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Jirapa MP chides NPP for dodging economic debate as dollar, inflation and growth improve

The Member of Parliament for Jirapa, Cletus Seidu Dapilah, has accused the opposition New Patriotic Party of deliberately avoiding discussions on Ghana's economic performance, insisting that key indicators are showing steady improvement under President John Dramani Mahama.

Speaking on Metro TV's Good Morning Ghana with Moro Awudu, the lawmaker argued that the opposition was reluctant to engage on critical issues such as the cedi, inflation, gross domestic product and overall economic growth due to what he described as visible gains made by the current administration.

He maintained that the relative stability of the cedi and a consistent drop in inflation point to a recovering economy, crediting the government's economic management team for

outcomes he said have caught critics off guard.

Mr. Dapilah challenged leading figures in the NPP, including Mahamudu Bawumia, to return to the public space and defend their economic record, stressing that Ghanaians deserve clear and honest engagement on issues that directly impact their livelihoods.

On the issue of employment, the MP acknowledged growing public demand for jobs but cautioned against hasty recruitment. He said the government is prioritising the creation of fiscal space before expanding hiring, warning that unchecked employment without the necessary financial backing could weaken state institutions.

He pointed to agencies such as the Ghana Cocoa Board and Ghana Gas, where he claimed staff numbers had ballooned beyond sustainable levels in previous years, placing significant pressure on payrolls.

According to him, some

institutions are already struggling under the weight of excessive staffing despite limited operational demands, a situation he warned could lead to institutional strain if not corrected.

He stressed that while job creation remains a priority,

the government will focus on stabilising the economy and strengthening macroeconomic fundamentals before rolling out large-scale recruitment, insisting that any new jobs must be sustainable and properly financed.



MP for Jirapa, Cletus Seidu Dapilah

'I have become poorer since I became NPP chairman' – Nabdam Chairman resigns

The Chairman of the opposition New Patriotic Party (NPP) in the Nabdam Constituency has officially resigned.

Denis Kolog Ontoyen Yennilorgit, a man once considered a pillar of the party in the area, has resigned, citing a profound lack of appreciation and respect from the leadership of the very party he served.

In a succinct but weighty resignation letter dated February 17, 2026, titled "Resignation as Constituency Chairman Nabdam," Mr. Ontoyen made his decision official.

"I, Denis Ontoyen Kolog, hereby tender my resignation letter as Constituency Chairman of Nabdam effective 17th February 2026," the letter stated. While he graciously acknowledged the opportunity to serve the party, saying, "I appreciate the opportunity to have served the party and the people of Nabdam in this role. I am committed to supporting my successor," the

circumstances surrounding his exit tell a far more painful story.

Speaking exclusively to this reporter after the release of the letter, a visibly disheartened Mr. Ontoyen pointed out the silent struggles that led him to walk away from a party he once fervently fought for. He revealed that his decision was not sudden, but a painful culmination of years of feeling invisible and unrecognised by the party hierarchy, both at the Constituency and Regional levels.

According to the former chairman, his dedication to the party came at a great personal cost. Far from reaping any rewards of political office, his tenure was marked by financial hardship. "Since I became party chairman, I have become poorer," he confessed. He explained that his commitment to the party's well-being compels him to meet the needs of fellow party members, often depleting his own resources to do so. He said, unfortunately, his efforts are unnoticed and not appreciated.

The final, crushing blow was the party's deafening silence in the wake of his resignation. Mr. Ontoyen revealed that despite submitting his letter on February 17, not a single soul from either the Constituency or the regional office has reached out to him. "No phone call. No visit. No inquiry into why a man who had given so much had decided to leave," he said in a sad tone.

"According to actions alone,

the level of disrespect I have witnessed as a Constituency party chairman," he lamented, his words painting a stark picture of a loyal servant left to walk away without a second glance. His resignation now leaves a void in the Nabdam Constituency, but more importantly, it raises uncomfortable questions about the value the party places on its grassroots leaders.



Nabdam NPP Constituency chairman, Denis Kolog Ontoyen Yennilorgit

Immigration boss Basintale thanks God at United AG



The Assemblies of God Ghana has organised a special thanksgiving service in honour of Samuel Amadu Basintale, the Comptroller General of the Ghana Immigration Service.

The service took place at the United Assembly of God Church located at Miles 7 in Accra and drew a large gathering of church members, immigration officers, family members and well-wishers who came together to express gratitude to God and offer prayers for the leadership of the Ghana Immigration Service.

Delivering the sermon, Stephen Wengam, General Superintendent of Assemblies of God Ghana and Chairman of the Governing Council of the Ghana Immigration Service, urged leaders to embrace servant leadership as a pathway to transforming institutions.

He emphasised that effective leadership requires placing the needs and welfare of followers at the centre of decision making while empowering them to realise their potential and contribute meaningfully to institutional growth.

According to him, leadership must not be reduced to the exercise of authority but should reflect humility, responsibility and a commitment to service.

Rev Wengam reminded the

congregation that the model of servant leadership was exemplified by Jesus Christ, referencing the biblical account in John Chapter 13, where Christ demonstrated humility by serving his disciples.

