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Big shame on Circuit Court judge for remanding Baba Amando despite prosecution not seeking remand – Afenyo Markin



Minority Leader, Osahen Alexander Afenyo-Markin

The Minority Leader, Osahen Alexander Afenyo-Markin, has launched a scathing attack on a Circuit Court judge over the decision to remand NPP Sunyani East Communications Officer, Abubakar Yakubu, also known as Baba Amando, despite what he says was the prosecution's position not to seek such an order.

Speaking on Eyewitness News on

Tuesday, April 14, he described the ruling as a "big shame," arguing that the judge acted improperly by ordering the two week remand even though the prosecution had not applied for it.

Osahen Afenyo-Markin questioned the fairness of the proceedings, insisting the judge's conduct raises serious concerns about judicial discretion and due process.

He, however, praised the Ghana Police Service for what he described as a professional approach in handling the arrest and investigation.

"I want to commend the Ghana Police Service that, for nothing at all, they have demonstrated professionalism. I will commend the IGP, the Director-General of CID, and the police prosecutors, as well as the police detectives; they have been professional.

"But that judge, the Circuit Court judge, shame on him. He has brought a big shame onto himself and the judiciary," he said.

According to him, the prosecution had indicated that it only needed time to conduct forensic examinations, particularly because the case involves alleged social media publications.

He explained that police, through surveillance, identified the post in

question, invited the suspect for questioning, took his statement and released him within the constitutionally mandated 48 hour period.

Osahen Afenyo-Markin further stated that during court proceedings, the prosecution did not apply for remand but left the matter to the discretion of the court. He claimed the judge instead pressed the prosecution to seek a remand order, a request they reportedly declined.

Abubakar Yakubu was arrested on Monday, April 13, 2026, as part of investigations into allegations of offensive conduct, false publication and the circulation of statements likely to cause fear and panic.

Although formal charges are yet to be filed, sources suggest the case may be linked to alleged threats against a judge at the Adentan Circuit Court, a development that has sparked concern within legal and governance circles.

Ghana moves to community sentencing to tackle prison overcrowding

Ghana is preparing for a significant overhaul of its criminal justice system as government advances the proposed Community Service Bill, a reform aimed at easing prison congestion and promoting rehabilitation for minor offenders.

The Minister for the Interior, Muntaka Mohammed-Mubarak, described the bill as a transformative step that will give courts the option to impose community-based sentences instead of imprisonment, particularly for less serious offences.

The initiative comes against the backdrop of rising pressure on the country's correctional facilities, which are reported to be operating at about 35 percent above capacity, intensifying concerns over overcrowding and inmate welfare.

Structured around seven thematic areas and 66 sections, the bill proposes a system

where eligible offenders, those convicted of offences carrying a maximum sentence of three years, may be assigned supervised community service in place of custodial sentences.

Under the framework, such individuals would be required to work between four and eight hours daily for a period not exceeding six months.

According to Muntaka Mohammed-Mubarak, the reform goes beyond decongesting prisons and seeks to redefine the country's approach to punishment. "The Community Service Bill offers a practical, humane, and cost-effective alternative to imprisonment, promoting rehabilitation and reducing prison overcrowding," he stated.

The proposal has also received support from Parliament, with James Agalga, Chairman of the Parliamentary Select Committee on Defence and Interior, praising the Minister for pushing forward a reform that has been under

consideration for years.

He noted that the legislation, if passed, would help tackle longstanding structural challenges within the prison system while strengthening restorative justice practices.

Authorities say the bill is designed not only to reduce overcrowding but also to

encourage offenders to contribute positively to society while serving their sentences.

If approved by Parliament, the Community Service Bill is expected to mark a major policy shift, steering Ghana's justice system toward rehabilitation-focused sentencing and broader correctional reform.



Minister for the Interior, Muntaka Mohammed-Mubarak

'I pray to God everyday to let Nigeria get their acts together' – Ghana's President

President John Dramani Mahama has emphasised the critical link between Ghana's development and Nigeria's stability, warning that developments in Africa's most populous nation have far-reaching implications for the sub-region.

Speaking at the African Heritage Awards, the President made it clear that Ghana's fortunes are closely tied to those of Nigeria, citing its economic weight, population size and regional influence.

"Nigeria is of keen security interest to us. If Nigeria does well, Ghana does well," he stated.

He explained that with a population exceeding 200 million, any instability in Nigeria could trigger consequences across neighbouring countries,

including increased migration pressures on Ghana.

"When you have cousins, 250 million, you want them to do well so that one million of them don't come drifting towards a small country like Ghana," he said.

The President further revealed the depth of his concern, noting that Nigeria's progress remains a constant priority in his reflections.

"Every day I wake up, I pray for Nigeria. I say, God, let Nigeria get their acts together," he remarked.

Beyond security and economic considerations, John Dramani Mahama highlighted the longstanding cultural and historical connections between the two nations, pointing out that several

ethnic groups in Ghana trace their roots to areas in Nigeria, including the Yoruba kingdom.

His remarks underscore the

deep interdependence among West African countries and the broader regional impact of stability and growth in Nigeria.



Ghana's President, John Dramani Mahama

DVLA shuts down six vehicle testing centres for issuing roadworthy certificates to unfit vehicles

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority (DVLA) has launched a sweeping crackdown on malpractice within the vehicle inspection system, shutting down six private vehicle testing stations (PVTs) found culpable of issuing roadworthy certificates to unfit vehicles.

