

- THE - MONTHLY STORM

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE OFFICE OF KOJO OPPONG NKRUMAH

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Ghanaian TV channels to go global



Plans are far advanced in giving television channels in the country opportunities to tap into the international market and broadcast Ghanaian contents globally.

Minister for Information, Kojo Opong Nkrumah who disclosed this said this forms part of government plans to increase international viewership of locally produced television contents and acquire a larger global audience for Ghanaian TV stations.

"The Ministry of Information is commencing engagements with global broadcasting regulators through embassies in Ghana to facilitate the hosting of Ghanaian TV channels, which promote Ghana's economic and investment potential on international transmitting channels. We believe this will assist Ghana's investment and tourist potential and opportunities in global marketing.

"It will also aid in the export of Ghana's multimedia content into the foreign market and the growth of the global market share of local television networks; eventually, this should increase export income accruing to the Ghanaian economy. Already, we have received a request from some Ghanaian TV networks and bouquet providers, and we will do all that is within our power to assist them in entering global markets," he said.

The Minister made the disclosure during the release party of CNBC Africa's Greatest Star

Documentary Film on Ghana on Tuesday, March 15, 2022.

He said there are hosts of advantages Ghana stands to benefit should Ghanaian TV contents make it to the global scene.

Outlining some of the advantages, the Minister said it will help Ghana build a global presence for TV contents and establish an international voice for Ghana.

This Mr. Opong Nkrumah reiterated the call, especially to production and media houses of Ghanaian origin, to also develop content that markets Ghana's opportunities and potential to local and international audiences. He said this will be a good contribution to growing the Ghanaian economy.



Oppong Nkrumah builds JHS block for Ayirebi Presby Basic School



The Junior High School (JHS) block of the Ayirebi Presbyterian Basic School in the Akyemansa District of the Eastern Region has been reconstructed into a modern and befitting facility.

The block, financed by the Oppong Nkrumah Education and Skills Development Fund established by the Member of Parliament (MP) for the constituency, Kojo Oppong Nkrumah in 2017 to take care of the education-oriented needs of constituents will help lessen the burden on pupils, who previously, could not study in their classrooms when there is heavy down pour.

The facility comprises three classrooms, an office and a store all connected to electricity and equipped with mono desks, teachers' tables, and chairs, ceiling fans and washrooms to provide a safe teaching and learning environment for the school.

Speaking at a brief commissioning ceremony at Ayirebi on Friday, March 25, 2022, Mr. Oppong Nkrumah said the gesture is part of series of educational projects he initiated in 2017 to touch the lives of individuals and communities in the Ofoase Ayirebi constituency.

He said the new edifice could not have come at a better time since the old structure was in a

deplorable state and hence, the school was in urgent need of new classroom blocks to facilitate teaching and learning.

"The history behind this Presby School is one that we are all aware of. Because of the deplorable state of the school, the NPP executives in Ayirebi drew my attention to how the classroom blocks needed major upgrades. So, I had fruitful deliberations with all stakeholders, the result of which is a brand new JHS block for Ayirebi Junior High School," he added.



This he advised the staff and pupils of the school to maximize the usage of the facilities to justify the investment intended to produce intellectuals to contribute towards the progress of the town.

Also present at the commissioning were the District Director of Education, Loretta Akua Ayisi, the West Akyem Presbytery Chairperson of the Presbyterian Church of Ghana, Rev. Raymond Baah Abekah, Resident Pastor of the Ayirebi Presby Church, Rev. Asaan Emmanuel, former

District Chief Executive Officer, and elderly man of Ayirebi, Akwa Frempong and other well-known dignitaries.

Ms. Ayisi on behalf of the Ayirebi people thanked Mr. Oppong Nkrumah for providing the edifice which was second to none in the district and charged managers of the facility at the district education office to take good care of it to prolong its life span in order for it to serve future generations.



