



Foreign Affairs Minister Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa

‘We want new friends who will treat us as equal partners’

- says Foreign Affairs Minister as Ghana joins BRICS

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Minority Leader Alexander Afenyo-Markin

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Demolished structures at La Pleasure Beach

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Chairman Wontumi

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‘I will not share NPP strategies with my twin brother Alhassan Abanga in NDC’ – Abanga Fusaini

Newly elected National Youth Organiser of the New Patriotic Party (NPP), Abanga Fusaini Yakubu, has dismissed suggestions that his close relationship with his twin brother, Hassan Abanga, could lead him to join the National Democratic Congress (NDC).

Hassan Abanga is a Vice Chairman of the NDC, while their mother is an NPP member and their father is affiliated with the NDC. Despite the political differences within the family, Mr Abanga said the situation had never compromised his allegiance to the NPP.

Speaking in an interview with Umaru Sanda Amadu on Tuesday, October 6, 2026, he said members of the family had agreed to respect each other’s political choices and avoid political discussions at family gatherings to prevent disagreements.

Mr Abanga also rejected any suggestion that he could share the NPP’s internal strategies or ideas with his twin brother or other members of the NDC.

“This is not possible. If somebody should come and tell you I will expose my political strategies and ideas to the NDC, it doesn’t make sense. I love the NPP, so whoever knows me can testify to my loyalty to the New Patriotic Party,” he said. He said his commitment to the NPP dated back to 2014, stressing that he had served the party without reservation over the years.

“I’ve spent the whole of 2014 to date serving the New Patriotic Party, wholeheartedly,” he said. The NPP National Youth Organiser-elect further ruled out the possibility of being persuaded by his twin brother to abandon the party, insisting that his political identity remained firmly rooted in the NPP.

“Excuse my words, not God, if you want me to use that word. Nobody. It’s NPP and NPP. And that is the NPP that I believe in,” he said.

He said he was convinced about the strength of the NPP and was focused on helping to build the party and advance its interests. “Obia b3didi’ brand is not a small

brand. It’s a very big brand; if I’m able to manage it well, one day the party people will lift me,” he said.

Mr Abanga secured the National Youth Organiser position in the NPP’s national executive elections held at the Baba Yara Sports Stadium in Kumasi on Saturday, October 3, 2026.

He won with 1,550 votes, defeating Clement Opoku Gyamfi, who obtained 631 votes, while Michael Osei Boateng polled 78, Vera Oye Bram-Larbi secured 44, Chris Lloyd Nii Kwei Asamoah received 46, and Alfred Kumi Ababio obtained 25 votes.



I’ll sue NPP if the constitutional amendment at delegates conference goes through—Chairman Butey warns

Outgone Acting National Chairman of the New Patriotic Party (NPP), Joseph Danquah Smith Butey, has threatened to take legal action against the party if amendments approved at its recent delegates conference are incorporated into the party’s constitution.

Chairman Butey said he would not endorse the amendments, insisting that he had already made it clear on the day of the conference that the NPP could not proceed with constitutional amendments.

According to him, he is prepared to face any disciplinary action from the party, including suspension or removal from office, as he believes his position is aimed at protecting the rights of NPP members.

“I am ready to be sacked or suspended. I am fighting for the rights of the people of the party, so they should do all they want. The party people

do not accept what happened on Saturday. There were no, but they said it was yes,” he said.

Chairman Butey further questioned the legitimacy of the process, arguing that the subsequent apology offered to him by some party members was an indication that they recognised that the procedure was flawed.

“If what they did on Saturday was right, they wouldn’t have called to apologise to me for what they did. Frank Davies and others came to apologise to me, but I said I wouldn’t accept this.

“I am the head of the party, and they were supposed to bring what they were going to do for me to have a look at. They did the same thing the other time, and that created a problem. This time around, too, they are doing the same thing, which is not right. They did not even let me look into what’s in the amendment until I got to the venue for the event,” he said. He maintained that he

expected the amendments not to be signed or formally added to the NPP’s constitution, warning that he would challenge the party in court if the changes were nevertheless incorporated.

The dispute centres on the

constitutional amendments presented during the NPP’s delegates conference, with Chairman Butey insisting that the process did not comply with the proper procedure.



Outgone Acting NPP National Chairman, Joseph Danquah Smith Butey

Minority runs to Christian Council over US\$1.7 bn GoldBod losses, galamsey and Baffour’s arrest



Minority NPP meets Christian Council of Ghana

The Minority in Parliament has taken its concerns about the economy, illegal mining and the treatment of opposition figures to the Christian Council of Ghana (CCG), urging the Council to use its moral authority on issues it says go beyond party politics.

Minority Leader Osahen Alexander Afenyo-Markin led a delegation of the caucus to meet the Council’s leadership in Accra on Tuesday. According to a statement he issued after the meeting, the engagement followed an invitation from the Council dated 3 September 2026. The invitation came amid public debate over the financial performance and governance of GoldBod.

The statement said the Council wanted to understand the Minority’s position and explore how transparency and accountability could be secured while protecting what it described as an important national economic asset.

GoldBod losses

Mr Afenyo-Markin said he restated the Minority’s concerns about the approximately US\$1.7 billion in reported losses linked to the Domestic Gold Purchase Programme. He pointed to the implications for the Bank of Ghana’s balance sheet and a possible recapitalisation burden on taxpayers.

The Minority called for transparent and independent reconciliation of the figures and the underlying

transactions. Galamsey and the economy

The Minority Leader also raised the continuing destruction of rivers, forests and farmlands by illegal mining, or galamsey. He argued that the problem can no longer be treated as only a mining or environmental issue. He said it affects public health, water and food security, livelihoods and the State’s ability to enforce its laws.

He urged the Council to keep backing calls for decisive and even-handed action, particularly against financiers, politically connected interests and organised networks behind illegal mining.

On the economy, he highlighted continuing hardship in households and youth unemployment in particular. He said economic recovery must translate into jobs and better living conditions, and warned that persistent exclusion of young people threatens social cohesion and national stability.

Baffour Awuah and “selective” prosecution

The Minority expressed what it called grave concern about the selective use of investigative and prosecutorial power against opposition figures.

Mr Afenyo-Markin referred specifically to the recent attempted arrest of the MP for Manhyia South, Nana Agyei Baffour Awuah, within the premises of the High Court in Accra. The Minority maintains the attempt did not respect constitutional and

parliamentary procedures. He also questioned the circumstances of a subsequent warrant obtained by the Economic and Organised Crime Office (EOCO). He further questioned the MP’s prolonged detention after he voluntarily presented himself to the Office.

“We seek no immunity from lawful investigation and will never defend impunity,” the statement said. It added that the Minority would remain peaceful and law-abiding but would not retreat from holding the Government accountable.

Constitutional reform and term limits

On constitutional reform, Mr Afenyo-Markin said the NPP supports necessary reforms. However, he said it has serious reservations about the Government’s approach. Those reservations include the scale of the proposed amendments and what he called a substantial departure from the recommendations of the Government’s own Constitution Review Committee.

The two sides also discussed pending Supreme Court proceedings on presidential term limits. The Minority Leader said that while respecting the Court’s independence and avoiding prejudging the cases, he stressed the importance of keeping effective constitutional limits on executive power.

National Cathedral

On the National Cathedral, the Minority noted the Government’s renewed

engagement with a project the NDC strongly criticised while in opposition. It encouraged the Council to help explore a transparent, Christian-led private financing model that would not add construction costs to taxpayers.

Other issues discussed included protecting children from social media harms, regulating artificial intelligence, narcotics trafficking, religious freedom and mission schools, and long-term national development planning.

Mr Afenyo-Markin also briefed the Council on the NPP’s recent National Delegates Conference. He asked for prayers for the party’s newly elected national officers and for all leaders, regardless of political affiliation.

Council’s response

According to the statement, the Council commended the Minority for pursuing its constitutional mandate despite its numbers in Parliament. The Council said the meeting was part of its wider engagement with institutional stakeholders. It said the issues raised would be referred, as appropriate, to relevant bodies within its Executive Council.

