THE MODERN GUIDE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 04, 2026 | WWW.MODERNGHANA.COM

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PRICE: Gh₵ 10

Edition: 108/2026



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Ablakwa sues Benghazi, Media General over side chick allegation

Foreign Affairs Minister Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa has initiated legal action against New Patriotic Party (NPP) communicator Benjamin Gyewu-Appiah, popularly known as Benghazi, and Media General Ghana Limited over claims linking him romantically to musician Fantana and accusing him of misappropriating public funds.

The lawsuit stems from comments Benghazi made during a discussion on Onua FM on October 14, 2026, where he alleged that Fantana was the minister's girlfriend and had received money he had allegedly stolen.

"Okudzeto Ablakwa has given all the money he took to Fantana. He is having an affair with Fantana. Ablakwa and his wife will go to jail," he alleged.

A writ of summons issued by the High Court of Justice in Accra on October 30, 2026, names Mr Ablakwa as the plaintiff, with Benghazi and Media General Ghana Limited, owners and operators of Onua FM and Onua TV, listed as defendants.

The writ, issued pursuant to Order 2 Rule 3(1), requires the defendants to enter an appearance within 8 days after being served, including the day of service.

It warns that failure to comply could result in judgment being entered against them without their participation in the proceedings.

"Take notice that in default of your so doing, judgment may be given in your absence without further notice to you," the writ states.

The allegations reportedly attracted a strong response from Fantana and generated public attention following the broadcast.

In a related development, Media General has issued a retraction and apology through Onua FM, the station on which the disputed comments were made.

The legal action brings both Benghazi and the media organisation before the court over the statements aired during the October 14 programme.



Auditor to audit Auditor-General's accounts

Parliament has adopted a report by an Ad Hoc Committee recommending the appointment of an independent auditor to examine the financial accounts of the Auditor-General's Office.

The recommendation is anchored in Article 187 of the 1992 Constitution, which requires Parliament to appoint an auditor to audit and report on the accounts of the Auditor-General's Office.

The report was approved on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, during Parliament's first sitting following its recess.

The proposed audit is intended to strengthen independent oversight of the Auditor-General's Office by ensuring that its financial records are subjected to external examination.

It is also expected to reinforce institutional accountability and checks and balances while boosting public confidence in the financial management of the office.

Parliament has not yet named an individual for the assignment but is expected to begin the selection process in accordance with the constitutional requirement.



Auditor-General, Dr. Pamela Graham

'Mahama will not sack appointees based on NPP's claims' – Shamima Muslim

Deputy Presidential Spokesperson Shamima Muslim has insisted that the government will not dismiss or compel public officials to resign based solely on allegations made by the New Patriotic Party (NPP), stressing that any disciplinary action must be preceded by a thorough investigation.

She said the Mahama administration would not accept claims made by the opposition as established facts or use them as grounds for sanctioning individuals accused of misconduct.

Muslim made the remarks while responding to the NPP's demands following allegations raised during its Y□gye y□ sika demonstrations.

"I have taken a personal stance not to make any further commentary on it until after the processes that have been initiated to establish exactly what the concerns are are determined," she said.

She argued that allegations of criminal conduct could only be established through proper investigative procedures and not public discussions.

"My brother, between you, me and Abanga, we cannot make a determination of any criminal activity or any criminal breach until the matter is fully investigated," she said.

The Deputy Presidential Spokesperson consequently declined to comment on the substance of the allegations, saying she would wait for the outcome of the processes initiated to establish the facts.

She, however, assured the public that the government remained committed to accountability and would not protect any official found culpable of wrongdoing.

Citing the NDC's manifesto, she said accountability, alongside job creation and prosperity, formed part of the party's three main policy pillars.

"President Mahama, in his Resetting Ghana manifesto, popularly acclaimed that no one under his government will be shielded if the person is found to have engaged in any wrongdoing," she said.

Muslim also referenced the government's code of conduct, which outlines various forms of misconduct and the sanctions applicable when breaches are established.

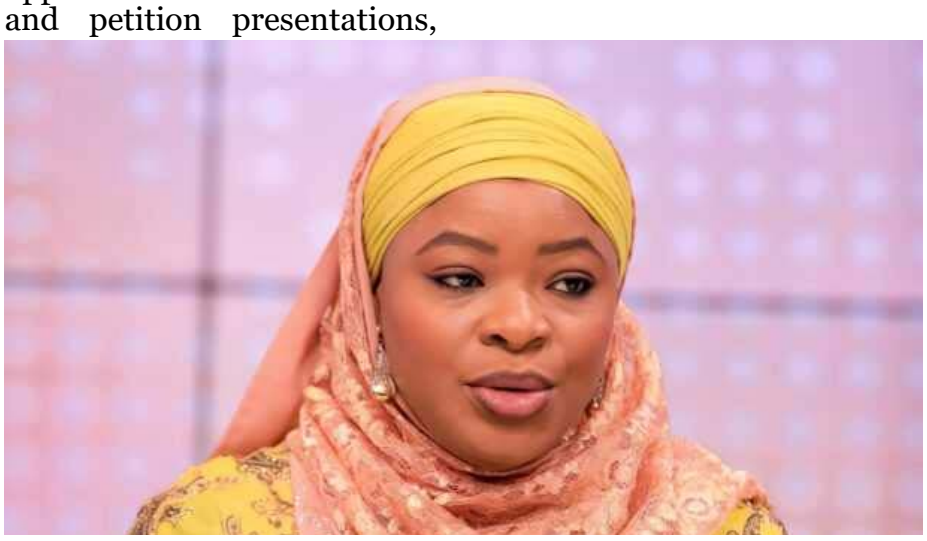
She rejected the NPP's demand for immediate resignations and dismissals, including its threat to initiate a motion of censure if the government failed to comply.

"We are not going to take the claims of the New Patriotic Party as sacrosanct and proceed, therefore, to ask members of government to either resign or be sacked," she said.

She further defended the government's handling of the opposition's demonstrations and petition presentations, contrasting it with what she described as the NPP's record when it was in office.

According to her, the opposition had been received respectfully whenever it visited to present petitions and had been allowed to demonstrate without police brutality or attempts to disrupt its activities.

