



NEWSLETTER



1 MINISTERS' PRESS BRIEFING AND STATE OF THE AGENCIES REPORT

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2 GREEN GHANA 2023: LANDS MINISTRY TARGETS 10 MILLION TREES

The Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources has targeted planting 10 million trees as part of the Green Ghana project, an initiative meant to restore the country's degraded landscape.

3 OPPONG NKURUMAH URGES PROS TO BE PROACTIVE IN COMMUNICATION

The Minister for Information, Hon. Kojo Oppong Nkrumah has urged Public Relations Officers (PROs) of state institutions and agencies to be proactive and effectively communicate the government's work to various stakeholders to enhance development.



4 ISD LAUNCHES TOOL TO COMBAT MISINFORMATION

The Information Services Department (ISD) of the Ministry of Information has launched a new tool aimed at combating the growing scourge of misinformation in the country.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF DIRECTOR



Dear readers,

I welcome you all to our first quarter newsletter for the year 2023.

In this bulletin, we bring you activities by the Ministry under the period under review.

Our flagship programmes, the Ministers Press Briefing and the State of the Agencies media engagement platforms addressed issues in the area of energy, housing, health, mineral resources

I would like to congratulate the Public Relations Officer Hajia Munira Karim at the Ministry on emerging as the 1st runner-up at the 3rd PR review awards.

Although not much has been achieved in this quarter, we are hopeful that the Ministry would see better days in the coming months.

We hope you will enjoy reading this newsletter and appreciate the confidence you have placed in our work.

Mrs. Mamle Andrews

Chief Director

Ministry of Information

TABLE OF CONTENT

Ministers' Press Briefing and State Of The Agencies Report	4
TDCL Rolls Out Plan For Affordable Housing	5
Africa Must Develop Strategies To Attract Investments – Yofi Grant	5
Gridco To Earn Revenue From Export Of Energy For The First Time Since 1983	6
Only OMCs with 45 or more outlets will receive G40 products – NPA boss	7
Govt to take delivery of measles vaccines soon -Health Minister	8
Green Ghana 2023: Lands Ministry targets 10 million trees	9
Oppong Nkrumah Urges PROs To Be Proactive In Communication	10
ISD Launches Tool To Combat Misinformation	11
Consensus Building Is Crucial For The Country's Economic Progress-Oppong Nkrumah	12
The Spread of False Information in the Digital Age: A cause for alarm	13



Kojo Oppong Nkrumah

Minister for Information and MP for Ofoase Ayirebi



Fatimatu Abubakar

Dep. Minister for Information

MINISTERS' PRESS BRIEFING AND STATE OF THE AGENCIES REPORT

In this quarter, A total of seven media engagements have been held under the Ministry's flagship programmes; the Minister's Press Briefing and the State of the Agencies Report.

The first briefing this year was by the Ghana Gas Company Limited.

At the briefing, the Managing Director of the Ghana Gas Company Limited, Dr Ben Asante informed the media on the state of operations in his outfit.



The Managing Director of the Ghana Gas Company Limited, Dr. Ben Asante during his presentation

He mentioned that the company has replaced Chinese expatriates running its Atuabo plant with local engineers as part of the company's move to indigenize its operations.

According to him, this move has saved the company some \$3 million in operation costs every month.

In addition to the company's indigenization drive, Dr Asante added that Ghana Gas has over the years contributed to develop a highly trained and motivated world-class workforce full of local engineers and technicians capable of sustaining the petrochemical industry to play a pivotal role in accelerating the development of Ghana's economy.

The Managing Director also disclosed that his outfit has embarked on 152 projects across the length and breadth of the country as part of its community outreach programmes

The projects according to him span education, health, water and sanitation, sports, security, and roads.

He noted that the company has 301 of these projects ongoing across the country with a majority of them at different levels of completion.



The Deputy Minister for Information, Fatimatu Abubakar and the CEO of Ghana Gas Company Limited, Dr Ben Asante in a group photo with the directors of Ghana Gas.