The Council delegation was chaired by Bishop Dr Lawson Adjei, a former Vice-Chairman and Executive Member of the CCG. He was joined by Acting General Secretary Dr Joyce Lako Steiner and other officials.

The Minority delegation included Second Deputy Minority Whip Jerry Ahmed Shaib, MP for Weiija-Gbawe, and MPs Daniel Nana Addo-Kenneth (Okere), Frank Asiedu Bekoe (Suhum), Emmanuel Tobbin (Anyaa-Sowutuom), Kennedy Osei Nyarko (Akim Swedru), Fred Kyei Asamoah (Offinso North), Francis Kwabena Owusu-Akyaw (Juaben) and Alexander Akwasi Acquah (Akim Oda). Former Yendi MP Farouk Aliu Mahama was also part of the delegation.

NPP executives are like lions being led by a goat – Odike

Founder and leader of the Union Government Movement, Akwasi Addai Odike has criticised the New Patriotic Party’s (NPP’s) newly elected national executives, describing them as “lions being led by a goat.”

The Ghanaian businessman and politician also said former Vice President Dr Mahamudu Bawumia is not capable of leading the NPP.

“The New Patriotic Party’s newly elected executives are like lions being led by a goat,” Odike said on Ezra FM/radio.

He described Bawumia as

a “liability” to the NPP and questioned whether he could help the party return to power.

“Dr Bawumia is a liability to the NPP; his demeanour can’t win them power,” he said.

Odike also accused the Bawumia of failing to properly criticise President John Dramani Mahama’s government.

“Dr Bawumia has failed to criticise Mahama’s government because of his incompetence,” he said.



Leader of Union Government Movement, Akwasi Addai Odike

‘I’m shocked NPP elected ex-convict Kojo Bamba as 1st Vice Chairman’ – Akwatia MP

The Member of Parliament for Akwatia, Bernard Bediako Baidoo, has questioned the eligibility of Kojo Fosu Boadu, popularly known as Kojo Bamba, to serve as the New Patriotic Party’s (NPP) First National Vice Chairman.

According to him, the NPP’s constitution contains provisions on the eligibility of members to contest and hold positions within the party, which he believes should have been considered before Mr Bamba was cleared to contest.

Mr Bamba emerged as the First National Vice Chairman at the NPP’s National Delegates Conference in Kumasi on Saturday, October 3, polling 3,116 votes to beat 12 other contenders.

“I’m so shocked how NPP got it wrong, because if you read Article Three of the Constitution, it talks about eligibility to hold an office within the party, and it escaped the NPP that this is a convict,” he said.

Kojo Bamba’s election has revived attention on his involvement with the Delta Force, a pro-NPP vigilante group that gained notoriety in

the Ashanti Region after the party’s 2016 election victory.

The Akwatia MP recalled that in April 2017, Kojo Bamba and 12 other members of the group pleaded guilty to escaping from lawful custody after they were freed from a Kumasi Circuit Court by supporters of the group.

They were each fined GH¢2,400, equivalent to 200 penalty units, and ordered to sign a six-month bond of good behaviour.

The Akwatia MP, citing that conviction, argued that the NPP should have examined the party’s constitutional provisions more closely before allowing Kojo Bamba to contest.

The NPP constitution available publicly provides that a member may be disqualified from holding office or contesting a party election if convicted or sentenced for certain offences, including offences involving dishonesty, fraud or moral turpitude, as well as offences punishable by death or a sentence of at least 10 years, subject to stated exceptions.

However, the discussion on Metro TV’s Good Morning Ghana became contentious when the issue of whether

Kojo Bamba’s conviction constituted a disqualification was raised.

2024 NPP partliametary candidateforDomeKwabenya, Mike Ocquaye Jr, who was

also on the show, argued that the offence for which Mr Bamba was convicted was a misdemeanor and did not fall within the categories of offences that automatically bar a person from contesting a party position.



Akwatia MP, Bernard Bediako Baidoo

‘Kojo Bamba can’t stop NDC’ – Gbande warns NPP against violence

Mustapha Gbande, Deputy General Secretary of the National Democratic Congress (NDC), has dismissed suggestions that Kojo Bamba’s election as First Vice Chairman of the New Patriotic Party (NPP) could intimidate the ruling NDC.

Gbande said the NDC has built a strong political structure and would not be intimidated by Bamba or anyone else.

Speaking on Asempa FM, he said the NDC is prepared for any political contest and would not sit back if the NPP chooses violence to return to power.

“If the NPP believes violence is the path back to power, the NDC should not be underestimated. We are not afraid of any election,” he said.

Gbande, however, said the NDC would continue to engage the electorate peacefully.

He also dismissed suggestions that Bamba’s new position could shield anyone from accountability, insisting that political office would not prevent the law from taking its course.

“If you have stolen money, you’ll

be arrested. Kojo Bamba cannot stop it,” he said.

Gbande said the NDC knows Bamba well and does not consider his election a reason for fear.

“He is one of our guys. He is our brother. We know Kojo Bamba,”

he said, urging the public not to overhype his election or see it as a reason to fear political violence. He also pointed to President John Dramani Mahama’s position that NDC members should not use violence against political opponents.

According to Gbande, Mahama has a good soul and has consistently discouraged NDC members from resorting to violence when dealing with their opponents.



‘Let’s not be too hard on civil Society groups who are still critical of us’ – Afenyo-Markin to NPP members

Minority Leader Alexander Afenyo-Markin has urged members of the New Patriotic Party (NPP) to adopt a more tolerant and inclusive approach towards individuals and groups that remain critical of the party.

Addressing delegates at the NPP’s National Delegates Conference in Kumasi, Mr Afenyo-Markin said the party’s efforts to return to power in 2028 must be anchored on humility, hard work and unity.

He cautioned party members against attacking their critics, arguing that the NPP could win back public confidence by demonstrating greater tolerance and inclusiveness.

“Let’s not attack our critics. They may have opposed and said unpalatable things about us in 2024. But we can win their hearts if we demonstrate tolerance and inclusiveness,” he said.

Mr Afenyo-Markin specifically appealed to NPP members to avoid being overly confrontational towards Civil

Society groups that continue to scrutinise or criticise the party.

“Let’s not be too hard on Civil Society groups who are still critical of us. Let’s rebuild relationships. Let’s reach out to them and bring our core back together,” he said.

The Minority Leader said the party needed to look beyond its internal disagreements and focus on rebuilding its relationship with the Ghanaian people following its defeat in the 2024 elections.

He urged members to leave behind divisions and work collectively towards the party’s objective of winning back the trust and mandate of Ghanaians in 2028.

Mr Afenyo-Markin said the NPP’s political recovery would require a united membership prepared to engage with the public and demonstrate that the party had learnt from its previous experience in government.

He concluded his address by urging the party to remain focused on its 2028 objective, while emphasising the importance of unity and reconciliation within and beyond the NPP.

“Let us leave Kumasi as one. One People. One Purpose. One Ghana,” he said.

Bawumia as the NPP’s 2028 presidential candidate and called on party members to work collectively towards his victory.

He also identified Dr Mahamudu



Minority Leader Alexander Afenyo-Markin

‘We want new friends who will treat us as equal partners’- says Foreign Affairs Minister as Ghana joins BRICS



Foreign Affairs Minister Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa

The government has secured Cabinet approval for Ghana to formally apply to join BRICS, a move Foreign Affairs Minister Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa says will broaden the country’s international partnerships and create additional opportunities for economic development.

Mr Ablakwa announced the decision in Accra on Tuesday, October 6, saying the proposed membership forms part of the Mahama administration’s strategy to move Ghana beyond economic stabilisation towards long-term transformative growth.

“Another major highlight which I am disclosing to the Ghanaian people for the first time is that the Cabinet of President John Dramani Mahama has decided that Ghana should put in a formal application to join BRICS,” he said.

The Minister said the decision was also linked to the government’s broader “new economy” agenda, which is built around seven pillars and seeks to attract investment, create jobs, promote industrialisation and ensure that Ghana derives greater value from its natural resources.

He stressed that joining BRICS would not mean Ghana was abandoning its existing development partners, including the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank and African multilateral financial institutions.

