



Akufo-Addo commissions Premium foods

The President of the Republic, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, on Thursday, 17th June 2021, commissioned the new factory of Premium Foods Limited, a company operating under Government's 1-District-1-Factory initiative.

Speaking at the site of the factory, located at Kwaso in the Ejisu Municipality of the Ashanti Region, President Akufo-Addo explained that the establishment of the factory is a concrete manifestation that the new paradigm of economic development of insisting on value-addition industrial activities within a conducive and business-friendly environment is making headway.

"This afternoon's ceremony is in fulfilment of the promise by Government, in partnership with the private sector, to set up at least one medium to large scale enterprise in every district of Ghana," the President said.

He noted that Premium Foods is a classic example of the critical role agricultural production and value addition play in economic development of countries, adding that "the contribution of Premium Foods Limited highlights Ghanaian ingenuity, entrepreneurial spirit, as well as the fortitude to succeed no matter the challenge".

Over the years, Premium Foods has supplied blended fortified and non-fortified products, and ingredients to global organizations, including international relief organizations, and multinational food and beverage manufacturing companies across Africa, including "Feed the Future" programme, under the US Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative.

Having invested in this new state-of-the-art manufacturing facility, with the capacity to blend over ninety-six thousand (96,000) metric tonnes annually of maize, soybean, sorghum and millet, the President was pleased to note that Premium Foods is one of the few manufacturing factories with such capabilities in West Africa.

"I am pleased to learn that this new factory is generating some one hundred and twenty (120) new jobs, made up of technical and management professionals, and is creating thousands of indirect income earning opportunities for farmers and out-growers along the value chain, mostly women and youth, in all parts of the country," President Akufo-Addo said.

He reiterated Government's support to supporting private sector operators, like Premium Foods, to become globally competitive, and, thereby, take advantage of market integration frameworks such as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), whose Secretariat has been established and commissioned in Accra.

"To this end, Government, as at December 2020, has granted import duty exemptions to thirty-six (36) companies, under the 1D1F programme, amounting to some four hundred and thirty-five million cedis (GH¢435 million)," he said.

The President continued, "The main sectors that have benefited from the exemptions are agro-processing, ceramics manufacturing, hardware manufacturing, and vehicle assembly plants. Prospective companies desirous of establishing such ventures, under the 1D1F initiative, are assured of

Akufo-Addo commissions Premium foods cont'd

Government's unwavering support, and I appeal to them to join hands with Government in the journey to industrialise Mother Ghana, and help create jobs for Ghanaian youth in all parts of the country”.



President Akufo-Addo commended the collaboration between the World Food Programme (WFP), the Canadian High Commission in Ghana, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), the African Development Bank (AfDB), Department for International Development (DFID), the J.A Kufuor Foundation, as well as local participating financial institutions for providing both technical and financial support to this project.



“I commend also the proprietors and management of Premium Foods Ltd., led by Mr. Tom Gambrah, a seasoned Ghanaian entrepreneur, for spearheading the establishment of this state-of-the-art manufacturing facility. I am confident that the best days of Premium Foods Ltd., and, indeed, of Mother Ghana, lie ahead,” he added.

