

# THE MODERN GUIDE

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Ofoase-Ayirebi MP, Kojo Oppong Nkrumah

Nsawam-Adoagyiri MP, Frank Annoh-Dompreh

## Mahama warns Middle East tensions could trigger economic shocks for Africa



President John Dramani Mahama

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# NPP combs forests for more cocoa farmers to stage protests

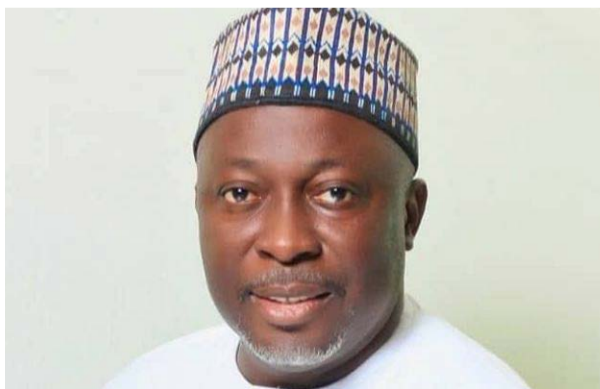
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# NPP combs forests for more cocoa farmers to stage protests



Ofoase-Ayirebi MP, Kojo Oppong Nkrumah

Opposition New Patriotic Party lawmakers have launched a high-profile tour of cocoa farms, seeking to rally farmers against recent reductions in producer prices, which they say unfairly burden those already grappling with rising input costs and household expenses.

The visit comes in the wake of recent reductions in cocoa producer prices, a decision by the Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD) that has sparked widespread frustration among farmers. President John Dramani Mahama and COCOBOD have justified the adjustment as a response to falling global cocoa prices and financial constraints in the sector.

Leading the effort, Minority Chief Whip Frank Annoh-Dompreh has guided members of the Minority Caucus through key cocoa-growing communities in the Eastern Region, engaging directly with farmers to discuss the impact of government policy.

Describing the price cuts as a “rip-off,” Mr. Annoh-Dompreh insisted that cocoa producers should not bear the full brunt of global market fluctuations. He argued that rather than lowering the producer price, the government ought to consider targeted interventions to cushion farmers and safeguard the cocoa sector.

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“The farmers are the backbone of this industry. Reducing their earnings without support is unacceptable,” he told residents, emphasizing that the opposition is committed to advocating for policies that protect their livelihoods.

Accompanying the Minority Chief Whip on the tour are prominent lawmakers including Kwabena Okyere Darko Mensah, Kojo Oppong Nkrumah, Isaac Yaw Opoku, Michael Aidoo, Seth Osei-Akoto, Samuel Awuku, Ida Adjoa Asiedu, Laurette Korkor Asante, Alexander Akwasi Acquah, Charles Asuako Owiredu, Alexander Agyare, Davis Opoku Ansah, Gideon Boako, and Rudolf Amoako-Gyampah.

The Member of Parliament for Ofoase-Ayirebi and Ranking Member on Parliament’s Economy and Development Committee, Kojo Oppong Nkrumah, has vowed a relentless parliamentary campaign to secure what he describes as the rightful earnings of cocoa farmers, insisting that the Minority will pursue justice “even if it takes years” to restore what is owed.

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area, which they attributed to increased imports undermining local demand.

Speaking during an engagement with farmers in Akyekrom, a cocoa-producing community within his constituency, Mr. Oppong Nkrumah underscored the Minority’s commitment to defending farmers’ livelihoods as part of a broader tour of cocoa-growing areas in the Eastern Region.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Oppong Nkrumah noted that he had previously met with farmers privately, hearing firsthand their deep frustration over the current pricing regime and delayed payments. He said the public meeting with his Minority colleagues was designed to formally listen, assess the situation on the ground, and reassure farmers that their grievances would be forcefully represented in Parliament.

Farmers at the meeting detailed ongoing financial hardships, reporting that government announcements about disbursed funds had not translated into actual payments at the farm gate. Several claimed they had yet to receive monies officially stated as already released, highlighting delays within the payment system.

Others raised broader economic concerns, including

unsold rice stocks in the

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In response, Mr. Oppong Nkrumah affirmed that the Minority Caucus would hold the government accountable and demand transparency in cocoa payments and related support measures. He stressed that the advocacy was not a short-term political maneuver but a long-term commitment to protect farmer livelihoods and ensure fairness across the cocoa value chain.

“Even if it takes years, we shall fight for what is due you,” he told the farmers, earning resounding applause.

The Minority delegation, continuing its tour of cocoa-producing communities in the Eastern Region, pledged to maintain ongoing engagement with farmers and elevate their concerns at the national level. The caucus emphasised that cocoa farmers remain vital to Ghana’s economic stability and deserve predictable pricing, timely payments, and policies that safeguard their incomes.



Nsawam-Adoagyiri MP, Frank Annoh-Dompreh

unsold rice stocks in the

# Akwatia rejected Baba Jamal wins Ayawaso East by-election

**The Ayawaso East parliamentary seat has returned to the National Democratic Congress (NDC) after voters handed Baba Jamal a decisive win in Tuesday's by-election.**

The contest, organised to replace the late Mahama Naser Toure who died in January, drew national attention but unfolded quietly across polling centres in the constituency. By the close of polls and the final collation of results, Baba Jamal had secured a commanding lead over his closest rival, Baba Ali of the New Patriotic Party, along with three other contenders.

Official figures show that Baba Jamal obtained 10,884 votes. Yusif Ali Baba polled 4,009 votes, Mohammed Umar Sanda received 1,885 votes, Kanor David secured 104 votes, and Ibrahim Idrissu recorded 43 votes. Out of 17,048 ballots cast, 16,928 were deemed valid while 120 were rejected.

