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jobs are coming,
Prez. Akufo-Addo
tells Ghanaians

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EXPERIENCE, CHARACTER, COMPETENCE, CHARISMA...



Get your C.Vs ready; 1 million more jobs are coming, Prez Akufo-Addo tells Ghanaians

The government will be announcing plans of creating someone million jobs soon when the Finance Minister Ken Ofori-Atta presents the mid-year budget review for the 2021 Financial Year in Parliament on Thursday, July 29, 2021.

This was announced by President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo in his Eid al-Adha address in Accra on Tuesday, 20 July 2021.

The jobs, according to the President, will come under the Ghana COVID-19 Alleviation and Revitalization of Enterprises Support (Ghana CARES) programme, and will be created over a three-year period.

Nana Akufo-Addo said: “As has been well-publicized, a few days ago, the Ministry of Finance granted financial clearance to the Ministry of Education and the security services for the recruitment of some 11,800 people to beef up their operations. It does not end there. We will through interventions to be set out in the mid-year budget review announce plans for the creation of some one million more jobs under the Ghana CARES ‘Obaatampa’ project over the course of the next 3 years.”

“We are determined to pursue our agenda for jobs creation in order to give opportunities for our youth to nurture their talents for the development of our

country,” he added.

Mr Ofori-Atta last week gave financial clearance for the recruitment of close to 12,000 people into the police, prisons, immigration and education services.

The financial clearance, communicated in six separate letters to the respective institutions, said the recruitments will take place on 1 August 2021.

Four of the letters were addressed to the Ministry for the Interior under whose wings the Ghana Police Service, Ghana National Fire Service, Ghana Immigration Service and Ghana Prisons Service fall.

One was addressed to the Ministry of Education and the other to the Ministry of National Security.



Over GH¢260m to be disbursed as interests subsidies for 128 1D1F companies

Government has disbursed a total amount of GH¢ 260 million as interest subsidies for 128 companies under its flagship One District, One Factory (1D1F) programme.

This was revealed by the Minister for Trade and Industry, John Alan Kyeremanten when the Bole/Bamboi MP, Yusif Sulemana requested comprehensive information on the amount government has expended on subsidizing loan interests for 1D1F companies, and the list of beneficiaries.

According to Mr Kyeremanten, Participating Financial Institutions (PFIs) have approved a total amount of GH¢2.69 billion loans of which GHS 1.66 billion have already been disbursed to the 128 1D1F companies.

As such, the Akufo-Addo administration is providing the needed support to reduce the risk of financial loss.

“Mr. Speaker, it is worth noting that the lending risk associated with the said transactions is borne by the PFIs. The interest subsidies provided by government are only meant to de-risk the loans extended to the 1D1F Companies.

“Against this background, the Ministry of Trade and Industry has signed MoUs with the PFIs

which provides inter alia that: “Each Party undertakes to take all reasonable steps to preserve the confidentiality of information disclosed, including without limitation requesting that the confidential information shall not be released to third parties or the public” the Minister noted.

He further added that “Mr. Speaker, in the light of the above, the Ministry considers it inappropriate to provide the list of beneficiaries with matching amounts as requested by the Honourable Member.

However, the Minister outlined PFIs including GCB Bank Limited, Prudential Bank Limited, Société General, Universal Merchant Bank, ADB Ghana Limited, Ecobank Ghana, Standard Chartered Bank, Absa Bank Ghana Limited, CAL Bank Limited and Stanbic Bank Ghana as organisations involved in the referenced transactions.

Source:myjoyonline.com



Alan Kyerematen's statement before Parliament on 1D1F Initiative

Right Hon. Speaker, let me start first by thanking your esteemed self and Hon. Members of this august House for the opportunity to deliver a Statement on the Government's flagship One District One Factory (1D1F) Initiative.

Mr. Speaker, it is an undeniable fact that most countries that have achieved superlative growth over the years have done so on the back of industrialization. It is therefore not by accident that the ten (10) largest economies in the world are also the most industrialized economies, namely, the United States, China, Japan, Germany, United Kingdom, India, France, Italy, Canada and South Korea.

It is against this background that the NPP Government on assumption of office in 2017 launched a comprehensive and ambitious programme for industrial reform. One of the key components of the Ten Point Industrial Transformation Plan is the One District One Factory Initiative otherwise referred to as the 1D1F Programme.

Mr. Speaker, the Programme seeks to address the challenge of severe poverty and underdevelopment among rural and peri-urban communities, through

the establishment of manufacturing enterprises by private sector operators in the 260 administrative districts in the country.

