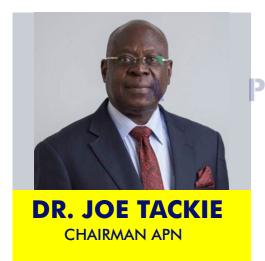


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EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT

AFTERNEWS





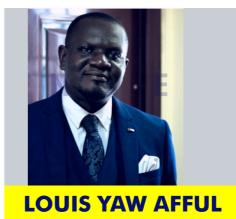
INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL



HEAD OF INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY



EMMANUEL BENSAH DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR APN GROUP



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR APN GROUP



HANNAH AMOFA AFRIYIE **HEAD OF ADMINISTRATION APN GROUP**



(APN NEWSLETTER)

Yesterday, 17 March 2022. I led Ghana's delegation to a preparatory meeting for the 7th Fisheries Meeting at the OACPS Secretariat in Brussels.

Ghana will host the 7th OACPS Conference of Minister's responsible for Fisheries and Aquaculture in





EDITORIAL

At the time of writing, APRM staff are in Senegal this week preparing to reprise the Accra sensitization Meetings on Credit Rating Agencies and Corporate Governance. With two sensitization missions in West Africa (francophone and anglophone), we understand the missions will not end with the ECOWAS region, but be continent-wide, with speculation of more sensitization in East Africa in q2. Ahead of the 20th anniversary of APRM in 2023, these missions will remain a test case of whether APRM is gaining traction on its Corporate Governance agenda. At first glance, APRM's credit rating advocacy appears a tad esoteric, designed to confuse the non-Economists among us about Africa's financial system. A closer look reveals how it reprises a familiar narrative of Western parties seeking to *influence Africa's access to credit* with a mere rating based on figures usually cooked by Western analysts who have never stepped foot in any of the countries they forecast for downgrade. Senegal and Ghana are but two countries that have recently complained, but there are certainly other countries on the Continent that are ready to support the idea of significant change for Africa. In this week's edition of APN Trade

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT

Chairman Dr. Joe Tackie, Group Executive Director Louis Yaw Afful, Deputy Executive Director EK Bensah, International Executive Ms. Joyce Williams Esq, Women Of Africa **Executive Director Audrey Biney**

APN GROUP









News, we have interesting stories that all support the idea of an emerging Africa. Happy reading! EK

PAP TURNS 18 AS CALLS FOR ITS EMPOWERMENT GROW LOUDER

peoples, and not states or leaders,

arch 18 marks the PAP could be represented in the Madagascar, Mali, Sahrawi Arab civil society organisations and which decision-making processes Democratic Republic, Sierra Leone, media representatives, commemorates 18 years affecting the continent. Indeed, the Somalia and Togo as the African gathered at the launch of the since the inauguration of the first PAP Protocol enjoined the countries that have so far heeded PAP Day in 2021 were Parliament of the Pan-African institution, among other things, to the call to empower the continental unanimous in their assessment Parliament (PAP) on 18 March facilitate effective implementation Parliament. PAP is one of the nine that the integration of the 2004 at the African Union (AU) of the AU's policies and objectives. organs of the AU with the mandate African continent will only be headquarters in Addis Ababa. First At its 39th meeting in October to promote economic and social achieved through constant launched in 2021, this year's 2021, the Executive Council of the integration through making laws. interactions and involvement of commemoration is held under the AU called on Member States that As it stands, its mandate extends to the grassroots in the affairs of theme: "Empowering the PAP to have not done so to sign and ratify consultation, and playing an the AU. Mr. Vipya HARAWA, amplify the voices of the African the Protocol to the Constitutive Act advisory and oversight role for all Clerk of the PAP says that citizens" The PAP Day celebration of the African Union relating to the AU organs pending the ratification formal celebrations of the PAP reignites a conversation about the Pan-African Parliament (also of its protocol. The PAP Day was Day will be held upon vision and purpose of the institution, known as the Malabo Protocol) launched to serve as a reminder to resumptions of Parliamentary which can be traced directly to the adopted in 2014 by the Assembly African citizens of the potential of activities underpinned by the Pan-African ideals of cooperation of Heads of State and the Parliament, intended as a upcoming elections of the and unity among African states. Governments. The Malabo Protocol platform for people from all African Bureau and Bureaux of the PAP. These ideals inspired the signing of is intended to extend the powers of states to be involved in discussions. The event will include, among the Treaty Establishing the African the PAP into a fully-fledged and decision-making on the others, the launch of the PAP Economic Community (the Abuja legislative organ. It requires a problems and challenges facing the compendium of the 3rd Treaty) on 3 June 1991, and the minimum of 28 countries to ratify it continent. The day is also meant to Parliament resolutions, adoption of the Sirte Declaration of before it comes into force. The reminder African leaders of their recommendations and 1999. The latter called for speedy Republic of Niger recently became commitment to empower the declarations disseminated. establishment of the institutions the 13th AU Member state to ratify continental representation of the provided for in the Abuja Treaty, the 2014 PAP Protocol. Niger joins peoples of Africa. Stakeholders, source: PAP website and the PAP was envisioned as a Benin, Cameroon, Chad, Equatorial including Parliamentarians, platform from which the African Guinea, Gambia, Ghana, Speakers of regional Parliaments,



