

THE MODERN GUIDE

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Augustus Goosie Tanoh (left) and Godwin Kudzo Tameklo, Esq. (right)

Colonial masters modelled Ghana's education to make us their half-baked appendages — Kissi Agyebeng



Special Prosecutor, Kissi Agyebeng

Read More: [Page 03](#)

24-Hour Economy Authority, NPA sign MoU to power Ghana's economic transformation

Read More: [Page 02](#)

Newtown building disaster: 'I warned the pastor about the deadly building and he told me God will save them' — Resident



The state of the building before it collapsed

Read More: [Page 03](#)

'Tell us what she has done to you' — Mahama Ayariga, Afenyo-Markin clash over female MP



Read More: [Page 05](#)

'If Ibrahim Mahama can't qualify to own and run a mine in Ghana, who would?' — Senyo Hosi slams critics



Lead Convener of the One Ghana Movement, Senyo Hosi

Read More: [Page 08](#)

Decentralised recruitment: 'Go to districts where there are vacancies and apply there' — Mahama tells teachers



President John Dramani Mahama

Read More: [Page 04](#)



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national petroleum authority NPAGhana npa.gov.gh NPAGHANA

NPA donates GH¢1million to Ghana Medical Trust Fund



NPA CEO, Godwin Edudzi Tameklo and staff presenting the dummy cheque

NPA, Godwin Edudzi Tameklo, announced the donation during a brief ceremony on Tuesday, March 31.

“We have decided to also support. The Board has given approval for an amount of GH¢1 million,” he said.

He further urged the Fund’s management to extend its interventions to northern Ghana as implementation progresses, raising concerns about access to critical services such as dialysis in that part of the country.

Administrator of the Fund, Obuobia Darko-Opoku, welcomed the donation, stating that the support would significantly strengthen the Fund’s ability to deliver on its mandate.

The National Petroleum Authority (NPA) has donated GH¢1 million to the Ghana Medical Trust Fund, also known as

MahamaCares, to support healthcare financing for individuals living with chronic non-communicable diseases.

The contribution forms part of the Authority’s corporate social

responsibility efforts and aligns with the vision of President John Dramani Mahama to provide financial relief for patients battling long-term health conditions.

Chief Executive Officer of the

24-Hour Economy Authority, NPA sign MoU to power Ghana’s economic transformation

The 24-Hour Economy Authority and the National Petroleum Authority (NPA) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to coordinate the expansion of round-the-clock operations across Ghana’s downstream petroleum sector.

The agreement establishes a framework for operational readiness standards, security coordination, and institutional collaboration to support the country’s economic transformation programme.

Under the MoU, the NPA will develop and enforce 24-hour operational readiness standards covering lighting, security, staffing protocols, digital fuel monitoring, and fire safety across fuel stations, refineries, bulk storage depots, and bulk road vehicle operations. The 24-Hour Economy Authority will coordinate the enabling environment, including security agency deployment and cross-government support for certified operators. The partnership is designed to

ensure that the downstream petroleum sector keeps pace with the broader 24-Hour Economy programme, which is developing agro-processing capacity, expanding manufacturing, and building logistics corridors across the country. Reliable, round-the-clock fuel supply is a critical enabler for each of these pillars.

Implementation will begin with a nationwide pilot covering approximately ten percent of the downstream sector, with security deployment as the immediate priority. The NPA has already constituted a Steering Committee and technical sub-committees to prepare the sector for the transition.

The partnership brings together key players across the petroleum and security value chain, including the Chamber of Oil Marketing Companies (COMAC), Chamber of Bulk Oil Distributors (CBOD), BOST Energies, the Ghana National Tanker Drivers Union (GNTDU), Tanker Owners Union (TOU), refineries, the Ghana Police Service, National Security Secretariat, Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority, Ghana Petroleum Mooring Systems (GPMS), the Ghana

Revenue Authority (GRA), and private sector investors.

Mr. Augustus Goosie Tanoh, Presidential Adviser on the 24-Hour Economy and Accelerated Export Development, said “The programme is not only asking operators to stay open longer. We are building the enterprises and industrial capacity that will create growing demand for these services. To the factory owner in Tema, the trader in Tamale, the transport operator on the Accra-Kumasi corridor, the

message is simple. If you are ready to grow, we are building the system to support you.”

Mr. Godwin Kudzo Tameklo, Esq., Chief Executive of the NPA, said, “This agreement aligns the NPA’s regulatory mandate with the national economic transformation agenda. We will ensure that the standards for 24-hour operations are clear, enforceable, and designed to protect workers, consumers, and critical infrastructure.”



Augustus Goosie Tanoh (left) and Godwin Kudzo Tameklo, Esq. (right)

Husband, wife burnt to ashes as they attempted to use petrol to treat bed bugs at Kodjonya

A devastating fire has claimed the lives of a husband and wife at Kodjonya, a suburb of Odumase Krobo in the Lower Manya Krobo Municipality of the Eastern Region, after an attempt to use petrol to treat a bedbug infestation ended in tragedy.

The Somanya Office of the Ghana National Fire Service said it received a distress call in the early hours of Tuesday and swiftly deployed a fire tender to the scene to battle the blaze.

Despite efforts by firefighters to contain the inferno, the couple could not be saved.

The Somanya Municipal Fire Commander, DOII Abubakar Musah, explained in an interview that preliminary findings point to the use of petrol as the likely cause of the

fire. “Our preliminary investigations revealed that the man had stepped out in the morning to get petrol to treat bedbugs, and we suspect that in the process, it came into contact with a naked electrical source, which triggered the fire outbreak,” he stated.

He strongly warned against the use of petrol and other flammable substances for pest control, stressing that safer and more effective methods are available.

DOII Musah further disclosed that the victims were trapped inside the room and had no means of escape due to the structure of the building.

“What caused the entrapment was that the room was barricaded with burglar proof bars, making it virtually impossible for them to escape. Both the front and back windows were secured

in such a way that in case of emergency, there was no way out,” he explained.

The situation was worsened when a gas cylinder in the room exploded under intense heat, causing the fire to spread rapidly and leaving the victims burnt beyond recognition.

