



## Comatose Special Prosecutor Jerks Into Action On Agyapa

The Special Prosecutor Martin A.B.K Amidu who has been dismissed as overrated is claiming that his office has started probing the scandalous Agyapa Royalties deal, cooked by Finance Minister Ken Ofori-Atta and the infamous "Akyem Sakawa Boys" at the Presidency.

The Office of the Special Prosecutor (SPO) has reportedly written to Parliament seeking information and related documents on Agyapa royalty transaction that seeks to channel Ghana's US\$ 200 million mineral royalties through an opaque Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) in a notorious tax haven in an alleged attempt to "monetise" the royalties.

According to Accra-based Citi News says, its sources have confirmed the SPO wanting to take on a monumental investigation into the convoluted transaction that the Attorney-General Gloria Akufo had described as "unconscionable".

Despite the high expectations from the general public, if indeed, the SPO is eyeing the Agyapa deal, this will be the paltry eighth that he would have tackled since he was sworn into office over three years ago.

"This office will be concentrating on any potential of the said transaction(s)



to promote and facilitate the suspected commission of corruption and corruption-related offences and advise the government accordingly," portions of the letter sighted by the media read.

Parliament has been given up until September 17, 2020, to provide the SPO all necessary documentation on the Agyapa deal.

This is likely to prove a hurdle because some parliamentarians have raised red flags that the Akufo Addo administration through the Finance Ministry is deliberately withholding certain important information from the legislature.

Indeed, the Ministry confirmed this in a recent press conference and Civil Society Organisations have alleged

even graver cover-up.

Last week, over 22 CSOs went public saying they noticed that the Ministry of Finance had intentionally undervalued proceeds from Ghana's mineral royalties by claiming it grossed around US\$175 million annually, instead of the true figure that exceeds US\$ 200 million annually.

The CSOs believe the government is trying to unduly give the private investors in the Agyapa deal unfair advantage over Ghana.

In 2018, Parliament passed the Minerals Income Investment Fund Act 2018 which establishes a Fund to manage the equity interests of Ghana's 10% royalties received from mining companies. Some 76% of this amount will be passed on to

Agyapa Royalties to monetise on stock exchanges in Ghana and London.

However, as it turns out, President Akufo Addo's close family and friends appear to be the main beneficiaries of the transaction.

For instance, one of the major transaction advisors called African Legal Services is a company owned by the President's cousin, Gabby Asare Otchere Darko, another advisor is alleged to be Databank Financial Services and its agents. Incidentally, Databank is owned by Finance Minister, Ken Ofori-Atta.

Besides, Agyapa's Chief Executive Officer is Kofi Bosompem Osafo-Maafa, the son of President Akufo Addo's bosom friend and the man he has made Senior Minister-Yaw Osafo Maafa.

The directors of Agyapa and its subsidiary in Ghana, Asaase Royalty Ghana Limited (ARG) is packed with individuals who have either worked with Databank or Gabby Asare Otchere Darko.

Amidst, all the deafening argument about the scandalous nature of the deal, the SPO had remained loudly silent. It is unclear why, he is now requesting information about the deal, almost three months after the scandal broke.



## Four Suspects Picked Up In Murder of Legon Law Lecturer



picked up four persons who have come under suspicion in the murder of the law professor in his home at Adjiringano. They are currently being interrogated as part of police investigations. All these four persons are domestic workers of the deceased”.

The murder of the lecturer was reported Saturday, September 12, 2020, on major news platforms across the country, after he was discovered in his pool of blood in an apparent homicide.

Police arrived at his residence to find cuts on his body in what was suspected to be a premeditated elimination.

His corpse has since been deposited at the police hospital morgue.

“It is with a heavy heart, that we inform you about the demise of one of our lecturers, Prof. Emmanuel Y. Benneh. A call to the dean confirmed the news, but we are yet to have details on the occurrence of his unfortunate demise. May his soul rest in perfect peace,” The University of Ghana Law Students’ Union said on Twitter.

**G**reater Accra Regional Police Command has reportedly arrested four persons suspected to be connected to the gruesome murder of a popular lecturer

at the University of Ghana Law Scholar, Professor Yaw Benneh over the weekend.

