

US makes available
\$100m to support SMEs

- Eligible companies asked to apply

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America commemorates
Independence Day

- Pledges greater ties with Ghana

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Friday, July 2, 2021

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Special Supplement by American Chamber of Commerce,
Ghana to commemorate US Independence Day



Shared Prosperity:

Progress beyond COVID-19 pandemic



US makes available \$100m to support SMEs

• Eligible companies asked to apply

By Charles Benoni Okine

THE U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) has established a US\$100 million loan facility with CAL Bank to support on-lending to small and medium scale enterprises (SMEs) in the country.

The United States Ambassador to Ghana, Mrs Stephanie Sullivan, who disclosed this to the *Daily Graphic*, said the DFC was ready to assist private firms investing in the country and subsequently asked interested companies to visit the DFC's website to review the eligibility checklist.

"Firms can also contact the Prosper Africa Secretariat at prosperafrica@usaid.gov to inquire about what other U.S. government mechanisms might support their

investment projects," she stated. The exclusive interview is part of a special supplement organised by the American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) Ghana to celebrate the Independence Day anniversary of the United States on July 4.

Mrs Sullivan said private firms could access the DFC to help finance projects, purchase political risk insurance and partially guarantee investments.

"The DFC is currently supporting over a dozen projects in Ghana worth nearly \$1 billion dollars. The U.S. DFC support includes projects to expand health care facilities, to generate power and to improve access to finance for SMEs in the agricultural sector," she added.

Energy sector support

With regard to the US support for the country's energy sector, the US Ambassador said there were roughly 120 companies operating in Ghana, several

of which worked in the energy sector, including oil services companies, investors in Ghana's power sector, and U.S. suppliers of energy technologies.

"U.S. businesses transfer knowledge, provide customer service, create high-quality products, abide by anti-corruption rules, and create jobs. A favourable business climate, including respect for contract sanctity, is essential to attracting additional U.S. investors to Ghana, including in the important energy sector," she added.

According to her, the United States, through its Power Africa programme, had provided significant technical assistance to help Ghana overcome its challenges in the energy sector, including working with the Ghanaian government, the German government, and the World Bank to develop Ghana's Energy Sector Recovery Programme, which is aimed at stabilising the sector's finances.

"Additionally, Power Africa is working to expand energy access to consumers and businesses that are not connected to the national grid, and to increase the productive uses of renewable energy with technologies like solar irrigation for farms," she said.

Mrs Sullivan also leveraged the

opportunity to talk about the work through the U.S. Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC).

She stated: "The MCC and the Millennium Development Authority continue to implement the \$308 million Ghana Power Compact to transform Ghana's power sector through key infrastructure investments that will provide more reliable electricity by

resolving voltage regulation problems, improving voltage profiles, and increasing the power supply to Ghana's businesses and households, including approximately 4.8 million consumers."

She mentioned the Pokuase and Kasoa Bulk Supply Points (BSPs) as the two flagship investments under the MCC Compact to improve the electricity transmission grid and distribution network.

The Pokuase BSP is a \$50 million power substation, the first in Accra, with the largest capacity in the country. It was recently tested and energised in May, and is now operational, paving the way for more reliable energy for customers in Pokuase and surrounding areas."

She said Pokuase would soon be followed by the Kasoa Bulk Supply Point, which is a \$44 million power substation.

"Construction at Kasoa continues and will come online later in the year. Unreliable electricity leaves Ghanaians in the dark; these

investments the United States is making together with the government of Ghana are paving the way for a brighter future," she added.

Read full interview on pages SS8/SS9

NUMBER CRUNCH

\$1.1B

The DFC is currently supporting over a dozen projects in Ghana worth nearly \$1 billion dollars



• FLASHBACK: Mrs Stephanie Sullivan, United States Ambassador to Ghana, when she met President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo at the Jubilee House in Accra

United States Peace Corps marks 60th anniversary

MARCH this year, marked the 60th anniversary of the United States Peace Corps and celebrate the volunteers and staff who have served in communities around the world, representing American values and ideals.

Established by President John F. Kennedy in 1961, the Peace Corps showcases America at its best and the importance of America's continued global presence and leadership. Peace Corps volunteers show what it means to lead by the power of the US example.

Peace Corps volunteers immerse themselves in the local

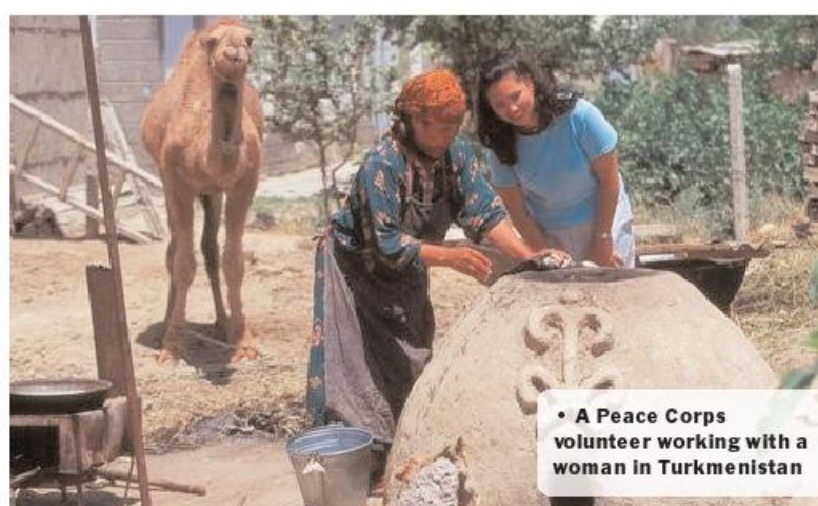
culture, learn the languages of the communities they serve, build long-lasting friendships, and represent the American people to the world.

