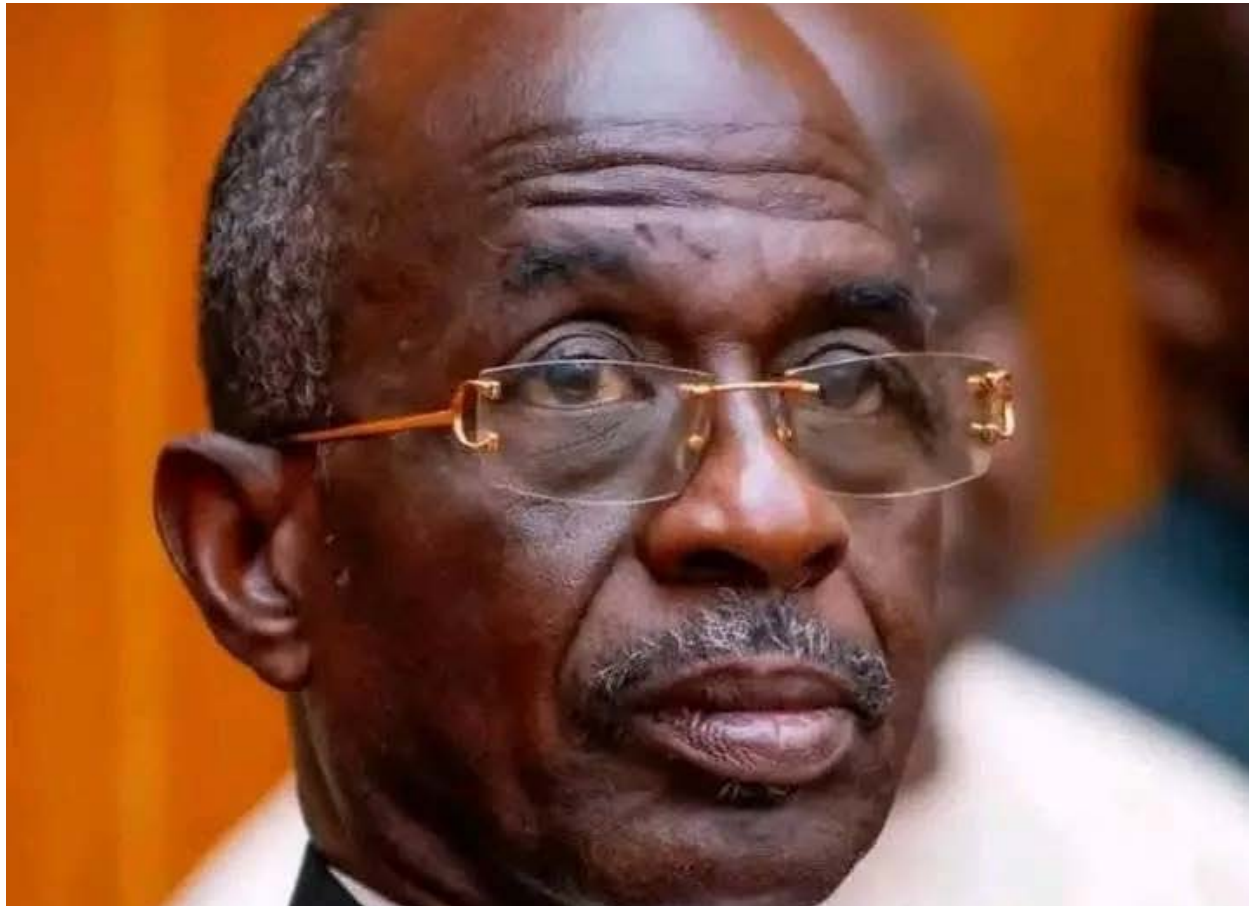




National Chairman of NDC, Johnson Asiedu Nketiah

State should fund internal party elections to curb corruption — Asiedu Nketiah

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GH¢2 diesel price cut demonstrates Mahama's care for ordinary Ghanaians — Edudzi Tameklo



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Nana Ato Dadzie backs return of Public Tribunals



Former Chief of Staff, Nana Ato Dadzie

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29,500 cases still pending in court — Justice Kulendi laments overwhelmed court



Supreme Court Justice, Emmanuel Yonny Kulendi

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'Freedom is never a gift; it is earned through sacrifice' — Ghana's President tells Jamaican Parliament



President John Dramani Mahama

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Four killed, several injured as terror snake causes dynamite explosion at Aboso



The debris at the explosion site

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Sedina acquittal: ‘You are ineffective, inefficient and incompetent’ – Solomon Owusu fires Godfred Dame

Director of Communication for the United Party (UP), Solomon Owusu, has criticised former Attorney-General Godfred Yeboah Dame following the Court of Appeal’s decision to acquit and discharge former MASLOC Chief Executive Officer Sedina Tamakloe-Attionu.

Mr Owusu described the prosecution of the case under Mr Dame’s tenure as Attorney-General as disappointing, arguing that the state failed to present a strong enough case to secure a conviction.

Speaking on Joy Prime, he questioned the strength of the evidence presented in the trial, claiming that the judgment exposed weaknesses in the prosecution’s approach.

“When you go into the judgment, there was no substance, no clarity,” he said.

Sedina Tamakloe-Attionu was facing several charges, including causing financial loss to the state, stealing, conspiracy to steal and improper use of public property, but Mr Owusu argued that

the prosecution did not build a convincing case despite the seriousness of the allegations.

“The mere fact that we know people have stolen, if you are doing a case, make sure you do a watertight case so that nobody gets away with that,” he stated.

He directed his criticism at the former Attorney-General, describing his role in the matter as ineffective.

“Godfred Dame was a total waste of our time,” Mr Owusu said, adding that the former Attorney-

General was “ineffective, inefficient and incompetent.”

He further called for a review of the Court of Appeal’s decision, insisting that the issues raised in the judgment required further examination.



Stop harassing opposition MPs for simply holding different views – Minority Leader

Minority in Parliament has accused the government of deliberately harassing members of the opposition, describing the alleged conduct as a threat to Ghana’s democracy.

According to the caucus, Members of Parliament and other members of the New Patriotic Party (NPP) have been targeted for expressing dissenting views, with the state allegedly using its investigative and prosecutorial powers against them.

Speaking during his closing remarks at the end of the second meeting of the second session of the Ninth Parliament on Friday, July 31, Minority Leader Alexander Afenyo-Markin expressed concern over what he described as a growing pattern of political intimidation.

“We say to the NDC government: stop the harassment of the opposition,” he said.

He argued that state institutions

should not be used against political opponents, warning that such actions undermine democratic governance.

“Members of the New Patriotic Party, including Minority MPs, have been maliciously targeted and harassed simply for holding different views through the use of the investigative and prosecutorial powers of the state,” Afenyo-Markin alleged.

“We say, without apology, that this is both dangerous and wrong. A government that fears its critics has already told us something horrifying about itself.”

The Minority Leader further claimed that the alleged actions were creating “a culture of silence” in the country.

He also raised concerns about what he described as a series of questionable judicial decisions in recent times, alleging that they suggested unequal treatment under the law.

“We also place on record a

shocking string of doubtful judicial decisions that have emerged in recent times. Taken together, they appear to suggest that there is one set of justice for the friends and cronies of this government and another, altogether harsher, set for its opponents,” he said.

Afenyo-Markin stressed that Ghana’s democracy depends on the ability of the opposition to freely express its views.

“Ghana is bigger than any one party, and our democracy only works if the opposition can speak,” he added.



Minority Leader, Osahen Alexander Afenyo-Markin

Fuel intervention: ‘Global shocks affect Ghana; NDC must admit that’—Adomako Kissi



Former MP for Anyaa-Sowutuom, Dr Dickson Adomako Kissi

A former Member of Parliament for Anyaa-Sowutuom, Dr Dickson Adomako Kissi, has welcomed the Mahama administration’s temporary GH¢2 per litre reduction in the regulatory margin on diesel.

He has, however, urged the government to be candid with Ghanaians about the impact of global economic developments on fuel prices.

His comments follow President John Dramani Mahama’s directive to reduce

the regulatory margin on diesel for one month to cushion consumers and prevent an increase in transport fares after recent fuel price hikes.

The intervention took effect on Tuesday, August 4, with the Presidency saying the measure is intended to ease the burden on consumers, contain inflationary pressures and mitigate the impact of rising fuel prices on the cost of living.

The former lawmaker argued that the National Democratic Congress (NDC), while in opposition, often dismissed the influence of global events on Ghana’s economy but now

appears to acknowledge those realities through its policy interventions.

“I like interventions... especially when you are taking one Ghana from me, and you are now intervening. I like interventions, but my point is that they were of a school of thought that world events do not matter. It doesn’t affect us,” Dr Adomako Kissi said on Accra-based Channel One TV’s Breakfast Daily programme on Tuesday, August 4.

He further cautioned that managing the economy should go beyond stabilising

the exchange rate, noting that relying heavily on the cedi’s performance without addressing broader economic fundamentals could prove unsustainable.

Dr Adomako Kissi urged the government to maintain transparency in communicating the country’s economic challenges.