UBA Partners with PAPSS The Pan-African Payment & Settlement System (PAPSS) is In partnership with UBA, PAPSS will be launched in Nigeria

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THE USMCA AND HOW IT SERVES AS A FUNCTIONAL IMPROVEMENT TO NAFTA



By Kwasi Okyere-Boateng

The USMCA is now in effect as a replacement for the North Atlantic Free Trade Area. The importance of an effective North Atlantic Free Trade Agreement cannot be overstated as this tri-lateral agreement in 2018 alone was valued at over \$1.25 trillion. Many stakeholders remain uncertain about whether anything actually changes within this new agreement as well as complains of increased complexity under this new agreement especially in the rules of origin language in this agreement.

Some of the key changes of USMCA versus NAFTA is in agreement auto manufacturing which now requires over 75% of auto parts to be made in either Mexico, Canada or the USA of which the penalty for not doing so will be increased tariffs. The previous benchmark for this was 62.5%. A further stipulation for auto-companies is a wage requirement of \$16 per hour for a much larger percentage of total workers. \$16 per hour is around three times the average for Mexican auto-workers. Many pointed to NAFTA as the reason for jobs leaving the United States for Mexico. By having increased focus on wage requirement, this made US ome shipp and Canada more competitive from a labour-cost perspective. According to Union Representatives, this constitutes the first time that enforceable labour standards manufactured are present in a North American Trade Agreement.

With respect to agricultural products, American farmers were hit hard by the COVID-19 as supply chains and demand patterns were both negatively impacted. USMCA retains tariff free trade of North American dairy, poultry and egg producers. The US hopes to open up markets for American agricultural producers which is significant for farmers whose supply shall now be in greater demand which was a key topic for the Trump administration in negotiation for this trade agreement. With respect to Digital Transformation, NAFTA was created for pre-digital supply chains. Today, supply chains are adopting technologies from incumbents and tech start-ups as fast as

they can integrate it with rapid disruptions occurring industry-wide. The new USMCA was written fully acknowledging the digital future of trade. While intellectual property was a component of that, USMCA takes it to a new level with a stronger trademark and patent protections while trying to be mindful of continued digital innovations and growth. Interestingly, copyright terms are lengthen from 50 to 70 years past the life of the author the new USMCA agreement. Digital goods such as music and online videos are also addressed with clear language for not allowing tariffs or duty on such items.

Dispute Resolution is an important component on the original NAFTA agreement that has been retained in the latest USMCA is the trade agreement which provides the process by which the USMCA members can resolve instances of trade policy abuse. In other words, there are now penalties for when countries cheat. Furthermore, improved environmental protections are included in the new agreement with a focus on regulation, enforcement and prevention as well as increased funding for environmental protection.

Also, a continual review component was added to USMCA whereby countries agreed to review this agreement once every 6 years and that unless the deal is reviewed, it would expire in 16 years. Some shippers are left frustrated by this as NAFTA had no expiration date. Though 16 years might sound like a long time, for manufacturers who are deciding whether to build capital intensive and multi-million dollar industries, 16 years is actually not a lot of time relative to the investment.