He therefore encouraged leaders across sectors to cultivate values that promote unity, integrity and institutional development.

The service was officiated by members of the Assemblies of God Executive Presbytery together with district pastors and the Chaplain of the Ghana Immigration Service.

Special prayers were offered for Mr Basintale and the entire leadership of the Ghana Immigration Service, asking for divine wisdom and guidance in the discharge of their responsibilities.

Responding after the prayers, Mr Basintale expressed profound gratitude to God for his appointment as Comptroller General of the Service.

He also acknowledged the role of the Assemblies of God Ghana in shaping his spiritual life and supporting him throughout his journey into public service.

Mr Basintale said the prayers and encouragement from the church would strengthen his resolve to serve the nation with dedication, humility and integrity.

The thanksgiving service formed part of activities marking his recent appointment and was intended to seek divine direction for his stewardship of the Ghana Immigration Service.

Public sector wages take 39% of Ghana's budget – Finance Minister

Finance Minister Dr Cassiel Ato Forson has disclosed that compensation for public sector workers remains the largest share of government expenditure, placing significant pressure on other areas of spending.

He made this known during a dialogue with Organised Labour at the Jubilee House in Accra on Tuesday, March 17, as part of ongoing engagements between government and labour representatives.

“Compensation of Ghana’s employees is currently the largest share of government expenditure. Of the total government expenditure, employee compensation accounts for 39%, debt service accounts for 32%, and grants

to other government units account for 29%,” he stated.

Dr. Forson explained that the high wage bill has created a crowding-out effect on other critical expenditures.

“The crowding effect of compensation means that while we spend 33% of our compensation budget, our expenditure on compensation, only three per cent is used for goods and services, and capital expenditure represents only six per cent of Ghana’s expenditure.

“Social benefits only represent one per cent of government expenditure, and grants to other government units representing the statutory funds are about 24% while debt service represents 26% of our total expenditure,” he said.

He further outlined key indicators showing the weight of compensation in the country’s fiscal framework.

“Some key facts on the compensation issues are that at the end of the 2025 fiscal year, compensation budget

accounted for 44% of non-oil tax revenue, 5.6% of GDP, and 33.78% of total expenditure,” he added.



Finance Minister Dr Cassiel Ato Forson

Gov't will develop comprehensive National Emoluments Policy to address salary disparities – Mahama

President John Dramani Mahama has announced plans to establish a comprehensive national framework to tackle salary and compensation disparities in the public sector.

Speaking during a meeting with Organised Labour at the Jubilee House on Tuesday, March 17, following a recent strike by the Civil and Local Government Staff Association Ghana, the President said an Independent Emoluments Commission would be tasked to develop a National Emoluments Policy.

According to him, the policy will address pay disparities across the public sector, harmonise allowances, and strengthen performance-based compensation systems.

“The Independent Emolument Commission will develop a comprehensive National Emolument Policy. The policy will address pay disparities, harmonise allowances, strengthen performance-based compensations, align public sector pay with Ghana’s

long term development and fiscal priorities,” he said.

President Mahama noted that the government aims to build a compensation system that rewards productivity, ensures fairness, and supports

national development goals.

“We seek a system where rewards are aligned with productivity, fairness, and national development goals,” he added.

The move forms part of broader efforts by the government to reform public sector compensation and improve industrial relations.



President John Dramani Mahama

We must address the pension imbalance between contributors and retirees – Mahama warns

President John Dramani Mahama has expressed concern over Ghana's pension system, describing it as being at a critical stage that requires urgent attention.

Speaking during a dialogue with organised labour at the Jubilee House on Tuesday, March 17, the President noted that nearly two decades after the introduction of the three-tier pension system, coverage remains low.

“My comrades and friends, our pension system stands at a critical crossroads,” he said, warning that existing challenges could affect the long-term sustainability of the system.

He cautioned that failure to address the situation could widen the gap between contributors and retirees.

“If we fail to act, the imbalance between contributors and retirees will continue to deepen, threatening the system's sustainability and the dignity of our future retirees,”

he stated.

President Mahama stressed the need for reforms to guarantee security for workers after retirement.

“Our goal is clear, every Ghanaian worker must retire with dignity, with security and confidence in the pension system,” he added.



President John Dramani Mahama

What you see is what you get, we'll show you the true size of the national cake – Mahama assures Organised Labour

President John Dramani Mahama has assured organised labour of transparency in the government's handling of economic data and national resources.

Speaking during a dialogue at the Jubilee House in Accra on Tuesday, March 17, the President said the government is committed to presenting an accurate picture of the economy as part of efforts to strengthen engagement with workers.

“This government has nothing to hide. What you see is what you get.

“We've come a long way from the period where you had two different economic statistics. The statistics that we give you are the true state of the economy,” he said.

President Mahama explained that understanding the

actual state of the economy is important in discussions about resource allocation.

“Today, we will show what the size of the national cake is before we all decide how we share.

“If we don't let you know what the size is, you believe it is bigger than it is and your share is smaller,” he stated.

