

Greetings from Ghana #47

Reactions



A pedestrian walks along a bridge over a gutter, blocked by plastic waste and garbage, in Accra, Ghana. *Photographer: Nipah Dennis/Bloomberg*

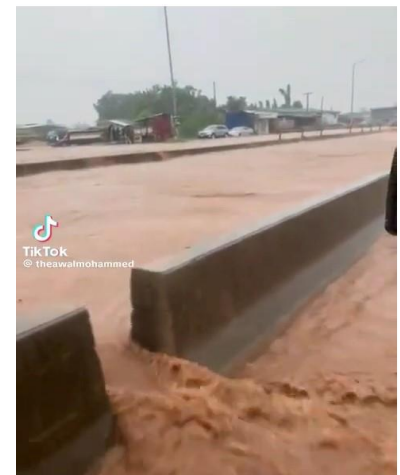
People here throw plastic on the ground.

Typically they have no concerns about the results. The picture above is from December, 2022. You would think the image would cause actions. Think again.

Urban flooding has become a major problem in West Africa. Although not the sole cause, plastic pollution finds its way to the drainage culverts and clogs them. Urban areas flood. Highways flood. Littering continues. The pollution results are now escalating.



In a recent downpour a local access road became quickly flooded and a five year-old girl lost her life. The flood and her tragic ending garnered little notice.



There is a well-

known maxim

that politicians will pay attention when people who matter are affected. And hopefully the problem has reached that plateau.



Filth Exhibition: Plastic pollution threatens livelihoods in the Jamestown fishing community

Local fishermen are now reporting they are catching more pollution than fish in their nets.

The national elections are coming up in December and the different regions are going through the delegate selection process for the political parties. In the last regional election the current government said that elections should be changed because it was not a democratic

process, buying votes. This time:



Government officials are engaging in vote-buying activities in Bonwire - Nana... JoyNews 653 views • 2 hours ago



We Want GHc1000 Each Before We Vote; Kofi Adoma Nwawani Stunned At Ejisu... Nsem Pii TV



Look the money we got, Aduomi pay GHc15000 for votes as NDC...



EJISU BY-ELECTION Some electorates confess to receiving money from the NPP



EJISU BY-ELECTION EC investigates alleged bribery, withdraws 2 temporary staff



This is the alleged NPP MP who was caught on camera bribing the EC official... MELODIES TV 1.9K views • 9 hours ago

While cameras were rolling at the last regional election with the delegates being paid for their attention, one politician was seen (on camera) giving an envelope to the electoral commission authorities who tabulate the results. They did not accept his envelope and he left it at their station and walked away. When the evidence of him trying to bribe the vote tabulators was seen there arose an immediate outrage that someone was trying to bribe officials.

Shortly thereafter it was disclosed that he was not bribing anyone. He was simply buying them lunch.

In Twi, Dumsor means “on again, off again.” It is how they refer to the electrical supply here. In the last month it has gotten far more sporadic and the utility has said they cannot offer a schedule of intended rolling blackouts because of political blowback. In the past two weeks we have had power out more often than it has been on. Forget anything you have in the freezer. Trying to sleep with no fan or to shower with no water pump is a real challenge. When you have the majority of your work done on computer. . . . you get a surprise day off work.

Imagine a day where you lose power at about 8 a.m. It comes back on at 7 p.m. and goes off again about 9:30, returning around 4 a.m. The next day you have it until about 10 a.m. when it shuts down for about two minutes. Then goes off again a couple hours later and stays off for another day and a half. Seriously. No exaggeration.



BREAK: Surgeries cancelled at Korle Bu due to DUMSOR

He said that since his administration had finished the project that there would be no more dumsor during his term in power. The vice-president jumped on the TV stations and reiterated the promise. Three hours or so later. . . no power.

There was quickly a report that the outage was caused by flooding at a substation that had shorted out transformers.

You can imagine the surprise when four days ago the president announced that the reason we have been having so many problems was because of electrical generation station work the previous (over 7 years ago) administration had not finished.



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President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo has assured the people of Ghana that they will not experience the erratic power supply (Dumsor) that occurred under the Mahama administration, again.



'Dumsor caused by flood': JoyNews checks reveal no floods at ECG station H

After the news came out that there were no floods the utility decided to put spin on the situation.

We are no longer in dumsor. When the power goes out it is because we are in dum sie sie. Now when there is no power it is not because there is a problem. It is because the government is making repairs, so this is a good thing.

Since the announcement on May 1st, I have been overjoyed at how many repairs the government is making.



We are in the era of 'dum sie sie', different from 'dumsor' - Energy Minister, Matthew Opoku Prempeh

Back at the end of February I got a survey from a bank.

*Dear Valued Client,
 XXXXXXX Bank Ghana PLC in collaboration with the Ghana Association of Banks (GAB) and PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) is conducting a market survey to understand what truly matters to our clients.*

The survey aims to help us improve and ensure delivery of world-class customer service.

What followed was a series of multiple response questions asking me for what I felt were matters of importance. There was the question of whether or not I considered waiting for 30 minutes as an acceptable time to speak with a teller. (Waiting times to approve went as high as four hours). Another wanted to know if I thought it was important that my teller know the different programs the bank offered. Of course, they wanted to know if I thought it was important to be able to speak to a real person instead of doing all transactions through an ATM. And I was asked how important it was for “no unauthorized withdrawals from my account.”

This was the same bank that kept me waiting for four hours to open an account. I would have loved to give them my opinion of their institution but thought it better if I just kept my money and my opinion to myself.