

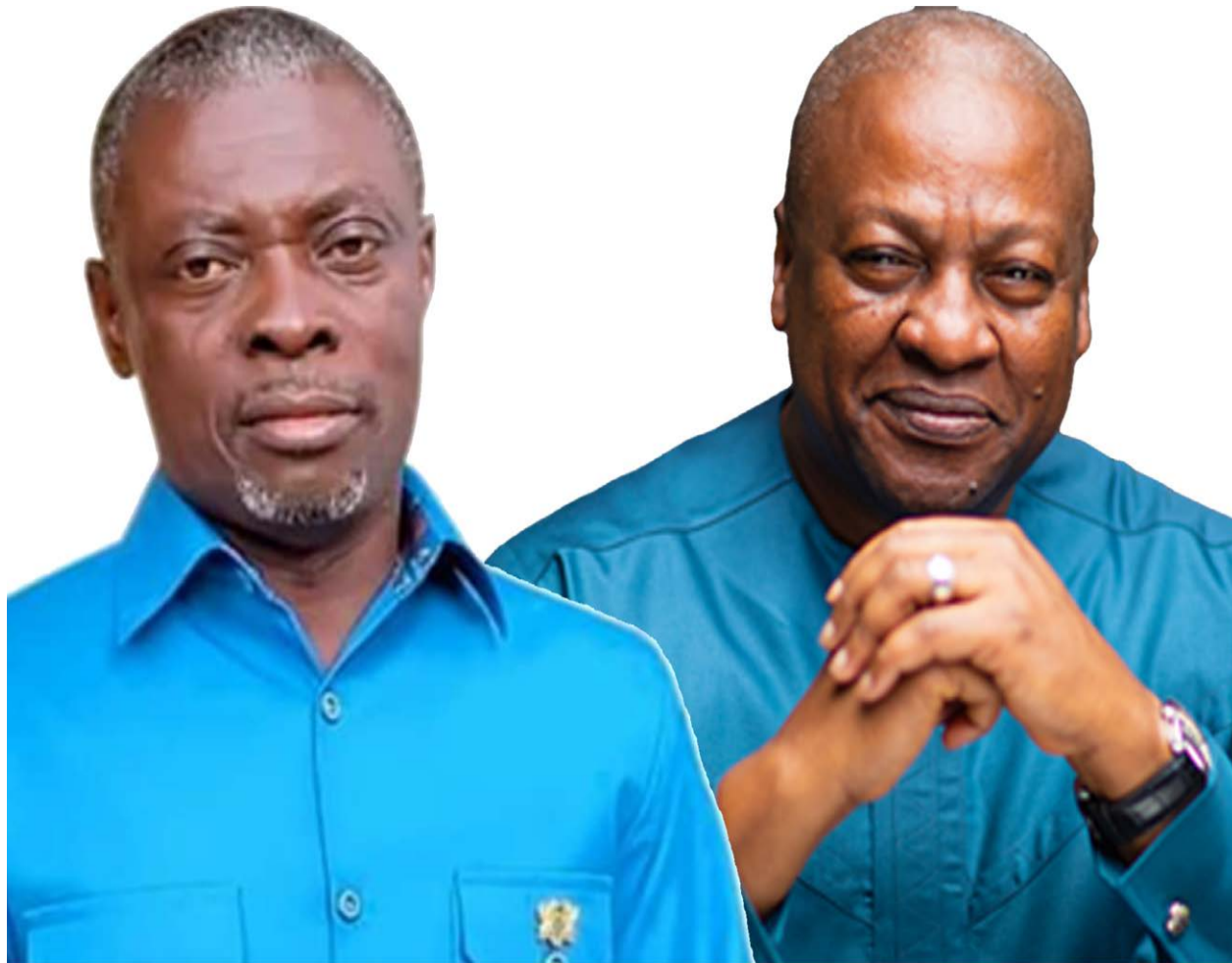
# THE MODERN GUIDE

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Osofo Kyriabosom

President John Dramani Mahama

## Let's hand Ghana to Mahama to run, no need for election — Osofo Kyriabosom

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### Lecturer explains why Bawumia is a weak presidential candidate



A US-based finance lecturer, Mr. Francis Asante

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victory in the New Patriotic Party's (NPP) recent flagbearer race. Speaking in an interview on Lortlorlonyo 93.3 FM in Hohoe, Volta Region, on Monday, February 2, 2026, Mr. Asante argued that the NPP entered its internal elections in a fragile state after

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### Don't allow anyone to snatch your land and say 'order from above' — Mahama tells Ghanaians



President John Dramani Mahama

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2026, President Mahama condemned the practice of using alleged higher directives to intimidate citizens, seize land, or disrupt livelihoods. He described such actions as threats to good governance and social harmony.

"I hear people say it is coming from above. They keep saying 'from above, from above,' but I don't know who is up there. Someone goes to take another

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### Mahama investigates alleged sale of overseas scholarship



President John Dramani Mahama

President John Dramani Mahama has directed the National Investigation Bureau (NIB) to investigate allegations of unfair practices in the award of overseas scholarships following claims made during a radio discussion. In a directive signed on behalf of the President on February 3, 2026, and

addressed to the Director-General of the NIB, Government Spokesperson Felix Kwakye Oforu, MP, said the President's attention had been drawn to comments aired on Sompma 106.5 FM.

During the Twi-language programme, a panellist, who is a former Chief Executive Officer of the National Entrepreneurship and Innovation

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### Don't be like Akufo-Addo who left us with Zinc roofing sheets for promised regional hospital — Chonke overlord warns Akandoh



Overlord of the Chonke Traditional Area, Dasebre Bonja Kwame Atamafowiese II

Dasebre Bonja Kwame Atamafowiese II, the Overlord of the Chonke Traditional Area, has cautioned the current government not to play with their emotions over the abandoned proposed Oti Regional Hospital site in Dambai by the erstwhile Akufo-Addo's administration.