“You do know that we are members of the IMF, we are members of the World Bank, and we are also founding members of the African multilateral financial institutions.

“But BRICS offers us that

opportunity to have options in development, and you want to have options,” he said.

According to Mr Ablakwa, Ghana intends to retain its longstanding relationships while establishing new partnerships with countries that can contribute to its economic transformation.

“We are not going to walk away from our traditional partners who value that relationship, but we must have new friends,” he said. He identified India, Brazil and China as important partners for Ghana, pointing to the expansion of trade between Ghana and India, which he said had increased from about US\$3 billion in 2024 to approximately US\$7 billion.

“So this is an important partner,” he said, adding that China also remained a major economic player in Ghana.

Mr Ablakwa said greater engagement with BRICS countries would strengthen Ghana’s cooperation with the Global South and support the government’s objective of building a more productive and self-reliant economy.

He said the government wanted to promote “resource sovereignty” by ensuring that Ghana was able to participate more equally in the exploitation of its natural resources rather than continuing to export raw materials without adding sufficient value. “We want resource sovereignty where we can be treated as equal partners. We don’t want a situation where we continue to export raw materials. “We want to add value to the natural resources that we have. And we want to work with partners who have the same shared history and shared commitments,” he said.

The Foreign Affairs Minister also argued that having a wider range of international partners could create greater competition and give Ghana more room to determine its own development priorities.

He said the government supported a multipolar international system in which countries had greater freedom to pursue development strategies suited to their circumstances, without being excessively constrained by conditions from a limited number of international institutions.

Mr Ablakwa said preparations were underway for Ghana’s formal application, after which the government would engage existing BRICS members to seek support for the country’s bid.

He noted that Ghana already maintained diplomatic and bilateral relations with the bloc’s founding members — Brazil, Russia, India and China — as well as its newer members.

The Minister also highlighted the longstanding relationship between Ghana and India, particularly the historical ties between Ghana’s first President, Dr Kwame Nkrumah, and India’s first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru.

He said the two leaders played significant roles in the development of the Non-Aligned Movement and that Ghana and India had maintained cooperation in multilateral affairs since Ghana’s independence. Mr Ablakwa disclosed that Ghana had formally sought India’s support for its BRICS application and said the government was encouraged by comments from India’s Minister of External Affairs, Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, who was in Accra on an official visit.

Dr Jaishankar said India understood Ghana’s interest in joining the bloc and had consistently supported Ghana’s aspirations and development objectives.

He said Ghana’s interest was understandable given the principles underpinning BRICS, describing the bloc as a grouping of countries from diverse regions that value independence of thought and freedom of choice.

“BRICS itself is a gathering of countries who have a strong independence of thought, who want to have a freedom of choice, who believe that they’re coming together from very diverse geographies strengthens each one of them when they are part of a collective,” he said.

Dr Jaishankar said the bloc’s objectives could appeal to countries across different geographical regions, while making clear that Ghana’s application would ultimately require consideration by all BRICS members. “Obviously, this is an issue of collective consideration. So we have to see how that goes forward,” he said.

BRICS began as BRIC, comprising Brazil, Russia, India and China, and was formalised at the first meeting of BRIC foreign ministers on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York in 2006.

The first BRIC Summit was held in Yekaterinburg, Russia, in 2009, while South Africa joined the grouping in 2011, giving rise to the BRICS acronym.

The bloc subsequently expanded in January 2024 with the admission of Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, followed by Indonesia in January 2025.

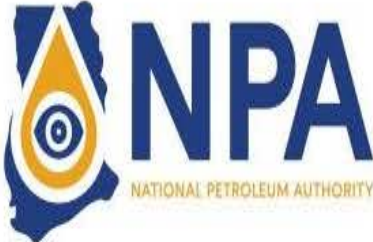
BRICS currently has 11 full members: Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and the United Arab Emirates.

In 2025, Belarus, Bolivia, Kazakhstan, Cuba, Malaysia, Nigeria, Thailand, Uganda, Uzbekistan and Vietnam joined the grouping as partner countries.

The bloc serves as a platform for consultation and cooperation among member countries on global and regional political and economic issues, including discussions on reforms to international governance institutions.

PETROLEUM PRICE INDICATORS

(As of 5th October, 2026)

 NPA NATIONAL PETROLEUM AUTHORITY	AVERAGE FOB PRICES FOR THE PERIOD 1ST OCTOBER 2026 (12TH - 26TH SEPTEMBER 2026 AVERAGES) WINDOW	AVERAGE ESTIMATED FOB PRICES EFFECTIVE 16TH OCTOBER 2026 (27TH SEPTEMBER - 11TH OCTOBER 2026 AVERAGES)	% CHANGE
FX Rate (Commercial Banks Average) (USD/GHS)	11.6321	11.8152	-1.55%
Crude Oil (USD/BBL)	124.20	125.94	1.40%
Petrol (USD/MT)	1,306.38	1,244.15	-4.76%
Gasoil (USD/MT)	1,516.05	1,397.75	-7.80%
LPG (USD/MT)	778.98	824.23	5.18%
Jet/Kerosene (USD/MT)	1,596.35	1,544.40	-3.25%
Fuel Oil (USD/MT)	620.98	608.15	-2.07%
Products figures represent the FOB Prices used in the Price Build-Up (PBU)			

Note: "Shipping bottleneck, deep cuts in refinery output and inventory draws that could take years to replace will keep global oil prices high beyond this year, industry executives said at the conference in London." - Reuters

NPA steps up petroleum safety education at Asogli Te Zã Festival

The National Petroleum Authority (NPA) has stepped up public education on petroleum safety and consumer protection during the 2026 Asogli Te Zã (Yam Festival) in Ho.

The Authority used the festival to educate consumers on how to detect suspected under-delivery of fuel at retail outlets, safely handle liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), and report complaints about petroleum products and services.

NPA officers from its Consumer Services, Business Development and Corporate Affairs directorates engaged festivalgoers during the celebrations, with the Volta Regional Manager, Prospero Kojo Cyriaano-Olympic, leading the team.

A key part of the exercise was a demonstration of the 10-litre measuring can, which consumers can use to check the quantity of fuel dispensed at retail outlets.

The officers encouraged consumers who suspect that they have received less fuel than they paid for to report the matter to the NPA for investigation and appropriate action.

The public was also reminded of the importance of following LPG safety guidelines, particularly when handling and using the fuel at home and in other environments.

The NPA distributed consumer education materials and stickers displaying its Call Centre contact details, allowing members of the public to make enquiries, lodge complaints and report concerns about petroleum products and services.

The engagement formed part of the NPA's efforts to take consumer education directly to communities and improve public awareness of consumer rights and responsibilities in the downstream petroleum sector.

The activities took place alongside the 2026 Asogli Te Zã Festival, held under the theme, "United in Purpose, Investing in People and Infrastructure for Sustainable National Development."

The celebrations culminated in a grand durbar at Jubilee Park in Ho on Saturday, 3 October, attended by traditional leaders, government officials, residents, visitors and other dignitaries.

Among those present were Togbe Afede XIV, Paramount

Chief of the Asogli State; Volta Regional Minister James Gunu; Minister of Tourism, Culture and Creative Arts Dzifa Gomashie; Minister for Local Government, Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs Mahama Ayariga; and Chief of Staff Dr. Julius Debrah, who represented the President as Guest of Honour.

Dr. Debrah commended the leadership of the Asogli Traditional Area and highlighted



NPA staff educating the public

investment in people and infrastructure as important to sustainable national development.

The NPA said it would continue to use community engagements to promote fuel quantity verification, LPG safety and accessible channels for reporting consumer concerns.

Government moves to restore chiefs' powers to summon subjects

The government is taking steps to revitalise the Chieftaincy Act to restore the authority of traditional rulers to summon subjects who violate laws or engage in conduct that threatens peace in their communities.

Minister of Local Government, Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs, Mahama Ayariga, disclosed this at the 2026 Asogli Te Za in Ho on Saturday, October 3, as part of measures to strengthen traditional governance and address disputes within the chieftaincy institution.

