

News Flash



www.myumbbank.com | Universal Merchant Bank Limited | UMB Research/Business Intelligence Unit Wednesday, 3 October, 2018

Economic News

'Cut expenditure, corruption to reduce debt stock – ISSER'

The Institute of Statistical Social and Economic Research (ISSER) of the University of Ghana has called on the government to focus on tackling the country's growing public sector debt. The Institute says failure to meet domestic revenue mobilization targets, coupled with increasing government expenditure makes it difficult to deal with the debt situation. Presenting ISSER's State of the Ghanaian Economy 2017 Report, the Director of the Institute, Professor Felix Ankomah Asante, called for prioritization of massive productive infrastructure to tackle the challenge. "On the fiscal side, the urgent need for prudent management of government resources remains compelling. While increased efforts should be pursued to increase revenue throughout expanded tax based, government expenditure must be kept under control over the short and medium term," he added. Source: Citifmonline.com

'Agric Ministry, Alibaba discuss e-market of cocoa products'

The Ministry of Food and Agriculture has initiated a discussion with the management of Alibaba Group Holding Ltd for the possibility of promoting the sale of Ghanaian cocoa products on the Chinese market using the e-platform of Alibaba Group. When firmed up, the company will open its doors to the various range of Ghana cocoa chocolate such as the Aspire (sugar-free chocolate), Portem Nut (milk chocolate with peanuts) Akafo Bar (Lemon flavoured milk chocolate), Oranco (Orange flavoured chocolate), Coffee choc (Coffee flavoured milk chocolate) and portem pride (Dark milk chocolate). The Minister of Food and Agriculture, Dr Owusu Afriyie Akoto, who initiated the discussion with the Executive Chairman of Alibaba Group, Mr Jack Ma, believed that when concluded, the platform, which has over 400m patrons, would showcase Ghana's cocoa products to Chinese homes. Source: Myjoyonline.com

'Cedi to end year worse than in 2017 — ISSER'

The Institute of Social, Statistical and Economic Research (ISSER) of the University of Ghana has said that it expects the cedi to depreciate far more cumulatively this year than it did in 2017, given happenings on both the internal and external fronts. As part of its analysis of Ghana's Economic Performance in 2017, Prof. Peter Quartey of ISSER said the rate of depreciation so far this year shows it will be worse than last year. "If you look at the depreciation rate for 2016, it is about 9.6% to the dollar. Also the rate for 2017 is about 5%. Between January and now the depreciation is close to 9%, so it tells you our prediction [that it will perform worse than in 2017] is basically on course," he said. Prof. Quartey explained that external factors, such as the robust economy of the United States and government's inability to control the black market for exchange rates, are responsible for the poor performance of the cedi this year. "The reason is that the interest rate for the US market is going up and it has become a safe haven for most investors, so investors are rather choosing to invest in US than in our economy. Source: Bftonline.com

Corporate News

'Fidelity is CIMG Bank of the year'

Fidelity Bank, the largest privately-owned Ghanaian bank in the country has for the second time been adjudged the best bank in the industry for the year 2017 at the Chartered Institute of Marketing Ghana (CIMG) Awards. Commenting on the award, Mr. Julian Opuni, Deputy Managing Director of Fidelity Bank, said, "It is a privilege for Fidelity Bank to win in such a respected and competitive category of the CIMG Awards. This is evidence that Fidelity Bank is indeed committed to its vision of providing world class services to our customers. The loyalty of our cherished customers and the dedication of our professional staff earned us this award. We dedicate the CIMG Bank of the Year award to all our customers, employees, and stakeholders for believing with us. Leveraging on our core expertise, we will continue to deliver convenience through technology and innovation." The Bank also undertook several marketing initiatives to create more convenience and rewards for our customers. These included the 10x Richer promo, the Fidelity Mobile App and the Fidelity Y'ello save account.

Source: Bftonline.com

'Dr. Nduom leads campaign to stop panic withdrawals'

Following recent developments of panic withdrawals within the financial sector, the Chairman of GN Bank, Dr. Papa Kwesi Nduom will lead a team of bank officials to begin a tour of the ten regions with the theme "STOP THE PANIC WITHDRAWALS AND STRENGTHEN OUR INDIGENOUS BANKS". The team will use the opportunity also to thank the customers who have remained loyal and kept their monies with the indigenous banks. Furthermore, Dr. Nduom will use the platform to advise shareholders, directors and employees of indigenous banks to correct all problems pointed out to them by the regulator, Bank of Ghana and ensure they implement good governance practices. Source: Citifmonline.com

Currency - Interbank	Rate 1 Oct	Rate 2 Oct	%Change
USD/GHS	4.7799	4.7818	-0.04
GBP/GHS	6.2394	6.2058	0.54
EUR/GHS	5.5390	5.5244	0.26
CHF/GHS	4.8578	4.8607	-0.06
CNY/GHS	0.6916	0.6992	-1.09
ZAR/GHS	0.3366	0.3339	0.81

The cedi depreciated against the U.S. dollar. However, it appreciated against the British pound and the euro.