The four according to the Police are the domestic staff of the academic

scholar.

The Greater Accra regional Police PRO ASP Afia Tenge said in an interview monitored by Whatsup News on Accra-based Starr FM “The Police have



## Crime Rate Escalating As Bullion Van Is Attacked, One Dead



In less than 24 hours, two criminal incidents have left two people dead and two police officers hospitalised, as crime rate appear to have escalated under the current administration of President Akufo Addo.

The latest information is that one

person has died and two others including a police officer have been hospitalised after some unknown gunmen attacked a bullion van in the Ashanti Region.

This is coming in the wake of the brutal murder of a Law Lecturer of the University of Ghana Law

School, Professor Yaw Benneh.

According to a Police source, two police officers, a driver and a cashier of the bank were ambushed on their way to deliver cash in the Toyota Hilux bullion van they were driving in.

The gunmen reportedly released

a hail of gunshots on the van and succeeded in disarming the police escort and escaped with an unspecified amount from the bullet-ridden van.

The audacious attack is one of many similar violent attacks beginning to tally up in the past couple of years.

Meanwhile, all four occupants of the bullion van, including the police officers, have been rushed to the St. Martin's Catholic Hospital at Agroyesum in critical conditions.

Unfortunately, the cashier of the bank died at the hospital while one of the police officers was treated and discharged.

Meanwhile, the police claim they have begun investigations into the attack.



# PPP Outdoors Female Presidential Candidate

**G**hana's third-largest political party, the Progressive Peoples' Party (PPP) has outdoored its rare female Presidential Candidate, Brigitte Dzogbenuku.

The flagbearer of the relatively new political party that came in third in the 2016 general elections has promised to restore hope to Ghanaians after what she described as the duopoly of the National Democratic Congress and the New Patriotic Party under the fourth republic.

Ms. Brigitte Dzogbenuku was officially outdoored on Saturday, September 12, 2020.

"We have been so disappointed and disempowered repeatedly with each sub-



sequent election that we have lost hope and trust, even in our own capabilities, and in our own power to change things. I, as Flagbearer of the PPP, am here to restore that hope and give you trust again," she said in her acceptance speech.

"We have been

promised "a better Ghana" and "real change" over the years, but all we have seen are two sides of the same coin and a continuous widening gap in between the rich and poor, and our human capital development index is just a notch above the average in our

region."

Mr. Dzogbenuku is the successor of the party's founder, Dr. Paa Kwasi Nduom who had reportedly gotten fatigued with active partisan politics, particularly after the governing New Patriotic Party (NPP) reportedly collapsed his banks.

