

# THE MODERN GUIDE

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## AG explains withdrawal of charges against Kwabena Duffour in UniBank case



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lack of evidence of theft or personal enrichment.

Speaking on Starr Chat in an interview with broadcaster Bola Ray, Dr Ayine said investigations into UniBank's collapse did not meet the legal threshold required for criminal prosecution. He noted that public debate around the case was largely

Read More: [Page 11](#)

## NPA Boss lauds TOR management for revamping operations



The Chief Executive of the National Petroleum Authority (NPA), Mr. Godwin Kudzo Tameklo Esq., has lauded the management of the Tema Oil Refinery (TOR) for revamping crude oil refining operations after years of shut down. He particularly commended the TOR Managing Director, Mr. Edmond Kombat, for leading the process and

praised the management team for giving him the needed support.

Speaking during a working visit to TOR on Thursday, Mr. Tameklo said TOR was integral to Ghana's development, and indicated that the revival of TOR refining operations was in line with President John Dramani Mahama's vision.

Read More: [Page 12](#)

# Names of NPP cronies who bought Kufour buses for Gh¢2,500 exposed

Read More: [Page 02](#)

## 'Dr. Domfe has no sense one bit; he can't call me 'kwasia' and go free' — Solomon Owusu



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opinion polls produced by Dr. Domfe's organisation, which he described as fake and misleading.

According to the UP spokesperson, Dr. Domfe later called him and subjected him to verbal abuse, including calling him senseless and a fool, a development he says he will not take lightly.

Speaking on Accra FM, Mr. Owusu

Read More: [Page 04](#)

## NPP's Valentino threatened to kill himself or kill our daughter if she goes ahead with divorce — Family reveals



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Relatives said Gilda Nortey was stabbed several times by her husband

during a domestic dispute reportedly triggered by discussions about divorce. Her uncle, David Gyapanin, described the incident as shocking and unacceptable, insisting that the family will pursue justice to its full extent.

According to him, the disagreement escalated after Gilda indicated she might file for divorce if challenges in the marriage persisted. He alleged that

Read More: [Page 04](#)

## GoldBod, Gold Coast Refinery sign agreement to refine gold locally beginning February 1



The Ghana Gold Board (GoldBod) has signed an agreement with Gold Coast Refinery Limited and its South African partner Rand Refinery to begin round-the-clock gold refining in Ghana from February 1, 2026.

The deal, signed in Accra on Tuesday, January 20, will see up to one metric

tonne of gold refined locally every week at the Gold Coast Refinery, a move the statutory body says will boost value addition, create jobs and keep millions of dollars in refining fees within the Ghanaian economy.

The agreement comes amid long-standing concerns that Ghana exports nearly all its gold in raw form, forcing the country to rely on foreign refineries

Read More: [Page 05](#)



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# Minority NPP blames Ablakwa's 'megaphone diplomacy' for US visa freeze



Bosome Freho MP, Nana Asafo-Adjei Ayeh

The Minority NPP in Parliament has accused Foreign Affairs Minister, Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa, of what it describes as “megaphone diplomacy,” arguing that his public-facing posture is the reason for Ghana’s inclusion in the United States’ temporary suspension of immigrant visa processing.

The criticism follows a decision by the United States to temporarily halt immigrant visa processing for nationals of 75 countries,

including Ghana and Nigeria, as it reviews visa screening procedures under its long-standing “public charge” rules.

Addressing the media on Tuesday, January 20, the Deputy Ranking Member on Parliament’s Foreign Affairs Committee, Nana Asafo-Adjei Ayeh, said the development represents a serious diplomatic and economic setback, which he argues is linked to the Foreign Affairs Minister’s approach to international engagements.

According to Asafo-Adjei Ayeh,

instead of quiet and strategic diplomacy, the minister has relied heavily on public confrontations and personalised rebuttals, particularly in matters involving American firms doing business with Ghana. He argued that this style failed to reassure international partners of Ghana’s reliability and good faith.

The Bosome Freho MP further claimed that statements made by Mr Ablakwa during his tenure as Chairman of Operation Recover All Loots (ORAL), including allegations that over GHS21 billion had been stolen from the state, weakened foreign and investor confidence and reinforced negative perceptions about Ghana.

Nana Asafo-Adjei also accused the minister of failing to anticipate the policy posture of a Trump administration, which he said has a record of using visa restrictions as a coercive diplomatic tool.

In a strongly worded statement, the Minority warned that the visa suspension threatens Ghana’s relationship with its diaspora and could significantly affect remittance inflows.

“Nations we must remember,

are built by a combination of citizens both at home and abroad, each contributing according to their capacity, each vital to the whole. This visa freeze attack that partnership and diminishes us all. Or worse, they will seek opportunities in countries less invested in Ghana’s success.

