



# Two envoys bid farewell to President Akufo-Addo

By Chris Nwona, NUSHEEL HOUSSE

Two envoys who have completed their duty tours of the country yesterday paid farewell calls on President Nana Aduko Addo at the Akosha House. They are the Chinese Ambassador, Mr Shi Ting Wang, and the Australian High Commissioner, Mr Anthony Barnes.



President Akufo-Addo presenting a gift to Mr Shi Ting Wang.

The visiting Chinese and Australian envoys also requested the President to continue to support the country's development and economic growth. Mr Shi said that the Chinese government had provided about 800 scholarships to the years witnessed a great development and even faster growth during the state visit of President Aduko Addo to China two years ago.



President Akufo-Addo yesterday bid farewell to the envoys of China and Australia who are leaving the country after ending their duty tours.

He also said that the next batch of COVID-19 support from China to Ghana would be in by July this year.

### China-China relations

President Aduko Addo was happy about the contributions of China to Ghana's development and expressed the hope that the relations between the two countries would be further deepened to bring prosperity to both countries and their peoples.

### China-Australia relations

When he took his turn to say goodbye to the President, Mr Barnes commended the government on how it was managing COVID-19.

He said Ghana-Australia relations grew even stronger during his tenure, with several new Australian mining companies prospecting in Ghana while others helped to re-establish the Obuasi mine which would soon become the largest mine in Africa once again.

He further applauded Ghana for bidding to host the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) headquarters and promised that Australia would fully support the country to secure the secretariat.

President Aduko-Addo said Australia was one of the earliest countries to establish diplomatic relations with Ghana, which had grown stronger.

He was happy about the number of Australian investments in the mining sector of the country and appreciated the responsible way the Australian businesses conducted themselves in the country.



President Akufo-Addo (middle) with Mr Shi Ting Wang (left) and Mr Anthony Barnes (right), Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration.

# Health facilities' debts frustrate pharma firms

News Desk Report

PHARMACEUTICAL companies have threatened to revert to the cash-and-carry system or stop supplying to their local clients from next month as they are unable to recover debts of up to a year's supplies.

The Chamber of Pharmacy Ghana (COFG) — the umbrella body for five pharmaceutical industry groupings and the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association of Ghana (PMAAG) indicated that health facilities across the country had failed to settle their debts, stating that they were yet to be reimbursed by the National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA).

### MD debts

According to the Chief Executive Officer of the COFG, Mr Anthony Amekah, the debts, some dating back to 2017, were now threatening the survival of local pharmaceutical businesses.

### MD debts

Mr Amekah said: "Those who import and distribute and the local manufacturers are the worst affected."

He said the intent by the pharmaceutical companies to review business relations with the regional, medical, stores and service providers funded by the NHIA from July 1, 2020 had been reinforced by the claims by the not been reimbursed by the NHIA.



The COFG complains the Pharmaceutical Importers and Wholesalers Association, the Community Pharmacy Practitioners Association, Pharmacy Owners Association, the over-the-counter medicine sellers and multi-national companies.

### Recapitalisation

He said their checks had revealed that some of the health institutions, including regional medical stores, had applied to the state for recapitalisation because they were no longer capable of servicing the size of debt they had accrued over the years.

The COFG, he added, could be forced to publish the list of debtors and other details in the coming days if the situation did not change. The Executive Secretary of the PMAG, Ms Lucia Adde, corroborated the COFG's claims, stressing that service providers in the regions had denied receiving any payments from the NHIA recently.

"When we talk to the health facilities in the regions, the story is totally different. Volta, Upper East, Upper West, North East, Savannah, Northern, according to them, there is nothing," Ms Adde told the Daily Graphic.

"In effect, we are asking for a more transparent system where we can know which facilities have been paid so we can access our money from them, she added.

"Ideally, the Ghana Health Service (GHS) — which is the body that has a contract with the NHIA — should be ensuring that the health institutions that they have supervisory responsibility over pay their suppliers."

# COVID-19 Trust Fund raises GH¢51.54m in 2 months

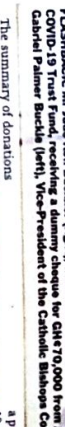
By Jennifer Kwanan

THE COVID-19 Trust Fund, set up as an emergency fund to mobilise resources to support the management of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic in Ghana, raised GH¢51.54 million between March 30 and May 31, 2020.

The amount includes 100,000 donations from individuals, corporate institutions and professional associations in response to calls for support for the fund, set up as one of the government's interventions to fight the pandemic.

Details of the contributions for the month of April were published in yesterday's edition of the Daily Graphic.

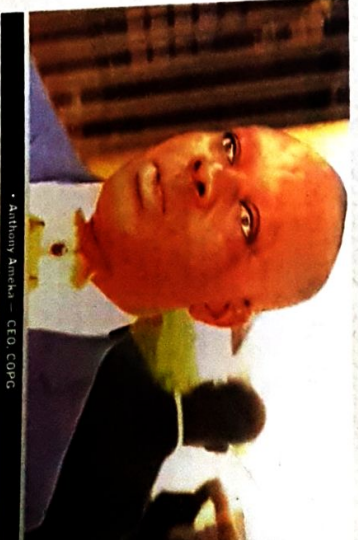
The publication outlined the items received by the fund, both in cash and kind, as well as its benefactors from March 30 to May 31, this year.



FLASHBACK: Mr Jude Kofi Buduoh (right), a member of the Board of Trustees of COVID-19 Trust Fund, receiving a sum of money from the Vice-President of the Catholic Bishops Conference Gabriel Palmer Buckah (left).

## Highlights

- The COVID-19 Trust Fund mobilised GH¢51.54 million from individuals and institutions between March 30 and May 31, this year.
- The fund also received GH¢46,937,998 from the President and his appointees for the month of April.
- The National Petroleum Authority and Volta River Authority donated GH¢2 million each, the Petroleum Commission, Vital Ghana Service and Zenith Bank also donated GH¢1 million each, with USA, Ghana contributing GH¢1.48 million.
- Transparency: The publication is to honour a promise made by the COVID-19 National Trust Fund to be transparent in the management of the fund and put the resources to their intended use.
- At the inauguration on March 29 the Chairperson of the Fund, Justice Sophia Akuffo, assured donors and the public that the money donated towards the fund would be used judiciously in a transparent manner.
- She said the terms received would also be allocated speedily to institutions engaged in the combat of the disease.
- From time to time, the money that we have received will be used to purchase relevant items and things brought to our attention by the Ghana Health Service and the Ministry of Health, Justice Akuffo, who is the immediate past Chief Justice, assured.



Anthony Amekah — CEO, COFG