The decisive action, aimed at tightening enforcement and boosting road safety, was disclosed by DVLA Chief Executive Officer, Julius Neequaye Kotey, during the commissioning of a new PVTs facility at Buduburam near Kasoa.

"In the past two to three months, we have closed about six PVTs that did not inspect cars, yet they issued roadworthy certificates," he revealed.

Mr Kotey issued a stern warning to operators and staff of testing centres, stressing the need for integrity and strict adherence to inspection standards.

"Let's make sure the cars we pass here are good and roadworthy," he cautioned, adding that intensified monitoring will be sustained to eliminate fraudulent practices.

He underscored that road safety is a shared responsibility, warning of the unpredictable consequences of negligence.

"It is our collective responsibility to ensure that there is safety on our roads. We don't know who will be the victim tomorrow," he said.

The enforcement exercise coincided with the rollout of new DVLA service facilities, including the Anyaa Ultra Centre, Kasoa Ultra Centre, and the Buduburam PVTs, as part of efforts to expand access and streamline operations.

Mr Kotey explained that while PVTs centres focus on vehicle inspection and test certification, Ultra Centres provide comprehensive services such as vehicle

registration, licensing, and ownership transfers.

As part of ongoing reforms, he announced plans to introduce RFID-enabled number plates to strengthen vehicle tracking and enforcement nationwide.

"These plates will be integrated into a central database, enhancing vehicle traceability and strengthening enforcement," he noted.

The DVLA is also extending its operational footprint to all districts to curb the activities of unauthorised intermediaries, commonly known as "goro

boys," while encouraging vehicle owners to update their records on the Authority's upgraded database.

Meanwhile, the Member of Parliament for Awutu Senya East, Philis Naa Koryoo Okunor, urged staff to maintain professionalism and called on residents to make full use of the new facilities.

The Municipal Chief Executive for Ga Central, Emmanuel Adotey Allotey, also praised the DVLA's expansion drive and pledged continued support for its initiatives.



DVLA CEO, Mr Julius Neequaye Kotey

EU troops will not be stationed in Ghana under new defence deal – Foreign Affairs Ministry clarifies



The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has clarified that the new Security and Defence Partnership between Ghana and the European Union (EU) does not allow the

stationing of foreign troops in the country.

The Ministry also stressed that the

agreement does not provide for the establishment of any foreign military bases on Ghanaian soil.

It said the arrangement is rather focused on cooperation in key security areas including counter-terrorism, maritime security, cybersecurity and border management.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, April 14, the Ministry explained that the partnership is aimed at strengthening the country's national and regional security architecture.

“The Ministry wishes to categorically state that the agreement neither provides for the establishment of foreign military bases in Ghana nor does it permit the stationing of foreign troops on Ghanaian soil,” reads part of the statement.

It added that the agreement is part of long-standing cooperation

between Ghana and the EU, now formalised into a structured framework.

“The Partnership provides a structured framework for collaboration in key areas including counter-terrorism, maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea, cybersecurity, border management, and support for peacekeeping and crisis response operations,” the statement noted.

The Ministry further dismissed public concerns and misinformation circulating about the nature of the deal and described them as inaccurate.

It assured that Ghana's sovereignty and territorial integrity remain fully protected, adding that all engagements with international partners are guided by national interest and mutual respect.

‘Construct better roads for Ghanaians’ – Joyce Bawah urges Big Push contractors

Senior Presidential Advisor and Aide to President John Dramani Mahama, Joyce Bawah Mogtari, has called on contractors working on the government's “Big Push” infrastructure programme to deliver high-quality road projects across the country.

The Big Push initiative is a flagship infrastructure programme aimed at accelerating economic growth, improving transport networks, and creating jobs through nationwide road and development projects.

It focuses on the construction of 50 major roads, rehabilitation of over 2,000 kilometres of existing roads, as well as investments in water systems and agricultural infrastructure such as dams.

In a social media post on Tuesday, April 14, Madam Bawah Mogtari highlighted public expectations for improved road safety and

urged contractors to prioritise quality in their work.

“Dear Contractors working on Big Push constructs, we anticipate seeing better roads. We encourage you to strive for excellence,” she stated.

The Presidential Advisor further noted that improved road infrastructure is expected to reduce road crashes and improve travel safety for motorists.

“When the roads are done, we will do well to develop other modally complimentary systems of transportation,” she added.

The Presidential Advisor also urged road users to exercise caution, especially around construction zones, as works progress across the country.

She expressed optimism that the programme, when fully implemented, will significantly transform the country's transport infrastructure landscape.



Aide to President John Dramani Mahama, Joyce Bawah Mogtari

NPP's hypocrisy over Abronye DC's arrest surprises even the devil – Abass Nurudeen

A member of the governing National Democratic Congress (NDC) communications team, Abass Nurudeen, has accused the opposition New Patriotic Party of hypocrisy over its reaction to the arrest of Bono Regional Chairman Kwame Baffoe Abronye.

Abronye DC was detained by the Criminal Investigation Department of the Ghana Police Service on Monday, April 13, over alleged threats and the publication of false news.

His arrest follows claims that he threatened a Circuit Court judge over perceived bias in favour of the ruling NDC.

The NPP has since criticised the move, accusing the government of using state

security agencies to silence dissenting voices.