He further argued that Ghanaians deserve an honest assessment of the factors driving fuel prices and the cost of living.

‘Freedom is never a gift; it is earned through sacrifice’ – Ghana’s President tells Jamaican Parliament



President John Dramani Mahama

President John Dramani Mahama has declared that freedom is never handed to a people but must be won through sacrifice and protected through constant vigilance and unity.

Addressing a joint sitting of the Jamaican Parliament during his state visit on Tuesday, August 4, President Mahama used Jamaica’s Emancipation Day and Independence celebrations to reflect on the shared history of Ghana, Jamaica and the wider African diaspora, describing the occasion as “a reunion of history” rather than a routine diplomatic event.

“Our gathering here today is much more than a diplomatic engagement. It is a reunion of history. It is a celebration of our shared heritage, and a reaffirmation that although the Atlantic Ocean separates us, it can never diminish the bonds that unite our people,” he said.

President Mahama noted that the relationship between Ghana and Jamaica was founded on shared struggles and common ideals rather than diplomatic agreements alone.

“The relationship between Ghana and Jamaica is unlike many others in the community of nations. It was not forged by treaties alone. It was forged

through shared sacrifice, sustained by resilience, strengthened in unity, and inspired by freedom, justice, unity and dignity,” he stated.

He recalled that Ghana was the first country to recognise Jamaica after it attained independence and said the historical and cultural ties between the two nations continue to grow stronger.

Congratulating Jamaica on its Emancipation Day and the 64th anniversary of its independence, President Mahama said the country’s resilience and achievements continue to inspire Africa, the Caribbean and the global African diaspora.

“Today as Jamaica commemorates Emancipation Day and celebrates the 64th anniversary of independence, Ghana joins you in honouring the remarkable journey of a proud people whose courage, creativity and resilience continue to inspire the whole of Africa, the Caribbean and the global African diaspora,” he said.

The President stressed that Emancipation Day and Independence Day represent more than national celebrations, describing them as enduring symbols of humanity’s determination to overcome oppression and reclaim dignity.

“Emancipation Day and Independence Day are not simply national celebrations. They are enduring reminders of humanity’s determination to overcome oppression and reclaim dignity. They remind us that even in the darkest chapters of history, nothing can extinguish the human spirit,” he noted.

Tracing Jamaica’s origins to Africa, President Mahama said the country’s story began with the great African civilisations long before the transatlantic slave trade.

“The story of Jamaica is, in many respects, the story of Africa. It began in the great civilisations of our continent, the empires of Ghana, Mali, Songhai, Great Zimbabwe, Uganda, Ashanti, Benin, Ile-Ife and many others,” he said. He recounted how millions of Africans were forcibly taken across the Atlantic but refused to abandon their identity, traditions and culture despite the brutality of slavery.

“Millions of Africans were taken across the Atlantic, endured the horrors of war, survived the brutality of enslavement, but found hope in communities in the New World that refused to surrender their identity, culture, traditions and beliefs,” he said.

President Mahama praised enslaved Africans and their descendants for resisting

oppression and ensuring that future generations inherited hope rather than bondage.

“They resisted oppression in countless ways, ensuring that future generations would inherit not slavery but hope,” he added.

Drawing parallels between Jamaica’s Maroon communities and Africa’s liberation movements, he said both reflected a shared legacy of resistance that ultimately led to political freedom.

“From the Maroon communities of Jamaica to the liberation movements that swept across Africa, the spirit of resistance of Africans endured. It ultimately gave birth to free nations that were determined to shape their own future,” he stated.

The President also paid tribute to enslaved Africans, abolitionists and independence campaigners whose sacrifices paved the way for the freedoms enjoyed today.

“Today we honour the enslaved men and women who were displaced from rich empires while their humanity was denied. We honour those who fought for emancipation, self-determination and national liberation. We honour the generations who sacrificed to secure the freedom that we enjoy today,” he said.

Concluding his address, President Mahama urged Jamaicans and Africans alike to remain committed to preserving the hard-won freedoms secured by previous generations.

“Their courage reminds us that freedom is never a gift. It is earned through sacrifice. It is sustained by vigilance. And it is strengthened by unity,” he said.

‘UGMC is the worst hospital in Ghana’ — Michael Blackson accuses hospital of mother’s death



American-Ghanaian comedian, Michael Blackson

American-Ghanaian comedian Michael Blackson has levelled serious allegations against the University of Ghana Medical Centre (UGMC) following the death of his mother, accusing the facility of misdiagnosis, poor patient care and placing financial gain above the welfare of patients.

In a lengthy post on X, formerly Twitter, Blackson described UGMC as “the worst hospital in Ghana,” alleging that doctors and nurses repeatedly failed to correctly diagnose his mother’s condition while recommending costly treatments.

“To the University of Ghana Medical Centre where my mom suffered the last month of her life, I’ll like to tell you in my opinion that you are the worst hospital in Ghana. Your staff, meaning nurses and doctors, have no clue what they are doing and the only thing your hospital cares about is collecting money,” he wrote.

The comedian claimed the hospital misdiagnosed his mother on several occasions,

resulting in expensive treatments that he believes were unnecessary.

“This University of Ghana Medical Centre misdiagnosed my mom so many times but also recommended the most expensive treatments to make sure they sucked enough money out of me,” he alleged.

Blackson also criticised the attitude of some health workers at the facility, accusing them of showing little compassion toward patients and their families.

“The University of Ghana Medical Centre is kinda new and looks beautiful from the outside, but inside are not the best medical personnel. In my opinion, the staff have no sympathy and don’t give a damn about the patients,” he stated.

He further alleged that his sister was involved in a physical altercation with a male nurse during his mother’s admission and claimed the nurse later reported the incident to the police while the family was at the hospital identifying her body.

“My sister even had a physical altercation with one of the male nurses and this [person] called the police a week later while we were there identifying my mom’s body,”

he said.

According to Blackson, several people later told him they had also lost relatives at the same hospital.

“When I told a few people where she died, they all told me they lost their loved ones there. University of Ghana Medical Centre and all our African hospitals need to find a place in their hearts to put people’s lives ahead of money,” he wrote.

The comedian further alleged that hospital officials were quick to contact him whenever payments were due but that doctors never updated him directly on his mother’s medical condition.

“University of Ghana Medical Centre called me every time payment was due, but the doctors never once called me to tell me how my mom was doing,” he claimed.

Blackson said his family spent about GH¢250,000 on his mother’s treatment over a one-month period before they were informed that she had contracted an infection and died.

“In one month they collected about 250k cedis and then told me she caught an infection and died. When she died they called me to tell me I had a balance I had to settle before they could tell me the cause of

death,” he alleged.

He also claimed that after two weeks of treatment, the family considered transferring his mother to another hospital but were advised against it because of her condition.

“I realised after two weeks at that hospital we wanted to take my mom out and as soon as we told them that and they knew they were about to miss out on some money, they told us she couldn’t breathe and she needed tubes installed in her so she can’t be moved,” he wrote.

Blackson said he had considered taking legal action over what he described as repeated diagnostic failures but expressed scepticism about the pace of Ghana’s judicial process.

“I could go on and on about the University of Ghana Medical Centre and would love to sue them for the few missed diagnoses, but it’s in Ghana so I’ll be wasting my time because by the time I see a judge I’m sure I’ll be in my early 90s.”

He also advised Ghanaians living abroad who return home after retirement to consider travelling overseas periodically for medical check-ups.

“Our country is beautiful and all parents love to move back home after they retire abroad, but my best suggestion is for them to fly out to Europe or America at least once a year for their yearly medical check-up.”

Blackson concluded by accusing the hospital of prioritising revenue generation over patient care. The University of Ghana Medical Centre had not publicly responded to the allegations at the time of filing this report.

Four killed, several injured as terror snake causes dynamite explosion at Aboso

Four people have lost their lives and several others sustained serious injuries following a dynamite explosion at Aboso in the Prestea Huni-Valley Municipality of the Western Region.

The incident, which occurred on Tuesday afternoon, is reported to have been triggered during an attempt by residents to kill a snake that had allegedly been terrorising the community.

Speaking to the media, the Assembly Member for the Akutuase Electoral Area, Emmanuel Eshun, said the incident began when a resident spotted the snake and alerted a nearby shop owner. The resident reportedly fired a warning shot in an effort to scare the reptile away.

According to him, the situation took a tragic turn when a security officer at the shop attempted to shoot the snake. The bullet allegedly struck

slabs of explosives being sold at a nearby shop, setting off a powerful explosion.

Mr Eshun said three people, including the shop owner, identified as Kofi Fletcher, died instantly at the scene. A fourth victim later succumbed to injuries while being transported to a health facility,

bringing the death toll to four.

Several others who sustained serious injuries are currently receiving treatment at various health facilities. Authorities are yet to release the identities of all the victims.

The explosion has raised concerns over the reported sale

of explosive materials within a residential community.

The Ghana Police Service and other relevant authorities are expected to investigate the circumstances surrounding the incident, including the alleged illegal sale and storage of dynamite in the area.



The debris at the explosion site

Two granted bail for sharing President Mahama GH¢150million video

The Kotobabi Circuit Court has granted bail to two men accused of circulating a video alleged to contain false information involving President John Dramani Mahama.