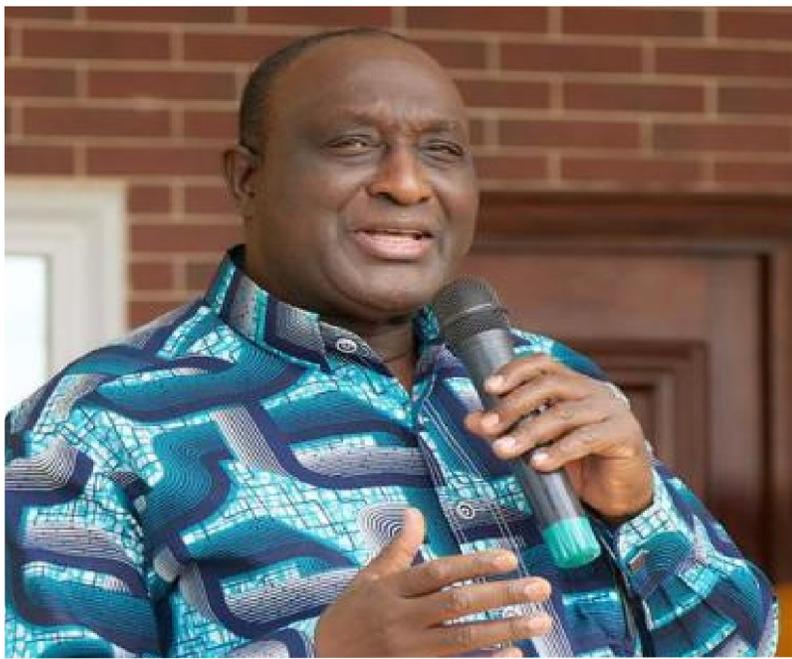


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THE RISE OF ALAN: A DAWN ALL MUST EMBRACE

It is funny how patience and the tides of time have allowed us to rewatch an epistle that played out during Akuffo Addo and Alan's race to our noble party's summit. It was marred with ridicules and counter ridicules, we are watching the same now. It was characterized by blame apportioning and name-calling, we are seeing the same now.

In fact, the whole contest was reduced to a "who came first" mantra, and rightly so, many of our party faithful joined this band in playing those memorable tunes to our 2016 victory. But why and how these symphonies of our yesteryears are not allowed to grace ears in our today's political dispensation, typifies how hypocritical elements in Ghanaian politics can be.

The same people who chastised and vilified Alan's course, did so to legitimize Nana Addo flagbearership. Yet now, they are the voices behind the trumpets blowing to alter the course we co-authored for Nana Addo yesterday; he rose through every rank, he competed even with the former president, he laboured for the party earnestly- this was some of the messages from the sermons people washed the political scene with.

The question that is however begging for their attention now is, how different is Alan's struggle now from that of Nana Addo's struggle then. I will tell you the answer, there is absolutely no difference! So let us stop acting as though we do not know who laboured for this party when, how and where.



The seniority people eloquently detailed then must be allowed to play now...

This is no plea to whoever hates to see Alan lead us into the battle that nighs, alas, it is to tell every member of our party, about what lurks behind the dark veil of fate -it is to chronicle what lies ahead of us all, and to say, how God, by their yesterday standards elected Alan Kyeremanteng; there is no fate-switching here, no amount of bitterness and or bigotry will save the day for his naysayers... The future is Alan, the future is now and collectively, the future is NPP; learn to live with it now!

Alan will rise...I shall return.

Source: ghanaweb.com



Akufo-Addo's speech at the opening of 59th ordinary session of ECOWAS

I welcome Your Excellencies to your second home, Accra, Ghana's capital, for the 59th Ordinary Session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). I acknowledge with gratitude the presence of the representatives of the African Union and the United Nations, and Members of the Diplomatic Corps, and, most especially, that of Louise Mushikiwabo, our Rwandan sister, who is the Secretary-General of La Francophonie, and our Special Guest. I say a hearty akwaaba, our word of welcome, to each of you, and I hope you are enjoying the famed Ghanaian hospitality.

On behalf of the Government and people of Ghana, I thank all ECOWAS Member States and all AU Member States for the support of Ghana's recent successful candidature for a non-permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council for the years 2022-2023. Ghana received the highest number of votes on the day, i.e., 185 out of 190 votes. It would not have been possible without your active support. I assure you, Excellencies, that Ghana will make sure that Africa's voice is heard loud and clear in the deliberations of the Security Council, both on matters affecting our Region and the Continent, and on global issues, and we will consult broadly

to define Africa's interests.

Africa's Common Position on UN Reform, based on the Ezulwini Consensus, is one matter Ghana is determined to urge on the global agenda. We will work to solicit the backing of countries around the world for this long, overdue reform. We believe it is time to correct the longstanding injustice that the current structure and composition of the UN Security Council represents for the nations of Africa.

Excellencies, let me congratulate warmly our brothers and colleagues, H.E. Mohamed Bazoum and H.E. Patrice Talon, who have been elected as Presidents of the Republic of Niger and of the Republic of Benin, respectively, since our last Summit. I offer them my and the Community's best wishes for their success during their terms of office. I commend also the Republics of Cote d'Ivoire and Cape Verde for the conduct and outcomes of their latest legislative elections. Our Region continues to strengthen its democratic credentials through the holding of successful elections.

