

THE MODERN GUIDE

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President John Dramani Mahama

Ghana's president allocates GH¢100million to national research fund

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Gas CEO meets Petroleum CEO



Ms Judith Adjobah Blay (left) and Godwin Kudzo Edudzi Tameklo (right)

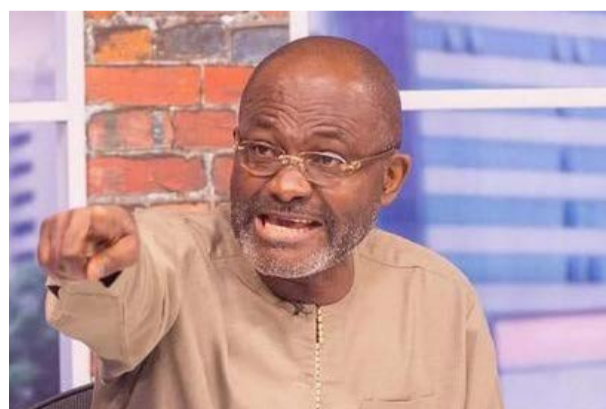
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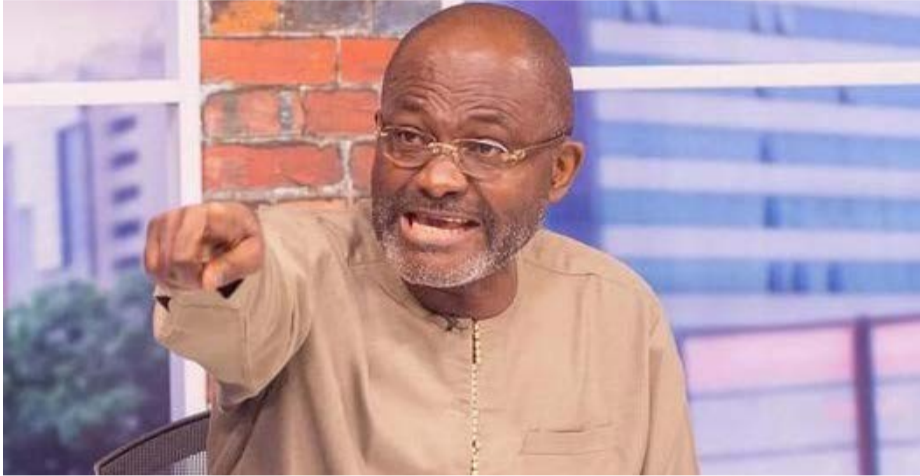
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Shut up, you had 8 years but couldn't complete Afari Military Hospital – Ken Agyapong slams NPP



Former NPP presidential aspirant Kennedy Ohene Agyapong

Former New Patriotic Party (NPP) presidential aspirant Kennedy Ohene Agyapong has criticised both the NPP and the National Democratic Congress (NDC) over the prolonged delay in completing the Afari Military Hospital in the Ashanti Region.

The 500-bed military hospital project, valued at \$180 million, was initiated in March 2014 and was expected to be completed within 42 months.

However, 12 years after work commenced, the facility remains unfinished.

The issue has attracted renewed attention following

a recent visit by Minority members on Parliament's Health Committee, who expressed concern that the delay is affecting healthcare delivery in the Ashanti Region amid congestion at the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital.

Speaking to journalists in Accra on Tuesday, June 16, Kennedy Agyapong, who previously chaired Parliament's Defence and Interior Committee, acknowledged that the NPP failed to complete the project during its eight years in government.

"When we came, I'm an NPP[member], but I have to tell you the truth. We're talking about Ghana, we didn't do anything. Read my lips, I'm telling you the gospel truth," he said.

The former Assin Central

MP argued that criticism of the current government over the state of the project must be balanced with an honest assessment of the previous administration's record.

According to him, the NPP had ample time in office to advance the project but failed to do so.

"You[NPP] were there for eight years. You didn't complete it. When somebody comes for 15 months, then you have a problem. Please give me a break," he stated.

The former lawmaker further urged political actors to stop treating national development issues as partisan matters and instead focus on what benefits the country.

Ken Agyapong has the appeal young voters who don't believe politicians will gravitate to – Vormawor

Ghanaian lawyer and social activist Oliver Barker-Vormawor has weighed in on recent remarks attributed to former Assin Central MP Kennedy Agyapong, following reports that the outspoken politician criticised his own party, the New Patriotic Party (NPP), over its response to questions surrounding the Afari Military Hospital project.

Agyapong is said to have argued that the NPP had eight years in office and could have completed the project, rather than engaging in what he described as unnecessary political arguments over how the current administration is handling it.

Reacting to the development, Barker-Vormawor suggested that Agyapong's political approach may resonate with a segment of voters who are increasingly disillusioned

with political elites and party structures.

"For all his faults, Kennedy Agyapong is the kind of politician I think young voters who don't believe politicians will gravitate to," he stated.

He noted that Agyapong's public behaviour often reflects a rejection of established political norms, even though he remains an active member of the political establishment.

"He shows a disdain for the political class in a way that seems authentic. And it makes you forget easily that he himself is part of that class," he said.

According to Barker-Vormawor, this positioning allows Agyapong to present himself as somewhat detached from internal party challenges, a posture that could appeal to both grassroots supporters and undecided voters.

"He is a politician who has disdain for other politicians; and that 'Trump-like'

quality can be refreshing for disillusioned voters," he added. He further argued that unlike Vice President Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia, Agyapong is not closely associated with the NPP's electoral defeat and governance challenges, a factor he believes may shape voter perception.

"Unlike Bawumia, no one associates Ken with the NPP's mess and loss. Something it

appears voters are finding hard to forgive," he noted.

Barker-Vormawor concluded that if Agyapong had secured the party's presidential ticket, he could have been a strong contender in the 2028 elections.

"I think he would have been the candidate to beat in 2028 if he had won. My two cents. Shalom," he added.



It is inaccurate to say NPP did no work on Afari Military Hospital – Dr Ekua Amoakoh

A Spokesperson for the New Patriotic Party (NPP) on health, Dr. Ekua Amoakoh, has rejected claims that the party failed to make any progress on the Afari Military Hospital project during its eight years in government.

The 500-bed military hospital, valued at \$180 million, was initiated in March 2014 and was expected to be completed within 42 months.

However, more than a decade later, the facility remains uncompleted.

The issue has resurfaced following renewed political debate over the project, with concerns raised about delays and their impact on healthcare

delivery in the Ashanti Region, particularly issues of congestion on the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital.