The outcome mirrors forecasts released ahead of the election, which suggested a comfortable advantage for the NDC candidate following a constituency-wide survey. The projections had indicated a

wide gap between Baba Jamal and his competitors, a trend ultimately reflected in the final tally.

Despite the political significance of the race, turnout remained low at many polling stations. The process, however, was peaceful, with electoral officials and security personnel maintaining order throughout the day.

Akwatia rejections

Before his recent return to Parliament, Baba Jamal's political journey was largely defined by his long and determined pursuit of the Akwatia seat in the Eastern Region.

Akwatia was never an easy constituency. For years, it remained fiercely contested between the National Democratic Congress and the New Patriotic Party, often swinging in tightly fought elections. Baba Jamal entered that arena early, but victory did not come quickly. He made several attempts to capture the seat and faced repeated defeats at the hands of the NPP in what became one of the more competitive parliamentary battlegrounds in the country.

His breakthrough finally came in the 2012 general elections. After four attempts,

he succeeded in wresting the seat from the incumbent NPP Member of Parliament, Dr Kofi Adu Asare. That victory marked a turning point, not only in his career but also in the political history of Akwatia, which had seen intense rivalry between the two major parties.

Following his 2012 win, Baba Jamal entered the Sixth Parliament of the Fourth Republic, serving from January 2013 to January 2017. During that period, he also held roles in government, including appointments as Deputy Minister for Local Government and Rural Development and later Deputy Minister for Employment and Labour Relations.

However, his hold on Akwatia proved short-lived. In the 2016 general elections, he lost the seat to the NPP candidate

Mercy Ama Sey. The defeat was decisive and returned the constituency to the NPP. The campaign leading to that election had been heated, and his remarks about his opponent became a subject of public discussion.

After the 2016 loss, Baba Jamal stepped away from contesting Akwatia again. His mother's advice, which he has publicly acknowledged, influenced that decision. Rather than remain locked in the same battleground, he shifted his political focus while staying active within the NDC and later serving in diplomatic roles.

His journey through Akwatia reflects a political career shaped by resilience, breakthrough success, and electoral defeat, all within one of Ghana's most competitive constituencies.



MP-elect for Ayawaso East, Baba Jamal

## NDC support surges dramatically to 40%, NPP dips – Global InfoAnalytics

**The ruling National Democratic Congress has experienced a striking surge in popular support since the 2024 general elections, according to Mussa Dankwah, Executive Director of Global InfoAnalytics.**

Speaking on JoyNews on Tuesday, Mr. Dankwah highlighted polling data that shows a significant realignment of party loyalties, suggesting a deepening advantage for the NDC over its main rival.

Deputy National Youth Organizer of the NDC, Osman Ayariga, had previously asserted that the party's appeal has grown so strong that, if a by-election were held today even in a traditional New Patriotic Party stronghold, the NDC would emerge victorious.

On the shift in support, Mr. Dankwah explained: "I wouldn't use the word attractive as a

pollster but the numbers show that those who openly say they are NDC has gone up quite sharply than the 2024 data.

"So what we've seen from the data is as at October 2024, people who openly say they are NPP was about 37%. And those who say openly NDC 33%. So NPP had 4 point advantage, 2024 before the elections. After the elections, averagely NDC around 40%, self-identified NDC sympathizers and NPP is around 28/29 percent."

The data comes as the Ayawaso East by-election takes place across 113 polling stations to elect a new Member of Parliament following the death of sitting MP Mahama Naser Toure in January 2026. Over 40,000 registered voters were expected to participate, though early reports indicate generally low turnout, with many polling stations experiencing sparse queues throughout the

day.

The by-election features a high-stakes contest between Baba Jamal of the NDC and Baba Ali of the New Patriotic Party, with Independent candidate Umaru Sanda Muhammed, who defected from the NDC, as well as Ibrahim Idrissu and David Kunor also on the ballot.

A recent survey by Global InfoAnalytics forecasts a commanding victory for Baba

Jamal, projecting a 75 per cent share of the vote, though final results will determine the true outcome of the tightly watched race.

The emerging trend signals a reshaping of Ghana's political landscape, reflecting growing confidence in the NDC and challenging the traditional dominance of the NPP in certain constituencies.



# Akufo-Addo-Bawumia regime was the most 'azaa' in Ghana's history – Gbande

**Deputy General Secretary of the National Democratic Congress, Mustapha Gbande, has launched a blistering critique of the eight year administration of former President Nana Akufo-Addo, describing the period as one defined by deep-rooted misgovernance and systemic abuse of state resources.**

Speaking to the media on the sidelines of the Ayawaso East by-election, Gbande rejected suggestions that his comments were politically motivated.

"It is not propaganda, it is not politics," Gbande stated.

He accused the Akufo-Addo administration of presiding over what he described as unprecedented governance failures.

"President Akufo-Addo led the most fraudulent regime in terms of governance. From the haircut, dams, one district, one factory, one village, one dam...all of these syndicates, Ponzi schemes,

and looting in state institutions deprived the nation."

Gbande argued that the consequences of those years remain firmly etched in the public consciousness, regardless of whether prosecutions have followed.

He linked this sentiment directly to the decisive defeat suffered by the New Patriotic Party in the 2024 general elections, which ended its hold on power after eight years. According to him, the loss reflected a collective judgement by voters on economic hardship, unmet promises and alleged corruption.

He said attempts by figures from the previous government to downplay accountability issues would not erase public memory. "They can stand on the streets, saying they haven't been arrested, but in the conscience of the people, no political dividend will come from the fraud and mismanagement," he added.

Gbande maintained that elections in Ghana consistently mirror the moral judgement of the electorate, insisting that the

2024 polls were no exception.

"The conscience of this country reflects in every election, and the electorate will not forget," he said.

His remarks underscore the

NDC's position that the electoral rejection of the NPP was not accidental, but a direct response to years of public dissatisfaction with governance under the Akufo-Addo administration.



