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Abesim cannibal sentenced to life in prison



Richard Appiah, convict

Richard Appiah, a 31-year-old draftsman, has been sentenced to life imprisonment after a seven-member jury found him guilty on two counts of murder.

Appiah was prosecuted for killing two boys whose body parts were discovered in a refrigerator at Alaska, a suburb of Abesim near Sunyani in the Bono Region. He was brought before the court in 2024 over the deaths of 15-year-old Stephen Sarpong, a JHS 2

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Speaker Bagbin chases three hospitals for answers to death of hit-and-run victim



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The deceased, Charles Amissah, 29,

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Politicians playing games with us — Prof. Agyemang-Duah slams ORAL for no show



Prof. Baffour Agyemang-Duah

Renowned governance scholar Professor Baffour Agyemang-Duah has strongly criticized political leaders for what he calls playing mind games with the Ghanaian public amid the controversy surrounding the Operation Recover All Loot (ORAL) initiative. In an interview with the media, Professor Agyemang-Duah expressed

deep concern over what he sees as a persistent lack of clarity, consistency, and transparency from key political actors in addressing corruption, particularly among the two dominant parties, the NDC and NPP.

"The politicians are playing games with us. Ghanaians deserve transparency and straightforward communication," he said.

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'A promise made, a promise kept' — Mahama woos private sector players



President John Dramani Mahama

President John Dramani Mahama on Monday held his maiden Presidential Dialogue with the Private Sector, seeking to define a conversation in Ghana's industrial and economic transformation.

Speaking at the Dialogue in Accra,

President Mahama recalled that in the run-up to the 2024 election, he made a firm promise that if Ghanaians entrusted him with their mandates, he would hold an annual Dialogue with Captains of Industry and Business to address the challenges hindering the growth of the private sector in Ghana.

"A promise made, a promise kept.

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Ahanta West NDC drags MCE to slaughterhouse, begs Mahama to scapegoat



Ahanta West MCE, Engineer Ebenezer Aidoo

Members of the National Democratic Congress (NDC) in Ahanta West have petitioned President John Dramani Mahama to remove Municipal Chief Executive, Hon. Engineer Ebenezer Aidoo.

In their petition, the party executives accused the MCE of abusing his

authority by locking the Assembly Hall to prevent a duly convened meeting, thereby disregarding the dignity of the Assembly.

They further alleged that, despite public commitments to combat illegal mining, the MCE colludes with miners, uses security personnel to extort bribes, and selectively targets those who refuse to pay.

The petition also claimed that Aidoo

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NPP busy fishing scandals to pin Mahama --- Adorye slams Assafuah's backfired attack on COCOBOD Deputy CEO

A leading member of the United Party, Hopeson Yaovi Adorye, has accused the New Patriotic Party (NPP) of desperately hunting for a corruption scandal to taint the image of President John Dramani Mahama and his administration.

His comments follow allegations by the Member of Parliament for Tafo, Vincent Ekow Assafuah, who raised concerns over a possible conflict of interest at the Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD).

The MP alleged that Mr. Ato Boateng, Acting Deputy Chief Executive in charge of Finance and Administration at COCOBOD, has an established professional association with Atlas Commodities Limited,

claiming that funds meant for Licensed Buying Companies were redirected to the private entity.

According to him, cocoa beans meant for purchase by Licensed Buying Companies during the 2025/2026 crop season were allegedly diverted and hoarded in anticipation of price increases.

Speaking on JoyNews' AM Show on Tuesday, February 24, Adorye described the claims as baseless and politically motivated.

He stated that the accusations are a calculated attempt to create public suspicion where none exists.

"NPP is in the deep water fishing for a scandal to tag this government, that is all, finito. They are just fishing for a

scandal, which does not exist," he said.

Adorye questioned the basis of the allegations and argued that previous professional associations do not amount to wrongdoing.

"Someone has worked with a

company before and is now a COCOBOD CEO. I don't think the gentleman is still working with Atlas. Is it the Deputy CEO who awards the contract? No. So where from this?" he quizzed.



Hopeson Adorye

Mr. Ato Boateng

Vincent Ekow Assafuah

'UP is a responsible opposition; we'll support NDC govt succeed' – Hopeson Adorye



Hopeson Yaovi Adorye

A leading member of the United Party (UP), Hopeson Yaovi Adorye has said the party will not undermine the governing National Democratic Congress (NDC) efforts but will instead play what he describes as a responsible opposition role to help government succeed.

According to him, the UP is committed to supporting national development efforts while holding the government accountable.

Speaking on JoyNews' AM Show on Tuesday, February 24, Adorye commended the government for stabilising key economic indicators.

Adorye stressed that the UP does not subscribe to what he termed "irresponsible

opposition," indicating that constructive engagement benefits the country.

"A United Party, we are responsible opposition. What it means is that we are helping to build this country, the country that we want to govern. We are helping so that when we take over, we will not come and struggle," he stated.

He noted that the country's ability to meet its debt obligations under the current programme demonstrates improved fiscal discipline compared to previous episodes where the country struggled to service its loans.

