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Share juicy contracts equally among local and foreign firms — Afenyo-Markin tells govt



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NPP internal elections: ‘Take Bawumia’s name out of your mouths’ – NPP MP tells aspirants



MP for for Akim Swedru, Kennedy Osei Nyarko

Member of Parliament for Akim Swedru, Kennedy Osei Nyarko, has advised individuals contesting for positions within the New Patriotic

Party to refrain from invoking the name of the party’s flagbearer, Mahamudu Bawumia, in their campaigns.

He expressed concern that some aspirants are leveraging

the flagbearer’s name to gain support, a move he believes could create unnecessary resentment and undermine party unity.

According to him, all contestants have an equal opportunity to

present themselves to delegates based on their ideas and personal merit rather than perceived alignment with the party’s presidential candidate.

In a social media post, he stressed that the flagbearer contest has already been concluded and the party is now focused on electing officers across its various structures.

“The Flagbearership race is over. We are currently in the process of electing new officers for the various structures of the party, so campaign on your own strength and leave the flagbearer out of your campaign.

“Go out there and campaign on your own strength. Don’t go out there and create unnecessary enemies for the flagbearer with your selfish and parochial interest

‘Shut the f*ck up!’ – Akufo-Addo’s former Minister warns NPP communicator over Navrongo Central

Former Upper East Regional Minister under the administration of Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, Tangoba Abayage, has strongly rejected claims that internal disagreements within the New Patriotic Party contributed to the party’s defeat in the Navrongo Central Constituency during the 2020 general elections.

The allegation was made by Moses Amoah, a former Constituency Secretary who is seeking to become the party’s Navrongo Central Chairman. He argued that the rivalry between Tangoba and the late Kofi Adda weakened the party’s chances and ultimately led to the loss of the seat to the opposition National Democratic Congress.

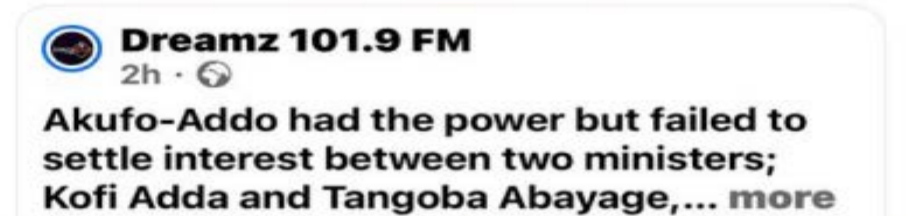
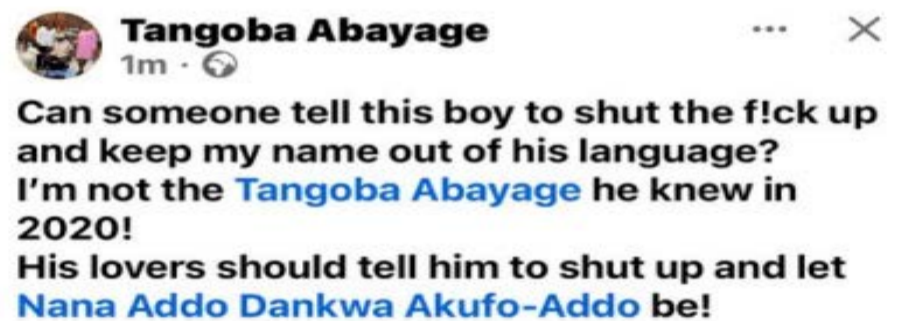
Amoah maintained that the decision of Tangoba to contest Kofi Adda, who was the sitting NPP MP for Navrongo Central, significantly affected party unity and cost the New Patriotic Party at the polls.

However, Tangoba responded sharply to the remarks, dismissing the claims and

issuing a strongly worded reaction. “Can someone tell this boy to shut the f!ck up and keep my name out of his language? I’m not the Tangoba Abayage he knew in 2020! His lovers should tell him to shut up and let Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo be!” she said.

Ahead of the 2020 elections, Tangoba, who was then serving as Regional Minister, contested and defeated Kofi Adda, the incumbent Member of Parliament and Minister of Aviation, in the party’s parliamentary primaries. She subsequently went on to lose the seat in the general election to the NDC candidate.

Her critics have argued that she should have stepped aside to allow Kofi Adda, whom they believed had a stronger chance of retaining the seat, to run unopposed. However, her supporters insist that her defeat was largely due to internal party divisions, claiming that some supporters of Kofi Adda did not back her campaign after the primaries.



Akufo-Addo had the power but failed to settle interest between two ministers; Kofi Adda and Tangoba Abayage, contesting Navrongo NPP primaries.

Mahama waiting for anti-LGBTQ bill currently before parliament to sign – Sukparu slams NPP criticism

The Deputy Minister for Communications, Digital Technology and Innovation, Mohammed Adams Sukparu, has taken a swipe at the New Patriotic Party (NPP) over its criticism of President John Dramani Mahama regarding the anti-LGBTQ bill.

The main opposition party has accused the President of double standards in his remarks on the legislation.

This follows President Mahama's comment during a meeting with civil society organisations, where he indicated that socio-economic issues currently take priority over the bill.

Addressing a press conference in Accra on Tuesday, April 7, Member of Parliament for Assin South, Reverend John Ntim Fordjour, said the

President should apologise to Ghanaians over his position.

Responding to the concerns, Sukparu, who is also the Member of Parliament for Sissala West, speaking on Accra-based JoyPrime TV on the same day, dismissed the criticism as politically motivated and lacking substance.

He argued that the NPP's comments stem from what he described as desperation to find fault with the National Democratic Congress government.

"The bill is before Parliament. If the President says it is not a priority at this stage, you cannot accuse him of double standards," he said.

Sukparu stressed that Mahama had already indicated his stance on the bill and is always

ready to assent the bill after it had been passed.

"He has already stated that once the bill is passed by

Parliament, he will have no option but to sign it," the lawmaker noted.



