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Opposition big gun thrown into Nsawam Prison, receives ‘hero’s welcome’



Chairman Wontumi

As shanti Regional Chairman of the New Patriotic Party (NPP), Bernard Antwi-Boasiako, popularly known as Chairman Wontumi, reportedly received a very enthusiastic reception from inmates in Nsawam Prison who heard the news about his arrival after conviction by an Accra High Court on Monday evening, July 20, 2026.

Chairman Wontumi, owner of Akonta Mining, was sentenced by the High Court in Accra on Monday to 20 years’ imprisonment over his role in illegal mining at

Samreboi in the Amenfi West Municipal District of Ghana’s Western Region.

In addition to the custodial sentence, he was fined 10,000 penalty units on each count on which he was convicted. Akonta Mining Limited, which was also convicted on two counts, was fined 15,000 penalty units for each offence.

Justice Audrey Kocuvie-Tay convicted Chairman Wontumi on Counts One and Four and found Akonta Mining Limited guilty on Counts Three and Six after ruling that the prosecution had proved the essential elements of

the offences beyond reasonable doubt.

Right after the judgement, Chairman Wontumi was handcuffed and driven to Nsawam Prison, where he was admitted to serve his 20-year jail term in hard labour.

Confirming this, his campaign manager, George Boahen Oduro, who visited the prison said Chairman Wontumi is in good health and adapting well to life at the Nsawam Medium Security Prison.

Speaking on Eyewitness News on Tuesday, July 21, Mr Oduro said he was part of a five-member delegation that visited Chairman Wontumi at the prison after he was admitted on Monday evening to begin serving his sentence.

According to him, although prison authorities were still carrying out the mandatory admission and profiling procedures for newly admitted inmates, Wontumi had settled in and was in good condition.

“This morning we paid him a visit and as I speak to you now, he has started serving his sentence. He was admitted yesterday around 4 p.m. and he is at Nsawam as we speak,” Mr Oduro said.

He commended officers of the Ghana Prisons Service for their

professionalism, describing them as courteous and respectful while carrying out the required admission procedures.

Mr Oduro explained that the delegation was initially unable to see Chairman Wontumi because he was undergoing routine profiling, documentation and other formal admission processes.

However, after informing prison officials that they had brought personal belongings for him, Wontumi’s younger brother was granted access to deliver the items.

According to Mr Oduro, Wontumi’s brother later confirmed that the NPP chairman was in good spirits.

“He said he is very well. He’s okay and everything is fine,” he stated.

Mr Oduro clarified that the temporary restriction on access was solely due to the admission process and should not be interpreted as a denial of visitation rights.

He added that prison authorities had asked the delegation to return on Wednesday when the profiling process would have been completed and Chairman Wontumi would be available to receive regular visitors.

Ghana’s President receives procurement report to begin Green Digital City

President John Dramani Mahama has received a procurement report to commence consultancy and feasibility studies for the proposed Green Digital City project, a government initiative aimed at reducing pressure on Accra’s infrastructure and urban systems.

The President said the project has progressed to an advanced stage, with the next phase focusing on assessing its feasibility and developing a comprehensive design framework for the proposed city.

He made the disclosure on Tuesday, July 21, during a courtesy call by the Greater Accra Regional House of Chiefs, Members of Parliament from the region and government appointees at the Jubilee House.

President Mahama explained that the Green Digital City project forms part of the government’s long-term strategy to address challenges associated with rapid urbanisation and the growing pressure on Accra.

“Only today I received the procurement report for the start of work for consultancy and the feasibility study for what we call the Green Digital City,” he said.

The proposed development is expected to cover an area stretching from the Accra Plains towards parts of the Eastern and Volta Regions.

According to President Mahama, the project will create a new urban centre capable of hosting some government institutions and agencies that may eventually be relocated from Accra.

He said the initiative is intended to reduce congestion in the capital, support planned urban

expansion and promote a more balanced distribution of economic and administrative activities across the country.

Accra has experienced increasing pressure on its infrastructure in recent years due to population growth, traffic congestion, housing shortages and rising demand for public services.

The Green Digital City project is therefore being positioned as

a long-term solution to support sustainable urban development and establish an alternative centre for government, business and technology-driven activities outside the existing capital.

President Mahama assured that the government would continue with the necessary planning and technical processes to ensure the project is properly designed and implemented to meet Ghana’s future development needs.



President John Dramani Mahama

Achimota Forest Reserve must not be sacrificed for private development – Mahama

President John Dramani Mahama has reiterated the government's commitment to safeguarding the Achimota Forest Reserve, stressing that the country's largest remaining urban forest will not be sacrificed for private interests.

He described the reserve as an important environmental asset and national heritage that must be preserved for future generations.

President Mahama made the remarks on Tuesday, July 21, during a courtesy call by the Greater Accra Regional House of Chiefs, Members of Parliament from the region and government officials at the Jubilee House.

He announced that Cabinet has approved the revocation of Executive Instrument 144, as amended, to restore the Achimota Forest Reserve to its original protected status.

"The Achimota Forest Reserve

remains Accra's largest remaining urban forest, and must not be sacrificed for private development. It must be protected as an environmental asset, a green buffer, and a national heritage for present and future generations," he said.

The President also outlined plans to reform Ghana's land administration system, including measures to strengthen the Lands Commission and speed up the digitisation of land records.

According to him, the reforms are intended to improve transparency, prevent multiple sales of land, reduce corruption and ensure more efficient processing of land documentation.

