

GHANA Palaver

The First With The News 70P



Odikro Wants To Know

Whether it is true that that 'kpashialala awushi' woman, who decamped from the National Democratic Congress (NDC) to the elephant party, is scheming her way back into the NDC as a mole for the NPP?

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Peter Mac Manu, NPP Chairman

HEADS BROKEN

...As Confusion Rocks La NPP Elections

SCORES of party supporters of the New Patriotic Party (NPP) at the weekend had their heads smashed with dozen others sustaining serious and varied degrees of

injuries when confusion erupted disorganizing the La Dadekotopon Constituency branch election of the party.

The confusion followed a misunderstanding which ensued as

a result of four contestants being disqualified.

As though the contestants had been told of their fate even before the elections, they along side with

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NDC Bears Teeth At Government Officials

• In The Contest Of Party Positions

THE ruling National Democratic Congress (NDC) has barred Government Officials, Members of Parliament,

Ambassadors, District Chief Executives and Members of the Council of State from contesting for any National Executive position in the party.

The positions are National Chairman, National Vice Chairman, General Secretary, Deputy General Secretary, National

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Haruna Idrissu, Minister & NDC Youth Organizer



Ama Benyiwa Doe, CR Minister & NDC Women Organizer

Plight Of Tomato Farmers To Be Over in Six Months --Says Trade Minister

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GHANA Palaver

EDITORIAL

NDC MUST NOT GO THE WAY OF NPP

OVER the past two weeks, there have been disturbing developments in the camp of the ruling National Democratic Congress (NDC) which give cause for concern and which if not addressed promptly, can spell doom for the party in its attempt to achieve a better Ghana.

Though many are quick to emphasize on the fact that internal wrangling in any party are part and parcel of strengthening the roots of democracy, it is not entirely true that the wounds of a badly wounded party can be healed and unity achieved, for we have seen it before.

Recent uproar in the NDC in connection with party chairmen trying to voice out their concerns of neglect and the seeming verbal onslaught by former president J.J Rawlings on the government, not forgetting the Majority Leader's supposed tirade at the weekend on radio are happenings that need to be brought to an end now.

Whatever issues need to be addressed urgently, the opposition New Patriotic Party (NPP) admittedly is the first to point to the fact that no matter whatever the circumstances, it is always wise and favourable to have one's party in power whilst some party concerns remain unattended to than try to have resolved all concerns whilst in opposition.

For the NDC having been in opposition for eight years and now finding itself in power should be the first not to shoot itself in the foot.

The "Ghana Palaver" does not at this point find it worthwhile re-engineering the wheel and finding faults and ascertaining who acted right in the present brouhaha, but we are of the opinion that the need for dialogue is very urgent and paramount in resolving the current impasse.

The government may be slow and the concerns of many are admittedly not addressed but the need for addressing such needs quietly is essential.

The government is too young and the NDC still not in a position to stomach the present happening.

Whatever the situation, we at the Ghana Palaver appeal to the government of President John Evans Atta Mills to make room for pertinent issues confronting the party to be resolved peacefully.

It the same vain, we appeal to the founder and the NDC regional Chairmen to also not play into the hands of the opposition whose present stock in trade is to create division in the NDC.

For it happened to NPP, and we all saw it and the NDC, for the sake of the many who toiled and sacrificed everything they had to ensure that the party comes to power must not go the way of the NPP.

Government To Safeguard Security Of Petroleum Operations

Government has constituted a high level committee of security and legal experts to draft a policy document which aims to safeguard operations in the oil and gas sector, Dr Joe Oteng-Adjei, Minister of Energy said last Friday.

In an address read for him at a day's workshop on a framework to extend the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI) to the Oil and Gas Sector, Dr Oteng-Adjei said the security policy document will create a safe, secure and enabling environment to facilitate the exploration, exploitation and distribution of oil and gas.

"More specifically, the policy will protect the petroleum industry against acts of terrorism, sabotage, piracy and vandalism," the Minister said.

Besides, it will prevent the diversion and stealing of petroleum products, prevent other users of the sea from interfering with operations, maintain general law and order and render timely response to emergencies in the oil and gas sector.

Ghana signed up to the EITI mechanism in 2003 to enhance improved governance in the mining sector through full publication and verification of

company payments and government revenues.

Government plans to extend EITI from the mining area to the oil and gas sector. The workshop, therefore, was to allow stakeholders to discuss the draft framework.

Dr Oteng-Adjei urged the participants to make useful inputs into the document to strengthen it to make it to stand the test of time.

He said efforts should be made to ensure that transparency go beyond the monitoring of the flow of oil revenues to all contracts signed between the extractive companies and the government.

Mr Seth Terpker, Deputy Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, said lack of effective governance benchmarks, weak institutions and the lack of transparency had led to corruption in some mineral rich countries.

He said government was committed to a timely extension of the EITI principles to the oil and gas sector as part of measures to manage the resources that flow from them prudently.

"It is necessary for the transparency, prudence, checks and balances we seek to permeate the entire value chain-from negotiation of contracts to utilisation of the resource that flow from such contracts," he said.

While admitting that there would be



Dr Joe Oteng-Adjei, Minister of Energy

challenges, the Deputy Minister said ability to evolve effective rules, laws, systems and procedures that stand the test of time could help resolve the problems.

Mr Terpker asked participants to evolve solutions for the short, medium and long term interest of the country.

Muslims Told To Promote Peace In Bawku

MUSLIMS have been urged to play leading roles in ensuring that lasting peace returned to the Bawku Municipality and its environs as they celebrate Eid-ul-Adha.

They should also use the occasion to pray unceasingly, have interpersonal interactions with the people and explain, with teachings from the Holy Quran, the need to forgive and seek peace with your fellow humans.

The Upper East Regional Imam, Alhaji Yusif Adams, made the call at this year's Eid-ul-Adha Prayer at the Abilba Number one Junior High School Park, in Bolgatanga at the weekend.

