

THE KYEREMA

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LATEST CHANGES IN THE LAW ON CONTRACTS IN GHANA

Francisca Serwaa Boateng, Esq.



The law on contracts in Ghana has been amended to introduce some new key changes. It is important for everyone to know about these changes because they affect how contracts with Government of Ghana are to be made and the nature of interest one can charge when there is default of payment. These changes are especially important for businesses and individuals who do business with government entities and the central government.

New changes introduced

1. **Persons who can enter into contract on behalf of Ghana:** The Contracts Act now states that the only persons who can enter into a contract on behalf of Government of Ghana are these 3 entities:

- a) The Minister in charge of the subject or department entering into the contract;
- b) A person authorised by the Minister; or
- c) Any other person authorised by law

2. **Simple interest to be charged on government contracts:** When someone enters into a contract with the government and the government fails to make payment (defaults) under the contract, the person can only calculate simple interest on the government's debt.

3. **No contract with compound interest:**

No person can enter into a contract with Government of Ghana with the interest to be calculated as compound interest. That means any such contract will be void and unenforceable.

4. **Breach of these contract terms is a crime:**

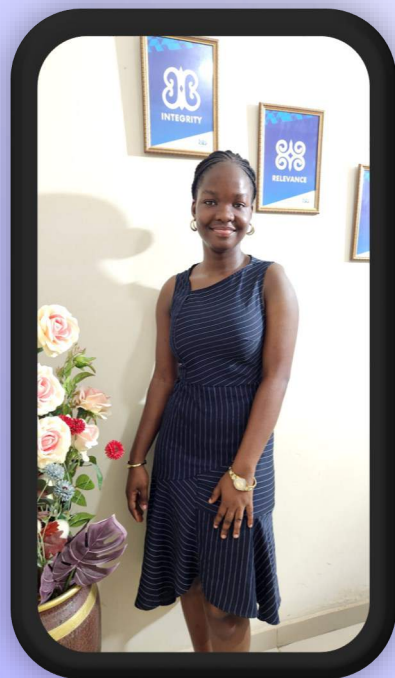
A person who enters into a contract with Government in breach of these provisions can be convicted to

pay a fine of 5,000 to 10,000 penalty units. The person may also be put in prison for 10 to 15 years. In fact, the person can be convicted and sentenced to pay the fine plus go to prison as well.

Source: Contracts (Amendment) Act, 2023 (Act 1114). This amendment was gazetted and assented by the President on 1st March, 2024.

FOOT NOTES

¹This provision appears to be a solution to companies charging humongous compounded interest on their contracts with Government of Ghana. Recently, the Attorney-General announced that the Government of Ghana has been save a whopping GH¢14 trillion in judgment debt since 2020 from just one case filed by African Automobile Ltd against Government of Ghana.



WORKPLACE WELL- NESS PROGRAMMES AND THEIR BENEFITS

Angelica Osei- Amponsah

Work is naturally filled with a lot of demands and deadlines which causes anxiety, depression and stress. Most jobs require sitting for long hours, typing, and repeating the same routine daily. In order to achieve maximum output and productivity from employees, employers must always have the employee's interest at heart by putting in place initiatives such as wellness programmes, to ensure employee fitness and relaxation. There are many wellness programmes adopted by companies in the world today. This is a win-win scenario where the employee works in a safe environment to earn a living while the employer gets maximum productivity from his employees.

A wellness programmes is any activity organized in the work place, designed to improve and support the health and

fitness of the employee population in a work place. It is an initiative to ensure the employee works in a healthy, happy and safe environment. It aims at boosting performance and enhancing a collaborative work spirit.

As already stated, there are many wellness programs that can be adopted, depending on the company's objects. However, there are programmes that cut across all companies and workplaces. For example, a rather common initiative is the provision of water dispensers at vantage points in the workplace to encourage regular intake of water which carries a lot of health benefits.

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Every employee should be encouraged to engage in social activities to expose them beyond the work environment. Employers may organize monthly donations, community service, fitness walks, day outs at the zoo, beach, and other tourist sites just to allow the workers a break, while cultivating a spirit of togetherness for team work. Most importantly, employers should include fitness programmes in the daily activities of their employees since they remain in the same position for long hours. Employers can insist on walking and stretching the body during break.

Conclusion

Wellness programmes have many benefits. They increase employee productivity and delivery which is the joy of any employer. They also increase morale allowing employees to feel more appreciated and valued. Employees are less absent and the company is able to easily recruit top-notch staff on board.



ANSWERS TO THE CRISS CROSS PUZZLE IN THE LAST EDITION OF THE OKYEREMA ARTICLE.

1. Information
2. Liquidation
3. Jury
4. Amicus Curiae
5. Arraignment
6. Felony
7. Active Judge.

Thank you for participating!

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