



Comptroller-General of GIS, Samuel Basintale Amadu

## Immigration rakes in GH¢546m in a year under Basintale

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President of the National House of Chiefs, Ogyeahoho Yaw Gyebi II

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# Immigration rakes in GH¢546m in a year under Basintale

**The Ghana Immigration Service (GIS) has recorded over GH¢546 million in revenue within a year under the leadership of its Comptroller-General, Samuel Basintale Amadu.**

Mr Amadu was appointed in March 2025 by President John Dramani Mahama to lead the transformation of the Service.

The gains come amid a broader reform agenda focused on strengthening border security, improving operational efficiency and modernising service delivery.

In a statement issued by the Public Affairs Department on Monday, March 23, the Service said the revenue growth was largely driven by reforms in visa and permit processing.

“Over the past year, GIS generated more than GH¢546 million in revenue, largely driven by reforms in visa and permit processing. A total of 186,959 permits and visas were issued representing

a 32.5 per cent increase over the previous year,” the statement read in part.

The Service also processed over 2.8 million passenger movements across Ghana’s entry points without major incident, supporting national initiatives such as increased tourism inflows. The GIS further reported significant enforcement successes, including seizures of smuggled goods, narcotics and ammunition, as well as arrests linked to immigration-related offences.

“These operations reflect growing effectiveness in disrupting illicit trade networks,” the statement noted.

The Service further disclosed that 3,533 individuals were arrested following over 7,200 facility inspections, adding that 28 convictions have been secured out of 29 prosecuted cases.



*Comptroller-General of GIS, Samuel Basintale Amadu*

# GIS manages 2.8 million passenger smooth entries, exits in a year under Basintale-led reforms

**The Ghana Immigration Service (GIS) has processed over 2.8 million passenger movements across the country’s borders within a year under the leadership of its Comptroller-General, Samuel Basintale Amadu.**

The figure covers entries and exits through air, land and sea points, reflecting increased activity and improved operational efficiency.

The development follows Mr Amadu’s appointment in March 2025 by President John Dramani Mahama who tasked him to lead a transformation agenda within the Service.

“The Service efficiently managed over 2.8 million passenger movements across Ghana’s air, land, and sea entry points without major incidents,” the statement read in part.

It added that the performance supported national economic activities, including tourism and cross-border trade,

particularly during the festive season.

“This performance played a key role in supporting national initiatives such as the ‘2025 December in Ghana’ tourism initiative, which recorded increased international arrivals,” the statement noted.

The GIS further reported revenue of over GH¢546 million within the same period, driven largely by reforms in visa and permit processing.

The Service also highlighted improvements in enforcement, including arrests, seizures of contraband and increased intelligence-led operations, as part of efforts to strengthen border control.

The reforms, backed by digitalisation and inter-agency collaboration, have repositioned the Service as a more responsive and efficient institution in managing migration and safeguarding national security, the statement noted.



*Comptroller-General of GIS, Samuel Basintale Amadu*

# Northern Region nearly beat me to death for campaigning against dog, cat meat consumption in Ghana – ICS Boss

**The Executive Director of the Institute of Community Sustainability, Eric Jerry Aidoo, has alleged that he was physically attacked while touring the Northern Region to campaign against the consumption of dog and cat meat.**

Mr Aidoo, whose organisation advocates the protection of cats and dogs, said the outreach aimed to encourage communities to view these animals as pets rather than food.

Following the incident, the institute has suspended its planned nationwide sensitisation tour to review its safety arrangements.

In a statement, the organisation said the decision was taken to protect its team while reassessing security protocols.

“While we are relieved that Chairman Jerry is safe, the severity of this targeted violence necessitates a pause to ensure the safety of our team and to reassess our security protocols. We want to state clearly that the tour is not cancelled. We have only put our activities on hold,” the statement said.

Reaffirming its stance, the institute added, “Cats and dogs are family, not food. We will not be silenced by intimidation when the lives of these innocent animals are at stake.”

The organisation has also called on the public to support its advocacy efforts.

The activities of the institute, particularly its strong criticism of the consumption of dog and cat meat, have

attracted mixed reactions in some communities. However, details surrounding the exact location and timing of the attack remain unclear, as the incident has yet to be formally reported to the police.



*Executive Director of ICS, Eric Jerry Aidoo*

# Mahama leads wreath-laying ceremony honouring enslaved Africans in US

**President John Dramani Mahama led a solemn wreath-laying ceremony at the African Burial Ground National Monument in Lower Manhattan, US, paying tribute to the nearly 20,000 Africans laid to rest at the historic site.**

“We lay down this wreath to honour the memories of the nearly 20,000 Africans who are buried on these grounds, some of whom were free but most of whom were enslaved,” President Mahama stated.

Reflecting on Ghana’s historical connection to the transatlantic slave trade, he noted that Ghana is home to more than 30 slave castles and forts—more than any other African country—underscoring the strong likelihood that many of those enslaved passed through, or originated from, present-day Ghana.

In a poignant call to remembrance, the President added: “We lay down this wreath in remembrance of all

the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade—the men, women, and children who were taken from their lives and from those who loved them to be enslaved

in a foreign land; and also, the people to whom they belonged... whose lives were forever altered.”

The ceremony formed part of a broader programme of

engagements in New York focused on remembrance, justice, and advancing the global conversation on reparatory justice.



*President Mahama laying the wreath*

# My UN slavery resolution a pathway to healing, reparative justice — Mahama

**P**resident John Dramani Mahama has underlined the significance of his United Nations resolution aimed at recognising the trans-Atlantic slave trade as the gravest crime against humanity.

The resolution coincides with the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade on March 25.

It calls for global acknowledgement of the historical injustice of the slave trade and aims to lay a foundation for meaningful reparatory justice for Africa and the African diaspora.