The worry being that what happens if a firm builds a factory in a specific location then the agreement changes after 6 years, thereby rendering the decision to build the factory a financial failure at the new time. With regard to cross boarder shipping, value minimal levels are raised to provide more shippers with the ability to move cross-border freights duty free up to \$195 for Canada and \$117 for Mexico. The

intent is for small businesses to face less complexity in selling their products abroad to USMCA members. Certificate of Origin forms and documents are also refined to be more streamlined and present less headaches than in the NAFTA agreement. After ratification of the deal across all three countries, the deal actually went into effect on 1st July, 2020. However, logistics and supply chain professionals had more on their minds with the with the continued Corona Virus Pandemic which put drastic pressure on global supply chains and created mass financial difficulties for many firms.

Covid-19 uncertainties aside, most supply chain managers and industry leaders see the USMCA as a solid replacement for NAFTA, building on its strengths and providing additional measures where necessary. It is predicted that over the next five years, more companies will result to near shoring with USMCA countries, with a much increased emphasis on supply chain diversity. Near shoring under USMCA provides numerous benefits beyond the tariff free trade agreements, namely increased and less remote over-sight of North American factories versus potentially factories in Asia. Stronger intellectual property agreements also reduce the risk of stolen IP.

The shorter distance between US, Mexico and Canada also makes transportation less costly and less time consuming as over land options can be used in place of ships and planes. Typically, ocean cargo takes over one month to be available in the US following departure from China. Cross border intermodal and trucking providers are able to provide cross boarder logistical services that instead take a few days which allow for much lower levels of inventory to be maintained and much reduced lead time. Overall, the USMCA is a major success for many North American supply chains and represent new opportunities to maintain jobs and export demand without raising product production cost substantially.











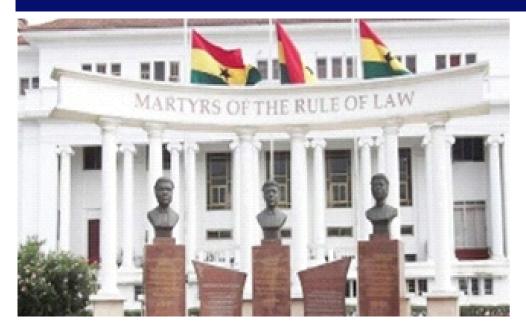






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GHANA TO HOST ECOWAS COURT CASES BEGINNING MARCH 21



hana is expected to host for the first time, the external court session of the Mali. The external court session which is a key (President), Justice Gberi-Be Ouattara on an order of the Court convened by its President. element of the Economic Community of West (Vice President), Justice Dupe Atoki African State (ECOWAS) Court's annual work (Judge), Justice Keikura Bangura (Judge), President of the Republic of Ghana, Nana Addo Dankwa response to several requests.

Some 60 pending cases have therefore been listed Elaborating on the upcoming session, for its commencement. for the session, and are scheduled to take place at President of the CCJ, Justice Edward the Law Court Complex in Accra over 11 days, Amoako Asante said "The essence of the Meanwhile, Niamey, Ouagadougou, Porto-Novo, Ibadan from Monday March 21, 2022. Majority of the program is to bring justice to the common Violation of Plaintiffs' Human Rights, and among the especially the indigent citizens who could cases are: Ms. Rose Breivogel and Anor versus the otherwise not afford the cost and logistics of Source: angelonline.com.gh Federal Republic of Nigeria; Adou Kouame and 14 travelling to the seat of the Court in Abuja to Ors versus the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire; access justice." Transparency International and 02 Ors versus the

Republic of Ghana.

signed by Justice Asante after the 2019 and international court. 2020 editions could not be held because of the Court to integrate remote hearings for Judgments are scheduled for delivery in 25 of the cases for the external sitting in Accra while the remaining 35 are for hearing.

Costa (Judge).