"On each occasion, they have been welcomed with dignity, with respect, with the honour that they, as members of an opposition and key players in our democracy, deserve," she said.



Deputy Presidential Spokesperson Shamima Muslim

Finance Minister to teach NPP on job creation next week

Finance Minister Dr Cassiel Ato Forson says the 2027 Budget Statement will spell out how the government plans to convert Ghana's economic recovery into employment opportunities, improved incomes and business expansion.

The Minister, in a Facebook post on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, said the next stage of the recovery must bring measurable benefits to the lives of ordinary Ghanaians.

He stressed that the sacrifices made by citizens to stabilise the economy must translate into decent jobs for young people, better earnings for farmers and opportunities for local businesses to expand and employ more workers.

"Ghanaians made sacrifices to get our economy back on its feet. Now, that recovery must mean decent jobs for our young people, better incomes for our farmers and room for Ghanaian businesses to grow and hire," he said.

Dr Forson further indicated that his presentation would explain how the government's New Economy agenda would build on the progress made and deliver broader prosperity.

"Next week, I will show how the New Economy will turn the gains we have made together into jobs and prosperity for all," he added.

The 2027 Budget Statement, scheduled for presentation to Parliament on Thursday, November 12, is expected to set out the government's economic priorities and measures for the coming year, with job creation, agricultural development featuring prominently.

incomes and private-sector



Finance Minister Dr Cassiel Ato Forson

‘Try their PAs, drivers if you can’t reach appointees’ – Fifi Kwetey tells hun-angry NDC supporters



General Secretary of NDC, Fifi Fiavi Kwetey

General Secretary of the National Democratic Congress (NDC), Fifi Fiavi Kwetey, has appealed to party supporters to exercise patience when trying to reach government appointees, explaining that their demanding responsibilities may make it difficult for them to respond promptly.

He said supporters should not interpret unanswered calls or messages as deliberate attempts by former party executives who have joined government to distance themselves from the grassroots.

Speaking on Good Morning Ghana on Metro TV on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, Mr Kwetey encouraged supporters to remain persistent and explore alternative ways of contacting officials when direct attempts prove unsuccessful.

“I would just say that a bit of that persistence is important, not to give up,” he said.

He suggested that party members could seek assistance from people who work closely with the officials they intend to contact, including their personal assistants and drivers.

“So maybe I know Moro’s PA [Referring to the show host], so I reach out to the PA. Maybe I know Moro’s driver, I reach out to the driver,” he explained.

Mr Kwetey acknowledged that some appointees might deliberately avoid responding to supporters but cautioned against reaching such conclusions simply because someone failed to answer a call or message.

“If you do that regularly and the person still doesn’t get back, that means the person deliberately doesn’t want to get access to you,” he said.

He added that some officials might also struggle to respond because they do not have immediate answers to the concerns raised by supporters.

“But sometimes, people don’t do that because maybe they feel they don’t have an answer, and they are afraid to keep telling you the same thing that there’s no answer yet,” he added.

The NDC General Secretary also conceded that some government appointees had become disconnected from the party’s grassroots, admitting that concerns about inadequate orientation among certain officials were legitimate.

Asked whether there were genuine instances of appointees failing to maintain connections with the grassroots, he responded: “Yes, there are.”

However, he explained that not every person appointed to a government position had come through the party’s grassroots structures, noting that some were selected primarily for their technical expertise.

“Not every appointee is necessarily a party grassroots person. I mean, there are some people who are really technical people who are plugged and placed in those places,” he said.

Mr Kwetey further advised party supporters to make use of the NDC’s established internal structures rather than attempting to bypass them to reach senior government officials.

He noted that the party had structures at the branch, constituency and regional levels, as well as national leadership, which should serve as the first point of contact for resolving concerns.

“You don’t want to encourage that. So you must also absorb those structures,” he said.

“Only the real difficult issues come to you. Issues that can be resolved by others, must be resolved.”

His comments follow concerns among some NDC supporters that individuals who played active roles in the party’s campaign ahead of the 2024 general elections have become difficult to reach after securing government appointments.

He also identified growing expectations among party members as another challenge, saying some supporters expected immediate rewards or assistance following the party’s return to power.

“There’s also a lot of expectation that I must get something now. So, that lack of patience also is a bit of an issue,” he said.

Mr Kwetey maintained that patience and persistence were important in securing responses, drawing on his experience within the party to encourage supporters not to give up easily.

“I can tell you, having been in this space for that long, I know those who show much more patience, much more persistence, always get answers,” he said.

He said the NDC must continue strengthening communication and cooperation between the party and government while helping supporters understand the respective roles and structures of the two institutions.

Reparation justice: 'Slavery is monstrous injustice' – King Charles III



President Mahama and King Charles III

King Charles III, Head of the Commonwealth, has declared that slavery is 'monstrous injustice' in remarks touching on the legacy of slavery and growing calls for reparatory justice.

The King made the statement on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, during the opening of the 28th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Antigua and Barbuda.

"As I have said before, that shameful chapter of history is one that fills my heart with horror and my soul with the most profound personal sorrow," said the king, who is the ceremonial head of the Commonwealth.

"And yet history also teaches us that evil need not have the last word; that character and courage can combine to overcome the most monstrous injustice, as they did with the determination to end international trade in enslaved people, in which the Royal Navy played such a leading role," he stated.

Addressing Commonwealth leaders, the monarch acknowledged the painful history of the transatlantic slave trade, describing it as a shameful chapter that continues to cast a shadow over Caribbean nations and other members of the Commonwealth.

"None of us, of course, would be here today were it not for our history, which has shaped us in myriad ways. History is not ours to choose or to change. It is bequeathed to us in complex synthesis by forebears we can never know. Our inheritance includes both their achievements and their failures – the good they did as well as the wrongs.

"History can be hard to compass, viewed as it is through the prism of time, which can be both clarifying and distorting, and yet its consequences resonate with contemporary force. Our history inspires us, can appall us, yet it can always teach us. We cannot change the actions of those who came before us.

