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Auditor-General reveals how GH¢7.4m was paid to four dead pensioners from 2019 to 2026



The Auditor-General has uncovered the payment of more than GH¢7.4 million to four pensioners after their deaths, exposing further weaknesses in Ghana’s pension and payroll management systems.

The finding is contained in the Report of the Auditor-General on the Public Accounts of Ghana – Ministries, Departments and Other Agencies (MDAs) for the year ended December 31, 2025. According to the report, a total

amount of GH¢7,494,975.34 was paid to the deceased pensioners between February 2019 and March 2026, in violation of Regulation 88 of the Public Financial Management Regulations, 2019 (L.I. 2378).

The Auditor-General has directed the Controller and Accountant-General to recover the full amount, including interest calculated at the prevailing Bank of Ghana policy rate, from the next-of-kin of the affected pensioners.

The report further instructed that all recovered funds should be deposited into the Auditor-General’s Recoveries Account at the Bank of Ghana.

It warned that where efforts to recover the money prove unsuccessful, legal action should be pursued against the financial institutions involved as well as the next-of-kin of the deceased beneficiaries.

The discovery forms part of a wider assessment of payroll-related irregularities identified during the 2025 audit of Ministries, Departments and Agencies, as the Auditor-General intensifies measures to improve accountability and prevent the loss of public resources.

Drug informants demand houses, money before sharing intelligence – NACOC

The Director-General of the Narcotics Control Commission (NACOC), Major General Maxwell Obuba Mantey, has expressed concern over a growing practice where some members of the public demand financial incentives before providing information on suspected narcotics-related activities.

He said although public intelligence remains a vital tool in the fight against drug trafficking, some individuals are increasingly attaching monetary conditions to the information they provide to security agencies.

Major General Mantey made the disclosure when he appeared before Parliament’s Assurances Committee on Tuesday, July 7, 2026, following heightened concerns over Ghana’s involvement in international drug trafficking networks after the seizure of 320 kilogrammes of methamphetamine concealed in a charcoal shipment from Ghana and intercepted in Australia.

He explained that drug traffickers continue to adopt sophisticated

methods to evade detection, making cooperation between NACOC and the public critical to disrupting their operations.

“Each day, the traffickers evolve new strategies and try to go ahead of us. They connect, and they cooperate among themselves as to how to outwit them,” he said.

The NACOC boss noted that intelligence from citizens forms a major part of the Commission’s operations but expressed concern that some informants now expect payment before sharing information.

“But as my minister said, we base most of our measures on intelligence. The only thing is that Ghanaians now have become a bit demanding, so when they send you intelligence, they demand money,” he stated.

He cited an instance where an individual approached him seeking a major personal benefit in exchange for providing information to assist in fighting drug-related activities.

“There was a time somebody came to me and said, if I could build him a house, he would help me do a lot. Unfortunately, we couldn’t do that,” Major General Mantey recounted.

Despite these challenges, he assured Parliament that NACOC remains committed to strengthening collaboration with citizens, law enforcement agencies and other stakeholders to combat narcotics trafficking.

He said the Commission will continue to rely on intelligence-led operations as traffickers constantly modify their methods and expand their networks.

The comments come at a time when Ghana’s security agencies are intensifying efforts to disrupt international drug trafficking operations following a number of recent narcotics-related cases

involving shipments linked to the country.

Authorities have consistently urged citizens to provide credible information to support anti-drug operations, with the Minister for the Interior, Mohammed-Mubarak Muntaka, previously emphasising the importance of public intelligence in successful drug interceptions.

Major General Mantey stressed that sustained cooperation between NACOC and the public remains essential to preventing Ghana from becoming a major transit route for international narcotics networks.



Director-General of NACOC, Major General Maxwell Obuba Mantey

Interior Minister reveals how some people within the system were involved in meth shipment scandal

The Minister for the Interior, Mohammed-Mubarak Muntaka, has disclosed that preliminary investigations into the methamphetamine shipment from Ghana intercepted in Australia have uncovered possible involvement of some government officials in facilitating the concealment and movement of the illicit drugs.

He said investigators suspect that certain officials may have exploited weaknesses within Ghana's security systems to enable the shipment of the narcotics, with several individuals currently being questioned as authorities work to determine the extent of the alleged internal collaboration.

Appearing before Parliament's Committee on Assurances, Mr Muntaka said investigations remain ongoing and that details cannot yet be made public because the process is still underway.

“Even as at yesterday we were still interrogating a lot of government officials. It is not everything I can put out at this stage because we are still investigating and interrogating people. There are a lot of things that are not adding up. You could see that there is some involvement of some people within the system,” he stated.

The Minister explained that while modern technology and security equipment are essential in detecting and preventing illegal activities at Ghana's borders, their effectiveness ultimately depends on the commitment and integrity of the personnel responsible for operating them.

“Even if you put all these gadgets, remember it is going to be operated by human beings. So if the wrong persons are sitting there, you can bring all the gadgets of this world; it will not be effective,” he added.

