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GoldBod CEO, Sammy Gyamfi

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Govt to distribute first batch of 129 vehicles to MMDCEs in 12 regions

The Ministry of Local Government, Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs has announced the distribution of the first batch of 129 vehicles to Metropolitan, Municipal and District Chief Executives (MMDCEs).

In a letter dated October 18, 2026, the Ministry directed MMDCEs from 12 regions to report with their drivers from Tuesday, October 20, to collect their assigned vehicles at the Ministry's premises.

The regions listed for the first phase are Upper East, Upper West, Northern, North East, Savannah, Bono, Bono East, Ahafo, Volta, Oti and Western North, as well as nine selected districts in the Central Region.

According to the letter, the nine selected MMDCEs in the Central Region were to be contacted directly on Monday, October 19, 2026, regarding the collection arrangements.

The Ministry also requested regional ministers overseeing the selected metropolitan, municipal and district assemblies to inform the affected MMDCEs within their jurisdictions and ensure the necessary arrangements were made.

For further information, the Ministry directed the affected officials to contact the Director of General Administration on 024-487-0726.

The letter was signed by Amin Abdul-Rahaman, Chief Director of the Ministry, on behalf of the Minister for Local Government, Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs.



'I will use everything I have to clear my name' – Obuasi SHTS headmaster fights back

The interdicted headmaster of Obuasi Senior High Technical School, Zakaria Abdulai, has vowed to pursue all lawful means to clear his name as investigations continue into allegations of sexual misconduct involving female students.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, October 20, Mr Abdulai expressed appreciation to friends, relatives and well-wishers who have continued to offer him support amid the controversy.

He said his immediate priority was to defend his reputation and establish his position through the appropriate legal channels.

"I intend to devote my attention and resources to pursuing all lawful avenues to clear my name and vindicate my position," he said.

Mr Abdulai also expressed hope of returning to active political engagement once the matter had been resolved.

He recently resigned as Juaben Constituency Secretary of the National Democratic Congress (NDC) and withdrew his candidature for the constituency chairmanship amid the allegations.

Despite his decision to step aside from the constituency leadership contest, he reaffirmed his commitment to the ideals and aspirations of the NDC.

The allegations reportedly involve more than 14 female students and have triggered calls for accountability and a thorough investigation into the matter.

The Ministry of Education has referred the case to the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) of the Ghana Police Service for investigation.



Obuasi SHTS headmaster, Zakaria Abdulai

UG Vice-Chancellor calls for oral exams, project-based assessment to deal with AI generated answers among students



UG VC, Professor Nana Aba Appiah Amfo

The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ghana, Professor Nana Aba Appiah Amfo, has called on universities to overhaul traditional assessment methods to ensure students demonstrate genuine understanding and critical thinking as artificial intelligence (AI) makes it easier to generate essays and answers within seconds.

She said higher education institutions must move beyond heavy reliance on conventional examinations and written assignments towards approaches that assess students' reasoning, practical abilities and capacity to apply knowledge to real-world problems.

"If a student can generate an apparently competent essay in seconds, what exactly are we assessing when we ask for that essay?" she asked.

Professor Amfo made the remarks while delivering the keynote address at the formal opening of the University of Lagos International Week 2026 at the J.F. Ade Ajayi Auditorium.

The event, held from October 12 to 17, was organised under the theme, "Re-imagining Pedagogy and Teaching for Higher Education in the 21st Century."

Among the dignitaries present were Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, represented by the Commissioner for Tertiary Education, Mr Tolani Sule; Nigeria's Minister of Education, Dr Tunji Alausa, represented by Mrs Elizabeth Ogundipe; and the Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission, Professor Abdullahi Ribadu, represented by Dr Ayoteju Ogun.

Also in attendance were the United Nations Development Programme's Resident Representative in Nigeria, Ms Elsie Attafuah, and the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Lagos, Professor Folasade Ogunsola.

Professor Amfo said the growing use of AI presented universities with an opportunity to reassess teaching practices and how they determine whether students have achieved the intended learning outcomes.

She recommended increased use of oral examinations, project-based assessments, portfolios, presentations and practical demonstrations to establish whether students understood the concepts they were expected to learn.

"We must distinguish between a student who can produce an answer and one who understands how to arrive at, evaluate and defend that answer," she said.

She cautioned universities against viewing AI exclusively as a threat to academic integrity or accepting it uncritically as a solution to educational challenges.

"The real challenge is to ask how AI can strengthen learning without weakening the intellectual capabilities that education is supposed to develop," she said.

The University of Ghana Vice-Chancellor also urged institutions to integrate digital literacy and applied AI into their curricula across disciplines, arguing that graduates must understand the technologies increasingly shaping modern life.

She stressed, however, that technological competence should be accompanied by an appreciation of the social inequalities, ethical concerns and responsibilities associated with the development and use of AI.

According to her, universities must produce graduates who can critically evaluate technology rather than merely use it. She further urged African institutions to participate actively in shaping AI systems instead of remaining passive consumers of technological innovation.

African languages must be represented in AI systems

Professor Amfo, a linguist, expressed concern about the limited representation of African languages in the databases and technologies underpinning AI systems.

She noted that some AI tools struggled to recognise local names, accents, expressions and culturally specific meanings, warning that increased dependence on such technologies could deepen existing inequalities in language and knowledge representation.

"If these systems become increasingly central to education, we must ask whether they will expand access to knowledge or reinforce existing linguistic and epistemic inequalities," she said.

She called on African universities to contribute their languages, indigenous knowledge systems, research and ethical perspectives to the development of AI technologies to ensure that the continent's experiences and knowledge are adequately represented.

Shift from passive learning to practical application

Professor Amfo also advocated a departure from teaching approaches that position students primarily as recipients of information, urging universities to adopt methods that encourage learners to develop, test and apply knowledge.

She identified problem-based learning, case studies, simulations, collaborative projects, fieldwork and community-engaged learning as approaches that could help students connect academic knowledge with practical challenges.

Using public health as an example, she explained that addressing resistance to health advice required more than technical expertise.

She said students must also develop communication skills, cultural sensitivity and ethical judgment to understand communities whose responses to health interventions may be influenced by local beliefs, economic circumstances or experiences with public institutions.

Professor Amfo cited the University of Ghana's student venture support programme as an example of how practical initiatives could help learners develop entrepreneurial ideas and turn them into viable ventures.

