Ghana reduces Malaria deaths by 45%

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Deaths caused by Malaria in the country has reduced by almost 45 percent in the past 5 years, the National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP) has revealed.

This means the number of malaria deaths in Ghana has fallen from about 4,000 in 2010 to a little more than 2,000 in 2015.

This, according to the NMCP, is largely attributed to increased prevention and control measures the country has put in place.

These measures include: the distribution of treated mosquito nets, seasonal malaria chemoprevention initiatives, free medication for pregnant women, indoor residual spraying, among others.

"We've recorded a massive reduction in Malaria deaths; almost 45% in five years. From the year 2010, we were recording about 4,000 deaths, in 2015, it's just a little above 2,000, so about 45% reduction malaria deaths for us, is a very great achievement but we are not resting," the Programme Manager of NMCP, Dr. Constance Bart-Plange, disclosed to media practitioners in Accra, at the launch of this year's World Malaria Day.

She further disclosed that available records show about 27.7% reduction in Malaria parasites in peoples’ blood as against more than 50% some years back.

"So whereas in the past more than half people tested were carrying Malaria parasites in their blood, now it has reduced to about a quarter. We want to make sure that Ghana will be truly free from Malaria," she added.

According to the World Health Organization, nearly half of the world’s population are at risk of malaria. In 2015, there were roughly 214 million malaria cases and an estimated 438,000 malaria deaths. Sub-Saharan Africa continues to carry a disproportionately high share of the global malaria burden. In 2015, the region was home to 89% of malaria cases and 91% of malaria deaths.

In 2010, the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) ranked Malaria as the number one killer disease in Ghana with 13% of deaths recorded in 2010, prompting government to initiate interventions that will help reduce the deaths to 75% by 2020.

"We want to get to the stage where nobody will die from Malaria," the Programme Manager of NMCP assured.

Over 15 million nets were distributed in the Central, Ashanti, Brong Ahafo, Western and Upper East regions in 2015, with 3,266,041 people receiving 1,814,467 nets since the beginning of this year in the Northern Region.

"In 2015, 994,451 structures were sprayed covering 1,325,507 people in targeted districts, 651,986 pregnant women received Intermittent Preventive Treatment in Pregnancy (IPTp)."

Currently, the NMCP is advocating against self medication, advising the general public to report malaria cases at the nearest health centre.

"We are also promoting what we all, test before you treat. In that aspect we are saying that the era where every fever is malaria is over. Make sure that when you think you have Malaria, get to a health facility and let them test you," Dr. Constance Bart-Plange recommended.

"The medications we use are very good and we don't want people to mess up with the medication. If you don't treat well, if you don't complete treatment, it means that you will be creating resistance. Once you create resistance to the anti-Malaria; what we call the ACT, will be in trouble because we don't have any alternative now."

The NMCP further called for more investment in the control of Malaria to prevent going back to square one as Ghana is in a "critical situation."

"We are in a critical situation because, we've made gains. If we have reduced to almost 45% in five years, we want to further reduce until there are no more deaths. We want to further reduce the malaria load so that it no more becomes a threat," Dr. Bart-Plange said.

The World Malaria Day falls on Monday, April 25. It will be on the theme: 'End Malaria for Good; Invest in Malaria.'
46-kilometre Dodo-Pepesu-Nkwanta road inaugurated

By: Mathias Amoah (with GNA files)
mamoah@theeventpr.com

President John Dramani Mahama, on Tuesday, as part of his 'Accounting to the People Tour' in the Volta Region, officially Inaugurated the 46-kilometre Dodo-Pepesu-Nkwanta Road in the Kadjebi District.

The Dodo-Pepesu Road forms part of the Eastern Corridor Road project. The construction of the road was supported with a grant from the European Union.

It is to facilitate the movement of people, as well as goods and services in the area.

It is also expected to reduce the cost of transportation, as it is the shortest connecting road between the southern and northern sectors.

It is in line with government's pledge to ensure that communities are provided with the necessary road infrastructure to facilitate the attainment of the development goals and social aspirations of the people.

According to President Mahama, apart from the eastern corridor roads, those in Hohoe, Jasikan, and the Kpedze town roads, among many others, would be executed within the year.

President Mahama, as part of the tour also inspected and inaugurated completed projects in Dambai, Kete-Krachi, Jasikan, Kadjebi, Hohoe, Chindiri, Ho and Juapong, among other communities.

He also cut sod for the commence-ment of some new projects for the people of the Volta Region.

Thanking the President for the construction of the road, Daasebere Obonie Sebewie V, the Omanhene of Dodo, further appealed to the Government to establish a Senior High School in the area to absorb the numerous Junior High students in Dodo and other surrounding communities.

President Mahama is on a regional tour to account for his stewards to the people who gave him the mandate to rule. He has already visited the western and eastern regions of Ghana. He returns to Accra today.
By: Emelia Essumanba Josiah
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President of the Ghana Academy of Arts and Science, Professor Akilakpa Sawyerr says it is about time government routinely made signed contracts public.

Speaking on the theme “Laws at Work; Rethinking Ghana’s Development Path” at the maiden edition of Noble Law Group’s law and public policy platform, Prof. Sawyerr said this issue is of concern because policies advance national interest.

He adds that the issue of publicizing signed government contracts is necessary because the affairs of our country and economy are managed through contracts; procurement contracts, mining contracts, security contracts and many more.

“...The general motive is this, simply put the signed contracts there for us to see,” he recommended.

The theme, “Laws at Work; Rethinking Ghana’s Development Path” sought to identify the development gaps in our Ghana’s political economy and to be able to make recommendations.

The Noble Law Group is a Non-Governmental think tank that focuses on law and public policy advocacy.

According to the Co-Founder of Noble Law Group, Herbert Krapa, the group has an over-riding aim of creating space for dialog for the development of Ghana.

“We focus on law and public policy and how the two can be merged to propel the growth of our country,” he commented.

Ghana Home Loans launches GH¢380m note programme

Ghana Home Loans says it has received approval from the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to establish a Domestic Medium Term Note Programme for 380 million Ghana cedis.

This programme will enable Ghana’s leading home loans provider to issue mortgage-backed notes denominated in either US dollars or Ghana cedis and subsequently list them on the Ghana Alternative Market.

The SEC’s approval fundamentally transforms Ghana Home Loans’ funding ability making it possible for the home loans specialist to raise debt from pension funds, high net worth individuals, and other entities that specifically wish to invest in listed securities.

This new channel of funding in turn enables Ghana Home Loans to introduce novel and exciting home loan products to the market thereby making home ownership possible for a greater number of Ghanaians.

Commenting on the SEC approval, Mr Dominic Adu, the Chief Executive Officer of Ghana Home Loans, said; “this note programme is not only significant because of its size, it is the largest yet to come to the market, it is also significant because of its direct impact on home ownership, the pension industry, the local debt capital market, and the real estate sector.