Mr Muntaka disclosed that the government has begun reviewing security arrangements at the country's entry and exit points, including changes to personnel deployment strategies and

operational procedures, as part of efforts to improve border security.

“We have changed our modus operandi and the way we place personnel. All of this is to make sure we protect our borders,” he said.

The Minister's comments follow the interception in Australia of approximately 320 kilogrammes of methamphetamine concealed in a charcoal shipment believed to have originated from Ghana.

The consignment, which was seized by Australian authorities, has an estimated value of A\$296 million and has triggered investigations into possible security lapses, including allegations of internal facilitation within Ghana's border control systems.

Authorities have since intensified efforts to identify all persons linked to the shipment and strengthen measures to prevent Ghana from being exploited as a transit point for international drug trafficking networks.



Minister for the Interior, Mohammed-Mubarak Muntaka

Farmers can only cultivate industrial cannabis – Interior Minister

Alhaji Muntaka Mubarak, Minister of the Interior, has clarified that although Ghana has legalised the cultivation of cannabis, popularly known as “weed,” only industrial cannabis with a tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) content of 0.3 per cent is permitted for cultivation.

He said those cannabis varieties were strictly for industrial and medicinal purposes.

Alhaji Muntaka Mubarak, while responding to questions when he appeared before Parliament's Assurances Committee, during a public hearing at Parliament House on Tuesday, emphasised that the legalisation did not grant citizens the right to cultivate any type of cannabis indiscriminately.

He explained that the Ministry, in collaboration with the Narcotics Control Commission, in 2025 undertook 2,170 community sensitisation activities and radio programmes, reaching an estimated 500,000 people nationwide on the guidelines and dangers of narcotic drug cultivation.

He added that the awareness campaign also included the

establishment of students' drug clubs in schools to strengthen education on narcotics.

The Minister announced that government plans to recruit more narcotics intelligence experts to all the 261 metropolitan, municipal and district assemblies (MMDAs).

He said currently Narcotics

Control Commission offices were operational in 66 MMDAs, but the Ministry was working to expand coverage nationwide within the next five to seven years.

Ghana's legal framework for cannabis cultivation is guided by the Narcotics Control Commission (Amendment) Act, 2023 (Act 1100) and the

Narcotics Control Commission Regulations, 2023 (L.I. 2475), which permit controlled cultivation of cannabis with (THC ≤0.3%) for industrial and medicinal purposes.

Recreational use remains illegal, and all activities require licensing through the Commission.



Alhaji Muntaka Mubarak, Minister of the Interior (middle)

Council of State tells Parliament to reject ‘Ken Ofori-Atta’ Bill



Speaker of Parliament, Alban Bagbin

The Council of State has advised Parliament not to pass the Constitution of the Republic of Ghana (Amendment) Bill, 2025, which seeks to remove constitutional restrictions that bar dual citizens from occupying certain public offices.

The advice from the Council of State seeks to prevent public officers and political appointees from escaping accountability.

A typical case is the former Finance minister Ken Ofori Atta who left the country immediately his government lost power in 2024 and has since refused to return to the country to face charges of corruption.

After years of efforts by Ghanaian authorities to forcefully secure his return from the US, Ken Ofori Atta cemented his legal permanent residency in the US after an immigration court approved his application to adjust his immigration status in June, 2026.

The Speaker of Parliament, Alban Bagbin, announced the Council's position during parliamentary proceedings after receiving its advisory opinion on the proposed legislation.

The bill, commonly referred to as the dual citizenship bill, was initially introduced during the Eighth Parliament. Although it received the backing of the Council of State at the time, Parliament was dissolved before it could complete consideration of the legislation, requiring its reintroduction in

the current Parliament.

Addressing the House on Tuesday, July 7, Mr Bagbin explained that the bill was referred to the Council of State on March 30, 2026, in accordance with Article 291(2) of the 1992 Constitution for its advice before further parliamentary consideration.

He said the Council had completed its review and recommended that Parliament should not proceed with the proposed amendment.

“I received the advisory opinion of the Council of State on the Constitution of the Republic of Ghana (Amendment) Bill, 2025. The Bill seeks to amend provisions of the Constitution relating to citizenship-based qualifications for public office. The Council has duly rendered its advice and, in doing so, has advised against the passage of the Bill by Parliament,” the Speaker told Members of Parliament.

Mr Bagbin recalled that following the bill's first reading, he referred it to the Council of State as required by the Constitution before Parliament could continue its legislative process.

He noted that the Council's current position represents a significant shift from its stance during the Eighth Parliament, when it endorsed the proposed constitutional amendment.

“I have received the advisory opinion on the Bill from the Council of State, and I told you this Council advised against the passage of the Bill, which meant that it differed from the earlier advice of the Council of State of the Eighth Parliament, which had given Parliament the go-ahead to process and pass the Bill,” he said.

Despite the Council's recommendation, the Speaker emphasised that its advisory opinion is not binding on Parliament and does not prevent lawmakers from making their own legislative decision.