Alhaji Yusif indicated that the use of violence to settle scores in the Bawku area was consistently taking valuable lives, especially that of the vulnerable, but said absolute peace was achievable if Muslims would add prayers to spreading the message of

peace.

The Regional Imam used the occasion to formally announce the death of the Bawku Area Imam, Sheikh Mohammed Danane, and called on Muslim compatriots to remember him in their prayers.

The Upper East Deputy Regional Minister, Mrs. Lucy Awuni, reiterated the need for all players in the Bawku conflict to appreciate the need to halt the continuous unproductive

disturbances and work towards rebuilding the Municipality.

She noted that mere talks could not solve the Bawku problem as it had grown with multiple dimensions and said prayers from all facets of religious groupings were necessary for solving the conflict.

She reminded Muslims to take the education of their children seriously especially, that of the girl-child, and said Education is one of the gifts parents should bequeath to their children.

--GNA



Sheikh Nuhu Sharabutu

Plight Of Tomato Farmers To Be Over in Six Months

THE Minister of Trade and Industries, Ms Hannah Tetteh has assured farmers in the Upper East Region that within the next six months their plight in the production of tomato in the region would be over.

She said the government was determined to revamp the Pwalugu factory to help reduce poverty further assuring that a ready market for tomato to prevent glut of the produce during this year's harvesting period has been created.

She said government was negotiating with the Investment Bank and other financial institutions to support the Pwalugu Tomato factory to purchase the produce.

Ms Tetteh gave the assurance when she visited the Northern Star Tomato Factory at Pwalugu in the Talensi-Nabdum District and some farmers in the Tono Irrigation site at Navrongo, to find out how best government could solve problems facing the farmers at the weekend.

She said the factory was producing

below capacity as it needed about 800 metric tones of tomato to fully operate every month.

Ms Tetteh said government would expand irrigation facilities, offer more farm inputs at subsidized prices to tomato farmers to enable them to increase production to feed the factory.

Ms Tetteh stressed that within the next six months the plight of the tomato farmers in the region would be over and said government was determined to revamp the factory to help reduce poverty.

She appealed to Management of the Irrigation Company of Upper Region (ICOUR) to ensure that the country became self sufficient in food production, especially rice.

Ms. Tetteh visited personnel of Customs, Excise and Preventive Service and the Ghana Immigration Service at some security posts in the region.

She advised them to work harder to generate more revenue for development to prevent the country

from relying on donors.

The Managing Director of ICOUR, Alhaji Issah Bukari said Irrigation facilities in Tono and Veve could be expanded if the necessary support was provided and suggested the adoption of drip irrigation.

He said that if farmers were resourced properly the country could become self-sufficient in rice production at least by 80 per cent.

Mr. Ahmed Bogobire, leader of the farmers, said people who took loans to invest in tomato production faced difficulties because of the lack of market.

He commended government for subsidizing the price of farm inputs in the area and appealed to the authorities to include tomato farmers in the package.

The Regional Minister, Mr. Mark Woyongo said that the Regional Coordinating Council would discourage traders from buying tomatoes from Burkina Faso, to create market for the vegetable in the region.

Muslim Leaders Urged To Preach Peace, Unity And Prosperity

MR. Mahmud Khalid, the Upper West Regional Minister on Friday appealed to all Muslim Leaders in the region to continue to preach peace, unity and prosperity for the betterment of society.

He said Islam means peace and all Muslims must endeavour to "smoke the peace pipe to protect and uplift the integrity of the religion, provide a better society and live a legacy worth emulating for the upcoming generation.

Mr. Khalid who made these remarks during the celebration of this year's Eid-ul Adha at Wa asked Muslims to see the occasion as a day for sharing and reconciliation.

The Minister reminded them that the stress free Hajj that the Muslims Pilgrims went through this year had clearly demonstrated government's commitment to address the numerous problems faced by the Muslim community in the country.

He urged them to be hard working and be patient with government while it found concrete solutions to address challenges confronting education, health, agriculture, road infrastructure and electrification.

According to him, government had so far demonstrated its determination to tackle the issues in the agricultural sector by providing tractors, subsidized fertilizer and the introduction of "Block Farming".

Mr. Khalid commended the people of the region for living in peace with a few Chieftaincy disputes that needed to be resolved.

The Regional Minister to appealed to the Wa Municipal Traditional Authorities to put their act together and enskin a chief for the Municipality.

He said the Municipality had operated for far too long without a chief and this according to him was a set back as far as development of the Municipality was concerned.

Dr. Suleman Bakuri, the Chief Imam, thanked the government for putting in place proper mechanisms that enabled this year's Pilgrims to go through a smooth hajj process.

He urged 'Muslim brothers' to continue to support the government in prayer so that it could deliver on its promise of a better Ghana for all.

Other Muslim leaders present at the occasion said a word of prayer for the government, the Security Agencies and the people of the region for collaborating with each other to make the region a very peaceful one.

Meanwhile, the Ashanti Regional Minister, Mr Kofi Opoku-Manu, on Thursday also joined thousands of Muslims at the Kumasi Central Mosque to mark the Eid-ul-Adha, the festival of sacrifice.

He urged the Moslems to use the occasion to renew their resolve to uphold the peace and lead upright lives.

The Minister said they should also ensure that the level of violence, lawlessness and other anti-social activities that tend to be high in their various communities were brought down.

"The nation needs peace and tranquillity to ensure development."

Mr Opoku-Manu said it was important for all to help prevent the situation where huge resources that could have gone into productive activities to make life better for people, were spent on conflict resolution.

He said the readiness of Abraham to sacrifice his beloved son to the almighty God should tell them that as Moslems they should not allow anything to stand between them and Allah. "Our commitment to his dictates should be total."