He added that transparency would help align expectations.

“But if we let you know the size, then you know that the share we are getting is commensurate to what the cake is,” he said.

The President also emphasised the need for economic growth.

“The only way to get a bigger share is to grow the cake bigger, and that is what this government is about,” he noted.



President John Dramani Mahama

Parliament approves GH¢8.7 billion for DACF

Parliament has approved an allocation of GH¢8.7 billion to the District Assemblies Common Fund (DACF) for the 2026 fiscal year.

The allocation, captured in the 2026 Appropriation Act, represents five per cent of the country's projected total revenue for the year, in line with constitutional requirements.

The approved figure of GH¢8,769,707,900 marks an increase from the GH¢7.51 billion allocated in 2025, reflecting a growth of 16.78 per cent.

The DACF remains a key funding mechanism for Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies, supporting local governance

and development projects across the country.

Under the approved framework, the 2026 allocation will be distributed using an established formula guided by principles such as transparency, equity and measurable indicators to ensure fair and effective disbursement.

The formula emphasises the use of reliable and disaggregated data to support objective allocation of resources to various assemblies, with the goal of promoting balanced development at the local level.

Parliament is expected to oversee the implementation of the fund to ensure that the allocations translate into

improved infrastructure and service delivery in communities nationwide

“The total allocation to the Fund for the 2026 fiscal year is based on five per cent of the projected total revenue

for the year. Accordingly, an amount of GH¢8,769,707,900 has been allocated to the Fund for 2026, compared to GH¢7,510,000,000 allocated in 2025, representing an increase of 16.78 per cent.”



It's scam when you make desperate applicants pay high for forms, medicals with slim chances – Afenyo-Markin

The Minority Leader in Parliament, Osahen Alexander Afenyo-Markin, has raised serious concerns about the transparency and fairness of an ongoing government recruitment exercise, alleging that the process appears structured to exploit applicants rather than offer genuine employment opportunities.

Speaking in an exclusive interview with Class Media Group, the Effutu Member of Parliament criticized the system, describing it as one that risks scamming thousands of hopeful job seekers across the country.

According to him, the recruitment process requires applicants to pay for application forms, sit for an AI-generated aptitude test, and subsequently qualify for medical examinations. However, despite hundreds of thousands of applicants participating in the process, only about 105 candidates have reportedly qualified for the medical stage so far.

The Minority Leader argued that the limited number of

slots available compared to the massive number of applicants raises serious questions about the fairness of the system. He also pointed to the high financial burden on applicants, noting that candidates who qualify for medical screening are required to pay approximately ₵ 1,600 for the tests, fees which are non-refundable regardless of the outcome.

“These are ordinary young people desperate for jobs. When you make them pay for forms, tests and medicals with such slim chances of success, it begins to look like a system designed to exploit their desperation,” Osahen Afenyo-Markin said during the interview.

The government has reportedly proposed increasing the annual recruitment intake from 5,000 to 10,000 in response to growing criticism. However, Afenyo-Markin maintains that the measure is insufficient, especially considering that more than 100,000 applicants have already qualified for medical examinations.

He further accused authorities of failing to provide clear information about how

candidates are shortlisted and selected, describing the process as lacking transparency.

The Minority Leader, therefore called on the government to engage directly with affected applicants and review the recruitment framework to ensure fairness

and accountability.

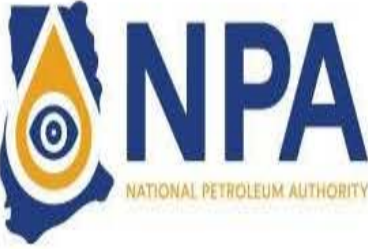
He urged authorities to “listen to the grassroots,” warning that growing frustration among unemployed youth could deepen public distrust if the concerns are not addressed.



Minority Leader, Osahen Alexander Afenyo-Markin

PETROLEUM PRICE INDICATORS

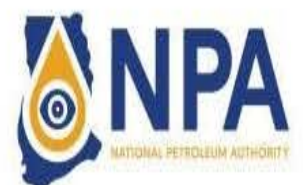
(As of 16th March, 2026)

|  | AVERAGE FOR PRICES FOR THE PERIOD 16TH - 31ST MARCH 2026 WINDOW (27TH FEBRUARY - 11TH MARCH 2026) | ESTIMATED AVERAGE FOR PRICES EFFECTIVE 1ST APRIL 2026 (12TH - 26TH MARCH 2026) | % CHANGE |
|--|--|---|-----------------|
| FX Rate (Commercial Banks Average) (USD/GHS) | 10.9133 | 11.0094 | -0.87% |
| Crude Oil (USD/BBL) | 86.55 | 103.40 | 19.47% |
| Petrol (USD/MT) | 816.14 | 995.59 | 21.99% |
| Gasoil (USD/MT) | 1021.61 | 1,208.45 | 18.29% |
| LPG (USD/MT) | 625.28 | 799.61 | 27.88% |
| Jet/Kerosene (USD/MT) | 1290.11 | 1,683.59 | 30.50% |
| Fuel Oil (USD/MT) | 516.94 | 608.32 | 17.68% |
| *Products figures represent the FOB Prices used in the Price Build-Up (PBU) | | | |

Note: "The U.S.-Israeli war against Iran poses a fresh threat to Ghana's inflation outlook through higher oil prices and tighter global financial conditions, even as the same geopolitical uncertainty is pushing gold prices up, the West African country's central bank governor said." – Reuters

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Security recruitment: 'It's unfair to charge applicants GHS1,600 for medicals' – Nitiwul

Former Minister for Defence and MP for Bimbilla, Dominic Nitiwul, has criticised the cost being charged applicants at the medical stage of the ongoing security services recruitment.

