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‘Our ports’ growth depended on collaboration across maritime, logistics value chain’ — GPHA boss



Director-General of GPHA, Major-General Paul Seidu Tanye-Kulono

The Director-General of the Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority (GPHA), Major-General Paul Seidu Tanye-Kulono, has underscored the importance of collaboration among stakeholders in the maritime and logistics sectors, saying their collective efforts have been central to the growth of Ghana’s ports.

He said the Authority’s progress over the past 40 years had been sustained by partnerships involving government, regulatory agencies, terminal operators, shipping lines, freight forwarders, transport operators, customers and other industry players.

Major-General Tanye-Kulono made the remarks in his welcome address at the GPHA’s 40th Anniversary Dinner and Awards Night, where he acknowledged the contributions of stakeholders to the development of the institution.

“The growth of our ports has always depended on collaboration across the maritime and logistics value chain. Your confidence in the Authority, your willingness to work with us and your continued support have been instrumental in advancing our shared objectives,” he said.

He noted that the performance of the ports was closely connected to the success of the businesses, institutions and communities that depended on their operations, stressing the need to sustain relationships across the industry.

The Director-General also paid tribute to former Directors of the Authority, recognising their leadership and the role they played in shaping its direction and development over the years.

He expressed appreciation to past and present sector ministers, members of the Governing Board and industry partners for their support, describing the Authority’s 40-year journey as a collective achievement built on hard work, bold initiatives and shared sacrifices.

Major-General Tanye-Kulono further commended past and present employees for their dedication, saying their commitment had helped sustain operations, strengthen the GPHA’s reputation and improve its ability to serve customers and contribute to national development.

He said the anniversary celebration was also an opportunity to recognise individuals and organisations whose contributions had supported the growth of the maritime industry.

Congratulating award recipients, he said the honours reflected the Authority’s appreciation for excellence and the partnerships that had contributed to its progress.

He encouraged the recipients to continue pursuing high standards, strengthening cooperation and making meaningful contributions to the industry, while reminding other stakeholders that the development of the ports depended on the efforts of many.

According to him, professionalism, improved service delivery and effective partnerships remained important to the sector’s continued advancement.

Looking to the future, the GPHA boss said the Authority must build on the foundations laid by previous generations, embrace new ideas and adopt better ways of working to become stronger, more competitive and better equipped to serve future generations.

He called for a collective commitment to ensuring that the next phase of the Authority’s development delivered greater innovation, stronger partnerships and improved efficiency.

Major-General Tanye-Kulono expressed gratitude to guests for attending the anniversary event, saying their presence demonstrated the enduring relationships that united stakeholders across the maritime industry.

He expressed hope that the next 40 years would see the GPHA make an even greater contribution to Ghana’s economic development and the prosperity of its West African neighbours.

Ghana targets 70% local fuel supply by 2028 — MD



Managing Director of TOR, Mr Edmond Kombat

Ghana is targeting to meet about 70 per cent of its national fuel demand through domestic refining by 2028 to reduce petroleum imports and strengthen energy security.

The target will be supported by plans to increase the Tema Oil Refinery's (TOR) processing capacity from its current nameplate capacity of 45,000 barrels per stream day to 100,000 barrels daily.

Mr Edmond Kombat, Managing Director of TOR, announced this at a Government Accountability Series on the refinery's operations and recovery programme.

He said the government also had a longer-term ambition to raise Ghana's total refining capacity to 200,000 barrels per stream day through the expansion of the existing refinery and the construction of a new facility.

"Our Restoration and Legacy Projects program for 2026 to 2029 looks further ahead. It proposes a brownfield expansion of the existing refinery from 45,000 to 85,000 barrels per stream day, and a new greenfield refinery with capacity of 115,000 barrels per stream day will bring the total to 200,000bpsd," he said.

Mr Kombat said the expansion programme formed part of a broader strategy to increase domestic value addition, improve the availability of refined petroleum products and strengthen Ghana's position in the regional petroleum supply chain.

TOR is currently processing about 28,000 barrels of crude oil daily, below its stated nameplate capacity of 45,000 barrels per day.

Mr Kombat said engineers from Verga Engineering were working with TOR's technical team to complete work on the F-61 crude heater, which was expected to increase throughput to between 45,000 and 55,000 barrels daily.

The refinery also planned to install a new air cooler to raise processing capacity to 60,000 barrels daily and replace its existing 6,500-barrel-per-day catalytic reformer with a 10,000-barrel-per-day continuous catalytic reformer. Work was also continuing on the Residue Fluid Catalytic Cracking (RFCC) unit and the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system to improve operations.

Mr Kombat said the government had directed the Minister of Energy to work with TOR's Board and management to develop a strategic roadmap for increasing processing capacity to 100,000 barrels daily, with a longer-term target of 200,000 barrels.

