

# - THE - MONTHLY STORM

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE OFFICE OF KOJO OPPONG NKRUMAH

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# Russia-Ukraine conflict: Prez Akufo-Addo concerned about safe evacuation of Ghanaians and oil prices



As Russia invades Ukraine, Ghana's President Akufo-Addo has expressed concern about safety of citizens, evacuation of Ghanaians and the impact of the conflict on oil prices.

Already, Western and European countries are beginning to feel the heat of this ongoing conflict as the price of Brent crude oil crossed \$100 per barrel-mark on Tuesday to hit a seven-year high after recording an average of \$87 in January this year. Though most of these countries are looking for alternative crude supply, Russia's influence in the industry cannot be discounted. Concerns about a global economic blowback is rattling economies raising lot of concerns.

In a message conveyed by Information Minister, Kojo Opong Nkrumah, President Akufo-Addo is concerned about the potential loss of lives and the safety of Ghanaians but he is also frustrated by the effect of the conflict on global crude oil prices and how it in turns affect Ghana's economy.

"Although the Russian-Ukraine crisis is not happening on the African soil, the interconnectivity of the world economy and financial markets can trigger reactions in Ghana, and that has been the concern of the President," he said.

Already, fuel prices at various pumps in the

country are inching towards the GHS 8 mark causing transport fares to be increased by some 15% effective February 26, 2022. The crisis when escalated, could spawn supply chain bottleneck which effect would be increase in global oil and liquefied natural gas prices and its associated inflation pressures in several importing countries. This is likely to have a devastating impact on the transport sector.

This the Minister said at a time when the world is dealing with rising energy prices and supply-demand imbalances in several metals and commodity markets, a steady supply of crude from Russia is crucial.

Explaining further, he said fuel prices in the country is contingent on the ongoing conflict since Russia is one of the largest oil producing countries. This is likely to negatively impact Ghanaians, who for apparent reasons are already facing spikes in fuel prices. Not only would prices at the pumps rise, but an increase in price on oil and natural gas will drive up the cost of electricity, he lamented.

If the situation continues or even worsens, the Minister stressed the ripple effects could be more broad-based as this may have an impact on other commodity prices, trade, financial market, and potentially monetary policy.

# Oppong Nkrumah distributes chocolates to climax Chocolate Week celebrations



As part of this year's Chocolate Week celebrations Minister for Information, Kojo Oppong Nkrumah has been giving out boxes of chocolate to Ghanaians to celebrate and promote the consumption of made-in-Ghana chocolate.

The Chocolate Week, which started from 12th to 22nd February, 2022, under the theme: "Eat Chocolate, Stay Healthy, Grow Ghana" and sub-themed "Our Chocolate, Our Health, Our Wealth" is part of efforts to encourage the domestic consumption of Ghana chocolate and other cocoa-based products.

This the Minister as part of his message charged



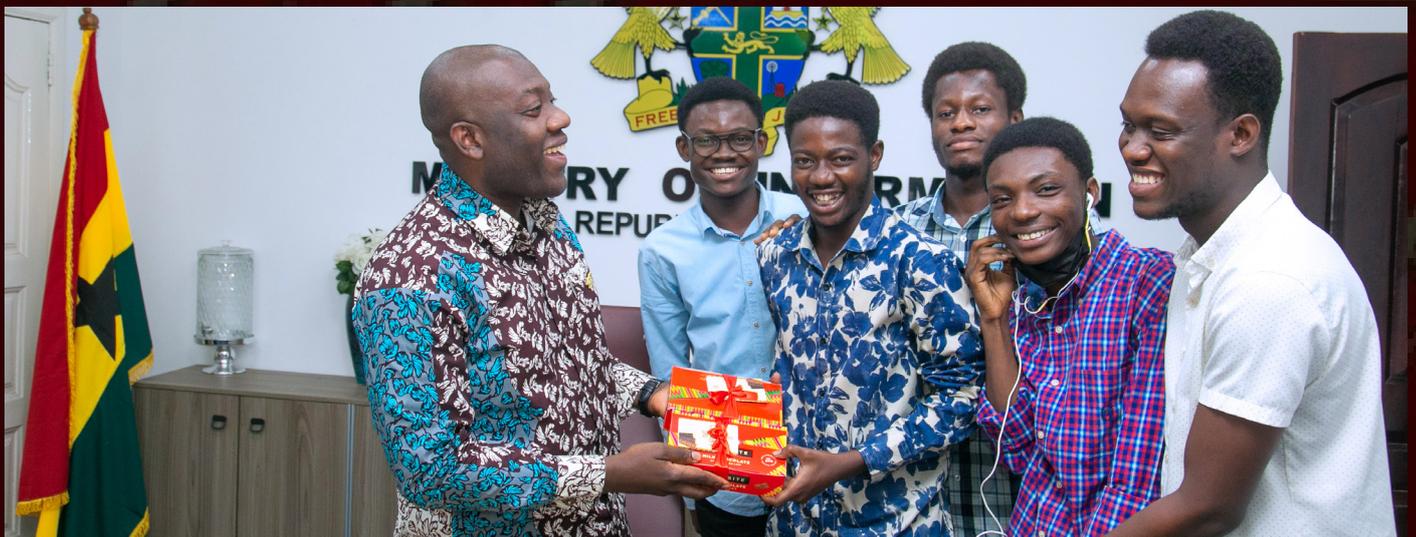
Ghanaians to take huge advantage of the celebrations to patronize cocoa-based products as a way of helping boost Ghana's cocoa industry.