Excellencies, let me congratulate warmly our brothers and colleagues, H.E. Mohamed Bazoum and H.E. Patrice Talon, who have been elected as Presidents of the Republic of Niger and of the Republic of Benin, respectively, since our

Akufo-Addo's speech at the opening of 59th ordinary session of ECOWAS

last decisions taken at the Emergency Summit held here in, Accra, on 30th May, when we suspended Mali from our Organisation, pending the restoration of democratic rule. We will hear a report from the ECOWAS Mediator on the Malian Crisis, His Excellency Goodluck Jonathan, former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and the President of the ECOWAS Commission, His Excellency Jean-Claude Kassi Brou, who went together to Mali after the investiture of Colonel Goita.

One issue of concern for all of us has to do with the pandemic of COVID-19, which continues to ravage the world and our Region. The strong measures taken at national and regional levels, since the outbreak of the pandemic, have enabled us to contain and mitigate, with the blessing of the Almighty, its impact in our respective countries, the tragic deaths we have recorded, notwithstanding.

We need, as a Community, to contribute to the global discourse on access and availability of vaccines for all the peoples of the world. Through the COVAX initiative, all the countries in the Region have taken delivery of some vaccines, supplemented by direct procurement by some Member States. I thank foreign friends of the Community who have contributed to funding the initiative. We note, however, that the quantities received are woefully insufficient. We must, thus, continue to work on the purchase and production of vaccines in our Region. We have to encourage Members of our Community, Nigeria, Senegal, and my own country, Ghana, which are making the effort to produce their own vaccines. We cannot afford to be naked the next time.

The recent decision of the G7 to provide more vaccines to developing countries is commendable, just as is its decision on the taxation of multi-national companies. It is a first step towards addressing the illicit flow of funds, in which these multi-national companies play a major part, and which lead to the huge exodus of resources from our Continent. There is still more to be done.

Excellencies, beyond these challenges, we must work to achieve strong economic growth, based on the construction of resilient economies. Let us continue to focus on the implementation of programmes and projects, in all areas of national life, to ensure job creation and the well-being of our peoples. This requires that we strengthen our regional integration by pursuing the free movement of goods and people, and the development of our economic infrastructure and our human capital bases. In this regard, the entry into force of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), on 1st January 2021, offers us a historic opportunity to enhance our levels of intra-regional trade, and inspire the momentum for rapid economic growth. We have to rise to the occasion, and change our destiny.

Work on the Community's single currency must also continue. According to our programme, the new convergence pact and the new roadmap for its implementation will be submitted for adoption during this Summit.

Excellencies, the world continues to value the work of our Organisation, which is held up as a model of regional engagement on the Continent, and we must continue to do whatever is required to strengthen it, and help realise its objectives.

Excellencies, I conclude my address by, again, welcoming you to Accra, and wishing our meeting success. I, hereby, declare the 59th Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government open.

I thank you for your kind attention.

Je vous remercie de votre aimable attention.

Muito obrigado pela sua atenção!

Source: MyGhanaMedia.com



The 12 ministerial and deputy ministerial nominees approved by Parliament

Parliament has by consensus, approved 12 of President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo's 40 nominees for Ministerial and Deputy Ministerial Appointments who have been duly vetted by the Appointments Committee.

This follows the adoption of the Fifth Report of the Appointments Committee on the President's nominations submitted to the House on Wednesday 21st April 2021.

The approval of the 12 on Wednesday, June 16, came after a unanimous voice vote from both the Majority and Minority sides of the House without dissent.

The nominees are Mr Charles Kofi Asare Adu-Boahen for Finance, Hon. Benito Owusu-Bio for Lands and Natural Resources, Hon. Augustine Collins Ntim and Hon. Osei Bonsu Amoah both for Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development.

The others are Hon. William Owuraku Aidoo for Energy, Hon. Abena Osei-Asare for Finance, Hon. Yaw Frimpong Addo for Food and Agriculture and Hon. Kwaku Asante Boateng for Railway Development.