“While the advice of the Council of State does not determine the legislative judgment of Parliament, it constitutes an important constitutional contribution to the deliberative process contemplated by the framers of the Constitution,” he stated.

Under Article 291(2) of the 1992 Constitution, the Council of State is mandated to provide advice on proposed constitutional amendment bills before Parliament proceeds with their consideration.

About 1,300 applicants tested positive for HIV during security recruitment uninformed on the loose

Minister for the Interior Muntaka Mohammed-Mubarak has disclosed that about 1,300 applicants who participated in the recent security services recruitment exercise tested positive for HIV during the mandatory medical screening.

The Minister said the development was one of the reasons the government decided against sending medical results directly to applicants who failed the medical assessment.

He explained that medical information, particularly results involving sensitive health conditions, must be communicated with proper counselling to prevent unnecessary distress among applicants.

Speaking before Parliament's Public Assurance Committee on Tuesday, July 7, the Asawase MP said unsuccessful applicants were instead provided with contact details to enable them to voluntarily request information about their medical results.

“I remember the recent recruitment we had, I think about 1,000 people or so that were tested positive for HIV, and then they said, can you imagine sending somebody a result telling the person that you have HIV? I mean, that's not the procedure. The person has to go through some orientation,” the Minister revealed.

The Minister said the decision aligns with medical guidelines, including recommendations from the World Health Organization (WHO), which discourage disclosing sensitive

health conditions to patients without appropriate support.

He encouraged applicants who were disqualified after the medical screening to seek information about their results, stressing that some conditions identified during the exercise are treatable.

The minister noted that applicants were assessed for several medical conditions, including hepatitis B, cardiac issues, previous major surgeries, drug-related concerns and mental health challenges.

“Some of the things that we realize are treatable, so people need to know and then also get treatment, so that subsequent recruitment they could train. You need to know what was the cause, so that at least those that you can treat, you will be able to get out of it,” he advised.

He urged applicants not to lose interest after being disqualified because knowing the cause of their medical assessment outcome could help them seek appropriate treatment and improve their chances in future recruitment exercises.



Xenophobic tensions: Gov’t should recall Ghana’s High Commissioner to South Africa — Ex-Envoy



Charles Asuako Owiredu

Former Ghana High Commissioner to South Africa and Member of Parliament for Abirem, Charles Asuako Owiredu, has urged the government to recall Ghana’s High Commissioner to South Africa over the recent xenophobic attacks targeting

Ghanaian nationals and other African migrants.

His comment follows recent wave of anti-foreigner violence in parts of South Africa, which has resulted in the repatriation of more than 1,000 Ghanaians, with hundreds more awaiting

evacuation.

The situation was further heightened after a Ghanaian national was reportedly killed on June 30 during demonstrations by xenophobic groups against African migrants.

These tensions, according to reports, have led to the deferment of a planned state visit by President of South Africa Cyril Ramaphosa.

Reacting to this on Accra-based JoyNews’ News Today programme on Tuesday, July 7, Owiredu said Ghana must take stronger diplomatic action to ensure that South African

authorities address the attacks and protect Ghanaian citizens.

“The South African government has not shown that they were truly committed to ensuring that those who were involved were caught. We have not heard of any prosecution, we have not heard of anybody in jail.”

“The Foreign Minister and President should recall our High Commissioner to South Africa. Our High Commissioner should also cancel his engagement because we need to really establish the way we treat this matter. Other than that, nothing is going to change,” said the former High Commissioner.

NPA engages retail outlet operators and tanker drivers to enhance regulatory compliance

The **National Petroleum Authority (NPA)** has urged retail outlet operators and bulk road vehicle drivers to comply with regulatory requirements to ensure sanity in the country’s downstream petroleum industry.

The Director of Business Development at NPA, Mr. Godwin Yaw Konu, who made the call said practices such as sourcing fuel from unauthorised sources by dealers, operating without the requisite regulatory documentation, and fuel siphoning could undermine fuel quality and damage their corporate reputation. He cautioned that the NPA would sanction and prosecute offending Petroleum Service Providers (PSPs) and their agents that engage in illicit petroleum activities.

Mr. Konu was speaking at the second edition of the NPA regional downstream compliance workshop held in the Central and Western regions from 30 June 2026 to 2 July 2026.

The workshop organized by the Business Development Directorate was aimed at educating fuel dealers and tanker drivers on the

NPA compliance regime, understanding their challenges and initiating measures to improve their operations.

Mr. Konu noted that the downstream petroleum industry contributes significantly to the country’s gross domestic product (GDP). As such, petroleum service providers were very critical to Ghana’s economic development, hence the decision of the NPA to engage its stakeholders more often to remind them of the regulatory regime to ensure compliance across the petroleum value chain.

Touching on the recent rains. Mr. Konu urged fuel dealers to always check the water levels in their underground storage tanks to ensure the integrity of their products before selling to customers. That, he said, was crucial to avoid selling compromised petroleum products to customers and attracting public backlash. “Let’s maintain the integrity of the petroleum products we offer to consumers. It will benefit all of us”, he said.

