

# News Flash



## Economic News

### 'Switch to gas to reduce cost of power in Ghana again – Ministry'

The Ministry of Energy is anticipating a further drop in electricity tariffs as the country works to increase the use of gas by power generation plants. This it believes should bring respite to consumers. Following promises of relieving the burden on consumers of electricity, the government announced major tariff reduction for electricity in 2018. Domestic and commercial users of power enjoyed between 10% and 30% drop in the cost of power. Although the Public Utilities Regulatory Commission [PURC] was expected to announce tariff adjustments in March, the Commission delayed its announcement to May which is expected to take effect in June, 2019. Deputy Energy Minister in charge of Finance, Joseph Cudjoe stated hopes of a drop in electricity tariffs as part of assurances to the public in the wake of recent power outages and the impact on users of electricity. The comment also followed the shutdown of the gas processing plant at Atuabo in the Western region and its effect on power supply to some parts of the country. [Source: Citifmonline.com](#)

### 'BoG maintains policy rate at 16%'

The Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank of Ghana has maintained the policy rate at 16%. This is the first time the central bank has maintained the rate this year after it was reduced in January by 100 basis point to 16%. The policy rate is the rate at which the Bank of Ghana lends to commercial banks. Speaking at a press conference, the Governor of the Bank of Ghana Dr. Ernest Addison explained that the decision was taken to control prices and also check interest rates in the financial sector. The Committee was of the view that the monetary policy stance is relatively tight and real interest rates in Ghana are comparatively high. In the circumstances, the Monetary Policy Committee has decided to keep the policy rate unchanged at 16%." Dr. Addison stated that the MPC will closely monitor developments in the coming months and will not hesitate to take immediate and decisive policy actions including on a tighter monetary policy stance, should these risks materialize and threaten to dislodge the disinflation process.

[Source: Citifmonline.com](#)

### 'Domestic travel dip by 13.36%; Airlines unable to meet growing passenger demand'

The total number of people who travelled by air within the country has declined by 13.36% as a result of supply challenges on the side of the airline operators. The drop in passenger throughput from 483,261 passengers in 2017 to 418,610 domestic travellers as recorded in 2018 is the third reduction in five years. Data from the Ghana Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA) showed that apart from the Sunyani Airport which recorded growth in passenger throughput, the Kumasi, Tamale and Takoradi airports declined. An aviation expert, Richard Kyereh, explained in an interview that the decline in throughput was largely as a result of supply challenges on the side of the airlines. [Source: Myjoyonline.com](#)

## Corporate News

### 'GN Savings and Ecobank Ghana sign 'mutually beneficial' partnership'

Ecobank Ghana and GN Savings have signed an agreement for the establishment of a partnership between the two financial institutions. The agreement was signed on Friday, March 29, 2019, at the offices of GN Savings and will see the two institutions work together in areas that will be mutually beneficial to both entities, a statement on the deal said. The agreement became necessary due to the reclassification of GN Bank as a Savings and Loans company, now called GN Savings. Speaking at the signing ceremony, Mr Issah Adam, CEO of GN Savings said, "with this partnership signed, we urge our clients and the Ghanaian banking public to continue doing business with us". [Source: Myjoyonline.com](#)

### 'Turn your mortgage into money-making properties – Anna Panti'

Mortgage Manager at Stanbic Bank Ghana, Anna Panti, has advised home-owners to make the most out of their mortgages by turning them into revenue generating properties. Mrs. Panti made this assertion at a mortgage clinic for realtors and potential home owners at the Stanbic Heights at Airport in Accra. According to her, mortgages must not necessarily be a debt hanging around the necks of customers. Home owners can make money from their mortgages by renting out their properties. "Landlords make money while sleeping. In the same way, mortgage home owners can turn their properties into money making properties by renting them out," Ms. Panti said.

[Source: Bftonline.com](#)

Currency - Interbank	Rate 29 Mar	Rate 1 Apr	%Change
USD/GHS	5.0834	5.0859	-0.05
GBP/GHS	6.6166	6.6681	-0.77
EUR/GHS	5.7084	5.7080	0.01
CHF/GHS	5.1008	5.0968	0.08
CNY/GHS	0.7571	0.7577	-0.08
ZAR/GHS	0.3510	0.3589	-2.19

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