Mr Opoku-Manu asked them to stand solidly behind government to turn the economy around and gave the assurance that President Mills' administration would never renege on its promise to ensure a better Ghana for all.

Sheikh Abdul Moumin Haroun, the Deputy Ashanti Regional Chief Imam, led the congregation to say prayers. --GNA

HEADS BROKEN

Cont. from Page 1

their supporters stormed the election grounds with all sorts of offensive implements, thus resulting in the chaos and blood shed which marred the process.

The aggrieved and disqualified persons would not let reason prevail despite the presence of well armed police personnel from the Kpeshie District Police who intervened with some elders of the party to calm down tempers of the disqualified contestants.

The disqualified contestants are Mr. Isaac Nii Armah Komey, who was vying for the position of Secretary, Mr. Joe Ala Adjetej, Assistant Secretary and Mr. B.M. Kofi, First Vice-Chairperson and Mr John Tetteh Annang, Treasurer. Supporters of the contestants were said to have responded angrily to the announcement of the disqualification of their candidates sparking the violence which culminated in the trading of stones and the bartering of some of the officials present leading to some others falling unconscious.

Eight people were arrested while scores of others who were injured were rushed to the La General Hospital for medical attention.

According to Mr. Nii Armah Komey, the timing of his disqualification was inappropriate since he had gone through all the qualification procedures including that of the vetting process necessary to make his candidacy complete stressing that in the party's rules and regulations, disqualified persons should be informed through writing four clear days to the election, indicating the reasons and thereby giving the contestants ample time to defend themselves.

The National Chairman of the NPP, Mr. Mac Manu was unavailable for his comments on the matter.

Meanwhile, reports reaching the "Ghana Palaver" indicate that the disqualified contestants are up in arms brazing themselves for a court action, if no immediate action is taken to address what they call "an aberration in the application of the rules and regulations governing the electoral process".

Check Rot At Swedru Vocational Training Center

THE Student Representative Council(SRC) of the National Vocational Training Centre at Agona Swedru has called on the Minister of Manpower and Social Welfare to investigate alleged financial malfeasance at the school.

This would halt corrupt practices on the part of some school authorities.

Master Zegeson Laing, President of the Council said these at the school on Wednesday at Agona Swedru, when the students attempted to stage a protest march against authorities.

The Students, wearing red arm-bands and read head gears chanted war songs, accusing their teachers of cheating and all sort of practices that could jeopardize their future.

According to Master Zegeson, classes were held ones a week, a situation that could affect their academic performance, adding that there were not enough tables and chairs compelling some student to stand during

teaching.

He noted that there was no toilet facility at the school and students both boys and girls were compelled to use an abandoned one.

He said the accountant of the school, Mr. Felix Quansah had allowed teachers to collect school fees, a situation that was against government's directives to pay the fees in bankers draft or money order at the banks.

The President said the four of nine juvenile prisoners at the school had absconded due to poor care on the part of the authorities.

Mr. Isaac Adengabi, headmaster of School when contacted confirmed most of the allegations and said that "the practice whereby some teachers collected school fees was an oversight".

He said the poor facilities at the school were common problems facing Vocational Training Centers especially schools under Ministry of Manpower and Social welfare nationwide.

--GNA

GCB Posts Outstanding Performance In 3rd Quarter

GHANA Commercial Bank, the most widely distributed bank in Ghana, has recorded an outstanding performance in the third quarter of the year posting almost 80 percent increase in interest income.

The bank's earnings per share also experienced an upward adjustment, rising by 31.16 per cent over the previous year's figure of GH¢0.0953p for the period.

The Gold Coast Security (GCS) Limited financial analysis of the bank copied to Ghana News Agency on Friday said GCB also rewarded shareholders in the third quarter with a growth of 2.98 percentage points over the 12.16 per cent captured last year as return on equity.

The report said return on assets also increased but marginally, from 1.53 per cent to 1.82 per cent.

GSC says with a current ratio consistently above 1.00 over the four year period, it is safe to say that GCB remains a fairly liquid company.

However, on the stock market performance, the GSC Limited reported that the bank traded below book value for a greater part of 2009 despite growth in earnings.

It said the decline in value per share, was mainly due to the market forces and not the fundamentals of the bank.

"The growing numbers of offers on the market drove the price down way beyond book value during the first and part of the second quarter," he said but noted that the situation has started improving with an upward adjustment in the market price relative to the book value per share.

GCB, it said continues to remain a very liquid stock, trading 60 days out of the 64 days of trading within the third quarter of this year.

It recorded a volume of 5,466,400 shares exchanging hands, representing 0.16 per cent of the total volume traded over the period.

Value traded was also GH¢4,183,293 and accounted for 0.18 per cent of the total value traded between July 2nd to September 30th this year --GNA

... As Mills Address Commonwealth Heads of States.. Queen Elizabeth Calls On Commonwealth Countries To Direct Attention To The Youth

From Benjamin Mensah, GNA Special Correspondent, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, with additional files from Ghana Palaver

BRITISH Queen Elizabeth II last Friday called on leaders of the Commonwealth countries to increase support for the development of the youth as its growth rededicates itself to the security of its most vulnerable.

She expressed concern about the future of the more than one billion people under 25 years in Commonwealth nations, and called on the leaders to support the youth to help them realise their ambitions.

Opening this year's Commonwealth Heads of Governments Meeting (CHOGM) at Port of Spain, the capital of the island of Trinidad and Tobago, the Queen who is also the Head of the Commonwealth, implored members to remain dedicated to building resilience among members, and commit themselves to providing a stable and secured future for the youth, who would constitute the leaders in the next diamond (60) years of the Commonwealth.

the President, Professor John Evans Atta Mills, who is championing investment in people, with emphasis on the youth way back at home is attending the three-day meeting of the 53-member nation body, on the theme "Partnering for a More Sustainable Future."

