

Pan-African Parliament Sits in South Africa

By Uchenna Ekwo

“This is the third time I have cried as an adult” says the 60 year old immediate past President of Pan African Parliament, Dr. Moussa Idriss Ndele who was overwhelmed by emotion while responding to tributes by his colleagues after presenting his activity report of the second parliament in Midrand, South Africa.

From May 2009 to May 28, 2012, Dr. Ndele citizen of Republic of Chad and representative of Central Africa Region served as President of the Pan African Parliament.

After presenting his report to the seventh ordinary session of Pan African Parliament, members of parliament from across the continent took turns to praise what many of them described as exemplary leadership.

In Africa, where effective leadership is a scarce currency, it is understandable that Dr. Ndele’s colleagues poured encomiums on him for the array of reforms he introduced

during his three year tenure as president.

Hon. Isaac Stephen Mabiletsa from Botswana compared the decision of Dr. Ndele not to seek re-election with Nelson Mandela’s and insisted that the outgoing president had put the body on the path to progress. He expressed the hope that the new leadership will sustain the reforms introduced by the outgoing executive.

Hon. Cecilia Atim-Ogwal representing Uganda acknowledged the commitment of the leadership of the parliament to gender equity and women empowerment.

Other representatives spoke of Dr. Ndele’s humility, patience, and dedication especially his willingness to admit errors and grace to provide remedy to mistakes.

Earlier, Dr. Ndele had presented a report of his administration that included political and institutional accomplishments.

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The Pan-African Parliament in session at Midrand in South Africa in late May this year

Panels Discuss Future of Diaspora Journalism at Conference

By Francisco Bozzano-Barnes

Technology, stories that cross borders and growing audiences are three essential points that will catalyze the diaspora media. Sheila Coronel, Director, Stabile Center for Investigative Journalism, Graduate School of Journalism, and Columbia University told her audience at the Conference on Media and Democratic Governance in Newark, New Jersey that transnational journalism holds a bright future.

Ms. Coronel originally from Philippines was the keynote speaker at the conference jointly organized by Rutgers University’s School of Public Affairs and Administration and Center for Media and Peace Initiatives, New York.

She provided an overview of investigative journalism experiences from around the world and the appetite for freedom of expression and emphasized on the role of technology in creating opportunities for diaspora journalists. The changing demographics in the United States also show that audiences for the diaspora media will continue to grow.

Another speaker Kevin Whitmer, Editor of The Star-Ledger, Newark, New Jersey explored the world of contemporary journalism dominated by communities of users who are active in creating content. The barriers to entry into journalism are falling and the print news is going out of business. For him there are three



Dr. Uchenna Ekwo, President of CMPI (right) poses with Kevin Whitmer Editor of The Star Ledger at the conference

main points:

- 1) There is no substitute for great reporting.
- 2) The organization is willing to fight for local stories.
- 3) Will need to detach people from the most pressing to develop good stories, learning to live with dry-holes.

He said that one of the most exportable US products was the First Amendment in terms of democratic governance for media.

Dr. Tapio Varis, former Rector, University of Peace, Costa Rica and cur-

rent UNESCO Chair in Global e-Learning, who spoke on “Intercultural Dialogue and Media Literacy in the 21st century”, promoted a new humanism in media studies that focused on:

1. Humans must be beyond technology
2. Critical towards technology to exercise technological choice
3. There needs to be a discovery of self.

Dr. Varis spoke of what he called “crowd communication” in making reference to possible abuse of the so-

cial media in sharing information and knowledge. He sees a need for autonomy and democracy in the media and promoted 8 core competences:

1. Communication and language
2. Foreign languages
3. Media competence
- 4- Lifelong learning
5. Unlearn obsolete practices
6. Social and civic competencies
7. Sense of initiative
8. Cultural

awareness.

Other speakers at the conference were: Mr. Kahraman Haliscelik, United Nations Bureau Chief for Turkish Radio and TV, Ms. Tando Ntunja, Multimedia journalist and Fulbright Scholar Mr. Milton Allimadi, Publisher, The Black Star News, New York, Ms. Salma Ghalyoun, Syrian pro-democracy activist. Others were Dr. Susanna Dodgson, Publisher, MJOITA Institute of Medical Writing Ms. Amani al-Khatahtbeh, Founder,

Muslim Girl, Ms. Sire Dione, president of African Women for Good Governance and UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, and veteran UN reporter Mr. George Alan Baumgarten. During the wrap up session, participants agreed on the new transformative potential of social media in relation to the activities of the diaspora media.

There was a general consensus, that the conference proposed outcome Project on Courses on Media and Democratic Governance and the Summer Institute for journalists deserved all their support.

There was a lot of discussions on issues related to the transmission of journalistic values and the need to explain how to obtain licenses. Another concern was to teach how to develop a credible narrative out of fragments of information, and the need to explain how power works in the media and find stories you can get. Understanding as well the interactions between different institutions.

Another recommendation was to expose journalists to doing things they had never done.

The problems of corruption and employment opportunities were also addressed. Recognition was made to the fact that the local journalists are very familiar with their situations. Emphasis was also placed on the development of entrepreneurial skills and on New Media.

Editorial

Where is the president of Ghana?

After the chaotic voter registration exercise, new conflicts have once again emerged in some parts of Ghana, but President John Evans Fiifi Atta Mills is characteristically in a deep slumber. He zipped up on Atiwa, Akwatia and Chereponi, and the orchestrated violence against the NPP in several parts of the country after the elections. Ghanaians are yet to hear their president's voice on the ongoing strife in the Upper West, Central, and the Volta regions, all strongholds of his party. Fulanis from a foreign country are in Ghana and killing Ghanaians and destroying their farms with their grazing cattle, but there is no protection for the people, and the president has remained silent. This is worrying, perilous and dangerous, for Mills' inaction is gradually throwing the nation into disarray. Ghanaians are querying if President Mills is in charge at all. It is now public knowledge that the president's orders to his aides/cabinet were openly flouted and repeatedly ignored as happened when he ordered that the gargantuan Woyome judgment debt not be paid. In any serious government, ignoring an order from a president comes with resignation or instant dismissal, but not with this president. Further, embarrassing the Commander-in-Chief with loose, politically immature public pronouncements is grounds for sanctions. But what we see is a case of "mess up, move up." President Mills' inability to reign in and curb some of his aides' explosive language has created unhealthy divisions and dissension not only within his own government and party, but among members of the opposition party. Political enemies are freely insulted by the immature appointees of the president most of whom were rewarded for their acerbic and explosive pronouncements against opposition members and perceived enemies of the ruling party, but not for their experience and skills in governance. Victor Smith, Ama Benyiwa Doe and Fiifi Kwetey all told Parliament at their vetting that their lies and innuendoes against the NPP government were merely political. In any civilized nation such political behaviors would only fetch the culprits a kick on to the political curb. The cedi is in a free fall and it is being blamed on the opposition NPP while it was in power. A local chief is beheaded in the Central region due to communal conflict and a shoot-from-the-hip, regional minister points accusing fingers at the rants of an NPP politician. The murderers of the quondam Ya-Na are yet to be found, and is blamed on the NPP. The running mate of NPP's presidential candidate presents his views in an economic paper, and all hell breaks loose. The rented pro-government press and officials have a field day pouring only invectives instead of viable responses to his criticisms. Ain't no reasonable heads in the ruling government? An Akan proverb says "it is the wise person that is sent on an errand, not the long-legged," and until the President sees the wisdom in this Akan rendering, the government would dig itself deeper in the ditch it now sees itself. Ghana is in a leadership crisis. The president has simply not shown any leadership and the direction in which the country is headed does not augur well for the nation in an election year. He appears to stand aloof on important national issues, a stance that only describes him as having lost control of his government. The spinning must give way to practical and mature political decisions that can only move the country into the right direction.

Community News

African Immigrants' Shipping Containers Irritate Neighbors

In the Bronx's Morrisania and neighboring areas, the sight of giant shipping containers parked on the street has triggered the ire of some residents, who call the 40-foot trailers a "dangerous eyesore" and have asked the police to have them towed away, reported DNAinfo's Patrick Wall. Local West African immigrants use the containers as a cheap way to send goods — clothes, household items electronics, and even cars — to their families back home. A dozen trailers have been towed in the last month, the local police captain told DNAinfo. "Some people get very upset," Bert Irons, chairman of the local Evangelical Church of God, explained. "It degrades the neighborhood... Neighbors complain about them taking up two, three, four parking spaces. And the street cleaners can't get through." But local business owners who rely on the containers explained that people who store them on the street are the outliers in an otherwise lawful and thriving local trade: shipping goods, from diapers and T-shirts to furniture and even small vans, from The Bronx to West Africa. The Bronx is home to some 32,600 immigrants from West African countries, according to the most re-

cent American Community Survey, Wall reports, but some community leaders say the actual number may be three times that. Most are concentrated in the central Bronx, in neighborhoods such as Morrisania, Highbridge and Tremont, and many send and receive goods from Africa on a regular basis, according to Jane Kani Edward, a clinical assistant professor at Fordham University, who was born in Sudan. Some people use the containers to send necessities or gifts to loved ones or charities, while others ship coveted American merchandise to be sold in African markets, Edward explained. Others who use the containers are business owners importing African goods, such as specialty foods or movies, that they can sell to homesick immigrants. Filling the containers with goods is a step in an intricate process. First, Bronx-based export companies rent out the containers, which they get from New York and New Jersey seaports for \$3,000 to \$4,000. The large crates are then moved to the Bronx, where customers pay a fee to reserve a part of the container for goods to ship back home. The shipping costs vary by weight, exporters said, from approximately



A van is loaded into a shipping container parked at 173rd Street and Bathgate Avenue, headed for West Africa. (Photo by Patrick Wall/DNAinfo)

\$80 for a plastic drum filled with goods to \$1,200 to \$1,500 for a full car. While it is considerably cheaper than sending goods on airplanes, it can take a month or longer for the containers to be shipped to their final destinations. The containers sometimes sit on the street until they're full enough to ship, exporters said. Fatima Baba, who runs Dakar Transportation on E. 166th Street, said her company rents the contain-

ers and then delivers them wherever the customers ask. Some people use parking lots, while others pay to store the containers in empty lots between buildings. Others ask for the trailers to be parked right outside their buildings. Since residents started complaining, Baba noted, fewer people have parked the containers out on the open street. Source: Voices of New York

Black and Latino Students Make Up Over 96 Percent of School Arrests

Back in February, high school students held a rally to protest a "jail-like" disciplinary environment in their schools, and advocates released sobering data on student arrests: Between Oct. 1 and Dec. 30

last year, police arrested 279 students — or the equivalent of five student arrests per school day during the 55 days of instruction. Of those arrested — the only portion for which racial data is available — 93.5 percent were African-American or Latino. The numbers are even higher in the New York Civil Liberties Union's latest report: the statistics for the months of January to March show that 327 students were arrested, which comes out to an average of more than five on each of the 58 school days. Another 555 were issued summonses, which bring the

daily average number of students either fined or arrested to 15 a day. The percentage of those arrested that were African-American or Latino rose to over 96 percent. El Diario/La Prensa ran a Spanish translation of the NYCLU press release. "The number of arrests and summonses is an outrage. These numbers make us feel like the NYPD is targeting black and Latino students, and that's just plain wrong," said Joseph Duarte, a member of Dignity in Schools Campaign-NY and a 15-year-old student at Samuel Gompers High School in the Bronx. "We go

to school to get an education, not arrested." Though the data do not describe the facts of the incidents, when viewed against the backdrop of the many accounts of student arrests for offenses like writing on a desk, cursing, and pushing or shoving, all indicators point to police personnel becoming involved in disciplinary infractions that should be handled by educators. Source: Voices of New York

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Contd. from front page

He spoke of efforts to accelerate the ratification of the African charter on democracy, elections, and governance through an effective interaction with the representatives of civil society, media, and the African Union Commission.

