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GHANA chalks 67th Milestone of Nationhood With Historical Events

By: Staff Reporter, Ghanaian News Canada

Sixty-seven years ago, on March 6th, 1957, six political leaders led by Kwame Nkrumah stood on a podium at the Old Polo Grounds in Accra and declared the birth of a new nation called Ghana. The declaration was the country's weaning of itself from the former colonial ruler, Britain. On that night, the British Flag, the Union Jack was lowered for the last time and the flag of the new nation, formerly known as the Gold Coast, was hoisted.

In his historic independence declaration, the first Prime Minister, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah declared that the new nation and its citizens reserved the right to "manage or even mismanage its own affairs". Over the past 67 years, Ghana has undergone tremendous changes, some very positive, others not so positive while others have been



damaging and even self-destructive. The early years of nationhood under the first President, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah and the first post-colonial government

run by the Convention People's Party (CPP) were full of euphoria, promises, and high expectations. Dramatic infrastructural changes, social and economic development were undertaken in the country. This period saw the construction of the much famous Akosombo Hydro Power dam, the Accra-Tema Motorway, the Tema Harbour, the Independence Square, among others.

This period also saw the introduction of an accelerated fee-free elementary education which dramatically transformed the hitherto mainly illiterate population. An affordable and accelerated secondary and technical education was launched under the Ghana Education Trust initiatives. The objective was to train enough

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Ghanaian-Canadians celebrate Ghana's 67th Independence with Flag Raising at Queen's Park

By Emmanuel Ayiku, Toronto, ON

See more story and pictures on 28 & 29



Group picture of participants at Queen's Park

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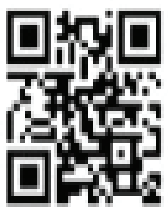
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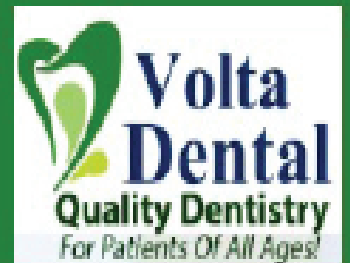
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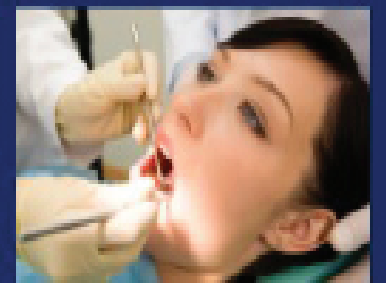
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Bank of Canada holds key rate steady at five per cent

The Bank of Canada brushed off questions about rate cuts as it held its policy rate at five per cent Wednesday, arguing inflation is still too high to justify lower borrowing costs.

Governor Tiff Macklem, who held a news conference after the interest rate announcement, acknowledged that inflation has continued to ease and the economy is weakening.

But he said underlying price pressures are still stubbornly high.

“With inflation still close to three

per cent and underlying inflationary pressures persisting, the assessment of governing council is that we need to give higher rates more time to do their work,” said Macklem.

“We’ve come a long way in our fight against high inflation. But it’s still too early to loosen the restrictive policy that has gotten us this far.”

The governor faced a barrage of questions from journalists on when the central bank might pivot to rate cuts. But Macklem held the line.

“We don’t give forward guidance on our forward guidance,” Macklem said with a chuckle after being asked what signal Canadians can expect from the Bank of Canada ahead of a rate cut.

While Wednesday’s decision carried no surprises, economists are doubling down on their expectation that the first cut will come through in June.

Dawn Desjardins, chief economist at Deloitte Canada, said the Bank of Canada is looking for more progress on inflation before pulling the trigger.

“The bottom line is the economy is moving generally in the direction the bank anticipated. And inflation is not quite where they would like it to be,” she said in an interview.

Higher interest rates have helped slow the pace of price growth by causing a pullback in spending in the economy. Canada’s inflation rate dropped to 2.9 per cent in January, falling back within the Bank of Canada’s one-to-three per cent target range.

But the central bank notes its preferred core measures of inflation, which strip out volatility in prices, are still running between three and 3.5 per cent.

Macklem added that almost half of the consumer price index components are currently rising at a pace above three per cent. In more normal inflationary times, only about a quarter of CPI components will rise that quickly.

The Bank of Canada has been clear it doesn’t want to move too soon, only to have to reverse course later.

“We don’t want to keep monetary policy this restrictive for longer than we have to,” Macklem said. “But nor do we want to jeopardize the progress we’ve made in bringing inflation down.”

Given the Canadian economy is not in free fall, TD’s director of economics James Orlando said the central bank is in no rush to cut rates.

“With core rates of inflation tracking around the mid-three-per-cent level, the bank can justify waiting longer. Luckily the central bank has been gifted a little more time to wait. Economic growth eked out small, but positive, growth to end 2023,” he said.

“With effectively no pressure for the BoC to respond, it can sit back and wait for a couple more inflation reports to roll in.” **The Canadian Press**

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EDITORIAL

GHANA TURNS 67 IN MARCH 2024

Have we fulfilled our Dreams as an Independent Nation?

The 6th day of March marks the attainment of nationhood by our nation Ghana which we celebrate every year. It is here again! The day is a public holiday for the citizens of Ghana. If March 6 falls on a weekend, the following Monday is also observed as a holiday. Ghana Independence Day is also known as Ghana National Day.

The celebrations commemorate Ghana's independence from the British colonial rule in 1957. The day is celebrated in public offices with various cultural activities, parades, and other events. Private Citizens celebrate the day with music and taste of Ghanaian dishes, and some may even hoist the national flag at home and abroad.

This year citizens of Ghana abroad celebrated the day at different locations to mark our great milestone: sixty-six (67) years of nationhood and nation-building in a special way.

This year Ghana's 67th Independence Day Celebration was officially marked at Koforidua, Eastern Region of Ghana with parades and performances. Well, God has granted Ghanaians another year in our life as a nation. By Ghana's public service provisions, Ghana as a nation is seven years past the retirement age for which 60 years is the top of the maturity age when public servants in that country retire from active work, "go on pension"! In this regard, Ghana is matured and considered at pension age that we should have managed our affairs well, but we have not achieved much in our adult life so far.

Collectively though, we should all take responsibility for the problems we find ourselves in at this age of our nationhood. We have not developed as we should due to challenges we face in the area of governance such as nepotism. For example, some politicians and persons in leadership positions, push their family members and friends into areas they have less or no knowledge about which often leads to underperformance. There is also the issue of "Protocol"-order from above when there is a need for employment at any institutions. Such unfortunate behaviours have affected the development of Ghana negatively.

Our Health and Education systems lack the physical facilities they need to make them more accessible to the population. Unfortunately, they are not the Government's PRIORITY. Government officials when they are sick run to seek medical attention in overseas. WHY? Is it because they don't believe in the systems themselves or the project money is been misused. Again is it because they don't believe the Health care professionals?, This is very SAD situation indeed.

Corruption has become endemic in the Ghanaian society that it is being openly practiced at almost, if not all government establishments. Efforts are been made to deal with corruption by appointing Special Prosecutors but so far not much. It is expected of the Government to put its foot down to stamp out such practice that is pushing us back instead of moving us forward as a nation.

The collective apathy and wanton disregard for public property and institutions is ingrained in all of us. The desire to get rich quickly at the expense of the nation and the general good continues. The desire to get into politics and government with the sole purpose of stealing public money is still alive among many of our citizens after 67 years of Independence.

Everyone knows that Ghana has all it takes to develop in a big way to provide good quality of life for its citizens. The country is endowed with great natural resources including productive lands, minerals and good weather almost all year round. Food production should be no problem, but many of our citizens routinely go hungry. We have crude oil in commercial quantities and started production and export to generate additional revenue. The nation has more intellectual capacity and in almost every sphere of national endeavour that we can embark on, Ghana has enough educated people with the requisite skills to execute the jobs if these human resources are well harnessed.

We have abundant sunshine 365 days a year if we care to tap into solar energy. In fact, our list of abundant resources is endless. To all intents and purposes therefore, Ghana has no excuse and reasons for failure and non-performance as a nation up to its current "Maturity age". As President Nana Akufo-Addo Dankwa said, "We're sitting on Resources but we're hungry" Why? We need the answer from him.

It is in recognition of all the above that Ghana should not be poor and hungry. On this anniversary of 67 years of independence, the leaders and citizens of our country have no excuse, at all, not to perform to achieve good standards of living for its citizens.

We salute Ghanaians, at home, and in the Diaspora, on this anniversary of the nation's birth. God Bless our Nation Ghana

Households owed \$1.79 for every dollar of disposable income in Q4: Statistics Canada

Statistics Canada says households owed \$1.79 in credit market debt on average for every dollar of disposable income in the fourth quarter.

The federal agency said Wednesday that seasonally adjusted household credit market debt as a proportion of household disposable income fell for the third quarter in a row.

The figure dipped to 178.7 per cent in the fourth quarter from 179.2 per cent in the third quarter, a change the agency attributed to disposable income outpacing growth in credit market debt because of relatively slow mortgage borrowing in the fourth quarter.

However, the household debt service ratio, which measures interest and principal as a share of disposable income, was little changed in the fourth quarter as payments rose in line with disposable incomes, noted Shelly Kaushik, an economist with BMO Capital Markets. It remains historically elevated and is poised to rise in the coming quarters, she said.

"Household debt ratios improved in the fourth quarter as elevated rates kept a damper on demand for mortgage loans," she said in a note to investors.

"However, the latter is expected to rebound when rates begin to fall in the middle of 2024."

Before then, Kaushik expects elevated debt service ratios to continue to be a headwind for household spending and broader economic activity.

"Keep an eye on government debt levels in the coming quarters, which look to rise further as larger borrowing plans are unveiled across the country this budget season," she said.

StatCan's Wednesday release also noted households were wealthier in the fourth quarter.

The agency said total household net worth increased almost two per cent to \$16.4 trillion, driven largely by strength in financial markets as both bonds and equities rallied.

Despite the boost, there are still disparities, said Maria Solovieva, an economist with TD.

She saw a January uptick in consumer insolvencies, leading her to believe that some families are unable to meet their financial obligations.

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Looking Back 1961

How Queen Elizabeth II's Controversial Trip to Ghana Changed the Future of the Commonwealth



Queen Elizabeth II and Dr. Kwame Nkrumah

In 1961, Queen Elizabeth II planned to go to Ghana, a former British colony that had gained its independence in 1957. But before she left on the trip, which was to take place on November 9 to 20, members of Parliament and the public didn't want her to go due to rising tensions in a country where President Kwame Nkrumah was well on his way to becoming a dictator. They were wary of the visit becoming too dangerous. On October 19, Winston Churchill expressed these sentiments when he wrote to Prime Minister Harold Macmillan, saying in part: "I have the impression that there is widespread uneasiness both over the physical safety of the queen and, perhaps more, because her visit would seem to endorse a regime which has imprisoned hundreds of Opposition members without trial and which is thoroughly authoritarian in tendency."

To aid growing tensions, five days before Elizabeth's trip was to begin, bombs went off in the capital city of Accra. A statue of Nkrumah was hit, which showed the president was a target. Concerns about the queen possibly becoming collateral damage while with him were heightened.

Photo: Paul Schutzer/The LIFE Picture Collection/Getty Images)

Queen Elizabeth insisted on going to Ghana despite the danger involved

But Elizabeth had always been intent on making the trip to Ghana, and the bombings didn't alter this

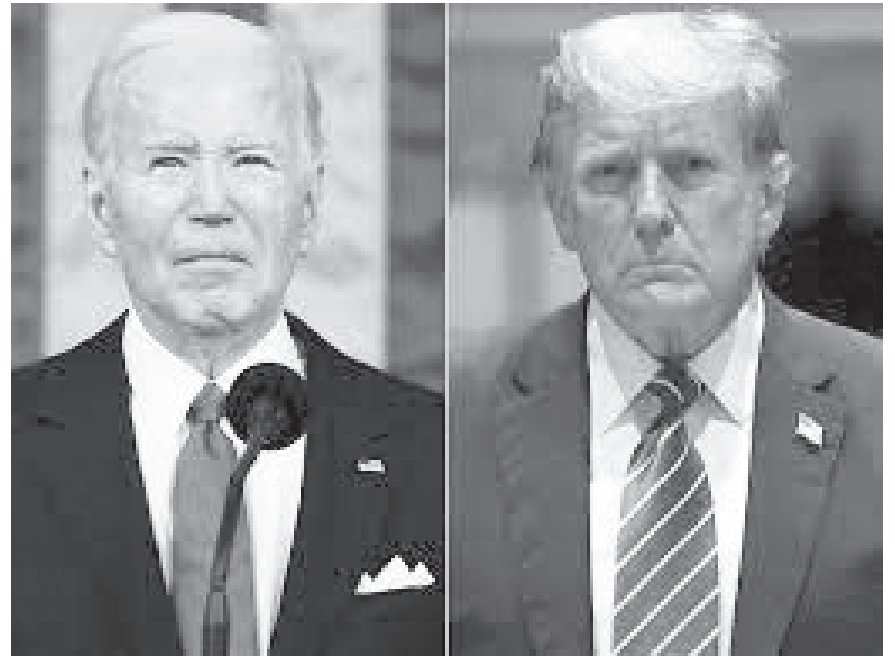
determination. One reason she was reluctant to reschedule was that she'd already canceled on Nkrumah in 1959 when she became pregnant with Prince Andrew. And though Ghana was part of the Commonwealth, along with other nations that had been part of the British Empire, she knew Nkrumah was getting restless. As head of the Commonwealth, the queen didn't want to insult or embarrass Ghana by postponing the visit, which could push Nkrumah into leaving the group altogether.

In addition, the queen was aware that Nkrumah was getting closer to the Soviet Union, which wanted to expand its foothold in Africa amidst the Cold War. The Ghanaian leader had even traveled to Moscow that October. Soviet attentions toward Nkrumah apparently led to Elizabeth feeling a bit competitive; at one point she declared, "How silly I should look if I was scared to visit Ghana and then [Soviet leader Nikita] Khrushchev went and had a good reception." Elizabeth also told her prime minister, "I am not a film star. I am the head of the Commonwealth — and I am paid to face any risks that may be involved. Nor do I say this lightly. Do not forget that I have three children."

Queen Elizabeth II watches a dance performance in an outdoor parade ground, Tamale, Ghana, November 12, 1961; Photo: Paul Schutzer/The LIFE Picture Collection/Getty Images

cont'd on pg. 7

Biden and Trump set for election rematch after clinching nominations



President Joe Biden and former President Donald Trump

US President Joe Biden and his predecessor Donald Trump have both passed the delegate thresholds to clinch their parties' nominations.

They each won several states in primary elections on Tuesday to propel them over the finish line.

The two 2020 contenders will provide the US with its first rematch in a presidential election for 70 years.

Polling suggests it will be a tight race that will come down to narrow margins in a few key states.

The nominations will be made official at party conventions this summer.

The 81-year-old president said on Tuesday evening that he was "honoured" voters had backed his re-election bid "in a moment when the threat Trump poses is greater than ever".

Citing positive economic trends, he asserted the US was "in the middle of a comeback", but faced challenges to its future as a democracy, as well as from those seeking to pass abortion restrictions and cut social programmes.

"I believe that the American people will choose to keep us moving into the future," Mr. Biden said in a statement from his campaign.

Incumbency gave Mr Biden a natural advantage and he faced no serious challengers for the Democratic nomination.

Despite persistent concerns from voters that his age limits his ability to perform the duties of the presidency, the party apparatus rallied around him.

Meanwhile, Mr. Trump, 77, remains very popular with the Republican voter base, which has propelled him to victory in primary after primary over well-funded rivals.

His campaign for a second term in the White House has zeroed in on stricter immigration laws, including a pledge to "seal the border" and implement "record-setting" deportations.

Mr Trump has also vowed to fight crime, boost domestic energy production, tax foreign imports, end the war in Ukraine and resume an "America first" approach to global affairs.

Tuesday night's results do not come as a shock, as both men have dominated their races so far.

Both their re-nominations seemed all but predetermined, despite polling that indicates Americans are dissatisfied with the prospect of another showdown between Mr. Biden and Mr. Trump in November.

The US presidential primaries and caucuses are a state-by-state competition to secure the most party delegates.

The Democrats and the Republicans have slightly different rules for their primaries, but the process is essentially the same.

Each state is allocated a certain share of party delegates, which are awarded either as a whole to the winning candidate or proportionally, based on the results.

A Republican candidate must secure at least 1,215 of their party's delegates during the primary season to win their presidential nomination, while a Democrat must secure 1,968.

On Tuesday, Republicans held primaries in Mississippi, Georgia and Washington State, as well as a caucus in Hawaii.

Democrats, meanwhile, held primaries in the states of Georgia, Washington and Mississippi, as well as in the Northern Mariana Islands and for Democrats living abroad.

Mr. Biden and Mr. Trump's main competitors had dropped out before Tuesday's primary contests, so the results had been all but certain.

Former UN Ambassador Nikki Haley, Mr. Trump's last remaining rival, dropped out earlier this month after losing 14 states to Mr. Trump on Super Tuesday.

Although several more states have yet to hold their primary contests, with Mr. Trump and Mr. Biden over the delegate threshold, the 2024 general election is now in effect under way.

The US presidential election will be held on 5 November 2024.

BBC News

Canada announces new immigration pilots to support rural and Francophone minority communities, will create a permanent program

Rural and Francophone minority communities are critical to Canada's long-term growth, and regional immigration plays a key role in strengthening their economies. In particular, the Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot (RNIP) has been successful in connecting businesses and employers in remote communities with the skilled newcomers they need to thrive.

That is why today, the Honorable Marc Miller, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, announced new pilots for rural and Francophone minority communities, as Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) continues work toward creating a permanent rural immigration program. These are the Rural Community Immigration Pilot and the Francophone Community Immigration Pilot.

The Rural Community Immigration Pilot will launch in the fall of 2024. It aims to ensure that rural communities continue to have the ability to access programs that address labor shortages and help local businesses find the workers they need. It will provide pathways to permanent residence for newcomers who can help to overcome

critical labor job shortages and want to live long term in these smaller communities.

Modeled on the success of the RNIP and as part of our Francophone Immigration Policy, we are also launching the Francophone Community Immigration Pilot in the fall of 2024. The pilot will focus on increasing the number of French-speaking newcomers settling in Francophone minority communities outside of Quebec and will help

ensure the economic development of Francophone minority communities, while also helping to restore and increase their demographic weight.

IRCC will open the community application process this spring to select communities who will participate in the pilots and will share more details in the coming months.

As we work to establish RNIP as a permanent program, these new

pilots will help attract and retain skilled foreign workers in rural and Francophone minority communities, contributing to their economic and linguistic vitality. IRCC looks forward to continued collaboration with these communities as we work together to strengthen our immigration programs.

Minister's Office
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CMHC says first-time homebuyer incentive discontinued

Canada's housing agency says it is ending the first-time homebuyer incentive program.

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. says the deadline for new or updated submissions to the program is midnight eastern time on March 21.

The plan was meant to help reduce monthly mortgage payments for first-time buyers by having the government take on partial ownership of a property.

The government offered a loan up

to 10 per cent of the purchase price that would go toward a larger down payment and thereby reduce monthly payments.

Homeowners have to repay the incentive after 25 years or when the property is sold, with the amount

owing adjusted to reflect how the value of the property has changed.

The program was hampered in part by eligibility issues including limits to household income and the size of a mortgage the buyer could take on.

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Ontario to ban liens from being placed on homes in exchange for HVAC appliances

The Ontario government will be banning liens placed on property in exchange for certain household appliances sometime in the spring.

The goal of the legislation is to prevent scams in which Notice of Security Interests (NOSI) are applied without a homeowner's knowledge when they purchase or rent HVAC appliances such as furnaces or air conditioners. It will also remove all existing NOSIs from the Land Registry.

A NOSI is a debt or lien placed on a property that must be repaid upon sale or refinancing.

In the fall, the province launched consultations on ways to reduce harmful and inappropriate uses of NOSIs against unsuspecting consumers. The announcement came after the Ontario New Democratic Party proposed legislation that would do the same thing. In the bill, tabled

Tuesday, the NDP would ban NOSIs from being placed on HVAC appliances and give homeowners the ability to apply for a lien to be removed once they notice it.

It would not cover fixed building materials such as windows and insulation, the NDP said.

"These notices often register without the homeowner's knowledge, become liens against someone's property title, and allow these companies to pocket a chunk of someone's property value for years and years," NDP MPP Terence Kernaghan said at a news conference Tuesday morning.

"A simple unit which costs hundreds of dollars becomes tens of thousands in many of these cases. Worse yet, homeowners don't even find out about NOSIs until they refinance or sell."