Dasebre Atamafowiese stressed that the people of the Oti Region were vigilant and would not be misled again, noting that the construction of the regional hospital would significantly improve access to quality healthcare and reduce long-distance referrals.

He made these remarks during an engagement with the Minister

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### "Kotoka must be prosecuted in his grave" — A Plus reacts as Parliament renames Kotoka Int'l Airport



Member of Parliament for Gomoa Central, Hon. Kwame Asare Obeng, popularly known as A Plus, has reignited national debate over the legacy of Lieutenant-General Emmanuel Kwasi Kotoka following Parliament's decision to begin the process of changing the name of Kotoka International Airport.

Plus declared:

"Apart from the name change, Kotoka must be prosecuted even in death. Kotoka is the main reason why we are here today; he must be treated as an enemy of the state."

His comments come after the Majority Leader in Parliament

In a strongly worded statement, A

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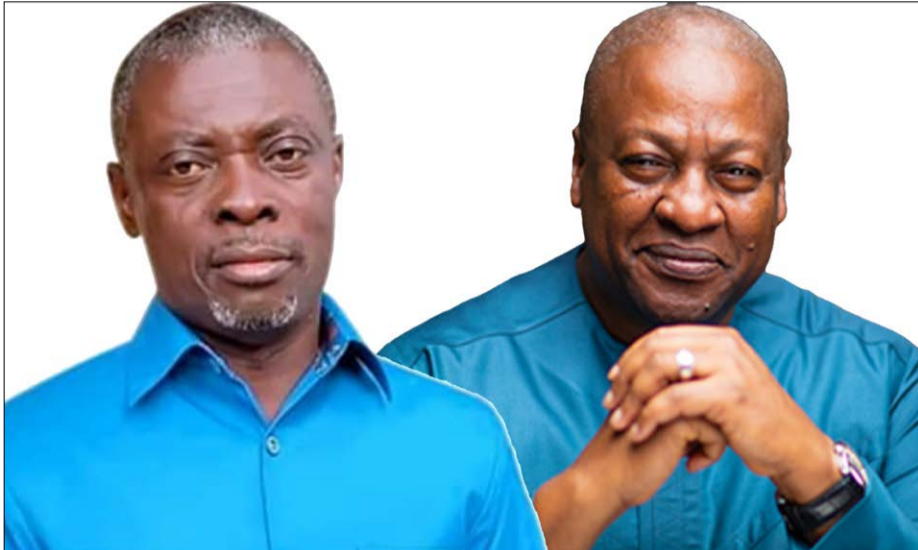
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# Let's hand Ghana to Mahama to run, no need for election – Osofo Kyriabosom



**T**he Founder of the Ghana Union Movement (GUM), Christian Kwabena Andrews, popularly known as Osofo Kyriabosom, has said the governing National Democratic Congress (NDC) must continue to run affairs of the country beyond its term of office if the administration

continues what he describes as strong economic performance through 2028.

Speaking in an interview on Accra-based Hot FM, Mr Andrews praised the NDC's handling of the economy, stating that the country has experienced stability and steady progress since the party assumed office.

According to him, current developments suggest that the government is delivering on the expectations of Ghanaians. "If things continue this way, the country should just hand over governance to the NDC to run because I don't see the need for us to spend more

money organising another general election," he said.

Kyriabosom also commended the NDC's "Reset Agenda," describing it as impactful and beneficial to national development.

He noted that if the government maintains its current trajectory, he would have no hesitation in supporting its leadership.

His comments have sparked discussions within political circles, given his position as leader of an opposition party and a former presidential contender.

# Lecturer explains why Bawumia is a weak presidential candidate



A US-based finance lecturer, Mr. Francis Asante

**A** US-based finance lecturer and leading member of the United Party, formerly the Movement for Change, Mr. Francis Asante, has described Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia as a weaker presidential candidate following his victory in the New Patriotic Party's (NPP) recent flagbearer race.

Speaking in an interview on Lortlonyo 93.3 FM in Hohoe, Volta Region, on Monday, February 2, 2026, Mr. Asante argued that the NPP entered its internal elections in a fragile state after what he called a catastrophic defeat in the 2024 general elections.

He said there was widespread expectation that the party would embark on a genuine reconciliation process and reform how it conducted internal affairs, particularly at the executive level. However, he maintained that this did not happen.

Instead, Mr. Asante claimed, certain decisions by party leadership deepened internal divisions. He cited the decision to conduct the flagbearership election before elections at the national, constituency, and polling station levels, which he said created suspicion that the process was structured to favor Dr. Bawumia. This, he argued, heightened mistrust within the party ahead of the primaries.

He further alleged that the contest was marked by intense antagonism among flagbearer

aspirants, negatively affecting party cohesion.

On economic credibility, Mr. Asante argued that Dr. Bawumia entered the primaries at a disadvantage. He referenced findings from the Sanity Africa poll, noting both qualitative and quantitative data showed significant economic concerns among key voter demographics.

He explained that supporters of former Assin Central MP Kennedy Agyapong were largely young people, unemployed jobseekers, self-employed individuals, and students, groups highly sensitive to economic performance and prospects.

According to Mr. Asante, while Dr. Bawumia's supporters often argue that he is the most "marketable" candidate due to sustained exposure and branding, they rarely cite specific policy measures or data-driven arguments to support him. He said this reflects a lack of confidence among a significant portion of the NPP's base in Dr. Bawumia's ability to lead the party, win power and manage the economy effectively.

Mr. Asante concluded by stressing that economic management remains the most important issue for Ghanaian voters, and any candidate perceived as weak in that area faces serious challenges in a general election.

# Don't change Afenyo-Markin based on flagbearer primary allegiance –Mussa Dankwa warns NPP

**The Executive Director of Global Info Analytics, Mussa Dankwa, has cautioned the leadership of the New Patriotic Party (NPP) against removing Alexander Afenyo-Markin as Minority Leader solely on the basis of his political choices during the party's presidential primaries.**

Speaking on Asempa FM, Mr. Danquah argued that leadership changes in Parliament should be guided strictly by performance, not factional considerations.