She said the programme went beyond business creation by helping students identify problems, test assumptions, communicate ideas, respond to criticism, collaborate and manage uncertainty.

She also highlighted the Tetremapa Initiative, which explores how AI and speech-recognition technologies can reduce communication barriers for people with speech impairments while accounting for Ghanaian languages.

According to her, the initiative demonstrates the importance of collaboration among linguists, technology specialists and other stakeholders in developing solutions to complex societal challenges.

Inclusion and institutional support for teaching innovation

The Vice-Chancellor further called for inclusive teaching practices that accommodate students with disabilities, learners from disadvantaged backgrounds and those whose first language differs from the language of instruction.

She said universities must provide accessible learning materials, appropriate assessment arrangements, supportive technologies and institutional systems that enable all students to participate fully in academic life.

"Inclusion is not achieved simply by opening the university's gates. Access gets students into the university, and inclusion determines whether they can participate, belong and succeed once they arrive," she said.

Professor Amfo urged university leaders to encourage innovation in teaching through faculty development, appropriate incentives and institutional policies that recognise teaching excellence alongside research productivity.

She said institutions could draw lessons from international best practices but must adapt them to local conditions, including large class sizes, limited resources and unequal access to internet connectivity and digital devices.

She stressed that universities must rethink both how they teach and how they assess learning to ensure that graduates develop the critical thinking, practical competence and ethical judgment needed to thrive in an increasingly technology-driven world.

NPA to strengthen ties with UMaT to drive downstream petroleum sector

The Chief Executive Officer of the National Petroleum Authority (NPA), Mr. Godwin Kudzo Edudzi Tameklo Esq., has affirmed his resolve to collaborate with the University of Mines and Technology (UMaT) and academia to drive the country's downstream petroleum industry.

He made the comments when a delegation from the University led by the Dean of School of Petroleum Studies, Professor Richard Amorin, paid a courtesy call on him on Tuesday, October 20 2026, to discuss ways the two organisations can work together.

The NPA boss said academia has a very important role to play in the development and progress of the downstream industry in Ghana.

"We would want to continue the engagement with academia because we strongly believe that it will propel the downstream industry, because what academia does is to come up with innovative ways of doing things," Mr. Tameklo said.

Mr. Tameklo also indicated that the Authority would, in the future, explore the possibility of offering internship opportunities to students of the University.

"The Authority will also be looking at the possibility of offering some students of the University internship opportunities in some of the technical departments of the NPA, because sometimes it is good for the students to have first-hand opportunity to experience things for themselves," he said.

In his response, Professor Amorin thanked the NPA Chief Executive and his team for their readiness to engage and collaborate with academia and UMaT.

"We want to say thank you for having us and for having the openness to collaborate with us. We will relay this information to the Vice Chancellor, and hopefully we can firm up some of the discussions we have had going forward," Prof. Amorin said.

Other issues discussed during the visit included special training or secondment opportunities for teaching staff, considering UMaT as part of training under the proposed NPA Centre of Excellence, and considering retooling a lab at UMaT as part of the Centre of Excellence.

Both institutions expressed optimism that the engagement would lead to a formal partnership that bridges the gap between academic research and industry practice.

The NPA remains committed to building strong partnerships with academic institutions as part of its mandate to regulate, oversee and monitor the downstream petroleum industry.

Source: NPA



Group photograph

'Report school abuse directly to Education Ministry' – Deputy Minister tells students, parents

The Ministry of Education is set to establish a direct reporting channel for students, parents and other stakeholders to petition the Minister over sexual abuse and other forms of misconduct in educational institutions.

Deputy Education Minister Dr Clement Apaak said the proposed mechanism would allow complainants to bypass existing reporting structures where they believe school authorities or education officials have failed to respond appropriately or promptly to their concerns.

Speaking on Eyewitness News on Tuesday, October 20, Dr Apaak said the initiative was aimed at addressing weaknesses in the handling of misconduct cases and ensuring that serious complaints are brought to the attention of the appropriate authorities.

He acknowledged concerns over the failure of some education officials to escalate reports of alleged abuse, citing questions surrounding the handling of allegations against the headmaster of Obuasi Senior High Technical School (SHTS).

"There is a systemic challenge in as far as the GES structure is concerned. And that systemic challenge is not based on procedure, but it is coming across as though there is inertia or a refusal to act on matters of this nature and or to bring matters of this nature to ultimate authorities," he said.

According to Dr Apaak, the proposed reporting channel would cover all levels of education, including primary and junior high schools, senior high schools, universities and colleges of education.

"We would now open a channel so that students, parents and other stakeholders who know about some of these occurrences in our various institutions of academic pursuits, whether it is primary school, junior high school, secondary school, university, colleges of education, they should be able to bypass the structures if they feel that the current structures are not responsive in a timely function to petition the Minister directly or my good self, and we will take it up," he said.

The announcement follows allegations of sexual abuse involving the headmaster of Obuasi SHTS and about 19 female students.

The allegations have triggered calls for an independent investigation and greater accountability in the handling of abuse complaints within educational institutions.

Dr Apaak said the Ministry would also investigate why the Obuasi Municipal and Regional Education Directors allegedly failed to promptly forward information about the case to the Ghana Education Service headquarters and the political leadership.



Deputy Education Minister Dr Clement Apaak

‘It’s a curse on you’ – Water Minister warns ‘malware’ workers sabotaging Ghana Water

The Minister for Works, Housing and Water Resources, Ahmed Ibrahim, has cautioned management and staff of Ghana Water Limited (GWL) against politicising the company’s operations or engaging in acts that could undermine its performance.

He urged workers to remain focused on GWL’s core responsibility of providing safe and clean water to Ghanaians, stressing that sabotaging the company could ultimately have consequences for the workers themselves.

Mr Ibrahim made the remarks during a working visit to the company’s headquarters on Tuesday, October 20, where he expressed confidence in GWL’s ability to improve its performance.

He called on management and staff to take their responsibilities seriously and work collectively to strengthen the company.

“If you’re working in a water company and you sabotage it, it’s a curse on you. We collapsed the Cocoa Board, and there was redundancy. We collapsed most of the public operations, and there was redundancy. So sabotaging Ghana Water is like sitting on a tree and cutting the branch of the tree,” he said.