Kernaghan brought a resident to Queen's Park to talk about how her in-laws were scammed into purchasing

a furnace and air conditioner unit in 2015 and a NOSI clause was included in the fine print.

"My in-laws, in the final stages of their life, have 12 liens on their home," Linda Palmieri told reporters.

Her in-laws were also put on a fraud list, she said, in which their names and identities have been "swapped, sold, and essentially trafficked out to other

fraudulent companies."

It's unclear when exactly the government's bill will be tabled.

"Our government has heard from people of Ontario and we are taking swift action to address consumer harms in all forms," Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery Todd McCarthy said. **CTV News**

Governments of Canada and Ontario invest over \$11.4 million to bring high-speed Internet access to more than 2,600 Indigenous households in Ontario

Rural community to benefit from increased connectivity to high-speed Internet

SIX NATIONS OF THE GRAND RIVER, ON,

All Canadians need access to reliable high-speed Internet, no matter where they live. The governments of Canada and Ontario are taking action to bring high-speed Internet access to underserved communities across Ontario.

Today, the Honourable Gudie Hutchings, Minister of Rural Economic Development and Minister responsible for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, together with the Honourable Kinga Surma, Ontario's Minister of Infrastructure, announced over \$11.4 million in combined federal and provincial funding for First Nations Cable to bring high-speed Internet access to more than 2,600 Indigenous households in Six Nations of the Grand River.

The project being announced today is part of an existing partnership between Ontario and Canada. On July 29, 2021, the governments announced a Canada-Ontario broadband partnership to support large-scale, fibre-based projects that will provide high-speed Internet access to nearly 280,000 households across the province. This historic agreement was made possible by a joint federal-provincial investment totalling more than \$1.2 billion.

Today's announcement builds on the Government of Canada's progress toward ensuring that 98% of Canadians have access to high-speed Internet by 2026, and 100% by 2030. The announcement also brings the Government of Ontario closer to achieving its goal of bringing reliable high-speed Internet access to every community in the province by the end of 2025.

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FOCUS

Cyberbullying among Students is alarming nowadays

By Joe Kingsley Eyiah, OCT, Brookview Middle School, Toronto-Canada

Bullying is linked to many negative outcomes including impacts on mental health, substance use and even suicide in our schools. Recent report on cyberbullying among students is alarming and teachers as well as parents ought to watch out for signs of bullying among students and act accordingly to stop it. Bullying is considered by experts as the ways in which boys and girls act out of their aggression. It usually occurs among younger teens and pre-teens but begins to fade during late teen years. Research has shown that middle school years are crucial years to be aware of bullying! At the middle school in Toronto where I teach, the guidance department has recently organized some presentations for our students on 'Six Categories of Digital Citizenship' which include

1. Media Balance and Well-Being
2. Privacy and Security
3. Digital Footprint and Identity
4. Relationship and Communication
5. Cyberbullying, Digital Drama and Hate Speech
6. News and Media Literacy



sense of urgency for innovation in education which arises as part of rapid economic and social changes. Sometimes, phones and digital equipment can help students achieve critical thinking, collaboration, creativity, and autonomous learning. At the same time if these equipment are used inappropriately by students they become tools of Cyberbullying! The essential question is: "What should you do when someone uses mean or hurtful language on the internet?" Students must be taught to understand that it is very important to think about the words they use because everyone interprets things differently. They need to identify ways to respond

The presentations were warranted by recent inappropriate use of cellular phones and social media by students to bully their fellow students. In today's changing environments within school settings, increased attention is geared towards effective learning. There is a

to mean words online and, decide what kinds of statements are good to say online and which are not! Students can use the social media to bully others in the form of racist, sexist or homophobic remarks. There had been situations where the bullied had taken their lives in solitary. The dangers of Cyberbullying are frightening and ways and means must be constantly used to stop them in our schools. Parents expect schools to provide environments that are emotionally and physically safe for their children. As parents, we normally feel enraged and frightened by any environment that poses a threat to the wellbeing of our children, especially in schools. According to the psychologist and bullying expert, Evelyn Field, bullies and targets of bullies often have

undeveloped assertive communication needs. Assertive communication is the open expression of one's needs, feelings, thoughts and desires. It involves speaking for your needs while respecting the needs of others. Cyberbullying, though relatively new on the bullying field, it is spreading very fast as modern communication technology advances. My humble advice to teachers and parents is that they should look for early signs of Cyberbullying among their children. They must pay attention to changes in their child's behaviour and encourage their children to talk about what happens at school. We must all, teachers, school administrators, parents and students help stop Cyberbullying in our schools.

How Queen Elizabeth II's Controversial Trip to Ghana Changed the Future of the Commonwealth

cont'd from pg. 6

Her visit was a success from start to finish

From the moment Elizabeth arrived in Ghana, along with Prince Philip, she was surrounded by crowds and excitement. Post-independence, the country had embarked on a program of "African socialism" in an attempt to strengthen its economy after years of colonialism. A neo-Marxist Ghanaian paper found Elizabeth to be "the world's greatest Socialist Monarch in history." It was an unusual description for an enormously wealthy hereditary head of state, but indicated how popular she was.

At a state dinner, Nkrumah toasted Elizabeth by saying, "The wind of change blowing through Africa has become a hurricane. Whatever else is blown into the limbo of history, the personal regard and affection which we have for Your Majesty will remain unaffected." The queen's reply touched on the fact that nations of the Commonwealth could disagree without members needing to leave.

Elizabeth also captured attention by dancing with Nkrumah. Having the queen and a former colonial subject arm-in-arm on the dance floor was a way to demonstrate her acceptance of a new footing between their countries.

Queen Elizabeth II with Kwame

Nkrumah during her visit to Ghana, November 1961; Photo: Paul Schutzer/The LIFE Picture Collection/Getty Images

The trip had lasting effects on the Commonwealth

Nkrumah wasn't happy when Elizabeth went to visit the young son of an imprisoned opposition leader during her time in Ghana. But this didn't affect the overall impact of her trip. With the goodwill she'd generated, there was no more talk of Ghana leaving the Commonwealth.

Elizabeth's journey also helped Ghana get highly sought-after funding for the Volta Dam, a hydroelectric project that was a centerpiece of Nkrumah's economic plans. Once she'd returned, Macmillan contacted President John F. Kennedy to say, "I have risked my queen. You must risk your money." Financial backing from the Americans for the project soon came through, which cut off a potential avenue of influence for the Soviets.

Elizabeth's dedication to the Commonwealth meant that this trip would have been a success simply for helping to hold that organization together. However, the visit also demonstrated how, even as a monarch with limited powers, she still had a role to play on the world stage.

Canadian airline market on path to consolidation, raising risk of higher fares

After entertaining new entrants for several years, Canada's airline market is once again on the path to consolidation, raising the likelihood of higher fares and fewer flight options.

Since May, newer low-cost carriers Swoop and Lynx Air have disappeared from the skies and WestJet has scooped up Sunwing Airlines.

The latter two alone made up 37 per cent of seat capacity on direct flights to sun destinations and 72 per cent from Western Canada last year, according to an October report from the Competition Bureau. It said eliminating the rivalry between WestJet and Sunwing would likely suppress competition around the sale of vacation packages.

Some experts warn that the shrinking airline tally could mean less service and higher prices, particularly in the West and smaller markets across the country.

High airport rents, security fees and fuel taxes raise the baseline cost of flying, making it harder for budget airlines to coax budget-conscious Canadians on board.

"The high fees certainly make it more challenging for the discount carriers," said University of Manitoba transport institute director Barry Prentice.

The market's decades-long domination by Air Canada and WestJet can also stifle competition, some industry players argue.

Air Canada and WestJet command 79 per cent of domestic traffic as of this month versus 74 per cent a year earlier, statistics from aviation data firm Cirium show.

"The natural behaviour of the duopoly is to use their power to squeeze the pricing out of the smaller players," said Flair Airlines CEO Stephen Jones.

"There is no interest by the big carriers in having low-cost carriers succeed, and they'll use the tools that they've got in the toolkit to try and bring carriers like Lynx to an end," he claimed.

In late 2018, the Competition Bureau opened an investigation into predatory

cont'd on pg. 13

Our beloved Ghana In Sixes and Sevens!

By Edmund Agbeko, Toronto, ON

Ghana, the second most populous country in West Africa, has marked its 67th Independence Day as Ghana got its independence on March 6, 1957, from the United Kingdom. As we reflect on the state of our great nation, Ebo Buckman writes that it is imperative that we confront the harsh realities that plague our society. In a country where corruption runs rampant and politicians amass wealth at the expense of the people, we are witnessing a grave erosion of trust in our democratic institutions.



Besides, it is unacceptable that individuals in positions of power can acquire property with the ease of buying toys for their children while the source of their wealth remains unquestioned. This culture of impunity deprives innocent children of proper health and educational care, undermines the very fabric of our democracy, and development agenda, and must be addressed with urgency.

Furthermore, we cannot ignore the devastating impact of illegal mining, or galamsey, on our environment and water bodies. Despite the clear and present danger posed by this destructive practice, those in positions of authority have failed to take meaningful action to curb its proliferation. The degradation of our natural resources not only threatens our ecological balance but also jeopardizes the health and well-being of our citizens. It is time for decisive action to protect our environment for future generations.

Equally alarming is the staggering rate of unemployment that plagues our nation, particularly among our youth. It is unconscionable that many of our citizens have been without gainful employment for five to six years, facing a bleak and uncertain future. The youth unemployment crisis not only undermines our economic potential but also poses a significant threat to our national security. We must redouble our efforts to create opportunities for meaningful employment and empower our youth to contribute positively to society.

Furthermore, it is highly unconscionable that we continue to invest in the training of nurses and teachers, only to leave them unemployed and unable to contribute to our society. Our trained healthcare professionals and educators deserve better than to be left languishing on the sidelines, unable to fulfill their potential and earn a living. We must prioritize the deployment of these vital workers to areas where they are most needed, ensuring that every citizen has access to quality healthcare and education. We owe it to our nurses and teachers, as well as to the communities they serve, to provide them with the support and opportunities they need to thrive.

Moreover, the exorbitant cost of living in our country has reached untenable levels, leaving many struggling to make ends meet. Despite their hard work and dedication, the monthly take-home pay of our citizens is woefully inadequate to cover necessities, let alone provide for a decent standard of living. We must address the root causes of this economic disparity and implement policies that promote inclusive growth and prosperity for all.

Furthermore, our private sector continues to suffocate under a poisonous macroeconomic environment, stifling innovation, and hindering economic progress. We must create an enabling environment for businesses to thrive, fostering entrepreneurship and investment that will drive sustainable development and job creation.

Lastly, we cannot ignore the stark reality that our nation has been governed by only two political parties for the past 32 years, yet poverty remains pervasive. The current political duopoly has failed to deliver on the promise of equal opportunity for all our citizens. It has turned out to be a system that has overly enriched a few family and friends over the years at the expense of the general well-being of our people. We must demand greater accountability and transparency from our leaders and strive for a more inclusive and equitable society where every citizen has the opportunity to succeed.

Moreover, it is evident that alongside the depreciation of our currency, we have also experienced a depreciation of leadership. Our nation is facing a crisis of governance, as both the President and Vice President appear to have abdicated their responsibility to steer our country toward prosperity. It is disheartening to witness a lack of accountability at the highest levels of government, with the President seemingly checked out and the Vice President absolved himself of any blame for the state of our economy.

This dereliction of duty is unacceptable and undermines the trust and confidence of the people in our leadership. As citizens, we deserve leaders who are committed to the well-being of our nation and willing to take responsibility for their actions and inactions. It is time for a renewed sense of purpose and accountability in our leadership, one that prioritizes the interests of the people above all else.

In conclusion, my fellow citizens, we stand at a critical juncture in our nation's history. The challenges we face are daunting, but they are not insurmountable. It is incumbent upon every one of us to demand better from our leaders and work together to build a brighter future for our children and grandchildren. Together, we can overcome adversity and forge a path towards a more prosperous and just society for all. Our beloved nation, Ghana, will rise again.

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IMMIGRATION AND SOCIAL ISSUES

By: James A. Kwaateng, B.A. (Hons), LLB (Hons)

Some Effective Obstacles to Acquisition of Canadian Citizenship

Canadian citizenship is obtained either by birth or by naturalization pursuant to the Citizenship Act. However, there are a few exceptions one of which is an application for "Proof of Citizenship" which is available for a person born outside Canada at a time, at least, one of the parents was a citizen of Canada. That is citizenship by descent.

To apply for citizenship, the applicant must be 18 years old. However, applications can be submitted for children under 18 years by their parent, adoptive parent or legal guardian when the child is a permanent resident and one parent or the adoptive parent is a Canadian citizen or is applying to become a citizen at the same time.

To qualify for citizenship application, the applicant must not be under review for immigration or fraud reasons; must not be under a removal order; and must have fulfilled any condition related to his or her permanent resident status. It should however be noted that one does not necessarily need a valid permanent resident card to apply for citizenship.

There is a requirement that citizenship applicants between the age of 18 and 54 years must be able to communicate in either English or French. The applicant needs to meet the Canadian Language Benchmark (CLB) Level 4 or higher. Citizenship Canada however accepts various certificates, diplomas and tests as proof of one's language skills. Also, applicants between the ages of 18 and 54 must have adequate knowledge of Canada. For that matter applicants



will be required to answer questions related to the rights and responsibilities of Canadians and Canada's history, geography, economy, government, laws and symbols.

An adult applicant must be physically present in Canada for at least 1095 days (3 years) and are also required to file taxes in Canada for at least 3 years during the five years immediately preceding the date of the application. In the course of calculating the days, the time an applicant spent as a non-permanent resident could be counted. Each day the applicant spends as a temporary resident or protected person can count as a half-day towards physical presence up to a maximum of 365 days. The time spent outside Canada by a crown servant or a family member of a crown servant can also be included.

Criminality is an obstacle to acquisition

of citizenship. Any person who has been convicted of an indictable offence in Canada or an offence under the Citizenship Act, or who has been convicted of an offence outside Canada that is equivalent to an indictable offence in Canada during the four years immediately preceding the application, is prohibited from applying for Canadian citizenship.

Applicants on parole or on probation or serving a term of imprisonment in Canada or outside Canada are ineligible to apply for citizenship. Persons charged with, on trial for, or involved in an appeal for an offence under the Citizenship Act, or an indictable offence in or outside Canada are also ineligible to apply for citizenship. Also on the excluded list are persons being investigated for, charged with, on trial for, or involved in an appeal for or have been convicted of, a war crime or a crime against humanity.

Persons who have been convicted of terrorism, high treason, treason, or spying offences while they were permanent residents or those who have served as members of an armed force of a country or organized armed group and that country or group engaged in armed conflict with Canada while they were permanent residents, are barred from applying for citizenship. Also on the list of prohibitions are persons who have had their citizenship applications refused for misrepresentation in the past five years and those who have had their citizenship revoked because of fraud in the past ten years.

A permanent resident who is a minor (under the age of 18) and has a Canadian parent or a parent who is applying for citizenship at the same time, is excluded from the residency requirement and income tax filings. That privilege is not given to a permanent resident who is a minor but does not have a Canadian parent or a parent who is applying for citizenship at the same time. Notwithstanding the above differential treatment of the two categories of minor, all minors are not supposed to meet language and knowledge requirements for citizenship and all minors 14 years and above are required to take the Oath of Citizenship and sign their application forms.

The requirements above are not exhaustive. The foregoing is just an overview of the current requirements for citizenship application. The criteria for Canadian citizenship are changing very fast. Applicants are therefore advised to seek proper advice regarding their eligibility before completing and submitting their applications for Canadian citizenship.

James A. Kwaateng is an Immigration Law practitioner with his offices located at 168A Oakdale Road, Suite 4, Toronto, Ontario. For thorough discussion of your immigration and related social and legal issues, you may contact him at telephone number (416) 743-2758 for an appointment

Government of Canada invests in 7,700 world-class researchers and projects across the country

Funding supports groundbreaking research in key branches of science, engineering and humanities

Canada's world-class researchers and institutions play a critical role in finding solutions to major challenges and advancing a resilient and sustainable future. Investments in talent, trainees, institutions and infrastructure drive innovation and help create a better future for all Canadians and people around the world.

Today, the Honourable Pablo Rodriguez, Minister of Transport and Quebec Lieutenant, on behalf of the Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, and the Honourable Mark Holland, Minister of Health, announced support for 7,700 researchers and research projects all across Canada. Over \$1.7 billion in funding has been allocated to researchers and students, which reflects the government's steadfast support for Canada's research community.

This funding, part of the \$16 billion invested in science and research since 2016, is being distributed to recipients through grants, scholarships,

fellowships and other programs. It will support the acquisition of the state-of-the-art tools and infrastructure needed by researchers to advance their discoveries and innovations. It will also spur a new generation of researchers in their pursuit of excellence, while building an inclusive research community that reflects Canada's diversity and promotes an equitable future for all. The investment will also further efforts to attract and retain exceptional talent and promote domestic and international collaboration that strengthens Canada as a global leader in finding solutions to major challenges.

The funding is distributed across the country through:

- 2022-23 Scholarships and Fellowships – awarding \$275 million to 5,762 scholarship and fellowship recipients through the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC).
- The Canada Research Chairs (CRC) program – awarding \$191

million to 230 new and renewed chairholders at 50 institutions. This includes \$8.7 million to CRCs leading 40 research infrastructure projects at 22 institutions, funded by the John R. Evans Leaders Fund through the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI).

- The CFI Innovation Fund – awarding \$515.3 million to 32 institutions and 100 projects.
- SSHRC Insight Development Grants – awarding \$35.3 million to 577

emerging and established scholars.

- 2023–24 Research Support Fund and Incremental Projects Grants administered by the Tri-agency Institutional Programs Secretariat – awarding \$427 million to 148 Canadian postsecondary institutions.
- NSERC Alliance Grants – awarding \$347 million to 882 university researchers who work with partners in the private, public and not-for-profit sectors.

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The federal minimum wage is going up in April. Here's what you need to know

The federal minimum wage is set to increase next month.

Earlier this year, the federal government announced it would be bumping up minimum wages for its workers by 65 cents, or about \$17.30 per hour, as of April 1.

The raise is part of a promise made by the Justin Trudeau government to increase the federal minimum wage annually to keep up with inflation.

Here's what you need to know: Who gets the raise?

The change impacts workers in federally-regulated industries such as international and interprovincial transportation, telecommunications, banking, as well as postal and courier services.

A full list of federally-regulated sectors can be found on the government's website.

It also applies to interns and workers under the age of 18.

Why 65 cents?

The increase is based on Canada's Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the previous calendar year.

The annual average CPI for 2023 is about 3.9 per cent.

How does this work with the provincial minimum wage?

This pay is specifically for workers in federally-regulated industries and has no bearing on the minimum wage set by each province and territory.

However, if a provincial government has a higher minimum wage, workers in that province would get that higher salary.

As of March 13, the only province set to increase their minimum wage higher than \$1.30 is Yukon.

Will the minimum wage go up in Ontario?

Ontario's minimum wage changes take place in the fall. In 2023, it was bumped to \$16.55 an hour. At the time, this was a full dollar jump from the \$15.50 workers were being paid in 2022.

The Doug Ford government has pledged to annual increases in October. What are the minimum wages in Canada?

Alberta: \$15

British Columbia: \$16.75

Manitoba: \$15.30

New Brunswick: \$14.75, set to increase to \$15.30 in April 2024

Newfoundland and Labrador: \$15, set to increase to \$15.60 in April 2024

Northwest Territories: \$16.05

Nova Scotia: \$15, set to increase to \$15.20 in April 2024

Nunavut: \$16

Ontario: \$16.55

Prince Edward Island: \$15, set to increase to \$16 in April 2024

Quebec: \$15.25

Saskatchewan: \$14, set to increase to \$15 in October 2024

Yukon: \$16.77, set to increase to \$17.59 in April 2024

Is the minimum wage enough? According to a 2023 analysis by the Ontario Living Wage Network, a liveable wage in Ontario would be more than \$25 an hour in the Greater Toronto Area.

This is calculated by factoring in costs like food, rent, transportation, clothing and footwear, medical expenses, childcare, internet and cell phone costs. **CTV News**

Canadian airline market on path to consolidation, raising risk of higher fares

pricing tactics allegedly deployed by WestJet and its then subsidiary Swoop on some routes flown by Flair, which had launched the previous year.

The regulator wound down its probe roughly five years later without taking further steps. The decision came despite then interim competition commissioner Matthew Boswell accusing WestJet and Swoop in 2018 of "engaging in ... predatory pricing by significantly decreasing the prices of their passenger tickets to a level that appears to be below their avoidable costs." Lynx, which launched its first flight in April 2022 and shut down last month, said in court filings that rising costs, airports charges and "a competitive aviation landscape have proved disastrous" to generating sufficient revenue.