The Fire Commander has

appealed to landlords, homeowners and developers to prioritise safety by incorporating emergency exits in residential buildings to prevent similar incidents.

The bodies of the deceased have been deposited at the Atua Government Hospital morgue as investigations continue.



Residents at the fire scene

Colonial masters modelled Ghana's education to make us their half-baked appendages – Kissi Agyebeng

The Special Prosecutor, Kissi Agyebeng, has said Ghana's education system was designed during the colonial era to serve foreign interests rather than national development.

He said the system continues to shape how Ghanaians think, often at the expense of their identity, culture, and heritage.

Speaking at the Speech and Prize Giving Day of Accra Academy on Saturday, March 28, Mr. Agyebeng said colonial authorities structured education to produce a workforce that served their administrative needs.

“By reason of being a former British colony, our education was modelled on what the colonialists thought fit to churn us out as their half-baked appendages—not for our sakes—but to suit their purposes,” he said.

He further noted that the system contributed to the erosion of Ghanaian identity, including the suppression of local languages and traditions.

“Our own languages were banished from schools as uncultured vernacular... our culture and traditions were labelled barbarous,” he said.

Mr. Agyebeng stressed the need for a reorientation of the education system to preserve Ghana's heritage while

promoting innovation and leadership.

The Special Prosecutor argued that education must be redesigned to reflect local realities and aspirations because failure to do so may deepen what he described as a crisis of identity.

According to him, a strong education system rooted in cultural identity is key to driving national development and positioning Ghana competitively on the global stage.



Special Prosecutor, Kissi Agyebeng

2025 was our worst year of existential troubles, always fighting battles – Special Prosecutor

The Office of the Special Prosecutor has described 2025 as the most difficult year in its existence, warning that the institution came under intense pressure that threatened its very survival even as it delivered some of its strongest results.

Speaking at a National Dialogue on the Office on Tuesday, March 31, Special Prosecutor Kissi Agyebeng revealed that the year presented a stark contradiction of high performance and severe institutional strain.

“2025 was our best year of performance; at the same time, it was our worst year of existential troubles. Why should Kissi and a few officers of the Office of the Special Prosecutor always fight existential battles just to keep

this office running?” he said. He pointed directly to political pressure, including calls to abolish the office, as a major factor behind the challenges, stressing that such resistance is rooted in the agency’s mandate to hold powerful public officials accountable.

In a passionate appeal, Mr Agyebeng called on civil society organisations to defend the institution, warning that its survival depends on sustained public support.

“When I become the former Special Prosecutor, I want to look back and say: civil society forged this office and civil society preserved it. It is your handiwork. Do not let it die,” he urged.

The concerns come in the wake of a controversial move in December 2025, when Majority Leader Mahama Ayariga and Majority Whip Rockson-Nelson Dafeamekpor introduced a

Private Member’s Bill seeking to repeal the Office of the Special Prosecutor Act, 2017 (Act 959).

The accompanying memorandum argued that the office’s operations over the past eight years had exposed deep structural and constitutional flaws, including duplication of prosecutorial authority with the Attorney General, which it said has led to institutional clashes and delays in criminal trials.

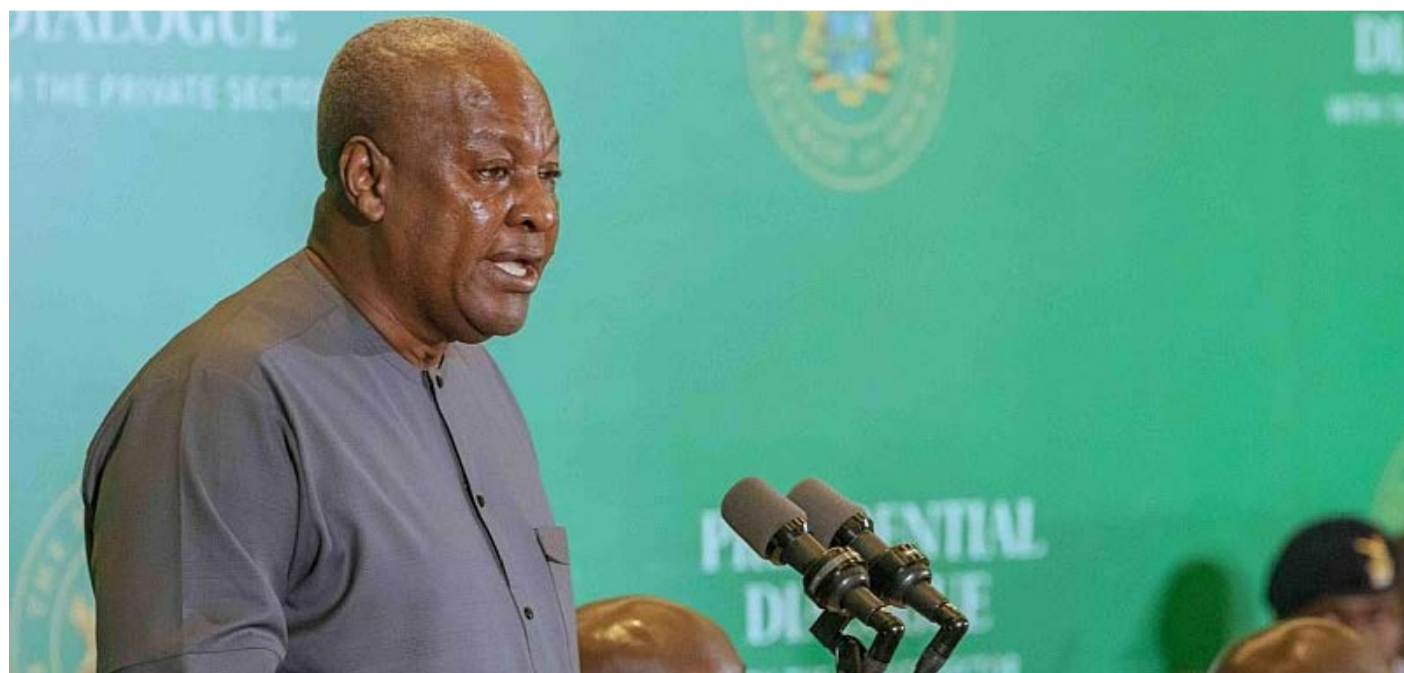
However, the move was later halted after President John Dramani Mahama intervened and requested that the bill be suspended.