“It will fall down with you. Let’s have that mindset and work with that mentality. If we work hard, Ghana Water will be good. Ghana will be good and you as well; let’s think as Ghanaians, and bring back the nationalism and patriotism of the old,” he added.

The minister also challenged GWL management over the company’s non-revenue water (NRW), rejecting an explanation that the June 29 floods were responsible for the increase in NRW to 47 per cent as of June 2026.

Non-revenue water refers to water produced by a utility but lost before reaching paying customers, including through leakages, theft and inaccuracies in metering.

Mr Ibrahim tasked management to reduce NRW to 40 per cent or below by the end of December 2026.

“If you can come to 40% by the end of December in non-revenue water, I will be happy,” he said.



Minister for Works, Housing and Water Resources, Ahmed Ibrahim

Afenyo-Markin files fresh suit against Sammy Gyamfi, Eric Adjei over extortion claims

Minority Leader Osahen Alexander Afenyo-Markin has initiated fresh legal action against the Chief Executive Officer of the Ghana Gold Board (GoldBod), Sammy Gyamfi, and the Chief Executive Officer of the National Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (NEIP), Eric Adjei, over alleged defamatory statements.

The latest suits follow the withdrawal and striking out of earlier cases involving the two defendants.

In the case against Mr Gyamfi, the fresh writ, numbered GJ/0045/2027, was filed at the Accra High Court on Thursday, October 15, 2026, according to a statement issued by Osahen Afenyo-Markin’s counsel, F. Paa Kwesi Abaidoo, on Tuesday, October 20.

Mr Abaidoo said the new action had been filed in accordance with the High Court’s latest interpretation of the applicable rules, although the legal team maintained its disagreement with the court’s earlier decision to set aside the previous writ.

“Although we disagree with the High Court’s earlier decision setting aside our client’s previous writ, this new writ has been issued against the Defendants in accordance with the Court’s latest Interpretation of the rules,” the statement said.

The earlier suit against Mr Gyamfi was struck out by the High Court last week after the court found the writ to be defective.

The dispute relates to comments made during the Government Accountability Series, following Osahen Afenyo-Markin’s criticism of GoldBod and Mr Gyamfi over alleged losses of $1.9 billion under the Domestic Gold Purchase Programme.

Fresh suit against Eric Adjei

Osahen Afenyo-Markin has also filed a new defamation suit against Mr Adjei at the Accra High Court, hours after withdrawing an earlier case against him at the Achimota Circuit Court.

The new action, numbered GJ/0061/2027, concerns alleged defamatory statements Mr Adjei made on Peace FM, Mr Abaidoo said.

The earlier suit was withdrawn after engagements between the parties. Counsel for Osahen Afenyo-Markin informed the Achimota Circuit Court of the decision on Tuesday, which was confirmed by Mr Adjei’s lawyer, Gideon Koku Abotsi.

The presiding judge subsequently struck out the case as withdrawn. Mr Abaidoo, however, clarified that the withdrawal did not amount to an end to the legal action against Mr Adjei.

“Following the discontinuance of the suit of Osahen Alexander Afenyo-Markin against Mr Eric Adjei, Chief Executive of the National Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (NEIP) at the Achimota Circuit Court this morning, a fresh writ, Suit No. GJ/0061/2027, has been filed at the Accra High Court this afternoon on the substantive matter of defamatory statements made by Mr Adjei on Peace FM,” the statement said.

Speaking after the proceedings, Mr Abotsi said the withdrawal of the earlier case followed an appeal by the High Court judge for the parties to resolve their differences amicably outside court.

The dispute between Osahen Afenyo-Markin and Mr Adjei arose after the NEIP CEO repeated allegations of extortion against the Minority Leader, following Osahen Afenyo-Markin’s criticism of GoldBod and Mr Gyamfi over the Domestic Gold Purchase Programme.

The fresh filings mean Osahen Afenyo-Markin is pursuing substantive defamation claims against both Mr Gyamfi and Mr Adjei despite the earlier cases being set aside or withdrawn.



GoldBod reforms create 4,866 direct jobs in less than two years — Sammy Gyamfi



GoldBod CEO, Sammy Gyamfi

The Ghana Gold Board says its institutional, licensing and value-addition reforms have created 4,866 direct jobs in less than two years, as the country seeks to expand local participation in the gold value chain.

Chief Executive Officer of GoldBod, Sammy Gyamfi, disclosed this while delivering a keynote address at the African Minerals Policy Forum, Mining in Motion 2026.

He said the jobs comprised 361 public-sector positions and 4,505 private-sector jobs, with additional indirect employment opportunities emerging across the mining, processing, refining and trading sectors.

Mr Gyamfi said the reforms were designed not only to improve gold-trade regulation and increase foreign-exchange inflows but also to ensure that more Ghanaians participate meaningfully in the industry.

He noted that opportunities were opening up for artisanal smelters, jewellers and young entrepreneurs, arguing that mineral wealth must translate into decent employment and productive livelihoods for the country's growing youth population.

According to him, Africa's mineral economy must move beyond extracting and exporting raw materials to developing indigenous businesses capable of providing equipment, financing, technology, processing and other services across the value chain.

He said mineral sovereignty would remain incomplete if the highest-value activities in the industry continued to be controlled outside the continent.

As part of efforts to expand Ghanaian participation, GoldBod is also working with the Ghana Geological Survey Authority to undertake geological investigations in mineralised areas, including Funsi in the Upper West Region and Bensere in the Ashanti Region.

The studies are expected to reduce investment risks, attract credible investors and help Ghana secure stronger equity interests in mines developed from the identified deposits.

Mr Gyamfi said the approach could help the country move beyond dependence on free-carried interests and royalties towards greater ownership of sustainable mining operations.

He also announced plans for GoldBod to roll out an Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining Formalisation and Financing Support Programme in 2027, in collaboration with the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources and the University of Mines and Technology, with technical support from South Africa's Rand Refinery.

The programme is intended to improve production, reduce operational costs and environmental degradation, and create more sustainable opportunities for small-scale miners.

Mr Gyamfi said regulation must be firm but practical and inclusive, making compliance a pathway to opportunity rather than hardship.

