

For Immediate Release

**GHANA'S OIL PRODUCING PROFILE UNDER PRESIDENT AKUFO-ADDO
UNASSAILABLE**

The attention of the Ministry of Energy has been drawn to a rather unfortunate Tweet and a subsequent Facebook post from former President John Mahama regarding Ghana's oil production profile under the Government of President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo.

The said posts seem to have gained some attention by way of publications by some mainstream media platforms. This development compels the Ministry of Energy to respond to John Mahama as follows:

1. Ghana has three (3) producing offshore oilfields, namely, the Jubilee Field, the TEN Fields and the Sankfoa-Gye Nyame Fields.
2. The West Cape Three Points Petroleum Agreement that resulted in the Mahogany-1 discovery was signed in 2004 at the time the New Patriotic Party (NPP) was in government with Mr. J.A. Kufuor as President.
3. The Hyedua-1 discovery which was made in June, 2006 under the Deep Water Tano Petroleum Agreement which was signed in 2006, also occurred under the J.A. Kufuor Presidency.
4. It is these two discoveries that were eventually unitised and named Jubilee Field, that is on record as Ghana's first major commercial oil production since 1896 when petroleum exploration started in Ghana.
5. For the record, though the Mahogany and Hyedua discoveries that led to the coming into existence of the Jubilee Field were made under the Kufuor presidency, it took three years for first oil from the Jubilee Field to be produced in 2010 under the Mills-Mahama government.
6. It must be pointed to Former President John Mahama and his followers that in the Jubilee Field case, it took three (3) years between the period of discoveries, appraisals of the discoveries, and field development for production to commence.

7. Ghana's second producing oilfield, the TEN Fields, came into existence between 2009 and 2012, following the Tweneboa, Enyenra and Ntomme discoveries. The Deep Water Tano Petroleum Agreement which brought the TEN Discoveries into existence were signed in 2006 when Mr. J.A. Kufuor was President. The TEN discoveries underwent appraisals following which there was field development culminating in first oil in 2016. For the information of John Mahama and his followers, cumulatively, it took five (5) years from discoveries to production for the TEN Fields to start producing oil for Ghana.
8. Regarding the Sankofa-Gye Nyame Fields, the Offshore Cape Three Points Petroleum Agreement that brought it into existence was signed in 2006 under Mr. J.A. Kufuor's presidency. The Gye Nyame discovery was made in 2009 whilst the Sankofa East discovery was made in 2012, First oil from the Sankofa Gye Nyame Field was poured on May 20, 2017. It took five (5) years for Sankofa East discovery to reach first oil post discovery.
9. Having provided the timelines for oil production in Ghana since the Jubilee Field discovery, it cannot be lost on John Mahama and his followers, that oil production is capital intensive, high risk and dependent on availability of investor funds, market conditions as well as prevailing global trends among others at the time discoveries are made. Thus, for John Mahama to claim that President Akufo-Addo has wasted seven years without additional production activity exposes him as a man who has no compelling knowledge of the upstream oil and gas industry.
10. For the record, under the Akufo-Addo presidency Ghana has seen an unprecedented oil wells drilling success rate from all exploration wells drilled from 2017 to date. Out of seven (7) exploration wells drilled during the period, six (6) of them were successful resulting in 7 discoveries [***NB: Eni's Aprokuma-1X well was a double discovery in the Albian and Cenomanian formations, hence 7 discoveries from 6 wells.*** These discoveries are:
 - Aker's Pecan South East (2018)
 - AGM's Nyankom-1X (2019)
 - Springfield's Afina-1X (2019)
 - Eni's Akoma-1X (2019)
 - Eni's Eban-1X (2021)
 - Eni's Aprokuma-1X (Albian and Cenomanian discoveries) (2022)

10. All these discoveries, with the exception of Springfield's Afina-1X which is unitised with the Sankofa-Gye Nyame Field and Aker's Pecan South East, which is part of the Pecan Project; are at various stages of appraisal by the respective International Oil Companies (IOCs) which operate them within time limits provided for in their respective Petroleum Agreements and the laws of Ghana.
11. Former President Mahama should take note that the restrictions on the movements of persons and other associated impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a two-year freeze on oil exploration for new discoveries and appraisal of existing discoveries in Ghana.
12. The former President is reminded that for the period 25th April, 2015 to 23rd September 2017, the Special Chamber of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) imposed provisional measures in the matter of the maritime boundary dispute between Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire. The said provisional measures included an abstention from undertaking any new drilling and acquisition of new data in the disputed area. Thus, for the period 25th April, 2015 to January 6, 2017 i.e., 21 months of the John Mahama presidency, there were no activities in oil blocks in respect of new drilling of oil wells and acquisition of seismic data to aid Ghana in exploration activities for new discoveries in the disputed area. Will it be fair for Ghanaians to blame John Mahama for wasting 21 months of his presidency in the face of extenuating circumstances like the ITLOS provisional measures? It is in the same vein that Ghanaians will not expect John Mahama to count the two-year freeze on oil and gas exploration and production activities in Ghana due to COVID-19 against the Akufo-Addo Government.
13. It is important to point out to John Mahama and his followers that, on average, it takes a minimum of five years from discovery to first oil for a deep-water oilfield to be developed to production status. Thus, the so-called waste of time alleged by John Mahama is premised on a poor or no understanding at all of the upstream oil industry by John Mahama.
14. The former President is advised that exploration for oil and gas in Ghana as provided for under petroleum agreements and Ghana's laws involve IOCs who prefinance the highly risky and costly petroleum activities. These petroleum activities are undertaken with the rights and obligations of Ghana and the IOCs in mind. Petroleum activities are not undertaken in a 'Headmaster-Pupil' arrangement but by contractual and legal rights as well as common sense among others.
15. Ghanaians are kindly reminded that Petroleum Agreements in respect of Ghana's three producing oil and gas fields were all signed under President Kufuor. All these three producing fields were impliedly inherited by the Mills-Mahama administration.

16. On the other hand, under the Mahama presidency, at least 11 Petroleum Agreements were signed before he left office. Of these 11, none is producing oil as of today. This is a shameful record of John Mahama which he and his followers cannot justify under any circumstances. Indeed, in attempts to revive petroleum activities, the Ministry of Energy has terminated four of such John Mahama era Petroleum Agreements and made them available to prospective investors.
17. On the back of the available evidence, the Ministry wishes to state unequivocally, that the former President's assertion cannot be supported by the available facts and therefore must be treated with the utmost contempt it deserves.

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