

News Flash

Economic News

'Ghana will not be affected by China oil import cut—ACEP'

The Africa Center for Energy Policy (ACEP) is confident Ghana will not be negatively affected by China's recent decision to cut its imports of oil from West Africa. China recently took the decision to cut imports of West African oil to the lowest in seven months in November, due to an increase in the cost of shipment. As a result, West African oil loadings to Asia are expected to fall to about 2.33 million barrels per day (bpd) this month, equivalent to 70% of total exports from Angola, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, Ghana and Equatorial Guinea, based on Reuter's calculations, shipping brokers and Refinitiv Eikon data. This quantity highlights a significant drop when compared to October's 2.52 million bpd, or 75 % of total regional exports. So how much of an impact will the cut in imports from China have on Ghana as an oil exporting country in West Africa? Executive Director of ACEP, Benjamin Boakye downplayed the effect on Ghana's oil export. "Ghana's oil hasn't gone to China that much. I think it's just a few consignments. Much of our oil goes to Europe, with a few going to the United States when they were not producing all that they needed. So China's decision doesn't really affect Ghana." [Source: Citibusinessnews.com](#)

'All set for ECG takeover in Feb – Ofori-Atta'

Manila Electric Company (Meralco) will officially take over running the Electricity Company of Ghana Limited (ECG) in February next year, under a 20-year concession agreement. Finance Minister Ken Ofori-Atta, presenting the 2019 Budget to Parliament last week said: "Preparations are currently underway toward the takeover by the Concessionaire in February, 2019". The takeover, he noted, follows renegotiation of the Millennium Challenge Compact II terms between the Republic of Ghana and United States of America, and the selection of a successful bidder through a competitive procurement process. The negotiated Transaction Agreements – namely the Lease and Assignment Agreement, Bulk Supply Agreement, and Government Support Agreement – to secure the proposed Private Sector Participation (PSP) in ECG were approved by Cabinet and ratified by Parliament. The Concessionaire, according to the agreement, is expected to inject an amount of USD580m into the distribution system during the agreement period's first five years. [Source: Bftonline.com](#)

'Delay in policy implementation causing revenue shortfall—Ofori-Atta'

The Finance Minister, Ken Ofori Atta has attributed the shortfall in revenue despite new tax measures to the delay in enforcing the tax policies. He is however anticipating that the government should be able to improve its revenue collection going forward with the rolling out of some of the tax measures in the 2019 budget. The government has among others outlined major tax policies such as connecting Point of Sale devices to GRA's systems, enforcing the excise tax stamp and VAT recalibration which it said should rake in some GHS1.8 bn. But this is yet to fully reflect in government's revenue. Mr. Ofori-Atta however believes the results should be achieved by next year. [Source: Citibusinessnews.com](#)

Corporate News

'Nduom grateful to BoG, other stakeholders'

The Chairman of GN Bank, Dr Papa Kwesi Nduom, has expressed gratitude to the many stakeholders who had pulled the indigenous bank back into a good operating condition. He is confident that the goodwill shown will enable GN Bank to become the foundation for a formidable Ghanaian bank after December 31, 2018. Dr Nduom particularly commended officials of the Bank of Ghana (BOG) for the recent constructive engagement with the bank's shareholders, management and directors which had led to improvement in governance practices. BOG officials, he said, had also shown greater appreciation for the efforts of GN Bank to collect debts owed by government agencies and affiliates. [Source: Graphic.com](#)

'We oppose ADB/NIB merger - ADB Staff Unions'

The Professional and Managerial Staff Union (PMSU) of the Agricultural Development Bank (ADB) said it opposes the proposed merger of the Bank with the National Investment Bank (NIB). The PMSU said the ADB was strong and had the muscle and all the human resource it required to stand alone and to run the Bank to make profit and ensure sustainability. Mr James Obeng-Gyan, the Chairman of the ADB PMSU, revealed this at the ADB PMSU/Local Union of the Union of Commerce, Industry and Finance Workers (UNICOF) Joint National Executive Council Meeting during the weekend in Accra. The meeting was on the theme: "Ensuring Sustainable Growth of ADB: The Role of the Unions." Mr Obeng-Gyan said looking at the balances of the two institutions, the ADB was much stronger than the NIB in terms of profit. "We believe that government, by taking over these banks, has the responsibility of both its assets and liabilities and should pay ADB its debt to make it stand on its own," Mr Obeng-Gyan said. [Source: Ghananewsagency.org](#)

Currency - Interbank	Rate 16 Nov	Rate 19 Nov	%Change
USD/GHS	4.7894	4.7892	0.00
GBP/GHS	6.1484	6.1590	-0.17
EUR/GHS	5.4573	5.4854	-0.51
CHF/GHS	4.7764	4.8194	-0.89
CNY/GHS	0.6921	0.6906	0.22
ZAR/GHS	0.3408	0.3415	-0.22

The cedi remained stable against the US dollar. However it depreciated against all the other major trading currencies.