However, speaking on Accra-based Metro TV's Good Morning Ghana on Tuesday, April 14, Abass Nurudeen rejected those claims.

The NDC communicator argued that the NPP engaged in similar or worse actions while in power.

“They did far worse, and the NPP... surprises even the devil himself because the very things they are lamenting over today, they did far worse,” he said.

He stressed that the law must take its course when individuals make statements that could undermine public security or the administration of justice.

“The law guarantees freedom

of speech, but it does not guarantee freedom after speech, especially when the speech is irresponsible,” he added.

Nurudeen cited past instances where individuals including Sammy Gyamfi, Kwabena

Bobbie Ansah and others, were arrested and detained under the previous administration for similar offences.

He further described the controversy as a distraction from what he called the government's ongoing economic and policy gains.



NDC communications team, Abass Nurudeen

Free primary healthcare to shift Ghana from sick care to comprehensive care – Health Minister

The Minister for Health, Kwabena Mintah Akandoh, says the government's free primary healthcare policy is aimed at transforming Ghana's health system from a “sick care” model to a more comprehensive approach.

The policy, a key campaign promise of President John Dramani Mahama, seeks to expand access to basic healthcare services by prioritising prevention, early detection and treatment of minor ailments.

It is expected to operate within the framework of the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS), with services delivered through CHPS compounds and other primary health facilities.

Speaking on Accra-based TV3's New Day on Tuesday, the Minister explained that

the policy is part of broader reforms to strengthen the health sector.

He noted that improvements in NHIS funding and coverage have created the foundation for implementing the initiative.

“In actual fact, you can never have a comprehensive health system without health promotion and prevention,” he said.

The Juaboso MP added that the government is committing resources to ensure the policy delivers meaningful impact at the community level.

“What we are seeking to do... is to move from sick care to comprehensive health care,” he stated.

He further explained that

the policy will not create new administrative structures but will rely on existing institutions such as the Ghana Health Service and private providers.

The Minister also highlighted recent gains in NHIS coverage, indicating an increase from about 57 percent to 66 percent within a year, as evidence of progress in the sector.



Minister for Health, Kwabena Mintah Akandoh

Agenda 111 was a trap by Akufo-Addo's govt – Health Minister

The Minister for Health, Kwabena Mintah Akandoh, has described the Agenda 111 hospital projects as a “trap” set by the previous New Patriotic Party administration.

The Agenda 111 initiative, launched under former President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, was aimed at constructing 111 hospitals across the country to improve access to healthcare.

The project includes 104 district hospitals, seven regional hospitals and psychiatric facilities.

Former President Akufo-Addo recently urged President John Dramani Mahama to ensure the completion of the projects to enhance healthcare delivery. However, speaking on TV3's New Day on Tuesday, April 14, Mr Akandoh questioned the intent behind the initiative.

The Minister argued that the previous government started the projects without a clear plan to complete them.

“They had no intention of completing this Agenda 111... I'm saying that it's a trap,” he said.

He further suggested that the projects were politically motivated to create pressure on successive governments.

“The trap is that... if they lose the election, they will put pressure on government to finish, and if they don't, they will say the project has been abandoned,” he added.

The Minister indicated that government has begun steps to continue work on some of the facilities, indicating that contractors are expected to return to site.

He noted that about 10 projects have been targeted for completion this year, while

others will be phased based on their level of completion. Mr Akandoh assured that the government will not abandon

the projects but will adopt a strategic approach to complete and operationalise them.



Minister for Health, Kwabena Mintah Akandoh

EPA Deputy Chief Executive questions 'cooked' Mussa Dankwa's latest polls putting Asiedu Nketia ahead

The Deputy Chief Executive of the Environmental Protection Agency, Michael Ayamga-Adongo, has cast doubt on the credibility of polls conducted by Global InfoAnalytics, led by Mussa Dankwa.

His comments follow the release of a new survey by the firm suggesting a tightening race among potential contenders for the flagbearer position of the National Democratic Congress ahead of the 2028 elections.

The poll indicates that Johnson Asiedu Nketia is leading, although the margin is said to be narrowing.

Reacting to the findings in a social media post, Dr Ayamga-Adongo questioned the consistency of the results, arguing that they appear contradictory.

“The leader in your last poll is now more than 10 points behind a new leader, yet you say the old leader is closing the gap. Which gap?” he asked.

He went further to suggest that the polling process lacks credibility, alleging that the outcomes may be predetermined.

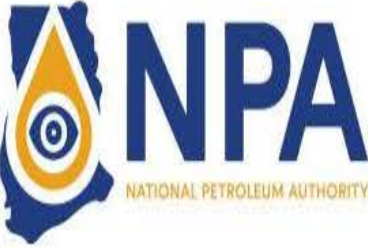
“Obviously he has already cooked the next poll waiting for the fee to be paid. Just passing!” he stated.