Upon returning home, they share their stories, experiences, and skills with other Americans, bringing valuable insights that help them lead in their families, communities, and workplaces. While COVID-19 has brought unprecedented challenges, it is believed that all Peace Corps volunteers are eager to return to service as soon as it is safe to do so. And when they do, they will again take their places as some of

America's most important ambassadors of American values and bring what they have learned back home to the United States. At the State Department, great appreciation is shown to have many Peace Corps alumni serving in Foreign Service and Civil Service roles around the world.

Over 240,000 Americans have served in more than 140 nations.

October 14, 1960 in a 2 a.m. campaign speech, then-Senator John F. Kennedy challenged University of Michigan students to contribute two years of their lives to help people in countries of the developing world.



• A Peace Corps volunteer working with a woman in Turkmenistan



Stronger Together

American Private Sector COVID-19 Support To Ghana

The American private sector of Ghana continues to contribute immensely towards the fight against COVID-19. These companies have assisted the government's efforts in several capacities to curb the spread of the virus and mitigate its social impact.

Below are the contributions of some members of the American Chamber of Commerce in Ghana towards the fight against COVID-19. Visit <https://www.amchamghana.org/covid-19-support/> for more.



SCAN ME



US\$25,000 each to the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research and the Kumasi Centre for Collaborative Research in Tropical Medicine.

\$20,000 each to the Asutifi North and Birim North District Assemblies.

Donated \$10,000 to the Tano North Municipal Assembly.

Donated PPEs New Abirem Government Hospital, the Birim Central Municipal Health Directorate, and Brong Ahafo Regional Hospital.

Signed a GH¢3 Million MoU with KCCR to support the nation's fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Supported the Ghana Chamber of Mines' contribution to the COVID-19 National Fund.

Presented PPEs to health facilities in the Asutifi North District and Tano North Municipality.

Donated additional COVID-19 supplies worth \$68,000 to the New Abirem Government Hospital.

Provided GH¢1.5 million worth of COVID-19 relief items to facilities in Bono & Ahafo.

Cut sod for the construction of an isolation ward for infectious diseases at St. John of God Hospital in Duayaw Nkwanta.

Spent \$67,000 to renovate the Psychiatric Out-Patient Department of the Pantang Hospital.

Donated PPEs worth GH¢12,000 to Four Health Facilities in the Ahafo Region.



Donates Enhanced Testing Equipment Valued at \$50,000 to the Ghana Health Service.



Donated Medical Equipment to the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital.



Provided US\$198,700 in support of an educational reading programme.



Supported Government's COVID-19 fight with 11,100 face masks.



Provided GH¢ 250,000 to feed 1500 families within communities in Accra, Tema, and Kumasi.



Donated Over 5,000 KFC meals to street folks and the needy in 20 communities in Accra and Kumasi.



Donated medical supplies to one of the major COVID -19 centers in Ghana, the Ga East Municipal Hospital.



Partnered MasterCard to provide 120,000 free trips to frontline workers in MEA, including Ghana.

Subsidized trips for healthcare professionals and other frontline workers under UberMedics.



Donated medical supplies and Personal Protective Equipments to the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital.



WAPCO donated Gh¢252,000 worth of essential medical supplies to Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital.



Provided Food Items to Over 1,000 families in different communities in Tema and Its environs.



Donated US\$100,000 to the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research.

Donated PPEs and Medical Supplies to the National Commission for Civic Education and various hospitals across the country.



Contributed towards distribution of 19,510 non-medical, fabric face masks.



Donated 3,000 packs of beverages to frontline workers.

Donated 3,500 packs of assorted beverages to 12 electoral areas in the Nungua Krowor municipality.

Donated GH¢ 113,430 to the Ghana COVID-19 Private Sector Fund.



Partnered Uber to provide 120,000 free trips to frontline workers in MEA, including Ghana.

Expanded Its worldwide commitment to financial inclusion.



Donated Gh¢100,000.00 to support Ghana Government's COVID-19 Fund.



Instituted COVID-19 support package targeted at its scheme members.

Partnered Union of Professional Nurses and Midwives to provide cover for members.



Supporting remote working and distance education through its online learning platform.



Delta introduces much improved onboard comfort, safety

• Flies every day to the USA

DELTA Airlines has said its non-stop daily service from Accra to New York-JFK is offering more on-board comfort and safety than ever before.

"Almost 15 years since launching its first service to New York-JFK, Delta remains the only airline flying daily to the United States from Accra. On July 4, US Independence Day, we're proud to be the first and longest-serving US airline in Ghana, connecting both countries and flying customers in safety and comfort since 2006," it said in a special release to commemorate the independence day of US.

The Big Apple and beyond

Accra flights are conveniently timed as night-time departures, with an early arrival in New York offering connections to more than 40 cities via Delta's state-of-the-art JFK hub. Customers can leave Accra and arrive into cities, including Boston, Baltimore, Chicago or even Los Angeles in time for lunch the next day.

A higher standard

Delta offers an on-board experience to suit every style. In Delta One®

business class, fully flat-bed seats and individual aisle access come with TUMI® amenity kits featuring travel essentials and luxurious bedding to ensure customers arrive fresh and ready to go.

Delta Comfort+® offers just that: extra benefits such as additional leg room, a seat at the front of Main Cabin and allocated overhead storage, so that personal items are close to hand.

Stay connected non-stop

Access to high-speed Wi-Fi on-demand and free mobile messaging via iMessage, WhatsApp and Facebook Messenger help customers work or stay in touch at 30,000 feet.

When it's time to relax, Delta Studio® offers complimentary entertainment at every seat, featuring 1,000+ hours of movies from around the world, TV shows, music, games and more.

Safer travel

Delta has remained committed to serving Ghana through health crisis from COVID-19 to SARS and outbreaks of the Ebola virus, taking steps to keep



• The statue of Liberty with a Delta Airline aeroplane flying above it

customers safe when they fly.

