



## JAIL KENNEDY AGYAPONG!

A cross-section of the Ghanaian public, including legal luminaries, want the New Patriotic Party (NPP) Member of Parliament (MP) for Assin Central Constituency, Kennedy Agyapong jailed for his blatant attack on Ghana's judiciary.

The situation has become so serious that a High Court Judge, Sulemana Issifu, has petitioned the Chief Justice, Justice Anin Yeboah, asking for a "strong action against Mr. Kennedy Agyapong".

Kennedy Agyapong is currently in court over a land dispute, however, while the case is still ongoing, he went on his Net 2 TV and started raining strong expletives at the judge sitting on the case, describing him as stupid and corrupt.

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

This attack has drawn serious angst withing the Ghanaian judiciary with a cross-section wanting hi to be slapped a harsh jail term to deter others from feeding off the dangerous precedence.

"Your Lordship, that, Mr Agyapong's conduct is graver in scope and impact than the infamous 'Montie 3'. This is because of the influence he wields and the coverage of the channel on which he made these dangerous comments compared to the 'Montie 3' in these respects.



A strong action against Mr. Kennedy Agyapong is necessary to establish the independence and authority of the courts and to deter persons in future from acting in an analogous manner," Justice Issifu wrote in his comprehensive petition that has since been copied to the President and the higher echelon of Ghana's government.

Essentially, Justice Issifu's wish could translate to at least six month in Jail for the lose-talking NPP MP.

The trial judge is Justice Amos Wuntah Wun and he will be determining the fate of Kennedy Agyapong, who has already been cited for contempt.

Reports picked up by Whatsup News indicates that President Akufo Addo himself appears to have been lobbying behind the

scenes in an attempt to influence the Chief Justice, Justice Anim Yeboah to ensure that the loud-mouthed Kennedy Agyapong is not jailed for contempt, despite hints given by the trial judge, Justice Amos Wuntah Wuni, that he was planning to slam the NPP parliamentarian for contempt.

On September 8, Ken Agyapong quickly penned down an apology claiming it took sober reflection for him to realise his extreme prejudicial attack on the courts and was therefore rendering "an unqualified apology" for his "harsh" words against the trial judge whom he called "Stupid".

The latest attack by Kennedy Agyapong appear more serious than a similar incident in 2016 when pro-National Democratic Congress (NDC) radio pre-

sender, 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. In the current case involving Ken Agyapong, there are indications that he is likely to be in Jail before the December 2020 elections where he will be contesting his Parliamentary seat.

US-based law professor, Professor Kwaku Asare offers an opinion on that matter: "In my mind, the offended court or judge, in such instances, should refer the matter to the Attorney General for prosecution in a court other than the one abused. For the avoidance of doubt, I am against the underlying insults, threats and abuse of judges or for that matter any human being."

Ken Agyapong's contempt case will be heard on Monday, September 14 in what is certainly going to be an important precedent in Ghana's jurisprudence.



## “Akyem Sakawa Boys” Originator Strikes Again, Declines Apology



The man who coined the much-loathed “Akyem Sakawa” title for President Akufo Addo’s men at the Presidency, Member of Parliament (MP) for Bolgatanga Central Constituency Mr. Isaac Adongo has done a refrain by saying if the President and his men change their ways, he will call them “Akyem Honourable”.

“If they (some people in government) behave in ways of Sakawa that is the words I will use for them. If they behave honourably, I will describe them as Akyem Honourables, if

they behave responsibly, I will describe them as the changed Akyem responsible people. But if they behave in Sakawa ways, the Sakawa has come to stay until they change their ways and begins to put Ghana first,” Adongo said in an interview with Pure FM.

The controversial Adongo whose opinion post was shared on Facebook by ex-President Mahama, explained that the “Akyem Sakawa Boys” comment was not directed at all people of Akyem ethnicity but rather a few officials in the Akufo Addo administration

who have been fingered in the series of corruption scandals that have rocked the administration.

“I have not insulted anyone I didn’t know, but for those that I targeted, there is no way I will render an apology because they are still practising the Sakawa,” Adongo said in the interview on Pure FM..

His statement has sent townfolks in President Akufo Addo’s hometown into a frenzy as a cross-section of indigenes hit the road demonstrating against what they claim is an ethnocentric stereotyping.