The accused, Issaka Yahaya of Nsem Fie TV and Godfred Ansu Damoah, appeared before the court after being arrested and charged with conspiracy to publish false information.

According to the prosecution, the two allegedly reposted and circulated a video in which President Mahama and the National Security Coordinator

were purportedly heard discussing “GH¢150 million” during a conversation.

The prosecution contends that the video contained false information and that the accused contributed to its dissemination through social media platforms.

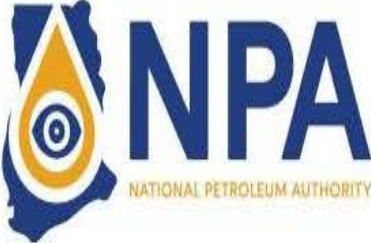
The court admitted both men to bail in the sum of GH¢30,000 each with two sureties pending the determination of the case. They have been formally charged with conspiracy to publish false information, and the matter remains before the court.



The suspects

PETROLEUM PRICE INDICATORS

(As of 30th July, 2026)

 NPA NATIONAL PETROLEUM AUTHORITY	AVERAGE FOB PRICES FOR THE PERIOD 1ST AUGUST 2026 (12TH - 26TH JULY 2026 AVERAGES) WINDOW	AVERAGE ESTIMATED FOB PRICES EFFECTIVE 16TH AUGUST 2026 (27TH JULY - 11TH AUGUST 2026 AVERAGES)	% CHANGE
FX Rate (Commercial Banks Average) (USD/GHS)	11.6593	11.7761	-0.99%
Crude Oil (USD/BBL)	88.62	91.41	3.14%
Petrol (USD/MT)	1,092.78	1,100.71	0.73%
Gasoil (USD/MT)	1,216.45	1,316.02	8.19%
LPG (USD/MT)	612.45	624.40	1.95%
Jet/Kerosene (USD/MT)	1,271.23	1,307.83	2.88%
Fuel Oil (USD/MT)	534.78	540.94	1.15%
Products figures represent the FOB Prices used in the Price Build-Up (PBU)			

Note: "Oil prices rose by more than 1% after Iran said it had stopped two vessels seeking to exit the Strait of Hormuz, underscoring concerns over global energy supplies following a drone attack on ships in a Mediterranean Egyptian port this week." - Reuters

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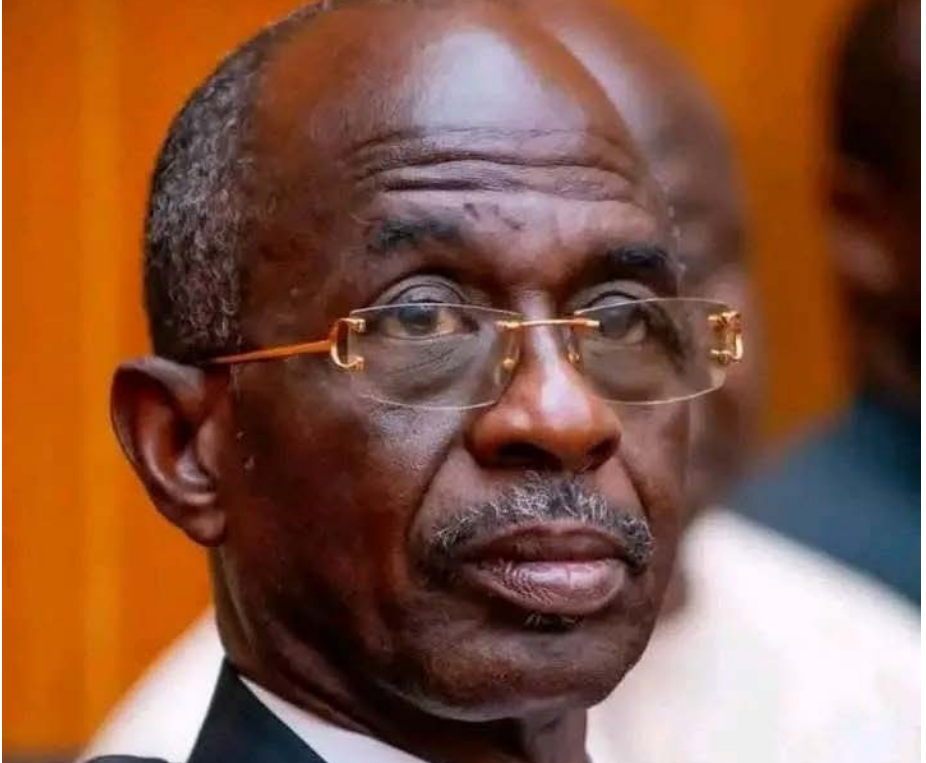
State should fund internal party elections to curb corruption – Asiedu Nketiah

National Chairman of the National Democratic Congress (NDC), Johnson Asiedu Nketiah, has called for state funding of internal political party elections, arguing that public financing would help curb corruption and strengthen Ghana’s democratic system.

“We spent about 14 million cedis,” he said.

According to him, the cost of printing ballot papers, procuring election materials, deploying election officials and agents, and meeting other logistical demands placed a significant financial burden on the party.

He argued that investing public funds in transparent and credible internal party elections would reduce opportunities for corruption, improve internal democracy within political parties and ultimately strengthen the country’s democratic governance.



National Chairman of NDC, Johnson Asiedu Nketiah

Speaking on Ambassador TV in an interview, Mr Asiedu Nketiah said the enormous cost of organising one-member-one-vote primaries has discouraged political parties from fully embracing broader participation in their internal electoral processes.

He disclosed that the NDC spent approximately GH¢14 million when it piloted the one-member-one-vote system in 2014.

To address the challenge, Mr Asiedu Nketiah proposed that the Electoral Commission be adequately resourced to conduct internal party elections on behalf of political parties.

“If this will help the country, then government should have a budget for the Electoral Commission to ensure political parties run free and fair internal elections,” he stated.

Demand for bribes by public officials increased sharply to 18% in late 2025 – GSS report

Requests for unofficial payments by public officials rose significantly in the second half of 2025, with nearly seven out of every 10 Ghanaians who encountered bribery reporting that they were asked to make extra payments to access public services, according to new governance data released by the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS).

Iddrisu said governance conditions deteriorated during the final six months of 2025, despite the country’s overall performance improving compared with 2024.

“The most recent six months, which is July to December 2025, got harder compared to the previous six months, which is January to June 2025,” he said.

“Over the last six months of 2025, the share who paid a bribe rose from 14.3% in the first half of 2025 to 18% in the second half of 2025. That is about one in six paid a bribe to a public official.”

According to Dr Iddrisu, the increase was even more pronounced in the number of citizens who said public officials demanded unofficial payments, with the figure rising from 51 per cent in the first half of the year to 69 per cent between July and December.

“So the pressure sits at the counter. The problem now is less what citizens offer and more of what officials would ask,” he stated.

Despite the worsening situation in the latter half of 2025, Dr Iddrisu said the annual data still reflected an improvement compared with 2024.

“The full year, which is 2025, got better compared to 2024. Both of these stories are true, and that’s the beauty of the six-monthly survey that we do, to be able to look at trends within waves and even compare between years,” he explained.

He noted that the Governance Survey follows the same nationally representative households across all 16 regions, enabling the Ghana Statistical Service to accurately monitor changes in governance indicators over time rather than attributing differences to changes in survey samples.

The findings are based on interviews conducted with household heads during the first quarter of 2026 and capture citizens’ experiences in accessing public services between July and December 2025.



Government Statistician, Dr Alhassan Iddrisu

The survey also found that the proportion of citizens who admitted paying bribes increased from 14.3 per cent in the first half of 2025 to 18 per cent in the second half, indicating that about one in every six Ghanaians paid a bribe to a public official during the period.

Presenting the findings at a Governance Series event organised by Three Reports and the GSS on Tuesday, August 4, 2026, Government Statistician Dr Alhassan



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29,500 cases still pending in court — Justice Kulendi laments overwhelmed court



Supreme Court Justice, Emmanuel Yonny Kulendi

Supreme Court Justice Emmanuel Yonny Kulendi has revealed that Ghana’s Superior Courts are currently burdened with nearly 29,500 pending cases, underscoring the growing pressure on the country’s judicial system.

Justice Kulendi disclosed the figures while delivering a lecture as a Distinguished Alumnus at the University of Ghana School of Law.

Reflecting on his return to his alma mater, the Supreme Court judge described the occasion as “a singular privilege,” recalling that before ascending to the bench, he was once a student who learned

that success in the legal profession is built on hard work, discipline, integrity and intellectual honesty. He also shared what he described as his “Wa boy” story, recounting his journey from the Upper West Region to Ghana’s highest court. Justice Kulendi noted that his appointment made him the first Supreme Court Justice from the Upper West Region, urging law students to believe that perseverance and integrity can overcome even the greatest challenges.

He encouraged aspiring lawyers not to be discouraged by the imperfections of the legal system, stressing that every generation inherits challenges that must be

confronted rather than accepted. Presenting statistics for the current legal year, Justice Kulendi said the Superior Courts recorded 4,347 new cases between October 2025 and March 2026, while disposing of 4,305 during the same period.