For his part, the Head of Security and Intelligence at the NPA, Mr. Isaac Djagbetey, stressed the need for PSPs to source petroleum products from authorised depots to avoid sanctions. He urged fuel

dealers to refrain from selling fuel for galamsey operations.

A Senior Manager, Retail Outlets and Premix Sites with the Inspections Monitoring & HSSE Directorate, Mr. Richard Apaloo, asked fuel dealers to maintain valid regulatory documents in compliance with all statutory requirements and to aid inspection by NPA officials.

The Head of Claims at the Unified Petroleum Price Fund (UPPF) Directorate, Nana Afua Nuamah Bosumtwi, cautioned tanker drivers against tampering with the tracking systems installed in bulk road vehicles while encouraging them to ensure prompt delivery of relevant documentation to their transporters to facilitate timely processing of claims.

A Supervisor with the Quality Assurance Directorate, Mr. Adams Baba Adams, tasked fuel dealers to ensure quality of

petroleum products offered to consumers to guarantee value for money and avoid damaging their vehicles.

The Head of Data Analytics and Market Intelligence of the Consumer Services Directorate, Ing. Johnson Gbagbo Jnr, urged the public to report bad experiences at the forecourt, including suspected cases of fuel under-delivery, product quality, among others, to the NPA within 48 hours to facilitate investigations.

Officers from the Ghana National Fire Service (GNFS) provided fire safety tips and conducted firefighting drills to deal with emergencies.

Officers of the National Road Safety Authority (NRSA) encouraged the tanker drivers to respect other road users and adopt defensive driving techniques to prevent accidents on the roads to safeguard lives and property.



Assemblies accused of taking penalties instead of demolishing illegal buildings on wetlands



Some Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) are allegedly allowing illegal developments on wetlands to remain in place after collecting penalty fees from developers, instead of enforcing demolition orders as required by planning laws.

The Local Government Service Association of Physical Planners (LoGSAPP) has described the practice as unlawful, warning that it is encouraging further encroachment on protected areas and contributing to the growing problem of unplanned development across the country.

The association is also calling for increased investment in geospatial technology to improve the monitoring of construction activities and strengthen enforcement of physical planning regulations. The concerns were raised by the National President of LoGSAPP, Planner Gifty Nyarko, and the association’s National General Secretary, Planner Samuel Ansong, during an interview on Joy FM monitored by Graphic Online on Tuesday, July 7, 2026.

According to Planner Nyarko, the law clearly outlines the

action assemblies must take against structures constructed without the required development permits. She explained that such structures should be removed rather than being regularised through the payment of penalties.

“The Act didn’t say go and pay penalty,” she said, insisting that assemblies that accept payments while allowing illegal structures to remain are acting outside the law.

She alleged that some developers who had built on wetlands were being allowed to pay penalties while their unauthorised structures remained intact.

Planner Nyarko also raised concerns over what she described as improper demands by some assemblies for applicants to pay full permit fees before their applications are considered by Spatial Planning Committees. She explained that applicants are only required to pay a processing fee when submitting applications, while permit fees should be paid only after approval has been granted.

According to her, such practices suggest that some assemblies may be prioritising revenue collection over proper physical planning and sustainable development.

Planner Ansong said weak enforcement remains a major challenge in dealing with illegal developments, particularly after structures have been rejected by Spatial Planning Committees.

He cited protected wetland areas, including what he referred to as the “Ramsey site”, where some developments had reportedly continued despite planning restrictions.

He explained that while applications for construction in such areas would typically be rejected, some developers had obtained court orders preventing assemblies from carrying out demolition exercises.

Both planners identified political interference as another factor affecting the effective implementation of planning regulations.

Planner Nyarko said some assemblies had previously been reluctant to undertake monitoring and demolition exercises during election periods due to concerns that such actions could affect the political fortunes of candidates.

She stressed that enforcement of planning laws should not be influenced by political considerations. She pointed to recent demolitions of illegal

structures on wetlands in parts of the Greater Accra Region, including properties linked to influential individuals, as evidence that the law could be enforced when authorities demonstrate commitment.

She also mentioned the Kwadaso South Municipality as an example where the Municipal Chief Executive and Coordinating Director had supported enforcement efforts.

Planner Ansong said many MMDAs lack the human resources and technological capacity needed to effectively track developments and identify illegal structures.

He called for greater use of geospatial intelligence and geo-information systems to complement traditional monitoring methods and improve early detection of unauthorised construction.

According to him, such technologies are already being used internationally and could be adopted in Ghana at a manageable cost.

He also called for specialised training for all members of Spatial Planning Committees, including representatives from the Lands Commission, Environmental Protection Agency and the National Disaster Management Organisation, rather than focusing only on physical planners.