“It certainly opens new frontiers in the introduction of mortgage-backed securities to investors,” he said.

Mr Adu expressed appreciation to the SEC and the Bank of Ghana for providing the much needed support and guidance in securing all the necessary approval required to launch the notes programme.

He congratulated the transaction advisors; IC Securities, for their efforts in seeing the structuring process through to a successful completion.

In the coming weeks, Ghana Home Loans would release the timeline for the issuance of the first tranche of notes under this programme.

Credit: GNA
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He adds that the issue of publicizing signed government contracts is necessary because the affairs of our country and economy are managed through contracts; procurement contracts, mining contracts, security contracts and many more.

"The terms of these arrangements must reflect policies in our interest. How can we monitor the stages when we don't know the details of what merited the signage?"

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Credit: GNA

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In case of leakage, which is characterized by typical gas odour, first open all windows to let in fresh air and extinguish all naked flames.

Ensure adequate ventilation to appliance.

Light your match before turning on the gas.

Always keep the cylinder in a vertical position with the valve on top and installed at ground level on the flat surface.

Do not place cylinder (empty or filled) near any naked flame or inflammable liquids.

Regulators should always be kept in OFF position when the cylinder is not in use.

Check rubber tubes regularly for cracks, if any. Change rubber tubes once in two years.

Before using cylinder, check for leakage from cylinder valve and other joints by applying soap solution.

If cylinder accessories develop leakage, do not fix it yourself, contact your supplier.

Regulators to be used on the cylinders must be of the same diameter as the cylinder valve.

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World Bank maybe right with report, but...

By: FredYaw Sarpong
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A Senior Lecturer at the Department of Economics, University of Ghana, Dr. Ebo Turkson says the World Bank Pulse Africa report that suggested that Ghana’s economic growth is expected to rise may be right.

According to the report, Ghana’s economic growth is expected to rise moderately despite some challenges facing the country. The World Bank said the growth will be driven by improving investor confidence, launching of new oilfields, and overcoming the electricity crisis.

Dr. Ebo Turkson however stated that there are some current indications which do not reflect on what the World Bank report said.

“For the past two or three weeks, we have been experiencing some power crisis even though authorities have said that it’s temporal. On the basis of that we cannot say that the power crisis has ended. If we have been able to solve the problem outright then we can say that for sure,” he stated.

But Dr. Turkson attests to the fact that the currency has been stable for sometime now and this maybe as a result of many factors.

“It may also be as a result of International Monetary Fund’s cushion to the Ghana’s economy as part of the programme between the IMF and Ghana,” he added.

“If they are able to achieve the target set under the IMF reform package, then we should expect better economic growth than previous years and this will be good for the country,” said Dr. Turkson.

On investor confidence, Dr. Turkson said that is not certain because of this year being an election year.

“We have witnessed other past elections where the government spent more than what is budgeted in that fiscal year. So far we have not seen such situation this year. Let’s pray it continues till the election is over,” he stated, adding that if the government makes attempt to spend more than what is budgeted, that is where we will see some difficulties and that will also weaken investor confidence.

He said: “Interest rates are high and that has affected credit facilities to the private sector. A lot of business owners are afraid to borrow because of interest rates.”

NSS receives 18 vehicles from MoE

By: Emelia Essumanba-Josiah
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The National Service Secretariat (NSS) has received 18 branded vehicles from the Ministry of Education. The vehicles include 1 Toyota Land Cruiser, 1 Toyota Camry and 16 Toyota Hilux pickup trucks.

The keys to the 18 vehicles which cost almost 3 million Ghana cedis were handed over to the secretariat yesterday in Accra.

The Minister of Education, Prof. Jane Naana Opoku-Agyemang said these vehicles are given to NSS to make their work more effective in other regions.

Prof. Opoku-Agyemang revealed that NSS qualified for this gesture because they first of all form part of the 22 educational agencies under the Ministry of Education.

Again, she said that the Secretariat had managed to come out of the muddy scandal where the 75,000 personnel on pay roll some years back included 35,000 ghost names.

“Currently the Secretariat has been able to eliminate the 35,000 ghost names on payroll and handles about 40,000 personnel,” she added.

Dr. Michael Kpessah Whyte, Executive Director of National Service, expressed appreciation to the Government, Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Finance for their gesture to the Secretariat.

“We wrote letters to the Government, to the Procurement Agency and Ministry of Education requesting such offer. So our books are clear. We did the right things in getting this deal,” he stressed.

He believed that the vehicles are the fruits of the Secretariat’s hard work in curbing the malfeasance created in Ghost names and payrolls.

Prof. Naana Agyemang used the platform to appeal to all National Service user agencies to be patient, accept and train personnel when they are set to work in their outfits.
ISTR Africa holds regional conference in Accra

The International Society for Third Sector Research (ISTR) has held its Africa Regional Conference in Accra. The conference was aimed at taking stock of civil societies and their role in the development in Africa.

The ISTR conference was in partnership with West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI), the Institute of African Studies (IAS, UG-Legon) and the African Woman Development Fund (AWDF).

Speaking on the theme “Civil Society and a Renascent Africa: A Stock Taking”, Mrs. Theo Sowa, Executive Director of AWDF said civil society had achieved a lot, however there are more things to be done.

In her stock- taking submission, Mrs. Sowa believed civil society which includes the professional, business and voluntary associations, the labor unions, some part of the media and non- governmental organizations had contributed a lot to Africa’s development.

According to her, civil society has been the fore-runner of women’s right. “Over the years, legislation has been gathered and structured in different countries across the continent. Things have been more progressive around the promotion and implementation of women’s right,” she educated.

Again, she said the area of child rights and armed conflicts has been addressed and seen improvement. Other areas as universal access to education, and the status quo of HIV and AIDS in Africa had been improved owing to the role played by civil societies.

Prof. Francis Dodoo, Director of IAS, UG-Legon said that the basic expectations of the Civil Society is that they must contribute significantly to the country’s economy, sustain political reform and ensure the growth of legitimate structures.

Executive Director of WACSI, Nana Asantewa Afadzinu said the challenges facing most civil societies are resources and an enabling environment appropriate for working.

She addressed the issues of some civil societies receiving funds and totally misappropriating the funds.

“Let’s all yearn to educate ourselves and be better people. When we put the right structures, the culture and ethics in the set structures makes it difficult for such groups to misuse funds received,” she advised.

Mrs. Sowa said civil society in a renascent Africa must promote positive values to strengthen the African continent morally, economically, socially and in industrial ways.

“We must work harder to give our continent the best. In as much as we do this lets remain committed and accountable to every course we find ourselves in to ensure civil societies and their roles do not die off,” she pleaded.

Discussants from the continent took turns to present their research findings on “Civil Society and a Renascent Africa: A Stock Taking”. They recommended ways to improve civil society’s roles in Africa.