KON sets social media ablaze with excellent football skills



As Ghana and sister country Nigeria locked horns in the 2022 World Cup Qualification matches, Ghanaian social media users were treated to some excellent football skills by Ghana's Information Minister, Kojo Opong Nkrumah.

The Minister and Member of Parliament (MP) for Ofoasi Ayirebi in a short video posted on his socials (TikTok, Instagram, Facebook and Twitter) clad in a traditional Black Stars jersey over a pair of black jeans and sneakers displayed incredible keepy-uppy skills popularly known in Ghanaian circles as "totas" cheering the Black Stars to overcome their West African counterpart.

Some Ghanaians who chanced on the video on social media were awed by his football skills while others were at their mocking best teasing the Minister.

One user who commented on the video on TikTok using the handle @Orlando_maxy1 said "Wow, Minister is very versatile. Great Skills."

Another user with the handle @Mccarthymedia commented "Chairman, you must be selected for the World Cup in Qatar".

Others were also at their mocking best teasing the Minister.

@khaxim_pantah commented on the video on Instagram saying "Eeii Honourable, your stomach come oh". @thisiskubilive said "so you can play football and you are in Parliament? Eeii brother".

Ghana qualified to the World Cup on away goal rule after securing a 1-1 draw with Nigeria. We are drawn in group H with Portugal, Uruguay and Korea.

Akufo-Addo decides on reliefs for economic recovery



President Akufo-Addo has sanctioned some major reliefs as part of efforts to recover the Ghanaian economy and set it back to its pre-COVID-19 levels. The reliefs include opening of the country's land borders, easing of general COVID-19 restrictions and measures to arrest currency depreciation.

Part of these reliefs are also measures to tackle the rising fuel prices occasioned by the global economic turmoil brought on by the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict and measures to address the persistent rise in prices of goods and services.

The reliefs were sanctioned at a crunch three days cabinet retreat that took place between 17th and 20th March, 2022 at Peduase in the Eastern Region.

The President and his Cabinet Ministers reviewed data on the effects of the COVID-19 on all sectors of the Ghanaian economy and in extension the economic blowbacks resulting from the conflict.

Minister for Information, Kojo Oppong Nkrumah in a tweet on Thursday March 16, 2022, disclosed that the essence of the retreat is to enable government proffer solutions to ease the burden on Ghanaians.

"The President has instructed all ministers to present reports on their sectors and proffer recommendations for recovery at a cabinet retreat starting today and will go on for the next three days.

"Government will examine the observed impact, the recommendations that are being made, the implications and will enhance preparations for laying same before Parliament during the mid-year review," he said.

The reliefs are expected to ease the economic hardships on Ghanaians and get the economy functioning at full throttle.

Government details measures to restore economy to pre-COVID era



Government has outlined series of interventions to address the economic hardship in the country brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic and the geo-political tension between Russia and Ukraine.

The raft of measures will ensure fiscal consolidation of the Ghanaian economy and set it back to its pre-COVID-19 levels.

Outlining the measures at a press conference in Accra on Thursday, March 24, 2022, Minister for Finance, Ken Ofori-Atta announced a 30 per cent cut in expenditure of all Ministries Departments and Agencies (MDAs) in the country.

This he explained will help government align spending to revenue mobilization by reducing cost and pruning expenditure to hasten the country's recovery.

The Minister also announced a 15 pesewas reduction in petroleum prices. The reduction in margin is expected to reduce prices of petrol by 1.6 per cent and diesel by 1.4 per cent.

Additionally, Mr. Ofori-Atta announced government interventions at tackling the perennial depreciation

of the Ghanaian cedi against its major trading partners.

Part of these measures the Minister announced is the conclusion of external financing arrangement of up to US\$2 billion in the next 2-6 weeks in line with approved external financing for 2022 and for liability management. This he said will make more dollars available in the country.

The Minister also announced that government is working with the Central Bank to review the foreign exchange retention policy to ensure multinational companies in the extractive sectors to retain foreign exchange earnings, from the sale of our resources, in the country.



**KOJO OPPONG
NKRUMAH**