The Delta CareStandardSM focuses on keeping surfaces and aircraft clean and offering peace of mind throughout the journey. Aircraft air is recirculated as often as every 2-6 minutes with fresh, outside air or through industrial-grade HEPA filters similar to those used in hospital operating rooms.

Onboard service has also been adjusted to reduce physical touchpoints, so customers enjoy safer servings of delicious, regionally inspired cuisine in every cabin without compromising on quality. Meals are

accompanied by complimentary beers, wines, fruit juices and Starbucks coffee.

Travel with confidence

Delta is making it easier to manage travel restrictions and testing requirements thanks to the Travel Planning Centre and Delta Discover Map. Available on delta.com, these help customers decide where to go, find out what they need to travel and also book a ticket in a matter of clicks.

When customers are ready to fly, a safer, cleaner and more flexible experience is waiting on Delta.

TechnipFMC Ghana Ltd. supports frontline COVID-19 medics

TECHNIPFMC Ghana Limited has donated vital personal protective equipment (PPE) and sanitary supplies to shore up medical supplies at the COVID-Centre in the Ga East Municipal Hospital.

The items included face masks, disposable gowns, gloves and hand sanitiser.

It was in response to calls for interventions when the pandemic was at its worst this year and vital supplies and equipment were running low in the hospital.

A release from the company said, "TechnipFMC is committed to making a positive impact in the places where it operates, thus, the company stepped in to help shore up needed supplies."

Handing over the items, the Business Development Manager of the company, Dr Joseph Dankwah, said: "While front-line workers are doing their jobs, they are risking their lives and those of their families.

"Providing the hospital with PPE is TechnipFMC's contribution to ensure that doctors and nurses work in a safer



• Dr Joseph Dankwah (4th right) presenting the PPE to an official of the Ga East Municipal Hospital

environment to provide quality health care and save lives."

The Head of administration at the hospital, Rev. Samuel Obeng-Mensah, who received the

PPE, thanked the company for the donation, saying it came at a time of need.

Other officials of the company present at the presentation were the Country Manager,

Mr Shaun Watson; the Communication and Sustainability Manager; Mrs Abigail Aba Krah Mensah and the Managing Director, Mr Michael Kuma.

Other donations

In a related development, the release said the company had made a similar donation to the Effia Nkwanta Regional Hospital, as part of its corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiative towards the people in the region which the company had operations in.

"Sustainability is one of TechnipFMC's foundational beliefs and part of the company's Environmental, Social and Governance commitments," the release said.

It said other social projects executed by TechnipFMC had done in the past included 150-bed Female Hostel facility at Charlotte Dolphyne Technical Institute, Sanzule; Library and nursery school at Nana Nketsia Primary School; donation of medical supplies and equipment to Takoradi Hospital and Kwesimintsim Hospital.



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4th OF JULY

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DAY

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INDEPENDENCE DAY





★ **HAPPY** ★
4TH OF
JULY

#Independence day



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HAPPY 4TH JULY TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



As a Ghanaian company with American roots,
we wish the United States of America a happy
Independence Day



Flour Mills of Ghana commmits to deliver high standards

NUMBER CRUNCH

3,000

Today, FMGL produces and sell every day more than 3,000 flour bags and 6,000 animal feed bags

FLOUR Mills of Ghana, a member of the American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) Ghana, has pledged its commitment to live at all times, the American values of equality, change and progress to enhance the fortunes of the company and its employees.

"As we reflect on the U.S Independence Day, we remember the American values of equality, change and progress," it said as it shared its profile to commemorate the day.

According to the company, "One way we champion these ideals is by securing reliable, worthwhile jobs for our 230 permanent employees."

It said the FMGL is one of the first companies having, under the supervision of Ghana Health Service (GHS), vaccinated the majority of its employees against COVID-19.

"This way, we become a pillar in the lives of hundreds of Ghanaian families and nurture employment market growth," it said.

Customer relations

In terms of customer relations, it said; "Building exceptional relationships with our customers is equally important to us, therefore, we organise seminars for bakers and poultry farmers all around Ghana to assure customer satisfaction and offer them agri-education.

One of the best flour mills in Ghana with great engineering staff is how our customers evaluate us, and we are truly honoured to provide excellent customer service and assist in building a strong bridge between the United States of America and Ghana."

Working around the clock, it said the company's leaders were a diverse and dedicated team that ensured the company remained the gold standard for the Ghanaian market.

Celebration

It said the company was a proud affiliate of the Kansas City based agribusiness Seaboard, and noted, therefore, the need to wish the United States of America and its Ambassador "a very happy Independence Day"

"There are many successes to celebrate and so we take this opportunity to reflect on the progress of our particular Ghanaian-American partnership, Flour Mills of Ghana, also known as FMGL.

Since 1918, Seaboard has been providing nourishment for peoples around the globe and in 2011 Flour Mills of Ghana became a key partner in achieving that goal, particularly in West Africa," it said.

10th anniversary

It said this year, the company would celebrate its 10th anniversary in Ghana.

"Today, FMGL produces and sell every day more than 3,000 flour bags and 6,000 animal feed bags.

We've become the main supplier of poultry feed to the largest farms of Ghana.

Traditional baking practices meet advanced technology at our Tema located facility where we leverage our well-equipped modern cereal laboratory to produce world-class products such as the popular flour brand, Sankofa".

To further expand its impact, the company works as a trading company, trading commodities like soybean meal, wheat and locally produced or imported maize.

It said presently, "16 other African countries run mills with a similar purpose, making the company one of the leading top three largest milling companies in Africa.

Only in West Africa, our "family" thus includes, next to Ghana, facilities in neighbouring Nigeria and Ivory Coast but also in Mauritania, Senegal and The Gambia."