"We can, however, learn from the past. The transatlantic trade in enslaved persons still casts a shadow over these islands and other Members of our Commonwealth. As I have said before, that shameful chapter of history is one that fills my heart with horror and my soul with the most profound personal sorrow," he stated.

King Charles III expressed what he described as profound personal sorrow over the horrors of the slave trade, adding that his growing understanding of the historical injustices had strengthened his commitment to finding ways for Commonwealth nations to work together to address their lasting consequences.

He highlighted access to education, investment in jobs and opportunities, increased intra-Commonwealth trade, and climate resilience as areas through which countries could build stronger partnerships and improve the lives of disadvantaged communities.

The King's remarks come amid renewed calls from Caribbean leaders and reparations advocates for Britain to acknowledge its historical role in slavery and engage in meaningful discussions on reparatory justice.

Although he expressed sorrow over the slave trade and acknowledged its enduring consequences, the King did not issue a formal apology or announce reparations.

The debate over reparations remains a significant issue surrounding this year's Commonwealth summit, with Caribbean governments and advocacy groups calling for recognition, accountability and concrete measures to address the socioeconomic effects of slavery.

The meeting brings together leaders of Commonwealth member states to discuss shared challenges and explore opportunities for cooperation, development and a more prosperous future.

Ghana introduces 21-day monitoring for travellers from Ebola-affected countries



The Ministry of Health has announced a 21-day monitoring period for travellers arriving in Ghana from countries experiencing active transmission of the Bundibugyo strain of Ebola, as part of measures to prevent the disease from entering the country.

Under the arrangement, the Ghana Health Service (GHS) will maintain contact with the affected travellers throughout the monitoring period. They will be required to provide accessible contact details and promptly report any symptoms that may emerge.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, November 3, the Ministry said the measure forms part of enhanced public health interventions being implemented at Ghana's international airports to prevent the importation and spread of the disease.

"Passengers arriving from countries with ongoing transmission will be monitored for up to 21 days. The Ghana Health Service will contact them for follow-up, and they must keep reachable contact details and report any symptoms immediately to the designated contact," the statement said.

The Ministry explained that all passengers entering the country would also be screened by Port Health officers through temperature checks and assessments of their health declaration forms and travel histories.

Travellers must disclose whether they have visited or transited through Ebola-affected countries within the previous 21 days, as well as any contact with suspected or confirmed cases.

Passengers who exhibit symptoms such as fever, vomiting, diarrhoea, severe weakness or unexplained bleeding will be referred for further medical assessment. Where necessary, they may be temporarily isolated and provided with medical attention.

The Ministry warned that individuals who provide misleading information, conceal symptoms or refuse to cooperate with screening procedures could face public health measures in accordance with Ghanaian law.

It has also directed hotels, conference centres and similar establishments to notify the nearest district health directorate whenever guests arrive from affected countries and ensure their contact details are available.

The Ministry emphasised that Ghana has not recorded any confirmed Ebola case, describing the measures as precautionary steps to protect public health.

It urged the public to depend on official updates from the Ministry and the GHS and refrain from circulating unverified information about the outbreak.

The precautionary measures come amid the spread of Ebola across parts of Africa, with the latest outbreak reportedly claiming more than 5,300 lives, largely in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

According to the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), more than 10,400 cases have been confirmed since the outbreak was declared in May, with the fatality rate exceeding 50%.

The disease has also been reported beyond the DRC, with confirmed cases in Uganda and Kenya. Kenya recorded its first-ever Ebola infections in October.

I will name, shame any MP who obstructs passage of anti-gay bill – Speaker Bagbin

Speaker of Parliament Alban Sumana Kingsford Bagbin has vowed to publicly name any Member of Parliament who attempts to obstruct the passage of the Human Sexual Rights and Family Values Bill, 2025, popularly known as the anti-LGBTQI+ bill.

He said he is committed to ensuring that the House rescinds its earlier decision on the bill's third reading and proceeded with a second consideration stage to address concerns before completing its passage.

Speaker Bagbin made the remarks while addressing Parliament on Tuesday, November 3, at the opening of the Third Meeting of the Second Session of the Ninth Parliament.

"I remain committed, within the applicable rules and procedures of the House, to ensure that the House proceeds with the motion to rescind its earlier decision at the third reading of the bill, and to have a second consideration stage of the bill, with a view to concluding this process and securing its passage during this meeting," he said.

"I will assure you that I will mention names, names of any person who tries to obstruct the legitimate processes to see this bill through. That I leave to your constituents, Honourable Members," he added.

The bill was passed by Parliament on May 29, 2026, after it was reintroduced in the Ninth Parliament.

However, the Speaker subsequently called for a reconsideration, citing concerns that the passage did not fully comply with parliamentary procedures.

The Speaker said the process needed to be revisited to address concerns surrounding the final stages of the bill's passage, including amendments made shortly before the vote.



Speaker of Parliament Alban Bagbin

'Limit TraffiTech-GH's application to some major routes within capital cities' — Akim Swedru MP

The Member of Parliament for Akim Swedru, Kennedy Osei Nyarko, has proposed a gradual rollout of the TraffiTech-GH digital traffic enforcement system, suggesting that its initial application should be restricted to selected major roads in the country's capital cities.

He said the phased approach would give authorities time to put the necessary infrastructure in place before extending the system to other roads and communities across the country.

"I will suggest we limit its application to some major routes with the capital cities whilst we put all the necessary infrastructure in place to scale it up to cover other roads or areas which needs strict enforcement," he stated.

In a Facebook post, the lawmaker also called for intensified public education on road traffic regulations, expressing concern that many motorists may not be sufficiently informed about the laws governing road use in Ghana.

He argued that improving road safety would require more than introducing digital enforcement technology, stressing the need to educate drivers on traffic regulations and the consequences of violating them.

"Do you know that it's a traffic offence to drive below or above the required speed limits on the road? You can actually be arrested and charged for driving below or the approved speed limits but in Ghana some of these road traffic laws are not enforced," he wrote.

While expressing support for the introduction of TraffiTech-GH, Mr Osei Nyarko maintained that authorities must do more to ensure motorists understand the system and are prepared to comply with its requirements.