MP for Sissala West, Mohammed Adams Sukparu

NPP's second-hand train procurement caused rail challenges – Tanko Computer

Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Ghana Investment Fund for Electronic Communication (GIFEC), Rashid Tanko Computer, has blamed the challenges in Ghana's railway sector on decisions taken by the previous New Patriotic Party (NPP) administration.

This comes at the time the National Democratic Congress administration has renewed focus on revamping the country's railway infrastructure as part of efforts to improve public transport and reduce pressure on roads.

According to Tanko Computer, the procurement of second-hand trains under the former government has contributed to the current inefficiencies and breakdowns within the system.

Speaking on Accra-based TV3's New Day show on Tuesday, April 7, the NDC stalwart noted that the

situation has left the sector struggling.

"The trains they brought in... were second-hand, and that thing couldn't go anywhere. It broke down," claimed the GIFEC boss.

He added that the current government is taking steps to revitalise the railway sector, including plans to introduce modern trains and expand connectivity between major cities.

"We are trying to fix that one too and open that space... government is doing something about it, and you will see a lot of work going on there," he stated.

Tanko Computer further pointed to ongoing efforts to link Accra to Kumasi through a proposed high-speed rail project, which he said would significantly ease transportation challenges.

He expressed confidence in the Transport Ministry's commitment to improving the sector, noting that a functional

railway system would enhance safety, reduce road accidents

and improve commuting efficiency across the country.



GIFEC CEO, Rashid Tanko Computer

'I'm confident Ghana's economy won't collapse over war in Iran' – Prez Mahama



President John Dramani Mahama

President John Dramani Mahama has assured Ghanaians that the country's economy remains stable despite the ongoing conflict in the Middle East, stressing that it will not

collapse as a result of the war in Iran.

He made the remarks while announcing an emergency cabinet meeting to address the impact of rising fuel prices.

Speaking on the second day of the Kwahu Business Forum on Saturday, April 4, 2026, President Mahama reiterated that Ghana's economic outlook remains secure, even as government moves swiftly to introduce measures to cushion citizens from increasing petroleum costs.

"I have called for this emergency cabinet meeting to decide on specific measures we can take to cushion petroleum prices while we hope the conflict comes to an end. There are adjustments we can make, particularly in the margins, to help maintain relatively stable prices as we pray for the war to cease," he stated.

He emphasised that his administration is committed to reducing the burden on citizens, noting that cabinet will review key components of the fuel pricing

structure to identify areas where relief can be provided.

"I can confidently tell you that the economy will not collapse because of the war in Iran," he stressed.

The President also commended transport unions for holding off on increasing lorry fares despite the surge in fuel prices, describing their restraint as vital in helping to manage the situation.

Fuel prices in Ghana saw a sharp increase from April 1, 2026, with the National Petroleum Authority indicating that petrol rose by about 15 percent to GH¢13.30 per litre, while diesel increased by roughly 19 percent to GH¢17.10 per litre for the April 1 to 15 pricing window.

Share juicy contracts equally among local and foreign firms – Afenyo-Markin tells govt

Minority Leader in Parliament and MP for Effutu, Osahen Alexander Afenyo-Markin, has urged government to prioritise indigenous businesses in the award of public contracts.

He argued that such a policy is critical to building local capacity, retaining wealth within the economy, and creating sustainable jobs for Ghanaians.

He observed that since the National Democratic Congress administration assumed office, a significant number of high-value contracts have been awarded to foreign firms.

Speaking on Accra-based Metro TV's Good Morning Ghana programme on Monday, April 6, Osahen Afenyo-Markin said this trend may sideline local enterprises and weaken the country's long-term economic resilience.

"Go to Parliament, look at the order papers. The juiciest contracts are going to foreigners from day one... nobody sees anything wrong," he said.

"Mr. President, I would beg of you, look critically at every single contract that gets out there and at least make sure, if not all, at least it is 50/50. Mr. President must be deliberate. Get all the ministers to be deliberate. And it's not just being a Ghanaian company, but an indigenously owned Ghanaian company," he added.

He stressed that while scrutiny of Ghanaian companies is necessary, the apparent lack of similar attention on foreign firms raises concerns.

"I am not saying that a Ghanaian business must not be subjected to scrutiny, but it is quite concerning that when a Ghanaian business is succeeding, we are up in arms against how it is succeeding," he stated.

The Minority Leader stressed that he is not opposed to foreign investment but noted that government must adopt a balanced and intentional approach.

He cautioned that over-reliance on foreign firms could lead to capital flight, as profits are often repatriated abroad, unlike local businesses which reinvest within the economy.



Minority Leader, Osahen Alexander Afenyo-Markin

You can't preach entrepreneurship while punishing entrepreneurs with 25% interest on loan – Afenyo-Markin

Minority Leader in Parliament, Osahen Alexander Afenyo-Markin, has raised alarm over the escalating cost of doing business in Ghana, warning that it is crippling entrepreneurship and weakening efforts to build a resilient private sector.

Speaking at the Kwahu Business Forum on April 3, 2026, he criticised what he described as a harsh economic environment marked by high interest rates, rising utility tariffs and multiple layers of taxation, which he said are pushing many small and medium enterprises to the brink.

“You cannot preach entrepreneurship while charging an entrepreneur twenty-five percent interest on a loan to buy their first

equipment,” he stated.

He further pointed to the heavy burden of energy costs, particularly on small scale businesses struggling to stay afloat.

“You cannot tell a young person to open a food stall and then charge them electricity tariffs that make running a refrigerator in Ghanaian heat a commercial liability.

“That is not entrepreneurship as liberation. That is entrepreneurship as punishment,” he said.

Drawing on engagements with key business groups such as the Ghana Union of Traders Association and the Association of Ghana Industries, Mr Afenyo Markin outlined what he described as the major pressures confronting the private sector.

He identified the high cost of capital, increasing utility charges and overlapping taxes as critical barriers to business growth and investment.

