



Ken Agyapong

Nigel Gaisie

# Don't allow Ken Agyapong near power if we love Ghana

– Prophet Nigel Gaisie cautions Ghanaians

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## Shoppers see price reductions following removal of COVID-19 levy, 3% flat rate



Shoppers in Accra are beginning to experience modest but welcome price reductions as businesses adjust to recent changes in the Value Added Tax (VAT) system, following the government's removal of the COVID-19 levy and the three per cent flat rate.

The reforms have effectively reduced VAT on goods to 20 per cent.

Checks at several consumable goods outlets across Accra indicate that the abolished levies are no longer being applied, with prices of basic items already reflecting the changes.

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## NPA Chief Executive commends Sentuo Oil Refinery during working visit



The Chief Executive of the National Petroleum Authority NPA, Mr. Godwin Kudzo Tameklo Esq., has praised Sentuo Oil Refinery for its growing role in strengthening Ghana's downstream petroleum sector.

The visit formed part of an ongoing familiarisation tour of petroleum installations nationwide, aimed at deepening regulatory engagement and supporting sustainable growth within the sector.

Mr. Tameklo made the remarks when he led a delegation from the Authority on a working visit to the

refinery on Monday January 5, 2026. During a meeting with the Group Chairman of Sentuo Oil Refinery, Mr. Ningquan Xu, and his management

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## Govt sets aside GH¢500 million for Teachers' Housing Project – Mahama



He disclosed that the initiative, which is aimed at improving the welfare of teachers, will be expanded to GH¢1 billion in the 2027 Budget as part of a broader commitment to supporting educators across the country. The President made the announcement while delivering

remarks at the opening of the Ghana National Association of Teachers' 54th National Delegates Congress and Seventh Quadrennial Conference in Accra. The conference was held on the theme "Education and Development: The Ghana Education Service at 50: Reflecting, Reviewing, Revising, and Growing the Profession and the Unions." The housing project is being

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## Don't build housing for teachers, it will put my party to shame! – NPP's Pianim playfully tells Mahama



Veteran economist and prominent New Patriotic Party figure, Kwame Pianim, sparked laughter at the 54th National Delegates Conference of the Ghana National Association of Teachers in Accra after humorously cautioning President John Dramani Mahama against assisting teachers with housing.

Speaking at the conference on Monday, January 5, where accommodation challenges facing teachers featured prominently, Mr. Pianim said he had deliberately resisted pressure to appeal to the President on the issue.

Addressing the delegates, he disclosed that despite strong urging from some quarters, he chose not to raise teachers' housing needs with the

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## #12 exposé: Return to court if you are credible — Anas dares Nyantakyi



Tiger Eye Private Investigations has fired back at former Ghana Football Association president Kwesi Nyantakyi, challenging him to return to court over issues arising from the Number 12 exposé and dismissing his recent public comments as a calculated attempt to distort facts and cleanse his image.

The investigative outfit was responding to remarks made by Mr. Nyantakyi in a media interview in which he questioned the credibility of Tiger Eye's Chief Investigator, Anas Aremeyaw Anas, criticised the group's investigative methods, and claimed Anas never testified in court despite alleging he possessed evidence of corruption.

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# Don't allow Ken Agyapong near power if we love Ghana – Nigel Gaisie cautions Ghanaians



Ken Agyapong

Nigel Gaisie

**F**ounder and Leader of the Prophetic Hill Chapel International, Prophet Nigel Gaisie, has cautioned Ghanaians against allowing former Assin Central Member of Parliament, Kennedy Agyapong, to wield significant political power.

The outspoken cleric linked his stance to what he described as past conduct that has harmed individuals and institutions.

The prophet and the former lawmaker have had a public fallout in the past, with Kennedy Agyapong accusing of Nigel Gaisie adultery and lifestyle unbecoming of a man of God.

According to Nigel Gaisie, those claims caused reputational damage and deep personal hurt.

Kennedy Agyapong is seeking to lead

the New Patriotic Party in an internal contest expected later this month between five aspirants.

Speaking on Accra-based Metro TV on Monday, January 5, Prophet Gaisie said Ghana must place national interest above partisan loyalty.

“If we love Ghana, the nation of Ghana, nobody should allow somebody like him closer to power,” he said.

The cleric claimed that Agyapong’s past actions have alienated sections of the Christian community and would have political consequences if those concerns are ignored.

“If the NPP don’t listen to the voice of God and they bring him, even 30 per cent they will not get at the next post, because the church is waiting,” Prophet Gaisie stated.

# Govt sets aside GH¢500 million for Teachers’ Housing Project – Mahama



President John Dramani Mahama

President John Dramani Mahama has announced that the government has allocated GH¢500 million in the 2026 Budget to begin the Teachers’ Housing Scheme, also known as the Teacher Dabre Project.

He disclosed that the initiative, which is aimed at improving the welfare of teachers, will be expanded to GH¢1 billion in the 2027 Budget as part of a broader commitment to supporting educators across the country.

The President made the announcement while delivering remarks at the opening of the Ghana National Association of Teachers’ 54th National Delegates Congress and Seventh Quadrennial Conference in Accra. The conference was held on the theme “Education and Development: The Ghana Education Service at 50: Reflecting, Reviewing, Revising, and Growing the Profession and the Unions.”

The housing project is being implemented by the government in partnership with GNAT and Republic Bank.

President Mahama explained that the GH¢500 million would be paid

this year into a revolving housing fund. He said GNAT and Republic Bank would also contribute to the fund, after which teachers would be able to apply for housing support, with homes constructed in locations of their choice.