Coca Cola adapts to consumer changing taste

• Commits to healthy beverages with more natural attributes

AS consumer taste changes and people become more health conscious, the world's leading beverage producer, Coca Cola, is offering a wide variety of beverages with more natural attributes, fewer calories and functional benefits.

Not only has the company demonstrated leadership in meeting consumer needs, but also displayed a matchless commitment to supporting communities through education, health & well-being, women & youth empowerment, effective post-consumer waste management, and increasing access to potable water.

The Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Ghana Limited (TCCBCGL), part of the Equatorial Coca-Cola Bottling Group, is the authorised bottler of Coca-Cola beverages in Ghana.

TCCBCGL is located at Spintex where it produce and distribute some of Coca-Cola's multi-million-dollar brands including Coca-Cola, Fanta and Sprite.

For more than 25 years, TCCBCGL has provided daily refreshment for many Ghanaian homes with the promise of sharing happiness that delights consumers, and this has been executed through rigorous

enhancement of our route-to-market and approach to understanding varying consumer needs.

COVID-19 support

With the outbreak of COVID-19, the company swiftly channeled resources to mitigate the spread of the virus. Actions such as donation of PPEs to health centres; provision of food items and beverages to vulnerable communities and frontline workers were quickly implemented.

Additionally, an on-air public education programme on an Accra-based radio station, was carried out to create awareness about the pandemic and educate the public on preventive etiquettes.

Furthermore, as part of the commitment to fighting the pandemic, from November 2020 to May 2021, a contribution of GH¢745,000 has been made to the Ghana COVID-19 Private Sector Fund through the company's consumer support programme where for the sale of each bottle of a 1.5L Coca-Cola, Fanta or Sprite, 10p s remitted to the fund.

As an environmentally friendly

company, 60 per cent of the company's products are sold in returnable glass bottles which have less impact on the environment as post-consumer waste.

In partnership with other eco-conscious companies, under the Ghana Recycling Initiative by Private Enterprises, GRIPE, the company continued to invest in effective plastic waste management systems to beat plastic waste pollution.

The company's World Without Waste sustainable packaging goal seeks to collect and recycle every bottle or can we sell globally by the year 2030.

In Ghana, a key effort being made in this regard is the partnership with other stakeholders to create collection points for used plastics and to sensitise communities on the need to have a litter-free environment.

All these actions and activities are implemented through a dedicated staff who have been developed over the years through aggressive retention and management training programs.

The company is excited about the future, and so will continue to make meaningful economic and social contributions to the lives of the millions of Ghanaians the company serves every day.



• Mrs Sullivan (4th left) with some Alumni of the Fulbright Programme. They include Prof. Mike Oquaye (3rd right), immediate past Speaker of Parliament and Mr Alban Bagbin (2nd left), Speaker of Parliament

The Fulbright Programme celebrates 75th anniversary

THE Fulbright Programme has sent over 350 Ghanaian scholars, teachers, and students to the United States to attend graduate programmes, teach, or conduct academic research.

Over 430 American Fulbright scholars and students have come to Ghana since the 1970s.

Ghanaian Fulbright alumni have held positions of leadership in Ghana's educational systems including that of Vice Chancellor and Pro Vice Chancellor.

Some have held positions of

Speaker of Parliament, Ministers of State, and Members of Parliament.

The late former President John Evans Atta Mills was an alumnus of the Fulbright Programme having participated in 1970 at Stanford Law School.

These illustrious alumni from Ghana join the ranks of 160 participating countries and over 400,000 Fulbrighters worldwide who have accomplished significant achievements toward making a global impact.



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Flour Mills of Ghana
wishes the USA and Her Ambassador a

Happy

INDEPENDENCE DAY!

★ ★ ★
Since 1776





Mantrac invests \$50m in world-class facility

• Living its mantra of 'Your Partner In Action'

WITH a mission to provide world-class support to its cherished customers in

Ghana and the sub region, Mantrac has constructed a state-of-the-art Components Rebuild Centre (CRC) with an investment of over \$50 million.

That, the company has said, is the largest Caterpillar dealer facility in the sub region located in the oil hub of Ghana, Takoradi.

The new CRC mainly focuses on supporting mining, construction, marine and the oil and gas sectors.

It's a magnificent edifice with a 10,000m2 component workshop, 2,500m2 testing facility and specialist equipment to maintain global Caterpillar standards.

It employs the latest equipment, tooling and contamination-control methods for overhauling engines and rebuilding components.

The facility also comes with a global standard Parts Distribution Centre with a 5,000m2 warehouse to support the CRC and all customers in Ghana.

Leading Ghana's infrastructure devt agenda

As the sole authorised Caterpillar dealer and a leader in Ghana's earthmoving equipment sector, Mantrac Ghana Limited continues to

enjoy a well-respected presence in the country's Infrastructure development agenda.

It has supplied and supported the best possible tailored equipment in many sectors of the Ghanaian economy such as

construction, mining, forestry, material handling and power generation; and now, the introduction of the company's one safe source of Aftermarket Solutions.

Regardless of the challenges ahead, Mantrac continues to be a dealer its customers can depend on, providing superior service and expertise.



• Mr Steven A. Scott — MD, Mantrac

Through a policy of continuous improvement, Mantrac has shifted the way it does business so it can better serve customers anywhere, anytime. It has simply gone digital.

Payment gateways

The new customer portal - Mantrac Direct, provides payment gateways, fleet information and much more with a simple click, providing all Mantrac Cat information in one easy interface.

Its 'Ship to Me' parts option and COVID-secure drop box for parts, delivers all the maintenance items its customers need to keep operations

running on site and at the office, with less time spent in branch, more uptime out in the field, and more social distancing to ensure safer operations.

Plus, its remote servicing capability means its customers have the peace of mind. It is also closer to its customers than ever with its new Live Chat functions across its social media channels.

Regardless of the challenges ahead, Mantrac continues to be a dealer its customers can depend on, providing superior service and expertise, and working with customers to build a better tomorrow.