Deputy Chief Executive of EPA, Michael Ayamga-Adongo

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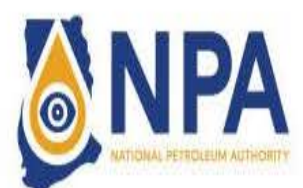
(As of 13th April, 2026)

	AVERAGE FOB PRICES FOR THE PERIOD 16TH - 30TH APRIL 2026 WINDOW (27TH MARCH - 11TH APRIL 2026)	ESTIMATED AVERAGE FOB PRICES EFFECTIVE 1ST MAY 2026 (12TH - 26TH APRIL 2026 AVERAGES)	% CHANGE
FX Rate (Commercial Banks Average) (USD/GHS)	11.1324	11.1733	-0.37%
Crude Oil (USD/BBL)	129.80	132.74	2.26%
Petrol (USD/MT)	1044.00	1,053.25	0.89%
Gasoil (USD/MT)	1397.14	1,298.00	-7.10%
LPG (USD/MT)	936.28	889.75	-4.97%
Jet/Kerosene (USD/MT)	1662.22	1,587.25	-4.51%
Fuel Oil (USD/MT)	619.64	586.00	-5.43%
Products figures represent the FOB Prices used in the Price Build-Up (PBU)			

Note: The price for diesel cargoes delivered to North West Europe reached around \$170 per barrel, according to LSEG data, up from around \$102 before the war started."—Reuters

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‘Majority of Ghanaian World Cup supporters will not return home’ – Journalist warns against state-funded travel



Ghanaian football supporters

Prominent Ghanaian journalist and media personality Godfred Akoto Boafa has advised the Ministry of Youth and Sports

and the Government of Ghana to reconsider any plans to sponsor supporters to travel to the United States for the FIFA World Cup, warning that the initiative could create serious problems for the

country.

Speaking on Citi FM, monitored by Journalist and Blogger Attractive Mustapha, the experienced sports journalist—who says he has attended three different World Cups—argued that Ghana’s past practice of sponsoring supporters for international tournaments has not delivered meaningful benefits.

According to him, the initiative has often been marred by controversy and has failed to achieve its intended purpose.

“I will advise the ministry not to take supporters to America,” he said. “This approach has not brought anything good to Ghana

apart from scandals.”

He further raised concerns that many supporters who travel for the World Cup in the United States may not return to Ghana.

“Majority of people going for the World Cup in the USA will not return home,” he warned, adding that similar patterns were reportedly observed in previous tournaments, including when Ghanaian supporters traveled to countries such as Brazil.

He cautioned that such a situation could create diplomatic and immigration challenges for Ghana, potentially affecting the country’s international relations and visa credibility.

All you need to know about new Ghana coach Carlos Manuel Brito Leal de Queiroz

Carlos Manuel Brito Leal de Queiroz is certainly one of the most travelled coaches in the history of football, having worked in Europe, Africa, Asia, the Middle East and North America.

Having accepted the new challenge of leading the Black Stars to the 2026 World Cup, the Portuguese tactician may face one of his most difficult tasks, considering how passionate Ghanaians are about the senior national team.

Regardless of the challenge, the pedigree of Queiroz is not in doubt, as he is one of the most highprofile coaches Ghana has ever appointed in its football history.

The deep tactical knowledge and tournament management skills of Queiroz, in combination with the football talents in the Black Stars, could be a pictureperfect match that may change the fortunes of Ghana football.

Experience

Born on March 1, 1953, Carlos Queiroz is a veteran Portuguese coach whose career spans more than four decades and virtually every level of the game.

Queiroz has previously coached the national teams of Portugal, South Africa, Iran, Colombia, Egypt, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman, giving him rare insight into different football cultures and administrative environments. At club level, he has handled sides such as Sporting CP, Real Madrid and New York/New Jersey MetroStars, while

also enjoying two influential spells as assistant manager at Manchester United under Sir Alex Ferguson.

Impact across Europe

Queiroz first rose to global prominence as a youth coach. He masterminded one of the greatest periods in Portuguese football history by guiding the country’s “Golden Generation”—which included stars like Luís Figo and Rui Costa—to backtoback FIFA U20 World Cup titles in 1989 and 1991.

Those triumphs earned him a reputation as one of the world’s finest youth developers and set the foundation for Portugal’s later dominance on the international stage.

His success at youth level translated into silverware in senior football. As head coach of Sporting CP, Queiroz won the Taça de Portugal in the 1994–95 season and followed it up with the Portuguese Super Cup.

His growing reputation eventually took him to Spain, where he guided Real Madrid to the 2003 Spanish Super Cup, marking immediate success at one of the world’s biggest clubs.

World Cup specialist

Few coaches can match Queiroz’s World Cup résumé. He led South Africa to their firstever FIFA World Cup appearance in 2002, topping a tough CAF qualifying group.

Later, he qualified Portugal for the 2010 World Cup,

highlighted by a memorable 7–0 demolition of North Korea in South Africa which remains one of the country’s biggest World Cup victories.

His most sustained international success came with Iran, whom he turned into a model of tactical discipline.

Under Queiroz, Iran qualified unbeaten for the 2014 World Cup, secured early qualification for Russia 2018 as Asia’s second team after Brazil, and later competed again at Qatar 2022.

African pedigree

Queiroz’s understanding of African football was further underlined during his stint with Egypt, where he guided the Pharaohs to the final of the 2021 Africa Cup of Nations.

Despite taking charge shortly before the tournament, he led Egypt past several strong opponents and narrowly missed out on the title after a penalty shootout defeat to

Senegal.

He has also had a stint with South Africa.

The Black Stars Mission

With Ghana entering the 2026 World Cup as one of the huge underdogs, Queiroz, who has built a reputation for organising underdog teams, instilling discipline and defensive solidity, could be a major change for the Black Stars.