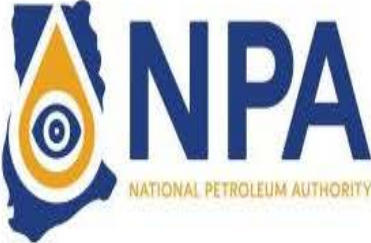
Planner Nyarko further urged assembly leaders, including District and Municipal Chief Executives, to take decisive action against individuals and groups allocating lands in protected areas contrary to approved planning schemes.

She stressed that landowners, chiefs and family heads are required to comply with planning regulations and should not subdivide or allocate lands in ways that violate approved development plans.

She maintained that consistent enforcement of planning laws, regardless of a person’s influence or status, would be critical in protecting wetlands and promoting orderly development across the country.

PETROLEUM PRICE INDICATORS

(As of 6th July, 2026)

 NPA NATIONAL PETROLEUM AUTHORITY	AVERAGE FOB PRICES FOR THE PERIOD 1ST - 15TH JULY 2026 WINDOW (12TH- 26TH JUNE 2026 AVERAGES)	AVERAGE ESTIMATED FOB PRICES EFFECTIVE 16TH JULY 2026 (27TH JUNE - 11TH JULY 2026 AVERAGES)	% CHANGE
FX Rate (Commercial Banks Average) (USD/GHS)	11.4333	11.4867	-0.46%
Crude Oil (USD/BBL)	78.12	69.87	-10.56%
Petrol (USD/MT)	924.80	963.65	4.20%
Gasoil (USD/MT)	901.09	949.53	5.38%
LPG (USD/MT)	550.73	534.90	-2.87%
Jet/Kerosene (USD/MT)	949.30	981.98	3.44%
Fuel Oil (USD/MT)	480.36	456.30	-5.01%
Products figures represent the FOB Prices used in the Price Build-Up (PBU)			

Note: "Oil prices settled around pre-Iran war levels as Saudi Arabia slashed its official selling prices, OPEC+ approved another production target increase starting in August, and exports through the Strait of Hormuz recovered further. Brent crude futures , which hit a four-year high above \$126 in late April, settled at \$71.99 a barrel, down 13 cents or 0.2%." - Reuters

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June 29 floods could trigger mental health challenges among victims – Expert Warns



A Specialist in Community Mental Health Practices, Dr Aaron Adjei Benneh, has cautioned that the psychological effects of the June 29 floods must be treated

as a mental health concern, warning that some victims could develop serious mental health conditions without timely support.

Speaking on the aftermath of the disaster on GTV’s Breakfast Show, Dr Benneh said the floods had left many affected persons traumatised and negatively impacted their emotional, social and overall well-being.

“This disaster is a mental health issue. It will probably cause mental health problems to our citizens, and if the problems are not managed, they will now lead to mental health conditions,” he said.

He explained that the sudden and devastating nature of the floods had heightened the trauma experienced by victims, many of whom were forced to deal with loss, displacement and uncertainty.

“As a matter of fact, how the trauma occurred, how the disaster occurred, it has

traumatised our citizens,” Dr Benneh stated.

According to him, the consequences of the disaster go beyond immediate physical damage, as many survivors are also dealing with psychological and emotional challenges.

“When it comes to that aspect, their psychological well-being, emotional well-being, as well as their social lives, and even their physical health are being affected. That is how it raises the concern that we have to treat it as a mental health issue,” he added.

Dr Benneh urged authorities and stakeholders involved in the post-flood response to incorporate mental health support into relief efforts to help affected communities recover from the experience.

Peace returns to Bawku as 11 govt projects resume, referral hospital to begin soon

The Municipal Chief Executive (MCE) for Bawku, Hon. Isaac Azunaba Atilaat, has announced the resumption of development activities in the municipality following two months of relative peace without reported gunshots.

Speaking to the media, Hon. Atilaat said several contractors had returned to project sites to continue work on developments that were stalled due to the prolonged conflict in the area.

“Within the period we have enjoyed peace, contractors are back on site. This is the time for development in Bawku,” he said.

The MCE disclosed that 11 government “lifeline” projects being funded through the District Assembly Common Fund are currently at various

stages of completion. He added that projects supported by the Ghana Education Trust Fund (GETFund) in second-cycle institutions and some basic schools are also progressing.

Hon. Atilaat noted that President John Dramani Mahama’s 2024 election campaign focused strongly on development, adding that efforts are now being made to fulfil commitments made to the people of Bawku.

He announced that preparations were underway for the commencement of work on the referral hospital promised by President Mahama at Baribari, describing it as a fulfilment of a major campaign pledge to improve healthcare delivery in the municipality.

“The referral hospital promised by His Excellency President John Dramani Mahama will soon commence in full gear at Baribari. This is to redeem his campaign promise and benefit

the people of Bawku,” he said. The MCE appealed to the youth and residents of Bawku to protect the prevailing peace and support efforts aimed at accelerating development in the municipality.

“Peace is the foundation for development. I call on all of us, especially the youth, to protect the peace so that these projects will be completed for our benefit,” he added.