The group calling itself the Concerned Citizens of Akyem further threatened to cause physical harm on any of their kinsmen who are in support of the opposition National Democratic Congress (NDC), the party of Isaac Adongo.

“But those who went on a demonstration I don’t know them hence there is nothing I have said against them”. Isaac Adong countered.

Isaac Adongo has been given a 72-hour ultimatum by the protesters in Akyem to retract the tag, but Adongo says he is not perturbed.

“If you parade those people (some people in government) before me, I will still describe them as such”, Isaac Adong stressed.

The confusion emanated from Adongo’s post shared by ex-President Mahama on his Facebook page last week.

It was in connection with the scandalous Agyapa Royalties deal that seeks to mortgage Ghana’s multi-million annual mineral royalties through Agyapa, an obscure company registered in a notorious tax haven. Finance Minister, Ken Ofori-Atta and President Akufo Addo’s cousin, Gabby Asare Otchere-Darko have been fingered as the main kingpins of the questionable deal.



## Bawumia's "Campaign Donation" To Imam's Funeral Thrown Out



Vice President Mahamudu Bawumia's public relations woes appear to be multiplying by the day, as his latest attempt to donate GHC 20,000 towards the funeral of the Chief Imam of Wa was rejected outright by the family of the deceased.

The Head and Council of Elders of the family of the late Imam of Wa, the capital of Upper West Region, Dr. Suleman Ma-

hama Haroon Bakuri, rejected the donations in no uncertain terms, saying it was belated.

A statement signed on September 11, 2020, by the Head of the Limanyiri Family, Alhaji Issaka Mahama Bawmara said "we the elders of the family wish to state that the donation though well-intentioned is belated as the final funeral rites have already been performed."

The family further accused the Vice Presi-

dent of hypocrisy, saying he never showed up to mourn the deceased even when he was in town on a visit. "... the Vice President never showed up in person to mourn with the family when he paid a visit to the region on the 7th of September, 2020. The money was only sent through the Constituency Chairman of the NPP for Wa Central which is unethical."

This is the latest bad

press that the embattled Vice President is experiencing, following his goof during the manifesto launch of the governing New Patriotic Party (NPP) where he promised an airport for Cape Coast, even though his boss, President Akufo Addo less than 24 hours before the lofty promise had described an airport in Cape Coast as a no-brainer.

A few days before the Cape Coast Manifesto launch, Veep Bawumia had held a well-publicised forum to outline the achievements of the NPP government. However, a sizeable number of the 17,000 projects he claimed his government had undertaken were either non-existent or were projects started by the previous National Democratic Congress (NDC) administration.

He has since earned the unenviable title as the most untruthful person in Ghana. Indeed, a google search of "who lies the most in Ghana" shots up the image of the Vice President.



## NDC Adopts A 'One Collation Center, One Lawyer' Policy



**T**he opposition National Democratic Congress (NDC) will deploy a lawyer each to every Collation Center in the country during the collation of the results of the 2020 elections.

The 'one Collation Center, One Lawyer' policy was announced by the Chairman of the party, Samuel Ofose Ampofo, at a capacity-building workshop for lawyers and former appointees of the party in Kumasi, the Ashanti regional capital.

The workshop was organised under the auspices

of the Ashanti Regional Chairman, Nana Kwasi Andrews. It was purposed to sensitize participants on the workings of the Constitutional Instrument governing election 2020.

Already, the NDC has a legal committee in place, for dispute resolution and to handle issues that may crop up at the collation centre during the election.

Chairman Ampofo made a clarion call on all members of the party to adopt or identify with a Polling Station. "It is the aggregate of the polling

station results that will give us the victory come December 7. So my clarion call is that identify yourself with a polling station," he said.

"..If for nothing at all, where you vote, make sure that on election day you are staying there from morning till the election results are declared."

The NDC's Director of Elections, Elvis Afriyie Ankrah, explained the training has become necessary to sharpen its legal standing ahead of the elections.

"We are involving our lawyers so that at the point of collation, they will be there to ensure that at the point of collation, they will be there to ensure that everything is done within the parameters of the law," he said.

Meanwhile, the training workshop will be replicated across the country.