The Minority Leader also called for a more consultative and evidence-driven approach to economic policymaking, particularly on decisions that directly affect businesses.

He indicated that he will work with colleagues in Parliament to push for reforms aimed at easing the burden on enterprises, including measures to assess the cumulative impact of taxes and strengthen engagement between government and the private sector.



Minority Leader, Osahen Alexander Afenyo-Markin

Upper East: 84 pregnant girls, 46 lactating mothers sit for 2025 BECE

The Ghana Education Service (GES) in the Upper East Region has described its school re-entry policy as a success, following the participation of pregnant girls and lactating mothers in the 2025 national examinations.

According to GES, a total of 84 pregnant girls and 46 lactating mothers sat for the 2025 Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE) in the region. In addition, 111 pregnant girls and 135 lactating mothers participated in the 2025 West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE).

The Service noted that these figures reflect the positive impact of its re-entry policy, which allows pregnant girls to remain in school and supports young mothers to resume their education after childbirth.

The policy, officially known as the Prevention of Pregnancy Among School Girls and Facilitation of Re-entry into School after Childbirth, aims not only to reduce teenage pregnancy but also to ensure that affected girls are not denied access to education.

Upper East Regional Gender Desk Officer of GES, Rita Mbama, said the number of beneficiaries who participated in both BECE and WASSCE demonstrates the effectiveness of the initiative.

She acknowledged that while the figures may appear high, they should not be seen as an endorsement of teenage pregnancy but rather as evidence that affected girls are being supported to complete their education.

Madam Mbama explained that before the introduction of the policy, pregnant students were often dismissed from school, forcing many to abandon their education. She added that some resorted to unsafe practices, including

crude abortions, due to fear of expulsion.

“With the policy in place, these girls are now able to stay in school, complete their exams, and have the opportunity to further their education,” she said.

She further dismissed claims that the re-entry policy encourages teenage pregnancy, stressing that its primary objective is to provide support and ensure no girl is left behind due to circumstances beyond her control.



Mahama urges global action on environmental threats to health at One Health Summit

President John Dramani Mahama has called for urgent global action to address the growing impact of environmental degradation on public health, as world leaders convene at the One Health Summit in Lyon.

Speaking at the high-level gathering, he cautioned that the world is confronting increasingly complex and interconnected health threats driven by environmental changes.

He pointed to rising sea levels, melting glaciers, deforestation and desertification as factors intensifying risks across human, animal and plant health systems.

Drawing from Ghana's experience, President Mahama highlighted disease outbreaks affecting cocoa farms and the environmental destruction caused by illegal mining, which continues to endanger biodiversity and contaminate water bodies.

He identified climate change as a major driver of these challenges, linking it to the spread of infectious diseases, antimicrobial resistance and disruptions to food systems.

The President also cited ecosystem degradation, human wildlife conflict and plastic pollution as additional pressures worsening global health risks, stressing the need for coordinated international responses.

Referencing recent outbreaks such as COVID-19, Mpox and Lassa fever, he said they illustrate the close relationship between environmental conditions and public health outcomes, underscoring the importance of prevention.

President Mahama noted that the One Health approach, which integrates human, animal and environmental health, reflects long-standing

African knowledge systems that prioritise harmony with nature and early intervention.

He further emphasised the importance of strengthening surveillance systems, enhancing early warning mechanisms and promoting community-level responses to detect and manage emerging threats.

The President called for fair access to financing, technology, data and innovation,

particularly for countries most vulnerable to environmental and health shocks.

He urged global leaders to move beyond commitments by embedding One Health strategies into national development plans and international frameworks, while ensuring that outcomes from the summit lead to tangible improvements in both public health and environmental protection.



NPA deepens safety education at Kwahu Easter

The National Petroleum Authority (NPA) has reinforced its public safety and consumer protection outreach during the 2026 Kwahu Easter festivities.

The Authority's team combined targeted education campaigns with support for the Nkoko Nketenkete, now Nkoko Ak3se3 initiative.

The NPA's engagement received strong backing from the Municipal Chief Executive for Kwahu South, Hon. Effah Osei Bonsu, who described the initiative as a timely intervention to promote local enterprise.

He commended the National Broiler Secretariat and the Municipal Assembly for creating a platform that highlights the importance of the local poultry industry.

Mr. Osei Bonsu also called on the NPA to broaden its advocacy to include the promotion of Nkoko Ak3se3 and clean cooking practices under the "Cook it Right" campaign.

The MCE praised the Chief Executive of the NPA, Godwin Kudzo Edudzi Tameklo, for the Authority's partnership

and continued support.

As part of its regulatory mandate, the NPA organized extensive public sensitisation exercises across major event centres, including the Kwahu Business Forum, the Kwahu Food Village at Mpraeso, as well as Abetifi, Nkwatia, and the Chicken Festival (Nkoko Ak3se3) Village.

The engagements focused on Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) safety, consumer rights, and complaint resolution mechanisms.

It also highlighted the dangers of fuel siphoning and stressed the importance of prioritising fuel quality over quantity.

Patrons, food vendors, and other stakeholders received practical guidance on safe handling and usage of petroleum products.

Leading the NPA delegation was the Director of Consumer Services, Mrs. Eunice Budu-Nyarko, who reiterated the Authority's commitment to protecting lives and property through continuous public education, particularly during large local and national gatherings.

Adding to the broader conversation, the National Coordinator of the National

Broiler Project Directorate under the Office of the Minister of State for Special Initiatives, Kelvin Ocran, underscored the critical role of energy, especially LPG in the poultry value chain.

He noted that efficient and hygienic preparation of chicken and other foods depends heavily on access to safe and reliable cooking energy. "Cooking it right is essential," he said.

Mr. Ocran explained that LPG not only improves efficiency for food vendors at events like the Kwahu Food Village but also promotes hygiene, reduces reliance on traditional biomass (like charcoal and

fuel wood) and contributes to better public health outcomes.