*Deputy General Secretary of NDC, Mustapha Gbande*

## ORAL: We have to build the country first before chasing thieves – Gbande

**Deputy General Secretary of the ruling National Democratic Congress (NDC), Mustapha Gbande, has responded to growing public concerns over the apparent slow pace of Operation Recover All Loot, widely known as ORAL, amid questions about why no high-profile prosecutions have yet been secured.**

ORAL was launched as a key anti-corruption initiative aimed at investigating and recovering state funds allegedly misappropriated under the previous administration.

The programme generated significant public interest and expectations, particularly among supporters who anticipated swift arrests, prosecutions and asset recovery. However, months after its introduction, critics argue that visible outcomes have been limited, fuelling debate over whether the process is moving too slowly. Addressing the issue, Gbande suggested that governance requires balancing competing national priorities.

"There are two schools of thought," Gbande explained.

"One says when you change the government, lives have not stopped; children are growing, people are getting pregnant.

"You have to protect lives and build the nation.

"On the other hand, chasing

thieves is important, but prioritizing the country's stability is crucial."

He stressed that while accountability remains a central objective of the initiative, it cannot overshadow the broader responsibility of maintaining economic and social stability.

"For us, it is all important, but the stability of this country

comes first," Gbande said.

Gbande's remarks signal the party's position that ORAL remains active, but must proceed within a framework that safeguards national cohesion and development rather than disrupts it.



*Deputy General Secretary of NDC, Mustapha Gbande*

# Afenyo-Markin dragged to privileges committee over security recruitment claims

The First Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Bernard Ahiafor, has directed that the Minority Leader, Osahen Alexander Afenyo Markin, be referred to the Privileges Committee after a formal complaint was lodged by the Interior Minister, Muntaka Mohammed Mubarak.

The action stems from accusations that the Minority Leader characterised the ongoing security recruitment exercise as a scam and alleged that the engagement of a third-party IT firm had imposed excessive financial burdens on applicants.

Announcing the decision on the floor of Parliament on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, Bernard Ahiafor clarified that the referral does not amount to a finding of wrongdoing.

“The fact that this matter has been referred to the privileges does not mean that the person is guilty. That is why I said all suspects are supposed to be deemed innocent.

“I am not pronouncing on the guilt of the Minority Leader or

otherwise. I am not. And it is not the responsibility at this stage to do so. It is the responsibility of the committee to make that recommendation to the House,” he stated.

In his reaction, the Minority Leader welcomed the referral and urged that the proceedings be conducted in the open. He indicated his readiness to personally appear before the committee to defend his statements.

“Honourable Minister of Interior, I am not too sure you want us to pursue this matter. I repeat, because you and I know what we know. Let the referral be made, let there be a public hearing. Let Afenyo-Markin, who these days is seen as perhaps, according to the allegation, saying something untruthful, and because of that, it is a breach of parliamentary privilege. Mr Speaker, you have the wisdom to exercise discretion.

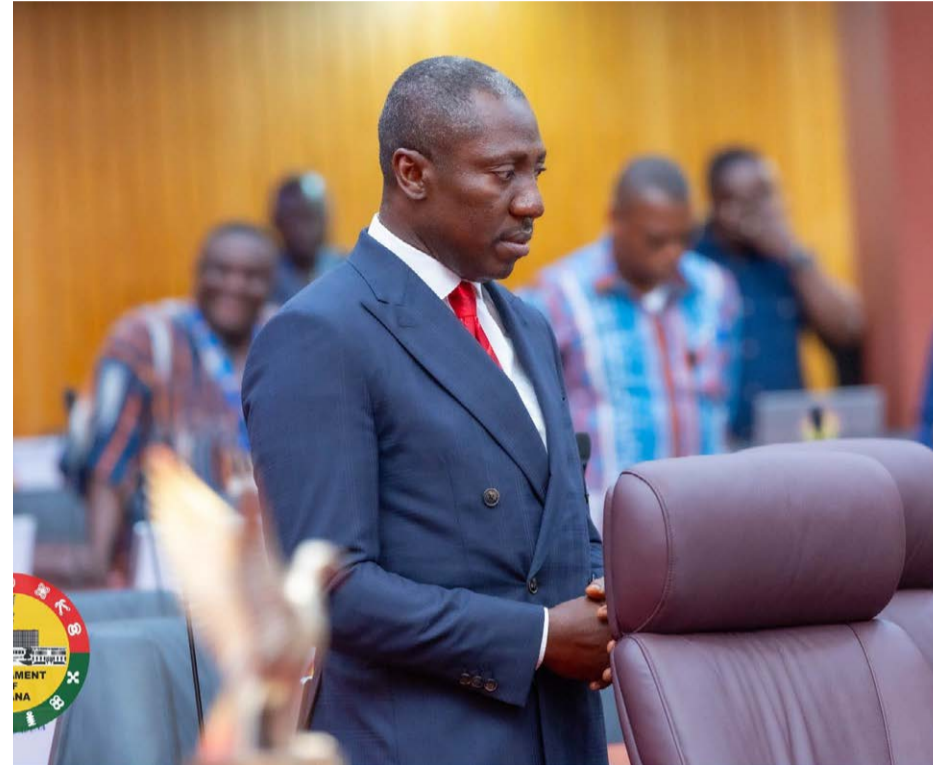
“I will avail myself, should you exercise that discretion, to a public hearing, and then the matter can be brought to a peaceful rest,” he emphasised.

The Majority Leader, Mahama

Ayariga, dismissed what he described as attempts by the opposition to manufacture controversy to damage the government’s image.

He cautioned that should Afenyo

Markin fail to substantiate his claims, members of the Majority would press for firm disciplinary action against him.