“The Foreign Minister’s megaphone diplomacy has put billions of dollars in annual remittance at risk, and for what? So that he can play the strong man on television. So, he can harvest social media applause while Ghanaian families suffer in silence. He is the architect behind this disaster,” he said.

The Minority is calling for a shift away from what it describes as publicity-driven diplomacy to a more measured and strategic engagement with key international partners, warning that continued grandstanding could deepen Ghana’s diplomatic isolation.

The caucus is urging President John Dramani Mahama to dismiss Mr. Ablakwa as Foreign Affairs Minister, arguing that he is incompetent.

# NPP race: It will be easy to use Ken Agyapong’s past to get Christians to vote against him – NDC’s Eric Adjei



CEO of National Entrepreneurship & Innovation Programme, Eric Adjei

**C**hief Executive Officer of the National Entrepreneurship & Innovation Programme (NEIP), Eric Adjei, has urged the New Patriotic Party to

reject Kennedy Agyapong.

He says the NDC will use his past against him, and that will win them the 2028 elections should Kennedy Agyapong win.

He recalled how the former legislator used vile words to

describe women and attacked leading pastors in Ghana, indicating that he will be an easy opponent to beat.

Eric Adjei used the opportunity to urge the youth in politics to stay away from vile language in their communication because they do not know what the future holds.

“For someone who attacked pastors and Christianity in the past, it is surprising that he comes back today and asks pastors to pray for him.

Everyone has his or her faith but we are not the ones to judge. It is only one person who will judge us. You made it a point to attack pastors every weekend but just recently, you asked pastors to come and bless you. God is not an NPP man, he’s neutral.

“I cringe anytime I watch his videos from the past. The way he insults women and the unfiltered

words he uses against women. I am saying this because as youth, we don’t know what the future holds. Kennedy Agyapong in the past said he would never be president, but today he’s combing the whole country to contest for presidential primaries. This should tell you that any opportunity you get, speak well as a human being,” he said on Asempa FM.

“His claim of creating jobs will not sway anyone. How many of his party people has he employed? We will use his recordings against him. Anyone who is against my religion has me to deal with. Under President Akufo-Addo, we took solace in the bible and pastors during the hard times. Pastors now became afraid because they were under attack,” he added.

# NPP is increasingly becoming a bipolar party – NPP’s Enam Hadzide

**P**ius Enam Hadzide, Campaign Spokesperson for New Patriotic Party (NPP) flagbearer hopeful, Dr. Bryan Acheampong, has warned that growing internal divisions could threaten the party’s unity after its presidential primaries.

According to him, tensions between camps aligned to former Vice President Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia and former Assin Central MP, Kennedy Agyapong, are deepening and creating unhealthy rivalries within the party.

Speaking in an interview on Accra-based JoyPrime on Monday, January 19, Mr. Hadzide said the situation risks weakening the NPP’s chances going into future elections.

“Our party is increasingly becoming a bipolar party, with Dr. Bawumia on one extreme side and Kennedy on the other extreme,” he said.

He argued that such polarization fuels factionalism and makes it difficult for the party to rally around a common goal of winning national elections.

“With that level of polarity, division and factionalism, it becomes difficult to unite around our common purpose of victory in elections,” Mr. Hadzide stated.

Mr. Hadzide stressed that Dr. Bryan Acheampong’s leadership style and campaign conduct position him as the candidate best suited to restore discipline and unity within the NPP.

The comments come ahead of the NPP’s presidential primaries scheduled for Saturday, January 31, where more than 200,000 delegates are expected to vote.

Five high-profile aspirants are contesting the race, including Kennedy Agyapong, Bryan Acheampong, Dr. Osei Yaw Adutwum, former Vice President Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia, and former General Secretary of the party, Kwabena Agyei Agyepong.



*Pius Enam Hadzide*

# Ghana needs 20 years of NPP opposition for real change – A Plus

**T**he Member of Parliament for Gomoa Central, Kwame Asare Obeng, popularly known as A Plus, has urged Ghanaians to allow the New Patriotic Party (NPP) to remain in opposition for an extended period.

He believes the party has much to learn from the governing National Democratic Congress (NDC) on effective governance.

A Plus suggested that the NPP should stay out of power for twenty years to gain experience and avoid taking Ghanaians for granted.

To support his call, he pointed to recent improvements under the NDC, including reductions in port charges and fuel prices.

In his post, he wrote: “Not long ago, a Honda CR-V sold for about 750,000 Ghana cedis. Today, you can get it for about 450,000 Ghana cedis.

“Fuel prices have dropped to about 9.99. Eiii

“The things John Mahama is doing after just 8 years in opposition eh...