Speaking to journalists in Accra on Tuesday, June 16, former Assin Central MP Kennedy Agyapong argued that the NPP did not complete the project during its time in office, admitting shortcomings in its handling of the hospital.

However, Dr. Ekua Amoakoh, in a social media post on the same day, disputed that position, noting that progress was made on the project before the change in government.

“It is inaccurate to say no work was done on Afari in 8 years, even the 2025 budget of the NDC admits they inherited a facility 98% complete,” she stated.

She added that other health projects in the Ashanti Region were also completed under the previous administration.

“Meanwhile, Sewua, Trede, Kokoben absolutely complete; I wish the politicking would take a break so these hospitals can be operationalized for the people of Ashanti,” she said.

Dr. Amoakoh further argued that assigning blame across political lines does not resolve the long-standing delays affecting the facility.

She stressed the need for a coordinated national effort to ensure the hospital is completed and put into use for the benefit of residents in the region.



‘NPP seeking Dr. Amoakohene’s removal because he’s giving them hell’ – Tanko Computer

The Chief Executive Officer of the Ghana Investment Fund for Electronic Communications (GIFEC), Rashid Tanko Computer, has claimed that the New Patriotic Party (NPP) is seeking the removal of Ashanti Regional Minister Dr. Frank Amoakohene because of his performance in the region.

According to him, Dr. Amoakohene’s work is gradually changing the political landscape of the Ashanti Region, traditionally considered a stronghold of the NPP.

His comments come after criticism of the Regional Minister by some political opponents following a social media confrontation with former Adentan NPP parliamentary candidate

Akosua Manu.

Speaking on Accra-based Metro TV’s Good Morning Ghana programme on Tuesday, June 16, Tanko Computer said Dr. Amoakohene has played a key role in strengthening the National Democratic Congress (NDC) in parts of the region where the party previously had little presence.

Tanko Computer recounted his experiences working with Dr. Amoakohene during the latter’s tenure as Ashanti Regional Secretary of the NDC, claiming that the current minister was instrumental in building party structures in difficult electoral areas.

He argued that the minister’s familiarity with communities across the region has contributed to the NDC’s growing visibility and electoral fortunes.

“This young man, the [NDC Ashanti] regional secretary,

who is now the regional minister, after we’re able to sail through the process... we’re able to fix executives in those areas to police that area. The result, if I show you the results from that community, when I went, it will shock you,” he said.

“He knows every corner of the region, he knows them, he knows their behavior, so he’s giving it to them raw. Those two ladies who want him out. I

am saying that they don’t have an issue with him. It’s politics. They are just targeting this young man because he’s making them unpopular in the region,” the NDC stalwart added.

The GIFEC boss further urged Dr. Amoakohene to remain focused on his duties despite the criticism, insisting that the attacks against him are politically motivated.



CEO of GIFEC, Rashid Tanko Computer

You are father for all, please don't let Wontumi go to jail – NPP's Paul Yandoh begs Mahama on live TV



NPP communicator kneels on live TV

The Ashanti Regional Communications Director of the New Patriotic Party (NPP), Mr. Paul Yandoh, has appealed to President John Dramani Mahama to

intervene in the ongoing legal challenges involving the party's Ashanti Regional Chairman, Bernard Antwi Boasiako.

Speaking on Kumasi-based

Fakye TV, Mr. Yandoh reportedly made an emotional plea, urging the President to show leniency and assist in resolving the matter.

“I am pleading with you Mr. President. You should please release Chairman for us,” he said.

Mr. Yandoh acknowledged that there may have been shortcomings in the circumstances surrounding the case but maintained that the situation warranted the President's intervention.

“We are aware that in some of the situations, there were excesses that occurred. We plead with him to intervene,” he stated.

He further appealed to President Mahama to ensure

that the legal proceedings do not result in imprisonment for Chairman Wontumi.

“Don't let Wontumi go to prison, we plead with you,” he said.

Describing President Mahama as a leader for all Ghanaians, Mr. Yandoh appealed for compassion and understanding in the handling of the matter.

“We know you are the father for all. Kindly intervene for us,” he added.

He also expressed confidence that any intervention by the President could help bring the issue to an amicable resolution.

“We know that if you intervene on our behalf, things will go well for us,” Mr. Yandoh stated.

Chairman Wontumi is currently facing legal proceedings linked to the ongoing Akonta Mining case.

SOCIAL NEWS

Extradition process against Ken Ofori Atta remains active despite green card acquisition – OSP

The Office of the Special Prosecutor (OSP) has clarified that it played no role in the United States immigration proceedings that reportedly resulted in former Finance Minister Kenneth Nana Yaw Ofori-Atta being granted permanent residency.

In a public notice issued on June 16, 2026, the OSP said it had taken note of media reports and a publication attributed to a Ghanaian law firm claiming that a US immigration court granted Mr. Ofori-Atta permanent residency after finding that criminal charges filed against him by the OSP were not credible.

The anti-corruption agency stressed that it was not involved in any immigration hearings concerning Mr. Ofori-Atta in the United States.

According to the OSP, its involvement in the matter relates solely to extradition proceedings being pursued through Ghana's Attorney-General, who serves as the central authority in such cases.

“The OSP states that it is not involved in immigration hearings in the United States involving Mr. Ofori-Atta,” the statement said.

The office further explained that the extradition request currently being pursued against the former minister was not before the US immigration court that considered his residency application.

It maintained that the question of whether the criminal charges against Mr. Ofori-Atta are credible falls within the jurisdiction of Ghanaian courts, which are responsible for determining his guilt or innocence.

“The credibility or otherwise of the criminal charges against Mr. Ofori-Atta would be determined by the courts in Ghana, who have jurisdiction to determine his guilt or innocence,” the OSP stated.

The Special Prosecutor's office also emphasized that Mr. Ofori-Atta remains a Ghanaian citizen and could still be extradited to Ghana if a United States extradition court rules in favour of such a request.

The clarification follows reports that a US immigration court approved Mr. Ofori-Atta's Green Card petition and reportedly questioned the credibility of criminal charges brought against him in Ghana.

The OSP's latest statement appears aimed at distinguishing the immigration proceedings from the separate extradition process currently being pursued against the former Finance Minister.



Ghana's president allocates GH¢100million to national research fund



President John Dramani Mahama

President John Dramani Mahama has allocated GH¢100 million to support the operations of the National Research Fund in 2026, reaffirming the government's commitment to strengthening research, innovation and human capital development to drive national progress.

The President announced the allocation at the official launch of the National Research Fund in Accra on Tuesday, describing the investment as a major step toward establishing a sustainable and credible national research financing framework.