President Mills at the time of going to press was expected to give a speech at the Meeting and on the sidelines of the Meeting would hold bilateral talks, and interact with the Queen.

Dwelling on the cherished common goals and values of freedom, democracy and development the British Queen praised the Commonwealth for shaping



President J. E. A. Mills

international response to global issues such as food security, the Queen underlined togetherness and oneness in the pursuit of the aspirations of the people of the Commonwealth.

With close to two billion people in 53 nations, there are still challenges of poverty, persistence of disease and ignorance, challenges of human security and properly entrenching democracy, food crisis, climate change, financial and fuel crisis.

Queen Elizabeth challenged the leaders of Commonwealth nations to look beyond achievements as they reflected over the past 60 years, and aspire without complacency to reach the core values freedom, democracy and development.

Host Prime Minister Patrick Manning said developing nations could no longer be left behind in the global pace for development, stressing effective collaboration and partnership to support small and vulnerable groups.

He called for the partnership to be extended to the fight against communicable diseases and urged members support a call for a summit on those diseases.

Commonwealth Secretary General Kamallesh Sharma observed that the current series of global crisis had created wreckage, which demanded co-ordinated efforts and shared responsibilities.

Uganda President Yoweri Museveni, who handed over the chair of the Meeting, said the Commonwealth nations needed understanding and support, better share of world trade, and not "instructions" and "obstructions" from developed nations.

He said unclean methods of production threatened the environment and that a new form of aggression that must stop, in the face of disastrous effects of climate change, which would be an issue at the meeting and a prelude to the UN Climate Change Summit scheduled for Denmark next month.

Cancer Society Of Ghana Organizes Walk

IT is estimated that by 2020, the number of people in the world suffering from cancer would have shot up to 15 million from 10 million in 2000, due to lack of preventive measures to stop the spread disease.

Addressing participants after a walk to create more awareness on the disease, on Saturday, Professor Edwin Wiredu, Executive Director of Cancer Society of Ghana, cited developing countries as those with the highest number of people suffering from cancer.

He mentioned smoking, obesity, poor life styles and the lack of resources for early detection of the disease as the main causes and cited breast, cervical, liver and prostate cancers as some of the types in the area.

Professor Wiredu said it was pathetic that at least one woman in Ghana dies everyday from a cancer related disease and urged all to embrace early detection checkups because it is the cheapest way of treating it.

He said the Association, which was formed five years ago, had a membership of about 700 across the country and had put in place the needed measures to embark



Dr Benjamin Kunbuor

on a vigorous education campaign next year.

He appealed to the Government, Civil Society Organizations and every Ghanaian to show more interest in the disease as it was killing people at an alarming rate.

Some of the placards of the participants read, "Cancer Screening: 1st Step Against Cancer prevention;" "Eat Plenty of Whole Grain Foods Per Day;" "Liver Cancer Kills a lot of Ghanaians;" and "Pass No Tobacco Bill Now."

Canada Injects 4.5 Million Dollars To Improve Agric In The North

Community-driven Initiatives for Food Security (CIFS), a Canadian funded project, is investing 4.5 million Canadian dollars in 250 communities in the Northern Region to improve food security and local governance.

The project aims broadly to improve household food security with support to community driven-initiatives, district-wide food security initiatives and to strengthen local government structures.

Mr Kuupiel Cuthbert Baba, Project Manager of CIFS-Ghana, announced this at the 2nd CIFS' "Stakeholder Experience Sharing Festival" at Saboba in the Saboba district of the Northern Region on Thursday.

It was under the theme: "Improving food security and participatory governance through stakeholder experience sharing and learning".

Mr Baba mentioned some of the beneficiary districts as Bunkpurugu/Yunyoo, East Mamprusi, Chereponi, Saboba, Yendi, Gushegu,

Karaga, Zabzugu/Tatale, Kpandi, Nanumba North and South and East Gonja districts.

The communities are Domon, Sobiba, Bukuli, Ligalbn, Wokon, Bokase, Nambiini and Chereponi all in the Chereponi district.

Mr Baba said CIFS had supported farmers in the communities with bullocks for ploughing and donkeys for women to enable them transport their produce from the farms to the markets.

He said the NGO had also among other things encouraged farmers in the communities to undertake the cultivation, processing and utilisation of Soya bean and the rearing of small ruminants and grain banking.

He said the introduction of bullock traction had led to the increase of the acreage of farm lands while the cultivation of Soya bean had improved the nutritional quality of food for women and children.

Mr Baba said the introduction of grain banking had also ensured the availability of food for the people during the lean seasons.

SPIT FIRE

With Asakramitoga



Wasteful Consultants

I want to applaud the Minister of Health, Dr. Benjamin Kumbour, for making my day. He said the government can no longer keep medical consultants for doing nothing and this is a very good news indeed.

He buttressed his statement by pointing out that “we cannot keep consultants on our payroll only for them to see five or 10 referred cases a week. It's a waste of resources”.

The Health Minister has said it all. For one could not understand the recruitment of these consultants on fat salaries doing nothing. If their salaries should be shared on salaries of already working health personnel to motivate them, why keep these consultants?

I do agree with Dr. Kumbour that it is about time we factor productivity into the performance of the management scheme for our health personnel.

For it is just too bad that 90% of the allocation of funds to the health sector is used in paying salaries and services. Haba! This consultancy phenomenon does not pertain only within the health sector. Numerous dubious consultants were recruited by the erstwhile New Patriotic Party (NPP) administration as jobs for the boys and being paid fat salaries for doing nothing.

The government should wake up and abrogate these dubious consultancies and use such monies for profitable ventures. The Chief of Staff, Mr. J.H.M. Newman, should spread his tentacles wide to capture all territories of government where these consultants are for the termination of their contracts.