MCE for Bawku, Hon. Isaac Azunaba Atilaat



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NPP releases ‘Lions’ ahead of election 2028

The New Patriotic Party (NPP) in the Upper East Region has inaugurated a new security group, Lions of NPP, as part of efforts to strengthen the party’s organisational structures and enhance security during political activities.

The group, made up of members drawn from various constituencies across the region, was officially launched under the theme, “Be Bold to Do the Right Thing.” It is expected to provide security support during party programmes, safeguard party interests, and assist in maintaining order at both constituency and regional events.

Addressing members at the inauguration, the Russian Branch Chairman of the NPP and leader of the group, Adure Anthony, said the initiative was borne out of a commitment to the progress of the party and not for personal gain.

According to him, the idea was inspired by security challenges observed during the 2024 general elections, where the number of security personnel at some polling stations was inadequate compared to the large turnout of voters.

He noted that while state security agencies remain responsible for maintaining law and order, political parties can also organise disciplined volunteer groups to complement their efforts and help ensure peaceful political activities.

“During the recent election, I witnessed that our security numbers are very few compared to the number of voters. Sometimes, you need this kind of private security or political parties also helping to deal with security situations during elections,” he said

Mr. Anthony assured that members of the Lions of NPP would undergo structured training to equip them with the skills and discipline required to

carry out their responsibilities professionally and within the law.

“The only difference is the training that we will give them. This is just young people trying to help the party in our upcoming elections,” he stated.

He further expressed the hope that the initiative would be replicated in other regions to strengthen the party’s organisational capacity nationwide.

Mr. Anthony added that

beyond supporting party activities, the group would help deter misconduct and ensure discipline during political engagements.

“Security is part of our everyday lives. Even with our phones, we have security. When you go to sleep, you lock your door; that is security. This is also about protecting the party from miscreants or those who want to misbehave,” he said.



The new security group, Lions of NPP

NDC gov’t has implemented structural reforms to restore debt sustainability — Steve Manteaw

Social commentator Dr. Steve Manteaw has commended the government for what he described as a prudent debt management approach.

According to him, the measures introduced since 2025 are helping to restore Ghana’s debt sustainability.

In a social media post on Tuesday, July 7, Dr. Manteaw said the current administration inherited an economy facing severe debt distress after years of rising public debt under successive governments.

He noted that the country’s debt burden worsened under the previous administration, resulting in an International Monetary Fund-supported programme. According to him, the government’s response has

focused on structural reforms aimed at strengthening fiscal discipline and improving transparency in debt management.

“From 2025, having inherited an economy with high debt distress from the previous administration, the NDC government has implemented structural reforms to restore debt sustainability. These include strict expenditure limits and the 2025-2028 Medium-Term Debt Management Strategy designed to ensure that financing needs are met at the lowest possible risk,” he wrote.

Dr. Manteaw recalled that Ghana’s public debt increased significantly between 2009 and 2016, rising from about \$8 billion to more than \$29 billion.

He attributed the increase to infrastructure spending, domestic revenue shortfalls and challenges in the energy sector, which pushed the

country’s debt-to-GDP ratio to about 72.5%.

He further credited Finance Minister Dr. Cassiel Ato Forson with introducing reforms that have reduced procurement-related waste and enhanced accountability in the management of the country’s debt.

“The commitment authorisation control introduced by Finance Minister, Dr Ato Forson, has cut a great deal of procurement-

related waste. We also see improved transparency in debt management, with every tranche of debt repayment being put on public notice,” he stated.

The social commentator further urged Ghanaians to support the government’s fiscal discipline measures and called on future administrations to sustain the approach, saying it would help place the country’s public finances on a stronger footing.



Social commentator Dr. Steve Manteaw

Anyone who uses the Bible to preach is not from God - Osofo Kyiri Abosom

Ghanaian man of God and politician, Osofo Kyiri Abosom, has emphatically stated that anyone who uses the Bible to preach is not from God.

The man of God, speaking before his congregation in a viral video, distinguished between those who are true men of God and those who aren't.

The man of God noted that one of the ways to find out whether a man of God is genuine or not is whether the person uses the Bible to preach or not.

"Anyone who preaches from the Bible was not sent by God.

The word of God isn't written; it is only with God", the man of God said.

Osofo Kyiri Abosom noted that what is written in the Bible isn't something most people, Christians for that matter, should depend solely on.

The man of God believes that the Bible is a history book that talks about what people have done in the past and has no correlation to the word of God.

"What is written is the history of what people who existed some time ago did. So, reading what someone has done in the past to me doesn't mean you are preaching to me the word of God", he shared.



Ghanaian man of God cum politician, Osofo Kyiri Abosom

SPORTS NEWS

Ex-Black Stars player Charles Taylor accuses GFA of abandoning him in US after failed World Cup promise

Former Black Stars midfielder Charles Taylor has alleged that he was left stranded in the United States after the Ghana Football Association (GFA) failed to fulfil commitments made to him during the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

Taylor claimed that GFA President Kurt Okraku invited him to the tournament and assured him that, as a former national team player and football legend, he would receive the necessary support throughout his stay.