"The Pan-African Parliament is conscious of its political obligations which are to contribute to the entrenchment of democracy and good governance in Africa", said Dr. Ndele while accounting for the body's role in observing elections in the continent.

However, the fact that Pan African Parliament remained a consultative body with no legislative powers will

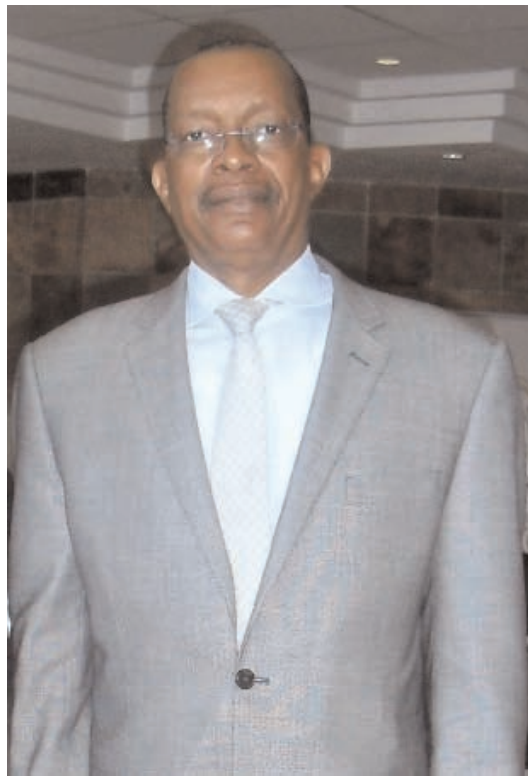
go down as one of the challenges unresolved by Dr. Ndele and his team.

Other administrative challenges included the legal actions taken against some members of staff who allegedly engaged in financial misconduct.

The Chairperson of the Committee on Administration and Financial Evaluation- CAFÉ, Hon. Fabakary Tombong Jatta who also presented a report detailed the secretariat's administrative and financial challenges.

Hon. Jatta from Gambia spoke of the reliance of the secretariat to donor agencies some of which had stopped funding PAP for various reasons including perceived mismanagement of resources.

Department for International Development (DFID)—UK Government Department responsible for promoting development and the reduction of poverty decided to end relations with Pan African Parliament in 2010 following a 2009 report that noted serious financial irregularities in the administrative procedures of PAP. According to Hon. Jatta, DFID sev-



The outgoing President of the Pan-African Parliament Dr. Moussa Idriss Ndele

ered relations with PAP despite the fact there was no evidence to prove that PAP had misappropriated any funds from DFID which also lobbied other donor agencies to cease further support to PAP.

For what intends to be the apex law making institutions in the continent to depend on external financing intelling about the long road towards Africa's genuine political and economic independence.

Yet, in Jatta's report, members of parliament who currently travel on economy class while on official duties are demanding a change of that

policy so that they could fly on business class.

Such requests are emblematic of Africa's leadership challenges: many of her leaders are more interested in the perks of office rather than a commitment to serve and sacrifice for the people.

The honor to serve is expected to override every other personal or profligate desire especially in a climate of poor financial standing of Pan African Parliament.

The highlight of the seventh session of Pan-African Parliament (PAP) was the election of a new President. He is Hon. Bethel Nnaemeka AMADI, MP from Nigeria, and former First Vice President of the body. In his farewell speech, the outgoing President, Dr. Moussa Idriss Ndélé congratulated Hon. Amadi on his election and praised him for his hard work and dedication and expressed the hope that he would utilize the experience gained while he was Vice President.

This article appeared in the online magazine of CMPI under the title "Parliament Without Powers."

Woyome was paid as a result of default judgment – Witness

Mrs. Mangowa Ghanney, an Adviser to the Minister of Finance and Economic Planning on Tuesday told the Financial Court hearing the case of businessman Alfred Agbesi Woyome, that the accused was paid the GH¢51.2 million as result of default judgment.

She told the court, a division of the Fast Track High Court, that even though she did not personally sight the default judgment, a letter from the Attorney General (AG) confirmed there was basis for the settlement.

Mrs. Ghanney, the first prosecution witness was testifying at the ongoing trial of Woyome for the controversial GH¢51.2 million judgment debt payment.

Woyome has been charged with defrauding by false pretense and causing financial loss to the State.

He has pleaded not guilty and granted GH¢20 million bail with three sureties to be justified.

Mrs. Ghanney, led in evidence by Ms Cynthia Lamptey, Chief State Attorney, told the court that the AG forwarded a letter to the Sector Minister who referred it to her to look through.

She said the letter stated that Woyome was to provide some services to government which it was not obliged to pay for those services, but because she was traveling, she had less than a day to look through the letter.

Mrs. Ghanney said another letter from the AG came stating the basis for the settlement, but did not have enough time to review the folder to counteract what had been stated.

When asked by Ms Lamptey why the initial payment was reversed?

Mrs. Ghanney said she was out of the country when she received a call from a lawyer that a lady at the Treasury had queried the payment because at that time, she did not know whom the money had to be

paid to because it seemed two people were entitled to the money (Atrol Invest and Woyome).

She said later, the AG wrote to the Ministry to pay GH¢51.2 million as default judgment to Woyome.

Mrs. Ghanney said the Sector Minister asked her to settle the matter with Woyome and his lawyer, but because the amount involved was huge, she went with them to the Director of Budget at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning.

She said Woyome and his lawyer agreed to a negotiated installment of GH¢17 million to be paid within three months.

Mrs. Ghanney said Woyome cautioned that if the money was not paid within three months, he would ask for interest to be paid on the amount but they were able to pay for the GH¢51.2 million default judgment within the specified time.

Mr. Osafo Buabeng, Member of Woyome's legal team during cross-examination asked Mrs. Ghanney whether the payment to Woyome was made in pursuant to a default judgment.

She affirmed that the payment was made as a result of default judgment even though she did not see the default judgment.

Mrs. Ghanney said apart from the default judgment no other payment had been made to the accused.

The facts of the case are that, sometime in January 2005, the Government invited bids for the rehabilitation of the Ohene Djan and Baba Yara Sports stadia, and the construction of two more stadia at Sekondi-Takoradi and Tamale.

At the end of the bidding process, some companies were short-listed and invited to submit proposals for the rehabilitation and construction of the stadia. Among these companies were M-powapak Gmb/Vamed Gmbh &Co, K.



Alfred Agbesi Woyome

At the end of the evaluation process, the Finance and Evaluation Committee declared the financial proposals of M-powapak/Vamed Engineering as the most responsive and recommended them to the Central Tender Review Board.

However, before the tender could receive final approval the Government terminated the process.

Meanwhile, in the course of the tender process, Vamed Engineering assigned its rights and responsibilities to Waterville Holding (BVI) Ltd.

After the termination of the tendering process, Waterville, assuming the place of Vamed Engineering, protested against the termination and got the Government to enter into a MoU with it to commence rehabilitation works on the Accra and El-Wak stadia.

The MoU, which was assigned on November 30, 2005, required Waterville to engineer funding for the project on behalf of the Government from Bank of Austria Creditanstalt AG, guaranteed by the World Bank's Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA).

The company was supposed to

arrange bridge financing, and subsequently to the MoU, Waterville was authorized by the Ministry to move to the site and start work pending the signing of a formal contract.

On December 19, 2005, Waterville engaged M-powapak, led by the accused Woyome, to provide it with financial engineering services in respect of the projects.

A formal contract for the rehabilitation of Ohene Djan and El-Wak stadia was entered into by the Government and Waterville Holding Limited on April 26, 2006.

However, before the contract could become effective the Government terminated same due to Waterville's inability to engineer funding for the project as contained in the MoU which formed a condition precedent to the contract.

Waterville, who initially protested against the termination, eventually accepted same and proceeded to claim monies for the initial works done under the MoU.

The Government paid a substantial amount of Waterville's claims out of which the company, fully paid M-powapak, represented by the accused

for the financial engineering services rendered under the contract.

Payment to the accused for his services was duly acknowledged by him in a termination agreement dated November 25, 2006 which brought the relationship between them to an end.

Sometime in August 2009 however, the accused having received all monies due him under the financial engineering services rendered to Waterville, took advantage of the change in Government and falsely represented to government officials that the Government owed him money for financial engineering services rendered to it under the contract with Waterville.

In his claim to government officials, the accused who had no contract with government, claimed that, as part of the financial engineering services rendered, he managed to arrange €1,106,470,587 for the Government through the Bank Austria Creditans out of which he claimed he was entitled to two per cent as financial engineering fees.

Investigations however, revealed that there were no such funds made available for the benefit of the country by Bank Austria as claimed by the accused.

Further investigations revealed that the accused had no contract with the Government to provide any services. The only arrangement on financial engineering services the accused had was with Waterville Holdings Ltd which services had been fully paid for and acknowledged by the accused in a termination agreement.

Meanwhile, based on these fraudulent misrepresentations, the accused got the Government to pay him GH¢51, 283,480.59, thereby willfully and fraudulently causing huge financial losses to the State.