"The Ministry is working hard to revitalise the Chieftaincy Act to restore chiefs' powers to summon subjects who breach laws and disturb peace in their communities," he stated.

Mr Ayariga also revealed that the government is working to validate and formalise 17 lines of succession to stools and skins, which will subsequently be submitted to Parliament for passage.

He said the initiative is

intended to provide greater clarity on succession matters, reduce disputes and promote stability within traditional institutions.

The Minister explained that once the instruments are passed, they will help settle disagreements over eligibility to occupy particular stools and skins while also defining those with the authority to nominate, elect and select persons to occupy them.

He said the government was working to "validate and legalise lines of succession to bring clarity, reduce disputes, and ensure stability of our chieftaincy institutions."

According to Mr Ayariga, the Ministry is seeking to finalise "17 lines of succession to stools and skins for submission to parliament for passage."

He further reaffirmed the government's commitment to collaborating with traditional and religious leaders to preserve Ghana's cultural heritage while promoting peace and religious harmony.

"We recognise the invaluable role of chiefs, queen mothers, and religious leaders in nurturing honesty, guiding

purpose, and promoting peace in our nation," he said.

The Bawku Central legislator also pointed to steps taken by the government since assuming office to improve resources available to traditional authorities.

He said the support is intended to enable traditional leaders to convene meetings and help resolve chieftaincy-related conflicts, alongside efforts

to construct and upgrade office complexes for Houses of Chiefs, particularly in the newly created regions.

Mr Ayariga said these interventions form part of broader efforts to strengthen the chieftaincy institution and enhance its role in maintaining peace and stability within communities.



Minister of Local Government, Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs, Mahama Ayariga



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Tema Central MP details disputes with Tema Mayor Ebi Bright

Tema Central MP Charles Forson has opened up about a series of disagreements with Tema Mayor Ebi Bright, citing disputes over building permits, access to his statutory Common Fund allocations and an alleged attempt to send him chocolate.

Mr Forson said the issues had contributed to tensions between him and the mayor, but explained that he had largely refrained from speaking publicly about their disagreements because of his respect for women.

He made the disclosure on Eyewitness News on Tuesday, October 6, 2026, while responding to an allegation that he assaulted the mayor’s driver.

“All I know is that, in my upbringing, I respect women so much, for which reason, she does so many things, I’m always quiet and mute over it,” he said.

According to the MP, one of the disagreements began several months ago when he secured permits from the Tema Metropolitan Assembly to construct first-aid centres in the constituency.

He said his plan was to construct about 11 centres and that permits

had initially been obtained for the first three projects.

Mr Forson alleged that after construction work had begun, the mayor questioned the authenticity of the permits, despite the documents having been issued by the assembly.

“From the assembly itself, we dug, we did the foundation, only for her to come and say that the permits, which were issued by the assembly, paid for with my own money, were fake,” he said.

He claimed an engineer later informed the mayor that the permits were genuine.

Common Fund dispute

The MP also alleged that his relationship with the mayor had been affected by a separate disagreement involving the processing of statutory funds allocated to his office.

According to Mr Forson, the mayor had refused to sign memos required for the release of the funds, which he said had remained in the account since he assumed office.

“She is saying that she will never append her signature on the memo,” he said.

Mr Forson said he had since petitioned the Minister of Local Government over the matter and

was awaiting action.

He further recounted what he described as an unusual incident involving the mayor’s driver, who allegedly came to his office carrying chocolate on her behalf.

The MP said he declined the chocolate because he was uncertain about the purpose of the gesture.

Denies assault allegation

Mr Forson strongly rejected the allegation that he physically or verbally assaulted the mayor’s driver.

“No. Physically? Verbally? No. Why would I do it?” he said.

He said his only known interaction with the driver was during the incident in which the man visited his office with the

chocolate.

The MP also said he had not been contacted by the leadership of Parliament regarding the allegation, despite the mayor’s claim that she had reported the matter to parliamentary authorities.

Mr Forson maintained that he had deliberately avoided publicly discussing his disagreements with the mayor until the assault allegation emerged.

He said he considered the allegation serious enough to warrant a response, particularly because he believed it was false.

“I’m talking because of the assault. The blatant lie that she’s trying to sell out there,” he said.



La Pleasure Beach demolition victims to receive compensation

A committee will be formed by early next week to determine the appropriate compensation for businesses and property owners affected by the recent demolition of facilities at La Pleasure Beach in Accra.

The committee will comprise representatives of the Social Security and National Insurance Trust (SSNIT), the La Dadekotopon Municipal Assembly (LaDMA), traditional authorities, management of the affected beaches and the Member of Parliament for La Dadekotopon, Naa Odoley Sowah.

Naa Odoley Sowah, who is also the Deputy Minister of Local Government, Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs, disclosed the arrangement when she appeared before Parliament’s Committee on Local Government and Decentralisation on Tuesday, October 6, 2026.

“We have gotten their data and the committee is going to look at what we are going to give to them as compensation. So those affected will be compensated and the decision for the type of compensation has not been finalised but as the MP I am following up deeply on that to ensure that everybody gets what they are supposed to get,” she said.

The MP made the disclosure when the committee engaged officials of the La Dadekotopon Municipal Assembly over the demolition of beach facilities and related flood mitigation activities in parts of the Greater Accra Region.

Naa Odoley Sowah said the committee would assess the circumstances of affected persons, including those who might need to be relocated and others who could require financial compensation.

La Dadekotopon Municipal Assembly Chief Executive, Alfredos Nii Anyetei, said the exercise formed part of efforts to tackle flooding and restore an ecological site.

Mr Anyetei told the committee that the assembly had not been consulted before the exercise was undertaken, although officials were later shown the areas where the demolition was expected to take place during a meeting.

He also said he was unaware that the Member of Parliament had been specifically informed ahead of the exercise.

The Chairperson of the Committee, Queenstar Pokua Sawyerr, said the La Dadekotopon Municipal Assembly had both the legal mandate and technical personnel required to monitor development and protect waterways within its jurisdiction.

She therefore urged the assembly to strengthen enforcement to prevent individuals from refilling areas that had been dredged or cleared as part of efforts to improve drainage.

Mrs Sawyerr acknowledged that central government agencies could intervene in emergency situations but stressed that metropolitan, municipal and district assemblies must take responsibility for developments within their respective jurisdictions.

She further urged the MP and the assembly to ensure that the concerns of people affected by the demolitions were adequately addressed.

“We will follow up on the outcome of the committee’s work,” she assured.

She said authorities had already collected data on people whose businesses and properties were affected by the demolition, which would form the basis for determining the appropriate support or compensation.

However, she said the exact form and amount of compensation had not yet been decided, explaining that the matter would be considered by the committee before a final determination was made.

She also clarified that the demolition at La Pleasure Beach was being treated separately from the exercise at Laboma, indicating that the latter would be addressed under a different arrangement.

“Laboma Beach demolishing is a different issue but subsequently Laboma concerns will come up,” she said.

Laboma demolition

Giving an account of the demolition at Laboma, the



Demolished structures at La Pleasure Beach

‘Mandago-Yariga, Widana road projects my sweat; If you doubt let’s swear’ – Pusiga MP fires critics

The Member of Parliament for Pusiga, Hajia Laadi Ayishetu Ayamba, has rejected claims that the road linking Mandago, Bengula, Yariga Number 1 and 2 to Widana was initiated by the New Patriotic Party (NPP), insisting that the project was the result of her lobbying and personal efforts.

Speaking at an Accounting to the People forum in Pusiga, she challenged anyone who disputes her claim to come forward and settle the matter through an oath.

“The road linking Mandago through Yariga Number 1 and 2 is my initiative. Anyone who doubts it should come out and we swear an oath, and whoever is lying should be struck dead,” she declared.

Hajia Laadi made the remarks during the Upper East Regional Minister’s tour of the region, which was organised to highlight the achievements of the Mahama administration over the past two years and reaffirm its commitment to equitable development.

The MP said she had taken note of social media commentary, particularly from political opponents who, she claimed, were attributing the road project to the NPP for political reasons.

She said although she regarded the comments as concerns rather than insults, she believed it was important to correct what she described as an inaccurate narrative surrounding the project.