PETROLEUM PRICE INDICATORS

(As of 16th October, 2026)

	AVERAGE FOB PRICES FOR THE PERIOD 16TH OCTOBER 2026 (27TH SEPTEMBER - 11TH OCTOBER 2026 AVERAGES) WINDOW	AVERAGE ESTIMATED FOB PRICES EFFECTIVE 1ST NOVEMBER 2026 (12TH - 26TH OCTOBER 2026 AVERAGES)	% CHANGE
FX Rate (Commercial Banks Average) (USD/GHS)	11.8222	11.7608	0.52%
Crude Oil (USD/BBL)	126.73	121.31	-4.28%
Petrol (USD/MT)	1,255.05	1,208.80	-3.69%
Gasoil (USD/MT)	1,414.78	1,438.16	1.65%
LPG (USD/MT)	839.50	955.95	18.64%
Jet/Kerosene (USD/MT)	1,568.88	1,615.09	2.95%
Fuel Oil (USD/MT)	614.55	657.59	7.00%
Products figures represent the FOB Prices used in the Price Build-Up (PBU)			

Note: "Brent touched $110 a barrel for the first time since May on worries that escalating tensions in the Middle East could further tighten supplies, while investors assessed how much diesel Russia could supply to the global market." - **Reuters**

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national petroleum authority

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'No fresh applicants in 2027 until existing pool exhausted' – Muntaka on security services recruitment

The Minister for the Interior, Muntaka Mubarak Mohammed, has announced that the government will not open recruitment portals for fresh applicants into the security services next year until previously successful applicants have been recruited.

He said the government would continue recruiting from the pool of applicants who had completed the required screening and medical examinations but could not be admitted because of limited spaces and financial constraints.

The minister made this known when he appeared before Parliament's Public Accounts Committee on Tuesday, October 20, assuring affected applicants that they would be considered in subsequent recruitment phases without having to repeat the entire application process.

"Next year, there will be no new applicant. We are not going to open the portal based on the President's instruction. We are not going to open a portal for new fresh applicants," he said.

The Minister explained that the recruitment exercise had been staggered because the government could not absorb all qualified applicants at once, despite the staffing needs of the security agencies.

He cited the Ghana Police Service as an example, saying the service required between 70,000 and 80,000 officers to operate effectively but currently had about 50,000.

The minister said the first phase of recruitment had clearance to admit 10,000 people, with subsequent batches expected to be drawn from the existing pool of successful applicants.

He added that some applicants might be required to undergo fresh medical examinations if their previous results were more than six months or a year old.

"We will keep picking from the list until we exhaust it before another application will be allowed," he assured the applicants.



Minister for the Interior, Muntaka Mubarak Mohammed

Prisons Director-General explains why ex-inmates are likely to return

The Director-General of the Ghana Prisons Service, Patience Baffoe-Bonnie, has proposed creating employment opportunities in factories for discharged prisoners to help prevent commiting further offences.

She said many former inmates struggle to adjust to life outside prison because they lose access to basic necessities and lack the family support and financial means to survive.

Speaking at Parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC) on Tuesday, October 20, she suggested linking prison industries to employment opportunities that would allow former inmates to earn a living after their release.

Mrs Baffoe-Bonnie explained that some discharged prisoners return to criminal activities because the difficulties they encounter outside prison make reintegration challenging.

"It has been proven that inmates are likely to return within the first three months of discharge," she said.

She noted that although prison conditions might be difficult, inmates have access to basic provisions such as food, water and sanitation, unlike some former prisoners who struggle to meet these needs after their release.

According to her, some former inmates also face rejection from their families and may be drawn back into criminal activities by friends who offer them money for unlawful acts.

To address the problem, the Prisons Service is proposing that factories established under the government's 24-hour economy programme should provide employment opportunities for inmates and discharged prisoners.

She added that the proposed arrangement would allow former inmates to return to work in the factories while living in their communities, helping them rebuild their lives and reduce the risk of returning to crime.



Director-General of Ghana Prisons Service, Patience Baffoe-Bonnie

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Minerals Commission denies Alfred Mahama's hand in Narawa Licence revocation

Director of Mineral Titles at the Minerals Commission, Frank Asare, has urged the public to disregard allegations that businessman, Alfred Mahama, influenced the revocation of Narawa's mining licence and the subsequent takeover of the concession.

He further noted that CMS-PRO and AA Southern Industries, the companies seeking to operate the Nsuapemso mining concession previously held by Narawa Company Limited, have no links to Mr. Alfred Mahama.

Speaking in an interview with Kwame Nkrumah Tikesia on Okay FM's Ade Akye Abia last Friday, Mr. Asare said that the revocation was based on regulatory and financial compliance issues involving the former owners as well as the company's failure to settle its outstanding obligations within the stipulated period.

According to the Minerals Commission, Narawa was given 120 days to settle approximately US$990,000 in outstanding annual mineral rights payments after receiving formal notice in March 2025.

Mr. Asare mentioned that the deadline reportedly expired in July 2025 without the required payment, leading to further action that resulted in the revocation of the licence.

According to him, Narawa was served with a notice in March 2025 under Section 68 of the Minerals and Mining Act, giving the company 120 days to settle its outstanding payments.

He said the deadline expired in July 2025 without payment, which resulted in further regulatory action and eventually led to the revocation of the licence in September 2025.

Mr. Asare added that the former Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Minerals Commission, Martin Ayisi, subsequently recommended to the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources that Narawa's licence should be revoked.

He mentioned that once a mining licence has been revoked, the former licence holder no longer has the right to operate under that licence, which paves the way for other companies to apply.

The Director of Mineral Titles further explained that mineral concessions belong to the state and that other companies may legally apply to operate a concession after the previous licence has been revoked, subject to the applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

He also clarified that any outstanding debts owed to the state remain the responsibility of Narawa Company Limited and would not automatically be transferred to companies seeking to operate the concession.

Mr. Asare added that the Minerals Commission would continue to consider applications for the concession unless the High Court issued an order directing the Commission to restore Nawara's rights.



Mining site

No more 'No Bed' excuse as Health Minister unveils real-time bed monitoring system

The Ministry of Health is introducing a real-time electronic bed management system to improve the coordination of hospital beds and help address Ghana's persistent "no bed syndrome".

The Minister of Health, Kwabena Mintah Akandoh, announced the initiative following a working visit to the Greater Accra Regional Hospital, where he was presented with a demonstration of the pilot system.