He said management was also advancing plans for a new refinery with a proposed capacity of 100,000 barrels per day, alongside petrochemical facilities and additional storage infrastructure.

The projects would be pursued with strategic partners and in compliance with environmental requirements, he said.

Mr Kombat said restoring TOR's operations was critical to energy security, as increased domestic refining could reduce the volume of finished petroleum products Ghana imported.

Refining Ghanaian crude locally would also retain more value in the economy by strengthening linkages among the upstream, midstream and downstream segments of the petroleum industry.

Mr Kombat cited TOR's receipt of Ghanaian Jubilee crude in July 2026 and a 950,000-barrel cargo of Sankofa crude in September 2026 as part of efforts to support domestic refining.

He said TOR resumed crude processing on December 19, 2025, following turnaround maintenance on its Crude Distillation Unit, which had been out of operation since April 2021.

Mr Kombat said the recovery programme was intended to restore the refinery's operational capacity, improve its financial position and establish a foundation for long-term commercial sustainability.

He acknowledged, however, that more work was needed to increase throughput and address the refinery's legacy financial obligations.

Lands Minister joins vexed soldiers in galamsey fight, grabs 3 in Atewa forest



Three persons have been arrested in the Atewa Forest Reserve in the Eastern Region as the National Anti-Illegal Mining Operations Secretariat (NAIMOS) intensifies the fight against galamsey under Operation Green Shield, a military-backed initiative aimed at flushing out illegal miners and protecting the country's threatened forest reserves.

The operation, conducted on Tuesday October 27,2026 is expected to combine targeted enforcement with a sustained security presence to prevent illegal miners from returning to the reserve after their activities have been disrupted.

The Lands Minister, Emmanuel Armah Kofi Buah speaking during the operation, described the destruction of Ghana's forest reserves as a national emergency, warning that the pursuit of personal wealth by illegal miners was putting the country's environment, water resources and future generations at risk.

"We are at war with bad people who have decided that they will make money so that all of us will die," he declared.
The minister disclosed that 44 of Ghana's 288 forest reserves had been affected by illegal mining, with approximately 8,900 hectares destroyed, an area equivalent to 12,500 football fields.

He said the country faces a daunting financial burden in reclaiming the degraded forest reserves, with restoration costs running into billions of dollars.

Despite measures to restrict the entry of excavators into forest reserves, the minister said illegal miners continued to devise new methods to destroy the environment, including a practice locally described as "one leg" mining.
He disclosed that authorities had seized and spread over 6,000 excavators, while strengthening controls on their movement to curb their use in illegal mining operations.

As part of the new offensive, the minister said the government, with support from the Ghana Armed Forces, would establish a camp within the Atewa Forest to sustain operations and prevent renewed encroachment.

He commended the security personnel involved and urged them to remain resolute, insisting that the government would not relent in its efforts to protect the country's natural resources.

Director of Operations at NAIMOS, Colonel K. S. Appiah, said Operation Green Shield would follow a strategy of disrupting illegal mining activities, clearing affected areas, maintaining a security presence and eventually handing over responsibility to the Forestry Commission.

"The mission is to disrupt, clear and hold and transition," he explained, adding that the operation would continue as security teams identify and tackle illegal mining activities in other areas.

Under the transition phase, the Forestry Commission is expected to establish forest guards in Atewa to maintain protection after the initial enforcement operations.

The Lands Minister also warned chiefs and metropolitan, municipal and district chief executives against turning a blind eye to illegal mining in their jurisdictions, insisting that local authorities must share responsibility for protecting the environment.

He said the government intended to strengthen accountability through proposed legislative changes, particularly regarding the roles of traditional authorities and local officials in mining-related processes.
The minister further urged the public to stop politicising the galamsey menace, warning that its consequences extend beyond environmental degradation to public health and the security of future generations.

Atewa Forest is an important ecological asset and watershed supporting the Birim, Ayensu and Densu river systems. Its protection is therefore critical to safeguarding biodiversity and water resources for surrounding communities.



Suspected drug traffickers divert proceeds into skylines, hotels and real estate — NACOC Boss



Director-General of NACOC, Brigadier General Maxwell Obuaba Mantey

Ghana's fast-changing skyline and growing vertical development could be concealing investments financed by proceeds from narcotics trafficking, as the Director-General of the Narcotics Control Commission (NACOC), Brigadier General Maxwell Obuaba Mantey, has disclosed that suspected drug traffickers own hotels and real estate properties.

Appearing before Parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC), he said the suspects employed sophisticated methods to conceal their wealth, making it difficult for law enforcement agencies to confiscate assets suspected to have been acquired through drug trafficking.

"These guys are very smart. They are not like murderers, or they are not like common thieves. We've arrested people who are in our custody. They have hotels, they have estates, but the cases are still pending," he told the committee.

