

# The Mirror

Ghana's Most Popular Weekend Paper Est. 1953

#Securingtheboobs

A BREAST CANCER  
AWARENESS

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## Manuel Photography behind the celebrity shots

— Pages  
06/27

## Panic buying hits town

— Page  
03

...Food vendors,  
retailers buy  
to hoard



Traders, consumers  
lament rampant  
increase in prices  
of goods, services

— Pages 12/21

**Editorial**



# Sexual health education more crucial

IN our society, many girls are known to have dropped out of school due to pregnancy. While they stay out of school to have their babies and nurture them, their male mates, some of them, responsible for such pregnancies, are able to move on with their lives because they are not biologically saddled with such responsibility.

To worsen the plight of such mothers, they are often not able to return to the classroom because they do not get the needed family support, no matter how intelligent they are.

Added to this, their homes are often hostile because parents and other family members are disappointed. They are often seen as an embarrassment to the family and not many parents are willing to cater for the baby to enable the mother return to school.

Some of such mothers would also not want to go near a classroom once they realise they are pregnant because of how their mates and some teachers will make fun of them. In many cases, both mothers and their babies are not able to develop to the benefit of society due to the lack of proper education. That is why *The Mirror* finds it remarkable, that a pregnant Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE) candidate last

Thursday reported at her examination centre

at Sokode-Etoe, near Ho in the Volta Region, to write her last paper which was Integrated Science. (see story on page 4) Even though she could not finish writing and had to be rushed to a nearby health facility to be delivered of her baby, the Ho Municipal Examinations Coordinator, Fridoline Dedume, has indicated that she would be graded in that paper on the basis of her continuous assessment in school.

*The Mirror* admires the courage of this girl who obviously knows the value of education and was, therefore, determined to finish her papers.

While we wish mother and baby well, we appeal to her family to offer her the needed support to enable her to return to the classroom to continue with her studies.

*The Mirror* observes that the lack of sexual health education which seems a taboo in many homes is a contributory factor to teenage pregnancy in addition to the lack of proper care and supervision of the girl child. Even though abstinence before marriage is the ideal, it is clear that teaching both girls and boys how to prevent pregnancy in order to reduce the many cases of teenage pregnancy and the problems associated with it, has become more imperative than before.



**MIRROR  
LETTERS**



## Grant all workers tax relief

**T**HE government collects funds (taxes) from citizens

depending on their income and assets. This is what partly provides the government with revenue, which enables it to pay for numerous projects and services such as community development initiatives and road maintenance. Politicians and citizens frequently disagree on the appropriate level of taxation.

In reality, the country's taxes do not benefit government employees in any way.

Even though taxes are used to fund national

development projects, the global financial crises are harming both the public and private sectors and making it difficult for most people to develop themselves.

The monthly deductions must also be considered. I would like the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA), the Ministry of Finance and the Controller and Accountant General Department to seriously reconsider the taxation of employees or employers that appears on their payslips at the end of the month. I suggest that the government grants all workers tax relief.

Long live Ghana! Long live public and private sector workers.

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### From our Facebook wall

## What's on your mind?

**Obeng Anane**

THE physical and chemical properties of plastic are such that it cannot be cooked into anything edible as it cannot absorb water nor mix with water.

The texture of each rice depends on the starch content. Starch is mainly made up of

**Amylose and Amylopectin.**

Amylopectin is responsible for its sticky nature and can make cooked rice stick together into a ball form. Now clearly, for every rice product that behaves that way, the starch (Amylopectin) content is higher.

There is nothing like plastic rice, folks. We all did basic science

in school and so to assume that plastic can be cooked is really confusing. To think that some people are insulting the Food and Drugs Authority (FDA) for not doing its work after repeated notices to the public on this shocks me.

Please let us stop circulating ignorance. We are already struggling in this economy to add needless fear and panic over nothing.

**Nana Mensah**

I still applaud the Computerised

School Placement System when I see schools like Abetifi Presby and others doing great in the National Science and Maths Quiz. The placement system is still a brilliant decision.

**Ernest Mends**

I don't know if anyone is giving out the best 'performance' award. Some men are taking all sorts of concoctions to prove a point.

You'll be amazed at the number of young guys surviving

on dialysis lately just because they took some sort of concoction to have prolonged sexual intercourse. Stop relying on these medicines and eat properly.

**Ophelia Otabil**

I think DNA tests to prove the paternity of a baby should be mandatory. I think it is unfair to a lot of people how these results turn out. And no woman should be angry this test is being conducted because you may as well settle any maternity doubts.