“And if, by coincidence, the house is in your area of posting, then the money you would have paid as rent to some landlord will go to paying the cost of your own house, so that when you retire, you won’t go to your grandfather’s house and say, this was my grandmother’s room, and go fighting with your relatives,” he said. “And so we’re going to work out the modalities of the housing fund. This year, we’re putting 500. Next year, we’re going to put one billion cedis in that housing fund.”

The President said the government intended to deepen its collaboration with GNAT and revealed that arrangements were being explored to secure suitable lands to support the housing project nationwide.

“We’re going to ask all the districts to provide land so that we can implement this housing project,” President Mahama said.

“This collaboration is aimed at improving the teachers’ living standards, strengthening teacher retention, particularly in rural areas, and ensuring that those who educate the nation live with dignity and security.”

President Mahama highlighted other measures taken by the government to support teachers, noting that the 2025 Budget catered for the payment of millions of cedis in teacher training allowances. He said promotion eligibility had been restored up to the rank of director, while more than 30,000 diploma teachers who upgraded to degree status had been placed on the appropriate salary scale.

He added that modalities were being finalised for the implementation of a 20 percent base pay incentive for teachers working in deprived and hard to reach areas.

“These are not acts of charity,” he noted, stressing that the interventions were strategic investments in quality education and national transformation.

The President also commended teachers and their unions for demonstrating responsibility and foresight, describing GNAT as one of the most progressive and forward-thinking trade unions in the country.

“Today, the Ghana National Association of Teachers is recognized as the most progressive and forward-thinking trade unions in Ghana,” he said.

He noted that beyond advocating for teachers’ rights and welfare, GNAT had built strong economic institutions to secure the future of its members. He described the Teachers Fund as one of the best managed workers’ funds in the country, grounded in transparency, prudence, and long term value creation.

President Mahama, on behalf of GNAT, expressed appreciation to Mr Kwame Pianim, an eminent

economist, for his role as the founding force behind the Teachers Fund.

He said through Teachers Fund properties and financial services, GNAT had shown that organised labour could successfully combine solidarity with enterprise. He cited the union’s strategic investment in Aviance Ghana, a major ground handling service provider at the Kotoka International Airport, as evidence that unions could play active roles in key sectors of the national economy.

According to him, this demonstrated how unionism, enterprise, and national development could reinforce each other. He also mentioned GNAT’s hostel projects and its national headquarters, which includes one of the few multi storey car parks in Accra.

The President further highlighted GNAT’s involvement in the Ghana Sweden Medical Centre and noted that there were opportunities for partnership under the Ghana Medical Trust Fund.

He explained that the Ghana Medical Trust Fund would focus on diagnosing and treating non-communicable diseases, adding that the Ghana Sweden Cancer Centre was expected to partner the fund in treating cancers and related conditions.

Meanwhile, the National President of GNAT, Reverend Isaac Owusu, condemned recent attacks on teachers across the country and pledged the union’s full support for its members.

“And we are declaring that this year, 2026, we are declaring a zero tolerance for teacher assaults and brutality. Should any individual or a group of people attack any teacher in Ghana without any cause, we shall invoke the spirit of solidarity,” he said.

# #12 exposé: Return to court if you are credible – Anas dares Nyantakyi

**T**iger Eye Private Investigations has fired back at former Ghana Football Association president Kwesi Nyantakyi, challenging him to return to court over issues arising from the Number 12 exposé and dismissing his recent public comments as a calculated attempt to distort facts and cleanse his image.

The investigative outfit was responding to remarks made by Mr Nyantakyi in a media interview in which he questioned the credibility of Tiger Eye's Chief Investigator, Anas Aremeyaw Anas, criticised the group's investigative methods, and claimed Anas never testified in court despite alleging he possessed evidence of corruption.

In a strongly worded statement issued on Tuesday, January 6, Tiger Eye PI described the comments as "disinformation," accusing Mr Nyantakyi of deliberately misleading the public about the true circumstances surrounding the landmark corruption investigation.

The organisation recalled that Mr Nyantakyi had previously initiated a defamation and breach-of-privacy lawsuit against Anas, only to abandon the case midway.

"He has instead chosen to litigate in the court of public opinion

alongside Kennedy Agyapong [former Assin Central MP]. If he is credible, he should return to court," the statement said.

Tiger Eye PI stressed that Anas was never a party to any criminal proceedings against Mr Nyantakyi, explaining that the prosecution was undertaken by the Republic of Ghana.

"The case before the court was between the Republic of Ghana and Mr. Kwesi Nyantakyi, who was being prosecuted for several offences, including fraud. It is therefore bizarre—though not unusual—that Mr. Nyantakyi continues to misrepresent the matter as 'Anas vs. Nyantakyi,'" the statement said.

The investigative body further explained that Anas had initially offered to testify as a prosecution witness after the killing of Tiger Eye PI's lead investigator, Ahmed Hussein-Suale, whom the organisation said had been threatened by Mr Nyantakyi prior to his assassination.

However, Tiger Eye PI said Anas withdrew his offer after a court ruled that he could testify in camera but without a mask, a condition the group argued would have gravely endangered his life.

According to the statement, Anas' readiness to testify was "strictly contingent on his safety, including

not revealing his face to Mr. Nyantakyi," a stance Tiger Eye PI described as non-negotiable.

The organisation also rejected claims that the criminal case collapsed due to lack of evidence, insisting that the Attorney-General withdrew the charges despite what it described as "overwhelming evidence of fraud, impersonation, and other criminal conduct." It emphasised that Mr Nyantakyi was never acquitted on the merits of the case.

The Number 12 documentary, released in 2018, captured Mr Nyantakyi allegedly receiving \$65,000 from an undercover operative and claiming he could leverage political connections to facilitate business deals, revelations that sparked national outrage and forced his resignation from senior football

administration roles.