The move also seeks to deepen international understanding of the slave trade's legacy of

inequality, racism and social injustice while contributing to healing and historical accountability.

The initiative has garnered support from regional bodies and countries, including the African Union, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and other countries.

Speaking at a high-level engagement in the United States on Tuesday, March 24, Mahama said the move is critical to restoring dignity and humanity to Africans and their descendants.

He also emphasised that the resolution serves as a safeguard against forgetting the atrocities suffered by millions over centuries.

“This resolution allows us to collectively remember more than 12.5 million men, women, and children whose homes,

communities, families, hopes, dreams, and lives were stolen over the course of 400 years.

It is a pathway to healing and reparative justice,” the President added.



President John Dramani Mahama

## We need to reclaim the dignity, humanity of Africans — Mahama on slave trade

**P**resident John Dramani Mahama has stressed the importance of his United Nations resolution seeking to recognise the trans-Atlantic slave trade as the gravest crime against humanity.

Speaking at a high-level engagement in the United States on Tuesday, March 24, the President highlighted the historical abuses and forced labour Africans endured over centuries.

He said the resolution is a critical step toward ensuring justice, healing, and global recognition of the atrocities inflicted on Africans.

“The attacks of the trans-Atlantic slave trade were designed to deny African people their humanity. In order to acknowledge an individual's humanity, we must respect their specific rights to dignity,” Mahama

said.

He further explained that the resolution seeks to honour the millions of Africans who suffered under slavery and its lasting social frameworks.

“This resolution allows us to

collectively remember more than 12.5 million men, women, and children whose homes, communities, families, hopes, and lives were stolen over the course of 400 years. It is a pathway to healing and reparative justice,” Mahama

added.

The President emphasized that the initiative is not only for Ghana but for the African diaspora worldwide, aiming to safeguard against forgetting and to promote equality, dignity, and historical truth.



President John Dramani Mahama

# Lincoln University withdraws 'gays' award for gay slayer Mahama

**L**incoln University in the United States has withdrawn plans to confer an honorary doctorate on President John Dramani Mahama following concerns over his perceived position on Ghana's Human Sexual Rights and Family Values Bill.

The decision comes just days before the scheduled conferment on Thursday, March 26.

In a statement issued from Washington, D.C., the Embassy of Ghana in the United States said preparations for the visit had been fully completed following extensive engagements between both parties.

"It is therefore both surprising and regrettable that, just hours ago, the Embassy received a communication from the University indicating that concerns had been raised by a group regarding President

Mahama's perceived position on Ghana's Human Sexual Rights and Family Values Bill," the statement read in part.

The Embassy noted that the concerns did not arise during earlier due diligence and vetting processes prior to the invitation.

"The timing of this development is deeply concerning, particularly as it arises after all arrangements have been concluded and with the President already in the United States," it added.

According to the statement, President Mahama had accepted the invitation in good faith and travelled to the U.S. in anticipation of the honour, which was to recognise his leadership and advocacy for reparative justice.

The Embassy further stressed that the issues raised relate to ongoing legislative processes in Ghana and should not be attributed to any single

individual.

The statement further reaffirmed President Mahama's commitment to democratic principles and inclusive dialogue.

The honour was intended to recognise Mr. Mahama's leadership and advocacy for reparative justice on the global stage.



President John Dramani Mahama

## 'Lincoln University should be ashamed' – Sam George on withdrawal of Mahama's honour

**L**ead sponsor of the Human Sexual Rights and Family Values Bill, popularly known as the anti-gay bill, Samuel Nartey George has criticised Lincoln University in the United States.

This comes after the university withdrew plans to confer an honorary doctorate on President John Dramani Mahama, citing concerns over his perceived stance on Ghana's Human Sexual Rights and Family Values Bill.

The decision was made just days before the scheduled conferment on Thursday, March 26.

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"It is therefore both surprising and regrettable that, just hours ago, the Embassy received a communication from the University indicating that concerns had been raised by a group regarding President Mahama's perceived position on Ghana's Human Sexual Rights and Family Values Bill," the statement read in part.

In a social media post on the same day, Sam George praised the President for not trading Ghanaian values for the honour.

The Ningo Prampram MP and Minister for Communications told the university to "bow their heads in shame."

"Our values cannot be diluted and bought by sinister forces on the prowl. The folks at

Lincoln University should bow their heads in shame. We are a proud nation and no one

should think they can dictate what happens in our nation," he wrote.



Minister for Communications, Samuel Nartey George

# Five in 10 SHS students aware of drug use on campus – Report

Findings from research conducted by the Ministry of Youth Development and Empowerment have revealed that five out of every 10 students in senior high schools across the country are aware of active narcotic drug use on campus.

The study noted that while these students, mostly between the ages of 14 and 15, are not necessarily drug users themselves, they are conscious of drug-related activities within their schools.

Additionally, seven out of 10 students in tertiary institutions were aware of active drug use on their campuses. The research further disclosed that 10 per cent of students knew

of heroin and cocaine use, 60 per cent were aware of Indian hemp (weed) consumption, and another 60 per cent acknowledged alcohol use among their peers.

Mr George Opare-Addo, Minister of Youth Development and Empowerment, made the disclosure when he appeared before Parliament's Governance Assurances Committee on Tuesday.

He explained that the National Youth Authority, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), is rolling out the "Red Means Stop" campaign to reorient the mindset of the youth against drug use.

In addition, a "Peace and Security" programme is being

implemented to avert violence on campuses and instill national patriotism among students.

The Minister emphasized that those who mostly indulged in drugs were often young people who have completed senior high school but struggling to secure meaningful employment.

Mr Opare-Addo assured Parliament that the Ministry was committed to tackling the menace through education, awareness campaigns, and empowerment programmes aimed at safeguarding the future of Ghana's youth.