"I don't think Afenyo should be changed as Minority Leader. If at all there is going to be a reshuffle, it should not be based on who he supported in the NPP primaries but on his performance," he stated.

He further emphasised that Afenyo-Markin deserves time to improve and reposition himself if there are concerns about his leadership.

"At the very least, he should be given some time," Mussa Dankwa added.

However, Mr. Dankwa also advised the Minority Leader to engage in honest self-assessment, noting that perceptions about his leadership style must be addressed.

"Afenyo-Markin himself should assess his performance very well and restructure his strategies, both to correct wrong perceptions formed against him and to strengthen his positive attributes," he noted.

Touching on broader party dynamics, Dankwa stressed that Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia, as the NPP's flagbearer, must focus on the larger electoral battle ahead rather than internal disputes.

"Bawumia knows there is a bigger fight ahead, and he does not need to engineer smaller ones in his backyard," he said.

He concluded by urging party members to embrace reconciliation efforts as essential to the party's survival and future success.

"Every move aimed at

reconciling the party should be welcomed so that the party can stand united," Mussa Dankwa said.



# NPP race: We didn't expect the collapse of Ken Agyapong to be so catastrophic –Mussa Dankwah

**Mussa Dankwah, Executive Director of Global InfoAnalytics, has acknowledged that his pre-election poll failed to anticipate the dramatic underperformance of former Assin Central MP and NPP presidential aspirant Kennedy Agyapong in the party's January 31 primaries.**

According to Global InfoAnalytics' survey, former Vice President Dr Mahamudu Bawumia was projected to lead with 57 percent of the vote, while Kennedy Agyapong was expected to secure 28 percent. Dr Bryan Acheampong was estimated at 13 percent, Dr Yaw Osei Adutwum at 2 percent, and Engineer Kwabena Agyepong at zero percent.

The actual results, however, told a different story. Dr Bawumia won decisively with 110,643 votes, representing 56.48 percent, positioning him as the NPP's flagbearer for the next general elections. Kennedy Agyapong came second with 46,554 votes

(23.76 percent), while Dr Bryan Acheampong placed third with 36,303 votes (18.53 percent). Dr Yaw Osei Adutwum and Kwabena Agyei Agyepong trailed with 1,999 votes (1.02 percent) and 402 votes (0.21 percent), respectively.

Speaking on Channel One TV's The Point of View on Monday, February 2, Mussa Dankwah admitted, "We didn't expect the collapse of Kennedy to be so catastrophic in the end. And the ripple effect was really what we saw. Kennedy Agyapong underperformed in our worst-case scenario for him."

On Dr Bryan Acheampong's showing, Dankwah noted that the former minister surpassed expectations.

"Bryan overperformed in our best case. Yes, he did. [Bryan's performance surprised me]. Even though we saw it coming. In the headline poll, he was at 6 percent. But in our prediction, we doubled him to 13 percent. That was probably making him look pessimistic," he said.



Executive Director of Global InfoAnalytics, Mussa Dankwah

# Bawumia's 56% win signals declining confidence even within NPP – Tanko Computer

The Director of Elections and IT for the National Democratic Congress (NDC), Rashid Tanko Computer, has described Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia's victory in the New Patriotic Party (NPP) flagbearer election as a worrying sign for the party.

Over 211,000 delegates voted across 333 centres nationwide on Saturday, January 31, to choose a flagbearer for the 2028 general elections.

Dr. Bawumia emerged winner with 56.48 per cent of the votes, defeating four other aspirants. Speaking on Accra-based Metro TV's Good Morning Ghana show on Monday, February 2, Tanko Computer argued that the result reflects a significant lack of confidence from Bawumia's own party. "44% of the voter population of NPP delegates didn't see Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia as a

credible candidate... NPP should be worried with this outcome. It's a serious matter," he said.

He further cautioned that such internal dissent could undermine Bawumia's performance in the 2028 general elections.

"The 38% is likely to go down if he's going down from his own party. Do you think the general public will have interest in your own party? They don't like it. "They have brought you down to 56% in your national party election. People should bring you up. So it's likely to go down from the 38%," he said.

Tanko Computer further noted that the NDC is closely monitoring the NPP's internal dynamics ahead of the 2028 polls, adding that the party already understands the strengths and weaknesses of Bawumia and his party.



Director of Elections and IT for NDC, Rashid Tanko Computer

# If 62% NPP primary win gave Bawumia 41% in 2024 election, 56% may be 32% in 2028 – Edudzi

The Chief Executive Officer of the National Petroleum Authority (NPA), Godwin Edudzi Tameklo, has expressed concern over the performance of newly elected New Patriotic Party (NPP) flagbearer Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia in the party's presidential primaries.

Over 211,000 delegates voted across 333 centres nationwide on Saturday, January 31, to elect a flagbearer for the 2028 general elections.

Dr Bawumia emerged winner with 56.48 per cent of the votes, defeating four other aspirants.

Speaking on Accra-based TV3's New Day show on Monday, February 2, Tameklo noted that the reduced margin could negatively affect the party's performance in the 2028 general elections, citing the 2023 flagbearer race as a reference point.

"If 62% resulted in 41% performance nationally in 2024, then 56% equals what? ... Others are projecting that may translate into 32%," he said,

Tameklo also expressed surprise at the performance of some aspirants, particularly Bryan Acheampong, highlighting shifts in regional support that could affect future party dynamics.

"I was a bit surprised with the performance of Bryan Acheampong... he upstaged

Kennedy Agyapong and Dr Bawumia in the Volta Region. Those are very interesting numbers," he said.

Meanwhile, Dr. Bryan Acheampong who serves as the MP for Abetifi, came

third with 36,303 votes, representing 18.53 per cent.