Tiger Eye PI urged the public to disregard what it called Mr Nyantakyi's latest attempt to rewrite history, reaffirming its commitment to fighting corruption.

"History cannot be rewritten with lies, distortions, or propaganda," the statement said, adding that the organisation remains committed to its mission to "Name, Shame, and Jail."

The statement also referenced the February 13, 2025 ruling by an Accra High Court, which discharged Mr Nyantakyi and his co-accused after a five-year trial when the prosecution failed to call any of its listed witnesses. The decision was delivered by Her Ladyship Justice Marie-Louise Simmonds.



# Stop lobbying, seniority and qualification should determine who takes over IGP – Asantehene

**T**he Asantehene, Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, has issued a stern warning against the growing politicisation of the Ghana Police Service, cautioning that political interference poses a serious threat to the independence, discipline, and professionalism of the institution.

Addressing the issue during a historic courtesy call on the Inspector General of Police on Tuesday, January 6, 2026, Otumfuo Osei Tutu II emphasised that leadership at the highest level of the Police Service must never be influenced by partisan interests. He stressed that the appointment of an Inspector General of Police should be determined solely by seniority, competence, and professional merit.

The Asantehene expressed

deep concern over recurring reports that some police officers lobby for the IGP position whenever there is a change in government, even in situations where an incumbent IGP is still in office.

"Politicising the Police Service is something we all have to be very careful about. When governments change, I hear of people lobbying to take over positions even when there is an incumbent IGP. That is not proper. We must stop this so that everyone understands that seniority and qualification should determine who takes over," he said.

He warned that such practices weaken institutional stability and erode public confidence in law enforcement, insisting that the Police Service must be insulated from political manoeuvring if it is to function effectively and independently.

Otumfuo Osei Tutu II further advocated a stronger role for the Police Management Board in the leadership selection process, proposing that the body should be responsible for identifying and recommending officers who are professionally fit to lead the Service.

"Police management can even recommend who is fit for the role. Lobbying and using political persuasion to take

positions will not help the police to become independent," he added.

His remarks underscored a broader call for reforms that prioritise professionalism and institutional integrity over political influence, as the Ghana Police Service continues efforts to strengthen public trust and operational credibility.



Asantehene, Otumfuo Osei Tutu II presenting his address

# I went to Singapore and signed 10,000-student hostel deal for UG – Mahama

The government has unveiled plans to deliver a massive 10,000 bed student hostel at the University of Ghana, a flagship intervention aimed at tackling the chronic accommodation deficit on the Legon campus.

President John Dramani Mahama announced the project on Tuesday, January 6, during the opening of the University of Ghana's 77th Annual New Year School and Conference, where he reiterated his administration's determination to upgrade infrastructure across the tertiary education sector.

The President explained that the hostel project is the outcome of an agreement reached during his official visit to Singapore, describing it as a bold and innovative approach to addressing student housing challenges.

According to him, the facility will be constructed using prefabricated building technology, a method expected to significantly shorten construction timelines while ensuring quality and

efficiency.

He revealed that preparatory processes are already in motion, noting that the specialised machinery and factory equipment required to produce the hostel components have been shipped from Singapore and are currently en route to Accra.

"When I went to Singapore, we signed an agreement for a 10,000-student hostel at the University of Ghana, and this is going to be a prefabricated building, meaning the structure will be manufactured elsewhere and then assembled on campus. The machinery and factory equipment that will manufacture the building components have been shipped from Singapore and

are currently on their way to Accra," he said.

President Mahama said the project underscores the government's broader commitment to modernising tertiary institutions and creating a more conducive learning environment for students across the country.



President John Dramani Mahama

# I'll raise governance to a level no successive gov't can reverse – Mahama

President John Dramani Mahama has pledged to deliver lasting reforms in governance and economic management during his second term in office.

He assured Ghanaians that the gains his administration will achieve will be irreversible.

Speaking at the 77th Annual New Year School and Conference at the University of Ghana in Accra on Tuesday, January 6, the President said his return to office comes with a renewed commitment to strengthen institutions and stabilise the economy.

Mr. Mahama, who lost power in 2016 before reclaiming the presidency in the 2024 elections, said his focus is to entrench sound governance

and economic resilience.

"I've decided to make this second mandate, so graciously granted to me by Ghanaians, count," he said, adding "I've pledged to raise our economy and governance to a level that no succeeding government can reverse."

The President also expressed optimism that Ghana's current engagement with the International Monetary Fund will be the last, stressing the need for discipline and credibility in economic management.

"In a region where democracy is backsliding, we must demonstrate that democracy works and that our people can have faith in their leaders," Mahama noted.

He further assured that his administration will maintain fiscal discipline throughout

his tenure, including the 2028 election year, as part of

efforts to safeguard economic stability.



President John Dramani Mahama

# ‘Release Maduro and his wife’ — South African President on US invasion of Venezuela

The President of South Africa, Cyril Ramaphosa, has called on the United States to release Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores, following their capture by U.S. forces.

his wife as well. We reiterate our call for decisive action by the United Nations Security Council to fulfill its mandate and advance peace and security,” he said.

the world agrees that what has happened is a violation of international law and also violation of the United Nations Charter, and that is why we call for the Security Council to meet to discuss this matter,” he added.

He further cautioned that the move could set a dangerous precedent for global security. [TWITTER]<https://twitter.com/cyrilramaphosa/>

“I think everybody now in

The couple was apprehended after American troops entered the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in the early hours of Saturday, January 3, 2026.

They were arraigned before a U.S. federal court on Monday, January 5, facing charges including narco-terrorism conspiracy, cocaine importation conspiracy, and weapons-related offences.