According to him, the High Court continues to bear the greatest workload, receiving 2,854 new cases and concluding 2,860. Despite disposing of more cases than it received, the court still has 24,543 pending cases, representing more than 83 per cent of the total caseload across the Superior Courts.

He described the High Court as “the engine room of Ghana’s judicial system,” noting that the slight improvement in case disposal reflects the positive impact of enhanced case management systems and technology in reducing the backlog.

Justice Kulendi further disclosed that the Court of Appeal received 1,214 new appeals and disposed of 1,195, leaving 4,501 cases pending. The Supreme Court, he added, received 279 new cases, concluded 250 and currently has

454 pending matters. He said the figures should not be viewed as evidence of institutional failure but rather as a reflection of the complexity of cases handled by the judiciary.

Justice Kulendi pointed out that only 221 judges currently serve across the Superior Courts—comprising 142 High Court judges, 61 Court of Appeal judges and 18 Supreme Court justices—collectively managing nearly 30,000 pending cases.

He called for the appointment of more judges, continued investment in judicial technology and stronger case management systems to improve efficiency and reduce delays in the administration of justice.

Justice Kulendi shared the platform with fellow Supreme Court Justice Sir Dennis Dominic Adjei during the University of Ghana School of Law’s “Conversations and Cocktail” lecture series.

Nana Ato Dadzie backs return of Public Tribunals

Former Chief of Staff Nana Ato Dadzie has thrown his support behind plans to reintroduce Public Tribunals, describing the move as a practical way to deepen public participation in the administration of justice.

According to him, involving ordinary citizens in the justice delivery system would complement the work of the conventional courts while reflecting Ghana’s long-standing tradition of resolving disputes through community-based structures.

“I’m not surprised that new legislation seeks to reintroduce the Public Tribunal system. I think it makes a lot of sense to have the public involved in the administration of justice,” he said.

Nana Dadzie made the remarks last Wednesday at the third edition of the “Time with the Politician” forum held in Accra.

The interactive event, organised by the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) Ghana in collaboration with the Department of Political Science at the University of Ghana, brought together students and experienced political

leaders to discuss governance, public leadership and national development.

A lawyer who served under the Provisional National Defence Council (PNDC), Nana Dadzie explained that the former Public Tribunals applied the same laws as the regular courts but differed by incorporating non-lawyers into the adjudication process.

He challenged the view that justice should be administered exclusively by legal professionals, noting that many disputes across the country are successfully resolved by family heads, chiefs and traditional authorities outside the formal court system.

According to him, Ghana’s justice system should build on these existing community-based mechanisms rather than disregard them.

While acknowledging criticisms levelled against the previous Public Tribunal system, he argued that its shortcomings should be addressed through reforms instead of abandoning the concept entirely.

On constitutional reforms, Nana Dadzie also endorsed proposals to extend the presidential term of office from four to five years, saying a longer tenure would

allow governments sufficient time to implement their development agenda.

He maintained that four years is inadequate for any administration to achieve significant national transformation, considering the time required to constitute a government after elections.

“You need at least six months to form a government,” he stated.

The former Chief of Staff further advocated a greater role for traditional authorities in maintaining law and order, particularly in tackling illegal mining.

He argued that chiefs and landowners are better positioned

than security agencies to identify and prevent unlawful activities within their communities.

“The administration of justice should be spread out. We shouldn’t exclude them,” he said.

Speaking at the event, the Country Representative of KAS Ghana, Anna Lena Sabroso-Wasserfall, encouraged students to actively engage with the speakers and draw lessons from their practical experiences in public service.

She said the forum was designed to bridge the gap between academic learning and real-world political leadership while inspiring students to pursue careers in public service and national development.



Former Chief of Staff, Nana Ato Dadzie

‘Delegate system is destroying Ghana’ – Asiedu Nketiah

National Chairman of the National Democratic Congress (NDC), Johnson Asiedu Nketiah, has criticised Ghana’s delegate system, describing it as a significant driver of corruption within the country’s political landscape.

Speaking on Ambassador TV, Mr Asiedu Nketiah said internal party elections have become excessively monetised, with delegates receiving substantial sums of money from aspirants seeking political office.

“Now huge sums of money are paid to delegates,” he said.

According to him, studies indicate that many parliamentary aspirants spend more to secure their party’s nomination than they eventually earn in salaries during their four-year term as Members of Parliament.

“The amount of money these

people spend before they go to Parliament is more than all the salary they receive over four years,” he stated.

Mr Asiedu Nketiah argued that the high cost of contesting internal elections forces many aspiring politicians to rely on financial support from individuals with vested interests, creating obligations that could undermine their independence once elected.

“Because the MPs are paying, people engaged in illicit businesses fund them, and when they come to power, they cannot criticise their sponsors,” he said.

He cautioned that unless the growing influence of money in internal party elections is addressed, it could continue to weaken accountability, fuel corruption and undermine Ghana’s democratic governance.



National Chairman of NDC, Johnson Asiedu Nketiah

GoldBod cautions public against AI-generated videos impersonating CEO Sammy Gyamfi

The Ghana Gold Board (GoldBod) has cautioned the public against artificial intelligence (AI)-generated videos circulating on social media that falsely appear to feature its Chief Executive Officer, Sammy Gyamfi.

The Board said the videos could be used to deceive unsuspecting members of the public into sending money or disclosing sensitive financial information.

It therefore urged Ghanaians to verify all communications claiming to be from GoldBod through its official channels before taking any action.

“GoldBod has become aware of AI-generated videos circulating on social media that appear to feature our CEO, Sammy Gyamfi, Esq.,” the Board said in a public notice issued on Tuesday, August 4.

GoldBod stressed that it does not request payments, banking details or mobile money information from members of the public through social

media platforms, phone calls or messaging applications.

“Please be advised that GoldBod will never ask you to send money, transfer funds, pay fees, or share your banking or mobile money details through social media,

phone calls, or messaging apps,” the statement noted.

The Board advised anyone who receives such requests not to engage with the perpetrators but to report the incident immediately through GoldBod’s

official communication channels.

It also urged the public to remain vigilant and verify information before trusting or acting on messages circulating online.



GoldBod CEO, Sammy Gyamfi

Barker-Vormawor commends govt for separating Attorney-General from Justice Ministry

Private legal practitioner Oliver Barker-Vormawor has welcomed the government’s decision to separate the Office of the Attorney-General from the Ministry of Justice, describing the proposed constitutional reform as a significant step towards strengthening the independence of the office.

His comments follow the government’s acceptance of the Constitutional Review Committee’s recommendation to end the long-standing arrangement under which the Attorney-General simultaneously serves as Minister for Justice.

Presenting the government’s White Paper on the Constitutional Review Committee’s recommendations on Thursday, July 30, Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Dr Dominic Ayine, announced that Article 88 of the 1992 Constitution would

be amended to remove the requirement that the Attorney-General be appointed as a Minister of State. Under the proposed reforms, a separate Minister for Justice will oversee the justice and legal sector, while the Attorney-General will retain responsibility as the government’s principal legal adviser and chief prosecutor. Speaking in an interview with Bernard Avle on Channel One TV’s The Point of View on Monday, August 3, Mr Barker-Vormawor said the government’s proposals, in some respects, were more far-reaching than those recommended by the Constitutional Review Committee. “The other areas I think the government is decidedly a little more progressive than the committee, particularly on the question of the Attorney-General,” he said. He noted that removing the Attorney-General from Cabinet could help address longstanding concerns about

the office’s independence and its ability to prosecute high-ranking government officials without conflict of interest. “So, the government has now removed the Attorney-General from Cabinet. He’s no longer a minister. And that’s something the committee didn’t get into,” Mr Barker-Vormawor said. He further argued that the proposal appears to respond to concerns that the Attorney-General’s position within Cabinet could undermine impartial prosecutions

involving fellow ministers. “I think the government attempted to answer the Office of the Special Prosecutor differently. Because one of the reasons we have talked about the OSP’s office is the concerns that, because the Attorney-General sits in Cabinet, he’s not able to prosecute his colleagues. They have brought this in as another mechanism to deal with that same problem. So I’m surprised by that,” he added.



Private legal practitioner, Oliver Barker-Vormawor

As AU Chair I will push for inclusion of Caribbean in AfCFTA – Mahama

President John Dramani Mahama has announced plans to advocate for the inclusion of Caribbean nations in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) when he assumes the Chairmanship of the African Union (AU), describing the initiative as a major step towards deepening economic cooperation between Africa and the Caribbean.

He said extending the AfCFTA framework to Caribbean countries would enhance trade, investment and commercial partnerships while strengthening the long-standing historical and cultural ties between the two regions.

President Mahama made the announcement during a joint press conference with Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness as part of his official state visit to Jamaica.

Addressing the prospects of expanding trade between Africa and the Caribbean, the President acknowledged that increasing trade volumes would require sustained effort, strategic investment and improved infrastructure rather

than expecting immediate gains. “With regards to trade, we don’t kid ourselves that you snap your fingers and suddenly our trade volumes will go up. We need to work at it. And that is why I said one way of working at it is to put in the infrastructure and the logistics. But the second is to expand the trade area. “And that is why I said as chair of the AU, I am going to push for the inclusion of the Caribbean into the African Continental Free Trade Area.”