He directed the Ministry of Education, working in collaboration with the Ghana Education Trust Fund (GETFund), to ensure the transparent, accountable and results-driven utilisation of the funds.

According to President Mahama, the allocation will support competitive national research grants, doctoral and postdoctoral research programmes, digital grant management systems, strategic innovation initiatives and priority research projects aligned with Ghana's development agenda.

He assured stakeholders that the government would fully implement the provisions of the National Research Fund Act, 2020 (Act 1056), particularly those relating to the mobilisation and timely release of funds for research activities.

"I request the Ministries of Finance, Education, Environment, Science and Technology to progressively operationalize the statutory financing framework established under the Fund Act to develop with scale, continuity, and predictability necessary for long term national impact," he said.

President Mahama noted that the African Centres of Excellence Programme had demonstrated the benefits of structured, competitive and performance based investment in research.

He cited institutions such as the West Africa Centre for Crop Improvement, the West Africa Centre for Cell Biology of Infectious Pathogens and the West African Genetic Medicine Centre as examples of how sustained investment can produce world class research outcomes.

"These institutions have strengthened scientific capacity, developed highly

skilled researchers, and produced globally recognized discoveries and enhanced Ghana's reputation as a centre of research excellence," he stated.

The President said the Fund should become a catalyst for finding practical solutions to national challenges, particularly in the areas of food security, climate resilience, healthcare and governance.

"Let us develop climate-smart technologies for African agriculture, let us lead research into tropical diseases, and let us harness artificial intelligence to improve governance and public service delivery," he urged.

He further encouraged universities and research institutions to focus on innovations that can be commercialised, exported and scaled internationally.

"Our objective is not simply to publish more papers but to solve more problems," President Mahama said.

The President also called on the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the Ghana Atomic Energy Commission to take advantage of the Fund to expand applied research, accelerate innovation and transform scientific discoveries into

practical solutions for national development.

In addition, he tasked the Ministers of Finance and Education to begin the process of securing Ghana's participation in the World Bank's ACE Innovate initiative.

According to him, participation in the programme should be integrated with the National Research Fund to improve national coordination, align investments with strategic priorities and strengthen accountability for results.

Mr. Haruna Iddrisu, Minister of Education, described the Fund as a critical instrument for boosting productivity and supporting Ghana's industrialisation agenda.

He called on academia to play a leading role in developing solutions to the country's development challenges and to support the implementation of the government's 24-hour economy policy.

Mr. Iddrisu expressed confidence that the Fund would help address longstanding challenges in research financing and contribute to greater stability within tertiary education institutions.

Abort all pending US extradition requests until Ken Ofori-Atta returns – Ras Mubarak urges govt



Former MP for Kumbungu, Ras Mubarak

Former Member of Parliament for Kumbungu, Ras Mubarak, has called on President John Mahama to take a tougher stance against the United States over the ongoing efforts to secure the return of former Finance Minister Ken Ofori-Atta to face criminal charges in Ghana.

In a Facebook post on Tuesday, June 16, 2026, Ras Mubarak

urged the government to halt all pending and future extradition requests from the United States and suspend defence cooperation with Washington until Mr Ofori-Atta is returned to Ghana.

His comments follow reports that an immigration court in the United States has approved Mr Ofori-Atta's application to adjust his immigration status, a move that could pave the way for him to obtain lawful permanent residency.

Addressing the President directly, Ras Mubarak wrote, "I am respectfully appealing to you for Ghana to abort all pending and future extradition requests from the U.S., all defence cooperation with the U.S. halted until Ken Ofori-Atta is returned to face our laws."

He argued that Ghana should leverage its relationship with the United States to secure the former minister's return.

"It has to be quid pro quo. We have things the U.S. wants, and it can't be business as usual," he stated.

The former lawmaker also cautioned the President against adopting a conciliatory approach to the matter.

"Please don't listen to the moderates in government because Ghanaians won't forgive you if we do not play hard ball to get this done," he added.

His comments come amid

renewed public debate over the future of the criminal cases facing Mr Ofori-Atta in Ghana.

The former Finance Minister remains the subject of multiple criminal charges and investigations linked to decisions taken during his tenure in office.

The former Finance Minister is facing allegations relating to financial irregularities, including claims that a contract awarded to Strategic Mobilisation Limited resulted in losses exceeding GH¢1.4 billion to the state. He is also under investigation by the Office of the Special Prosecutor, which in 2025 initiated efforts to obtain an INTERPOL Red Notice after he allegedly failed to honour invitations for questioning.

The notice was subsequently removed by INTERPOL. Mr Ofori-Atta has consistently denied wrongdoing.

Ghana Gas CEO pays courtesy call on NPA CEO

The Chief Executive Officer of the Ghana National Gas Company, Ms Judith Adjobah Blay and her team on Tuesday, 16 June 2026, paid a courtesy call on the Chief Executive Office of the National Petroleum Authority (NPA), Godwin Kudzo Edudzi Tameklo (Esq).

The visit follows an initial meeting in August last year, which sought to explore ways both organisations can mutually benefit from collaborations to drive growth in Ghana's Petroleum Downstream Sector.

Discussions on Tuesday focused on promoting the smooth operations of Ghana Gas, and facilitating mutual partnerships between the two entities, among others.

In her remarks, the CEO of Ghana Gas, Ms Judith Adjobah Blay noted that these meetings are necessary to ensure both parties are aligned as strategic partners.

"Following the meeting we had in August last year, we agreed to meet again and discuss a few more technical issues that have bearing on the work on NPA and Ghana GAS.

"This is because we serve businesses and sometimes these meetings are very necessary to be held often, so that we can be on the same page as to how we serve these companies that come to us," Mrs Blay stated.

Responding to her remarks, Chief Executive Officer of the National Petroleum Authority, Godwin Kudzo Tameklo (Esq), thanked Ghana Gas for the courtesy call and assured that the NPA will continue to deliver on its mandate to ensure nothing undermines Ghana Gas's operations.

"I personally want to thank the CEO of Ghana Gas for the visit, and we want to assure that NPA will return the favour.

"We will up intensify our operational efforts in areas

that we need to, to make your work less difficult and ensure that your operations move on smoothly.

"I am sure that we have agreed on decisions that will benefit both organisations collectively and the NPA will deliver on its part of the bargain for the greater good of our sector," Mr

Tameklo ended.

The meeting reaffirms the strong partnership between the National Petroleum Authority and Ghana Gas, highlighting the shared commitment to collaboration, operational efficiency, and the sustainable growth of Ghana's energy sector.