According to the Minister, the challenge is not necessarily a shortage of hospital beds but the lack of real-time information on available beds across healthcare facilities.

"There are instances where there will be empty beds elsewhere and they go to another facility and they say the place is full. It is just because we don't have visibility on the number of beds we have in the whole country," he explained.

Mr Akandoh said he had constituted a small committee to develop a centralised dashboard that would provide real-time information on bed availability across hospitals.

The dashboard, which is expected to be accessible from his office and other command centres, will also show how long patients have remained in emergency units.

"For example, if somebody goes there and they say there's no bed, I'll be able to confirm from these screens whether or not there are no beds, whether or not a patient has been at emergency for more than 24 hours," he said.

The Minister stressed that the system would not create additional physical beds but would improve the management and utilisation of existing capacity.

"This will not necessarily add physical beds but it will help us to manage what we have," he stressed, dismissing suggestions that the initiative had been presented as a solution that would physically increase the number of hospital beds.

Emergency facilities to be expanded

Mr Akandoh said the electronic system formed part of a broader set of measures being implemented to reduce delays in accessing emergency care.

He disclosed that the government was working to open up the emergency centre at the 37 Military Hospital while also expanding emergency units at major teaching hospitals, including Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital, Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital, Ridge Hospital and Tamale Teaching Hospital.

"There are reforms, expansions, using technology and all that to be able to deal with it, to minimize it so that at least if anybody is in an emergency situation, the probability of surviving becomes very, very high," he stated.

On the pilot programme, the Minister clarified that the system had not been operating for an extended period, explaining that the committee he established was still at the initial testing stage.

"I set up a small committee to look at this. This is the first time officially they are inviting me to come and see the work they have done," he said.

He said the facilities currently participating in the pilot include all teaching hospitals, the Greater Accra Regional Hospital and the University of Ghana Medical Centre (UGMC).

The system is expected to be expanded to all regional hospitals after the pilot phase and subsequently extended to district hospitals across the country.

Mr Akandoh commended the technical team working on the project and said the Ministry would pursue a rapid nationwide rollout once the initial testing had been successfully completed.



Minister of Health, Kwabena Mintah Akandoh

Police search for missing fishing canoe and seven crew members off Axim

The Ghana Police Service is coordinating a search for a missing fishing canoe, Second Chance, and its seven crew members after the vessel failed to return from a fishing expedition off Axim in the Western Region.

The canoe left the Sekondi Fishing Harbour on October 9, but its whereabouts remain unknown.

Preliminary investigations suggest that the vessel may have suffered engine failure and drifted towards Tema and the Volta coast, although its last known position has not been confirmed.

In a press release dated October 20, the Western Regional Police Command said the search involved the Ghana Navy, Ghana Maritime Authority (GMA), Fisheries Commission and fishing communities along the coast.

"The Western Regional Marine Police Command is working with the Ghana Navy, Ghana Maritime Authority (GMA), Fisheries Commission and fishing communities to locate a missing fishing canoe, Second Chance, and its seven crew members," the statement said.

The canoe's owner, Nana Kweku Atta, reported the disappearance at the Fishing Harbour Police Station in Sekondi on October 18, after repeated attempts to contact the crew proved unsuccessful.

The Western Naval Command, relevant coastal police stations, chief fishermen and the Eastern Naval Command in Tema have also been alerted to assist with the search.

The police said they were working with the relevant agencies to establish the canoe's last known position and locate the missing crew.

"Fishing communities along the coast have been urged to report any sightings or information about the canoe to the nearest police station," the statement added.



'You have no moral right to complain about cost of living' – Prof Anankware blasts Bawumia

The Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), Prof. Jacob Anankware, has accused former Vice President Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia of hypocrisy over his criticism of the cost of living under the current government.

Prof. Anankware argued that Dr. Bawumia, who led the Economic Management Team from 2017 to 2025, must also account for the economic difficulties Ghanaians faced during the previous New Patriotic Party (NPP) administration.

He said the former Vice President had previously urged Ghanaians to focus on economic indicators and digitalisation when concerns were raised about the impact of economic conditions on household finances.

Prof. Anankware cited the 54.1% inflation rate recorded in 2022 and the depreciation of the cedi during Dr. Bawumia's tenure, arguing that his current criticisms were inconsistent with the explanations he offered while in government.

"Bawumia is arguing against himself. Really? Yes. That president, he was merely arguing against himself and that is his biggest vulnerability," he said.

The EPA official also attributed some of the current economic challenges to policies introduced under the previous administration, including the Domestic Debt Exchange Programme and the conditions attached to Ghana's programme with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

According to him, the effects of those measures continued to weigh on households, making it necessary for Dr. Bawumia to account for his own economic record when assessing the current administration.

Prof. Anankware also challenged the former Vice President's argument that improvements in economic indicators had not translated into meaningful relief for ordinary Ghanaians.

He maintained that the decline in inflation to about 5% represented an improvement in economic conditions, although it did not mean prices would immediately fall.

"Low inflation does not necessarily mean that prices should fall. He should know better," Prof. Anankware said.

He explained that lower inflation meant prices were increasing at a slower rate than they did during the period of exceptionally high inflation under the previous administration.

Prof. Anankware further argued that the relative stability of the cedi had helped traders maintain more predictable prices for goods.

To illustrate his point, he recounted an encounter with a trader in Kumasi who reportedly told him that the price of pepper had dropped from GH¢70 to GH¢50.

He said such experiences suggested that some consumers were beginning to feel the benefits of improving economic conditions.

The EPA deputy CEO challenged Dr. Bawumia to explain how he would reduce utility bills and other household expenses without reversing the gains made in lowering inflation.

"If he ever gets the nod, not God forbid, and inflation goes back to 54%, and people tell him the pocket is okay, will he say that he has managed the economy?" he asked.

Prof. Anankware concluded that Dr. Bawumia's criticism of the current cost of living was at odds with the economic explanations he gave during his time as Vice President.





Asantehene endorses Mahama's reset agenda, backs local mineral processing

The Asantehene, Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, has thrown his support behind President John Dramani Mahama's reset agenda, particularly its emphasis on processing Ghana's mineral resources locally to drive economic transformation.

The Asantehene believes the policy direction offers Ghana an opportunity to retain more economic value from its natural resources instead of relying heavily on exports of raw minerals.