NPA Boss, Godwin Edudzi Tameklo

# Dr. Bomfeh Jnr explains Why Bawumia may struggle ahead of 2028 elections

**D**r Kwabena Bomfeh Jnr, a lecturer at the University of Professional Studies, Accra (UPSA), has stated that the New Patriotic Party (NPP) still has work to do, even after Dr Mahamudu Bawumia's decisive victory in the presidential primaries.

"I'd only say that you see, the flagbearer is a bearer of a flag. No matter how good, competent, suitable, perfect the bearer would be, if the flag is unattractive, you will have a problem," Bomfeh told Joy News.

He added, "Definitely, that flag has issues. It has punches; they need to fix them. It needs to reorganise itself."

The lecturer encouraged the party to prioritize visibility and practical solutions.

"Bawumia should be able to

be seen, not only do, but be seen to be doing what will rally them around a united flag... and reposition the party as one that understands the issues people are grappling with and offers solutions," he said.

Bawumia secured a clear victory in the NPP presidential primaries held on Saturday, January 31, 2026, receiving 110,643 votes out of 195,901 valid votes cast nationwide.

Kennedy Ohene Agyapong came second with 46,554 votes, followed by Dr Bryan Acheampong with 36,303 votes.



Lecturer at UPSA, Dr Kwabena Bomfeh Jnr

## SOCIAL STORIES

# Mahama touts Ghana-UAE partnership as blueprint for future global alliances

**P**resident John Dramani Mahama has described Ghana's partnership with the United Arab Emirates as a model for the future of global alliances, insisting that modern partnerships must be practical, results-driven and mutually beneficial.

He revealed that Ghana's newly established Goldbod initiative has generated more than 10 billion dollars in under a year, citing it as clear proof that well-structured international cooperation can deliver tangible economic results.

Addressing world leaders at the World Governments Summit 2026 in Dubai, President Mahama said the evolving Ghana-UAE relationship, alongside broader Africa-Gulf cooperation, is rapidly emerging as an important pillar of the new global order. He said these partnerships are increasingly anchored in shared responsibility, economic transformation and climate action.

He argued that traditional alliances, once shaped largely by geopolitical rivalry and military considerations, must now be reimagined to confront borderless challenges such as climate change, food and energy insecurity, fragile supply chains and widening inequality.

"The alliances of the future must

be rooted in shared responsibility and based on our common destiny," President Mahama told the summit.

The President said Ghana's decision to establish the Goldbod reflects a deliberate shift toward greater sovereignty and value addition in the management of Africa's natural resources. He explained that the initiative forms part of a broader strategy to ensure Africa captures more value from its minerals and agricultural commodities instead of exporting them in raw form.

He outlined Ghana's medium to long term ambition to process and add value to resources including gold, manganese, bauxite, lithium and petroleum, as well as key agricultural products such as cocoa, oil palm, cashew, cassava and soya.

According to President Mahama, new alliances with Africa must move beyond extractive trade models and actively support industrialisation, supply chain development and shared prosperity.

"Africa welcomes global partners not merely to trade with, but to transform with," he said.

On climate action, President Mahama described it as a defining pillar of modern global partnerships, noting that Africa contributes the least to global emissions yet bears a disproportionate share of climate impacts. He pointed to

the Ghana UAE partnership as a practical example, citing a 30 million dollar grant mobilised to support climate action, biodiversity protection and inclusive development.

He stressed that climate action must be matched with climate justice, calling on developed economies to honour commitments on climate finance, adaptation support and equitable energy transitions.

Touching on Africa's place in the emerging global order, President Mahama said the continent's growing population, vast natural resources and expanding market of over 1.3 billion people make Africa central to the future global economy, not peripheral.

He said initiatives such as the Accra Reset provide a roadmap for Africa's transition

from aid dependence to trade, investment and equitable global partnerships, while emphasising the importance of accountable governance, strong institutions and transparent leadership.

President Mahama also reaffirmed Ghana's commitment to peace and regional stability, particularly in West Africa, describing security as an essential foundation for development and sustainable partnerships.

He called for renewed multilateralism, fairer global governance structures and alliances built on cooperation rather than confrontation.

"The future of global alliances is not about treaties alone," he said. "It is about the kind of world we choose to build — where nations rise together, not apart."



President John Dramani Mahama

# Don't be like Akufo-Addo who left us with Zinc roofing sheets for promised regional hospital – Chonke overlord warns Akandoh

**D**asebre Bonja Kwame Atamafowiese II, the Overlord of the Chonke Traditional Area, has cautioned the current government not to play with their emotions over the abandoned proposed Oti Regional Hospital site in Dambai by the erstwhile Akufo-Addo's administration.

Dasebre Atamafowiese stressed that the people of the Oti Region were vigilant and would not be misled again, noting that the construction of the regional hospital would significantly improve access to quality healthcare and reduce long-distance referrals.

He made these remarks during an engagement with the Minister for Health, Mr Kwabena Mintah Akandoh, during the minister's working visit to the Oti Region to assess healthcare delivery challenges.

According to the traditional ruler, the previous government failed to fulfil its promise to build the hospital, despite land being secured for the project.

"They only used iron sheets to fence the area", he stated, expressing deep frustration and disappointment over what he

described as broken promises and erosion of trust.

In response, Mr Akandoh assured chiefs and residents of the Oti Region that the government remained committed to constructing the long-awaited Regional Hospital in Dambai.

He said the government, under the leadership of President

John Dramani Mahama, was determined to deliver quality healthcare services to the people of the region.

"We have done it before, and we will do it again for the people of Oti Region," the Health Minister added.



Overlord of the Chonke Traditional Area, Dasebre Bonja Kwame Atamafowiese II

# Mahama investigates alleged sale of overseas scholarship

**P**resident John Dramani Mahama has directed the National Investigation Bureau (NIB) to investigate allegations of unfair practices in the award of overseas scholarships following claims made during a radio discussion.

In a directive signed on behalf of the President on February 3, 2026, and addressed to the Director-General of the NIB, Government Spokesperson Felix Kwakye Oforu, MP, said the President's attention had been drawn to comments aired on Sompaa 106.5 FM.