Given the potential of Ghana, with players like Antoine Semenyo, Mohammed Kudus, Jordan Ayew, Inaki Williams and Fatawu Issahaku, among others, Queiroz can certainly achieve a lot with this group considering his history.

Ghana would open their World Cup campaign against Panama on June 17, 2026, in Toronto, before facing England and Croatia in their remaining group matches.



Carlos Manuel Brito Leal de Queiroz



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GFA explains process behind Carlos Queiroz appointment as Black Stars head coach

Communications Director of the Ghana Football Association (GFA), Henry Asante Twum, has disclosed that the appointment of Carlos Queiroz as head coach of the Black Stars followed a structured and collaborative selection process involving multiple stakeholders.

The 72-year-old Portuguese tactician has been handed a short-term deal to lead Ghana into the 2026 FIFA World Cup, taking over from Otto Addo, who was dismissed after a difficult March international break that saw the team suffer consecutive defeats to Austria and Germany.

Speaking on Asempa FM, Twum stressed that the decision-making process was thorough and insulated from external pressure.

“We decided to filter out the noise, and the search for the new coach was led by a competent team through a broad engagement process,” he said.

He further noted that the selection involved a mix of expertise from within and outside the football association.

“A very competent team, including members of the GFA, the technical directorate, and former FA officials in opposition, worked together on the appointment of Carlos Queiroz.

“It was not solely an FA decision but the result of a broad consultation process,” Asante Twum added.

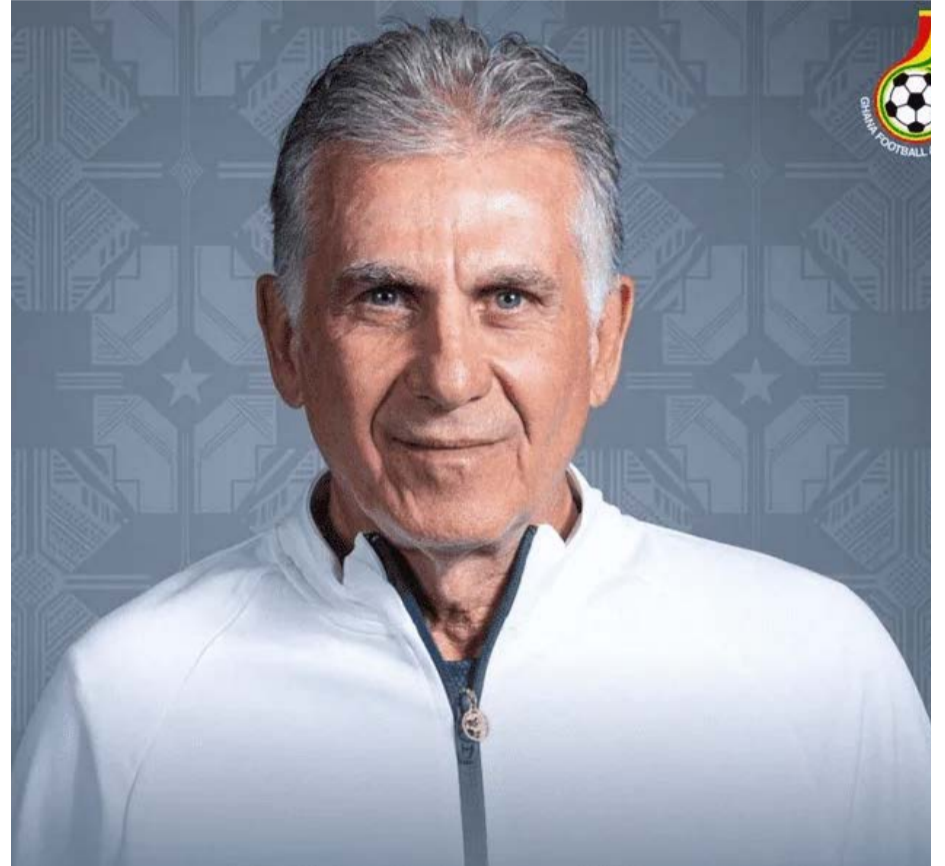
Queiroz is expected to formally begin work with the squad next month, starting with an international friendly against Mexico, before concluding preparations for the tournament with a final warm-up match against Wales on June 2.

The Black Stars, Ghana’s national team, will feature at the FIFA World Cup for the fifth time, competing in Group L alongside England, Croatia, and Panama at the tournament co-hosted by the United States, Canada, and

Mexico.

Having endured group-stage exits in 2014 and 2022, Queiroz

has been tasked with improving Ghana’s fortunes on football’s biggest stage.



Carlos Queiroz

GFA to review Carlos Queiroz’s performance after 2026 World Cup campaign



The Ghana Football Association (GFA) will take a wait-and-see approach on the future of newly appointed Black Stars head coach Carlos Queiroz, with a formal

performance review scheduled after the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

This was disclosed by the FA’s Communications Director, Henry Asante Twum, who

confirmed that the experienced Portuguese tactician has been handed a short-term mandate to lead Ghana through the global tournament.

Queiroz replaces Otto Addo, who was relieved of his duties following consecutive defeats to Austria and Germany in pre-World Cup friendlies.

Speaking to Asempa FM, Asante Twum indicated that the FA’s decision on whether to retain the 72-year-old will depend on his performance at the tournament.

“Carlos Queiroz to lead the Black Stars until the end of the World Cup. After that, the FA will review how things turn out and decide whether to keep him or part ways,” he said.