The rest are Hon. Ama Pooma Boateng for Communications and Digitalization, Hon. Kwaku Ampratwum Sarpong for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, Hon. Moses Anim for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development and Hon. Nana Dokua Asiamah-Adjei for Trade and

Industry.

The approval of the 12 appointees came after the Appointments Committee Chairman Hon Joseph Osei-Owusu presented the Fifth Report of the Committee on the President's nominees and moved a motion for the House to adopt and approve the Committee's report.

The 12 approved Ministers/Deputy Ministers
Mr Charles Kofi Asare Adu-Boahen for Finance
Hon Benito Owusu-Bio for Lands and Natural Resources
Hon Augustine Collins Ntim and Hon Osei Bonsu Amoah both for Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development.

- **Hon William Owuraku Aidoo for Energy**
- **Hon Abena Osei-Asare for Finance**
- **Hon Yaw Frimpong Addo for Food and Agriculture**
- **Hon Kwaku Asante Boateng for Railway Development**
- **Hon Ama Pooma Boateng for Communications and Digitalization**
- **Hon Kwaku Ampratwum Sarpong for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration**
- **Hon Moses Anim for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development**
- **Hon Nana Dokua Asiamah-Adjei for Trade and Industry.**

Moving the motion for the House to adopt the report on the twelve nominees, Hon Osei-Owusu told the House that the 26-member Committee, by consensus, had endorsed the approval of all the appointees after they had been duly vetted.



Ghana's Common Core Programme: A curriculum paradigm, whose time has come

In an increasingly globalised economy, a country's most precious resources are not extracted from deep within its bowels. It is not the oil, gold or cocoa that will, in the end, lead to Ghana's economic prosperity.

Our greatest and most critical resources are the men and women who lead our industrialisation efforts, turn the wheels of technology and innovation, run our businesses and cater for our physical and mental health needs and all the other constituents of our workforce.

No nation has developed without a well-educated and dedicated critical mass of workforce to pursue its developmental aspirations.

There are many nations who have achieved higher levels of development with only a fraction of Ghana's natural wealth; they relied on qualified and patriotic citizens to achieve their enviable status. The arc of success of these nations can only provide key lessons for Ghana. If we are to spur economic growth within the context of a globalised knowledge economy, then we will need to grow a capable workforce characterised by creativity and innovation, nationalistic zeal and a sense of moral purpose and duty.

A plethora of studies have shown that a well-educated and skilled workforce is indispensable for economic transformation and shared growth.

The school curriculum plays a particularly important role in this regard. If you are what you read, you are even more so what you study. The learning experiences we offer our children accounts, in large part, for what they eventually become.

Irrelevant curriculum

Unfortunately, our curriculum appears to have long failed to keep up with the changing times and demands of the moment. For far too long, we had remained tethered to the colonial ideal of producing graduates who are little more than pliant paper pushers.

Over the last three decades, our educational system and the school curriculum and assessment, in particular, appear to have done little to encourage or foster the kind of curiosity that leads to world-changing innovation.

The results of this have been evident for long. In global tests that assess application of knowledge and reasoning, even our best students struggle. Something about our education has been holding our students back and stifling their ability to lead world-beating innovations, life-changing discoveries and wealth-creating ideas.

In 2016, for instance, the National Education Assessment found more than 70 per cent of students struggling to achieve basic competencies in English and Mathematics. Similar discernible patterns were observed at the early grade level where less than five per cent could read with comprehension as reported in the EGRA/EGMA studies.

Earlier, the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study assessments consistently ranked Ghana at the bottom of the global table in Science and Maths. Attempts to uncover the underlying cause of this phenomena produced common findings that included curriculum overload and lack of performance standards to guide teaching and learning.

These findings raised important issues for policy makers. Curriculum overload, particularly, leads to poor fidelity of implementation as teachers and schools make their own value judgements about what should and should not be

Ghana's Common Core Programme: A curriculum paradigm, whose time has come. Cont'd

taught in their lessons.