GIDA lauds impact of GCAP on agric sector

The Chief Executive Officer of the Ghana Irrigation Development Authority (GIDA), Dr. Ben Vas Nyamadi has said that the Ghana Commercial Agriculture Project (GCAP) has really improved agricultural business in the country.

According to him, there are a lot farmers from farm based organizations who are benefiting immensely from the GCAP after the project was introduced four years ago.

The Ghana Commercial Agricultural Project (GCAP) was established in 2012 under the auspices of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA) with a total investment support of US$145 million. Of this amount, US$100 million is a credit from the World Bank - International Development Association (IDA), while the remaining US$45 million is a grant from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

“We have engaged quite a number farmers through this initiative and we are making sure that we bring on board more farmers to benefit from the project,” he said.

He said the purpose of the project is to move farming from a lower level of participation to a commercial level that ensures wealth creation and food security in the country.

Daily Express learnt that the objective of GCAP is to increase access to reliable water, land, finance, agricultural inputs and output markets by smallholder and nucleus farmers in selected project intervention areas.

As a result of this, GCAP started with the rehabilitation and modernization of existing public irrigation infrastructure in the country. They are the Kpong Irrigation Scheme (KIS), the Kpong Left Bank Irrigation Project (KLBIP), all in the Eastern Region, and the Tono and Vea irrigation dams in the Upper East Region.

The Daily Express was informed that the GCAP is providing support to the Ghana Investment Promotion Centre (CIPC) to develop a strategic plan for the agriculture sector, carry out research on the investment climate in agriculture, and develop the capacity of GIPC staff for commercial agriculture investments.

It has developed the National Framework for Out-grower schemes/Contract Farming in Ghana that reflects the best practices, including international lessons adapted to the Ghanaian context has been developed.

It is also facilitating business development through the provision of grants to enhance the capacities of farmer-based organizations, input dealers and other agricultural services providers along the value chain in Project activity areas. The project is expected to come to an end in September 2019.
Petty traders lobby for ‘night market’ at Lapaz

By: Fred Yaw Sarpong
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Some petty traders located at Lapaz, a suburb of Accra, are calling on the Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA) to create avenues to enhance night trading in the area.

The Accra Metropolitan Assembly has demarcated red lines along pavements where the petty traders are supposed to mount their wares behind during the day.

“We are aware of operating here at night is illegal, but we think it is also an opportunity for the AMA to generate some revenue by endorsing night business here,” a trader told the Daily Express.

“Most workers close late and when they get here, they try to make some shopping before going home,” she added.

Currently, an illegal a night market is created between Nii Boi junction and Las Palmas Restaurant at Lapaz, where a lot of items are traded.

The traders claim some AMA officials go round every evening to demand money and food stuff from them as ‘ground rent’.

The Public Relations Officer (PRO) at AMA, Numo Blafo, however disclosed that the assembly has not yet decided to create a night market in the area, though he thinks it is a laudable idea.

The spokesperson for the Hawkers and Petty Traders Association, Mr. Ohene Mensah Kakra said hawking should be legalized in the country on pavements at a distance and at particular times.

“There is no way we can do away with hawking activities in the country. So why don’t we create the avenue for the system to engage people to do such businesses?” he asked.

“There are a lot of places in the world where we can find night markets. There are night markets in England, Barcelona, Italy and other countries as well. The informal sector employs about 80% of Ghanaians. Why can’t we create more jobs in this sector?” he added.

He called on the AMA and policy makers to formulate bylaws which will regularize this night market business.

MTTD apprehends lawless drivers at Abofu

By: Emelia Essuman-Josiah
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The Motor Transport and Traffic Department (MTTD) of the Ghana Police, yesterday apprehended some public transport drivers for wrongly using an unapproved routes at Abofu, near Achimota as a bus stop.

Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Patrick Edusei Sarpong, Director General, Motor Transport and Traffic Department (MTTD) told this paper the place has illegally been turned into a bus stop when there is a clear indication that it is not a bus stop.

“These bus stops are unapproved. Drivers have created these points and routes themselves which are accident prone and dangerous. It’s crazy to think that drivers always wait to see police before they do the right thing,” ACP Sarpong commented.

According to ACP Sarpong, these culprits will be taken to Tesano Police Station where they will be processed and sent to court.

He added that though it is just a few that have been arrested, the other troublesome drivers will have their share of punishment.

He said the arrest is necessary because it is about time laws are enforced. “If the drivers are failing to be educated, we will allow the laws to work. We will make sure this place is not used as a bus stop,” he said.

As part of their quarterly checks, the National Road Safety Commission together with stakeholders (Ghana Highways Authority, Department of Urban Roads, Ghana Police Service MTTD and Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority, DVLA) went on road inspection yesterday.
ALERE Incorporated, a global diagnostic device and service provider company has donated 12,000 duo HIV and Syphilis test kits to the First Lady and President of the Organisation of African First Ladies against HIV/AIDS (OAFLA), Mrs Lordina Mahama.

The SD HIV/Syphilis duo was a rapid diagnostic test kit for the simultaneous prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV and syphilis results in 20 minutes.

Ms Zeina Henaine, ALERE Social Responsibility Ambassador for Africa who presented the items commended the First Lady for her hard work and dedication in ensuring the welfare of women and children in less privilege areas.

Presenting the test kits at a ceremony in Accra, Ms said using a dual screening test for HIV and syphilis would permit an efficient extension of maternal care services and support health capacity.

She said the presentation formed part of a pledge made by the ALERE group to members of the OAFLA last year in New York following recognition that more than one million women and families had to face the trauma of repeated pregnancy loss, stillbirth or child born infected with and suffering from HIV and syphilis.

She explained that apart from their role as OAFLA members the First Ladies had their individual projects which they executed in their respective countries, hence the need to support their efforts.

Ms Henaine said HIV and syphilis were the major public health problem affecting women and their newborn infants in the world, and 90 per cent HIV infections to children were from mother-to-child transmission during pregnancy, delivery and breastfeeding.

She said pregnant women infected with syphilis might transmit to their unborn child and although it syphilis is easily curable with penicillin, unlike HIV which were routinely tested in pregnant women, there were usually no tests carried out for syphilis pregnant women.

According to her, when detected, treatment in the early stage of pregnancy could prevent congenial syphilis, stillbirth or premature births.

In a speech read on her behalf, by Dr. Angela El-Adas, Director General of the Ghana AIDS Commission, the First Lady said the incorporation of both HIV and syphilis tests in a single kit had many advantages.

It would save the use of needles and blood volume, eliminating the need for laboratory personnel or infrastructure, as well as decreased time to results, and overall it lowered the cost of testing.

She said using a dual screening test for HIV and syphilis would also reduce testing duplications, labor time, logistics fee, storage space and operating costs partly because it did not require electricity or other equipment.