The programme is designed to achieve the following strategic objectives:

- To create massive employment opportunities particularly for the youth and thereby improve income levels and standard of living in rural and peri-urban communities.
- To reduce rural-urban migration and help decongest our cities.
- To add value to the natural resource endowment of each district and exploit its economic potential based on the comparative advantage of the district.
- To decentralize industrial development and ensure even and spatial spread of industries and thereby stimulate economic activity in different parts of the country.
- To enhance the production of local substitutes for imported goods and thereby conserve scarce foreign exchange.
- To promote exports and increase foreign exchange earnings of the country and thereby strengthen our

Alan Kyerematen's statement before Parliament on 1D1F Initiative cont'd

local currency.

The criteria for selecting 1D1F companies is based on these strategic objectives.

CORE PRINCIPLES

Rt. Hon. Speaker, the 1D1F Initiative is underpinned by some core principles including the following:

Firstly, 1D1F companies are not State Enterprises but are privately owned companies actively supported by Government. Government support to 1D1F companies include fiscal and non-fiscal incentives, technical assistance, and extension of infrastructural facilities, including electricity, water, and access roads.

Secondly, 1D1F Companies could either be new companies or existing companies that meet the 1D1F criteria. This is to ensure that existing companies that require strategic support could also benefit from the initiative.

Thirdly, two or more Districts can collaborate to establish one factory if they have a common resource endowment.

Fourthly, a District could have more than one enterprise or company if there are more promoters interested in a particular district, as a result of the different natural resource endowments of the district.

Fifthly, in selected cases Government may partner a strategic investor under a PPP arrangement to establish a commercial enterprise under the 1D1F initiative. Where Government has an interest in a 1D1F project, the goal would be for Government to offload its interest over time to the private sector.

Lastly, each 1D1F company is supported by a District Implementation Support Team, made up of representatives from the District Assembly, MOTI, Ghana Enterprises Agency, selected Regulatory Agencies and the Traditional Authorities in the specific district.

Applications to participate in the 1D1F programme are submitted to the Ministry of Trade and Industry with a Business Plan or Proposal attached.

Mr. Speaker, the various types of assistance available to 1D1F companies include but are not limited to the following:

1. Tax Incentives – a waiver on duties and levies on imported plant, machinery and equipment, as well as raw materials.
2. Five-Year Corporate Tax Holiday.
3. Interest Subsidies for loans granted to 1D1F Companies by Participating Financial Institutions (PFIs).
4. Technical Assistance services provided free of charge to 1D1F Companies by experienced Consultants recruited by the Ministry.
5. Extension of Infrastructural Facilities to 1D1F Project Sites, including Electricity, Water and Access Roads where necessary.

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Mr. Speaker, since the beginning of the Programme to date, there are 278 1D1F projects which are at various stages of implementation.

Out of this number, 104 companies are currently in operation, 150 are under construction and 24 are at the mobilization stage. One Hundred and Sixty Five (165) out of the 278 companies are new projects representing 60% whilst 113 companies are existing projects being supported, representing 40%.

The companies that are currently operational have created a total of 150,975 direct and indirect jobs, up from 139,331 in December 2020. It is expected that when the additional 150 1D1F projects currently under construction are completed, the cumulative number of direct and indirect jobs created will reach 282,792.

Mr. Speaker, it is worth noting that the youth have not been left out of the 1D1F Programme. Out of the 278 1D1F companies, 58 are fully owned by youth groups who have been mobilized by Government and supported with seed funding to establish their own state-of-the-art agro-processing

Alan Kyerematen's statement before Parliament on 1D1F Initiative cont'd

factories in 58 districts, under what is referred to as the Enable Youth 1D1F Initiative supported by African Development Bank (AfDB) and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

Each of these youth groups have between 40 and 48 individuals as Shareholders in each company.

In addition, 5 medium scale state-of-the-art agro processing Common User Facilities have also been established, owned by groups of farmers in 5 districts with funding from African Development Bank (AfDB).

Mr. Speaker, the sectoral breakdown of the 1D1F companies are as follows; 40.6% Agro processing companies, 43.9% other Manufacturing companies, 7.9% Meat Processing (Livestock, Poultry and Fish) and 7.6% representing others.

Mr. Speaker, the Regional Breakdown of the 1D1F companies are as follows:

REGIONAL BREAKDOWN OF 1D1F PROJECTS

REGIONAL BREAKDOWN OF 1D1F PROJECTS			
No.	REGION	NO. OF DISTRICTS	NO. OF 1D1F PROJECTS
1	ASHANTI	43	54
2	EASTERN	33	37
3	GREATER ACCRA	29	76
4	CENTRAL	22	19
5	VOLTA	18	13
6	NORTHERN	16	6
7	UPPER EAST	15	7
8	WESTERN	14	11
9	BONO	12	19
10	BONO EAST	11	10
11	UPPER WEST	11	6
12	WESTERN NORTH	9	5
13	OTI	8	3
14	SAVANNA	7	4
15	AHAFO	6	5
16	NORTH EAST	6	3
	TOTAL	260	278

Mr. Speaker, since the inception of the 1D1F Initiative, Parliament has granted approval for exemptions from import duty for the importation of Machinery, Equipment and Industrial Raw Materials to 37 1D1F Projects made up of 14 existing projects being expanded or upgraded, and 23 new projects.