Speaking on the matter in a video shared on his social media pages on Tuesday, January 6, Ramaphosa described the U.S. intervention as a breach of international law and a violation of Venezuela’s territorial integrity.

“We reject utterly the actions that the United States has embarked upon and stand with the people of Venezuela, and we demand the release of President Maduro and



Cyril Ramaphosa (left) and Donald Trump (right)

# Your work will outlive your tenure if anchored in values — Asantehene to IGP

The Asantehene, Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, has urged the Inspector General of Police (IGP), COP Christian Tetteh Yohunu, to anchor his work in values.

He emphasised that leadership grounded in integrity and professionalism leaves a lasting impact.

The king made the remarks on Tuesday, January 6, during a landmark visit to the national police headquarters in Accra, where he commended the Ghana Police Service for its dedication to protecting citizens and maintaining law and order.

He stressed that the IGP’s tenure can achieve lasting success if it combines discipline with respect for cultural and moral values.

“The work you have begun will outlive your tenure if

anchored in values,” he told COP Yohunu, urging the police leadership to uphold fairness, professionalism, and political neutrality.

The Asantehene also noted that effective policing depends on the cooperation between law enforcement and society because when culture and law work together, crime is restrained and public trust strengthened.

He called on the service to maintain integrity, respect local customs, and ensure that community engagement and dialogue precede enforcement measures.

The visit marked a historic moment of collaboration between traditional authority and modern law enforcement, with the king affirming that peace and stability in the

country depend not only on laws passed in Parliament but

also on values cultivated in homes and communities.



COP Christian Tetteh Yohunu (left) and Asantehene, Otumfuo Osei Tutu II (right)

# Govt to review single spine salary structure, pensions – Mahama



*President John Dramani Mahama*

**P**resident John Dramani Mahama has pledged to review the Single Spine Salary Structure and the pensions system as part of efforts to address long-standing concerns of public sector workers in Ghana.

The President gave the assurance at the opening of the Ghana National Association of Teachers' 54th National Delegate Congress and Seventh Quadrennial Conference in Accra, on Monday, January

The conference was held under the theme, "Education and Development: The Ghana Education Service at 50: Reflecting, Reviewing, Revising, and Growing the Profession and the Unions."

President Mahama said the current salary structure had become unsatisfactory and no longer served the interests of workers.

He explained that although the Single Spine Salary Structure was introduced to promote fairness and transparency in public sector pay, its implementation and subsequent developments had left many workers dissatisfied.

Tracing the history of the policy, the President noted that the structure was introduced under the Kufuor administration, but negotiations were incomplete before the change of government in 2009.

He said organised labour, led by the Trades Union Congress, rejected the initial arrangement and opted to renegotiate with the new administration.

He said those negotiations eventually produced a workable structure, though imperfect, and allowed the government to pay accumulated arrears before leaving office in 2016. Since then, he observed,

further distortions had occurred, making the system increasingly problematic.

President Mahama said organised labour had once again raised concerns and formally requested a comprehensive review of the salary structure.

He reiterated the government's readiness to undertake the review to ensure improved remuneration, noting that better pay would enhance worker motivation and productivity.

On pensions, the President recalled the introduction of pension reforms some years ago, which established the Tier 2 and Tier 3 schemes.

He said that while the reforms were initially well received, current challenges suggested the need for another review.

He disclosed that following discussions with the leadership of the Trades Union Congress, the government was prepared to set up a working team to examine the pension system and propose measures to improve retirement security for workers.

In his welcome address, the National President of the Ghana National Association of Teachers, Reverend Isaac Owusu, appealed for an immediate review of the Single Spine pay policy within the year to align with the government's Resetting Agenda.

He said improved salaries and benefits were critical to recognising the role of teachers in national development, adding that a well-motivated teacher directly contributed to improved learning outcomes for students.

# Your ignorance of the highest order makes you unfit to be GNFS PRO – Lawyer Samson blasts DOII Desmond Ackah



**H**uman rights lawyer Samson Lady Anyenini has launched a stinging attack on the leadership of the Ghana National Fire Service, faulting the Service for retaining DO II Desmond Ackah as its Head of Public Relations following comments he made after the alleged assault of a journalist.

Mr. Anyenini questioned Mr. Ackah's suitability for the role, arguing that his public

remarks in the aftermath of the Kasoa incident expose a troubling misunderstanding of press freedom and the responsibilities of a public relations officer within a security institution.

He urged GNFS management to immediately withdraw Mr. Ackah from all public-facing duties and subject him to disciplinary processes, including possible interdiction, while investigations are conducted into his comments regarding the alleged attack on Class Media Group journalist Samuel Addo.

According to the lawyer, it was both improper and alarming for the GNFS spokesperson to suggest that the journalist was assaulted because he did not obtain permission to film the incident.

“For a Head of Public Relations to suggest that a journalist needs permission to film a public event involving public officers is ignorance of the highest order,” he said.

“There is no law in Ghana that requires a journalist to seek permission before recording a public incident.”

Mr. Anyenini further contended that the remarks attributed to Mr. Ackah appear to rationalise an unlawful act and weaken the constitutional protections afforded to the media. He warned that the GNFS must not be seen as tolerating or defending unprofessional conduct within its ranks.

Describing the handling of the matter as embarrassing to the Fire Service, he called for Mr. Ackah to undergo refresher training in public relations and media engagement as part of corrective measures.

The lawyer made these comments in response to statements issued by the GNFS Public Relations Officer on Accra-based Joy FM after the Kasoa New Market incident.

He stressed that the explanations offered by the PRO should not be accepted, especially in light of widely circulated video footage that allegedly captures fire service personnel assaulting the journalist while responding to the fire outbreak.