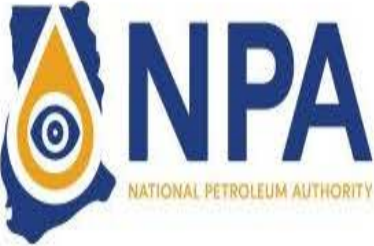
Whilst thanking the NPA for its continued support, he further emphasised that as demand for locally produced chicken grows, ensuring safe and adequate LPG supply and usage will be key to sustaining the industry and strengthening the broader poultry ecosystem.

The NPA's educational campaign at the Kwahu Easter highlighted a coordinated national development approach linking consumer safety, energy access, market education and support for local industry while reinforcing its regulatory oversight mandate.



PETROLEUM PRICE INDICATORS

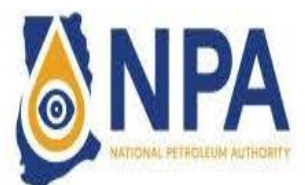
As of 2nd April, 2026

	AVERAGE FOB PRICES FOR THE PERIOD 1ST - 15TH APRIL 2026 WINDOW (12TH - 26TH MARCH 2026)	ESTIMATED AVERAGE FOB PRICES EFFECTIVE 16TH - 30TH APRIL 2026 (27TH MARCH - 11TH APRIL 2026 AVERAGES)	% CHANGE
FX Rate (Commercial Banks Average) (USD/GHS)	11.0503	11.1217	-0.64%
Crude Oil (USD/BBL)	109.66	134.79	22.91%
Petrol (USD/MT)	1015.91	1068.88	5.21%
Gasoil (USD/MT)	1,305.98	1489.36	14.04%
LPG (USD/MT)	855.98	947.31	10.67%
Jet/Kerosene (USD/MT)	1,642.34	1786.08	8.75%
Fuel Oil (USD/MT)	625.11	646.60	3.44%
*Products figures represent the FOB Prices used in the Price Build-Up (PBU)			

Note: "Global benchmark Brent crude futures have soared above \$100 per barrel, rising 64% in the first month of the war, a record monthly gain." – Reuters

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Mideast crisis: Ghana's economy insulated – Fitch Solutions allays fears



Fitch Solutions has projected that Ghana's economy will remain largely insulated from the impact of the ongoing tensions between the United States and Iran, citing strong performance in the gold sector and improved macroeconomic stability.

"This is largely due to the country's strong gold sector and improved macroeconomic fundamentals," it said.

According to risk analysts,

persistently high global gold prices continue to serve as a key buffer for the Ghanaian economy, helping to absorb potential external shocks arising from geopolitical developments in the Middle East.

As Africa's leading gold exporter, Ghana is expected to benefit significantly from elevated gold prices, despite recent fluctuations on the global market.

Although prices have moderated slightly since the conflict intensified in late February, Fitch

Solutions noted they remain historically strong, supporting export revenues and boosting foreign exchange inflows.

With gold contributing about 75 percent of Ghana's total merchandise exports in 2025, the firm said the sector will remain central to maintaining external stability and easing pressure on both the balance of payments and the cedi.

The outlook is further reinforced by expectations of increased production in 2026, with output projected to rise by 7.1 percent, driven by expansions at major mining operations such as Bibiani, Chirano and Namdini.

As a result, gold export earnings are forecast to climb by nearly 13 percent to approximately US\$23.7 billion this year.

Fitch Solutions indicated that this strong performance is likely to offset potential challenges posed by rising global energy prices linked to the conflict.

It also pointed to Ghana's relatively balanced net oil trade position as a factor that could help

prevent significant deterioration in the country's external accounts.

On the fiscal side, the firm highlighted that earlier consolidation measures and the rollout of a new gold royalty regime are expected to help manage spending pressures, even amid global uncertainty.

The mining sector's strong output is also anticipated to bolster government revenues.

However, Fitch Solutions cautioned that risks remain. It warned that higher global energy prices could drive inflation upward, potentially eroding consumer purchasing power and slowing real Gross Domestic Product growth in the near term.

Despite these concerns, the firm maintained that Ghana's overall macroeconomic outlook remains relatively stable compared to many of its peers, with the gold sector acting as a crucial buffer against external shocks linked to the US–Iran conflict.

Engineers and Planners wins bid to operate Damang gold mine

The Government of Ghana has named Engineers and Planners Limited as the successful bidder for the Damang Gold Mine following a competitive tender process.

The decision was announced after the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources received and reviewed the Tender Committee's report from the Minerals Commission on Tuesday, April 7, 2026.

According to the Ministry, four companies submitted bids by the March 31, 2026 deadline. However, only Engineers and Planners Limited and Heath Goldfields Limited met the mandatory requirements, including proof of Ghanaian ownership, valid tax, SSNIT and VAT clearance certificates, certificate of incorporation, and payment of the required GHS100,000 application fee.

The remaining bidders, Maripoma Mining Services Ltd and Vortex Resources Mining Group, were disqualified for failing to meet the submission criteria.

Following the initial screening, the Tender Committee conducted detailed technical and financial evaluations. Heath Goldfields Limited did not attain the minimum technical score of 80 percent, resulting in the exclusion of its financial proposal.

Engineers and Planners Limited, on the other hand, met all requirements, demonstrating strong technical capacity and financial backing. The company secured access to USD 505 million in funding from ABSA Bank and Stanbic Bank, exceeding the minimum threshold of USD 500 million required for the project.

It achieved a combined technical and financial score of 93.15 percent, the highest among all bidders. The Committee concluded that the firm is best positioned to manage the Damang mine, citing its operational experience, familiarity with the site, and proposals to extend the mine's lifespan beyond ten years.

In accordance with Regulations 262(1)(b) and 263 of the Minerals and Mining Licensing Regulations, 2012

(LI 2176), the Minister for Lands and Natural Resources approved the recommendation and directed the Minerals Commission to proceed with the necessary regulatory processes.