Court Cases Stall Asset Recovery

Brigadier General Mantey said NACOC had encountered difficulties accessing confiscated assets because of prolonged legal proceedings, including appeals filed by affected parties.

He cited a case in which the Commission secured a court ruling concerning confiscated assets, only for an appeal to be filed shortly before the deadline expired, effectively halting the process.

He added that money held in accounts as confiscated cash remained inaccessible while the relevant legal processes were unresolved. "We have monies in accounts in the name of confiscated cash. You cannot touch it," he said.

The NACOC boss expressed optimism that specialised courts would accelerate the prosecution of narcotics-related cases and enable the Commission to recover assets more efficiently.

He argued that delays in concluding prosecutions were undermining the Commission's ability to generate revenue from confiscated properties and funds.

PAC Questions GH¢1.1m Revenue

The disclosure came as the committee examined NACOC's financial performance for the 2024 financial year. PAC Chairperson, Abena Osei-Asare, questioned why the Commission generated only GH¢1.1 million under other income, despite its mandate to combat narcotics trafficking and recover assets linked to illicit activities.

The figures presented to the committee showed that NACOC recorded total revenue of approximately GH¢180.95 million, comprising GH¢179 million in government subvention, GH¢598,000 in internally generated funds (IGF) and GH¢1.1 million in other income.

Its expenditure stood at approximately GH¢180.9 million, leaving a marginal surplus.
Madam Osei-Asare expressed concern about the Commission's limited internally generated revenue and the proportion of its income consumed by expenditure, particularly compensation.

She urged NACOC to improve its financial performance while strengthening its efforts to combat drug trafficking.

Minister Explains Funding Constraints

Interior Minister Mohammed-Mubarak Muntaka attributed the Commission's financial challenges partly to operational constraints and delays in generating revenue from its activities.

He said NACOC's workforce was expected to reach approximately 2,500 following the addition of about 1,200 recruits undergoing training.

He also disclosed that efforts to generate revenue through licences for industrial cannabis cultivation had yielded limited results because of stringent regulatory requirements. Only about five licences had been issued at the time, despite numerous applications.

Other revenue sources include fees for precursor chemical licences, renewals and applications, as well as certain security-related services at airports and seaports.

On the recovery of confiscated assets, officials explained that under the Narcotics Control Commission Act, 2020 (Act 1019), proceeds are distributed among designated beneficiaries, with NACOC entitled to 50 per cent, the Consolidated Fund receiving 30 per cent and costs accounting for the remaining 20 per cent, according to the explanation presented to the committee.

However, the Commission's ability to benefit from such assets depends on the conclusion of the relevant legal proceedings.

Madam Osei-Asare urged NACOC to live up to its mandate and ensure that Ghana does not become a transit point for illicit drugs.

‘Ghana Airways will be back before I leave office’ — Ghana’s President



President John Dramani Mahama

President John Dramani Mahama has expressed confidence that Ghana Airways will return to the skies before the end of his tenure, as his administration pursues investments to modernise the country’s transport infrastructure.

The President made the statement on Tuesday, October 27, 2026, in Moscow after receiving an honorary doctorate from the Russian University of Transport (RUT), Russia’s premier transport university.

He said efforts are underway to revive the defunct Ghana Airways.

“And even as I speak, we are working on revamping our cherished national airline, which is the defunct Ghana Airways. And as I said, it’s my hope that before I leave office, we will have Ghana Airways back in the air,” he said.

President Mahama, who is the first sitting Head of State to receive an honorary doctorate from the 130-year-old institution, described transport infrastructure as a critical catalyst for national development.

“Transport systems are an important catalyst to development. And throughout history, the pace of progress of nations has been advanced by the great railways, the great highways, the shipping facilities, and aviation. In Ghana, we recognize this fact,” he said.

He said his administration had been investing in the modernisation of Ghana’s transport networks under the Big Push programme, including roads, ports, airports and railways.

“We have been investing our resources in modernizing our transportation networks. We’ve built new ports in Tema and have invested in expanding all our other existing port facilities. Under our Big Push program, we are reconstructing all our major road networks across the country,” he said.

According to the President, work is also underway to expand existing airports, construct three new regional airports and extend the country’s railway network, while new freight trains are being introduced.

The honorary doctorate was conferred during a ceremony at RUT’s grand auditorium, attended by members of the academic senate, Ghanaian officials, students and members of the diplomatic corps.

In its citation, the university praised President Mahama for his leadership and commitment to infrastructure and education.

The honour was one of two academic recognitions received by the President in Moscow on Tuesday. Earlier, he was conferred with an honorary doctorate by the Peoples’ Friendship University of Russia (RUDN), where he studied as a postgraduate student nearly 40 years ago.

President Mahama is in Moscow to participate in the 3rd Russia-Africa Summit, hosted by Russian President Vladimir Putin on October 28 and 29.

