

# News Flash



## Economic News

### 'Cedi depreciates by 11% against the dollar over one year period'

The cedi has depreciated by 11% between January 2018 and the same period this year. The local currency is now trading at GHS 4.91 to a dollar on the interbank foreign exchange market. This is also remarkable as some currency analysts have predicted that the cedi could hit GHS 5 to a dollar soon, if economic managers do not bring some factors that favour depreciation under control. The local currency had been relatively stable for at least the last three months of 2018. Though demand for dollars by importers increased during that period, the relative complementary supply of the currency stabilized the situation to some extent. In 2018, the cedi ended the year trading at GHS 4.82 to a dollar. But checks on the interbank foreign exchange market show that the local currency has started its losing streak against the dollar. [Source: Citifmonline.com](#)

### 'Improve system at ports to boost revenue—Importers Association'

Importers and Exporters in Ghana have urged the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) to improve its systems at the ports to help the Finance Ministry meet its revenue target. According to the importers, even though government introduced some new measures at the ports –the policies failed to yield full results since its implementation faced many challenges. Government over the past two years has pursued measures that will move the country's port operations to a paperless system. As at the end of September 2018, the GRA had made GHS 22.66bn, as against their projected target of GHS 24.46bn. By this, the authority fell short of its target by GHS 1.8bn. The GRA, then contracted the services of consultancy firm, McKinsey, to help it block revenue leakages. In recent times, the GRA has blamed the country's inability to meet the revenue target on some activities at the ports. [Source: Myjoyonline.com](#)

### 'DVLA to prosecute offenders for defrauding public with new e-system'

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority (DVLA) has warned that it will prosecute anyone who attempts to defraud the public using its new e-online registration system. The system, which has been in place since January 4, this year is aimed at simplifying the processes of registering a car. This is aimed at reducing long hours spent at the offices of the DVLA to prevent overcrowding. The process requires customers to have a Tax Identification Number (TIN), the necessary custom documents, a valid ID card, the car to be registered and also to be present for the registration. In an interview, Regional Manager at the Tema DVLA office Mr. Attah Kumah Mensah said that persons who will try to beat the system will be prosecuted. "We have never failed to prosecute individuals who are caught engaging in illegal acts in terms of the car registration process, we just do not make so much noise about it. Going forward, we will continue with prosecutions especially with this new system". [Source: Citifmonline.com](#)

## Corporate News

### 'Businesses confident of increased support from banks'

Businesses operating in the country are upbeat that the banking sector is now in a position to lend more to them, following the recapitalisation exercise. The recapitalisation exercise, which saw an increase in universal banks' minimum capital from GHS 120m to GHS 400m, ended last December and businesses are confident that the banking sector is now well-positioned to increase lending to them. "If what the Bank of Ghana is telling us is right, what it means is that there will be more liquidity in the system because the remaining banks have all raised the minimum capital; and if this minimum capital is not locked up, then it means that there will be more liquidity or cash for businesses," CEO of the Association of Ghana Industries (AGI), Seth Twum Akwaboah said. [Source: Bftonline.com](#)

### 'SEC, EOCO collaborate to investigate Menzgold'

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has stated that, it is working with the Economic and Organized Crime Office (EOCO) and the Attorney General to speed up investigations into the operations of Menzgold. It follows the dismissal of a suit filed against the SEC and Bank of Ghana by gold dealership firm, Menzgold to prevent the two institutions from investigating its operations. The SEC is yet to announce any action against, Menzgold, after the High Court dismissed the case filed by Menzgold. "There are a lot of corporation going on with a lot of the parties concerned. We gave EOCO some information and we explained to them where Menzgold was wrong in terms of its interpretation of the law", a Deputy Director of the Commission, Paul Ababio said in an interview. Mr. Ababio said the outcome of the investigations will determine his outfit's next line of action.

[Source: Citifmonline.com](#)

Currency - Interbank	Rate 16 Jan	Rate 17 Jan	%Change
USD/GHS	4.9003	4.9051	-0.10
GBP/GHS	6.3111	6.3364	-0.40
EUR/GHS	5.5845	5.5857	-0.02
CHF/GHS	4.9466	4.9359	0.22
CNY/GHS	0.7256	0.7241	0.20
ZAR/GHS	0.3567	0.3555	0.34

The cedi depreciated against all the major trading currencies.