Ms Judith Adjobah Blay (left) and Godwin Kudzo Edudzi Tameklo (right)

PETROLEUM PRICE INDICATORS

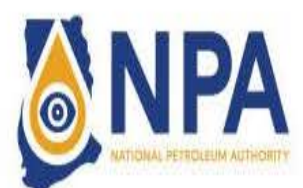
(As of 15th June, 2026)

	AVERAGE FOB PRICES FOR THE PERIOD 16TH-30TH JUNE 2026 WINDOW (27TH MAY - 11TH JUNE 2026 AVERAGES)	AVERAGE ESTIMATED FOB PRICES EFFECTIVE 1ST JULY 2026 (12TH-27TH JUNE 2026 AVERAGES)	% CHANGE
FX Rate (Commercial Banks Average) (USD/GHS)	11.8035	11.4697	2.91%
Crude Oil (USD/BBL)	97.32	84.79	-12.88%
Petrol (USD/MT)	988.77	944.23	-4.50%
Gasoil (USD/MT)	1,056.38	938.66	-11.14%
LPG (USD/MT)	652.65	579.98	-7.72%
Jet/Kerosene (USD/MT)	1,142.67	996.09	-12.38%
Fuel Oil (USD/MT)	578.94	512.43	-11.49%
Products figures represent the FOB Prices used in the Price Build-Up (PBU)			

Note: "Oil prices settled down \$4 a barrel to a three-month low, after President Donald Trump said the United States and Iran have signed a memorandum of understanding aiming to end the Iran war and reopen the Strait of Hormuz." - Reuters

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GoldBod partners GAF, Forestry Commission to reclaim 50 hectares of degraded areas in Tano Nimiri Forest Reserve



Group photograph

The Ghana Gold Board (GoldBod) has signed a landmark agreement with the Ghana Armed Forces and the Forestry Commission to commence a nationwide Land Reclamation and Reforestation in forest reserves by the activities of illegal miners.

The first phase of the reclamation and ecological restoration project covers 50 hectares of degraded areas in the Tano Nimiri Forest Reserve at a cost of about GHS35 million.

The project forms part of GoldBod's broader commitment to environmental stewardship, responsible resource governance, and sustainable development.

Under the agreement, GoldBod will fully fund the reclamation initiative, which will be executed in phases across various parts of the country starting with compartment 161 of the

Tano Nimiri Forest Reserve, one of the country's forest ecosystems that has suffered extensive degradation because of illegal mining activities.

Speaking at the signing ceremony on the initiative, Chief Executive Officer of GoldBod, Sammy Gyamfi, indicated that the decision to begin with the Tano Nimiri Forest Reserve reflects GoldBod's determination to contribute meaningfully to the restoration of Ghana's degraded forests and natural environment.

According to him, while gold remains a strategic national asset, its exploitation must not come at the expense of the country's ecological integrity.

"We are happy to inform you that we are ready to undertake what will become the first major reclamation project the GoldBod will be undertaking in the coming months."

The project will leverage the technical expertise and

operational capacity of the Ghana Army Engineer Brigade, alongside the forestry restoration expertise of the Forestry Commission.

The initiative is expected to involve land rehabilitation, afforestation, and ecosystem restoration activities designed to return degraded landscapes to productive ecological use.

Deputy Minister for Defence, Hon. Ernest Brogya Genfi, described the initiative as a crucial intervention that addresses both the restoration of land already destroyed by illegal miners.

"When you overemphasise prevention, you only stop further degradation. The lands that have already been destroyed still require deliberate efforts to restore them," he stated, adding that the project could serve as a model for similar reclamation efforts across the country.

On his part, the Chief Executive Officer of the Forestry Commission, Dr. Hugh C. A Brown commended GoldBod

for promptly responding to the call of the Forestry Commission for assistance in reclaiming degraded forest reserves in the country.

He noted that the reclamation of the initial 50 hectares would mark an important step towards restoring ecological balance, protecting biodiversity and preserving critical forest ecosystems.

GoldBod views the project as its direct contribution to addressing the environmental challenges associated with illegal mining and supporting national efforts to protect Ghana's forests, water bodies, and biodiversity.

The national reclamation programme marks the beginning of what is expected to be a sustained and collaborative effort to restore degraded lands across the country, demonstrating that economic development and environmental sustainability can go hand in hand.



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Don't Compare GHS44.9m to GHS173m: GLOA acknowledges KGL's dominance in revenue generation



The Ghana Lotto Operators Association (GLOA) has acknowledged the dominant role of KGL Technology Limited in revenue generation for the National Lottery Authority (NLA), urging stakeholders, the media and the public not to draw direct comparisons between the contributions of private lotto operators and those of KGL.

In a statement attributed to political analyst, NPP activist and former PRO of NLA Dr Razak Kojo Opoku, GLOA noted that while some 29 licensed Private Lotto Operators collectively paid GHS44.9 million to the NLA, KGL contributed more than GHS173 million to the Authority, making it the largest single contributor to NLA revenue.

According to the association, the comparison fails to take into account the different

operational models under which the entities function. It stressed that KGL operates as a collaborator under Section 2(4) of the National Lotto Act, 2006 (Act 722), while Private Lotto Operators operate under a different legal framework. GLOA further stated that the primary mandate of the NLA, as stipulated in Section 2(1) of Act 722, is to raise revenue for the nation. In that regard, it said KGL has played a significant role in helping the Authority achieve its core objective.

The association argued that KGL's success in the digital lottery space has been driven by substantial investments in technology, software integration, cybersecurity systems, marketing and infrastructure, rather than exclusive access to mobile platforms.

It pointed to previous failed digital lottery initiatives by the NLA, including Mobile 5/90 and the *890# platform, as evidence that success in the mobile lottery market requires significant expertise,

innovation and financial commitment.

According to GLOA, KGL bears extensive operational costs, including investments running into millions of dollars for systems maintenance, cybersecurity protection, payment of winning tickets, marketing and corporate social responsibility programmes.

The statement also highlighted additional financial support provided by KGL to the NLA, including an annual GHS3 million contribution to the NLA Stabilisation Fund and GHS2 million annually to support the NLA Good Causes Foundation.

Beyond revenue generation, GLOA said KGL contributes significantly to the broader economy through job creation, partnerships with telecommunications companies, banks, media organisations and other businesses.

The association estimated that KGL's overall contribution to the Ghanaian economy

exceeds GHS1 billion annually through taxes, investments and support for education, healthcare and sports development.

