

News Flash



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Economic News

'Excise tax stamp: 1000 jobs could be lost over seized goods – AGI'

The Association of Ghana Industries (AGI) has warned that over a thousand people in the beverages industry in Ghana could lose their jobs if the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) fails to remove compliance officers from the factories of its members and engage in further dialogue in relation to the tax stamp policy. According to the President of the AGI, Dr. Yaw Adu-Gyamfi, the association has noted with concern, restrictions on the operations of its beverage manufacturers by the GRA without recourse to the tax stamp implementation arrangements. He reaffirmed that AGI is not against the tax stamp policy, adding that the beverage companies are fully compliant with the law. "AGI is not against the Tax Stamp Policy; whilst we appreciate challenges that government faces with tax revenue mobilization and consequently the need to improve the efficiency of revenue administration, we are concerned about its impact on beverage companies", he stated.. Source: Citifmonline.com

'BoG to save cedi's free fall with USD 650m of cocoa syndicated loan'

About USD 650m from the cocoa syndicated loan is to hit the Bank of Ghana's account today. This is because the COCOBOD will make the first draw down from the loan to be lodged at the central bank's account. The figure represents 50% of the USD 1.3bn that the Ghana COCOBOD secured from the syndicated banks in September. This also comes two weeks after the regulator completed the transaction. The Bank of Ghana's ability to access the money means it should be able to undertake major programs that require international currencies. A major one will be that the central bank will use proceeds to shore up the supply of dollars in the system. As a result, banks as well as corporate institutions will get access to more dollars to supply to their customers or business transactions respectively.

Source: Citifmonline.com

'We've saved deposits of 1m Ghanaians in cleaning banking sector – Nana Addo'

President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo has revealed that the rationalization of the banking sector, undertaken by his government, has ensured that deposits of one million, one hundred and forty-seven thousand, three hundred and sixty-six (1,147,366) Ghanaians were saved. Speaking at the inauguration ceremony of the new Standard Chartered Head Office on Wednesday, 3rd October, 2018, President Akufo-Addo added that his administration assumed the reins of office in January 2017, with the country's banking sector in trouble. According to him, some banks were saddled with high non-performing loans, USD 2.4bn energy sector legacy debts, and were also thinly capitalized, and as such, were unable to underwrite big ticket transactions. "With time, even more toxic problems emerged, such as systemic widespread abuse, poor irresponsible governance practices, liquidity challenges, circumvention of banking laws, all with the apparent complicity of some high-ranking officials of the Bank of Ghana," the President said.

Source: Citifmonline.com

Corporate News

'Energy Commercial Bank launches IPO'

Energy Commercial Bank has launched its Initial Public Offer to raise GHS 340m in shares from the Ghanaian investing public. The offer period which is expected to last for 30 days will be graced by several investors who have shown interest to acquire shares in the Bank. The Bank is floating millions of shares and the shares will subsequently be listed on the Ghana Stock Exchange where they will trade on the secondary market. IC Securities is the Transaction Adviser and is expected to market the shares to many investors within the country. Energy Commercial Bank presently operates 12 branches in Ghana- five in Accra, three in Kumasi, and the rest in Tema, Takoradi and Tamale. It is expected to expand vigorously once it completes its recapitalization. Source: Bftonline.com

'BoG closes down Dancom Microfinance Limited, arrests directors'

The Bank of Ghana has shut down Dancom Microfinance Limited for operating illegally. The Directors of the company have also been arrested and are being prosecuted for operating without a license. "Dancom Microfinance was engaged in deposit-taking activities without licence contrary to section 6(1) of the Banks and Specialized Deposit-Taking Institutions Act, 2016(Act 930). The general public is hereby informed that Dancom Microfinance Ltd. was NOT LICENSED to engage in microfinance business," the BoG's statement said. The statement from the central bank on its decision also cautioned the public against doing business with the company. "The general public is cautioned that anyone who transacts business with Dancom Microfinance Limited does so at his or her own risk, and Bank of Ghana WILL NOT be liable to such clients or depositors in the event of loss."

Source: Citifmonline.com

Currency - Interbank	Rate 2 Oct	Rate 3 Oct	%Change
USD/GHS	4.7818	4.7949	-0.27
GBP/GHS	6.2058	6.2379	-0.51
EUR/GHS	5.5244	5.5350	-0.19
CHF/GHS	4.8607	4.8505	0.21
CNY/GHS	0.6992	0.6934	0.84
ZAR/GHS	0.3339	0.3340	-0.03

The cedi depreciated against all the major trading currencies.