"Land administration must serve the public interest and protect both traditional landowners and the interests of the state," he stated.

President Mahama further said the government would continue consultations with the Greater Accra Regional House of Chiefs, the Lands Commission,

the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources and other relevant stakeholders to resolve outstanding issues relating to compensation, land ownership, state acquisitions and the lawful management of public lands.

His comments come amid ongoing concerns over challenges within Ghana's land sector, including land

disputes, encroachment and the conversion of lands reserved for public and environmental purposes.

The government has said the planned reforms will create a more transparent and efficient land administration system while protecting Ghana's natural resources and public assets.



President John Dramani Mahama

MP, Greater Accra Kusasi Chief lead calls for GCB Bank branch in Garu

The Greater Accra Kusasi Chief, Naba Billia Tiewin Alhaji Faisel Mahama Abugri, has underscored the urgent need for the establishment of a GCB Bank PLC branch in the Garu District, describing it as a critical step toward accelerating economic growth and expanding financial inclusion in the area.

The chief joined the Member of Parliament for Garu Constituency, Dr. Thomas Anaba, on a courtesy visit to the management of GCB Bank PLC on behalf of the Overlord of Kusaug, Zug-Raan Naba Asigri Abugrago Azoka II, to formally advocate for the bank's expansion into the district.

During the engagement, Naba Billia Tiewin Alhaji Faisel Mahama Abugri stressed that Garu has evolved into an important commercial hub due to its strategic location along Ghana's border with Togo. He noted that the district's thriving cross-border trade, vibrant agricultural sector, and

expanding local businesses make it an ideal location for a GCB Bank branch.

According to the delegation, the absence of a GCB branch has compelled many residents, traders, farmers, and public sector workers to travel long distances to access banking services, creating unnecessary financial and logistical challenges.

The delegation argued that establishing a branch in Garu would significantly improve

access to financial services, enhance financial inclusion, support local enterprises, facilitate cross-border trade, and provide farmers and entrepreneurs with easier access to banking products needed to grow their businesses.

They further highlighted that Garu's growing economy offers strong business opportunities for GCB Bank, making the district a commercially viable destination for the bank's expansion strategy while contributing to the broader

socio-economic development of the Kusaug Traditional Area.

The appeal reflects ongoing efforts by local leaders to attract key public and private institutions to the district in order to improve essential services and unlock the area's economic potential. The delegation expressed optimism that GCB Bank would give favourable consideration to the request, citing Garu's strategic importance and its capacity to sustain a thriving banking operation.



Garu MP, Accra Kusasi chief lead delegation to management of GCB Bank PLC

Assemblies paid GH¢22.4m to revenue collectors who generated only GH¢10.26m – Audit reports



Revenue task force

Auditor-General’s reports covering the past five years have revealed major inefficiencies in revenue mobilisation at several metropolitan, municipal and district assemblies (MMDAs), with some assemblies paying revenue collectors more in salaries than the funds they generated.

An analysis of the reports found that between 2021 and 2025, MMDAs spent a total of GH¢22.4 million on salaries for revenue collectors, while the officers mobilised only GH¢10.26 million from property rates, licences, fees, and other internally generated revenue sources.

The audit reports on the Accounts of District Assemblies indicated that in several cases, individual revenue collectors received annual salaries ranging between GH¢50,000 and GH¢90,000 but generated only between GH¢6,000 and GH¢40,000 in revenue.

The situation, according to the Auditor-General, violates Section 52 of the Public Financial Management Act, 2016 (Act 921), and raises concerns about value for money in public expenditure, as assemblies continue to incur avoidable losses through ineffective revenue collection systems.

Despite repeated recommendations from the Auditor-General to correct the trend, many affected assemblies have failed to implement measures to improve efficiency, with some continuing to retain collectors whose earnings far exceed the revenue they generate.

The affected assemblies included Asunafo South, Berekum, Dormaa Central, Berekum West, Dormaa West, Talensi, Builsa South, Jomoro, Adansi Asokwa, Asokore Mampong, Kumasi Metropolitan Assembly (Manhyia South Sub-Metro), Sekyere Central, Dormaa East, Banda, Nkoranza South, Pru West, Bodi, Mampong, Kwadaso, Atwima Kwanwoma, Kumasi Metropolitan Assembly (Subin Sub-Metro), Nhyiaeso Sub-Metro, Upper Denkyira East, Agona West, Abuakwa South, Aowin, Afigya Kwabre South, Ahafo Ano North and Ahafo Ano South East.

Other assemblies cited in the reports were Amansie Central, Bosomtwe, Old Tafo, Suame, Awutu Senya, Twifo Hemang Lower Denkyira, Fanteakwa South, Upper West Akim, Chereponi, Kpandai, Gushegu, Garu, Amenfi West, Sefwi Wiawso, Twifo Atti Morkwa, Assin Fosu, Assin South, Agona East, Asikuma-Odoben-Brakwa, Mfantseman, Ajumako-Enyan-Essiam, Yilo Krobo and Abuakwa North.

The remaining assemblies were Atiwa West, Ayensuano, Kwahu East, Kassena-Nankana, Bongo, Bawku West, Nabdam, Bibiani-Anhwiaso-Bekwai, Juaboso, Bia East, Sefwi Akontombra, Upper Denkyira West, Abura-Asebu-Kwamankese, Effutu, Nsawam-Adoagyiri, Suhum, Afadzato South, Ketu South, Kpando, Shama and Suaman.