President Mahama explained that the AfCFTA operates through a harmonised standards regime that enables businesses to trade across participating countries once their products have been certified by the relevant national standards authority. According to him, the harmonisation of standards eliminates the need for multiple certification processes, making it easier for manufacturers and exporters to access markets across the continent. “The way the African

Continental Free Trade Area works is that we harmonise our standards. And once you get approval from your standards authority that your product is of the standard that you can export, then they put you on a register. “And if you go on, you can see which commodities qualify. They can be electrical cables. They can be transformers. They can be iron and steel products. They can be processed food products.

“I mean, there are so many pharmaceutical products. And so once you go in there and you decide to trade, you go on the platform. It will get you in touch with the producer in whichever country.” He indicated that expanding the continental free trade area to include Caribbean countries could unlock new opportunities for businesses on both sides of the Atlantic while promoting greater economic integration and shared prosperity.



President Mahama (signing) and Prime Minister of Jamaica Andrew Holness (right)

‘Establish independent regulator to handle examination result appeals’ – Eduwatch to gov’t

The Executive Director of Africa Education Watch (Eduwatch), Kofi Asare, has renewed calls for the government to establish an independent regulator to oversee examination bodies and handle appeals over examination results.

His appeal follows the release of the 2026 Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE) results and comes amid recurring complaints from some schools, particularly private institutions, over the outcome of the national examination.

According to him, allowing the same institution that conducts examinations to investigate complaints and rules on them raises concerns about accountability, even where there is no evidence of wrongdoing.

“Such complaints have been brought to Eduwatch almost every year since 2019, particularly by private schools. In many countries, those who challenge examination results petition an independent regulator that oversees the examining body,” the education advocate said in a social media post on Tuesday, August 4.

He noted that Ghana currently has no independent body to review grievances against the West African Examinations Council (WAEC), leaving the council to examine complaints about its own decisions.

Mr. Asare argued that the arrangement does not align with modern standards of transparency and independent oversight.

He stressed that public confidence in the examination system depends not only on accurate marking but also on a

trusted appeals process.

“Since 2019, Eduwatch has consistently urged the Ministry of Education to establish an independent assessment regulator to oversee all examining and assessment bodies, including WAEC. Such a regulator would investigate grievances independently, ensure due process, strengthen public

confidence in our examination system,” he stated.

He said if establishing a new regulatory body is not feasible, the government should consider amending the Education Regulatory Bodies Law to expand the mandate of the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NaCCA) to perform that role.



Executive Director of Eduwatch, Kofi Asare

‘Ghana is setting the pace in advancing gender equality in West Africa’ – ECOWAS Gender Centre Director

The Director of the ECOWAS Gender Development Centre (EGDC), Sandra Oulaté Fattoh, has commended Ghana for its leadership in promoting gender equality.

She described the country as a model for collaboration and implementation of gender-focused initiatives in the West African sub-region.

She made the remarks on the sidelines of the opening of the ECOWAS Commission’s technical meeting of the Gender Equality Seal Programme Implementation (GES-PI) Committee, being held in Accra from Monday, August 3, to Wednesday, August 5.

The three-day meeting has brought together representatives of ECOWAS directorates, departments and specialised institutions to review and validate evidence for the Commission’s self-assessment process and finalise an action plan aimed at attaining the Gold Level

of the Gender Equality Seal certification.

“Ghana has been leading a number of gender initiatives and is the African Union champion in charge of gender matters... Ghana has been leading the implementation of some of these programmes over the past 20 years,” Ms Fattoh said.

“I think what has struck me here is the collaboration among institutions. We often cite Ghana... the different entities and ministries have been able to come together for better implementation. We often resort to Ghana as one example for better collaboration,” she added.

She explained that the meeting forms part of an ongoing initiative being implemented by the ECOWAS Gender Development Centre in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ).

According to her, the initiative seeks to strengthen gender equality within the ECOWAS Commission itself by assessing areas such as recruitment, staff representation, leadership responsibilities and institutional policies before serving as a model for member states.

The current meeting is the fourth under the initiative and is expected to produce a comprehensive action plan that will guide implementation

across all ECOWAS institutions over the coming year.

Participants at the meeting include officials from all ECOWAS directorates and departments, as well as institutions such as the ECOWAS Court of Justice, the ECOWAS Parliament, the Inter-Governmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA) and the West African Health Organisation (WAHO).



Director of the ECOWAS Gender Development Centre, Sandra Oulaté Fattoh

Court orders married man to pay GH¢40,000 for breaking promise to marry side chick



The Court of Appeal in Kumasi has ruled that a person who promises to marry another individual can still be held liable for breaking that promise, even if they are already married under the Ordinance.

The court upheld an award of GH¢40,000 in damages to a woman whose former partner failed to marry her after years of their relationship, but dismissed her claim to ownership of his house.

The ruling was delivered in the case of Benjamin Yeboah Anokye v. Priscilla Atsu [TLP-CA-2026-33], where a three-member panel comprising Justices Baah, Kogyapwah and Dr Adusei clarified important aspects of Ghana’s common law on breach of promise to marry and property rights involving unmarried couples.

The dispute centred on a relationship between Benjamin Yeboah Anokye and Priscilla Atsu, which lasted from 2011 to 2017 and resulted in the birth of a son.

According to the court, Mr Anokye moved Ms Atsu from Tamale to Kumasi, accepted responsibility for their child, organised the child’s naming ceremony and provided

accommodation for both mother and child in his house at South Suntreso in Kumasi.

Ms Atsu told the court that Mr Anokye had promised to marry her and had also given her the house as a gift after she performed the customary aseda, or thanksgiving ceremony, to acknowledge the gift. She therefore sought ownership of the property, an injunction to prevent her eviction, damages for breach of promise to marry and other reliefs.

Mr Anokye denied making either promise. He argued that he had never gifted the house to Ms Atsu and insisted he could not have lawfully promised to marry her because he was already married under the Ordinance.

The High Court dismissed Ms Atsu’s ownership claim but awarded her GH¢40,000 for breach of promise to marry. It also allowed her and the child to remain in the house until she married or had a child with another man.

Mr Anokye appealed against that decision.

The Court of Appeal upheld the damages award, reaffirming that breach of promise to marry remains enforceable under Ghanaian common law where the required legal elements have been proven.

The judges said the evidence

showed that Mr Anokye had introduced Ms Atsu to his uncle as his fiancée, persuaded her to continue with her pregnancy, relocated her to Kumasi, accepted responsibility for their child and provided accommodation for them. These actions, the court held, supported the finding that a genuine promise to marry had been made.

The court rejected Mr Anokye’s argument that his existing Ordinance marriage protected him from liability.

It ruled that an existing marriage cannot be used as a defence where a person has deliberately led another into believing that marriage would follow. The judges therefore upheld the GH¢40,000 award, describing it as damages for breach of promise to marry rather than a matrimonial settlement.

However, the Court of Appeal found that Ms Atsu had failed to prove ownership of the house.

It said a valid gift requires clear evidence that the donor intended to transfer ownership, that the transfer was publicly recognised and that the recipient accepted it in accordance with customary requirements.

The judges noted inconsistencies in Ms Atsu’s evidence over whether the

required aseda ceremony had actually taken place and concluded that ownership of the property had never been transferred.

The court also ruled that the legal doctrine of advancement, which may presume that certain property transfers between spouses are intended as gifts, does not apply to couples who are not married. Since the parties never married, Ms Atsu could not rely on that principle to claim ownership.

Despite dismissing her property claim, the court found that Ms Atsu had spent more than GH¢25,000 completing improvements to the house with Mr Anokye’s knowledge.

The judges criticised the police for becoming involved in what they described as a civil property dispute and said fairness required that Ms Atsu be reimbursed for the money she invested in improving the property.

The court therefore ordered Mr Anokye to refund GH¢25,000, together with interest at the prevailing commercial bank rate from January 2017 until the amount is fully paid.

Allowing the appeal in part, the Court of Appeal set aside the High Court’s order allowing Ms Atsu to remain in the house indefinitely and removed the injunction preventing Mr Anokye from recovering possession of the property.

However, the judges directed that he can only reclaim possession after paying the GH¢40,000 damages and the GH¢25,000 reimbursement. Ms Atsu was also given three months to find alternative accommodation.

The court stressed that its ruling does not affect Mr Anokye’s continuing legal obligation to provide maintenance and care for their child under the Children’s Act.

‘Delegate system creates relatively small body for targeted inducements’ – Chief Justice Paul Baffoe-Bonnie said in ruling



Chief Justice, Paul Baffoe-Bonnie

The Supreme Court has held that allowing all political party members in good standing to participate directly in presidential and parliamentary primaries may not completely end vote buying but could significantly reduce the influence of targeted financial inducements in internal elections.

Chief Justice Paul Baffoe-Bonnie, delivering the majority judgment in the case of Prof. Kwabena Frimpong-Boateng and two others v. the New Patriotic Party and four others, said the current delegate system creates conditions that make internal elections more susceptible to financial manipulation.