Mr George Opare-Addo, Minister of Youth Development and Empowerment

# Stop converting factories into worship centres – Ogyeahoho Gyebi II to churches

**The President of the National House of Chiefs, Ogyeahoho Yaw Gyebi II, has called on faith-based organisations to shift their focus from converting industrial facilities into places of worship to establishing businesses that can generate employment.**

Speaking at the 30th anniversary launch of Village of Hope at Amasaman in the Greater Accra Region on Monday, he stressed the urgent need for religious institutions to contribute more directly to job creation amid rising economic challenges.

"Instead of buying factories and changing them into worship places, we should rather establish business places for people to get jobs to do," he said.

He warned that unemployment has become a major national concern and urged churches and other faith-based groups to use their influence and resources to create sustainable livelihood opportunities.

While acknowledging the role of Christian organisations in advancing education and healthcare, he noted that more attention must now be directed toward economic empowerment.

Ogyeahoho Gyebi II commended Village of Hope for its practical development approach, particularly its investment in vocational training for

abandoned and street connected children. He emphasised that equipping young people with employable skills is key to reducing poverty and social vulnerability.

"If we train people and give them the tools to work, they can earn a living," he said, praising the organisation's vocational institute for preparing beneficiaries for independence.

He also expressed concern about the conduct of some religious leaders, criticising what he described as the rise of charlatans and the growing commercialisation of religion. He cautioned against exploitation of congregants, false teachings, and extravagant lifestyles, urging religious leaders to return to humility and genuine service.

The traditional leader further called for a balance between religious practices and Ghanaian cultural values, warning that excessive Western influence is eroding traditional systems such as extended family support structures. He encouraged a revival of cultural practices that promote social cohesion and environmental stewardship.

The Group Managing Director of Village of Hope, Fred Asare, appealed for increased public and private support to sustain and expand the organisation's work with vulnerable children.

He disclosed that the orphanage currently cares for about 250 children, with more than 50 in university and over 40 in senior high school, placing significant financial strain on the institution.

"Our major challenge is financial because all the children we take care of, we do so for free. We need more help so we can help even more children," he said.

Founded in 1996 by three ministers of the Church of Christ, Village of Hope has grown from a single home supporting eight children into a comprehensive social intervention centre. Its operations now include residential homes, two babies' homes run in collaboration with the Department of Social Welfare, basic and senior high schools, a vocational training institute, and a 70-bed hospital.

Mr Asare highlighted the

organisation's impact over the past three decades, noting that thousands of orphaned and vulnerable children have been supported into independent adulthood, with many advancing to tertiary education.

He added that the institution's senior high school, Hope College, continues to record strong academic performance, while its vocational institute has trained more than 400 street-connected youth, equipping them with skills, tools, and start-up support.

"We don't just train them; we give them tools and capital so they don't return to the streets," he said.

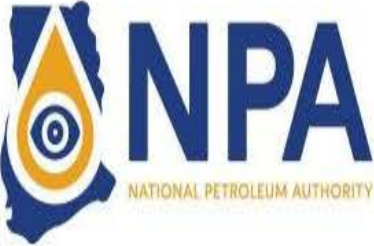
He emphasised the importance of tackling streetism through skills training and opportunity creation, stressing that vulnerable youth must be given viable alternatives to life on the streets.



President of the National House of Chiefs, Ogyeahoho Yaw Gyebi II

# PETROLEUM PRICE INDICATORS

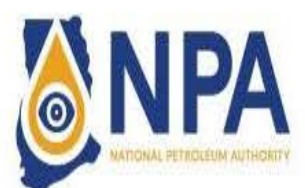
(As of 23rd March, 2026)

 <b>NPA</b> <small>NATIONAL PETROLEUM AUTHORITY</small>	<b>AVERAGE FOB PRICES FOR THE PERIOD 16TH - 31ST MARCH 2026 WINDOW (27TH FEBRUARY - 11TH MARCH 2026)</b>	<b>ESTIMATED AVERAGE FOR PRICES EFFECTIVE 1ST APRIL 2026 (12TH - 26TH MARCH 2026)</b>	<b>% CHANGE</b>
<b>FX Rate (Commercial Banks Average) (USD/GHS)</b>	<b>10.9133</b>	<b>11.0418</b>	<b>-1.16%</b>
<b>Crude Oil (USD/BBL)</b>	<b>86.55</b>	<b>108.93</b>	<b>25.86%</b>
<b>Petrol (USD/MT)</b>	<b>816.14</b>	<b>1016.95</b>	<b>24.61%</b>
<b>Gasoil (USD/MT)</b>	<b>1,021.61</b>	<b>1,323.89</b>	<b>29.59%</b>
<b>LPG (USD/MT)</b>	<b>625.28</b>	<b>855.39</b>	<b>36.80%</b>
<b>Jet/Kerosene (USD/MT)</b>	<b>1,290.11</b>	<b>1,650.70</b>	<b>27.95%</b>
<b>Fuel Oil (USD/MT)</b>	<b>516.94</b>	<b>624.75</b>	<b>20.85%</b>
<b>*Products figures represent the FOB Prices used in the Price Build-Up (PBU)</b>			

**Note:** "Oil Prices dropped about 11% after U.S President Donald Trump said he would postpone any military strikes against Iranian power plants for five days and cited constructive talks to resolve hostilities in the Middle East, hours before a deadline that threatened to escalate the four-week-old war." – Reuters

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# I never said Pwalugu Dam contractor was not paid – Energy Minister

**The Minister for Energy and Green Transition, Dr. John Abdulai Jinapor, has clarified claims circulating on social media regarding a comment he reportedly made about the Pwalugu Dam.**

Some news cards quote the minister as saying that the project's contractor has not been paid.

This, according to many, contradicts his earlier claim that the contractor was paid huge sums of money without any work done.

However, in a statement issued on Tuesday, March 24, the minister described the reports as false and misleading, emphasizing that they misrepresent his actual remarks before Parliament's Government Assurances Committee.

