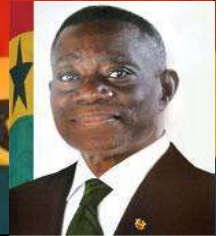


# Ghana Today



Volume 3 Issue 4 May 2010



## President Mills lunches with Black Stars and advised them to "GO Make History In South Africa"

President John Evans Atta Mills has asked the Black Stars to make history by winning the World Cup in South Africa.

President Mills said "We are confident that you will make us proud again and optimistic that Ghana would make history".

At a luncheon on Saturday at the Castle for members of the team ahead of their departure to Paris, France, for camping, the President reminded the Black Stars that victory in the global tournament would be achieved only through extreme sacrifice and hardwork.

He therefore urged the team to be focused and uphold the principles of team spirit throughout their preparation and participation in the tournament.

President Mills advised the Black Stars to be disciplined and assured them of government's fullest support and co operation, reminding them that the whole nation was behind them.

President Mills said the government would ensure that adequate assistance was given to the team, including prompt payment of bonuses as they inched closer to the cup. The government is to announce an attractive reward package in due course to serve as an incentive to spur the Black Stars on to victory in the World Cup tournament.

Ms. Akua Sena Dansua, Minister of Sports, assured the team that adequate arrangements had been made to cater for their welfare during the camping sessions and the tournament itself. The Minister said with the preparations being put in place for the team, she could not foresee any problem that would confront the team in their quest to clinch the football "Holy Grail"

Mr Kwesi Nyantakyi, President of the Ghana Football Association, thanked President Mills for the warm reception. He said the reception would help boost the morale of the team

as they head for South Africa..

He also said the Black Stars remained Africa's best team at winning the 2010 World Cup in South Africa..

He promised Ghanaians an exciting performance by the Stars.

No African side has ever won the competition since its inception in 1930. The World Cup has been won 18 times between just seven nations.

A quarter-final finish is the farthest a team from the African continent has reached at the World Cup.

But with South Africa having the chance to host the

competition for the first time on the continent next month, an improved performance by an African side is expected. Africa is represented at the competition by Ghana, hosts South Africa, Nigeria, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, and Algeria

Playing in group D which includes Serbia, Australia and three-time winners, Germany, Mr. Nyantakyi tips the Black Stars as Africa's surest bet for Cup glory.



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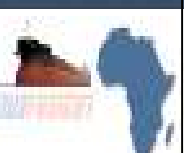
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## Ghana Celebrates Osagyefo Dr Kwame Nkrumah's Centenary in Style



Events celebrating the life of Osagyefo Dr Kwame Nkrumah reached their climax in Accra on Tuesday 25th May 2010, as Africans from across the continent mark African Union (AU) Day.

The two events coincided when the AU endorsed celebrations by the government and the people of Ghana to honour the country's Founder

and First President.

Across the continent, Dr Nkrumah is revered as the foremost personality in the struggle to liberate and unite the continent from colonial rule.

The occasion provides African leaders who have converged in Accra for the celebration to re-dedicate themselves to the work of uniting Africa for peace and the economic development of the continent.

They believe that peace is a prerequisite to the continent's development efforts and have pledged to focus their attention on achieving that objective.

The Deputy Chairman of the AU Commission, Mr Erastus Mwencha, articulated the continent's view when he proposed the toast at a State Banquet in commemoration of the life and times of Osagyefo Dr Nkrumah in Accra on Sunday.

The colourful event attracted people from all walks of life, including leading African personalities; President John Evans Atta Mills and his wife, Ernestina Naadu Mills,

President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal, a former President of Zambia, Dr Kenneth David Kaunda; Vice-President John Dramani Mahama; the Chairman of the Council of State, Prof. Kofi Awoonor; members of the Diplomatic Corps, traditional leaders, youth groups and a cross-section of Ghanaians.



Mr Mwencha commended Ghana for its role in peace-keeping operations across the globe spanning over five decades, stressing that was an indication that "the people of Ghana appreciate the value of peace and stability".

He said by those values, Ghana had discovered its potential as a result of peace and become a beacon of hope not only for the continent but also the world at large.

"This is the legacy that Osagyefo Dr. Nkrumah has bequeathed to Ghana and Africa," he stressed, and called on all Africans to join in the celebration of this year's Peace Day, which falls on September.

On conflicts in some parts of Africa, Mr Mwencha said peace was the responsibility of all communities and nations and stressed the need for the opening of a new chapter that would allow peace to prevail.

Responding to the toast, President Mills expressed gratitude to all those who had helped to make the memorable occasion a success.