The summit is expected to bring together more than 30 African Heads of State, with discussions at the Economic and Humanitarian Forum focusing on trade, energy, infrastructure and other areas of cooperation.

During an open dialogue with students ahead of the RUT ceremony, President Mahama also disclosed that Ghana was exploring nuclear energy to support its industrialisation agenda.

He explained that the planned domestic processing of the country’s mineral resources would require significantly more electricity than Ghana currently generates.

“My dream is to translate the macroeconomic success into jobs and opportunities for the young people. How we set the stage for the country to industrialise. That’s my dream,” he told the students.

The President is expected to hold bilateral talks with President Putin and engage Russian businesses and state institutions on the sidelines of the summit.

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**

www.npa.gov.gh

national petroleum authority

national petroleum authority

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'You can't make money in journalism' — Speaker Bagbin

Speaker of Parliament Alban Bagbin has called for the establishment of formal conditions of service for journalists, arguing that the financial difficulties confronting many media organisations make it difficult for them to provide adequate support for their staff.

According to him, journalism serves an important public interest and should not be viewed solely as a commercial venture, even when media houses are privately owned.

"You can't make money in journalism. That's why all the print media and the rest are always struggling to survive," he said in an interview with Joy News.

Mr Bagbin said the financial challenges facing the media industry had resulted in several organisations relying on assistance from individuals and other benefactors to remain operational.

"If not because of the grace of charitable people, many of them by this time would have folded up," he said.

The Speaker disclosed that he had personally provided financial assistance to a number of media organisations, including some that had published critical reports about him.

He cited the case of Kenneth Agyei Kuranchie, journalist and publisher of the Daily Searchlight newspaper, whom he said he supported financially despite being subjected to criticism from the newspaper.

"I used to sponsor Kenneth Agyei Kuranchie, but you tongue-lash me," he said.

Mr Bagbin maintained that the persistent financial difficulties within the newspaper industry underscored the need for a structured framework that would help improve the welfare and conditions of service of journalists.

He said strengthening the welfare of media practitioners was important to sustaining journalism and ensuring that journalists could continue to perform their public-interest role effectively.



Speaker of Parliament Alban Bagbin

'There's no way Sammy Gyamfi will endorse galamsey' — GoldBod's Prince Minkah insists

The Ghana Gold Board (GoldBod) has defended its Chief Executive Officer, Sammy Gyamfi, against criticism over his comments on small-scale mining, insisting that he was explaining a formalisation process and not endorsing illegal mining.

The board's Head of Media Relations, Prince Minkah, said Mr Gyamfi's remarks had been made during an interactive session with miners who raised concerns about alleged harassment by authorities.

Speaking to Bernard Avle on Channel One TV's The Point of View on Monday, October 26, Mr Minkah said he witnessed the exchange and maintained that the CEO's comments had been taken out of context.

"I was at that very event, and I saw how matters played out. So there was an interactive session where questions were asked, and one of the concerns that the miners raised had to do with how they are being harassed," he said.

Mr Minkah explained that Mr Gyamfi was outlining the eligibility requirements for GoldBod's formalisation initiative, which seeks to provide a pathway for qualifying unlicensed artisanal and small-scale mining operators to enter the regulated system, subject to the law.

"The comment was in no way endorsing illegal mining. He was rather explaining the distinction between irresponsible mining that must not be tolerated and unlicensed artisanal and small-scale mining operations that may be considered for formalisation, subject to the law, site eligibility, regulatory screening, as well as the acquisition of the required permits and licences," he added.

He stressed that the initiative was designed to promote responsible mining and bring eligible operators into the formal regulatory framework, rather than legitimise unlawful activities.

"At the core of this particular programme is responsible mining and formalisation," he stated.

Mr Minkah also referred to Mr Gyamfi's remarks at the Mining in Motion conference, which he said demonstrated GoldBod's commitment to responsible mining practices and the sourcing of gold.

He argued that the board had a vested interest in ensuring that gold handled through its trading activities was responsibly sourced, warning that supplies obtained through irresponsible mining practices could undermine its operations.

"For an institution that is keen on responsible sourcing, there is no way you would have our CEO endorse an illegality," he said.

Mr Minkah maintained that GoldBod remained committed to responsible sourcing and the formalisation of eligible small-scale mining operations in compliance with the law.



Head of Media Relations at GoldBod, Prince Minkah

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NPA Boss champions regulatory convergence at OTL Africa Downstream Energy Week 2026

The Chief Executive of the National Petroleum Authority (NPA), Godwin Kudzo Edudzi Tameklo, joined industry leaders and experts at a high-level panel discussion on Regulatory Convergence in 'African Oil and Gas Markets' during the 20th edition of the OTL Africa Downstream Energy Week in Lagos, Nigeria.

