

Acting CJ Takes Over



>Justice Paul Baffoe-Bonnie

>Read story on page 2



>Gifty Oware Mensah with her husband, Peter Mensah

NIB Detains Gifty's Husband Over NSS Payroll Fraud

>Read story on page 2

COUNCIL OF STATE VOTES 30-1

>Read story on page 3

To Suspend Chief Justice



>Chief Justice Gertrude Torkornoo



>Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia in a handshake

Bawumia Roots For Reforms In NPP

>Read story on page 2

Veep Is Resting - Mahama

>Read story on page 2

Another Cocaine Bust At Kotoka Airport

>Read story on page 3



>The concealed cocaine at Kotoka International Airport



Bawumia Roots For Reforms In NPP

> Story by ISSAH OLEGOR

THE NEW Patriotic Party (NPP) Presidential Candidate for the 2024 elections, Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia, has declared a major shift in the party's internal electoral process, signaling that reforms in the current delegates system are on the horizon.

This announcement was made during the launch of his post-election Thank You Tour at the party's National Headquarters in Accra on Wednesday.

"There is going to be reforms in our delegates system," Bawumia stated, emphasizing the need to widen participation within the party's internal electoral processes.

"One of the first things that we are going to do is to change the current delegate system and allow more people to vote. That will give more rights to more people to come in and be part of the electoral college," he announced.

This proposed overhaul is just one part of a broader restructuring effort following the NPP's defeat in the 2024 general elections.

The Thank You Tour, themed "In All Things, Give Thanks to God" (1 Thessalonians 5:18), doubles as a political reset for the party, designed not only to show appreciation but also to signal a turning point in its political strategy and governance structure.

The nationwide tour, sanctioned by the National Council and led by Bawumia alongside top party executives, begins in the Western Region on April 26 and will stretch across all 16 regions.

The initiative aims to engage directly with the party's base, while also promoting

reconciliation, institutional reform, and strategic unity.

During his remarks, Bawumia addressed the party's 2024 election loss and offered candid insight into the root causes.

"Notwithstanding our hard work, we still suffered a heavy defeat," he said.

"Many of our supporters did not come out to vote. This is really fundamentally why we lost... 2.1 million of our supporters didn't vote, while John Mahama's votes increased by just about 115,000."

Muslim Propaganda

He dismissed claims that his Muslim identity played a role in the loss, labeling such claims as baseless propaganda.

"When I heard that, I said, this doesn't make sense. This is not the Ghana that I know," Bawumia said. "We went for primaries. I was one Muslim among nine Christians, but the NPP still elected me."

To support his position, Bawumia pointed to data showing that in many constituencies, he outperformed Christian parliamentary candidates.

"If people were voting based on religion, that would not be possible," he insisted. "Independent surveys by institutions like Global InfoAnalytics and Konrad Adenauer have confirmed that religion and tribe were not factors in our defeat."

Beyond gratitude and reconciliation, the party has embarked on tangible reform efforts.

The Elections Review

Committee, chaired by former Speaker of Parliament Prof. Mike Aaron Oquaye, recently presented its report outlining key challenges the party faced.

Dr Bawumia praised the report, saying, "I am very happy with the Oquaye report. It has put to bed a lot of the propaganda that was going around about exactly why we lost the election."

Amendment Of Constitution

As part of implementing the report's recommendations, a Constitutional Amendment Committee, chaired by Frank Davies, has been formed to propose revisions to the party's constitution.

The proposed reforms, expected to be presented at the party's Extraordinary Delegates Conference in July 2025, will address internal elections, candidate nomination, conflict resolution mechanisms, and broader governance issues.

The party has also moved to enforce discipline by reasserting its 2021 Code of Conduct. Public endorsements or attacks among presidential hopefuls remain banned, with clear warnings that violations will trigger disciplinary action.

The Thank You Tour, the constitutional review, and the planned reintegration of estranged members—including the possible return of former Trade Minister Alan Kyerematen—are all part of what Dr. Bawumia describes as a new era for the NPP.

"The key is ourselves," he noted. "If we decide to vote, we will win."

Vice President Is Resting - Mahama

> Story by GRACE ZIGAH

President John Dramani Mahama has reassured the public about the health of Vice President Naana Jane Opoku-Agyemang, stating that she is steadily recovering and in high spirits.

The president made the comment during the official launch of a national initiative to distribute sanitary pads to over two million schoolgirls across Ghana.

Speaking at the event on Thursday, April 24, President Mahama conveyed greetings from the Vice President, who was absent due ill health.

"I spoke to her yesterday (Wednesday) and told her we would miss her at this event because it's a programme dear to her heart," Mahama shared.