The case has been adjourned to June 14. -- gna

Nigeria: 13 Killed in Fresh Adamawa Attacks

Jalingo and Yola — At least 13 Fulani herdsmen are reported to have been killed in Karim Lamido local

government area of Taraba State, in what is thought to be reprisal attacks by suspected Bachama farmers who allegedly raided some villages in the early hours of yesterday.

National secretary general of Miyetti Allah, Alhaji Sale Bayari, told Daily Trust yesterday that suspected Bachama farmers from Numan area

of Adamawa State attacked Fulanis in the neighboring villages of Kana, Bujum, Yitti, and Mayo-Lope of Lau local government area of Taraba State.

The Bachama Socio-cultural group, Pene-Da-Bwatiye, had recently issued ultimatum to Fulani nomads living in their land to quit or face the

consequences after their kinsmen had been killed in attacks on their villages. They blamed the attacks on Fulanis.

Bayari said: "At Mayo-Lope, they killed Babangida Hassan and Buba Musa and dumped the corpses in shallow wells." He claimed that some of those killed "were comply-

ing with the eviction order given by the Bachama only for them to be attacked and killed while crossing River Benue."

Efforts to get the Adamawa police public relation officer, ASP Nemuel Yoila, proved abortive as all his lines were off as at the time of filing this report.- Daily Trust

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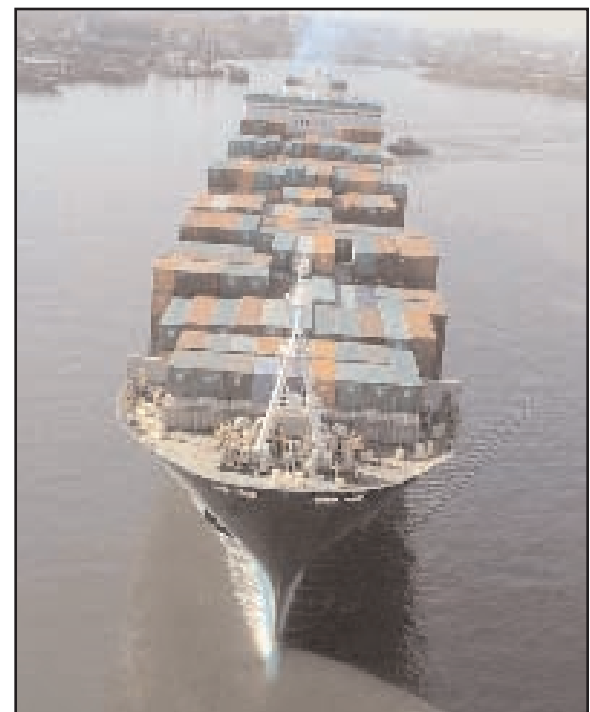
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Op-Ed

A Sad Manifestation of System Failure in Nigeria

By U.K. Uwadinobi

A close Nigerian relative of mine, Ohio State University industrial engineering grad and system analyst who does consulting work for the oil industry in Nigeria, brilliantly summed up what led to the horrific plane crash in the outskirts of Lagos, Nigeria last weekend. "It's a sad manifestation of system failure in Nigeria," he wrote in his email to me in the immediate aftermath of the tragedy. "How did an aircraft take to the sky without an air worthiness certificate?" he asked, adding: "The Indian operators of the airline are masters in bribery and shady business. Instead of maintaining their aircraft, they bribe the regulatory authorities to look the other way while they order unworthy aircraft to the sky."

Indeed a sad commentary to say the least, which is why I sometimes feel it's pointless getting offended when people in Western nations refer to Nigeria as a Third World country. If not, why would government officials in cahoots with unscrupulous foreign nationals doing business in the country, sell their souls to undermine the safety of the public and the rule of law (if any exists at all) for nefarious motives? A country incredibly endowed with rich natural resources both in material and human assets.

You wonder why. A country blessed with some of the most intelligent people on earth that has produced a Nobel Laureate, a former managing director of the World Bank highly respected as a voice to be reckoned with in matters of international finance and development. You wonder why. A country that has produced world class scientists, physicians, engineers, academics, artists and athletes. You fold your hands and wonder why the perplexing dichotomy and why it has not risen beyond the level of Third World status.

Back in the 80s, it was horrifying to learn that a foreign-owned vessel carrying a container-load of toxic materials disguised as consumer goods had sailed to the Niger Delta region of Nigeria and delivered its cargo to a Nigerian businessman. The businessman reportedly was paid to have the toxic materials dumped in the creeks and estuaries



Rescuers forage among the wreckage of air crash in Lagos for victims

of the Delta, with utter disregard for the harmful effects on the environment, marine life and local residents. How could the vessel have eluded Nigerian maritime authorities and sailed to its destination? Authorities clearly must have been paid off to look the other way.

On a trip to Nigeria a few years ago with my wife for my mother's burial, we were standing on the tarmac of the local wing of Murtala Mohammed International Airport at Ikeja, Lagos with other passengers waiting to board a local flight to Enugu in the eastern part of the country, when my attention was drawn to the tires of the McDonnell Douglas DC-9 aircraft. As passengers started boarding the aircraft, I quickly bent closer to the landing gear and rubbed my hands over the tires. Oh-my-God! They were smooth. No ridges. All six ply had been completely worn off. I was petrified and my heart sank to my stomach. This is a potential disaster waiting to happen, I murmured to myself staring blankly at the completely worn out tires. With no ridges to give the tires traction, a slippery runway due to rainfall could cause the plane to skid dangerously out of control on landing. It became obvious to me that the aircraft must have been operating without certifi-

cation of airworthiness. Luckily, we flew from Lagos to Enugu and landed safely.

Since the news of last weekend's horrific plane crash sent shockwaves rippling through Nigerian communities across the globe, the blogosphere has been ablaze with criticism for United States aviation authorities for their removal of Nigeria from the black list of countries with poor aviation facilities that don't meet international standards. Many will recall that Nigeria Airways, the country's national airline, for several years was banned from operating international flights to the United States. Similarly, U.S. carriers were restricted from operating flights to Nigeria for safety reasons. It amounted to a significant loss in revenue for the Nigerian commercial aviation sector ostensibly because of the high demand for the popular Ikeja, Lagos-Nigeria to New York's JFK air route. The weekend crash has fueled numerous calls on the U.S. aviation authorities to reinstate the ban.

What I find quite befuddling is what goes through the minds of unscrupulous government officials, when they knowingly take bribes from despicable morons, like the alleged operators of the airline, to compromise safety standards and endanger the

lives of unsuspecting travelers. It begs the question if the officials don't even know that they too, or members of their families, could easily be victims of air disaster due to their shameless acts?

A major air disaster was averted in New York City a couple of years ago, when the Hudson River along the West Side Highway became an emergency runway for the landing of a Boeing 747 commercial jetliner. It was U.S. Airways Flight 1549 bound for Charlotte, North Carolina with 155 people on board. The plane had taken off from LaGuardia airport, New York and was airborne when a flock of geese strayed into its flight path. The resulting collision killed the birds and stopped the engines of the Boeing 747 jetliner. The pilot of the disabled plane, Captain Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger, had only three options in that tense moment of crisis: rely on his many years of flying experience in military and commercial aviation, chance and God! As the powerless plane began to succumb to the force of gravity, Captain Sullenberger literally steered the 747 Airbus with his hands and feet toward the Hudson River for a water landing. Within minutes the plane was seen splashing onto the Hudson and gliding to a stop. All 155 people on board survived. Cap-

tain Sullenberger and his crew, scores of rescuers--from the Coast Guard to New York Fire and Police Departments to ordinary folks--were hailed as heroes. The monumental aviation crisis that was seen live on television by millions of viewers as it happened ended with no loss of human lives and was dubbed "Miracle on the Hudson!" Since then, Captain Sully Sullenberger has been a leading voice to use legislative means through the city government in the effort to solve the problem of geese infestation around New York's airports as they put planes and the lives of passengers at enormous risk during take-off and landing. Just recently in China Town in New York City, a team of government safety officials swooped down on some luxury bus companies for multiple safety violations and revoked their operating licenses. It was a major crackdown on the industry after ordinary citizens who care about public safety tipped off authorities. That is the kind of response one would expect from regulatory authorities, when they become aware of illegal practices that undermine operational regulations and compromise safety standards.

In Nigeria or anywhere else, crewmembers and/or passengers who are directly at risk due to shady practices perpetrated by owners of bus companies or commercial airlines, could make a difference by reporting wrong doing that they observe.

The most searing image of this tragedy, which would be on the minds of many for a long time, is the Connecticut-based family lost in moment in one day. It mirrors the vulnerability of Nigerians abroad who travel home and must depend on local or regional flights in the country to get to their destinations. What else will it take to end bribery and corruption of regulatory authorities, which allegedly made the Dana Airline tragedy a sad manifestation of system failure in Nigeria?

Ukachi Uwadinobi, a freelance journalist living in New York is Op-ed contributor to Amandla Newspaper in New Jersey.

CPP launches its 2012 Manifesto

The Convention People's Party (CPP), on Tuesday launched its 2012 manifesto in Accra, with strong messages of hope and prosperity for the party as well as the entire nation.

The launch was under the theme, "Ghana Must Work Again... Yabre!" The occasion was graced by some of the leading members of the party including the Chairperson Samia Nkrumah, Dr. Abu Sakara, Presidential Candidate, Professor Agyeman Badu Akosah.

A large crowd of people consisting of party followers also witnessed the occasion amidst cultural display and music by a number of cultural groups.

In a brief speech, Ms. Samia Nkrumah said "by the launch of our manifesto, we re-affirm our commitment to social justice, as has always been the case. We stand by our conviction that the state must be dy-



Samiah Nkrumah, Chairperson of CPP

namic and provide for all individuals, irrespective of where they come from."

She said the manifesto was in response to the fact that as a nation, Ghana was at a stand-still so far as progress was concerned.

"Have courage and give the CPP the chance to rule the country and within just one year, you would see what the CPP can do for Ghana. You would see the difference," she said. The CPP Chair-Person said once the Party was in power "we can make



Dr. Abu Sakara

Ghana work again by putting our efforts together."

Dr. Abu Sakara said it was unfortunate that after "our first ten years of nation building, nation wreckers prevented us from continuing with our good works. Since 1966, Ghana has been moving backwards instead of progressing and this would have to stop."

He continued, "We are here to bring about change to ensure that the economy grows from within and not from outside."

