



President John Dramani Mahama

Cocoa farmer Mahama suffers haircut

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24-hour economy: NDC should've built on Akufo-Addo's 1D1F — Afenyo-Markin



Minority Leader, Alexander Afenyo-Markin

The Minority Leader in Parliament and MP for Effutu, Alexander Afenyo-Markin, has argued that the National Democratic Congress (NDC) should have anchored its 24-hour economy policy on the One District, One Factory (1D1F) initiative. The 24-hour economy policy, championed by President John Dramani Mahama, seeks to transform Ghana from reliance on low-value raw material exports into a productive

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COCOBOD to save GH¢5m monthly from salary cuts to defray cocoa debt



COCOBOD CEO, Randy Abbey

The Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD) stands to save an estimated GH¢5 million every month following salary reductions for its executive management and senior staff, the Board's Head of Public Affairs, Jerome Kwaku Sam, has revealed. The pay cuts, 20% for executive management and 10% for senior staff, took effect immediately and will remain in place for the remainder of the 2025/2026 crop year. The decision was outlined in a press release dated Monday, February 16, 2026, as part of measures to address liquidity challenges in the cocoa sector.

Mr. Sam emphasised that the move reflects the leadership's commitment to prudent financial management

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Current cocoa crisis must mark a turning point in the industry — Mahama



President John Dramani Mahama

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He stressed that the crisis offers an opportunity for the country to rethink how it handles cocoa production and exports.

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global prices and what analysts describe as miscalculations by the Ghana Cocoa Board, resulting in a 28.6 percent reduction in farmgate prices for the rest of the season.

Speaking at the Ghana Tree Crops Investment Summit and Exhibition 2026 in Accra on Tuesday, February 17, Mahama urged a shift from exporting raw beans to focusing on local processing to stabilize the sector

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Methodist Bishop explains why women in Russian sex scandal should not be described as 'cheap'



Presiding Bishop of the Methodist Church in Ghana, Most Rev. Prof. Johnson Asamoah Gyadu

The Presiding Bishop of the Methodist Church in Ghana, Most Rev. Prof. Johnson Asamoah Gyadu, has appealed for empathy and pastoral care for women recently drawn into a sexual exploitation controversy involving a Russian tourist. In a Facebook post shared on Monday,

February 16, he expressed deep unease about the public backlash directed at the women, whose alleged encounters were circulated online without consideration for the impact on their private and family lives.

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Avoid Burkina Faso until safety measures are strengthened — Dumelo to traders



Deputy Minister for Food and Agriculture, John Dumelo

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This comes after a number of Ghanaian traders were killed in Titao,

northern Burkina Faso, on Saturday, February 14, while travelling to purchase tomatoes.

The victims were reportedly ambushed by armed insurgents when transporting goods across the border. Efforts are underway to evacuate surviving victims and provide support to affected families.

The Ministry of Interior has stated

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Cocoa farmer Mahama suffers haircut

President John Dramani Mahama has called for pragmatic, farmer-centred reforms in Ghana's cocoa industry, emphasising that policy decisions must be grounded in the realities of producers.

Speaking at the inaugural Ghana Tree Crops Investment Summit and Exhibition in Accra on Tuesday, February 17, the President said his approach to the sector is informed not only by oversight responsibilities but also by his personal experience as a cocoa farmer.

Mahama highlighted that fluctuations in global cocoa prices and recent industry adjustments directly affect farmers, urging stakeholders to consider the delicate balance required in managing the sector.

"I planted cocoa on 50 acres, so I am a cocoa farmer. When the price is reduced by the government, it affects me too. I want to empathise with farmers so that when we take policy decisions, we understand the impact and feel it ourselves. If the price of fertiliser is high, I feel it because I also buy fertiliser," he said.

His comments come amid debate over recent reforms in the cocoa economy, including the reduction of the producer price from GH¢3,625 to GH¢2,587 per bag in response to international market instability.

The review has raised concerns among farmers, who warn that falling earnings combined with rising input costs are placing added pressure on cocoa production and threatening livelihoods.



President John Dramani Mahama

Ketu North MP to petition GES over colonisation content in Aki-Ola textbook



Edem Agbana and President Mahama

The Member of Parliament for Ketu North, Eric Edem Agbana, has announced that he will formally petition the Ghana Education Service (GES) to immediately review and recall copies of the Aki-Ola Junior High School Social Studies textbook over what he describes as "false and dehumanising content".

In a statement dated February 17, 2026, the MP who doubles as a member on Parliament's select committee on Education said he had sighted images from pages of the Aki-Ola Series Social Studies Textbook, which he said contains disturbing sections seeking to outline "benefits Ghana has derived from colonization."

Agbana condemned the content, arguing that it attempts to sanitise and glorify colonisation despite its devastating impact on Africans and Ghanaians.

"At a time when President

John Dramani Mahama is championing continental efforts toward reparations, it is deeply irresponsible to sanitize or glorify a painful chapter of our history," he stated.

He described colonisation as inhuman and a systematic violation of human rights, dignity and identity, warning that distorted narratives must not be allowed to shape the minds of Ghanaian children.

To address the issue, the MP said his petition to the GES will call for an immediate review and recall of the books and the removal of such harmful perspectives from Ghana's curriculum.