Hajia Laadi also pushed back against criticism that her 14 years in Parliament had not produced enough development for the Pusiga constituency.

“Let me say on record that there is no constituency that has seen more development as compared to Pusiga. I have done my best by serving my constituents to the best of my ability,” she said.

According to the MP, her years in Parliament have resulted in jobs, infrastructure and renewed hope for constituents, insisting that her tenure

should not be dismissed as having yielded little for the constituency.

She urged residents to ignore what she described as political propaganda and concentrate on the development projects being pursued in Pusiga.

Hajia Laadi further disclosed that the road from Adamongsaana through Pusiga town had been awarded to Galvao Construction Limited under Lot 11.

She appealed to the Upper East Regional Minister to facilitate

the contractor’s immediate return to site to resume work on the project.

In the interim, she said, she and the Pusiga District Chief Executive, Hon. Haruna Abdul Rahim Aguuri, would undertake temporary reshaping of some roads, including the Missiga-Kulungungu stretch, to improve access and make them motorable for commuters.



Pusiga MP, Hajia Laadi Ayishetu Ayamba

NPP combs Mahama’s 863 pardoned prisoners for missing Wontumi

The legal team of businessman and former Ashanti Regional Chairman of the New Patriotic Party (NPP), Bernard Antwi Boasiako, popularly known as Chairman Wontumi, is yet to receive official confirmation on whether he is among the 863 convicted persons pardoned by President John Dramani Mahama.

Dr Palgrave Boakye Danquah, spokesperson for Mr Boasiako, said the team was awaiting formal communication from the relevant authorities before drawing any conclusions about his status.

President Mahama announced the pardon as part of a special exercise covering 863 convicted persons across the country, prompting questions about whether some high-profile individuals whose cases are before the courts were included.

According to Dr Boakye Danquah, no official communication has

been received indicating that Chairman Wontumi is among those covered by the President’s decision.

He said the team would therefore wait for the authorities to provide details on the names and categories of persons affected by the pardon.

“We don’t have the fine details yet and so if we are yet to be communicated to, we will let the public know. Our prayer and consideration will be that if we would have our name anywhere at all, it would be within the Special Recommendation or Petition category.”

Dr Boakye Danquah said the team’s immediate focus was to secure bail for Chairman Wontumi on October 15, pending the determination of his appeal.

He expressed optimism that the appeal would succeed and that the court would also grant the application for bail pending the outcome of the legal process.

“We are just praying that the appeal goes through and also we

are praying that the bail pending the appeal goes through.”



Chairman Wontumi

Edudzi Tameklo recalls how Duffuor was slapped with GH¢100 million bail in 2020



Lawyer Godwin Edudzi Tameklo

Lawyer Godwin Edudzi Tameklo has cited a previous court case involving former Bank of Ghana Governor Dr Kwabena Duffuor to make a case for bail conditions that reflect the circumstances and background of accused persons.

Mr Tameklo who is also the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the National Petroleum Authority (NPA) said he represented Dr Duffuor in court in 2020 when the court initially set his bail at GH¢100 million.

He explained that he challenged the amount on the basis of Dr Duffuor’s extensive record of public service, having previously served as Governor and Deputy Governor of the Bank of Ghana as well as Finance Minister.

“I remember vividly making a prayer before the judge. I said, look, my lord, with the greatest of respect, this man, this man, this man, for want of a better word, was a former Governor of Bank of Ghana, former deputy governor of

Bank of Ghana, former finance minister of this republic,” he recalled.

Mr Tameklo said he questioned the justification for imposing such a high bail requirement on the former public official.

“Why would you want to grant a bill of 100 million Ghana citizens?” he recalled telling the court.

According to him, the matter was extensively argued before the court, with then Attorney General Gloria Akufo also present during the proceedings.

He said the arguments eventually resulted in the bail being reduced from GH¢100 million to GH¢65 million.

“We went back and forth, back and forth on the 100 million until the judge agreed to reduce it to 65 million,” he said on TV3’s Keypoints.

Mr Tameklo noted that even the reduced figure posed a significant requirement for the legal team, which had to secure property valued at GH¢65 million to satisfy the bail conditions.

Drawing on that experience, he advocated a more structured framework for determining bail conditions in financial and economic crime cases, including cases such as that involving Baffour Awuah.

“So I believe that, look, the courts, the law enforcement officers, we can develop a protocol around some of these issues,” he said.

Background

The court presided over by Justice Bright Mensah, a Court of Appeal judge sitting with additional responsibilities, had granted the former Finance Minister Dr. Kwabena Duffuor, who was the founder of uniBank Ghana Limited, and eight other accused persons bail of GH¢100 million each with three sureties, two of whom must be justified in 2020.

However, the lawyers, right after the decision of the judge, began to beg him to reconsider his decision as none of the accused persons would be able to meet the condition set by the court.

Dr. Dominic Ayine, a former Deputy Attorney-General (A-G) who is counsel for

Dr. Duffuor, was the first to raise concern about the bail condition which he said was tantamount to the court refusing to grant the accused persons bail.

Another defence lawyer, Nana Agyei Baffuor Awua, who represents Benjamin Ofori, one of the accused, also pleaded with the court to reconsider the bail, saying the conditions are so strict that it would be very difficult for his client to meet them.

Lawyers for the other seven accused persons also expressed similar sentiments and pleaded with the court to review the bail and if possible take away the condition of justification.

Attorney-General Gloria Akuffo, who led the prosecution, when asked by the court of her position on the plea to review the bail terms, said the state maintains its position that the bail terms must commiserate with the charges preferred against the nine officials.

The court then reviewed the bail condition from GH¢100 million to GH¢60 million each but maintained the three sureties, two of whom must be justified.

The sureties were also to deposit their title deeds with the registrar of the court, while the accused persons were also ordered to deposit their passports with the court registrar.

The lawyers were still not satisfied with the condition and again pleaded with the court to review it once more. Justice Mensah, however, said he could not review his own decision for a second time in one sitting, urging the lawyers to formally file an application for variation of the bail terms if they wish so.

Ghana bans preaching on buses



For years, preaching on commercial buses has been a familiar part of travelling in Ghana, with pastors moving through bus aisles, quoting scripture and urging passengers to repent before their vehicles reach their destinations.

But a new regulation could bring the practice to an end, with people who preach on public service vehicles now facing up to eight months in prison, a fine of up to \$52 (£39), or both.

The regulation, passed by Parliament in May and increasingly enforced in recent weeks, prohibits preaching and hawking on vehicles while they are in motion. The activities have been classified as a nuisance, with concerns about the safety and comfort of passengers cited as part of the justification.

At the Neoplan bus station in Accra, however, evangelism remains part of the morning routine.

Before buses begin their daily journeys, Boateng Bismark James leads a group of 13 Christians, comprising nine men and four women, in praise, worship and prayers for drivers and passengers.

Boateng, a 61-year-old pastor at Gospel Light Church, has been preaching on commercial vehicles departing from the station since 2023.

“I preach on commercial vehicles because not everyone is able to go to church on Sunday. There are a lot of passengers who need our message of salvation to repent

from their sins. We even heal the sick on some buses,” he told the BBC in Twi, a local language.

Dressed in a clerical collared shirt, Boateng moves between buses loading passengers before boarding one travelling to Kumasi. On this occasion, he speaks before the vehicle sets off to avoid violating the new regulation.

The practice has long been widespread on Ghana’s long-distance buses. Preachers sometimes position themselves near the driver or walk through the aisle, reading passages from the Bible and calling on passengers to turn away from sin.

Some journeys last several hours, but the preaching can continue throughout the trip. Passengers sometimes give money to the preachers in support of their activities.

Boateng says the response from passengers has often been encouraging.

“Some passengers are very happy with my message. Some even say they have never heard the message in church, but through my preaching they now know it is in the Bible,” he says.

New law divides opinion

The restriction has sparked differing views among passengers and religious groups.

Critics argue that preaching on moving vehicles can be disruptive and potentially dangerous because it could distract drivers. Supporters, however, maintain that evangelism is an important

Christian responsibility and should be protected as part of freedom of religious worship.