The state can no longer be putting its money into the drain. The NDC made certain promises prior to the

last general elections, which saw the party wrestling the reins of power from the NPP. But when in government, they were hit with the massive debts left behind by the Kufuor NPP government thereby derailing them in fulfilling some of the programmes which strangely, the NPP is now capitalizing upon.

And to put these NPP clowns into shame, the government should pluck the entire loop holes of where “awuuf” monies are going and one of such areas is this stupid consultancy agreements.

We don't need consultants now. What different things do they do? They don't work in isolation. They work with the same people around them so what is special about them?

Dr. Kumbour has hit the nail correctly on its head and other ministries and government departments and institutions should also follow suit to terminate these consultancy contracts.

If these consultants are that good and very special, they should go and open their own specialized offices and clinics to attend to the public for their monies. By misering government funds, the time has come for them to be told that enough is enough.

They should go and make their own monies.

We thank these consultants for all that they have done for the country but we no longer need their services because the NPP looted the state kitty and the little left should be ploughed into productivity but not to those who are not working but being paid.

Au Revoir, NPP Consultants. Abiento.

Back To Base

With Joe Pinto

Mr. Cat At It Again

THE boys who are now back to base wondered why Mr. Cat, after his failed political dream in the cockerel world would want to take up issues with the Milo Man of the Umbrella fraternity and thus, rain insults upon insults on him.

But Ataa Kwei who always shows brilliance during mini meetings of the group quickly quipped, asking them if they think Mr. Cat is fit after all.

His comment ignited a short silence as they wondered if Kwei was serious about his comment.

But he asked them if they had not noticed any change in the man's face ever since the electoral contest was brought to an end.

Thinking through quietly, the observations of Kwei, Nii Ayi rudely interjected saying the known feature of Mr. Cat which continuous to be profound is his moustache which looks like chop bar sponge.

The comment which suddenly drew a loud laughter from the boys prompted Kwei to ask as to what may prompt Mr. Cat to wear such a thick moustache of which Ayi responded saying it is to disguise his puffy lips.

The place suddenly turned into something else as they taught Ayi was drawing more punches that was necessary.

Idiocy Times Three

TO the boys under the mango tree, the fact that there are swines around, with headache is known to them.

Their worry is when the headache, if not checked, can turn into a home-grown flu-prompted lunacy.

For some time now, they have watched, with concern, the way that man, who is searching for nothing has been behaving.

At first, they thought it was that of a humanized mad-cow disease.

But now that the wines are taking over control of diseases, they are afraid if that uprooted rotten cassava from the wilds in the Brong Ahafo Region, is not quarantined, we shall soon have our name listed on the world health market as raising swine-flu in West Africa.

Did you see that his headline about the Budget Statement?

Multiply idiocy by three and you will get an answer.

“Asem Beba Dabi”

THEY say that ex-convict Chairman is threatening to open another pandora box, if monies owed him are not paid, when he leaves.

They say the scribe, in particular, has loads of I.O.Vs, not redeemed and still being kept in the drawer of the chairman.

They say some people are accusing the ex-convict chairman of having “chopped” some big money, during the closing stages of the last game, when he realized that the elephant team was heading to defeat.

They say Sheikh “Agbenaa” is also to settle a huge account with the Blanis man, who until recently was calling himself the Mayor of Abokobi.

So, if the group heads to a crisis conference, the whole place has become a rumour market, with stories that sound quite credible.

“Asem beba dabi”.

The Kid In A Rage

THE boys hope the people have not forgotten that the man, who wears “presidential pyjamas” in bed but removes it when he wakes up in a boxer.

The man did not earn the name Kyebi-kid for nothing. It was his boxing name. The real name is “Nana Without a Stool”. Yes, that was it.

So, this is why the man springs up on his feet and shadow boxes anytime, he is provoked at meetings.

Hope you have not forgotten all about his encounter with Uncle Rocha of Largos and Cape Coast.

The latest report from the camp has disclosed that the Kyebi-kid nearly tore into the body of that Bantama mouth-mouth man, when he suggested that the Banker, who partnered the kid, be made an automatic choice of any one, who picks up the torn flag of the elephant at the next contest. The man scored minus voters!

Some Law-Makers Scatter

IT is reported that some elephant law-makers in the Central Region have scattered, following reports that one of them is being questioned on the share of the Masloc booty.

You see when the boys sounded an alarm some time ago they were sent to the local headman to seal their mouths.

The problem has been compounded by the action of a contractor, who has locked up a completed school building, claiming that “money na hand, back the ground”.

According to the contractor, although he is aware that the cash for the project had been collected, someone has used it for the birthday party for his wife.

Anyway, the people will want the investigations to carry on their duty, in double time, since the case in the region was too many. The other day, one of them slept in his car, outside town, for fear of getting picked up at home.

Address High Rate Of HIV/AIDS Pandemic --Ofosu Ampofo Tells Queens

MR Samuel Ofosu-Ampofo, Eastern Regional Minister, on Thursday expressed worry about the high rate of HIV/AIDS infection in the region.

He stressed that the region was the "First on the HIV/AIDS league table in the country", and challenged the Association of Queens in the area to deal with the situation.

He said queens had to play their advocacy roles effectively to help reduce the rate of infection,

especially among the youth.

Mr Ofosu-Ampofo was speaking during a meeting with members of the association at his office in Koforidua, who called on him to formally welcome him to office.

He tasked them to address the maternal mortality rate in the region, which for three years running was the highest in the country.

Mr Ofosu-Ampofo observed that the situation could be attributed to teenage pregnancies resulting in complications and asked the queens to intensify sex

education among the youth to help reverse the situation.

He also appealed for concerted efforts to arrest the falling standards of education in the region, especially in the Akuapem area where some Basic Schools were scoring zero percent in the Basic Education Certificate Examination.

The regional minister described the situation as unacceptable especially at the time government was investing huge sums of money in education.