With the plan, the NDC will need over 250 lawyers to man the collation centres across the country. It is unclear if the party has that many lawyers loyal to it.



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## Finance Ministry Hid Documents In Meeting With CSOs On Agyapa

Contrary to claims by some appointees of President Akufo-Addo that the Finance Ministry's meeting with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) over the Agyapa Mineral Royalties deal went cordially with the CSOs gravitating towards government's position, the CSOs have said the opposite was the case.

The Ministry of Finance deliberately hid vital documents from the CSOs and danced around the pertinent questions that were posed to it by the CSOs, Whatsup News gathered.

According to the CSOs, Deputy Minister of Finance even lied and deliberately undervalued the mineral royalty inflows to the government in an attempt to bamboozle the government deal through. However, unbeknownst to the Ministry, the CSOs already had the requisite information but were only crosschecking.

"When a direct question was posed to the Deputy Minister of Finance on the amount of royalties received from gold in 2019, he said Ghana received about GHS650 million (\$123 million). The truth is that Ghana received GHS 1.06 billion (\$200 million) from the big companies under the Chamber of Mines alone. Government has data on the other receipts, yet it decided to



under-report the numbers," alleged Dr. Steve Manteaw, spokesperson of the CSOs.

The CSOs which met with the Finance Ministry are 22 in all. They include the Africa Centre for Energy Policy (ACEP), Centre for Democratic Development (CDD), Centre for Extractives and Development Africa (CEDA), Centre for Public Interest Law (CEPIL), Chamber of Petroleum Consumers Ghana (COPEC), Citizens Movement Against Corruption (CMAC) and the Civil Society Platform on Oil and Gas (CSPOG).

Others are the CSOs Open Licensing Monitoring

Group, Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC), IMANI Centre for Policy and Education, Institute for Democratic Governance (IDEG), Integrated Social Development Centre (ISODEC), WACAM, Oil Watch Ghana and Penplus-bytes.

The rest are Public Interest and Accountability Committee (PIAC), Publish What You Pay Ghana (PWYP), SEND Ghana, The People's Project (TPP), Women Aspire, Centre for Social Impact Studies, Obuasi, and Friends of the Nation, Takoradi.

During the meeting, there had been claims from

government circles that the CSOs had come round to government's thinking with the boss of IMANI, Franklin Cudjoe, reportedly declaring that the Agyapa deal is good for Ghana. However, as it turns out the CSOs felt even more stonewalled by an obscurantist government using fencing tactics to hide their books from the CSOs.

Consequently, the CSOs said, "We are therefore reiterating our call on the government to suspend implementation of this transaction pending a national dialogue on options available to optimise Ghana's mineral royalties."

Finance Minister, Ken Ofori-Atta who is the lead personality pushing the deal has said government has made up its mind to go ahead with the deal.

This is in spite of the fact that the opposition National Democratic Congress has said it is notifying the London Stock Exchange on which the government wants to list Agyapa Mineral Royalties that a future NDC government will not recognize the Agyapa deal.

The CSOs are therefore wondering how the Akufo Addo administration value the royalties at \$1 billion when there is no proper reconciliation of exactly how much the royalties amount to.



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## UTAG Strikes From Monday Over Unpaid Book And Research Allowances

The University Teachers Association of Ghana (UTAG) has announced it will advise all its members to "cease from functioning" on Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup> if book and research allowances due members for the past year are not paid.

The threat was contained in a press statement released today, the 11<sup>th</sup> of September 2020. It was signed by President

of the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the Association, Professor Charles Marfo and the Secretary, Dr Eric Abavare.

"Consequent to all the efforts by UTAG, which has resulted in nothing beneficial to its members, by this release, UTAG wishes to bring to the attention of Government that the Association will advise its members to cease from seeing to any of their func-

tions from Monday, September 14, 2020, if by the close of this set date we have still not been paid the allowances," the statement read.

According to the release, the Association's efforts to have the allowances paid have all been frustrated by the government.

It said, the non-payment of the allowances is in spite of the fact that ev-

ery necessary paperwork has been made by University teachers.

Also, it noted that the non-payment is in spite of the fact that the government has claimed several times that it has paid the 2019/2020 BRA through the GIFMIS platform.