The judgment, delivered on July 29, 2026, followed a 5–2 decision by the apex court declaring the delegate-based system used by political parties to elect presidential and parliamentary candidates unconstitutional.

The Court subsequently directed political parties to adopt mechanisms that allow all qualified members to vote directly in selecting their candidates.

Addressing concerns that

expanding participation may not necessarily eliminate money politics, Chief Justice Baffoe-Bonnie acknowledged that financial influence in politics could evolve under a new system.

“True, opening party primaries to every party member is no guarantee that money politics will disappear. Corruption is remarkably adaptable. It often changes its form rather than vanish altogether. Yet constitutional adjudication rarely offers perfect solutions,” he stated.

He explained that while no electoral system provides an absolute solution to political corruption, courts must choose approaches that best uphold constitutional values and democratic principles.

According to the Chief Justice, limiting the electorate to a small group of delegates increases the importance of each individual vote and creates a smaller, more easily targeted group for candidates seeking influence.

“Concentrating decisive electoral power in a relatively small body of delegates inevitably increases the value of each delegate’s vote. It creates a smaller market, a more identifiable electorate and, therefore, a more

attractive environment for targeted inducements,” he said.

The Court recognised that opening party primaries to thousands of members could come with additional costs, including higher campaign expenses and logistical difficulties.

However, it concluded that a broader voting base would spread political power among ordinary party members and make it harder for election outcomes to be determined through limited financial transactions.

“A broader electorate may increase campaign costs, but it also disperses political power among thousands of ordinary members, making it considerably more difficult for electoral outcomes to be shaped by a relatively small number of transactions,” the judgment stated.

Chief Justice Baffoe-Bonnie said the decision aligns with the democratic ideals of the 1992 Constitution, particularly its emphasis on wider participation and citizen involvement in determining political authority.

“For that reason, this Court may legitimately conclude that, at this stage of Ghana’s democratic

development, fidelity to the Constitution requires political parties to embrace the model of democracy that the Constitution itself consistently prefers for the purpose of constituting political authority,” he added.

The case was brought by Prof. Kwabena Frimpong-Boateng, Dr Nyaho Nyaho-Tamakloe and Dr Christine Amoako-Nuamah, who argued that the delegate system deprived ordinary party members of meaningful participation in choosing candidates.

The Supreme Court granted the reliefs sought by the plaintiffs and restrained political parties from continuing to rely on the delegate system for selecting presidential and parliamentary candidates.

Political parties have been given one year from the date of the judgment to establish systems that will enable all eligible members to participate directly in their internal elections.

The Court further held that the Electoral Commission has a duty to ensure political parties operate and conduct their activities in line with constitutional requirements.

However, it clarified that decisions and actions already taken under the delegate system before the judgment remain valid and cannot be invalidated solely because of the ruling.

The seven-member panel comprised Chief Justice Paul Baffoe-Bonnie, Justice Gabriel Scott Pwamang, Justice Issifu Omoro Tanko Amadu, Justice Samuel Kwame Adibu-Asiedu, Justice Senyo Dzamefe, Justice Ernest Yao Gaewu and Justice George Kingsley Koomson.

Justices Samuel Kwame Adibu-Asiedu and Ernest Yao Gaewu dissented from the majority decision.

GH¢2 diesel price cut demonstrates Mahama’s care for ordinary Ghanaians – Edudzi Tameklo



NPA CEO, Goodwin Edudzi Tameklo

The Chief Executive Officer of the National Petroleum Authority (NPA), Goodwin Edudzi Tameklo, has praised President John Dramani Mahama’s decision to temporarily reduce the regulatory margin on diesel by GH¢2.00 per litre.

He described it as a demonstration of the President’s concern for ordinary Ghanaians.

His comments come after the Presidency announced that the one-month intervention, which takes effect on Tuesday, August 4, is intended to cushion consumers, prevent transport fare hikes and ease inflationary pressures following recent increases in fuel prices.

The government’s directive also follows concerns over the rising cost of living after the Ghana Private Road Transport Union (GPRTU) threatened to increase transport fares due to

persistent fuel price hikes.

“President John Dramani Mahama has directed that the NPA takes steps to absorb GH¢2 on every litre of diesel to cushion the impact of recent fuel price increases,” Edudzi Tamakloe wrote in a social media post on Monday, August 3.

“Further demonstration of the President’s care for the ordinary citizen,” the NPA Chief Executive Officer added. The Presidency has said the

temporary reduction will remain in force for one month unless reviewed.

It added that government will continue to monitor developments in the international energy market before taking any further measures to safeguard consumers and support economic recovery.

Operationalising Ghana’s Value for Money Office: Institutional design choices that will determine whether it works



By the third week of July 2026, Ghana’s Ministry of Finance had moved US\$1.7 billion into a ring-fenced account at the Bank of Ghana, held for one purpose: paying for the Accra-Kumasi Expressway once a construction contract is signed. It is the kind of figure that should make every Ghanaian ask a simple question. Is this the right project, at the right price, built the right way? That question is exactly what Ghana’s newest public institution, the Value for Money Office, was created to answer. The problem is that it cannot yet answer anything, because it does not yet have a staff.

Parliament passed the Value for Money Office Bill in March 2026, despite Minority objections, and President John Dramani Mahama signed it into law on 11 May. The 2026 Mid-Year Fiscal Policy Review then set the real target: full operation by end-June 2027. That gap, between a law that exists on paper and an institution that works in practice, is the whole story. What Parliament decides in the coming months, and

what Government does before that deadline, will determine whether the Office becomes a genuine safeguard for public money or another well-meaning name on an already crowded accountability chart. “Is this the right project, at the right price, built the right way? That is exactly the question Ghana’s newest institution was created to answer.”

Why the Office matters now

The Value for Money Office is part of a wider fiscal clean-up. Government reports that primary expenditure fell from 18.7 percent of GDP in 2024 to 13.2 percent in 2025, while the budget swung from a deficit to a 2.5 percent surplus. Much of that improvement comes from Commitment Authorisation, which stops procurement commitments running ahead of approved budgets, a new Fiscal Council, and a legal requirement for a minimum primary surplus and a falling debt ceiling.

These reforms all check whether spending has been approved. None of them checks whether the spending was worth approving in the first place. Ghana has spent two decades building roads, hospitals and schools whose

final costs and completion dates rarely matched the original business case. Presenting the Bill, Finance Minister Dr Cassiel Ato Forson said the Office would “institutionalise a comprehensive value-for-money framework” to close exactly that gap.

“These reforms all check whether spending has been approved. None of them checks whether the spending was worth approving in the first place.”

What the law asks the Office to do

Deputy Finance Minister Thomas Nyarko Ampem summed up the Office’s core job better than any amount of surrounding language: it must ensure “life cycle costing, technical soundness and post-contract verification” for major public contracts, something the Public Procurement Authority was never designed to provide. It will issue Value for Money Certificates and work with the Auditor-General, the Procurement Authority and the Internal Audit Agency on sanctions for waste and fraud.

Even the timeline has already slipped. At the signing

ceremony, the Minister promised the Office would be fully operational by January 2027. Six weeks later, the Mid-Year Review pushed that back to end-June 2027. Whether this reflects a more honest assessment of how long it takes to build a technical institution, or an early sign of the delay that has affected other Ghanaian agencies, is a question worth asking now, not after the fact.

The biggest institutional challenges

Institutions rarely fail because their mandate is wrong. They fail because of quieter choices: who appoints the board, how the office is funded, and what happens when it disagrees with a powerful ministry.

The Office has real legal standing, a full Act of Parliament with 67 clauses, not a mere Cabinet directive. The weakness lies in its governance. Minority Leader Alexander Afenyo-Markin has argued that the board is “dominated by partisan political appointees” and reports directly to the finance minister, the very

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office it is meant to scrutinise. Independent legal commentary has made a similar point on more technical grounds: the Act sets no fixed board terms, no clear removal process, and no direct reporting line to Parliament. Left unaddressed, the Office risks becoming, in Afenyo-Markin’s words, “the shield behind which the next generation of procurement scandals is defended.”

“The Office risks becoming the shield behind which the next generation of procurement scandals is defended,” Alexander Afenyo-Markin, Minority Leader

Staffing is just as important. Judging whether a road or hospital represents value for money needs quantity surveyors, engineers, procurement specialists and economists working together, not financial analysts alone. Funding matters too: an office that depends on annual budget approval from the ministries it appraises has an obvious weakness. Ring-fenced, statutorily protected funding would remove that pressure. Finally, an Office that reports only to the Minister, with no duty to publish its findings or report to Parliament, will function as an internal advisory unit rather than a public watchdog.

There is also a real risk of overlapping with existing institutions. The Ghana Institute of Procurement and Supply (GIPS) petitioned Parliament’s Finance Committee in March 2026, arguing that the new Act’s objectives “overlap significantly” with the Procurement Authority’s existing mandate. The Finance Committee acknowledged the risk and recommended clear statutory boundaries. In principle, the distinction is simple: the Auditor-General checks what already happened, the Procurement Authority checks how contracts are awarded, and the Value for Money Office checks a project’s merits before money is committed. That boundary needs to be written into law, not assumed.