# Prophet Fire Oja hot, dragged to CID for allegedly defaming Mzbel

**T**he Criminal Investigations Department (CID) of the Ghana Police Service has arrested and charged controversial pastor Prophet Jediah Henry Kore, popularly known as Fire Oja, for making defamatory statements and issuing threats against veteran musician Belinda Nana Ekua Amoah, known professionally as Mzbel.

The arrest follows a formal complaint lodged by Mzbel concerning a viral video in which Fire Oja, leader of Zion Prayer Ministries International, made unsubstantiated claims about the singer's health following a spiritual “Soul Travel” experience at Ola Maame's Soul Travel Ghana in 2025.

In an interview with Nyansa TV on Monday, January 5, 2026, Mzbel confirmed she reported the matter after being inundated with messages about the video. The police subsequently invited Prophet Fire Oja, who presented himself for questioning on

Monday.

“At the CID headquarters, Fire Oja admitted he did not know me and apologized for his unsavory comments,” Mzbel stated.

She explained that police investigators outlined the legal seriousness of his actions by referencing relevant sections of the Constitution. They informed him he would be detained for 48 hours and processed for court.

However, after Fire Oja accepted the charges, the police later contacted Mzbel to state that further detention was unnecessary. “I was satisfied with the police action and the legal process they initiated against the accused,” she emphasized.

The controversy stems from Fire Oja's claims that Mzbel suffered severe health complications and was hospitalized in Kasoa after her “Soul Travel” experience—allegations the singer firmly denies.

“Those comments are completely unfounded. I was not admitted to

any hospital after my Soul Travel Experience, nor did I receive any infusion at a health facility,” Mzbel clarified. “Anyone with

evidence to the contrary should present it.”

The case is now set for court.



# ‘Don’t build housing for teachers, it will put my party to shame!’ – NPP’s Pianim playfully tells Mahama



*Veteran economist and prominent NPP member, Kwame Pianim*

**V**eteran economist and prominent New Patriotic Party figure, Kwame Pianim, sparked laughter at the 54th National Delegates Conference of the Ghana National Association of Teachers in Accra after humorously cautioning President John Dramani Mahama against assisting teachers with housing.

Speaking at the conference on Monday, January 5, where accommodation

challenges facing teachers featured prominently, Mr Pianim said he had deliberately resisted pressure to appeal to the President on the issue.

Addressing the delegates, he disclosed that despite strong urging from some quarters, he chose not to raise teachers’ housing needs with the President, describing it as a politically uncomfortable request.

“Mr President, there is a fourth thing I will not ask

you for,” he said. “Even though Thomas keeps insisting that I should ask you to help us with housing, I said no.”

The senior NPP stalwart explained that his party had failed to adequately address teachers’ housing while it was in government and jokingly suggested it would be embarrassing for the opposition to watch the current administration succeed where it had fallen short.

“We did not help you with housing. Why should I

now allow the President to help you with housing?” he quipped, drawing loud laughter from the audience. He rounded off his remarks with a playful warning to President Mahama, suggesting that such a move would come at a personal and political cost.

“So Mr President, whatever you do, if you help teachers with housing and put my party to shame, our friendship will be over,” he said, further amusing delegates at the conference.

# ‘Someone’ rejected me for his fellow northerner – Dr. Stephen Amoah on Finance Minister appointment



MP for Nhyiaeso, Dr. Stephen Amoah

**The Member of Parliament for Nhyiaeso, Dr. Stephen Amoah, has alleged that his appointment as substantive Finance Minister under the previous Akufo-Addo administration**

**was blocked on ethnic grounds.**

Dr. Amoah served briefly as a Deputy Minister for Finance, a position he assumed after the removal of Ken Ofori-Atta, with

Dr. Mohammed Amin Adams as the substantive minister.

According to him, former President Akufo-Addo had initially preferred him for the top job when the position became vacant, but his nomination was rejected because “someone” wanted a fellow northerner to take up the role.

Speaking at a campaign stop of NPP flagbearer hopeful Kennedy Agyapong in his constituency over the weekend, the lawmaker touted his credentials and experience.

“Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo planned to appoint me as the substantive Finance Minister after removing Ken Ofori-Atta, but someone objected and instead recommended his fellow Northerner, Dr Mohammed Amin Adams.

“I will never lie, especially knowing that I am standing on

the premises of the Assemblies of God. I have been in politics for about 30 years.

“When it comes to expertise in financial and economic modelling, I am among the first five in the whole world. Yet, when Nana Addo decided to appoint me, someone rejected the decision and said he wanted his fellow man from the Northern Region,” he said.

In a move that appeared he was referring to former Vice President Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia, Dr. Amoah further urged the party delegates to vote for Kennedy Agyapong on January 31, because he is the one who has their interests at heart.

“Do not make a mistake when voting in the NPP flagbearer contest. Vote for Kennedy Agyapong, because he has your interest at heart,” he stated.

## NPP flagbearer race: Dr. Stephen Amoah is a known tribal bigot – Gideon Boako

**The Member of Parliament for Tano North, Dr. Gideon Boako, has criticised the MP for Nhyiaeso, Dr. Stephen Amoah, accusing him of tribal bias.**

Dr. Amoah, who served as deputy finance minister during the latter part of the Akufo-Addo administration, has indirectly suggested that former Vice President Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia blocked his substantive appointment as Finance Minister.

According to Dr. Amoah, former President Akufo-Addo initially preferred him for the role when it became vacant, but his nomination was rejected because “someone” wanted a fellow northerner to take the position.

Speaking at a campaign stop for NPP flagbearer hopeful Kennedy Agyapong in his constituency over the weekend, Dr. Amoah highlighted his experience and political credentials.

“Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-

Addo planned to appoint me as the substantive Finance Minister after removing Ken Ofori-Atta, but someone objected and instead recommended his fellow northerner, Dr. Mohammed Amin Adams.