Chery Lokko, a woman in her early 30s who prefers to travel without being identified beyond that name, said she welcomed the restrictions because she considers some bus preaching intrusive.

“I don’t like it because they are a nuisance. Some of them spit saliva on you unconsciously, especially if you are seated not far from them, and they are a nuisance in terms of noise and saliva. I like my peace whenever I’m on public transport.”

A video recently circulated widely on social media showing a passenger confronting a pastor who was attempting to board a minibus.

“Get down, I say get down,” he shouts.

Yet in a country where Christianity is deeply rooted and Ghana is regarded as one of the world’s most religious nations, some passengers believe preaching on public transport provides an important opportunity to reach people who may not regularly attend church.

Bernice Nartey, a passenger travelling to Kumasi, said preaching could offer encouragement to people facing difficult circumstances but believed passengers should have a say in whether it takes place.

“The preaching sometimes helps people to repent. For instance, if someone is going through a stressful situation, the message of the pastor can give the person renewed hope,” she says.

Pastor wants exemption

Boateng says the new regulation has left him worried and wants religious preachers to be exempted from the restriction.

“We are very worried, because most pastors here depend on preaching to take care of their families through the monetary gifts offered by passengers,” he says.

“The government should allow us to preach on the buses and alight when it is exiting Accra,” he adds.

For him, however, the issue extends beyond his religious calling. The money he receives from preaching has also helped him support his family.

“I have been able to take care of my children’s education. My last-born just completed university, and half of the financial support came from money I got from preaching.”

Ghana’s Constitution guarantees freedom of religion, although the exercise of such rights is subject to considerations including public safety.

The practice of preaching on commercial buses was first prohibited in Ghana in 2012, when offenders faced up to 30 days in prison. Enforcement was, however, weak, allowing the practice to remain common, particularly on long-distance buses.

The latest regulation increases the penalties for those who breach the prohibition.

Preachers who use megaphones at lorry parks and markets remain unaffected by the ban.

The Christian Council of Ghana did not respond to a request for comment, but Rev Enoch Paul Hayes, a senior pastor at the International Central Gospel Church, one of Ghana’s largest churches, said he did not believe the regulation infringed on religious freedom.

He urged pastors to comply with the law and explore other avenues to spread their message.

“There is social media as an alternative outlet, where the same message can reach thousands of people,” he says.

For Boateng and other commercial bus preachers, the regulation now presents a difficult choice: change the way they conduct their ministry, lose an important source of income, or risk facing the consequences of breaking the law.

‘Asante Kotoko, Hearts of Oak are afraid to criticise GFA over relegation fears’ – Alhaji Grusah

King Faisal owner and bankroller Alhaji Karim Grusah says several Ghanaian clubs are afraid to speak out against the Ghana Football Association (GFA) because they fear being relegated. Grusah claims the fear of victimisation and intimidation has left some clubs reluctant to challenge what he described as mismanagement of Ghanaian football.

Speaking to Onua FM, he said even two of the country’s biggest clubs, Asante Kotoko and Hearts of Oak, were unwilling to openly criticise the GFA because of the potential consequences. “Even now Kotoko and Hearts of Oak are afraid to speak up because they would be threatened with relegation,” Grusah said. His comments come at a difficult period for Ghanaian football, with the Ghana Premier League and several national teams facing growing scrutiny over their performances and administration. The Black Stars’ poor start to the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations qualifying campaign has added

to the pressure, after consecutive defeats by Ivory Coast and The Gambia left Ghana without a point from their opening two Group C matches.

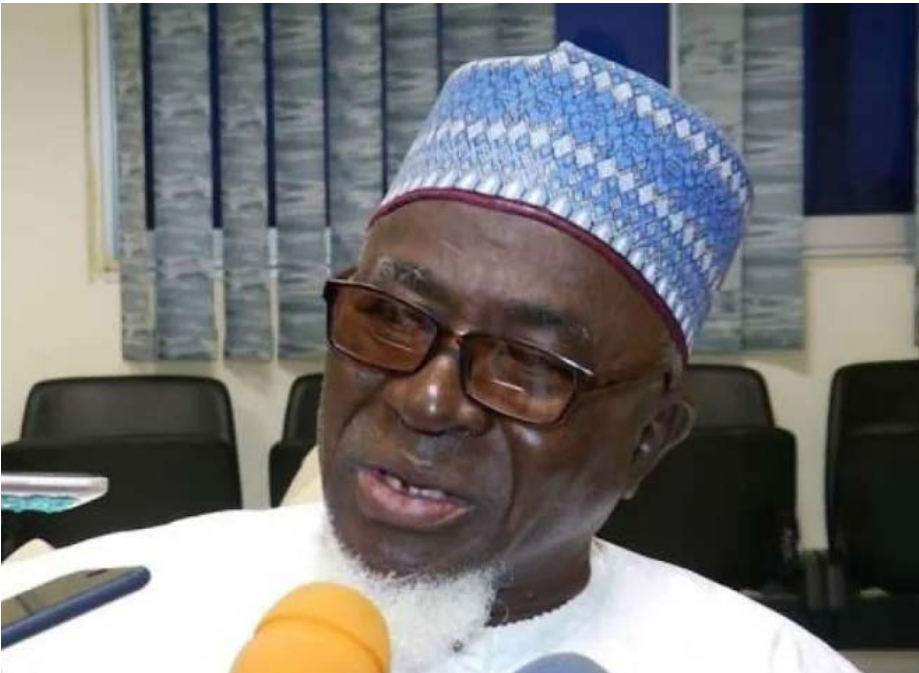
Grusah has also called on Sports Minister Kofi Adams and the Black Stars Management Committee to resign, while urging the leadership of the GFA to step aside. He said changes at the top were necessary if Ghana were to revive its chances of qualifying for the 2027 AFCON.

“Let them resign immediately before we play our next match. I am not a prophet, but if they resign, Ghana will qualify inshallah,” he said. Grusah also urged Ghanaians to demonstrate against the GFA, while raising concerns about player selection for the national team. He claimed that players who were not favoured by officials within the football administration could struggle to earn Black Stars call-ups, regardless of their ability. He also questioned the progress of Ghana’s youth national teams under GFA president Kurt

Okraku.

“Where are the Under-17, Under-20, and Under-23 national teams since Kurt Okraku became the GFA president?” he asked. The GFA has faced increasing criticism following Ghana’s

failure to qualify for the 2025 AFCON and the Black Stars’ disappointing start to the 2027 qualifying campaign.



King Faisal owner and bankroller Alhaji Karim Grusah

Mohammed Polo rejects calls for Ghana to withdraw from 2027 AFCON

Ghana legend Mohammed Polo has dismissed calls for the Black Stars to withdraw from the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers, describing the idea as “senseless”.

The four-time African champions have suffered consecutive defeats by Ivory Coast and The Gambia, leaving them bottom of Group C without a point from their opening two matches.

The poor start has led to calls for the Ghana Football Association (GFA) and the team’s handlers to pull out of the qualifying campaign for the tournament, which will be hosted by Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

However, Polo, who helped Ghana win the 1978 Africa Cup of Nations, believes the Black Stars must instead return to the drawing board and find