"She asked me to say hello to everyone and to let you know she is recuperating and resting. She's very well and will soon rejoin us to push forward with the reset agenda."

Prof. Opoku-Agyemang has been out of the public eye since late March after she reportedly suffered a sudden illness on Friday, March 28 at a public function.

She was admitted to the University of Ghana Medical Centre (UGMC) on March 29 for treatment.

A statement issued by the Office of the President on March 30 confirmed that the Vice President was in stable condition and receiving the necessary care.

Government



>Vice President Naana Jane Opoku-Agyemang

Communications Minister, Felix Kwakye Ofofu, later revealed that medical specialists had advised the Vice President to pursue further treatment abroad as a precautionary measure. She was subsequently flown out to London.

Following this advice, she officially began a three-week medical leave on April 7 to focus on her recovery.

The latest update from President Mahama is intended to quell public concern and affirm the Vice President's continued commitment to her duties upon full recovery.

The Vice President is rumoured to have returned to the country quietly, resting at a State facility near Osu Castle.

NIB Detains Gifty's Husband Over NSS Payroll Fraud

> Story by ISSAH OLEGOR

IN A dramatic twist to the unfolding National Service Scheme (NSS) payroll scandal, Peter Mensah, husband of Gifty Oware Aboagye Mensah, has been detained by the National Intelligence Bureau (NIB) as investigations into the alleged payroll fraud escalated.

Mensah, a lawyer by profession was taken into custody earlier on 24th April, 2025, reportedly in lieu of his wife who has been hospitalized for several weeks.

According to sources, NIB officers informed Peter Mensah, "Since your wife is not in a position to assist us with this issue, we are detaining you to help us with it."

This decision comes despite the NIB's full knowledge of Gifty Oware-Mensah's medical condition, which prevented them from taking her into custody

directly from the hospital.

This latest development adds to an already controversial case that has sparked nationwide attention.

Gifty, the immediate past Deputy Director General in charge of Finance and Administration at the NSS, has been at the center of a high-profile investigation into payroll fraud that is estimated to have cost the state over GH 50 million monthly.

The fraud reportedly involved thousands of "ghost names" on the NSS payroll under the previous administration.

Gifty was initially invited by the NIB shortly after returning from Morocco, where she had accompanied the national women's football team, the Black Queens, for a friendly tournament.

However, her voluntary response to the summons turned into a protracted ordeal.

After several rounds of interrogation, she was detained at an undisclosed location, granted bail, and then re-arrested under unclear circumstances.

Upon her second release, Gifty Oware-Mensah was warned not to grant interviews or speak to the media, a directive that has raised concerns about attempts to silence her.

Sources close to her claim that though she was not subjected to physical abuse during detention, the conditions of her bail included questionable demands—such as producing a receipt for a personal wristwatch, which many have deemed as a form of harassment and intimidation.

To date, neither Gifty Oware-Mensah nor any of her alleged co-conspirators have been formally charged, despite multiple detentions and interrogations.

Acting CJ Takes Over

> Story by ISSAH OLEGOR

IN A move aimed at tightening oversight control within judicial system, Acting Chief Justice, Paul Baffoe-Bonnie has issued a sweeping directive that centralizes the authority to assign newly filed cases and applications across the nation's courts.

According to a memorandum dated April 23, 2025, and signed by the Deputy Judicial Secretary, Dr. Cyrus B. Bapuroh, all registrars of the High Courts, Courts of Appeal, and the Supreme Court are to submit newly filed matters directly to the office of the Acting Chief Justice for further action.

This includes court assignments, empaneling of judges in courts with multiple divisions, and the setting of hearing dates.

"This directive supersedes all previous directives until further notice," the memo emphasized, signaling a major shift in administrative procedures within the Judicial Service of Ghana.

The memo was copied to the Acting Chief Justice himself, affirming the directive's top-level origin and immediate effect.

Justice Baffoe-Bonnie was appointed acting Chief Justice on Tuesday following the suspension of Justice Gertrude Torkornoo by President John Mahama.

This development comes against the backdrop of increasing calls for greater transparency and efficiency in the judiciary, especially amidst a surge in high-profile cases ranging from political corruption to land disputes and corporate fraud.

It is also seen as a proactive step to prevent possible forum shopping — a practice where litigants attempt to manipulate case outcomes by choosing perceived favorable courts or judges.

However, legal analysts believed that the acting Chief Justice may also want to take personal interest in cases to satisfy his personal interest.

news



Council of State Votes 30-1 To Suspend Chief Justice

> Story by DANIEL BAMPOE

IN A move that has rocked Ghana's legal and political establishment, the Council of State, an advisory body to the President voted overwhelmingly—30 in favour, 1 abstention—to establish a prima facie case against the embattled Chief Justice Gertrude Araba Esaaba Sackey Torkornoo.