"My attention has been drawn to a publication circulating on some social media handles... which has been falsely attributed to remarks I allegedly made during my appearance before the Government Assurances

Committee of Parliament.

"I wish to state, in the clearest possible terms, that this publication is entirely false, misleading, and a gross misrepresentation of the facts," Dr. Jinapor said.

The minister explained that during the committee proceedings, which were broadcast live, he had clearly stated that the contractor had been paid but absconded with the funds without executing any corresponding work.

He also noted that the matter is under investigation and has been formally referred to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice for advice and possible prosecution.

He urged the public and media practitioners to verify information from credible sources before dissemination.

"The attempt to distort these facts is not only unfortunate but also undermines public discourse and confidence in the management of critical national issues," the minister said.

The Pwalugu Multipurpose Dam is a stalled \$1 billion infrastructural

project in Northern Ghana designed for irrigation, a 60MW hydropower plant, a 50MW solar component and portable water to surrounding communities. Initiated in 2019, the project was

intended to establish Ghana's largest irrigation scheme of about 25,000 hectares, but is currently delayed, with reports indicating the contractor has vacated the site.



*Minister for Energy and Green Transition, Dr. John Abdulai Jinapor*

# Efforts underway to safeguard evidence of slavery – Foreign Minister

**Ghana is taking a leading role in advancing reparatory justice and preserving the historical record of the trans-Atlantic slave trade, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa, has announced.**

Speaking at a high-level meeting on the issue at the United Nations Headquarters on Tuesday, March 24, the minister highlighted the need for global reflection on the atrocities of slavery.

"This high-level event offers us an opportunity for the global community to confront history with honesty, to honor the resilience of those who endured unimaginable suffering, and to reaffirm a shared commitment to reparatory justice and healing for Africans and people of African descent," Ablakwa said.

He further emphasized Ghana's role in driving international engagement on the issue, noting that the country has taken steps to document and preserve the historical evidence of slavery.

"Efforts are underway to recover archival records, leave testimonies, and safeguard material artifacts that bear witness to this history," he noted.

Meanwhile, President John Dramani Mahama has underlined the significance of his United Nations resolution aimed at recognising the trans-Atlantic slave trade as the gravest crime against humanity.

The resolution coincides with the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade on March 25.

It calls for global acknowledgement of the historical injustice of the slave trade and aims to lay a foundation for meaningful reparatory justice for Africa and the African diaspora.

The move also seeks to deepen international understanding of the slave trade's legacy of inequality, racism and social injustice while contributing to healing and historical accountability.

The initiative has garnered

support from regional bodies and countries, including the African Union, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and other countries.

Speaking at the high-level

engagement Mr. Mahama said the move is critical to restoring dignity and humanity to Africans and their descendants.



*Minister for Foreign Affairs, Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa*



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# Stalled Pwalugu Dam contractor run out of Ghana with funds – Energy Minister

**T**he Minister for Energy and Green Transition, John Jinapor, has disclosed that the Pwalugu Multipurpose Dam project has come to a halt after the contractor allegedly took funds and left the country without completing the work.

Appearing before Parliament's Assurances Committee on Tuesday, March 24, the Minister said the government is taking steps to revive the project despite the setback.

"We are considering the Pwalugu Dam; unfortunately, the contractor took the money and bolted, let me put it that way, and left Ghana," he stated.

Mr Jinapor indicated that the government is currently engaging the Ministry of Finance Ghana to secure fresh funding to continue the project. He, however, noted that Ghana's ongoing programme with the International Monetary

Fund has limited the country's ability to access external financing, unless such support comes in the form of grants.

The development raises fresh concerns about the future of the Pwalugu Dam, a flagship initiative expected to boost agriculture and energy supply in northern Ghana.

Launched in 2019 under a \$993 million Sinohydro agreement, the project was designed as a hydro solar hybrid system with the capacity to generate 60 megawatts of hydropower and 50 megawatts of solar energy. It was also intended to support all-year-round irrigation and help control flooding linked to spillage from the Bagre Dam.

Although the project was initially scheduled for completion in 2024, it remains stalled in 2026. The Ghana Irrigation Development Authority has previously indicated that about \$12 million has been spent on mobilisation and site preparation, but full scale construction has yet to begin.



*Minister for Energy and Green Transition, John Jinapor*

# Medical report confirms UENR student died of organophosphate poisoning

**A** medical report from the Sunyani Teaching Hospital has confirmed that Godfred Akomaning, a Level 400 student of the University of Energy and Natural Resources (UENR), died from organophosphate poisoning.

Organophosphate poisoning is a type of chemical poisoning that happens when a person is exposed to organophosphates—chemicals commonly found in some pesticides and insecticides.

The report indicated that the late Akomaning, who was pursuing a BSc in Petroleum Engineering, was receiving treatment at the facility on Saturday, March 21, 2026, before his death.

This was contained in a

statement issued by the university and signed by Mr Alfred Ohenenana Appiah, Deputy Registrar and Head of the University Relations Office. The statement noted that the family of the deceased had been duly informed of the tragic incident.