The audit findings showed that in 2021, 163 revenue collectors across 31 assemblies received GH¢3.04 million in salaries but generated only GH¢1.63 million, creating a shortfall of GH¢1.41 million.

In 2022 and 2023, the problem persisted, with collectors in 22 and 13 assemblies respectively generating only 55.02 per cent and 43.68 per cent of the salaries paid to them. The resulting shortfalls were GH¢1.49 million and GH¢1.34 million respectively.

The situation worsened in 2024 when 245 collectors from 55 assemblies were paid GH¢11.74 million but mobilised only GH¢4.78 million, leaving a deficit of GH¢6.96 million – the highest recorded during the period.

Although the number of affected assemblies dropped to 14 in 2025, inefficiencies remained, with 55 revenue collectors receiving GH¢2.84 million in salaries while generating only GH¢1.49 million, resulting in an excess cost of GH¢1.35 million.

The findings have renewed calls for reforms in local revenue mobilisation systems, with experts arguing that stronger monitoring, accountability and performance-based mechanisms are needed to ensure public funds are used effectively.

A tax practitioner and lawyer, Albert Kungmaa Ziem, told the media in Accra that the situation represented a breach of a basic principle of tax administration, which requires the cost of collecting revenue to remain lower than the amount collected.

He described it as economically unjustifiable for assemblies to spend more money collecting revenue than they eventually receive.

“If the state has to spend GH¢22.4 million to collect GH¢10.26 million, then administratively it is very irregular. The state would have been better off allowing the people to keep that money rather than spending more to collect less,” he said.

Mr Ziem argued that the challenge was not a lack of revenue opportunities at the local level but weaknesses in monitoring and accountability.

“I don’t think there is no revenue to be collected. The issue is monitoring and accountability. The possibility is cash suppression because much of the cash collected is not properly accounted for,” he added.

He called for improved training, stronger supervision and merit-based recruitment of revenue

collectors to address persistent challenges.

“We should train and retrain the revenue collectors, recruit the right people based on competence instead of nepotism, and strengthen monitoring. If we do that, many of these infractions can be eliminated,” he said.

Mr Ziem also urged assemblies to adopt digital revenue collection platforms and introduce performance-based incentives to reduce leakages and improve collections.

“We have simple technologies that can transmit payment information instantly to the office, making it difficult to suppress revenue. Assemblies should also consider commission-based incentives so collectors are rewarded based on what they mobilise rather than fixed salaries,” he explained.

President of the Chamber for Local Governance (ChaLoG), Dr Richard Fiadomor, also attributed the recurring problem to weak incentives within the revenue collection system.

He said many collectors lacked motivation because their salaries were guaranteed regardless of their performance.

“If the structure were such that the more you collect, the higher the percentage you get under a commission system, the situation would have been different.

“But currently, the revenue collectors do not see themselves as direct beneficiaries of the revenue they collect, and that is why they do not give of their best,” he said.

Dr Fiadomor suggested that assemblies should explore the use of private revenue collectors, as permitted under existing local government laws, to improve accountability and efficiency.

He further called for stronger supervision from central government and reforms that would make metropolitan, municipal and district chief executives more accountable for revenue performance.

“If the central government had taken these audit findings seriously, we would not have seen the same irregularities recurring from 2021 to 2025.

“Elected chief executives would treat revenue generation as a priority because they would be directly accountable to the people who voted for them,” he added.

Presidential pardon for Wontumi good call but he should serve for five to seven years - Martin Kpebu



Lawyer Martin Kpebu

Private legal practitioner Martin Kpebu has backed calls for a presidential pardon for Ashanti Regional Chairman of the New Patriotic Party (NPP), Bernard Antwi-Boasiako, popularly known as Chairman Wontumi, but says any clemency should only be considered after he has served part of his 20-year prison sentence.

Speaking in an exclusive interview with Classfmonline.com, Mr. Kpebu argued that Chairman Wontumi should first spend between five and seven years in prison before becoming eligible for a presidential pardon.

“I said he should serve for five to seven years and also he should pay for the

reclamation. I expect that Minerals Commission will go and do a report on what it takes to reclaim the place and then he should pay for it. For that’s what is sufficient,” he explained.

The lawyer also insisted that any consideration for clemency should be tied to environmental accountability, arguing that Chairman Wontumi should bear the cost of reclaiming land degraded by illegal mining activities.

His comments come amid growing calls from some members of the NPP for President John Dramani Mahama to grant Chairman Wontumi a presidential pardon following his conviction on illegal mining-related offences.

Mr. Kpebu maintained that while a pardon could be justified, it must not come at the expense of justice or environmental restoration.

He also rejected suggestions

that the 20-year prison sentence with hard labour imposed on Chairman Wontumi was too lenient, despite the extensive destruction caused by illegal mining.

According to him, his position is rooted in the principles of human rights and the belief that imprisonment should serve as a tool for rehabilitation rather than punishment alone. “For me, imprisonment should reform the person. He should come back when he will be useful to society and younger people can learn from him,” he said.

Mr. Kpebu further argued that requiring Chairman Wontumi to serve the full 20-year sentence would be excessive, expressing hope that he would be released early enough to rebuild his life after serving a substantial portion of the term.

“I am hoping that he will be out soon enough to get ready to retire at 60,” he stated.

Galamsey fight: Go after more financiers, kingpins like Wontumi, not labourers – Solomon Owusu to govt

Spokesperson for the United Party, Solomon Owusu, says Ghana’s efforts to combat illegal mining have been ineffective because law enforcement has focused on arresting low-level operators instead of the financiers and masterminds behind the activity.