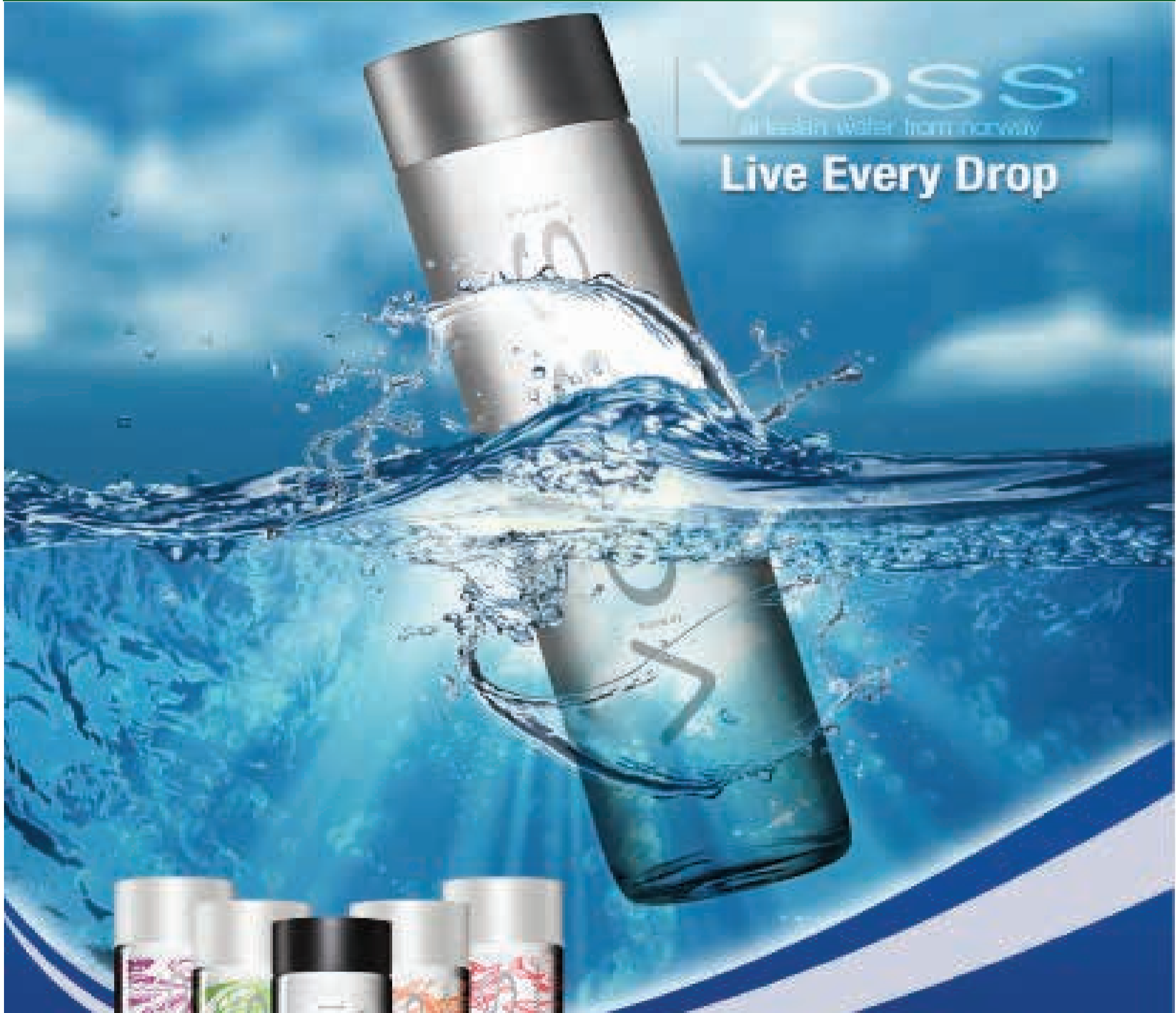


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## Rev. ASANTE ANTWI Reportedly Passes On

Unconfirmed reports picked up by Whatsup News is indicating that the Former President of the Methodist Church, Rev. Samuel Asante-Antwi may have passed on.

According to Accra-based Starr News, He is may have died at the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital Saturday night after a brief illness.

Rev. Asante Antwi was a member of the Council of Elders of the ruling New Patriotic Party (NPP)



and was the chairman of the disciplinary committee of the NPP when the former party chairman Paul Afoko was suspended.

He is known for his strong criticisms against the misrule and corruption in the erstwhile administration of the National Democratic Congress (NDC).

Rev. Asante-Antwi is one of the longest-serving President of the Methodist church, having been sworn in in August 1997.

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## Banking Collapse Will Send NPP To Opposition-Pianim



**R**enowned Ghanaian economist, Kwame Pianim has projected that the governing New Patriotic Party (NPP) may lose the December 2020 general elections due to the massive collapse of banking and financial institutions supervised by the government.

Almost 400 such institutions have been closed down by the Bank of Ghana (BoG) since 2017 and has caused tens of thousands of job losses and locked funds and investments of over 100,000

customers.

"we are making it difficult for the NPP to win this election by stealing money from decent citizens – because that's what you're doing – you're stealing money from them" charged.

"There were some difficulties in the banks; who caused the problems? The Banking Supervision of the Bank of Ghana, which was complicit and then some individuals who the Bank of Ghana said were fit and proper people to be shareholders in the banks who decided to use their bank-

ing licence to steal people's deposits to finance themselves. What have we done to them? They are on trial?

How long has it taken us?" Dr. Pianim Citi FM last Wednesday in Accra.

"I have friends, decent people who have worked 70 years of their lives for this country, their pensions were put on deposit with some of these so-called distressed banks; they are now being asked to go to the receivers – you have one million, two million cedis that you were using the interest to finance yourself – they say

go and collect GHS20, 000, GHS10, 000," the respected Pianim lamented.