The voting pattern though confidential was boastfully put out by NDC Communications Officer, Sammy Gyamfi on Asempa Fm afternoon show, Ekosii Sen on Wednesday.

The prima facie case has led to the composition of a 5-member committee by President John Mahama to investigate the Chief Justice over multiple allegations of misconduct and abuse of office.

Pending the outcome of the

formal investigation, President has subsequently suspended Justice Torkornoo and appointed Justice Paul Baffoe-Bonnie as acting Chief Justice.

The development, comes with former Chief Justice Sophia Abena Akuffo notably abstaining from the vote in quiet protest.

All the other members of the Council including women activists like Betty Mould-Iddrisu, a lawyer and former Attorney General, Judges including Justice Vida Akoto-Bamfo, a retired Supreme Court Justice, lawyers, chiefs and security chiefs all voted for the potential exit of the Chief Justice in allegedly placating the president who is determined to reset the judiciary.

Sources within the Council disclosed that Justice Torkornoo was not accorded the

opportunity to respond to the allegations or defend herself before the vote.

Legal observers and civil society organizations have raised serious concerns about this lack of due process, warning that the precedent it sets undermines the principles of natural justice and judicial independence.

The suspension, which has not been officially addressed by the Chief Justice herself, is being viewed by many as politically motivated.

Critics have lambasted the Council of State—whose role is primarily advisory to the presidency—for becoming, in their words, a “rubber stamp” body willing to legitimize the executive's agenda without adequate scrutiny of the petitions it receives.

Political Undercurrents

Sammy Gyamfi also confirmed during an appearance on Joy FM's Super Morning Show that a prima facie case had been agreed upon by 30 of the 31 Council members.

“Nobody can tell me that all the 30 members of the Council of State are NDC members who hate the Chief Justice,” Gyamfi said, defending the decision.

However, sources suggest that the push for Gertrude Torkornoo's removal may have deeper political roots, dating back to her elevation during the previous administration.

Some allege that the suspension is part of a broader scheme to install Supreme Court Justice Paul Baffoe-Bonnie—reportedly overlooked for the Chief Justice role—into the top judicial post.

Sources within the judiciary suggest that Baffoe-Bonnie has quietly aligned with NDC power players to engineer Torkornoo's removal.

Background

Getrude Torkornoo's relationship with the NDC has been fraught with tension since mid-2024.

In July of that year, the party publicly accused her of constitutional overreach after she allegedly recommended judicial appointments without proper consultation.

The controversy peaked when one of the nominated judges, Justice Afia Asare Botwe, was linked to politically sensitive rulings, further inflaming opposition anger.

Despite these frictions, the nature of the petitions against Getrude Torkornoo has raised questions.

One prominent petition filed by private citizen Daniel Ofori accuses her of financial misappropriation, including claims that she used GHS261,890 in public funds for a family trip and received a \$30,000 per diem.

Other allegations include

unlawful interference in court processes, favoritism in judicial appointments, and failure to account for official expenditure.

Legal Firestorm and Questionable Audit Evidence

The basis for the allegations reportedly includes a document said to be from the Auditor-General's office.

However, legal experts have questioned its authenticity and credibility.

They argue that no applicable legal breaches are clearly cited in the document, contrary to standard auditing practices, which require specific reference to the law violated before any financial irregularity can be upheld.

Even more controversially, Daniel Domelevo—former Auditor-General with a history of legal battles over surcharges—has been appointed to the five-member committee tasked with investigating the Chief Justice.

Daniel Domelevo's own legal track record includes a High Court ruling that overturned his surcharge against Zoomlion, casting doubt on his suitability for such a sensitive probe.

Presidential Involvement and Investigative Committee

President John Dramani Mahama, acting under Article 146 of the Constitution, officially announced the suspension on Tuesday, April 22, 2025.

He has since formed a five-member committee, chaired by Supreme Court Justice Gabriel Pwamang, to conduct the investigation.

Other members include Justice Samuel Adibu-Asiedu, Domelevo, Major Flora Dalugo of the Ghana Armed Forces, and academic Prof. James Sefah Dzisah—who some allege has ties to the ruling party.

This composition has further fueled criticism of bias and executive interference in what should be a constitutionally impartial process.

Another Cocaine Bust At Kotoka Airport

> Story by ISSAH OLEGOR

IN A development that threatens to rekindle memories of past drug scandals that tainted Ghana's global image, the Narcotics Control Commission (NACOC) has confirmed the interception of a large consignment of suspected cocaine at the Swiss Port, a cargo terminal at the Kotoka International Airport, KIA, Accra, with four individuals arrested in connection with the attempted shipment.