Despite the turbulence, the Special Prosecutor’s remarks underscore a growing battle over the future of one of Ghana’s key anti-corruption institutions, as it continues to operate under both pressure and scrutiny.



Special Prosecutor, Kissi Agyebeng

Decentralised recruitment: ‘Go to districts where there are vacancies and apply there’ – Mahama tells teachers



President John Dramani Mahama

President John Dramani Mahama has announced the government’s plans to decentralise the recruitment and posting of teachers as part of efforts to address the uneven distribution of educators across the country.

Speaking during his

encounter with Civil Society Organisations on Monday, March 30, he said the current centralised system has contributed to a concentration of teachers in urban areas, leaving rural communities understaffed.

According to him, the

government will now shift recruitment and vacancy advertising to the district level to ensure a more balanced deployment of teachers nationwide.

He explained that under the new arrangement, districts will advertise their own

vacancies, while certain urban areas will be restricted due to oversubscription.

“Until we find a way of disaggregating the distribution of teachers, we will continue to have a problem. I have directed that the recruitment we are going to start, the vacancy should be declared in the district. We won’t do that centralised posting. The districts will advertise.

“Accra is closed, Kumasi is closed, Takoradi is closed. If you want to work as a teacher, you must find a district where there are vacancies to go and work because if we continue like this, everybody will continue to go into the urban areas and there will be no teachers in the rural areas,” he said.

However, he noted that there remains a significant backlog of trained teachers and nurses awaiting employment, adding that government will continue with sustained recruitment exercises to gradually absorb them into the public sector.

Interior Minister demands probe into GH¢3million payments outside GIFMIS

The Minister for the Interior, Muntaka Mohammed Mubarak, has called for a comprehensive investigation into transactions worth GH¢3 million processed through the Controller and Accountant General's Department without going through the Ghana Integrated Financial Management Information System.

The ministry was flagged for financial irregularities involving commitments of about GH¢3 million, which were settled in 2024. A review of payment records showed that the transactions were linked to outstanding claims. Appearing before the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament on Tuesday, March

31, Mr Mubarak emphasised the need for a full scale probe to prevent any recurrence.

He indicated that any mechanism allowing payments to bypass the system could amount to a serious breach.

“I’m not an expert in financing, but Madam Chair, you and I know that there’s no way that any payment will get to the Controller and Accountant General’s Department if it didn’t go through the Ghana Integrated Financial Management Information System (GIFMIS). Unless there’s a way that people can walk to the Controller and Accountant-General’s Department with documentation that hasn’t gone to the GIFMIS, so, so if truly this is something that has happened, it is worth investigating,” he said.

He added, “People could get to the Controller level without passing through the system. For me, it is even a crime. Madam, I agree with you, we must get them to get the facts. And let’s interrogate it properly to see which method was used to set the Controller. So that we make sure that it

never happens.”

The call for an investigation comes at a time of increasing scrutiny over public financial management and compliance with procedures aimed at ensuring transparency and accountability in government expenditure.



Minister for the Interior, Muntaka Mohammed Mubarak

‘Tell us what she has done to you’ — Mahama Ayariga, Afenyo-Markin clash over female MP

A heated confrontation has erupted in Parliament after Majority Leader Mahama Ayariga openly rebuked Minority Leader Alexander Afenyo-Markin over what he described as repeated and unjustified attacks on Deputy Health Minister Grace Ayensu-Danquah.

The tension flared during deliberations on the Governance Advisory Council Bill, 2025, when Dr Ayensu Danquah, who also serves as MP for Essikado Ketan, formally moved a motion for the bill to be read a second time.

“I move that the Governance Advisory Council Bill 2025 be now read a second time,” she stated.

Her move immediately drew a sharp reaction from Afenyo Markin, who questioned both her delivery and understanding of parliamentary procedure.

“We want to understand what is happening in this chamber, we want to know if this House is no longer a House of procedure. What did the Deputy Minister of Health just do? We don’t understand what she just did.

“We should understand what is happening. Move the motion to what effect? That what? If the Majority wants someone to do it, they should teach the person to do it the right way,” he said.

Ayariga, however, fired back strongly, accusing the Minority Leader of singling out the Deputy Minister for persistent criticism and demanding an end to what he suggested was a deliberate pattern of hostility.

“I think this attitude of always attacking this particular Member of Parliament [Grace Ayensu-Danquah] by the Minority Leader must stop. At every opportunity, he tries to attack her. Mr Speaker, what

is the meaning of this? What has she done to him? What don’t we know? Tell us. Is there something we need to know? If there’s, let us know. To always attack her the way you do is not fair. Whatever it is, we can help you,” Ayariga said.

Despite the charged exchanges, Parliament proceeded to pass the Governance Advisory

Council Bill, 2025.

The legislation is expected to enhance accountable governance by fostering institutional collaboration, strengthening stakeholder engagement and providing strategic policy direction. It will also support evidence based decision making, track governance performance and promote transparency and participatory democracy.



Apostolic Church explains why it banned 'You may kiss the bride' during weddings

A new directive by the Apostolic Church-Ghana has removed the "you may kiss the bride" segment from its marriage ceremonies.

The decision was adopted during the Church's 6th General Council Meeting held at Fafraha in Accra, after approval by the Council of Apostles and Prophets. The move forms part of changes to wedding practices within the denomination.

Church leadership says the directive responds to evolving trends in wedding ceremonies that it considers inconsistent with its values.

President of the Church, Samuel Kwadwo Ami-Narh, indicated that some modern practices have introduced elements that require review to align with the Church's expectations.

"The Council of Apostles and Prophets has decided to expunge the 'you may kiss the bride' aspect from our

wedding ceremonies owing to its inappropriateness within our cultural setting," an official statement said. It added that while the practice may be common in some Western traditions, it does not reflect the standards upheld by the Church.