Emergent Payments facilitates secure payment channels

EMERGENT Payments (EP) Ghana Limited, has said it facilitates convenient and secure online payments across local and international payment channels for retail, corporate and institutional entities.

With a sole mission to elevate Ghana's digital economy and e-commerce, EP Ghana has developed a range of advanced solutions to meet the ever-changing demands of this market.

The company caters to merchants and clients across several industry verticals including banking, insurance, pension retail, education, hospitality, travel, and many others.

It also enables business entities to connect to the excluded and underserved demographics, giving them access to pensions, insurance, and savings, thereby promoting financial inclusion.

To deliver our efficient payment service, EP Ghana said it built a robust payment gateway to ensure smooth, fast and secure transactions for its merchants and their customers adding that "We leverage all technologies for real-time fraud detection."

Emergent Payments is a licensed payment service provider with the Bank of Ghana and holds a PCI DSS certificate and an ISO certificate which are accreditations for the company's high standards.

Innovative product line

Mobile App Development: We develop mobile and USSD applications for corporate institutions such as pensions and insurance companies, government agencies among others to enable them receive payments from their customers via mobile money, debit and credit cards.

Mobile Banking: This product allows customers of banks and other financial institutions to withdraw and deposit money from bank account to mobile money or vice versa through wallet mobile and USSD applications.

Mobile money on POS: Our mobile money API integrations allow our merchants, such as retail stores to accept mobile money payments on POS devices.

Maximus Susu: A USSD service designed to enable rural banks and micro finance institutions offer

digital financial services to savings groups and 'susu' clients. Customers can access savings, loans, insurance and pension products with their financial institution at a low cost.

Maximus Connect: A self-service for businesses to broadcast SMS messages to

clients as well as buy airtime in bulk.

Airtime Service (*789#): An end user product that allows individuals to purchase airtime for themselves and for their loved ones.

School Fees Collection: A system designed for educational institutions to conveniently receive payment of school fees online.

Remittance: We provide a payment solution to remittance companies to allow customers in the diaspora send into all mobile money wallets and bank accounts. It has an embedded feature to confirm the name of the recipient against what the sender has provided.

Emergent Payments operates a partnership programme that enables other software companies leverage our payment infrastructure to process payments across multiple channels such as mobile money, cards and POS. These software companies have ERP systems that offer: waste management, inventory management, payroll management, school management, insurance and pension management among others.

In December 2018, Interpay Africa became Emergent Payments Ghana Limited after a merger with Emergent Technologies (EmTech), headquartered in Santa Clara, California. Emergent Payments Ghana operate from its office at North Ridge, adjacent the German Embassy, Visa Section, Accra.



• Mr Saqib Nazir — MD of Emergent Payments





US companies in Ghana to leverage AfCFTA

To commemorate the independence anniversary of the United States of America (USA) on July 4, the American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) Ghana has organised a special supplement to commemorate the day on the theme: "Shared Prosperity: Progress beyond COVID-19 pandemic."

As part of the supplement, the Assistant Editor of the Graphic Business, Mr Charles Benoni Okine (CBO), had a special interview with the President of AMCHAM, Ms Ayesha Bedwei (AB). The full set of questions and answers is provided below.



• Ms Ayesha Bedwei (left) during the interview with Mr Charles Benoni Okine, Assistant Editor, Graphic Business

CBO: How has the U.S private sector assisted Ghana in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic?

AB: Private sector companies provided different forms of support to the Government of Ghana during the pandemic. These resources included cash and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) donations, the provision of pro-bono services (to organisations) and relief items to frontline workers and underprivileged communities.

CBO: How can Ghanaian companies partner with companies in the U.S private sector to foster the transfer of skills and technology?

AB: The benefits of such partnerships are not one-sided. For Ghanaian businesses, these

It is an opportunity for them to expand their operations on a continental level.

are opportunities for skills transfer and expansion, while local companies are strategic partners who can help U.S businesses operate more effectively in the Ghanaian market. Ghanaian companies seeking to partner with U.S companies must demonstrate transparency, integrity and flexibility to iterate their business processes as and when needed.

CBO: What is the position of U.S companies on the AfCFTA?

AB: U.S companies in Ghana fully support AfCFTA. It is an opportunity for them to expand their operations on a continental level. The elimination of the non-tariff barriers will make the continent more attractive for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

CBO: What are some of the challenges faced by U.S companies and what ways can the Government of Ghana help improve the investment climate?

AB: Aside from the usual challenges with bureaucracy, some investors believe that adherence to the sanctity of contract and consistent enforcement of policy will improve the investment climate significantly.

CBO: With the

announcement of Twitter to set up its Africa operations in Ghana, what are the prospects for the local tech industry?

AB: It is exciting that Twitter has chosen Ghana as the hub of its African operations. This will create employment for many of our tech professionals and will position Ghana as the tech hub of the West African sub-region. The local tech industry also stands to benefit from the numerous collaboration and skills development programmes that Twitter will offer.

CBO: What can be done to encourage Ghanaian businesses to take advantage of AGOA?

AB: Government, private sector stakeholders and regulatory bodies must invest in capacity building for local companies. The focus should be

on producing goods that meet international standards and creating robust corporate governance structures to meet partnership requirements.

CBO: What is your message to America as the country celebrates its independence?

AB: U.S companies in Ghana and the American Chamber of Commerce extend their best wishes to the government and people of the United States of America as they celebrate their Independence Day.

CBO: Can you share some objectives for the upcoming U.S-Ghana Business Forum in September?

AB: The 2021 U.S-Ghana Business Forum scheduled for September 8 and 9 is on the theme: "Promoting U.S-Ghana Partnership through Trade and Investment." The forum aims to promote trade and investment partnerships in line with Ghana hosting the AfCFTA Secretariat and commencement of trading on the continent. The key sectors for discussion include technology, digitisation, energy, mining, infrastructure, manufacturing, services and franchising.