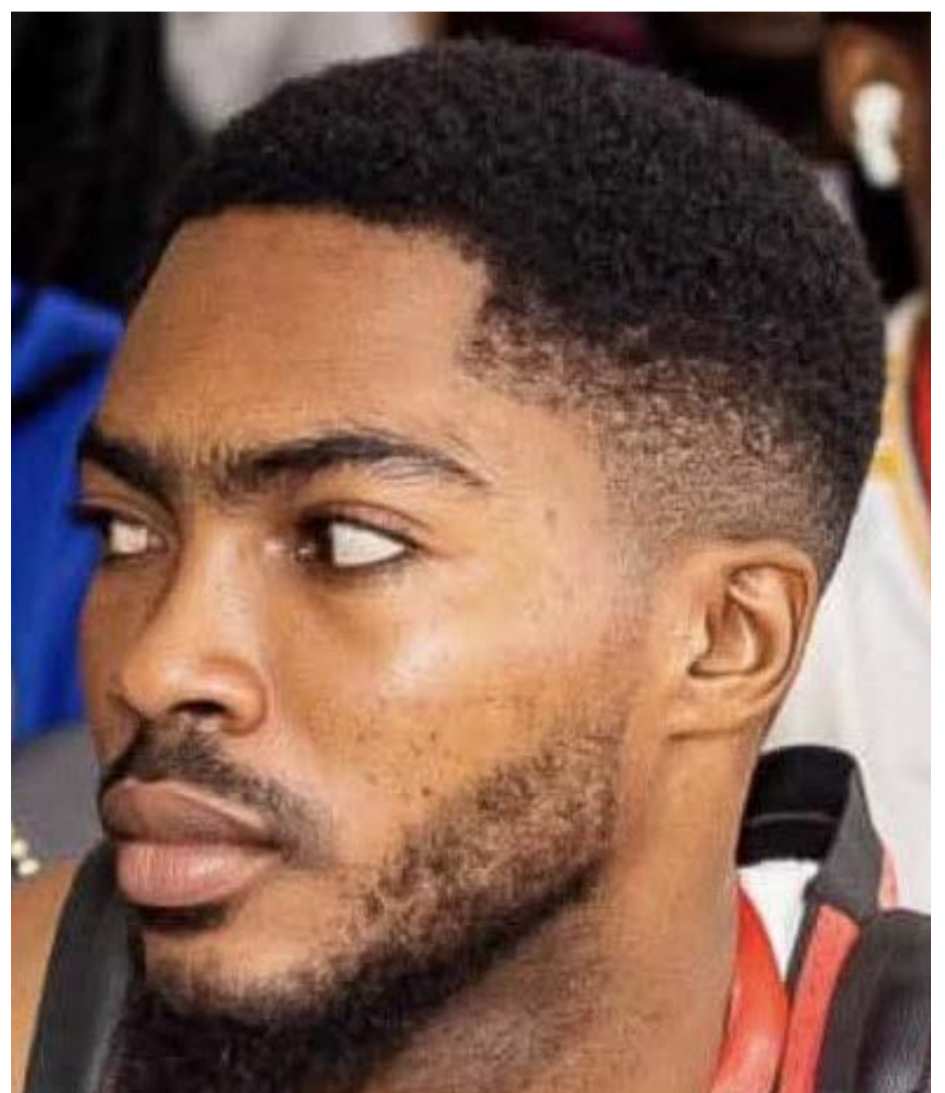
It added that the body has since been deposited at the Sefwi Anwiaso Community Hospital mortuary.

Describing the incident as unfortunate, the university management expressed deep sorrow and extended its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

The statement further indicated that management would conduct investigations into the circumstances surrounding the death and provide updates to the media and the public once all facts are established.

It reaffirmed the university's

commitment to ensuring a safe, secure, and supportive environment for students and staff.



*The late student of UENR, Godfred Akomaning*

# Stop charging young people recruitment fees – Senyo Hosi tells govt

**E**conomic policy analyst Senyo Hosi has criticised the practice of charging application fees to young Ghanaians seeking to join the country's security services, describing it as exploitative and unsustainable.

His comments come after reports that more than 500,000 applicants each paid GHC200 for a recruitment exercise expected to take in only about 5,000 people.

Speaking on Joy FM's current affairs programme, Newsfile, Mr Hosi said the situation had become a "social problem" and called on the government to immediately stop collecting money from job seekers.

He acknowledged efforts to modernise recruitment through digital systems, including the involvement of private firms such as TribeNet. But he argued that

the current model places an unfair financial burden on applicants.

"I am not saying TribeNet should stop providing services, but the state must own the infrastructure. We cannot keep charging these children," he said.

Mr Hosi added that rising unemployment and social pressure had sharply increased demand for security service jobs, making it necessary for government to rethink the system.

"When you see that pressure, you must adjust the model," he said.

He also pointed to the human cost of the policy, describing families who invest heavily in their children's education only to face further financial barriers when they seek employment.

"These are poor people," he said. "A farmer struggles to send a child to university hoping it leads to a job. The child graduates,

pays recruitment fees, and if unsuccessful, returns home still dependent on the parent. What was the point?"

Mr Hosi further criticised what he described as the lack of a clear, long-term policy to address unemployment, warning that broader economic proposals would have limited impact without tackling structural barriers.

"A 24-hour economy means nothing if you haven't unlocked the supply chain and the human potential in this economy," he said.

"If I am running a factory and I see demand, I will run 24 hours. But first, we need a system where a young person can actually afford to enter the workforce."



*Economic policy analyst Senyo Hosi*

# How politicians turned Bolgatanga-Bawku-Pulmakom road project into a 117-year election stunt

**F**or over a century, the people of Ghana's Upper East region have been waiting. Waiting for a road. Not just any road, but a road that was first laid out with human labor in 1909, during the era of British colonial rule. A road that, in 2026, remains unfinished. A road that has become the single greatest symbol of political betrayal in the Upper East region.

According to historian Mr. Christopher Azaare, the Bolgatanga-Bawku-Pulmakom Road has its origins in 1909, when British colonial administrators mobilized local chiefs to rally communities for its construction. That means this road predates Ghana's independence by nearly five decades. Yet here we are, 117 years later, and the road still has not seen the light of day. He made the revelation in an exclusive engagement with Ngamegbulam Chidozie Stephen of Apexnewsgh during a segment dubbed SpeakOut Upper East(SoUE).

This is not simply a story about poor infrastructure. It is a story about a region that has been systematically failed by the very people entrusted to serve it.

