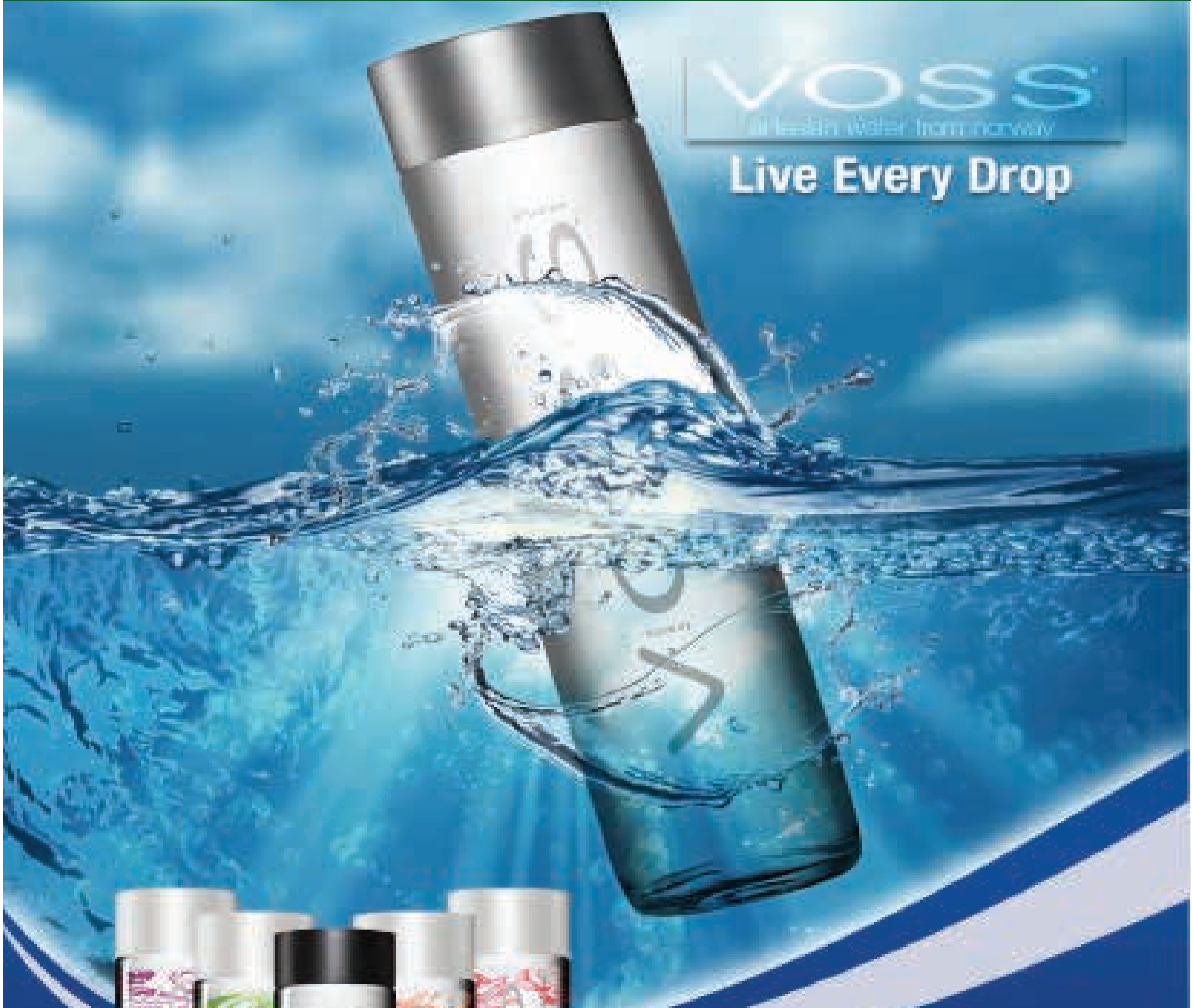


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MINISTER URGES VOTERS NOT TO VOTE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITY

Western Regional Minister, Dr. Kwabena Okyere Darko-Mensah has reportedly rallied electorates against persons with hearing and speech disability because the legislative work in Parliament requires that people talk.

According to reports, the Minister who is also the Member of Parliament for Takoradi has said it would also be a disaster for voters to elect an illiterate into the august House.

"Parliament is not meant for illiterates, deaf and dumb as well as a thief", he reportedly said while receiving a standing ovation from the crowd at a youth



program organized by Andrew Egyapa Mercer, the Member of Parliament for Sekondi.

Apparently, the comment was meant as a jab at the National Democratic Congress (NDC) Parliamentary Candidate for Sekondi, Mr. Charles Hagan.

Popularly known as Panya, Mr. Hagan is the Chief Fisherman at the Sekondi Landing Beach. He dropped out of elementary school.