The lawmaker described the GHS1,600 reportedly being charged as excessive and unjustified.

He argued that the process risks placing an undue burden on already struggling young job seekers.

Speaking on Accra-based JoyNews' The Pulse on Tuesday, March 17, Nitiwul questioned the sharp increase in fees compared to previous recruitment exercises. "After paying GHS1,600, as

I'm hearing, which I object to... just last year, 2024, they paid GHS500, so what warrants them to be paying GHS1,600 now? I don't think that is right," he said.

More than 100,000 applicants out of over 500,000 have progressed to the medical stage, despite only about 10,000 vacancies available across the Police, Fire, Immigration and Prisons services.

The Bimbilla lawmaker further expressed concern over the high number of candidates being taken through the process relative to the limited vacancies.

He cautioned that it could create frustration among the youth.



Former Minister for Defence, Dominic Nitiwul

Mahama is an Angel without wings – Blakk Rasta

Ghanaian reggae musician and media personality Blakk Rasta has described President John Dramani Mahama as "an angel without wings," praising his leadership and personality during a recent interview with Kafui Dey.

Speaking on the YouTube programme hosted by Kafui Dey, Blakk Rasta expressed admiration for Mahama, portraying him as a compassionate and humane leader whose actions reflect a strong sense of empathy for ordinary Ghanaians.

The outspoken broadcaster indicated that his interactions and observations of Mahama over the years have shaped his opinion about the president.

According to Blakk Rasta, Mahama possesses rare qualities of humility, tolerance and understanding, which in his view set him apart from many political figures. He explained that describing Mahama as an "angel without wings" symbolises his belief that the president demonstrates kindness and goodwill toward people even while navigating the complexities of politics.

During the wide-ranging conversation, the reggae artiste also reflected on various social and political issues in Ghana, sharing personal experiences

and perspectives on leadership, governance and national development. The interview formed part of Kafui Dey's series of conversations with influential

personalities across different sectors.

Blakk Rasta, known for his outspoken commentary on

politics and social justice, has frequently used his music and media platforms to express strong views on governance and public leadership in Ghana.



Media personality and musician, Blakk Rasta



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Govt begins public sector recruitment despite wage pressures

The Minister for Finance, Cassiel Ato Forson, has disclosed that government has initiated steps to recruit new personnel into the public sector, despite ongoing concerns about the rising wage bill.

The move comes after revelations that authorities had to secure a GH¢17 billion loan to cover wages in 2025, highlighting the strain on public finances.

Speaking at a Presidential Encounter with Organised Labour on March 17, Dr Forson explained that the recruitment forms part of commitments made with Organised Labour to strengthen workforce capacity while adhering to fiscal limits.

“On the 2026 base pay, government committed to engage

with unions on outstanding conditions of service and undertake critical recruitment into the public service, all within budget constraints. In this regard, government has commenced processes for the recruitment of staff to the public service.

“Fair Wages and Salaries Commission has also commenced negotiations with Organised Labour on review of conditions of service and very soon will be approving them,” he said.

He indicated that the recruitment drive will be carried out alongside ongoing negotiations on conditions of service, as government seeks to balance workforce expansion with financial sustainability.



Finance Minister, Dr. Ato Forson

MiDA CEO Raises Alarm Over ‘Wasted Agricultural Assets

The Chief Executive Officer of the Millennium Development Authority (MiDA), Alex Mould, has raised serious concerns about neglected agricultural infrastructure assets across Ghana’s Middle Belt following a week-long field assessment tour of key farming zones.

Mr. Mould made the remarks during a seven-day field assessment mission of key farming areas, which covered parts of the Ashanti, Bono, Ahafo, and Bono East Regions, where the MiDA team evaluated water resources, irrigation potential, agricultural value chains, and institutional coordination mechanisms to identify areas for strategic investment.

The MiDA team engaged traditional authorities, regional and district officials, and private agribusiness operators, while also conducting technical inspections of irrigation schemes, dams, inland valleys, markets, and agro-processing facilities.

Speaking during the tour, Mr. Mould expressed concern about the state of several irrigation infrastructure and facilities that have been left to deteriorate over the years due to poor operations and maintenance practices.

“Going around the farming areas in this country has revealed that we have a lot of wasted assets. Investments have been made over the years, but there has been a lot of neglect in terms of operations and maintenance,” he said.