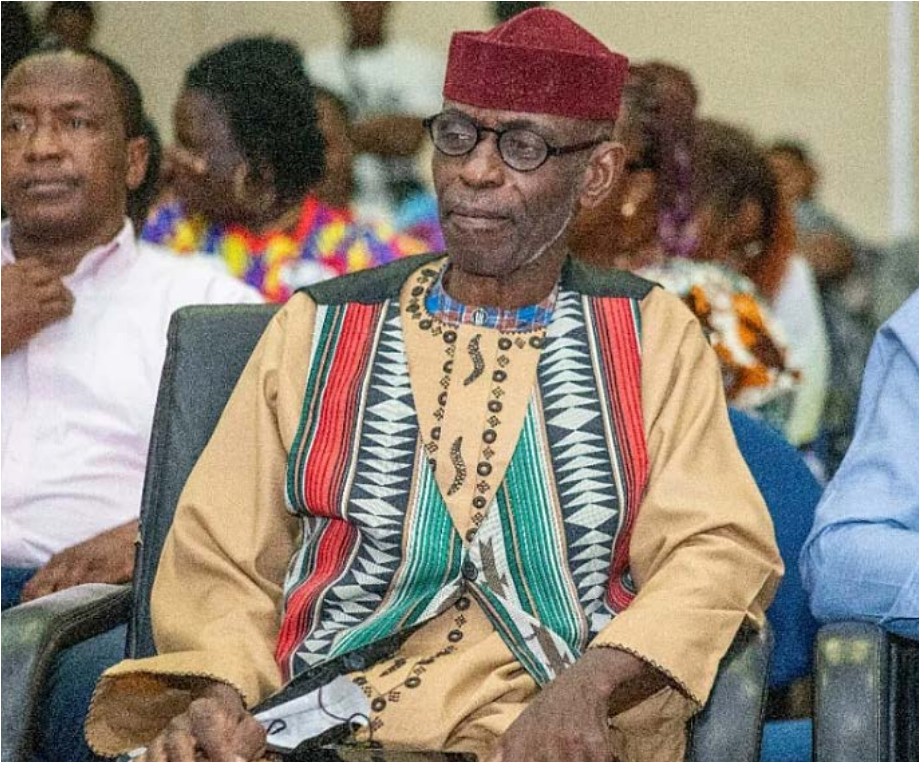
solutions before their next qualifiers against Somalia. “I don’t think it’s the right thing to do. No, that is not the right thing,” Polo told Citi Sports.

“You’ve been beating some people before. They went back to the drawing board and found solutions. So, if they are now coming to beat you, you should go back to the drawing board and find solutions.

“And the solution is within us. We have to find the solution within us. The quality of our players today is different from that of two years ago. It’s different.” Polo believes Ghana need a technical expert capable of improving the current group of players and helping them fulfil their potential. “We need a technical person who can help them and add some value to what they have,” he said. “But withdrawing from the competition is senseless. It

doesn’t make sense.” The Black Stars will look to revive their qualifying campaign when they face Somalia in a double-header at the Accra Sports Stadium in November.

Ghana is at risk of missing a second successive Africa Cup of Nations after failing to qualify for the 2025 tournament in Morocco.



Ghana football legend Mohammed Polo

‘Carlos Queiroz left Ghana job over poor results’ – GFA Communications Director

Ghana Football Association (GFA) Communications Director Henry Asante Twum says Carlos Queiroz decided to leave his position as Black Stars head coach because of the team’s poor results.

The Portuguese coach was appointed on a short-term contract to replace Otto Addo ahead of the 2026 World Cup. Queiroz guided Ghana to the knockout stage of the tournament in North America, marking the Black Stars’ first appearance in the last 16 since the 2010 World Cup.

Following the tournament, the GFA retained the veteran coach to lead the team into the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifiers.

However, Ghana’s disappointing start to the qualifying campaign led to the two parties parting ways. According to Asante Twum, Queiroz acknowledged the team’s poor results and opted to

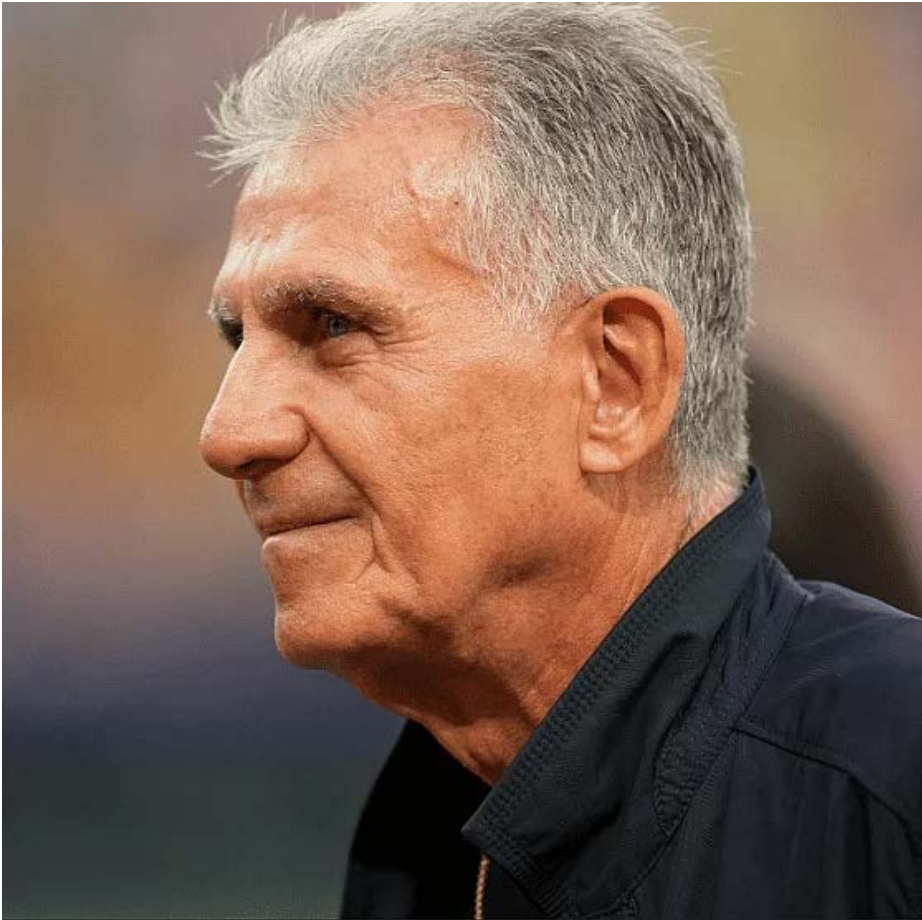
step down.

“Carlos Queiroz admits that the results have not been great, and he has decided to move on,” he told Kessben FM.

Queiroz’s seven-match spell in charge ended with one win, two draws and four defeats. Ghana lost their opening two AFCON qualifying matches against Côte d’Ivoire and The Gambia, leaving them bottom of Group C without a point.

A five-member committee has now been tasked with finding Queiroz’s replacement, with its report and recommendation expected to be submitted to the Sports Ministry on 9 October.

The Black Stars are due to face Somalia twice in November at the Accra Sports Stadium as they look to revive their qualifying campaign and avoid missing a second successive AFCON tournament.



Former Black Stars Coach, Carlos Queiroz

Anthony Baffoe declines role to serve on committee to recommend next Black Stars coach

Former Ghana defender Anthony Baffoe has declined an invitation to serve on the committee tasked with finding the next Black Stars head coach, according to Citi Sports.

Baffoe was named as one of five members of the committee alongside former Black Stars captain Stephen Appiah, FIFA high performance specialist Faisal Chibсах and football administrator Agbesi Dzakpasu.

The committee is chaired by former Ghana Football Association (GFA) vice-president Fred Pappoe. It was formed following a meeting between the Ministry of Sports and Recreation and the GFA on Friday, 2 October, after Carlos Queiroz stepped down as Black Stars coach following Ghana’s poor start to the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifiers.

The committee has been tasked with identifying, assessing and recommending a suitable candidate for the

vacant position, with its report expected by Friday, 9 October. However, Citi Sports reports that Baffoe had not accepted the appointment before his name was announced publicly.

The former Ghana international, who previously served as CAF deputy general secretary, is said not to have been properly consulted before being included on the committee and has since communicated his decision

not to serve. His decision is understood to be linked to concerns about the broader approach to football development in Ghana rather than a lack of commitment to the Black Stars or Ghanaian football.

Ghana’s search for a new coach comes at a difficult time for the national team.

The Black Stars opened their 2027 AFCON qualifying

campaign with a 2-0 defeat by Côte d’Ivoire before suffering a 4-2 home loss to The Gambia.

Those results leave Ghana at the bottom of Group C without a point after two matches.

The Black Stars will face Somalia in their next qualifier in November as they attempt to revive their campaign and secure a return to the AFCON tournament after missing the 2025 edition in Morocco.