"On behalf of the government and the people of Ghana, I welcome you all who have come from beyond our shores and borders to join us celebrate the life and work of an illustrious son of Ghana and Africa," he said.

### Government secures \$520 million loan for Rural Electricity



The government has secured a \$520 million loan facility to expedite the extension of electricity to 2,200 communities across the country. The Exim Bank of the US granted the Ghana a \$350 million loan, while the government contracted \$170 million from the China Exim Bank.

The Director of Communications at the Presidency, Mr Koku Anyidoho, said the provision of electricity for rural communities whose inhabitants produced the bulk of the nation's wealth was uppermost in the scheme of activities of the government's agenda for a better Ghana.

According to him, the Northern belt of the country, would help the government to actualise to a considerable extent, the SADA project it had initiated to transform the economy and well-being of the people of the area.

Mr Anyidoho said the project, which is expected to cover the next three years, would also lead to the opening of cottage industries which would go a long way to reduce the rural-urban drift and ease the pressure on the economic and social facilities in the urban centres.

### Bank of Ghana Introduces New Currency Note



The GH¢2 currency note, which has the portrait of the Founder of Ghana, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, on its front size, is in circulation.

In a statement prior to the release of the new currency note, Mr. Kwesi Amissah-Arthur, Governor of the Bank of Ghana, explained that the portrait of

Dr. Nkrumah was chosen to commemorate the centenary of the illustrious son of Africa.

The reverse side of the note carries portraits of the old and new Parliament buildings to depict the country's growing democracy.

The introduction of the new currency note follows a research by the Bank of Ghana to review the cash cycle of the cedi after the re-denomination exercise in July 2007.

The note will bridge the gap between the GH¢5 and GH¢1 notes

## News In Pictures



### Government approves payment of Teachers' Professional Allowances



Government has approved the payment of professional allowance to all certificated professional teachers in the Ghana Education Service.

A communiqué issued in Accra and signed by Mrs. Irene Duncan-

Adanusa, General Secretary of Ghana National Association of Teachers, said the allowance which was 15 per cent of the basic monthly salary, took effect from January, 2010.

It said the initial payment will be made at the end of June, 2010 whilst the arrears will be paid in two phases - July and October, 2010.

The communiqué said the other allowances - deprived areas, science, mathematics, ICT, technical and vocational, supervisory allowances will be considered within the implementation of the Single Spine Pay Policy.

It said more information will be communicated to teachers on the rest of the salary negotiations as and when available.

## Russian Company to invest in Ghana's Agric Sector



The giant Russian Agro company, Ajax-Agro Company, is extending its business investment activities to Africa by opening a subsidiary in Ghana

The Company will supply plant machinery for irrigation systems and technologies, and for storage and processing of agricultural products.

Ajax-Agro will also import into Ghana farm equipments such as combined harvesters, tractors, loaders, ploughs and cultivators.

The company plans to establish a tomato processing factory in Ghana by the middle of next year to cater for local demands and for export to the international market.

Mr. Nikolay Milovanov, Technical Director of the company said his company's presence in Ghana would help boost the government of Ghana's efforts at mechanising agriculture and creating employment opportunities for the people of Ghana as well as place Ghana in a strategic position on the list of countries that have a solid mechanised agricultural system.

Ajax-Agro's interest in the Ghana market has developed at the instance of Mr. Kwabena Opagya Amoateng, the company's country Representative in Ghana.

## NHIS Single Premium Payment to Start in 2011



The National Health Insurance Directorate has confirmed that the proposed one-time premium payment under the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) is to take off next year.

The Deputy Director of the NHIA in charge of Corporate Affairs and Strategic Direction, Mr Eric

Ameter Quamyne, disclosed this to the media. He said the programme would be launched by the end of the year after the scheme modalities have been completed.

The modalities for the implementation of the proposed one time premium payment are currently being worked out by a team of experts from the National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA), the Ghana Health Service and the Ministry of Health.

He said the decision to implement the one-time premium is based on the report of the committee of experts which conducted feasibility studies on the proposal. The committee will also determine how much to be paid by subscribers as one-time premium

Under the existing scheme, subscribers will pay between GH¢7.20 and GH¢48.00.

The Office of the Attorney-General according to Mr Quamyne, is reviewing Act 650 of 2003, which established the NHIA for consideration by Cabinet and subsequent amendment by Parliament to give effect to the proposal. The Deputy Director said a study conducted by the NHIS has concluded that the one-time payment is feasible. This is based on the fact that contributions of subscribers only constitute about 3.8 per cent of the financial requirements of the scheme

The rest of the financial requirement is made up of 2.5 per cent National Health Insurance Levy, 2.5 per cent SSNIT contribution paid monthly to the NHIA, government budgetary support and NHIA investment income.