"Our education system must reflect truth, justice, and historical integrity. Not only that, our education must also sustain a perspective of history that does not deny the past of the Ghanaian, misstate the present, and undermine the hopeful future of the Ghanaian child," he added.

COCOBOD to save GH¢5m monthly from salary cuts to defray cocoa debt

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The pay cuts, 20% for executive management and 10% for senior staff, took effect immediately and will remain in place for the remainder of the 2025/2026 crop year. The decision was outlined in a press release dated Monday, February 16, 2026, as part of measures to address liquidity challenges in the cocoa sector.

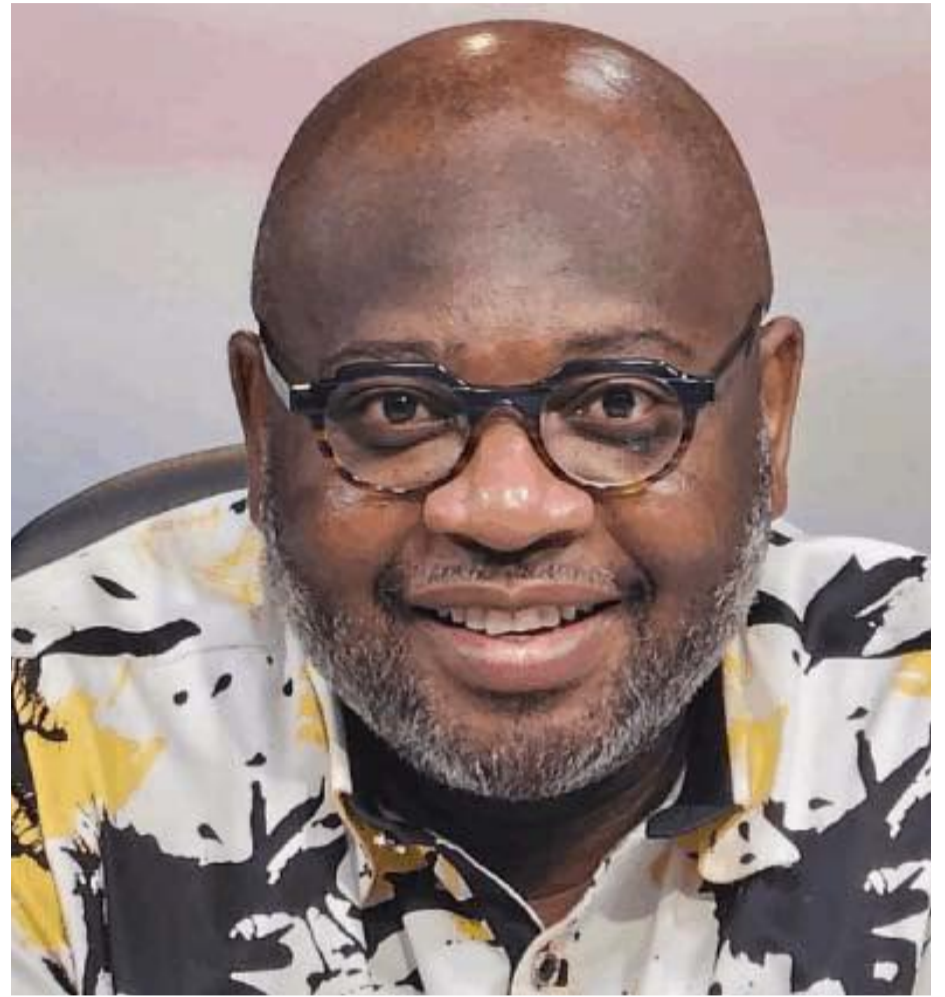
Mr. Sam emphasised that the move reflects the leadership's commitment to prudent financial management under Chief Executive Officer Dr. Randy Abbey.

"But the most important thing

is that, at least, the leadership under Dr Randy Abbey has taken a step. And the step is that we have reduced the salaries of executive management as well as senior staff by 20% and 10%, respectively.

"From where I sit, tentatively at least some 5 million cedis can be saved on a monthly basis. So, if you have about eight months to go, you are talking about no less than 40 million Ghana cedis, which can be used to defray some of the debt that sits on the books of COCOBOD," he said in an interview on Eyewitness News on Tuesday, February 17.

The salary reductions are part of wider cost-containment measures designed to align expenditure with revenue. Management has also rolled out procurement reforms and a staff rationalisation exercise aimed at stabilising the Board's finances and ensuring sustainable operations.



COCOBOD CEO, Randy Abbey

Anti-gay bill laid before Parliament

The Human Sexual Rights and Family Values Bill, 2025, widely known as the anti LGBTQ bill, has been formally laid before Parliament for consideration.

The proposed legislation seeks to criminalise activities linked to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons. It is being sponsored by 10 Members of Parliament from both the Majority and Minority sides,

reflecting bipartisan support for the initiative.

After the First Reading, the Speaker of Parliament, Alban Bagbin, referred the bill to the Constitutional and Legal Affairs Committee for detailed scrutiny and a report back to the House.

Speaking on the floor of Parliament on Tuesday, February 17, lead sponsor John Ntim Fordjour urged lawmakers to fast-track the process. He described the legislation as a bipartisan

private member's bill and called on the House and its committees to treat it as a matter of urgency before Parliament rises.