However, the former midfielder alleged that the association failed to provide his return ticket and other promised assistance, leaving him without the financial means to travel back to Ghana.

Taylor further claimed that he relied on the support of individuals to obtain a ticket to watch Ghana's World Cup match against England after

the expected assistance from the football authorities did not come through.

According to him, attempts to seek help from GFA President Kurt Okraku and

Sports Minister Kofi Adams were unsuccessful, as his calls allegedly went unanswered.

The former player expressed disappointment over the situation, questioning the support given to former national team players who

contributed to Ghana's football history.

The Ghana Football Association and the Ministry of Sports and Recreation have not yet issued any public response to the allegations.



Ex-Black Stars player Charles Taylor

‘I would love to lead Black Stars as head coach’ – Laryea Kingston



Former Ghana international Laryea Kingston

Former Ghana International Laryea Kingston has expressed his willingness to take over as head coach of the Black Stars if offered the opportunity, while urging the Ghana Football Association (GFA) to adopt a long-term approach to rebuilding the national team.

The future of current Black Stars coach Carlos Queiroz remains uncertain after Ghana’s disappointing exit from the ongoing 2026 FIFA World Cup.

Queiroz, who was appointed on a short-term contract in April following the dismissal of Otto Addo, suggested in a social media post after the team’s elimination that he was leaving his position with pride.

As the GFA weighs its next move, Kingston has emerged as one of the local coaches prepared to take on the challenge.

The former Black Stars winger, who is currently in charge of Uganda’s U-17 national team, believes Ghana’s next appointment should be centred on a long-term vision rather than immediate success.

Speaking on Joy Prime, Kingston stressed that the country must move away from the pressure of demanding instant trophies and instead focus on building a competitive squad over the next five years.

According to him, the Black Stars need stability and patience, with the next FIFA World Cup still four years away. He argued that Ghana should appoint a coach with a clear mandate to rebuild the team, develop a strong core of players and prepare well

ahead of major tournaments instead of assembling squads at the last minute.

Kingston also admitted he would welcome the opportunity to lead the four-time African champions if the GFA approached him.

“Now, we need to look at the long-term projects, at least five years. We shouldn’t think about getting the coach to come in, and then he has to win something now. We have to be patient and have a five-year project,” the former Ghana international said.

“The next World Cup is in four years, and even with the upcoming AFCON, we don’t need to think about winning it now. We need to be honest; we don’t have a team at the moment, so we need to hire a coach and give him at least five years and use him as a project.

The coach should build a team for us, and we should

make sure we have a team before there is a competition. We shouldn’t wait until the last minute, and then we call players to come in.

“I have a job now, and I am happy with my job for now. I’m a Ghanaian, and I would love to hear that call [from the FA to come and coach the team]. There is no better joy than helping your country.”

The former midfielder last worked with the Ghana national team during his spell as coach of the Black Starlets three years ago.

Since taking charge of Uganda’s U-17 side, Kingston has enjoyed considerable success, guiding the team to qualification for the FIFA U-17 World Cup after defeating Ghana in the qualification playoff.

Papa Myxtro denies claims of accusing Black Stars players of sleeping with prostitutes at World Cup

Asempa Ultimate Show host Kwaku FM's Sports Obeng Andy, popularly known as Papa Myxtro, has strongly denied reports claiming he accused Black Stars players of engaging with prostitutes during Ghana's campaign at the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

The Black Stars were knocked out of the tournament after suffering a 1-0 defeat to Colombia in the Round of 32, bringing an end to their World Cup journey.

In the aftermath of the elimination, Kwaku Andy, while presenting his report on Asempa FM on Tuesday, July 7, stated that the players had been granted a day off after Ghana's match against Panama to relax and enjoy themselves.

However, several blogs later published reports alleging that the veteran broadcaster claimed

some Black Stars players left their team hotel to sleep with prostitutes and brought women back to their rooms.

One such report alleged that while the team was based in New York, some players travelled to other states in the United States to have sexual encounters with different women, while others allegedly entertained women in their hotel rooms.

Responding to the reports, Papa Myxtro described the claims as false and insisted that he had been misquoted.

"I never said the Black Stars players went out to sleep with prostitutes or brought women into their hotel rooms. That is completely false," he said.

"What I said was that the players were given a day off, and some of them went out to have fun. Those are my exact words. The

statements now being attributed to me are entirely false."

His clarification comes amid widespread discussion following Ghana's disappointing World Cup exit, with attention now shifting to the future of the national team.

The Black Stars are expected to begin preparations for the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers, which get underway in September, as they aim to bounce back and secure a place at the continental tournament.



Sports journalist, Obeng Kwaku Andy

‘Tell him to quit If he can’t fix Ghana football’ – Kwadaso MP fires at GFA Boss

A storm has erupted over the disastrous performance of Ghana's national football team, with Professor Kingsley Nyarko launching a blistering attack on the President of the Ghana Football Authority (GFA) Kurt Edwin Simeon-Okraku, over what he describes as the alarming collapse of Ghana football.