The arrest is coming less than a month after allegation of attempted cocaine shipment at the Kotoka International Airport.

The latest bust, coming under the administration of President John Dramani Mahama, has already triggered concerns over the resurgence of transnational drug trafficking under his leadership.

The Seizure

On Wednesday, April 23, 2025, NACOC operatives, acting on tip off, seized 73 slabs of a substance believed to be cocaine, weighing approximately 89.74 kilograms.

The consignment was being prepared for export to the Netherlands when the interception occurred during a routine inspection.

The illicit cargo was carefully concealed within a container at Swiss Port—a major international cargo transit hub at the airport.

Four suspects—whose identities are being withheld pending further investigations—were taken into custody by NACOC.

Authorities say the arrests form part of ongoing efforts to dismantle international narcotics networks operating through Ghana's ports.

Recent Allegations

AirMed Flight N823AM, an air ambulance, recently stirred controversy after it landed in Ghana and remained for five days at KIA before continuing its journey to Gran Canaria, Spain.

The extended stay of the flight raised significant concerns among the Minority in Parliament, with allegations suggesting that the aircraft might have been involved in illicit activities, such as drug trafficking and money laundering.

Flight Details and Delays

According to flight tracking data from FlightRadar24, AirMed Flight N823AM was originally scheduled to depart Gran Canaria on March 20, 2025, at 3:55 AM and was expected to land in Accra at 8:08 AM.

However, the aircraft experienced a delay and did not depart until 4:59 AM, ultimately arriving in Ghana at 9:03 AM on the same day.

After landing, the flight remained on the ground at KIA for five days, departing on March 25, 2025, at 1:01 AM, and arriving in Gran Canaria at 5:12 AM.

In the days following its departure from Ghana, the aircraft undertook several other flights, including trips to various cities, such as Santa Maria, St. John's, Bangor, and Birmingham, all on the same day, March 25, 2025.

Illicit Cargo

The flight's stay in Ghana caught the attention of the Minority in Parliament, who raised concerns about its cargo and activities during its time in the country.

Rev. John Ntim Fordjour, the Ranking Member of the Parliament's Defense and Interior Committee, claimed that there was no evidence of any medical referrals or patients on board the air ambulance.

Instead, Fordjour suggested that the aircraft was used to transport illicit cargo, which they suspect contained cocaine and US dollars.

Familiar Shadow from the Past

This latest scandal bears an uncanny resemblance to previous high-profile drug-related controversies that plagued Mahama's first tenure as president.

One of the most notable cases was the “Naye Ametefeh affair or Ruby Adu-Gyamfi” in which a politically connected Ghanaian woman was arrested at London's Heathrow Airport with over 12 kilograms of cocaine in 2015.

Investigations at the time revealed that she had bypassed security checks at VIP Lounge at the Kotoka International Airport with diplomatic assistance, prompting public outrage and allegations of official complicity.

A vehicle of top level chief executive of a state agency was used to ferry her to the airport allowing her to use the VIP Lounge.



>Justice Sophia Abena Akuffo

editorial



CJ's Removal- Political Promise Fulfilled

GHANA IS in the international news over the President's efforts at removing the Chief Justice.

The repercussions of the efforts are anything but good. We must bow our heads in shame as a democratically elected government embarks on such a smelly enterprise.

Presidents who tread on this slippery and dangerous path of removing the head of the judiciary, the third arm of government, are pitiable characters because it would not be long before the fallouts from the efforts come consuming them.

History is replete with presidents who tried this and what befell them. Ghana under President Kwame Nkrumah woke up to news about the removal from office of Sir Arku Korsah a dark entry in the country's political history.

As for the fallouts from the action they are too palpable to require mention in such a limited space.

The no-love-lost relationship between the P(NDC) and the judiciary is household knowledge. The busts of the three high court judges at the forecourt of the Supreme Court in Accra speaks volumes about how the judiciary has endured the deviousness of the forebear of the NDC and still counting under the

leadership of the ruling political party. The President has not shied away from the umbilical cord relationship between the NDC and the bloody and killer PNDC. He especially relishes recalling revolutionary violence of the junta which he claims is part of the DNA of the NDC.

President John Mahama and indeed the NDC's plot against the judiciary is an unwritten segment of the party's manifesto. Resetting the judiciary so it would be amenable to the whims of the NDC is what is being played out as the plot to remove the Chief Justice gathers steam.

For the President the dividends to be derived from an investor- friendly ambience which an independent comes with can go to hell.