"It is the expectation of the sponsors which is bipartisan. It is a bipartisan private members' bill which must be on record. And the expectation is that within this meeting, this honourable house and all relevant committees will attach alacrity to this bill to pass it with urgency before this house rises.

"Because it is not a new bill. It is an old bill which has gone through

all the processes, consultations and already survived a plethora of legal and dissenting opinions. And has gone all the way to supreme court and held that no aspect of this bill affronts any aspect of our constitution," he said.

The bill now awaits consideration by the Constitutional and Legal Affairs Committee before it returns to the plenary for further debate and possible passage.



Death toll rises to 8 in Burkina Faso terror attack as Ghana orders air evacuation

The number of Ghanaian traders killed in the jihadist attack in Titao, northern Burkina Faso, has risen to eight after another victim succumbed to injuries.

In a press release issued on Tuesday, February 17, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirmed that seven members of the Ghana National Tomatoes Traders and Transporters Association were initially killed while carrying out lawful trading activities in the area on February 14, 2026.

A fourth injured victim, who had been receiving treatment for severe wounds sustained during the assault, has now died, pushing the death toll to eight.

President John Dramani Mahama and the Government of Ghana have conveyed deep condolences to the bereaved families and loved ones. The government condemned the attack as a senseless act of terror and expressed solidarity with the Government and people of Burkina Faso during what it described as a painful period.

According to the statement, the tragedy highlights the urgent need for strengthened regional security cooperation, a

position Ghana reiterated at last month's High Level Consultative Conference on Regional Cooperation and Security hosted by President Mahama.

On the instructions of the President and following medical advice, arrangements have been made for the immediate air evacuation of all affected Ghanaians from Burkina Faso. The Ghana Air Force is undertaking the evacuation, with the injured expected to arrive in Ghana later today.

Ghana's Ambassador to Burkina Faso and embassy officials are actively managing the situation and maintaining direct contact with the affected nationals. The government also acknowledged the cooperation of the Burkinabe authorities in facilitating approvals for the evacuation and related interventions.

In the wake of the attack, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has issued fresh travel guidance for Ghanaians within the sub region, particularly those heading to high risk areas. Citizens planning essential travel to such locations have been advised to consult the Ministry or Ghana's accredited embassies before departure.

Ghanaians already residing in areas where extremist violence has been recorded have been urged to limit movement,

remain in regular contact with Ghanaian missions, share emergency contact details, and keep identification documents readily available to ease consular support if required.

The government assured the public that it is closely monitoring developments and remains engaged with relevant authorities to protect Ghanaian nationals. It reaffirmed that the safety, security and well being

of citizens remain paramount and promised to provide further updates when necessary.

Ghanaians in distress or requiring urgent consular assistance have been advised to contact the Ministry of Foreign Affairs through its designated emergency telephone numbers and official email addresses.



The tomato truck burnt to ashes

Mahama extends condolences to families of Ghanaian victims of Burkina Faso terrorist attack

President John Dramani Mahama has extended his condolences to the families of Ghanaian victims of Sunday's terrorist attack in a village in Burkina Faso.

He made the remarks when he officially opened the Ghana Tree Crops Investment Summit 2026 in Accra.

"We live in a dangerous region, and a recent incident has shown what a threat of instability and security is to our regional integration and trade. As has been the tradition over decades, we trade amongst ourselves," he said.

He said agricultural products from Ghana were traded into Burkina Faso, and similar products from Burkina Faso, such as onions and tomatoes, were traded into Ghana.

"Recently, some traders from Ghana went to Burkina Faso

to buy tomatoes and they were ambushed in a village where they were transacting and armed insurgents, terrorist armed groups attacked. Unfortunately, we lost a number of our compatriots. Happily, there are a few

survivors," the President said. He said that the Ghana Army was arranging to medivac them from Burkina Faso so that those who were injured can continue to receive treatments here in Ghana.

President Mahama said on behalf of governments and people, expressed condolences to the families and those who were either killed or had been injured.



President John Dramani Mahama

Off-duty ambulance officer's courage saves motorbike crash victim in Oti Region

An off-duty ambulance officer's courage and swift intervention have saved a life following a head-on motorbike collision on the Dambai–Nkwanta road in the Oti Region.

Mr Daniel Marfo, Senior Emergency Medical Technician (SEMT), an ambulance officer stationed at Kpassa in the Nkwanta North District, was visiting his family in Dambai, when he encountered the accident between Tutukpene and Kechiebi, two farming communities in the Nkwanta South Municipality on Monday.

Despite having no medical equipment such as oxygen supplies, suction devices, automated external defibrillators (AEDs), or stretchers to support breathing and circulation, Mr Marfo relied on his training and

bare hands to revive one of the victims.

He also enlisted the help of bystanders, guiding them to assist by placing the injured in recovery positions.

Speaking to this portal, Mr Marfo explained that he helped transport both victims to the Nkwanta South Municipal Hospital.

Sadly, one of the victims was pronounced dead on arrival. Mr Marfo attributed the loss to the lack of additional medical personnel at the scene.

“If we were two officers, both victims would have been saved,” he said.



Ambulance officer resuscitating an accident victim at the scene

Avoid Burkina Faso until safety measures are strengthened – Dumelo to traders

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This comes after a number of Ghanaian traders were killed in Titao, northern Burkina Faso, on Saturday, February 14, while travelling to purchase tomatoes.