Fuming over the Black Stars' humiliating exit from the ongoing FIFA World Cup, the outspoken legislator who is the Member of Parliament for Kwadaso Constituency, laid the blame squarely at the doorstep of the leadership of the Ghana Football Association, accusing it of steering the nation's football into dangerous waters.

Addressing newsmen on Monday, Professor Nyarko did not mince words, declaring that the current state of Ghana football is unacceptable and demanding urgent corrective action before the country's football heritage is completely destroyed.

The MP expressed disbelief that a nation once celebrated for producing deadly, world-class strikers now struggles to find a single reliable goal scorer on the biggest football stage.

He argued that Ghana is not short of talent but has become a victim of biased and questionable player selection.

"Nobody can tell me that we don't have strikers in this country. They are available," he fired.

The lawmaker further accused football authorities of abandoning fairness, merit and honesty in selecting players, insisting that deserving talents are being sidelined while the nation continues to pay the price with embarrassing performances.

Turning his attention directly to Kurt Okraku, Professor Nyarko issued his strongest condemnation yet, insisting that leadership must be measured by

results, not rhetoric.

"If Kurt Okraku cannot improve upon the local team, then he has no business to be the GFA Boss," he declared.

His explosive remarks are expected to intensify pressure on the GFA leadership as frustrations mount among Ghanaians demanding accountability, sweeping reforms and a clear roadmap to rescue the once-feared Black Stars from their alarming decline.



“It’s also romantic scam” — Emeka Ike condemns women for ‘money-for-love’ relationships

Veteran Nollywood actor, Emeka Ike, has slammed women who date primarily for money, describing the practice as a “romantic scam.” Speaking in an interview with BBC Pidgin, he said relationships should be based on genuine love rather than financial gain. According to him, women who enter relationships solely to obtain money are deceiving their partners and would be better off begging on the streets. “Love and marriage is not a scam. But there are a few hungry people who are using relationships as meal tickets. That’s where it becomes a scam,” he said.

He added that many women enter relationships because of what they hope to receive from men rather than because they are in love. “A lot of girls are going into relationships because of what they want to get from the man. They should just take to street begging instead of using relationships to make money,” he said. Ike also urged people to keep relationships sacred, saying love should not be treated as a means of making money. “Relationships are supposed to be sacred. Love is the pillar of every good relationship. Let’s stop pretending that we are in love just to make money. Relationships shouldn’t be a source of income,” he added.



Veteran Nollywood actor, Emeka Ike

‘Don’t open your mouth to insult either our coach or players’ — Akuapem Poloo defends Black Stars after Colombia defeat

Ghanaian actress and socialite Akuapem Poloo has come to the defence of the Black Stars following their defeat to Colombia at the 2026 FIFA World Cup, urging fans to avoid blaming the players and technical team for the loss. In a video shared on her Instagram page, which has since been deleted, Poloo praised the team’s performance, arguing that the Black Stars showed determination and competed well against a strong Colombian side. She described Colombia as one of the toughest teams in the tournament and noted that even Portugal had struggled to overcome them.

her mouth to insult either our coach or our players. Throughout this game, they did well. They did a great job. Despite all the hurt and the way they were being stamped on, they still played well. Even Portugal could not defeat these Colombians. Our men played,” she said. Poloo further suggested that factors beyond the pitch may have affected the team’s concentration ahead of the match. She claimed that some women had made promises online to share explicit content if Ghana lost to Colombia, arguing that such distractions could have influenced the players’ mindset before the game.

According to her, such promises may have created unnecessary pressure and distractions for the players ahead of the crucial encounter.

She maintained that the Black Stars deserved encouragement and support rather than harsh criticism, stressing the need

for Ghanaians to rally behind the national team during the tournament.



Ghanaian actress and socialite Akuapem Poloo

I was famous but hungry — Obaapa Christy



Gospel Musician, Obaapa Christy

“Mapem” hitmaker, Obaapa Christy disclosed in an interview with GH Page that things aren’t always the same as they appear on the surface.

The Gospel musician, in the interview with GH Page boss, Rashad shared that she started making money from the music industry not long ago, even though she

had been in the industry for a very long time.

According to the musician, before the release of her tracks such as “Hyebr3 Sesafuor” just to mention a few, she was making nothing from her talent as a musician.

She revealed that, before those songs became hit songs, she was very

famous and had become a household name, but was so broke that she depended on alms for survival.

“Things began to go well for me after the release of Hy3br3 Sesafuor. I started making money from that time forward. At first, I was very popular but broke. But it’s normal”, she shared.

Speaking about the old Godpel musicians, Obaapa said that “They even struggled more than us, I’m

sure. But today, things have changed.”

According to Obaapa Christy, “At first, after doing the song, the producer would buy, so whatever money that came out of it was theirs. You understand?”



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