

Monday, December 22 2014

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## Economic News

### 'NIC, GIZ develop micro insurance scheme'

The National Insurance Commission (NIC), in collaboration with GIZ, has developed a micro insurance scheme as a means of improving access to insurance to the ordinary Ghanaian. The development of suitable micro insurance products and the emergence of innovative channels have resulted in a massive improvement in the number of policies sold or lives covered. According to the Commissioner of Insurance, Ms Lydia Lariba Bawa, the NIC was still in collaboration with GIZ, which is the German government's federal enterprise for international cooperation, to seek further improvement in access to insurance as the penetration rate was still very low.

Source: [Graphic Online](#)

## Corporate News

### 'Banks urged to identify new niches in the market'

The Chief Executive Officer of Universal Merchant Bank (UMB), Ms Nilla Selormey, has said it is time for the banks in the country to identify new niches in the market where each can play efficiently and still achieve good growth. "Although we collaborate amongst ourselves, it is time to either identify new niches in the market where we each can play efficiently and still achieve good growth despite our various individual sizes, otherwise we will need to have or become bigger banks and this could well happen by way of forced mergers and acquisitions", she said. Ms Selormey, who is also the Managing Director of the bank, made the observation in an interview with the Daily Graphic in Accra at the weekend.

Source: [Graphic Online](#)

### 'UNIBANK-Ghana to expand branch-base to 35 by 1st quarter of 2015'

UNIBANK-Ghana, a wholly-owned Ghanaian bank says it will expand its branch-base to 35 from the current 32 latest by 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2015. This, according to the Bank, is to enable it provide quality banking services to "Every-Ghanaian-Living-Everywhere." Speaking with Joy Business at the Grand Draw of a 3-month promotion dubbed "Dash for 200K", Head of Marketing and Communication of the Bank, Richard Osei Anane said customers and Ghanaians in general should expect improved services next year. "We expect Ghanaians however, to patronize our Bank since it's a wholly-owned Ghanaian Bank and the country can only progress if we patronize our own. That's how we can create more jobs." Source: [Myjoyonline.com](#)

### 'BEIGE Capital opens East Legon branch'

BEIGE Capital, an indigenous savings and loans company, has opened its new branch office at East Legon in Accra. The new office located at number 85 Freetown Avenue, is part of the company's goal of growing with its customers, enhancing their banking experience and bringing their services to the doorstep of clients in that area. With over 50 branches across the country, especially at the southern sector, Mr. Nyinekyu said Beige Capital is committed to grow, expand and make services available to SMEs in the northern parts of the country. This he said this will be achieved by the end of 2015.

Source: [Myjoyonline.com](#)

## Previous Session's Market Close- Equities

| Period      | GSE. C.I | GSE F.I  | Mrk. Cap (GHS) | Volume Traded | Value Traded |
|-------------|----------|----------|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| Today       | 2,297.72 | 2,269.56 | 65,640.59      | 2,932,249     | 7,908,957    |
| Previous    | 2,306.73 | 2,310.30 | 65,859         | 4,360,575     | 7,821,463    |
| %Chg. Today | -0.39    | -0.59    | -0.33          | -32.76        | 1.12         |
| %Chg. Y-T-D | 7.58     | 28.55    | 7.33           | -42.13        | -22.33       |

C.I – Composite Index

F.I – Financial Index

Source: [Merban Stockbrokers Ltd a Subsidiary of UMB](#)

## Market Movement

| Equity | Day Close | Day open | Gain/Loss(¢) | Percent Change |
|--------|-----------|----------|--------------|----------------|
| MHL    | 0.28      | 0.26     | 0.02         | 7.69           |
| EGI    | 1.75      | 1.73     | 0.02         | 1.16           |
| FML    | 5.25      | 5.20     | 0.05         | 0.96           |
| EBG    | 7.60      | 7.62     | -0.02        | -0.26          |
| CAL    | 1.00      | 1.02     | -0.02        | -1.96          |

Source: [Merban Stockbrokers Ltd a Subsidiary of UMB](#)

## Top 5 Most Traded Equities for the Week

| Equity | Shares Traded | No. Of Transactions | Value of Trades (GHS) | %tage of Total Value |
|--------|---------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| EGI    | 1,117,523     | 38.11               | 1,955,150             | 24.72                |
| GOIL   | 349,247       | 11.91               | 366,709               | 4.64                 |
| CAL    | 317,168       | 10.82               | 319,219               | 4.04                 |
| GCB    | 297,335       | 10.14               | 1,738,980             | 21.99                |
| CPC    | 200,125       | 6.82                | 2,002                 | 0.03                 |

Source: [Merban Stockbrokers Ltd a Subsidiary of UMB](#)

## Interbank Exchange Rate Averages

| Currency – Interbank | Rate 19-Dec | Rate 12-Dec | Y-T-D  |
|----------------------|-------------|-------------|--------|
| USD/GHS              | 3.1980      | 3.1970      | -32.41 |
| GBP/GHS              | 5.0077      | 5.0122      | -28.66 |
| EUR/GHS              | 3.9282      | 3.9599      | -23.98 |
| CHF/GHS              | 3.2618      | 3.2972      | -25.25 |
| ZAR/GHS              | 0.2777      | 0.2759      | -25.72 |

On the currency market, the Cedi struggled for stability as it recorded a mixed outturn against the major currencies. The local currency appreciated against the Euro, the Pound and the Swiss Franc but failed to recover against the Dollar and the Rand.