Dr. Abu Sakara said a CPP govern-

ment under his leadership would ensure that the state was accountable and provided people with their basic needs.

"We began on the platform of service to the community, and that is the platform of the CPP," he said.

Prof. Akosa, a leading member of the party, said politics was about service but unfortunately, here in Ghana, politicians do not seem to have come to serve so far," he said.

According to him, the CPP was a party which held the belief that being in power meant serving the people.

"Vote for those who would serve you," he said.

The 20 page manifesto has three key areas; Social transformation, Sustainable economy and Social Justice. Some of the issues to be tackled under these broad areas are agricultural and rural transformation, fighting corruption, developing and equipping the youth of the country with employable skills, ensuring a comprehensive housing policy and urban development.

NOW ON SALE

The fascinating story of a Ghanaian royal captured and sold into slavery in the Americas and eventually became the first black businessman in Newark, NJ

Foreword by Linda C. Epps, PhD

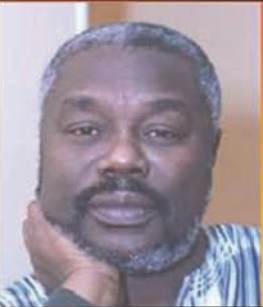
And blurbs from:

Molefi Kete Asante, author and professor at Temple University, Philadelphia


Richard L. Baker, military historian

John Cunningham, renowned historian

Jack Cudjo
KOFI AYIM



Kofi Ayim takes keen interest in his African heritage and is well-versed in Akan culture, traditions, and customs. He was one-time cultural columnist of *Asenta*, an African community newspaper and now writes and edits *Amandla*, another African community newspaper in the New York area. Kofi lives in New Jersey with his two children.
Jack Cudjo is his first book.



NEWARK'S REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIER
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FIRST BLACK BUSINESSMAN

KOFI AYIM

Foreword by Linda Caldwell Epps, PhD

This is a riveting historical account of an early enslaved African in New Jersey on par with the narrative of Olaudah Equiano. Cudjo, or Banquante, is an extraordinary person who enters our history in this book with a much fuller portrait and historical account than has been possible. The author's work is thorough, literate, and erudite.

- **Dr. Molefi Kete Asante**, author "The History of Africa"

"Kofi Ayim has obviously done extensive and superb research in his efforts to capture the history surrounding the life of Cudjo. He presents not just the story of one individual but goes on to link his life with those of his ancestors and his descendents, producing a wonderful exploration of the family, their accomplishments, sufferings, and contributions to the Nation and the world at large. Good Job!"

- **Richard Lee Baker**, Historian, US Army Military History Institute.

This is a long overdue compilation of material on an important, but neglected, New Jersey figure. It is a valuable addition to an understanding of the contributions of African Americans and their role in New Jersey history.

- **John T. Cunningham**

Jack Cudjo

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African Business

Ghana to boost cotton production with modern biotechnology

Mrs. Sherry Ayittey, Minister of Environment, Science and Technology, has expressed government's willingness to adopt modern biotechnology in the cotton industry to boost production.

She said the adoption of modern biotechnology would help farmers cut down production costs associated with the use of pesticides and weed management.

Mrs. Ayittey, who made this known at the opening ceremony of a two-day stakeholders' workshop on BT Cotton on Monday in Accra, said the application of conventional pesticides and herbicides had negative effects on the health of farmers and hazardous to the environment.

"These hazards are greatly reduced when transgenic cotton is cultivated", she said.

The workshop on the theme, "Expanding the use of Biotechnology for Cotton Production in the three regions in the Northern Ghana", was aimed creating awareness on suitable options to increase cotton productivity, including the benefits of crop biotechnology in suitable economic development with emphasis on insect tolerant and herbicides tolerant

cotton.

It would also assist Government to make an informed decision on whether to adopt the technology. According to her, statistics had shown that in West Africa, most growing cotton countries were currently experiencing irregular drops in cotton production. Togo's cotton production has collapsed lately from having reached 180,000 tonnes in 2002 to a mere 40,000 tonnes by 2006.

Cote D'Ivoire, Mali and Benin are also showing very irregular production abnormal patterns with huge drops in production recently.

Burkina Faso and Nigeria appear to have an overall positive production tendency and are both producing half a million tonnes of cotton or more and seems to have positive development in terms of yield and are outperforming the others.

Mrs. Ayittey noted that Ghana's cotton production had dropped drastically after the 90s from 45,000 tonnes to 20,000 tonnes per year.

Comparing Ghana and its neighbors share of the world market, she said the country's annual production was increasingly dwarfed, saying "China are producing over 20 million tonnes



Mrs. Sherry Ayittey

of cotton annually while India produces over 10 million."

She said Ghana's under performance in this area with a yield of only 0.8 tonnes per hectare was due to environmental and agronomical factors militating against the industry, such as attack from insects.

"In Ghana, we believe that modern

technology holds the key to solving this problem, because through this technology a number of effective interventions have emerged to boost the cotton industry", she said.

Mrs. Ayittey emphasized the importance of UNIDO Technical Assistance programme to ensure quality of cotton produced in line with international standards, and the conversion of cottonseed into by-products such as vegetable oil and animal feed to increase the income

of farmers.

She noted that the programme was in line with government's vision to increase rural households' income in the three northern regions to reduce the high incidence of poverty among the people.

Mr. Frank Van Rompaey, UNIDO

Country Representative, said the workshop was aimed at supporting the development of insect resistant cotton, suitable for the cotton belt in Ghana.

He said it would serve as a platform for stakeholders to understand the benefits of BT cotton and provide knowledge on the steps needed to be taken for the introduction of BT cotton in Ghana.

He said the introduction of BT cotton in South Africa had resulted in 25 per cent increase in cotton yields with 66 per cent reduction in cost of application of pesticides, adding that farmers could earn an increase of up to 135 dollars per ha from BT cotton. A 2010 study report in Burkina Faso reported yield increases of between 12.5 and 23 per cent with resource poor farmers involved in cotton production earning 61.88 dollars per hectare more than what they earned with conventional cotton production and gained 39.00 per hectare in profit, after offsetting the production cost.

Mr. Rompaey pledged UNIDO's commitment to help bring improvement to Ghana cotton industry.

Zimbabwe: China in Massive Investment Drive

By Herbert Moyo

CHINA is set to invest massively in Zimbabwe's decaying water, power, and transport infrastructure, following the recent visit to Beijing by Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai and government ministers, Gorden Moyo and Samuel Sipepa Nkomo.

During the trip the premier said Zimbabwe was in dire need of assistance "embarking on an aggressive programme of infrastructure rehabilitation".

Water Resources Development and Management minister Samuel Sipepa Nkomo said Chinese capital and expertise were essential in the construction of hydro-electric projects to boost Zimbabwe's power generation capacities, including solving Matabeleland's perennial water problems.

"Sino-Hydro (a Chinese company)

will be coming to look at Takanda dam near Nyamapanda, with a view to constructing a hydro-electric project to produce 3 000 megawatts of electricity," said Nkomo. "Zimbabwe has more than 200 large dams and there is the potential to construct hydro-electric schemes to boost our electricity output."

Nkomo also said he had signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Chinese government, which would see a Chinese company coming to engage in a variety of projects including irrigation. He added he held a fruitful meeting with Chinese Water Resources minister Chen Lei, who invited him back to China in September, where they would conclude another MoU to assist Zimbabwe through capacity-building programs.

Minister of State Enterprises and Parastatals Gorden Moyo said they



Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai of Zimbabwe

met various Chinese state enterprises (Seps), including China Machinery and Engineering Corporation, Sino-

Sure (financial services) and Hydro-Sino currently undertaking power-generation activities with the Zambian government at Kariba North.

"The strength of China is in its well-managed and well-resourced Seps," said Moyo. "We went there to understand their model as they are also coming from a background where Seps were loss-making, poorly managed and infested by corruption. We went there to understand how they transformed these Seps to technological success."

He said they also discussed how Zimbabwean Seps could work closely with their Chinese counterparts to achieve re-capitalization through joint-ventures, as well as assistance to re-capitalize Zimbabwe's Seps to enable them to fulfill their potential of contributing to at least 50% of GDP, employment and serv-

ices.

China is projected to become the world's biggest economy by 2020. Tsvangirai's visit - which has irked Zanu PF officials who consider Beijing their exclusive ally in Zimbabwe - suggests China is looking beyond Mugabe's rule. The Chinese have always been considered close allies of Zanu PF since the liberation struggle. However, Tsvangirai's visit at the invitation of the Chinese government has given the distinct impression that he could form the next government.

In his speech at the Sino-African Trade in Services and Investment Forum in Beijing on May 29, Tsvangirai assured the Chinese investors of government protection but stressed the importance of investments that gave maximum benefit to Zimbabweans.

Minister Calls for Transformation, Modernization of ECOWAS Management Procedures

Abidjan - Cote d'Ivoire — Cote d'Ivoire's Foreign Minister, Honorable Daniel Kablan Duncan opened the 68th Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers in Abidjan on Monday 11th June 2012 by calling on the organization to embrace the necessary transformation and modernization of management procedures to raise its competitiveness in a globalizing world.

After 37 years in existence, the Minister, who is the current chair of the Council, said the regional organization has recorded "notable progress, but significant weaknesses still exist in the manner of operations which

continue to limit our level of achievements." He therefore charged the ministers to assume their responsibilities by guiding community institutions to deliver on commitments to citizens and meeting the expectations and the objectives of the organization.

Council, the Minister said, should conclude action on the allocation of the remaining statutory positions within community institutions and also consider recommendations of the 11th Session of the Administration and Finance Committee (AFC) on 4th and 5th June in Abuja, as part of continuing efforts to strengthen the administrative and financial management procedures of ECOWAS institutions. Among the key issues is the need to lift the freeze on recruitment at the ECOWAS Commission, which Minister Duncan urged Council to consider along with the financial implications. He also urged Council to take measures to effect the decision of the Authority of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government last October on the possibility of creating additional Commissioner-positions



Ivorian Foreign Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan

for greater effectiveness and more dynamism in the functioning of the Commission.

In his remarks, the President of the ECOWAS Commission, Ambassador Kadre Desire Ouedraogo noted that the Council session was taking place at a time of political crises in two ECOWAS member States of Mali and Guinea-Bissau. As part of principled efforts to consolidate peace and security in the region, he said that five extra-ordinary summits of Heads of State and two sessions of

the Mediation and Security Council had been held towards resolving these crises.