At the Subinja irrigation site, the MiDA team observed that critical infrastructure had been stripped or vandalised.

According to Mr. Mould, “the pump house originally contained four pumps, an electricity transformer, but these installations have since been stolen,” Mr. Mould observed.

He explained that restoring the facility would require a comprehensive feasibility assessment and coordinated intervention from the Ghana Irrigation Development Authority and the Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

“To rehabilitate the dam, we will need GIDA to conduct a feasibility assessment on how to restore the equipment, dam and fields, rehabilitate the pump house, pumping and piping systems, and restore irrigation canals and reconnect electricity to the facility,” he said.

The MiDA CEO also pointed to significant underutilized and untapped irrigation potential in rice-growing areas, particularly within the Tano North and South Municipal Districts.

“We just left a rice irrigation field that has the capacity to cultivate about 1,000 acres but is currently producing only about 300 acres,” he revealed.

He noted that the construction of a dam in 2008 was never fully completed, limiting the effectiveness of the irrigation scheme.

According to him, completing the dam infrastructure and building a concrete canal distribution system could allow farmers to cultivate the full 1,000 acres and harvest at least two crops annually.

“If we can supply water throughout the year, and provide improved agronomy practices, production could increase from about 1,000 tonnes of paddy rice annually to between 6,000 and 7,000 tonnes,” he said.

Mr. Mould described several such sites as “brownfield

opportunities” projects, where existing infrastructure can be rehabilitated and farming activity could be rapidly expanded through targeted engineering and water management investments.

He added that scaling up production in these areas could eventually support the establishment of agro-processing facilities such as rice mills, helping to strengthen agribusiness development and reduce Ghana’s reliance on imported rice and other food commodities.



MiDA CEO, Alex Mould

Ghana's economy grew by 5.8% in the fourth quarter of 2025 – GSS

Ghana's economy grew by 5.8% in the fourth quarter of 2025, up from 4.0% in the same period in 2024, the Government Statistician, Dr. Alhassan Iddrisu, has revealed.

Presenting the 2025 fourth-quarter GDP, full-year GDP estimates, and the December 2025 Monthly Indicator of Economic Growth (MIEG) at a press conference on Tuesday, March 17, Dr. Iddrisu said the economy expanded by 6.0% for the full year, slightly higher than the 5.8% recorded in 2024.

"The non-oil economy grew by 7.1% in the fourth quarter of 2025, compared with 4.8% in the same period of 2024. This shows that our economic expansion was broadly driven by activities outside the oil sector," he said.

According to the data, Services remained the largest sector, accounting for 45.9% of GDP, followed by Industry at 31.3% and Agriculture at 22.8%.

Services contributed 58.2% of total economic growth, supported by activities such as information and communication, transport, education, and public administration.

Agriculture grew by 5.3%, mainly due to crops, while Industry expanded by 1.9% in the fourth quarter.

Dr. Iddrisu also highlighted strong momentum toward the end of the year.

"Economic activity, as measured by the Monthly Indicator of Economic Growth, expanded by 10.1% in December 2025 compared to 5.2% in the same period in 2024, showing a stronger economic performance towards the end of the year," he said.



Government Statistician, Dr. Alhassan Iddrisu

Ghana's economic recovery showing encouraging progress – BoG Governor

The Governor of the Bank of Ghana, Dr. Johnson Pandit Asiamah, has stated that recent economic indicators show signs of recovery in Ghana's economy.

His comment follows the opening of the 129th Monetary Policy Committee meeting of the Bank of Ghana on Monday, March 16.

The meeting is expected to review current macroeconomic conditions and determine the central bank's policy direction.

In a social media post after the opening session, Dr. Asiamah said the country is witnessing some positive developments in key economic indicators.

He noted that recent data points to improving economic conditions, particularly in inflation trends and foreign reserves.

"Recent data shows encouraging progress in Ghana's economic recovery. Inflation continues to decline, reserves have strengthened, and confidence is improving," he said.

Despite the progress, the BoG Governor acknowledged that global economic conditions remain uncertain and require careful policy responses.

"Our task is clear: sustain the gains while navigating new global risks," he noted.

Meanwhile, experts and commentators have expressed concerns over the impact of external shocks on the country's economy following the coordinated military strikes on Iran by the United States and Israel.



Governor of the Bank of Ghana, Dr. Johnson Pandit Asiamah

Without cedi stability, fuel prices would have moved to GHS23 – Edudzi

The Chief Executive Officer of the National Petroleum Authority, Godwin Edudzi Tameklo, has mentioned that the relative stability of the cedi has helped limit the impact of rising global fuel prices.

Speaking on TV3, he said exchange rate movements play a major role in determining fuel prices in Ghana, sometimes even more than international price changes.

“If the cedi depreciates more, the impact is more immediate than if it is coming from the other side,” he said.

He noted that recent currency stability has prevented a sharper increase in pump prices despite global pressures.

“If the Ghana cedi were trading at about 15 to the dollar, petroleum products could be around 23 cedis per litre,” he explained.

Mr Tameklo credited what he described as improved economic management for helping to stabilise the currency over the past year.