Since the return of democratic governance in 1992, the Bolgatanga-Bawku-Pulmakom

Road has been recycled as a campaign promise by successive governments. Both the New Patriotic Party (NPP) and the National Democratic Congress (NDC) have made it a fixture in their manifestos, a crowd-pleasing pledge rolled out at every election cycle to win the hearts of Upper East voters.

The pattern is painfully predictable. A party campaigns on completing the road. They win power. They do a little work on it. Then funding dries up, contractors abandon the site, and the road becomes "a story for another day." The next government inherits the same road, the same promise, and the same cycle of disappointment begins again.

In 2016, the NDC government commenced construction with funding from the Road Fund, but the project stalled before they left office. The NPP administration that followed continued the work, only for contractors to once again leave the site due to a lack of funding. As of 2026, construction remains stalled.

What makes this situation particularly troubling is the attitude of some politicians toward those who dare to demand accountability. Journalists and citizens who raise the issue of the Bolgatanga-Bawku-Pulmakom

Road are often branded as NPP or NDC sympathizers, a tactic that silences legitimate voices and shields politicians from scrutiny.

This deliberate politicization of development is not just irresponsible. It is a betrayal of the people of the Upper East region. When those in positions of authority treat development as a political weapon rather than a civic duty, it is the ordinary people who suffer, navigating dangerous, deteriorating roads year after year while their leaders trade promises for votes.

The Upper East region is not a battleground for political point-scoring. It is home to real people with real needs, people who deserve the same quality

of infrastructure enjoyed by citizens in other parts of Ghana.

President John Dramani Mahama and the current NDC government must act decisively. Contractors who have abandoned the Bolgatanga-Bawku-Pulmakom Road must be recalled to site. Funding must be secured and protected. And this project must be completed, not as a political gesture, but as a matter of justice owed to a people who have waited 117 years too long.

A road that was started in 1909 should not still be making headlines in 2026 for all the wrong reasons. The people of the Upper East region deserve better. And it is long past time they got it.



*The delayed Bolgatanga-Bawku-Pulmakom road project*

# Bawumia to deliver keynote address on AI and Africa's integration at LSE 2026 Africa Summit

**2028** flagbearer of the New Patriotic Party, Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia, is set to deliver a keynote address at the 2026 Africa Summit of the London School of Economics on Saturday, March 28.

The summit will focus on Africa's future, bringing together policymakers, academics, students and industry players to discuss key issues shaping the continent.

Dr Bawumia will speak on the theme, "Artificial Intelligence and Uniting Borders in Africa".

In his speech, the former Vice President is expected to outline how emerging technologies can support economic growth and regional integration.

A statement released on Tuesday, March 24, and signed by his spokesperson, Gideon Boako, noted that the former Vice President is expected to present a forward-looking vision on the role of artificial intelligence in transforming African economies.

The summit is also expected to provide a platform for dialogue on innovation, cross-border collaboration and policy direction across the continent.



*Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia*

**BUSINESS NEWS**

## Govt raises GH¢3.26 billion in treasury bill auction amid strong demand

**T**he Government of Ghana has raised GH¢3.26 billion in its latest Treasury Bill auction, supported by robust investor demand.

Results released by the Bank of Ghana show that total bids reached GH¢3.73 billion across the 91 day, 182 day, and 364-day instruments under Tender 1999 held on March 19, 2026.

The 91-day bill attracted the highest interest, receiving GH¢2.23 billion in bids, out of which GH¢1.77 billion was accepted.

The 182-day bill recorded GH¢667.12 million in tenders, with the entire amount accepted.

Likewise, the 364 day bill saw bids of GH¢831.41 million, all of which were taken up.

According to the central bank, the weighted average interest rates for the week ending March 27, 2026, stood at 4.7252 per cent for the 91 day bill, 6.5655 per cent for the 182 day bill, and 8.7448 per cent for the 364 day bill.



# World Bank secures \$20million grant to address tomato supply disruptions in Ghana

**T**he World Bank has secured a \$20 million grant from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs to help Ghana mitigate the impact of a potential tomato shortage.

said the initiative will focus on strengthening supply systems, improving storage, and boosting local production.

She noted that the programme will be implemented in collaboration with local tomato traders to ensure targeted and effective interventions.

The intervention follows an export ban by Burkina Faso, a major supplier of tomatoes to Ghana, which has disrupted supply chains and raised fears of shortages and rising market prices.

Speaking at a World Bank and civil society organisations engagement on food security in Accra, Agricultural Economist Ashwini Sebastian

“Our colleagues from the Dutch embassy will come in. We have been able to leverage that small grant to get a \$20 million grant for tomato interventions in Ghana from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and so we are in the phase of designing that intervention.

“We will reach out to the tomato association more

because we have been having some debates about location

and trying to cluster the intervention,” she said.



# Big Push: Local road contractors were selected based on proven competence, experience, ability to deliver – Minister

**M**inister for Roads and Highways Kwame Agbodza has forcefully dismissed allegations of impropriety in the award of contracts under the government’s ‘Big Push’ road infrastructure programme, insisting that every deal followed due process and complied fully with procurement laws.

His response comes on the back of a yet-to-be-published report by The Fourth Estate, which was previewed on Facebook under the title “The Sole Source Factory.”

In a strongly worded statement, the Minister stressed that all projects under the initiative were subjected to parliamentary scrutiny and approval.

“Let me state unequivocally that all projects under the programme have been duly approved by Parliament as part of multi-year expenditure commitments. All procurement processes have been conducted in strict adherence to the Public Procurement Act and its accompanying regulations. Contractual information is not concealed,” he stated.

He further revealed that the programme enjoys firm backing from both Parliament and the Ministry of Finance Ghana, with significant financial commitments already secured.

“In 2025, Parliament approved GH¢13.8 billion for major road projects. The 2026 Budget allocated an additional GH¢30 billion for strategic roads and bridges, as well as support for rural and agricultural access roads,” he noted, adding that the multi year funding structure is designed to ensure continuity and steady execution across regions.