"I think we don't do much as a country when it comes to educating the public about road traffic laws or rules in the country. The TrafficTech is good thing but a lot needs to be done to get everyone onboard," he added.

His comments come as the Ghana Police Service begins implementing TraffiTech-GH, an automated traffic enforcement system designed to improve compliance with road traffic regulations.

The technology uses cameras, sensors and other digital monitoring equipment to detect traffic violations, particularly speeding. Evidence captured is reviewed by the appropriate police authorities before electronic notices of violation are issued to vehicle owners.

The Motor Traffic and Transport Department (MTTD) has indicated that the initial phase will focus on speeding offences, particularly at locations identified as prone to road crashes.



MP for Akim Swedru, Kennedy Osei Nyarko

GPHA Fire and Safety, LCB Worldwide Ghana crowned champions of 2026 LCB Corporate Games



Winners receiving the prize

The Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority (GPHA) Fire and Safety Team and LCB Worldwide Ghana Football Team have emerged champions of the 2026 LCB Corporate Games in the Tema and Accra Zones respectively, following weeks of competitive football action.

The grand finale of the fifth edition of the competition was held on Saturday, October 31, 2026, at Mexico Park, Community 2, Tema, bringing together participating companies from the ports and shipping industry and other sectors.

In the Tema Zone final, GPHA Fire and Safety secured a narrow 1-0 victory over the Ghana National Fire Service (GNFS) Team to clinch the ultimate title.

In another decisive encounter, LCB Worldwide Ghana delivered an impressive performance in the Accra Zone, thrashing the Ghana Immigration Service Team 5-0 to emerge champions.

The final standings saw LCB Worldwide Ghana finish first in the Accra Zone, followed by the Ghana Immigration Service in second place, while Manna Team settled for third.

In the Tema Zone, GPHA Fire and Safety claimed the top spot, with the Ghana National Fire Service finishing as runners-up and Wilmar Africa taking third place.

Winners Take Home Cash Prizes

The victorious teams were rewarded with cash prizes in recognition of their performances.

The champions in both zones received GH¢20,000 each, while the first runners-up took home GH¢10,000 each. The second runners-up were also rewarded with GH¢5,000 each.

Individual awards were presented to outstanding performers, with the tournament's top scorer receiving GH¢2,000 and the Best Goalkeeper taking home GH¢1,000.

16 Teams Compete in Fifth Edition

A total of 16 teams, comprising eight teams from each zone, participated in this year's competition, which featured several weeks of exciting football action.

The Accra Zone participants included the Ghana Union of Traders (GUTA), Ghana Institute of Freight Forwarders (GIFF), LCB Worldwide Ghana, Ghana Immigration Service, Aviance, Mariners, Manna and Conquerors.

The Tema Zone was represented by Port Hub, GPHA Fire and Safety, Ghana National Fire Service, GPHA Mechanical, Ezeylinks, Wilmar Africa, Tema Metropolitan Assembly (TMA) and Ghana Dock Labour Company Limited (GDLC).

LCB Eyes Expansion of Corporate Games

Speaking to the media on the sidelines of the grand finale, a representative of the Human Resource Department at LCB Worldwide, Solomon Dwamena Aboagye expressed satisfaction with the performance of the participating teams and the overall impact of the competition.

He noted that the objectives behind organising the games had consistently been achieved over the years, adding that LCB Worldwide Ghana remained committed to expanding the initiative to attract more corporate organisations.

"We are hoping that in the next few years, the participating companies will be more. We are hoping to bring companies from other industries. We are expecting the financial institutions, oil and gas companies and even the educational sector as well," he said.

Mr. Aboagye further disclosed that the competition was fully sponsored by LCB Worldwide Ghana, expressing optimism that the company would continue to mobilise resources to sustain and increase the prize money in subsequent editions.

Promoting Corporate Unity Through Sports

The LCB Worldwide Corporate Games was initiated to foster camaraderie, strengthen professional relationships and promote bonds of friendship among companies, particularly those operating within the ports and shipping industry.

Beyond sports, LCB Worldwide Ghana has also established a strong presence through its corporate social responsibility initiatives.

The crisis management company has been operating in Ghana since 2017 and has been contracted by the Government of Ghana, through the Ministry of Health, to undertake fumigation and disinfection of cargo at the country's ports and designated points of entry and exit.

As part of its commitment to public health and community development, the company has undertaken fumigation exercises at markets, hospitals, senior high schools and tertiary educational institutions across the country.

The successful organisation of the fifth edition of the LCB Corporate Games further underscores the company's commitment to using sports as a platform to promote teamwork, corporate engagement and stronger relationships among businesses in Ghana.

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Ghana must trust its gold to break cycle of IMF bailouts – GoldBod's Prince Minkah



Media Relations Officer at GoldBod, Prince Kwame Minkah

Ghana must strengthen its capacity to generate foreign exchange from its natural resources rather than continue relying on external financial assistance whenever the economy comes under pressure, Prince Kwame Minkah, Media Relations Officer at the Ghana Gold Board (GoldBod), has said.

He believes the country's gold resources, if properly managed and strategically channelled into the economy, could play a significant role in strengthening the cedi, building national reserves and reducing dependence on repeated International Monetary Fund (IMF) interventions.

In an article titled "Ghana Must Learn to Trust Its Gold: GoldBod's Latest FX Performance and the Road to Economic Sovereignty," Mr Minkah described the Board's latest foreign exchange performance as an important development in Ghana's efforts to achieve greater economic independence.

GoldBod announced on November 2, 2026, that it generated US$1.011 billion from its artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) gold trading operations in October, with the entire amount sold to authorised commercial banks through its GoFX platform.

The Board also projected to generate US$1.2 billion in November, with US$800 million expected to be made available to commercial banks.

Mr Minkah said the figures demonstrated the potential of Ghana's gold resources to contribute directly to foreign exchange availability and support stability in the local currency market.

He argued that the country's recurring currency challenges were not simply a result of inadequate natural resources but also reflected weaknesses in how the nation organised, managed and converted its resource wealth into economic strength.