Other factors pose a challenge to young upstarts looking to expand, rather than consolidate, Canada's aviation skyscape.

A lack of big, secondary airports in large cities can also force smaller airlines to bid for the higher-priced slots at

Toronto's Pearson and Montreal's Trudeau airports. Executives have long complained about amounts charged for gate and landing fees as well as federal agency expenses such as security screening and air navigation.

Meanwhile, the age-old problem of a vast, sparsely populated geography creates unique challenges for all carriers in Canada, but especially those struggling to get off the ground.

In the U.S., older discount carriers such as Southwest Airlines and JetBlue have offered point-to-point services between larger cities and markets over relatively short distances. The goal is to squeeze more revenue out of each plane with multiple trips per day and lower fuel costs, with customers able to endure the tight quarters due to the quicker trips.

In Canada, however, the number of sizable urban areas is much smaller, with major players already present in the more lucrative ones.

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Money Matters, Every Dollar Counts! –Building Wealth in Canada

By: Eddie Twumasi-Smith, (P.Eng, PMP, CPA, MBA)

The path to achieving financial freedom, independence, or stability, may come through couple of paths or routes. A path that takes no risk or along a path that is well thought-out, with calculated or acceptable risks and eventually at some rewards.

Building wealth without risk is a challenging proposition, as all investments carry some degree of risk. However, there are strategies and principles you can follow in Canada to grow your wealth more conservatively. Keep in mind that while these approaches minimize risk, they also may offer lower returns compared to riskier investments.

Emergency Fund:

Start by building an emergency fund. Aim for three to six months' worth of living expenses in a liquid and easily accessible account. This provides a financial cushion in case of unexpected expenses or job loss. Apply the 50-30-20 rule. Apply 50.0% of net income/salary/earnings on mortgage, car loan, 30.0% of net income/salary/earnings on groceries, insurance, travels etc and 20.0% net income/salary/earnings on savings into your assets or investments or TFSA or portfolio. If your expenses for each of these categories exceed these allocated percentages, you may want to reevaluate the sustainability of your spending and stability or financial risk.

High-Interest Savings Accounts:

Consider placing a portion of your savings in high-interest savings accounts. While the returns are modest, these accounts provide a safe and easily accessible way to earn some interest on your money.

Guaranteed Investment Certificates (GICs):

GICs are low-risk investments offered by banks and credit unions. They provide a fixed interest rate over a specified term, offering more security than the stock market. However, returns are typically lower compared to riskier investments.

Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP):

Contribute to your RRSP to benefit from tax advantages. RRSP investments can include GICs, bonds, and other conservative options. Keep in mind that there are limits to annual contributions.

Tax-Free Savings Account (TFSA):

Utilize a TFSA to grow your wealth tax-free. TFSAs offer flexibility in terms of investment options, including savings accounts, GICs, and other conservative instruments.

Diversification:

Diversify your investments across different asset classes, such as fixed income (bonds, GICs) and cash equivalents. This helps spread risk and provides stability to your portfolio.

Dividend-Paying Stocks:

Consider blue-chip stocks with a history of paying dividends. While no investment is entirely without risk, established companies with a consistent



dividend history often provide stability and income.

Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs):

REITs allow you to invest in real estate without having to own physical property. They often pay dividends, providing a steady income stream. However, the value of REITs can still be subject to market fluctuations.

Education and Professional Advice:

Educate yourself about personal finance and investment strategies. Consider seeking advice from financial professionals, such as certified financial planners, who can provide guidance tailored to your specific situation.

It's essential to recognize that even low-risk investments carry some level of risk, and inflation can erode the purchasing power of your money over time. Regularly reassess your financial goals, risk tolerance, and investment strategy to ensure alignment with your long-term objectives. Consult with a financial advisor to create a personalized plan based on your unique circumstances.

Risk and Investments

Stock Market Investments:

Invest in individual stocks or exchange-traded funds (ETFs) on the Canadian stock market. Consider a diversified portfolio that includes a mix of sectors, industries, and market capitalizations. Be prepared for market fluctuations and conduct thorough research before selecting specific stocks.

Mutual Funds:

Invest in mutual funds that are managed by professional fund managers. Mutual funds pool money from multiple investors to invest in a diversified portfolio of stocks, bonds, or other securities. Choose funds that align with your risk tolerance and financial goals.

Cryptocurrency Investments:

Explore investing in cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin or Ethereum. Cryptocurrencies have shown the potential for high returns, but they are also highly volatile. Only invest what you can afford to lose, and stay informed about market trends and regulatory developments.

Real Estate Investments:

Consider real estate investments beyond your primary residence.

This could involve buying rental properties, participating in real estate crowdfunding, or investing in Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs). Real estate investments can provide both income and potential appreciation.

Options and Derivatives Trading:

Engage in options and derivatives trading to leverage market movements. This approach requires a deep understanding of financial markets and the associated risks. It's recommended for experienced investors who are well-versed in derivative instruments.

High-Yield Bonds:

Invest in higher-risk, higher-yield bonds that offer higher interest rates than more conservative fixed-income options. Be aware that higher yields often come with increased credit risk, so carefully assess the creditworthiness of the bond issuers.

Private Equity Investments:

Explore opportunities in private equity funds or invest directly in private companies. Private equity investments involve a higher level of risk but can also offer substantial returns if the businesses succeed.

Leveraged Investments:

Use margin accounts or other forms of leverage to amplify your investment

returns. However, leverage also magnifies potential losses, so it should be approached cautiously and only by experienced investors.

High-Growth Sectors:

Focus on sectors with high growth potential, such as technology, renewable energy, or healthcare. These sectors can offer significant returns but are often more volatile than established industries.

Before pursuing any of these alternative approaches, it's crucial to assess your risk tolerance, investment horizon, and financial goals. Diversification remains a key principle in managing risk, and seeking professional advice is advisable, especially for complex investment strategies. Regularly review and adjust your investment portfolio based on changes in your financial situation and market conditions.

Make a cautious attempt towards your financial stability, independence and ultimately financial freedom. You may not get from current state to your future expected state without a purposeful step(s). You need a strategy and it starts with setting up your financial goals and core values. Every dollar count!

Please Note: For any comments, corrections or recommendations, please forward all to my email: eddiesmith77@gmail.com

Invest in Developing Tech Skills of Ghanaian Youth – Dr Bawumia to Telecel Group

Telecel aims to digitally empower Africa through technology, connecting remote areas for inclusivity, and focusing on education as a catalyst for growth and accessibility

Vice President Mahamudu Bawumia has called on Telecommunication companies operating in the country to move beyond seeking to expand the physical infrastructure of their operations to investing in the human and other resources that are at the heart of their offerings to the Ghanaian and African market.

Speaking at the launch of operations for Telecel Ghana, new majority shareholders in the company formerly known as Vodafone Ghana, on Monday, March 11, 2024 Dr Bawumia reminded telcos, fintechs and stakeholders in the technology ecosystem that one of the surest ways of ensuring lasting success is investing in the youth, who are the future of any endeavor.

“Let me challenge you to look beyond physical infrastructure. Your corporate social responsibility must include a deliberate investment and development of the digital capabilities and capacities of young Ghanaians across the country at all levels. As we celebrate this momentous occasion, remember that you also have a role in shaping the future of our nation,” he reminded them.

Dr Bawumia reminded the leadership of Telecel that innovation is the heartbeat of success in the telecom and indeed the business environment, and challenged them to make a difference in the Ghanaian telcom market with offerings that would make their brand attractive.

“In the ever-evolving landscape of technology, innovation is key to staying ahead. Your customers require accessible, safe, affordable, and reliable network always. I am happy about Telecel's commitment to expand their network and bring more innovation into this space. In that regard, you have the government's firm support.

He continued: “I am also delighted to see the emphasis placed on inclusivity and accessibility in your services. In Ghana, like in many parts of the world, there are still underserved communities with limited access to telecommunications infrastructure. By expanding your reach and investing in infrastructure development, you are not only expanding access to

cont'd on pg. 34

Toronto Pearson reclaims prestigious ranking as ‘Best Airport over 40 million passengers in North America’

Toronto Pearson has been named the “Best Airport over 40 million passengers in North America” for the sixth time in seven years by Airports Council International (ACI) – World, the global trade representative of the world’s airports. This prestigious award, recognized and coveted by airports around the world, is part of ACI World’s Airport Service Quality (ASQ) program, which recognizes airports delivering the best experience for their passengers. The ASQ program is rooted in rigorous scientific methodology that analyses data from passengers who have directly passed through Toronto Pearson, which

is more accurate than other surveys that weights feedback from travellers who may not have come to our airport. The ASQ program’s intention is to provide science-based data to enable thousands of airports across the world to continually improve and adapt to increase the quality and consistency of the customer experience. “The results of this year’s survey and this award is the outcome of the collective hard work from all our employees, to deliver in new ways that heighten the reliability and enjoyment of the experience at Pearson,” said Deborah Flint, President and CEO,



cont’d on pg. 18

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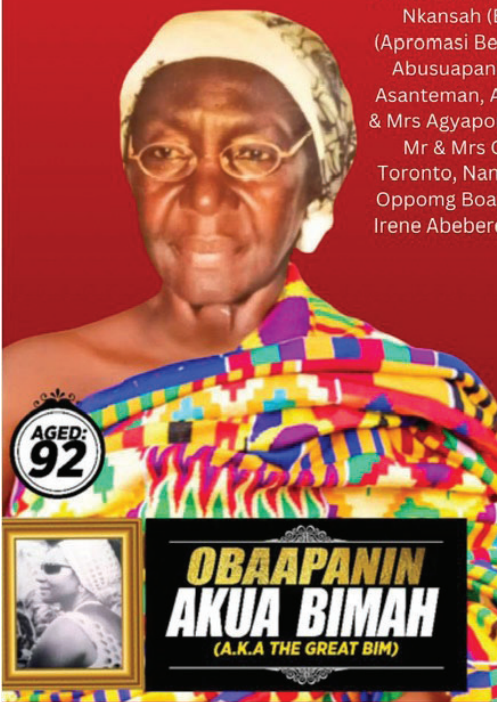
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Children: Late Comfort Boafo- England, Kwajo Ofori- Ghana, Monica Boafo- Ghana, Janet Boafo- Ghana, Christopher Boafo- Ghana, Yaw Boafo- Ghana, Kwabena Boafo- Toronto, Akoto Boafo- Toronto, Nancy Boafo- Ghana St. Andrews Catholic Church. All members of Kumasi Asafo Social Club of Canada, Manhyia Adehyia Social Club, Love is beautiful and entire family regret to announce the sudden death of their beloved mother; **Obaapanin Akua Bimah (A.K.A Great Bim)**

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

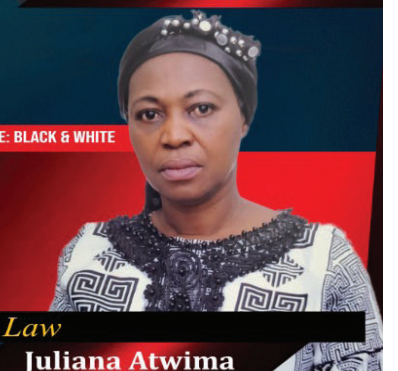
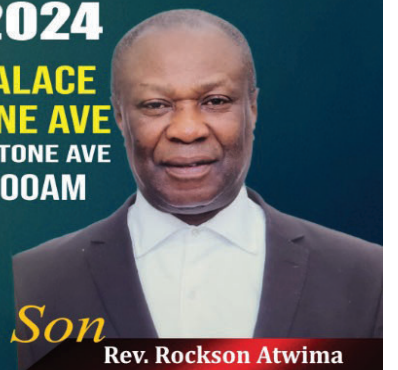
CHIEF MOURNERS

Nana Osei Kwabena (2) Kuntanase Onwe Hene, nama Owusu Agyemang (Abrenkese Nyamiani Krontihene), Obaapanin Agyeiwaa Kodie Kuntanase Onwe Hema, Kokofu-Edwenase Asona Abusua panin Op. Kwabena Sarfo and the entire family of Toronto Abusuapanin Aboagye Mensah, Rev. Rockson Owusu Atwima/ Mrs. Osofomaame Juliana Osei Atwima, Mr. & Mrs. Agyemang Duah, Obaapanin Christiana Antwi, Mr. Kwabena Antwi Agyei, Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Nkrumah, Mr. Kweku Addai (USA), Madam Selina Alice Peterson: aka Adwoa Serwaa, Apostle /Mrs. Joseph Owusu Ansah, Apostle Mrs. Kwasi Boateng Afum, Mr. & Mrs. Osei Kwabena (Olu), Mr. Larry Akwesi Agyemang, Glory Pentecostal Ministry of Toronto, Ghanaian Ministerial Fellowship, Ghana Amansie Multicultural Association of Toronto, Ghana Taxi Drivers Association and family wish to invite all well wishers and sympathizers to celebrate with them the life of their beloved mother Obaapanin Abena Serwa aka, Abena Kwabena.

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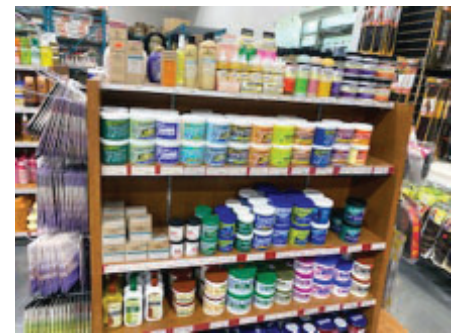
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Canada faces a series of ‘crises’ that will test it in the coming years, RCMP warns

Report examined ‘shifts in domestic and international environments’ that could affect policing

The “crises” rocking national and international affairs are likely to get worse over the next few years and could have a significant effect on the federal government and Canada’s federal police force, says an internal report prepared for the RCMP.

“The global community has experienced a series of crises, with COVID-19, supply-chain issues, and the Russian invasion of Ukraine all sending shockwaves throughout the world,” says the report, entitled Whole of Government Five Year Trends for Canada.

“The situation will probably deteriorate further in the next five years, as the early effects of climate change and a global recession add their weight to the ongoing crises.”

The report was prepared by the RCMP’s three-member Strategic Foresight and Methodology Team, a special section set up in February 2022. The report was shared with management at the RCMP’s federal policing section, RCMP spokesperson Robin Percival said in response to questions from CBC News.

The report was obtained through access to information law by Matt Malone, an assistant law professor at Thompson Rivers University, who shared it with CBC News.

The heavily redacted nine-page report looks at shifts “in the domestic and international environments that could have a significant effect on the Canadian government and the RCMP.” Percival said it was written between March and December of 2022 “for situational awareness and to inform decision making” over the five years following the report’s completion. It has not been updated since then.

The report says it is based on “open source, foresight material, horizon scans and environment scans from law enforcement agencies, government agencies and private entities, both domestic and international.”

The report paints a bleak picture of what the RCMP — and Canada — could have to face over the next several years.

“The geopolitical, economic, social, technological and environmental shifts presented here are complex and continue to evolve,” the report warns. “They can disrupt or redefine law enforcement work and operations in unexpected ways. Both minor and major shifts have the potential to cause multi-faceted disruptive change across the organization.”

Climate change will have a significant impact, the report predicted.

“Over the course of the next five years, environmental scientists expect that increasingly violent and even concurrent storms, worsening drought, floods and persistent heat waves all over the globe will reduce the global output of a variety of commodities,” says the report.

“Law enforcement should anticipate that these destructive weather patterns will affect all facets of government, including damage to critical infrastructure, increasing pressure to cede Arctic territory, and more.”

The report predicts that more frequent extreme weather events could have “a disproportionately adverse effect on Indigenous communities because many of them are located in areas that are warming faster and the weather events could take place at the same time as other major crises that require RCMP resources.

“Emergency management planning should be considered by law enforcement decision makers to ensure continued levels of service delivery. Capacity building through the attraction and retention of qualified staff remains a challenge to law enforcement.”

Sliding living standards and polarization

Political polarization and resentment, coupled with the threat of an economic recession, will also present a challenge, the report predicts.

“The coming period of recession will also accelerate the decline in living standards that the younger generations have already witnessed compared to earlier generations,” says the report.

“For example, many Canadians under 35 are unlikely ever to be able to buy a place to live. The fallout from this decline in living standards will be exacerbated by the fact that the difference between the extremes of wealth is greater now in developed countries than it has been at any time in several generations.”

Security and defence expert Christian Leuprecht describes how global conflicts could cause serious problems for Canada’s supply chain. Populists have been capitalizing on a rise in political polarization and conspiracy theories and tailoring their messages to appeal to extremist movements, the report says, adding that authoritarian movements have been on the rise in many liberal-democratic countries.

“Law enforcement should expect continuing social and political polarization fuelled by misinformation campaigns and an increasing mistrust for all democratic institutions,” says the report.

New information technologies, including AI deepfakes, quantum computing and blockchain, could also present challenges, says the report.

“Law enforcement should anticipate that criminals will leverage technological innovations to gain profit and influence,” the report says. “Law enforcement should also continue to contribute to policy change related to the privacy of personal information, artificial intelligence, the Internet of Things, quantum computing, digital ledger technology and more.”

The COVID-19 pandemic may have faded but, in 2022, it continued to have an impact on Canadian society, says the report.

“The damage to the economy and to the social fabric of the nation is ongoing, and there is an established opposition to existing and potential public health measures and other restrictions,” it says, citing a university study indicating there is more than a 10 per cent chance of another pandemic spreading in the near future.

While the report says it covers geopolitical factors, references to geopolitical challenges

appear to be among the passages redacted. Two pages of the report are entirely blank, with the exception of a picture of a globe.

Michael Kempa, University of Ottawa associate professor of criminology, welcomed the report and the existence of the special unit, saying the RCMP has been “struggling to meet its federal policing responsibilities.”

“They’ve now got this special body that is sort of scanning major trends and threats to federal policing type issues, presumably with a view to positioning the RCMP to dealing with these types of challenges down the line. So that’s positive.”

Kempa said the report correctly identifies the challenges the RCMP and the government are likely to face.

“The only thing that I would think that they underestimate is the urgency with which the RCMP must prepare ... to address these challenges,” he said.

Kempa said the RCMP doesn’t have a lot of time to make necessary changes, such as recruiting people with the skills needed to address these kinds of problems.

“This report underestimates the severity of the challenges,” he said.

A ‘disconnect’ between threat and preparation

Christian Leuprecht, a Queen’s University and Royal Military College professor who specializes in defence and security, said the section of the report on the challenges posed by new information technologies — and the suggestion that law enforcement should “contribute to policy change” in response — stood out for him.

“That’s a highly unusual statement,” said Leuprecht. “This is a hint that clearly there is a sense that the policy framework in this country is not adequately set up for the challenges of everything from safeguarding personal information ... artificial intelligence, the connectivity of the Internet of Things ... the privacy challenges and others presented by quantum computing and blockchain technology, and the accelerant that has proven for all sorts of criminal activity in this country.”

Leuprecht said the report also points to some threats that are often overlooked, such as problems with global supply chains and the need to improve emergency management planning.

“What we see is some of the disconnect between the strategic threat assessment ... and the resources, capacities, capabilities and political will to posture Canada effectively for what is clearly going to be a very difficult future for this country,” he said. CBC News

Toronto Pearson reclaims prestigious ranking as ‘Best Airport over 40 million passengers in North America’

cont’d from pg. 15

Toronto Pearson. “We see the results of our investments in people, assets, and technology that enhanced operations and improved every part of the passenger journey. Whether it’s launching new digital tools to give our customers more control over their experience, to deploying new modernized equipment and completing more asset restoration programs, this is all part of our commitment to providing passengers with a world-class experience — and we are excited to deliver even more in the years ahead.” Toronto Pearson also introduced The Pearson Standard in 2023, a program that formalizes accountabilities for airport partners and ourselves in order hold everyone to a wide range of operational standards. The guidance and expectations that we set out are essential to drive operational efficiencies.

Toronto Pearson regained the ranking in 2023 after winning “Best Airport over 40 million passengers in North America” for five consecutive years between 2017 and 2021.

“The (ASQ) Awards celebrate more than outstanding customer experience; it recognizes the innovation and dedication of your entire airport team. Congratulations to Toronto Pearson for your hard work that is redefining the airport experience,” said Luis Felipe de

Oliveira, Director General, ACI World. “Your dedication to excellence in customer experience sets a benchmark for airports worldwide! Keep setting the bar high.”