Major activities of the National Chocolate Week Celebration included:

- Cocoa Health Walk on the Aburi Mountains on Saturday 5th February, 2022.
- Donation of Cocoa products to the Chief Imam on Friday, 11th February at the National Mosque as well as some Churches such as Methodist, Presbyterian, Catholic on Sunday, 13th February, 2022. These two events will also be performed by GTA Regional staff in their respective Regions across the Country.
- A float with the Double-decker City tour coach (Auntie Dedei) through some principal streets in Accra to sensitize the public on the health and economic benefits of chocolate and other cocoa-based products, and also the need to embark on domestic tourism on Monday, 14th February, 2022.
- Chocolate Day at the Dubai Expo on Monday, 14th February, 2022.

- Durbar and Exhibition of Chocolate and cocoa based products at the Chococity, Tetteh Quarshie Roundabout near the Accra Mall on Monday, 14th February, 2022.
- Premiering at the Silverbird Cinemas of a Ghanaian movie, "Heroes of Africa, Tetteh Quarshie"
- Chocolate Expo at Kempinski Gold Coast City Hotel in Accra on Tuesday, 22nd February, 2022.

Also, two Chocolate Cities were set up at Tetteh Quarshie roundabout in Accra and Rattray Park in Kumasi to bring all chocolateurs and processors together to showcase their chocolate and cocoa products.



# Engagements on E-levy continues as gov't takes inputs from Ghanaians



A delegation of Ministers have been on the road engaging with Ghanaians to court support for government's Electronic Transactions Levy (E-levy).

The community outreach programme designed to take inputs from Ghanaians on the levy was first held in Koforidua, the Eastern Regional capital of the country.

The engagements are designed to explain the importance of the levy as a source of revenue for national development.



In February however, the engagements took the delegation to Tamale and Wa, both in the northern part of the country.

Minister for Information, Kojo Opong Nkrumah as part of his message during the engagements

recounted the robustness of the Ghanaian economy prior to the influx of the COVID-19 pandemic and how the deadly virus has eroded the gains we made as a country.

He said though the pandemic has caused lots of harm and economic hardships, all is not lost as government is proactively putting measures in place to bring the economy back on track.

This he said what is left is for Ghanaians to support government in bringing the economy back to life through the levy.

Minister for Finance, Ken Ofori-Atta also called on Ghanaians to contribute their quotas towards national development.



# Oppong Nkrumah admonishes investigative journalists to exhibit high levels of integrity in their work



Minister for Information, Kojo Oppong Nkrumah has challenged Ghanaian investigative journalists to at all times exhibit high levels of integrity in the work.

According to him, because the Ghanaian society rely on investigative journalists to draw attention to gaps in law enforcement, they must also repay this trust by exhibiting high levels of integrity in their work.

He was speaking at the Regional Training Workshop on Investigative Reporting on Economic and Financial Crimes for Journalists organized by the Inter-Governmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA) on Wednesday, February 23, 2022, in Accra.

"Society rely on you as investigative journalists to

draw attention to gaps in law enforcement and highlight areas that require attention. The local Ghanaian adage that he who beats the village path, may not see its curves behind him is true. It takes a by-stander to observe and call out that the path behind him is not straight. This is a critical function we expect of you," he said.

This the Minister said investigative journalists are expected to play an enhanced role in creating awareness and providing public education and information on what constitutes economic crimes.

He said this will ensure that people do not engage in such crimes out of ignorance and will help reduce the number of potential culprits of economic crimes.

# Ghana's digital census scores international praise



International organisations have hailed Ghana's first digital 2021 Population and Housing Census (PHC), Minister for Information, Kojo Opong Nkrumah has said.

Mr. Opong Nkrumah said the successful release of the results within 44 days of exiting the field had received international interest in the lessons learned from the implementation of the 2021 PHC.

"In addition to sharing statistics, engaging with data users and advocating for data uptake for decision-making, the objectives of the 2021 PHC dissemination strategy includes conducting sustained intercensal activities for continuity and maintain public awareness of the importance of

the census and sharing lessons learned from the 2021 PHC with the global community," he said.

This was contained in a speech read on his behalf by the Deputy Minister for Information, Fatimatu Abubakar at a Census Workshop on the theme: "Good Practice in Digital Censuses."

The workshop, which seeks to provide the platform for sharing valuable lessons from the 2021 PHC and to explore the use of new technologies to improve data collection, brought together over 70 experts from 17 countries, including the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Office of National Statistics.



**KOJO OPPONG  
NKRUMAH**