The Damang mine, one of Ghana's key gold-producing assets, has been operated by Gold Fields Ghana Limited since 1993, with a 90 percent stake, while the government holds a 10 percent free carried interest under the Minerals and Mining Act, 2006.

The selection of Engineers and Planners Limited is expected to usher in renewed investment, improved operational management, and long term development of the mine.

The Ministry commended the Minerals Commission and the Tender Committee for their diligence and reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring that the Damang mine continues to play a vital role in Ghana's economy.



Ibrahim Mahama, owner of Engineers and Planners Limited



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Chase Petroleum, Sentuo Oil, three other BDCs allegedly collude with NPA, GRA, National Security Secretariat officers to evade tax, financial irregularities – OSP

The Office of the Special Prosecutor has carried out coordinated, court approved searches across several fuel depots and Bulk Distribution Company premises as part of a widening investigation into alleged irregularities in Ghana's petroleum sector.

According to the OSP, the operation targeted five depots and related facilities linked to suspected offences, including tax evasion and the misrepresentation of petroleum products.

In a statement, the anti corruption body said the exercise “forms part of an ongoing investigation into a suspected scheme involving the under-declaration of petroleum imports, falsification of product

types during depot transfers, and tax evasion.”

Preliminary findings point to a broader network of suspected collusion involving both private operators and public officials. The OSP disclosed that there are indications of “collusion between certain BDCs and officials within the National Petroleum Authority, Ghana Revenue Authority, and National Security Secretariat.”

The statement further alleged that intermediaries were used to facilitate illicit financial flows, citing “the use of intermediaries to facilitate illicit financial transfers” as part of the scheme under investigation.

The companies under scrutiny include Platon Oil and Gas Limited, Sentuo Oil, Akwaaba Oil, Sahara Oil and Gas Limited, and Chase Petroleum Ghana Limited.

The OSP reported that the operation has already yielded

significant evidence, noting that “documents and electronic materials” have been seized to support ongoing investigations.

It also confirmed that several “persons of interest” are currently in custody assisting with the probe.

The Special Prosecutor assured that investigations remain active and that further updates will be provided as the case develops.



Kissi Agyebeng, Special Prosecutor

IMANI petitions Mahama over concerns in insurance sector procurement



Policy think tank IMANI Africa has petitioned President John Dramani Mahama over what it describes as emerging threats to procurement integrity and market confidence within Ghana's insurance industry.

In a petition dated March 30, 2026, and signed by its President, Franklin Cudjoe, the organisation raised concerns about what it says is a shift in insurance placement practices among State Owned Enterprises and specified public institutions.

IMANI alleged that

communications associated with the State Interests and Governance Authority appear to promote the prioritisation of state-affiliated insurers, particularly SIC Insurance PLC and SIC Life Insurance Limited, in the awarding of insurance contracts.

While acknowledging the intent to strengthen state participation in the economy, the think tank cautioned that the manner in which such guidance is interpreted and applied could undermine competition in the sector.

It pointed to concerns including reduced involvement of private insurers in state-related

contracts, perceptions of predetermined procurement outcomes, and formal complaints from industry players over possible market distortions.

The petition also referenced a similar episode in 2014, when concerns over state insurance allocations were raised and later addressed following presidential intervention.

IMANI further argued that the current developments raise legal and governance issues under the Public Procurement Act, 2003 (Act 663), and the Insurance Act, 2021 (Act 1061), particularly in relation to transparency, fairness, and regulatory neutrality.

The group called on the Presidency to issue a clear policy directive reaffirming that insurance placements must be guided by competitive procurement principles, value for money, and technical competence. It also urged clarification of SIGA's guidance to ensure it does not override existing procurement laws, and recommended a joint review by the Public Procurement

Authority and the National Insurance Commission to assess compliance and market conduct.

IMANI stressed that its intervention is not directed at any specific insurer but is aimed at protecting Ghana's procurement framework, regulatory independence, and financial system stability.

“At its core, the question is simple: will Ghana's insurance market continue to operate on competition, transparency, and merit, or will it evolve into a system shaped by direction, alignment, and expectation?” the group questioned.

It added that the response to this issue will have broader implications for the credibility of the government's governance reforms.

Meanwhile, the Presidency has acknowledged receipt of the petition in a letter signed by Callistus Mahama, assuring that it will be brought to the attention of the President.

MTN FA Cup semi-finals set for explosive showdown

The race for MTN FA Cup glory has reached a thrilling climax as four determined clubs—Aduana FC, Medeama SC, Nations FC and Dreams FC—prepare to battle for a place in the grand final.

With defending champions Asante Kotoko already out of the picture, this year's semi-finals present a rare opportunity for a new champion to emerge, raising the stakes for what promises to be two fiercely contested encounters.

One of the standout clashes will see Aduana FC take on Medeama SC in a heavyweight duel between two of the most consistent sides in the competition. Aduana arrive full of confidence after eliminating Kotoko and cruising past Techiman Liberty Youth, while Medeama have combined resilience and attacking strength, highlighted by their dominant win over Attram De Visser. With both sides boasting quality and experience, this fixture could be decided by fine margins.

The other semi-final pits Nations FC against Dreams FC, in what promises to be an evenly balanced encounter. Nations FC have shown discipline and composure, progressing through a tense penalty shoot-out against Berekum Chelsea, while Dreams FC also proved their mental strength by edging Heart of Lions

on penalties. With both teams demonstrating resilience under pressure, another closely fought contest could be on the cards.

All four teams have shown different qualities en route to the semi-finals—Aduana's experience, Medeama's control, Nations' organisation and Dreams' fighting spirit—making

this stage of the competition particularly unpredictable.

With just one match separating each side from the final, the semi-finals are expected to deliver intensity, drama and moments of brilliance as the MTN FA Cup edges closer to crowning a new champion.



Our decision to boycott Ghana Premier League remain unchanged - Hohoe United

Hohoe United have reinforced their decision to withdraw from the Ghana Premier League, with club administrative manager, Yussif Uthman, insisting their weekend boycott against Eleven Wonders was a deliberate and final stance.