This award also comes just weeks after Toronto Pearson rejoined the ranks in [Forbes’ list of “Canada’s Best Employers” in 2024](#), which ranks the best 300 Canadian employers identified by their independent survey. Toronto Pearson ranked number 210 overall and was ninth among all Transportation and Logistics companies included in the list.

About Toronto Pearson

The Greater Toronto Airports Authority is the operator of Toronto Pearson International Airport, Canada’s largest airport and a vital connector of people, businesses and goods.

Toronto Pearson was named “Best Airport over 40 million passengers in North America” in 2023 by Airports Council International (ACI), the global trade representative of the world’s airports, after winning the award five years running between 2017 and 2021. Toronto Pearson was also recognized in 2024 as one of “Canada’s Best Employers” by Forbes.

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Airbnb to ban hosts from using indoor security cameras in rental properties

Policy due to go into effect April 30 for all listings worldwide

Airbnb said Monday that it's banning the use of indoor security cameras in listings on its site around the world by the end of next month.

The San Francisco-based online rental platform said it is seeking to "simplify" its security-camera policy while prioritizing privacy.

"These changes were made in consultation with our guests, hosts and privacy experts, and we'll continue to seek feedback to help ensure our policies work for our global community," Juniper Downs, Airbnb's head of community policy and partnerships, said in a prepared statement.

Airbnb had allowed the use of indoor security cameras in common areas, as long as the locations of the cameras were disclosed on the listings page.

Under the new policy, hosts will still be allowed to use doorbell cameras

and noise-decibel monitors, which are only allowed in common spaces, as long as the location and presence of the devices are disclosed.

Airbnb expects the policy update to impact a small number of hosts because the majority of its listings do not report having indoor security cameras.

The policy change will take effect April 30. In its fourth-quarter earnings report last month, Airbnb said its bookings and revenue rose, and the company said demand remains strong.

A Toronto landlord found her condo listed on Airbnb by someone who wasn't her tenant. She blames the city's lax rules around licensing short-term rentals and is calling for changes to regulations.

Privacy over security

Airbnb's policy update is a good step in the right direction, said Ann Cavoukian, a former Ontario privacy commissioner.

While she understands property owners wanting to ensure their homes or rental units are secure, she said that doesn't supersede a guest's right to privacy.

"Cameras pose hidden risks all the time," she told CBC News in a phone interview from Scottsdale, Ariz.

It's not only a matter of a guest having their Airbnb host listening in on their personal conversations or watching their private activities, she said, but there is also the concern of a third party gaining access to that camera's feeds and recordings.

"It is amazing how brilliant the hackers are today, and they're gaining access to video, to audio, to all kinds of information that they're not supposed to have access to," she said.

"The risks you take in putting in security cameras or any of these devices are significant because you can't just assume that those people who put the

camera in [are] gonna be the only ones viewing it."

If a host has concerns about the security of their property, she said they should interview their potential guests before they consider renting to them. The same goes for guests who have concerns about their privacy when choosing a rental, she said.

With high living costs and rising rents, governments are going after Airbnb and Vrbo. British Columbia is the latest, along with New York and Quebec. How much are short-term rentals to blame? Will this action be enough? David Wachsmuth, a researcher and professor at the School of Urban Planning at McGill University, joins us. For transcripts of Front Burner, please visit: <https://www.cbc.ca/radio/frontburner/transcripts> Transcripts of each episode will be made available by the next workday.

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cont'd from pg. 6

But looking ahead, Solovieva expects another quarter of growth in household net worth.

“First, home prices have been moving higher in the last three months, recovering from last year’s pullback as housing activity snapped back on easier financial conditions and lower mortgage rates,” she said in a note to investors.

Equities have also increased, especially in the U.S., she noted.

“Assuming March doesn’t break the trend, we expect Q1 2024 to deliver another quarter of wealth gains, marginally supporting consumer spending,” she said.

The Canadian Press

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GHANA chalks 67th Milestone of Nationhood

years later in 1969.

cont'd from pg. 1

manpower to man the civil and industrial services that were created from the early independence years. Free Teacher Training Education was also introduced that helped to train teachers to staff the numerous elementary schools that were opened across the country. Alongside this was the introduction of what was termed "Mass Education", a mass literacy drive that targeted illiterate adults in the rural areas to read and write.

For post-secondary education, the CPP government expanded the University of Ghana, the Premier University, opened earlier by the colonial government in 1948. Two more universities were established: The University of Science and Technology in the nation's second largest City, Kumasi to train the nation's needed technical personnel. A third University was opened in the Central Region City of Cape Coast, the cradle of Ghana's education network, the Cape Coast University originally mandated to train teachers to staff the numerous secondary/technical and teachers' colleges that had sprang up all over the country. In terms of education, this period can be described as the finest in Ghana's history.

On the industrial front, a number of industries were established which were grouped and managed under the Ghana Industrial Holding Corporation (GIHOC). The Nsawam Cannery, GIHOC Distilleries, the Kumasi Jute factory, among others, were started under this scheme. A national airline, Ghana Airways, was launched. Ghana was then set to fly high and determined to take its place among the community of nations. The country became the center for the independence and anti-colonial struggle for other sub-Saharan African countries still under colonial rule. Two major liberation-oriented conferences were held in Accra: the All-Africa People's Conference in 1958 and the Conference of Independent African States in 1965. Most African countries looked up to Ghana for political leadership and inspiration. It became known as the "Black Star" of Africa. On this front the nation was somehow "managing" its own affairs.

All was not rosy though. The period between 1957 and 1962 was also characterized by some political and social instability. Kwame Nkrumah and the CPP government displayed intolerance of criticism and political opposition. A draconian law, the Preventive Detention Act, was passed in 1959 which gave the CPP government sweeping powers to arrest and detain its political opponents, real and imaginary. Most of the perceived opponents of the government were shipped off and incarcerated at a medium security prison that was built near the town of Nsawam, some 25 miles north of Accra. Many of the opposition politicians were either incarcerated or fled into exile. The exiles included Dr. Kofi Abrefa Busia, the leader of the main opposition party, the United Party. As fate will have it, he was to become Ghana's second constitutional Prime Minister some ten

The high expectations and hopes for Ghana's accelerated development and political stability and maturity did not materialize or last long enough. The first post-colonial government headed by Kwame Nkrumah lasted nine years and was violently overthrown in a military take-over initiated by the American C.I.A on 24 February, 1966. This event accelerated the political upheavals, social and economic dislocations and destruction that had begun earlier in 1959 through the early 1960s.

On July 1st, 1960, the then Prime Minister, Kwame Nkrumah declared Ghana a Republic, and dumped the Queen of Britain as its political Head of State. Kwame Nkrumah then assumed the title of President of the Republic of Ghana. From this point onwards, the President sought to establish closer ties with the Socialist eastern countries much to the annoyance of the West, especially the United States who did not want to see what they perceived as a "communist" satellite regime in West Africa. It was this and other events that led to the CIA-engineered overthrow of Kwame Nkrumah and the CPP government on 24th February, 1966.

Of the 67 years that Ghana has existed as an independent nation, the military has intervened four times to overthrow the elected or reigning governments. The military has succeeded in ruling the country for 21 years of its sixty seven years of life as a nation. The first military government, established with the 1966 take-over lasted from February 1966 to August 1969 when the military government then headed by Lt. General Akwasi Amankwaa Afrifa handed over power to a democratically elected government headed by Dr. Kofi Abrefa Busia and his Progress Party (PP) government. This was the result of elections held in August 1969 which the Progress Party won by a landslide.

This Parliamentary government headed by Prime Minister Kofi Busia lasted only 28 months before it was shot down by another bunch of restless soldiers led by then Colonel Ignatius Kutu Acheampong who established the National Redemption Council government. This government ruled for three years and re-organized itself into a Supreme Military Council manned by all the service commanders of the Ghana Armed Forces who felt that their junior officers were doing all the looting and "chopping" of the nation's resources and demanded to participate in the looting of the nation's resources. A palace coup organized in July 1978 dumped then General Kutu Acheampong and brought in a new set of military commanders into power with the establishment of another Supreme Military Council headed by Lt. General F.W.K Akuffo.

On May 15, 1979 a group of young military officers led by Ft. Lt. Jeremiah John Rawlings attempted to overthrow the government of the Supreme Military Council. The uprising failed and the mutineers were arrested. In the course of their trial before a military tribunal, another group of young officers engaged the government in

a violent shoot-out and succeeded in overthrowing the government on June 4, 1979. They established the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) government manned by corporals and sergeants which ruled for only three months: June 4, 1979 to September 23, 1979.

This three-month rule of the AFRC was a real watershed in Ghana's history. This period witnessed the most brutal and worse human rights abuses ever unleashed on the population of the country. Unruly, undisciplined and drunken soldiers roamed the streets and neighborhoods of the country, terrorized and cowed the population into submission. Six top military officers including three former Heads of State were executed by firing squad by Jerry Rawlings under some very

flimsy and questionable excuses. Thank God, this traumatic experience lasted only three months, but it left serious wounds and scars on the nation's psyche which have not yet healed. The AFRC and Jeremiah Rawlings handed over power to a new democratically-elected government headed by Dr. HillaLiman and his Peoples National Party (PNP) on 23 September 1979 after the PNP had won elections held on June 26, 1979. This was the launch of the Third Republic of Ghana.

The same Jeremiah John Rawlings who handed over power to Dr. HillaLiman again staged another military take-over of the government on 31 December, 1981, only 27 months into the life of the government of the Third Republic. He established the Provisional National Defence Council (PNDC) which ruled the country until December 1992. As is his manner and style, Jerry Rawlings and his second military government subjected Ghanaians to another bout of brutality and human rights abuses including the arrest and brutal murder of three high court judges and a retired military officer on June 30, 1982.

Under pressure from the international community to return the country to constitutional rule, Jeremiah Rawlings lifted the ban on political activity to allow political parties to be formed and function. He formed his own political party, got a Constitution to be written (on his terms), got elections organized and won the Presidency along with his political party, the National Democratic Congress (NDC). This was the beginning of the Fourth Republic of Ghana. Rawlings ruled the country again as President for another eight years, the maximum two terms allowed under the Constitution. The second elections of the Fourth Republic organized in December 2000, was won by the New Patriotic Party (NPP) under John Agyekum Kufour who won the Presidency after a second round run-off with the second place runner, John Evans Attah Mills. The NPP also won a slight majority of 124 of the then 200-seat Parliament. President Kufour and his NPP won re-election in December 2004 for another four-year term.

Perhaps the greatest test of stability of the nation came in the run-up to the 2008 elections which ended the

term of office of President Kufour. The NDC party won the Parliamentary elections on December 8, 2008 but the hotly-contested Presidential elections again run into a second round. In the end, John Attah Mills beat the NPP candidate Nana Akufo Addo in the run-off by less than 20,000 votes to win the Presidency. Tension in the country over this election reached fever pitch threatening to plunge the country into mayhem. Political giants like former U.N Secretary General, Kofi Annan had to be flown into the country to persuade the warring electoral opponents to let cool heads prevail to salvage Ghana's image as a peace-loving nation and the beacon of political maturity and stability for Africa. In the end, the NPP and Akufo Addo had to concede defeat. John Evans Attah Mills was sworn in as President on January 7, 2009 as the third President of the Fourth Republic of Ghana with John Dramani Mahama as his Vice President.

The first three years of the Attah Mills-led NDC government also tested the stability of the nation. A culture of political intolerance, insults and naked robbery of the nation's resources and finances engulfed the country. Political opponents publicly hauled insults at each other, in the media especially on radio and television. The most guilty of these behavior of political insults and intolerance were the government and NDC party officials. They attacked their political opponents, real or imagined, at will. The then President and Father of the nation, John Evans Attah Mills did nothing about this dangerous culture of political insults and intolerance which engulfed and enveloped the nation. This behavior, perpetuated by the young inexperienced people in the NDC led the former president and Founder of the NDC party uitself, Jerry John Rawlings to label such persons as "babies with sharp teeth".

A new shrewd way of officially stealing the nation's resources was instituted under the Attah-Mills-Mahama government from 2009. It has been known as "judgment debt". Naked robbery and pillaging of the nation's resources that has been occurring since the country attained nationhood reached alarming proportions from 2009. Under this scheme, individuals and companies were actively encouraged by government officials to sue the government (and the nation) in court claiming payments for "contracts" the government had abrogated. Millions of dollars and Cedis have been paid out to a number of often faceless individuals under this official thievery scheme. The most disturbing of these so-called judgement debts was one that was paid to a guy called Alfred Agbesi Woyome to the whooping tune of GHC51.2 million.

The Supreme Court of the country was later to rule that the country had no contract with this person and ordered that the money be refunded to the state with interest. As at the time of writing this piece in late February 2017, the man has refused to refund the money



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Teacher shortage has staff across Canada working ‘in survival mode’

Schools are relying on non-teaching staff, non-certified teachers to wade through shortage

For Gurpreet Kaur Bains, two words describe the teacher shortage plaguing Canadian schools: “chaotic and stressful.”

“We are always short teachers, and it’s a hard time filling out certain positions,” the learning support teacher told *The Current’s* Matt Galloway.

“Personally, for learning support teachers, sometimes we don’t get teachers to replace us who can do the job. So there will be individuals in our classrooms who are not familiar with the work,” she added.

The teacher shortage is far from a B.C.-specific problem. In Quebec, the 2023-24 school year started with more than 8,500 teaching vacancies yet to be filled — including nearly 2,000 full-time vacancies.

Further east, 52 per cent of students who graduate with a bachelor of education in New Brunswick don’t teach in the province. And in Nunavut, there’s a nine to 10 per cent vacancy rate for teachers at the beginning of this school year.

Bains is also the language department head at a high school in Surrey, B.C. — one of the largest school districts in the province, she says. Yet, there are overcrowding problems within the school, and teachers aren’t able to keep up.

Librarians, vice-principals or even principals might get pulled in to cover a class without a teacher at Bains’ school, she said.

“We are just in survival mode, and we see that it’s affecting everybody involved in education,” she added.

Increase in non-certified teachers

According to Nathalie Reid, director of the Child Trauma Research Centre at the University of Regina, the shortage is so bad that there has been a “dramatic increase in the inclusion of non-certified or non-qualified teachers” in classrooms across Canada.

“During the pandemic ... provinces like Manitoba developed a 30-hour basic classroom skills program for limited teaching,” she told Galloway. “And so we started seeing non-qualified teachers being hired into schools.”

In Quebec, a report by Auditor General Guylaine Leclerc found that 30,000 people teaching in Quebec schools between 2020 and 2021 had no teaching certificate or provisional qualifications, according to The Canadian Press.

Teacher shortages plague parts of Canada as school year starts

6 months ago
Duration: 2:01

A shortage of teachers is impacting many school boards across the country. The situation in Quebec is so dire that the province says it will have to put unqualified people in schools to supervise classrooms. Reid doesn’t fault schools for coming up with these measures during the pandemic. But she’s concerned that what she called an “interim stop-gap solution” might become permanent — especially because teaching has evolved a lot in the past few decades.

“What’s really happened in the 22 years since I’ve been involved is we’ve seen a dramatic shift in what happens in bachelor of education programs,” she said.

“We’ve moved towards teaching social skills, emotional regulation, attending to mental health and well-being, critical thinking skills, entrepreneurial or innovative mindset skills that young people need as they move through their lives and as they move into adulthood.”

But if a teacher hasn’t been through that training, Reid says they “become a purveyor of kind of a pre-packaged curriculum ... and it negates all of the stuff that we have learned is critically important, in fact, to learning.”

Teachers aren’t babysitters

For Annie Kidder, executive director of the public education advocacy group People For Education, the teacher shortage and the stop-gap measures show a lack of recognition and appreciation for teachers’ duties.

“I don’t think as a society that we ... recognize enough how important this job is, how vital it is to our economy, our sustainability, our prosperity, our social cohesion, [and] what it means to us as humans to educate kids well,” she said.

Kidder says the problem is down to the idea that a grown-up — any grown-up — is needed in a class at all times.

But treating teaching as a job any adult can do turns teaching into babysitting, “as if it’s like we’ve just got to keep them safe for the day,” Kidder said.

If students’ learning needs aren’t met as a result, that may lead to adverse behavioural effects, Bains said.

“We can see that some of these kids are now showing behaviours that are aggressive,” she said. “They’re stressed, they don’t want to be there. They will barge out of classrooms. They will shout or they will show certain behaviours that we have not seen in them before.”

Treating teachers as babysitters also leads to extra work for non-teaching staff, who now have to catch up on their job-specific duties on their own time.

“I know that myself and my colleagues ... are feeling very heartbroken, and the morale is really low,” she said. “The same job that ... had so many supports in the past or whatever, is cut to the bones now. It’s stressful.”

At a news conference in September, B.C. Minister of Education Rachna Singh said the government is aware of the growing student population and is actively working to support school districts amid staffing shortages.

“Many school districts are facing enrolment pressure.... [We are] coming up with new ideas, like urban schools [and] how we can reduce the timelines to build the schools or expand the schools,” said Singh.

That same month, B.C. Premier David Eby acknowledged more schools need to be built and more teachers are needed to staff those schools.

Everyone’s problem

With 95 per cent of students in Canada attending a public school, Kidder says we have to take care of it.

That “we” includes all Canadians, she said, even those who don’t have students in public schools, or who work there.

“It’s where we’re building ... the next generation. So we have to take this seriously, and I don’t think we are.” **CBC Radio**

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Airbnb to ban hosts from using indoor security cameras in rental properties

cont’d from pg. 19

A hidden problem to deal with

The new policy won’t be able to do much to prevent hidden cameras from being installed in an Airbnb property, said Cavoukian.

Hidden cameras are “strictly prohibited” under Airbnb’s policies, but cases of guests uncovering them have been reported.

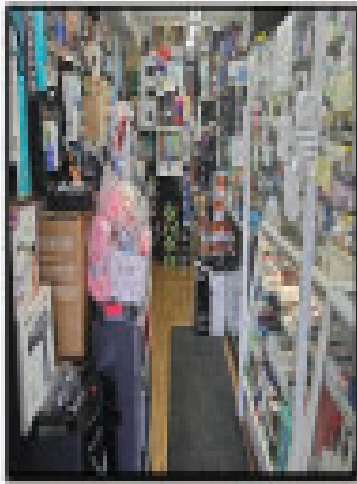
She urges anyone who finds such a device in their vacation rental to remove it and to notify police.

Unfortunately, she said, the consequences for covertly recording someone are often minimal.

She encourages guests to ask their potential hosts about any and all cameras on the property and get assurances that they’re not being recorded.

Although there are no guarantees, she said doing so may make the owners reconsider using such devices.

“Privacy forms the foundation of our freedom,” she said. “We cannot give up on it just because there are all these technological advances.” The Associated Press



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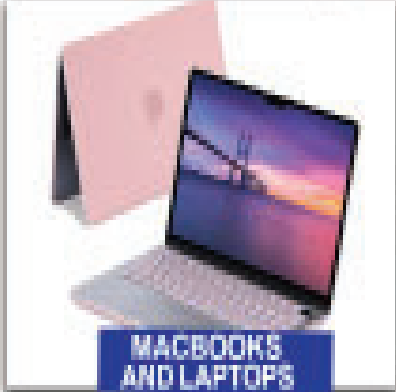
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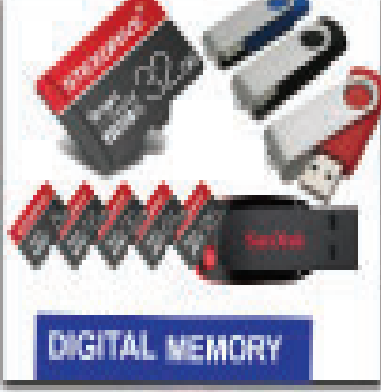
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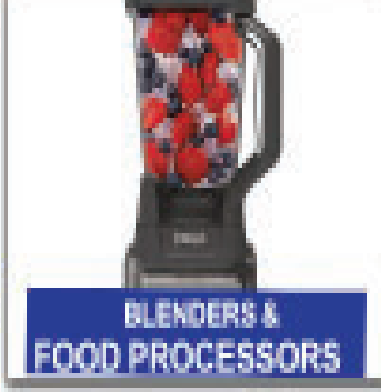
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The 67th Ghana Independence Celebration held on March 9th was organized by the Ghana Association of Hamilton

By Samuel Opoku
President of the Ghana Association of Hamilton

It was a jubilant gathering commemorating the significant milestone of Ghana's independence. Attended by Ghanaians, well-wishers, and esteemed guests from the City of Hamilton, the Police Services, and various communities of African countries, the event showcased the vibrant tapestry of Ghanaian culture.