CBO: What are the prospects for two-way trade with United Airlines and Delta Airlines operating in the country?

AB: The partnership between the two airlines is a step in the right direction. This does not only improve trade and investment growth, but it is also a boost to our tourism, arts and cultural industries.

CBO: What do you make of the growing number of U.S franchises operating in Ghana?

AB: Franchising creates an opportunity for businesses in Ghana to partner with U.S franchisers to extend services to Ghanaians. The U.S companies get to expand into new markets and be globally competitive while giving Ghanaian businesses a stake in their overall market share and business growth.

Shared prosperity, progress beyond the pandemic

• Newmont Ghana's contribution

• Continue from SS8/9

Patient Department of the Pantang Hospital to support the management of mental health due to the impact of COVID-19.

Other beneficiary institutions include the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research, Asutifi North District Assembly and Health Directorate, Birim North District Assembly and Health

Directorate, Birim Central District Health service, Saint Elizabeth Hospital, Sunyani Regional Hospital and Tano District Assembly and Health Directorate.

Human development, economic contributions

As at 2020 end of year, the company had paid US\$313million in taxes, royalties, levies and carried interest to the government of Ghana. Newmont supports nearly 51,000

jobs in Ghana as at 2018, which represents 0.42 per cent of the national labor force. We have funded initiatives to improve the quality of education for young people in our host communities including: education enhancement clinics for B.E.C.E. candidates, in-service training for teachers, vacation classes for B.E.C.E. students and vocational training.

The company's Apprenticeship and Learnership Training

Programmes have trained 270 community youth trained in Ahafo and Akyem with 193 graduates employed by the company and contractors.

Community investments
The company's vehicles for community investments and social impact are the community foundations established in the host communities - Newmont Ahafo Development Foundation (NADeF) and Newmont Akyem Development Foundation (NAKDeF).

As a catalyst for change, the company has contributed over

US\$21million to the Foundations to support identified needs and priorities of the host communities including infrastructure projects, scholarships and economic empowerment schemes.

It has established endowment funds of US\$15M so far to support host communities after the life of the mines.

The company said as it looks to the future, it remains committed to delivering on its purpose to create value and improve lives, while staying true to its values of safety, integrity, sustainability, inclusion and responsibility.



• Mrs Stephanie S. Sullivan, US Ambassador to Ghana, planting a commemorative tree

Ambassador Sullivan reaffirms America's commitment to protect global environment

THE U.S. Ambassador to Ghana, Mrs Stephanie S. Sullivan commemorated "Green Ghana Day" by planting a *Lignum Vitae* tree on the U.S. Embassy grounds. The chosen tree is commonly referred to as the "tree of life" or "wood of life," due to its traditional medicinal use as a remedy for arthritis and coughs.

Ambassador Sullivan also launched a tree nursery at the Embassy for indigenous and non-native species to contribute to our collective efforts to reforest

Ghana with rich and diverse trees that provide vital products and amenities, including quality habitat for wildlife, biodiversity of plant and animal communities that form a vital part of the ecosystem, and recreational opportunities.

During the event, Ambassador Sullivan appreciated the initiative of His Excellency President Nana Akufo-Addo, along with the enthusiasm of Minister for Lands and Natural Resources Hon.

Samuel Abu Jinapor, for highlighting the critical need to restore Ghana's forest cover and to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide emissions in the atmosphere. The U.S. Embassy looks forward to working with Ghanaians to support policies and programs that restore and conserve forests and water bodies, stop illegal logging, mining (galamsey), fishing (illegal, unreported, unregulated [IUU] fishing) and plastic pollution.

Shared prosperity, progress beyond the pandemic

• Newmont Ghana's contribution

NEWMONT Ghana said it is celebrating its 100th year in existence, at a time the world is recovering from a global pandemic that has redefined how we live and work in the past two years.

Nevertheless, the company's centenary milestone presents it with an opportunity to take stock of what it were, what it has become, and what it hopes to be, as it drives its purpose of creating shared value and improving lives through sustainable and responsible mining.

COVID-19 Global Community Support Fund

As a sustainable and responsible mining company, Newmont responded to the crisis in Ghana with a heightened focus on health and safety as well as collective

support in the national recovery efforts.

In the early days of the pandemic, the company developed and implemented a management plan intended to preserve the health and safety of our workforce and host communities.

Subsequently, Newmont established the COVID-19 Global Community Support Fund with \$20 million to address three focus areas of workforce and community health, food security, and local economic resilience to support our operational jurisdictions.

To date, Newmont Ghana has spent over US\$2million of its allocation to support COVID-19 management efforts towards employee and community health, food security and local economic resilience initiatives within and beyond host communities.

These include a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Kumasi Centre for Collaborative Research in Tropical Medicine (KCCR) involving a total amount of GH¢3.1m (US\$46,000) under which the company would procure Polymerase Chase Reaction (PCR) equipment, ancillary equipment, reagents and other consumables to augment the capacity of KCCR to scale up its testing and the setting up of two PCR Labs in Kenyasi and New Abirem to boost their capacity in testing for infectious diseases.

The company also contributed over \$550,000 to the Ghana Chamber of Mines' \$2 million donation to the nation's COVID-19 management efforts. Newmont also refurbished the Psychiatric Out-

• Continue on SS16

America commemorates independence day

• Pledges greater ties with Ghana

As part of the special supplement organised by the American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) Ghana to commemorate the July 4 independence anniversary of the United States of America, the Assistant Editor of the Graphic Business, Charles Benoni Okine (CBO), interviewed the U.S. Ambassador to Ghana, Mrs Stephanie S. Sullivan (SSS) via a written questionnaire. Below is the full unedited version of that exclusive.