MINISTERS' PRESS BRIEFING AND STATE OF THE AGENCIES REPORT

The TDC Company Limited (TDCL) has expressed its unwavering commitment to bridging the housing deficit in the country through the construction of affordable houses for the public.

The Managing Director of the company, Alice Abena Ofori-Atta, said the Community 26 Kpone affordable housing project and the Community 22 housing scheme, among other projects, were some of the areas that the company had chalked up some successes in the drive to offer affordable accommodation to the public.

The apartments of that community comprise studio apartments, one-bedroom standard, one-bedroom special and two-bedroom facilities numbering over 2,000 housing units.

A second phase, he said, was underway, and would comprise a total of 201 housing units made up of two and three-bedroom apartments.

With the deployment of flexible payment platforms, it was easier for potential home owners to access their houses and make payments with ease.

Ms Ofori-Atta said the company would continue to do its best to ensure that it achieved its noble mission of creating and managing unique and sustainable urban settlements to meet the evolving needs of our residents, businesses and other stakeholders.



The Deputy Minister of Information, Fatimatu Abubakar addressing the media before the TDC Company Limited presentation.



(second from left), Director-General of the State Interests and Governance Authority Edward Boateng with Managing Director, TDC and Company Limited, Alice Abena Ofori-Atta (middle), and Deputy Minister of Information, Fatimatu Abubakar (right) flanked by some Directors from TDC Company Limited

AFRICA MUST DEVELOP STRATEGIES TO ATTRACT INVESTMENTS – YOFI GRANT

The Chief Executive Officer of the Ghana Investment Promotion Centre (GIPC), Yofi Grant, has called on countries in sub-Saharan Africa to develop new strategies to attract foreign direct investments (FDIs).

The GIPC Boss noted that even though Africa has many natural resource endowments, including lithium, bauxite, and gold, and with 70 per cent of the world's

arable lands, it was still a small player in terms of global FDI attraction with only 5.2 per cent.

He underscored the need for the leaders to leverage on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) to trade among themselves since it was one of the largest trading blocs in the world.



The Chief Executive Officer of the Ghana Investment Promotion Centre (GIPC), Yofi Grant



A Section Of Media Personnel And Staff From GIPC At The Briefing

GRIDCO TO EARN REVENUE FROM EXPORT OF ENERGY FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1983



Chief Executive of GRIDCO's, Ing. Ebenezer Essienyi

The Ghana Grid Company (GRIDCo) has announced that it is set to earn revenue for the first time since 1983, thanks to the export of power to neighbouring countries such as Togo, Benin, Cote d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso.

This has come as a relief to the company, which has been struggling with late payments from its clients, including the Electricity Company of Ghana (ECG), Northern Electricity Distribution Company (NEDCo), and the mining industry.

The Chief Executive of GRIDCO's, Ing. Ebenezer Essienyi mentioned that the earnings from the export of power are very important to the company and would support operations even when ECG, NEDCo and the mines are late in settling their debts.

"For the first time since 1983, the line between Prestea and Cote d'Ivoire was used for friendly commercial business. Money wasn't exchanging hands but this time our brothers from CI Energies has come for us to sign an agreement that will enable us to earn significant revenue," he said.

In recent years, GRIDCo has seen an increase in the demand for electricity from its neighbouring countries, leading to a substantial increase in its revenue. This development is expected to support the company strengthen its operations and ensure a more stable power grid for Ghana.

The revenue from the export of power is a welcome development for GRIDCo, which has not seen any significant increase in revenue since 1983. This is expected to have a positive impact on the power sector in Ghana, as GRIDCo would have more resources to invest in improving its transmission infrastructure and ensuring a reliable and stable supply of electricity.

GRIDCo is the national power transmitter in Ghana, responsible for transmitting electricity from wholesale suppliers to bulk consumers. The company also plays an important role in the Wholesale Electricity Market, by undertaking economic dispatch and maintaining the National Interconnected Transmission System.