The directive also addresses activities preceding weddings. The Church raised concerns about certain pre-wedding photoshoots, cautioning members against what it described as "awkward and immoral" portrayals often circulated on social media platforms.

According to the leadership, the changes are intended to guide members on acceptable conduct in marriage-related events, particularly in the context of increasing influence from social media trends. Apostle Ami-Narh noted that marriage ceremonies should reflect values of order and respect, including activities leading up to the wedding.

The decision was discussed at the General Council Meeting,

where delegates considered the changes as part of broader efforts to regulate practices within the Church.

The meeting also included leadership elections conducted under the Church's revised 2025 Constitution. Samuel Obeng Manteaw was re-elected to serve another four-year term, while Enock Atutornu and Abraham Narh were elected to join the executive.

The Church's eleven-member Executive comprises key leadership positions, including the President, Vice-President, General Secretary and Missions Directors, alongside elected Apostles and Senior Ministers.

Church authorities also noted the transition in leadership, acknowledging outgoing members and the induction of newly elected officials.



Groom kissing bride during wedding

We will announce committee to implement constitutional reforms – Mahama

President **John Dramani Mahama** has announced plans to establish a **Constitutional Review Implementation Committee** to oversee the execution of reforms proposed by the **Constitutional Review Committee**.

Speaking on Monday, March 30 during an engagement with Civil Society Organisations at the Jubilee House in Accra, the President said government is currently reviewing the recommendations and preparing to move into the implementation phase.

He indicated that the rollout of the reforms will begin once Parliament resumes sitting.

"Government is currently examining the recommendations of the Constitutional Review Committee and very soon we will announce the formation

of the constitutional review implementation committee (CRIC) to oversee the next steps towards constitutional review.

"The implementation of agreed reforms will commence when parliament reconvenes following constitutional and legislative procedures," he said.

According to President Mahama, the proposed committee will be responsible for coordinating and supervising the process to ensure the reforms are carried out effectively and with transparency.

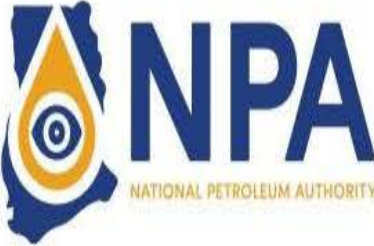
He emphasised government's determination to translate the review process into concrete outcomes, noting that the implementation stage is critical to achieving meaningful constitutional change.



President John Dramani Mahama

PETROLEUM PRICE INDICATORS

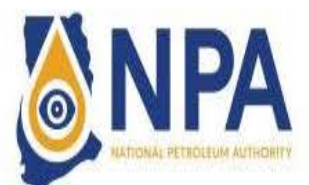
(As of 30th March, 2026)

	AVERAGE FOB PRICES FOR THE PERIOD 1ST - 15TH APRIL 2026 WINDOW (12TH - 26TH MARCH 2026)	ESTIMATED AVERAGE FOB PRICES EFFECTIVE 16TH APRIL 2026 (27TH MARCH - 11TH APRIL 2026 AVERAGES)	% CHANGE
FX Rate (Commercial Banks Average) (USD/GHS)	11.0503	11.1127	-0.56%
Crude Oil (USD/BBL)	109.66	123.21	12.36%
Petrol (USD/MT)	1015.91	1073.36	5.66%
Gasoil (USD/MT)	1,305.98	1,425.27	9.13%
LPG (USD/MT)	855.98	971.68	13.52%
Jet/Kerosene (USD/MT)	1,642.34	1,759.73	7.15%
Fuel Oil (USD/MT)	625.11	656.68	5.05%
Products figures represent the FOB Prices used in the Price Build-Up (PBU)			

Note: "Markets remain unconvinced that a hasty end to the Middle East war is imminent, with oil prices surging again and global stocks getting off to a rocky start." – Reuters

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Govt will amend Public Procurement Act to limit sole sourcing – Mahama

President John Dramani Mahama has revealed that government will amend the Public Procurement Act to limit the use of single sourcing, as part of efforts to improve transparency and ensure value for money in public spending.

He made the announcement on Monday, March 30 during a meeting with Civil Society Organisations at the Jubilee House in Accra, explaining that the move is in response to concerns raised in a recent investigation by The Fourth Estate into the Big Push Programme.

The report alleged that the Minister for Roads and Highways, Kwame Govers Agbodza, oversaw the award of 81 sole sourced contracts valued at more than GH¢73 billion within seven months, raising questions about transparency and possible cost inflation.

“I note the recent expose by the Fourth Estate on procurement processes related to the award

of contracts under the Big Push Programme. While sole sourcing is legal under certain circumstances, open, transparent tenders are always preferable for achieving competitive pricing and value for money,” President Mahama said.

The President indicated that he has directed his office to obtain and review the full report, while also requesting a detailed response from the Ministry of Roads and Highways to guide further government action.

“It is precisely for such situations that I announce that government will introduce amendments to the Public Procurement Act to limit single sourcing, promote greater transparency, and ensure proper value for money for the funds we spend on projects,” he stated.

He further disclosed that the Ministry of Finance has been tasked to fast track the creation of an Independent Value for Money Office, which will be responsible for scrutinising all single source procurement under the revised law.

“Single sourcing must be used

as sparingly as possible, and we will consult with civil society on the new legislation we propose to restrict its use,” he added.

President Mahama also urged civil society to play an active role

in monitoring public projects and budget implementation to strengthen accountability.

“Together we can rebuild and strengthen public trust in our institutions,” he said.



President John Dramani Mahama

“If Ibrahim Mahama can’t qualify to own and run a mine in Ghana, who would?” – Senyo Hosi slams critics

Lead Convener of the One Ghana Movement, Senyo Hosi has defended businessman Ibrahim Mahama, stating that he is fully qualified to own and operate a mine in Ghana.

His comments follow concerns raised by the Minority Caucus in Parliament over a possible conflict of interest in the bidding process for the Damang Mine.

The Damang mine, currently operated by Abooso Goldfields Limited, is set to have its lease expire on April 18, with several companies, including Engineers & Planners, owned by Ibrahim Mahama, showing interest in taking over the asset.

