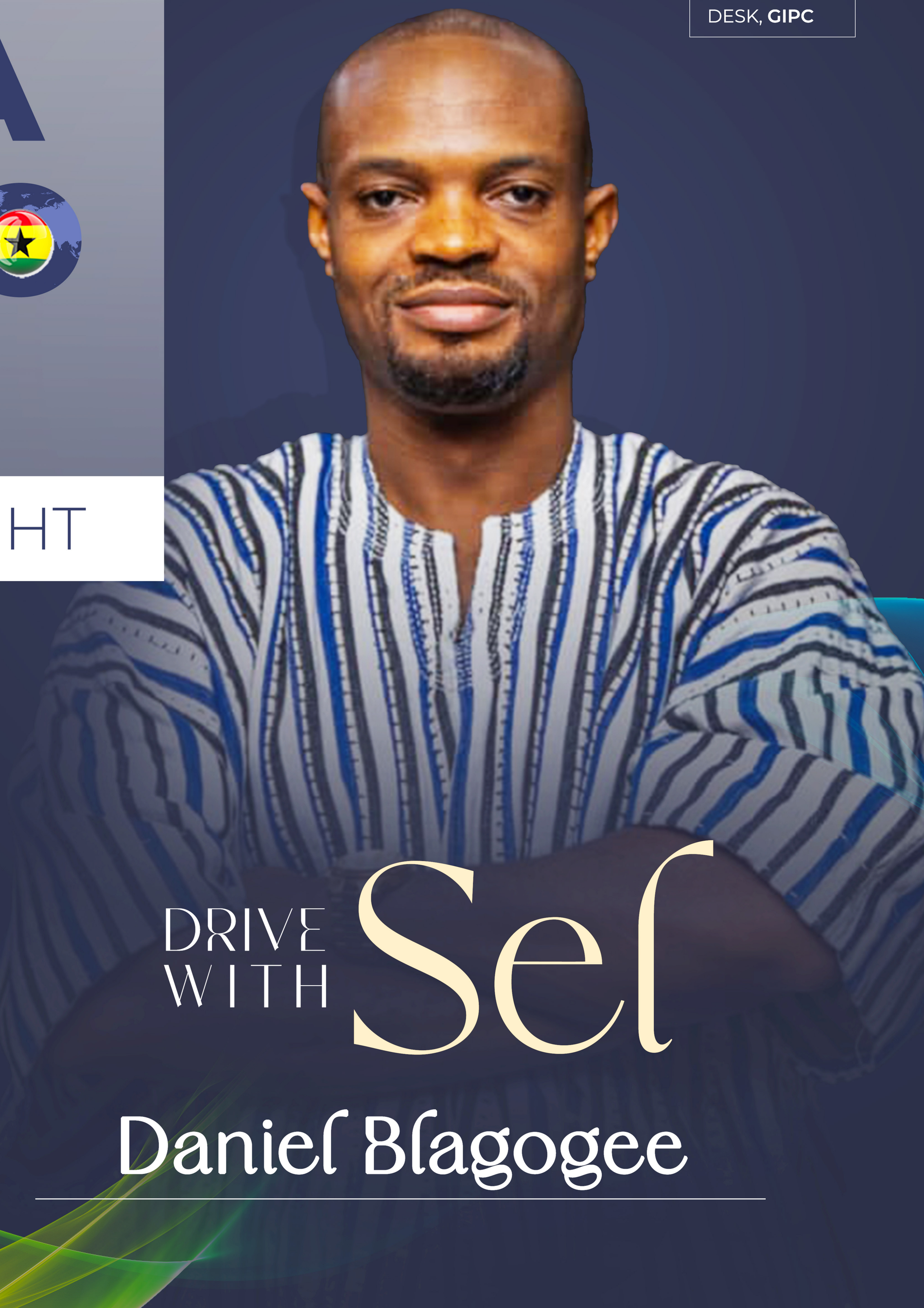
12TH JUNE
2023

FROM

DIASPORA INVESTMENT DESK, **GIPC**

THE DIASPORA SPOTLIGHT



ISSUE 17

DRIVE WITH Sef

Daniel Blagogee

GHANA INVESTMENT PROMOTION CENTRE

THE

DIASPORA

SPOTLIGHT

DRIVE WITH Sel

Daniel Blagogee

DID **Kindly introduce yourself and what you do?**

DB Daniel Blagogee is my name and I am currently the Chief Operations Officer of the Strategies Energies Group of Companies, a family-owned corporation in Ghana. My role is to oversee the daily operations of the Organization. I did my first and second degree in Indiana University of Pennsylvania and Wilmington University in Finance and Business Administration in the U.S.

DID **How long have you been working for?**

DB A span of 8 years, I worked from the school food court to a factory to AT&T and to WSFS Bank. These were during my school days before joining Strategic Energies Limited (SEL). My experience at Strategic Energies Limited has been an interesting ride for the past ten years.