Reacting to the 20-year prison sentence handed to New Patriotic Party (NPP) Ashanti Regional Chairman Bernard ‘Wontumi’ Antwi-Boasiako, Mr Owusu said the judgment signals a shift towards targeting those he described as the principal actors in illegal mining.

According to him, the strategy of arresting labourers while

leaving financiers untouched has undermined the fight against galamsey.

He said arresting the low-level operators “is the reason we are not able to fight galamsey.”

Mr Owusu argued that the conviction of Chairman Wontumi represents the first time someone he described as a financier and kingpin has been successfully prosecuted.

“This is the first time a kingpin, somebody that is a financier, the main culprit has been hammered down with this sort of sentence, which is in the right direction,” he said.

He described the judgment as “a victory for the fight against galamsey” and urged the public to focus on the enforcement of the law rather than emotion.

“The law has caught up with

Wontumi, and rightly so,” he said.

Mr Owusu maintained that illegal mining has had severe

consequences for public health, arguing that those found culpable should face the full rigours of the law.



Spokesperson for United Party, Solomon Owusu

Auditor-General’s report never establish any financial, revenue loss – NPA dismisses news report



The National Petroleum Authority (NPA) has rejected media reports suggesting its recent performance audit uncovered corruption, financial misappropriation or revenue losses.

The Authority said the Performance Report by the

Audit Service, which covered its operations between 2023 and 2025, did not establish any financial loss or revenue loss to the NPA.

The statement follows a report by The NewsCenta which cited the Auditor-General’s performance audit and highlighted alleged

financial losses, corruption or misappropriation within the Authority.

According to the NPA, the audit rather recommended stronger controls and improvements in regulatory oversight but did not conclude that there had been financial loss or corruption by the Authority.

“The Authority states that the Auditor-General’s report does not establish any financial loss or revenue loss to the National Petroleum Authority,” the NPA said in the statement issued on Monday, July 20.

It further stated that descriptions of the report as evidence of corruption or widespread financial mismanagement were inaccurate and not supported by the audit findings.

“Furthermore, media characterisations suggesting ‘rot’, corruption or financial misappropriation are not findings contained in the Auditor-General’s Performance Audit Report. The report by ‘The NewsCenta’ Newspaper did not capture the Management response to the Audit findings,” the statement added.

The NPA reaffirmed its commitment to transparency, accountability and sound corporate governance.

The Authority said it would continue to work with the Audit Service to implement recommendations aimed at strengthening regulatory oversight, improving operational efficiency and enhancing consumer protection in Ghana’s downstream petroleum sector.

‘We’re happy for jailing Wontumi but we need compensation for galamsey destructions – Samreboi residents

Residents of Samreboi in the Western Region, who suffered severe losses from recent floods linked to alleged illegal mining, say the 20year jail term handed to NPP Ashanti Regional Chairman Bernard Antwi Boasiako (Chairman Wontumi) brings relief – but not full justice.

They insist that true justice will only be achieved when affected families receive compensation and the government undertakes massive reclamation of lands degraded by Akonta Mining’s activities.

Speaking to Citi News, resident Ebenezer Ackah said the devastation caused by Akonta Mining was enormous.

“This is good news to us... As I speak, all my properties are destroyed, my mother’s building has collapsed, and one of my friends has also lost his farm.”

Ackah welcomed the judgment as a deterrent but stressed that no compensation has been paid to victims.

“We are very happy with the judgment... However, we are the ones who have been most affected, but no compensation has been made to us.”

Another resident, Amos Rosely, said the ruling proves that the law must apply equally, regardless of political power.

“Look at how one person has been able to cause this devastation to us just because his party was in power. It is a good thing that the law has taken its course.”

Others say the environmental destruction left behind is too vast to ignore. Resident Mr Dadzie urged government to prioritise land restoration.

“I expected even a worse judgment on him. Now what we want the government to do is to reclaim the degraded land. It is huge and we cannot leave it as it is.”

For Samreboi, the court’s

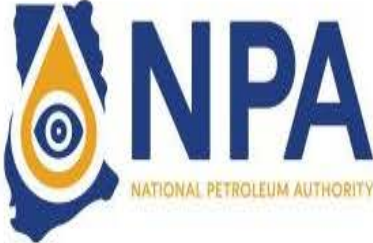
decision is only the first step. Residents say rebuilding their lives, restoring the environment, and compensating affected families remain critical to achieving full justice after years of alleged illegal mining.



A Samreboi resident, Ebenezer Ackah

PETROLEUM PRICE INDICATORS

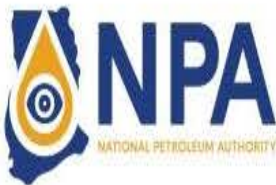
(As of 20th July, 2026)

 NPA NATIONAL PETROLEUM AUTHORITY	AVERAGE FOB PRICES FOR THE PERIOD 16TH JULY 2026 (27TH JUNE - 11TH JULY 2026 AVERAGES) WINDOW	AVERAGE ESTIMATED FOB PRICES EFFECTIVE 1ST AUGUST 2026 (12TH - 27TH JULY 2026 AVERAGES)	% CHANGE
FX Rate (Commercial Banks Average) (USD/GHS)	11.4970	11.6413	-1.24%
Crude Oil (USD/BBL)	71.90	84.47	17.47%
Petrol (USD/MT)	970.63	1,096.33	12.95%
Gasoil (USD/MT)	974.40	1,201.90	23.35%
LPG (USD/MT)	545.65	588.88	7.92%
Jet/Kerosene (USD/MT)	1,004.73	1,242.48	23.66%
Fuel Oil (USD/MT)	461.30	523.20	13.42%
Products figures represent the FOB Prices used in the Price Build-Up (PBU)			