PPA Trains Media On Public Procurement Act

GOVERNMENT is keen on establishing harmonised Public Procurement processes in the public service to eliminate corruption.

Ms Yvonne Vanderpuye, a Principal Operations Officer of the Public Procurement Authority, (PPA) on Thursday said such a process would not only attract tenders, but also secure the judicious, economic and efficient use of state resources, while promoting fairness, transparency and non-discrimination within the procurement process.

She made this known in a presentation at a training programme organised by the PPA in collaboration with the UNDP and the Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC), on the Public Procurement Act 633, 2003 for the media and civil society organisations.

Ms Vanderpuye, said the training would offer the stakeholders a better understanding to ensure effective

implementation of the Act.

She said recent studies had revealed very minimal media reportage on procurement issues, while the few that had been reported lacked accuracy.

The training was therefore expected to facilitate the appreciation of the provisions of the Act so that journalists could monitor, report and create public awareness about it.

Ms Vanderpuye explained that the Public Procurement Act 633 had various in-built anti-corruption measures, adding that in Ghana public procurement accounted for 80 per cent of the national budget and therefore it was important that all operations were critically monitored to prevent corruption.

She said if poorly managed, procurement which was a developmental tool could adversely affect the delivery of government projects.

Ms Vanderpuye said weaknesses including the absence of a comprehensive procurement policy and an authority to dispose off public assets were identified by the Public

Financial Management Reform Programme in 1996, the Public Procurement Oversight Group.

She said the Group was established to steer the development of a comprehensive public procurement reform programme, which eventually became a law in 2003, with the objective of establishing the Public Procurement Authority, Entity Tender Committees among other things.

Mr Agyenim Boateng Agyei, Chief Executive Officer, PPA, said the Authority which was an independent regulatory body formulate policies, monitor activities, enforce regulations and standards, ensure capacity building and professional development as well as manage and disseminate information to all stakeholders.

Mrs. Florence Dennis, Executive Secretary, GACC, called for media collaboration in areas of monitoring to help eliminate corruption in national procurement. --GNA

Criminal Cases In Ajumako-Enyan-Essiam Set To Reduce

THE Ajumako-Enyan-Essiam District of the Central Region has this year recorded 249 criminal cases, an indication that the annual level would drop from last year's total of 277.

The Ajumako-Enyan-Essiam District Police Commander, Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Seth Tay, made the statement when addressing the Ajumako Traditional Council, at Ajumako.

He said stealing cases were 53 so far, while last year's total was 72.

He attributed the signs of reduction to the hard work of

the Police and some stakeholders.

The Police Commander appealed to communities wishing to form Neighbourhood Watchdog Committees to contact his office for guidelines and support.

The Omanhene and President of the Council, Nana Kwamena Hammah Ababio II, expressed concern about the improper dressing of some of the youth in the area.

He, therefore, urged the chiefs, religious leaders and other stakeholders in the area to help to enact bye-laws with punitive measures to stop the indecent practice. --GNA



Mr Paul Quaye, IGP

He said head teachers whose schools perform below average would be sanctioned.

He advised parents to provide the needed learning materials for their wards to enhance their studies.

Mr Ofosu-Ampofo indicated his readiness to assist the association to get a secretariat and bring members together to play their role in the governance system of the country.

Mr Ofosu-Ampofo said President John Evans Atta Mills was determined to involve more women in his administration and tasked the association to encourage women to take active part in politics.

He announced the intention of the government to give allowance to queens in the next budget statement to enable them to play their

leadership roles effectively.

The regional minister advised them not to allow politics to divide their ranks, saying "You are the ones who would bring the people together".

Baafour Oppong Waa II, Krontihemaa of Akwamu and Secretary of the association, said queens had a bigger role to play in the socio-economic transformation of society but observed that for far too long they had been sidelined by chiefs.

She noted that queens are the ones the youth seeks audience with and gave the assurance that they would embark on intensive awareness campaign on HIV/AIDS and other negative issues.

Remove Tax Bottlenecks - Minister Tells CEPS

MR Kofi Opoku-Manu, Ashanti Regional Minister, has called on the Customs Excise and Preventive Service (CEPS) to create a congenial environment to encourage customers to honour their tax obligations.

He said as a revenue institution, CEPS performance largely affects government's ability to meet its developmental commitments, which explained why it should be more professional and cordial to tax payers.

Mr Opoku-Manu said this at the opening of the 19th Annual Delegates' Conference of the Senior Staff Association at Akyawkrom near Ejisu on Friday.

The theme for the four-day meeting is: "CEPS and the Inception of Ghana Revenue Authority-Challenges and the way forward."

The Regional Minister reminded CEPS officials of their role to ensure increased revenue mobilization and urged them to find ways to purge themselves of elements tarnishing the good image of the Service.

The global economic meltdown, he noted, had affected donor support to the country and said this made it pertinent to increase efforts at collecting more revenue internally to support the budget.

Mr Opoku-Manu said the establishment of the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) is meant to improve efficiency in revenue generation and urged Service personnel to embrace new policies and directions to improve generation.

Mr Ernest Kwesie, Chairman of the Revenue Agencies Governing Board, in an address read for him, said one of the challenges that CEPS would face in the near future was its ability to meet the tax revenue assessment requirements relating to the oil industry.

He, therefore, urged personnel to upgrade themselves in readiness for their obligations in the assessment of import and excise duties relating to the oil industry and petroleum taxes.

Mr Kwesie said the establishment of the GRA also enjoins them to improve their knowledge and skills, especially in technical aspects of taxation, for efficient performance.

Mr Ed-Richard Kuma Lanyon, Commissioner of CEPS, said in spite of the drop in petroleum revenue and other challenges on the international trade, the Service had so far mobilized GH¢1,690.54 million, representing a 7.06 per cent growth in revenue over the same period last year.

