

News Flash



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Economic News

'Monitor tax incentives for foreign companies—IFS to gov't'

Government will continue to fall short of its revenue from tax collection, if waivers and tax incentives to foreign companies are not strictly monitored. This is according to the Institute of Fiscal Studies (IFS). According to the institute, such incentives and waivers are often abused by foreign companies if not properly monitored. The Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) failed to meet its target of raising GHS24.5 bn at the end of August 2018 but rather managed to mobilize a total of GHS22.7 bn representing a revenue shortfall of about GHS1.8 bn. Executive Director of the IFS, Professor Newman Kusi said government must strictly monitor such incentives. "Such tax concessions and exemptions constitute leakages in the tax system and its time that the government should look at all these things as there is the need to increase the tax base in the country", he stated. [Source: Citibusinessnews.com](http://Citibusinessnews.com)

'GRA revokes licenses of 20 freight forwarders'

The customs division of the Ghana Revenue Authority has revoked the operating licenses of 20 freight forwarders for falsifying the port of loading documents from India to other countries. They also under-declared the values presented to customs for duty and tax purposes. Out of the 20 freight forwarders being sanctioned, 13 are said to have diverted transit goods while seven are being punished for falsifying the port of loading documents from India. In a public notice issued by the GRA, the Customs Division noted that efforts are underway to retrieve all the revenue under-declared. The Ghana Revenue Authority however advice importers, freight forwarders and the trading public to desist from falsifying their import documents submitted to the GRA. [Source: Myjoyonline.com](http://Myjoyonline.com)

'No increases in transport fares—GPRTU clarifies'

The Ghana Private Road Transport Union (GPRTU) and the Ghana Road Transport Coordinating Council (GRTCC) have asked its members and the public to disregard a purported increase in transport fares. A group of drivers calling itself the Committed Drivers Association announced a 20% increase in fares yesterday [October, 29, 2018]. This according to the association is due to the increase in the cost of fuel. However, the GPRTU and the GRTCC, say there is no such increase in fares. An Executive Member of the GPRTU Edward Hoffman said there is no justification for an increase in transport fares. He pointed out that there are modalities for calculating and announcing transport fare increases. "One of the major component in increasing transport fares is to check if cumulatively the prices of fuel has increased by 10%. Our checks and calculations show that fuel prices have cumulatively increased by just 7%". He argued that "there is no need for increasing transport fares at this time. [Source: Bftonline.com](http://Bftonline.com)

Corporate News

'Gov't to bailout NBFIs too ...cost suspected to be another GHS10bn'

Deputy Finance Minister, Charles Adu Boahen, has said that just as it did for the distressed commercial banks, government intends to bailout savings and loans and other microfinance institutions rumored to also be on their last legs. A source close to an assessment the central bank is doing said the taxpayer could be looking at coughing up another GHS10 bn or more, just as in the case of the banks, although the Deputy Finance Minister said the World Bank has already pledged to support the process with "half a billion cedis." Speaking on the sidelines of the recent World Bank/IMF Annual Meetings in Indonesia, the Deputy Finance Minister, said: "We have asked the Bank of Ghana to do an assessment of exactly what they think the potential gap is, how many institutions are healthy, how many are unhealthy; so, we have an idea of exactly how much financing we need. [Source: Bftonline.com](http://Bftonline.com)

'Dr. Nduom to retire from Groupe Nduom in December'

The founder and owner of Groupe Nduom, Dr. Papa Kwesi Nduom has resigned as the Chairman of some of the companies under Groupe Nduom. This is a move taken ahead of a decision to retire by end of December this year. According to the Head of Corporate Affairs of Group Nduom, Frank Owusu Ofori, Dr. Papa Kwesi Nduom took the decision last year in order to ease the pressure on himself and allocate more responsibilities to other CEOs of his companies. He is officially set to retire in December this year and take up the position of an advisor for his companies. Groupe Nduom comprises over 60 independent companies across several industries including entities in tourism, investment advisory management and financial services.

[Source: Citibusinessnews.com](http://Citibusinessnews.com)

Currency - Interbank	Rate 26 Oct	Rate 29 Oct	%Change
USD/GHS	4.7895	4.7899	-0.01
GBP/GHS	6.1359	6.1354	0.01
EUR/GHS	5.4488	5.4498	-0.02
CHF/GHS	4.7908	4.7871	0.08
CNY/GHS	0.6915	0.6914	0.01
ZAR/GHS	0.3272	0.3299	-0.82

The cedi depreciated against the US dollar and the Euro, However it appreciated against the British pound.