"IMF program is on course, and everything is being followed. We are able to meet our debt obligations and other things, which is a plus. It shows that the economy is doing well," he said.

‘He was just laughing when CID boss was talking to him’ – Ellen Daaku blasts SWEBUS Headmaster

Aide to former Vice President Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia and New Patriotic Party communications team member, Ellen Ama Daaku, has called on the Ministry of Education to take action against the headmaster of Swedru School of Business (SWESBUS), accusing him of showing indifference during a meeting with the Criminal Investigation Department boss over the violent incident involving students from the school.

Speaking on Metro TV’s Good Morning Ghana, Madam Daaku expressed outrage at what she described as the headmaster’s dismissive attitude when the Director-General of the Criminal Investigation Department, COP Lydia Yaako Donkor, engaged school authorities following the clash between students of SWESBUS and

Obrachire Senior High Technical School.

“I didn’t like the reaction of the Swedru School of Business headmaster. He was just laughing when a whole CID boss was talking to him. The Ministry of Education should deal with him. He is just pissing me off. This is the one we have left our kids with,” she said.

Her comments come after COP Donkor met with the management of both Obrachire SHTS and Swedru School of Business in response to public concern over the violent confrontation. The incident, which has drawn widespread attention, prompted swift police intervention.

During the engagement, SWESBUS management was given a 24-hour ultimatum to produce the students involved to assist with investigations. COP Donkor stressed that cooperation would ensure the matter is handled quickly and thoroughly.

She underscored the seriousness of the violence and warned of potential consequences for those found culpable. According to her, investigations have formally begun to establish the full circumstances of the incident and identify everyone connected to it. She also confirmed that the victim

involved is currently receiving treatment and responding to care.

COP Donkor reaffirmed the Ghana Police Service’s commitment to maintaining law and order and ensuring that schools remain safe spaces for students.



Politicians playing games with us – Prof. Agyemang-Duah slams ORAL for no show

Renowned governance scholar Professor Baffour Agyemang-Duah has strongly criticized political leaders for what he calls playing mind games with the Ghanaian public amid the controversy surrounding the Operation Recover All Loot (ORAL) initiative.

In an interview with the media, Professor Agyemang-Duah expressed deep concern over what he sees as a persistent lack of clarity, consistency, and transparency from key political actors in addressing corruption, particularly among the two dominant parties, the NDC and NPP.

“The politicians are playing games with us. Ghanaians deserve transparency and straightforward communication,” he said.

He further condemned the pattern of opposition politicians who, while in opposition, accuse the government of corruption and vow to prosecute offenders once in power, only to fail to act

when they assume office. “This inaction is deeply worrying and undermines public trust,” he added.

Professor Agyemang-Duah warned that such political maneuvering threatens to erode confidence in both leadership and democratic institutions. “When leaders fail to communicate clearly and honestly on matters of public interest, accountability is weakened, and trust in our democratic processes is compromised,” he noted.

He called on all political actors to rise above partisan interests and provide direct, unambiguous explanations to the Ghanaian people, insisting that transparency and honesty must guide public discourse on corruption and governance.

The ORAL issue has triggered widespread public debate, with varied interpretations and conflicting statements from prominent political figures. Critics argue that the mixed

messaging has intensified confusion and stoked speculation among citizens.



Prof. Baffour Agyemang-Duah

Ahanta West NDC drags MCE to slaughterhouse, begs Mahama to scapegoat

Members of the National Democratic Congress (NDC) in Ahanta West have petitioned President John Dramani Mahama to remove Municipal Chief Executive, Hon. Engineer Ebenezer Aidoo.

In their petition, the party executives accused the MCE of abusing his authority by locking the Assembly Hall to prevent a duly convened meeting, thereby disregarding the dignity of the Assembly.

They further alleged that, despite public commitments to combat illegal mining, the MCE colludes

with miners, uses security personnel to extort bribes, and selectively targets those who refuse to pay.

The petition also claimed that Aidoo undermines the local Member of Parliament, bypasses agreed engagements, awards public contracts without consultation, and recklessly accuses traditional leaders of illegal activities without evidence.

The NDC executives concluded that these actions reflect misconduct and incompetence, urging President Mahama to exercise his constitutional power under Article 243(3) to revoke Aidoo's appointment.



Ahanta West MCE, Engineer Ebenezer Aidoo

Prof Dr Grace Ayensu-Danquah vows to end 'no bed syndrome' following death of hit-and-run victim

The Deputy Minister of Health, Prof Dr Grace Ayensu-Danquah, has assured that government is committed to addressing the issue of inadequate hospital beds, commonly known as "no bed syndrome," by upgrading Ghana's healthcare facilities.

Charles Amissah, a 29-year-old engineer, died after being turned away from three major hospitals in Accra: Ridge Hospital, Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital, and the Police Hospital, due to a lack of available beds.

Responding to Minority Leader Alexander Afenyo-Markin's statement on the floor of parliament, Prof Ayensu-Danquah extended her heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the affected families.

She said, "Mr Speaker, the death of any Ghanaian in this circumstance is unfortunate and I will like to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and the loved ones of the deceased and also to the entire nation."