This intended industrial action indicts the Akufo Addo administration which campaigned in 2016 to restore those allowances.

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## Transport Ministry Announces Meeting With Okada Riders Over Legalization



**T**he Transport Ministry has announced that it is about to commence engagement with commercial motorcycle riders (Okada) over its newfound intent to legalize their operation.

The announcement was contained in a release by the Ministry.

According to the government, the meeting has already begun somehow and that the engagement it is talking about will just be second phase.

Many have seen the NPP government's sudden decision to engage the so called Okada riders over legalization of the trade as hypocritical and populist. This is because the Akufo-Addo government suddenly saw the need to legalize the trade when former President John Mahama, who is Flagbearer of the National Democratic Congress (NDC) announced in August that the NDC will legalize Okada if it is voted into office.

However, the government has claimed that the decision is not a kneejerk reaction to the former President's manifesto promise, saying there had long been ongoing engagement with Okada riders that was cut short by the Covid-19 pandemic.

In a press release Friday, the government said it had already "sought to assess the implementation of the Road Traffic Regulations, and, in the process, needed to consult stake-

holders, industry players and interest groups on the provisions in the law."

According to it, some of the groups involved in the process include the Ghana Institute of Planners, Ghana Automobile Dealers Association, Ghana National Association of Driving Schools, Ghana Association of Driving Instructors, National Road Safety Authority, Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority, Motor Traffic and Transport Department and Okada Riders Association among others.

"The Ministry, between March and November 2019, held consultations with various organizations, regional administrations and local authorities.

"Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the final stage of the stakeholder engagement is expected to commence in October 2020, and a report presented before Cabinet for consideration," the release dated 11th September said.