Were the President and his hatchet men sincerely interested in the progress of the nation they would not have considered the removal of the Chief Justice as a project worth implementing.

His dream of resetting the judiciary was not hidden during his opposition days.

Time was it when he encouraged NDC aligned lawyers to consider bench roles this way they can contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the party. His aversion to the composition of the bench is

something he has been consistent about.

With flimsy reasons constituting the basis of the NDC induced petitions presented to him he could only say holala. After all it was an orchestration.

Legal minds have already pointed out the procedural flaws in the petitions.

As pointed out in some circles the independence of the judiciary when compromised would inure to the interest of President John Mahama. His best bet to tampering with the constitution for tenure extension can only take place with a compromised judiciary.

This done the crazy plot of removing the Chairperson and some top persons of the elections management body can be carried out with little stress.

The democracy in Ghana is under strain as President Mahama seeks to dilute the independence of the judiciary.

This dangerous dream come true should be checked immediately by especially members of the bench, bar and the good people of this country who appreciate the importance of good governance.

He promised his party that when given power he would reset the judiciary which is represented by the removal of the Chief Justice.

New Study Reveals Samira Bawumia Redefined Second Lady Role

> Story from the NEWS DESK

A NEW RESEARCH study, published by the reputable and peer-reviewed international journal, Drumspeak, the International Journal of Research in the Humanities, has established that Samira Bawumia contributed significantly to the transformation of the second lady position during her husband's tenure as the Vice President.

The study, co-authored by Prof. G. Etse Sikanku and Dr Louise Carol Serwaa Donkor, sought to analyse media narratives of the second lady among selected credible media houses in Ghana.

Findings indicate that Mrs Bawumia was perceived as a

stabilising force due to her decorous, spousal, gentle, and generally decent demeanor as second lady.

Though she seemed to have fulfilled her traditional role as a second lady, the second highest frame unearthed was the social interventionist frame.

This frame pointed to Mrs Bawumia's socially minded programs particularly for young girls, women and children that sought to equip them with skills and empower them to attain their goals.

As second lady, Mrs Bawumia was highly involved in a variety of national and international initiatives that sought to address the welfare of underprivileged girls, the youth

and other vulnerable groups in society. It was not surprising that this constituted one of the most prevalent frames discovered by the authors.

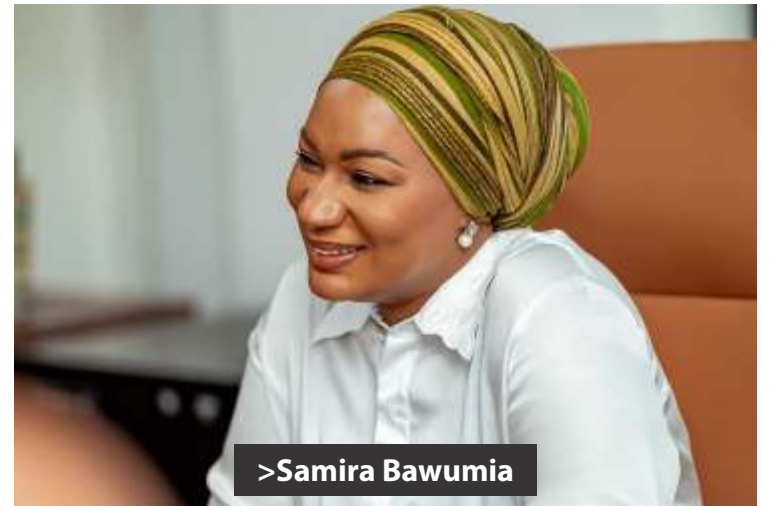
Another major significant narrative associated with the second lady was her political role. In this role, she was seen as a strong, efficient and eloquent communicator who contributed significantly to campaigns and political communication in the country.

Her vocal and highly substantive political discourse marked a new phase in Ghana's democracy as it has become evident that second ladies can contribute meaningfully to the democratic politics.

Put together, Sikanku and Donkor (2025) conclude that Samira Bawumia's time as second lady was marked by significant change as she did not just limit herself to the stereotypical roles of political spouses but made recognizable impact as an engaging, vocal and socially oriented advocate.

The study established that Mrs Bawumia was a very visible and effective figure on the campaign trail and also an impactful second lady. This finding is consistent with research studies that have come to confirm that candidate wives can perform an effective role as political surrogates by mobilising voters, building the candidates' image and promoting their visions and ideas.

This fresh research demonstrates that she



>Samira Bawumia

personifies an era of extraordinary change in the role of second ladies through her unique and multitasking roles as a force of dignity, stability but also an agent of change, social welfare and public advocacy.