The Minority alleges that Mr. Mahama, who is the brother of President John Dramani Mahama, could be unfairly favoured in the process, particularly given his provision of a private jet for

official presidential trips.

However, speaking on Accra-based TV3’s KeyPoints programme on Saturday, March 28, Hosi acknowledged the perception issues but maintained that the businessman’s competence cannot be questioned.

“If Ibrahim Mahama cannot qualify to own and run a mine in Ghana, who would? He’s the biggest contract miner. He has depth and history,” he said.

He argued that Ghana should prioritise capable local players in managing key economic sectors, especially in mining.

However, Hosi cautioned that government must be mindful of public perception and ensure transparency in the bidding process.

“Governance is required not just to be done right, but actually seen to be done right... the President must make sure he takes every step to create an extremely

objective process,” he noted.

He emphasised the need for an arm’s-length process that eliminates doubts about fairness, given the President’s familial relationship with the businessman.

Hosi further urged government to go beyond standard procedures

to demonstrate credibility and transparency in the award process.

He also advised the Minority against politicising the issue, noting that competence should not be overlooked in national economic decisions.



Lead Convener of the One Ghana Movement, Senyo Hosi



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Newtown building disaster: ‘I warned the pastor about the deadly building and he told me God will save them’ – Resident

An eyewitness has revealed that he warned a pastor about the unsafe condition of a building in Accra New Town a year before it collapsed on Sunday, March 29, 2026, trapping church members under debris.

Speaking to Metro TV’s Vanessa Edotom Boateng at the scene, the resident recounted how he witnessed the structure give way around 4:30 pm while heading to a nearby programme.

“I was making a call when I heard a noise from behind me. When I looked, the building was collapsing. I rushed forward because of the dust and stones falling. Everyone was coughing,” he said.

According to him, a church service was ongoing in the building at the time of the incident. He said cries for help could be heard from people trapped beneath the rubble.

“I called the police and some local people brought hammers and

chisels. We rescued four or five people. When the police arrived, they managed to rescue more, about 11 people, but one lady was found dead. They later found another dead person inside,” he added.

The eyewitness said he had earlier cautioned the pastor against using the structure, warning that it was poorly constructed and unsafe.

“I told him the building is not good. They constructed it with insufficient cement, so it was abandoned. I said if you are holding services here, people could get hurt. He told me ‘God knows best. God is saving everyone,’” he recalled.

He further alleged that the pastor continued to hold services at the location, sometimes late into the night, despite repeated concerns raised by others, including the watchman.

“The watchman told me they had taken him to the police station before, but he returned saying it is a government building and no one can stop him from preaching,” he said.

Meanwhile, Interior Minister Mohammed Muntaka Mubarak has confirmed that three people lost their lives in the incident. The deceased, believed to be two women and a man, are yet to be identified.

The collapse occurred in an uncompleted structure within the premises of the Accra New Town Experimental Basic School, which had been used for Christian

worship activities.

Emergency and security agencies responded swiftly to the scene, with rescue and recovery efforts still ongoing.

Authorities have also commenced investigations to determine the cause of the collapse as concerns grow over the safety of similar structures.



The state of the building before it collapsed

‘It’s just the Grace of God that most buildings in Accra are still standing’ – Engineer

A road and building consultant, **Abdulai Mahama**, has warned that many buildings in Accra are structurally unsafe, attributing the situation to growing indiscipline and disregard for construction regulations.

His comments follow the recent collapse of a building near the Newtown Experimental D/A School, which claimed three lives and left about 20 others seriously injured, sparking renewed concerns about safety standards in the capital.

Speaking on Breakfast Daily on Channel One TV on March 30, 2026, Engineer Mahama said developers often ignore building laws and depend on

chance rather than proper engineering practices.

“Indiscipline is just on the rise, especially when it comes to building. We ignore all the laws, and then we expect God to hold the buildings. Most buildings in Accra, I can say, are standing by the grace of God,” he said.

He cautioned that the situation presents a major risk to lives, noting that structural failures could occur without warning. “When God takes his eyes off for a microsecond, a lot of buildings will be off in Accra. We should engage engineers to go and assess our buildings. Every building standing can be assessed by any engineer who is worth his salt,” he added.

Mr Mahama called for stricter

enforcement of building regulations and urged property owners to subject

their structures to professional assessments to help prevent future tragedies.



We shouldn't have every project sole-sourced we campaigned against in opposition – NDC's Wonder Kutor to gov't

A member of the National Executive Committee of the ruling National Democratic Congress (NDC), Wonder Kutor Victor, has cautioned the government to limit its reliance on sole sourcing in awarding contracts under its flagship infrastructure drive.

His comments follow a disclosure by the Minister for Roads and Highways, Kwame Agbodza, that 44 percent of major contracts under the government's Big Push Programme were awarded through sole sourcing.

Mr Kutor acknowledged the need for the government to deliver quickly on its infrastructure agenda but stressed that this should not come at the expense of

due process.

He argued that the NDC had consistently criticised sole sourcing while in opposition and must remain consistent now that it is in government.

"When we were in opposition, we campaigned against sole sourcing as much as possible. So, we should not be seen in government to have every project or the majority of our projects sole sourced. Let's, as much as possible, go in for competitive tendering," he said on Channel One TV on Monday, March 30.

Mr Kutor further called for reforms to speed up procurement processes, suggesting that laws governing competitive tendering be reviewed to make evaluations more efficient.

"I have a personal view. If we

have to amend the laws governing the evaluation of competitive tendering to make it quicker,

then let's do that so we can ensure value for money," he added.



Wonder Kutor Victor

POLITICS

Pay Akufo-Addo Easter visit for education on reparative justice to guard your pronouncements – Ablakwa to Afenyo-Markin

Foreign Affairs Minister Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa has called on Minority Leader Alexander Afenyo-Markin to seek guidance on reparative justice from former President Nana Akufo-Addo.

Speaking at an event on Tuesday, Mr Ablakwa responded to recent remarks by Mr Afenyo-Markin on the subject, insisting that the former President remains well placed to provide insight on the issue.

"I will have only one message for the Minority Leader in Ghana. He should visit the leader of his party, former President His Excellency, Nana Akufo-Addo," he said.