According to him, Ghana must move away from a situation where economic difficulties routinely lead to negotiations for external bailouts and instead establish stronger domestic mechanisms for generating foreign exchange.

He noted that the availability of dollars generated from gold exports could support importers who require foreign currency to purchase medicines, machinery, industrial materials and other essential goods.

However, he cautioned against attributing the potential appreciation of the cedi solely to GoldBod's interventions, stressing that exchange rate stability also depends on fiscal discipline, import demand, debt management, productivity and investor confidence.

Calls for stronger public confidence in GoldBod

The GoldBod officer further urged Ghanaians to support the institution while demanding transparency and accountability in its operations.

He said the Board's use of the GoFX platform to sell foreign exchange through authorised commercial banks represented an important step towards establishing an organised system of foreign exchange intermediation.

He, however, stressed the need for regular disclosures, transparent pricing, strong internal controls, independent audits and responsible management of public resources to sustain confidence in the institution.

Mr Minkah also cautioned against allowing partisan considerations to undermine national economic initiatives, arguing that GoldBod's success or failure would have implications beyond the political administration that established it.

"It is perfectly legitimate to question public institutions, demand accountability and scrutinise their operations. Indeed, that is how strong institutions are built," he stated.

"But there is a difference between legitimate scrutiny and an entrenched disposition to discredit an institution simply because of the political circumstances surrounding its establishment."

He maintained that the appropriate approach should be to strengthen GoldBod's operational capacity, improve its governance and ensure that it receives the institutional support needed to fulfil its mandate.

Ghana must move beyond IMF dependence

On Ghana's relationship with the IMF, Mr Minkah said the country needed to develop an economic management system that would make repeated bailout programmes unnecessary.

He clarified that his position was not an argument against the IMF or international financial cooperation but a call for stronger domestic economic resilience.

He said sustained foreign exchange generation, effective reserve accumulation, responsible public expenditure and increased productive capacity would help Ghana withstand external financial shocks.

He also called for GoldBod's interventions to be complemented by industrialisation, increased local production, value addition and efforts to reduce unnecessary dependence on imported goods.

Mr Minkah said the ultimate objective should be to build an economy that generates foreign exchange through productive activities rather than repeatedly resorting to borrowing to address currency pressures.

He acknowledged that the October performance and November projections were encouraging but stressed that the real measure of success would be the Board's ability to sustain its performance and translate the proceeds into lasting economic benefits.

"We must not mistake a successful month for a completed economic transformation," he cautioned.

He concluded that Ghana's natural resources must contribute more directly to strengthening the economy, building reserves, supporting industries and improving the country's financial independence.

"Our gold. Our reserves. Our currency. Our economic sovereignty," he stated.

OPINION

The Tragic Death Of Javits Frimpong: Let Us Confront Bullying Without Turning It Into A Black-On-Black Racial Divide





The tragic death of 15-year-old Javits Frimpong, a Ghanaian teenager who was fatally shot while walking to school in the Bronx, New York, is a painful reminder of how vulnerable our children can be and how urgently we need to confront bullying, youth violence and the safety of students in our schools and communities.

Javits had moved from Ghana to the United States to reunite with his father and begin a new chapter of his life. Like many African immigrant parents, his father must have brought him to America with the hope of giving him better opportunities, access to quality education and a brighter future. Sadly, that dream has been cut short in the most heartbreaking circumstances.

Reports indicate that Javits had experienced bullying at school and that his father had raised concerns with school authorities. At least two students were reportedly suspended following incidents involving the teenager. His father believes the shooting may have been connected to the bullying. However, the police have not established a connection between the school incidents and the killing, and the circumstances surrounding the shooting remain under investigation.

We must therefore demand a thorough investigation, accountability for whoever is responsible and appropriate support for the bereaved family. No parent should have to bury a 15-year-old child under such circumstances.

But beyond the immediate tragedy, I believe there is an important conversation we, particularly African immigrant communities in America, must approach with care and maturity.

There is a need for African immigrants to be careful about how we frame conversations surrounding bullying in American public schools, particularly incidents involving African immigrant children and African-American children.

I understand the anxiety and frustration within our communities. Parents who bring their children from Africa to America expect them to enjoy the opportunities, security and protection that should come with growing up in a country that promises equal opportunity. When an African immigrant child experiences bullying, discrimination or hostility, it is understandable that parents and community members will be concerned.

However, we must be careful not to frame every such incident as a confrontation between Black Americans and Black Africans. Doing so risks creating a racial division that does not address the underlying problem and could unnecessarily deepen tensions between two communities that share much more in common than what separates them.

Bullying is not an exclusively African-American problem, nor is it a problem that occurs only between African-American and African immigrant children. It is a broader social and educational problem that affects children across racial, ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

There are well-known instances of Black children being bullied in predominantly White schools. There are also instances of immigrant children being bullied by other immigrant children, and of children from different racial backgrounds bullying one another. The common denominator is bullying, not necessarily race.

We should therefore avoid allowing the circumstances surrounding Javits' death to become an indictment of an entire racial or ethnic community. The identities, motives and possible connections of those responsible for his death must be established through a proper investigation, not assumptions or collective blame.

If we turn this tragedy into an African-versus-African-American debate, we risk losing sight of the real issue: the safety of our children and the culture of bullying and violence that must be confronted.

Bullying can take many forms. It may be physical, verbal, psychological, social or cyber-based. It can involve racial insults, hostility towards someone's accent, ridicule of their background, exclusion because of their cultural identity or repeated intimidation.

One aspect of bullying that we sometimes overlook is that teachers themselves can also become victims of bullying, particularly from students. Teachers, especially those from African, Caribbean backgrounds and Hispanic backgrounds, may sometimes face intimidation, disrespect, ridicule and other forms of hostility from students who exploit cultural differences, accents or unfamiliarity with certain aspects of the American school environment.

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I speak from personal experience. I was once a high school teacher in New York, where I taught Algebra 2, Trigonometry and Pre-Calculus. These are not the easiest subjects to teach, particularly because many students already have a phobia of mathematics and approach these subjects with anxiety and reluctance.

During my time in the classroom, I experienced situations where some students attempted to bully and intimidate me. Had I not lived in the United States for several years before entering the teaching profession, I might have found the experience extremely frustrating and probably walked away from the job.