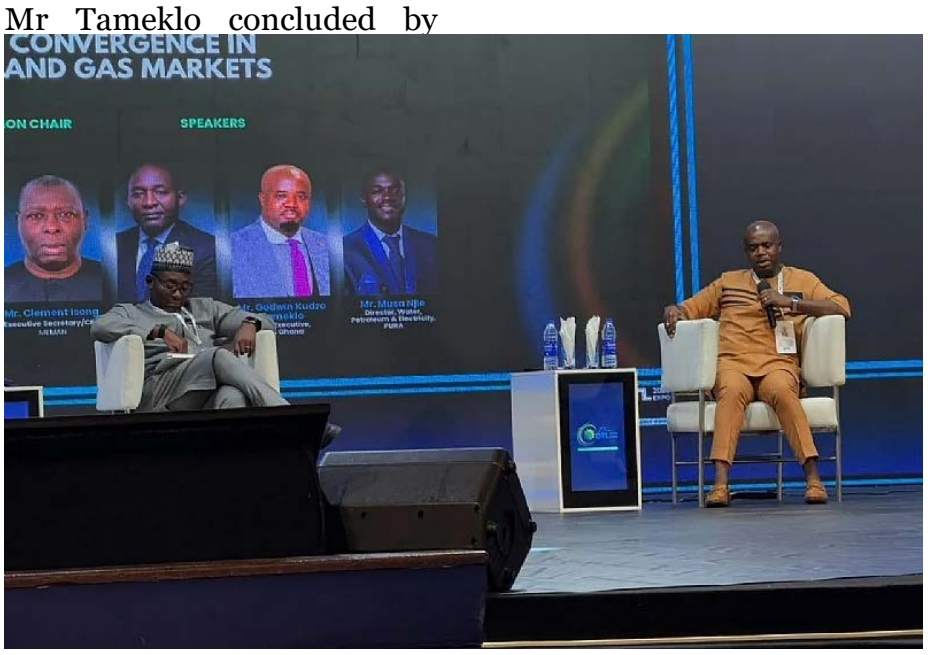
During the session, Mr Tameklo underscored the importance of regulatory harmonisation across African jurisdictions as a catalyst for investment, market efficiency, and sustainable growth for the continent's resilient energy sector. He emphasised that countries that maintain distinct national regulatory frameworks, greater alignment of standards, licensing requirements, and compliance procedures would significantly improve the ease of doing business and enhance investor confidence.

He further highlighted the need for strategic investments in refining infrastructure, technology, storage and human capital to maximise value addition within Africa's petroleum industry.

He added that, strengthening domestic refining capacity and promoting technology transfer are critical steps towards reducing dependence on imported petroleum products, improving energy security, and creating sustainable employment opportunities across the continent.

The NPA Chief Executive also advocated stronger collaboration among regulators, governments, and industry stakeholders to support cross-border energy projects, facilitate knowledge sharing, and establish common standards that advance regional integration. He noted that building capable institutions and a skilled workforce remains essential to positioning Africa's energy sector for long-term competitiveness and resilience.

Mr Tameklo concluded by stressing that, regulatory convergence should be viewed not merely as a compliance exercise but as a strategic tool to unlock investment, stimulate innovation, and accelerate the development of a more integrated and prosperous African energy market.



Chief Executive of NPA, Godwin Kudzo Edudzi Tameklo

'I still have feelings'-- Prisoner Wontumi sends errand boys to beg for sex

Mr Bernard Antwi Boasiako, popularly known as Chairman Wontumi, has reportedly called on Ghana's prison authorities to consider creating private facilities where married inmates can spend intimate time with their spouses during scheduled visits.

The proposal was disclosed by broadcast journalist Kwame Tanko of Lawson Media after he visited the former Ashanti Regional Chairman of the New Patriotic Party (NPP) at the Nsawam Medium Security Prison, where he is serving a prison sentence.

According to Mr Tanko, Chairman Wontumi argued that being incarcerated does not take away prisoners' emotional and biological needs and urged the authorities to explore ways of enabling married inmates to maintain intimacy with their spouses.

"Prisoners are human beings who still have natural feelings," was the central argument attributed to Mr Wontumi, who reportedly proposed the establishment of designated hostels or private cabins for conjugal visits.

He reportedly suggested that Ghana could draw lessons from jurisdictions where inmates are permitted to have private time with their spouses under regulated conditions.

Mr Wontumi also reportedly linked the proposal to concerns about alleged same-sex sexual activity in prisons, arguing that allowing married inmates opportunities to maintain intimacy with their spouses could help address the issue.

Conjugal visits are not currently part of Ghana's standard prison visitation arrangements. Any move to introduce such a system would therefore require consideration of legal, security, operational and inmate welfare concerns.



Chairman Wontumi

‘Sammy Gyamfi spoke simple language, not PhD thesis’ — Franklin Cudjoe defends galamsey comments



Founding President of IMANI Africa, Franklin Cudjoe

The Founding President of IMANI Africa, Franklin Cudjoe, has defended Ghana Gold Board (GoldBod) Chief Executive Officer Sammy Gyamfi over his comments on formalising unlicensed artisanal and small-scale mining operations, popularly known as galamsey.

