

President cuts sod for Pullman Accra Airport City Project

BY YAW KYEI

PRESIDENT Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo has cut the sod for the commencement of the Pullman Accra Airport City Project which is expected to become the country's largest hospitality facility.

The project will create about 1,000 jobs at the construction phase and engage more than 500 workers at the operating phase.

Speaking at the sod-cutting ceremony yesterday, President Akufo-Addo said the project would market the country as an exciting destination for leisure, conference, sports, health, and educational and cultural tourism.

The project, a mix of public policy and public-private investments, would be the highest Green-Rated building in Ghana, making it the second highest Green-Rated hotel in Africa, President Akufo-Addo said.

For the co-Chair of the Eminent Group of Advocates of the 2030 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, this is certainly a welcome development, he said.

President Akufo-Addo said the government was a cheerleader for the private sector, adding that, over the course of the past 23 months, we are succeeding in putting in place measures and policy initiatives that are creating an enabling environment for the private sector to flourish.

He assured the private partners of the project, Inter-Afrique Holdings Ltd, of the government's commitment to make Ghana the most attractive destination for investment.

"It is my expectation that they will be able to address these chal-

... facility to create 1,000 jobs



• President Akufo-Addo cuts the sod for Pullman Accra Airport City Project

lenges satisfactorily, for they are all very competent in their domain.

"If it becomes necessary, which I hope it will not, to go higher up the chain of authority, I want you to know that my doors will always be open to you.

"I do, on the other hand, insist that, on your part, you play according to the rules and regulations of the sector and the country as a

whole," he said.

Pullman Accra Airport City is a joint development between equity partners: Inter-Afrique Holdings Ltd.; and the Ghana Infrastructure Investment Fund (GIIF), the private sector focused sovereign wealth fund of Ghana with diversified interests in infrastructure and tourism.

The investing partner's interests

are held through Platinum Properties Limited as the Project SPV and asset owner. The partnership will lead to the opening of the 364-key hotel and serviced apartments, making it the largest hotel and the first dual hospitality offering in Ghana. The facility is set to open in 2021.

The development is managed by Inter-Afrique Properties

Limited as development manager; Diagonal Projects Africa as project manager; with IBC Equity Partners as transaction advisor; and W Hospitality Limited as hotel consultant.

The groundbreaking event follows the signing of the Hotel Management Agreement between Accor Hotels and Platinum Properties Limited on October 2, 2018.

Pres orders CID to investigate sacked judges

BY ANITA NYARKO YIRENKYI

THE Criminal Investigations Department (CID) of the Ghana Police Service has received a letter from the Presidency to commence investigations into the bribery and corruption allegations against the dismissed three High Court judges.

Justices Ayisi Addo, Uuter Paul Dery and Mustapha Habib Logoh were among 34 high and lower court judges including magistrates, caught receiving bribes from litigants in an investigation by Anas Aremeyaw Anas in 2015 which rocked the country.

The Director-General of the

CID, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCOP) Maame Yaa Tiwaa Addo-Danquah, confirmed receipt of the letter from the Presidency to the Ghanaian Times in Accra yesterday.

DCOP Addo-Danquah did not give further details to the letter.

It is recalled in the Ghanaian Times issue of Monday, December 17, that President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo had removed three High Court judges from office on grounds of bribery and corruption.

Their removal from office followed a recommendation by a Committee established by the Chief Justice, Sophia Abena

Akuffo, pursuant to Article 146(4) of the 1992 Constitution, to investigate a complaint lodged by Anas.

A statement signed by Eugene Arhin, Director of Communications at the Jubilee House, said the President has acted on the recommendations of the Committee and accordingly removed the three judges from office.

"The President, in accordance with the provisions of Article 146(9) of the Constitution, has acted on the recommendations of the Committee, as the Constitution enjoins him to do, and has, accordingly, removed the three Justices of the High Court from office on the grounds of bribery and corrup-

tion."

The judges may face criminal prosecution as the President has directed that a copy of the Committee's report be submitted to the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) of the Ghana Police Service for the requisite action to be taken.

It said: "The Committee concluded that the conduct of the Justices amounted to a criminal offence under the Criminal Offences Act, 1960 (Act 29) as amended.

It is recalled that a two-hour video of the judges and magistrates, some of whom were caught literally bare-chested taking money and food stuff from litigants, was

premiered by ace investigative journalist Anas Aremeyaw Anas in 2015 at the Accra International Conference Centre.

Before the premiere, some of the judges went to court to stop the video, but Anas went ahead and screened the video in Accra and subsequently in Kumasi and other places.

Justice Uuter Paul Dery and his colleagues fought the modus operandi of Anas and staged a tussle at the Supreme Court, urging their reinstatement and a possible punishment for Anas for contempt of court.