The victims were reportedly ambushed by armed insurgents when transporting goods across the border.

Efforts are underway to evacuate surviving victims and provide support to affected families.

The Ministry of Interior has stated that it is engaging security agencies to review existing protection arrangements for cross-border traders.

Speaking on Accra-based JoyNews on Tuesday, Dumelo said traders should avoid travelling until stronger security guarantees are in place.

“I would advise them [tomato traders] not to go because we can't guarantee safety. But of course, once we put those security measures in place, yes, then I would advise all of them to go,” he stated.

He explained that discussions are ongoing with the Interior Ministry to reassess and strengthen current security protocols.

“In the next couple of days, we will definitely announce some of the measures that we've taken to

protect these traders who go to Burkina Faso and other countries that are a little bit unstable,” Dumelo added.

The deputy minister also outlined plans to scale up local tomato production through irrigation expansion and support

for farmer cooperatives.

He expressed optimism that increased domestic output would reduce reliance on imports from Burkina Faso and improve food security in the long term.



Deputy Minister for Food and Agriculture, John Dumelo

How farmers in Ada West allegedly divert tap water to farms, depriving entire communities of supply

Some farmers in the Ada West District of the Greater Accra Region have allegedly diverted tap water meant for surrounding communities into private dams to irrigate their farms.

The alleged diversion was uncovered during a monitoring tour by officials of the Ada West District Assembly, led by Mr Mordjifa Tanihu Jerry John Foreigner Mills-Nkrumah, the District Chief Executive (DCE).

Speaking to this reporter at Afiadenyigbah, Mr Mills-Nkrumah said he had earlier received complaints about suspicious activities affecting water supply in parts of the district.

He explained that while on a road inspection tour with district engineers working with the District Road Improvement Programme (DRIP) machines, he recalled the complaints and decided to inspect some dams in the area.

According to him, the team discovered that water pipes had allegedly been disconnected

from the main supply lines and diverted into dams, where pumping machines were being used to channel the water to nearby farms.

“I am surprised to see such a criminal act by these farmers, and we are going to make sure that whoever is involved faces the full rigours of the law,” he stated.

The DCE described the act as an attempt to sabotage government efforts to provide potable water to communities and stressed that no one would be shielded from accountability.

“Even if my own mother is involved, she will face the law,” he stressed.

The GNA observed at the scene that numerous pipes were connected to the dams, with water being pumped to irrigate large stretches of farmland, suggesting that more than one person might be involved.

Some farmers, who spoke on condition of anonymity, alleged that individuals managing the diverted supply charged fees to other farmers who depended on the dam water for irrigation, with payments varying according to

farm size.

Two water pumping machines were retrieved from the site. Officers from the Sege Police Command visited the area and have commenced investigations.

Meanwhile, a community source told the GNA that residents had experienced prolonged interruptions in water supply and expressed shock at reports that water was allegedly being

diverted to private farms.

The source further alleged possible collusion between some individuals and officials of the Community Water and Sanitation Agency, though this claim has not been independently verified.

As of the time of filing this report, no arrests had been made.



Clean pipe water diverted to a farm

Current cocoa crisis must mark a turning point in the industry – Mahama

President John Dramani Mahama has acknowledged the recent turmoil in Ghana's cocoa sector.

He stressed that the crisis offers an opportunity for the country to rethink how it handles cocoa production and exports.

The sector has been hit by falling global prices and what analysts describe as miscalculations by the Ghana Cocoa Board, resulting in a 28.6 percent reduction in farmgate prices for the rest of the season.

Speaking at the Ghana Tree Crops Investment Summit and Exhibition 2026 in Accra on Tuesday, February 17, Mahama urged a shift from exporting raw beans to focusing on local processing to stabilize the sector and create jobs.