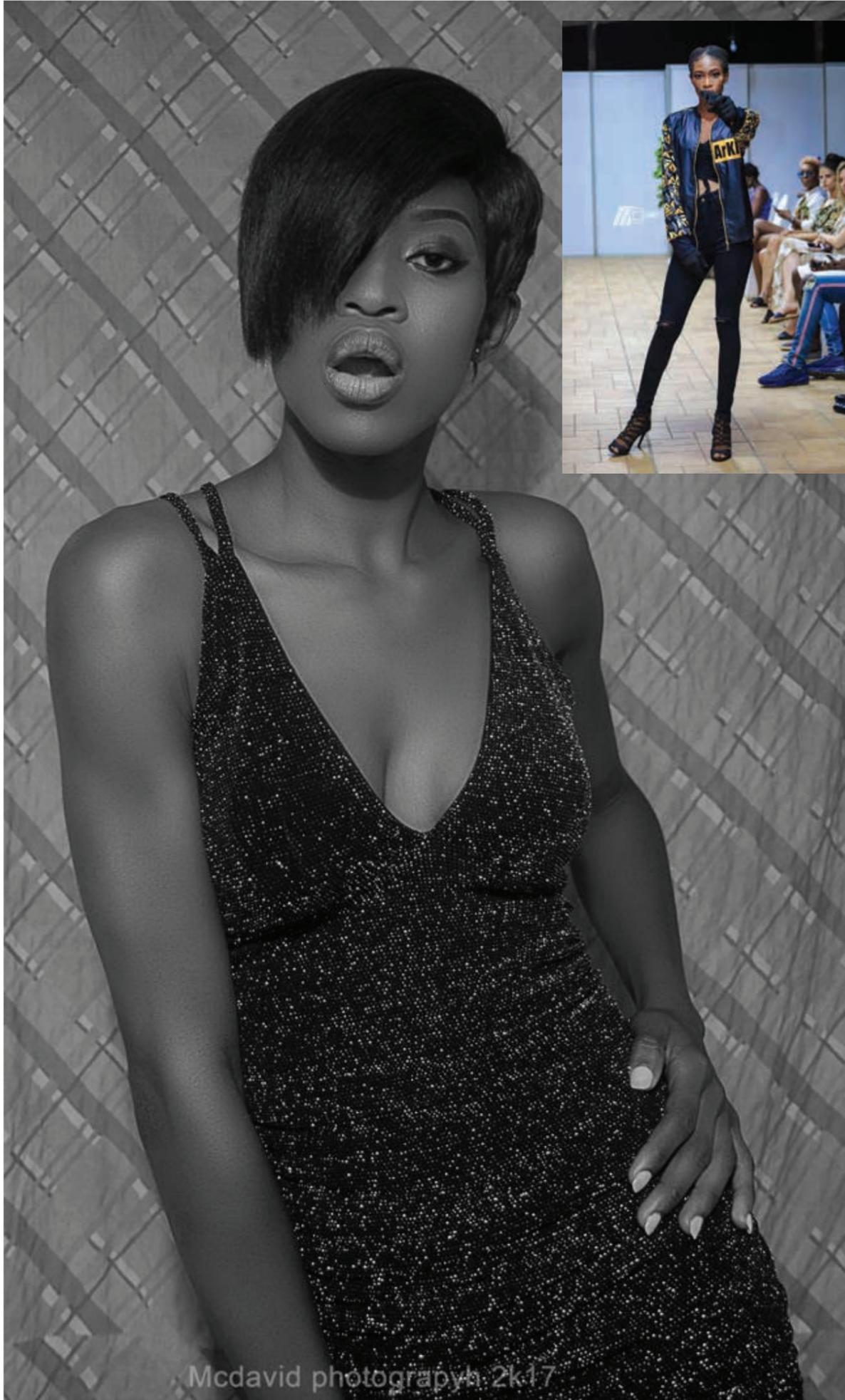
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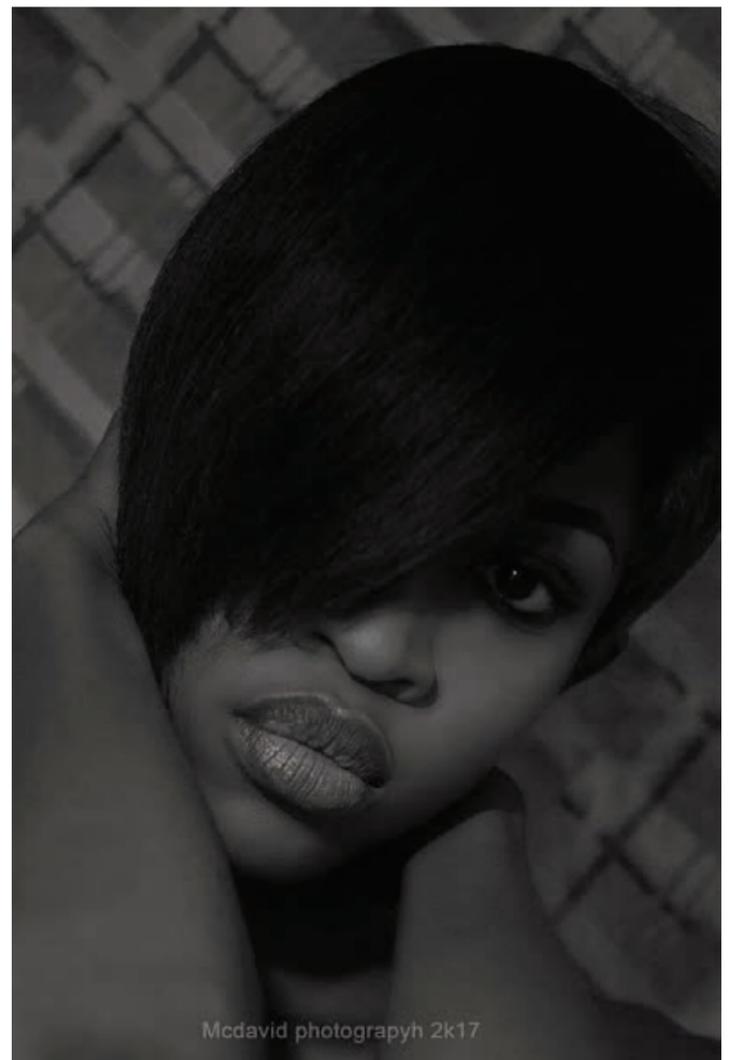
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## Bio

Pet Name: 'BADA'  
 Height: 5'7  
 Weight: 50  
 Bust: 32  
 Waist: 27  
 Hip: 34  
 Shoe size: 39  
 Eye Color: Brown  
 Hair Color: Dark Brown  
 Speciality: Photo, Runway, Commercial  
 Languages: Twi, Fante, English  
 Hobbies: Singing, Listening to Music, Watching Movies, Reading, Playing the Flute