He further noted the session avails the Court the opportunity for judicial dialogue with national courts of The order for the Accra session was Member States and exposes lawyers and Community announced on 29th October 2021 and citizens to the Practice and Procedure of a regional

the Covid-19 pandemic which compelled He said it would also enable the Court to engage with high political authorities of the host Member State and serve as cases, including the external court session. a citizen outreach opportunity for the Court on its competence, mandate as well as practice and procedure. Citing Article 26 (2) of the 1991 Protocol on the Court, Justice Asante said the protocol allows the Court to undertake such sessions in the territory of Member State Community Court of Justice (CCJ), Members of the court expected to preside outside the Headquarters of the Court 'where ECOWAS, since its introduction in March 2007 in over the cases are Justice Edward Amoako circumstances or facts of the case so demand" and based

programme is being hosted by Ghana this year, in and Justice Januaria Tavares Silva Moreira Akufo-Addo who doubles as the Chairman of the **Authority of Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS** will on Monday, March 21, 2022 declare the session open

(Nigeria), Lome, Guinea Bissau, Abidjan and Bamako cases which are for Judgement and hearing, are man at the Community's grassroots, have all been host cities to the event since its introduction.

THE CRISIS IS FAR FROM OVER FOR INFORMAL WORKERS — WE NEED AN INCLUSIVE RECOVERY FOR THE MAJORITY OF THE WORLD'S WORKFORCE

Date: November 2021

Round 2 Policy Insights No. 8

In The Crisis is Far from Over for Informal Workers — We Need an Inclusive Earnings for informal worker Round 1 respondents (87.5% of the COVID earnings in mid-2021. sample) and 213 new respondents waste pickers in 11 cities.

Key findings from Round 2 are:

10VID-19 Crisis and the Informal the ability to work. The average number respondents in mid-2021 said an adult pickers reported harassment by law Economy - Global Findings, of days worked per week was only 4 in and/or child in their household had gone enforcement officials. mid-2021, still considerably lower than hungry over the last month. 57% 5.5 in the pre-COVID period.

Recovery for the Majority of the World's respondents are still far below their pre-Relief access is not improving and may respondents were forced to borrow Workforce, WIEGO presents the key pandemic levels. By mid-2021, the be in decline. Access to government money (46%), draw down on already findings and policy recommendations typical worker was only earning 64% cash support stagnated and the meagre savings (35%), or reduce from Round 2 of the WIEGO-led of their pre-COVID earnings. Four in percentage of respondents who household spending on non-food (26%) COVID-19 Crisis and the Informal every ten (40%) domestic workers, received food support declined since and food (23%) items. Economy study. In mid-2021, WIEGO street vendors and waste pickers were the first three months of the pandemic. and its partners re-interviewed 1,391 still earning less than 75% of their pre- The percentages of workers who Most informal workers are on the wrong

longer-term impacts of the pandemic on hardest-hit sector, by far. In mid-2021, more harm than good. 48% of trailing their Northern counterparts in livelihoods for domestic workers, home-typical earnings of this group were only respondents needed capital to resume vaccination rates, though there was an based workers, street vendors and 2% of pre-pandemic levels, reflecting their work, but only 9% of these used encouraging increase in the vaccination the depth of devastation in this government relief grants for this rate in India by September/October. predominantly female sector.

Food insecurity threatens urban one-quarter of street vendors and Most respondents have not recovered workers. Nearly one-third of market traders and 16% of waste reported challenges with dietary The crisis has forced workers into diversity and/or skipping meals.

> purpose, and only 7% received government loans. Conversely, over source:

damaging survival strategies. In the 12 months preceding the 2021 survey,

received forgiveness of rent, utilities side of global "vaccine apartheid". By and/or school tuition were in the single mid-year 2021, most respondents in (13.3% of the sample) to measure the Home-based workers remain the digits. Governments might be doing countries in the global South were



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We are hopeful that we can contribute to the uplifting of your company's image through our travel consultancy and other areas of your business. We are available at your earliest convenience to explore ways in which we can offer our service to your benefit.

You can contact us via email: info@jextravelandtours.com / jextravels@gmail.com

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EVENTS IN INTRA-AFRICAN TRADE

32ND SESSION OF THE FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA11 APRIL 2022 - 14 APRIL 2022

The FAO RegionalConference for Africa is a forum to discuss current country and regional priorities and pressing issues in the region including the COVID-19 pandemic's impacts onfood security and nutrition, the urgent need for agri-food systems transformation, and innovations and partnerships to drive progress towards the Sustainable **Development Goals. It**









