

News Flash



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Economic News

'New company takes over ECG on February 1'

The new entity that will assume the assets and operations of the Electricity Company of Ghana (ECG), Power Distribution Services (PDS) Ghana Limited is set to take over from the first of February this year. The move is expected to see the power distribution company receive some funds to expand its operations as well as build a new bulk station in Pokuase in the Greater Accra region. Meralco Consortium, a Filipino power company which won the bid to take over the operations of ECG is major shareholder in PDS. The Chief Executive Officer of the Millennium Development Authority (MiDA) Martin Eson-Benjamin disclosed that the company will be injecting 580 million dollars into ECG. "We have gone through many processes and now I can tell you that everything is almost completed for the new company to take over. The takeover will bring efficiency and we will all see the improvement in the new company," he assured. [Source: Citifmonline.com](#)

'Gov't to issue GHS 11.25 bn debt securities'

Local portfolio investors will have the opportunity to invest up to GHS 8.250bn in Government of Ghana's domestic debt securities during the first three months of 2019, according to the domestic debt issuance calendar for the first quarter of this year, released by the Ministry of Finance. This amount comprises debt securities with tenors of 91 days, 182 days and 364 days to be issued during the period, all of which are reserved strictly for domestic investors. Altogether, total domestic debt securities to be issued by government during the first quarter of the year will amount to GHS 11.250bn. The other GHS 3.00bn, comprising debt securities with tenors of two years, three years and five years respectively, will be open for subscription to nonresident investors as well and this category of investors have tended to dominate subscriptions of such medium term issuances to date. [Source: Myjoyonline.com](#)

'Banks write-off GHS 1.1bn as bad debt'

Banks operating in Ghana wrote off a total amount GHS 1.1bn in the first 10 months of this 2018 as bad debt. The provision for bad debt was made up of loan losses, depreciation, among others. According to the Bank of Ghana's (BoG) Banking Sector report released in December, the banking industry's adjusted non-performing loans (NPLs) ratio - NPLs adjusted for fully-provisioned loss-loans category - increased to 11.4% from January to October 2018 from 10.5% within same period in 2017. This reflected the decline in the loss loan category as a result of the write-offs by banks that were given approval by the Bank of Ghana. To reduce the size of the loss loan component of the industry's NPLs, the Bank of Ghana in June 2018 issued a directive to all banks to submit a schedule of loss loans that were past due for more than two years to activate the write-off policy. Following that, the central bank gave approval to some banks to write-off their loss loans totaling a maximum of GHS 1.2bn by August 2018. The banks that received approvals to write-off their loss loans were required to submit quarterly reports on recoveries made on the loans that have been written off to Bank of Ghana to ensure full loan recovery. [Source: Myjoyonline.com](#)

'We won't use taxpayers' money to pay Menzgold customers - Gov't'

The government has shut the door on any hope customers of the embattled Menzgold Company Limited have of being cushioned or settled with taxpayers' money. This follows continued cries for government intervention from such customers despite the Finance Minister earlier stating that the government will not pay customers their monies locked up in the company. "While government sympathizes with customers on the difficulties encountered with their transaction with the company, the state cannot and will not resort to the use of taxpayer's monies to refund customers monies," a statement from the Information Minister said. The government also reminded that citizens were warned of Menzgold's shaky foundation. [Source: Citifmonline.com](#)

Corporate News

'Aker Energy makes successful oil discovery in Ghana'

Aker Energy has announced that its oil exploration in the Deepwater Cape Three Points block in Ghana have been successful. The company explained that initial works done show that its Pecan4A well in the block could be holding some 450m to 550m barrels of oil. This, the company said has paved the way for further works on other wells in the block as it completes the main well, the Pecan4A. A statement published by the company explained that "the main purpose of Pecan-4A appraisal well was to confirm Aker Energy's understanding of the geology in the area and to identify deep oil water contact in the Pecan reservoir. This was successfully proven". On his part, the Chief Executive Officer of Aker Energy, Jan Arve Haugan assured that the company will soon present a field development plan to various Ghanaian authorities in the oil and gas industry.

[Source: Citifmonline.com](#)

Currency - Interbank	Rate 9 Jan	Rate 10 Jan	%Change
USD/GHS	4.8425	4.8500	-0.15
GBP/GHS	6.1960	6.1851	0.18
EUR/GHS	5.5863	5.5871	-0.01
CHF/GHS	4.9705	4.9471	0.47
CNY/GHS	0.7104	0.7140	-0.50
ZAR/GHS	0.3489	0.3489	0.00

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