Marking the anniversary of Ghana's independence, the festivities unfolded with insightful speeches that underscored the nation's progress over the years. The diverse crowd was treated to a feast of tasty Ghanaian foods, and the air was filled with the rhythm of captivating cultural dances that embodied the essence of Ghanaian heritage.

Embracing the spirit of unity, the celebration welcomed attendees from African communities in Hamilton, fostering cultural understanding and diversity. Engaging activities such as traditional Adowa dances, Ghanaian games, including Oware,

added a playful and nostalgic touch to the event, creating an atmosphere of joy and camaraderie.

The event served as a poignant reminder of the strides Ghana has made since gaining independence, inspiring all present to continue fostering unity and progress within their own communities. The festivities attracted an impressive turnout, highlighting the success of the event in bringing people together to celebrate a shared heritage.

The celebration aimed to deepen cultural understanding and strengthen ties between communities. It successfully achieved its goal of fostering unity and progress, leaving attendees with a sense of pride and connection to their roots.

Overall, the 67th Ghana Independence Celebration in Hamilton was a resounding success, drawing participants from diverse backgrounds to celebrate, appreciate, and preserve the rich cultural legacy of Ghana. The event exemplified the importance of coming together to honor the past, celebrate the present, and envision a future of continued unity and progress.



Muriel Aikins-Sefa, The Keynote Speaker.



Belinda and Muriel



Some community members and guests



Ghanaian Cultural Crafts



Some community members and guests

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Ghanaians Unite in Calgary to Celebrate 67th Independence Day with sensational cultural display

Calgary, March 09, 2024 — Ghanaians in and around Calgary gathered in full force at the Empire Hall on March 09, 2024, to commemorate Ghana's 67th Independence Day in a spirit of unity and celebration. It was a sold out event emceed by amazing Obo-Rockson and Trina.

Esteemed guests, including Government representatives Hon. Mohammed Yaseen and Hon. Dimetrios Nicolaides, graced the occasion, conveying warm greetings from the Province. The Honorary Consul of Ghana to Canada, Margaret Adu, after presenting His Excellency Anselm Sowah's independence message, took the opportunity to unveil the new Ghana House, emphasizing the need for ongoing efforts to unite individuals of Ghanaian heritage and cultivate a resilient community for future generations.

Keynote speaker Dr. Animwaa Obeng-Akrofi, Manager of Diversity and Inclusion at Alberta Health Services, delivered an inspiring address, encouraging women to break barriers by persistently knocking on doors at all levels, even those that may seem insurmountable. Drawing from her lived experiences, Dr. Obeng-Akrofi has emerged as a powerful advocate for women from diverse backgrounds.

The cultural richness of Ghana took center stage with captivating performances by the Adehyeman mma and Denyigba cultural groups, showcasing traditional Ghanaian dances that captivated the audience. The event marked an unprecedented night in Calgary, offering a vibrant celebration of Ghana's heritage and fostering a sense of community among attendees.

As the celebrations unfolded, the atmosphere was charged with pride, unity, and a shared commitment to building a stronger and more connected Ghanaian community in Calgary. The success of this event reflects the resilience and determination of the Ghanaian diaspora to uphold their cultural heritage and contribute to the diversity of Canadian society.



Hon. Margaret Adu
Consul-General of Calgary, AB



The GCAC Executives with Ministers Yaseen and Nicolaides



The GCAC president with representatives of Calgary Police Service who honored the invitation to attend the event.



Roberta Ehigiator receiving her Star Award for AEJ Foundation work for the community.

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The Ghanaian Flag flies at Queen's

By Emmanuel Ayiku, Toronto, ON

Ghanaians in Greater Toronto Area gathered on Thursday, March 7th at Queen's Park to celebrate Ghana's 67th Anniversary and Flag raising. The MC Ms. Juliet Opoku, welcomed the guests and introduced the speaker of the legislative Assembly of Ontario Hon. Ted Arnott who graced the occasion with warm greetings and message from the Premier of Ontario.

Deputy Consul General of Ghana in Toronto, Mrs. Joyce Asamoah Koranteng delivered an inspiring address.

There were several remarks by members of provincial parliament, including, David Smith, MPP P.C. of Ontario, Tom Rekocevic, MPP, NDP of Ontario, Lucille Collard, MPP, Ontario Liberal Party.

On his part, Mr. Emmanuel Duodu, President of Ghanaian Canadian Association of Ontario gave an update of the current affair of the Ghanaian Community. The Event was well attended by several members of the community including our Traditional Kings and Queens.



's Park on 67th Independence Day

Photos by Albert Aikens



Profile of Heads of Governments in Ghana since 1957

Compiled by Emmanuel Ayiku and Jonathan Baah Annobil, Toronto, ON

It is exactly 67 years ago on March 6, 1957 that Ghana gained its independence from British Colonial rule. The struggle for independence had begun with the United Gold Coast Convention in the aftermath of World War II. However, the man who led the nation to freedom and became its first President was Dr. Kwame Nkrumah. Dr. Nkrumah was overthrown in a military coup in 1966. Since then there had been 4 more military interventions with 4 more civilian administrations after each military government. Ghana from 1992 to present has enjoyed a stable government under its 4th Republic. As we celebrate the 65th birthday of our great nation, we bring to our readers the profiles of the heads of governments in Ghana since 1957 when the country became a sovereign state.



Dr. Kwame Nkrumah

(21 Sept; 1909 – 27 April 27 1972)

Dr. Kwame Nkrumah who became the first head of government of independent Ghana under the Convention People Party (CPP) in 1957 was born on Saturday, September 21, 1909 at Nkroful in the Western region of Ghana. He married Helena Ritz Fathia, a relative of President Gamal Abdel Nassar of Egypt in 1958 and had three children with her.

Nkrumah was formerly known as Francis Nwia-Kofi, but he later changed his name to Kwame Nkrumah. Interestingly, the Fanti teacher who enrolled Francis Nwia-Kofi Ngonlomam into school inadvertently wrote "Nkrumah" for "Ngonloma" and it remained as such. After completing his elementary education at Half Assini, Nkrumah in 1927 entered the Government Training College in Accra (became known as Achimotta School later that year). He obtained his Teacher's Certificate from the College in 1930. His life as a schoolteacher was brief as in 1932 he became a student at the Roman Catholic Seminary at Amisano near Cape Coast. He left for USA in 1935 to further his studies and obtained his BA degree in 1939 and another one, this time in Theology in 1942, all from the Lincoln University in Pennsylvania.

By 1943, Kwame Nkrumah had annexed MSc Education and MA Philosophy degrees at the University of Pennsylvania, USA. Meanwhile, he had combined his studies with lecturership, a job he did so well

that he was voted the "Most Outstanding Professor-Of-The-Year" by 'The Lincolnian' in 1945. In the same year Kwame Nkrumah left USA for London, England to study Law for his Doctoral degree. He shortly met George Padmore in London and they teamed up to organize the Sixth Pan-African Congress in Manchester, England. Thereafter, Nkrumah intensified his activities for the de-colonization of Africa. He wrote his first book titled 'Towards Colonial Freedom' in 1947.

In December 1947 Nkrumah returned to Gold Coast and became the General Secretary of United Gold Coast Convention (UGCC). The Colonial government in 1948 detained him and 5 other Executive Members of the UGCC. Nkrumah was dismissed as the General Secretary of UGCC the same year due to his radical stand on independence. He had already formed the Convention Peoples Party (CPP); and declared Positive Action to demand Independence for the then Gold Coast in December 1949. He was arrested in January the following year and incarcerated.

However, while in prison, Nkrumah won the seat for Accra Central in an election held in February 1951. He was immediately released from prison to form new government. Kwame Nkrumah again won the 1956 elections leading to independence and subsequently declared Ghana's Independence on March 6th 1957.

Dr. Kwame Nkrumah then turned his efforts toward the unification of African States. He therefore held an All-African Peoples Conference in Accra in December 1958.

In 1960 Dr. Nkrumah declared Ghana as Republic. Unfortunately, he became the target of assassination attempts by his 'political enemies' as was seen in the Kulungugu bombing in August, 1962. Dr. Nkrumah narrowly escaped death in that attempt on his life.

He turned Ghana into One Party-State with himself as Life President in 1964. Political tension gripped Ghana and Dr. Kwame Nkrumah was deposed in a military coup d'état while he was on a peace mission to Hanoi, North Vietnam. He went to live in Conakry, Guinea after his overthrow in 1966 until he died naturally in a Romania hospital on April 27th, 1972. His body was brought to Ghana for a fitting burial on July 7th, 1972.



Lt. General Joseph A. Ankrah

(18th Aug., 1915 – 25th Nov., 1992)

The next head of government after Dr. Nkrumah was a soldier by profession. He was Lt. General Joseph A. Ankrah, a native of Accra.

Gen. Ankrah was recalled from enforced retirement following the February 1966 coup staged by Gen. Kotoka and Gen. Afrifa to be the chairman of the National Liberation Council (NLC) and head of state.

From a very humble beginning, Ankrah had worked hard to obtain his Cambridge School Certificate in 1937. Two years later, he was mobilized into West Africa Frontier Force on the outbreak of the Second World War.

In 1946, he trained as Officer Cadet in U.K. and was commissioned as Lieutenant in 1947. By the dint of hardwork he rose through the ranks over the years to become Lieutenant Colonel. In August 1960 he was appointed Colonel, a position that few Ghanaians could occupy at that time.

He was made a Brigade Commander of the UN Peace Keeping Force in Congo from 1960 to 1961. Ankrah exhibited excellent soldiering qualities that won him a promotion to Brigadier in 1961.

Unfortunately, 3 years after being the head of government has was forced to resign as the Chairman of NLC and head over a bribery scandal.

He died on 25th November 1992 leaving behind several wives and 18 children.



Lt. General Akwasi Amankwa Afrifa (24 April, 1936 – 16 June, 1979)

Upon the resignation of Gen. Ankrah in 1969, Lt. General Akwasi Amankwa Afrifa became the chairman of NLC and the head of government.

Afrifa was born at Mampong, Ashanti where he attended the Presbyterian Boys Boarding School. He had his Secondary education at Adisadel College, Cape Coast from 1952 to 1956.

He had his military training, first at the Regular Officer's Special Training School from 1957 to 1958; and at the Mons Officer Cadet School in Aldershot, England in 1958. From 1958 to 1960 he continued with his training at the Military Academy in Sandhurst, England; and in 1961 at the School of Infantry, Hythe in England. He returned to Ghana and became the Commander of the Rifle Company and, as a General Staff Officer from 1962 to 1964.

Afrifa was made the Commanding Officer of the Second Battalion of Infantry in 1966. It was during the same year in Kumasi where he was the Commander of First Infantry Brigade under Kotoka that the two planned and carried out the coup that toppled Nkrumah. He became a member of the eight-man ruling NLC, and a Commissioner of Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs. However, he took over as the Chairman of NLC and head of government in 1969 when Gen. Ankrah was forced to resign that position.

In 1972, Gen. Afrifa was arrested and detained for almost the whole year by the National Redemption Council regime under Gen. Acheampong.

He led the Popular Movement for Freedom and Justice to protest against UNIGOV and demanding the return of the nation to constitutional rule.

On 16th June, 1979 he was taken from his farm at Mampong and executed by firing squad after the June 4th, 1979 uprising.



Dr. Kofi Abrefa Busia (11th July, 1913–28th August, 1974)

Gen. Afrifa in October, 1969 handed over the governing of Ghana to Dr. Kofi Abrefa Busia and his Progress Party (PP) after the parliamentary elections of that year which the PP won 104 of the 105 seats contested. Thus, Dr. Kofi Abrefa Busia, a native of Wenchi in the Brong Ahafo Region became the second civilian head of government in Ghana after Dr. Nkrumah. He was anti – Nkrumaist stance.

The education and career life of Busia could be described as very academic. He entered Mfantsipim College at Cape Coast after completing his elementary education at the Wenchi Methodist School. Busia trained as a professional teacher in 1931 and 1932 at the Wesley College in Kumasi. From 1936 to 1939 he taught at the Achimotta College in Accra during which period he did a correspondence course to gain a first degree with honors in History from the University of London. He went to the Oxford University in England and by 1941 earned his BA degree in Politics, Philosophy and Economics as well as MA and Ph.D. degrees in Social Anthropology.

Dr. Busia returned to Ghana and worked as a District Commissioner from 1942 to 1949. He was appointed the first lecturer in African Studies at the University

of Gold Coast in 1949. Eventually, Dr. Busia became the first African to occupy a Chair in that University.

In 1951 the Ashanti Confederacy elected Dr. Busia to the Legislative Council. He became the leader of the Ghana Congress Party, which joined with the other opposition parties to form the United Party (UP). As a leader of the opposition against Nkrumah, Busia felt his life was not safe and therefore fled the country in 1959 to Netherlands where he worked as Professor of Sociology and Culture at the University of Leiden in The Hague. He later moved to the University of Oxford in England as Senior Member of St. Anthony's College.

Dr. Busia returned from exile in 1966 after Dr. Nkrumah's overthrow and got appointed as the chairman of the National Advisory Committee of the NLC. From 1967 to 1968 he served as the chairman of the Center for Civic Education selling himself as the next leader through his countrywide assignments.

In 1968 he formed the Progress Party when the ban on politics was lifted and won elections in 1969 to become head of government (as a Prime Minister following the British type of government). He adopted a liberalized economic system and devalued the cedis by 44% in 1971. This attracted a lot of resistance from the public and while he was away in London his government was ousted in a coup led by Colonel I.K. Acheampong on January 13th, 1972.



General Ignatius Kutu Acheampong (23rd Sept., 1931 – 16th June, 1979)

General Ignatius Kutu Acheampong used the general discontent against Busia's government to stage a coup in 1972 to become the 3rd military head of government in Ghana.

Acheampong schooled at Trabuom elementary school near Kumasi where he was born. He furthered his education at St. Peter's Catholic School in Kumasi and Central College of Commerce at Agona Swedru in the Central Region.

From 1945 to 1957 he worked at Timber Sawmill in Kumasi as Stenographer Secretary; at Kumasi Commercial College as a Tutor; and at Agona Swedru College of Commerce as Vice Principal.

He got enlisted as a Private in

Profile of Heads of Governments in Ghana since 1957

the Ghana Army in 1951 and later went to Cadet training at Mons, Aldershot. Upon his return to Ghana in 1959 he was commissioned Second Lieutenant. Determined to climb the ladder in the Army, Acheampong between 1959 and 1966 attended various courses including one in Personnel Administration at the Staff College. He also trained at Leavenworth, Kansas in USA and later became the Commanding Officer of the 5th and 6th Battalion.

Gen. Acheampong served as the chairman of Western Regional Committee of Administration from 1966 to 1971; and as the Commander of the First Infantry Brigade from 1971 to 1972.

When he assumed the head of government of Ghana in 1972, Gen. Acheampong reversed the devaluation of the cedis and refused to pay the debts Ghana owed the outside world. He also embarked on the "Operation Feed Yourself". However, by 1976 Acheampong's regime has become unpopular as a result of mismanagement and economics hardships.

His UNIGOV idea which was to do away with partisan government was vehemently opposed with massive protests. There were clashes with his opponents and some protestors were killed in Kumasi. On July 5th, 1978 Gen. Acheampong's second-in-command, General Fred Akuffo and other members of the ruling supreme Military Council (SMC) staged a palace coup and removed Acheampong as the head of government. Acheampong was confined to his hometown, Trabuom in Ashanti Region until he was picked up and executed alongside other top military officer on 16th June, during the 1979 uprising.



General Fredrick William Kwasi Akuffo (21st March, 1937 – 16th June 1979)

When Gen. Acheampong was removed in a palace coup on 5th July, 1978 General Fredrick Akuffo became chairman of SMC II and the head of government.

Akuffo who hailed from Akropong-Akwapim in the Eastern Region was educated at the Presbyterian Secondary School at Odumasi-Krobo from 1952 to 1955.

He got enlisted as an Officer-Cadet in the Ghana Army in 1957. He then studied at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, UK from 1958 to 1960; and at the Staff

College in 1967; and also at the National Defense College, India in 1973. Posts he held included: Commanding Officer, Airborne Training School in Tamale from 1965 to 1966; commanding Officer, 6th Battalion from 1969 to 1970; Director General of Operations and Planning, Ministry of Defense in 1970. Gen. Akuffo was appointed Army Commander in 1974 and Chief of Defense Staff in 1976.

When he took over from Acheampong, he initiated the return of the country to civilian rule by instituting a new Constitution Drafting Committee. He lifted the ban on politics though some prominent politicians were still banned.

Unfortunately, his efforts could not solve the country's economic problems, which sent workers demonstrating in the streets. Flt. Lieutenant Jerry John Rawlings and his men took advantage of the situation in the country and staged a coup d'état on the 4th of June 1979 to overthrow the SMCII. Rawlings became the chairman of ruling Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) and the fifth military head of government in Ghana. However, the AFRC handed over power to democratically elected head in September, the same year. Gen. Akuffo was shot by firing squad at the Teshie Military range with Gen. Acheampong and other on June 16th 1979.



Dr. Hilla Limann

(12th Dec; 1934 – 23rd Jan; 1998)

Flt. Lt. Rawlings and the AFRC organized elections in 1979 to return the country to civilian rule 3 months after the June 4th uprising. Dr. Hilla Limann who was the presidential candidate for the Peoples National Party (PNP) won the elections to become the third civilian head of government in Ghana. He was sworn in on 24th September, 1979 as the President of the Third Republic of Ghana.

Limann was born on 12th December, 1934 at Gwolu in the Upper West Region. He was named Babini but he was brought up by his uncle, Heli Limann whose name he (Dr. Limann) assumed on entering primary school. Limann attended Tamale Government Middle School from 1946 to 1949. He became a District Councilor at Tumu in the Upper West Region between 1952 and 1955.

In 1954, he lost

parliamentary elections as an Independent Candidate.

Limann left Ghana for London in 1957 and later to France where he obtained his Ph.D. in Political Science and Constitutional Law in 1965 from the University of Paris. He was made Head, Europe Desk at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 195 to 1968. In 1967 he served as a member of the Constitutional Commission.

After working with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as Head of Ghana's Mission in Togo and Counselor of Ghana's Permanent Mission in Geneva, Dr. Limann returned to Ghana in 1975 and when the ban on politics was lifted Alhaji Imoro Egala, a 'giant' in the PNP – a group of Nkrumahists-elected him to lead the party. Thus, Dr. Limann became the head of government when PNP won the elections in 1979.

He immediately replenished the depleted food stock in the country and launched the Gold Endowment Fund to attract investors to Ghana. Unfortunately, on 31st December 1981 Flt. Lt. Rawlings took power back from Dr. Limann in a military coup called "a revolution". Dr. Limann lived a private life till he died of natural causes on 23rd January, 1998 in Ghana.



Flight – Lieutenant Jerry John Kwasi Rawlings (22nd June, 1947-)

Flt. Lt. J.J. Rawlings came back to Ghana politics as the sixth military head of government in 1981 and 'metamorphosized' himself in 1992 to become the fourth civilian head of government and the President of the Fourth Republic of Ghana. His second and final term of office (by the constitution) expires at the end of this year, 2000.

The only head of government who is still alive is Rawlings. Though a native of Dzelokope in the Volta Region, Rawlings was born in Accra on June 22, 1947 and has since lived almost his whole life in Accra.

He schooled at St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School at Adabraka in Accra and furthered his studies at Achimota School also in Accra in 1966.

In August 1967 he got enlisted as a Flight Cadet at the Ghana Air Force Station in Takoradi, Western Region. He was selected for Officer-Cadet Training at the Military Academic, Teshie in Accra. Rawlings went for Military Training Course in Takoradi after which he was commissioned as Pilot Officer in January 1969 (won the coveted Speed Bird

Trophy as the Best Cadet in flying and airmanship). In April, 1969 he was promoted to Flight Lieutenant.

On May 28, 1979 Flt. Lt. J.J. Rawlings was arrested for muting of the junior officers and men of the Ghana Armed Forces. Before he could be sentenced on June 4, 1979 he was sprung from jail by Major Boakye-Djan and some junior officers. The coup makers formed the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) with Flt. Lt. Rawlings as the head. The AFRC did some 'house cleaning' by executing 3 former military heads of state and other military officers by firing squad. They handed over power to Dr. Limann and his PNP government in September, 1979. But Rawlings came back and ousted the Limann government in 1981. He formed the Provincial National Defense Council (PNDC) to carry out a "revolution".

In 1992, Rawlings resigned from the Army and contested elections on the ticket of National Democratic Convention (NDC) and won. He won again in the 1996 elections.



Mr. John Kofi Agyekum Kufour

Ghana's 4th Republic saw a smooth changeover from the NDC government to a new government of the National Patriotic Party (NPP) under the leadership of Mr. John Kofi Agyekum Kufour on January 7, 2001. Thus, Mr. Kufour became the fifth civilian head of government after Flt. Lt. J.J. Rawlings.