“Honestly, if NPP can stay in opposition for at least 20 years, I’m very confident they’ll perform better than any government in the world when they return. Just 8 years and look at the Miracles; Aboagye, what do you think?”



*Gomoa Central MP, Kwame Asare Obeng*

# Dumping Bawumia is the only way to reset NPP – Prof. Frimpong Boateng

**Prof. Frimpong Boateng, a prominent figure in the New Patriotic Party (NPP), has stated that rebuilding and resetting the party after its 2024 electoral loss will require removing Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia.**

He explained that letting go of Dr. Bawumia would allow the party to part ways with some executives who, in his view, contributed to the defeat in

2024.

Speaking on Accra-based United Television, he said, “I have said it, and I will say it again, we have to dump Dr Bawumia. If Bawumia is out of the way, we can get some of these executives of the party out and reset the party for the future. Until this is done, we will not achieve anything.”



Prominent MP member, Prof. Frimpong Boateng

## SOCIAL NEWS

# NPP's Valentino threatened to kill himself or kill our daughter if she goes ahead with divorce – Family reveals

**The family of Gilda Nortey, wife of former New Patriotic Party parliamentary candidate for Korle Klotey, Valentino Nii Noi Nortey, has issued a strong call for justice following her alleged stabbing in the United States.**

Relatives said Gilda Nortey was stabbed several times by her husband during a domestic dispute reportedly triggered by discussions about divorce.

Her uncle, David Gyapanin, described the incident as shocking and unacceptable, insisting that the family will pursue justice to its full extent.

According to him, the disagreement escalated after Gilda indicated she might file for divorce if challenges in the marriage persisted. He alleged that Mr Nortey threatened to either kill himself or kill her before attacking her.

“She said she might go for divorce if things continued that way. He threatened to either kill himself or kill her. He stabbed her three times,” Mr Gyapanin recounted in an interview with Citi News. “She begged him to take her to the hospital, and he agreed only if she promised not to mention his name.”

He said Gilda managed to save herself by driving to the

hospital where she works after securing her car keys. She is currently recovering and in improving condition.

“As a family, we want nothing less than justice,” he stressed. “This happened in the United States, and we expect the law there to work fully. You cannot marry someone’s daughter and decide to end her life because she wants out of the marriage. If justice is not served there and he returns to Ghana, we will still pursue justice.”

Police in Lower Paxton Township, Pennsylvania, confirmed that the incident occurred around 10 a.m. on Saturday, January 17, 2026, along Mayfair Drive. Officers said the victim was transported to the hospital by first responders and is in stable condition, adding that there was no threat to the public.

Valentino Nii Noi Nortey, 41, of Harrisburg, has been charged with attempted homicide, possession of an instrument of crime with intent to use, and tampering with or fabricating physical evidence.

Court records indicate that he was arraigned before Magisterial District Judge David Judy, who denied him bail. He is currently being held at the Dauphin County Prison pending a preliminary hearing scheduled for January 26, 2026, as investigations continue.



Valentino Nii Noi Nortey and wife, Gilda Nortey

# AG explains withdrawal of charges against Kwabena Duffour in UniBank case

**The Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Dr Dominic Ayine Akuritinga, has clarified that the withdrawal of criminal charges against former Finance Minister Dr Kwabena Duffour and other directors of the defunct UniBank was due to a lack of evidence of theft or personal enrichment.**

Speaking on Starr Chat in an interview with broadcaster Bola Ray, Dr Ayine said investigations into UniBank's collapse did not meet the legal threshold required for criminal prosecution. He noted that public debate around the case was largely shaped by the prominence of the Duffour family rather than the facts necessary to sustain charges in court.

He explained that a review of cases from Ghana's financial sector clean-up showed that UniBank's situation differed from others where criminal wrongdoing was clearly established.

Dr Ayine contrasted the UniBank case with that of Capital Bank, where prosecutors uncovered clear evidence of criminal conduct. "In the Capital Bank case, there was clear evidence that funds meant to support the bank were physically diverted to a private garage at the managing director's residence. That is pure

stealing," he said.

However, he stressed that no similar evidence existed in the UniBank case. He explained that receiving liquidity support and later collapsing does not automatically make bank owners or directors criminals. "If liquidity support is used through normal banking processes and the bank still fails, you cannot criminalise the directors just because the business did not succeed," Dr Ayine stated.

He further emphasized that risk-taking is inherent in banking, and business failure or loan defaults do not constitute crimes

unless there is proof of fraud, dishonesty, or theft. Responding to claims that UniBank's owners looted depositors' funds, he said investigations found no evidence to support such allegations, adding, "There was no evidence that the Duffours stole money."