She said the Standard Diagnostics (SD) HIV/ syphilis duo test kits were indeed one of a kind as they could detect HIV and Syphilis with the same specimen using a single device.

Mrs Mahama said like many other members of OAFLA, Ghana had benefited first hand from those kits which were for use “during our the elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission (eMTCT) outreaches conducted throughout the country”.

The elimination of mother-to-child transmission outreaches was aimed at bringing services to the communities using an integrated health approach.

“With the donation from Alere, we can now move from two different kits for HIV/Syphilis to a single test kit. Our clients will access HIV and syphilis testing services at a single point instead of moving from one source point to another”, she said.

According to the First Lady it had taken a lot of time to receive Food and Drugs Authority (FDA) approval for those test kits, and it had been worth every effort put in by the Ministry of Health and Alere since the delivery of the SD HIV/syphilis duo kits by Alere to the OAFLA Ghana Chapter in November 2015.

She expressed her appreciation to Alere for providing innovative kits, and appealed to them to increase the allocation of the SD HIV/syphilis kits initially delivered to Ghana to support its first 90 campaign to test 6 million people over the next 12 months.

Credit: Sandow S Kpebu, kpebu@yahoo.com
Telegram isn't conceding the bot market to Facebook or any other messaging platform — it's putting more resources into building its service out. The company revealed that in order to attract developers to its service, its founder Pavel Durov will be giving away $1 million in grants to those who “create an impressive bot” using Telegram’s Bot API. Grants start at $25,000 each and could go higher.

In a blog post, the company suggested that areas developers should focus on include integrations, tools for bot builders, AI stuff, and natural language processing. However, it doesn’t want to limit a bot’s potential and asks to be surprised. “We don’t mind if you port your bot from a different platform,” the company explains. “Just make sure it really feels at home in Telegram.”

Telegram’s Pavel Durov giving developers $1 million in grants to build bots

With Facebook’s entry into the bot market, there’s certainly a war to win over the hearts and minds of developers. Many might lean more toward Facebook because its Messenger reaches 900 million monthly active users — by comparison, Durov’s company has 100 million monthly active users. However, Telegram hasn’t given up, even releasing a major update to its Bot API just days before the F8 developer conference. Competition is certainly fierce, given that it’s going head to head against Kik, WeChat, Line, and Slack.

No deadline was listed, but the bot contest is likely going to cease when the money runs out. And while grants start at $25,000, how bots will be judged remain unknown, but it’s probably at the discretion of Telegram. It could be assumed that the more useful and creative the bot is, the more that Durov will pay out, which means those funds will likely support further bot development on the messaging platform.

Credit: Ken Yeung, venturebeat.com

Apple unveiled new and improved MacBook

Apple released a set of updates to its ultra-thin and light laptop line, including an extra hour of battery life, newer processors, better graphics card, and faster flash storage. The starting $1,299 model for the 12-inch MacBook now comes with the latest 1.1 GHz Intel Core m3 processor and 256 GB of flash storage. The $1,599 version comes with a faster 1.2 GHz Intel Core m5 processor and 512 GB of flash storage.

The MacBook now has up to 11 hours of battery life, which is an hour more than that of the 11-inch Macbook Air and an hour less than that of the 13-inch MacBook Air.

But Apple (AAPL, Tech30) didn’t neglect its MacBook Air, giving the 13-inch model a boost in memory. The new MacBook Air start with 8 GB of memory, making it comparable to the new MacBook.

Apple started selling the new MacBooks through its website on Tuesday and said they will be in Apple’s physical stores and other retail stores on Wednesday.

The company unveiled its redesigned laptops last year, touting their slim profile, fanless construction, Force Touch trackpad, and universal USB-C port.

The body of the MacBook is tapered like the body of the MacBook Air. But the new MacBook is thinner and lighter than the MacBook Air. The MacBook is not as powerful as the MacBook Air, however, and it carries a hefty price tag.

Credit: CNN
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PRESIDENTIAL DIARY

President Mahama meets members of the Council of State at the Flagstaff House

Accounting to the People tour of the Volta Region
Accounting to the People tour of the Volta Region

President Mahama meets members of the Council of State at the Flagstaff House
Our World in Pictures

Damage is seen on the road between Pedernales and Jama, after an earthquake struck off Ecuador’s Pacific coast. Credit - Reuters

Aftermath in Ecuador

Rescue team members carry the body of a victim at a collapsed building after an earthquake struck off the Pacific coast, in Pedernales, Ecuador.

People leave a hilltop cemetery after spending the night there in fear of a tsunami in Jama.

Soldiers and rescue team members are seen as heavy machinery is used to carry the body of a victim.

People organize humanitarian aid for victims of the earthquake that struck off the Pacific coast, in Quito, Ecuador, April 19, 2016.
President Mahama inaugurates second phase of Asogli power plant

President John Dramani Mahama has inaugurated the first unit of the second phase of the Sunon Asogli Power Plant Project that would add 180 megawatts of gas-fired power to Ghana's power generation mix.

The second phase of the project would generate a total of 360 megawatts when the second unit is brought on stream and boost the power generation capacity of the country.

At a colourful ceremony at the Sunon Asogli Plant at Kpone near Accra, President Mahama said the project when completed would augment the many other interventions being made at improving the energy supply of the country.

He said project feeds into the vision of his government to provide the country with at least 5000 megawatt power generation capacity.

President Mahama, who was joined by Mr Yu Zhengsheng the Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) to inaugurate the plant, said his government was determined to establish Ghana as the power hub of West Africa.

He said Ghana would take advantage of the West African electricity market and export excess power to be generated to countries with power deficits.

The President noted that the inability of the West African Gas Pipeline Project to supply the quantum of gas needed to fire the various thermal units in the country had created a shortfall of over 750 megawatts of power in the eastern power enclave in Tema.

He said government was hastening the process of reversing the flow of excess gas from the Western oil platforms to cater for the Eastern power enclave to give the needed boost to increase power production.

President Mahama, as part of measures to increase power production, said Ghana has signed an agreement with Quantum Energy and Sahara Energy for the deployment of two floating storage regasification units to supply Liquefied Natural Gas to the Eastern power enclave.

He said the commencement of the TEIN field and the exploitation of ENI's Sankofa field, as well as projections to bring the greater Jubilee field on stream would ensure that the country gets a steady supply of gas for the next two decades.

President Mahama commended the government of China for its continuous support to Ghana's power generation efforts, adding that the Sunon Asogli Plants were contributing significantly to the country's generation capacity.

Mr Yu, who was on a four-day official visit to Ghana, was elated on the prospering relations between China and Ghana, expressing optimism that the Sunon Asogli Power project would contribute immeasurably to Ghana's energy needs.

He pledged China's continuous support for Ghana's development efforts to bolster ties between the two nations.