The Deputy Minister for Information, Fatimatu Abubakar behind the podium calling on a journalist to ask questions during the briefing.

ONLY OMCs WITH 45 OR MORE OUTLETS WILL RECEIVE G40 PRODUCTS – NPA BOSS



The Chief Executive Of NPA, Dr Mustapha Abdul-Hamid

The Chief Executive of the National Petroleum Authority (NPA), Dr Mustapha Abdul-Hamid, has said the NPA in consultation with the Association of Oil Marketing Companies (AOMCs) has come up with criteria for the distribution of the next consignment of petroleum products imported under the Gold for Oil (G4O) programme.

According to him, this is to ensure that the impact of the G4O programme is felt by consumers across the country.

He said this while addressing the concerns of the AOMCs about a lack of clarity regarding the allocation of products supplied under the programme.

The criteria take into consideration the top 25 OMCs that distributed petrol and diesel in 2022 with not less than 45 retail outlets across the country.

Touching on activities undertaken to ensure product quality and integrity, the NPA Boss mentioned the supply of low sulphur fuels (cleaner fuels),

a maximum of 50ppm for imports and a maximum of 1500ppm for domestic production.

The NPA also undertakes periodic petroleum product monitoring exercises, conducts fuel marker monitoring and quality monitoring of fuel standards (Quality Control) including checking of water in fuel

and collaborates with security agencies to prevent illegal imports, exports and product dumping.

Dr Abdul-Hamid said the Authority used technology (Electronic Cargo Tracking System (ECTS), National Fuel Monitoring System (NFMS) and the Automatic Tank Gauge system) to ensure the intended delivery of petroleum products along the petroleum downstream value chain.

He mentioned the revocation of licenses and publication of the names of defaulting Petroleum Service Providers (PSPs) and Laycans allocation and monitoring to ensure adequate supply as some of the activities undertaken to ensure order in the downstream petroleum industry.

the National Petroleum Authority is collaborating with the Economic and Organised Crime Office (EOCO) to retrieve all taxes owed by some OMCs who are yet to honor their tax obligations to the State.



The Minister for Information, Hon. Kojo Opong Nkrumah in the suit. Flanked by the Chief Executive of NPA, Dr Mustapha Abdul-Hamid, the Deputy Chief Executive Mr. Perry Okudzeto and directors of NPA.

GOVT TO TAKE DELIVERY OF MEASLES VACCINES SOON -HEALTH MINISTER



The Minister of Health, Kwaku Agyeman-Manu behind the podium. Beside him is the Minister for Information, Hon. Kojo Oppong Nkrumah

The Minister of Health, Hon. Kwaku Agyeman-Manu, has assured that the country would in the coming weeks take delivery of some quantities of childhood vaccines to deal with the shortages being recorded in all 16 regions.

The vaccines in short supply are BCG, Measles-Rubella (MR), and Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV).

Hon. Kwaku Agyeman Manu mentioned that for the avoidance of doubt, no deaths from the recently recorded spike in Measles cases.

“We are working with UNICEF, we are fast-tracking the processes and it is expected that the vaccines would be supplied in the next few weeks All things being equal”, the Health Minister said.



The Minister of Health, Kwaku Agyeman-Manu and the Minister for Information, Hon. Kojo Oppong Nkrumah in a discussion.

GREEN GHANA 2023: LANDS MINISTRY TARGETS 10 MILLION TREES



From left, Deputy Minister for Information Fatimatu Abubakar, Minister for Lands and Natural Resources Hon. Samuel Jinapor and Deputy Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, Hon. Benito Bio

The Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources has targeted planting 10 million trees as part of the Green Ghana project, an initiative meant to restore the country's degraded landscape.

The Minister for Lands and Natural Resources Hon. Samuel Jinapor made the statement at the Ministers

Press Briefing

He highlighted some of the Ministry's priority areas and actions the Government is taking to promote sustainable land use and natural resource management in Ghana.