Addressing concerns about the procurement approach, the Minister explained that most contracts were awarded through restrictive tendering to fast track project delivery without compromising standards.

He disclosed that comprehensive engineering groundwork preceded the procurement phase, including feasibility assessments and Seal of Quality and Commitment Authorization for each project.

According to him, contractors were selected based on strict technical and operational benchmarks, including proven track record, financial

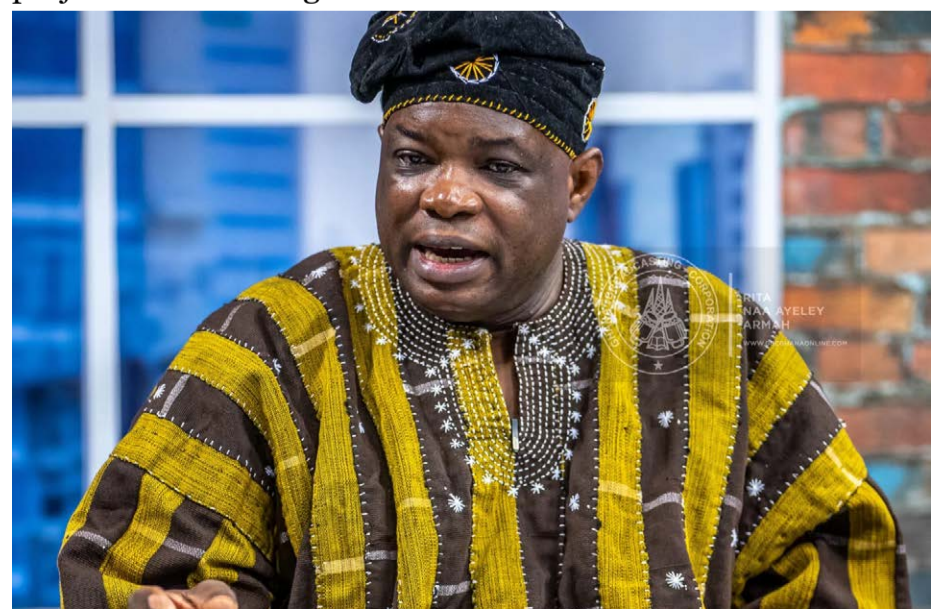
strength, equipment capacity, and the ability to mobilise quickly, particularly on projects located near their existing sites.

“Contractors were selected based on their proven competence, experience, and ability to deliver projects efficiently within tight timeframes. Priority was given to firms with a strong track record and sufficient resources to mobilise quickly,” he explained.

To guarantee value for money, the Minister said independent assessments were carried out by the Ghana Institution of Surveyors to ensure that project costs align with

expected outcomes.

He also emphasised that the initiative deliberately prioritises Ghanaian contractors as part of efforts to strengthen local capacity within the construction sector. Out of the 16 contracts awarded across five regions, 14, valued at over GH¢6 billion, have been handed to local firms. These include Murisco Ltd, Kojo Job Company Ltd, Arab Contractors Ghana Ltd, Kingspok Company Limited, Oswal Investments Ltd, Hatfast Ltd, Serengeti Construction Ltd, Ashcal Investment Ltd, and Mmanab Company Ltd.



Minister for Roads and Highways Kwame Agbodza

# 2026 World Cup: Otto Addo has the authority to decide if Andre Ayew will make Black Stars squad - Sports Minister

**M**inister for Sports and Recreation Kofi Adams says a potential return for André Ayew to the Black Stars squad for the 2026 FIFA World Cup would not come as a surprise, but insists the decision ultimately rests with the technical team.

Ayew has not featured for Ghana since the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations in Côte d'Ivoire, where the Black Stars were eliminated at the group stage. His absence has since sparked debate, particularly following his return to club football in Europe.

After spending six months without a club following his departure from Le Havre AC, the 36-year-old recently signed for NAC Breda, his move has reignited calls for his inclusion in the national team

ahead of the upcoming global showpiece.

Speaking to Graphic Sports, Adams acknowledged the growing conversation but distanced himself from selection matters.

“Fortunately, I’m the minister. Unfortunately, I’m not the coach. The coach has a final say on this; If they include him, why not? I won’t be surprised.”

Ayew has been omitted from Ghana’s squad for this month’s international friendlies against Austria and Germany, raising further questions about his standing in the team.

Since joining NAC Breda as a free agent, the former captain has made 11 appearances, scoring once. Despite modest numbers, there remains strong support among sections of fans for his reintegration, given his

experience and long-standing influence within the squad.

Ayew remains Ghana’s most capped player and has been a central figure for over a decade,

representing the country at multiple AFCON tournaments and on the world stage at the FIFA World Cup.



*André Ayew*

# Brandon Thomas-Asante disappointed after missing out on Austria, Germany friendlies due to injury

**B**lack Stars forward Brandon Thomas-Asante has expressed disappointment after being forced to withdraw from Ghana’s squad for the March international window due to injury.

The Coventry City striker will miss the games against Austria and Germany after picking up a knock in their win against Swansea City.

Reacting to the setback, Thomas-Asante admitted that missing out on national team duty was difficult.

“Frustrating to miss out on camp with the team, which is always an honour I hold highly,” the 25-year-old said.

The forward added that the decision to withdraw was made in consultation

with both Ghana’s medical team and his club, with priority placed on his fitness ahead of a crucial period.

“Upon collaborative advice of both Ghana and Coventry, I’ll focus on maintaining fitness for an important few months for both club and country.”

Thomas-Asante’s absence is a blow to the Black Stars, who are using the friendly matches to prepare for upcoming competitions, including the 2026 World Cup.

Meanwhile, all invited players invited for the games are currently in camp in Vienna. The Black Stars will take on Austria on Friday, March 27, before flying to play Germany on Monday, March 30.