“I will never lie, especially knowing that I am standing on the premises of the Assemblies of God. I have been in politics for about 30 years,” he said.

Dr. Amoah urged party delegates to vote for Kennedy Agyapong in the upcoming flagbearer contest, insisting he has the interests of party members at heart.

“Do not make a mistake when voting in the NPP flagbearer contest. Vote for Kennedy Agyapong, because he has your interest at heart,” he added.

Reacting on social media, Dr. Boako, a spokesperson for the former Vice President, accused Dr. Amoah of being motivated by tribalism.

“Tribalism was the only consideration why Sticka campaigned against me for the position of Ashanti Regional Youth Organizer despite being a

close friend and knowing I was the best candidate. He has been a tribal bigot since,” Dr. Boako wrote.



# NDC inherited 'borla economy' from NPP – Beatrice Annan

**A** presidential staffer of the ruling National Democratic Congress, NDC, Lawyer Beatrice Annan, says the current government inherited a badly mismanaged economy from the previous New Patriotic Party, NPP, administration but is steadily putting it back on track.

Speaking during a discussion on President John Mahama's 1 year in office, Mrs Annan described the state of the economy handed over to the NDC as a "borla state", blaming years of poor management by the NPP for the situation.

She said the Mahama administration has since introduced targeted interventions to stabilise and revive the economy, citing the GoldBod initiative as one of the measures beginning to show positive results.

According to her, the difference between the two administrations lies not only in policy direction

but also in priorities.

She said while the previous NPP government was known for celebrating what she described as insignificant economic gains, including holding kenkey and waakye parties and even cutting cake to mark the announcement of the E Levy, the NDC has chosen to remain focused on its mandate.

Mrs Annan stressed that the current government is more concerned about delivering real economic recovery than staging public celebrations.

"We have not held kenkey and waakye party to celebrate the economy recovery like others will do," she told host Moro Awudu on Metro TV's Good Morning Ghana

She maintained that the NDC government remains resolute and committed to its economic recovery plans and is determined to restore stability and growth for the benefit of Ghanaians.



Lawyer Beatrice Annan

# Mahama's third-term call is political dynamite for NDC – GFL warns



Abraham Koomson, Secretary General of GFL

**T**he ongoing discussion for President John Dramani Mahama to run for the third term after the mandatory two terms is political dynamite which the ruling National Democratic Congress (NDC) must tread cautiously, Mr Abraham Koomson, Secretary General of the Ghana Federation of Labour (GFL), has asserted.

Mr Koomson noted that the extension of any democratically mandatory term of a sitting president in any geographical location is a ticking time bomb which must be handled with political, legal, social, security, and traditional maturity backed by a strategic communication plan.

The GFL Secretary General noted that the current debate, even though it seems to be

emanating from a cross section of the Ghanaian population, "all political actors must work and comment with circumspection and avoid comments and pronouncements which have the potential to detonate the ticking time bomb."

Mr Koomson, speaking to Modern Ghana News on Monday on the current debate, explained that political actors, especially leading members of the ruling NDC, must be cautious in their comments on the topic: "They must avoid definitive pronouncements on the issues which may entangle and imprison the party's future position on the issues."

The GFL Secretary General explained that there was nothing wrong with a cross-section of the Ghanaian population, including members of the NDC, advocating for a third term for President

Mahama.

He stated that, currently, President Mahama remains the right leader to steer the country forward, stressing that the NDC's victory in the 2024 general elections was largely driven by President Mahama's leadership and appeal.

"I have personally not benefited from President Mahama and therefore cannot be described as a sycophant, or singing the praises of the President based on personal gains; my support is based on the assessment of the President's leadership and character," he said.

Mr Koomson stressed that President Mahama deserves the commendation pouring in from different quarters, even from opposition political personalities, noting, "President Mahama's experience in office has taught him valuable lessons which he is now demonstrating in his leadership and governance style."

He described President Mahama as non-vindictive, acknowledging that while he is human and capable of mistakes, his current approach to governance reflects growth and maturity.

Mr Koomson also commended President Mahama for easing some of the economic hardships facing Ghanaians, citing fuel prices as an example, and claiming that the cost of fuel he currently purchases is lower than what prevailed under the

previous NPP administration.

Meanwhile, commenting on the recent pronouncement by the General Secretary of the NDC, Mr Fiifi Fiavi Kwetey, on the third-term bid, the GFL Secretary General described the comments as inappropriate and risking creating unnecessary tension within the party.

Mr Fiifi Kwetey was quoted in the media as describing calls for a third presidential term for President Mahama as "sycophancy"; however, Mr Koomson urged leading members of the NDC to avoid definitive pronouncements that could harm the unity and stability of the party.

The NDC General Secretary had expressed concern about a growing culture of excessive praise and unquestioning loyalty within the party, suggesting some individuals believe flattering party leaders is the only path to relevance or personal gain.

However, Mr. Koomson counters that many who praise Mahama are doing so based on President Mahama's record and performance in office, not for personal benefit.

Mr Koomson has therefore called on the NDC Council of Elders to intervene, warning that comments from leading members of the party, especially those in leadership of the party, could create unnecessary tension and weaken the party.

# Shoppers see price reductions following removal of COVID-19 levy, 3% flat rate



Shoppers at the mall

Shoppers in Accra are beginning to experience modest but welcome price reductions as businesses adjust to recent changes in the Value Added

Tax (VAT) system, following the government's removal of the COVID-19 levy and the three per cent flat rate.

The reforms have effectively reduced VAT on goods to 20

per cent.

Checks at several consumable goods outlets across Accra indicate that the abolished levies are no longer being applied, with prices of basic items already reflecting the changes.