He further revealed that the former Egypt and Iran coach has already begun preparations and is expected to arrive in Ghana in the coming days to continue his work on the ground.

“Carlos Queiroz has already begun work on the Black Stars and is expected in Ghana in the coming days,” Asante Twum added.

Queiroz is set to officially engage the squad next month when Ghana faces Mexico in an international friendly, before wrapping up preparations with a final test against Wales on June 2.

The Black Stars, gearing up for their fifth appearance at the FIFA World Cup 2026, have been drawn in Group L. They will open their campaign against Panama on June 17, followed by fixtures against England on June 23 and Croatia on June 27.

After disappointing group-stage exits at the 2014 tournament in Brazil and the 2022 edition in Qatar, Queiroz will be tasked with restoring pride and delivering a more competitive showing on football’s biggest stage.

Award Letter, Letter of Acceptance, or Notice of Acceptance of Tender? Ghana's Procurement System Must Get This Right

Surv. Dr. Emmanuel Norgah Bukari | Surv. S. A. Razak Batong | Engr. George Kwame Nyame (Kramo), Esq.

Chief Quantity Surveyor, Ministry of Roads and Highways | Homeland Resources Ltd., Accra | Construction Law Practitioner, Ghana



(Engr. George) Esq.

Every day across Ghana, a procurement officer somewhere types a letter to a successful contractor. In one ministry, the letter says 'Award Letter'. In another, it reads 'Notification of Award'. In a third office, someone uses 'Letter of Acceptance' or 'Notice of Acceptance of Tender'. Different titles, same intention: to inform a bidder they have won a public contract. The trouble is that these documents are not legally interchangeable, and Ghana is bearing the cost of treating them as if they were.

What the Law Says

The law here is not vague. Section 65(1) of the Public Procurement Act, 2003 (Act 663, as amended by Act 914 of 2016) states plainly that once a tender is determined to be successful, notice of acceptance of the tender shall be given. Regulation 27(1) of the Public Procurement Regulations, 2022 (L.I. 2466) goes further, requiring procuring entities to issue a Notice of Acceptance using the exact format set out in the Second Schedule of those regulations. That format has been prescribed. There is no legal basis for Award Letters, Notification of Award Letters, or any improvised variation as the document that forms a contract with a successful tenderer.

Some practitioners have pushed back on this, arguing that what matters is the substance of the

communication, not the label it carries. That reasoning does not hold where a statute has been this specific. Ghanaian courts have confirmed the principle repeatedly: where a law prescribes a procedure or format, that is the procedure or format that must be followed. Non-compliant forms are not legally effective substitutes.

Two Instruments, Two Purposes

Part of the confusion stems from a genuine misreading of the law. There is a document called the Notice of Contract Award, and it is indeed required. But its purpose is entirely different. Under Act 663 and L.I. 2466, the Notice of Contract Award is a publication instrument. It informs the public and the wider market that a contract has been given. It is a transparency tool, directed at civil society, not at the contractor. It does not form a contract. The Notice of Acceptance of Tender does.

When MDAs and MMDAs send Award Letters or Notification of Award letters directly to contractors as contract formation documents, they are conflating two distinct legal instruments. One creates a contractual obligation. The other announces the outcome of a procurement process. Treating them as the same thing is not a harmless administrative habit. It is a legal error with practical consequences.

What the Confusion Costs

Contractors mobilise workers and equipment on the basis of letters that may carry no binding legal weight. When disputes arise over whether a valid contract ever existed, those disputes consume time, money, and the credibility of the procurement system. The Ghana Audit Service has flagged contract formation weaknesses as a recurring source of procurement irregularities across public sector reviews. Cost overruns and delayed infrastructure projects often trace back, at least in part, to this kind of foundational uncertainty.

There is also a corruption dimension. When a contract's legal existence is ambiguous, that ambiguity creates room for manipulation. It allows an entity to acknowledge or disown a contractual commitment depending on convenience, and that is precisely the kind of grey zone that invites abuse. Standardisation removes that grey zone.

What Needs to Happen

The Public Procurement Authority should issue a binding directive requiring all MDAs and MMDAs to use only the Notice of Acceptance of Tender as the contract award instrument, formatted in line with the Second Schedule of L.I. 2466. The Standard Tender Documents need revising to embed this requirement. GHANEPS, Ghana's electronic procurement platform, should be configured to enforce it rather than permit variation. Compliance should become a specific parameter in audit reviews, and procurement training across public institutions should cover why this distinction matters.

The Bottom Line

Ghana is spending seriously on infrastructure. That investment needs a procurement system that knows, precisely and without dispute, when a contract has been made. The Notice of Acceptance of Tender is the answer the law has already provided. Everything else is improvisation, and Ghana's public finances can no longer afford it.

Acknowledgment of Contributions

This article is the product of independent professional reflection by three practitioners that converged on a shared conclusion.

Surv. Dr. Emmanuel Norgah Bukari (MCIPS, MGHIS, CMILT, MIET, GNAAP)

Chief Quantity Surveyor, Ministry of Roads and Highways (Procurement Directorate)

Dr. Bukari contributed the policy and governance analysis that forms the backbone of this article. Drawing on his professional experience at the Ministry of Roads and Highways, he examined the systemic consequences of terminological inconsistency across Ghana's public procurement architecture, proposed the hybrid formulation Notice of Acceptance of Tender (Letter of Acceptance) as the bridging instrument between Ghana's statutory procurement language and internationally recognised contract law practice, and developed the policy recommendations framework. His comparative analysis draws on World Bank, FIDIC, and UNCITRAL frameworks.