In terms of contribution to knowledge and the usefulness of the study, authors Sikanku and Donkor write that "this research will contribute to knowledge on the reportage of high-profile political spouses, particularly the position of the second lady, which although elevated or expanded in stature, has not seen corresponding academic scrutiny. This study not only fills an important gap in academic literature as it constitutes one of the earliest studies of media representation of the position of second ladies in Ghana, but also further

contributes to the literature on framing and coverage of female public figures by using media from a less studied jurisdiction thereby expanding knowledge on spousal political framing and leadership."

In a political space which is sometimes filled with drama, controversy and scandals, Mrs Bawumia's non scandal-plagued and highly respectable time as second lady, evidently demonstrated through the media analysis, shows that she continues to be an exemplary second lady through her conduct and by so doing elevated the public participation of women in politics through her eloquent and energetic participation in political campaigns, governance, social intervention programs and advocacy.

THE Daily Gist

Published by Golden Trio Communications
Box TF96, Trade Fair, La, Accra
Phone: +233 50 335 1799
Email: dailygistghana@gmail.com
Website: www.thedailygistgh.com
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Registered with NMC as a Newspaper

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US Pastor Rescued 'Miraculously Unharmed' By South African Police



>Josh Sullivan

AN AMERICAN preacher who was taken hostage by armed men while preaching a sermon in a South African township last week has been rescued in a fierce gun battle with his kidnappers, police said Wednesday.

Josh Sullivan, 45, was kidnapped last Thursday during an evening service in Motherwell, a township in Gqeberha, formerly known as Port Elizabeth, in South Africa's Eastern Cape province, the Fellowship Baptist Church said.

The South African Police Service said officers launched a rescue operation after receiving intelligence the pastor was being held by his abductors at a house in KwaMagxaki, another township in the city.

A rescue team was sent to the location, a police statement said, "leading to a high-intensity shootout"

that left "three unidentified suspects" dead.

"As officers approached the house, they observed a vehicle on the premises. The suspects inside the vehicle upon seeing law enforcement allegedly attempted to flee and opened fire on the team," the statement read.

It added that Sullivan, whom the Associated Press reported is from the US state of Tennessee, was found inside the vehicle "miraculously unharmed" and "is currently in an excellent condition."

Tom Hatley, whom Sullivan had said on his website he was training under, also announced the rescue. "Josh has been released," Hatley wrote in a Facebook post along with a picture of Sullivan and his family. "I just got 'the go ahead to let it be known,'" he added while urging for privacy from the public.

"Also, PLEASE respect The Sullivans privacy and their parents. A lot of folks love The Sullivans and they love you back, but give them some time," he said in another post.

Kidnappings are at a record high in South Africa with an average of 51 abductions every day, authorities said last year. The country also grapples with deadly mass shootings and a murder rate that is among the highest in the world. - CNN

China Tells Trump: If You Want Trade Talks, Cancel Tariffs

CHINA HAS called on the US to cancel its sweeping tariffs on Chinese goods entering the country as a sign that the President Donald Trump is serious about resolving the trade war between the two countries.

A Chinese official said there had been no trade talks with the US, despite suggestions otherwise from the Trump administration.

The trade war between the world's two largest economies has been escalating, with China sending back Boeing planes it ordered from the US in its latest retaliation over tariffs.

But Trump has appeared to soften his stance on China, saying that the taxes he has so far imposed on Chinese imports would "come down substantially, but it won't be zero".

A trade war between China and the US is in full swing, with Trump imposing import taxes of up to 145% on Chinese goods coming into the US, and China hitting back with a 125% tax on American products.

In one of China's

strongest statements yet over the tariff war, Commerce Ministry spokesman He Yadong said the US should remove all "unilateral tariff measures" against China "if it truly wanted" to solve the issue.

"The person who tied the bell must untie it," he added.

Separately, Foreign Ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun said China and the US had "not conducted consultations or negotiations on tariffs, let alone reached an agreement".

He added that reports to the contrary were "false".

Trump previously said negotiations between the countries were "active" - but this was also contradicted by US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, who said on Wednesday they had not yet begun.

Bessent added that there was an opportunity for a "big deal" between the US and China on trade.

He has previously said he expected a de-escalation of the "unsustainable" trade war, and said the current situation was "not a joke".

- BBC

Sudan Condemns RSF Attacks In El Fasher Amid Renewed Violence In Darfur

> Story by ISSAH OLEGOR

THE GOVERNMENT of Sudan has issued a strong condemnation of what it describes as a "campaign of terror and genocide" by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in the city of El Fasher, North Darfur, in one of the most violent escalations of the country's internal conflict in recent months.