Note: "Oil prices settled over 1% higher after volatile trading through the session, as traders weighed hopes of renewed U.S.-Iran negotiations against Yemen's Houthis imposition of a naval blockade against Saudi Arabia." - Reuters

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Our next president will come from NDC, no chance for NPP in 2028 – Martin Kpebu

Private legal practitioner Martin Kpebu has predicted that the National Democratic Congress (NDC) will retain power in the 2028 general elections, arguing that the party’s strong electoral performance in 2024 makes it highly improbable for the New Patriotic Party (NPP) to return to government after just one term in opposition.

Mr Kpebu made the remarks in an interview with the media while commenting on calls for a presidential pardon for NPP Ashanti Regional Chairman Bernard Antwi-Boasiako, popularly known as Chairman Wontumi, who was sentenced to 20 years’ imprisonment with hard labour over illegal mining (galamsey).

“I believe it will be an NDC administration [that pardons him],” he said. “The next president will be from NDC, absolutely. The chances are very high.”

Explaining his prediction, Mr

Kpebu said it was based on electoral data and historical voting trends rather than mere speculation.

He noted that the NDC had overturned a significant electoral deficit from the 2020 elections to secure a commanding victory in 2024.

“The last election, the NDC came from a deficit of about 540,000 votes. The 2020 elections John Mahama lost by between 500,000 and 540,000 votes, and in 2024, he made up for that deficit and won by about 1.7 million. It means that about 2.1 million citizens more voted for JM,” he explained.

“With that, you can’t have 2.1 million citizens leave the NDC in an election within four years - maybe half of them - but you can’t get all of them to desert the NDC and go and vote for NPP within four years. It’d be extremely extraordinary. It takes longer, by about eight years,” he added.

Mr Kpebu also rejected claims that voter apathy among NPP supporters was a major factor behind the party’s defeat in the 2024 elections.

According to him, even if all those supporters had turned

out to vote, the outcome would not have changed.

According to him, even if those numbers were to vote, “there’s no chance for the NPP” in the 2028 elections.

He further described the argument that voter apathy accounted for the NPP’s loss as “a paper analysis” and “just a sweet story”, suggesting it was an attempt to rationalise the party’s heavy defeat at the polls.

On the future leadership of

the NDC, Mr Kpebu identified three personalities he believes are well-positioned to succeed President John Dramani Mahama as the party’s next presidential candidate.

He named National Chairman Johnson Asiedu Nketiah as the leading contender, followed by Education Minister Haruna Iddrisu and Finance Minister Dr Cassiel Ato Baah Forson, explaining that his assessment was based on their political experience.



Lawyer Martin Kpebu

NDC Branch Organiser arrested over alleged defamatory remarks against Bawumia

The Ghana Police Service has arrested Prince Aboagye, a 38-year-old branch organiser of the National Democratic Congress (NDC) in the Agona West Constituency of the Central Region, over alleged defamatory comments made about former Vice-President Dr Mahamudu Bawumia on social media.

The arrest follows the circulation of a video in which Mr Aboagye allegedly made a series of offensive remarks

about Dr Bawumia, who is the New Patriotic Party’s (NPP) flagbearer for the 2028 general election.

According to reports, the suspect accused Dr Bawumia of murder, theft and engaging in extramarital affairs with married women.

The Ghana Police Service has confirmed that Mr Aboagye is in custody while investigations into the matter continue.

The Agona West Constituency

Chairman of the NDC, Alex Asiedu, also confirmed the arrest, stating that Mr Aboagye had been invited by the Criminal Investigations Department

(CID) Headquarters in Accra in connection with the alleged misconduct.



NDC Branch organizer in Agona West, Prince Aboagye



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‘The standard which cleared Tsatsu Tsikata in 2016 be applied in Wontumi’s conviction’ – Minority demands

The Minority Caucus in Parliament has called for what it describes as consistency and fairness in the administration of justice, urging the judiciary to apply the same legal principles that resulted in the acquittal of veteran lawyer Tsatsu Tsikata to the case involving New Patriotic Party (NPP) Ashanti Regional Chairman Bernard Antwi Boasiako, popularly known as Chairman Wontumi.

The caucus said Ghana’s justice system must be seen as impartial and guided by uniform legal standards, regardless of the political background or status of individuals who appear before the courts.

The call comes after Chairman Wontumi was convicted on Monday, July 20, over illegal

mining-related offences.

Speaking to journalists in Parliament on Tuesday, July 21, Deputy Minority Leader Patricia Appiagyei stressed that the Minority was not demanding special treatment for the NPP chairman but was advocating for equal application of the law.

She said as the matter moves to the Court of Appeal, the judiciary must rely on the same legal standards applied in previous landmark cases involving prominent personalities.

“We call on all Ghanaians of every party to insist that the standard which cleared Tsatsu Tsikata in 2016 be applied in Wontumi’s conviction today. This is not an attack on the

judiciary as an institution, it is a call for consistency and a system that inspires confidence across the political divide and not merely within it.

“History will not remember this moment for the length of sentence, it will remember whether Ghana, when tested, decided to defend the



Deputy Minority Leader, Patricia Appiagyei

constitution for everyone or for the power of the day.” Mrs Appiagyei further argued that the credibility of Ghana’s justice system depends on the consistent application of legal principles without regard to political affiliation, social standing, or influence.