Teaching in an American high school requires more than subject knowledge. You must understand the school culture, the students' behaviour, the education system and how to manage different personalities in a classroom. You also need to know how to establish authority without turning every disagreement into a confrontation.

Despite those challenges, teaching became one of the most rewarding careers I had in the United States. It gave me a firsthand understanding of how the American education system works, the challenges teachers encounter and the importance of parental involvement in a child's education. More importantly, it taught me valuable lessons about how to prepare and raise my own children as they navigate the American school system.

I share this experience to make a broader point that bullying is not always a simple matter of one racial group targeting another. It can take different forms, involve different people and occur in different relationships. Students bully other students, and sometimes students bully teachers. Teachers can also mistreat students. The issue requires us to look beyond racial assumptions and examine the behaviour, culture and circumstances that allow bullying to thrive.

This is why our conversations must be balanced. We should listen to children, support teachers, hold schools accountable and ensure that everyone within the educational environment is treated with dignity and respect.An African child who has recently arrived in America may have to adjust to a new environment, a different educational system, unfamiliar social expectations and sometimes a different way of speaking. Such children may become targets of ridicule because of their accents, cultural practices, clothing or unfamiliarity with certain aspects of American life. Schools must take these experiences seriously.

At the same time, we must recognise that African-American children also experience bullying, including in predominantly White educational environments. Their experiences deserve the same attention, empathy and seriousness.

The solution cannot be to encourage African immigrant children to see African-American children as their adversaries, or vice versa. It must be to create school environments where every child, irrespective of race, nationality, ethnicity or immigration background, feels safe, respected and protected.

Schools must establish effective reporting systems, investigate complaints promptly, protect students who report bullying from retaliation and engage parents when incidents occur. Disciplinary action should also be accompanied by appropriate counselling, monitoring and interventions that address the behaviour responsible for the problem.

Parents equally have a responsibility to teach their children respect, tolerance, self-control and peaceful conflict resolution. We cannot demand that schools do everything while ignoring the influence of the home and the wider community.

African immigrants must understand that our experiences in America are connected to a much larger Black experience. African-Americans have their own history, struggles, sacrifices and contributions to American society. African immigrants also bring their histories, cultures, aspirations and experiences.

We may have different cultural backgrounds, accents, traditions and migration experiences, but those differences should not become reasons for hostility.

There may be genuine tensions and cultural misunderstandings between some African immigrant and African-American children. Those issues should be acknowledged and addressed honestly rather than dismissed. However, acknowledging such tensions is different from portraying an entire community as hostile towards another.

We must also be careful about the language we use on social media. A tragedy involving one child must not become an opportunity to circulate unverified accusations, generalise about an entire racial group or encourage resentment.

More troubling is the fact that some people are willing to turn Javits' tragic death into an argument about why Africans should remain in Africa rather than migrate to the United States. That alone tells you why we must learn to ignore certain people, regardless of how many they are or how loudly they express their idiotic views.

To exploit the death of a 15-year-old boy to discourage others from pursuing opportunities abroad is deeply insensitive. Such thinking demonstrates a shocking absence of empathy, emotional intelligence and, quite frankly, basic common sense. There is a time for debate and a time to show compassion. A grieving family deserves our sympathy, not an opportunity for people to advance their personal agendas.

We can have honest conversations about the challenges of raising children in America, school safety, migration and the realities of life abroad without using someone's death as a platform for insensitive commentary.We can demand justice for Javits without blaming African-Americans collectively. We can condemn bullying without creating racial divisions. We can demand that schools protect immigrant children while recognising that every child, including African-American children, deserves the same protection.

Our position must be against bullying, discrimination, intimidation and youth violence, regardless of who commits them or who becomes the victim.The death of Javits Frimpong should prompt serious questions about school safety, bullying prevention, access to firearms, youth violence and the responsibilities of parents, schools and community institutions.

We must establish whether the bullying he reportedly experienced had any connection to his killing. We must also insist that the authorities investigate the circumstances thoroughly and bring anyone responsible to justice.

But we must not allow grief and anger to lead us into a narrative that divides Black Americans and Africans. That would be an unfortunate outcome of an already devastating tragedy.

A 15-year-old boy lost his life. A father has lost his son. A mother in Ghana has lost her child. A family has been plunged into grief, and a community is searching for answers.

Javits deserved to live, to learn, to make friends, to pursue his dreams and to experience the opportunities his parents hoped America would offer him.

Let this tragedy strengthen our resolve to protect every child, regardless of where that child comes from.

Justice for Javits Frimpong. An end to bullying. An end to youth violence. And a united commitment to the safety and dignity of all our children.

Alhaji Baba Suwari

STEM Advocate

Executive Member of Yankasa Association USA

Bronx, New York

Tenerife Striker Jesús de Miguel dies after collision with goalkeeper

CD Tenerife striker Jesús de Miguel has died after a collision with Andorra goalkeeper Jesús Owono, according to Spanish media outlets.

Tenerife and Andorra were nearing the end of their LaLiga 2 match on Monday afternoon.

Both sides had already had a player sent off, and the score was 2-2 when a high ball sent De Miguel through in the seventh minute of stoppage time. Andorra goalkeeper Jesús Owono came out to meet it.

Around the halfway line, Owono could not use his hands. He tried to kick the ball away but struck the 30-year-old De Miguel hard in the head.

Medics treated De Miguel for several minutes, then carried him off on a stretcher and took him to hospital. Spanish media also reported that he suffered a cardiac arrest before resuscitation restored his heartbeat.

Although De Miguel's condition appeared to stabilise on Monday evening, Tenerife reported on Tuesday morning that it had deteriorated. The Spanish striker died shortly afterwards as a result of the foul.

Source: Goal.com



Ghana vs Somalia: GFA pushing for Essipong Stadium to host AFCON qualifier double-header

The Ghana Football Association (GFA) is pushing for Ghana's 2027 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifier against Somalia to be played at the Essipong Sports Stadium in the Western Region.