The president also noted that lack of human resources continued to limit the execution of programs by the Commission and other community institutions, adding that this should be addressed for the benefit of community citizens. While noting that the Council session was also taking place at a time of economic and financial difficulty within the Euro zone, he said the region recorded

economic growth of 6.4% in 2011 and 6.3% in 2012, which has raised the growth prospects for the African continent to 5.1%. However, the president underscored the need for concerted solutions to fast-track the integration and prosperity of West Africa.

In his mid-year report to the Council, the Commission's chief outlined the progress, challenges and the way forward on the regional integration project. The highlight of the opening ceremony of the two-day meeting of ministers in charge of ECOWAS affairs in Member States was the swearing in of the Vice-President of the ECOWAS Commission, Dr. Toga Gayewea McIntosh and six Commissioners who assumed duties last February. The oath of office was administered on them by the President of the Community Court Justice Awa Nana Daboya, after President Ouedraogo had presented the members of his new management team that replaced the Commission's pioneer Commissioners who bowed out last December.

Source: SPONSOR WIRE



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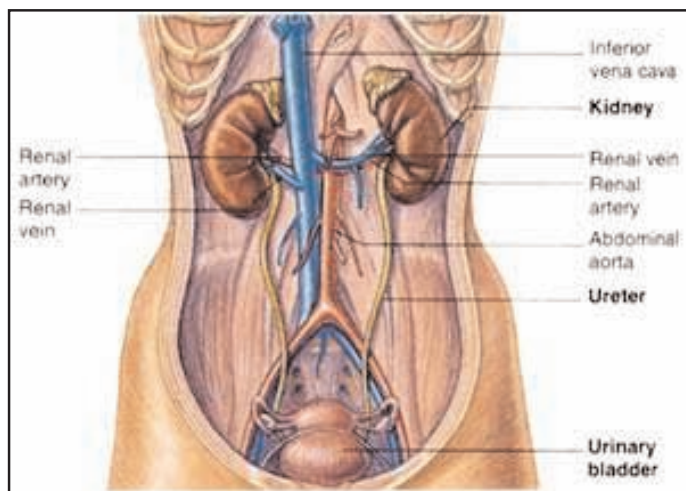
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Liberia: State Closes Border With Ivory Coast

The Liberian government, in response to recent renewed cross-border attacks, has announced the immediate closure of its border with the Ivory Coast as part of series of measures aimed at tackling the problem.

tension along its border with its neighbor is eased. The Liberian ministers also announced the immediate deployment of soldiers of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL), the reinforcement of police and immigration personnel along the Liberian-Ivorian border, the immediate suspension of alluvium gold and other minerals mining along the border and the relocation of refugee camps along the border. Information Minister Brown, who made the pronouncements, also announced as additional measures

Security Council where President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf provided the instructions via telephone conversation from the United States. The ministers' press conference was in immediate response to reports of fresh cross-border attacks Friday in the Ivorian town of Tie. Seven Nigerien soldiers serving the United Nations Operations in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI) were reported killed by mercenaries suspected of coming from the Liberian side of the border, though the Liberian ministers said they could not establish the

demn the attack, describing it as baseless, unwarranted, inhumane and receives no support from the Liberian Government. Foreign Minister Ngafuan, who too had just completed an emergency meeting with the Ivorian Ambassador few minutes to the press conference, was quick to clarify that the incidents happened in spite of both countries' efforts to restore calm to the border. The Foreign Minister reminded the media of the Government's recent turning over of keys to confiscated vehicles to its Ivorian counterparts as part of promises made when both countries held bilateral talks over the cross-border incident. The Liberian officials offered deepest condolences to the bereaved families of the victims involved in the recent attacks. -- allAfrica.com

with the greatest vigilance," French foreign affairs ministry spokesperson Bernard Valéro said Wednesday. As three leaders of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (Aqim) are reported to have arrived in Timbuktu, Paris is "worried by the growing importance of Aqim and its allies", he said. On Tuesday, Foreign Affairs Minister Alain Juppé raised his fear that some Tuareg rebels might ally with Aqim to take over the whole country "in order to create an Islamist republic". The UN Security Council is to make a statement Wednesday on the situation and Valéro called on it to back the Ecomog group of west African states' mediation with coup leaders in Bamako and support humanitarian aid to the north. On Tuesday France's UN ambassador Gérard Araud said that he had won agreement in principle on a declaration, which would support Ecomog, call for the end of rebellion in the north and call on "the international community to mobilise against terrorism in Mali". The European Union on Wednesday called for a ceasefire in the north. Residents of Timbuktu told reporters by phone that the Islamists have forced women to cover their hair, threatened to cut off thieves' hands and ransacked bars. The military junta in Bamako claimed that "serious rights violations" were taking place in another northern city, Gao, accusing the insurgents of kidnapping and raping girls. The elected MP for the area, Abdou Sidibé, confirmed that it was under the control of several groups, including an Aqim splinter group, the Movement for Unity and Jihad In West Africa (Mujao) and traffickers. UNHCR



Peacekeepers load body into a UN vehicle

In a joint press conference held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Minister Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan, Defense Minister Brownell J. Samukai and Information Minister Lewis G. Brown also announced several other measures the Liberian government has taken to ensure that

taken by the Government the extradition of Ivorian mercenaries being held in detention in Liberia, the continuous surveillances of the refugee camps and prosecuting any refugee abusing his or her refugee status. The decisions were reached following hours of meeting of the National

identities of the mercenaries. The ministers further announced that the border will remain closed until otherwise other, but added that it would only be opened to humanitarian traffic. The Government, through the ministers, also used the occasion to con-

Mali: France Fears Al-Qaeda Influence Growing in North

H.Caux/UNHCR

Hundreds of families have crossed the border from Mali into Niger (file photo). France is worried that Al-Qaida's influence is growing in the war-torn north of Mali and wants the UN Security Council to back humanitarian aid to the area, which has fallen to Tuareg separatists, reportedly allied to the Islamist group. "We are following the situation in north Mali, which is very unstable,

with the greatest vigilance," French foreign affairs ministry spokesperson Bernard Valéro said Wednesday. As three leaders of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (Aqim) are reported to have arrived in Timbuktu, Paris is "worried by the growing importance of Aqim and its allies", he said. On Tuesday, Foreign Affairs Minister Alain Juppé raised his fear that some Tuareg rebels might ally with Aqim to take over the whole country "in order to create an Islamist republic". The UN Security Council is to make a statement Wednesday on the situation and Valéro called on it to back the Ecomog group of west African states' mediation with coup leaders in Bamako and support humanitarian aid to the north. On Tuesday France's UN ambassador Gérard Araud said that he had won agreement in principle on a declaration, which would support Ecomog, call for the end of rebellion in the north and call on "the international community to mobilise against terrorism in Mali". The European Union on Wednesday called for a ceasefire in the north. Residents of Timbuktu told reporters by phone that the Islamists have forced women to cover their hair, threatened to cut off thieves' hands and ransacked bars. The military junta in Bamako claimed that "serious rights violations" were taking place in another northern city, Gao, accusing the insurgents of kidnapping and raping girls. The elected MP for the area, Abdou Sidibé, confirmed that it was under the control of several groups, including an Aqim splinter group, the Movement for Unity and Jihad In West Africa (Mujao) and traffickers. UNHCR

Photo Report

It is graduation season yet and as usual Amandla brings you pictures of new graduates in several fields of study from several institutions of higher learning for the year 2012



Nana Yaa Asamoah holds Associate Degree in Radiologic Technology from the Delaware Technical and Community College, Wilmington, DE



Abigail Adjei Serwaah graduated with an Honors degree in nursing from Seton Hall University



Stephanie Adwoa Ampomaa graduated last month from Columbia University Law School.



Felice Amoo-Achampong graduated from Immaculata High School in Somerville, NJ. She leaves high school as a member of the National Honor Society and a passionate leader in community service. Felice will be attending the University of Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania this Fall, where she plans to pursue clinical medicine, along with her interest in the fine arts



Monica Katherine Amoo-Achampong graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, PA. She pursued a double major in Health and Societies and African Studies and graduated with Honors. She is a recipient of a Fulbright grant for the 2012-2013 year, and will be using her award to study mortality in children under five years and malaria in Ghana.



Dr. Isaac Darko is headed to the Virginia Commonwealth University for Fellowship in Traumatic Brain Injury/Polytrauma after Residency at Mount Sinai School of Medicine Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R) Residency Program in New York where he received the "Resident of the Year Award" from the Department.



Richard Osei graduated Bachelor of Science from The College of New Jersey



Paul Boboli graduated from Rutgers University, Newark with degree in Social Work

Amandla wishes all new graduates the best

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Nigeria: DANA - Indian Senior Managers Flee Country

By Paul Dada, Abiodun Oluwarotimi, George Okojie, Gloria Usman, Nkem Osuagwu, and Samuel Abulude

As Dana Air's woes continue to mount over its plane that crashed on Sunday in Lagos, its senior managers of Indian nationality have reportedly fled the country as Nigerian aviation officials investigate the cause of the crash.

LEADERSHIP gathered that the managers hurriedly fled because of the anger the death of more than 200 people has generated and the alleged Dana Air's complicity in the crash. There are reports that the ill-fated plane was poorly maintained and in bad shape when it made its last flight.

When LEADERSHIP called the head, corporate communications, Dana Group, Mr. Tony Usidamen, he refused to pick his calls and also did not reply a text message sent to him. Meanwhile, people living close to the place where Dana Air's Boeing MD-83 plane crashed have raised the alarm over the stench emanating from the site at the Iju-Ishaga area of Lagos State.

The residents of the densely populated area lamented that apart from the wreckage that still litters their vicinity, the offensive odor oozing from the site of the crash calls for concern over the state of health of those inhaling the stench.

Olatunji Lawal, a resident of No. 4, Okusanya Street, a building very close to the crash site, told LEADERSHIP: "What we want government to do is to quickly come to our aid by evacuating us from this area. That is the only thing that can save our lives. "What has happened has

happened. We ask God to grant the dead victims eternal rest. We pray that God will grant the families of the departed souls the fortitude to bear the loss. But we who are still alive need to survive. As it is now, the environment is not hygienic. As we speak now, the stench coming from the wreckage is odious. We even searched for an emergency clinic that NEMA said they have put in place nearby to get ourselves treated but couldn't find it. As we are now, we need to subject ourselves to medical test.