She added, "Mr Speaker, I am the Deputy Minister of Health and also a traumatologist, in other words I am trained as a trauma surgeon specialist and consultant. Mr Speaker, the event that led to this unfortunate incident and demise of the gentleman is tragic and should not have

happened. Mr Speaker, in surgery, we call this a never-event. Mr Speaker, a never event is an event that should never happen."

She said, under no circumstance should a human

being die the way Amissah died, and taht government and the Health Ministry are working with all relevant agencies to get to the bottom of the matter.

Ayensu-Danquah assured

that "the no bed syndrome" will be a thing of the past as government is committed to upgrading Ghana's healthcare facilities across the country.



Deputy Minister of Health, Prof Dr Grace Ayensu-Danquah

127 out of 318 Ambulances grounded

Ghana's emergency response system is under mounting pressure as close to 40 percent of the National Ambulance Service fleet is currently not operational.

Out of 318 ambulance stations across the country, only 191 vehicles are in service, while 127 remain grounded. The shortfall has sparked concern about the nation's capacity to deliver prompt emergency medical care, particularly as many of the ambulances have exceeded their recommended lifespan without replacement.

The situation was disclosed in an interview on Channel One TV by Martin Ewuah Amoah, Clinical Auditor for the Southern Zone of the National Ambulance Service. He explained that ambulances are designed to function effectively for about five years before frequent mechanical faults begin to set in. As vehicles age, maintenance costs rise and breakdowns become more common. In the absence of consistent fleet renewal, operational efficiency continues to deteriorate.

The impact is increasingly visible, especially in high

demand areas such as Accra, where emergency calls are frequent. Repeated breakdowns have slowed response times and placed additional strain on the limited number of functioning ambulances. As more vehicles are taken off the road, the burden on those still operating intensifies, raising concerns about delayed interventions in critical situations.

The challenges facing the ambulance service have come under sharper public scrutiny following the death of 29-year-old Charles Amissah, an engineer with Promasidor Ghana Limited. He was involved in a hit and run accident at the Circle Overpass in Accra on February 6, 2026. After receiving initial stabilization from Emergency Medical Technicians at the scene, he was transported to Ridge Hospital, Korle Bu Teaching Hospital and the Police Hospital. He was unable to secure a bed at any of the facilities and later died.

The incident has fueled debate about the readiness of both pre-hospital emergency services and healthcare facilities. While concerns have been raised about ambulance response capacity, the lack of available hospital beds has also highlighted deeper structural gaps within

the broader health system. Questions are being asked about whether existing infrastructure can adequately meet emergency demands, particularly in densely populated urban areas.

Amoah admitted that the shortage of working ambulances is significantly affecting response capacity. "We need to replace the ambulances as soon as possible," he said. "Otherwise, these breakdowns will continue, and our ability to respond to emergencies will only become

more compromised." He warned that the aging fleet poses not only operational challenges but also serious public safety risks.

The Ministry of Health has indicated that renewing the fleet will be treated as a priority. However, financial limitations and administrative delays have slowed progress. For now, the National Ambulance Service continues to manage with its existing vehicles, even as the threat of further breakdowns remains.



Speaker Bagbin chases three hospitals for answers to death of hit-and-run victim

Speaker of Parliament Alban Bagbin has directed the Health Committee of Parliament to secure and scrutinise all relevant records from the Ministry of Health, Korle Bu Teaching Hospital and any other institutions connected to the death of a hit-and-run victim who was allegedly refused emergency admission due to a lack of hospital beds.

The deceased, Charles Amissah, 29, was an engineer with Promasidor Ghana Limited. He sustained severe shoulder injuries after being knocked down at the Circle Overpass in Accra on February 6, 2026.

Emergency Medical Services personnel reportedly stabilised him at the scene and arranged for his transfer to a hospital for further treatment. However, reports indicate that he could not be admitted at Police Hospital, the Greater Accra Regional Hospital and Korle Bu Teaching Hospital because no beds were available.

While still at Korle Bu awaiting care, Amissah is said to have gone into cardiac arrest. Medical

personnel attempted to revive him through CPR but he was later pronounced dead.

The circumstances surrounding his death have sparked intense public discussion about emergency response systems and accountability within the healthcare sector.

Speaking in Parliament on Tuesday, February 24, Bagbin charged the Health Committee to

thoroughly interrogate all reports submitted to it and propose firm action where necessary.

"I will direct our committee on health to take all the reports that will come from the ministry, the Korle-Bu hospital or wherever and go deeply into it. We have to take control, we need to inquire further into the matter and we need to hold people accountable," he said, describing the incident

as one of the country's "needless deaths."

The Speaker further signalled that Parliament could consider new legislation to address gaps in emergency medical care.

"At the end of the day, I will urge the House for us to legislate on the matter. We need to pass an emergency care law on this matter," he added.



We need to pass Emergency Care Law to end needless deaths in hospitals – Bagbin

The Speaker of Parliament, Alban Bagbin, has urged lawmakers to pass an Emergency Care Law to address the persistent “no-bed syndrome” in hospitals, following the death of hit-and-run victim Charles Amissah, who reportedly died after being denied treatment at three major hospitals.