Reforms

Against this backdrop, the Nana Akufo-Addo led government, on taking over in 2017, considered the development of a new curriculum as part of a comprehensive school reform agenda that included teacher education reform, school management and accountability, and improved education service delivery in general.

The government, particularly the President, believed that the expanded access to education that it was pursuing, would be fatally compromised if it was not complemented by enhanced relevance and quality of education expressed in the form of curriculum materials.

There had been previous attempts to revise our school curriculum. None of such attempts, however, seemed to have attacked the very core of the problem.

None had sought to explicitly answer the question “what kind of Ghanaian do we want walking on our streets a generation from now?” in such a direct and sustained manner as these present reforms do.

In September 2019, after two years of extensive curriculum review process, the government introduced a standards-based curriculum at the kindergarten to primary levels, with emphasis on core and foundational skills such as the four Rs - Reading, wRiting, aRithmetic and cReativity – while also nurturing in the children a lifelong passion for learning and discovery.

This was in sharp contrast to the earlier objectivists-based curriculum we have so long relied on. Developed on the bases of the B. F. Skinners and Edward Thondikes behaviourists learning theories, the objectivists-based curriculum encouraged learners to demonstrate competence by reciting or regurgitating concepts; an approach understood in the extant literature as drill and practice.

In contrast, with the emphasis on set grade-level expectations, the standards-based curriculum highlights what learners are expected to know, understand and be able to do (with emphasis on doing).

Textbooks and other instructional resources that align with

the expectations of the new curriculum have since been developed, approved and are currently being procured by government to facilitate the reform efforts.

Results

Reform efforts, however, must be matched at the various levels of education in order for them to achieve the intended policy outcomes.

This is why the common core curriculum for lower and upper secondary levels was developed and subsequently approved by cabinet for implementation this year.

This was originally designed as a programmatic curriculum with the view to aligning the lower secondary curriculum more closely to the upper secondary school in accordance with the government's vision of a comprehensive secondary school system.

Besides following the objectivists model of curriculum, the existing JHS curriculum had a number of limitations both in terms of content and structure.

For instance, the 1987 reforms, led by the recently deceased Dr Emmanuel Evans-Anfom (may his soul rest in peace), aligned our lower secondary closer to the primary school than upper secondary, to form the basic school system under the government's FCUBE programme.

This relationship has since influenced many policy choices including curriculum decisions, teacher recruitment and training, evaluation and certification.

A major unintended consequence, for instance, was the strengthened link between primary school and lower secondary school, and the weakened link between the lower and upper secondary school in terms of access and quality.

That the Anamuah-Mensah committee in 2002 considered an additional year at the upper secondary school “as a remedial period for the poor quality of education at the junior secondary school level and ... for the selection of programmes” highlights the significance of this problem.

The introduction of the free SHS policy has addressed the access aspect of the problem involving transition from JHS

Ghana's Common Core Programme: A curriculum paradigm, whose time has come. Cont'd

to SHS. The common core curriculum, on the other hand, attempts to address the quality aspect in the form of improved learning experiences based on a common (core) curriculum from JHS1 to SHS1, thereby conceptualising lower and upper secondary as a collective whole.

Students may be streamed through elective subjects after first year of upper secondary. This is in contrast to the current approach where students are grouped either by academic ability or by choice on entering upper secondary education.

Research findings

A significant body of research shows that early streaming of students into pathways (grammar or vocational education) impacts negatively on learning outcomes. It was against this background that the high-level ministerial technical committee led by former Minister for Education, Prof. Dominic Fobih, which conceptualised the common core programme recommended a six-year curriculum system, combining JHS and SHS; with JHS 1-SHS 1 as the foundational learning stage, and SHS 2-3 for university and work preparation.

This distinctive feature of the common core curriculum, among others, is important for two reasons. First, given that the option for students to specialize is delayed at least for a year, specialisation will occur at a relatively older age.

This could help students and parents become better informed about options and about the consequences of early specialisation.

Second, students who complete JHS would still have more work to cover in the programme and could even prepare with their available textbooks while at home waiting to enter SHS, thereby making efficient use of time and instructional resources.

Standards-based curriculum

Beyond these, it is essential that students, who have been exposed to the standards-based curriculum at the primary level, transit to a curriculum system that complements the new curriculum in its purpose and characteristics.

