

News Flash



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Economic News

'Start-ups to enjoy tax reliefs for first 3 yrs'

The Business Development Minister says government is coming up with interventions aimed at strengthening local businesses to compete, including providing tax reliefs for start-ups. Responding to concerns that government was pampering foreign companies with exemptions and reliefs to the detriment of local companies Mohammed Awal, who opened the Second Ghana SMEs and Young CEOs Summit, said the government was not discriminating against Ghanaian companies but rather strengthening them to compete. According to him, the Ministry would present draft legislation to Cabinet and subsequently Parliament in 2019, which will exempt Ghanaian start-ups from the payment of taxes for three years of its operations, and expected it to be passed in the same year. This, he said, will allow start-ups to be able to invest in their companies to grow them. "When you're starting a business, you need capital. You can't get the money and pay a lot of taxes, so if they get the money, they will not pay tax; it will be ploughed back into the business so that it can expand and employ people," he stated. [Source: Myjoyonline.com](#)

'SSNIT stops biometric cards, connects to National ID system'

The Social Security and National Insurance Trust (SSNIT) has disclosed that it should connect its systems to the National Identification Authority for a common card, by next year (2019). As a result, the Trust is seizing the issuing of biometric cards to its contributors. The Director General of SSNIT, Dr. John Ofori Tenkorang explained that the decision to hook unto the National Identification Authority's systems to issue the Ghana card is to reduce the multiplicity of data by various government agencies. Already, the NIA is embarking on a pilot registration of residents of Adenta while that of La Nkwantanang and Madina is expected to begin on December 3, 2018. But Dr. Ofori Tenkorang is delighted the addition of biometric data of nominees or beneficiaries in the new system will bring some respite. "SSNIT has taken a decision to stop issuing biometric cards; we currently do it for pensioners and those who actually need it. We are going to basically phase it out and take the National Identification Card (the Ghana card) as the card that we are going to use to authenticate any individual. This is going to be SSNIT contributors, pensioners and also beneficiaries," he explained.

[Source: Citibusinessnews.com](#)

'Ghana losing out on export of services—GEPA'

The Chief Executive Officer of the Ghana Export Promotion Authority (GEPA), Afua Asabea Asare, has stated that the country will continue to lose millions of dollars if the export of services like housekeeping, education and medical services are not formalized. According to the latest Bank of Ghana's Summary of Macroeconomic and Financial Data, total exports from Ghana as at October 2018 stood at USD 12.5 bn. But in an interview, Madame Asabea Asare stated that Ghana could significantly boost its total export earnings, if services like teaching and medical support to the West African sub-region, as well as housekeeping services to the middle-east are better regulated. [Source: Citibusinessnews.com](#)

Corporate News

'GHS 1.2bn NPLs write off to end in December'

The Bank of Ghana has shifted its projection of a drop in the Non-Performing Loans of banks, by two more months. Governor of the Bank of Ghana, Dr. Ernest Addison says he expects the reflection by the end of year. Some industry watchers are also confident the move should afford banks the ability to offer more loans to businesses even as they recapitalize. The Bank of Ghana in September issued a directive asking banks to write off all loans which were deemed unrecoverable. The estimated amount of credit gone bad to be written off was GHS1.2 bn. At the time, the central bank was expecting the NPLs to drop from 21.3% to about 18% between September and November 2018. But the latest economic data shows that the NPLs increased marginally to 20.1% as at October this year.

[Source: Citibusinessnews.com](#)

'GCB-funded 1D1F factory inaugurated'

The first of the GCB Bank-sponsored factories under the One District, One Factory (1D1F) policy of government has been inaugurated by President Nana Akufo-Addo at Sedorm in the Asuogyaman district of the Eastern Region. The factory, Kete-Krachie Timber Recovery – operated by Dedeso Holdings Incorporated (DHI), harvests tree-stumps in the Volta reservoir and processes them into building materials; chipboard, plywood and flooring for export. Through the provision of funds from GCB, the company is expected to employ more than 1,000 workers, expand aquaculture, increase fish production, and contribute two percent of national energy production and environmentally-friendly charcoal from waste wood. [Source: Bftonline.com](#)

Currency - Interbank	Rate 26 Nov	Rate 27 Nov	%Change
USD/GHS	4.7915	4.7915	0.00
GBP/GHS	6.1504	6.1068	0.71
EUR/GHS	5.4359	5.4148	0.39
CHF/GHS	4.7951	4.7985	-0.07
CNY/GHS	0.6903	0.6890	0.19
ZAR/GHS	0.3453	0.3434	0.55

The cedi stabilised against the US dollar. However, it appreciated against all the other major trading currencies.