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Regulating Nuclear Power in Ghana in a Post-Fukushima World

– SAMUEL O. MANTEAW

**Human Capital Development: The Case of Education as a Vehicle for
Africa's Economic Transformation** – WILLIAM BAAH-BOATENG

Politics of the Guest List and Ghana's Independence Celebration

– CYRELENE BOAMPONG

Americanization of African Politics: The Case of Ghana's 2012

Presidential Debate Series – RANSFORD EDWARD VAN GYAMPO

Review Article

**Arms Bearing Gentlemen, the Pen, and the pursuit of Democracy in
Ghana: Debriefing Session in Progress** – KUMI ANSAH-KOI

Book Reviews

**Indigenous African Warfare (Its Concept and Art in the Gold Coast,
Asante and Northern Territories up to early 1900s)** – EMMANUEL KOTIA

Peacemaking in Ghana: Lessons Learnt, Options for the Future

– AUDREY GADZEKPO



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LEJIAD

Regulating Nuclear Power in Ghana in a Post-Fukushima World	1
<i>SAMUEL MANTEAW</i>	
Human Capital Development: The Case of Education as a Vehicle for Africa's Economic Transformation	31
<i>WILLIAM BAAH-BOATENG</i>	
The Politics of the Guest List and Ghana's Independence Day Celebration.....	56
<i>CYRELENE AMOAH-BOAMPONG</i>	
Americanisation of African Politics: The Case of Ghana's 2012 Presidential Debate Series.....	67
<i>RANSFORD EDWARD VANGYAMPO</i>	
REVIEW ARTICLE	
Arms-Bearing Gentlemen, the Pen and the Pursuit of Democracy in Ghana: Debriefing Session in Progress.....	93
<i>KUMI ANSAH-KOI</i>	
BOOK REVIEWS	
Indigenous African Warfare.....	104
<i>EMMANUEL KOTIA</i>	
Peacemaking in Ghana: Lessons Learnt, Options for the Future	110
<i>AUDREY GADZEKPO</i>	

REGULATING NUCLEAR POWER IN GHANA IN A POST-FUKUSHIMA WORLD

SAMUEL MANTEAW*

Abstract

In Ghana, the National Nuclear Research Institute of the Ghana Atomic Energy Commission (GAEC) has maintained a good safety record in operating a 30kW Chinese-built tank-in-pool Miniature Neutron Source Reactor for research since 1995. Ghana however does not have a nuclear power plant. In 2007 the government of Ghana officially expressed to the IAEA an interest in deploying a nuclear power plant to form part of the electricity grid to assist her achieve economic growth targets. This paper reviews the sufficiency of Ghana's nuclear regulatory regime in dealing with the requirements of international legal instruments, international standards and best practices. It probes how any gaps may be addressed. The key research question for this paper is whether Ghana's nuclear power safety regulatory framework is effective, and what should be the main elements of such a framework in Ghana? The hypothesis tested by this question is that effectiveness of Ghana's nuclear power safety regulatory framework is best measured by using a two-pronged nuclear regulation conceptual approach: (1) the "3S" concept (*i.e.*, safety, security, and safeguards) and (2) liability and compensation for nuclear and radiological damage. The main method used to address the research questions and test the hypotheses is a case study of the regulatory framework effectiveness of the GAEC and the Radiation Protection Board (RPB) using legislation study, questionnaires and in-depth interviews. The GAEC and the RPB were selected for the case studies because of their respective legally mandated nuclear promotion and radiation protection functions. The substantive content of nuclear norms, laws, principles, practices and performance indicators of nuclear energy regulation were identified, assessed, and synthesized to provide an apt

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HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT: THE CASE OF EDUCATION AS A VEHICLE FOR AFRICA'S ECONOMIC TRANSFOR- MATION

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Abstract

The paper attempts to rekindle the debate of low human capital base as a bane of Africa's economic transformation. It overviews human capital base in Africa and attempts to explain the reasons behind low human capital base in Africa and attributes developmental gap between Africa and the rest of the world to its relatively weak human capital base. Low public investment in education culminating in limited access to education, poorly motivated teachers and overstretched tools and facilities remain key challenges to Africa's human capital development. The paper takes a walk through the theoretical consideration of economic transformation and the relevance of human capital development for economic transformation and sustainable development. A simple quantitative analysis to capture the relationship between economic transformation and human capital development suggests a significant correlation between education and structural transformation of an economy. The paper makes recommendation to the effect that Africa's human capital base can be enhanced through improved public investment in education in the area of teacher motivation and provision of adequate teaching and learning materials. Measures to reduce pupil-teacher ratio and review of curricula to meet the development needs of countries are also essential in improving quality and relevance of education in Africa. It is also critical for Africa to encourage private sector participation in the provision of

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THE POLITICS OF THE GUEST LIST AND GHANA'S INDEPENDENCE DAY CELE- BRATION

CYRELENE AMOAH-BOAMPONG*

Abstract

Ghana's independence from British colonial rule was a significant milestone for nationalist struggles in Africa, being the first sub-Saharan African nation to gain independence. Scholars such as Richard Rathbone that reflected on the independence celebration have commented on the pomp and pageantry of the occasion as well as the messy politics that brought Kwame Nkrumah and the Convention People's Party into power in Ghana. However, Ghana was born into a world of Cold War rivalry and the aspirations of global powers played out on the eve of Ghana's independence. This article examines the interplay of American and Soviet struggle for global dominance in the crafting of the guest list for Ghana's independence celebration. It argues that the controversy that surrounded the invitation of representatives from the People's Republic of China (PRC) at Ghana's independence celebration sheds light on the depth to which decolonized nations became integral to global politics. It further illustrates the vital role global powers played in the transition of colonial territories to independence.

On March 6 1957, exactly one hundred and thirteen years after the British signed the first inequitable treaty with the Fanti chiefs setting the stage for colonial penetration into the Gold Coast, the ceremonial declaration of Ghana's independence took place. On becoming independent, the Gold Coast assumed the name Ghana, which has a historical link with the medieval West African empire of Ghana that flourished in the Sudan in the fifth century AD. Ghana's position as the first self-governing nation in sub-

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AMERICANIZATION OF AFRICAN POLITICS: THE CASE OF GHANA'S 2012 PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE SERIES

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Abstract

African politics is gradually becoming "Americanized" with the conduct of presidential debates in many African countries prior to presidential elections as has been the case in America for decades. Since 2000, presidential debate series have been organized in Ghana as a precursor to presidential elections. The impact of these debates in promoting issues-based electioneering campaign; ensuring political accountability; and calming down political tension in the run up to presidential elections, among others, has been researched and is known to many Ghanaians and Civil Society Organizations. Yet, the quantitative impact of this novel phenomenon on voting among the ordinary Ghanaian citizenry had not been fully researched. Using a survey of some 4000 respondents selected from a cross section of the country, this study highlights the significant impact of Ghana's 2012 presidential debate series on the voting pattern of Ghanaians. Specifically, the performance of the presidential candidates of the four main political parties that participated in the debates translated into votes. The empirical results of the study show that candidates who were adjudged by the respondents to have performed better in addressing the issues confronting Ghanaians and proffering solutions to them at the debates received more votes while those who performed abysmally lost votes. The findings of the study confirm rational voting and radically depart from party identification and habitual voting, that has plagued Ghana's electoral politics since 1992.

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