Minority Leader, Osahen Alexander Afenyo Markin

# ‘Ghana not at war, stop using Middle East tensions to justify higher fuel prices and economic difficulties’ – Opoku Mensah slams Mahama

Yaw Opoku Mensah of the New Patriotic Party has mounted a sharp attack on the government over claims that Ghana’s economic difficulties could be worsened by escalating tensions involving the United States and Israel against Iran, describing such arguments as misleading and alarmist.

He rejected outright the suggestion that events in the Middle East have any meaningful impact on Ghana’s economic performance, insisting that the narrative is being used to deflect attention from domestic shortcomings. According to him, linking Ghana’s internal economic pressures to overseas hostilities amounts to an attempt to shift responsibility away from governance failures.

“The war has no bearing on us as a nation. Ghana is not at war, and no global crisis has ever economically derailed us,” he said.

He further cautioned against what he sees as a deliberate attempt to condition the public to accept worsening conditions.

“We do not expect President

John Dramani Mahama and his government to use a distant conflict as an excuse for domestic incompetence or to justify higher fuel prices and economic difficulties.”

Mensah accused pro government communicators of amplifying fears of a looming crisis in order to psychologically prepare citizens for hardship. He argued that past global disruptions with far more direct consequences for Ghana did not receive similar justification for economic setbacks.

“If the devastation of COVID-19, with total lockdowns and closed borders worldwide, was not accepted as the reason for our economic woes, why should a distant conflict thousands of miles away suddenly justify fear at home?” he challenged.

He cited the Russia-Ukraine war, which affected Ghanaian nationals and reportedly led to the loss of more than 50 Ghanaian lives, yet was not widely accepted as a legitimate explanation for severe economic strain at home. In his view, the present Middle East tensions are even more remote from Ghana’s immediate economic realities.

While acknowledging the global

significance of the Strait of Hormuz as a key oil transit route, Mensah dismissed projections that oil prices could surge to between \$100 and \$200 per barrel as speculative and insufficient grounds for public alarm. He maintained that hypothetical scenarios should not be weaponised to justify domestic price hikes.

Drawing a comparison with the tenure of former President Nana Akufo Addo, he argued that previous global oil price spikes did not automatically translate into crippling economic shocks in Ghana.

“These are purely speculative numbers that may only marginally affect grocery bills, transport fares and utilities,” Mensah said. “The conflict is far away. For Ghanaians, petrol stations are not being hit by distant missiles.”

He ended by urging the government to focus on internal reforms and practical solutions rather than attributing economic challenges to foreign conflicts.

“Stop using Middle East wars as justification for anything else. The war does not affect us,” he stressed.



Yaw Opoku Mensah

# Vote out National Executives seeking re-election – Musah Superior urges NPP delegates

**F**ormer Tamale Mayor and leading member of the opposition New Patriotic Party (NPP), Iddrisu Musah Superior, has urged party delegates to vote against all national executives seeking re-election ahead of the party's internal polls.

The NPP's reorganisation timeline begins with membership registration at polling stations from March 1 to March 31.

Verification is expected from April 1 to April 14, followed by polling station elections from May 10 to May 16.

Electoral area elections are slated for June, constituency elections in July, regional and branch elections in August, with the national delegates conference fixed for September 18 to September 20.

The current General Secretary,

Justin Frimpong Koduah, is seeking re-election, while National Organiser Henry Nana Boakye is reportedly contesting the First Vice Chairman position.

However, in an opinion article sighted by ModernGhana News, Musah Superior argued that the current leadership has failed to reposition the party after its 2024 election defeat and should not be retained.

According to him, the party must chart a new course.

“Vote out NPP National Executives seeking re-election. They have run out of steam,” he stated.

He asserted that leadership fatigue, weak grassroots mobilisation and poor strategic direction have crippled the party's effectiveness as an opposition force.

The one-time General Secretary aspirant argued that continuity, in the face of what he describes as persistent underperformance, would only deepen stagnation and weaken the party's chances

in the 2028 general elections.

Musah Superior said internal democracy must be strengthened through competitive leadership renewal anchored on merit, competence and accountability.

He stressed that electoral performance remains the ultimate test of party leadership, stressing that executives must be judged by their ability to build strong structures, mobilise supporters and win power.

“We must win 2028. To achieve this, we ought to build a strong party led by the most remarkable people as National Executives,” he added.

He further commended Acting National Chairman, Danquah-Smith Butey, for admitting the party fell short of expectations and for announcing his decision to step down in September 2026.



Leading member of NPP, Iddrisu Musah Superior

# Afenyo-Markin vows to face privileges committee, demands public hearing over security recruitment claims

**M**inority Leader, Osahen Alexander Afenyo Markin has expressed his willingness to face the Privileges Committee to defend his claims over the ongoing security recruitment exercise.

The First Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Bernard Ahafor, has directed that the Minority Leader be referred to the Privileges Committee after a formal complaint was lodged by the Interior Minister, Muntaka Mohammed Mubarak.

The action stems from accusations that the Minority Leader characterised the ongoing security recruitment exercise as a scam and alleged that the engagement of a third-party IT firm had imposed excessive financial burdens on applicants.

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The Majority Leader, Mahama Ayariga, dismissed what he described as attempts by the opposition to manufacture controversy to damage the government's image.