At the age of 62 years, Kufour who hails from the Ashanti Region of Ghana is the first opposition leader in Ghana to have beaten the incumbent government's presidential candidate to become the President of Ghana.

Like the first, second and third civilian heads of government, Kufour is well educated. He went to Oxford University in Britain and earned a Masters degree in philosophy, political science and economics. He was called to the bar at Lincoln's Inn in London in 1961 but he soon returned to Ghana and took to politics.

He became a member of the Constituent Assemblies, which drafted Ghana's republican constitution in 1969 and 1979.

Mr. Kufour won a parliamentary seat and was appointed Deputy Foreign Minister in 1969, when Dr. Kofi Abrefa Busia and his Progress Party (PP) came to power. Busia government was overthrown in 1972 and Kufour went into business running a brick and tile factory. However, he returned to politics in 1979 and became the Deputy Minority parliamentary Leader when Ghana returned to democratic rule. That was to be for short time since Flt. J.J. Rawlings overthrew the government of Ghana in 1981.

rule Ghana!) Kufour was then appointed by Rawlings as Minister for Local Government but after nine months in office Kufour resigned from Rawling's PNDC government due to political incompatibility. He then returned to entrepreneurship until 1992 when he came back to politics

Kufour lost the presidential elections to Rawlings in 1996 but stood again for presidency and won in 2000 to become the 5th civilian head of government of Ghana. He won the presidency for the 2nd time in 2004.

It is interesting to note that Ghana's new democracy since 1992 has seen stability and grown over the years. This is evidenced by the fact that the last two presidents of the country, in the persons of Rawlings and Kufour have both successfully served as heads of state for two consecutive terms of 8 years a term each. Kufour will hand over his presidency to a newly elected president in January, 2009, thus, ending successfully his second term in office as the Head of State of Ghana.



Prof. John Atta Mills

was born on 21 July 1944 at Tarkwa in western Ghana. He graduated in law at the University of Ghana in 1967 before pursuing his legal studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London. John Atta Mills then won a Fulbright scholarship at Stanford Law School in the US. He came back to his alma mater the University of Ghana as a lecturer for nearly 25 years. From 1986 to 1993, Prof Atta Mills was the Acting Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service and the substantive Commissioner during 1993-1996. He was then selected as the running mate to former President Jerry Rawlings for the 1996 elections, and served as vice president from 1997 to 2001. He was a keen hockey player, at one time a member of the national team, and also enjoyed swimming. President Mills had more than one dozen publications in the taxation and law fields to his credit. The 64-year old former President of Ghana was married to Ernestina Naadu Mills, a director of education and trained marriage counsellor. He died on July 12, 2012, the first sitting President of the country to die in office. We congratulate Kufour and Rawlings (the only heads of states of our country still alive) as Ghana celebrates its 51st independence anniversary.

cont'd on pg. 28

Profile of Heads of Governments in Ghana since 1957

cont'd from pg. 27



John Dramani Mahama: (July 24, 2012-2016)

John Mahama was born on November 29, 1958 at Damongo, in the Northern Region of Ghana. He is a communications expert, historian, writer, former Member of Parliament and Minister of State, and immediate former Vice-President of Ghana.

He ascended to the high office of President following the death of the incumbent President John Evans Atta Mills on Tuesday, July 24 in Accra.

After completing his education, President Mahama went on to pursue an additional postgraduate diploma in social psychology at the Institute of Social Sciences in Moscow, and returned to Ghana from 1991 to 1996. He worked as Information, Culture and Research Officer at the Embassy of Japan in Accra. another four-year term as the MP for the Bole/Bamboi Constituency. He was

again re-elected in 2004 for a third term.

From 2001 to 2004, President Mahama served as the Minority Parliamentary Spokesman for Communications and in 2002 he was appointed the Director of Communications for the NDC. He was sworn-in on Monday, January 7, 2013, as the fourth President of Ghana's Fourth Republic.

President Mahama has seven children. He is married to Mrs. Lordina Mahama.



Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo Addo (7th President of the 4th Republic, 7th January, 2017 – present)

Ghana's current President, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, has what many people have described as an impressive political record spanning about four decades. Born on March 29, 1944 Nana Akufo-Addo was raised at Swalaba in Accra to Mr. Edward Akufo-Addo and Mrs Adeline Akufo-Addo. He hailed from Kyebi in the Eastern Region. His father was Ghana's third Chief Justice from 1966-1970 and non-executive

President from 1970-1972. Their residence, Betty House at Korle Wokon in Accra, was the headquarters of the Ghana's first political party, the United Gold Coast Convention (UGCC) formed at Saltpond on August, 4 1947. Educational

Background He schooled at the Government Boys School at Adabraka, and was later to go to Rowe Road School which is now Kimbu Secondary Technical. He later went to England to study for his O-Level and A-Level examinations at Lancing College, Sussex. He taught at Accra Academy Secondary School when he returned to Ghana in 1962, before going to University of Ghana to read Economics in 1964. He earned a BSc (Economics) degree in 1967. He was subsequently to study law in the United Kingdom and was called to the English Bar (Middle Temple) in July 1971. Nana Akufo-Addo was called to the Ghana bar in July 1975. Akufo-Addo stayed in France for five years as a lawyer at the now-defunct New York-based international law firm, Coudert Frères. Political Career

He was the General Secretary of People's Movement for Freedom and Justice (PMFJ) which led "NO" campaign in the UNIGOV referendum of 1978 under General Ignatius Kutu Acheampong administration which was to solicit support against a one-party military government. In 1991, Akufo-Addo served as the Chairman of the Organising Committee of the Danquah-Busia Memorial Club. He travelled throughout the country to establish branches of the Club. These branches eventually metamorphosed into local organs of the New Patriotic Party (NPP) prior to the 1992 general election.

Nana Addo was elected three times from 1996 - 2008 as the Member of Parliament for Abuakwa South in the Eastern Region. He served his nation from 2001 to 2007 as Cabinet Minister, Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, and later as a Foreign Minister under the administration of President John Agyekum Kufuor with brilliance and distinction. Akufo-Addo contested the 2008 presidential race and received 4,159,439 votes representing 49.13 per cent of the valid votes cast, in the first round, but was not enough for the 50 plus one percent needed for an outright victory. In the run-off, Nana Akufo-Addo lost to the National Democratic Congress's (NDC) Presidential Candidate, Professor John Evans Atta Mills. .Akufo-Addo again contested in the 2012 national elections against the NDC candidate, John Dramani Mahama after the demise of President Atta-Mills on July 24, 2012. That election generated considerable controversy, and was finally decided by the Supreme Court in a narrow 5/4 verdict in favour of Mr Mahama. In the 2016 elections, Nana Akufo-Addo competed against six other presidential candidates including President Mahama, of the ruling NDC, Mr Ivor Kobina Greenstreet of the Convention People's Party and Dr Paa Kwesi Nduom of the Progressive People's Party. Nana Akufo Addo finally got his dream come true when on December 7, 2016 he won a clear majority in the Presidential elections. He polled 5,716,026 votes representing 53.85 per cent as against his main rival, President Mahama's 4,713,277 votes representing 44.40 per cent to win the contest in the first round.

Their Stories, Our History-Why the name Ghana?

By Joe Kingsley Eyiah, Toronto, ON

"There has never been a movement where the leader has not suffered for the cause and not received the ingratitude of the people. I like the rest am prepared for the consequences"- Marcus Garvey

This March (2023), Ghana celebrates her 66 years of independence from British colonial rule. This great nation of West Africa before its independence on March 6, 1957 was called Gold Coast! Why the name Ghana? Where from it? Is there anything symbolic and relevant in that name?

I would like to take my readers on a brief journey (education) into the history behind the name, Ghana. The stories of those who lived in the sub-region long, long ago have become that history of ours! Yes, the stories of today would become history for those who live tomorrow. And, as Nelson Mandela once said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." I couldn't agree with him the more!

From the Ancient Ghana to Modern Ghana:

The forefathers of the then Gold Coast led by Osagyefo Dr. Nkrumah chose the name Ghana for the new state from the old Empire of Ghana.

According to research, from ancient times, the Sahara of Africa has been the home to a few but not too well known civilizations. These ancient civilizations included the Ghana civilization established by the Soninke people after the fall of the Songhai Empire in the 3rd Century AD when they regained their land in the region. Earlier as far back as to 2000 BCE, the Soninke people had built the most ancient cultured settlements in Africa.

Some of these well-known locations include Tachitt Walata, Tagnant Cliffs, Augaduhst and Kumbi Saleh. The Soninke called their land "Wagadu" or "Ghanata."

It is on record that the citizens of ancient Ghana including the Soninke and, their kin tribes Mandinke and others they conquered believed in their God King. However, they also believed in spirits who 'occupy both living and non-living things.' Hmmm! Does that underscore the religious pluralism in our modern Ghana too?

Anyway, the Soninke people were very skillful and hardworking! They are described in History Forum as, 'very skilled artisans, craftsmen, workers, agrarian laborers, and even superb wordsmith whose oral griots are mimicked by other local tribes such as the "Mende". Soninke are thought to be one of the first people to utilize and capitalize on the use of "ironware" in the "Sahelian West African" region.' What? So citizens of ancient Ghana were very hardworking and even used their words to build a prosperous and peaceful society! Why are we of modern Ghana now seem to be doing exactly the opposite for our motherland? A word to the wise is enough!

The Meaning of 'Ghana':

"The Empire of Ghana was called that for the reason that Ghana means king in the Soninke language, Islamic and European scholars named it after the king because it seemed the king controlled everything. Indeed the king of Ghana was very powerful but not a tyrant.

"The King's power was moderately regulated by

those who were in charge of taxes, army, justice, and other duties."

The foregoing statements about the meaning of Ghana raise serious questions for us, citizens of present Ghana. I dare to ask the following:

1. Did the first King (President) of modern Ghana, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah become a tyrant and therefore lost 'his Ghana'?
2. Is the present King (President) of Ghana, Dr. John Atta-Mills not in control of affairs of our nation, as he ought to be?
3. Are people put in trust of positions of the nation's economy and our justice system over the years failed and failing Ghana miserably?
4. Is every citizen of Ghana become a King (President) of our motherland by our unbridled tongues and unpatriotic behaviors?

More could be asked but suffice these few questions for the sake of our brief journey into history behind the name 'Ghana'.

In conclusion, I think Osagyefo Dr. Kwame Nkrumah and the pioneers who chose the Ghana for our sovereign country 55 years ago were thoughtful and mindful of its meaning. They knew that Ghana was symbolic of the trade in gold as well as salt, iron textiles and crafts; and hardworking in industry of agriculture as well as good management in governance. Let have faith in the name Ghana and as we celebrate our 55th birthday vow to live up to the good name of Ghana,

Ghana, forward in progress! HAPPY BIRTHDAY.

Remembering Ghana's 1st President Dr. Kwame Nkrumah @ 66

As Ghana celebrates its 66th independence anniversary, the memory of its founding father Kwame Nkrumah is back in the public limelight. But his legacy in Ghana and across Africa leaves much to be desired.

As Ghana celebrates the 60th anniversary of its independence on March 6, Kwame Nkrumah's name will stir varied thoughts and emotions across the nation of 27 million. "Today, [Kwame Nkrumah](#) is a name clouded in mystery and controversy," Atsu Aryee from the University of Ghana told DW.

That was different in the early days of his rule. When Ghana gained independence from Britain in 1957, Nkrumah was cheered on by masses of his supporters. "At long last, the battle has ended. Ghana, our beloved country is free forever," Nkrumah declared to chants of "Viva" from the crowd.

In the first years after independence, his government started an ambitious economic program aimed at industrializing the country which heavily depended on agriculture. The Volta River hydropower project is still a main electricity provider in Ghana. But many other projects have failed and the large state-owned enterprises he created amassed huge debts due to corruption and mismanagement.

Ghana's public also soon saw the other side of the firebrand politician who had so strongly advocated for freedom. Nkrumah's rule became increasingly authoritarian. In 1964, he turned Ghana into a one-party state and later declared himself president for life. Some 10,000 Ghanaians, many of them members of the country's elite, sought refuge abroad. With the economy in free fall, simmering anger at his rule was growing. His government was finally toppled by soldiers while he was on a trip to China in 1966.

A waning legacy



But experts say his politics also contributed to the fact that Ghana remains a largely stable country. It never disintegrated into civil strife like many of its neighbors, despite a series of military take-overs in the 1970s and 1980s. "His legacy is the nationalism and patriotism he brought in when he was in power," the University of Ghana's Atsu Aryee said.

"This sense of that we are all Ghanaians, that we have one country and that the country must be stable."

But it's a legacy that is waning. Scores of school children still line up to visit his mausoleum in the capital Accra. But only a few comprehend what Nkrumah was all about.

"Kwame Nkrumah is still an important name in Ghana, because [he led Ghana to independence](#). But many young people do not really know what happened during his time as president and prime

minister," Burkhardt Hellemann, head of the Ghana office of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation told DW. The Konrad Adenauer Foundation is a political foundation aligned to Germany's ruling CDU party.

"You can feel that his name still has some influence, but I don't see his political concepts shaping present-day political debates," Hellemann said. Nkrumah's political outfit, the Convention Peoples Party (CPP), which he established in 1949, now plays only a minor role in Ghana's political arena.

Many young Ghanians know little about Nkrumah's presidency. *Image: picture-alliance/dpa/T. Ridley*
Popular in the continent

Kwame Nkrumah's name remains popular with many people in sub-Saharan Africa. In 2004, the "New African" magazine asked its readers to choose the greatest Africans of all times. Nkrumah came in second behind South Africa's former president and anti-apartheid icon Nelson Mandela.

Nkrumah was greatly influenced by the concept of pan-Africanism during his stay in the United States. He was one of the continent's most influential political leaders at his time.

"Today there is a new African in the world. This African is ready to fight his own battle and manage his own affairs," he told a jubilant crowd on independence day in the capital Accra.

He argued for a pan-African union as a strong force to counter Western influence. Nkrumah is one of the founding fathers of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), the predecessor of the [African Union](#).

Here is why I.K. Acheampong implemented Operation Feed Yourself in 1972

Once in Ghana's history, there was an economic crisis that compelled the country to rely solely on home-grown foods.

This was because the international community was angry at Ghana as a result of a decision that was taken by the then-head of state, General Ignatius Kutu Acheampong.

When he took over as the country's leader through a coup in 1972, he cancelled Ghana's external debts of about \$601,807,880.

In an attempt to deal with the repercussions of his decision, General Acheampong brought about a policy called 'Operation Feed Yourself'. This policy was an ambitious program aimed at propelling Ghana towards self-sufficiency in food production.

The policy was to ensure that everybody practices backyard gardening or at least grows something, be it maize, tomatoes, pepper, etc.

In the end, there were enough staple foods and vegetables, among others, for consumption in the country.

'Operation Feed Yourself' was also a way to reduce the impact of the sanctions imposed on the country by the international community.

A septuagenarian who witnessed



this period described it as one of the best moments in Ghana's history.

The former Member of Parliament for the Twifo Atti-Morkwa Constituency, Abraham Dwoma Odoom, speaking with GhanaWeb's William Narh on People & Places, reminisced about the widespread impact of the policy.

"The 'Operation Feed Yourself' policy went down to every aspect of our social lives. That

was the time Kutu Acheampong came up with the policy of 'Yen tua' [We won't pay]. The World Bank loans, the IMF loans, and the others, he said we were not going to pay. He also said that people who owed ate; therefore, he envisaged that there was going to be a cut on imports or people bringing in goods. The alternative, then, was to let us grow our own food.

"You could see gardens in almost every backyard. Schools had their gardens, and institutions like the prison service had their farms. Individuals also had their tomatoes, onions, and others. I can say that was one of the best times food was very cheap and available in our country," he stated.

The former MP added that the military leader, Kutu Acheampong, would forever be remembered for the Operation Feed Yourself policy.

To him, it is because the benefit was immediately seen across the country.

"At the time, I was not so mature, but at least we saw that Ghana was going through some transformation and transition, that is what I can say. But the good thing that he brought that I still cherish is 'Operation Feed Yourself'. He brought people on board, making sure that Ghanaians were really planting and growing what they ate. For me, if I want to remember Kutu Acheampong, I will remember him for that," he stated.
ghanaweb

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Invest in Developing Tech Skills of Ghanaian Youth *Dr Bawumia to Telecel Group*

cont'd from pg. 14

communication but also creating opportunities for economic growth and social empowerment for the underprivileged.

Extolling the virtues of the introduction and growing use of Mobile Money, Vice President Bawumia urged the management of Telecel to explore the many opportunities available for deepening financial inclusion, saying although much had been done, there was more to do.

The value of mobile money transactions as of December 2016 was GH¢78.5billion. However, since the introduction of Mobile Money Interoperability between different networks and bank accounts, there has been a very rapid expansion in the volume of transactions. In 2023, mobile money transactions hit a record GHC199.3 trillion, which represents 64.3% increase from the previous year. This has made Ghana the number one country in Africa for financial inclusion, because we have achieved 100% availability and inclusion for every Ghanaian.

“The opportunities that the Mobile Money platform, backed by the introduction of Mobile Money Interoperability, has created is enormous. I commend your company for the role it has played in the past, but most importantly, I urge you to strive to do more as mobile money is one of the surest ways to promote financial inclusivity.”

Welcoming the Telecel Group to Ghana with a hearty “Akwaaba”, Dr Bawumia urged them to be worthy partners for national development.

“I applaud your commitment to corporate social responsibility through the Telecel Foundation and Africa Start-Up Initiative Programme (ASIP). Your initiatives to support education, healthcare, and support for start-ups reflect your dedication to making a meaningful impact beyond business success. This aligns perfectly with our government’s vision of building a more equitable and prosperous society for all Ghanaians.

“As key players in the telecommunications industry, I urge you to uphold the highest standards of ethics, transparency, and corporate governance in all your endeavours. I have no doubt that this brand will not only thrive but also contribute significantly to the advancement of our nation’s telecommunications sector.”

Telecel Group

The Telecel Group acquired Vodafone International’s 70% stake in Ghana Telecom in February 2023, with the Government of Ghana retaining its 30% stake. The two organisations have since been working to synergize their operations, with changes in leadership and operations. Patricia Obo-Nai, first Ghanaian CEO of Vodafone Ghana, has been tapped as the first CEO of Telecel Ghana.

Operating in over 27 countries, with over six million active subscribers, Telecel aims to digitally empower Africa through technology, connecting remote areas for inclusivity, and focusing on education as a catalyst for growth and accessibility, according to its Board.

Speaking at the launch, the Chairman and Co-founder of the Telecel Group, Mr. Nicolas Bourg, said the company intends to focus on “positive disruption and innovation in the Ghanaian telecoms market,” adding “we chose to invest in Ghana because of the manifest potential of the youth and people of Ghana.”

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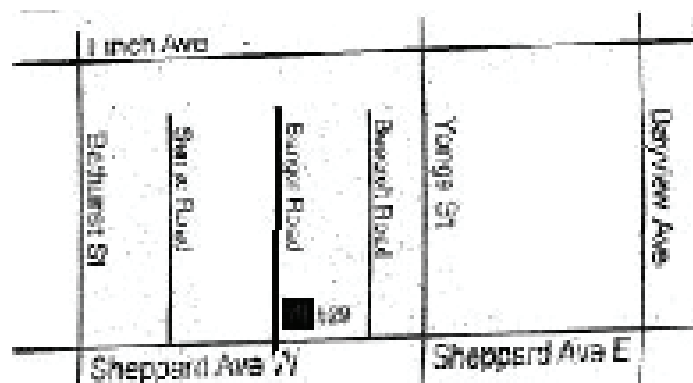
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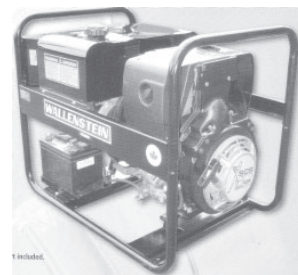
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GHANA chalks 67th Milestone of Nationhood

cont'd from pg. 22

and no sanctions have been invoked against him.

By a twist of circumstances, President John Evans Atta Mills died "suddenly" through as yet unexplained circumstances on 24th July 2012. He was immediately succeeded by his Vice president, John Dramani Mahama to complete the last six months of the term of his mandate. John Dramani Mahama led the NDC through another bitterly-fought elections in December 2012 with their main opponents, the New Patriotic Party led by Nana Addo Dankwa AkufoAddo.