The Project, which was constructed by the Shenzhen Energy Group of China, is expected, when completed, to supply about 20 percent of Ghana's energy demand.
6 Signs that you're not cut out for entrepreneurship

Lots of people want to start a business. But not everyone has what it takes. The proportion of those who merely want to be entrepreneurs will always be higher than that of the few who actually start a business. The simple reason is that not everyone is cut out for the rigors of entrepreneurship.

So, you may be thinking about starting a business. But can you? Check out the following signs that you are not cut out for the entrepreneurial life.

1. You prefer following orders.

The world is made of followers and leaders. Which one are you?

If you're committed to being a comfortable order-taker the rest of your life, perhaps entrepreneurship is not for you. If, on the other hand, you feel a twitch of desire to make some decisions and give some orders, that may be the spark of entrepreneurship.

You may be content to pour your life and hard work into someone else's dream. And that's fine. Many people find true fulfillment in this pursuit. Parents, for example, are motivated by a desire to help their children achieve their dreams. Teachers give their lives to motivating and prospering a generation of students. Nonprofits exist to rekindle dying dreams. It's not wrong to nurture someone else's dream. But if you have your own dreams, perhaps you should stop working to fulfill someone else's.

2. You prefer working to fulfill someone else's dream.

Businessman, investor and philanthropist Farrah Gray wrote, "Build your own dreams, or someone else will hire you to build theirs." Which do you prefer to do?

Entrepreneurship is about hard work. It's about facing indecision, insecurity, instability and borderline insanity.

There's nothing really pleasant about that. Ironic as it seems, there's a certain satisfaction in hard work. Humans are made for hard work, and hard work has its own reward. It's a cliche to say "work smart, not hard." But here's the rude reality: You must work smart and hard. Entrepreneurship isn't a bag of smart tricks. It's smart tricks combined with heart-pounding hard work.

If you're not into the whole hard-work thing -- rewarding as it is -- then the entrepreneurial life is not for you.

3. You don't like hard work.

Entrepreneurship is about hard work. It's about facing indecision, insecurity, instability and borderline insanity.

4. You get along great with everyone in your life.

Take a quick survey of all your human relationships. Any interpersonal problems? A breakup? A shouting match? An argument?

No? None? Okay, that's settled. You're probably not an entrepreneur.

As it turns out, entrepreneurs aren't the wide-grinning, back-slapping, glad-handing socialites they may seem to be. Entrepreneurs tend toward the outer fringe of social behavior and cultural norms. Fortune magazine featured this bit of insight:

"Want to find the future entrepreneurs in a room full of teenagers? Look for the boys who like to break a rule from time to time."

This makes sense when you realize that entrepreneurs are the ones who disrupt industries, chafe against the status quo and spark a good revolution.

PsychCentral even reported, "New research has found a childhood pattern of antisocial tendencies among entrepreneurs."

So, if you're sometimes labelled as a nerd or geek, or boring, or rude, don't sweat it. Instead, go do what you were meant to do -- start a business or two.

5. You see everything in the world as being just fine.

Pushing the pessimistic or optimistic dichotomy aside for just a moment, how do you view the world around you? Is everything fine, or are there a few things that could use improving? Your perspective is a marker of your entrepreneurship tendencies. Entrepreneurs see things that need fixing. They see trends that need changing. They see a world that's not yet perfect.

USA Today reported, "Serial entrepreneurs find new problems to fix," because, let's be honest, there's a lot that needs fixing in the world.

Elon Musk was someone who wanted to fix the world. He wasn't content with online payment methods. That's why he launched PayPal. He wasn't content with the slump of space exploration. He started SpaceX. He saw a problem with the reliance on traditional methods of energy. Say hello to SolarCity, Tesla Energy, Hyperloop and Tesla Motors.

Look at the world. What do you see? No changes needed? If that's the case, you probably don't see a pressing need to start a business.

But if you see problems that need solving, and solutions that need inventing, consider entrepreneurship your calling.

6. You feel very mainstream. (And you love it.)

Entrepreneurship is counter-cultural, because contemporary society tends to discourage risk taking. We conflate protection with progress. The cultural "we" smiles approvingly at closed environments, safe decisions, sound investments, risk-free assets and cups that don't spill hot coffee on us.

Those are all fine things. But in moments of brutal honesty, we realize that some of life's risk is necessary and good. The mainstream obsession with safety and security tends to denude life of its natural and healthy risk.

The person who floats contentedly in the current of mainstream culture is, perhaps, not the choicest person for entrepreneurial pursuits.

Apple's "Think Different" commercials famously commented:

"Here’s to the crazy ones. The misfits. The rebels. The troublemakers. The round pegs in the square holes. The ones who see things differently. They’re not fond of rules. And they have no respect for the status quo. You can quote them, disagree with them, glorify or vilify them. About the only thing they do agree on is making the world a little better. They change things. They push the human race forward. And while some may see them as the crazy ones, we see genius. Because the people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world, are the ones who do."

Those words inspire entrepreneurs. But the not-so-entrepreneurial among us hardly warrant a second glance.

Conclusion

The beauty of those traits is that they are malleable. Entrepreneurship isn't a you-get-it-or-you-don't proposition. You can cultivate the qualities of entrepreneurship through sheer will, patient habit and intense desire.

Don't let anything get in your way of living out your dream. If you want it, you can be cut out for it.

Credit: Neil Patel, entrepreneur.com

It's about facing indecision, insecurity, instability and borderline insanity.
Is your baby overweight?  
What you need to know

Credit: FoxNews.com

Chubby babies and toddlers are adorable, but with the childhood obesity epidemic on the minds of most parents, paying attention to those few extra pounds is more important than ever.

One in three children is either overweight or obese, and it’s a problem that is showing up before babies even start to walk. In fact, approximately one third of children at 9 months old were either at risk for obesity or already obese, according to a study in the American Journal of Health Promotion.

So if your baby has extra rolls and folds, is it simply baby fat or something more? It all depends, according to Dr. Dyan Hes, medical director of Health Promotion.

"It all depends, according to Dr. Dyan Hes, medical director of Health Promotion."

2) Overweight babies and toddlers are at increased risk of developing diabetes later in life. According to the American Diabetes Association, 31 percent of children who develop gestational diabetes were overweight by the time they were 11 years old.

But the main thing doctors look at is growth curves. So if your baby’s weight suddenly jumps from the 25th percentile to the 90th, it’s time to chat with the pediatrician.

"We want to make sure that the rate of weight gain is not too rapid: we want them to stay on their growth curves," Hes said.

Hes explains that it’s because for larger children, their skin will be closer to a new American study found.

At this stage, your child is learning new behaviors that could lead to obesity. "We want to make sure that the child’s diet and activity – and make changes if necessary.

Breastfeed

Breastfeeding is protective against obesity," according to Hea, who said formula-fed babies are overfed. Even though breastfed babies are at lower risk for obesity, new research shows that extended breastfeeding is no better than a shorter duration, according to a recent American Medical Association study.