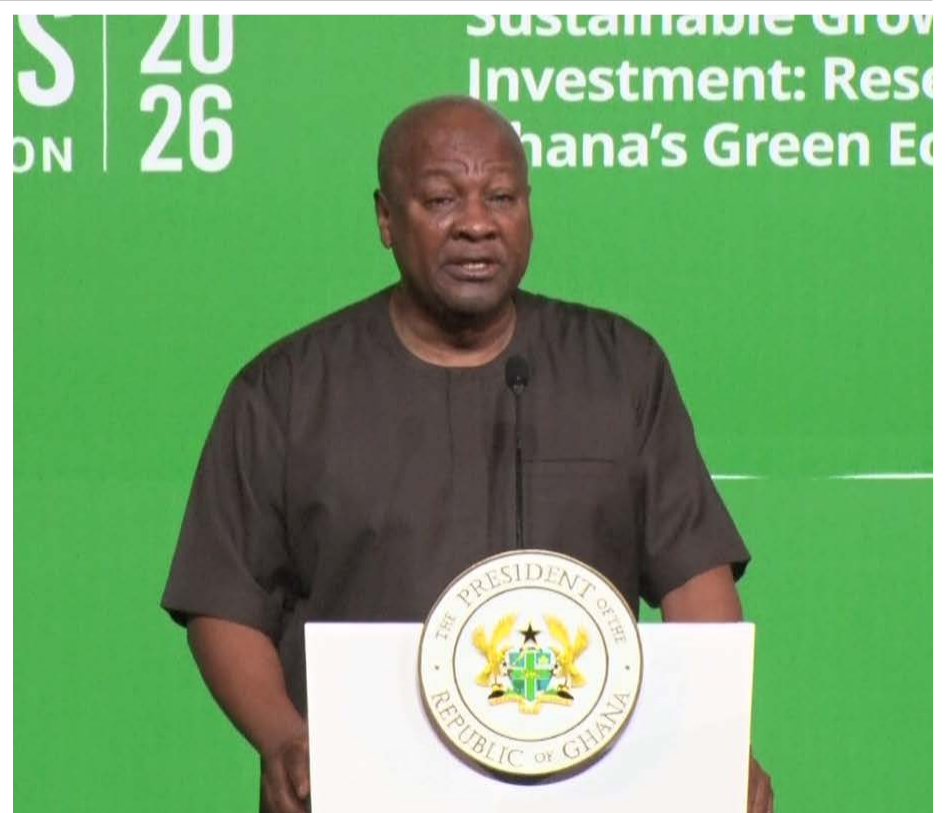
“Recently, we’ve had a crisis with

cocoa. It hasn’t affected only Ghana. It’s affected all cocoa-producing countries, and it shows how unstable raw material exports are if you don’t process and add value,” he said.

The President added, “This crisis must mark a turning point in our cocoa industry... we must take advantage of this moment to make a pivotal change in how we handle our raw exports.”

Mahama, who also shared his personal experience as a cocoa and oil palm farmer, stressed that policymakers and public servants must engage directly with agriculture to understand the challenges firsthand.

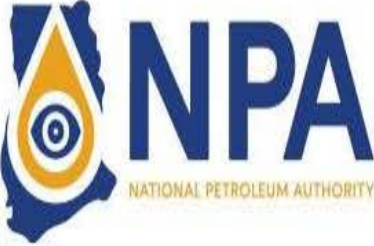
He emphasized the need for value addition and local processing, noting that Ghana should aim to export more manufactured cocoa products rather than raw beans.



President John Dramani Mahama

PETROLEUM PRICE INDICATORS

(As of 12th February, 2026)

	PBU EFFECTIVE 16TH FEBRUARY 2026 (27TH JANUARY - 11TH FEBRUARY 2026 AVERAGES)	ESTIMATED PBU EFFECTIVE 1ST MARCH 2026 (12TH - 26TH FEBRUARY 2026 AVERAGES)	% CHANGE
FX Rate (Commercial Banks Average) (USD/GHS)	11.0990	11.1517	-0.47%
Crude Oil (USD/BBL)	70.90	70.88	-0.03%
Petrol (USD/MT)	652.46	670.25	2.73%
Gasoil (USD/MT)	695.94	675.00	-3.01%
LPG (USD/MT)	508.77	507.50	-0.25%
Jet/Kerosene (USD/MT)	766.69	753.75	-1.69%
Fuel Oil (USD/MT)	393.94	390.25	-0.94%

***Products figures represent the FOB Prices used in the Price Build-Up (PBU)**

Note: "Oil prices dropped due to falling demand, retreating fears of renewed Middle East conflict and expected increases in supply." - Reuters.

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24-hour economy: NDC should've built on Akufo-Addo's 1D1F – Afenyo-Markin

The Minority Leader in Parliament and MP for Effutu, Alexander Afenyo-Markin, has argued that the National Democratic Congress (NDC) should have anchored its 24-hour economy policy on the One District, One Factory (1D1F) initiative.

The 24-hour economy policy, championed by President John Dramani Mahama, seeks to transform Ghana from reliance on low-value raw material exports into a productive and competitive round-the-clock economy.

It is expected to drive job creation, increase value addition and strengthen Ghana's position in the global market.

Parliament has since passed a bill to establish a 24-hour Economy Authority to oversee the operationalisation of the policy. However, speaking on Accra-based Channel One TV's The Point of View on Monday, February 16, Mr. Afenyo-Markin described the move as unnecessary and misplaced.

According to him, rather than creating what he termed another layer of bureaucracy, government should have reviewed and strengthened the 1D1F programme introduced under former President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo.

"You don't need it. If the initiative is to create jobs, you look at the private sector, not government institutions. What they should have done was to continue the Akufo-Addo 1D1F initiative," he stated.

The Effutu MP stressed that

relaxing import taxes on machinery and raw materials for private businesses would attract more investors, reduce production costs and create employment opportunities.

Afenyo-Markin further stated that government could have reviewed weaknesses in the 1D1F policy and expanded its rollout instead of setting up a new authority.



Minority Leader, Alexander Afenyo-Markin

Methodist Bishop explains why women in Russian sex scandal should not be described as 'cheap'

The Presiding Bishop of the Methodist Church in Ghana, Most Rev. Prof. Johnson Asamoah Gyadu, has appealed for empathy and pastoral care for women recently drawn into a sexual exploitation controversy involving a Russian tourist.

In a Facebook post shared on Monday, February 16, he expressed deep unease about the public backlash directed at the women, whose alleged encounters were circulated online without consideration for the impact on their private and family lives.

"In the last few days, some women have been in the news for the wrong reasons," he wrote, adding that although he does not support immoral conduct, he does not know the women's full story and therefore cannot join in condemning them.