His position was conveyed by the Essumejahene, Nana Okyere Kusi Ntrama, who spoke on his behalf at the Mining in Motion conference on Monday, October 19.

He said the government's approach to mineral governance could help the country break the cycle of poverty by strengthening local processing and ensuring that more benefits from mineral extraction remain within the domestic economy.

According to him, the reset agenda, introduced shortly after President Mahama assumed office, places greater control over Ghana's mineral wealth and the development of local processing capacity at the centre of the government's economic ambitions.

Nana Okyere Kusi Ntrama added that the emphasis on what Ghana produces from its minerals, rather than simply exporting them in their raw state, reflects a longstanding national aspiration to use natural resources to support industrial development.

"Over the past year, the controls of the new agenda have become whatever we make of the minerals in the ground and the government's mineral policies. Regardless of the controversies surrounding the Gold Board, there should be no doubt that the nature of the President's reset agenda takes us right back to the very foundation of our republic, when Dr. Kwame Nkrumah sought to harness our minerals and move to establish a gold refinery in Tarkwa," he said.

Despite the controversies surrounding the Ghana Gold Board (GoldBod), the Asantehene's representative maintained that the broader direction of the government's mineral policy remains significant to Ghana's economic future.

He said the current policy presents an opportunity for the country to build on the industrial vision associated with Ghana's first President, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, by expanding domestic value addition and maximising the economic benefits derived from its mineral resources.



Asantehene Otumfuo Osei Tutu II and President Mahama

GFA, Sports Ministry target November deadline to appoint new Black Stars coach

The Ghana Football Association (GFA) is targeting November 2026 to appoint a substantive head coach for the Black Stars following the departure of Carlos Queiroz.

GFA Communications Director Henry Asante Twum says the committee tasked with finding a successor is expected to conclude its work around the time Ghana completes its two Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifying matches against Somalia next month.

Kim Lars Björkegren, who coaches the Black Queens, has been appointed on an interim basis to lead the senior men's national team for the two fixtures.

The five-member committee recommended Björkegren for the temporary role, with Ibrahim Tanko and Godwin Attram serving as his assistants. Former Black Stars goalkeeper Fatawu Dauda will continue as goalkeepers' trainer.

Speaking to Luv FM, Asante Twum said the GFA expects clarity on the appointment after the Somalia matches.

"They [the committee] want to get us a coach by November. In terms of actuals, I don't have, but I know by the end of the two games against Somalia, they will be in a position to tell who our coach is," he said.

However, Asante Twum stressed that the immediate priority is to revive Ghana's struggling AFCON qualifying campaign rather than focus on the coaching search.

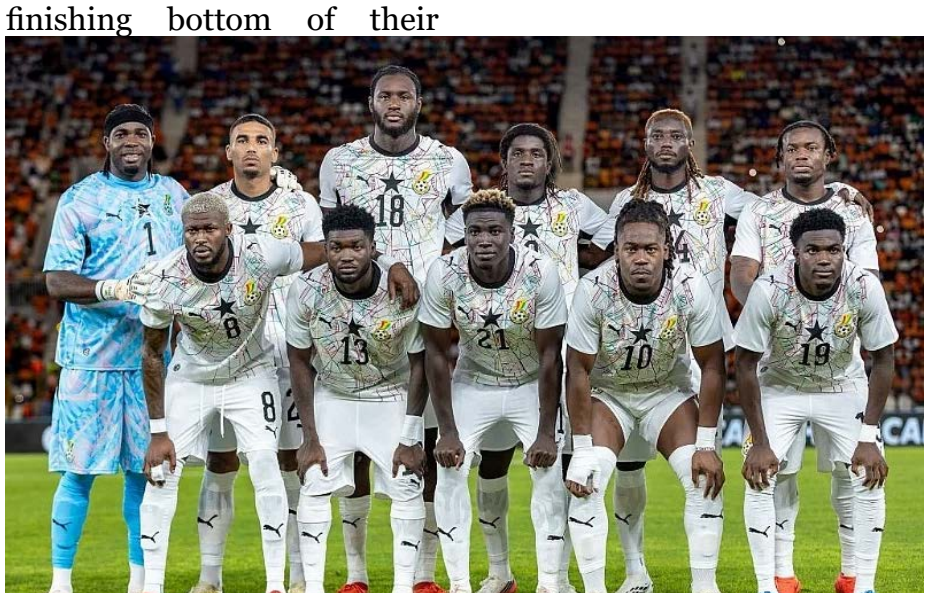
"The two games ahead of us are more important than any other subject. We need to get back on track and must get results in the next matches," he added.

The Black Stars are bottom of Group C without a point after losing their opening two qualifying matches against Ivory Coast and The Gambia.

Ghana will hope to secure maximum points from the back-to-back encounters with Somalia, with both matches expected to be played on home soil.

The four-time African champions missed the 2025 AFCON in Morocco after finishing bottom of their qualifying group, and they are under pressure to avoid another absence from the continental tournament.

With the search for a permanent coach ongoing, the November fixtures will provide Björkegren and his technical team with an immediate opportunity to help Ghana get their qualification campaign back on course.



Ghana Black Stars

‘I have received calls from football people’ – Andre Ayew on contesting for GFA presidency



Former Ghana captain Andre Ayew

Former Ghana captain Andre Ayew has played down speculation about a possible bid for the Ghana Football Association (GFA) presidency, insisting his immediate priority is to help improve football in the country.

Reports in the local media have suggested that the 2009 FIFA Under-20 World Cup winner could contest the GFA presidency in October 2027.

However, the 36-year-old forward has stressed that discussions about future leadership should not distract from the urgent need to address the challenges facing Ghana football.

Speaking on the Obi One Podcast, Ayew confirmed that he had received calls from football stakeholders following the emergence of the rumours but said his focus remained on the development of the game.

“Rumours? What I’m saying is that what’s important is what the people want, what the football people want. As you say, rumours. Yes, when the rumours started, I’ve been having phone calls from people or football people, etc,” he said.

The former Olympique Marseille, West Ham United and Swansea City player urged the current GFA administration to take immediate steps to improve the sport rather than allow speculation about its next leadership to dominate discussions.