Retailers confirmed that the revised tax structure has been fully integrated into their billing systems, with point-of-sale receipts now showing lower charges compared to previous weeks.

Consumers say the impact, although gradual, is already noticeable. Mercy Kobi, a shopper, welcomed the development, describing it as a much-needed easing of financial pressure.

"I feel so happy because the last time I purchased, I remember how much I paid because of the levies. Now I only pay NHIL, GETFund and VAT," she said.

Another shopper, who spoke on condition of anonymity, noted that the relief is more apparent with larger purchases.

"You will see a significant reduction if you buy in bulk. If you buy small quantities, you don't really notice it," she explained.

Meanwhile, the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) has assured the public that it will continue to monitor compliance with the new tax regime. Officials have warned that businesses found charging unauthorised levies will face penalties, adding that public education campaigns are ongoing to ensure consumers fully benefit from the reforms.

# Ghana's Economy shows strong recovery in Mahama's first year amid lower inflation, currency gains

**G**hana's economy appears to have regained momentum in the first year of President John Dramani Mahama's administration, following a period of high inflation, elevated borrowing costs, and sluggish growth.

Data from the Ministry of Finance indicate that the economy expanded by 6.1 percent in the first three quarters of 2025, up from 5.7 percent over the same period in 2024, marking the fastest growth rate since 2019. Growth outside the oil sector, where most employment is generated, was even more pronounced, with non-oil GDP rising by 7.5 percent.

A standout achievement during the year was the sharp decline in inflation. Headline inflation dropped from 23.8 percent in December 2024 to 6.3 percent by November 2025, its lowest level in nearly six years. Both food and non-food inflation eased significantly, easing pressure on household budgets.

The fall in inflation also eased conditions in the money market. Treasury bill rates fell from over 30 percent at the end of 2024 to about 11 percent, reducing government borrowing costs and improving liquidity in the financial system.

On the foreign exchange front, the Ghana cedi recorded its strongest annual performance in years, appreciating against all major trading currencies. By December 31, 2025, the cedi had gained 40.7 percent against the US dollar, 30.9 percent against the British pound, and 24 percent against the euro.

The country's external position also strengthened during the first 10 months of 2025. The trade balance posted a surplus of 8.5 billion dollars by the end of October, supported by higher export earnings and tighter import controls. Gross International Reserves stood at 11.41 billion dollars, providing 4.8 months of import cover and bolstering external buffers.

Reflecting these gains, all three major international rating agencies — Fitch, Moody's, and S&P —

upgraded Ghana's credit ratings, citing stronger fiscal consolidation and improved macroeconomic stability.

Overall, these indicators suggest that the Mahama administration's

first year was marked by economic stabilisation, with notable progress in restoring price stability, strengthening the cedi, enhancing external buffers, and supporting sustained growth.



# PMMC lost \$460 million under NPP in 2024 – Agric Minister



*Minister for Food and Agriculture, Eric Opoku*

**The Minister for Food and Agriculture, Eric Opoku, has revealed that the Precious Minerals Marketing Company (PMMC) suffered losses of approximately 460 million dollars in 2024 during the administration of the New Patriotic Party (NPP).**

Speaking on Asempa FM on Monday, January 5, 2025, Mr. Opoku attributed the losses mainly to gold purchases for Ghana's national reserves and

rampant smuggling within the artisanal and small-scale mining sector.

According to the Minister, around 45.3 tonnes of gold were acquired in 2024 for the country's reserves, valued at about 3.1 billion dollars at the time of purchase. However, subsequent reports from the Bank of Ghana indicated that the gold reserve programme recorded losses totaling GHS4.84 billion.

“If you apply the current exchange rate of about 10.8 cedis to the dollar, that

translates to roughly 460 million dollars,” Mr. Opoku explained. “That is the loss Ghana incurred on gold purchased for reserves in 2024.”

He noted that the situation highlighted critical weaknesses in gold supply management, pricing mechanisms, and revenue accountability, further aggravated by ongoing smuggling in the small-scale mining sector.

Mr. Opoku added that these challenges prompted the government to establish GoldBod, a regulatory and

trading framework designed to curb gold smuggling, improve transparency, and secure better returns on Ghana's mineral resources. He stressed that companies operating under GoldBod, including Bawa Rock, have undergone rigorous due diligence and assessments and are fully covered under the new system.

The Minister concluded that the introduction of GoldBod is expected to strengthen oversight in the gold sector and prevent a repeat of the massive losses experienced in previous years.

# NPA Chief Executive commends Sentuo Oil Refinery during working visit



*Mr Godwin Kudzo Tameklo Esq. in handshake with official of Sentuo Oil Refinery*

**The Chief Executive of the National Petroleum Authority NPA, Mr Godwin Kudzo Tameklo Esq., has praised Sentuo Oil Refinery for its growing role in strengthening Ghana's downstream petroleum sector.**

Mr Tameklo made the remarks when he led a delegation from the Authority on a working visit to the refinery on Monday January 5, 2026. The visit formed part of an ongoing familiarisation tour of petroleum installations nationwide, aimed at deepening regulatory engagement and supporting sustainable growth within the sector.

During a meeting with the Group Chairman of Sentuo Oil Refinery, Mr Ninqguan Xu, and his management team, the NPA Chief Executive encouraged the company to sustain its progress and assured it of continued regulatory support. "The decision by Sentuo to put up a refinery for me is a game changer, for a long time, for over 60 years, we have always

relied on one major refinery. The work Sentuo has been doing over the last 6 months, the evidence is out there for all of us to see. What it means is that, for us from the NPA, what do we do to support your activities, at the same time ensuring that our regulatory oversights in the work we do is never comprised. As a regulator, we need to first ensure that we help you protect your investments. Your decision to invest in Ghana, requires that we protect that investment and that is important to us."