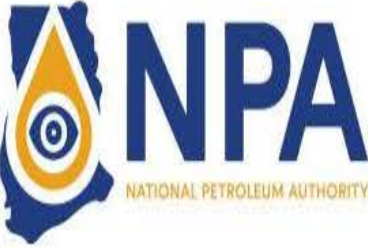
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Minority Leader, Osahen Alexander Afenyo Markin

# PETROLEUM PRICE INDICATORS

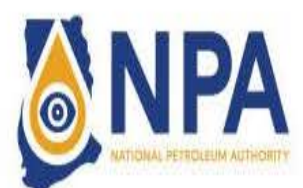
(As of 2nd March, 2026)

	<b>PBU EFFECTIVE 1ST MARCH 2026 (12TH - 26TH FEBRUARY 2026 AVERAGES)</b>	<b>ESTIMATED PBU EFFECTIVE 16TH MARCH 2026 (27TH FEBRUARY - 11TH MARCH 2026 AVERAGES)</b>	<b>% CHANGE</b>
<b>FX Rate (Commercial Banks Average) (USD/GHS)</b>	<b>11.0489</b>	<b>10.8667</b>	<b>1.68%</b>
<b>Crude Oil (USD/BBL)</b>	<b>71.41</b>	<b>77.05</b>	<b>7.90%</b>
<b>Petrol (USD/MT)</b>	<b>683.48</b>	<b>737.97</b>	<b>7.97%</b>
<b>Gasoil (USD/MT)</b>	<b>709.75</b>	<b>867.81</b>	<b>22.27%</b>
<b>LPG (USD/MT)</b>	<b>504.43</b>	<b>558.61</b>	<b>10.74%</b>
<b>Jet/Kerosene (USD/MT)</b>	<b>788.48</b>	<b>977.03</b>	<b>23.91%</b>
<b>Fuel Oil (USD/MT)</b>	<b>405.23</b>	<b>452.94</b>	<b>11.78%</b>
<b>*Products figures represent the FOB Prices used in the Price Build-Up (PBU)</b>			

**Note:** "Oil prices are expected to remain elevated over the coming days while markets focus on the impact of escalating Middle East conflict on supplies through the Strait of Hormuz, a conduit for more than 20% of global oil." – Reuters.

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## GCTU Vice Chancellor Prof Ohene Afoakwa dismissed

**T**he Governing Council of the Ghana Communication Technology University has formally endorsed the removal of Prof Emmanuel Ohene Afoakwa as Vice Chancellor, according to a communiqué issued by the Registrar, Emmanuel Baidoo.

Prof Afoakwa, who had been seconded to the university to serve as Vice Chancellor, was informed in early February 2026 that his secondment would expire on February 28, 2026. He was also notified that he would proceed on voluntary retirement on the same date.

In a subsequent development, a letter dated February 26, 2026, signed by the Chairman of the Governing Council, Ing Divine Kpetigo, and addressed to the Registrar, confirmed that Prof Afoakwa's tenure would officially end on February 28, 2026. The letter further directed the Registrar to terminate all official engagements with him.

"In view of the foregoing, you are hereby notified that with effect from 28th February 2026, Prof Emmanuel Ohene Afoakwa is no longer authorised to act in the capacity of Vice Chancellor," the letter stated.

At an emergency meeting held on March 3, 2026, the Governing Council ratified the decision to remove Prof Afoakwa from office and affirmed the appointment of Prof Ebenezer Malcalm as the new Vice Chancellor, the Registrar disclosed.

The circular emphasised that the decision had received the backing of the Ghana Tertiary Education Commission, the statutory regulator overseeing tertiary institutions in the country.



Prof Emmanuel Ohene Afoakwa

**P**resident John Dramani Mahama has called for the cessation of the United States and Israel conflict with Iran, urging all sides to return to dialogue.

The President made the appeal during a bilateral meeting with his Tanzanian counterpart, President Samia Suluhu Hassan at the State House in Arusha, Tanzania.

President Mahama said recent attacks on Iran by the United States and Israel, and counterattacks by Iran on the Gulf countries was creating new geopolitical events.

"We know that these shocks will come. But when they come, we must prepare ourselves to make sure that our people are protected. Because as it is, that is the epicenter of global oil supplies," he stated.

"And we know when the prices of crude go above

# Mahama calls on US-Israel and Iran to ceasefire



President John Dramani Mahama

a certain amount, it has a negative effect on our countries.

"And so we call for the cessation of the conflict and the return to dialogue so that we can

see peace come back to that region."

President Mahama was in Tanzania as the guest of honour

at the opening of the 2026 Judicial Year and 20th Anniversary of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights.

# NPP's property-owning democracy designed to empower ordinary Ghanaians – Minority Leader

**M**inority Leader and Member of Parliament for Effutu, Alexander Afenyo-Markin, has rejected claims that the New Patriotic Party's (NPP) ideology of property-owning democracy favours only the elite.

He said the political tradition, rooted in the Danquah-Busia-Dombo philosophy, was designed to empower ordinary Ghanaians to become active participants and owners in the economy.

Delivering a lecture on the impact of right-centre ideology on Ghana's economy in Accra on Monday, March 2, the Effutu MP argued that the concept has often been misunderstood.

The lawmaker stressed that the philosophy seeks to break barriers that exclude the poor from economic opportunity.

"The vision of the property-owning democracy was

never about protecting those who already had property. It was about making property accessible to those who did not. It was about transforming Ghanaians from passive spectators in the economy into active participants and owners," he stated.

He cited flagship policies under former Presidents John Agyekum Kufuor and Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo as practical expressions of the ideology.

These included the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS), the Capitation Grant, the School Feeding Programme, Free Senior High School, One District One Factory, Planting for Food and Jobs, Agenda 111 and the Ghana Card.

According to him, such interventions were not acts of charity but deliberate efforts to remove structural barriers to opportunity.

Osahen Afenyo-Markin argued that social protection policies align with centre-right thinking

in a developing economy like Ghana's.

"We are not a party for the few who have arrived. We are a movement for the many who are on their way," he said.

Osahen Afenyo-Markin

emphasised that sustainable development must be driven by productive citizens operating within a rules-based market system, with the state acting as an enabler rather than a controller.



Minority Leader, Osahen Alexander Afenyo-Markin

# Last-minute recruitment: Govt revokes 541, upholds 1,539 workers after investigation – Felix Kwakye Ofosu

The committee set up to investigate appointments and recruitment made after the December 7, 2024, general elections has released its findings.