Despite recognising KGL's leading role, GLOA emphasised that there remains sufficient room within Ghana's lottery industry for Private Lotto Operators, Lotto Marketing Companies and collaborators to coexist and thrive.

The association called for industrial harmony and cooperation among all players in the sector, stressing that both revenue generation and job creation are critical to national development.

Rather than engaging in rivalry and division, GLOA urged stakeholders in the lottery industry to work together to expand the market, support livelihoods and contribute to national growth.

Govt distributes 40,000 bags of fertiliser, drones to farmers under Feed Ghana Programme



Minister for Food and Agriculture, Hon. Eric Opoku presents items to farmers

The Government of Ghana, through the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA), has distributed 40,000 bags of inorganic fertiliser, five agricultural drones and nearly 8,000 cartons of organic fertiliser to farmers and farmer groups under the Feed Ghana Programme.

The Minister for Food and Agriculture, Hon. Eric Opoku, who made the presentation at the forecourt of the Ministry in Accra on Tuesday, said the intervention forms part of government's commitment to increasing agricultural productivity, ensuring food security and modernising the country's agricultural sector.

Addressing farmers, officials and stakeholders at the event, the Minister emphasized that the distribution was not merely the provision of agricultural inputs but a clear demonstration of government's determination to support farmers and transform agriculture into a modern, technology-driven sector.

"We gather today to make a statement that the Ghanaian farmer matters, that the farmer remains central to our food security and that the transformation of Ghana's economy must begin from the soil, from the farm and from the hardworking hands of our farmers," he stated.

According to Hon. Opoku, the 40,000 bags of inorganic fertiliser will be distributed through the Peasant Farmers Association of Ghana (PFA) to support member farmers who may not have benefited from allocations already made through district agricultural offices under the Feed Ghana Programme.

He disclosed that the Ministry has already commenced fertiliser distribution nationwide and expects to complete the delivery of 1,500 bags to each of Ghana's 276 constituencies by the end of the week. Registered faith-based organisations and institutions participating in the Institutional Farming Scheme will also benefit from the programme.

A key highlight of the event was the presentation of five agricultural drones to PFA. The Minister described the drones as a significant step toward precision agriculture and technological innovation in farming.

He explained that the drones would assist farmers in monitoring crop health, detecting pests and diseases early, mapping farms, assessing crop performance and improving decision-making.

"The future of agriculture will not be built only with the hoe and cutlass. It will also be built with data, drones, improved

seeds, fertilisers, irrigation, mechanisation and precision farming tools," he said.

Hon. Opoku noted that drone technology would help farmers reduce production costs, improve yields, minimise waste and reduce excessive use of agrochemicals while making agriculture more attractive to young people.

The Minister also announced the distribution of 7,936 cartons of organic fertiliser to selected vegetable farmer groups, cooperatives and irrigation schemes across the country. Beneficiaries include the Abokobi Vegetable Production Cooperative, FarmMate Limited, Michel Camp Co-operative Women Farmers Society, English Amanfrom, Amen Amen Institute, Adenta Vegetable Production Cooperative and the ICOUR Tono Irrigation Scheme.

He said the remaining 6,500 cartons would be distributed to farmers in southern Ghana to support production during the upcoming minor farming season.

The Minister stressed the importance of balancing the use of inorganic and organic fertilisers to maintain soil fertility and promote sustainable agriculture.

"As we increase production, we must also protect the health of our soils. A nation that destroys its soil destroys its future," he cautioned.

Hon. Opoku reiterated that the Feed Ghana Programme seeks to boost local food production, create jobs, reduce food imports, supply raw materials for industry and strengthen the national economy.

He described the initiative as more than a food production programme, saying it represents confidence, productivity, rural transformation and the restoration of dignity to farming.

The Minister commended the Peasant Farmers Association of Ghana for its advocacy and partnership with government and urged the association to ensure fairness, transparency and accountability in the distribution of the inputs.

He also encouraged beneficiary groups to put the fertilisers and drones to productive use to increase acreage under cultivation, improve yields and enhance farmer incomes.

To farmers across the country, Hon. Opoku expressed government's appreciation for their contribution to national development and assured them of continued support through fertiliser distribution, irrigation development, mechanisation services, extension support and digital agricultural technologies.

He expressed confidence that through collaboration among government, farmers, the private sector and development partners, Ghana would achieve food self-sufficiency, create employment opportunities and build a resilient agricultural economy.

The event formed part of government's broader efforts to modernise agriculture and promote climate-smart and technology-driven farming under the Feed Ghana Programme.

Police receive DNA report of murdered Immigration officer, await full autopsy report



The Police have informed the Adabraka District Court that they have received the DNA report in the case involving the death of a Ghana Immigration Service officer and are awaiting the full autopsy report from the Police Hospital to complete investigations.

The deceased, Stephen

King Amoah, was allegedly murdered and his body partially burnt at Ashongman Estates in Accra in July 2025.

Appearing before the court on Monday, Chief Inspector Apeweh Achana, who led the prosecution, said investigations were still ongoing as the Police had yet to receive the complete autopsy report.

He therefore requested a two

week adjournment to allow investigators to submit a duplicate docket to the Attorney General's Department.

The court subsequently adjourned the case to June 29, 2026, and remanded the two accused persons, Bright Aweh, also known as Highest Bright, and Thomas Zigah, into police custody.

The accused persons have been jointly charged with conspiracy to commit murder and murder. Their pleas have been preserved by the court.

According to the prosecution, Amoah went missing in July 2025 after leaving his home to meet Aweh at Ashongman Estates.

His body was later discovered in a drain near Aboum Junction.

Investigators said the meeting was linked to a financial dispute between the deceased and

Aweh, based on a WhatsApp exchange that allegedly contained images of cash.

Aweh said to have claimed that he gave Amoah GH¢500,000 to settle a debt and return the remaining balance. However, inconsistencies in his account reportedly led to his arrest.

A search conducted at Aweh's residence allegedly uncovered a camouflage outfit with suspected bloodstains and a wooden pestle wrapped in polythene.

As a result, an earlier kidnapping charge against Aweh was withdrawn and he was subsequently detained in connection with the murder investigation.

Further investigations led to the arrest of Zigah, while Police say efforts are ongoing to apprehend a third suspect believed to be connected to the case.

KATH CEO admitted, apologised to me for closing emergency unit – Health Minister

Health Minister Kwabena Mintah Akandoh has defended his suspension of the Chief Executive Officer of the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital (KATH), Dr. Paa Kwesi Baidoo, insisting that no public health facility has the authority to disregard a policy directive issued by President John Dramani Mahama.