"The structural integrity of this house (his place of residence) is suspect. So, this place is not habitable. When it rained this morning, the house was vibrating. I had to run out, praying to God that the house does not collapse on our heads."

Another resident who gave his name as Pastor Adekunle Adedunni said: "What we need now is the help of people and government because we don't know what to do. They have to compensate the owners of the houses close to the crash site after the people have been evacuated. The place is smelling now."

The concern of another resident was that the people who live around the crash site could have psychological trauma if they were not relocated. He said the area should be used as a burial site for the victims of the air crash.

The Lagos State government has however allayed the fears of the residents, saying the government would fumigate the area as soon as the various investigations being carried out on the site of the crash are concluded and the debris cleared. Speaking with LEADERSHIP, the chief executive officer of the Lagos

Emergency Management Agency (LASEMA), Dr. Femi Oke-Osanyintolu, said efforts were being intensified to get the remaining bodies from the planes and houses affected by the crash, adding that the state government was too proactive to allow the issue of epidemic outbreak to occur. He explained that recovered bodies were carefully packaged inside bags and taken away immediately to the Lagos Teaching Hospital in ambulances, promising that people displaced by the crash would be housed and rehabilitated at the Agbowo relief camp.

Oke-Osanyintolu further said that those displaced by the crash were 36 in number. He said they were being treated at a hospital in Ifako-Ijaye before being taken to the relief camp. The LASEMA boss assured that there would be no epidemic as the two-story building which the plane crashed into would be pulled down and the entire area fumigated. He confirmed that 149 complete bodies of the victims had been evacuated. He stated that the emergency workers would still comb for more body parts before pulling the building down same day.

The commissioner for environment, Mr. Tunji Bello, who also allayed fears of an epidemic outbreak, said all the concerned agencies in the state were already on standby to rise to the challenges of forestalling outbreak of any endemic.

The commissioner urged Lagosians to desist from listening to rumor mongers, saying that it is capable of causing more harm to the unsuspecting commuters. He explained that the odor may have been caused by the continuous rainfall in the state, adding that people in

the neighborhood would be medically safe as soon as the affected environment was fumigated to treat and suppress the odor oozing from the place.

Mr. Rasheed Shabi of the Lagos State Environmental Protection Agency (LASEPA) similarly assured those living around the site of the crash not to panic, adding that LASEPA would fumigate the place.

More bodies recovered
The FRSC said in Abuja that 14 more bodies were recovered on Tuesday from the wreckage of the Dana plane that crashed in Lagos on Sunday.

Mr. Jonas Agwu, the public education officer of the FRSC, who gave the figure at noon, in an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), said the recovery "brings the number of bodies so far recovered to 152".

Agwu said the 14 bodies were recovered during "a joint sustained evacuation exercise" carried out by the National Emergency Management Agency and other relevant agencies. He gave the breakdown of the bodies so far recovered to include 88 males, 48 females, 14 children, and two unidentified mutilated adults.

The plane, which took off from Abuja, crashed into a residential area in Iju, a suburb of Lagos, killing all 153 passengers and six crew members on board.

Agwu recalled that during a similar operation on Monday, more than 130 bodies were recovered from the wreckage.

FG suspends airline's license
The Ministry of Aviation yesterday suspended the Air Operator Certificate (AOC) of Dana Air, following the crash of one of its MD83 aircraft

in Lagos on Sunday. Consequently, the airline could no longer conduct flight operations, though the airline had grounded its operations following the crash since it operates MD83 aircraft only.

The minister of aviation's special assistant (media), Mr. Joe Obi, confirmed the "indefinite" suspension pending when investigation would be concluded.

He said, "We have suspended their operational license in the aftermath of the crash. We have to look at their entire operations".

LEADERSHIP investigations showed that all five Dana aircraft operating in the Nigerian airspace were built between 21 and 22 years ago, thereby breaking government's rule which bans aircraft older than 20 years from operating within the Nigerian airspace.

It was also gathered that NCAA yesterday launched a comprehensive safety and financial audit of all local airlines operating in Nigeria, so as to determine whether they ought to be in business or not.

A source at the regulator said any carrier found to have compromised on global safety standards would have its license revoked.

US consoles Nigeria
United States president Barack Obama has condoled with the federal government of Nigeria over Sunday's plane crash that claimed over 100 lives.

Speaking through the secretary of state, Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton, on Monday night, the US president said he extended his deepest condolences to those who lost family members and loved ones in the deadly plane crash in Lagos, Nigeria. allafrica.com

Women

Rwanda: Quantity or Quality - Impact of Female Leaders On Women's Lives

By Marie-Brigitte Kabalira

Since the last parliamentary elections, Rwanda has been the first country in the world where women hold a majority in one of the chambers of parliament - with 56% in the chamber of deputies. There are also a good number of top female officials in the executive, whether as Ministers or heads of institutions. While this is undoubtedly important for the progress towards gender equity in the country, it is less clear how such a representation is perceived by the citizens, notably ordinary women, and how it impacts their life. In the absence of a representative survey, it seems the answer depends on who you talk to.

For Mukabalisa, a 58-year-old resident of Kigali, having those women in politics does not benefit the ordinary women in any way. "When they are put in those positions, they don't talk to the citizens to see what the reality is like," she complains. "How then can you tell me it is better for the rest of the women? We still have our problems and struggles."

Mukabalisa's conclusion is clear: it makes no difference to have these women in leadership or not.

Hers is of course only one opinion among many, all of them subjective, ignoring either the advantages or the shortcomings of the current crop of female leaders. Getting an objective point of view is not an easy matter.

"A proper tool for analysis is yet to be put in place," confirms Edouard Munyamariza from the Rwanda Men's Resource Center (Rwamrec),



Women in Rwanda's Parliament form the majority

an organization that tries to get men involved in the fight for women's emancipation.

Yet Munyamariza's own view is rather nuanced, as he points out that it would be unrealistic to expect that the women in leadership have done everything perfectly to improve the lives of their fellow women. "It is obvious that there is room for improvement: some gaps to be filled and needs to be met," he says, adding that these women leaders are still to be properly organized and work to address the needs of the citizens.

'Not known'

The first need to be addressed, it seems, is for the leaders to make themselves and their work better known. For instance, Vestine Ingabire, a fruits vendor, says she has no idea who the women in parliament are, and does not know the name of a single one of them. "I don't know them and I don't see what difference they are making to my life," she says, wondering just like Mukabalisa how a person can do something for her if they don't know what she needs.

"I will not be just a spectator and sit

around complaining about what is not going well; I want to make a difference and I know it is possible." -- Solange Uwineza, student

While it is true that these two women do not see a direct impact on their life, it cannot be denied that there are advantages to having such a representation of women in high positions. "The participation of women is the first step to empowerment and it leads to representation of women's needs," Munyamariza remarks.

For that to happen, better organization is still required. "Personally, I

think it could be great if only the ones who are supposed to represent us did just that," Mukabalisa says. "I mean, if they talked with us, then they would know what is needed and where to push for change."

According to Senator Fatou Harerimana, there is indeed improvement in the understanding of leaders as to how to relate to the people. "In our program, we make time to go to the people and interact with them," she says, and also pointing out that parliamentarians are also involved in other events and activities organized mostly through the National Women's Council which goes down to the village level.

In addition, Harerimana points out that having women in the upper echelons of government should have a bigger impact than just representation.

"It should take away their fears and inspire them to aim for positions where they can bring about the change they desire, show them that they are able to do it," the Senator explains.

That is how 17-year-old student Solange Uwineza sees it, saying that seeing so many women in parliament has opened her eyes as to the opportunities a girl can have in life. "I now know that I want to be part of the process of change affecting my life," she says confidently. "I will not be just a spectator and sit around complaining about what is not going well; I want to make a difference and I know it is possible."

Source: The New Times

South Africa: President Zuma Appoints First Female National Police Commissioner

Pretoria — President Jacob Zuma has appointed the country's first female National Police Commissioner, Mangwashi Victoria Phiyega.

Phiyega, who was serving as the Chairperson of the Presidential Review Committee on State Owned Enterprises and Deputy Chairperson of the Independent Commission for the Remuneration of Public Office Bearers, has already undergone the vetting process.

She also chaired the Road Traffic Management Corporation Task Team.

"It is my pleasure to announce the new National Police Commissioner today, who takes office with immediate effect.

"Ms Phiyega brings a wealth of experience as a senior executive who understands the responsibility of government in the fight against crime and the duties imposed in dealing with state assets. I have every confidence that she will show leadership and acquit herself well as National Commissioner," said Zuma. He wished her all the best in her new assignment.



Police Commissioner Mangwashi Victoria Phiyega

Phiyega takes over from former Police Commissioner General Bheki Cele. Zuma announced that he had been released from his duties. In September last year, Zuma appointed a Board of Inquiry to investigate the alleged misconduct by Cele and to pronounce on his fitness for office or his capacity to execute his official duties efficiently and related aspects. The Board of Inquiry Chairperson,

Justice Jakes Molo, presented the report to Zuma on the 20th of May. "The Board has found General Cele to be unfit for office and has recommended his removal from office in terms of the provisions of section 8(6)(b)(v) of the South African Police Service Act No. 68 of 1995. Having thoroughly considered the report of the Board, and applied my mind thereto, I have decided to release General Cele from his duties,"

said Zuma.

He added that General Cele still had a lot to contribute to the country given his experience and commitment to making South Africa a better place for all each day.

Zuma said that during Cele's tenure crime levels dropped.

"I would in particular, like to extend my personal gratitude to General Cele for the unquestionable commitment to his work as National Commissioner. Leading from the front, he brought much needed passion, energy, expertise and focus that boosted the morale of the police leading to improved productivity and a visible reduction in crime levels. "A lot of good work has been done by SAPS. However, the reports of the Public Protector and that of the Board of Inquiry indicate deficiencies administratively and in particular in relation to General Cele's duties as an accounting officer," he said.

The President thanked Lt General Nhlhlanhla Mkhwanazi who has been acting as National Commissioner during the past few months. He has

done a lot of work to keep the force focused on fighting crime and corruption, he said.

Zuma said he had had a discussion with Police Minister Nathi Mthethwa about "what needs to be corrected immediately within the SAPS so that we can continue the excellent record of fighting crime". This included management and financial systems as well as the breaches of information security within the establishment, which Zuma said had "unfortunately become common".

"We have in the past few weeks witnessed a disappointing spectacle of police officers jeopardising state security by placing information in the public domain, in contravention of their oath of office. This is unacceptable and cannot be tolerated if the fight against crime is to continue being effective."