Dr Ayine also dismissed claims of fraudulent breach of trust, explaining that under Ghanaian law, the relationship between a bank and its customers is contractual, not fiduciary. He noted that although UniBank extended loans to related companies, this alone does not constitute a crime unless there is evidence of dishonesty or

personal gain.

He said these legal considerations informed the decision to discontinue the criminal case against Dr Duffour and other directors. Civil cases being pursued by the bank's receiver are still ongoing, and asset recovery remains possible.

The Attorney-General maintained that the UniBank case was never about theft or personal enrichment, despite public criticism, and highlighted the limits of using criminal law to address business failures in the financial sector.



# Arise Ghana marches to US Embassy to demand Ofori-Atta's extradition

**Pressure group Arise Ghana has picketed at the United States Embassy in Accra, calling for the return of former Finance Minister Ken Ofori-Atta to Ghana to face investigations into alleged financial mismanagement.**

The protesters, dressed predominantly in red and black, gathered near the embassy with placards carrying messages such as "Bring Ken Home" and "No Hiding Place for Corruption."

They insisted that the former minister should make himself available to investigators amid ongoing probes into transactions undertaken during his time in office.

The protest comes at a time when the Office of the Special Prosecutor (OSP) is investigating a number of deals approved under Mr Ofori-Atta's tenure, including revenue assurance contracts,

aspects of the public debt restructuring programme and payments made through sole-sourcing arrangements.

Ken Ofori-Atta served as Finance Minister from 2017 to 2024 under the New Patriotic Party (NPP) administration and has been at the centre of sustained public debate over issues of public finance management and procurement.

His legal team has previously indicated that he is prepared to cooperate with any lawful investigative process, explaining that his stay outside the country is temporary and based on health and security considerations.

Arise Ghana has maintained that accountability requires the former minister's physical presence in Ghana and has vowed to sustain pressure until he returns to respond to the investigations.



# ‘Dr. Domfe has no sense one bit; he can’t call me ‘kwasia’ and go free’ — Solomon Owusu



**D**irector of Communications for the United Party (UP), Solomon Owusu, has vowed to throw equal volley of ballistics at University of Ghana lecturer, Dr. George Domfe, following what he describes as a series of verbal assaults on him.

Mr. Owusu said the matter stems from his earlier public criticism of opinion polls produced by Dr. Domfe’s organisation, which he described as fake and misleading.

According to the UP spokesperson, Dr. Domfe later called him and subjected him to verbal abuse, including calling him senseless

and a fool, a development he says he will not take lightly.

Speaking on Accra FM, Mr. Owusu said the insults crossed the line and warned that he is prepared to face Dr. Domfe physically if they ever meet.

“Dr. Domfe and I have an awaiting fight. At a point, I publicly criticised what I described as fake polls he and his organisation were

putting out,” he said.

He added, “As far as I am concerned, wherever I meet Dr. Domfe, there will be a fight. He cannot be verbally aggressive without being ready to face the consequences physically.”

[TWITTER] <https://twitter.com/CitizenTechiman/>

## Agradaa begs Empress Gifty with GH¢100,000 to end defamation case

**T**he defamation suits filed by gospel musician Empress Gifty Oppong Adorye against Evangelist Patricia Asiedua, popularly known as Nana Agradaa, have officially been settled following an out of court agreement involving a GH¢100,000 payment.

Lawyer for Nana Agradaa, Richard Asare Baffour, confirmed that the settlement was on January 20, 2026 adopted as a Consent Judgment by both the Tema Land Court and the Tema Main Court, effectively ending the two cases initiated in May and June 2025.

Empress Gifty had dragged Evangelist Asiedua to court over a series of social media publications she described as defamatory and injurious to her reputation. The gospel musician had sought GH¢40 million in damages for alleged slander and libel, alongside a perpetual injunction to restrain further publications, the removal of the offending content from social media, and full recovery of legal costs.

The cases, however, did not proceed to full trial after both parties opted for an amicable resolution through negotiations.

As part of the agreed settlement, Nana Agradaa paid GH¢100,000 to Empress Gifty to cover legal fees and related expenses. She also undertook to retract the statements in question, issue

a public apology, and request the assistance of the National Information Technology Agency to facilitate the removal of the disputed content from social media platforms.

Richard Asare Baffour stated that all the conditions outlined in the settlement have been fully complied with, confirming that

the payment has been made and the public apology duly rendered. With the courts adopting the Consent Judgments, Empress Gifty has formally withdrawn all claims arising from the lawsuits, bringing the long-running legal dispute to a definitive close.