The Big Push Programme: where the stakes turn real

These design questions stop being abstract once you look

at what Ghana is actually building. The Big Push Infrastructure Programme now covers 87 projects across all sixteen regions, with 13 already past the halfway mark. Its flagship, the Accra-Kumasi Expressway, is meant to cut travel time between Ghana’s two largest cities to roughly two hours. Procurement for the main construction contract is expected to begin in September 2026. If the Value for Money Office is not staffed and functioning by then, and current timelines suggest it will not be, the country’s largest live capital project will proceed without the appraisal the Act exists to provide. The Dambai Bridge, at only 6 percent physical progress, is a reminder that early-stage projects are exactly where appraisal discipline is cheapest to apply and most costly to skip.

“If the Office is not staffed and functioning by September, the country’s largest live capital project will proceed without the appraisal the Act exists to provide.”

Lessons from other countries

Ghana is not inventing this idea. The United Kingdom’s National Audit Office draws its credibility from sitting inside Parliament’s own architecture: its head is an Officer of the House of Commons, appointed and removed only by Parliament, not the executive. Ghana’s Office has no equivalent anchor, a gap local legal commentators have flagged as its most serious design weakness. South Africa’s Office of the Chief Procurement Officer shows a similar problem: it works when political backing is strong and struggles when it weakens, because it too sits inside the finance ministry rather than at arm’s length from it. Kenya’s experience teaches a narrower but equally important lesson: good design on paper means little without adequate funding and professional protection for staff. None of these models transplants neatly into Ghana, but the underlying lesson holds everywhere: appraisal must happen before contracts are signed, and independence must be built into the founding law, not promised afterward.

Implementation risks worth naming honestly

None of this is an argument

against the Office. It is an argument for taking its implementation as seriously as government takes its fiscal rules. The independence deficit is the clearest risk, raised by the Minority Leader and legal commentators alike. Duplication with the Procurement Authority is a close second, now a documented concern rather than a hypothetical one. Underfunding and thin technical capacity threaten to leave the Office unable to match the scale of the projects it must appraise. Data quality is a quieter risk: reliable appraisal depends on the GIFMIS-GHANEPS integration Government has promised to extend to all spending units by June 2027. If that slips, the Office will work with incomplete information no matter how well it is designed. Finally, an Office that tries to certify every contract, rather than focusing on major capital projects above a clear threshold, will drown in volume before it proves it can do the job well.

What should happen now?

Government should publish a staffing roadmap with named milestones the country can track against both the January and June 2027 dates in circulation. Parliament should treat the independence and duplication concerns raised by the Minority Leader and by GIPS as unfinished business, and amend the Act on board terms, removal procedures and direct reporting to the House. The Procurement Authority and the Value for Money Office should jointly publish where one institution’s authority ends, and the other’s begins. State-owned enterprises now being reclassified should fall within the Office’s remit from the start, and ministries such as Roads and Highways should treat it as a partner in getting appraisals right early, not a hurdle to manage late. Professional bodies, universities and the media all have a role in holding the Office to the independence standard its own critics have described.

Success by 2027 should be measured honestly. The first test is procedural: has a Head of Office been appointed, has a technical team been recruited, and has the independence gap been closed through amendment rather than left to goodwill? Beyond that, Dr Forson has already offered

a number worth tracking: a projection that the Office could cut contract waste by 10 to 15 percent within five years, saving roughly GH¢3 billion a year. That figure may prove optimistic, but it gives Parliament, journalists and researchers something concrete to measure against from 2028 onward.

Conclusion

Ghana has rebuilt several pieces of its fiscal architecture in a short space of time: a binding fiscal rule, Commitment Authorisation, a working Fiscal Council, and now a Value for Money Office backed by its own Act of Parliament. That is real progress, and it deserves recognition rather than reflexive cynicism.

“Passing a law was the easy part. Making the Office independent, funded and free of the ministry it is meant to scrutinise is the part Ghana has not yet finished.”

But passing a law was the easy part. What will decide whether this Office becomes a credible, independent institution, rather than another name added to an already crowded accountability chart, is whether its independence is fixed before it is tested, whether its boundary with the Procurement Authority is written down rather than assumed, and whether its findings ever see daylight. The Accra-Kumasi Expressway’s tendering process begins within weeks. The country’s newest watchdog needs to be ready to test whether that project, and the billions already set aside for it, truly represent value for money, before the contract is signed, not after.

Author Bio

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Govt must probe GFA’s Black Stars 2026 World Cup spending – Nana Fitz

Veteran football administrator Nana Fitzgerald Barkers Woode, popularly known as Nana Fitz, has called on the Government of Ghana to launch an investigation into the Ghana Football Association’s (GFA) expenditure during the Black Stars’ participation in the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

Nana Fitz believes that while FIFA regulations prohibit government interference in football administration, they should not prevent the GFA from accounting for public funds used to support the national teams.

Speaking in an interview with the Graphic Sports, the former owner and bankroller of Cornerstones argued that the national teams are heavily financed through taxpayers’ money, making transparency and accountability a necessity.

“The government should immediately call on the GFA to account for every amount spent on the World Cup, including previous tournaments,” he said.

The veteran administrator questioned whether FIFA was fully aware of the level of

government funding involved in Ghanaian football, insisting that the world football governing body’s rules should not be used as a reason to prevent public scrutiny of football administrators.

According to Nana Fitz, Ghana’s government plays a major role in supporting the Black Stars during international competitions, with state officials often leading delegations to major tournaments.

He argued that such involvement should give the state the right to

demand explanations on how funds are utilised.

“Whenever the national team travels for international competitions, it is a government representative who leads the delegation. If government is involved at that level and provides the funding, why should it not demand accountability for how the money is spent?” he asked.

The Black Stars made history at the 2026 FIFA World Cup by reaching the knockout stage for the first time since their famous quarter-final appearance in

2010. However, Ghana’s campaign came to an end after a narrow 1-0 defeat to Colombia in the Round of 32.

Following their World Cup outing, the Black Stars will shift focus to the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers, which begin in September.

Ghana has been placed in Group C alongside Ivory Coast, Gambia and Somalia as they aim to secure qualification for the continental showpiece.



Veteran football administrator Nana Fitzgerald Barkers Woode

Ghanaian boxers shared boxing kits during Commonwealth Games in Glasgow – Black Bombers coach reveals

Black Bombers head coach Ofori Asare has revealed that inadequate logistical support affected Ghana’s preparations and performance at the just-ended 2026 Commonwealth Games, claiming some boxers were forced to share competition kits.

According to the experienced trainer, the team did not receive all the promised equipment and resources ahead of the Games, creating unnecessary challenges for the athletes and technical team.

Speaking in an interview with Sporty FM, Asare disclosed that some members of the boxing team had to make do with limited resources during the competition.

“When we talk about logistics, some of the things we are supposed to receive we didn’t receive. Three of my boxers shared one set of kits,” Asare said.

The coach also revealed that

incorrect ring measurements created additional difficulties for one of his boxers during a bout, forcing him to intervene to prevent a possible disqualification.

“The measurement wasn’t correct. Even if you watch some of the videos, where I had to instruct the boxer to fight, the pants were going down, and the referee threatened to disqualify the boxer. I had no option but to go and look for a plastic tape to fix it during the bout,” Asare explained.

Asare described the situation as disappointing, insisting that such logistical setbacks should not occur when athletes are representing Ghana at an international competition.

His comments are likely to renew calls for improved investment and better support systems for Ghanaian athletes, especially in sporting disciplines that often receive less attention compared to football.

Ghana participated in the 2026

Commonwealth Games with a 40-member contingent and returned with two medals. Paralympian Zinabu Issah won silver in the women’s F57 shot put event after a season-best throw of

8.6 metres, while boxer Amadu Mohammed secured bronze in the men’s 55kg category.



Black Bombers, head coach Ofori Asare

2026 World Cup: Each Black Stars Management Committee Member was paid \$50,000 - Moses Parker

A member of the Black Stars Management Committee, Moses Armah, has disclosed that each member of the committee received \$50,000 for their role during Ghana’s successful qualification for the 2026 FIFA World Cup and the team’s campaign at the tournament.

The five-member committee was constituted in 2025 ahead of the World Cup qualifiers. Dr Randy Abbey served as Chairman, while former Black Stars captain Stephen Appiah was appointed Vice Chairman with responsibility for player relations.

Moses Armah and Samuel Aboabire oversaw operational matters, with Richard Nsenkyire handling special assignments.

During the committee’s tenure, Ghana secured qualification for the 2026 FIFA World Cup and remained unbeaten throughout the 2025 calendar year before eventually exiting

the tournament at the Round of 32 stage in North America. Following the Black Stars’ elimination, public debate emerged over the remuneration of officials who served during the World Cup campaign.

Speaking in an interview with Medeama FM, Armah confirmed that members of the Management Committee each received \$50,000, explaining that the amount represented half of the appearance fee paid to the players.