Addressing the House, Speaker Bagbin described Amissah’s death as “needless” and directed the Health Committee to investigate the findings of all ongoing probes into the incident.

He instructed that reports from all relevant agencies, including Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital and the Ministry of Health, be submitted to the committee within two weeks.

“I will direct our Committee on Health to take all the reports that will come from the ministry, the Korle-Bu Hospital, or wherever,

and go deeply into them. We have to take control; we need to inquire further into the matter, and we need to hold people accountable. This is one of the needless deaths we have experienced in this country,” he said.

Speaker Bagbin stressed that an emergency care law is critical to preventing similar deaths resulting from delays or denial of urgent medical attention.

“I will urge the House to legislate on the matter. We need to pass an Emergency Care Law on this matter. The Chair of the Committee on Health, the Ranking Member, please carry your members along, and work on this matter.

“At the end of the day, the minister responsible for health, together with the committee, will have to come before this House. Then we can take that opportunity to legislate on the matter and try to bring finality to these needless deaths in our country,” he added.



Speaker of Parliament, Alban Bagbin

Summon Korle-bu, Ridge and Police Hospital bosses over death of hit-and-run patient – Afenyo-Markin tells Bagbin

Minority Leader Osahen Alexander Afenyo-Markin has petitioned Speaker Alban Bagbin to direct the Health Committee of Parliament to summon the management of Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital, the Police Hospital and the Greater Accra Regional Hospital over the alleged refusal of emergency care to hit-and-run victim Charles Amissah on February 6, 2026.

He argued that the circumstances leading to Amissah’s death must not be brushed aside, insisting that accountability is essential and that anyone found responsible should face sanctions to deter similar occurrences.

The Effutu MP maintained that a comprehensive inquiry by the Health Committee is necessary to establish whether negligence or professional misconduct contributed to the incident and to ensure that appropriate

measures are taken where wrongdoing is proven.

“Mr Speaker, with your directive, summon the Chief Executive Officers and the heads of the emergency units of the three hospitals involved. Demand the provision of duty rosters and bed occupancy records for that night.

“They should establish conclusively whether the 2018 Ghana Health Service directive was breached and finally determine whether professional misconduct or negligence occurred. If misconduct is established, sanctions must follow; if negligence is proven, prosecution must follow,” he stated.

Beyond the parliamentary investigation, Osahen Afenyo-Markin also urged the Ghana Police Service to intensify efforts to track down the driver responsible for the hit-and-run incident.

“I call upon the Ghana Police Service to deploy every resource, investigative technique and

intelligence capability at their disposal to track down and


apprehend this individual,” he added.



Minority Leader, Osahen Alexander Afenyo-Markin





PETROLEUM PRICE INDICATORS

(As of 23rd 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	11.0723	0.24%
Crude Oil (USD/BBL)	70.90	71.79	1.25%
Petrol (USD/MT)	652.46	685.27	5.03%
Gasoil (USD/MT)	695.94	711.86	2.29%
LPG (USD/MT)	508.77	503.59	-1.02%
Jet/Kerosene (USD/MT)	766.69	790.80	3.14%
Fuel Oil (USD/MT)	393.94	404.64	2.72%
*Products figures represent the FOB Prices used in the Price Build-Up (PBU)			

Note: "Oil prices eased but remained at a six-month high ahead of a third round of nuclear talks between the U.S. and Iran, and amid increased economic uncertainty after the latest U.S. tariff upheaval." – Reuters

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Abesim cannibal sentenced to life in prison

Richard Appiah, a 31-year-old draftsman, has been sentenced to life imprisonment after a seven-member jury found him guilty on two counts of murder.

Appiah was prosecuted for killing two boys whose body parts were discovered in a refrigerator at Alaska, a suburb of Abesim near Sunyani in the Bono Region. He was brought before the court in 2024 over the deaths of 15-year-old Stephen Sarpong, a JHS 2 pupil, and his 12-year-old stepbrother, Louis Agyemang Jr.

From the onset of the trial, the convict admitted committing the act. The central issue before the court, however, was whether he had the mental capacity to form the intent required for the offence of murder.

The defence, led by Faustinus Yorilabuo, argued that Appiah was suffering from paranoid schizophrenia at the time of the killings and was therefore incapable of appreciating the nature and consequences of his actions.

The prosecution, led by Senior State Attorney Nana Ama Adinkrah, rejected that claim, maintaining that the accused was fully aware of his conduct. The state pointed to what it described as deliberate attempts by Appiah to conceal the crime as evidence that he understood the gravity of his actions.

After less than 20 minutes of deliberation, the jury returned a unanimous verdict of guilty on both counts.

Presiding judge Justice Ruby Aryeetey subsequently sentenced Appiah to life imprisonment.