# PETROLEUM PRICE INDICATORS

(As of 6th January, 2026)

	<b>PBU EFFECTIVE 1ST JANUARY 2026 (12TH - 26TH DECEMBER 2025 AVERAGES)</b>	<b>ESTIMATED PBU EFFECTIVE 16TH JANUARY 2026 (27TH DECEMBER- 11TH JANUARY 2026 AVERAGES)</b>	<b>% CHANGE</b>
<b>FX Rate (Commercial Banks Average) (USD/GHS)</b>	<b>11.5222</b>	<b>10.8913</b>	<b>5.79%</b>
<b>Crude Oil (USD/BBL)</b>	<b>61.74</b>	<b>62.57</b>	<b>1.35%</b>
<b>Petrol (USD/MT)</b>	<b>620.00</b>	<b>616.39</b>	<b>-0.58%</b>
<b>Gasoil (USD/MT)</b>	<b>621.92</b>	<b>618.08</b>	<b>-0.62%</b>
<b>LPG (USD/MT)</b>	<b>475.67</b>	<b>456.58</b>	<b>-4.01%</b>
<b>Jet/Kerosene (USD/MT)</b>	<b>693.86</b>	<b>692.53</b>	<b>-0.19%</b>
<b>Fuel Oil (USD/MT)</b>	<b>362.00</b>	<b>363.14</b>	<b>0.31%</b>
<b>*Products figures represent the FOB Prices used in the Price Build-Up (PBU)</b>			

**Note:** "Oil prices fell as the market weighed expectations of ample global supply this year against uncertainty around Venezuelan crude output after the U.S. capture of Nicholas Maduro, the South American country's leader." - Reuters.

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# Former NPP Parliamentary Candidate arrested in US over alleged wife stabbing



Valentino Nii Noi Nortey, former NPP parliamentary candidate

**V**alentino Nii Noi Nortey, former New Patriotic Party (NPP) parliamentary candidate for the Klotey Korle Constituency, has been taken into custody in the United States following allegations of stabbing his wife during a domestic dispute.

Reports indicate that Nortey was arrested on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, after a heated argument with his spouse escalated into violence, prompting local authorities to intervene.

Sources from the scene reveal that the incident occurred amid a domestic

disagreement, leading U.S. law enforcement to detain Nortey immediately. He remains in custody and is expected to face legal proceedings under American domestic violence laws.

The case has drawn significant attention both in Ghana and among Ghanaian communities abroad, given Nortey's prominence as a former parliamentary candidate and active political figure in the Klotey Korle Constituency.

Authorities are expected to provide further updates as the legal process unfolds in the United States.

# Neighbour who was attempting suicide kills man who went to stop him in Jomoro

**T**he fishing community of Takinta in the Jomoro Municipality of the Western Region has been thrown into a state of shock after news broke out that one of the respected persons in the community has been killed under sad and bizarre circumstances.

According to information gathered, the deceased, Cosmos Ndah was allegedly killed by his neighbour, Nya Meah with a machete.

Sources revealed that on the day he was killed, suspect Nya Meah had told some people in the area that he wanted to commit suicide because he was fed up with life.

“So Meah went to his room and threatened that he was going to kill himself”, some residents

asserted.

Daily Guide Network gathered that when the deceased, who was a neighbor, heard what Meah wanted to do, he decided to go and talk to him to rescind his decision.

According to eyewitnesses, Cosmos Ndah then went to the suspect's house to try to talk to him and calm him down.

“But in the process, a confrontation ensued and the situation later turned bloody when Meah used a cutlass to butcher Cosmos to death,” eye witnesses narrated.

The Police has since taken over the case, and investigations are ongoing to establish the full circumstances surrounding the incident. Meanwhile, the suspect has been arrested.



# Names of NPP cronies who bought Kufour buses for Gh¢2,500 exposed



**R**eceipts linked to the sale of Metro Mass Transit MMT buses have surfaced online, exposing details of individuals who allegedly acquired the vehicles under questionable circumstances during an auction exercise.

The images circulating show official MMT receipts issued to buyers for buses described as unserviceable. Some of the documents reflect payments of GH¢16,200 and GH¢22,690, while others indicate varying amounts.

The receipts contain the names of purchasers, transaction dates, fleet numbers, and signatures of MMT officials who processed the sales. They also show that payments were made at different MMT stations and recorded as proceeds from the sale of unserviceable buses.

Each receipt carries the official stamp and serial number of Metro Mass Transit Limited, confirming that the transactions were formally documented.

The development comes amid earlier revelations by the Deputy Managing Director of MMT,

Haroun Apaw Wiredu, that some of the buses were sold in the period leading to the 2024 general elections, with certain vehicles reportedly going for as low as GH¢2,500.

Meanwhile, speaking to journalists in Accra on Monday, January 19, the Minister of Transport, Joseph Nikpe Bukari, confirmed that government has initiated an inquiry into the bus sales.

He stated that the governing boards are currently reviewing the transactions to assess whether the values assigned to the buses

were appropriate.

