

3sil ghana solar news

A scandalous multimillion-dollar deal is brewing inside the Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD) which has forced a large number of workers grumbling about management's profligate spending, especially in the wake of the institution's financial challenges, leading to the board almost failing to pay salaries of its workers recently.

The deal involves a company called Strategic Security Systems Int. Ltd. (3SIL) which COCOBOD, intends to purchase some solar torchlights from at the cost of GH?300 million and distribute them to Cocoa farmers across the country for free.

On Friday, the Ranking Member of the Food and Agriculture Committee, Eric Opoku, expressed reservations over the government's decision to allocate over 300 hundred million Ghana cedis to buy solar torchlights for farmers, but failed to disclose the name of the company.

Insiders have described the transaction as not just wasteful, but scandalous, as there are doubts about the execution of similar contracts awarded to the suppliers of the solar streetlight Strategic Security Systems Int. Ltd. (3SIL), a Ghanaian-owned company located at 3 Port Novo Street, Behind Mensvic Hotel East Legon, Accra.

The Herald's information is that, before the Akufo-Addo government came to office, Strategic Security Systems Int. Ltd. (3SIL), during the tenure of Isaac Osei, as Chief Executive began dealing with COCOBOD and got awarded a US\$7 million contract for the supply of some solar streetlights, also to be distributed and installed in Cocoa growing areas.

Upon the exit of the John Kufuor government, the company emerged again at the COCOBOD, under the management of Anthony Fofie during the John Mills administration and got some other solar streetlight contracts running into several millions of US dollars.

The Herald is informed that the Opuni administration, as well as the Daniel Ohene Agyekum Board during the John Mahama administration, decided to carry out an audit into the procurements and installations of the solar streetlights, and refused to settle debts owed the company based on non-performance.

Among other things, COCOBOD, also refused to award additional contracts to Strategic Security Systems Int. Ltd. (3SIL) said to be owned by one Ofori Boateng, whose dealings with both the governing New Patriotic Party (NPP) and the opposition National Democratic Congress (NDC) have been described as nauseating.

The decision not to pay the company unless it performs its existing agreement with COCOBOD, led to the company dashing to court for a breach of contract. The company quickly got paid by the Akufo-Addo

government in 2017, while additional supply contracts were thrown at it to execute.

Legal fees alone for the lawyers of Strategic Security Systems Int. Ltd. (3SIL), according to The Herald's information, was around US\$2 million and had to be settled by COCOBOD.

There are claims that Strategic Security Systems Int. Ltd. (3SIL) since its dealings with Isaac Osei management has been awarded solar lights contracts in the region of US\$100 million.

It is unclear, if the contracts had gone through any competitive bidding process. But there have been claims that the company which boasts of providing services in Transportation & Logistic Services & Freight Forwarding, had once supplied the solar streetlight to COCOBOD for US\$25, although it was procuring them for a paltry US\$2 per unit, thus making a whopping US\$23 before taxes and freight.

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