Essien Heads English Award List



Michael Essien

Ghana midfielder Michael Essien is a key contender for the English PFA Fans' Player of the Month for November, it has been announced.

Premier League leaders Chelsea are dominating November's PFA fans' player of the month, with three players in contention.

Blues trio John Terry, Nicolas Anelka, and Michael Essien helped their team to maintain a five-point lead at the top of the Premier league on Saturday.

They ran riot at home against Wolverhampton Wanderers, winning 4-0, with Essien grabbing two in ten minutes.

Fabregas, though, will be aiming to nick the award again this month ahead of his London rivals.

October Fans' Player of the Month Cesc Fabregas is putting up quite a scrap to retain his Premier League title as November draws to a close.

The Arsenal skipper continues to inspire his team, both as a leader and a midfield creator, and it is hard to

believe he is still only 22.

The Spaniard has been in mesmeric form this month, scoring three goals in three games.

The Arsenal man is joined by teammate Andrey Arshavin who is also in the race for the gong.

Darren Bent cannot stop scoring at the moment, having scored nine this campaign already this season.

The Black Cats striker will be looking to inflict more pain on the Gunners by winning the trophy, having clinched the winning goal at home to Arsenal on Saturday.

Recent father and England star Wayne Rooney will be looking to pick up the November award, having played an instrumental role in Manchester United's 3-0 win against his old club Everton on Saturday.

There is still time left to cast your vote for any of the early front-runners or generate enough momentum to add new names to the list. *Source: ghanasoccernet.com*

Carlo Ancelotti Settles In For The Long Haul At Chelsea

Carlo Ancelotti has expressed a desire to emulate Sir Alex Ferguson and Arsène Wenger by staying at Chelsea for ten or 20 years.

The Italian is the club's fifth manager in a little more than two years, but he is confident of bucking the trend after leading Chelsea to the top of the Barclays Premier League and Champions League group D.

Ancelotti has shown that he has considerable staying power in the past with the eight years he spent in charge of AC Milan — making him Italy's longest-serving coach at the time — before joining Chelsea in the summer.

The 50-year-old will struggle to match the longevity of Ferguson or Wenger, who have been at Manchester United and Arsenal for 23 and 13 years respectively, or that of David Calderhead, the Scot who managed Chelsea for almost 1,000 matches from 1907 to 1933.

Chelsea are a different club these days, however. Roman Abramovich's thirst for success meant that José Mourinho was deemed to be dispensable little more than a year after winning a second successive Premier League title and they have been searching for a long-term replacement ever since.

There are signs that Ancelotti could be the man, as Chelsea have built up a five-point lead at the top of the

Premier League before tomorrow's visit to Arsenal. "My objective is to maintain and keep this position for a long time," Ancelotti said yesterday. "I can do this if I do a good job. Up to now the club is happy with the job I've done, I think.

"Ten years? Why not 20? I'm a young head coach. For an Italian coach, it's very difficult to think about staying at one club more than five years. I stayed at Milan for eight years and, for an Italian coach, that was a record. In England it's easier to stay at a club for a long time." Ancelotti expressed admiration for Wenger, whom he first met 20 years ago as a young coach visiting Milan to studying the methods of Arrigo Sacchi.

"Wenger is one of the best coaches in the world and has done a fantastic job, like Ferguson at Manchester United," Ancelotti said. "Twenty years ago he went to study in Milan under Sacchi and I met him in that period [when Ancelotti was a player].

"At that time he was a young coach who was starting to learn about systems from Sacchi's work, and he was there every day for one month. That shows he is a very professional coach."

Ancelotti confirmed that Frank Lampard has recovered from a thigh injury to take his place against Arsenal, but he played



Carlo Ancelotti

down the role of Mariana Kovacevic, the Serbian healer who uses fluids derived from horse placenta. "Frank stayed one hour with the doctor in Belgrade, and about 80 hours working in Cobham," Ancelotti said. "Our physio and our doctor worked very well with him."

Tiger Woods Drives Cadillac Into Tree At 2am



Tiger Woods

Tiger Woods was taken to hospital after crashing his car outside his home in the early hours of last Friday.

Woods, who this year became the first billion-dollar sportsman, hit a fire hydrant while pulling out of his driveway in the Orlando suburb of Isleworth. He then drove his black 2009 Cadillac Escalade into a neighbour's tree. He was taken to Health Central Hospital in Ocoee with cuts on his face after police received an emergency call at 2.28am.

A Florida Highway Patrol accident report classified his injuries as serious, but the golfer's office and hospital described the accident as minor and said he had been "admitted, treated and released in good condition". Police say the crash was not alcohol-related. The incident is being investigated and unspecified charges are pending.

Police chief Daniel Saylor said that Woods's wife, the supermodel Elin Nordegren, told how she used a golf club to smash the back window of the car and get her husband out. He said that officers found Woods lying in the street with his wife standing by him, and that the golfer was in and out of consciousness when

they arrived. Woods had cuts on his lips and blood in his mouth, and officers gave him first aid until firefighters arrived ten minutes later.

Gary Bruhn, the mayor of the adjacent suburb of Windermere, said that he believed the crash was "nothing more than an accident". He added that the police would carry out an investigation as part of the routine, and it would take a few days to complete.

Woods, 33, who has won 14 major championships, has been the world's highest paid sportsman since 2002, when he overtook Formula One's Michael Schumacher. According to Forbes, the \$10 million (£6.2 million) bonus that Woods collected for winning the FedEx Cup in September pushed him over the \$1 billion mark in total career earnings. The bulk of his earnings come from his long-term partnership with Nike, which pays him more than £20 million a year, around a third of his total earnings from sponsorship, advertising and endorsements. He also earns about £6.2 million for each golf course that he designs.

Woods, the best golfer of his generation and arguably the best ever, has won 71

times on the tour and his haul of majors is only four short of Jack Nicklaus's record. He returned to action in February this year after being out for eight months because of reconstructive knee surgery and finished on top of the FedEx Cup standings for the season.