On February 11, Chief of Staff Julius Debrah issued a directive ordering all heads of government institutions to cancel appointments made after December 7, citing noncompliance with good governance.

The directive also instructed heads of institutions to submit reports on their operations by February 17, 2025.

The directive initially led to a total of 2,080 people having their recruitment, appointments, and

promotions revoked.

Following public uproar and petitions from affected persons, the government set up a committee to probe the appointments and present its findings.

Presenting the report at the Government Accountability Series on Tuesday, March 3, Minister of State in charge of Government Communications, Felix Kwakye Ofosu, said the committee recommended the revocation of 541 appointments.

He added that 1,201 appointments were upheld because they complied with due process, with an additional 338 appointments of persons with disabilities.

“The Committee set up by the Chief of Staff to look into the revocation of the recruitment,

appointments, and promotions of persons into the Public Service after the 7th December elections made the following findings and recommendations,” the minister said.

“1,201 appointments were upheld

because they were found to comply with due process. 338 appointments of persons with disability were upheld,” he added. “541 appointments were revoked for failure to comply with due process,” said the minister.



*Felix Kwakye Ofosu*

## Mahama warns Middle East tensions could trigger economic shocks for Africa

President John Dramani Mahama has voiced concern over rising hostilities involving the United States, Israel and Iran, cautioning that deepening tensions in the Middle East could carry significant economic consequences for African countries.

During a bilateral meeting with Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan at the State House in Arusha on March 2, 2026, President Mahama described the Middle East as the “epicentre of global oil supplies” and warned that African economies must prepare for possible external shocks.

He noted that the intensifying exchanges among the U.S., Israel and Iran, alongside reported counter attacks in parts of the Gulf, are likely to have ripple effects far beyond the region.

According to President Mahama, any surge in crude oil prices resulting from the standoff would directly affect African nations, many

of which depend heavily on imported petroleum products to power their economies.

The latest escalation follows months of strained relations between Israel and Iran, largely linked to Iran’s nuclear programme and accusations of its backing for armed groups in the region.

The United States, a key ally of Israel, has supported Israeli security operations and reinforced its military presence in the Gulf, citing concerns over regional stability and the safety of international shipping routes.

Iran has, in response, accused both Israel and the United States of aggression and launched missile and drone operations targeting strategic interests.

The developments have heightened fears of a wider regional conflict, particularly around the Strait of Hormuz, a vital maritime route through which a substantial share of the world’s oil supply is transported.

Amid the uncertainty, global

crude oil prices have already begun to climb, with analysts warning that any sustained disruption could place

additional strain on energy importing countries across Africa.



*President John Dramani Mahama*

# Middle East tensions: No fuel shortage expected in Ghana – NPA

National Petroleum Authority (NPA) has allayed concerns over a possible fuel shortage, assuring consumers that the country has adequate petroleum stocks despite ongoing tensions in the Middle East.

Director of Economic Regulation and Planning at the National Petroleum Authority (NPA), Abass Ibrahim Tasunti, in an interview with Citi Business News, downplayed concerns that the ongoing conflict in the Middle East could disrupt Ghana's supply of petroleum products.

He stressed that the country currently has sufficient fuel stocks, with additional cargoes expected.

Abass Ibrahim Tasunti added that operations at the Sentuo Oil Refinery are also helping to complement imports and strengthen domestic supply.

"We shouldn't be scared. We have over five weeks of diesel and

almost seven weeks of petrol, with the cargoes at anchorage waiting also to discharge to add to what we have. In addition to that, we also have our import plan for the quarter already extending into April.

"So there are already confirmed vessels that are going to come to Ghana to discharge. We have the Sentuo Oil Refinery, which is also producing and putting onto the market. Since June last year, they have been consistently producing.

"So they have become a very key supply source to our markets. They are also still producing and adding to our stocks that we have in time. With regards to LPG, the Atuabo Gas processing plant is also producing and adding to our stock level. So we should not have any fear or concern that this war will prevent us from having products to run the economy," he said.

Crude oil prices are trending upward following disruptions to oil and gas shipping through the

Strait of Hormuz, a key global energy corridor, amid escalating regional tensions in the Middle East.

Prices are currently trading above \$70 per barrel, a development that could have direct implications for fuel pricing in Ghana.

Already, some Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have begun implementing marginal upward price adjustments, in line with industry expectations for the current pricing window.



## SPORTS NEWS

# Black Stars' players stinginess, lack of appreciation reason behind recent struggles - Prince Tagoe

Former Black Stars striker Prince Tagoe believes the current squad of Ghana's senior national team lacks the spiritual support that once helped the side succeed.

Ghana's national team has endured a difficult run in recent years. The four-time African champions suffered group-stage exits at the 2021 and 2023 Africa Cup of Nations tournaments in Cameroon and Ivory Coast respectively, and for the first time in more than two decades failed to qualify for the 2025 AFCON in Morocco.

Despite those setbacks, the Black Stars managed to recover and book their place at the 2026 FIFA World Cup, which will be jointly hosted by the United States, Canada and Mexico this summer.

Speaking on Sporty FM about the team's prospects ahead of the tournament, Tagoe expressed concern that current players do not sufficiently appreciate supporters or give back to the communities that rally behind them.

The former Hearts of Oak forward argued that during his era with the national team, players enjoyed

strong spiritual backing largely because of their generosity and connection with fans.

"As a former player, during my playing days with the Black Stars, it was not as if we were too good, but I believe we had good luck and spiritual backing for the team, and it always comes with giving out to people.

"If you play for the Black Stars and you don't show love to the people who come to cheer you up, or you don't care about the people who knew you while growing up, it becomes a problem, and these are the same people who will be praying for the team, because sometimes we do contribute and assist charity works as well and this what I want to see in this current team because I don't think this current team do that," he stated.

Tagoe also claimed some national team players have developed a reputation for being stingy, contrasting that with the culture he experienced during his playing days.