He said Mthethwa and the new National Commissioner would assist in dealing with these matters.

Source: Bua News

Egypt: Women Look for a Place in New Egypt

By Mel Frykberg

Cairo — "It was so frustrating but so exciting at the same time," recalls 15-year-old Mariam Assam, a year-

10 student in Cairo. Assam was recalling the days she tried to join protestors during the Egyptian revolution in January 2011 but was initially prevented by her parents who said street protests were no place for a girl to be.

"I wanted to be part of the revolution, to help Egyptians gain their freedom and women gain their rights, but unlike my brother I had to

argue with my parents long and hard before they eventually allowed me out for a few hours," Assam told IPS.

Assam who wants to be a journalist one day, is from a new generation of Egyptian women better educated than their mothers and grandmothers, and who believe unequivocally in equality for women despite the restrictions many families impose.

She struggles with such cultural constraints but believes, like several other Egyptian women from varying backgrounds IPS spoke to, that the revolution will ultimately be good for women.

Rina El Masry, 40, is an immaculately groomed businesswoman. She is the daughter of a Coptic Christian mother and Muslim father. Like "I believe the ceding of power to

Egypt's interim military government was a step in the right direction for womens' rights despite the number of female parliamentarians dropping to the current two percent under the military as opposed to the 12 percent under deposed former president Hosni Mubarak," El Masry told IPS. "All democracies evolve."

Source: IPS



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Ghana Makes History in Fashion

The organizers of Ghana Fashion and Design Week (GFDW) on Monday announced that Vogue Italia would be their international media partner for the upcoming event scheduled for October 5-7, at the Moevenpick Ambassador hotel in Accra.

A statement issued by the organisers in Accra and copied to Ghana News Agency said "The digital luxury fashion publication has joined forces with GFDW to bring exclusive coverage of the event to the world". This collaboration is truly one-of-a-kind, with Vogue Black Italia high readership from all over the globe, GFDW mission is to provide international journalistic coverage of the fashion event.

"Making history for Ghana and the African continent, such collaboration has never happened before and we hope this partnership lead GFDW commitment to the promotion of designers, ensuring international publishers are able to easily access official sought after GFDW images, content and enabling designers to promote themselves to a global audience," the statement said.

Vogue Italia will exclusively be covering the runway shows, with special backstage features and interviews. It is with great pleasure to add Vogue Italia to GFDW list of global partners, including luxury brands such as L'oreal and Porsche.

This partnership provides participating fashion designers, models and sponsors with brand coverage in key markets, allowing them to be discovered by new contacts globally.

Ghana Fashion and Design Week is a contemporary international platform envisioned to direct, lead and promote both emerging and established designers to a global audience.

It brings together creatively talented fashion and accessories designers in Ghana and in the Diaspora alongside international designers, to showcase their collections to local and international retail buyers, Africa's neo-fashion consumers, influential press, media, and fashion savvy celebrities.

The event incorporates outstanding display of fashion shows and a creative exhibition hub that gives fashion and creative businesses in Ghana and across the globe the opportunity to exhibit their collections and related creative business services alongside the catwalk shows.

The annual event celebration of Ghana's Fashion and Creative business industry is set to epitomize the fashion scene in Ghana, with platforms that celebrates Ghanaian and international designers.

The organization is structured with an aim to develop and educate emerging talents in Ghana through its mentoring platforms and inspirational industry seminars. GFDW is strategically placed to support and strengthen the fashion, textiles and apparel manufacturing industries in Ghana.--ghp

Namibia: 'The Dogg' Admits Having a Fake Licence

THE State last week withdrew criminal charges against Namibia's musician Martin Morocky, aka 'The Dogg', in the Swakopmund Magistrate's Court, on the condition that he pay a N\$4 000 admission-of-guilt fine on a charge of forging a car license disk.

Morocky paid the fine.

If he had not, the criminal charge of forgery would have continued against him. The Namibian tried to obtain comment from 'The Dogg', but all he said was: "No comment".

Morocky apparently bought a second-hand Volkswagen Combi from a private seller about a year ago.

In December, the driver of the vehicle was pulled off the road because the vehicle was not roadworthy. Morocky was a passenger in the car. A quick check revealed that the license disc had been forged.

The Dogg' was arrested and made his first appearance just before the New Year where he was released on N\$1,000 bail. The vehicle was im-

pounded, but according to Police sources, it has been returned to him.

Tanzania: Ghanaian Musicians Tell Dar Counterpart to Unite, Fight Piracy

LOCAL musicians have been called on to unite and toughen up in their fight against piracy which is threatening to destroy the entertainment industry.

It is a call from their Ghanaian counterparts, as delivered in Dar es Salaam by local music expert, Angelo Luhala, who recently visited the West African nation. Luhala, who is the Director of Rulu Arts Promoters, a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) which advocates for artistes welfare, toured Ghana with a view to acquaint himself with the state of its music industry.

"I had opportunity to share experience with Ghanaian musicians on music piracy and other issues pertaining to the music industry. They told me that our musicians should wake up and fight for their rights and welfares without fear," said Luhala. Luhala quoted the Ghanaian musicians as issuing an uplifting to their Tanzanian counterparts on the fight against piracy, pointing out that 'it is a war' they should fight to death.

They argued, instead of complaining about their destituteness, Tanzanian artistes, through their forums, must pressurize the government to put in place effective copyright legislation that could better fight infringement.

"They're even ready to come to Tanzania and offer our musicians support and advice on how to fight for their rights and welfares," Luhala said.

"The only way musicians can defeat the cancer of piracy is through unity of purpose." Giving his experience of Ghana music industry, Luhala said he observed a strong unity among its artistes and that the government has

been contributing towards the development of the industry.

"Look, the Ghanaian government recently dished out a two million Ghana cedis (about US 1,040,312 Dollars) to boost the country's music industry." Luhala said Ghanaian government has learnt that the country has a vibrant creative arts industry that can be nurtured to create jobs and provide increased income to all stakeholders. Ghana musicians, according to Luhala, have established strong music associations, which are the corner stone of their success as compared to Tanzanians.

"Ghanaian musicians are very rich," Luhala observed. "It is important we have organs that can operate for the benefit of the entire industry and not for few unscrupulous people or companies." Luhala was grateful to the Business Environment Strengthening for Tanzania - Advocacy Component (BEST-AC) who sponsored his trip to Ghana and vowed to share the experience with music stakeholders in the country, in a bid to inspire positive revolution in the industry. – Tanzania Daily News

South Africa: Samro Foundation Awards R1 Million in Music Study Bursaries

The South African Music Rights Organisation (SAMRO) Foundation has awarded a total of R1.13 million in music study bursaries for 2012, giving 113 young South Africans a helping hand.

A total of 195 applications were received for this year's bursaries, submitted by prospective and existing undergraduate and postgraduate students who are pursuing full-time music studies at various South African tertiary institutions. Of those applicants, 113 candidates succeeded on merit following evaluation by a panel of adjudicators. Each was awarded a R10 000 bursary towards their tuition fees. In the General Music study category,

71 bursaries were awarded in the Western Art, Jazz and Indigenous African music genres, while 15 bursaries were granted for Music Education studies, and 19 for Composition studies.

A record number of 30 applications were received for Music Composition - which bodes well for the future of original, home-grown compositions, whether they be scores for film, television or other media, advertising jingles or recorded music. In the area of Indigenous African music research, eight postgraduate bursaries were awarded. This is an avenue of study that the SAMRO Foundation is keen to promote. Students at the University of Cape Town claimed the lion's share of the 2012 SAMRO music bursaries (32), with North West University, the University of Pretoria and the University of Stellenbosch also faring well with 14 recipients apiece.

Other institutions whose students benefited from the music study awards were the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (12), Tshwane University of Technology (8), University of Fort Hare (1), University of KwaZulu-Natal (9), Rhodes University (3), University of Venda (1) and the University of the Witwatersrand (5).

This marks the third consecutive year that SAMRO has awarded in excess of R1-million in music study bursaries. Since 1981, the organization has awarded 1 517 such bursaries, and has pumped more than R50 million into music education through this scheme and other initiatives such as its annual Overseas Scholarships Competition.

Lady Gaga wants a live cockroach hat

The singer has instructed her designers to come up with a hat filled with cockroaches.

She's grown fond of the insects since being informed of a study which proved they respond to her music more than songs by any other artist.

A source said: "Lady Gaga has been looking to top her famous meat dress for some time — and this could be it. "She dubbed cockroaches 'My real life monsters' after hearing of the recent study.

"Now she wants to incorporate them in a headpiece by having them crawling around inside a netted cage."

Last year students in New York, who were studying the engineering and movements of cockroaches, played music to the insects to get them moving after they failed to respond to electric pulses.

After material from Weezer and heavy metal group Avenged Sevenfold bombed, Gaga's hits sparked them into life.

At least this headwear will be one of the cheapest in her massive collection.

A box of cockroaches shouldn't set her designers back too much at her local pet shop.

Wearing the creepy crawly-filled hat is also handy preparation should her career nose-dive and she ends up in a future series of I'm A Celebrity . . .

Get Me Out Of Here. I'd love to see her in the jungle alongside Michael Owen, Stavros Flatley and Lindsay Lohan.

Source: Thesun.co.uk

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Central Africa: New UN Report Highlights Lord's Resistance Army Atrocities Against Children

The Ugandan rebel group known as the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) remains among the most persistent perpetrators of grave violations against children, says a new United Nations report.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's first report to the Security Council on the situation of children affected by the LRA documents violations committed against children, and measures taken to address the LRA threat between July 2009 and February 2012.

Over the reporting period, at least 591 children, including 268 girls, were abducted and recruited by the LRA, mostly in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), but also in the Central African Republic (CAR), and in South Sudan.

The LRA is currently believed to be made up of between 200 and 500 fighters. Formed in the 1980s in Uganda, the LRA mainly directed its attacks against Ugandan civilians and security forces for over 15 years. By 2004, it had largely been driven of the area through a sustained military effort. It then exported its activities to Uganda's neighboring countries, with practices that include the recruitment of children, rapes, killing and maiming, and sexual slavery.

"The LRA continues to cast a long shadow across central Africa, causing enormous suffering for children," said the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, Radhika Coomaraswamy, at a press conference at UN Headquarters today. The Special Representative's office

monitors six grave violations against children: recruitment and use of child soldiers; killing and maiming; sexual violence; denial of humanitarian access; abduction; and attacks on schools and hospitals.