Mr Bukari said he has instructed both management and the boards of MMT to conduct a thorough reassessment of the auction process, stressing that conclusions cannot be drawn until the review is completed.

“It is not something I can conclude on immediately. The auctions did take place, but if there are questions to be asked, we will go back into it and determine the next steps,” he said.

Check below:



# GoldBod, Gold Coast Refinery sign agreement to refine gold locally beginning February 1



GoldBod CEO, Sammy Gyamfi [L] and [R] Gold Coast Refinery CEO, Dr. Said Deraz

The Ghana Gold Board (GoldBod) has signed an agreement with Gold Coast Refinery Limited and its South African partner Rand Refinery to begin round-the-clock gold refining in Ghana from February 1, 2026.

The deal, signed in Accra on Tuesday, January 20, will see up to one metric tonne of gold refined locally every week at the Gold Coast Refinery, a move the statutory body says will boost value addition, create jobs and keep millions of dollars in refining fees within the Ghanaian

economy.

The agreement comes amid longstanding concerns that Ghana exports nearly all its gold in raw form, forcing the country to rely on foreign refineries to determine purity and value, often at a cost to national revenue.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, GoldBod Chief Executive Officer, Sammy Gyamfi, said the initiative marks a major shift in how Ghana manages its gold resources.

“Today is a great day because we are about to execute a landmark

agreement that will fundamentally change how we add value to our gold. It never made sense that Ghana, with such a major refinery, still exports almost all its gold in raw form,” he said.

“This agreement will ensure that up to one tonne of gold exported by GoldBod every week is refined here in Ghana, and we intend to scale this up gradually,” the GoldBod CEO said, adding that “Our goal is total local refining of Ghana’s gold.”

Under the deal, the refinery, commissioned in 2016, will operate 24 hours a day in line with government’s 24-hour economy agenda.

GoldBod will also hold a 15 percent free carried interest in the Gold Coast Refinery on behalf of the state.

Sammy Gyamfi said the partnership would also help end losses linked to undervaluation of gold exports, as Ghana will now be able to accurately determine purity and value locally using fire assay methods.

Chief Executive Officer of Gold Coast Refinery, Dr. Said Deraz, described the agreement as a turning point for the facility, which has struggled with underutilisation

since its commissioning.

“This partnership immediately changes the narrative. Gold Coast Refinery is modern, fully equipped and meets international standards, and we are ready to play our role in Ghana’s value addition and industrialisation drive,” he said.

Dr. Deraz said the refinery has the capacity to process significant volumes of gold annually and is working closely with Rand Refinery to achieve London Bullion Market Association (LBMA) accreditation.

On his part, Rand Refinery CEO, Dean Subramanian, said his company is proud to support Ghana’s push for local refining and responsible sourcing.

“This is not about reaching a destination overnight; it is a journey we must walk together. We are ready to support Ghana’s aspirations for local refining, sustainability, and responsibly sourced gold,” he said.

The partnership is also expected to support traceability and formalisation in the artisanal and small-scale mining sector, while creating opportunities for jewellery fabrication through access to refined gold and silver.

# IES defends NPA fuel price floor

The Institute for Energy Security (IES) has dismissed claims that the National Petroleum Authority’s (NPA) fuel price floor is preventing oil marketing companies from reducing pump prices, insisting the policy remains essential for fair competition and market stability.

The response follows public comments by StarOil Ghana, which suggested petrol could be sold at GH¢9.50 per litre during off-peak night hours if not for the NPA-approved price floor of GH¢9.80 per litre in the current pricing window.

In a statement dated January 19, 2026, IES said the downstream petroleum sector is capital intensive, high risk, and highly exposed to global price volatility and exchange rate movements. It explained that the price floor was introduced as a competition stabilising measure rather than a price fixing tool.

According to IES, the policy is designed to prevent predatory

pricing, protect small and emerging oil marketing companies, and ensure supply continuity, especially during periods of tight margins.

The energy think tank warned that unregulated price competition could result in market concentration, supply disruptions, and eventually higher prices for consumers, citing international experiences in deregulated fuel markets.

IES also questioned the practicality of time-based fuel discounts, noting that operational costs such as storage, financing, distribution, and inventory risks remain the same regardless of whether fuel is sold during the day or at night.

The institute said claims of selling below the approved price floor raise concerns about whether such prices fall below economic cost, whether losses are being cross-subsidised, and whether smaller oil marketing companies could survive sustained undercutting.

IES further pointed out that GOIL Ghana has publicly challenged claims by some

industry players, arguing that certain companies calling for lower prices are unable to compete even at the approved floor price in the current pricing window.

Consequently, the institute has called on the National Petroleum Authority to investigate the pricing claims, assess compliance with existing regulations, and

examine whether any form of predatory pricing or market distortion is being considered or practised.