According to a press statement released by Sudan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the RSF has launched a series of coordinated assaults targeting both civilian residential areas and camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs), including the Zamzam and Abu Shouk camps.

These attacks, carried out over recent days, have reportedly resulted in the deaths of approximately 450 civilians, many of whom were women and children.

Among the fatalities were at least nine humanitarian workers and medical personnel.

The Sudanese government characterized the attacks as a "grave breach of international humanitarian law" and a direct violation of United Nations

Security Council Resolution 2736, which outlines the protection of civilians in conflict zones.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs emphasized that these actions contravene the Geneva Conventions, which obligate all parties in an armed conflict to protect non-combatants and ensure access to humanitarian aid.

This most recent wave of violence is part of a broader and ongoing conflict that erupted in April 2023, when tensions between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the RSF exploded into open warfare, devastating the capital Khartoum and spreading to other regions.

Darfur, long a flashpoint for ethnic and political violence, has once again become a battlefield.

The RSF, which originated from the notorious Janjaweed militias implicated in earlier atrocities in Darfur during the early 2000s, has been accused of repeated violations of human rights and international law.

The Ministry's statement also pointed to the continued logistical and material support allegedly received by the RSF from regional backers, urging the international

community to impose sanctions on those aiding the militia.

"Impunity and leniency will only embolden the militia and its sponsors to continue their heinous crimes," the statement warned.

In an appeal to the global community, Sudan called on "sisterly and friendly nations," regional alliances, and international organizations to take a firm stand against the RSF's actions and support the Sudanese population during what it described as a critical moment.

The government reaffirmed its dedication to working with international partners to end the siege of El Fasher and facilitate the safe delivery of humanitarian aid.

The besieged city of El Fasher, one of the few areas in Darfur still under government control, has become a refuge for thousands fleeing other parts of the region.

However, the RSF's encirclement of the city has cut off essential supply routes, worsening the humanitarian crisis.

International NGOs and UN agencies have expressed concern about the increasing difficulty of reaching civilians trapped in the area.

Trump Tells Putin To 'STOP' After Russian Attack Kills 12 In Kyiv

RUSSIA POUNDED Kyiv with missiles and drones overnight, killing at least 12 people in the biggest attack on the Ukrainian capital this year and drawing a rare rebuke from Donald Trump who told Vladimir Putin: "Vladimir, STOP!"

The attack, which the U.S. president said was "not necessary" and "very bad timing" as he pushes for peace, also wounded 90 people, smashed buildings and set off fires, Ukrainian officials said. Rescuers were still recovering bodies from the rubble over 12 hours later.

The attack comes at a critical moment in Russia's war in Ukraine, which began with Moscow's full-scale invasion in 2022. Both Kyiv and Moscow are trying to show Trump they are making progress towards his goal of a rapid peace deal.

"I am not happy with the Russian strikes on KYIV. Not necessary, and very bad timing. Vladimir, STOP! 5000 soldiers a week are dying. Lets get the Peace Deal DONE!" Trump said on Truth Social, referring to the Russian president.

The White House has threatened to abandon its efforts if no progress is made soon. Trump upbraided Zelenskiy on Wednesday over a comment in which the Ukrainian repeated that



> Residents react as they stand at the site of a damaged building hit by a Russian ballistic missile strike in Kyiv, Ukraine

Kyiv would not recognise Russia's occupation of Crimea.

Trump has used a markedly more gentle tone in his statements about Putin than with Zelenskiy, whom he at one point referred to as a "dictator". Trump's special envoy is expected to meet Putin on Friday for more talks, a U.S. official has said.

Zelenskiy said on Thursday he believed that a document with proposals that emerged from Wednesday's talks between Ukrainian and Western officials in London was now on Trump's

table.

"...I believe that today, this format, this document, is on President Trump's desk," Zelenskiy told a press conference in South Africa.

"Anything that contradicts our values or our constitution cannot be included in any agreement."

Zelenskiy, who cut short a trip to South Africa on Thursday after the Russian strike, said he did not see signs Washington was putting strong pressure on Russia.

- Reuters

business world



BoG Governor Calls For New Ghana-US Trade Deal

> Story by ISSAH OLEGOR



>Dr. Johnson Pandit Asiamah

Johnson Pandit Asiamah, called for a strategic shift in the Africa-U.S. trade relationship—from transactional exchanges to transformational partnerships rooted in innovation, equity, and value creation.

Addressing the theme “Africa & the U.S.: Shaping a Trade-Driven Future”, Dr. Asiamah emphasized that while trade between Africa and the United States has made notable progress—especially under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA)—the framework needs urgent renewal and realignment to reflect Africa’s evolving economic priorities.