During the Twi-language programme, a panellist, who is a former Chief Executive Officer of the National Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme, Mr Kofi Oforu Nkansah, alleged that an individual paid money to secure a scholarship to study abroad.

According to the statement, the President considers the allegation serious and a matter of public concern, particularly given government's stated commitment to transparency, integrity and equal access to educational opportunities.

The directive therefore instructs the NIB to immediately investigate the claim, establish the facts, identify any persons

involved and determine the accuracy of the allegations.

The Bureau has also been asked to submit its findings to the

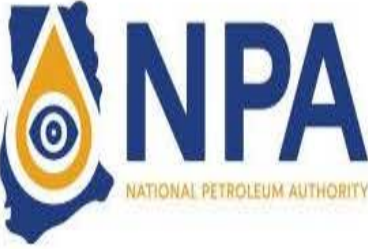
President for consideration and any further action deemed necessary.



President John Dramani Mahama

# PETROLEUM PRICE INDICATORS

(As of 2nd February, 2026)

	<b>PBU EFFECTIVE 1ST FEBRUARY 2026 (12TH - 26TH JANUARY 2026 AVERAGES)</b>	<b>ESTIMATION PBU EFFECTIVE 16TH FEBRUARY 2026 (27TH JANUARY - 11TH FEBRUARY 2026 AVERAGES)</b>	<b>% CHANGE</b>
<b>FX Rate (Commercial Banks Average) (USD/GHS)</b>	<b>10.9841</b>	<b>11.0861</b>	<b>-0.92%</b>
<b>Crude Oil (USD/BBL)</b>	<b>67.40</b>	<b>69.53</b>	<b>3.15%</b>
<b>Petrol (USD/MT)</b>	<b>626.36</b>	<b>638.83</b>	<b>1.99%</b>
<b>Gasoil (USD/MT)</b>	<b>659.25</b>	<b>691.48</b>	<b>4.89%</b>
<b>LPG (USD/MT)</b>	<b>476.32</b>	<b>496.31</b>	<b>4.20%</b>
<b>Jet/Kerosene (USD/MT)</b>	<b>732.70</b>	<b>755.63</b>	<b>3.13%</b>
<b>Fuel Oil (USD/MT)</b>	<b>370.20</b>	<b>388.42</b>	<b>4.92%</b>
<b>*Products figures represent the FOB Prices used in the Price Build-Up (PBU)</b>			

**Note:** "Oil prices steadied, after falling over 4% in the previous session, as market participants considered the global supply outlook and the possibility of a de-escalation in U.S.-Iran tensions." - Reuters.

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# “Kotoka must be prosecuted in his grave” – A Plus reacts as Parliament renames Kotoka Int’l Airport

Member of Parliament for Gomoa Central, Hon. Kwame Asare Obeng, popularly known as A Plus, has reignited national debate over the legacy of Lieutenant-General Emmanuel Kwasi Kotoka following Parliament’s decision to begin the process of changing the name of Kotoka International Airport.

In a strongly worded statement, A Plus declared:

“Apart from the name change, Kotoka must be prosecuted even in death. Kotoka is the main reason why we are here today; he must be treated as an enemy of the state.”

His comments come after the Majority Leader in Parliament publicly announced that government will lay a bill before the House to officially

rename the airport back to its original name, Accra International Airport. The announcement was made during a parliamentary leadership briefing ahead of the sitting of Parliament, where it was explained that the renaming would require legislative approval.

According to parliamentary leadership, the move forms part of efforts to realign Ghana’s national symbols with democratic values and historical truth, noting that the airport was originally named Accra International Airport before it was changed in 1969 to honour Kotoka,

a key figure in the 1966 military coup who allegedly conspired with foreign enemies to overthrow Ghana’s first President, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah.

[FACEBOOK]<https://m.facebook.com/>



## Govt to build six new regional hospitals in 2026 – Mahama Ayariga

**T**he government will commence the construction of six new regional hospitals this year as part of efforts to strengthen healthcare delivery across the country.

The move forms part of broader investments targeted at expanding access to quality health services and improving infrastructure within the sector.

Majority Leader and Member of Parliament for Bawku Central, Mahama Ayariga, announced the plan while addressing Parliament on Tuesday, February 3.

“Six new regional hospitals will commence construction this year, alongside two district hospitals at Bole and Shama, while Agenda 111 hospital projects will be completed,” he stated.

Mahama Ayariga further noted that ongoing works at major facilities, including the La General Hospital, Afari Military Hospital and the Ashanti Regional Hospital, will also continue.

He further disclosed that the government intends to strengthen healthcare delivery through additional funding and expansion of treatment facilities.

“Diagnostic and treatment centres will be established across major hospitals through PPP, and government will provide 2.3 billion Ghana cedis for National Health

Insurance Scheme claims, essential medicines, vaccines and free primary healthcare,” he added. The lawmaker said the healthcare interventions form part of a

broader national development strategy aimed at improving living standards, expanding infrastructure and enhancing social protection.



Majority Leader, Mahama Ayariga

# Mahama announces construction of new Wa Airport after levy approval



**P**resident John Dramani Mahama has announced that work will soon begin on the construction of a new airport in Wa, the Upper West Regional Capital, following Parliament's approval of the Airport Infrastructure Levy Bill.

The President explained that the levy, which applies to domestic flights as well as international, African and ECOWAS regional air travel, will be paid into a dedicated fund to finance airport infrastructure

development nationwide. "Now that money is going to go into a fund. And that fund is going to be used to develop the airports around the country," President Mahama said during the launch of the SheaPark Resource Hub Project in Wa.

He said the Upper West Region would be a direct beneficiary of the initiative, announcing that the fund would be used to build a completely new airport for the regional capital.

"And I'm pleased to announce to you that Wa is going to be a

beneficiary of this fund with the construction of a new airport, not the old airport," he stated.