He also pointed to the price floor mechanism as a tool for maintaining some stability in the downstream petroleum sector.

“The authority has put out the price floor, and it has brought some level of stability,” he said. While acknowledging that prices may still rise, he said current conditions have prevented what could have been a more severe outcome.



NPA CEO, Godwin Edudzi Tameklo

SPORTS NEWS

Senegal stripped of AFCON title, Morocco declared champions

Senegal were sensationally stripped of the African Cup of Nations title on Tuesday as the Confederation of African Football (CAF) declared Morocco champions.

Several Senegalese players had walked off the pitch in Rabat on January 18 in protest when the host nation were awarded a penalty late in second-half stoppage time.

After Senegal's players eventually returned, Morocco missed the penalty and Pape Gueye went on to score the goal in extra time that gave his nation a 1-0 victory in the final.

CAF said that having studied Morocco's appeal, “the Senegal national team is declared to have forfeited the match,” and the result was “officially recorded as 3-0” in favour of Morocco.

The CAF Appeals Committee justified its decision by applying Articles 82 and 84 of AFCON Regulations, which state that if a team “refuses to play or leaves the pitch before the scheduled end of the match it will be considered the loser and will be definitively eliminated from the competition”.

The Royal Moroccan Football

Federation (FRMF) said in a statement its appeal “was never intended to contest the sporting performance of the teams participating in this competition, but solely to request the application of the competition regulations”.

“The Federation reaffirms its commitment to respecting the rules, to the clarity of the competitive framework, and to the stability of African competitions,” the statement added.

Minutes before the end of the match, some Senegalese supporters attempted a pitch invasion, while Senegal's players halted the game for nearly 20 minutes to protest the late penalty awarded to Morocco.

The controversial penalty was awarded by Congolese referee Jean-Jacques Ndala right at the end of the allotted eight added minutes in normal time following a VAR check for a challenge on Diaz by El Hadji Malick Diouf.

Brahim Diaz could have won the trophy for Morocco with the spot-kick in the 24th minute of added time at the end of normal time.

But Senegal goalkeeper Edouard Mendy easily saved the weak attempted ‘Panenka’ chip by the Real Madrid winger, who was clearly

distracted by the long delay that followed the penalty award.

The game at the Prince Moulay Abdellah Stadium then went to extra time, and Gueye's brilliant 94th-minute strike handed them the title.

The decisions of the CAF Appeals Committee can be appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport within ten days.

At the end of January, CAF imposed a series of disciplinary sanctions, including fines amounting to several hundred

thousand euros, on the federations of both countries for unsportsmanlike conduct and violations of fair play principles.

The appeal trial of 18 Senegalese supporters, imprisoned since the final and sentenced to prison terms ranging from three months to one year for “hooliganism,” which was scheduled to take place on Monday, has been postponed until March 30.



PSG crushes Chelsea out of Champions League

Chelsea FC suffered their joint heaviest defeat in a two legged European tie, losing 8-2 on aggregate after a 3-0 defeat to Paris Saint-Germain at Stamford Bridge.

The French champions took control early, with Khvicha Kvaratskhelia opening the scoring in the sixth minute before Bradley Barcola doubled the lead in the 14th minute with PSG's second shot of the game.

The result effectively ended the contest, and substitute Senny Mayulu added a third goal late on to complete a dominant display in the last 16 encounter.

Frustration grew among the home supporters, with chants for former owner Roman Abramovich as well as protests directed at the current ownership.

Chelsea's problems began with hesitant defending from Mamadou Sarr, allowing Kvaratskhelia to pounce and

fire a low left footed shot into the net.

Despite attempts to respond through Cole Palmer, Enzo Fernandez, Pedro Neto and Trevoh Chalobah, PSG struck again after Moises Caicedo lost possession in midfield. Barcola controlled brilliantly before finishing with a half volley into the top corner.

Chelsea created further chances through Joao Pedro, Palmer and Jorrel Hato but remained vulnerable on the counter attack, with PSG repeatedly threatening through Kvaratskhelia and Barcola.

The Blues were booed off at half time, prompting head coach Liam Rosenior to introduce academy graduate Josh Acheampong after replacing Sarr.

Joao Pedro came close again after the break, but Rosenior later withdrew key players including Palmer, Fernandez and Joao Pedro as the match slipped away.

Substitute Liam Delap nearly made an impact but was denied from close range before Mayulu curled home a fine effort to seal a comprehensive victory and an 8-2 aggregate triumph.

Chelsea's night worsened further when Chalobah was stretchered off late on, leaving

the team to finish the match with 10 men.

PSG will now face the winner of the tie between Liverpool FC and Galatasaray SK, with the Turkish side holding a 1-0 advantage ahead of the second leg at Anfield.



Kurt Okraku pleased with invited players for Austria, Germany pre-World Cup friendly games – GFA

Ghana Football Association (GFA) Communications Director, Henry Asante Twum, has revealed that GFA President Kurt Okraku is pleased with the squad selected for the upcoming March international friendlies.