Otherwise, we risk compromising the gains that we would have made in fostering real world skills of the young ones.

As the common core curriculum is currently envisaged to finish at SHS1, final assessment would most likely be at

the end of SHS1. This assessment needs to prioritise the validity with respect to the higher order skills in the common core (the 'Core Competences').

This could involve project work, teamwork, problem solving, among others, with more open-ended tasks, in order to allow students the scope to demonstrate the skills required.

Schools and teachers may be incentivised to provide high levels of support for students and/or mark generously, which will have implications for reliability.

This writer, therefore, recommends that there be two different assessments for the common core programme, each optimised to a different purpose. One would be for placement in Senior High School and one for assessing the core competences.

Exact decisions about when and how these will take place can only follow decisions about the curriculum organisation, assessment and school structure, among others.

In conclusion, the common core programme is a crystallisation of the President's vision of producing an educated and skilled workforce to power the nation's development agenda.

With the common core programme supported with instructional resources and a highly motivated teacher workforce, we anticipate to have within a generation, a critical mass of innovators, critical thinkers and leaders who are at par with the best from anywhere in the world and can hold their own in the competitive global arena.

Backed by rigorous and faithful implementation, the common core programme stands us in good stead of finally making good on that promise made to a hopeful nation some 64 years ago, that we are capable of managing our own affairs.

The writer is the Member of Parliament for Kwesimintsim, immediate past Director-General of the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment, and Vice Chairman of the Parliamentary Select Committee on Education.

Source: Graphiconline.com

NPP NEWS

NPP NATIONAL YOUTH WING; SPECIAL INVITATION TO THE FINAL ADUA (FUNERAL RITES) OF THE LATE, MR. LATIF SOLOMON (UPPER EAST REGIONAL YOUTH ORGANIZER)

The Yenaah-Dulum family, Naba Salifu Biliabelum Kimalemyarum, (Paramount Chief of Bongo Traditional Area),H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akuffo Addo(President of the Republic of Ghana and Commander in Chief of Ghana Armed Forces) ,H.E. Alhaji Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia (Vice President of the Republic of Ghana) ,Hon Freddie W. A. Blay (National chairman, NPP) and the entire NPP fraternity The Regional Chief Imam,wish to invite you to the final adua (funeral rites) of the late LATIF SOLOMON YENAAH

Date : Sunday 27th June, 2021.

Time : 8:00am.

Venue : CATHOLIC SOCIAL CENTER PARK, BONGO



ALL SYMPATHIZERS ARE CORDIALLY INVITED

President Nana Akufo-Addo on Thursday, 17th June, 2021 commissioned the new factory of Premium Foods Limited, a company operating under the government's 1-District-1-Factory initiative being executed by the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

The commissioning ceremony underscores the confidence the private sector and Development Partners have in the industrialization agenda of the Akufo-Addo Government. The success stories of the Seventy-Seven (77) factories operating under the 1D1F program is a true reflection of strategic Government policy driving the industrialization agenda of our dear country.

I am excited about the successful completion of this manufacturing facility for a number of reasons, particularly the fact that this world-class factory is located in what we all consider to be a rural community, a departure from many of such commercial establishments located in Accra, Kumasi, and Tema. Indeed, this is one of the strategic objectives of the 1D1F Initiative, which is helping to significantly reduce rural-urban migration whiles creating wealth for Ghanaians across the country.

I wish to encourage Ghanaians to engage in commercial plantation to produce quality raw materials to feed many of the Agro-processing 1D1F factories being established across the country.





THE ALAN NEWS

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Congrats

THE ALAN SUPPORTER OF THE WEEK



**CHARLES
APPAU
(AMOROSO JUNIOR)**

**ASOKWA CONSTITUENCY
KUMASI, ASHANTI REGION**

To the men that stood up for their responsibilities. To they that fathered the dreams of many, we wish you the best of this day. #HappyFathersDay #Youth4Alan

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Happy Fathers' Day

There's nothing Greater than a father's love

JOHN ALAN KWADWO KYEREMATEN
Minister of Trade & Industry

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