"He has been a strong advocate for reparative justice. He should pay him a visit."

Mr Ablakwa further suggested that the Effutu MP use the Easter period to deepen his understanding of the matter.

"He should go during the Easter break. He should sit with him and let former President Nana Addo

Dankwa Akufo-Addo educate him on reparatory justice," he stated. "I think it will do him a world of good before his next pronouncement in Parliament."

The Minister's remarks follow comments made by Mr Afenyo-Markin last week, in which he challenged dominant narratives on reparations for transatlantic slavery.

"When somebody berths a vessel at Cape Coast, and you decide to go to the North, Bono area, get

to the Ashanti area, and to the Assin area, and you are chasing your strongest among your own people, then after 100 years, you say, 'I should be compensated,'" Mr Afenyo-Markin remarked.

His position has sparked debate, with critics accusing him of downplaying the role of Western powers in the transatlantic slave trade.

The issue has gained renewed global attention following a recent resolution by the United

Nations General Assembly, which recognises transatlantic slavery as a grave crime against humanity and calls for dialogue on reparations, apologies, and compensation.

Although the resolution is not legally binding, it is widely viewed as a significant step in advancing global discussions on historical accountability, despite opposition from the United States and some European countries.



Majority shortchanged Parliament by blocking Gold for Reserves inquiry – Oppong Nkrumah

The Ranking Member on Parliament's Economy and Development Committee, Kojo Oppong Nkrumah, has criticised the Majority Caucus for voting against an inquiry into the Gold for Reserves programme.

The motion, rejected on Friday, March 27, sought to investigate the design, operation, performance and cost of the policy since its inception.

The Minority had argued that the probe would allow Parliament to establish the full facts about the programme, including claims of losses under both the previous NPP administration and the current NDC government.

In a social media post on Monday, March 30, the Ofoase-Ayirebi MP described the Majority's decision as unusual and a setback to parliamentary

oversight.

“As the originator of the motion requesting the investigation, I find this vote to block very bizarre,” he stated.

Mr. Oppong Nkrumah said the decision denies Parliament the opportunity to scrutinise a major economic policy and ensure accountability in its implementation.

He further argued that rejecting the inquiry raises concerns about Parliament's willingness to exercise its oversight responsibility, especially after approving the programme in previous years.

“My colleagues and I on the Minority side who supported this motion are of the view that the Majority side has shortchanged Parliament by voting to block this inquiry,” he added.

He also questioned the refusal to investigate reported financial losses, including claims that a portion of funds released for the programme in 2025 was lost to operational

and transactional costs amounting to \$214 million.

According to him, developments such as the sale

of gold under the programme and plans to repurchase it at potentially higher prices warrant thorough parliamentary scrutiny.



Ofoase-Ayirebi MP, Kojo Oppong Nkrumah

SPORTS

Italy fails to qualify for third World Cup in a row after Bosnia shootout defeat

Four-time world champions Italy failed to qualify for a third World Cup in a row after a penalty shootout defeat by Bosnia-Herzegovina.

No previous winner of the tournament has missed three consecutive instalments of the competition, after they also failed to reach Russia in 2018 and Qatar 2022.

Pio Esposito and Bryan Cristante missed their spot-kicks in the shootout after Gennaro Gattuso's 10 men had held on amid a barrage of Bosnian shots to take the game to penalties.

Bosnia-Herzegovina have qualified for just the second

time and will face Canada, Qatar and Switzerland in Group B this summer.

Italy led when Moise Kean provided a fine finish from the edge of the area after Nicolò Barella pounced when Bosnia goalkeeper Nikola Vasilj misplaced a pass in the 15th minute.

But the home side's hopes of a comeback were enhanced when Italy defender Alessandro Bastoni was sent off for hacking down Amar Memić with the Bosnia winger clean through on goal five minutes before the break.

Italy keeper Gianluigi Donnarumma was forced into a string of second-half saves but when he pushed out Edin

Džeko's header from Amar Dedić's 79th-minute cross, Haris Tabaković managed to turn home the rebound to force extra time.

The hosts were then perfect

from the spot with Benjamin Tahirović, Tabaković, Kerim Alajbegović and Esmir Bajraktarević scoring to secure their place in the summer tournament.



Ghana FA in advance talks to appoint Hervé Renard as new head coach - Reports

The Ghana Football Association (GFA) has initiated talks with Hervé Renard over the possibility of taking charge of the Black Stars following the departure of Otto Addo.

Ghana are currently without a head coach after the FA confirmed Addo's dismissal in the wake of consecutive friendly defeats to Austria and Germany during the March international window.

With the 2026 World Cup on the horizon, several names have emerged as potential candidates. Renard, who is presently in charge of Saudi Arabia, appears to be among the leading contenders.

The Saudi Arabian Football Federation has already announced that the 57-year-old will step down from his role after their friendly against Serbia.

His exit comes despite guiding the Gulf nation to qualification for the next World Cup, with recent underwhelming

performances—highlighted by a heavy 4-0 loss to Egypt—prompting a change in direction.

Sources indicate that the GFA has reached out to Renard's representatives as they intensify efforts to fill the vacancy. The Frenchman is understood to be open to a return to Ghana, having previously served as assistant coach to Claude Le Roy during the 2008 Africa Cup of Nations.

Renard's extensive experience across the continent, coupled with a track record of success with African sides, positions him as a strong candidate as Ghana seeks a swift appointment ahead of the global showpiece.

Over the course of his career, he has managed several clubs and national teams, including Angola, Morocco and France's women's national side, whom he guided to the football tournament at the 2024 Olympic Games before their quarterfinal exit to Brazil.

The Black Stars are expected to regroup in May for a pair of international friendlies against Mexico and Wales as part of preparations for the tournament.

Ghana, who will be making their fifth appearance at the World Cup, have been drawn in Group L alongside England, Croatia and Panama, with

ambitions of reaching the knockout stage for the first time since 2010.



Hervé Renard

Otto Addo to receive \$500,000 after Black Stars sack

The Ghana Football Association (GFA) is expected to compensate former Black Stars head coach Otto Addo following the termination of his contract.