He criticised sections of the media for branding the women as "cheap," describing the term as degrading and unacceptable.

"My heart sank when in one media commentary, the ladies were described as 'cheap,'

he stated. "No human being, regardless of their mistakes and failures in life, deserves to be described as 'cheap'."

The Presiding Bishop cautioned that in Ghana's social setting, such public exposure can carry serious consequences, particularly for married women whose relationships could be placed at risk. He observed that the issue has quickly found its way into sermons and media debates, potentially worsening the emotional burden on those involved.

From what he described as a "purely pastoral viewpoint," he said he regards the women as victims of what he called the Russian man's "beastly and vain sexual pursuits."

He appealed to media commentators and preachers to avoid amplifying the distress of the women by repeatedly discussing the matter without hearing their account.

"The women need our pastoral support, not condemnation," he emphasised.

Referencing biblical narratives such as Mary Magdalene, the woman caught in adultery, and

the Samaritan woman at Jacob's Well, he urged Christians to choose restoration over rejection. He also extended a personal message of encouragement to anyone directly affected by the episode.

"If you are reading this and it is your story, I offer you God's redemptive grace in your time of distress. None of you is beyond God's forgiveness and redeeming power," he wrote,

while cautioning against suicidal thoughts and self harm.

Quoting Galatians 6:1-2, he reminded believers of the call to restore those who have fallen "in a spirit of gentleness" and to bear one another's burdens in keeping with the law of Christ.

He concluded by calling for restraint, empathy and spiritual support for everyone impacted by the controversy.



Presiding Bishop of the Methodist Church in Ghana, Most Rev. Prof. Johnson Asamoah Gyadu

How Bolga Technical University staff and his entire family crashed to death by Yutong bus

A staff member of Bolgatanga Technical University, Atingane Francis Akipoe, his pregnant wife, and their young daughter have died in a road accident in the Upper East Region.

The family was reportedly struck by Yutong bus travelling from Navrongo to Bolgatanga. They were riding a motorbike from Sumbrungu to Anateem after attending a funeral when the incident occurred.

This comes days after the youth of the area, led by the Assembly Member, blocked the highway over rising deaths in the community.

The Assembly Member for the Sumbrungu Azorebisi Electoral Area, Elias Apasiya, confirmed that burial rites for the victims have been performed.

Authorities say investigations are ongoing, and further details are yet to be released.



The damaged motorbike

Key figure in June 4 uprising ex-Sergeant Peter Tasiri Azongo dies at 95

Ex-Sergeant Peter Tasiri Azongo, a central figure in the June 4, 1979 uprising, has died at the age of 95 in Pusiga in the Upper East Region.

Widely regarded as one of the principal planners behind the coup that toppled the Supreme Military Council, Azongo is remembered for his role in shaping a pivotal moment in Ghana's political history.

His passing marks the end of an era for many who associate his name with courage and commitment to national transformation.

The family has indicated that it will seek a state burial in recognition of what it describes as his immense contribution to the country.

Speaking to the media in Pusiga, family spokesperson Hon William Agoyini appealed for privacy as relatives mourn their loss. He paid tribute to the late ex-sergeant's service, describing him as a brave member of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council and reiterating the family's call for a state burial.

Titus Tasiri Azongo also eulogised his father as a hardworking and widely respected man. He said

the deceased was a father figure to many and bore no grudges in his heart, adding that the family and the nation had lost a

remarkable soul.

The body of Ex-Sergeant Peter Tasiri Azongo has been deposited at the Bolgatanga Regional

Hospital morgue as the family awaits official communication from the state regarding burial arrangements.



GFA reaffirms support for Thomas Partey despite rape charges allegation

The Ghana Football Association has reaffirmed its support for Thomas Partey as the midfielder navigates an ongoing legal battle in the United Kingdom.

Partey, who serves as deputy captain of the Black Stars, is facing additional rape charges, bringing the total number of allegations to offences involving four women. The 32-year-old has denied all accusations.

Speaking in an interview with Asaase Radio, GFA President Kurt Okraku stressed that the Association remains in regular communication with the Villarreal midfielder and continues to offer its backing.

“Thomas Partey is our deputy captain and a key member of the Black Stars. The GFA will never sleep over any situation

with a player like Partey. We’re in constant contact with Partey, and he’s in a good frame of mind despite what we read online. He has a strong mindset, and he’s preparing to represent Ghana at the World Cup,” Okraku said.

He added that the FA stands firmly behind the player during what he described as a challenging period. “Thomas Partey knows our position. We stand shoulder to shoulder with him during these challenging times. I’m very positive that despite all the happenings, Partey will show up for the World Cup,” he added.

Partey is due to appear before Westminster Magistrates’ Court on March 13. The alleged offences are said to have occurred between 2020 and 2022 and were investigated by the Metropolitan Police after an initial complaint

was filed in February 2022.

The midfielder was previously granted conditional bail after

entering not guilty pleas to earlier charges.



Benjamin Asare must not be Black Stars first-choice goalkeeper at 2026 World Cup - Alhaji Ali Maradona

Former Asante Kotoko board member, Alhaji Ali Maradona, has questioned whether Hearts of Oak goalkeeper Benjamin Asare is ready to start for the Black Stars at the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

Asare, who became the national team’s first-choice goalkeeper following his debut in March 2025, impressed again as Hearts of Oak edged Asante Kotoko 1-0 in the Super Clash at Baba Yara Stadium despite playing with 10 men.