Coach Otto Addo recently named a 26-man roster ahead of the pre-World Cup clashes against Austria and Germany. The squad features key stars such as Thomas Partey, Inaki Williams, and Jordan Ayew, while Derrick Luckassen, Patrick Pfeiffer, Marvin Senaya, and Daniel Agyei earn their first call-ups.

Speaking to Asempa FM, Asante Twum emphasized that Okraku has been actively involved in the decision-making process, though he does not dictate team selections.

“The president [Kurt Okraku] is the leader, and he has interests across-board. Interest as in not telling them

what to do, but interest as in knowing what is happening,” he told Asempa FM.

“He has been part of all the engagement, but not to direct which players play, and I can say he is happy with the squad,” Asante Twum added.

Ghana will kick off their friendly series against Austria at Vienna's Ernst Happel Stadium on March 27 before facing four-time world champions Germany in Stuttgart on March 30.

The Black Stars will continue their preparations with friendlies against Mexico in May and Wales in early June. These matches are part of Ghana's buildup to the 2026 FIFA World Cup, which will be jointly hosted by the United States, Canada, and Mexico.



GFA President Kurt Okraku

The story behind highlife and its original Fante name 'Sibi Saba'

Highlife, one of Ghana's most celebrated and internationally recognized music genres, carries a rich history that stretches back over a century. Its distinctive fusion of traditional Ghanaian rhythms with Western instruments and influences has made it a defining feature of the country's cultural identity. Yet, few know that the name "Highlife" was not its original title.

According to ethnomusicologist Professor John Collins, the term "Highlife" was first coined in September 1925. The music itself existed long before then, particularly among the Fante and Ga communities along Ghana's coast. Early iterations of Highlife combined indigenous melodies and rhythms with brass band music, sea shanties, and Caribbean influences brought through colonial trade.

The name "Highlife" reflected the social context of the era. Performances were often held in exclusive clubs and ballrooms where only the wealthy or elite could attend. Ordinary Ghanaians, who listened from outside, noticed that the music

was associated with the "high life" enjoyed by these elites hence the term stuck.

Before being labeled "Highlife," the music was known in Fante communities as Sibi Saba. This name referred to the rhythmic and melodic styles that characterized the traditional coastal music of the Fante people. Collins notes that Sibi Saba played a critical role in early guitar band music, laying the foundation for what would later become Highlife.

After independence in 1957, Ghanaian president Kwame Nkrumah encouraged cultural nationalism and the promotion of indigenous heritage. Part of this effort included attempts to revive the original Fante term "Sibi Saba," replacing colonial-era names like Highlife. While the movement was significant, the term "Highlife" had already taken hold in popular and international culture, making it the enduring name.

The legacy of Sibi Saba extended beyond Ghana's borders. The legendary Afro-rock band Osibisa drew inspiration from the traditional rhythms of Sibi Saba when forming their sound in London in the late 1960s. By blending Highlife rhythms

with rock, jazz, and funk, Osibisa introduced Ghanaian music to the world stage and highlighted the enduring influence of Sibi Saba.

Today, Highlife continues to shape Ghana's music landscape and has inspired modern genres such as hiplife and contemporary Afropop. The story of Highlife its colonial-era

name, its original Fante identity, and its global impact reflects Ghana's rich musical heritage and the resilience of its cultural traditions. From Sibi Saba to Highlife, the music represents more than entertainment. It is a living testament to Ghana's history, creativity, and influence in global music culture.



Broda Sammy's marriage to France-based wife finally collapses

Ghanaian gospel musician, Broda Sammy, has confirmed that his marriage to his France-based wife, Obaa Yaa, has ended.

The singer, whose real name is Samuel Opoku, made the revelation during an appearance on United Showbiz on Saturday.

According to him, the decision to dissolve the marriage was initiated by his now ex-wife.

Broda Sammy explained that he was performing at a show in Manso during the 2025 Christmas season when his family head called to inform him that the customary drinks used in their traditional marriage had been returned from France by his wife.

He said the family head initially refused to accept the drinks or proceed with the divorce rites because he had not been consulted.

The gospel musician said he later returned home for a meeting arranged

between both families to discuss the matter.

However, Obaa Yaa did not attend the gathering. During the meeting, she was contacted by phone and confirmed that she had instructed her family to return the drinks, signalling her decision to end the marriage.

"I haven't ended my marriage. It is I who has been divorced," Broda Sammy said, explaining that he only became aware of the situation after his family alerted him.

He added that when his wife was asked during the phone call, she admitted he had not done anything wrong to her.

Broda Sammy said he eventually agreed to the divorce after realising that he and his wife had lived apart for several years.

He also alleged that some individuals he once lived with may have spread false information about him to his wife, which could have affected their relationship.

The singer further revealed that the situation worsened after his wife suffered a miscarriage during one of her visits to Ghana, an experience he believes contributed to the breakdown of the marriage.

He also suspected the relationship was already strained when his wife and her family failed to attend his mother's funeral months before the divorce was finalised.