Dr. Okyere-Darko's disregard for people living with speech disability also pits his party's 2020 Flagbearer,

President Akufo-Ado, against his own claim that the NPP has respect for the disabled.

Meanwhile, the NDC in Sekondi have called on the Takoradi MP to apologize to persons living with disability over the distasteful statement.



WESTERN TOGOLAND LEADER DECLARES BAN ON POLITICS IN NDC STRONGHOLD



The infamous separatist group for the Western Togoland in the Volta Region have issued a stern warning banning political activities in the stronghold of the Volta Region.

The Region, which is the stronghold of the National Democratic Congress (NDC) is supposedly in the clutches of the Western Togoland rebel group whose warlord, Togbe Yesu Kwabla Edudzi II has declared the region as off-limit to political activities as the EC prepares for the second round of registration in five days' time.

The declaration plays well into the hands of crit-

ics who have held that the ruling New Patriotic Party (NPP) was behind the latest uprising in the supposed sovereign Western Togoland, as the people in the Volta Region, would be scared to come out to re-register after the Electoral Commission (EC) fouled up the newly compiled voters' register.

If this threat is held till elections on December 7, 2020, the NDC may have to contend with massive losses in votes because the entire region is its main political stronghold.

Togbe Edudzi II made the announcement in a statement that the Western Togoland separatists,

who want the Volta Region to secede from Ghana, issued today.

According to the statement, roadblocks that the rebels mounted as part of guerrilla attacks on two Police stations in Mepe and Aveyime will remain until "Ghana agrees to come to the negotiation table, with expected UNO facilitation.

"All political activities within the new State are banned with immediate effect. Certain Radio stations are temporarily designated Western Togoland (WTL) State Radios till further notice and all Media Houses within WTL are to focus their programming predominantly on WTL issues

until further notice," the statement said.

Meanwhile, the Friday dawn attacks on the Mepe and Aveyime Police stations perfectly followed an announcement by the Electoral Commission that it is starting a second round of voter registration.

According to the EC, it is giving opportunity to people who did not register in the first round to re-register and the window of opportunity is only one day - October 1st.

The rebel activities in the Volta Region which had suddenly started after the EC's announcement makes the prospects of voters in the NDC's stronghold, coming out to register, dangerous.

The Military has announced that the number of suspects arrested in connection with the separatist attacks has increased from the initial 20 to some 31. The 31 have been flown to Accra for questioning by the BNI.

Whatsup News has also seen videos of the separatists mixing freely with heavily armed military and police officers as they marched in processions to reemphasise their need to secede from Ghana.



20 SUSPECTS REPORTEDLY ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH WESTERN TOGOLAND SECESSIONIST ATTACKS



Twenty (20) persons suspected to be members of the Western Togoland secessionist group who attacked two Police stations in the North Tongu district during the early hours of Friday, have been reportedly arrested.

The identities of the suspects are not known, neither is the manner of their arrest,

except for one person who was said to have been arrested after he was found in possession of a Western Togoland flag.

The arrests are in connection with the alleged raids on the Mepe and Aveyime Police stations respectively.

The assailants are alleged to have invaded the stations at dawn, overwhelmed

the Police on duty and ordered them to strip naked before locking them up in cells.

They are said to have then proceeded to open the armouries of the respective Police stations and carted away weapons.

As a fallout, the Tongu Divisional Police Commander and his driver are said to be in critical condition at the Battor Hospital and

have been scheduled to be transported to the Police Hospital in Accra.

Meanwhile, the sudden attack by the supposed militants immediately after the Electoral Commission had announced a second round of voter registrations in less than a week's time has led to suspicion that the attack was state-sponsored.

Observers believe that the attack was aimed to give the Akufo-Addo government, an excuse to deploy heavily armed Police and military men to the Volta Region during the second round of registration, to intimidate Voltarian voters.

Volta Region is a traditional stronghold of the opposition National Democratic Congress.

The government has already deployed armed Police and military men to the region.



UDS REDUCES SCHOOL FEES FOR 2020/2021 ACADEMIC YEAR OVER COVID-19



The University For Development Studies (UDS) has reduced school fees for the 2020/2021 academic year by 16%.

Whatsup News has seen a communique from the Students Representative Council

of the Nyankpala campus of the school confirming the reduction.

“By this communique, without any display of ostentation, mention must be made that successfully, the interest of respected colleagues have been drummed collec-

tively by leadership, and management without any resentment has listened to our plea,” read the communique.

“Appropriately, the fee for 2020/2021 academic year has been reduced by 16%. This became necessary

because of the emergence of Covid-19, how it affected and continues to affect the economy. We expect that this reduction will mitigate the burden on parents and some junior members who pay their fees,” the communique said.