Former Ghana defender Anthony Baffoe (middle)

‘Ghana’s film industry needs urgent revival’ – Pete Edochie appeals to Mahama

Veteran Nigerian actor Pete Edochie has appealed to President John Dramani Mahama to support efforts to revive Ghana’s film industry.

He said Ghana has produced talented actors and quality films in the past but expressed concern that the country’s film output has declined in recent years.

According to him, addressing the challenges facing the industry would require stronger government support, investment from the private sector and a renewed commitment to filmmaking.

“Ghanaian actors generally are very, very good, exceptionally good. But I don’t find more themes from Ghana as it was previously, and I don’t know

what the problem is,” Edochie said in an interview with Accra-based TV3 on Tuesday, October 6.

He said the decline could be linked to several factors, including limited government participation, industry-related challenges, inadequate investment and the need to develop more talent.

The veteran actor also urged stakeholders in Ghana to study global developments in film and cinema and position the local industry to compete internationally.

Edochie also praised President Mahama for his efforts to engage the Ghanaian diaspora and said his confidence in the President made him hopeful that he would support the film industry if a direct appeal was made.



Veteran Nigerian actor Pete Edochie

‘Not all of us end up divorcing our husbands’ – Mabel Okyere defends female gospel musicians

Ghanaian gospel musician Mabel Okyere has come to the defence of female gospel musicians who have come under scrutiny over reports of marital challenges and divorces.

According to the celebrated gospel singer, the fact that more female gospel musicians have experienced failed marriages does not mean that every woman in the gospel music industry will suffer the same fate.

Mabel Okyere made the comments during an interview with MB Prince of Kessben FM in Kumasi on Friday, October 2, 2026, as part of a media tour to promote her upcoming annual gospel concert, The Glory Concert.

The recently married musician acknowledged that there have been several cases of failed marriages involving female gospel musicians, not only in

Ghana but across the world. However, she believes the media and the public should also pay attention to female gospel celebrities who have successfully maintained their marriages for many years without being involved in public controversies.

“Not all female gospel musicians have bad marriages, and not all of us will end up divorcing our husbands,” Mabel said during the interview. She explained that while stories about broken marriages often attract significant public attention, there are also several female gospel artistes who have enjoyed stable marriages away from the spotlight.

Mabel mentioned Ceccy Twum and Piesie Esther, among others, as examples of Ghanaian female gospel musicians who, in her view, are doing well in their marriages. She suggested that highlighting

such stories would provide a more balanced picture of the experiences of women in Ghana’s gospel music industry.



Ghanaian gospel musician Mabel Okyere

“Be in your lane and build your own identity” – SkrewFaze to upcoming artiste



Ghanaian musician Skrewfaze

Ghanaian musician Skrewfaze has shared a piece of advice with emerging artistes, urging them to discover their unique identity rather than constantly trying to follow popular trends in the music industry.

In a message directed at young and upcoming musicians, Skrewfaze said being in one’s lane does not mean sounding like every successful artiste at the moment, but rather developing an identity that makes people recognise an artiste even without seeing their name.

According to him, an artiste’s lane can be built

around several key elements, including sound, message, culture, image and positive energy.

He explained that sound involves the type of production, melodies, flows and energy an artiste naturally gravitates towards, while an artiste’s message should reflect what they stand for and what they want listeners to feel when they hear their music.

Skrewfaze also encouraged young musicians to embrace their culture, experiences, backgrounds and environments, describing these as important elements that can help shape their artistic identity.

He further stressed the importance of image, noting

that the way musicians present themselves visually and creatively also contributes to how audiences perceive and remember them.

The musician cautioned upcoming artistes against chasing every trend simply because it is currently popular. He advised them to study trends, understand what is working and learn from other musicians, but warned against allowing trends to change who they are as artistes.

According to Skrewfaze, some musicians who refuse to follow every wave can eventually become the artistes whose styles others begin to emulate.

“Don’t chase the wave. Build your own wave,” he advised.

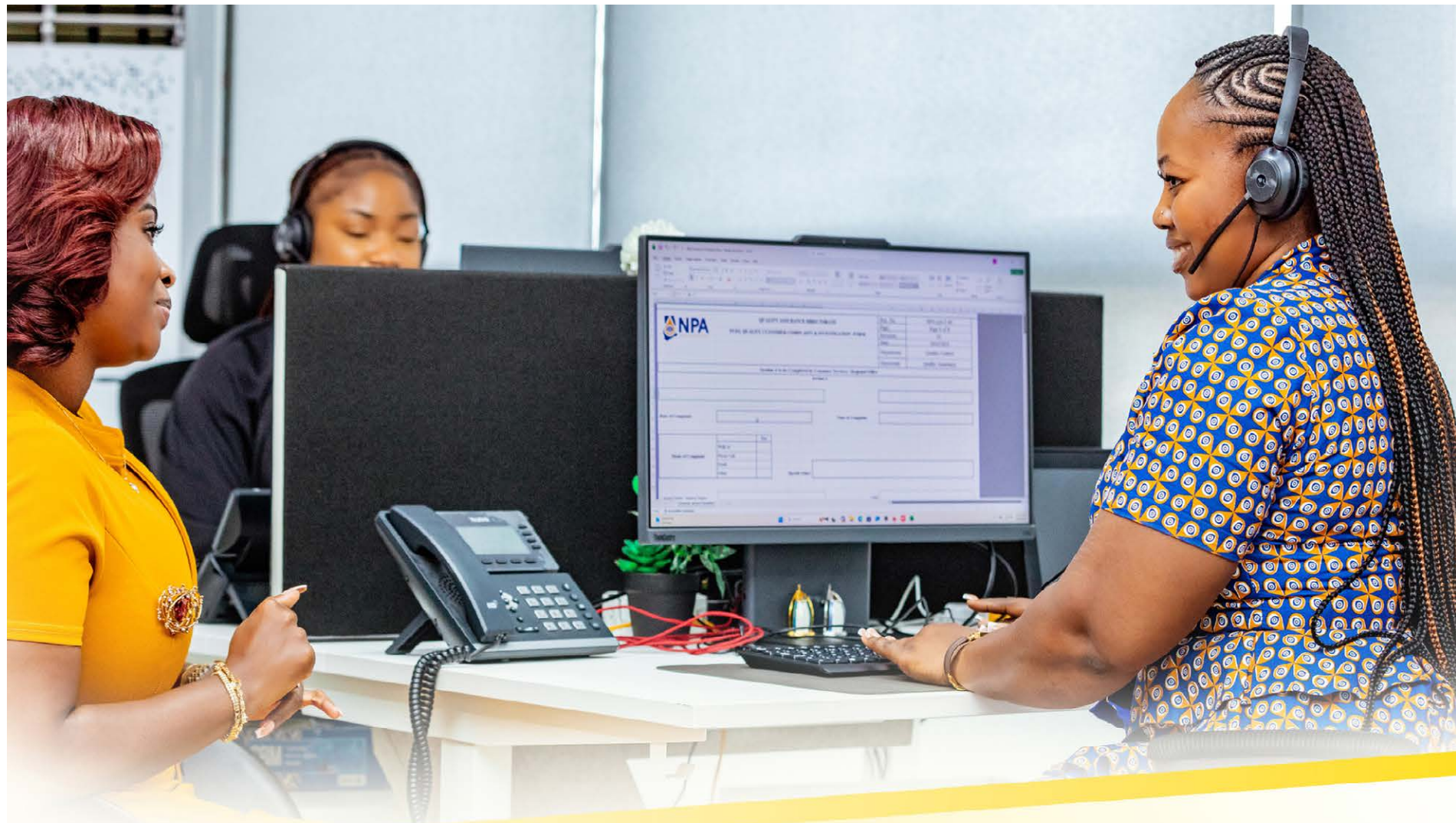
He further urged emerging

artistes to focus on authenticity rather than trying to convince everyone to embrace their sound.

Skrewfaze believes that with consistency, a style that may initially be considered different can eventually become an artiste’s signature.

He encouraged young musicians to draw inspiration from the culture without becoming copies of it, and to study the music industry without losing themselves in the process.

“Your lane doesn’t have to be crowded for it to be valuable,” he added, expressing hope that his advice would help young musicians navigate their careers.



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