“But that’s not what’s important today for me personally as Andre. You know, what I want is our football to grow. So who’s going to make it grow? It has to grow from those in power now. We have to start it now, not tomorrow,” he added.

Ayew, who has represented Ghana for approximately 17 years, said his experience under different football administrations had strengthened his desire to see lasting reforms across the country’s football system.

He maintained that questions about who should lead the GFA in the future should be addressed at the appropriate time, with the views of football stakeholders and the wider Ghanaian public taken into account.

“As a footballer, I’ve been in the national team for about 17 or 18 years, something like that. I’ve been under different administrations. Fix it so it changes now,” Ayew said.

“Later is the time for what we call the temperature. You know, temperature, time, people, what the football people want, what the people of the country want. That’s what’s going to happen. But as we speak now, I’m here for Ghana football.”

Beyond the speculation surrounding his own future, Ayew expressed a desire to work with other former players to help drive the development of Ghanaian football.

He believes several former footballers are willing to contribute their knowledge and experience but have not been given sufficient opportunities to influence the game.

Ayew said his journey through Colts football, Division One, the Under-20 national team and the senior Black Stars had given him a broad understanding of the challenges confronting the sport at different levels.

Now serving as a club chief executive, he believes he is well placed to contribute to efforts to improve the country’s football structures.

“Yes, my personal career, but I’m here for the country. I want to make things happen. A lot of former players want to make things happen. A lot of players want to make things happen, but a lot of them don’t have the chance for different reasons,” he said.

“As a player in Colts football in Ghana, playing in Division One, Under-20s, and Black Stars, I’ve been through it all. And now I’m a CEO of a club.”

2027 AFCON Qualifiers: Ghana FA explains Björkegren's appointment to lead interim Black Stars team for Somalia games

Ghana Football Association (GFA) Communications Director Henry Asante Twum has explained the criteria used to select Kim Lars Björkegren to lead the interim Black Stars technical team for the November 2026 international window.

The decision to appoint the Black Queens coach has attracted attention, given his existing responsibilities with Ghana's women's national team.

However, Asante Twum said the selection was guided by the need for continuity, experience in the Ghana Premier League and technical expertise within the country's national team structure.

"So, the first consideration was institutional memory and continuity. The second was to look within the Ghana Premier League.

"The third was to look at the national team structure, assess all our national teams and identify coaches handling them who had the competence and quality to join the technical team. They settled on Kim," he told TV3.

Björkegren's appointment comes after Ghana made a disappointing start to their 2027 Africa Cup of Nations qualifying campaign, losing their opening two Group C matches.

The Black Stars suffered a 2-0 defeat away to Côte d'Ivoire before losing 4-2 to The Gambia after taking a two-goal lead in their second match.

The results preceded the departure of head coach Carlos Queiroz, prompting the GFA to put interim arrangements in place while its search committee continues the process of identifying a substantive replacement.

Björkegren will work alongside Ibrahim Tanko and Godwin Attram, who have been appointed assistant coaches, while former Ghana goalkeeper Fatawu Dauda will serve as goalkeepers' coach.

The interim technical team has been assembled specifically for Ghana's November doubleheader against Somalia.

The arrangement is expected to give the coach search committee additional time to identify a permanent head coach ahead of the remaining fixtures in the qualifying campaign next year.

According to Asante Twum's explanation, the selection process was designed to combine continuity within Ghana's national team setup with familiarity with domestic football and the technical experience of coaches already working in the country.

The Black Stars, who are without a point after two games, are racing to return to the AFCON having missed out in the last edition of the tournament hosted in Morocco.



Kim Lars Björkegren

ENTERTAINMENT

'Medikal inspired me to abandon university plans after we missed our mathematics paper' – Fameye

Ghanaian musician Fameye has revealed that rapper Medikal inspired him to pursue music instead of university education after they both missed their mathematics examination.

Speaking in an interview with the Headless YouTuber, Fameye recalled meeting Medikal on the day of the examination and asking why he was not going to write the paper.

He said Medikal told him he had a performance with Criss Waddle on Music Music.

Fameye said he later entered the examination hall but left without writing the paper after becoming discouraged by the unwillingness of other students to help him.

"I made up an excuse that I wanted to visit the washroom and I ran away," he said.

He explained that missing the paper made him believe his chances of gaining university admission were slim, prompting him to focus on music.

Fameye, who initially wanted to become a rapper, said a senior in school later advised him to pursue singing because his voice was better suited to it.

He said Medikal's decision to pursue music encouraged him to believe he could also succeed without a university education.

"If Medikal could do it, then I could also do it," he said.

Fameye added that Medikal later encouraged him to remain patient and work hard when he contacted him on Facebook.

He said the rapper's words inspired him to view other musicians' success as motivation rather than a reason for envy.

Fameye stressed that he was not blaming Medikal for his decision but acknowledged the rapper's influence on his career path.



Court grants Ohemaa Dynamite GH¢1million bail for allegedly stealing GH¢1.5 million from Obinim's safe

The Adenta Circuit Court has granted Ghanaian media personality Ohemaa Dynamite bail in the sum of GH¢1 million over an alleged theft involving GH¢1.5 million reportedly taken from the safe of Bishop Daniel Obinim.

Ohemaa Dynamite, 22, whose legal name is Ohemaa Serwaa Abigail Owusu Ansah, was granted bail with two sureties to be justified.

The alleged incident was reportedly uncovered on October 15, 2026, prompting investigations into the circumstances surrounding the disappearance of the money.

According to reports, Ohemaa Dynamite had visited Bishop Obinim's residence for a live session and was subsequently left at the house by the preacher. Subsequent reports claim that she told police she had conspired with other individuals to steal the money.

She was later taken to the Cantonments Police Station in connection with the alleged theft. The case has been adjourned to October 28, 2026, for further proceedings.

The allegations have attracted public attention, particularly because of reported links between Ohemaa Dynamite and Prophet Ogyaba, founder of the Holiness of Christ Zion Ministry.

The court is yet to determine the allegations against Ohemaa Dynamite.



Ohemaa Dynamite in court

How VIP's 'Ahomka Womu' conquered Nigeria and inspired Patience Ozokwor's own version

Long before African music became as accessible across borders as it is today, Ghanaian hiplife group VIP had Nigerians singing along to a song performed largely in Twi.