Mr. Pianim and several economists have squarely placed the blame and predicament of stranded customers, investors and redundancies on the doorsteps of the government, saying the BoG and the government could have approached the situation in a more humane manner and prevent the massive distress caused by the almost brutal close down of these companies.

"My suggestion was that: 'Pay them'. Let the Bank of Ghana – even if it has to print money – because this is not inflationary, it is earned money; my earned money in the bank. So, you give me the deposit and the new bank is there, I can take it.

"So, if we set up a Distressed Banks Assets Recovery Trust, then the Ghanaians would know that the monies we are paying to them, we are going to sell the assets of these people who stole their fixed deposits to repay and deduct from the taxpayer", he told the radio station.



## NDC Wins The Battle Of The Manifestos

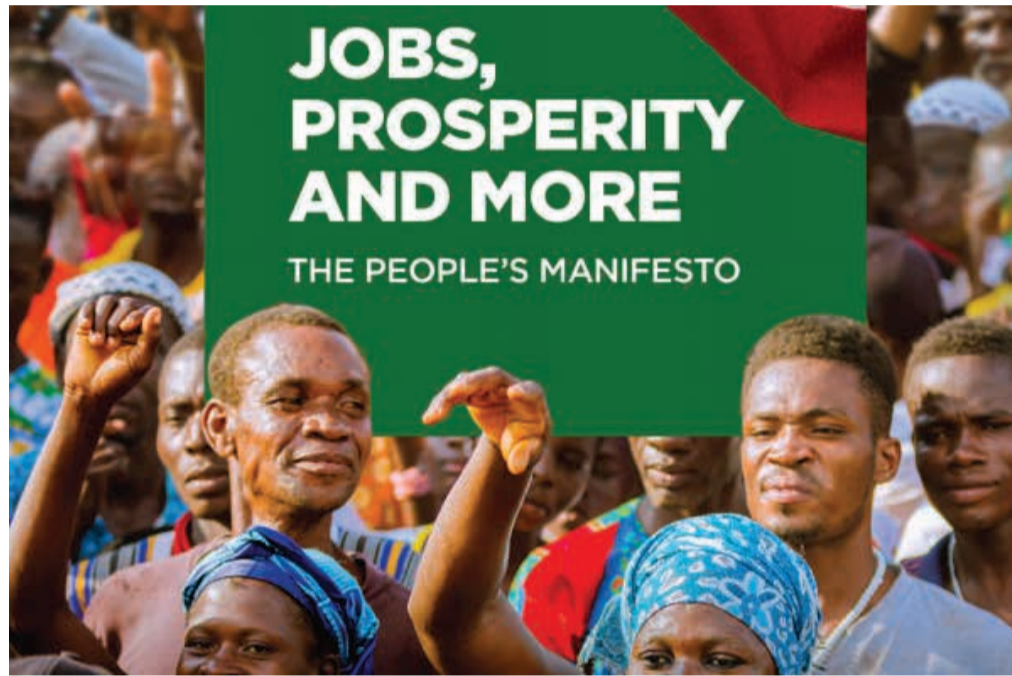
### ...STRANEK

**G**overnance think-tank, Strategic Thinkers Network (STRANEK) has given a verdict on the manifestos of the two leading political parties in the country, concluding that the opposition National Democratic Congress (NDC) offered better plans.

The New Patriotic Party's 'Leadership of Service' manifesto, STRANEK said was comparatively not as thoughtful and comprehensive as the NDC's 'People's Manifesto.'

Indeed, the NPP manifesto has been marred by a parallel forum staged by Vice President Mahamudu Bawumia, who presented what he called the Infrastructure Tracker that sought to catalogue the various projects undertaken by the Akufo Addo administration in its four-year tenure.

As it turned out, a significant number of the 17,000 projects outlined by the Vice President were either non-exis-



tent or were projects started by the erstwhile NDC administration.

"In as much as the NPP told Ghanaians about their intentions for their next tenure of office if given the nod, it is evident per the details of the People's Manifesto that the NDC really took their time to survey in order to know what exactly are the needs and wants of Ghanaians which guises like a buffet," STRANEK said in a statement.