DID **What was your motivation for starting your work at Strategic Energies LTD?**

DB The decision to come back home to work for SEL was an easy one. I had fallen in love with my childhood best friend and we had been dating for a while. She was working in Ghana then so I had made a few trips back home to see her. In that same period, my Dad had established the company and was putting in a lot of effort to get it off the ground and needed help. Besides this, for some reason, I always knew the U.S was not my home. So as you can imagine, there was great motivation to move back home.

DID **What sector of Ghana's economy does your work focus on?**

DB We are focused in the Oil and Gas sector of the economy. We also operate in the Agriculture sector and have made some investments in the health and fitness space by establishing gyms in some of our fuel stations.

THE DIASPORA SPOTLIGHT

DRIVE WITH Sel

Daniel Blagogee

DID What Services/Products do you offer?

DB Our company operates in the Downstream Oil and Gas sector. We provide refined petroleum products, including petrol and diesel, at our filling stations across the country; some of which operate 24/7. In addition to that, we have convenience stores, fitness facilities, and pharmacies at some selected outlets, making it easier for customers to access essential items and services in one location. We also offer lube bay services to keep customers' vehicles in good condition. Our sister company supplies raw latex to Ghana Rubber Estates Limited. Overall the company offers a diverse range of products and services to meet the needs of our customers.

DID How does your job contribute to investment in Ghana?

DB The success of our jobs and company contribute to the growth of the industry, which in turn stimulates investment in Ghana. We supply products to the transportation industry, sanitation industry, road construction industry, building construction, trading industry and also play a major role in the banking industry as well. The oil and gas sector is a significant contributor to Ghana's economy, and our work helps to ensure that the industry is thriving, which attracts investment and contributes to the country's overall economic development.

DID What notable successes have you chalked since you started this job?

DB I was privileged to work at the Refinery when I started working with SEL. My role was Management Assistant and I supported the head office ensuring timely and consistent supply of petroleum products to all outlets. I had to learn on the job especially during the fuel crises at that time.

DRIVE WITH Sel

Daniel Blagogee

DB My work started from the lowest hierarchy and I gradually worked to the top to become Chief Operating Officer after some years. With the support of my team, I manage all the operations at all the outlets ensuring profitability, growth and customer satisfaction.
At some outlets, I commenced the operation of a health and wellness facility to encourage a healthy life style. This has helped in our incremental progress in the infrastructure at our outlets across the country. While supervising the operations of our agrobusiness.

DID **What were the challenges you encountered while navigating Ghana's business ecosystem and how did you overcome them?**

DB Changing the culture and systems with speed was my main focus, little did I know it was a tough call. I had to change the mindset and not the culture. I tried to do this with the mindset I had from my experience abroad forgetting the environments were totally different.

DB My Director, who doubles as my biological father, would give me a pep talk occasionally on how to handle individual situations which helped me greatly. It gave me a whole new perspective. The only way to win was to come down to every one's level and lead by example. I cannot say I have changed the mindset completely but there has been some progress and I am hopeful it will get better with time.

DID **What are the positive outcomes so far in investing in Ghana?**

DB Undoubtedly, investing in Ghana has produced several positive outcomes in recent years. Increase in investment, among other factors, in key areas such as oil and gas, agriculture, and services, has resulted in the steady growth of Ghana's economy. There has been significant improvement in the living standards of the average Ghanaian resulting from improvement in the country's socio-economic conditions. It is easy for investors to do business in the country because of an improved business environment, improving the rule of law and promoting private sector growth.

DB The country continues to be an attractive destination for investors looking to take advantage of the country's growth potential. There has been significant increase in the foreign direct investment into Ghana over the past few years. Job creation and technology transfer have increased immensely.

DID **Kindly send a word of encouragement to other diaspora looking to return home or invest in the limitless opportunities the country presents.**

DB Ghana is ours. This is what we have. We are still in the developing phase but it will definitely get better. The question therefore will be, "Do I want to be part of this beautiful story?"

DB In most cases, acting upon the final decision to move back will be a difficult one. There will be some low seasons, messy and overwhelming days but it's all worth it in the end.
There are countless success stories out there which have touched countless lives. There are individuals that have come from nothing but have still made it on this soil. This alone should encourage you to take advantage of the untapped business opportunities available. Taking this leap of faith will also mean you will be affecting so many lives in a positive way. At the end of our respective journeys, I believe our true fulfillment lies in the impact we make in the lives of others.
For those of us who were blessed to have had this opportunity to benefit from the 'greener pastures' overseas, it is time to GIVE BACK!

Strategic Energy Limited on SOCIAL MEDIA
www.strategicenergy.com

THE DIASPORA SPOTLIGHT

diasporaspotlight
diasporainvestmentdesk

Ghana On the go!
Grow in Grow with Ghana
Sparkup
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
GHANA BEYOND AID

Ghana Investment Promotion Centre
A1 Rangoon Lane, Cantonments-Accra,
GhanaTel: +233 302 665125-9
Email: info@gipc.gov.gh
www.gipc.gov.gh

ghanagipc
gipcghana
Ghana Investment Promotion Centre

GET IN TOUCH