HEALTH NEWS

‘Ghana has not recorded any case of Ebola’ – Health Ministry dismisses false reports

The Ministry of Health has refuted claims circulating on social media that Ghana has recorded 2,300 cases of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD), resulting in 930 deaths.

The Ministry, in a statement, said it had taken notice of a publication attributed to the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) which alleged that Ghana was experiencing a major Ebola outbreak.

However, it described the claims as false and misleading, insisting that the country has not recorded any case of Ebola.

“The Ministry wishes to state unequivocally that Ghana has not recorded any case of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD). The figures being circulated are false, misleading, and should be disregarded,” the statement said.

The Ministry explained that recent visits by the Minister for Health, Kwabena Mintah Akandoh, to ports of entry, laboratories and treatment centres were part of routine public health preparedness activities and not a response to any Ebola outbreak.

It said the inspections were intended to assess and strengthen Ghana’s capacity to prevent and respond to possible public health emergencies.

“These proactive measures do not indicate an Ebola outbreak in Ghana,” the Ministry stated.

The Ministry has urged the public to rely on verified

information from official sources, including the Ministry of Health and the Ghana Health Service, while cautioning against sharing unconfirmed reports that could create unnecessary fear and panic.



‘One in every three Ghanaians living with HIV unaware’ – AIDS Commission

Projections from this year’s National HIV Estimates by the Ghana AIDS Commission show that nearly one in every three Ghanaians living with HIV does not know their status.

The Estimates also show that out of about 334,721 people living with HIV as of 2025, only 227,593, representing 68 per cent, know their HIV status.

Speaking at the dissemination of the 2015 HIV Estimates and Projections in Accra on Monday, Dr Kharmacelle Akanbong, Director General of GAC said the low proportion of people who know their status remained the weakest link in the country’s HIV response.

He said HIV testing remained the critical first step in the continuum of care because individuals could only access life-saving treatment after knowing their status.

He said while the country had made commendable gains in treatment and viral suppression, more people must voluntarily test for HIV if Ghana is to achieve the global UNAIDS 95-95-95 targets by 2030.

“The targets require that 95 per cent of people living with HIV know their status, 95 per cent of those diagnosed receive sustained antiretroviral therapy (ART), and

95 per cent of those on treatment achieve viral suppression, where the virus is reduced to undetectable levels,” he said.

Mr Isaiah Doe Kwao, Director for Research Monitoring and Evaluation, GAC who presented the report said out of 227,593 people who know their HIV status, 156,821 are receiving ART, representing 69 per cent of those diagnosed.

He said for those on treatment, 140,357 people had achieved viral suppression, accounting for 90 per cent of those receiving ART.

“The figures translate into Ghana’s current treatment cascade of 68-69-90, while the country is approaching the third global target on viral suppression, substantial gaps remain in HIV diagnosis and treatment coverage,” he said.

Mr Kwao said viral suppression was one of the most important indicators in HIV care because people whose viral load became undetectable remained healthy and did not sexually transmit the virus when they consistently take their medication.

The Estimates further showed that the number of people tested for viral load among those receiving treatment increased from 54,538 in 2018 to 125,051 in 2025.

Similarly, the number of people who achieved viral suppression more than tripled from 36,226 in 2018 to 114,956 in 2025, reflecting improvements in treatment adherence, laboratory capacity and patient follow-up.

According to the projections, adult women continue to perform better across the treatment cascade, with 79 per cent knowing their HIV status, 82 per cent receiving treatment and 93 per cent achieving viral suppression.

[I M G] <https://cdn.modernghana.com/images/content/721202684141-uaqctgfsrn-african-leaders-urged-to-end-preventable-maternal-deaths-aids-.jpeg>[/ IMG]

Among adult men, 57 per cent know their status, 76 per cent are on treatment and 91 per cent have suppressed viral loads.

The Estimates showed that only 46 per cent of children living with

HIV know their status, although 87 per cent of those diagnosed are receiving treatment and 81 per cent have achieved viral suppression.

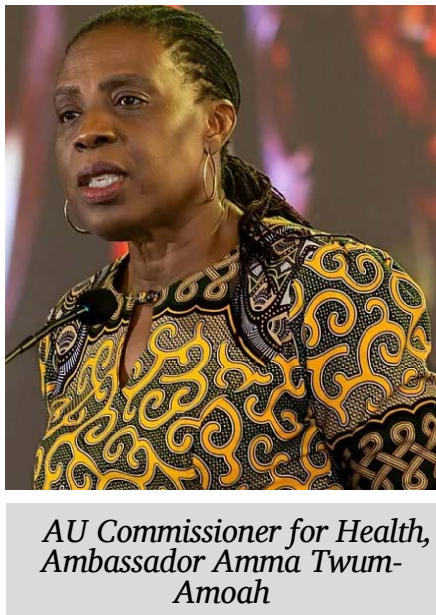
The Ghana AIDS Commission attributed the low diagnosis rate among children partly to missed opportunities for early infant diagnosis and called for intensified efforts to identify HIV-positive children early and link them to treatment.

It urged the public to embrace HIV testing, noting that early diagnosis allows people to begin treatment promptly, live long and healthy lives, and prevent further transmission of the virus.

The Commission said Ghana could attain epidemic control if more people voluntarily tested for HIV, remained on treatment and achieved sustained viral suppression, while efforts continued to eliminate stigma and discrimination associated with the disease.