Their hit "Ahomka Womu" travelled beyond Ghana, found a home in Nigerian popular culture and became so familiar that Nollywood actress Patience Ozokwor, popularly known as Mama G, reworked its melody for her own song.

Released in 2003, "Ahomka Womu" became one of VIP's most successful records and a notable Ghanaian musical export.

Its popularity in Nigeria was a reminder that a song did not need to be performed in the listener's language to become a hit.

Nigerians embraced it at parties and on radio, while its influence eventually extended into the country's entertainment industry.

How a Ghanaian hit found a home in Nollywood

One of the clearest illustrations of "Ahomka Womu's" Nigerian appeal came through Patience Ozokwor, the veteran actress widely known as Mama G.

Rather than simply sing the Ghanaian song, Ozokwor reworked its melody for "Make We Jolly", a song featuring fellow Nollywood stars Tonto Dike and Charles Awurum.

Her version blended English with Igbo, adapting the familiar musical idea for a Nigerian audience.

The connection between the two songs was later highlighted by The Native, which described Ozokwor's "Make We Jolly" as a reworking of VIP's 2003 classic.

From Nigerian movies to singing competitions

The song's influence also became part of the wider nostalgia surrounding Ghanaian music's popularity in Nigeria during the early 2000s.

At a time when Nigerian movies were making significant inroads into Ghanaian popular culture, old highlife classics and contemporary hits such as VIP's "Ahomka Womu" could be heard featuring in many of these productions.

The popularity of VIP's "Ahomka Womu" in Nigeria was evident on MTN Project Fame West Africa.

In September 2016, contestant Gabriel performed the Ghanaian hiplife hit during an elimination show, with fellow contestants joining him on stage to sing along.

Such moments also challenge the assumption that language is always a barrier to musical success.

Why 'Ahomka Womu' mattered for Ghanaian music

VIP's success in Nigeria came at a time when Ghanaian hiplife was building a stronger presence beyond the country's borders.

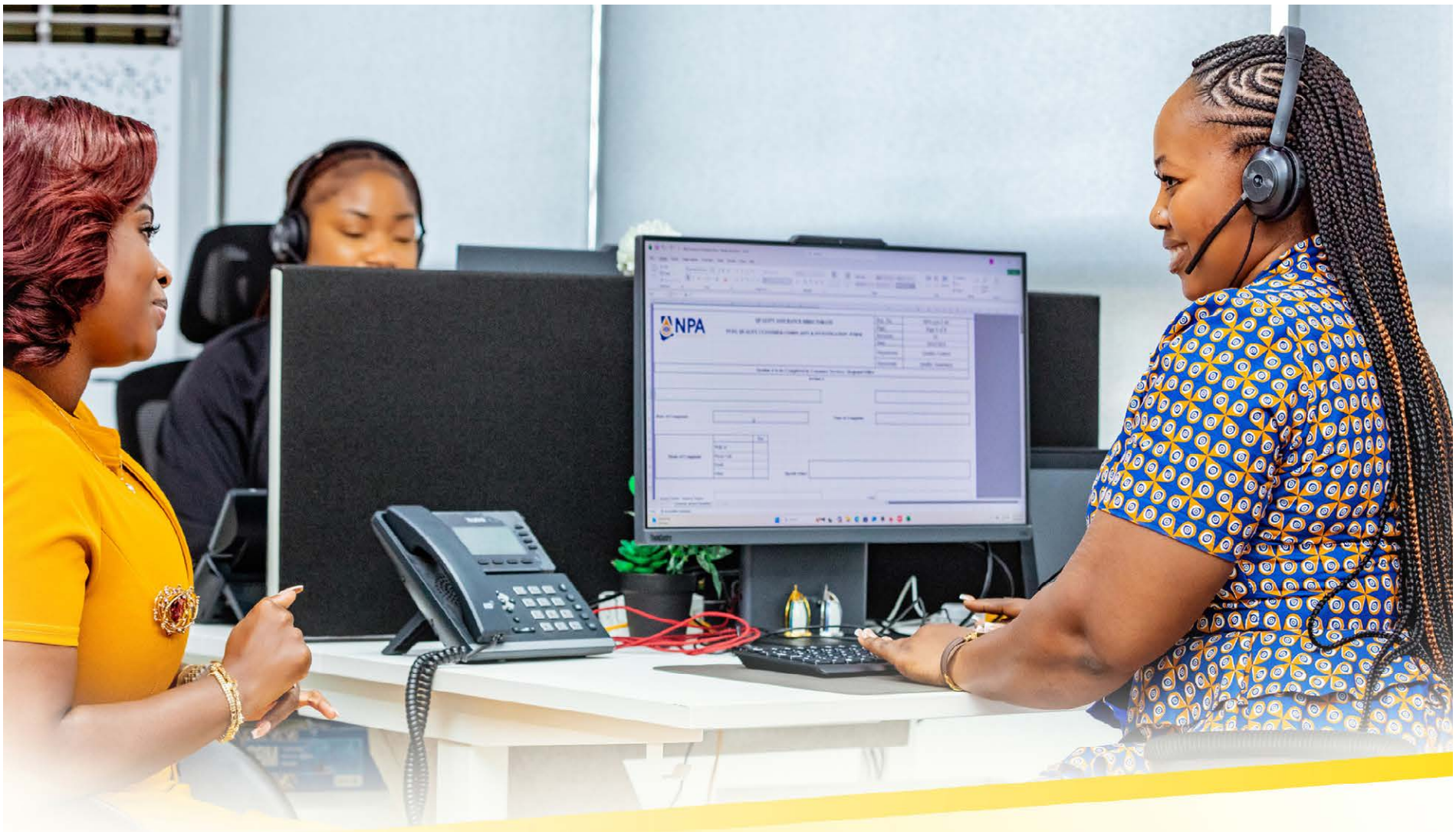
The success of "Ahomka Womu" was significant enough that the group signed with Nigerian label Kennis Music, which was associated with major Nigerian acts including 2Baba, Tony Tetuila and Eedris Abdulkareem.

Years later, the influence of "Ahomka Womu" continued to surface in other Nigerian music.

Wizkid's 2017 song "Manya", for example, drew comparisons to the familiar VIP hit, while D Jay's 2021 "Yawa" remix incorporated elements of older Ghanaian and Nigerian classics.

These connections show how the song's musical legacy extended beyond its original release.





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