Speaking in Parliament, Mr. Akandoh said the President had issued a clear directive that emergency cases must not be turned away by any health facility under any circumstance.

“The President issued a policy direction in the health sector that no facility should turn away emergency cases,” he stated.

He explained that the directive forms part of government policy and is therefore binding on all public health institutions.

“When the President speaks, it's a policy that the Minister

must implement,” he added.

Mr. Akandoh said the issue arose after KATH announced a suspension of emergency admissions, a move he described as inconsistent with the President's instructions.

“A press statement was issued to the public indicating that the accident and emergency

unit was closed and no more patients could come there,” he noted.

According to him, he later invited Dr. Baidoo for discussions to clarify the situation.

“I invited the CEO and inquired whether what he had done was not contrary to the

position of the President,” he told Parliament.

The Minister further revealed that the CEO acknowledged the concerns raised and apologised during the meeting.

“The man admitted and apologised before me and other officers,” he said.



Nobody has the right to close part of public hospital without my consent – Health Minister

Minister of Health Kwabena Mintah Akandoh has defended the suspension of the Chief Executive Officer of the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital (KATH), Dr. Paa Kwesi Baidoo, stating that no individual has the authority to close any section of a public health facility without the approval of the Health Minister.

Addressing Parliament, Mr. Akandoh said the decision was based on the principle that public health institutions operate under the oversight of the state through the Ministry of Health.

“Nobody, absolutely nobody in this country has the right to close any portion of a public health facility without the consent of the state, in this

case the Minister,” he stated.

He reiterated that no part of a public health facility can be shut down without prior approval from the Health Minister.

According to the Minister, the legal framework governing teaching hospitals clearly outlines the authority of the Minister in matters relating to the administration and operation of such institutions.

Citing Section 36 of the relevant law, Mr. Akandoh argued that hospital boards are required to comply with directives issued by the Minister.

“Section 36 clearly establishes that whatever the Minister directs, the board shall apply same,” he said.

The Minister further maintained that ministerial directives are binding

on hospital boards and management, stressing that the Minister retains ultimate oversight authority over decisions affecting public health facilities.

“The decision of the Minister is not subject to the review of the board. It is the decision of the board that is subject to

the review of the Minister,” he added.

His remarks come amid public debate over the suspension of Dr. Baidoo and the extent of ministerial authority in the management of public health institutions.



Minister of Health, Kwabena Mintah Akandoh

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

‘We are nothing without foreigners; our men are lazy’ – South African workers protest xenophobic crackdown

Factory workers in South Africa have staged protests against the ongoing xenophobic crackdown on foreign nationals, arguing that the campaign is harming businesses and threatening jobs across several sectors of the economy.

The demonstrations come amid reports that many immigrants, including Ghanaians, have been forced to leave the country following a series of attacks and actions targeting foreign nationals.

The protesting workers maintained that foreign nationals play a vital role in South Africa’s economy, serving as employers, investors, entrepreneurs, and skilled professionals whose contributions support thousands of livelihoods.

According to them, the departure of many immigrants is already having a negative impact on economic activity, with some businesses struggling to operate due to the

loss of experienced personnel and technical expertise.

The workers took to the streets to register their opposition to the anti-immigrant campaign and appealed to President Cyril Ramaphosa to take urgent steps to restore confidence among foreign nationals and encourage those who have left to return.

They warned that continued hostility towards immigrants could further weaken industries that depend heavily on their skills and knowledge, particularly the manufacturing and garment sectors.

One protester stressed that South Africans have benefited significantly from working alongside foreign nationals, many of whom have helped transfer specialised skills to local workers.

“We say no to xenophobia. We need foreigners back. Without foreigners, we are nothing. All we know as South Africans is how to cut fabric, but the foreigners know how to make the garments. Without them,

we are nothing,” she said.

She further appealed to President Ramaphosa to reconsider policies and actions that have contributed to the departure of foreign nationals.

“Mr. Ramaphosa, you cannot chase foreigners away because they are part of us. If you send them away, we will be left with nothing. The factories are going to close, and we are going to become poorer. We have children, and what are our children going to eat? We need foreigners,” she added.

The protest follows rising tensions linked to an anti-immigrant campaign led by Jacinta and her supporters, who accuse foreign nationals of taking jobs from South Africans and have called for their removal from the country.

Meanwhile, the worsening situation has prompted the Ghanaian government to evacuate more than 1,000 Ghanaian citizens from South Africa as authorities continue efforts to ensure their safety and welfare.



South African factory workers protest xenophobic crackdown against foreigners

South African President rejects June 30 ultimatum for African migrants, urges calm amid xenophobic crackdown



South African President, Cyril Ramaphosa

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa has urged citizens to allow state institutions to handle immigration enforcement, cautioning against unlawful actions

targeting foreign nationals.

His remarks follow renewed anti-immigration protests and threats issued by some groups

directing African migrants to leave the country by June 30 or face action.

The situation has triggered concern across the continent, with reports of attacks on foreign-owned businesses and evacuation plans by some African countries, including Ghana.

Speaking to the media on Tuesday, June 16, the President said government interventions were already underway to address concerns around undocumented migration and public frustration.

He stressed that citizens should not act independently on

immigration matters, noting that enforcement remains the sole responsibility of the state.

“So the so-called 30th of June, in my view, is not an event that is even necessary, because we are addressing the challenges that our people are facing, and we must not allow South Africans to be duped and to be misled,” he stated.

Ramaphosa further assured that security agencies would maintain order and prevent any breakdown of law and order as authorities continue with enforcement measures.

FBI foils plot to attack White House UFC event using explosive drones, snipers

US law enforcement on Tuesday said it had foiled an alleged plot to attack the White House during a crowded mixed martial arts event attended by President Donald Trump.

“Multiple individuals are now in custody and allegedly planned attacks were stopped cold,” FBI Director Kash Patel said.

The Department of Justice announced charges against five men and said the plotters planned to fly drones armed with explosives over the event, forcing an evacuation when snipers would fire on “high value targets” in the fleeing crowd.

One of those arrested according to a criminal complaint was Tycen Proper, 19, who was taken into custody on June 10 in Ohio after his mother informed police he had been communicating online with an extremist group.

Read more In pictures: Trump marks 80th birthday with White House UFC spectacle

Proper “allegedly amassed firearms, thousands of rounds of ammunition, and tactical gear at his home in Ohio, and he identified potential targets, including multiple members of Congress,” the DOJ said.

Trump on Sunday joined thousands of fans at the

White House fights, where a temporary arena dubbed “The Claw” was erected on the South Lawn.