Acting National Sports Authority (NSA) Director-General Professor Emmanuel Osei Sarpong says the fixture could be staged either at the Accra Sports Stadium or the Essipong Sports Stadium, with a final decision yet to be made.

Osei Sarpong disclosed that although the NSA's official correspondence indicates that the match will be played at the Accra Sports Stadium, the GFA is seeking to relocate the fixture to Essipong.

"The game can be played either at the Accra Sports Stadium or at the Essipong Sports Stadium," he told Asempa FM.

"Officially, the letter we have states that the game will be played at the Accra Sports Stadium, but the Ghana Football Association (GFA) is pushing for the game to be played at the Essipong Sports Stadium.

"There is a meeting, and by the close of day today, a decision will be made on where the game will be played," he added.

Ghana is scheduled to host Somalia in the first of the two encounters on Thursday, November 12, before the teams meet again on November 16. Both matches are expected to take place in Ghana.

The Black Stars head into the double-header under pressure to revive their qualifying campaign after suffering consecutive defeats against Ivory Coast and The Gambia in their opening Group C matches.

Ghana is yet to record a victory in the qualifiers and will be looking to collect maximum points from the two fixtures to improve their chances of reaching the 2027 tournament.

The matches also present an opportunity for the four-time African champions to rebuild following their failure to qualify for the 2025 AFCON in Morocco.

The Essipong Sports Stadium recently hosted the Black Queens' victory over Malawi in the 2028 Olympic Games qualifiers, making it a potential venue for another Ghanaian national team fixture.



Acting NSA Director-General Prof. Emmanuel Osei Sarpong

2027 AFCON Qualifiers: Local players must be considered for Ghana v Somalia double-header - Frimpong Manso



Former Ghana international Frimpong Manso

Former Ghana international Frimpong Manso has called on the Black Stars interim technical team to include more locally based players in the squad for the upcoming 2027 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifiers against Somalia.

Ghana are scheduled to face Somalia in a double-header during the November international break, with the first match set for November 12 before the two sides meet again on November 16. Both fixtures are expected to be played in Ghana.

Speaking in an interview with Sporty FM, Manso believes the upcoming matches present an opportunity for the technical team to assess players in the Ghana Premier League, particularly with some key foreign-based internationals facing injury and fitness concerns.

He stressed that giving domestic players an opportunity should not be viewed as undermining Somalia but rather as a chance to strengthen Ghana's squad and reward players capable of delivering for the national team.

"I feel this is the opportunity to try and give the local players a chance. I feel we can get about five players who have the ability and quality, then we can add the foreign-based players to them," the Asante Kotoko legend said.

The former coach also questioned the wisdom of selecting foreign-based players who may not be sufficiently fit or playing regularly at their respective clubs.

He specifically pointed to the fitness concerns surrounding Mohammed Kudus and Antoine Semenyo, arguing that the technical team should explore alternative options rather than rely on players who might struggle to perform at their best.

"If you call Kudus, there's no way he will come, and even if he does come, he won't give his best because he returned from injury and is gaining some match fitness. Semenyo is also injured, so who are we calling to the national team?" he added.

Manso believes Ghana can assemble a competitive squad by selecting a significant number of players from the domestic league and complementing them with foreign-based internationals who are fit and committed to the national cause.

"We should be able to call half of the team from the local league, then we can add the rest from other leagues. But not necessarily that they don't perform. We call those that will come and give their best," he said.

The former Bibiani Gold Stars head coach further argued that the demanding schedules in Europe's top leagues could affect the readiness of some players for international duty, making it necessary for the technical team to prioritise those who are available and eager to represent the country.

Manso insists there is enough quality in the Ghana Premier League to strengthen the Black Stars, adding that the upcoming double-header would provide local players with an opportunity to prove their worth at international level.

The interim technical team, led by head coach Kim Lars Björkegren, is expected to announce its squad this week ahead of the two encounters.

Ghana head into the fixtures under pressure after losing their opening two Group C matches against Ivory Coast and The Gambia.

The four-time African champions are yet to record a victory in the qualifiers and will be targeting maximum points from the Somalia double-header to revive their hopes of reaching the 2027 tournament.

The matches also offer Ghana an opportunity to rebuild confidence following their failure to qualify for the 2025 AFCON in Morocco.

ENTERTAINMENT

Big spenders are making ordinary men look lazy before ladies – Kanayo O. Kanayo

Nigerian actor Kanayo O. Kanayo has accused wealthy men of spending excessively on women, arguing that their lavish gifts and financial support make hardworking men appear unsuccessful.

The actor said rich men have the right to spend their money as they wish, provided their spending is legal.

However, he believes the amount some wealthy Nigerians spend on women creates an unfair impression about other men.

"Every man has a right to spend his money. Every person has a right to spend his money legally on anything," he said on The Honest Bunch podcast.

Kanayo added that the spending habits of some wealthy men had reached a point where they made other men look as though they were not working hard enough.

"But unfortunately, Nigerian rich men, most of them, spend money on our girls to the extent that it impoverishes us and makes us look like we don't work hard," he stated.



Nigerian actor Kanayo O. Kanayo

Michael Blackson, Sarkodie, Cardi B, others mourn Javits Frimpong

Comedian Michael Blackson, rapper Sarkodie and American music star, Cardi B, are among the celebrities who have reacted to the killing of 15-year-old Ghanaian student Javits Frimpong in the Bronx, New York, expressing grief and raising concerns about bullying and youth violence.

Cardi B, who grew up in the Bronx, condemned the treatment of immigrant children in New York schools, saying newcomers were often bullied by their peers.

"Everybody be bullying the new kids that come from foreign countries, that be coming from Africa or from DR (Dominican Republic). Everybody bullies them, even their own kind," she said during an Instagram Live session.

The rapper, who questioned what could drive young people to take another person's life, also linked bullying to gang involvement, drawing from her own childhood experiences.

"What does bullying make you do? That makes you want to join a gang," she said, adding that she would never raise her children in the Bronx or enroll them in a New York public school.

Michael Blackson, meanwhile, said Javits' death brought back painful memories of his experience as a young African immigrant in Newark, New Jersey, where he was bullied and once punched because of his good grades.