Richard Appiah, convict

Mahama Ayariga recalls being saved by emergency care, condemns denial to hit-and-run victim

Majority Leader of Parliament, Mahama Ayariga, has delivered a stern admonishment to Ghana's healthcare system following the tragic death of 29-year-old engineer Charles Amissah, who reportedly died after being turned away from three major hospitals due to unavailable beds.

Addressing the House on Tuesday, February 24, Mr Ayariga described the incident as a reflection of systemic failure and a disregard for human life.

"Speaker, I speak as somebody who was kept alive because the emergency ward of a hospital worked for me, and it must work for everybody, every citizen. In some jurisdictions, there would have been public outrage... that an accident victim was moved from hospital to hospital, and the medical personnel there refused to treat it as an emergency. It says everything about us as a country. The indiscipline, the disregard for human life, the lack of fellow feeling, that we don't see that this is a fellow Ghanaian," he said.

The Majority Leader

stressed that the episode highlights entrenched structural challenges within Ghana's healthcare system, particularly the inefficiencies in emergency medical services and the persistent "no bed syndrome."

He insisted that such incidents cannot be ignored, and that both accountability and urgent reforms are necessary to prevent future needless deaths.

This comes as Parliament's Health Committee, directed by Speaker Alban Bagbin, begins examining all documentation from hospitals and the Ministry of Health regarding the case.

Lawmakers are also exploring the need for legislation to regulate emergency care and enforce accountability, aiming to ensure that no citizen is ever denied urgent medical attention again.

The public outcry over Amissah's death has intensified calls for comprehensive reforms in Ghana's healthcare infrastructure, with citizens demanding that hospitals be equipped and staffed to respond promptly to emergencies.



Majority Leader of Parliament, Mahama Ayariga

No bed syndrome: My wife had to tell them that the man lying there is an MP before they attended to me – Afadjato South MP

The Member of Parliament for Afadjato South, Frank Afriyie, has delivered a scathing condemnation of the persistent no-bed syndrome in parts of Ghana's healthcare system, disclosing that he personally fell victim to the practice and was only attended to after his status as an MP became known.

Speaking during parliamentary deliberations on the growing crisis of patients being turned away from hospitals because of alleged bed shortages, Mr Afriyie decried what he described as blatant discrimination against critically ill patients.

He argued that the situation reflects a troubling culture where access to urgent medical care can depend on who a patient is rather than the severity of their condition.

He recounted that he was initially denied admission at one of Ghana's leading hospitals despite being unconscious. According to him, it took an intervention from his wife to change the outcome.

"My wife had to tell them that the man lying there is an MP. That's when they attended to me," he revealed on the floor of Parliament.

The MP suggested that without that disclosure, the situation could have turned fatal, raising serious concerns about equal access to emergency healthcare.

The no bed syndrome has once again ignited national debate following the recent death of a 28 year old man who was reportedly denied treatment by three hospitals in Accra because no beds were available. The incident has provoked widespread public outrage and intensified calls for urgent reforms.

Meanwhile, Deputy Minister

of Health Dr Grace Ayensu Danquah has assured the public that decisive steps are being

taken to address the problem comprehensively and prevent further avoidable deaths.



Afadjato South MP, Frank Afriyie

Govt lays Value for Money Office Bill 2026 in Parliament to reinforce fiscal discipline

The Government has presented the Value for Money Office Bill 2026 to Parliament as part of efforts to strengthen fiscal discipline and curb waste in public spending.

The proposed legislation is designed to address persistent concerns over inflated contracts, abandoned projects and inefficient expenditure by establishing a structured value for money framework within public financial management.

Presenting the bill, Finance Minister Dr Cassiel Ato Forson said the proposed law would significantly reshape how public funds are managed and monitored.

"This bill aims to ensure that every cedi spent by the government delivers the maximum possible benefit to citizens in terms of economy, efficiency, effectiveness, equity, and sustainability.

"Furthermore, the establishment of the Value for Money Office will create a specialised independent institution with the technical mandate to conduct value for money assessment and issue a value for money certificate before major contracts are awarded, monitor compliance, and ensure sanctions where violations occur. The overarching objective is to ensure fiscal discipline," he said.

Under the bill, the proposed Value for Money Office will operate as an independent body tasked with scrutinising major public contracts before approval, ensuring compliance with established standards and recommending sanctions in cases of breach.

Government officials say the measure is intended to promote accountability, safeguard public resources and guarantee that state expenditure delivers measurable and equitable outcomes for citizens.



Finance Minister, Dr Cassiel Ato Forson

Ghana's debt now sustainable, reduced from 61.8% to 45.3% of GDP – Finance Minister

Ghana has achieved a historic reduction in its debt-to-GDP ratio, dropping from 61.8% to 45.3%, the Minister for Finance, Dr. Cassiel Ato Forson, has revealed.

The announcement came during a presidential dialogue on the economy with the private sector on Monday, February 23, where the Minister outlined the government's fiscal performance for 2025.

He highlighted both revenue gains and expenditure control as key factors behind the improvement.

"Your Excellency, we have successfully reduced Ghana's debt to GDP from 61.8% of GDP

to 45.3% of GDP. Ghana's debt is now sustainable for the first time in Ghana's history, with a negative 11.9% rate of debt accumulation," Dr. Ato Forson said.