Mr. Speaker, it is worth noting that granting of

exemptions to 1D1F companies is not automatic. Companies applying for exemptions have to comply with specific criteria established by the Select Committee of Parliament on Finance, Ministry of Finance and Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA).

Mr. Speaker, since the start of the Programme, Government has successfully mobilized loans for 1D1F companies from the Participating Financial Institutions totaling an amount of GHS2.69 billion. This amount has been leveraged through the disbursement by Government of an amount of GHS 260.9 million to de-risk loans and support interest payment. As of 16th July 2021, 148 companies have benefited from loans facilitated by Government.

CONCLUSION

Rt. Hon. Speaker, the 1D1F programme is arguably one of the most innovative and comprehensive programmes for industrial development ever to have been implemented in our economic development history.

The programme will no doubt significantly enhance the capacity of the private sector in Ghana to take advantage of not only the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA), but also the interim Ghana-UK Trade Partnership Agreement as well as the interim EU-Ghana Economic Partnership Agreement (iEPA).

Above all Mr. Speaker, the implementation of the 1D1F programme in parallel with other components of the Ten Point Industrial Transformation Plan, such as the establishment of Industrial Parks, the establishment of One-Stop Business Resource Centres (BRCs) and Technology Solution Centers (TSCs) in various districts as well as the development of new Strategic Anchor Industries, will no doubt position Ghana as the new manufacturing hub for Africa. Ghana is moving forward.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully submit this Statement for the kind consideration of this August House.

Source: Ghanaweb.com



Industrializing Ghana one factory at a time; Case of CASA de Ropa factory - The Alan factor

As far back as the late nineteenth century Governments across the world were resolved on industrialization as a pathway to economic development and job creation.

Muhammed Ali the Ottoman leader who ruled Egypt from 1805 to 1848 created various factories in Egypt in a bid to ensure economic independence.

After Muhammed Ali died, the Egyptian population was not as educated and dexterous to man those factories.

As a result, all these factories collapsed.

This means that the basis for an industrial take-off for every nation is an educated and skilled population.

Thankfully here in Ghana, the last five years have seen the provision of free basic education and free technical and vocational education as well.

The corollary is that the population is ready and poised to occupy various industries.

Industrialization goes hand in hand with value addition and that is what Mr. Alan Kyerematen has emphasized over the period.

A country that exports raw materials like Ghana has done over the period is as poor as a country less endowed with natural resources.

Mr. Alan Kyerematen has led the way in processing our raw materials and agrarian products so that they are brought on the domestic market as products of worth and exported into other markets as products that meet world standards.

Casa De Ropa factory in Gomoa Bewadze is no different.

It has turned out to be one of the most innovative food processing companies in Ghana.

Ghana currently imports \$400 million of refined sugar and Casa De Ropa through industrialization is on the right path to reverse this trend by processing the Orange Fleshed Sweet Potatoes from the Central Region of Ghana.

Under the current Trade Minister and with Cabinet support, we are seeing the processing of potatoes into chips, bread, cake, pastries, and so on for the domestic market and export.

The \$ 14 million state of the art factory has created jobs for the

skilled and educated populace in Gomoa Bewadze who benefited from free SHS, has promoted value addition, and has enhanced the foreign exchange earnings of Ghana.

The factory since its commencement has created hundreds of direct jobs and thousands of indirect jobs especially for rural women.

Women make up more than 80 percent of the factories workforce.

Women have also been supported to plant the sweet potato variant for the factory to process and are generating decent income in this regard.

Sustainable Base of Raw Materials :

The company has effectively combined technology and innovation to ensure that the thousands of acres of land that produced the local sweet potatoes called the Orange Fleshed Sweet Potato.

These local sweet potatoes are available from the farms cultivated by the factory and other employed rural folks to ensure that there's a sustainable raw material all year round.

Significantly, the company seeks to support job creation for unemployed graduates through its Casa Youth Farmpreneurs.

The graduates are grouped and trained to be able to replicate the Casa De Ropa potato processing model nationwide.

Conclusion :

Industrialization is the directional path to economic success and the trade behemoth, Alan Kyerematen is a bastion on industrialization based on his track record.