In 12 Ghana Premier League matches this season, he has kept nine clean sheets and conceded just four goals.

Despite these domestic exploits, Maradona believes the step up to the World Cup demands more experience.

“People praise the Hearts of Oak goalkeeper [Benjamin

Asare], but let’s be honest, he is not at the level of the Black Stars,” he said in an interview with Asempa FM.

“The World Cup isn’t a concert. You need an experienced goalkeeper.

“He deserved the [Man of the Match award against Kotoko], but that is not the World Cup. I am not saying he should not go to the World Cup, but to be number one, Ghana needs an experienced goalkeeper.”

The Black Stars continue their World Cup preparations with friendlies against Austria on March 27 and Germany three days later. Head coach Otto Addo is expected to announce his final squad for the tournament on June 1.

Ghana will begin their 2026 World Cup campaign against Panama on June 17, before facing England on June 23 and Croatia on June 27.



Former Asante Kotoko board member, Alhaji Ali Maradona

Black Stars' poor performance at 2023 AFCON was not a surprise to me - Kurt Okraku

President of the Ghana Football Association (GFA), Kurt Okraku, has revealed that he anticipated the Black Stars would struggle at the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) in Ivory Coast.

Following a disappointing group-stage exit at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, Ghana's senior national team aimed to rebound at the AFCON.

However, under the guidance of Chris Hughton, the Black Stars failed to win any of their three group matches and were eliminated at the opening stage.

Speaking on Asaase Radio, Okraku said, "To be honest, going into that tournament, I was not expecting something different, and I told people close to me that it would not work for us because I knew the team and knew the happenings, and we exited the competition at the group phase.

Reflecting on the team's decline, he added, "When we came home, there was a need for us to look at what we did, but unfortunately, we started declining as well, and we failed to qualify for the last AFCON."

Despite the challenging period, Okraku praised the GFA Executive Council for making bold decisions that ultimately helped the team secure qualification for the 2026 World Cup.

"Ghana spoke after that, and it was very loud, and as a leader, I listened to everybody, and we all agreed that there was a need for a reset and to be honest with ourselves.

"We needed to know what was fundamentally wrong with us and fix it. After listening to the Executive Council, we made the right decisions, and we qualified for the 2026 World Cup," he added.



President of GFA, Kurt Okraku

ENTERTAINMENT NEWS

'Sack your wife if she is part of Russian tourist sex scandal' – Ohneni Adazaoha

Ghanaian media personality, Ohneni Adazaoha, has waded into the controversial Russian tourist sex scandal with many Ghanaians advising married men to divorce their wives who were caught up in the scandal.

Describing these women as 'greedy', Ohneni stated that contrary to public opinion, the women are not victims of any circumstance, rather, she indicated that these women got into the scandalous situation due to the pressure to 'belong' in society created by influencers on social media.

"I'm very happy, every day I speak about women, to advise them but then I receive backlash for speaking against their ill behaviours. What a woman can do no man can do. You don't know the man from anywhere, you jump onto his bed. And this goes to the married men whose women were caught up in the acts to divorce them immediately.

Let them go to their mother's house. You leave with your husband, he has not faulted you in anyway and you decide to allow yourself to sleep with a white man, then you don't respect the man," she lashed out.

She further expressed her disappointment towards the hotel manager involved in the scandal saying, "you this lady you know this man is a womanizer who parades lady everytime. You did not even fear. You are a disappointment to your parents."

Ohneni Adazaoha further advised women to be vigilant in their dealings with the opposite sex on matters relating to intimacy.

The Russian man, identified as Yaytseslav, began trending in Ghana and other parts of Africa after videos of his interactions with several African women including Ghanaian women surfaced online on February 12, 2026.

Two of the several women who were filmed by a Russian tourist during his recent visit to Ghana have publicly denied allegations that they had sexual relations with him.

The women, identified as Dorah and Serena, reacting in separate interviews with content creator Naana Donkor Arthur stated that the footage shared online had been edited to create a false impression.



Ghanaian media personality, Ohneni Adazaoha



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“White fans have created shrines to worship Ebo Taylor like a god” – Children reveal

The children of Ebo Taylor have expressed concern that their father was not celebrated enough in his own country, Ghana.

They believe the legendary highlife musician did not receive

the level of recognition he truly deserved at home, despite his immense contribution to the music industry.

In an interview on “Showbiz Max” on Max 89.7 FM/Max TV with Kumi Kasa, his son, Kweku Taylor, shared his disappointment over

the situation.

He stated that many Ghanaians are still unaware of who Ebo Taylor is and the impact he made on highlife and Afrobeat music.

According to Kweku Taylor, the story is quite different abroad,

where his father is highly revered. He revealed that in some foreign countries, admirers have even created shrines decorated with Ebo Taylor’s photos, honoring him almost like a god in recognition of his legacy and influence.



No Ghanaian musician has visited our home since Ebo Taylor’s death – Children lament

The children of Ebo Taylor have expressed disappointment over the lack of visits from Ghanaian musicians following the death of their father.

Speaking in an interview with Kumi Kasa on Max FM, the family revealed that since his passing, no Ghanaian musician has visited their home to formally express condolences or offer sympathies.

