

# News Flash



## Economic News

### 'Invest in education, health to ensure projected 2019 growth creates jobs - IMF to gov't'

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) Director for Africa Abebe Selassie is asking government to channel more of its investment into education and health. This, he believes would ensure that projected growth expected this year would bring about the required jobs. The IMF in its 2019 Economic Outlook report projected an end of year economic growth rate of 8.8%. This could make Ghana one of the countries to record the highest growth in 2019. However, there are concerns that this growth would not come along with the expected jobs in critical sectors of the economy. Answering a question at the press conference by the Africa Department of IMF, Mr. Abebe noted that, government should continue to make sure that they "invest in human capita, schools, investing in the health of the population because those are ingredients need for creating jobs as the economy expands." He also maintained that it is very important that government ensures that there are no distortions from the public sector in terms of macroeconomic aggregates. [Source: Myjoyonline.com](#)

### 'Benchmark valuation not against WTO rules — Customs'

The Customs Division of the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) has said the use of the benchmark value to valuate imported goods at the country's ports was to ensure that taxes are fairly paid to the State. The benchmark value, the tax collection agency explained, was one out of the six approved valuation methods by the World Trade Organisation (WTO). It also observed that the other methods, namely transactional value, value of identical goods, value of similar goods, computed method and deductive methods were applied sequentially in accordance with the law. The Assistant Commissioner in charge of Customs Operations, Yakubu Seidu, indicated that the benchmark value which was properly identified by the WTO as the fall-back method was compatible with Ghana's current nature of imports. [Source: Myjoyonline.com](#)

### 'Non-banks sector cleanup to cost tax-payer another GHS 4bn—IMF

After government spent some GHS 12bn in cleaning up the banking sector, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) estimates a third of that amount is needed to secure depositors' funds lodged with various Micro-Finance Institutions (MFIs) and Saving and Loans (S&L) companies. The Fund estimates that intervention in the S&L and other finances houses alone will cost the taxpayer GHS 3bn, while for the MFIs it will cost GHS 1bn. This means the total amount to be spent on securing deposits in the banking and allied financial intuitions sectors will be approximately GHS 16bn, which is equal to half of the country's annual tax revenue. "A clean-up of the savings and loans companies and finance houses also showing signs of distress will complete the financial sector reform strategy. The BoG is finalising plans to intervene with distressed institutions; the sector's clean-up will require mobilisation of government funding to cover resolution costs (as a first step, funding for MFIs is being secured)," the IMF report stated. [Source: Myjoyonline.com](#)

## Corporate News

### 'Growth must reflect in livelihoods of Ghanaians – IMF to gov't'

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has advised the government of Ghana to ensure that the country's expected economic growth translates into an improvement in the livelihoods of the citizenry. The Fund maintains that this could be achieved if the government ties its policies and programs with the aim of solving issues such as unemployment. The Director of the African Department of the IMF, Abebe Aemro Selassie stressed the need for the government to invest in developing the human capital as well as the health of the population. He made the remarks at a Press briefing by the African Department of the IMF at the just ended Spring meetings in Washington DC. "Continue to make sure that you invest in human capital, I think is very important. Investing in schools, investing in the health of the population I think really continues to be a very important driver, you know, to have people entering the job markets having the necessary skills, the necessary flexibility to be able to do the jobs of the future," he said. [Source: Citibusinessnews.com](#)

Currency - Interbank	Rate 11 April	Rate 12 April	%Change
USD/GHS	5.0862	5.0862	0.00
GBP/GHS	6.6502	6.6551	-0.07
EUR/GHS	5.7315	5.7508	-0.34
CHF/GHS	5.0693	5.0767	-0.15
CNY/GHS	0.7570	0.7584	-0.18
ZAR/GHS	0.3631	0.3649	-0.49

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