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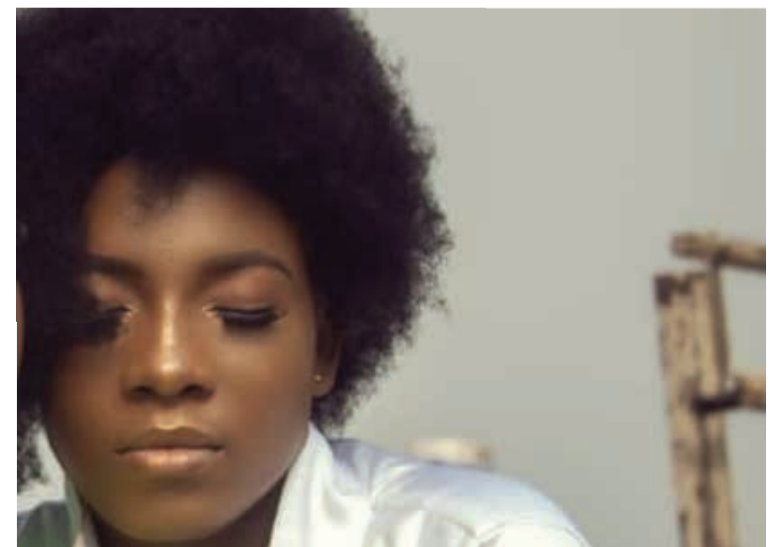
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Bio

Pet Name: 'Model Yayra'
 Height: 5'7
 Waist: 28
 Bust: 35
 Hip: 38
 Shoe Size: 39/40
 Eye colour: Brown
 Hair Colour: Black
 Speciality: Commercial, Video Vixen, Photo
 Languages: Ewe, Ga, English
 Hobbies: Playing Table Tennis, Singing, Writing, Dancing



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BEYOND THE RETURN OF HEMP



I have mentioned this before somewhere along the line but it never gathered any traction and after the usual plaudits (from my weekly avid readers) there was no official recognition that the issue I am about to highlight once again represented a very serious challenge against the background of our clarion call for those in the diaspora to come home.

I think we are all too aware that the law has been passed that allows the cultivation of Cannabis Sativa L (Industrial Hemp) for industrial and medicinal purposes in Ghana. We await the passing of the Legislative Instrument (LI) in due course and certainly, before Parliament goes on its final recess before our General Elections.

Well we have done the right thing in taking up such measures, that's for sure, despite the misconception that still remains. However, in omitting to deal with the full legalization of cannabis will not in any way exclude us from having to deal with the issues that the use of cannabis will place squarely on our table, forcing recognition and practical solutions for the way forward.

We have Ghanaians and those of the diaspora who have been receiving treatment for a wide variety of ailments with medicinal cannabis (marijuana). It is not uncommon to find the world over that millions of other people receiving

such treatment too. Even though we have decriminalized Cannabis Sativa L we must face the ensuing challenge now. I have a few live cases where people who have left Ghana many years ago wish to return home but are petrified as to how they should address the issue of having in their possession Cannabis Indica (Medicinal Marijuana) solely for medicinal purposes that have been duly prescribed by their medical practitioner.

We have granted Citizenship to over 200 people from the diaspora and also have had a very successful "Year of Return" since then we have launched the "Seven Pillars" of the Beyond the Return initiative under the Distinctive Patronage of the President of Ghana His Excellency Nana Addo Dankwa Akuffo-Addo. We are eagerly awaiting the arrival of millions of our brothers and sisters from the diaspora essentially because they have an economic wealth that if utilized correctly will take Ghana to another level and that's great but we must not dismiss the challenges this will inevitably bring for our immediate attention. We must address this issue of medicinal cannabis and in so doing not alienate genuine returnees who have medical prescriptions for marijuana use from their countries of origin. We have to understand the relevant and relative issues and prescribe an official response to it.

The Ghana Tourist Board; and indeed the Steering Committee of the "Beyond the Return" needs to take cognizance of this challenge and take it on board immediately. HAG is ever ready for the challenge and wishes to extend our hand in collaboration to assist them in the deliberations. HAG sees that it has an obligation to hempducate the Steering Committee, the Ghana Tourist



Akwasi Agyemang Co-ordinator of Beyond The Return

Board, the Narcotics Control Commission and the numerous Ministries especially the Ministry of Health and Interior and Defense. And what about our Medical Practitioners; who have had none or very limited experience with cannabis as a medicinal compound? Just how will they manage?

The need for extensive cannabis research is overwhelming but we just can't see it at the moment! With the imminent establishment of Hemp TV, HAG Webinars and HAG Conferences, soon to hit your social media handles, HAG will be able to engage you all raising the general level of consciousness and sensitivity to the subject matter as a whole. It has been unfortunate that highly trained and qualified practitioners have been feeding our society with falsehood and misinformation for far too long but we will address it so that we all come out as winners.

We should not have any unnecessary obstacles in the way of those who wish only to come home and resettle in Ghana, we must clear the way for a Ghana beyond Hemp!