The statement was signed by its Executive Director, Nii Tettey Tetteh and its Director for Policy and Political Affairs, Emmanuel Osei.

According to the think-tank highlight areas of the NDC mani-

festo's better response to the needs of the people include Education, Employment and in respect of the needs of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs).

"Even though we applaud the two political parties for prioritizing issues affecting Persons with Disabilities, the People's Manifesto indicates enough commitment to issues of PWDs," STRANEK said.

"Another reason is, the Leadership of Service Manifesto does not have any pension package for farmers, drivers, fishermen, traders, market women and artisans. However, in the People's Manifesto, the NDC has promised to establish a special-

ly tailored pension scheme for the informal sector and incorporate a provision for unemployment benefits for workers such as farmers, drivers, fishermen, traders, market women and artisans."

In the assessment of STRANEK, for the first time in the 4th Republic, pension scheme will not only be benefited by workers in the formal sector but the informal sector will also benefit.

For tertiary education, the NPP government indicated that the Tertiary Education Policy of paying utility bills in tertiary institutions has been abolished. The People's Manifesto, on the other hand, states that the next NDC government will repeal the Public Universities Act if enacted and allow public universities to exercise the autonomy the 1992 Constitution has clothed them with.

The Public University Bill has been criticised as a ploy by the NPP government to seize control of university education and politicise it.





## 'I Regret Campaigning For NPP, Done The Opposite Of The Change They Promised'

### ...A-Plus

**K**wame Asare Obeng, alias A-Plus, the controversial musician and New Patriotic Party (NPP) aficionado

Joy FM, A-Plus points out that the NPP has rather given the opposite of the change that they promised in opposition and done fouler things that what they criticized the erst-

ernment. We believed that it was not right for John Mahama to have 87 ministers," he said.

"They were too many and now we come and we have

of the government has put him in its bad books, but he said he does not fear anybody. The controversial musician has said that President Akufo-Addo's legacy is already tainted with his association with criminals. According to him there are too many criminals around the President.

"This is someone we have been with and helping the President protect the public purse by fighting corruption. Some people around him have decided to fight us; which very wrong" he is on record to have said.

A plus has seen his contract abrogated at the Bulk Oil Storage and Transport Company (BOST) the government after he called two Deputy Chiefs of Staff, Samuel Abu Jinapor and Asensu Boakye as "thieves."



who led campaigns for the election of the New Patriotic Party (NPP) into office in 2016, has regretted his efforts.

In an interview with Jeff Quaye alias Abo-ayge on Accra based

while Mahama government for.

"We wanted change, we believe everything that was been said, we believed it was not right for John Mahama to run a family and friends gov-

more than that. We live in a country where NPP and NDC are the same and it is the fact even though they don't want to hear," A Plus said on Showbiz A-Z."

A-Plus' criticisms



## NDC Running Mate Tours Western Region



**T**he 2020 running mate of the opposition National Democratic Congress (NDC) is starting a Campaign tour of the Western Region, the NDC has announced.

In a release, the party said Prof. Jane Naana Opoku Agyemang's tour

starts today and will span four days.

"She will tour Sekondi, Essikado-Ketan, Prestea Huni-Valley, Jomoro, Mpohor and Amenfi West constituencies. Similar interactive engagements in the Amenfi Central, Amenfi East, Evalue Adjomoro- Gwira,

Ellembelle, Ahanta West and Jomoro constituencies will take place. Her focus will be to listen, understand their challenges and share highlights of the NDC's Manifesto that respond to their unique issues," the release said.

The tour comes on the heels of the Run-

ning Mate's recent visits to six regions. This tour will see her pay courtesy calls on traditional authorities and religious leaders and interact with a broad range of stakeholders from all walks of life in the region.

"Prof. Opoku-Agyemang will be accompanied by Hon. Alex Segbefia, a former Minister for Health and Deputy Campaign Manager of the party for the 2020 elections, Hon. Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa, a former Deputy Minister for Education and Member of Parliament for North Tongu, Ms. Emelia Authur, a former Deputy Western Regional Minister, and Mrs Mawuena Trebarh, Spokesperson and Head of Communications for the Office of the NDC Vice-Presidential Candidate," the release said.