President Mahama noted that the existing airport site presents serious limitations and is no longer suitable for expansion or modern aviation requirements.

"As you yourselves can see, the road was diverted around the runway. And so, the Airport Company has decided on a site that was allocated years ago," he explained.

He further revealed that officials of the Ghana

Airports Company Limited had already visited Wa to inspect the proposed site in preparation for construction.

"Staff of the Ghana Airport Company were in Wa to inspect the site for the construction of the new airport," the President added.

The new airport is expected to significantly improve air connectivity to the Upper West Region, boost economic activity and enhance access to Wa as part of the government's broader national infrastructure development agenda.

# 2026 Ramadan fasting to start on February 19 if crescent moon is sighted



## Muslim clerics

A communiqué issued at the end of the 32nd Annual National Ramadan Conference has announced that Muslims across the country will begin this year's Ramadan fasting on Thursday, February 19.

The statement, signed by Alhaji Baba Dawud, a National Executive of the Hilal Committee, explained that the first moon sighting will take place on Wednesday, February 18, when the month of Shaban reaches its 29th day.

According to the communiqué,

if the crescent moon is sighted, Thursday, February 19, 2026, will mark the first day of Ramadan. If the moon is not sighted, Thursday will become the 30th day of Shaban, and Ramadan will automatically begin on Friday, February 20, 2026.

The Conference also expressed concern over the growing problem of drug abuse among the youth, describing it as a threat to lives and national development. It called for an urgent and holistic response involving religious leaders, traditional authorities, teachers, parents, and health professionals to ensure proper upbringing and better life outcomes for young people.

In addition, the Conference urged the National Peace Council to roll out education and advocacy programmes to sensitise stakeholders, especially heads of government assisted senior high schools, on the need to comply with the memorandum of understanding on religious practices in schools.

The statement further appealed to the government to site Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics schools as well as Technical

and Vocational Education and Training institutions closer to Muslim communities to promote accessibility and equity.

It also noted that Muslims in Ghana are expecting significant opportunities from the introduction of non interest banking, as announced by the Bank of Ghana. The initiative, the statement said, would enable Muslims to access financial services that align with the principles and beliefs of Islam.

Meanwhile, the Conference commended the government for introducing an additional holiday to mark Eid ul Fitr. According to the statement, the extended holiday will promote unity, inclusivity, and religious tolerance while giving Muslims more time to celebrate with family and loved ones.

The three day conference was held in Takoradi under the theme "Our Earth, Our Future," and brought together Imams, traditional and religious leaders, preachers, associations, and students from across the country.

# Don't allow anyone to snatch your land and say 'order from above' — Mahama tells Ghanaians

**President John Dramani Mahama has issued a stern warning to individuals and groups who invoke vague "orders from above" to justify illegal actions, stressing that no one is above the law.**

Speaking at the commissioning of the SheaPark Resource Hub in Wa in the Upper West Region on January 31, 2026, President Mahama condemned the practice of using alleged higher directives to intimidate citizens, seize land, or disrupt livelihoods. He described such actions as threats to good governance and social harmony.

"I hear people say it is coming from above. They keep saying 'from above, from above,' but I don't know who is up there. Someone goes to take another person's land and says it is from above. There is no 'above' anywhere," he said.

The President emphasized that the rule of law is the foundation of Ghana's democracy and warned that secrecy and claims of political backing will not shield unlawful behavior. His remarks followed reports of a supposed directive to relocate a market in Wa township, which he dismissed as a pretext for

personal gain, particularly in land disputes.

He called on security agencies, local authorities, and community leaders to ensure that all actions are lawful, transparent, and free from

intimidation.

The SheaPark Resource Hub, a flagship government initiative, is expected to drive industrial activity in the shea sector, promote value addition, and position the Upper West Region as a key contributor to Ghana's agro-industrial transformation agenda.



President John Dramani Mahama

# Govt to decentralise teacher recruitment, posting, sanctioning to district assemblies – Education Minister



Minister of Education, Haruna Iddrisu

Government is considering a major policy shift to decentralise the recruitment, posting and sanctioning of teachers from the central government to the district assemblies, the Minister of Education, Haruna Iddrisu, has announced.

He said President John Dramani Mahama had directed a review of the current centralised teacher recruitment system to strengthen decentralisation and enhance efficiency in addressing local education needs.

Mr Iddrisu explained that the proposed policy change would make the recruitment of teachers a primary responsibility of the district assemblies, in line with the broader decentralisation framework currently under review.

He said the move was aimed at empowering local authorities to respond more swiftly to staffing needs in schools, particularly in underserved and hard to reach communities.

The Minister made this known when he addressed the 14th Congregation and 96th Anniversary of the St John Bosco's College of Education in Navrongo.

Quoting the President, he said: "The President has asked how it is that a Municipal Assembly such as Kassena-Nankana cannot recruit and sanction a teacher but must wait for the Ghana Education Service. He wants a reversal of that policy."

Mr Iddrisu added that discussions on the decentralisation of teacher recruitment were ongoing alongside proposals to adjust the District Assemblies Common Fund (DACF) to support the new responsibilities.

He said President Mahama was considering a gradual increase in the DACF from the current five per cent to 7.5 per cent,

with the additional two per cent dedicated to decentralised education and health services.

"It is the thinking of President Mahama that the District Assemblies Common Fund, under Article 252 of the Constitution, be adjusted upwards from five per cent to 7.5 per cent, beginning with one per cent dedicated to decentralised education under the Ministry supervised by the Local Government, and another one per cent dedicated to health and decentralised health services," he said.

He emphasised that any additional resources allocated to the sector would be tied to decentralised operations to ensure improved efficiency, transparency and accountability at the local level.

Mr Iddrisu noted that formal announcements on the proposed policy changes would be made after Cabinet and policy approvals, but assured that Government remained committed to reforming the education sector to improve

service delivery.

He also disclosed that a review of the curriculum from kindergarten to the junior high school level was underway, with strong emphasis on digital literacy, digital education and the development of smart classrooms.