IES maintained that discussions on fuel pricing should be guided by market economics, competition policy, and long term consumer welfare, rather than short term pricing pressures.



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He particularly commended the TOR Managing Director, Mr. Edmond Kombat, for leading the process and praised the management team for giving him the needed support.

Speaking during a working visit to TOR on Thursday, Mr. Tameklo said TOR was integral to Ghana's development, and indicated that the revival of TOR refining operations was in line with President John Dramani Mahama's vision.

That, he said, informed his posture to collaborate with the management of TOR to ensure the revamping of refining operations.

“The President’s vision is to get TOR revived. When you took the decision to revamp, it was a timely call. Your innovation and thought leadership have led to the revival. We collaborated with you to get it done.

“As regulator, whatever we will do to make it sustainable, we will do,” he assured.

The resumption of TOR operations follows the successful completion of major Turnaround Maintenance (TAM) works on the refinery's Crude Distillation Unit (CDU), carried out over three months from August 1 to October 30, 2025.

A press statement dated December 27, 2025, and issued by TOR indicated that as part of a phased return to full capacity, TOR was currently operating at about 28,000 barrels per stream day (bpsd).

TOR has completed the installation of a new furnace, known as F-61, which is expected to be commissioned and integrated into the CDU. The installation of the new furnace is projected to restore the refinery's original nameplate capacity of 45,000 bpsd.

The NPA Boss said TOR and Sentuo Oil Refinery operate have the capacity to cater for between 40 percent and 45 percent of domestic fuel demand.

Therefore, he said his priority this year and

beyond is to ensure that TOR and Sentuo operate at their peak to serve the domestic demand.

That, he said, was good for the market as it would make the price of petroleum products more affordable in the country.

Welcoming the NPA team, Mr. Kombat thanked Mr. Tameklo for the immense support given to TOR to ensure its comeback.

He called for more collaboration with NPA to put TOR on the pedestal of growth and sustainability.

The NPA team including Deputy Chief Executives - Dr. Sheila Addo and Dr. Bukari Dramani; Directors; Heads of Department, and officers were taken through a tour of the plants, fuel tanks and the control centre.

# I turned down bribe from Alhaji Grusah - Retired referee Thomas Nunoo alleges

Retired Ghanaian referee Thomas Nunoo has revealed that he once turned down a bribe from football administrator Alhaji Karim Grusah.

In an interview with Asempa FM, the former referee—now a CAF and FIFA instructor—said Grusah attempted to sway his decision ahead of a Ghana Premier League match.

Nunoo said he immediately reported the incident to the Premier League Board at the time, chaired by Welbeck Abra-Appiah.

“During my days of officiating games, I never accepted a bribe or being compromised,” he categorically said.

“The only person who tried to influence me by bribing me was Alhaji Grusah, but I reported him to the Premier League Board, which was chaired by Welbeck Abra-Appiah. Alhaji Grudсах got angry because his

club ended up losing the game, and we ended up arguing on the radio,” he added.

Nunoo also urged current referees to remain resolute and report any attempts to influence their decisions.

“I will urge all referees to be

firm and not to accept any bribe or compromise from anyone,” he said.

“You can accept whatever an administrator wants to offer them, but they should further report them to the Football Association.”

The comments come amid growing concerns over inconsistent officiating in the ongoing 2025/26 Ghana Premier League season.



# Nii Lante Vanderpuye declares Daniel Laryea as best referee at 2025 AFCON

Former Sports Minister Edwin Nii Lante Vanderpuye has hailed Ghanaian referee Daniel Laryea as the standout official at the recently concluded 2025 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON).

Laryea came under the spotlight after taking charge of the high-stakes semifinal clash between Nigeria and host nation Morocco.

Following Nigeria’s penalty shootout defeat to the Atlas Lions, sections of Super Eagles supporters turned their frustration on the Ghanaian referee.

However, Vanderpuye dismissed the criticism, insisting Laryea delivered an exceptional performance and deserves consideration for a place at the FIFA World Cup.

“I am so proud as a Ghanaian because one Ghanaian in the middle distinguished himself so well,” he told JoyNews.

“The referee was excellent, and I am sure FIFA would be considering him for the World Cup.

“Of all the matches that I’ve watched in the AFCON, I can tell you, not because I am biased as a Ghanaian, he is the best.

“His composure and positioning, I will give him 95 per cent,” he added.

Morocco went on to finish the tournament as runners-up, while Nigeria bounced back to beat Egypt and secure the bronze medal.

Laryea also officiated the

group-stage encounter between Algeria and Burkina Faso and served as Video Assistant Referee (VAR) during the quarter-final tie between Morocco and Cameroon. He has since returned to Ghana and is expected to resume duties in the Ghana Premier League.