Addo, who was reappointed in March 2024 on a three-year deal with an option for a two-year extension, has been relieved of his duties after a run of disappointing results. He replaced Chris Hughton, who was dismissed after Ghana's early exit from the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations in the group stage.

The decisive blow came during the March international window, where Ghana suffered consecutive defeats in friendlies against Austria and Germany as part of preparations for the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

The Black Stars were beaten 5-1 by Austria in Vienna before falling 2-1 to Germany in Stuttgart.

While the GFA has yet to confirm the financial details of Addo's exit, reports indicate that the 48-year-old could receive around \$500,000 in compensation, with approximately 10 months remaining on his contract.

Addo was reportedly earning a monthly salary of \$50,000. During his tenure, Addo oversaw 22 matches, recording eight wins, five draws and nine defeats.

Attention now turns to the search for a new head coach, with names such as Marc Brys, Tom Saintfiet and Hervé Renard reportedly under consideration for the vacant role.

The Black Stars are scheduled

to regroup in May, with friendlies lined up against Mexico on May 22 and Wales on June 2 as part of their World Cup preparations.

fifth appearance at the global tournament, have been drawn in Group L alongside England, Croatia and Panama, and will be aiming to progress beyond the group stage for the first time since 2010.

Ghana, set to make their



Dismissed Black Stars head coach, Otto Addo

Funke Akindele snubs actress Toyin Abraham at movie premiere

Funke Akindele sparked social media controversy on Sunday when she reportedly snubbed fellow Nollywood actress Toyin Abraham at the premiere of Iyabo Ojo's latest film.

Seated at the same table as Iyabo Ojo and Mercy Aigbe, Funke allegedly ignored Toyin when she came over to greet them. While Iyabo and Mercy responded warmly, Funke looked away, leaving Toyin embarrassed and prompting her to walk away.

A video of the moment quickly went viral, sparking mixed reactions online.

Some fans argued that Funke was justified in her response, referencing Toyin's previous agreement with veteran filmmaker Kunle Afolayan's criticism of Funke. Others felt she should have remained professional and acknowledged her colleague.



Gabby Otchere-Darko revealed as writer of Stonebwoy's 'Believe in Africa'

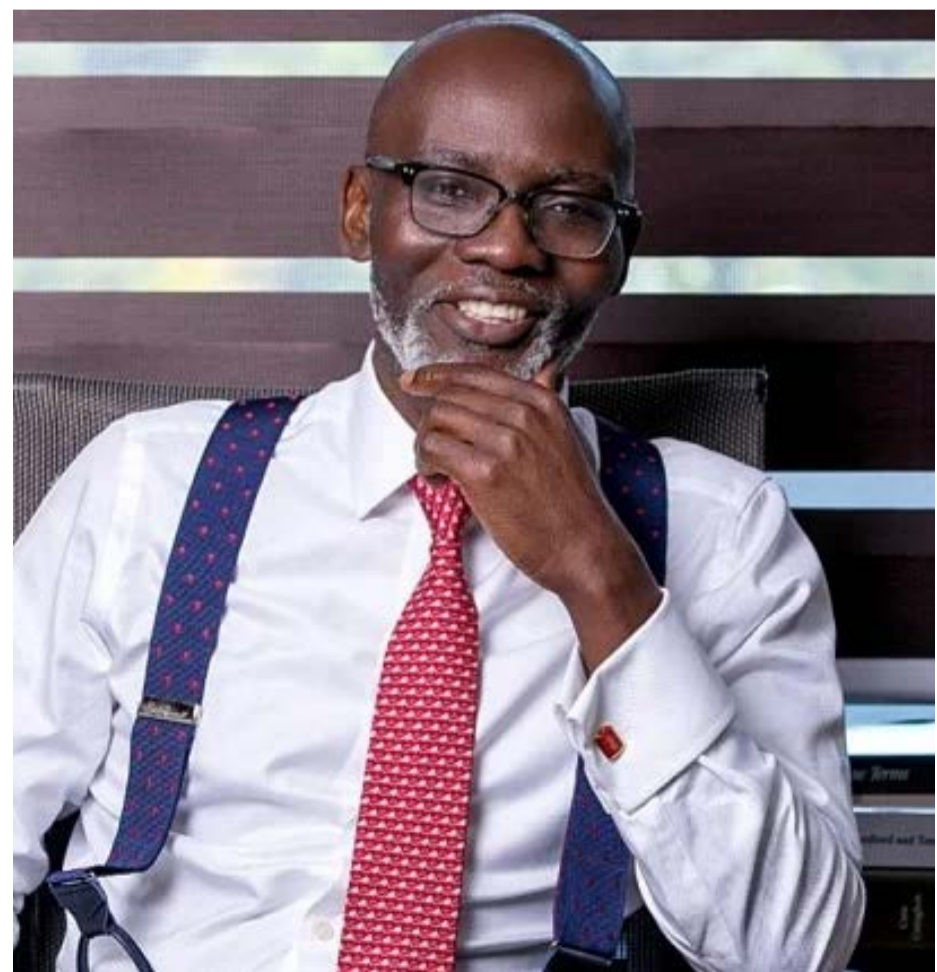
NPP's stalwart **Gabby Otchere-Darko** has been identified as the songwriter behind "Believe in Africa", the 2024 song performed by Stonebwoy.

Head of PR at Burniton Music Group, **Vida Adutwumwaa Boateng** made the revelation during an interview on Adom TV on March 28, 2026.

According to her, the song was commissioned for the Africa Prosperity Dialogue, with Stonebwoy selected to perform while Gabby Otchere-Darko handled the songwriting.

"If you remember, the organisers of the Africa Prosperity Dialogue contracted Stonebwoy to create a song aimed at promoting development across the continent. He went on to record 'Believe in Africa' and even performed it at an African leaders' gathering in Ghana. The song was written by Gabby Otchere-Darko," she said.

The disclosure has come shortly after Stonebwoy stirred reactions with comments made at an event at the Kempinski Hotel Gold Coast City, where he suggested that his song "Jejereje" contributed to the 2024 election victory of the National Democratic Congress (NDC).