The White House is protected by intense surveillance, fencing, checkpoints, anti-air-attack capabilities, snipers and a permanent group of quick-reaction forces.

“In the days leading up to this weekend, our special agents, mission support personnel, and technical security teams worked around the clock to identify those responsible and hold them accountable,” Secret Service Director Sean Curran said on X.

Vance targets left

The “UFC Freedom 250” event -- which coincided with Trump’s 80th birthday -- was meant to kick off this year’s festivities for the 250th anniversary of the declaration of US independence.

Trump has faced several assassination attempts in recent years, most recently when a gunman attempted to storm a White House press gala he was attending in April.

US Vice President JD Vance, who also attended the UFC evening, said Tuesday morning in an appearance on Fox News that he had just learned about the alleged plot.

Read more Trump at 80: ‘Harry Houdini’ and a cage fight

Asked why the FBI revealed the foiled plot -- a step it does not always take for security reasons -- Vance pointed to potential “scale of the planned attack.”

He described it as a “coordinated planned terrorist plot” and cited the Trump administration’s work to investigate funding and coordination networks of radical left-wing groups.

Vance did not provide further details on the alleged suspects’ motivations, but nonetheless accused Democrats of fomenting violence with anti-Trump rhetoric.

“Everybody has a role to cut

this stuff out, but I think a lot of my Democratic colleagues in Washington have got to look themselves in the mirror and say, ‘why is so much of this political violence coming from our side of the spectrum?’” he said.

The White House has repeatedly claimed that Trump critics and the media are responsible for rising political tension in the country.

Opponents of Trump say the Republican president’s often inflammatory rhetoric against opponents, immigrants and the election system are to blame.

Source: (FRANCE 24 with AFP)



National Chief Imam calls for nationwide prayers for Black Stars ahead of World Cup opener today



National Chief Imam, Sheikh Dr Osmanu Nuhu Sharubutu

The National Chief Imam, Sheikh Dr Osmanu Nuhu Sharubutu, has directed Imams across Ghana, particularly Regional and District Imams, to offer special prayers for the Black Stars ahead of their opening match against Panama at the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

The directive was contained in a statement issued by the Office of the National Chief Imam on June 15, 2026, as part of efforts to seek divine guidance and support for the national team as it begins its fifth FIFA World Cup campaign.

According to the statement, the Chief Imam extended his goodwill, solidarity and

prayers to the players, technical team and management of the Black Stars, asking Allah to grant them wisdom, strength, unity, discipline, resilience and success throughout the tournament.

The statement noted that prayers were also being offered for the safety of the team, protection from injuries and the ability to represent Ghana with honour and distinction on the global stage.

It explained that the directive fulfils a commitment made by the Chief Imam during a recent visit by officials of the Ghana Football Association.

Special prayers, the statement added, would be offered for Ghana's opening fixture against Panama as well as the team's overall performance at the World Cup.

The National Chief Imam

described the Black Stars as a symbol of the hopes and aspirations of Ghanaians and said the team's participation in the tournament represents national unity that transcends political, ethnic and religious differences.

He therefore called on all Ghanaians to rally behind the team through prayers, encouragement and goodwill as they seek success at the tournament.

The statement was signed by Alhaji Osumanu Seidu, Executive Secretary at the Office of the National Chief Imam.

Ghana will begin its Group L campaign against Panama at BMO Field in Toronto on June 17, 2026, before taking on England and Croatia in its remaining group stage matches.

Thomas Partey misses Ghana's World Cup opener after Canadian court dismisses visa appeal

Black Stars midfielder Thomas Partey will miss Ghana's opening match at the 2026 FIFA World Cup after a Canadian court dismissed his appeal against the refusal of a visa to enter the country.

The ruling comes despite diplomatic efforts by the Government of Ghana to secure his entry after Canadian authorities initially rejected his application for a Temporary Resident Visa.

Partey was denied entry into Canada due to ongoing criminal proceedings in the United Kingdom, where he faces multiple rape charges. Immigration authorities cited the case as the basis for refusing his visa application.

The Ghanaian government subsequently engaged Canadian authorities in a bid to overturn the decision, stressing that the midfielder has not been convicted of

any offence and should be presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Foreign Affairs Minister Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa earlier confirmed that Ghana was actively pursuing diplomatic channels to resolve the matter ahead of the Black Stars' opening Group Stage

fixture against Panama on Wednesday, June 17.

However, the latest court decision means Partey remains ineligible for selection unless there is a further legal or administrative breakthrough.

His absence is expected to be a significant setback for Ghana's World Cup campaign, given his experience and importance to the national team setup.

The Black Stars begin their tournament against Panama on June 17.



Black Stars midfielder Thomas Partey

2026 World Cup: Black Stars must beat Panama to keep hopes alive - Ibrahim Sannie Daara

Former Communications Director of the Ghana Football Association, Ibrahim Sannie Daara, has called on the Black Stars to open their 2026 FIFA World Cup campaign with a win against Panama.

Ghana begin their Group L campaign on Wednesday, June 17, at BMO Field, where they will be aiming to bounce back from a run of inconsistent results.

Daara believes a positive start is essential if the four-time African champions are to advance beyond the group

stage of the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

“It is crucial for Black Stars to beat Panama to secure all three points to keep their chances of playing in the knockout phase alive,” he told Asempa FM.

The Black Stars have already arrived in Toronto and are scheduled to hold a mandatory training session ahead of the clash.

After facing Panama, Ghana will take on England at Gillette Stadium on June 23, before concluding their group fixtures against Croatia on June 27 as they push for a place in the

knockout rounds for the first time since 2010.



Former Communications Director of GFA, Ibrahim Sannie Daara

ENTERTAINMENT NEWS

‘Do not use my music’ – Ariana Grande tells White House after using her song to promote immigration policies

US pop star, Ariana Grande, has asked the White House to stop using her music after one of her songs was featured in a social media video promoting the Donald Trump administration’s immigration policies.

The video, shared on TikTok by the White House on Monday, showed border agents handcuffing and detaining migrants while Grande’s 2024 hit song Bye played in the background. The post was captioned: “Bye-bye... President Trump has delivered the most secure border in history.”

Grande reacted strongly to the post, commenting: “Please do not use my music in relation to this barbaric, inhumane, heinous nonsense.”

Shortly after her response, the video was muted, and her comment was removed from the post. Several social media

users later noted that the comment had disappeared and that the soundtrack had been taken down.

Responding to the criticism, White House spokesperson, Abigail Jackson, defended the administration’s immigration policies, saying the real problem was criminal undocumented migrants who had harmed American citizens.