He explained that the government had outperformed its own fiscal targets, citing improvements in both revenue and expenditure management.

"On the expenditure front, the total expenditure we targeted was 269.5 billion cedis, but we actually achieved 238.5 billion cedis. This means we were able to reduce expenditure by 11% as we set for ourselves," the Minister reported.

The Finance Minister also reported strong performance in revenue collection, including non-oil tax and non-tax revenues, which helped offset minor

shortfalls in projected targets.

He urged captains of industry to view the fiscal gains as a platform

for sustainable economic growth and investment in the country's future.



Minister for Finance, Dr. Cassiel Ato Forson

'A promise made, a promise kept' – Mahama woos private sector players

President John Dramani Mahama on Monday held his maiden Presidential Dialogue with the Private Sector, seeking to define a conversation in Ghana's industrial and economic transformation.

Speaking at the Dialogue in Accra, President Mahama recalled that in the run-up to the 2024 election, he made a firm promise that if Ghanaians entrusted him with their mandates, he would hold an annual Dialogue with Captains of Industry and Business to address the challenges hindering the growth of the private sector in Ghana.

"A promise made, a promise kept. I have convened this Presidential Dialogue with the private sector because I hold a simple but firm conviction that Ghana's economic transformation is a joint enterprise."

He noted that the Government could not achieve it alone and that equally, the private sector could not thrive without a government that listens, reforms and creates an enabling environment for businesses to thrive.

"Tonight is about resetting that partnership between government and the private sector. And we must do this candidly, substantively and with mutual accountability," he said.

The President acknowledged the extensive sector engagements undertaken by Mrs Elizabeth Ofose-Adjare, the Minister of Trade, Agribusiness and Industry over the past year.

He said those consultations from exporters' roundtables to factory visits and market engagements had grounded their policy direction in practical reality.

He noted that Ghana's economy had emerged from a period of severe turbulence.

"We are beginning to see positive signals, relative stabilisation of the currency, improved investor sentiments, strengthened business confidence, new private capital investments in manufacturing and processing," the President said.

"These outcomes reflect deliberate fiscal consolidation, value-added tax rationalisation, removal of distortionary levies and a determined effort to restore macroeconomic credibility. But let me be clear, stabilisation is not equal to transformation."

President Mahama said for over five decades, Ghana's manufacturing sector had contributed around 10 per cent to gross domestic product (GDP).

He said meanwhile, emerging Asian economies, starting from a similar basis, had achieved manufacturing shares of 20 per cent to 30 per cent of GDP and thereby created mass employment and export competitiveness.

"And so we need to change our trajectory. I therefore set a national target. Manufacturing must contribute at least 15 per cent of GDP by the year 2030, supported by 500,000 new quality industrial jobs. This will require structural reform and not incremental adjustments," the President said.

He said, he took note of the Ghana Chamber of Mine's recent report that said Ghana was losing competitively in investments to Benin, the Ivory Coast and Nigeria.

The President said there were many areas they needed to look at, as outlined in the report.

He mentioned that areas like corporate taxation, electricity tariffs and stable power, duties on machinery and equipment, and several others.

"Across every sub-sector represented here tonight, one constraint dominates. That is the cost of energy and reliability of power. Industrial tariffs in Ghana remain uncompetitive relative to our regional peers."

The President said no industrial nation thrives under structurally high costs of power.

He noted that his administration would accelerate energy sector debt restructuring, expand generation capacity, particularly in renewables, introduce differentiated off-peak industrial tariffs, improve transmission efficiency, and promote embedded generation in industrial enclaves. Adding that: "Energy reform is not optional. It is foundational to Ghana's industrial take-off. The same applies to water supply for manufacturing. We must reform

the water sector and include private sector participation in the supply of industrial water."

He said while interest rates were falling sharply from the highs of about 38 per cent a few years ago, industrialization could not take off when interest rates remain around 18 to 20 per cent and lending turnovers are quite short term.

The President said they could resolve these challenges by establishing dedicated financing windows for manufacturing, partner with the Bank of Ghana, and development finance institutions, develop special purpose vehicles for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) industrial expansion, expand credit guarantee schemes, and deepen long-term capital markets instruments.

He reiterated that access to affordable patient capital would be treated as a structural reform priority by the Government.



President John Dramani Mahama

Cabinet will soon approve National Agribusiness Policy – Mahama assures private sector players

President John Dramani Mahama has announced that the Cabinet will soon approve the National Agribusiness Policy to anchor the nation's aim of value addition.

The President announced in his address at the maiden Presidential Dialogue with the private sector players.

He noted that recently, wild fluctuations in the world cocoa market price had compelled the Government to take emergency steps to cushion the nation's cocoa industry and protect their farmers.

“Measures have included a painful downward review of the domestic producer price. The current crisis in the cocoa sector compels us to urgently introduce reforms in the entire cocoa value chain,” he said. “Reforms will include, amongst others, domestic funding for cocoa purchasing, expanded involvement of local licensed buying companies in cocoa purchasing, including the revamp of the produce buying company,

expand value addition and processing of cocoa and other tree crops locally, automatic price mechanism that pays the farmer 70 per cent of the international market price at prevailing exchange rates, drastic reduction of expenditure and elimination of waste in the cocoa board, and retooling of the cocoa processing company.”