Some of the efforts made by the Government are to secure

certification which would enable Ghana to easily export and trade our refined gold on the international market, review the Mining Policy to align with current developments in the mining industry, the protection of our forest reserves and water bodies among several others.



A journalist asking a question during the media engagement

OPPONG NKRUMAH URGES PROs TO BE PROACTIVE IN COMMUNICATION

The Minister for Information, Hon. Kojo Oppong Nkrumah has urged Public Relations Officers (PROs) of state institutions and agencies to be proactive and effectively communicate the government's work to various stakeholders to enhance development.

He made this statement at the 3rd Annual Government Public Relations Officers Review Summit held in Accra.

The PRO of the Ministry of Information, Hajia Munira Karim was adjudged the first runner-up PRO of the year 2022.

The Summit is an annual event organized by the Information Services Department in collaboration with the Ministry of Information to review the work of Government PROs at the various Ministries, Departments, Agencies, MMDAs and Regional Coordinating Councils.



The Minister for Information, Hon. Kojo Oppong-Nkrumah addressing the participants at the summit



A section of the PROs at the summit

ISD LAUNCHES TOOL TO COMBAT MISINFORMATION

The Information Services Department (ISD) of the Ministry of Information has launched a new tool aimed at combating the growing scourge of misinformation in the country.

The tool, called Ghana Today is a reliable news platform that identifies and counters false information in real time and provides users with an accurate and reliable source of information in a bid to build a more informed and cohesive society.

The launch of the tool took place today at the Ministry's premises and was attended by several Government officials, stakeholders, and members of the media.

Speaking at the launch of the event, the Minister for Information, Hon. Kojo Opong Nkrumah, stated that combating misinformation is a critical task in today's information age that requires a multifaceted approach.

He said that one of such approach is developing tools that would help monitor and track the spread of misinformation on social media

platforms and other online channels.

"As you may be aware, a significant section of our population now relies on online platforms and other social media platforms for information. It is also important to note that some unscrupulous persons have used many of these portals and social media platforms to propagate falsehood and misinformation. This phenomenon is gradually undermining our democracy," the Minister said.

He explained that the rollout of this website would aid the Department in the fight against misinformation by providing direct information from Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) about the works of Government and becoming a repository of all happenings in government.

"The website is expected to provide facts about Government projects and programmes, full texts of all speeches by heads of MDAs, official communications and publications, policies, and program documents to reduce the level of misrepresentations and sometimes

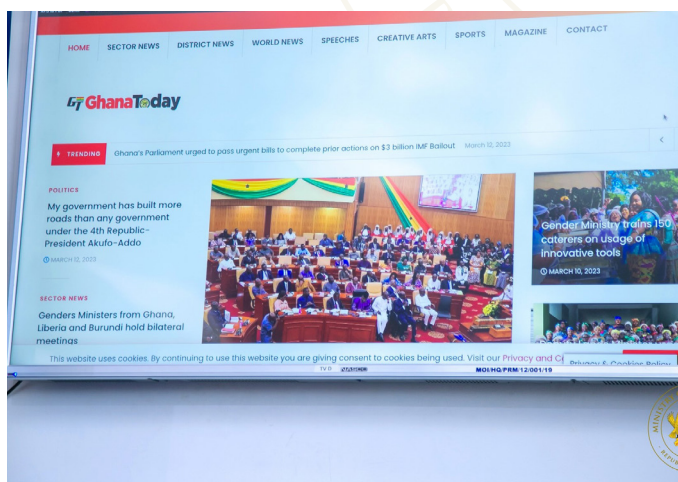
outright misinformation online" the Minister stated.

The launch of the tool forms an integral part of the re-organization and retooling programme of the Department aimed at equipping it to serve more audiences with its work even as the times and media consumption patterns change.

On his part, the Acting Chief Information Officer of the ISD, Mr David Owusu-Amoah urged Ghanaians to make use of the Ghana Today platform and to be vigilant in their consumption of online content.