Establish healthy behaviors

At this stage, your child is learning how to eat in response to his or her hunger, yet "this is one of the areas we as parents can get way too pushy, and we mess them up," according to Johnson. She added that well-meaning parents sometimes take the plate away when a child is still hungry, which can encourage food seeking behaviors that could lead to obesity.

Plus, eating because he or she is bored, sad or cranky isn’t the right approach. "This is a very important time to really teach kids how to honor their hunger, how to eat only when they’re hungry, and how to stop when they’re comfortably full," she said.

Get moving

Toddlers love to run, jump and play, and making exercise a part of your child’s daily routine now is crucial for an active lifestyle later. So turn off the TV and head to the park, a gymnastics class, or the pool.

3) Ingrown hairs aren’t dangerous

Shaving and waxing will both cause ingrown hairs, where “you take off the top layer of the skin so the bit of hair left tries to grow again and grows in on itself,” explains Byrne. They can be unsightly, uncomfortable and very painful – but they won’t put your life in danger.

4) Hair removal creams might be best

While waxing and shaving have similar effects, hair removal creams work differently, using chemicals.

Byrne says: "The only difference with creams is there’s no physical trauma to the skin.” It means there’s less chance of receiving cuts and infections.

But, if most manufacturers say you shouldn’t use the creams on your genital area, so they won’t work for Brazilians.

5) Hair removal can increase STIs

A 2012 study suggests that hair removal can increase your chance of contracting an STI because remove the hair affects the skin membrane, making it easier for bacteria to enter the body.

Byrne says that, in his experience, this is true. He explains that pubic hair is there to "absorb moisture and drain it away from areas that aren’t exposed." If there’s no hair, the skin is more vulnerable to infections such as herpes and genital warts.

6) Trimming is less risky

For women who really just don’t want to go natural, trimming is a safer option. Byrne explains that an ingrown hair follicle won’t happen with trimming – the only downside is that your hairs grow longer, it can cause itching.

Oh, and if you’re using an electrical trimming device, be extra careful when it’s close to your geni.

7) Hair removal is more dangerous for overweight women

The new American study found that complications were twice as likely for overweight or obese women, and three times more likely if they removed all their pubic hair. Byrne explains that it’s because for larger women, their skin will be closer together.

"The hairs that are short are more likely to be ingrown," he says. "There’ll also be more moisture so they’re more likely to have bacteria.

8) It’s up to you

Even with these risks laid out, Byrne explains: "It’s entirely personal preference – you just need to be aware of the risks. Some cultures have been doing it for centuries. If you’re worried about an infection, go and see your doctor, otherwise you don’t really need to discuss it with a GP."
Embrace your paths: why having multiple jobs is a good thing

I recall being at a grant interview in Germany several years ago, crafting my answers to each of my interviewer’s questions carefully. I wanted to showcase my experience, innovation, and what I thought was charm. And so, I shared stories about my work in the globally discussed projects I had led, and I explained the several different fields that I focus on.

Then I waited for a response. After a moment of silence, one of the older interviewers threw his pen and shouted, “Well what are you? An activist? A professor? A reporter? You can’t be all of them!”

I replied that I, in fact, do represent all of those professions, and that my career intersects with a larger global framework and a larger life goal—and to my shock, my interviewer fumed with anger.

After the interview, I walked through Berlin pondering this reaction. Clearly I wasn’t going to receive the grant, but I was still content that I had stayed true to my goals. I wondered why, however, this interviewer had such a problem with my answer. Why can’t I be all of those things? Why was he making me choose?

To this day, I disagree with the notion that I should choose, or should have to. I’ve actually always considered my being involved in a number of different careers to be a good thing. From both my own experience and that of my peers, there are a number of reasons why pursuing multiple fields, or even careers, is a big advantage.

You Can Build a Strong Foundation

“How should I set my future up?” my friend asked me once. ‘Do you think I should go into foreign policy, or run for local politics? Which one should I choose?’ I realized that it was not only possible for her to do both, but it would actually be beneficial. After all, having a global outlook would certainly help her understand people, build relationships with those of diverse backgrounds, and learn how to lead—all crucial skills for a local politician.

Oftentimes, one path can be a building block for something else, and it can help you gain critical experience that’ll someday propel you toward another career goal. In my friend’s case, her foreign policy work would give her the foundation she needed to achieve her goal of being a politician. In my own career, my human rights work in the field allows me to tell animated and practical stories in the classroom, and my work as a lecturer enables me to be an empathetic interviewer and researcher in the field.

You’ll Open More Doors

Millennials are not plagued by the same challenges our parents were: having to stick to one career path and commit to a lifetime at one job. But we do have it more difficult in some ways, with a tough job market and global competition. And in this economy we face, having a range of experiences and careers is an advantage—whether it’s to have a couple of great fallback options, or to compete for jobs that have a wide range of skills.

My colleague and friend Soofa Asad was initially working in business after getting her degree, staying in the industry for seven years. But her true skill was photography and art, and she began to pursue her photography full-time. Her business savvy helped her expand her portfolio and land several gallery exhibits in Bangkok, and later she was able to merge the two interests by landing a gig at an animation and tech company in her native country of Pakistan—a gig that never would have been possible without first having two distinct career paths.

You Can Pursue Diverse Interests

One of my colleagues in India confessed she loved composing and organizing music, but would study medicine because it earned her respect. When I suggested combining both interests to engage in music therapy, she was thrilled—and decided to pursue music therapy as a separate career.

We live in a world where we can run a startup, have a day job, and work remotely at night if we want to—so why not take advantage of it? Don’t get me wrong—doing many things can be stressful, but it can also be exceptionally gratifying. If you can find the right balance, doing what helps you bring in a paycheck and also pursuing your interests will enable you to feel like you’re pursuing the career of your dreams, even if it’s a nontraditional one.

You Can Go Global

If you’re interested in working around the world, having a multitude of skills in different fields can not only help you land the job, but it can also make your overall assimilation to the country that much easier.

Across the world, different professions are respected in different ways, and you may find a skill set you have that was completely undervalued in the United States will be celebrated elsewhere. In Southeast Asia, you may find a demand for teachers, but you can also find a need for grant writers and research analysts as well, and in India there is a huge demand for voice coaches, teachers, and people with business experience.

Most of these career paths intersect or build upon each other, and building on those layers is key.

My colleague in Korea, Luigina Webb, not only translates for major companies, but also works in the Korean Pop industry. When she was in school, she modeled, too. Luigina’s interests and her degree in law make her a well-rounded and desirable candidate in many fields in Korea, which is a huge asset to her as she’s worked to settle and find work there.