Training health workers without creating pathways to employ, retain them loss of public investment – AU Health Commissioner



AU Commissioner for Health, Ambassador Amma Twum-Amoah

The African Union (AU) Commissioner for Health, Ambassador Amma Twum-Amoah, has cautioned that investing in the training of health professionals without creating opportunities for their employment and retention amounts to a loss of public

resources and human potential.

She said African countries must shift focus from merely increasing the number of trained health workers to developing sustainable systems that ensure professionals are recruited, fairly compensated, protected and retained.

Speaking at the African Union Extraordinary Health Summit in Accra on Tuesday, July 21, 2026, Ambassador Twum-Amoah highlighted what she described as a troubling contradiction on the continent, where many countries face critical shortages of health personnel while some trained professionals remain without jobs.

“We must invest decisively in the health workforce. Africa faces a profound paradox: severe shortages of health personnel coexist with unemployment among trained health professionals,” she said.

She stressed the need for governments to establish clear employment pathways for doctors, nurses, midwives, pharmacists, laboratory professionals, epidemiologists and community health workers after their training.

“Training health workers without creating pathways to employ and retain them is a loss of public investment and human potential,” she added.

The AU Health Commissioner also called for immediate measures to address factors driving health worker migration, including poor working conditions, limited opportunities for career progression and inadequate incentives.

She noted that strengthening Africa’s healthcare systems requires more than expanding the workforce, adding that

countries must create supportive environments that encourage health professionals to remain and contribute to local healthcare delivery.

The Extraordinary Health Summit, held under the theme, “Advancing Justice, Equity and Universal Health Coverage: Ending AIDS, TB, Improving Maternal Health, Addressing Endemic Non-Communicable and Neglected Tropical Diseases and Conditions in Africa,” has brought together health leaders and stakeholders from across the continent to develop strategies aimed at improving health security and disease response.

The summit is expected to explore measures to accelerate progress towards universal health coverage, address major health challenges and strengthen healthcare systems to better respond to future public health emergencies.

Carlos Queiroz is not the right coach for the Black Stars – Ex-striker Prince Tagoe

Former Ghana striker Prince Tagoe has criticised the move to keep Carlos Queiroz as head coach of the Black Stars, insisting the Portuguese trainer’s approach does not suit the country’s football philosophy.

Queiroz was appointed on a short-term contract following the dismissal of Otto Addo ahead of the 2026 FIFA World Cup and guided Ghana to the knockout stage of the tournament for the first time since 2010.

The Black Stars’ campaign ended at the Round of 32 stage after a 1-0 defeat to Colombia, but their overall performance earned praise from President

John Dramani Mahama, who called on authorities to convince the 73-year-old coach to continue in the role.

While inspecting the Ho Sports Stadium, President Mahama described Ghana’s World Cup showing as beyond expectations and suggested that Queiroz should remain in charge to build on the progress made.

However, Tagoe, who represented Ghana at the 2010 World Cup, believes retaining the former Real Madrid manager would be the wrong decision, arguing that his tactical approach does not align with the identity of Ghanaian football.

“Keeping coach Carlos Queiroz is a waste of time. I am not okay

with his tactics. Ghana football is not about defending,” he told Adom TV.

“I don’t think he will take us far,” the former Hearts of Oak striker added.

The debate over Queiroz’s future comes as Ghana shifts focus towards its next major

assignment — qualifying for the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations.

The Black Stars have been drawn in Group C alongside Ivory Coast, Gambia and Somalia as they aim to return to Africa’s biggest football tournament after missing out on the 2025 edition.



Former Ghana striker, Prince Tagoe

2030 World Cup will be 64 teams – South American football president

The 2030 World Cup will be expanded to 64 teams according to the president of the South American football confederation.

Gianni Infantino, the Fifa president, confirmed last week that the prospect of a further 16 nations taking part “will be examined and discussed.”

Now, Alejandro Dominguez, the head of Conmebol and a Fifa vice-president, has suggested that the expansion is a done deal. The 2030 tournament is predominantly split between Morocco, Portugal and Spain, but Conmebol nations will host the opening matches.

Dominguez posted on X: “The next one is at home! In 2030, the World Cup is coming to Uruguay, Argentina and Paraguay. It will be a great opportunity for football to celebrate the World Cup’s centenary with a 64-team

tournament.” Conmebol appears to be among those lobbying behind the scenes for the competition to go up to 64 teams. That would be double the size of World Cups before 2026.

A 32-nation competition had been in place between 1998 and 2022. Dominguez’s comments come just a day after the first 48-team tournament concluded in North America.

Fifa has been contacted for comment, but Dominguez’s comments are more definitive than Infantino’s last week. In an interview with Swiss publication Bluewin, the Fifa president said: “It [a 64-team tournament] is definitely an issue that will be examined and discussed in the relevant committees after this World Cup,” reiterating that the tournament was “for the whole world, not just Europe and South America.”

He added: “Every nation should be allowed to dream of

participating in the World Cup. You can see that the quality of the teams is extremely high – and it’s getting higher and higher, all over the world.”

Infantino had previously claimed the expansion to 48 teams has been “100 per cent

a success” despite criticism from fans and even teams. Ghana head coach Carlos Queiroz had described the expansion’s impact as “vulgar and ordinary.”



CAF President to address media on Africa’s World Cup performance today

Confederation of African Football (CAF) President Dr Patrice Motsepe will hold a major press conference in Johannesburg on Wednesday, July 22, where he is expected to address key issues surrounding African football, including the continent’s performance at the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

The CAF President will meet members of the media at 12:00 local time in South Africa (10:00 GMT) as part of ongoing discussions on the development and future direction of the sport across the continent.