He said: “We must move Ghana from a raw commodity exporter to a value-added producer. The same applies to the extractive industry. To achieve processing of all mineral oils locally within a five-year time frame.

“At the center of our transformation agenda is a 24-Hour Economy Policy.”

The President said factories operating one shift produced one shift output, whereas factories operating three shifts maximize capital, infrastructure and labor productivity.

He said the 24-Hour Economy Authority had now been established to coordinate nationwide implementation.

He said, he had the privilege of

assenting to this bill and it had been enacted into law.

The President said for manufacturers, this included shift-based incentives, off-peak electricity tariffs, enhanced nighttime security, structured labor dialogue, tax exemptions on equipment for factory expansion and other associated incentives.

“This is not mere reform. It is a productivity revolution. The African Continental Free Trade Area is the world's largest integrated market by the number of participating countries,”

President Mahama said.

“But access alone does not guarantee competitiveness. Energy reform is an African Continental Free Trade Area strategy. Financing reform is an African Continental Free Trade Area strategy.”

President Mahama said enforcement reform was an African Continental Free Trade Area strategy.

“We must work to make Ghana West Africa's production hub,” he stated.



President John Dramani Mahama

SPORTS

NSA: Sports Minister orders Yaw Ampofo Ankrah to revoke 17 staff appointments over due process breach

The Minister for Sports and Recreation, Kofi Adams, has directed the Director General of the National Sports Authority (NSA), Yaw Ampofo Ankrah, to annul the appointments of 17 staff members recruited without proper authorisation.

The instruction was delivered at a meeting on February 23 involving the Minister, the NSA Board and the Director General, as concerns mounted over alleged breaches of public sector recruitment procedures.

The issue first surfaced on February 9, 2026, when journalist Muftawu Nabila Abdulai reported that the NSA Board had asked Mr Ankrah to rescind the appointments after discovering the recruits had been engaged without the required clearance. The Board had set an initial deadline of February 6 for the revocation, following a retreat in Ada.

Sources indicate this was the second time the Board had pressed for the appointments to be cancelled. Some of the roles reportedly filled are said not to exist within the Authority's approved organisational structure, including a newly created Chief Operations Officer position.

Tensions are understood to have flared between the Board and

management after Mr Ankrah allegedly hesitated to comply with the directive. There were suggestions the Board was prepared to escalate the matter if its decision was ignored.

Responding to earlier reports on social media, Mr Ankrah defended the recruitment exercise, arguing that the additional personnel played a role in supporting Ghana's qualification for the 2026 FIFA World Cup to be staged in the United States, Mexico and Canada.

Further claims suggest that some of the newly appointed staff were granted authority exceeding that of existing Deputy Director Generals, a development said to have unsettled sections of the workforce.

The controversy has also impacted long-serving employees. Former NSA Head of Security, Thomas Kumordzi, was reportedly reassigned to the Borteyman Sports Complex — a facility said not to be directly under the NSA's control. Upon reporting to his new station, he was allegedly redirected back to the stadium by facility managers.

Several staff members claim they have been marginalised amid the changes, with internal communication reportedly limited and key operational decisions increasingly handled by the newly recruited personnel.

Under Ghana's public sector regulations, recruitment into state institutions requires clearance from the Public Services Commission and the Ministry of Finance. Vacancies must be publicly advertised, applicants interviewed by a duly constituted panel, and successful candidates paid through the Controller and Accountant-General's Department.

Failure to adhere to these procedures constitutes a breach of established administrative guidelines.

It remains unclear how the 17 recruits are being remunerated. Efforts to verify the payment

arrangements were unsuccessful, although some officers allege that payments have not been processed through NSA accounts due to the absence of financial clearance.

The Minister had earlier sought a meeting to address the impasse, but Mr Ankrah was reportedly in the United Kingdom at the time and only returned on February 17.

The NSA currently employs about 121 staff at its headquarters.

Separately, the public address system at the national stadium is said to have been out of operation for some time, with the Authority reportedly relying on hired external equipment during matches.



Kofi Adams (left) and Yaw Ampofo Ankrah (right)



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Black Starlets to play Attram De Visser and Golden Kick FC in pre-AFCON friendlies today

The Black Starlets will intensify their build-up to the 2026 U-17 Africa Cup of Nations with a pair of friendly matches at the Accra Sports Stadium on Wednesday morning.

Head coach Prosper Narteh Ogun and his squad are scheduled to face Attram De

Visser at 8:00am before locking horns with Golden Kick FC two hours later in a double-header aimed at stretching the team both physically and tactically.

The exercise forms part of a rigorous preparation programme designed to fine-tune match sharpness, polish tactical systems and give the technical

bench a clearer picture of player combinations ahead of the continental showpiece.