Surv. S. A. Razak Batong (PMP, MCIPS, CMILT, MRICS, MGHIS, PET.IET-Gh)

Homeland Resources Ltd., Accra, Ghana

Surv. Batong contributed to the practitioner's perspective, grounded in extensive field experience. He was among the first practitioners to publicly challenge the persistent misuse of Award Letters and Notification of Award instruments across MMDAs and MDAs, articulating the critical legal distinction between the Notice of Contract Award (a public disclosure instrument) and the Notice of Acceptance of Tender (the contract formation instrument). That distinction is central to this article.

Engr. George Kwame Nyame (Kramo), Esq.

Construction Law Practitioner, Ghana

Engr. Nyame contributed the statutory interpretation and case law analysis. He invoked the foundational legal principle that where a statute prescribes a specific procedure or format, only that procedure or format can validly be followed, and applied it directly to Section 65(1) of Act 663 and Regulation 27(1) of L.I. 2466. He also flagged the need for future professional dialogue on the substantive content of the Notice of Acceptance of Tender as currently prescribed in the Second Schedule of L.I. 2466.

Guru says “Lapaz Toyota” transformed his career and saved his music journey

Ghanaian musician Guru has revealed that his 2011 hit song “Lapaz Toyota” was the turning point that revived his struggling music career and secured his first major record deal.

Speaking in an interview with Nana Romeo, the rapper recounted how earlier releases such as “Kasiebo” and “Democracy” failed to sustain his momentum in the industry.

He said those setbacks nearly pushed him out of music altogether due to mounting challenges and lack of breakthrough success.

“Lapaz Toyota changed everything,” Guru said. “It took me to the big leagues, built my brand, and got me my first label deal.”

He explained that the song became the defining moment of his career,

opening doors to mainstream recognition and positioning him among established artistes in the industry.

According to him, the success of the track also improved his personal life, enabling him to support family and friends after

years of struggle.



Ghanaian musician, Guru

It's not true Nigerian artistes earn better than Ghanaians – Medikal

Ghanaian rapper Samuel Adu Frimpong, popularly known as Medikal, has dismissed claims that Nigerian artistes earn more and live better than their Ghanaian counterparts.

The perception, he said, is largely driven by how the media portrays Nigerian artistes compared to those in Ghana.

Speaking on Accra-based Metro TV's Good Evening Ghana on Thursday, April 9, Medikal stated that many Ghanaian artistes are doing equally well financially.

“I don't think Ghanaian artistes don't make much money... there are artistes like myself... we are actually living good,” he said.

He argued that the narrative of Nigerian superiority in the music industry is more about perception than reality.

“It's just this perception the media has created in the minds of Ghanaians that Nigerians are living better than Ghanaians, but I don't think that's the case,” he noted.

The award-winning singer further attributed the perception gap to branding

and promotion, noting that Nigerian artistes often present their success in ways that

attract more public attention. He stressed that Ghanaian artistes also achieve significant

milestones but are sometimes undervalued locally.



Ghanaian musician, Medikal

I wasted all my money on music videos, promotion – Showboy ‘depressed’ over TGMA no show



Rapper Showboy

Rapper Showboy, has announced planstoditchhismusic career to focus on making more babies, building family and investing in the real estate sector, as years of investment in his craft has yielded zero results.

He attributed this

unfortunate development to the lack of recognition by the public and the awarding board members of the Telecel Ghana Music Awards (TGMA), organised by Charterhouse Ghana.