Talk to other people in a range of fields, and you’ll find that most career paths are not linear and that each individual journey is different. This is normal—and it’s a great thing, and it opens many doors. Since that interview in Germany, I have continued to pursue and develop my different careers, and I’ve also realized and developed an even greater appreciation for how they all come together. I am not sure if I will ever fit in a one-track career—for now, I will happily embrace the many career paths I have established, and look forward to seeing how they will evolve in the future.

Credit: Natalie Jesionka, themuse.com
10 ways you may be losing your brand integrity

I define Brand integrity as the ability to present one's brand both in words and deeds to be true, respectable and acceptable without compromising on standards (brand's promise).

As Wikipedia has it "Integrity is the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles; moral uprightness. It is generally a personal choice to uphold oneself to consistent moral and ethical standards."

"If the gap between the projected image and the reality of the customer experience widens, customers smell hypocrisy." Ballantyne and Aitken (2007, p. 366)

That is to say when the promised value is under delivered and there is no synchronization, then there is a brand integrity issue.

Now take a look at ways that you may be compromising on your brand integrity.

1. Not having the means to be reached by customers:
To stay in business you must have means to be reached by potential clients and existing customers, if not you stand the risk of losing your business to your competitors. Customers want to reach you by a click of a button, a call, social media, etc. Make it easy to be reachable.

2. Ignoring feedbacks:
Feedbacks are ways to assess your brand's performance, to correct the wrongs and project the rights. It is a continues cycle to strengthen your brand.

3. Ignoring the use of Social Media:
Doing business in this age without social media presence is almost an error. (depends on the type of business you are into), however having a strong social media presence enhances your business in many ways. Most often than not, it's the quickest way customers can give you feedback on your brand.

4. Reacting to feedbacks instead of responding appropriately:
Gathering feedbacks for feedbacks sake doesn't do you any good. It's your commitment to work with those feedbacks that matters. Not reacting in anger when it's not in your favour is a great skill to develop. Learn to be patient and respond positively to feedbacks

5. Putting up an Arrogant attitude:
It's okay to defend your products and services but note that you are in business to serve, to meet the needs of others. Place people first, accept corrections when you err to help make your brand better.

6. Trying to please everyone:
You are not in business to serve everyone, period!

7. Not being specific; what you stand for, who your audience are:
You must know specifically what your brand represents and the unique audience you serve, if not your brand will easily lose its value by spreading too thin.

8. Hyping instead of helping:
As the noise increases in advertisement and promotion; a brands goal is to be seen and heard and then be patronized. Hyping your product just to reach your audience won't do you much good; instead focus on helping, meeting the needs of your market.

9. Promising one thing and delivering another:
Simply say what you mean and mean what you say. Keep your brand promise always, don't over promise and under deliver.

10. Not having a company culture; personal or corporate guiding values.

I define Brand integrity as the ability to present one's brand both in words and deeds to be true, respectable and acceptable without compromising on standards (brand's promise)
President Xi Jinping (pictured) has overseen a sweeping revamp of the security apparatus aimed at combating threats both at home and abroad. But new security laws he passed, or wants to pass, have alarmed the West, including the counterterrorism law and a draft cyber security law, amidst a renewed crackdown on dissent.

A Chinese man has been sentenced to death for leaking more than 150,000 classified documents to an unidentified foreign power, state television said today.

The computer technician from Sichuan, named as Huang Yu, worked for a government department which handled state secrets, but was sacked for being a bad employee, the report said.

Filled with anger, he messaged a ‘foreign spy organisation’ on the internet and offered to sell documents he had obtained while working for his former employer, who gladly took him up on his offer and so began their relationship, it added.

Meeting in Southeast Asia and Hong Kong, Huang eventually handed over 150,000 documents, covering secrets ranging from the ruling Communist Party to military and financial issues, the report said.

But as he was no longer employed, he began to run out of documents to provide, and so targeted his wife and brother-in-law who also worked for government departments handling state secrets, state television said.

In the end, his frequent travel and sudden unexplained wealth caught up with him and in 2011 he was arrested, and then sentenced to death, it added.

The report did not say when or if the execution happened, or where he was tried.

China’s state secrets law is notoriously broad, covering everything from industry data to the exact birh dates of state leaders.

Information can also be labelled a state secret retroactively.

President Xi Jinping has overseen a sweeping revamp of the security apparatus, aimed at combating threats both at home and abroad.

But new security laws he has passed, or wants to pass, have alarmed Western governments, including the counterterrorism law and a draft cyber security law, amidst a renewed crackdown on dissent.

The cyber security and counterterrorism laws codify sweeping powers for the government to combat perceived threats, from widespread censorship to heightened control over certain technologies.

Critics of the counterterrorism legislation, for one, say it could be interpreted in such a way that even non-violent dissidents could fall within its definition of terrorism.

China has consistently rejected any criticism of its human rights record, saying it adheres to the rule of law.

Credit: dailymail.co.uk

EU charges Google with abusing Android market dominance

The European Union charged Google (GOOGL.O) on Wednesday with abusing the dominant position of its Android mobile operating system, opening a second front against the U.S. technology giant that could lead to large fines.

European Union antitrust regulators said that by requiring mobile phone manufacturers to pre-install Google Search and the Google Chrome browser, the U.S. company was denying consumers a wider choice of mobile apps and stifling innovation.

Google is already facing EU charges over the promotion of its shopping service in Internet searches at the expense of rival services, in a case that has dragged on since late 2010 despite three attempts to resolve the issues.

The stakes are higher for Google in the Android case as it made about $11 billion last year from advertising sales on Android phones through its apps such as Maps, Search and Gmail, according to estimates by financial analyst Richard Windsor.

“A competitive mobile Internet sector is increasingly important for consumers and businesses in Europe,” European Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager said in a statement.

“We believe that Google’s behaviour denies consumers a wider choice of mobile apps and services and stands in the way of innovation by other players,” she said.

Internet Explorer browser maker Microsoft Corp (MSFT.O) declined to comment.

Suppliers of browsers including Mozilla, which is behind Firefox, as well as Apple (AAPL.O), with its Safari browser, and Norway’s Opera Software (OPERA.OL) were not immediately available to comment.

The European Commission said about 80 percent of smart mobile devices in Europe and the world run on Android, the operating system developed by Google.

Google, which has 12 weeks to respond to the charges, said in a statement that Android was a remarkable system based on open-source software and open innovation.

“We look forward to working with the European Commission to demonstrate that Android is good for competition and good for consumers,” Google’s general counsel Kent Walker said.

FairSearch, the lead complainant, said Google had launched Android as an open source project, but was now hindering the development of versions that might lead to new operating systems able to compete with Android.

The Commission alleges Google has breached EU antitrust rules by making phone manufacturers pre-install its search function and Chrome browser, and by preventing them from selling mobiles running competing operating systems based on the Android open source code.

The EU also charged the U.S company with giving financial incentives to manufacturers and network operators to pre-install Google Search exclusively on devices.