The Starlets have already tested themselves against several local sides, including True Democracy FC, Na God FC, Port City FC and Semper Fi FC, as the coaching staff continues to mould a competitive unit.

Wednesday's encounters are expected to provide another meaningful gauge of the team's progress, offering valuable minutes and insight as Ghana's young prospects gear up for the 2026 U-17 AFCON.



DOL: Karim Zito joins AshantiGold as head coach after resigning from Asante Kotoko

Division One League outfit AshantiGold have confirmed the appointment of experienced tactician Karim Zito as the club's new head coach.

Coach Karim Zito is in our camp.

He has joined the technical team.

His experience.

His discipline.

His winning mindset.

This adds strength to our bench and belief to our squad.

Welcome to FC Ashantigold, Coach. Let's get to work. pic.twitter.com/wtffuZdAKb

— FC ASHANTIGOLD (@fcashantigold04) February 24, 2026

The announcement comes just

15 days after Zito stepped down from his position as head trainer of Asante Kotoko. His resignation followed the Porcupine Warriors' exit from the FA Cup, after suffering a home defeat to Aduana FC.

Prior to their cup elimination, Kotoko had managed only one victory in six matches.

AshantiGold, who are pushing for a return to the Ghana Premier League, will be banking on Zito's experience and pedigree to guide their promotion charge.

The Obuasi-based side currently sits top of Zone 2 in the Division One League with 40 points after 20 matches.

Zito boasts an impressive résumé, having led Dreams FC to FA Cup success in 2023 and a historic semi-final berth in the CAF Confederation Cup.

He replicated his domestic cup triumph with Kotoko last season and went on to secure the Toyota Cup, Super Cup and President's Cup.

While details of his contract

remain undisclosed, the veteran coach is expected to remain in

charge until the end of the current campaign.



Coach Karim Zito

When I got to jail in US, I felt like I was in a hotel – Kubolor on his illegal U-turn



Rapper and singer, Wanlov the Kubolor

Rapper and singer, Wanlov the Kubolor has revealed in a fresh interview right after his SHS in Ghana, he moved to Texas to study Business and Computer Science at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor.

But his time in the United States did not end with graduation.

Wanlov revealed that during his third year, he dropped out after a police chase incident.

“I did an illegal U-turn. Instead of stopping, I started speeding,” he said in an interview with Kafui Dey.

What followed was serious. “One helicopter, sheriffs on bikes, police cars. Full chase.”

He was arrested and spent about one to two weeks in jail.

Surprisingly, he described the experience calmly.

“When I got there, I felt like I was in a hotel,” he said.

He compared the conditions to harsh experiences he had endured in boarding school back in Ghana.

“In jail they were serving cornflakes. You could play basketball during recreation time.”

He admitted he never felt frightened inside the cell.

“Never. When I saw the cornflakes, I knew nothing bad would happen to me.”

Eventually, the experience marked a turning point. He did not return to complete his program.

Earlier in the interview, he had explained that he began questioning religion and responsibility in his twenties while living in the United States.

“I feel like religion diverts responsibility,” he said. “It becomes us against them. I don’t think love should move like that.”

I was broken when a Twitter user called me ‘beauty but brainless’ — Sefa

Ghanaian Afrobeats and Afropop singer, Sefadzi Abena Amesu, popularly known as Sefa, has revealed how a harsh social media comment once left her emotionally shattered.

The award-winning artiste said she broke down after a Twitter user described her as “beautiful but brainless” and accused her of lacking talent.

She made the disclosure during an interview on Hitz FM on Tuesday, February 24, where she urged social media users to be mindful of their words.

“One thing that really broke me... I went on Twitter and somebody was like, ‘D-Black

is wasting his money on Sefa. She’s talentless. She doesn’t have talent.’ In my mind, I’m like, you don’t know what goes on behind the scenes,” she recounted.

According to Sefa, the comment ignored the effort, investment and hard work she puts into her craft.

“To sit on social media and just type something because you see me... ‘she’s just beauty, no brains’... it’s very disturbing at a point. So that really broke me,” she said.

Despite the emotional setback, the singer noted that the experience strengthened her resolve to work harder and prove her critics wrong.



Ghanaian singer, Sefa

I made up my mind to quit skit-making until I met Mahama – Dr. Likee

Ebenezer Akwasi Antwi, also known as Dr. Likee, has revealed that he was on the brink of quitting comic skit-making until his encounter with President John Mahama.

Speaking in an interview with Giovanni Caleb on TV3’s Showbiz 360, Dr. Likee disclosed that following his encounter with the President, where he expressed admiration for his comic skits, he was motivated to produce more videos for his online family.

“Before meeting the President, I had made up my mind to quit skit-making, but upon my encounter with him, where the President expressed his love for my work, I was motivated to do more; reason why I’m still producing more comic relief videos,” he stated.

It would be recalled that, a video went viral which captured President Mahama expressing his admiration for

Dr. Likee’s comic skit videos, while commending him for his creativity.

During their interaction at the Prempeh International Airport in Kumasi, the comedian

further extended a special invitation to the President to attend his play “Akwaaba Vs Obaake.”



Dr. Likee



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