According to them, although many artistes have taken to social media to mourn the legendary highlife icon and share heartfelt tributes, none have shown up in person to commiserate with the family. They noted that while they appreciate the online messages, Ghanaian tradition places great value on personal visits, especially during moments of grief.

The family explained that they

have seen several musicians post about their father’s impact and legacy on platforms such as Instagram, Facebook and X (formerly Twitter), but the absence of physical presence has been surprising to them. In Ghanaian culture, visiting a bereaved family is seen as a sign of deep respect and solidarity, particularly when the deceased is a national icon.

Ebo Taylor, born Deroy Taylor on January 6, 1936, passed away on February 7, 2026, at the age of 90. He reportedly died at Saltpond Hospital in the Central Region, just a day after launching the inaugural Ebo Taylor Music Festival and exactly a month after celebrating his 90th birthday.

Widely regarded as one of the pioneers of modern highlife music, Ebo Taylor’s career spanned more than six decades. He blended traditional Ghanaian rhythms with jazz, funk and Afrobeat influences, helping to shape the sound of Ghanaian music both locally and internationally. Over the years, he worked with several

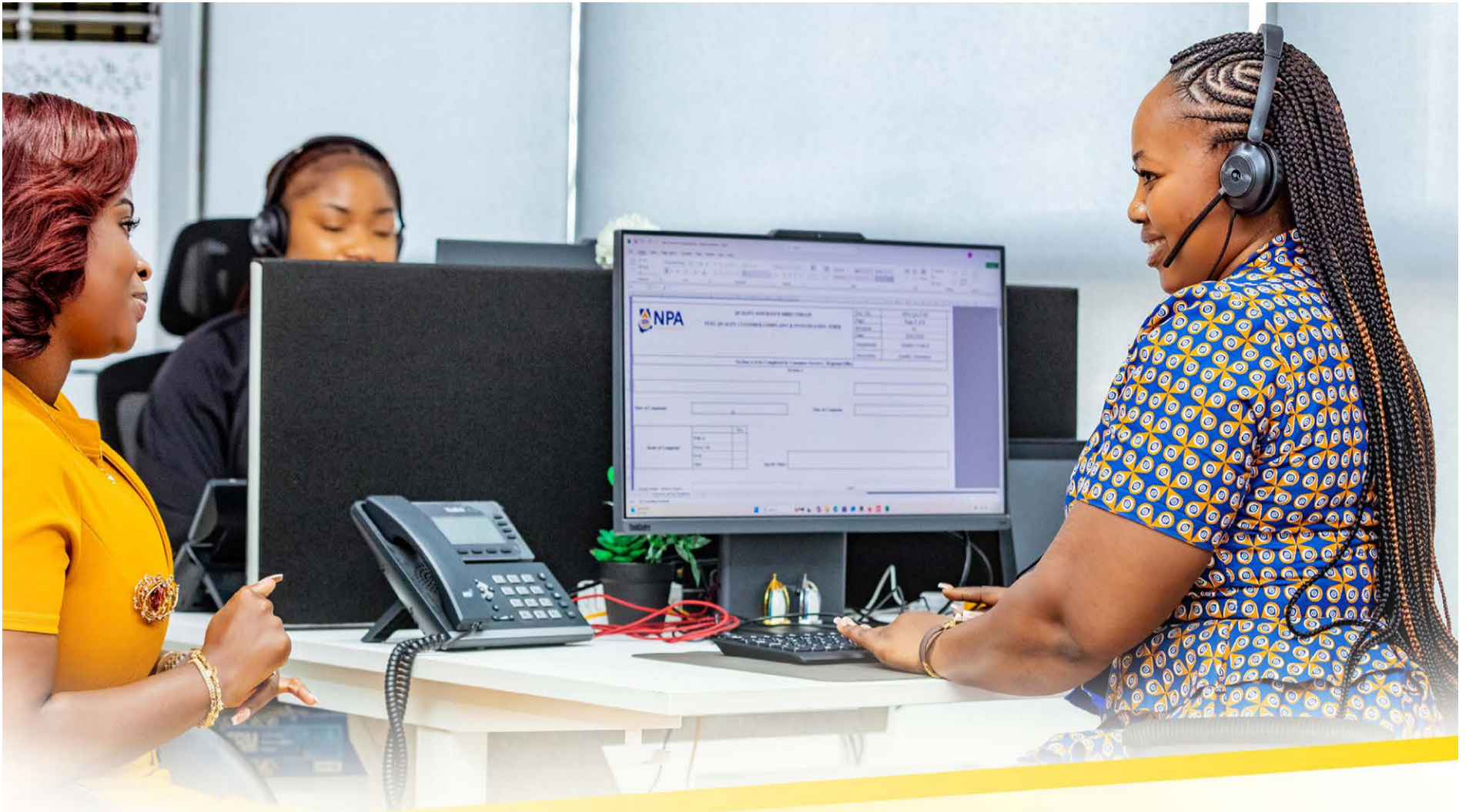
notable bands and played a key role in Ghana’s music industry as a composer, producer and bandleader.

His death has been described

as a huge loss to Ghana and the African music fraternity at large. Tributes have poured in from fans, musicians and public figures across the globe, celebrating his immense contribution to highlife and African music.



Ebo Taylor



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