John Mahama was declared winner of the Presidential elections in some very questionable circumstances by the Electoral Commissioner, Dr. Kwadwo Afari Djan. Not satisfied with what they termed as an electoral fraud, the New Patriotic Party challenged the election results and the legitimacy of the declaration of Mahama as President to the Supreme Court of Ghana, as stipulated under Ghana's constitution. The election petition, heard by nine of the Supreme Court Judges, ran for eight months from January 2013 to August 2013. On August 29, 2013, the Supreme Court released a very questionable judgment dismissing the electoral petition of the NPP. The ruling was so bizarre that the integrity of the court and some of the judges were called into question.

Between 2012 and early 2016 the social and economic life of the country deteriorated to low levels never seen in the country's history. The most painful of these have been the long disruptions to electricity and water supplies. The most affected places have been the large urban centers where businesses have collapsed as a result of constant water and electricity supply disruptions. Ghanaians have disparagingly termed the frequent power interruptions as "dumsor, dumsor", literally meaning constant on and off switching of power. Cost of living has soared to levels never seen in the country's 60-year history, with the then presiding government of John Dramani Mahama seemingly oblivious to solutions to the social and economic problems facing the people.

Ghana as a nation has over the past sixty seven years fulfilled the declaration and prophesy of its first leader, Kwame Nkrumah who declared on independence night, the right of the country to "manage or mismanage" its own affairs. Overall Ghana has succeeded in "mismanaging" its affairs much better than "managing" its affairs. We have earned very high marks in the field of economic,

political and social mismanagement of the nation. The future has looked really bleak for the nation and its citizens.

In early January, 2016, Ghanaians were again hit by another shocking news: The Mahama government had accepted or settlement in Ghana two terrorists who had been held by the United States at its terrorists detention center at Guantanamo Bay near Cuba. This news created extreme fear and heightened anxiety among Ghanaians. Instead of explaining the rationale for this reckless action to allay the anxiety of Ghanaians about the presence of known terrorists amongst them, the government and its officials rather resorted, as has been its modus operandi, to insulting any citizen who dared raise his/her voice and concern about this issue.

It was amidst these very hopeless national conditions and life that Ghanaians went to the polls on December 7, 2016 to choose a President and a new Parliament. The results of the elections underscored and manifested the extreme anger of Ghanaians. They delivered a defeat to the ruling President John Mahama and his party, the NDC never recorded in the electoral history of the country. The contest, again between Mahama and Nana AkufoAddo resulted in the resounding victory for Nana AkufoAddo who beat his opponent by a margin of more than one million votes.

His party, the New Patriotic Party (NPP) won an absolute majority grabbing 169 of the 275 Parliamentary seats. These elections also made history making John Mahama as the first sitting President in Ghana's history to be defeated as a one-time President.

The new President, Nana Addo Dankwa AkufoAddo was sworn in as the seventh President of the Fourth Republic of Ghana on Saturday January 7th, 2017. The new Government has been in power for the past thirty-seven months as at the time of writing this piece. We can say that the AkufoAddo administration has taken a number of positive steps but still struggling to stabilize the nation and its economy.

One of the critical areas the government tackled in a bold, but risky endeavor was the clean-up operation of the Banking sector in the country which was over-bloated with all kinds of "Banks" with questionable credentials and corrupt management. In all, thirteen Banks were dissolved, some consolidated into a single indigenous Bank known as the Consolidated

Bank. A number quack and dubious financial institutions operating Ponzi schemes under the guise of "micro-financing" were also shut down, the largest and most dubious among them was an entity known as **Menzgold** which claimed to trade in "gold collectibles" promising their clients a whopping 120 per cent a year in interests on their investments. Many Ghanaians bought into these Ponzi schemes and were swindled of millions of cedis in the process.

Challenges, however remain which will require the maximum attention of all the brains and expertise in the government, with active support and collaboration from the citizens to turn the fortunes of the nation around. So far the indications are that a number of leakages and holes through which corruption was being perpetuated with impunity by public officials are not blocked. Then came the appointment of a Special Public Prosecutor, the first of its kind in Ghana, to investigate and prosecute all known and reported cases of corruption in Ghanaian public life is commendable and historic but nothing has happen so far.

The most significant of the economic and social interventions introduced by the AkufoAddo-led government are the agricultural flag-ship program dubbed **Planting for Food and Jobs**. By all accounts, this program which actively encourages and supports citizens to go into farming has been a huge success with the nation abounding in bumper food harvest some of which are now exported to neighboring countries.

The second, most popular and notable is the introduction of the free Senior High School education under which all students entering Senior High Schools are enjoying fee-free and boarding, lodging and clothes free education. This is perhaps the most significant as 1.2million students have benefitted from this program as at September 2019. But there is a set back of not many students find job after graduation

In 2019, the government launched a program called **The Year of Return**, a commemoration of 400 years of the infamous slave trade and slavery from African to the Americas and Caribbean. The program was designed to encourage the return "home" of our compatriots in the Diaspora. It saw the trooping to Ghana of many people of African descent from around the world as well as visits from high-profile personalities from around the world, including the then Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, Madam Nancy Pelosi. By all accounts as well, this program was a resounding success in terms of the promotion of Ghana as a tourist destination and enhancing Ghana's image abroad.

As we celebrate this year's anniversary, we all need to pray and thank our ancestors and our Gods that our nation has existed and survived these last 67 years without been plunged into the bloody agitations and political mess that have engulfed some of our continental neighbors. God should bless our homeland, Ghana and make our nation great and strong.

Presidential and Parliamentary Elections will be held this year on December 7, 2024. Some evil-minded citizens keep "prophesying" doom and disaster, but Ghana will weather these election storms and come out strong, steadier and firmer.

We wish Ghana well in the coming months. We hope that we will be able to write positive stories about Ghana by year's end after the Elections 2024. As Ghanaian citizens at home and abroad celebrate this 67th milestone of Ghana's nation-building, we congratulate all for contributing their quota in diverse ways to make our nation great, strong and the toast of the rest of the world.

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THEME

INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE AND APPROACH: BRIDGING TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE WITH MODERN SOLUTIONS FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE



About the Conference

EELL 2024 conference on "Indigenous Knowledge and Approach" promises to be a platform for learning, collaboration, and the celebration of the profound knowledge of indigenous communities. We are inviting all stakeholders, indigenous representatives, and climate enthusiasts to join us in exploring how the integration of indigenous knowledge can lead to a more resilient and sustainable future.

key objectives:

1. Integrate Indigenous knowledge into modern climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies.
2. Promote cultural resilience and encourage partnerships and collaboration between indigenous communities, policymakers, scientists, NGOs, and the private sector.



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PROPHET JOSEPH DAMALIE

Host
REV. MILTON OFFEI

Easter 2024 Convention

THEME - EXODUS 12: 13-28

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THURSDAY 28TH MARCH EVENING-7PM

FRIDAY 29TH MARCH MORNING - 9:30AM
EVENING- 7PM

SATURDAY 30TH MARCH MORNING- 9:30AM

SUNDAY 31ST MARCH MORNING- 9:30AM

RSVP : 4162427950


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Easter ²⁰²⁴ CONVENTION



THEME

LOVE THE RISEN CHRIST

Bible Text: **MATTHEW 28:9**

LOCATION

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Program Schedule

28TH - 31ST MARCH 2024

THURSDAY TO SUNDAY

Daily Schedule

Thursday: 7:30pm
Friday Morning: 10:00am
Friday Evening: 7:30pm
Saturday: 10:00am
Sunday Morning: 10:00am



Host

**REV ISAAC
DE-GRAFT
TAKYI**

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Assembly of God



2024 Canadian International AutoShow

By Ebenezer Amankwah, Toronto, ON

The 2024 Canadian International AutoShow took place from February 16th to 25th at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre.

The AutoShow welcomed 371,559 people to the venue during the run of the show,

the highest attendance in the 51-year history of the event.

The 2024 AutoShow hosted 44 automotive brands — a significant increase from the 28 who were at the first post-pandemic show in 2023. The Show also featured 31 new vehicle debuts.



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416-743-4555 (Office) 905-216-2323 (Residence)

Day and Time of Worship:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Sunday: Bible Class Meeting: | 10:00 a.m. - 10.30 a.m. |
| Church Service: | 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. |
| Jericho Hour Prayer Meeting - | 8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. |
| Wednesday Mid-day Prayer - | 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. |
| Friday: Bible Teaching/Prayer Meeting | 8:00 p.m. - 9.00 p.m. |
| Saturday Organizational Meeting: | 6.30 p.m. - 9.30 p.m. |
| Sunday Brampton Prayer Meeting | 8:00 p.m. |

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Felix Gyimah (289-931-8443)

Edmonton Methodist

778-237-7339

Redemption Methodist Church

Location: 955 Wilson Ave., Unit 12, North York, ON

Weekly Service Schedule: Monday 7 pm - 8 pm
Online Bible Study: Thursday 7 pm - 8:30 pm, Prayer Meeting Friday 7:30 pm - 9 pm
Divine Service, Sundays 10 am - 12:30 pm
Contacts: Agnes Donkor - 647-881-4808, Felicia Owusu - 647-533-1093, Grace Kubi - 647-608-5373

Ottawa Methodist

613-315-3443

Holy Trinity Methodist Church, Montreal

Place of Worship: 455 Church Street - Beaconsfield Qc H9W 3S6

Day and Time of Worship

Sunday Divine Service: 12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Friday Prayer Meetings: 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Contact: Bro. Joselin Twumasi 438-881-6640

Ebenezer Methodist Church

Stoney Creek United Church (Chapel)
1 King Street West, Stoney Creek,
Hamilton

Contact: Bro. Kofi Bonsu 289-684-6074

Worship Time: 11 am to 1 pm

Peniel Methodist Church Vancouver

#2322 1248 82 Ave.
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Twi/Ga
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- *

WEDNESDAY

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7PM
5PM
- *

FRIDAY f 10M

TEACHINGS/PRAYERS

7PM
- *

LAST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH

HALF NIGHT

8PM
MIDNIGHT
- *

SATURDAY GROUP

MEETINGS

4PM
9PM
- *

MORNING (MON-FRI) on

PRAYERS

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5:30am

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FOOD FOR LIFE

Bringing the Gospel to our Community *By Rev. Isaac De-Graft Takyi*

THE CHRISTIAN IN 2024: LOVE THE RISEN CHRIST: FOCUS ON THE RESURRECTION

QUOTES

“Our old history ends with the cross; our new history begins with the resurrection.” Watchman Nee

“The resurrection is a fact of history, but it is also the experience of the soul.” A.W. Tozer

“The resurrection gives my life meaning and direction and the opportunity to start over no matter what my circumstances.” Robert Flatt

In the annals of history, few events carry as much significance and transformative power as the resurrection of Jesus Christ. This pivotal moment, embedded in the heart of our Christian faith, marks the triumph of life over death and becomes a beacon of hope that has resonated across centuries.

At the core of the Christian narrative is the belief that Jesus, after being crucified and laid to rest in a tomb, defied the natural order by rising from the dead on the third day. This resurrection, as the Bible affirms, is not merely a miraculous event but a



profound testament to the divine power that transcends mortal limitations.

The resurrection of Christ stands as the cornerstone of Christian theology, weaving a tapestry of hope and redemption for believers. It symbolizes the victory over sin and death, offering a promise of eternal life that echoes through the corridors of faith. In the face of life's tribulations, the resurrection becomes a source of solace, a reassuring light that pierces

through the darkness of despair.

Beyond its theological implications, the resurrection carries practical and transformative benefits for individuals. It serves as a catalyst for personal renewal, inviting believers to shed the weight of past mistakes and embrace a life marked by forgiveness and grace. The narrative of Christ's resurrection extends an invitation to all, urging a departure from a life burdened by sin to a life characterized by spiritual rebirth and transformation.

Moreover, the resurrection narrative empowers believers to confront life's challenges with unwavering courage. The assurance that Christ conquered death becomes a wellspring of strength, inspiring resilience in the face of adversity. It transforms fear into faith, despair into hope, and uncertainty into a steadfast belief in the triumph of good over evil.

The resurrection of Christ is not a distant historical event but a living reality that shapes the identity of millions around the world. It fosters a sense of community among believers, uniting them in a shared experience of hope and redemption. This communal bond transcends geographical boundaries and cultural differences, creating a global fellowship rooted in the transformative power of the resurrection.

As we reflect on the resurrection

of Christ, we encounter a timeless narrative that continues to inspire, uplift, and challenge. It beckons us to embrace the hope it offers, to live with the assurance that, in the face of life's uncertainties, there exists a triumphant victory over death. The resurrection stands as a testament to the enduring power of faith, love, and the boundless possibilities that arise when we dare to believe in the miraculous triumph of life over death.

When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ² And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³ And they were saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?” ⁴ And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large. ⁵ And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. ⁶ And he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. ⁷ But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.” ⁸ And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid. Mark 16:1-8

Society of Ghana launches revised bilingual Ewe-English standard version

The Bible Society of Ghana recently introduced the revised bilingual Ewe-English Standard Version Bible (diglot) at the Dela Cathedral of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPCG) in Ho-Kpodzi.

According to Graphic Online, this diglot aims to enhance personal Bible reading and study in both languages, serve as an academic resource, and support individual and group devotions.

The launch event, themed “We heard them speak in our own language,” was attended by members of the church community.

The Moderator of the General Assembly of the EPCG, Rt Rev. Dr Lt Colonel (rtd)

Bliss Divine Kofi Agbeko, delivered a sermon emphasizing the importance of making the Bible accessible to all. He noted that true discipleship requires engagement with God's word.

Rev. Dr Agbeko highlighted the significance of the diglot, stating that hearing God speak in one's own language is a profound experience. He encouraged parents to prioritize teaching their children their mother tongue alongside other languages.

The diglot, he explained, is not intended to replace the Ewe language but to facilitate easier translation of scriptures and promote fluency in both languages among readers.

ghanaweb.live

KIA passengers to pay \$20 on round-trip tickets from 1 May

From 1 May 2024, air passengers would be required to pay \$20 for baggage belt overhauling and other maintenance issues at the Kotoka International Airport.

A letter from the management of the Ghana Airports Company Limited (GACL) addressed to the Chairperson of the Airport Operators Committee of the Kotoka International Airport, dated 11 March 2024 and signed by Mrs Yvonne Nana Afriyie Opare, MD, Ghana Airports Company Limited, said the fee would apply to all round-trip air tickets.

“Further to discussions with the

executives of the Airport Operators Committee regarding our baggage belt overhauling and maintenance issues, the Board of Directors of Ghana Airports Company Limited, in consultation with the Ministry of Transport, is instituting maintenance charge of \$20 on all round-trip airline tickets (\$10 to be charged [each] way)”.

“This fee will be effective May 1, 2024,” the letter indicated.

It added: “Thank you for your partnership and cooperation in our shared vision of excellence operations and passenger experience.” ghanaweb.live

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6PM - 7PM : SUNDAY SCHOOL (ZOOM)

TUESDAY

10AM - 12PM - PRAYER - ONLINE

WEDNESDAY

7PM - 8:30PM : BIBLE STUDY

FRIDAY

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314 Rexdale Blvd. Etobicoke, Ont. M9W 1R6




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Rev. Milton Offei

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Church Activities

Sunday School: 10a.m. -11:00a.m.
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Wednesday Bible Studies: 7p.m. - 8:30p.m.
Friday Prayer Meeting: 7p.m. - 9:00p.m.



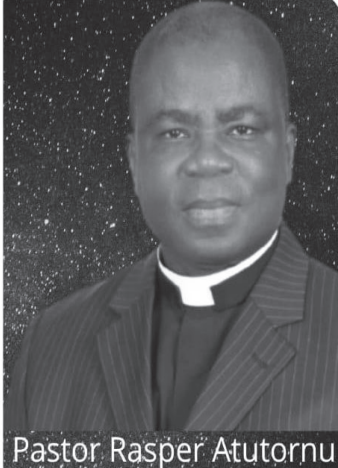
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Church Of Christ Ghanaian Congregation - Toronto

Address: 101 Westmore Drive, Unit 206, Etobicoke (Highway 27/Finch)

Time of Worship: 10am - 12:15pm

Contact: *Bro. Fordjour Acheampong: 416-671-4268*

Bro. Agyenim Boateng: 647-656-9905 Bro. Christian Kpodjie: 647-405-2068

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| Wednesday Bible Teaching | 7:30pm - 8:45pm |
| Friday's Prayer & Deliverance | 7:30pm - 10:00pm |
| Last Friday of Every Month (Hall-Night) | 9:00pm - 10:00am |

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WEEKDAY SERVICES:
Wednesday - Bible Studies 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Friday - Holy Ghost Service 7:00 pm -9:00 pm

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Pastor-in-charge: Pastor Eric Amoah

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Wednesday: Bible Study
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Friday Night Prayer: 8p.m.-10p.m.




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Pastor Joseph Nash Sarfo
Founder & Pastor-in-charge

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. 11. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. Amen.
John 10 :10-11

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6 serious wars that made Ghana what it is today

Ghana was never as peaceful as it is today. In fact, the journey to political stability started way back even before Independence in 1956

Written history dating back to the 1800s shows how our ancestors waged bloody wars between themselves and colonial masters all in the thirsty search for political freedom. For those of us who read history at high school or university, you may remember some of these battles including the most famous Yaa Asantewaa War. In this article, we shall be exploring some 7 popular wars of the 19th Century which shaped the landscape of culture and politics in Ghana.

1. Yaa Asantewaa War

This popular war is also called the War of the Golden Stool. It happened in 1900. It is documented to be the final bloody and massive war between Ashantis and the British Colony. It all started when the British Imperial Government of the Gold Coast demanded that the Ashantis surrender the Golden Stool to them. This stool was and continues to be the throne and symbol of the Ashanti Region. The demand for the Golden Stool by the British ignited the anger of the Ashanti Kingdom whose King, Prempeh I, had been in exile. The only queen of Ejisu, Yaa Asantewaa, took it upon herself to lead the battle against the British. Unfortunately, Yaa Asantewaa lost the war leading to the arrest of chiefs including the Queen Mother of Ejisu, Yaa Asantewaa, who got exiled to the Seychelles, for 25 years.



2. Sagrenti War



Defeated Asantes bowing before their colonial masters (Photo credit: Getty Images)Originally called the “Sir Garnet Wolseley War”, the Sagrenti War happened between 1873 to 1874 between the Asantes and the British Empire. An army under Sir Garnet Wolseley crossed the Pra River into the Asante territory. The war was called “Sagrenti War” mainly because Ghanaians could not pronounce the name Sir Garnet. The British force, this time proved too strong for the Asante who, after a long and tough fight, agreed to sign a peace treaty at Fomena. At about the same time the British defeated the Anlo people in the Volta area. On the 12th of September, 1874, the whole of Southern Ghana including Anloland became a British colony.



3. Ashanti-Fante war of 1806

This was a fierce war between the Ashanti and Fante Confederacy. The disagreement between the Ashantis and Fantes is documented to have grown more severe during the start of the 19th century. It all started when the Asantehene of the Ashanti punished some people for robbing graves. But these charged persons were granted refuge by the Fantes. This led to a war between the Fantes and Ashantis resulting in the loss of over a 1000 lives.



4. Ga-Fante war of 1811

The Ga-Fante war in 1811 was an intense tribal war which continued for years between the Gas and Fates who were also fighting against the friends of both tribes. The Asante won the pitched battle, but then had to retreat in the face of the guerrilla tactics used by the Akwapim in the Akwapim Hills, where the Asante had the disadvantage of not knowing the terrain so well. Akwapim, battled also against the Europeans by conquering Dutch fort at Apam and a British one at Tantankweri.



5. Battle of Nsamankow

British colonialists staging fierce fight against Asantes The Battle of Nsamankow happened in 1824. It was a first fierce war between British colonial forces and the Ashanti Empire The British force under Charles McCarthy was defeated by an Ashanti force. It is unknown who won this battle but written history shows that 80 British troops were outnumbered by over 10,000 troops.



6. Battle of Amoaful

The Battle of Amoaful was a battle fought on 31 January 1874 during the Third Anglo-Ashanti War when Sir Garnet Wolseley defeated the Ashantis after strong resistance. The attack was led by the 42nd Regiment of Foot. At Amoaful, one combat post-mortem pays tribute to the Ashanti commander: “The great Chief Amankwatia was among the killed. Admirable skill was shown in the position selected by Amankwatia, and the determination and generalship he displayed in the defense fully bore out his great reputation as an able tactician and gallant soldier.” Lance-Sergeant Samuel McGaw won the Victoria Cross during the action. Source: Yen.com.gh

Health Canada clarifies eligibility for seniors under national dental care plan

Those who purchased insurance themselves — or opted out of pension programs they can't rejoin — will qualify

The federal government has posted [updated information online](#) on who is eligible for Canada's national dental care plan.