His defence follows public criticism of Sammy Gyamfi’s position that unlicensed miners operating outside prohibited and environmentally sensitive areas could qualify for formalisation under a government programme.

The controversy followed the circulation of a video excerpt of Mr Gyamfi’s remarks at a mining engagement at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) in March 2026.

Some civil society organisations have criticised the position, arguing that mining outside protected areas does not automatically make an operation legal.

However, in a social media post on Monday, October 26, the policy analyst urged critics to understand the substance of Sammy Gyamfi’s argument rather than overcomplicate it.

“Stop overthinking. Sammy Gyamfi spoke simple language. This is not a PhD thesis!” he wrote.

Mr Cudjoe explained that formalisation involves transitioning informal or unlicensed miners into a regulated system with the necessary legal authorisations, environmental safeguards and monitoring.

He said the GoldBod CEO had identified three categories of mining that should not qualify for formalisation: operations that affect water bodies, mining within forest reserves, and mining in dangerous community locations such as roadsides and school lands.

According to Mr Cudjoe, operations outside these prohibited areas could proceed to the next stage of assessment for formalisation, subject to the applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

“If an operation is found in any of these zones, it is shut down permanently. If it operates outside these zones, it transitions to the next phase,” he stated.

Sammy Gyamfi has maintained that the government’s Responsible Cooperative Mining and Skills Development Programme (rCOMSDEP) is intended to transform eligible unlicensed miners into licensed and responsible operators.

He has also argued that formalisation offers a more sustainable approach than relying solely on security operations to pursue unlicensed miners.

Mahama backs Ethiopia's bid to host 2028 AFCON

Ghana President John Dramani Mahama has backed Ethiopia's bid to host the 2028 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON), describing the country as capable of staging a successful tournament.

Mahama made the remarks after inspecting the 52,000-capacity Bahir Dar Stadium, which has received certification from the Confederation of African Football (CAF).

The inspection was attended by Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and other African leaders participating in the 12th Tana High-Level Forum on Security in Africa.

"This is a very impressive stadium, a 52,000-capacity stadium, and it's already CAF-certified," Mahama said during the inspection.

"We know that Ethiopia is bidding to host the 2028 Africa Cup of Nations. Ethiopia hasn't hosted it for a very long time, so I think it's only fair that they should be given the opportunity to do so," he added.

Ethiopia last hosted the AFCON in 1976 and is seeking to bring the continent's flagship football competition back to the country after more than five decades.

Earlier this month, CAF officials visited Ethiopia to inspect its facilities as part of the country's preparations for a potential hosting bid.

While Bahir Dar Stadium's CAF certification represents an important step, Ethiopia's overall bid will be assessed against the governing body's requirements for hosting the tournament.



President John Dramani Mahama kicks football at Bahir Dar Stadium

Kylian Mbappe loses two major China sponsorship deals over Mao Zedong joke

Kylian Mbappe was dropped Tuesday by two major brands in China after a video circulated online in which the French football star apparently joked about former leader Mao Zedong.

"Our company firmly opposes and has a zero-tolerance policy towards any behaviour that offends national sentiments," drinks giant Dongpeng said in a statement, adding that "with immediate effect we are terminating all cooperation with Kylian Mbappe."

Mengniu, China's largest dairy producer, also cut ties with the Real Madrid and France forward.

"With immediate effect our company is terminating all cooperation with Kylian Mbappe," Mengniu said in a statement.

"Mengniu firmly opposes and has a zero-tolerance policy towards any words or actions that hurt the feelings of the Chinese people," it added.

The announcements came after a video emerged online with Mbappe saying that the funniest internet meme he had seen was of his face photoshopped onto that of "some guy -- I think he's a Chinese dictator".

This was an apparent reference to a meme of Mbappe superimposed on an image of Mao, one of several using the footballer's face and other historical figures.

The authenticity of the video could not immediately be verified by AFP Fact Check.

"Dongpeng Beverage ends cooperation with Mbappe" was the top-trending topic on Chinese social media site Weibo.

The 27-year-old Mbappe lost out to Harry Kane for the Ballon d'Or on Monday.

Source: FRANCE 24 with AFP



Kylian Mbappe

2028 Olympic Games Qualifiers: We will do our best to beat Libya - Ghana coach Desmond Ofei



Black Meteors head coach Desmond Ofei

Black Meteors head coach Desmond Ofei is confident Ghana can overcome Libya in their bid to qualify for the men's football tournament at the 2028 Olympic Games.

Ghana will travel to Libya for the first leg of their second-round qualifying tie during the November 9-17 international window, with the return leg scheduled to take place in Ghana.