# FIFA Ranking: Ghana places 14th in Africa, 72nd globally in January release



**G**hana's Black Stars have maintained their positions in the latest FIFA Men's World Rankings, remaining 72nd in the world and 14th in Africa.

The team ended 2025 in the same spots, and Monday's update saw no movement for the West African side.

Hosts Morocco, despite losing the Africa Cup of Nations final, enjoyed a significant rise in the rankings, climbing three

places to eighth — their highest-ever position.

This marks the first time the Atlas Lions have been in the top 10 since April 1998. Morocco's progress pushed Belgium, Croatia, and Germany down one place each.

AFCON champions Senegal also climbed impressively, moving up seven spots to 12th — another record high for the Lions of Teranga following their continental triumph.

Spain remain at the summit of world football, with Argentina, France, and England holding their places in the top four.

Here are the top 20 African teams in the latest rankings:

1. Morocco – 8
2. Senegal – 12
3. Nigeria – 26
4. Algeria – 28
5. Egypt – 31
6. Ivory Coast – 37
7. Cameroon – 45
8. Tunisia – 47
9. DR Congo – 48
10. Mali – 54
11. South Africa – 60
12. Burkina Faso – 62
13. Cape Verde – 67
14. Ghana – 72
15. Guinea – 80
16. Gabon – 86
17. Uganda – 88
18. Angola – 89
19. Zambia – 91
20. Benin – 92

The Black Stars are set to reconvene in March for a friendly match against Germany in Stuttgart.



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# Legendary Gospel musician Yaw Sarpong dies



*Renowned gospel musician Yaw Sarpong*

**R**enowned gospel musician Yaw Sarpong has died.

His death, which occurred on January 20, 2026, was confirmed

by his artiste manager, Nana Poku Ashis. The cause of death has not been disclosed.

Yaw Sarpong had been largely out of the public spotlight in recent years and is reported to have battled an illness for a

long period before his passing.

His death comes just weeks after the passing of his colleague, Maame Tiwaa.

The late musician was celebrated as a gifted

and prolific writer, whose songwriting brilliance helped elevate his group, Asomafo, to prominence as one of the most respected gospel groups in the industry.

# I told my kids the truth – Uju Anya opens up about being a lesbian



*Uju Anya*

**U**ju Anya says her children were never confused about who she was.

“I always talk to my kids openly,” she said. “About bodies, about safety, about everything.”

The US-based Nigerian professor explained why. “It helps protect them. They know what is okay and what is not.”

When she decided to leave her marriage, she spoke honestly to them. “I told them we were divorcing because we are not sexually compatible,” she told Chude Jideonwo, monitored by MyNewsGh. Their reaction surprised her. “They asked what it meant. I told them, ‘I’m gay and your dad isn’t.’ They said, ‘Oh, okay.’ That was it.”

Uju said people often make wrong assumptions. “Some think we were doing weird things in front of kids. That’s nonsense,” she stated firmly.

She added, “We respected boundaries. We are normal parents.”

Uju also shared that hiding her truth affected her health. She mentioned deep sadness, depression, and suicidal

thoughts during that period. “Living in despair is heavy,” she said.

She believes honesty saved her. “Not living your truth can destroy you,” she said.

Today, she feels lighter. “I am fulfilled now,” she said. “I am finally myself.”

# I was spiritually attacked for helping Funny Face when he called me and said he would die – Kwaku Manu reveals



**A**ctor and producer Kwaku Manu has opened up about how he supported his colleague Funny Face during a difficult period in his life.

Speaking in an interview with Nana Romeo on UTV's Atuu, Kwaku Manu said they had not been in touch for almost three years before Funny Face reached out to him for help.

"We parted ways for two years and nine months," he said. "One day, Funny

Face called me and said if I don't help him, he will die."

Kwaku Manu explained that after Funny Face returned from rehab, many people thought he was fine because he was active on social media. But things were not as smooth as they looked.

"Two weeks after, he called me again and said he dreamt that he was dead," he shared.

He said he asked Funny Face to meet him so they could talk. According to Kwaku Manu, he believed

his colleague's situation was more spiritual than physical.

"I think his case was spiritual because if it was physical, he would have been okay by now," he said.

Kwaku Manu revealed that he took Funny Face to Mama Vida's church for prayers. After that, he brought him to his house.

"He told me that since the woman prayed for him, the pain he used to feel in his head had stopped," he said.

However, Kwaku Manu said helping Funny Face was not easy for him either. He claimed he also faced some spiritual attacks during the process.

"I was nearly attacked spiritually," he said. "I had to rush to Mama Vida for deliverance."

He added, "No matter what you do, if you're helping someone who is under a spiritual attack, you will definitely be involved."



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