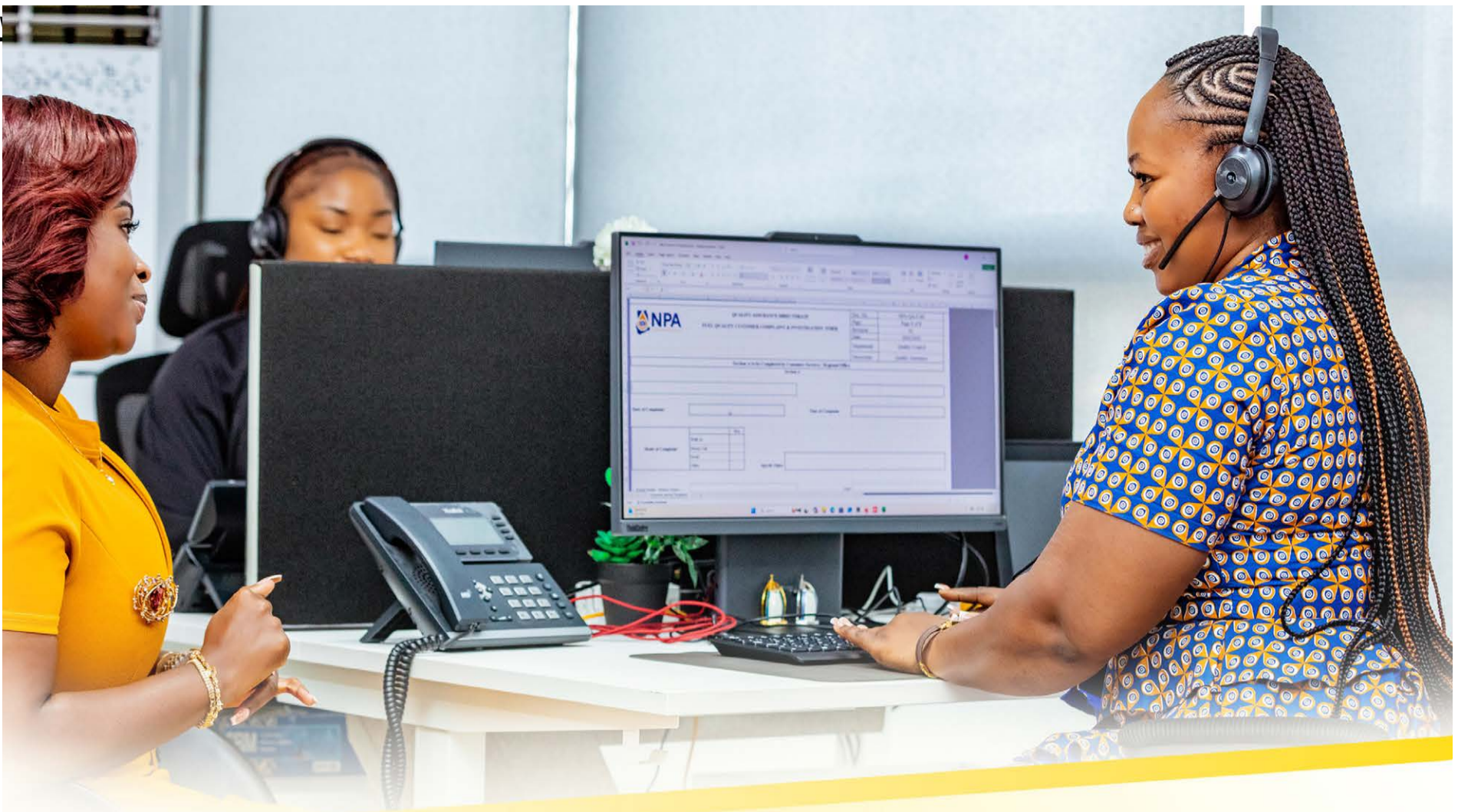
In a post on X, Showboy wrote, “I was about to fly to South Africa to go shoot new music videos and I remembered, No matter what I do, Ghanaians

never go acknowledge my hard work. So I quit.

“This year’s focus is to finish my mansion, make some babies, and build a family. Music broke my heart ...wasted all my money on music videos, promotion and TGMA no acknowledge my hard work... A depressaaaaa!! Can’t even shout again!!”

Showboy (also known as Showbezy) is a Ghanaian rapper associated with

2hype Gang, known for singles like “Yenti Gyae,” “Paapa Y3 Guy,” and his 2025 “Tactician” album featuring tracks like “Big Flex”. He has collaborated with artistes including Yaw TOG, Oseikrom Sikanii, and Fancy Gadam, focusing on lifestyle and motivational themes.



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Never stay home while husband work – iOna warns



Ghanaian singer, Mercy Onuawonto Sam

Ghanaian singer, Mercy Onuawonto Sam, popularly known as iOna Reine, has advised married women to challenge traditional views on gender roles.

She emphasised that the expectation for wives to stay home and care for the children while husbands take on the sole responsibility of working to support the family should be reconsidered.

In a post on Facebook, which has since generated a lot of reactions, the singer suggested that women should invest in themselves—whether through education, skills, or personal growth—to become “high value” individuals. This, she believes, will

attract similar high-value treatment from others, particularly their spouse.

She further indicated that relationships can end and that unforeseen circumstances (like death or other unfortunate events) can drastically change one’s life situation.

iOna Reine pointed out that it’s necessary for women to maintain their independence and not become too dependent on their partners.

“Dear ladies, there is a way this world works, value is everything in this realm, add premium value to yourself and you will attract the same from the opposite side. High value woman equals high value treatment, shalom.

“Baby stay home and take care of the kids, I will work and take care of us. Never try am ooooo. Apart from the fact that the relationship may end, there is death and unfortunate situations that can turn your life around,” the post read.

This caution follows the court ruling in the case between Richard Nii Armah Quaye (RNAQ)—founder of Quick Credit & Investment Micro-Credit Limited (now Bills Micro Credit)—and his ex-wife, Joana Quaye.

The High Court, presided over by Justice Kofi Dorgu, dissolved the marriage but granted a settlement that Joana Quaye has deemed “manifestly inadequate”.

Joana was awarded a lump sum of GH¢300,000,

far less than the GH¢50 million she sought. She was also awarded one-third of the matrimonial property in Dansoman, while RNAQ received two-thirds. She received two cars (Jaguar XF 2010 and Jaguar Prestige XF 2018).

Joana was granted custody of their three children, with RNAQ mandated to pay for all school fees, medical expenses, and an additional GH¢5,000 per month for maintenance. The judge reportedly stated that the award was intended to “discourage divorces” where parties expect to reap huge monetary benefits, noting that Joana was gainfully employed and “very attractive” with the potential to remarry.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF



*Maudy Shui
Afoe*

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FUNERAL AND BURIAL ARRANGEMENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS;

There shall be no Wake Keeping.

File Past & Funeral Service: 15th April 2026, 9 am - 12 noon
at Lashibi Funeral Home.

Private Burial: Gbawe Methodist Cemetery.