"This story broke my heart this morning. I remember being that age my first time in America when I lived in Newark NJ, I was bullied and once punched in the face because I had good grades," he wrote.

The comedian, who said the teenager reminded him of himself, added: "This 15-year-old kid couldn't wait to come to America and now a year later he's dead. This has to stop."

He announced plans to visit high schools to speak to foreign-born students about dealing with bullying.

Sarkodie also expressed concern about the values being instilled in young people, calling on parents to take greater responsibility.

"I honestly don't know what kind of upbringing shapes children to become so evil. I think some of my fellow Black brothers and sisters out there need to do better when it comes to raising their children and instilling the right values in them," he wrote.

The rapper added, "It's very unfortunate that we had to lose Javits this way. May his gentle soul rest in perfect peace."

Bronx rapper, A Boogie Wit da Hoodie, also honoured Javits during a concert at UBS Arena in New York, asking the audience to observe a moment of silence.

"He just came here from Africa to America about a year ago, and he passed away due to a gunshot wound. So let's give a moment of silence to him," he told the audience.

Javits was shot shortly before 9.30am on Thursday, October 29, near East 171st Street in the Claremont area of the Bronx while on his way to school. He later died at the hospital.

He moved from Ghana to the United States a year ago to join his father, Thomas Frimpong, and attended DreamYard Preparatory School.

His father said the teenager had previously complained of bullying at school and reported incidents involving other students. However, police have not confirmed whether bullying was connected to the shooting.

Authorities are searching for three teenage suspects aged between 16 and 18, who were last seen wearing black clothing and blue surgical masks.



Life in Ghana is tougher than I thought – TeePhlow

Rapper, TeePhlow says he only came to appreciate the difficulties many Ghanaians face in daily life after returning to the country from abroad.

The rapper said he had heard people complain about the rising cost of living and hardships in the country but didn't fully appreciate their concerns until he experienced them firsthand.

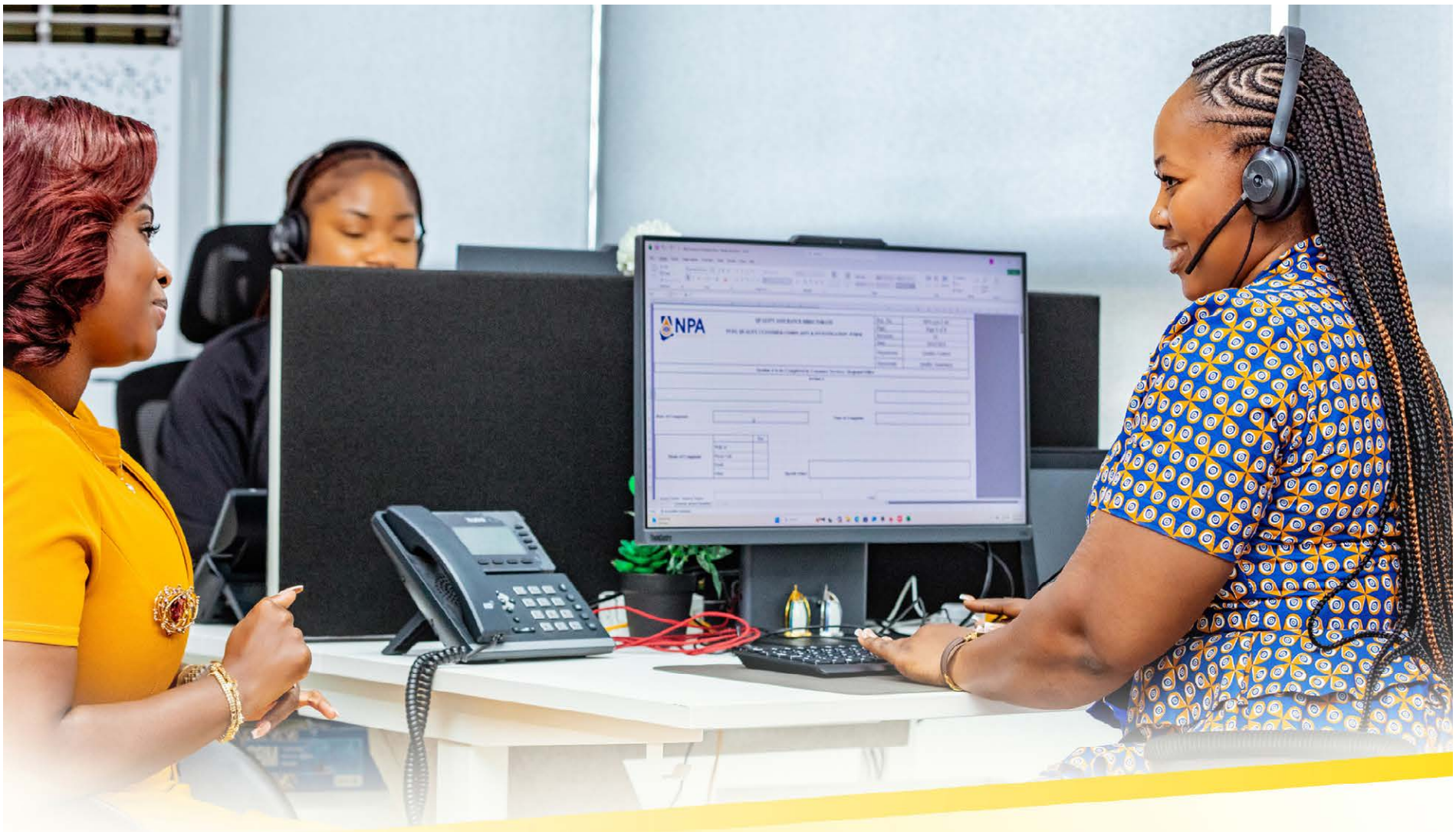
According to him, his experience abroad had given him a different perspective, making it difficult to understand the extent of the challenges people were talking about.

"I used to hear people complain that life has become so difficult in Ghana, but I didn't believe it until I came back from abroad," he said.

TeePhlow made the remarks during an interview with Amansan Krakye on Moulders FM.



Rapper TeePhlow



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