Gospel musician, Broda Sammy

Mark Okraku Mantey told 5Five they were wack and won't go anywhere — BullGod



Ghanaian artiste manager and entertainment executive, Lawrence Nana Asiamah Hanson, has disclosed that veteran music executive Mark Okraku-Mantey once described the hiplife duo 5Five as “wack” and predicted they would not make significant progress in the music industry.

BullGod made the revelation during an interview with media personality Kafui Dey, where he recounted the early struggles of the group and the blunt feedback they received from industry insiders.

According to BullGod, Mark Okraku-Mantey did not mince words when he first assessed the musical direction of 5Five. He reportedly told the group that their sound and overall approach to music at the time were not

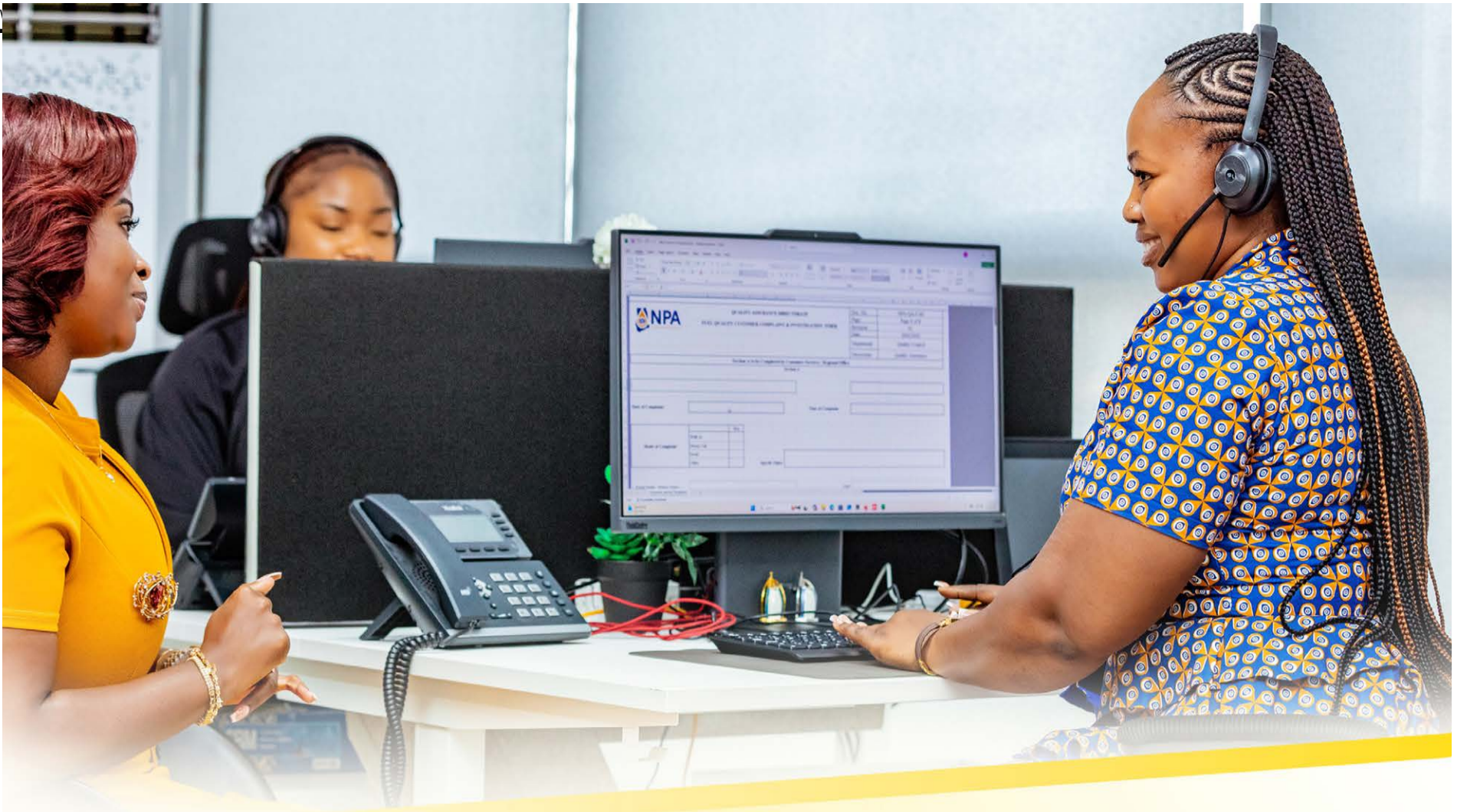
good enough to help them succeed in the competitive Ghanaian music scene.

Despite the harsh criticism, BullGod noted that Okraku-Mantey did not stop at just pointing out their flaws. Instead, he offered constructive advice that would later prove instrumental in the group’s development.

BullGod explained that Okraku-Mantey suggested that the duo seek the expertise of renowned Ghanaian music producer

Appietus to help refine their sound and improve the quality of their music.

Taking the advice seriously, 5Five eventually worked with Appietus, a move that helped shape their musical identity and contributed to their rise in Ghana’s hiplife scene. The group later went on to release several popular songs that cemented their place in the industry.



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