The Hohoe-based side failed to honour their Week 28 fixture at the Swedru Stadium, underlining their intention to step away from the competition regardless of any directive from the Ghana Football Association (GFA).

Speaking to Sporty FM, Uthman made it clear that the club's position remains unchanged and is not subject to approval from the governing body.

"It's the club decision and not dependent on what the FA decides, and once the club has decided not to continue playing in the league, then we did not see the need to wait on any communication from the FA," he stated.

He questioned the rationale behind delaying their stance pending official feedback, adding, "So what if the communication never comes? It means we are playing in a league that we have decided not to continue. For now, it's the club's decision, and it still stands."

Uthman also revealed that

Hohoe United have formally notified the GFA of their withdrawal and believe they have fulfilled all procedural obligations required of them. "We have communicated the same to the FA, and on our part, that's what is required of us, and we have done just that."

With the league season progressing, attention now turns to the GFA's response and the potential consequences of Hohoe United's withdrawal—an issue that could have significant ramifications beyond the current campaign.



Hohoe United players

Ernest Thompson opposes Kwesi Appiah's return as Black Stars coach after Otto Addo's sack

Former Black Stars Management Committee member Ernest Thompson has expressed strong reservations about the potential reappointment of Kwesi Appiah as Ghana's head coach following Otto Addo's dismissal.

The Ghana Football Association (GFA) is in the process of identifying a new coach after Addo was relieved of his duties following consecutive friendly losses to Austria and Germany in March.

Appiah, who has previously managed the national team in two separate stints, has emerged as a leading candidate to take charge ahead of this summer's 2026 World Cup.

Thompson, however, questioned Appiah's ability to assert authority over the squad. "I don't think Kwesi Appiah

has the firmness needed to control this team," he told Joy Sports.

"At this stage, we are dealing with high stakes — the World Cup is not a playground like the Africa Cup of Nations.

"Look at countries like England and Brazil; they've made bold decisions when necessary. See who they appointed. We need a coach with strong authority, character, and a solid technical team behind him," he added.

The GFA is expected to announce a new head coach later this month. The Black Stars will reconvene in May for a friendly against Mexico before facing Wales on June 2 in their final World Cup preparation match.

Ghana, making its fifth appearance at the Mundial, has been drawn in Group L alongside Panama, England, and Croatia.



Former Black Stars Management Committee member Ernest Thompson

We knew we will lose against FC Samartex — Interim Kotoko coach Prince Yaw Owusu

Interim Asante Kotoko coach Prince Yaw Owusu has admitted his side went into their clash with FC Samartex with concerns that defeat was looming.

The Porcupine Warriors fell 2-1 to the Timber Boys in their Matchday 28 encounter on Tuesday at the Baba Yara Sports Stadium.

The fixture had initially been scheduled for Monday but was postponed due to heavy rain. Speaking after the game, Owusu expressed disappointment, pointing to a disrupted build-up and a failure in execution on match day as key setbacks.

"I think everyone saw it; it

was obvious. I felt really bad after the game, and it actually started yesterday. The way we wanted to approach the game didn't go as planned, so I could see it coming. We tried to prevent it, but we couldn't," he said.

He added that a breakdown in tactical discipline ultimately cost his team, as players were unable to carry out the intended game plan effectively.

The result leaves Kotoko in fourth place on the league table with 43 points.

Asked whether their title ambitions are fading, Owusu remained measured, insisting there is still room to recover.

"It looks like it, but I'm not sure. We will try and fight

back," he added.

Kotoko now turn their attention to a crucial Matchday

29 trip to face Medeama SC at the TNA Stadium, where they will be aiming to bounce back to winning form.



Interim Asante Kotoko coach Prince Yaw Owusu

Spending at Home to Grow at Home: Why Local Content Must Be at the Heart of Ghana's Procurement Strategy



Surv. Engr. Emmanuel Norgah Bukari (PhD)

Every cedi spent on an import is a Ghanaian job that never got created. The 2026 Budget opens a window. Whether we climb through it depends on how we write our contracts.

Finance Minister Dr. Cassiel Ato Forson presented the 2026 Budget with a phrase worth pausing on. Ghana, he said, must be a country that “produces more than it consumes” and “exports value-added goods, not just raw materials.” It is a worthy ambition. The harder question, which the Budget does not fully answer, is how we get there from where we are today.

Ghana has spent decades accumulating democratic credentials, achieving consistent macroeconomic growth, and winning praise from development partners. Yet structural unemployment has not gone away. Import dependency has, in many sectors, deepened rather than eased. Attempts at industrial diversification have stalled. These are not mysteries. They follow from a single, correctable failure: the country's enormous public purchasing power has not been deliberately turned toward building a domestic productive base.

In most developing economies, government procurement accounts for between fifteen and twenty percent of GDP. That makes the state the single largest, most reliable, and most predictable source of demand in the economy. When that demand flows mostly toward imported goods and foreign contractors, it is essentially a subsidy to someone else's industrial policy. It finances factories, workers, and technology in other countries, while Ghanaian enterprises miss the contracts they need to grow, invest in equipment, hire and train people, and reach the kind of scale that makes them genuinely competitive.

The Big Push: A Once-in-a-Generation Opportunity

The Big Push Infrastructure Programme is the most significant single investment in Ghana's physical infrastructure in at least a generation. The ten-billion-dollar envelope covering roads, bridges, ports, and logistics corridors represents a genuine opportunity, not because the

money is large in absolute terms, but because it is concentrated enough to move markets and anchor decisions. Take the Accra-Kumasi Expressway alone. At nearly 200 kilometres, it is projected to generate over 30,000 direct and indirect jobs during construction. Whether those jobs go to Ghanaians is not a function of luck or goodwill. It is a function of what the contract says.

