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IN THIS ISSUE

- Unlocking Value to Our Natural Wealth
- Energy Update
- Business Update
- Banking Corner
- Who's Who ?

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UNLOCKING VALUE TO OUR NATURAL WEALTH

At no point in recent history have calls for Africa to industrialize been stronger than they have been lately. Industrialization has been a campaign promise across the African continent, with its acknowledged ability to bring prosperity, new jobs and better income for all.

Ghana has experienced rapid economic growth over the past five years. The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Ghana expanded by 1.30 per cent in the second quarter of 2018 over the previous quarter. Although real signs of growth exist, substantial developmental challenges remain. Balance of trade remains in deficit compared with other trading partners, posing a challenge to the economic growth and development of Ghana.

For a country that has more than 60 per cent of the population dependant on Agriculture, there is the need to develop a strong agro-processing base; to add value to its

raw materials prior to accessing the market and to derive maximum benefits from exports. There must be a shift in the pattern of the country's output and workforce toward manufacturing to create a more robust, diversified and sustainable economic growth.

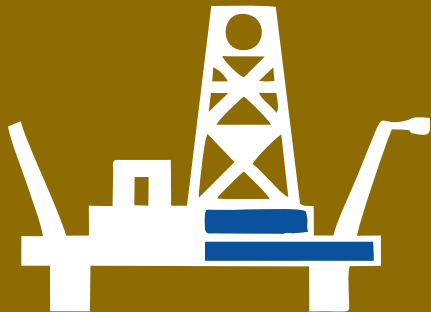
The availability of natural resources as a prerequisite for industrialization places Ghana in a comfortable lead. The abundance of natural resources in Ghana, particularly oil, gas, mining and agriculture is sufficient to kick-start the process. To this effect, the Government of Ghana has embarked on the "One District- One Factory" Initiative which aims at establishing at least one factory or enterprise in each of the 216 districts of Ghana. The objective is to achieve economic growth at the district level through a massive private sector- led nationwide industrialization drive which will equip and empower the communities to utilize their local

resources in manufacturing products that are in high demand both locally and internationally.

While this is a step in the right direction, there is a need for effective planning, investor-friendly policies that target and favour the manufacturing industries and the right level of political commitment to implement the necessary policies.

The ratification of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement and its accompanying vision for free trade and a single market is a positive impetus for Ghana's industrialization drive.

ENERGY UPDATE



PETROLEUM COMMISSION PARTNERS GLASGOW TO BOOST OIL SECTOR

The Petroleum Commission has secured a partnership with Glasgow Caledonian University (GCU), by an Agreement signed on 2nd October 2018, to deliver work-based education to the oil and gas industry in Ghana.

PRESIDENT AKUFO-ADDO OPENS TENDER TO AUCTION SIX OIL BLOCKS

The Government on 15th October 2018, opened a competitive tender process to

auction six out of nine prepared oil blocks in the Tano Basin, offshore Cape Three Points in the Western Region. The move, which the industry has welcomed as timely, also fulfils the country's plan to increase the production of oil and gas to generate more revenue for development while ensuring greater transparency and value for money in oil resource utilisation.

GAS BILL TO ADDRESS PRICING AND INFRASTRUCTURE STANDARDS

A Deputy Minister of Energy, Mr. Amin Adam has said government is drafting a comprehensive Gas Bill that is expected to consolidate gas sector regulations and harmonise the legal regime with the emerging global regulatory landscape to address issues such as pricing of gas as well as infrastructure standards and approvals needed to ensure the safety of communities within which these gas companies operate.

TOR RESUMES REFINING OF CRUDE OIL

The Tema Oil Refinery (TOR) has revived



its refinery business to provide petroleum products such as diesel and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) for the domestic and sub-regional market, after four years of intermittent tolling of crude oil for third parties. The refinery resumed the processing of crude oil into finished products in the last week of October, after taking delivery of 947,000 barrels of crude oil over the weekend. It followed the signing of a crude oil supply deal with BP Oil International.

BUSINESS UPDATE



IFC INCREASES INVESTMENTS TO SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA TO \$6.2BN

The International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group, has announced a record new investment commitment of \$6.2 Billion in long-term financing in Sub-Saharan Africa for its 2018 fiscal year. This is up from \$3.5 Billion in the previous fiscal year, representing more than a quarter of IFC's \$23 Billion in global long-term financing.

UK HINTS AT BILATERAL TRADE DEAL

The UK Government has indicated that it envisages a trade package that "looks

really good" for Ghana post Brexit; one that complements the existing Economic Partnership Agreement with the EU. Speaking ahead of the first UK-Ghana Investment Summit that opened in Accra on 15th October this year, UK's trade envoy, Mr. Adam Afriyie noted that the UK is ready, willing and able to create a package that really works.

WE ARE OPEN TO OFFERS FOR NEW AIRLINE - AVIATION MINISTER

The submission of proposals to partner government in the establishment of a new home-based carrier is open to all and will be transparent to ensure the country has a robust business model for the new flag-carrier, Aviation Minister Joseph Kofi Adda has said.

CARGO TRACKING NOTES ARE HERE TO STAY – GRA BOSS DECLARES

The Commissioner General of the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA), Mr Emmanuel Kofi Nti, has said that the implementation of the Cargo Tracking Notes (CTN) module which took effect from 15th October 2018, has many benefits for the state and there

was no turning back on the policy. The policy requires that importers obtain a CTN number for shipments into Ghana for the monitoring and collection of taxes on imported products. It is also aimed at supplying adequate data on cargo for the government and reduce forgery of documents at the ports.

According to the Commissioner, some exemptions have been put in place to ensure that small and medium-scale importers, mostly small traders, market women and men, small distributors and other small to medium businesses are exempt from the requirements of the intervention.

The CTN is mainly to improve services by aligning GRA's operations along with trade facilitation and security recommendations by the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the World Customs Organisation (WCO). He said it was also in accordance with new standards for international cooperation between member states of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO).

BANKING CORNER



BANK OF GHANA

NO FREEZE ON THE ISSUANCE OF LICENSES – BOG

The Governor of the Bank of Ghana ("BoG"), Dr. Ernest Addison has said the central bank has no intention of placing a moratorium on the issuance of operating licenses for commercial banks and non-bank financial institutions. Speaking on the side-lines of the IMF/World Bank Annual Meeting in Bali, Indonesia, he stated that the central bank, in its effort to clean up the financial system, will not shut the door on the entry of new institutions into the banking sector so long as they are ready to come in and play by the rules and regulations governing the industry.

BOG UNVEILS DIRECTIVES TO FIGHT CYBER CRIME

In response to the increasing wave of

cyber-attacks in the financial sector, the Central Bank has issued a new set of directives for financial institutions and established a specialised office to monitor compliance and deal with threats. The directives, among other things, establishes the conduct and operational guidelines for the cyber and information security environment. Specifically, procedures are set out for governance, risk management, internal audit, asset management, cyber defence and response among others.



WHO'S WHO?

•**President Nana Akuffo Addo:** The President of the Republic of Ghana has been re-appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to serve as Co-chair of the Eminent Group of Sustainable Development Goals Advocates for an additional two years.

•**Jean Claude Galea:** Malta's first Ambassador to Ghana. This is also the first diplomatic representation of its kind for Malta in a Sub-Saharan country. Mr Galea has operated a business advisory firm in Ghana since 2009 and has served as honorary consul in the country since 2016. To further discuss these, or any other related topic with us contact:

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This publication may provide a summary of legal issues but is not intended to give specific legal advice. If you require legal advice, please speak to a qualified lawyer, which may include a qualified member of our legal team at

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