He said a large segment of the public is already enjoying free health care under the scheme, including pregnant women, children below 18 years, people above 70 years and indigents.

The Deputy Director said it should therefore not be too difficult for government to find additional resources to replace the current 3.8 per cent being the total contribution of subscribers.

# News & Events

## Government Increases Pre Mix Fuel Allocation

The weekly allocation of premix fuel has been increased from 810,000 litres to 1,380,000 litres as an additional measure by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA) to enable fishermen to attain bumper yields during the peak fishing season which begins in June.

The Deputy Minister for Food and Agriculture in charge of Fisheries, Nii Amasah Namoale announced that in addition to the increased supply of premix, more than 170 landing beach committees have been formed under the restructuring exercise to be solely in charge of the distribution of premix directly to the fishing communities.

He announced that as part of the preparation for the fishing season, which begins at the end of this month, MoFA have acquired 1,000 outboard motors through the Agricultural Development Bank (ADB) for distribution to both inland and offshore fishermen to help them carry out their fishing expeditions with modern equipment.

The Deputy Minister said another batch of 3,000 outboard motors is being negotiated from India to augment the fleet of outboard motors for the expected bumper harvest this season.

He said the government is seeking funds to undertake feasibility studies of the 14 landing beaches to be constructed in the country with cold storage facilities to add value to fish during the season.

He said the government has streamlined the sale of the product and crafted guidelines to regulate the operations of the landing beach committees, the result of which will manifest during the bumper season in June, July and August.

Nii Namoale said his ministry has banned pair trawling, noting that since he assumed office as Deputy Minister, no permit has been issued to any company to fish in the country's territorial waters using pair trawlers.

## NDC UK & Ireland Youth Forum In Milton Keynes

The Youth Wing of the NDC UK & Ireland Branch in conjunction with the Milton Keynes ward are organising a symposium under the Theme: **June 4th Uprising: Setting Ghana on the path to modern Day Democracy**

**Date: Saturday 5th of June 2010**

**Place: Milton Keynes Meeting Place at Thinkers Bridge**

**Time: 6pm to 10pm**

**Guest Speakers:**

**Joe Gans Lartey**

(Former Vice-Chair and leading member of the branch)

**Dr. Lawrence Akwetey:**

**Overcoming Youth Unemployment and Disengagement in Ghana**

**Dr. Spio Garbrah:**

**The role of NDC Youth in the Diaspora in Delivering the Better Ghana Agenda**

**Contact: Youth Organiser 07814 538 332**

## A Swiss based company to set up a new Sugar Factory in Ghana



Cargill International, a Swiss-based company is to set up a \$100-million sugar processing plant in Ghana next year.

The new sugar factory is to be located within the Free Zone enclave in Tema. The plant will have an initial capacity of 450,000 tonnes, to be increased to 650,000 tonnes later.

Cargill will however, import the main raw material, raw sugar syrup, to feed the processing plant.

Throwing more light on why the project would depend on imported raw materials, Mr Aboagye said a study conducted by Cargill revealed that it was not economically viable to venture into sugar-cane plantations locally, despite the country's favourable weather conditions.

The CEO of GIPC, said, "although Ghana's weather is tropically conducive for such plantations the plant does not necessarily have to be integrated," citing countries that import cocoa beans, for example, to feed their plants overseas.

He explained that prevailing economic conditions were not favourable for local sugar-cane plantations to feed plants, saying it would lack the capacity to compete with raw sugar exporting countries.

He said the Asutsuare and Komenda Sugar plants did not succeed because their establishment was not based on the recommended factors for siting of industries.

But Mr Aboagye said notwithstanding their present status, Asutsuare and Komenda could be converted into small-scale units for the production of ethanol.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Ghana Investments Promotion Centre (GIPC), George Aboagye, said GIPC was facilitating the necessary permits and other relevant formalities for the establishment of the plant.

Ghana currently spends about 500 million dollars annually to import 300,000 tonnes of sugar, but if the proposed plant comes in operation, this could help reduce costs.

### Disclaimer

**This publication is mainly for dissemination of local news to Ghanaians resident in the UK & Ireland. Views expressed in this newsletter, unless otherwise stated, are the author's personal opinions, and do not necessarily represent the policies of any particular party. The editor reserve the right to edit all contributions to conform to space and household standards. Please send comments to the Editor at editor\_e@gmail.com**