Casa De Ropa is a classical example of the great industrialization model that will establish the "Made in Ghana" vision and transform the economy for all Ghanaians.

Source: Robert Ohene || robertohene25@gmail.com

Food trade coalition holds first meeting on trade investment opportunities in Africa

The Food Trade Coalition for Africa has organised its first meeting to coordinate food trade investments and policy interventions across the continent.

Co-Chair of the Coalition, Ziad Hamoui in a hybrid meeting that seeks to leverage diverse views, experiences and knowledge indicated that the meeting would serve as a platform to monitor and evaluate past records of food trade in order to outline the work plan for the rest of the year while drawing feedback for better achievements.

He noted that with the combined strengths of key stakeholders, the Coalition would build a stronger consensus on food trade policy, and increase policy coherence and predictability.

“Throughout the coronavirus pandemic, movement of trade hasn’t stopped but movement of people did. Therefore, the pandemic has taught us to start relying on our own local production. Thus, we are hoping to use this coalition as a platform to discuss issues of trade,” he indicated.

In a speech read on behalf of the Minister of Trade and Industry, Alan Kyeremanten, he congratulated the coalition, Alliance for Free Revolution in Africa (AGRA) and other stakeholders for their relentless efforts to support the growth of Africa’s agriculture through the building of the agricultural sector and also linking them to various regional and international markets.

The minister urged African countries to embark on greater and more diversified agriculture trade at regional and global levels to help boost productivity at all stages along the value chain in order to help transform African agriculture and stimulate growth.

“Increasing intra-African agricultural trade also has the potential to improve food security by moving surplus food to deficit areas and contribute to stabilizing local and regional food markets by making them less vulnerable to shocks,” he explained.

He urged all stakeholders to target education and training of the youth with a focus on mentorship so as to enrich smallholder’s practices and knowledge, entrepreneurship and make agriculture more attractive to them.

The Minister indicated that the establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) would help provide enormous opportunities for the export and import trading of goods, and also empower businesses of all scales be it large, medium, small or micro enterprises.

However, he mentioned that some main barriers to diversification included non-tariffs measures, sanitary and phytosanitary regulations; technical

regulations and specific rules of origin.

“Yet, these issues have been addressed under some of the annexes to the AfCFTA protocol on trade in goods,” Mr Kyeremanten announced.

He added that the barriers would soon be removed at the continental level in order to strengthen the case for expanding the share of locally processed products in regional trade.

The Minister indicated that Ghanaian export will be boosted, while investment and innovation would also be stimulated to foster structural transformation and improve food security in the continent.

“AfCFTA will enhance economic growth and export diversification and above all provide the fresh impetus and dynamisms to economic integration of Ghana into the African market,” he stressed.

He noted they even though African agri-food trade is bedeviled with several challenges which included productive capacity, noncompliance with standards and unstructured markets, the Food for Trade Coalition for Africa policy dialogue will help address some of these challenges in agriculture.

“Effective actions are needed to promote gender-targeted interventions such as fulfilment of human rights for gender equality and women’s empowerment to facilitate their support market linked to local, national and regional food system.

Women comprise an average of 43% of the agricultural labour force in developing countries,” the Minister added.

Mr Kyeremanten called on various stakeholders to support farmers and other small-scale actors to ensure that they benefitted from increased trade opportunities.

The members of the Food Trade Coalition for Africa include representatives within African and the international community; regional economic communities, private organizations, research institutions, development agencies, academia and think-tanks.

Visit to the Chief Imam to commemorate with him and his family on the demise of his son, Abubakar Shaributu



@alankyerematen

Wed. 21st July, 2021

TERTIARY EDUCATION STUDENTS' CONFEDERACY OF N.P.P (TESCON) RULES AND REGULATIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE

The National Youth wing of the New Patriotic Party (NPP) pursuant to Regulation 20(1)(5) of the TESCON Rules and Regulations has set up a five (5) member Committee to review the existing TESCON Rules and Regulations.

The Committee is made up of:

- 1) Nicholas Lenin Anane Agyei ESQ – Chairman
- 2) Samuel Anobil Baidoo (National Tescon Cordinator) – Member
- 3) Anthony Sackey (Central Regional Youth Organizer) – Member
- 4) Charles Opoku (Eastern Regional TESCON Coordinator) – Secretary
- 5) Ishmeal Nketiah ESQ – Member

The Committee tasked to review the existing TESCON Rules and Regulations will consider proposals received and emerging political narratives on the students front to establish robust and responsive working modalities for the conduct of TESCON activities in the various institutions.

Thank you...

Signed...,

Nana Asafo-Adjei Ayeh

(National Youth Wing Adiministrator)





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Congrats

THE ALAN SUPPORTER OF THE WEEK



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