Ms. Coomaraswamy said that due to protection activities and the military operations carried out in the affected areas, the LRA is weakened, but it continues to be able to make random attacks.

In the DRC, a trend appeared in 2010, and was more apparent in 2011, of children being abducted for very short periods to carry loot before they managed to escape or were left behind, according to a news release on the report that added that this suggests a change in the modus operandi of the LRA.

All girls mentioned in the report were forcibly married to combatants, and those who escaped with their babies born of rape were stigmatized by their communities.

The Special Representative noted that the number of children killed and maimed appears to have declined since 2008, perhaps due to increased protection efforts by UN peacekeepers, the massive displacement of civilians fleeing the LRA threat, and the presence of security forces in the LRA's area of operations.

There was also some "relative good news" in that the LRA no longer attack schools and hospitals, she said, adding that despite this, the attacks keep thousands from attending schools because of displacement. In his report, Mr. Ban lauds efforts by the Uganda People's Defence



Some of the child soldiers of Lord's Resistance Army

Force and the African Union to address the threat posed by the LRA. He recommends that all military efforts to address the LRA ensure that the protection of civilians is a central aspect of operations, including through the development of standard operating procedures for the handling of children separated from the LRA.

While noting the need to encourage defections from the LRA as a strategy to weaken the armed group, Mr. Ban indicated that there must be no impunity for war crimes and crimes

against humanity, including grave violations against children - a point also stressed by his Special Representative.

In March, the United Nations and the African Union (AU) launched the UN-supported and AU-led Regional Cooperation Initiative against the LRA (RCI-LRA) and its military component, the RTF, with the aim of bringing an end to the LRA's activities. The RTF is comprised of 5,000 soldiers drawn from the four countries affected by the LRA - Uganda, DRC, CAR and South Sudan.

As long as there are lice in the seams of the garment there must be bloodstains on the fingernails. - Yoruba Proverb

Sport

Ghana: Zambian Policeman Attack Derek Boateng - FA to Petition Fifa

Ghana midfielder Derek Boateng claims he was punched by a police officer after the 1-0 defeat to Zambia on Saturday in a 2014 FIFA World Cup qualifier.

The FC Dnipro ace was embroiled in an altercation with policemen on the tartan tracks of the Levy Sports Stadium before entering the dressing room.

Many Ghana players confronted Tunisia referee Med Kordi after the final whistle due to some of his controversial decisions.

Boateng claims he was taunted by a steward and as he walked off the pitch an officer in uniform punched him behind.

"When I was coming off the pitch, one of the guys came in front of me trying to tease me and I just said to

him they will be coming to Ghana, and I walked towards him, but a policeman punched me from behind," Boateng lamented. Boateng played for 65 minutes before being replaced by Anthony Annan.

Meanwhile, the Ghana Football Association says it will petition FIFA after two of its players claimed they were assaulted by Zambian police men after Saturday's 2014 World Cup qualifier.

Midfielder Derek Boateng and unused striker Ben Acheampong are reported to have been punched by security personnel after a post-match melee.

"The judgment is there for all of you to make. You saw what happened on the pitch but we want to put on record that we to view the tapes of



Derek Boateng

what happened after the match and if two of our players Ben Acheampong and Derek Boateng were punched, we will have to take it up to CAF," Ghana FA spokesperson Ibrahim Sannie-Daara said at the post match conference.

This is unacceptable in African football. The Zambians were very nice to us until the game.

Also, some officials were not allowed entry into the VIP lounge and that did not go down well with the Ghana FA.

"Officials of the Ghana Football Association were put in the midst of supporters. It is unfair," Daara added. We didn't come to war, we came to play football and you won the game, well it's good but the underhand dealings and the way we were treated is utterly unfair.

"I mean the board members of the Ghana FA were put into the crowd is unfair. We wouldn't do that to Zambia in Accra."

Ghana have lost to the Chipolopolo twice in four months after a semi-final 1-0 defeat at the 2012 Africa Cup of Nations.

Bradley-Pacquiao bout 'is like a fixed fight'-Joshua Clotey

Former IBF Welterweight champion Joshua Clotey feels the controversial Pacquiao-Bradley bout looked like a "fixed fight".

Pacquiao landed 94 more punches than Bradley according to CompuBox, but it was not enough as the judges stunningly awarded a split-decision win to Bradley, who lifted the World Boxing Organization wel-

terweight title from Pacquiao with the victory.

But in an interview with www.liquidportsghana.com, Joshua Clotey who once lost to Pacquiao in a one-sided bout said "it's like a fix fight because if you watched the press conference before the fight, you would have seen Bradley holding a card which read "Rule 2-November Bradley vs. Pacquiao."

He added that the result of the bout was known well ahead of time, "they knew that Bradley will win the fight and there would be a re-match on November 12th. Bradley held up the same card again after the fight. "They were all happy about the re-match because you know Floyd Mayweather is in jail and cannot



Joshua Clotey

fight Pacquiao and I don't think they can do the negotiation for the fight because of their egos."

Clotey alleged that the ultimate aim is to get people to watch a rematch between the two boxers. "So it's a kind of a game where they want people to know that Bradley beat Pacquiao so that people will buy the pay per view the second time"

A proverb is the horse that can carry one swiftly to the discovery of ideas. - Yoruba Proverb

Zambia FA: We will investigate attack on Ghana

The Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) has started an investigation into the suspected assault of some members of the Black Stars playing body after last Saturday's World Cup Qualifier between Ghana and Zambia in Ndola, Zambia which the Chipolopolos defeated the Black stars by 1-0.



Sule Muntari

Reports after the match did indicate that some members of the Ghana team; Sulley Muntari, Derek Boateng and Ben Acheampong had been manhandled by the Zambian police after the referee's final whistle.

But the authorities in Zambia as expected have taken steps to address the alleged incidents after the match. Speaking on the Ultimate Sports show on Asempa Fm on Monday, the Spokesperson for the FAZ, Eric Mwanza said his outfit has taken measures to address the matter.

According to him, the Zambian FA have requested for tapes on the match from the national television station and have also implored on

any private individual who has a tape covering those incidents to submit it to them. He therefore called on those who are pointing accusing fingers to the Zambian Police to hold their fire until the investigations are over.

The two football bodies have also met on how to solve the issue amicably, he added. In a related issue, Mwanza declined to comment on the performance of the match officials since he claims it is the policy of the FAZ not to comment on officiating. "We are happy for winning the game against Ghana and we hope to continue from here and ensure that we qualify for the 2014 World Cup". he added.

Kwasi Appiah named SWAG coach of the year

James Kwasi Appiah picked up the Coach of the Year award at the 37th edition of the Sports Writers Association of Ghana Awards night on Saturday.

The 52-year-old was rewarded for his impressive works with the Ghana U-23 team at the 2011 All Africa Games where the Black Meteors won an historic gold medal.

Appiah who was then assistant coach of the Black Stars was asked to take over the team in an emergency call at a point the side was on the verge of being kicked out of the qualification series for the games.

And after expertly dispatching Nigeria in the two-leg ultimate qualifier, the former Ghana captain led his charges to conquer all in Maputo, Mozambique to claim Ghana's first

ever gold medal. He reverted to his substantive job with the Black Stars where he helped Goran Stevanovic to lead the Black Stars to a semifinal finish at the 2012 Nations Cup – a disappointing feat that led to the dismissal of the Serb.



Coach Kwasi Appiah

Appiah was then appointed as the substantive replacement for Stevanovic late April and was impressive on his debut beating Lesotho 7-0 in the 2014 World Cup qualifier.

Cameroon dethrone Ghana at number two in women's football

Cameroon has dethroned Ghana as the second best women's football team on the African continent. According to the latest rankings released last week by world soccer governing body, Federation of International Football Associations

(FIFA), the Indomitable Lionesses are ranked 50th in the world, one place above the Black Queens. The latest ranking, which comes barely few days to this weekend's Africa Women's Championship (AWC) qualifier between Cameroon and Ghana, confirms the rising status of the former in the women's game. The first leg in Accra a fortnight ago ended one all and the Black Queens must win in Yaounde to qualify for the AWC scheduled for Equatorial Guinea in November. Also bound for the London 2012 Olympic Games together with South Africa, the Cameroonians strode to their highest ever position on the FIFA rankings, which places them behind Nigeria continentally. The development adds to the dwindling fortunes of the Black Queens who have placed second fiddle to the Super Falcons since the institution of the rankings.

The Queens highest ever ranking was 48th position, achieved exactly four years ago. Nigeria, the only African team in the world's top 30 are ranked 27. South Africa, Equatorial Guinea, Cote d'Ivoire, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria and Senegal complete the top 10 ranked teams in Africa.

SWAG thanks all for ensuring success of Awards Night

The Sports Writers Association of Ghana (SWAG) has extended appreciation to institutions and individuals

for their support in the successful organization of its 37th Awards Night. Over 20 sportsmen and women and administrators were honored for their performances in 2011 at the 37th MTN-SWAG Awards Night held last Saturday at the Banquet Hall, State House, Accra.

"We are very grateful for your support in making the event a success. We look forward to extending our partnership for future events," said Ackah Anthony, SWAG President. It said the unprecedented number of sponsors for this year's event is a demonstration of the confidence of corporate institutions, patrons and individuals in the Association. The statement said the support received from individuals and organizations also brings to fore the nation's passion for the development of sports.

It noted that the Association will continue to recognize the efforts of sports men and women for their outstanding performance as part of its efforts to contribute to the development of sports in the country.

The SWAG Awards Night was sponsored by communication giants MTN, Goldfields Ghana Limited, Stanbic Bank, Ghana Oil Company Limited (GOIL) and Sidalco.

Other organizations that supported the event are DSTV, ATL, Voltic, TT Brothers, Accra Breweries Limited (ABL), Giligold Pharmaceuticals Limited dealers in GidiPower and Gidi Herbal, Royal Oasis Ghana Limited and Multi TV.

Gianni Merlo, President of the Association of International Press for Sports (AIPS) was the Special Guest of Honour at the SWAG Awards Night.

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1,000-1,500	20	51-75
1,501-2,000	25	78-100
2,001-2,500	30	110-125
2,501-3,000	40	150
3,001-3,500	45	175
3,501-4,000	50	200
4,001-4,500	55	225
4,501-5,000	60	250
5,001-5,500	65	275
5,501-6,000	70	300
6,001-6,500	75	325
6,501-7,000	80	350
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