Ofei expressed confidence in his team's ability to progress, insisting that the players are determined to end the country's long absence from the Olympic Games.

Speaking to the media after watching Hearts of Oak beat Basake Holy Stars at the University of Ghana Stadium on Saturday, the coach backed his squad to deliver in the crucial encounter.

"100 per cent that we will qualify for the 2028 Olympic Games," Ofei said.

"I believe we can qualify because I feel the time is right, and it has been way too long. We are preparing well, and the boys are hungry to prove to the nation that there is a lot of talent in this country and that Ghana is one of the best footballing nations in Africa.

"It is up to us to show that, and as I said, the boys are hungry to prove themselves."

Ofei also stressed that the Black Meteors would give everything to secure victory against Libya and keep their Olympic qualification ambitions on course.

"I believe it will be a good show, and we will do everything in our power to beat Libya, and in March, we will take on any opponent, and we will be ready for that," he added.

Ghana are seeking to end a 24-year absence from the men's Olympic football tournament, having last competed at the 2004 Games in Athens, Greece.

The Black Meteors will need to negotiate the qualifying rounds successfully to secure a return to the Olympic stage in Los Angeles in 2028.

Social media 'see-finish' has killed musicians' mystique – Rudeboy

Nigerian renowned singer, Paul Okoye, popularly known as Rudeboy, says social media has eroded the mystique surrounding musicians, reducing the excitement fans once felt when seeing their favourite stars.

Speaking to Lun Lifestyle TV, the former P-Square member said constant online exposure had made artistes too accessible, diminishing their appeal.

"The reason you don't see people faint for artistes anymore is because they see them on TikTok every day dancing and promoting your music," he said.

He argued that social media has also affected the value of music videos, describing their production as a potential waste of money in today's digital era.

"Music videos somehow now, because of this generation, is a waste of money," he said.

While acknowledging social media's benefits, Rudeboy said excessive exposure had created "see-finish", with fans gaining access to details of artistes' private lives.

He recalled a time when musicians enjoyed greater privacy, contrasting the restricted VIP sections they occupied at nightclubs with today's culture of constant filming.

"Unfortunately, it's too late for us to bring back the era of artistes being mystiques," he said, questioning the pressure on musicians to post content daily.

Rudeboy rose to fame alongside his twin brother, Peter Okoye, as part of P-Square, one of Africa's most successful music duos.



Nigerian renowned singer, Rudeboy

I was raped in Ivory Coast – Mzbel

Ghanaian musician, Mzbel, has disclosed that she has been raped multiple times, including during her childhood, and recounted alleged sexual advances and assaults involving some religious leaders she trusted.

She made the revelation on UTV's United Showbiz on Saturday night during a discussion about allegations of rape against a school headmaster in Obuasi.

Mzbel said some victims of sexual abuse remain silent because they fear being blamed or labelled as bad children rather than receiving support.

"I am a victim of rape, and it wasn't once or twice," she said, explaining that her experiences dated back to when she was a child living in Ivory Coast with her mother.

According to her, her mother relocated the family to Ivory Coast in 1983 because of famine in Ghana. During their stay, she said, she was sexually assaulted by a Senegalese man at whose house they regularly watched television.

Mzbel said she was between nine and 11 years old at the time but did not report the incident because the man threatened to stop her from visiting his house to watch television.

"I was very young. I remember it so well," she said, adding that she feared she would be branded a liar if she reported the incident and the man denied it.

The musician also recounted other alleged sexual assaults, including incidents involving armed robbers, and said some religious leaders she trusted had attempted to abuse her, with some succeeding and others failing.

She explained that her childhood openness and willingness to speak freely did not mean she was a bad child, but that the environment in which she was raised discouraged victims from speaking about such experiences.

Mzbel said the fear of being judged often prevents victims from reporting sexual abuse, stressing the need to understand the challenges they face when deciding whether to speak out.

Her disclosure came amid public discussion of the rape allegations involving the Obuasi SHTS headmaster.



Ghanaian singer, Mzbel

MUSIGA criticises Shatta Wale for glorifying internet fraud



The Musicians Union of Ghana (MUSIGA) has cautioned musicians against making public statements that appear to glorify internet fraud, warning that their influence could encourage more young people to engage in criminal activities.

In a statement reportedly signed by its President, Bessa Simons, the Union said musicians had the right to comment on governance, unemployment, corruption and justice but must not use such concerns to justify unlawful conduct.

"No grievance against public institutions justifies statements that may appear to normalise fraud, portray suspected offenders as heroes, or discourage cooperation with lawful investigations," Myjoyonline quoted him as saying in the statement.

The warning follows comments by dancehall artiste Shatta Wale at ShattaFest in Accra on October 17, 2026, where he said he had friends involved in fraud but would not expose them.

"The country no good so if you go fraud, fraud," he said in Pidgin English, remarks that triggered public debate over the influence of celebrities on young people.