The video comes after President Donald Trump signed legislation approving more than \$70 billion in funding for US immigration agencies for the remainder of his current term.

Grande is not the first musician to object to the use of her music by Trump or the White House. In recent years, several artists, including Sabrina Carpenter, ABBA, Celine Dion and Beyoncé, have publicly opposed the use of their songs in support of Trump’s political campaigns and policy messaging.



US pop star, Ariana Grande

South African artistes' African gigs cancelled amid xenophobic crackdown

South African artistes, particularly musicians, are losing income as gigs across the continent get cancelled amid backlash over xenophobia concerns, Justice Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi has revealed.

Kubayi said the impact on performers has come to her attention after one artist reached out to report that all her shows on the continent were canceled.

"Many of them are seeing their gigs being canceled, so that's another impact of the work, because they benefit quite a lot. They perform on-live performance events and everything, so they are receiving income. This is income loss for South African artistes, so the brand doesn't get affected," she said.

The minister noted that her department has not been able to work closely with arts and

culture stakeholders yet, but will do so to understand the full impact on artists.

She stressed that South Africa's message to the continent is that South Africans are not xenophobic. "That's part of what we are doing — to explain that South Africans are not xenophobic, South Africans are not calling for attacks. We are also saying to South Africans, let's be responsible."

Kubayi added that the go focus is on illegal immigration, not on foreign nationals living legally in the country. "That's why all the others are saying to us, South Africa, we understand what you are dealing with, with the basis that these are illegal people, therefore, enforce the law. And those that you have within the borders legally, please protect them like you protect South Africans."

She concluded by calling

on communities to reject vigilantism. "Hence, we are calling for vigilantism to be rejected by communities for attacks on foreign nationals."

The minister's remarks come

as diplomatic efforts continue to repair South Africa's image abroad and protect the livelihoods of artistes who rely heavily on performances across Africa.



South African Minister of Justice, Mmamoloko Kubayi

Burna Boy, Shakira spark speculations with warm backstage hug

A photo of Nigerian music icon Burna Boy and Shakira sharing a warm hug backstage has attracted attention on social media.

The image, which surfaced online after the pair's performance at the World Cup opening ceremony in Mexico, shows the two singers embracing and smiling for the camera.

Shakira appears to have one foot lifted off the ground as they hug, while people around them continue with their activities backstage.

The photo has generated different reactions online, with some social media users commenting on the friendly interaction between the two global music stars.

Others have offered various

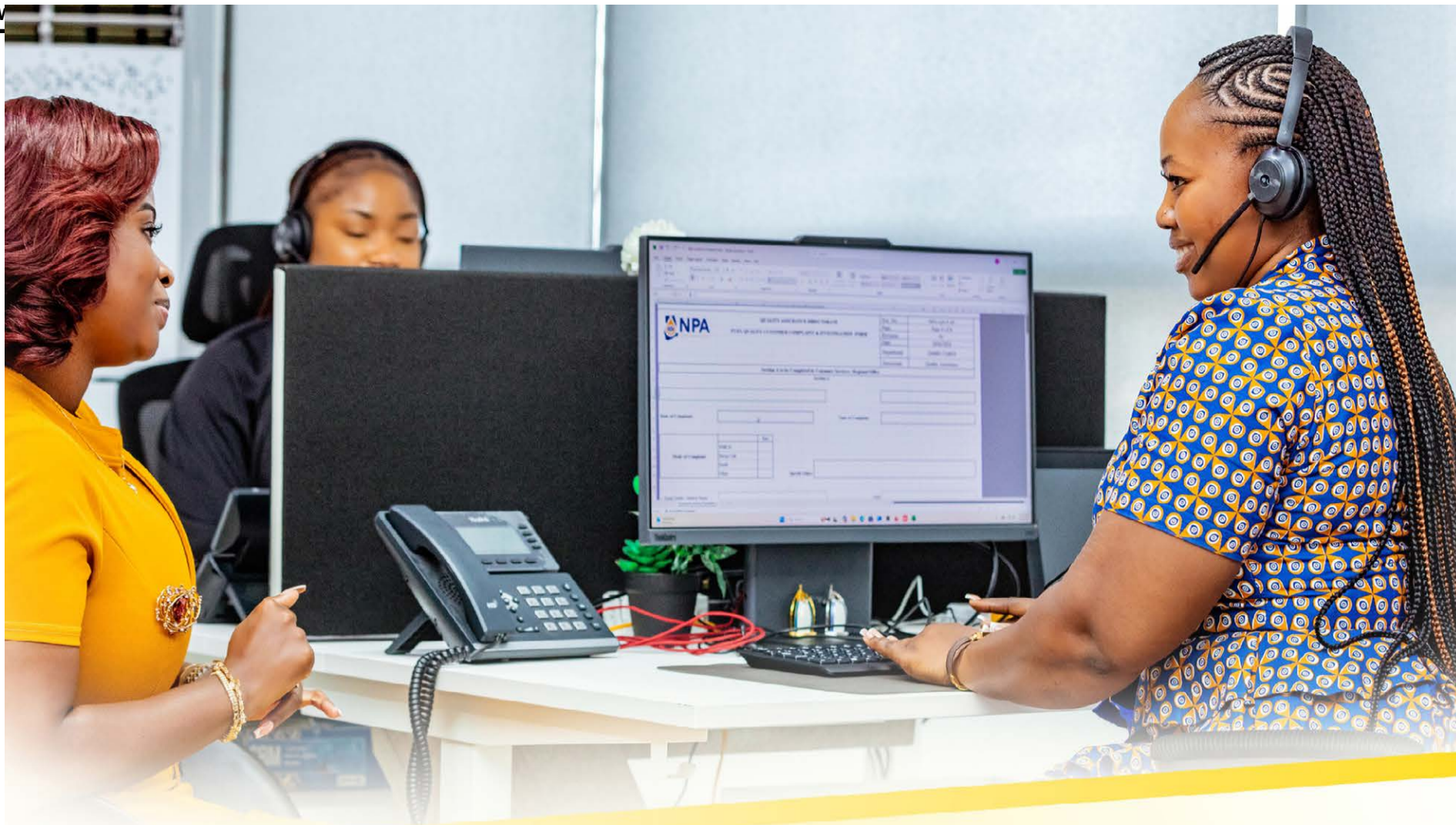
interpretations of the moment, including suggestions that

Shakira was excited to see Burna Boy or was simply

maintaining her balance during the embrace.



Burna Boy and Shakira sharing a warm hug



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