Mr Tameklo further underscored the need for strict adherence to regulatory requirements, particularly in relation to health, safety and environmental standards, stressing that investment protection goes hand in hand with compliance.

"Protecting that investment also means that we do not compromise on issues of regulatory oversight. The things that are important to us is to ensure that your factory meets international standards, the issues about health, the issues about the environment,

issues about safety are given top priority. You have put your money into this, we will ensure that the investment is made worthwhile, but in so doing, you must also help us the regulators to ensure that the things that we need to do in terms of compliance, will be done because we do not want to compromise on these matters."

Responding on behalf of the company, Group Chairman of Sentuo Oil Refinery, Mr Ninqguan Xu, expressed gratitude to the NPA for the visit and reiterated the refinery's commitment to operating fully within Ghana's regulatory framework.

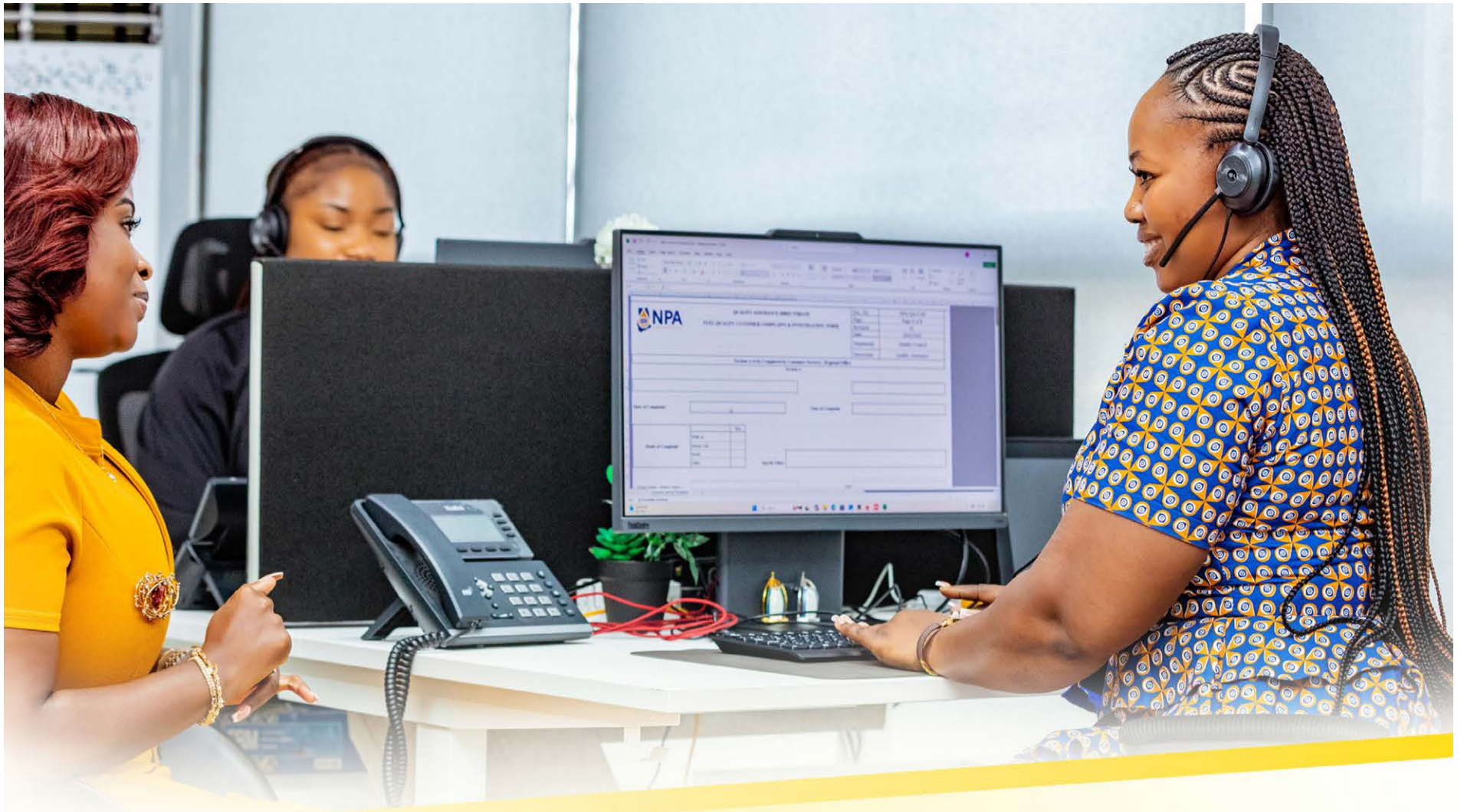
"Sentuo Oil Refinery remains fully committed to complying with all labour laws in Ghana and adhering strictly to international health, safety, and environmental standards. We will continue to provide proper working conditions for our staff to enhance efficiency and productivity," he said.

Mr Xu also highlighted the company's focus on local content and skills development, noting that

Sentuo has successfully integrated local staff into its steel operations and intends to replicate the same model at the refinery.

"We are deliberately integrating and training local staff, including positioning them as intermediaries to address language barriers and ensure that all documentation and processes meet regulatory requirements," he explained. He further disclosed plans to collaborate with relevant institutions to establish a scholarship scheme to train university students in petroleum-related skills, as part of the company's long term human capital development strategy.

The visit reflects the NPA's broader commitment to promoting a well regulated, competitive and sustainable downstream petroleum industry through active engagement with industry players, regulatory support and strict enforcement of compliance standards to ensure safety, protect investments and drive long term sector growth.



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