Meaningful local participation means getting specific. Contract specifications should require minimum percentages of local labour across skill categories, from unskilled site workers to technicians and supervisors. Prime contractors should be required to submit supplier development plans, naming in advance which goods and services they commit to source domestically. Cement, aggregate, and steel reinforcement, which are available from Ghanaian producers, should be bought locally unless a quality deficiency can be demonstrated and documented. Without these requirements written in and enforced, large infrastructure projects easily become pipelines for exporting purchasing power rather than building productive capacity.

Jobs, Value Chains, and the 24-Hour Economy

The 24-Hour Economy and Accelerated Export Development Programme carries similar weight. Its ambition is to create 1.7 million decent jobs by 2028 through integrated value chains that link production, processing, logistics, and market access. More than fifty bankable projects have already been identified, spanning regional garment parks, agro-industrial facilities, and the Volta Economic Corridor, which anchors investments in rice, vegetables, and aquaculture. These are not speculative schemes. They are specific sites, specific commodities, and specific investments waiting for the conditions that make them viable.

Those conditions include reliable demand. Garment parks need orders. Agro-processing facilities need off-take agreements. Aquaculture clusters need buyers who will be there in three years, not just today. Government procurement is the one source of demand with enough scale and continuity to give investors

the confidence to commit. Development Bank Ghana and the Ghana Infrastructure Investment Fund are already positioned to provide financing to local enterprises. The gap is not money. It is the connection between financing and actual procurement opportunities. Closing that gap requires policy design, not goodwill.

Standards, Quality, and the Made-in-Ghana Preference

One objection that comes up whenever local content is discussed is quality. Can domestic suppliers actually deliver to specification? It is a legitimate question, though it is often deployed selectively to preserve the status quo rather than to address a genuine technical problem. The Ghana Standards Authority, the Food and Drugs Authority, and the Ministry of Trade and Industry are already working on frameworks to certify Made-in-Ghana goods. This matters because quality assurance is what converts a preference into a credible policy.

When a domestic supplier can demonstrate that its product meets the relevant standard, it should receive a meaningful preference in contract evaluation. Not a token nod, but a real scoring advantage that reflects the broader economic value the contract creates. This is not protectionism in the pejorative sense. Every country that has industrialised successfully has used domestic purchasing as a tool to build productive capabilities. South Korea used it. Malaysia used it. Brazil used it. The difference between a preference and a subsidy is accountability: preferences should be tied to performance, time-limited, and escalated when suppliers fail to deliver.

What Holds These Factories Together

The One District, One Factory programme and the growing network of industrial hubs make sense as ambitions. Their survival, however, depends almost entirely on whether the enterprises they house have a market. Building a cassava starch factory in the Oti Region or a pharmaceutical plant in Tema does not automatically create a buyer. Without consistent government purchasing commitments to anchor demand, these facilities risk becoming expensive, underutilised assets. Local content requirements, written into procurement frameworks and enforced through monitoring, provide the market certainty that enables firms to invest in equipment, build skilled workforces, and achieve economies of scale that eventually make them genuinely competitive without preferences.

Facing Up to the Implementation Challenge

None of this is easy to implement, and it is worth being honest about that. Capacity gaps among domestic suppliers are real. Some Ghanaian firms simply cannot yet match the price, volume, or technical specifications that large contracts demand. Monitoring systems at procuring entities need resources and political backing. The risk of fronting, where a foreign-owned firm presents a local face to win a contract and repatriates the value, is well documented and must be addressed through transparent ownership disclosure and meaningful sanctions.

The challenge at this stage is not institutional innovation. It is political will.

Making the Growth Numbers Real

The 2026 Budget projects GDP growth of 5.1 percent and manufacturing expansion of 6.3 percent. Both are achievable, but not through the same policy instruments that have delivered middling results in previous years. Reaching them requires deliberate, specific policy tools that channel domestic demand toward local producers. Conventional procurement, awarding contracts to the lowest technically acceptable bid without regard for domestic economic impact, is not going to close the gap.

Every significant government contract should include enforceable clauses on local labour content, domestic sourcing percentages, and skills transfer obligations. These clauses should be drafted clearly enough to be audited, and audits should carry consequences. The Ministry of Finance, the Public Procurement Authority, and Parliament need to treat this as a shared priority rather than a conversation each institution has separately.

Ghana's economic story will ultimately be written not by budget speeches, however eloquent, but by contract clauses, monitoring reports, and enforcement actions. A budget that speaks of value-added exports means little if the procurement framework continues to favour imports. The infrastructure spending, the industrial programmes, the factory clusters: all of them point in the right direction. What gives them economic force is how we write and enforce the contracts that deliver them. That work is not glamorous. It does not make headlines. But it is where Ghana's transformation will be won or lost.

About the Author

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I've been married and divorced twice but no one heard of it including my family – Mzbel



Musician Mzbel

Ghanaian musician Mzbel has made a surprising revelation about her private life, disclosing for the first time, that she has been married and divorced twice.

Speaking on United Showbiz on Saturday, the outspoken singer said her past relationships were kept hidden even from her own family.

and divorced twice, but nobody, including my family, knows," she revealed.

Mzbel explained that her first marriage happened when she was just 22, to a man 28 years older who had supported her before her music career took off.

"He did everything for me. That was even before I started music," she said.

However, what began as support later turned into abuse. The singer recounted how her

ex-husband became controlling and violent at the peak of her career.

"Even getting a text message could make him angry, and he would beat me," she disclosed. Despite his role in her early life, Mzbel said she eventually walked away after realising she had saved enough money to live independently.

"One day, I realised I had saved enough... He came back apologising after I had left, but I

didn't want the marriage anymore," she added.

On her second marriage, the artiste said she chose to keep things strictly private, including the divorce.

"We actually divorced, but no one heard of it. I didn't put the private issues of my second marriage out to the public because of the experience from my first marriage," she explained.