“Members of the Black Stars Management Committee received only half of the players’ appearance fee, meaning each of us received \$50,000. There was no per diem or winning bonus for the committee,” Mr Armah said.

The Medeama SC president further disclosed that he donated part of his earnings to pastors who prayed for him and the national team throughout the World Cup campaign.

With the World Cup now behind

them, the Black Stars have shifted their focus to qualifying for the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations. Ghana has been drawn in Group C alongside Côte d’Ivoire, The Gambia and Somalia as the

four-time African champions seek a return to the continental showpiece after failing to qualify for the 2025 AFCON.



Member of the Black Stars Management Committee, Moses Armah

ENTERTAINMENT

Most Afrobeat musicians are just singing garbage, smoking Indian hemp – Pastor

Senior Pastor of Dunamis International Gospel Centre, Dr. Paul Enenche, has criticised Afrobeats music, claiming the genre lyrics are senseless and negatively influence young people.

Speaking during the church’s Mid-year Worship concert, the cleric urged gospel musicians to produce more youth-focused songs to counter what he described as the harmful impact of Afrobeats.

Announcing a planned Youth Fire Night on September 25, Enenche called on gospel artistes, including Prinx Emmanuel, to make themselves available for the event.

“It is better to have music that is saying something that youth are hearing than the garbage that worldly musicians sing,” he said.

The preacher went further to accuse Afrobeats artistes of promoting negative behaviour through their music.

“Most of those Afrobeats are just saying rubbish. Smoking Indian hemp while they are singing and influencing the youths in negative ways,” he stated.

According to Enenche, gospel music should offer young people positive guidance and help shape their decisions.

“By the time you have this positive replacement for such garbage, then your life cannot follow such a direction,” he said.

He added that he hopes more energetic gospel songs will be created to disciple young people, teach them how to avoid negative influences, make the right decisions and live purposefully.



Senior Pastor of Dunamis International Gospel Centre, Dr. Paul Enenche

‘Do you always have to arrest people for singing your song?’ – Rev. Obaapa Christy

Award-winning Ghanaian gospel musician Rev. Obaapa Christy has questioned the growing trend of having individuals arrested or threatened with legal action for performing songs originally recorded by other artistes.

Speaking in an interview with Nii Noi on Hitz FM’s Hitz Praise Zone, the celebrated gospel singer reflected on the early years of her music career, revealing that she began her journey by singing songs composed by other gospel musicians without facing any form of intimidation or legal action.

According to her, performing songs by established gospel artistes helped her develop her ministry and musical career, adding that no one cautioned or attempted to have her arrested for doing so.

“Do you always have to have people arrested for singing your song?” she asked, while expressing concern over the increasing number of disputes involving the performance of copyrighted music.

Rev. Obaapa Christy noted that the music industry has changed significantly over the years, particularly with the rise of social media, where videos of people singing and performing songs can spread rapidly across different platforms.

She disclosed that she frequently comes across videos of people singing her own songs on social media but has never been bothered about it.

Instead of seeing such performances as a problem, the gospel musician believes they serve a greater purpose by spreading the message in her songs while also increasing the reach of her music.

According to her, God may be using those individuals as instruments to bless others through the songs He has inspired her to produce.

She added that every time someone sings her music, it could also introduce her work to new audiences, ultimately promoting her ministry and expanding the impact of her gospel message.



Gospel musician Rev. Obaapa Christy

‘You should be ashamed of yourself’ – M.anifest blasts AI songwriters

Award-winning Ghanaian rapper M.anifest has taken a strong stance against the growing use of artificial intelligence to create music, saying artistes who rely on AI prompts to write entire songs should be “ashamed” of themselves.

Speaking in a recent interview, the celebrated lyricist drew a clear line between using AI as a creative aid and allowing it to take over the songwriting process. While he supports technological advancements in music production, he insisted that AI should never replace human creativity.

“I’m pro-technology. Use AI for things like production, maybe to help with a bassline or other technical aspects. But making songs with prompts? That’s terrible. You should be ashamed of yourself,” M.anifest said.

The rapper argued that music loses its artistic value when there is little or no human contribution, questioning

whether AI-generated songs can truly be considered art.

“Where is the human involvement? Without the human involvement, is it art? It’s just artificial,” he stated.

M.anifest also disclosed that he has already encountered musicians in Ghana using AI prompts to generate complete songs, describing the trend as “shameful.”

“I want to call out some people I’ve seen even in Ghana doing this. It’s shameful,” he added.

Although he acknowledged that AI-generated music is becoming increasingly sophisticated and difficult to distinguish from human-created songs, M.anifest believes audiences deserve transparency.

According to him, digital streaming platforms should clearly identify AI-generated music, similar to the parental advisory labels previously used for explicit content, so listeners can make informed choices.

“If people like AI music, that’s fine. But it should be identified as such. People should have the freedom to choose,” he said.

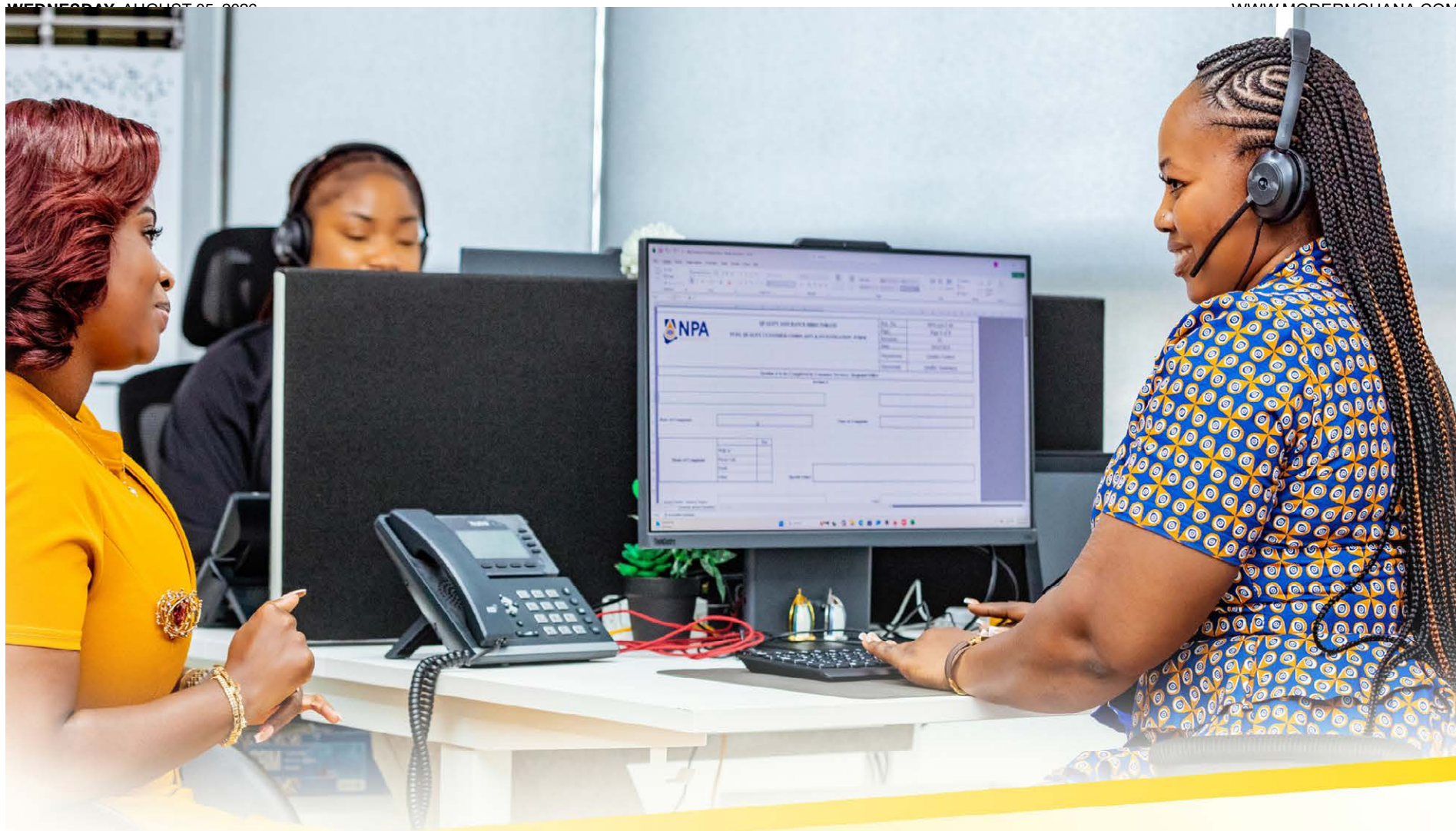
Taking his proposal a step further, M.anifest suggested that streaming services should introduce a feature allowing users to filter out AI-generated music entirely.

“I would like to ban AI artists from my DSP. There should be a button so if you don’t want to hear AI music, you shouldn’t have to. Those who want it can listen to it,” he explained.

Despite his criticism of AI-generated songwriting, M.anifest emphasized that he is not against artificial intelligence itself. Instead, he believes the technology should serve as an assistant to creators rather than replace the imagination, emotion and originality that define human artistry.



Ghanaian rapper M.anifest



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