CBO - The U.S. Independence Day is here again. Congratulations! What is new to celebrate in the midst of COVID-19?

SSS - Thank you for your kind wishes. And to your readers who commemorate Happy Fourth! Although the U.S. Embassy will be celebrating our Independence Day virtually once again this year, my sincere hope is that we will be able to celebrate in person next year.

This time last year, all of us were settling into the new normal that the pandemic ushered in globally – nose masks, frequent handwashing, keeping our distance, and seeking well ventilated spaces. I commend the government and people of Ghana for their resilience throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The United States is honoured to partner you in our common effort to combat this virus.

My answer may surprise you but after 16 months of living within the confines of the pandemic, I believe that we are turning a corner globally and have much to celebrate. This is all thanks to adherence to mitigation measures and the extraordinary success of science that pushed a vaccine to be developed and deployed in record time. The United States is proud to rejoin the World Health Organisation and to lead the global COVID-19 response as the largest contributor to COVAX, the global vaccine delivery programme. This programme's very first beneficiary was Ghana in February of this year. We expect that with the U.S. government's additional vaccine donation into COVAX, and the recently announced bilateral donation, more vaccines will soon arrive in Ghana.

With additional vaccines distributed worldwide, countries can fully focus on economic recovery, communities can ease back into a more normal way of life, and family members can safely create more memories in person.

CBO - What has been the state of U.S. - Ghana bilateral relations over the years to date? Anything uniquely special?

SSS - From my previous assignment in Ghana 20 years ago, I have witnessed our bilateral relationship grow from strength to strength. We're also proud of the longevity of the U.S. relationship with Ghana, dating back to March 6, 1957, when we established diplomatic ties. The 4th of July marks the anniversary of our nation's birth and calls to mind milestones in U.S. history. This year, I'm delighted to share noteworthy anniversaries

of key institutions that reflect U.S. values and that have helped shape the U.S.-Ghana bilateral relationship: the Fulbright Programme and the U.S. Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) both celebrate 75 years and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and Peace Corps both turn 60 this year.

Created in the aftermath of World War II, the Fulbright Programme reflects our commitment to peaceful relations among nations. For 75 years, and 63 years in Ghana, the Fulbright Programme has given hundreds of thousands of students, scholars, teachers, and professionals of all backgrounds and fields the opportunity to study, teach, exchange ideas, and contribute to finding solutions to complex global challenges.

Celebrating its 75th anniversary this year, the U.S. Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is the United States' health protection agency and is committed to creating a world where all people – in the United States and around the globe – live healthier, safer, and longer lives. Along with national and international partners, CDC has worked with Ghana since 2008 to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, influenza, and other emerging disease threats such as COVID-19.

For 60 years, the USAID has been the world's leader in international development. The USAID demonstrates American generosity and has a longstanding history and reputation of partnering countries around the world, including Ghana, to achieve long-term, sustainable development and to improve the lives of individuals and communities. Using U.S. foreign assistance, USAID continues to spur economic growth, promote peace and regional security, improve accountable governance, and strengthen global health.

We also celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Peace Corps this year, an important milestone in the U.S.-Ghana relationship, as Ghana was the first country to receive volunteers in 1961. As a former Volunteer myself, I'm proud to say that the Peace Corps reflects the best of the U.S. spirit of service and volunteerism. More than 240,000 Americans have served in 141 countries working with communities to enhance education, health, and agriculture. Close to 5,000 Americans have served in Ghana alone.

CBO - The U.S. has a new President with a new agenda. What's the U.S. President's plan for Africa and Ghana in particular?

SSS - U.S. policy towards Africa has enjoyed longstanding bipartisan support no matter who holds the highest office. The United States has consistently worked together with African partners, including Ghana, to strengthen democratic institutions, promote two-way trade and investment, and support regional security.

The Biden administration values African partnerships. President Biden is committed to strengthening our partnerships around the world, including with international institutions such as the African Union. His address to the AU Summit just weeks after his

inauguration was a clear example of this commitment.

The pandemic has taught us that, more than ever, our world is interconnected, and global challenges require global solutions. Our shared U.S. and Ghanaian aspirations – democracy, inclusive economic growth and prosperity, and security – are the timeless foundations of our partnership, so I'm confident Ghana will continue to have a steady partner in the United States, as it has since 1957.

CBO - Ghana has suffered greatly under COVID-19. What is the contribution by U.S. Government to assist Ghana fight the global pandemic?

SSS - The United States has worked closely with Ghana since the start of the pandemic and has contributed well over \$30 million to support the COVID-19 response in Ghana. These funds are being used to address the immediate and medium-term effects of COVID-19 on the health, agriculture, and education sectors, and to encourage the hard-hit private sector.

In the health care realm, the U.S. Mission, USAID, U.S. Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, and Department of Defence have provided critical technical assistance to strengthen contact tracing, surveillance, and laboratory activities as well as delivered life-saving medical supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE).

To aid the hard-hit agriculture sector, USAID strengthened links between farmers and processors to maintain a steady supply of products and financing to produce nutritious food. The USAID also provided emergency grants to local apparel manufacturers to repurpose their production lines and train personnel in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. And to support primary school age students out of school due to the global pandemic, we launched the national radio programme in English and 11 local languages

to improve reading among Ghana's youth.

As I noted, the United States is the largest contributor to COVAX, already having provided \$2 billion and pledged an additional \$2 billion in funds to the COVAX facility in support of vaccine manufacturing and delivery across the globe. And June saw three major announcements on the vaccine front – on June 3, President Biden announced that the United States will allocate approximately five million vaccine doses to Africa via COVAX as part of the U.S. government's global vaccine distribution plan. On June 10, President Biden announced the purchase and donation of an additional 500 million vaccines to 92 low and lower middle-income countries and the African Union via COVAX. And on June 21, the White House announced that the United States will allocate approximately 10 million additional vaccine doses to Africa in coordination with the African Union. In the same announcement, Ghana was selected to receive bilateral vaccine donations from the United States.