"We are all in Ghana, and most of these players playing for the Black Stars have been described as stingy players, and that is the fact. People might not be able to

say that in public, but during our time, people used to come around the team because of Stephen Appiah, and we, the players, must ensure that we express our appreciation because these are the same people who will support the team, and this is something the team must look at.

"Sometimes, it is not about how good you are, but you will need to have luck and spiritual backing," he added.

Ghana will make their fifth appearance at the FIFA World Cup in 2026 and have been drawn in Group L alongside Panama,

England and Croatia.

The Black Stars will open their campaign against Panama on June 17 before facing England on June 23 and Croatia on June 27.

After suffering group-stage exits at the 2014 tournament in Brazil and the 2022 edition in Qatar, Ghana will be hoping to deliver a stronger performance this time around. The team is expected to base its camp at Bryant University in the United States for the duration of the competition.



Former Black Stars striker Prince Tagoe

# Asante Kotoko: I am not worried about calls for my dismissal - Interim coach Prince Yaw Owusu

Interim head coach of Asante Kotoko, Prince Yaw Owusu, says he remains unfazed by mounting calls for his removal following the club's latest slip in the league.

"I just go out there and do my job and leave the rest to management. If they make the call today, I will respect it," he added.

The draw leaves Kotoko fourth on the table with 39 points.

Asante Kotoko will now turn their attention to their next

assignment against Karela United in the Matchday 25 clash at the Aliu Mahama Stadium, with kick-off scheduled for 15:00 GMT.

The Porcupine Warriors were frustrated in a goalless stalemate by 10-man Vision FC on Sunday at the Baba Yara Stadium in their Matchday 24 fixture.

Owusu, who has overseen just three matches since stepping in for Karim Zito, maintained that speculation about his future does not distract him from the task at hand.

"They are free to call for it (my sack), that is a decision for management to make. For me, I'm not worried about it," Owusu said after the match.



Interim head coach of Asante Kotoko, Prince Yaw Owusu

# 2026 World Cup: I will not be surprised if Andre Ayew makes Black Stars squad - Sports Minister Kofi Adams

The Minister of Sports and Recreation, Kofi Adams, has expressed that he would not be surprised if Andre Ayew is included in Ghana's Black Stars squad for the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

Ayew, who previously played for Swansea City and West Ham United, last featured for the senior national team at the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) in Ivory Coast.

After a six-month period without a club following his departure from Le Havre, the 36-year-old forward joined Dutch side NAC Breda as a free agent during the January transfer window.

In an interview with Adom FM, Minister Adams noted that while squad selections are ultimately the responsibility of the technical team, Ayew's return to regular club football strengthens his case for inclusion.

"I think he is picking up also. Once he has not retired and is still playing actively, I won't

be surprised to see him in the Black Stars squad for the World Cup," Adams told Adom FM

However, he was quick to stress that the final call lies with the head coach of the Black Stars.

"However, it is the responsibility of the coach to

decide whether to invite him or not," he added.

Ayew, Ghana's most capped player and former captain, has been a pivotal figure for the national team over the past decade, featuring in multiple Africa Cup of Nations tournaments and representing

Ghana at the FIFA World Cup.

Since joining NAC Breda, he has made eight appearances in the Dutch Eredivisie, impressing with consistent performances.



Andre Ayew



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# Ghana movie industry collapsed – Abena Moet



Vocal entertainment pundit, Abena Moet

**V**ocal entertainment pundit, Abena Moet, has opined that the Ghana movie industry has collapsed considering the budget allocation of GH¢20 million to the film sector.

According to Abena Moet, most of the movie stakeholders are still in denial that the sector has collapsed, saying, “Whether you like it or not, the movie industry has collapsed,

reason why we were among the least sectors to have received less amount of budgetary allocation from the government.”

According to her, it’s about time the industry stakeholders collaborate among themselves to re-structure the sector to attract Corporate Ghana’s investment.

“I listened to the SONA and I know that many of the sectors had huge budget, so I was wondering why

GH¢40 million for creative arts. But then again, I had to check the revenue of the other sectors with the high budgets, and I realised they have high revenue,” she stated.

Abena Moet added, “We are just begging the agencies who will be managing the money to utilise the money very well. We are hoping that the leaders in the industry will make judicious use of the money. For the government to take us serious, we have to utilise

the money adequately. So that next year by this time, the movie industry would have revived as a result of the good use of the money allocation.

“Because whether we like it or not, the movie industry has collapsed. And about the theatre, they barely make profit. Let’s structure the agencies to make it attractive.”

# I lost two jobs for refusing to date my bosses – Stella Aba Seal



*Award-winning gospel musician Stella Aba Seal*

**A**ward-winning gospel musician Stella Aba Seal has revealed that she lost two jobs early in her career after refusing to give in to inappropriate demands from her bosses. Speaking in an interview with Kafui Dey, which was shared on X on February 27, 2026, the veteran singer recounted how the conditions attached to her employment made her uncomfortable.

According to her, both of her first two bosses expected

her to spend time with them after working hours — a request she consistently declined because it conflicted with her values.

“The first two bosses, I didn’t like either of them because of the kind of conditions they attached to the job. After work, they would say, ‘Let’s go and sit somewhere and have a beer.’ I told them, ‘We’ve closed for the day. I have things to do. I have to go home. I’m not going to sit out when I have to go to church,’” she said.

Stella Aba Seal explained

that her refusal to comply ultimately cost her those positions.

“That’s how I lost those two jobs. One of them told me, ‘If you’re not willing to go out with me after work, then I can’t work with you.’ I said, ‘Fine,’ and I walked away,” she recounted.

The gospel artist also cautioned men who demand sexual favours from women seeking employment, describing the practice as exploitative and harmful.