Dr Motsepe is expected to reflect on Africa’s showing at the global football tournament, where the continent recorded

a historic participation with 10 representatives. The CAF boss is likely to provide an assessment of the performances of African nations and outline possible measures aimed at helping teams compete at the highest level internationally.

The press conference will also focus on several other developments within CAF and the broader African football ecosystem, with Dr Motsepe expected to discuss competitions, governance, infrastructure, and initiatives designed to strengthen the game.

The meeting comes at a crucial period for African football, with CAF continuing efforts to improve the quality and competitiveness of its club and national team competitions.

Among the key areas expected

to attract attention are plans for the future expansion of CAF competitions, improving player development pathways, and strategies to support African teams in their quest to win major international honours.

Dr Motsepe’s address will provide an opportunity for CAF

to outline its vision following the World Cup and respond to questions from journalists on the progress and challenges facing African football.

The press conference is scheduled to begin at 12:00 South African time on Wednesday, July 22.



CAF President, Dr Patrice Motsepe

ENTERTAINMENT

Davido says wife Chioma manages his finances because he’s a reckless spender

Nigerian Afrobeats superstar Davido has revealed that his wife, Chioma Rowland, is in charge of managing his finances because he considers himself a “reckless spender.”

The award-winning singer made the disclosure while arriving in Ghana with members of his team during a live stream with Nigerian streamer Davrel on June 15, 2026.

In a video from the live stream, Davido was seen placing a phone call to Chioma, asking her to send \$4,000 to his longtime aide, Lati, after he was unable to access his bank account.

“Good morning, my love. Please help me send Lati \$4,000. I can’t log in and I don’t know why. I love you,” Davido said during the call.

After ending the conversation, the singer explained to those around him why he had turned to his wife to complete the transaction.

According to Davido, Chioma oversees his finances because he does not trust himself to manage money, admitting that he has a habit of spending recklessly.

“My wife manages my money.

I’m a reckless spender, so she’s the one who arranges everything. She’s my life coordinator and I don’t play when it comes to her,” he said.

The revelation has sparked conversations on social media, with many fans praising the couple’s relationship and commending Davido for openly acknowledging his wife’s role in helping him

manage his finances.

Davido and Chioma, who have become one of Nigeria’s most admired celebrity couples, have frequently expressed their love and support for each other in public. The singer’s latest remarks offer another glimpse into the trust and partnership that define their marriage.



Davido and his wife, Chioma

KK Fosu declares intention to contest Akuapem North MP seat in 2028



Highlife musician, KK Fosu

Highlife musician, KK Fosu, has declared his intention to contest the Akuapem North parliamentary seat in the 2028 general election.

Speaking in an interview on Asempa FM on Saturday, the musician said he plans to run as an independent candidate against the incumbent Member of Parliament, Sammy Awuku.

KK Fosu explained that although he had intended to contest the seat in 2024, he was unable to do so after being involved in a serious road accident with fellow musician Bless on the Apam-Winneba Road.

He challenged Sammy Awuku to also contest as an independent candidate if he believes he can retain the seat.

“I will contest for the seat. I did not contest in 2024 because of my accident. If he wants, he should leave the NPP and also

contest as an independent candidate; I will beat him,” KK Fosu said.

He added that he is confident of defeating the incumbent, even if he contests on the ticket of the New Patriotic Party (NPP).

Responding to the musician’s comments in a social media post, Sammy Awuku jokingly asked KK Fosu to compose a campaign song for him before picking up nomination forms.

“KK Fosu m’aya da! Please get me a campaign track before you pick nomination forms. Nice weekend, Bro,” he wrote.

KK Fosu, born Kaakyire Kwame Fosu, first announced his interest in contesting the Akuapem North parliamentary seat in 2020, saying he wanted to empower and inspire the youth in the constituency.

“Negative talk crippled Ghana’s movie industry” —Socrate Safo blasts media



Veteran filmmaker Socrate Safo

Veteran filmmaker **Socrate Safo** has blamed years of persistent negative publicity for eroding public confidence in Ghana’s movie industry, arguing that media criticism—not just market forces—played a decisive role in the sector’s decline.

Speaking on Okay FM on Wednesday, Safo said the media once served as a powerful engine for the growth of local films, driving sales through promotions, reviews and heavy advertising. That partnership, he noted, created real business

opportunities for both filmmakers and media houses.

“There was a time the film industry helped the media make so much money in terms of adverts and promotions. I remember the number of friends in the media whom I was personally sorting out for writing promotional content and ad libs,” he recalled.

But according to him, the relationship soured when some media personalities began openly rubbishing Ghanaian movies on air—discouraging audiences and scaring away investors.

“It was all good until the same media started running the films down by talking badly about the movies they were supposed to be promoting. They were saying things like, ‘It’s not nice, it’s boring,’ pushing away potential viewers and investors,” he said.

Socrate Safo recounted confronting a TV presenter in Accra who planned to compare Ghanaian films with Nigerian productions live on air, insisting such comparisons were damaging and unfair.

“I had to go to them after the show to tell them that what they were doing was not good. They were damaging the industry,” he said.

He maintained that the constant negative perception surrounding Ghanaian movies contributed significantly to the industry’s collapse, leaving both filmmakers and media practitioners worse off.

“If they were actually promoting the movies, they would have gotten more money, and it circulates. That is how industries grow,” he added.



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