Feted in the United States and by fans around the world, one of the latest examples of the hysteria surrounding the player came last month, when he arrived in Melbourne for the Australian Masters. After emerging from his private jet, he jumped into a waiting chauffeur-driven car, but cameramen hovering overhead in helicopters zoomed in and recorded his journey until he reached his hotel, with the pictures beamed live to Australian television.

The son of an African-American US Army officer and a Thai mother, Woods lives in a \$2.4 million house with his wife and two children. Isleworth, which has its own security force, is home to chief executives and other sports stars.

Woods is scheduled to host the Chevron World Challenge, benefiting the Tiger Woods Foundation, at Sherwood Country Club in Thousand Oaks, California, on Tuesday.

SSNIT Records Huge Cash In Suspense Account

THE Social Security and National Insurance Trust (SSNIT) says it has a huge sum of money lodged in its suspense account as a result of some employers' inability to supply it with the Social security numbers of their employees.

To eliminate this practice, payments of contributions under the new pension scheme would have to be supported by the relevant documents with the amount paid against his or her name.

Mr. Mathew Kyeremanten, the Wa Branch Manager of SSNIT, who made this known at a forum on the New Pension Scheme for heads of departments and their SSNIT schedule officers, at Wa, said no payments would be accepted without the documents.

He said, in the past, SSNIT was more interested in collecting the money so it did not spend time to ensure that the right thing was done by employers and this had led to the huge money in that account, which it also found difficult to utilise.

Mr Kyeremanten said SSNIT has observed that some contributors inflate their salaries during the last three years of their active service so under the new scheme the system would not allow any dramatic hike in salaries.

He expressed regret that currently the least contributor in the Upper West Region earned GHC25 a month, saying a person retiring with such a ridiculous salary should not hope to get any better pension from SSNIT.

The new pension law, he said, has, therefore, made it obligatory for SSNIT to accept contributions that

would be based on the National Minimum Wage.

"We will not accept payments as contributions that are under the approved monthly equivalents of National Daily Minimum Wage," he warned.

The SSNIT Branch Manager pointed out that not all illnesses could entitle a person to enjoy invalidity pension, adding that the process leading to the approval of a worker as an invalid was not as easy as many people thought because an applicant had to be examined by a competent medical board.

"A person who is blind or lame may still be able to work. So some people have applied for invalidity pension but failed to get the approval of the medical board," he stated. --GNA



Dr Kwabena Duffour

Nana Konadu Pledges To Revitalise NDC



Nana Konadu addressing the audience at Krobo Odumase



Nana Konadu congratulates new executives after the inauguration

FORMER First Lady Nana Konadu Agyeman Rawlings says she is standing for the position of First Vice-Chairman of the National Democratic Congress (NDC) to strengthen the party's structures and boost unity.

Nana Konadu also the President of the 31st December Women's Movement (DWM), said she was also keen to pursue a strong agenda to bring women and the youth into the party and make the NDC more dynamic and ensure that it grows bigger from the grassroots.

A statement issued by the Office of the former President in Accra on Friday, said Nana Konadu was speaking during a tour of the Eastern Region, where she re-inaugurated branches of the DWM at Asuom, Kade, Odumase and Krobo.

"The party needs unity and discipline and I will work hard with my colleagues to ensure that we move the party onto a new pedestal," she said.

Nana Konadu also used the tour

to interact with the traditional authorities.

She said the revival of the DWM started in 2003 after efforts by the New Patriotic Party to crush it had failed.

Nana Konadu claimed that members of the movement were harassed whilst its projects were taken over by the district assemblies, painted and labelled HIPC projects, even though the projects were financed from funds raised from donor agencies and non-governmental organisations.

She said fortunately the women were undaunted and continued to work underground to keep the flame of the movement alight.

"Because we did not want the members to feel they had been abandoned we decided to revive the branches, and renewed membership drive and surprisingly the women responded in their droves. We offered them small loans to revive or start new projects.

"Over the past six months however the women have been keen to publicly assert themselves

and wanted the movement's leadership to grace every inauguration or membership drive campaign to give the events wider public attention. I have no option but to oblige and have been delighted by some of the responses I have received," Nana Konadu stated.

Nana Konadu visited the movement's oil palm processing project at Otumi. The project was inaugurated 14 years ago.

The statement said she was thrilled to hear the success stories of the women who used proceeds from the project to send their children to school and cater for their families.

It said the President of the DWM was however asked to intervene to add value to the produce of the factory by repackaging them for Togolese vendors, who purchase the oil in large drums and paid a pittance.

Nana Konadu promised to explore the possibility of bottling the oil at the Nsawam Cannery when it resumes production to add value to the produce and create a wider market for it. --GNA

NDC Bears Teeth At Government Officials

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Organizer, Propaganda Secretary, National Treasurer, National Youth Organizer, National Women's Organizer and any other slot on the executive.

In the NDC's Guidelines for 2010 National Delegates Congress, stumbled upon in Accra, Mr. Johnson Asiedu Nketsiah, who explained the rationale for barring government functionaries from contesting for executive positions in the party, states that the directive is to

eliminate the danger of conflict of interest.

He said both positions - a government functionary and a national executive - were very crucial for the NDC's quest to retain power in Elections 2012 stressing that, "We want all our officers to give of their best hence the need to decouple the responsibilities."

From the Guidelines, the party also expanded its Electoral College for the Youth and Women's Congress from 33 to about 500 to include all

constituency youth and women organizers and their deputies.

The guidelines also prohibit regional and constituency executives from contesting for national executive slot unless the contestant resigns to vie for the elevated post.

The guidelines state that 2010 Congress Vetting Committee includes a representative each of the Parliamentary Caucus; Council of Elders; and the Chairman of the National Disciplinary Committee.