Portia Asare explain why she wants to marry again after two failed marriages

Ghanaian Kumawood actress Portia Asare has spoken candidly about her past relationships, explaining the reasons behind her two failed marriages while expressing a strong desire to find love again.

open to the possibility of finding a partner again and is actively seeking divine direction.

million times, why not? Am I not beautiful as I sit here? Am I too old? Ei, me, I don't care. If God helps me get one, I will marry."

ahead with hope despite past setbacks.

Portia previously married Raymond Kwaku Marfo on July 1, 2021, in what was her second marriage. The union, however, ended in divorce, which was confirmed in August 2024.

"If marriage comes, I will marry—in fact, I'm praying about it," she declared. "If it comes a thousand times, a

Her comments signal a renewed sense of optimism, as she continues to look

Addressing participants at the Scars to Stars conference held at Adenta Baptist Church, the actress reflected on the decisions that shaped her marital journey.

She acknowledged that her earlier choices were not rooted in spiritual guidance, which she believes contributed to the breakdown of the unions. "God doesn't make mistakes," she said. "If I'd relied on Him to choose my ex-husbands, things would have turned out differently."

Despite the disappointments, Portia maintains that she still has much to offer and is not giving up on marriage. She emphasised that she remains



Ghanaian Kumawood actress Portia Asare

50-year-old musician Okyeame Kwame reveals his secret

Ghanaian musician Okyeame Kwame has revealed that his youthful looks are the result of strict dietary habits and a disciplined lifestyle.

"Usually that feeling you get of hunger is just craving. So if you fill your stomach with warm water, dark chocolate in the

evening and you sleep, your stomach might think that you are actually full because you are so used to eating something

hot that sometimes you get the cravings and you think you are hungry. That signal could be conflicting," he added.

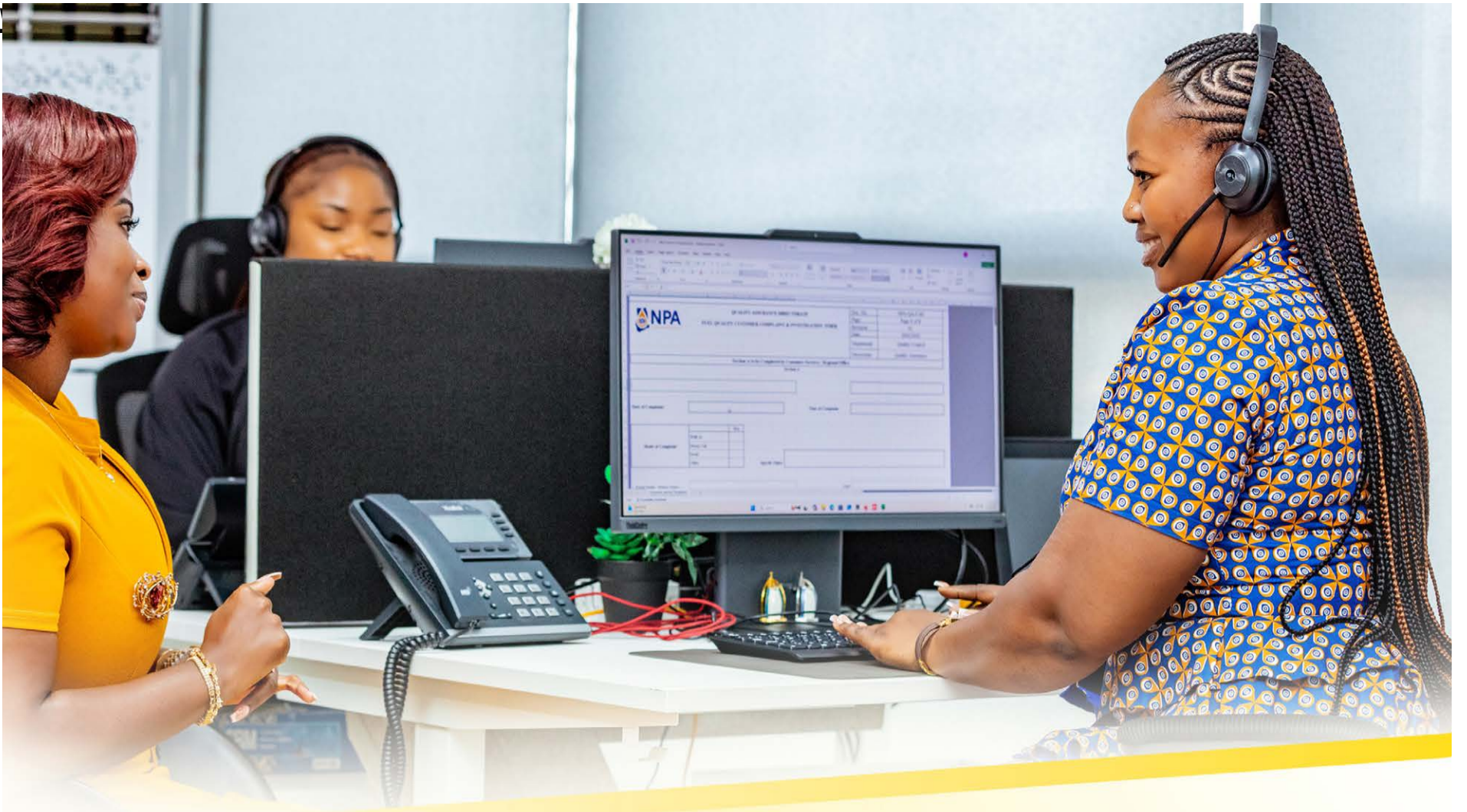
The musician, who turns 50 on April 17 explained that his daily eating routine and conscious lifestyle choices play a major role in keeping him fit and healthy.

"I think it is a lot of water, I eat a lot of plants, I eat a lot of fibre, food that is kind on my intestines. I don't eat anything after 5pm," he said in an interview on Channel One TV's Face to Face on Tuesday, April 7.

He further explained that what people often perceive as hunger may actually be cravings, which can be managed with simple adjustments.



Ghanaian Musician, Okyeame Kwame



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