NPP's stalwart Gabby Otchere-Darko

“I’ve been celibate for four months and all 10 men I dated ran away” – Vicky Zugah

Ghanaian actress Vicky Zugah has candidly shared her personal journey with celibacy, revealing how the decision has significantly affected her dating life.

In a revealing account, the actress disclosed that she chose to take sex off the table in any relationship she finds herself in, a decision she has strictly upheld since December last year. However, according to her, the experience has not been easy.

Vicky Zugah explained that within the four-month period from December to the end of March, she has interacted with at least 10 different men, both through physical dates and online conversations, but none of the connections progressed into a meaningful relationship.

The reason, she says, is simple: her firm stance on celibacy.

According to the actress, most of the men initially appear understanding when she communicates her decision. However, the situation changes once they realize she is serious about abstaining from sex for a

period of time. She noted that many of them eventually lose interest and disappear without any

explanation. “When you tell them, they don’t take it seriously at first. But when they realize you

really mean it, they vanish,” she indicated.



Ghanaian actress Vicky Zugah

“Ghanaian artistes can’t dress; zero drip, zero style” – Papi Adabraka

Ghanaian musician, Papi Adabraka of Five5 fame has stirred fresh debate in the music space after launching a scathing critique of the fashion sense of modern-day Ghanaian artistes.

Speaking in an interview on Okay FM with Nana Romeo (popularly known as Nana Romeo Welewele), Papi Adabraka did not mince words, describing the current crop of musicians as lacking originality and style.

According to him, many Ghanaian artistes today have “zero drip” and “zero style,” arguing that their fashion choices fail to reflect individuality or proper understanding of branding. He stressed that dressing is a key part of an artiste’s identity, and getting it wrong can negatively affect their overall image.

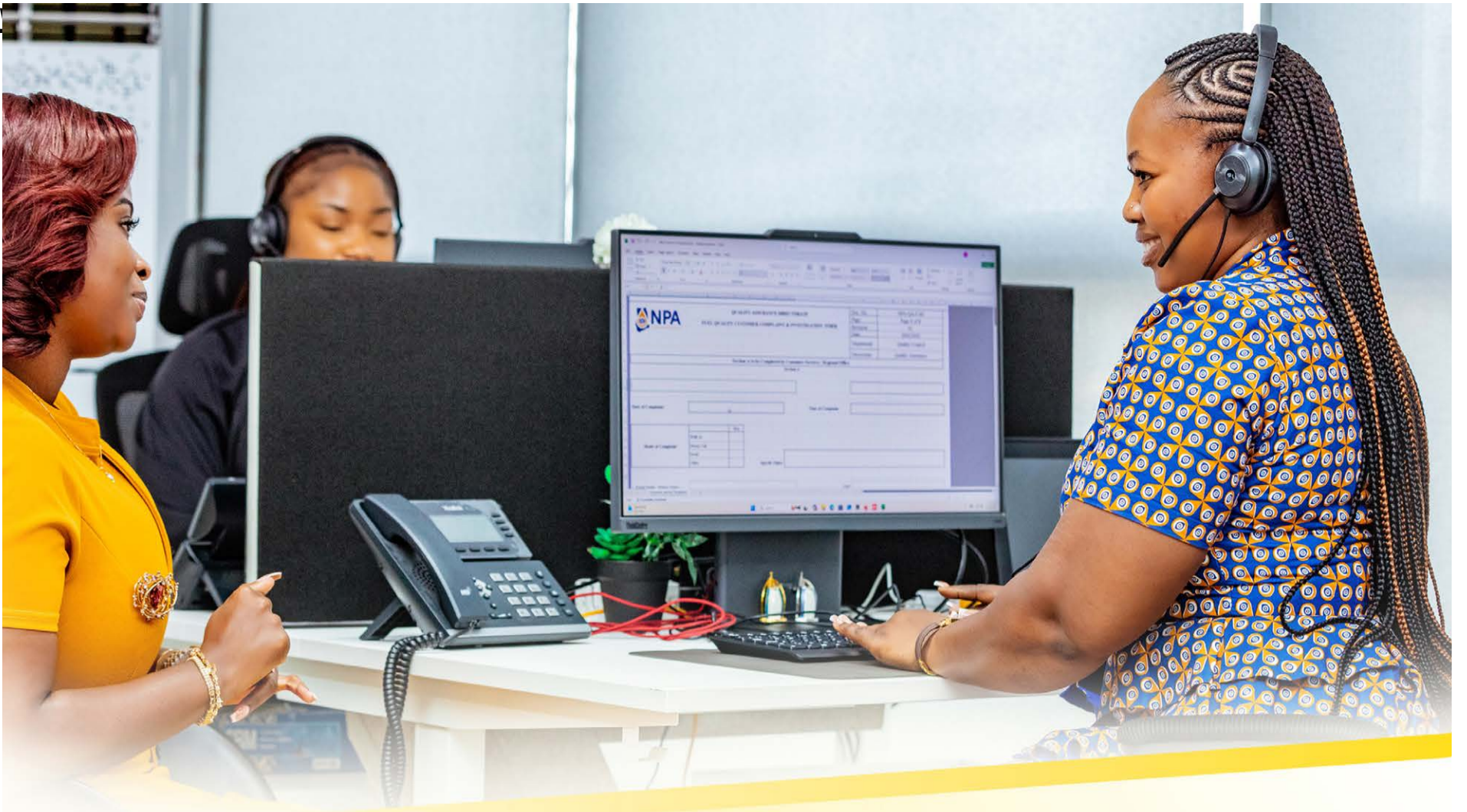
Papi Adabraka further expressed disappointment in how some emerging artistes carry themselves, especially when they attempt to compare or associate themselves with established stars like Shatta Wale. He noted that it frustrates him to hear such comparisons when, in his view, these artistes have not yet developed a strong personal style or presence.

He explained that one of the biggest problems is that many artistes simply copy trends they see on the internet without considering what actually suits their body type, personality, or brand. Instead of dressing to look good, he said, they focus on dressing to impress often missing the mark entirely.

“They wear what they see online, not what fits them,” he emphasized, adding that true style comes from understanding oneself and not blindly following global trends.



Ghanaian musician, Papi Adabraka



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