"It is our expectation that digital skills and digital education, and a move towards smart classrooms, should define the future of our investment in the education sector," he added.

A total of 581 graduands from the 2023/2024 academic year were awarded various degrees, including Bachelor of Education in Science, Agriculture, Mathematics, ICT, Visual Art, Construction Technology, Metal and Automotive Technology, Electronic Technology, Wood Technology and Home Economics for Junior High School specialisation, as well as Bachelor of Education for Upper Primary.

# CAF Confederation Cup: Ghana's Daniel Laryea to officiate Kaizer Chiefs v Al Masry clash

Ghanaian referee Daniel Laryea has been appointed to oversee the CAF Confederation Cup clash between South Africa's Kaizer Chiefs and Egypt's Al Masry, the Confederation of African Football (CAF) has confirmed.

The match, scheduled for Sunday, January 8 in South Africa, sees both clubs vying for a place in the next round of the competition.

Laryea's appointment comes on the back of a string of high-profile assignments across the continent.

At the recently concluded Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON), he officiated the semi-final between Morocco and Nigeria, earning widespread praise for his performance, even amid criticism from some Nigerian fans.

Domestically, Laryea's stature continues to rise. He was

recently honoured by the Ghana Football Association (GFA) after receiving his FIFA referee badge, cementing his place among Ghana's

top referees eligible for international duty.

His selection for the Kaizer Chiefs-Al Masry game

highlights Ghana's growing prominence in African football officiating.



Ghanaian referee Daniel Laryea

# 2026 World Cup: It'll be difficult playing against 'star-studded' England - Antoine Semenyo

Ghana winger Antoine Semenyo has acknowledged the challenge the Black Stars face against England in the 2026 World Cup, citing the depth and quality of the English squad.

Drawn in Group L alongside England, 2018 finalists Croatia, and Panama, Ghana will compete in the tournament across venues in the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

Speaking to CBS Sports, Semenyo, who recently joined Manchester City, remained confident in Ghana's prospects. "We want to show people around the world that Ghana is one of the top nations and we can compete with the best," Semenyo told CBS Sports.

"There's been a bit of small talk [with English players], but as

Ghanaians, we know it's going to be a bit of a challenge.

"They are a star-studded team. They have so many top-class players, but we believe in ourselves," he added.

The Black Stars will begin their World Cup campaign against Panama on June 17 in Toronto, face England in Boston on June 23, and conclude the group stage against Croatia in Philadelphia on June 27.

After exiting at the group stage in Brazil 2014 and Qatar 2022, Ghana is determined to make a stronger impact on football's biggest stage in 2026.



Ghana winger, Antoine Semenyo

# I am ready to convince my sons to play for Ghana – CK Akonnor hints

Former Black Stars coach Charles Kwablan Akonnor has revealed that he would actively encourage his sons to represent Ghana at senior level if the opportunity arises.

Akonnor's elder son, Charles Jesaja Herrmann, 25, recently joined German lower-division side FC Bocholt, while his younger son, Charles Kwablan Herrmann, has signed with Belgian top-flight club Cercle Brugge.

In an interview with Graphic Sports, Akonnor described his younger son's move to Belgium as a pivotal moment in his career, noting that he played an active role in facilitating the transfer.

The former Asante Kotoko and Hearts of Oak coach, however, acknowledged that both of his sons were born and raised in

Germany, which has limited their connection to Ghana.

Despite this, he insisted he would not hesitate to persuade them to play for the Black Stars if the chance presented itself. "It's difficult to convince them to come to Ghana because they grew up in Germany, but of course, if the need be or if the opportunity arises, we will be

able to make that decision," Akonnor said.

Jesaja, born in 2000, has previously played for German sides including VfL Wolfsburg and Hannover 96 before moving to FC Bocholt.

His younger brother, Charles Kwablan Herrmann, born in 2006, is a highly rated winger

who has enjoyed success with Germany's youth teams.

He was part of the squads that won the 2023 FIFA U-17 World Cup and the UEFA U-17 European Championship, and in 2024, he moved from Borussia Dortmund to Borussia Mönchengladbach.



## ENTERTAINMENT STORIES

# It's very difficult being a female in the media industry – Mz Brown opens up on struggles in broadcasting

**Radio personality with TW Radio in Cape Coast, Mz Brown, has opened up about the numerous challenges women face in Ghana's media industry, describing the journey as tough and often unfair for females trying to build sustainable careers in broadcasting.**

Speaking in an interview with Kofy Jesse on KofyJesse Studios, Mz Brown shared her personal experiences from her early days in the media space, particularly during her time with various media houses in Takoradi. According to her, the environment made it extremely difficult for her to grow professionally, despite her passion and commitment to the job.

She revealed that she was often sidelined from key media activities and responsibilities, adding that she was not given the same opportunities as her male colleagues.

Mz Brown noted that her breakthrough and sense of freedom in the industry came after joining TW Radio in Cape Coast, where she finally felt valued and recognized for her talent and hard work.

The broadcaster further touched on a disturbing trend in the industry where women are often judged by their appearance rather than their competence. According to her, many female media personalities are first viewed as sexual objects before

their skills, intelligence, and professionalism are acknowledged.

She explained that this mindset continues to limit

opportunities for women, making it harder for them to advance compared to their male counterparts.



Radio personality with TW Radio, Mz Brown



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# Akosua Agyapong accuses GHAMRO, Obour of embezzling musicians' royalties

**L**egendary Ghanaian musician Akosua Agyapong has launched a scathing attack on the Ghana Music Rights Organisation (GHAMRO) and former MUSIGA President, Bice Osei Kuffour, popularly known as Obour, over long-standing royalty concerns within the music industry.

Speaking during a TikTok Live session on February 1, 2026, Agyapong accused GHAMRO and some of its past and present officials of embezzling funds meant for musicians. She specifically mentioned Captain Adjetey, a former Chief Operations Officer of GHAMRO, alleging that he and others mismanaged musicians' earnings.