He said it is important people take responsibility for the information they consume and share and be mindful of the impact of false information on society whiles working together to combat it.

"We all have a role to play in combating misinformation. We must all be responsible and verify the information before sharing it. With this new tool, we hope to empower Ghanaians to take an active role in the fight against fake news," he added.



A screenshot of the Ghana Today Website



The Minister for Information, Hon. Kojo Opong Nkrumah (in suit) and the Chief Information Officer of ISD, Mr. David Owusu-Amoah (in smock) flanked by Directors of the Ministry and ISD.

CONSENSUS BUILDING IS CRUCIAL FOR THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC PROGRESS-OPPONG NKRUMAH

The Minister for Information, Hon. Kojo Opong Nkrumah has encouraged consensus-building between the Government and stakeholders for the country's economic progress.

According to him, such regular engagements are necessary for finding common grounds on issues of concern to citizens.

He made the comments when the Pentecostal and Charismatic Council presented a communiqué to the Government in Accra.

Hon. Opong Nkrumah commended the group for not only concentrating on the church and spiritual matters but also paying attention to contemporary social and economic issues which impact livelihoods.

"It is important that we engage regularly to find common ground on these things that matter most to us collectively," he said.

He assured the council that matters raised in the communiqué are of keen interest to any administration and his Ministry would do well to ensure that the attention of central government is brought to these matters, some keener attention is paid to them and middle ground found on as many of them as possible.

The President of the Council Apostle Eric Nyamekye who led the delegation to present the document to the Minister for Information said the church was always ready to play its role in nation-building by sharing feedback and using its platforms to educate and create awareness on national issues.

He appealed to the Government to critically look at issues raised in the communiqué and address them in these crucial times, especially on the economy.



The Minister of Information, Hon. Kojo Opong Nkrumah with Pentecostal and Charismatic Council and some directors of the Ministry.



The Minister of Information Hon. Kojo Opong Nkrumah exchanging pleasantries with the Chairman of Pentecostal and Charismatic Council Apostle Eric Nyamekye.



The Minister of Information Hon. Kojo Opong Nkrumah in a group photo with the Pentecostal and Charismatic Council and some directors of the Ministry.

THE SPREAD OF FALSE INFORMATION IN THE DIGITAL AGE: A CAUSE FOR ALARM

In today's media, information constantly travels at the speed of light. The sharing of information on our social media platforms without verification, has allowed the spread of false information and this has become a pressing problem. Fake news no matter how little, has the power to spread rapidly through the internet by just a tap of send or share, causing harm to individuals, businesses, and the entire Ghanaian population.

At the heart of this issue is the ease with which anyone can create and spread false information on various online platforms. With the click of a button, misleading or outright false information can be shared with a potentially huge audience, who may believe it to be true. This can have serious consequences, as people make important decisions based on this inaccurate information they would have interacted with.

Fake news does not only affect decisions, but it also has the power to sow division and mistrust, fueling conflicts and exacerbating existing social tensions in communities. In some cases, it has been used as a tool by politicians to spread false information to manipulate public opinion, advance their own interests and ultimately sabotage government activities. This is cause for alarm as it has the potential to stand government projects if the public has been fed lies and therefore may not support them.

Disinformation can be contained by first raising awareness of the problem, and educating people on how to spot false information. This includes learning how to critically evaluate the sources of information, and to be wary of sensational or unverified claims.

Ultimately, combating disinformation is a shared responsibility. It requires

the cooperation of individuals working together as a task force to promote truth and accuracy. In its quest to protect the integrity of information shared in digital media and safeguard the well-being of communities, the Ministry of Information intends to launch a dis/misinformation campaign on digital media in Ghana. The campaign is intended to arm citizens with the required knowledge and skills to detect and deal with false information using social media as our main channels.

We therefore, invite all Ghanaians to partner us on this remarkable journey towards reducing the spread of false information in Ghana.