*Black Stars forward Brandon Thomas-Asante*

# I am ready to 'hand back' AFCON medals – Angry Senegal midfielder



Senegal midfielder Idrissa Gueye (left)

**S**enegal midfielder Idrissa Gueye has expressed his frustration following CAF's controversial decision to strip Senegal of their 2026 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) title, calling the move "just ridiculous."

Senegal, who defeated Morocco 1-0 after extra time in the final on January 18, were officially removed as champions by the Appeals Committee of the Confederation of African Football (CAF).

The decision followed an upheld appeal from the Fédération Royale

Marocaine de Football (FRMF), challenging the outcome of the final in which the Teranga Lions initially secured the victory over the Atlas Lions.

CAF ruled that Senegal's 17-minute walk-off during the final—prompted by a stoppage-time penalty awarded to Morocco—constituted a breach of tournament regulations.

Article 82 of the AFCON rules states that any team refusing to continue play or leaving the field before the referee's authorisation is automatically considered the loser and eliminated from the competition.

As a result, Morocco have

been declared champions with a 3-0 scoreline, claiming their first AFCON title in 50 years.

Speaking to Canal+ on Saturday after Everton's 3-0 Premier League win over Chelsea, Gueye defended the team's on-field achievement.

"I personally commit to collecting the medals and maybe giving them back to Morocco if that can ease tensions between the two countries," Gueye said.

"It's just ridiculous... a football match is won on the pitch, that's what we did in Morocco."

In a surprising offer aimed at easing diplomatic

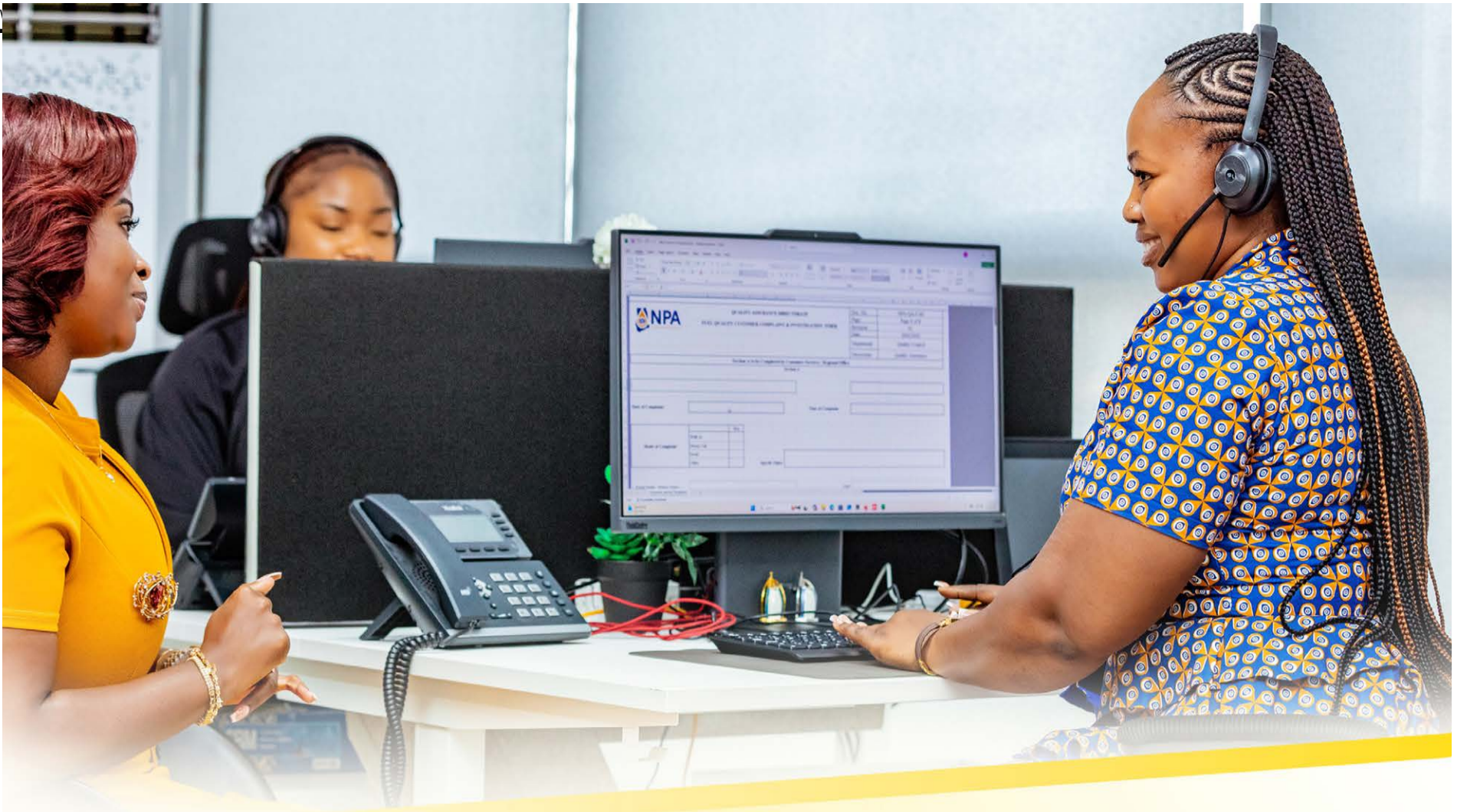
tensions, Gueye added, "We did what we had to do on the pitch, we won that match.

"We deserve to be African champions. We are the African champions as far as we're concerned. Titles are won on the pitch, not in offices.

"The midfielder also criticized the idea of appealing CAF's decision.

"If it were up to me, I would have told the federation not to appeal," he said.

Meanwhile, Senegal has confirmed that they will file for an appeal at the Court of Arbitration for Sports (CAS).



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