I'd also like to add the U.S. contributions to the Global Fund. To date, as the biggest donor to the Fund, the United States has contributed \$17.6 billion dollars. The United States Government in March made an additional \$3.5 billion dollar contribution to the Global Fund specifically for the COVID-19 response, of which Ghana is eligible to access up to \$68 million to address the pandemic.

CBO - What is the state of AGOA now? Are Ghanaians leveraging it enough?

SSS - I'd like to remind readers that the U.S. government renewed the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) through 2025, so Ghanaian businesses should take advantage of the multi-year nature of this outstanding programme. AGOA provides preferential access to the U.S. market for over 1,800 products and is a great way for Ghanaian firms to export their products to the United States duty free. The Ghanaian government adopted an AGOA utilisation strategy in 2017 with technical assistance from USAID, and we were pleased to see steady growth in Ghana's apparel exports, for example, over the past few years. Some of the firms that were taking advantage of AGOA were also able to pivot during 2020 to produce PPE to support Ghana's COVID-19 response.

But there is always room for improvement, and we encourage more Ghanaian businesses to take advantage of the program. For one of the main tools created to help this sector – the West Africa Trade and

Investment Hub – see <https://westafricatradehub.com/>. The Hub is a "one stop shop" for businesses in Ghana and across the region that want more information about how to export to the United States under AGOA so they can create jobs and boost exports. This assistance includes help navigating AGOA procedures and regulations, and even facilitating linkages with U.S. distributors. Small businesses are at the heart of any successful economy, and that's why our economic assistance focuses on enhancing the competitiveness of local firms.

CBO - How can U.S. companies operating on the continent take advantage of the U.S. Development Finance Corporation? Is there anything more Ghanaian artisans and companies can do to leverage it more than what they are doing now?

SSS - Private firms can access the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) to help finance projects, purchase political risk insurance, and partially guarantee investments. The DFC is currently supporting over a dozen projects in Ghana worth nearly \$1 billion dollars. The U.S. DFC support includes projects to expand health care facilities, to generate power, and to improve access to finance for SMEs in the agricultural sector. The DFC has also established a \$100 million loan facility with CAL Bank to support on-lending to SMEs in Ghana. The DFC is ready to assist private firms investing in Ghana. Interested companies should visit the DFC's website at dfc.gov to review the eligibility checklist. Firms can also contact the Prosper Africa Secretariat at prosper@usa.gov to inquire about what other U.S. government mechanisms might support their investment projects.

CBO - Energy still remains a big thing for Ghana. With your companies working here in Ghana, has the United States any plans to support the sector overcome its challenges to make businesses thrive?

SSS - Yes, we have roughly 120 companies operating in Ghana, several of which work in the energy sector, including oil services companies, investors in Ghana's power sector, and U.S. suppliers of energy technologies. U.S. businesses transfer knowledge, provide customer service, create high-quality products, abide by anti-corruption rules, and create jobs. A favourable business climate, including respect for contract sanctity, is essential to attracting additional U.S.

investors to Ghana, including in the important energy sector.

The United States, through our Power Africa programme, has provided significant technical assistance to help Ghana overcome its challenges in the energy sector, including working with the Ghanaian government, the German government, and the World Bank to develop Ghana's Energy Sector Recovery Programme, which is aimed at stabilising the sector's finances. Additionally, Power Africa is working to expand energy access to consumers and businesses that are not connected to the national grid, and to increase the productive uses of renewable energy with technologies such as solar irrigation for farms.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to talk about our work through the U.S. Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), MCC and the Millennium Development Authority continue to implement the \$308 million Ghana Power Compact to transform Ghana's power sector through key infrastructure investments that will provide more reliable electricity by resolving voltage regulation problems, improving voltage profiles, and increasing the power supply to Ghana's businesses and households, including approximately 4.8 million consumers.

The Pokuse and Kasoa Bulk Supply Points (BSPs) are two flagship investments under the MCC Compact to improve the electricity transmission grid and distribution network. The Pokuse BSP is a \$50 million power substation, the first in Accra, with the largest capacity in the country. The Pokuse BSP was recently tested and energised in May, and is now operational, paving the way for more reliable energy for customers in Pokuse and surrounding areas. Pokuse will soon be followed by the Kasoa Bulk Supply Point, a \$44 million power substation. Construction at Kasoa continues and will come online later in the year. Unreliable electricity leaves Ghanaians in the dark; these investments the United States is making together with the government of Ghana are paving the way for a brighter future.

CBO - Any special message for AMCHAM members?

SSS - Thank you to the American Chamber of Commerce-Ghana (AMCHAM) and its members who eagerly joined the fight against the pandemic in Ghana. The American private sector provided significant relief to Ghana throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and I applaud their efforts, listed online at <https://www.amchamghana.org/covid-19-support/>.

To name just a few of the many contributions by U.S. companies, Newmont Ghana donated more than \$350,000 and personal protective equipment to support healthcare workers and facilities, supported the Kumasi Centre for Collaborative Research in Tropical Medicine (KCCR) with a GH¢1.1 million donation to procure PCR testing equipment to track the disease, then also tested last year on an isolation ward at St. John Hospital in Duayaw Nkwanta, Ahafo Region.

Coca-Cola donated to Ghana's COVID-19 private sector fund and provided beverages to frontline healthcare workers and those whose incomes were affected by the lockdown. Johnson & Johnson, on top of developing a life-saving vaccine, also donated GH¢100,000 to Ghana's COVID-19 private sector fund. And the American Tower Corporation also stepped up, donating thousands of units of PPE to several hospitals around Ghana, and \$100,000 to the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research.



• FLASHBACK: Mrs Stephanie Sullivan (left) answering questions from Mr Charles Benoni Okine two years ago