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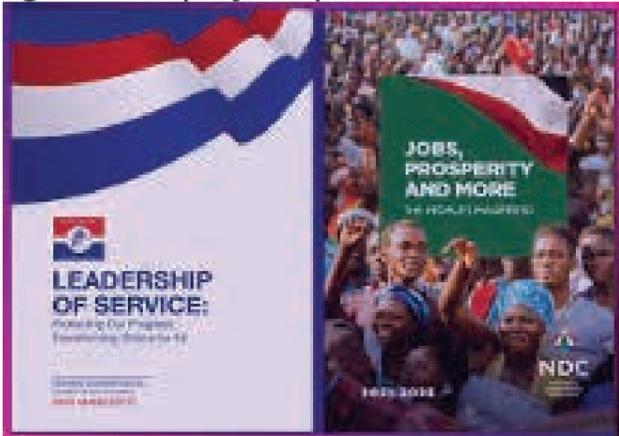
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## WHAT ABOUT A HEMPELECTION PROMISE?



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The talk this week has been focused around manifestos because finally, the largest opposition party the National Democratic Congress (NDC) launched its "Peoples Manifesto". The contrasts, comparisons and analysis has all been quite interesting for partisan supporters and those who are considered to be floating voters. Infrastructure; featuring roads, Schools, Hospitals and low cost affordable Housing have featured strongly in the debate with both sides arguing strongly to justify proposed expenditure against the projects promised.



Where the funds would come from in order to take these projects off the ground became the core of the debate and major contention for both parties. Loans seemed to be the only tangible answer being offered. However, there was a difference in the type of loans being preferred. A loan that did not commit the Government of Ghana seems to be gathering the most traction against a loan that is directly Governments responsibility.

But it seems as if none of the two parties have caught on to the North-East wind blowing right across Ghana and the prospect that encourages farmers to diversify and include hemp amongst the cash crops being cultivated. Not everyone can secure a license but that should not prevent Government and or government agencies from

facilitating interventionist programs that could give Ghanaian hemp farmers an advantage.



In Israel for instance, a new amendment to the Law has removed CBD from the list of Dangerous Drug Ordinances. This move will most certainly have an effect on the price on those retailing the products as prices will take a nose dive before stabilizing again on the markets. To be honest this move by the Israeli government is a flexing of political stealth muscles designed to reduce the costs in order to ensure as many people benefit from the use of medicinal cannabis as possible.

And here is the thing about Israel and their Laws: When it comes to regulating cannabis, they have legalized Cannabis Sativa L and Cannabis Indica (Medicinal Marijuana), but only for medicinal purposes so recreational use is still outlawed!

There has been no negative feedback from the Israelis and they are big tie consumers! Israel has demonstrated that there is a way to successfully manage marijuana. The concerns and fears about recreational use and its purported negative effects are sharply curtailed in Israel especially with the way they have sought to regulate the matter. However, that does not mean that Israel are not heading along the road to a full legalization that includes recreational use because that is exactly where they are going!

In the wake of such developments

in Israel, our government and government agencies must not lose focus by simply thriving to repress and prohibit without understanding the reason behind the constant use of cannabis. There is huge difference between a drug lord and an unemployed adolescent youth caught up in drug abuse; who needs help. Enforcement is too rigid a solution that seeks to only reinforce isolation, marginalization and give birth to stigma and other societal deviant behavioral patterns.

What we need is Government intervention that would pave the way for prospective hemp farmers to have an advantage though putting together financial structures that could assist farmers in securing financial assistance so they may be able to purchase the machinery required to make their business more effective and efficient in cultivation and subsequent diversification in the production of other industrial hemp derivatives.



In Pakistan the Government there has approved the cultivation of hemp. The Ministry of Science and Technology applied to the Ministries of Commerce, Narcotics Control and the National Health Service to cultivate industrial hemp. The Pakistan Government that they can generate 1 billion USD (1,000,000) over the next three years with the development of hemp, research, cultivation, production, exports and industrial purposes.

**It's our time!**