“If a young woman is

looking for a job, please don’t do that. What do you gain from it? It doesn’t even happen just once; anytime they feel like it, they ask. I’ve even heard that when the ladies get married and become pregnant, they still demand it,” she stated.

She further warned of consequences for such actions.

“Whatever you sow, you will reap. Take it from me, that pain will follow you. And if you, the boss, do not reap it yourself, it will follow your children,” she added.

# Do we have creative arts industry? – Mr. Beautiful quizzes



*Ghanaian actor and comedian, Mr. Beautiful*

**G**hanaian actor and comedian, Clement Bonney, popularly known as Mr. Beautiful, has questioned whether the country's entertainment sector has a well-structured creative arts industry.

Speaking on the announcement made by President John Mahama concerning the injection of GH¢40 million into Ghana's creative arts industry, Mr. Beautiful questioned whether there is an industry to utilise the allocation to revamp the industry.

Mr. Beautiful, who is part of a 12-member team

collaborating closely with the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Creative Arts as part of the Creative Arts Agency board's mandate, also said that many governments come and go without necessarily supporting the sector because of the poor operationalisation of the creative arts agencies established by the state.

“But my problem is, are we creative arts people being creative enough for our industry, because nothing is happening? Do we even have an industry? For me, I'm happy for the President's intervention because this is the first time we have a

President who has a great relationship with creative arts individuals.

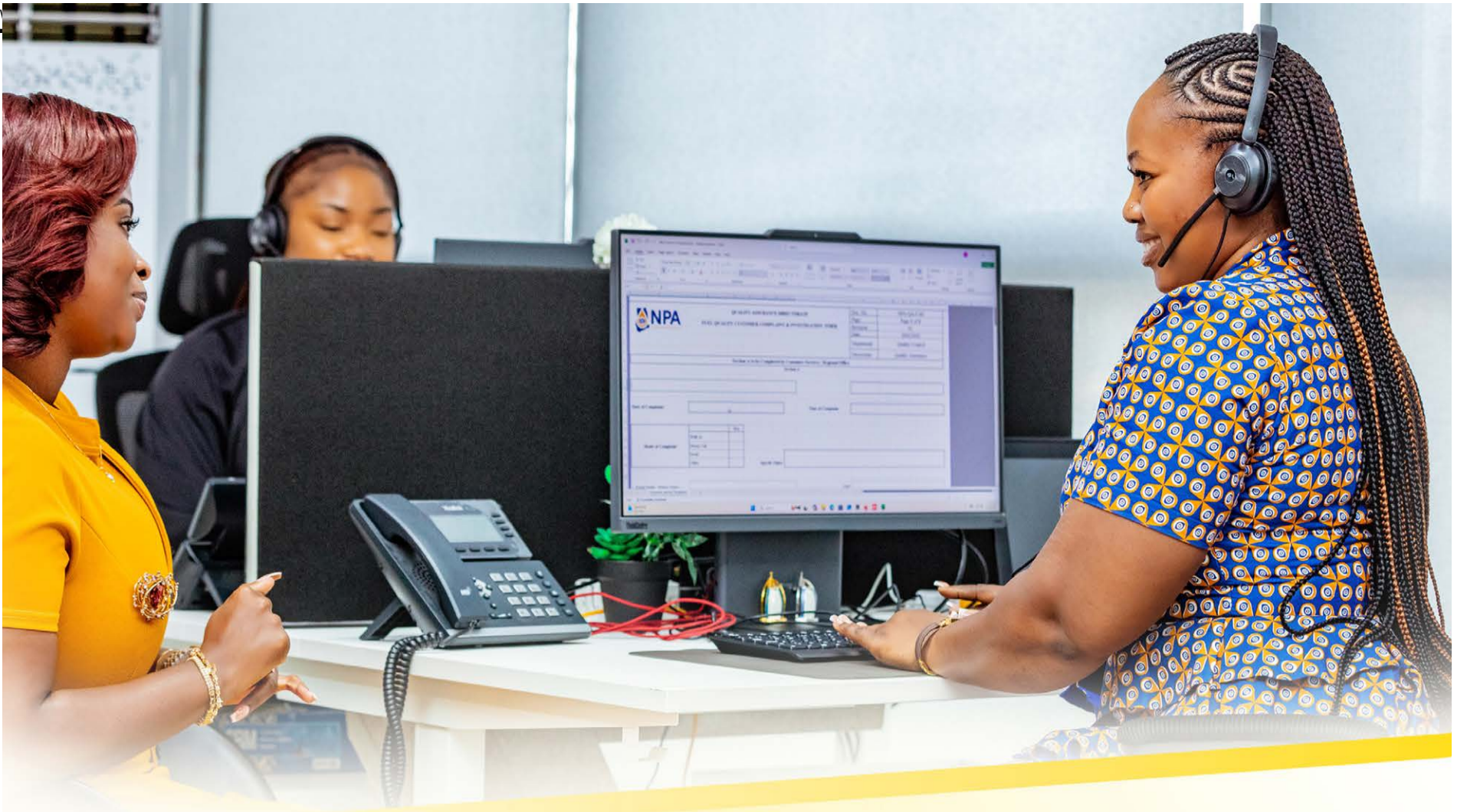
“As I'm talking to you, people have been appointed for the creative arts, but the question is: are they being creative? Regarding the money, don't think we are being creative enough. How can we use the money to elevate our status? We need details on the usage of the money allocation,” he said during a panel discussion on UTV's United Showbiz last Saturday.

Delivering his State of the Nation Address (SONA) to Parliament last Friday, President Mahama

indicated that half of the funds are earmarked specifically for the country's struggling film sectors.

The President also added that, “Mr. Speaker, our tourism and creative arts sector has a lot to offer.”

“Our economy will not be built only by traditional sectors but also by human creativity. Human creativity sectors that will absorb those people who will be displaced from the shortfall by the new Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies that are being rolled out.”



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