The additional details come [after seniors raised concerns](#) about whether their existing private dental insurance plans disqualified them from the public plan.

A spokesperson for Health Canada told CBC News that people who purchased private dental insurance plans on their own will qualify for the national program — but only after their existing private policies are no longer in effect.

Those with access to private dental coverage through their work or

professional organizations remain ineligible for the [Canadian Dental Care Plan](#). They're ineligible even if they decided to opt out of their private insurance, haven't made a claim, or have to pay a premium, the website says.

Ottawa has now added an exception for retirees who decided not to sign up for private dental insurance offered through their pension plans. If they opted out of those dental plans before Dec. 11, 2023, and aren't allowed to opt back in, they qualify for the national program.

A spokesperson for Health Canada told CBC News its website was updated Monday.

Health Minister Mark Holland said his department looked at situations where retirees had chosen to opt out of their pension dental plans before the national program was announced.

“[That] put a few people in limbo, where there was a question mark about whether or not they were going to get their coverage. We've said no, that's fair. That person should be able to get the coverage,” Holland said Tuesday during a funding announcement in Iqaluit.

1 million Canadians signed up so far

The \$13 billion Canadian Dental Care Plan is expected eventually to cover an estimated nine million low and middle income Canadians who don't have private dental insurance.

“This is really about filling in the gaps, making sure that everybody gets coverage, as opposed to displacing existing plans,” Holland said Tuesday.

Ottawa has been [sending letters to eligible individuals inviting them to apply](#), starting with the oldest first. In March, eligibility opened to seniors

aged 70 and older. Coverage is set to begin in May. The program is expected to be open to all eligible applicants by 2025.

More than 1 million Canadians have signed up for the plan, Citizen's Services Minister Terry Beech said during question period last week.

In order to qualify, applicants must have no access to private dental insurance and household incomes of less than \$90,000 a year. They also must have filed a tax return and be Canadian residents.

Dental associations have recommended seniors not opt out of or cancel any existing dental care insurance until Ottawa provides more details on who and what is covered.

CBC News

Half a million people in Toronto don't have a family doctor, college says

More than half a million people living in Toronto don't have a family doctor, the Ontario College of Family Physicians said on Tuesday.

That number could reach nearly one million by 2026, it forecasted.

“Family medicine is under enormous strain right now due to system-wide issues. However, we believe it's possible to turn this crisis around and let family doctors get back to what they most want, which is to be there for their patients,” Dr. Mekalai Kumanan, president of the college, said in a news release.

Many family doctors are expected to retire in the coming years and there aren't enough doctors choosing family medicine to replace them and keep up with population growth, the release said.

Some family doctors are also leaving the profession because they have an overwhelming amount of administrative work and don't practise medicine in a multidisciplinary team environment with other health-care professionals to support patient care, it said.

Across the province, 2.3 million people don't have a family doctor, it said, predicting that could grow to 4.4 million patients by 2026.

The college called on the Ontario government to retain more family doctors by upgrading outdated administrative systems, investing in more comprehensive team-based care for patients and ensuring fair compensation that keeps up with inflation.

“There have been some positive signals from government, such as recent funding for some teams and a commitment to address the admin burden,” said Kumanan.

“But it's time for Ontario to act urgently and provide family doctors with the support they need to continue caring for Ontarians.”

Hannah Jensen, spokesperson for

provincial Health Minister Sylvia Jones, pointed to an announcement on Feb. 1 pledging “the largest expansion of interprofessional primary care teams since they were established in Ontario.”

“We are investing \$110 million, triple the original amount set out in our 23/24 budget to create and expand 78 primary care teams, that will ensure 98 per cent of Ontarians are connected to a primary care provider over the next

several years,” Jensen said in an email.

The provincial government has also launched initiatives to help reduce both the administrative burden on physicians and the risk of delays for patients, she said.

Those include replacing the use of fax machines in health care with digital communications for things like referrals and prescriptions, Jensen said. *The Canadian Press*

Toronto's top doctor urges March Break travellers to check their measles vaccination status

Toronto residents are being asked to check their measles vaccination status before their March Break travel plans due to what the city's top doctor is calling a global “resurgence” of the disease.

“With March Break approaching, it is a good time for everyone to check their immunization status and ensure they are fully vaccinated against measles, especially before travelling,” Toronto's Medical Officer of Health Dr. Eileen De Villa said in a news release issued Wednesday.

The advisory comes amid an international rise in measles outbreaks, including at least five cases reported in Ontario since the start of the year. Of those cases, public health officials have said all but one was linked to recent travel.

Citing a decline in measles vaccinations globally during the COVID-19 pandemic, Toronto Public Health (TPH) said anyone who has not had two doses of a measles vaccine, such as measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) or measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella (MMRV) or has not had measles in the past, is at risk of infection.

Last month, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health warned of “potential outbreaks” of measles infection in the province and asked physicians to encourage vaccinations and report any possible cases.

“While measles is no longer considered endemic in Canada, outbreaks can happen when susceptible individuals (e.g., unvaccinated) travel to and return from countries where measles is circulating,” Dr. Kieran Moore wrote in a February memo.

“Importation and resultant local transmission can, and has, led to measles outbreaks in Canada.” Measles vaccination is free in Ontario and all residents are eligible for a shot. TPH said school-aged children who need to catch up on their routine vaccinations can book an appointment [here](#).

Individuals born before 1970, when measles was widely circulating, are considered to be immune from the disease, TPH said. Those unsure about a previous measles infection are encouraged to get a dose of MMR vaccine for best protection. Anyone born after 1970 needs two doses of the vaccine and those unsure of their vaccination status should

contact their health-care provider, TPH added.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?

Symptoms of measles include:

- High fever
- Cold-like symptoms
- Cough
- Runny nose
- Small spots with white centres inside the mouth
- Sore eyes
- Sensitivity to light
- A red blotchy rash lasting four to seven days

WHAT TO DO IF YOU CONTRACT MEASLES

TPH has provided the following guidance on what you should do if you think you've contracted measles:

- Seek medical care if symptoms arise particularly after travel or exposure to a measles-infected person
 - Call ahead to clinics for precautionary measures and testing
 - Do not attend work or school
 - Remain watchful for symptoms even if vaccinated against measles
 - Follow medical advice promptly for proper care and containment
- CTV News

Health/Lifestyle

Measles: Symptoms and treatment

Symptoms of measles

Symptoms can appear 7 to 21 days after being infected with the measles virus. People infected with measles can spread it to others before they have symptoms.

Initial symptoms include:

- fever
- cough
- runny nose
- red, watery eyes

Small, white spots may appear inside the mouth and throat 2 to 3 days after symptoms begin.

About 3 to 7 days after symptoms begin, a rash that looks like small red spots:

- develops on the face
- spreads down the body, arms and legs

The rash can last 4 to 7 days.

Most people recover from measles within 2 or 3 weeks.

Complications of measles

Common complications from measles include:

- ear infection
- pneumonia
- diarrhea

Severe complications, while rare, can result from a measles infection, such as:

- respiratory failure
- inflammation and swelling of the brain (encephalitis)
- death

Long-term complications of encephalitis can include:

- blindness
- deafness
- intellectual disability

It's also possible to develop a neurological condition called subacute sclerosing panencephalitis 7 to 10 years after recovering from measles. It affects the brain and can develop even if it looks like you've fully recovered from the initial infection. The condition is fatal and the risk of developing it may be higher if you have measles before 2 years of

age.

People who get measles while pregnant may:

- have a miscarriage
- go into premature labour
- give birth to an infant with low birth weight

If you become ill

If you or your child develop symptoms of measles, isolate at home and call a health care provider immediately. Let the health care facility know you might have measles. They will take appropriate precautions to prevent spread to others as soon as you arrive.

Do **not** go to a health care facility or office without calling ahead first.

Diagnosing measles

It's very important to diagnose measles early to help prevent it from spreading to other people.

Health care providers may suspect measles based on your symptoms and your possible exposure to the virus. For example, they may ask you if:

- you're aware of an outbreak in your community
- you've had exposure to someone with measles
- you've recently travelled to a place where measles is present

A health care provider will likely collect a sample to confirm the diagnosis with a lab test, which may include:

- a blood test
- a urine test
- swabs from the back of your nose or throat

Learn more about:

- [Measles: Travel health advice](#)
- [Travel vaccinations](#)

Treating Measles

There's no specific antiviral medication for a measles infection. Treatment helps relieve symptoms, and in some cases, treats or helps to prevent severe complications. Most people with measles recover at home, but people with severe measles may require hospitalization.

A health care provider will likely:

- recommend medication to reduce your fever
- tell you to drink plenty of fluids and get lots of rest
- tell you to stay home until 4 days after the rash first appears to limit the spread of the virus to other people

If your symptoms worsen and you need to seek health care, call ahead. This way, a health care provider can arrange to see you without spreading the infection to others.

If you're diagnosed with measles, your local public health unit will be in touch with you to try to figure out:

- how you became infected
- who else you have been in contact with who was possibly exposed to the virus

This is called contact tracing.

Most people fully recover from measles within 2 or 3 weeks if they don't develop complications.

Public Health Agency of Canada

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2023 African Games: Nigeria overtake Ghana on medal table after winning 7 gold medals in a day

Team Nigeria has leapfrogged Team Ghana on the medal table of the ongoing 13th African Games.

Nigeria, who were 10th, have moved 7 places up on the ladder after amassing a staggering seven gold medals on Sunday, March 10, 2024.

Anuoluwapo Opeyori won Nigeria's first gold medal following a win over his countryman Godwin Olofua in the final of the men's Badminton Singles.

A few moments later, all six representatives of the West African country claimed six gold medals in the Women's Wrestling to complete a 7-gold medal haul.

The impressive performance on Sunday took Nigeria's medal tally to 26, which included 7 gold, 7 silver and 12 bronze. They are behind Egypt who lead with 66 medals, Algeria who are in second place with 39 medals and South Africa who sit third with 28 medals.



Nigeria's women's wrestling team

Meanwhile, Ghana who were 7th have dropped to 10th on the medal table with a total of 4 medals - 1 gold and 3 silver.

Winnifred Ntumi won Ghana's first gold after winning the women's 45 kg

weightlifting. She further won two silver medals in the other divisions on Sunday, March 10, 2024.

Abeiku Jackson won Ghana's first swimming medal and the host country's third silver after placing second in the men's 50m butterfly.

Joseph Esso returns to Dreams FC after struggling in Algeria



Ghanaian striker Joseph Esso

Ghanaian striker Joseph Esso has rejoined Dreams FC following a difficult stint in Algeria.

Esso originally joined Dreams FC in 2020 from Hearts of Oak and scored 11 goals for the team before moving to MC Alger.

After a strong start with MC Alger, Esso struggled to find his footing and eventually became unattached.

However, he has now returned to Dreams FC, looking to help the team with his experience and skills.

Dreams FC are currently in the knockout stages of the CAF Confederation Cup, and Esso's addition is expected to boost their chances of success.

The team is currently sitting in 11th place with 25 points, with two games in hand. They are also in the quarter-finals of the MTN FA Cup.

His familiarity with the team and its style of play is expected to make him an asset in the remainder of the season.

Dreams are looking to continue exceeding expectations in the CAF Confederation Cup. With Esso's addition, the team hope to build on their momentum and make a deep run in the competition.

While the details of Esso's contract have not been disclosed, his signing is seen as a positive move for Dreams FC.

They are eager to capitalise on his experience and goal-scoring ability, as they aim to achieve success both domestically and internationally.

Why Ghanaian badminton players were transported to African Games in a pickup - GBF president reveals

Evans Yeboah, the president of the Ghana Badminton Federation has detailed the circumstances that led to some national team players being transported to the African Games centre at Borteyman in the bucket of a pickup truck.

Evans Yeboah explains that using a pickup truck to transport the players was a last-minute solution to a problem.

He noted that it was an emergency move to make sure the players could still take part in their scheduled competitions on Sunday, March 10, 2024.

Speaking to the press on the sidelines of a press conference on Monday, March 11, 2024, Evans Yeboah stated that the bus which was to shuttle the players from their base at Tema to Borteyman had broken down and that the pickup truck became the only available option.

"On that morning, the bus that they were using had broken down on the



Leslie Addo and his teammate lost their match

expressway. So the coach, in his own wisdom, decided to bus them, as an interim measure. By the end of the day, their regular bus schedule resumed and there was no problem," he said.

"We have also gotten the players a top psychologist to work with them and I can say that emotionally, they are okay now," he said.

The unfortunate experience of the Ghana badminton players was brought to light by Leslie Addo who was a member of Ghana's double men's team.

According to him, the team had no option but to use the private pickup vehicle owned by their coach. He narrated that, the space in the car was not enough, hence some of the players had to risk their lives and sit in the bucket of the car.

Lamenting the woes the team has faced, Addo said, "You guys have not supported us."

He added, "Today when we were coming to play our matches, we sat in our coach's vehicle and it was a pickup, so most of us were in the bucket. We didn't get any transport. We are the host nation, playing for the country and no one is supporting us."

I have not retired from the Black Stars - Anthony Annan

Black Stars midfielder, Anthony Annan, has stated that he has not retired from international football.

According to the former Schalke 04 man, he has 'stepped aside' for the new generation to bring Ghana success but he has not retired.

Speaking with Pipapipa Media on YouTube, Annan, who is currently in Germany, said he has not retired from football yet.

"I'm still Ghanaian and I've played for the Black Stars before. For now, some new players deserve the chance to play. We need to support them. I wouldn't say I've retired but I have to step aside for the new players to have the opportunity," he said.

"I have not retired yet. I just came to Germany and I will see about that. If I get the chance to play again, I will. And if I feel I should retire, I will," he added.



Anthony Annan

Anthony Annan, 37, established himself as one of the best defensive midfielders in the country's history during his active years between 2007 and 2013.

He was a pivotal member of Ghana's famous 2010 squad that finished second in AFCON and quarter-finals of the World Cup.

He has made 67 appearances for the Black Stars scoring two goals during his six active years with the national team.

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FOOD AND RECIPES

Traditional African Dishes

Compiled by Nana Ama, Toronto, ON

HOT CROSS BUNS

These sweet spiced buns, best when freshly hot out of the oven, are traditionally served on Easter, marked with a cross to symbolize Jesus's crucifixion.

Ingredients

1 lemon
1 navel orange
1 cup sugar
3/4 cup currants
1/8 tsp. allspice
1/8 tsp. cinnamon
1/8 tsp. nutmeg
1 1/2 tsp. active dry yeast
1 cup milk, warmed to 115° F
2 cups all-purpose flour, plus more for dusting
2 cups bread flour
1/2 cup sugar
2 tsp. kosher salt
6 tbsp. unsalted butter, softened, plus more for greasing
2 eggs, lightly beaten
1/4 cup orange marmalade
1/4 cup confectioners sugar



Instructions

Remove sections of the lemon peel in 1-inch strips and, using a paring knife, trim off any of the white pith. Julienne the strips and repeat the process with the orange. Combine sugar and 1 cup of water in a 1-qt. saucepan over high heat; bring to a boil and cook until sugar has dissolved, 1-2 minutes. Reduce heat to medium-low and add lemon and orange pieces; simmer for 8 minutes. Remove from heat and cool. Drain and combine with currants and spices; set aside.

In the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the dough hook, combine yeast and milk; let sit until foamy, about 10 minutes. Add the butter, half the eggs, and the dry ingredients; mix on low speed for 8-10 minutes, until a smooth dough forms. Remove from bowl and place on a lightly floured surface; fold in the fruit mixture, working until just evenly distributed. Place the dough in a lightly greased bowl, cover with a kitchen towel, and let rise until doubled in size, about 60-80 minutes.

Divide dough into 10 equal sized pieces; working with one piece at a time, roll into balls. Place balls onto a sheet tray lined with parchment paper; cover with a kitchen towel and let rise again until doubled in size, about 45 min.- 1 hour.

Heat oven to 325° F. Combine remaining egg with 1 tbsp. water; lightly brush each roll with egg wash. Bake for 20 minutes, rotating halfway. Remove from oven and cool for 15 minutes.

In a 1-qt. saucepan over low heat, combine orange marmalade and 1 tbsp. water; stir until marmalade loosens. Brush each roll with the marmalade glaze and let stand an additional 10 minutes until glaze sets.

Combine the confectioners' sugar with 2 tsp. water. Pour into a piping bag and pipe crosses on rolls. Serve warm.

EASTER DINNER BUNS

Dough

1 cup warm homogenized milk (250 ml)
1/4 cup sugar (60 ml)
1/4 cup unsalted butter, melted (60 ml)
1/2 Tbsp salt (7 ml)
3 cup all-purpose flour (750 ml)
1 egg
1 envelope (1/4-ounces) active dry yeast
flour, for bench flour

Assembly

1 egg
1 Tbsp milk (15 ml)

Directions

Dough

1. In a small bowl, combine sugar with 1/2 cup warm milk and mix well. Add the yeast and stir. Let the mixture stand for about 10 minutes, until it foams.

2. In another bowl, combine the egg and remaining 1/2 cup warm milk and melted butter



EGUSI SOUP

Ingredients

4 1/2 cups (600g) Egusi (Melon) seeds

2 cooking spoons red palm oil

Beef: Best cut and Shaki (cow tripe)

Fish: Dry Fish and Stock Fish

3 tablespoons ground crayfish

Pepper and Salt (to taste)

Vegetable: Nigerian pumpkin leaves, spinach or bitter leaves

3 small stock cubes

1 Ogiri Okpei (traditional locust bean seasoning: optional)



Directions

Boil the shaki, stock fish and dry fish in 1 litre of water with the stock cubes till they are well done. First sign of a done shaki is that the cuts will start curling on itself.

Wash the beef to be used for the soup, add it to the pot and cook on medium heat till done.

As soon as the shaki, fish and meat are done, add crayfish and pepper, stir and remove all the meat from the stock (water used in cooking the meat and fish) and place in a different pot or plate.

Add the ground egusi to the stock and stir. If the stock from cooking your meat and fish is not enough to give you a medium consistency, add some water to get the consistency of evaporated milk or a bit thicker. It will not be as smooth as evaporated milk though.

Cover and cook till the egusi cakes. Stir and add a little bit more water. watch it closely so that it does not burn.

Repeat step 3, adding only a small quantity of water at a time. After about 25 minutes, you will notice the clear egusi oil coming to the surface of the soup.

Add the red palm oil and bitter leaves (if it is your choice of vegetable), pepper and salt to taste and cook for about 7 minutes. You know it is good to continue when the palm oil and egusi forms a good blend of light yellow colour.

Add the cooked meat and fish. If using pumpkin leaves or any other soft vegetable, add it at this time and stir the soup.

Add salt to your taste, stir and leave to simmer for 2 minutes maximum.

Turn off the heat. Leave to stand for about 5 minutes before serving.

The egusi soup is ready to be served with Garri (Eba), Semolina Fufu, Amala, Cassava Fufu or Pounded Yam.

3. In the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the dough hook, combine the flour and salt by hand. Add the yeast mixture and the egg mixture. With the stand mixer, start mixing the dough on low speed. Increase speed as flour is incorporated. Continue to mix until dough comes together. Increase machine speed, knead dough until it comes together.

4. Turn the dough out onto a floured surface and knead for 6 to 8 minutes, adding more flour if necessary, until the dough is smooth and elastic. Put the dough into a large oiled bowl and cover with plastic wrap. Leave overnight in the fridge or alternatively let proof until doubled in a warm spot for 45 minutes.

Assembly

1. Punch down dough and turn it out onto a floured surface. Tear off pieces of the dough and form sixteen 1 1/2-inch balls. Roll them onto a surface to make smooth. Place in a buttered 8 x 8 x 2-inch pan. Let rest, covered, in a warm spot, until doubled in size, about 45 minutes.

2. Preheat oven at 350 degrees F.

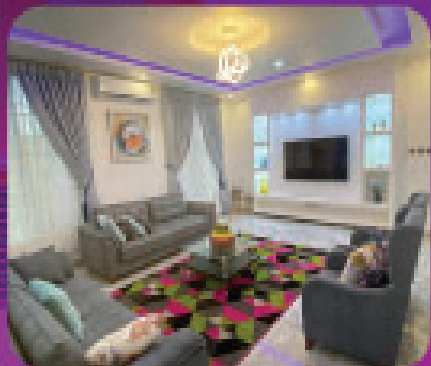
3. In a small bowl, whisk together the egg and milk to make an egg wash. Using a pastry brush, generously coat the top of the buns with the egg wash. Bake the dinner buns for about 13 to 15 minutes or until they are golden brown. Serve warm and pull apart at the table.

4. Yield: 16 servings



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