Credit: uk.reuters.com
NIB opens Ashanti Mampong branch

The relevance of the Informal sector to the Ghanaian economy cannot be overemphasized. It has the potential to propel the economic development of the Country. It is in the light of this that empowering the sector in terms of savings mobilization and financial support is critical.

The CEO/MD of the Bank Mr. Ernest Mawuli Agbesi stated this at the opening of the Ashanti Mampong branch in the Ashanti Region. "The Mampong branch will re-enforce the Bank's capacity to serve our customers, especially those in the informal sector" Mr. Agbesi emphasized. He said the Mampong branch is the fifteenth branch to be opened in the Ashanti Region and forty second in the Country.

Mr. Agbesi assured customers that the Bank will open more branches in the near future to serve the needs of customers better.

He said NIB was established 53 years ago to propel the industrial growth and development of the Country. Having achieved this mandate by supporting many companies to be on their feet in the areas of manufacturing, infrastructure, agriculture, construction etc. its target is now to develop the informal sector of the economy through mobilization of savings. Mr. Agbesi assured the public of prudent management of their funds and will not cause them to have unnecessary heart aches as some micro-finance institutions do.

According to him, NIB has capable men and women who can manage their business and NIB the track record of sound financial management. He said though the banking sector is experiencing stiff competition in deposit mobilization and growth in profit in recent times, NIB has been able to exceed industry average for deposits.

The Mampong branch will re-enforce the Bank’s capacity to serve our customers, especially those in the informal sector.

The MD/CEO, Mr. Ernest Mawuli Agbesi assisting the Mamponghene, Dasebre (Dr) Nana Osei Bonsu and Mamponghemaa Nana Agyakuma Dufu to commission the Mampong Branch

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Daily Express’ May Day Special

The Daily Express, Ghana’s FIRST and only FREE circulating newspaper is publishing a Special Edition to commemorate this year’s International Workers Day (May Day) which falls on May 1.

The Edition will feature interesting and thought provoking op-eds by prominent personalities and officials, messages from various international labour experts & organizations, trade and diplomatic missions, short profiles of innovative and successful entrepreneurs both local and foreign, photo history and story of past May Day celebrations in Ghana.

For further information please contact us:

026 160 9963 | sales@theeventpr.com
SHOWBIZ & STYLE

Nollywood's Nonso Diobi survives car accident

Nollywood actor, Nonso Diobi has reportedly survived a serious road accident. According to Nollywood reports, the incident occurred Sunday, April 17, 2016, but didn’t give further info to where it happened. The actor shared a picture of him at the hospital and thanked God for saving him. “Had an accident yesterday evening, my leg all plastered up but I believe that sometimes God allows some things to happen to people so we can know who our true friends are. If you have or know any way you can help me heal faster please do and always put me in your daily prayers…. Thank you and I love you all”, he captioned the photo he shared.

Nonso Diobi is a prolific Actor, a producer, a director, a businessman, an entrepreneur, GLO Ambassador, and above all a philanthropist.

Credit: ghanaweb.com

Adele snubbed at Ivor Novello Awards

Adele has failed to win any nominations at the prestigious Ivor Novello Awards, which recognise achievement in songwriting. The star, whose third album 25 was the biggest-seller of 2015, was overlooked by the awards, which are voted for by her fellow composers and songwriters. Instead, Ed Sheeran, Jess Glynne and James Bay made the shortlist.

Broadcaster Paul Gambaccini, who has hosted the ceremony since 1987, says grime and UK hip-hop had been recognised because of the way the awards were set up. “This is what the Ivor judges do – they do deep listening, so the type of song that may not make it to The Brits has a chance here,” he told the BBC.

The full list of nominees is as follows:

Best song musically and lyrically
Bloodstream – Ed Sheeran
Bros – Wolf Alice
Wasn’t Expecting At – Jamie Lawson

Best contemporary song
All My Friends – Snakehips & Tinashe & The Rapper
Cargo – Roots Manuva
Shutdown – Skepta

Most performed work
Hold Back The River – James Bay
Hold My Hand – Jess Glynne
King – Years & Years

Best album

Credit: BBC
Essien slams 'cheap news' over his Panathinaikos fitness

Angry Panathinaikos midfielder Michael Essien has slammed widespread reports in the Greek media about his fitness as 'cheap news' insisting such 'lies' will not break his resolve.

This comes after several newspapers and radio stations in Greece reported on Monday that the Ghanaian midfielder is set to leave the Greek giants this summer because of concerns over his fitness.

According to the reports, Essien, 30, has agreed to mutually terminate his Greens contract at the end of the season and the Greek media claim it is because of his fitness problems.

Essien has been restricted to just 13 appearances for Panathinaikos since his move from AC Milan in the summer and the last time he played for the club was against Olympiakos on March 13, 2016.

Despite the lack of playing time, Essien says he is fully fit and such reports are calculated to break him.

"When they cannot break you, then they start telling lies about you. I'm very well and fit… Cheap News. Jah bless still," Essien posted on social media.

According to the reports in Greece the Ghana international has struggled to break into the team in recent times due to his problematic injuries.

The reports claim there is currently a big gulf between the club and the Ghanaian with both parties reported to have reached an agreement to mutually part ways.

Essien has been linked with a reunion with international teammate Sulley Muntari at Saudi side Al Ittihad.

The Ghanaian in the past has played for French sides Bastia and Lyon as well as Chelsea, Real Madrid and AC Milan.

Manuel Neuer signs new five-year contract

World Cup winner Manuel Neuer has signed a new five-year contract with Bayern Munich.

The deal keeps the Germany goalkeeper, 30, at the Bundesliga club until 2021.

Neuer joined Bayern from fellow Bundesliga club Schalke, agreeing a five-year deal in July 2011.

Since signing for Bayern he has won three Bundesliga titles, two German Cups and the Champions League in 2013, while Pep Guardiola's team are on course to win the treble this season.

The Bavarians beat Werder Bremen 2-0 in their German Cup semi-final on Tuesday and will play the winner of Wednesday's game between Hertha Berlin and Borussia Dortmund in the final.

They have a seven-point lead over Dortmund at the top of the Bundesliga with four games left and play Atletico Madrid in the Champions League semi-finals.

This season will be manager Guardiola's last at the club before he takes over at Manchester City, with former Chelsea boss Carlo Ancelotti to replace him.

Credit: ghanasoccernet.com
Travel & Tourism Page/Pullout....Advertising Spaces Available

Ghana’s only free newspaper is launching a new page dedicated to the promotion of tourism in the country.

This special pullout will feature engaging articles, beautiful photo stories, hospitality related news, information on travel trends, tourist sites, food, culture & festivals.

This presents interested sponsors and partners a great opportunity to be exposed to our cherished readers both offline and online.

our sales hotline
+233 261609963
to book your space now.

sales@theeventpr.com