MUSIGA warned that cybercrime caused financial losses to victims, damaged Ghana's international reputation and threatened legitimate digital businesses.

It urged artistes to avoid statements, performances and social media posts that could be interpreted as promoting internet fraud, money laundering, romance scams, identity theft and other cyber-related offences.

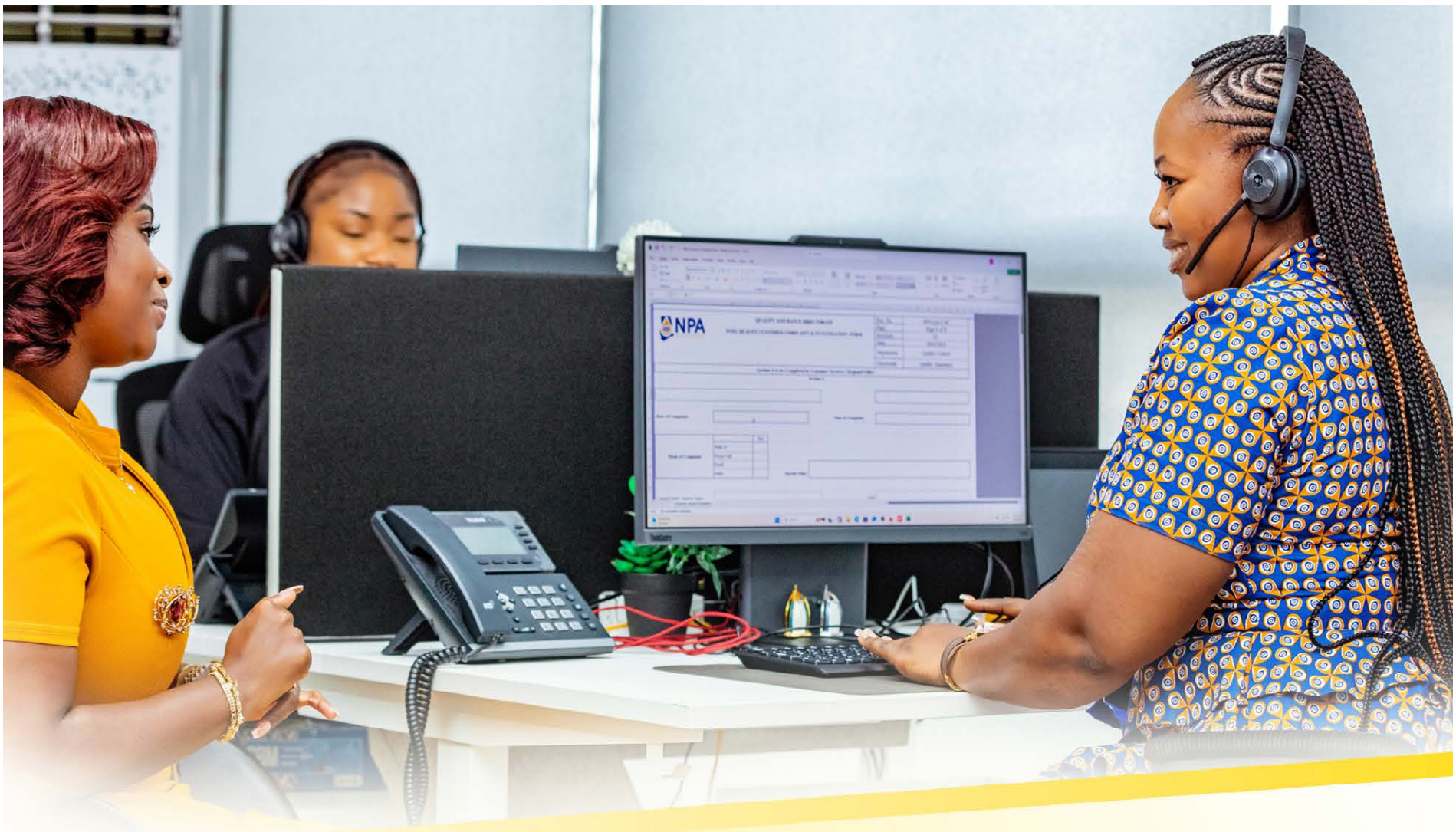
The Union encouraged musicians to use their platforms to advocate employment opportunities, digital-skills training, financial literacy and entrepreneurship as alternatives to criminal activities.

It also cautioned that comments appearing to encourage unlawful conduct could expose musicians to legal, professional and reputational consequences.

MUSIGA maintained that criticism of public institutions and calls for accountability were legitimate but should not be used to justify crime.

"Fame does not place them above the law, and artistic freedom does not include the freedom to encourage unlawful conduct," the statement added.

The Union reaffirmed its commitment to protecting musicians' rights and welfare, urging industry players to inspire young people to pursue success through lawful and productive means.



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