According to Agyapong, GHAMRO continued collecting royalties from her and other musicians despite, in her view, not having a valid license to operate at the time.

"Why? It is our sweat. It is our

money. Why do we have to sweat and suffer? Why should musicians die poor whilst we have money with some people that are just squandering it, building houses and buying big cars?" she questioned.

She further alleged that although Captain Adjetey has officially retired, he remains actively involved in GHAMRO's affairs and continues to influence the organisation's finances.

"Captain says he has gone on retirement. I salute you, Captain Adjetey. Who are the signatories to our accounts? You have gone on pension, but you are still involved in GHAMRO's activities. You are just embezzling a lot of money over there," she said.

Akosua Agyapong also accused both former and current GHAMRO executives of avoiding meetings with her and insulting her when she demanded royalties she claims are owed her from her music projects.



Legendary Ghanaian musician Akosua Agyapong

# How I 'swerved' my father to become a TV presenter – Nana Aba Anamoah

**N**ana Aba Anamoah has shared a personal story about how she chose a career in television over becoming a medical doctor during an interview on the *Konnected Minds Podcast*.

"My father wanted me to be a medical doctor, but I told him I wanted to be a TV presenter. He said then we should see how it goes," she revealed.

"He knew where the inspiration was coming from because he was giving me a lot of books to read, and watching CNN with him.

"My father was a big-time consumer of TV and he wasn't too sure if I would make it on TV."

She added that her father recognized her talent in science. "He knew what my comfort zone was and it was science.

"I was really good at science in

school, I got excellent grades, so he thought I was going to make a very excellent medical doctor."

Nana Aba Anamoah, however, says she never pictured herself in medicine.

"I never imagined myself as a doctor because I think I would have been the most horrible doctor.

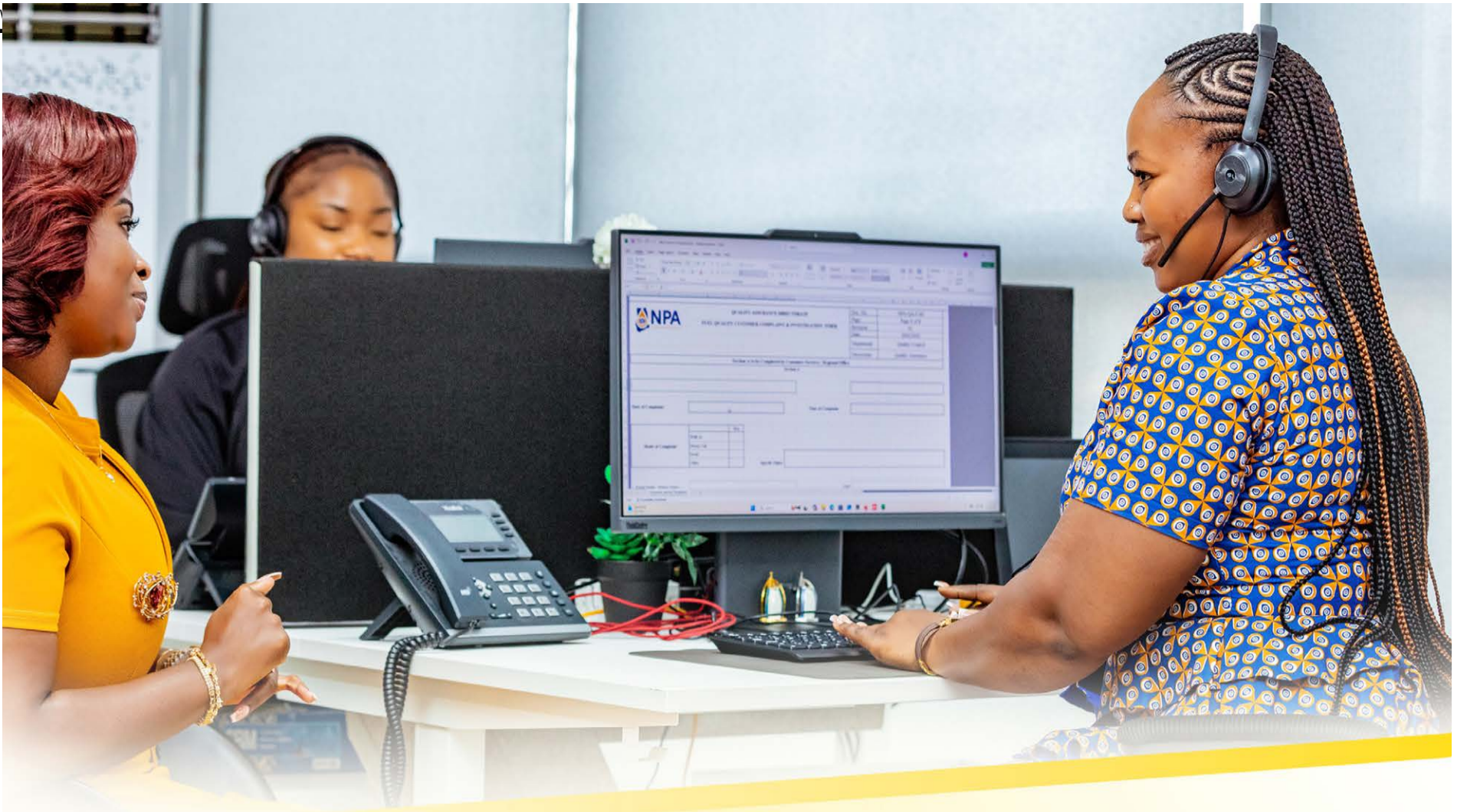
"I don't have what it takes to administer what doctors do and I don't have the patience they have," she said.

She credits her father's support for her success.

"He wasn't happy about it and I could tell from his eyes, but the moment he saw me on TV the first time and I mentioned my name, he just said it's better I didn't go to the medical school," Nana Aba added.



Media personality, Nana Aba Anamoah



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