AGOA, enacted in 2000, granted eligible African countries duty-free access to the U.S. market.

While it opened significant trade avenues, especially in commodities like oil, cocoa, and textiles, African exports under the agreement have largely remained concentrated in raw materials.

In 2024, U.S.-Africa goods trade reached \$71.6 billion, with Africa posting a \$7.4 billion surplus.

However, trade flows remain imbalanced and overly reliant on extractive industries, Dr. Asiamah noted.

Highlighting Ghana’s case as a microcosm of broader continental trends, Dr. Asiamah pointed to the country’s \$2.48 billion trade with the U.S. in 2024.

Ghana exported \$1.6 billion worth of goods—primarily crude oil, cocoa, and timber—against \$874 million in imports. Despite this surplus, the structure of trade remains heavily commodity-based, with limited value addition.

To illustrate the potential of a more integrated and equitable model, Dr. Asiamah cited successful Ghana-U.S. business partnerships.

Kosmos Energy, a U.S. firm, played a pivotal role in discovering Ghana’s Jubilee oil field, while Newmont Mining’s operations have transformed local economies in Ahafo and Akyem.

On the flip side, Ghanaian firm Niche Cocoa’s expansion into Wisconsin stands as a testament to African firms moving up the value chain and entering global markets with finished goods.

But such examples, he stressed, must become the norm rather than the exception.

Govt Gives Goldfields Lifeline On Damang Mine

> Story by ISSAH OLEGOR

The John Mahama-led Government and Goldfields Ghana Limited have reached an amicable agreement on a transitional plan for the Damang Mine, marking a significant development in the country’s mining sector.

According to a statement released by the Office of the President, the agreement outlines a 12-month transitional period, during which Goldfields will continue to operate the mine under a new mining lease.

New Mining Lease

The new mining lease, pending parliamentary ratification in May 2025, will enable Goldfields’ subsidiary, Abosso Goldfields Limited, to resume open-pit mining at the Damang Mine.

During the transition period, Goldfields will conduct feasibility studies to establish the mine’s reserves and mine life, while also processing existing stockpiles under the supervision of a joint management team composed of representatives from the Government of Ghana and Goldfields.

Job Security

The agreement ensures the safeguarding of jobs at the mine, providing stability for employees and contributing to the local economy.

The transitional arrangement also allows for the continued operation of the mine, generating revenue for the government and supporting Ghana’s economic growth.

Both parties have agreed to work

in good faith to secure a successful transition and eventual transfer of a viable mine to Ghanaian ownership.

Furthermore, the government and Goldfields have pledged to collaborate on enhancing Ghana’s potential in the mining sector as a favourable investment destination.

Discussions on the renewal of the lease for the Tarkwa mine, due in 2027, will also be advanced in good faith.

The agreement demonstrates the government’s commitment to developing the mining sector and promoting investment in the country.

By working together with Goldfields, the government aims to ensure a smooth transition and maximize the economic benefits of the mine’s operation.



>Captain James Richmond Quayson

Mahama Appoints Captain Richmond Quayson Director Of Takoradi Port

> Story by NADIA NTIAMOAH

In a move aimed at bolstering Ghana’s port operations, President John Dramani Mahama has appointed Captain James Richmond Quayson as the new Director of Takoradi Port.

This appointment comes as part of a broader agenda to reposition Ghana’s ports as key drivers of economic growth and regional maritime excellence.

Captain Quayson’s appointment is no surprise to stakeholders in the maritime industry, given his distinguished career spanning more than three decades.

With over 34 years of service in various maritime capacities, he brings a wealth of experience in port operations, maritime safety, strategic management, and labour development.

Until his appointment, he served as the General Manager, Special Duties, at the Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority (GPHA) Headquarters, where he played a pivotal role in coordinating stakeholder engagements, external assignments, and overseeing corporate maritime responsibilities.

He previously held key positions at both Tema and Takoradi Ports, notably serving as Harbour Master and Port Facility Security Officer (PFSO).

In these roles, he was instrumental in managing port operations and enforcing maritime safety and security protocols.

As a Marine Pilot, a role he assumed when he joined GPHA in 2006, he accumulated significant hands-on experience in vessel navigation, berthing operations, and pilotage training.

One of Captain Quayson’s notable leadership roles was chairing the Interim Committee tasked with operationalizing the Jamestown Fishing Harbour – a key infrastructure project intended to boost artisanal fishing and local economic development.

He is a past president of the Port Management Association of West and Central Africa’s (PMAWCA) Harbour Masters and PFSO’s Network.

He also played an influential role in the drafting and development of the National Integrated Maritime Strategy (NIMS), which seeks to create a cohesive framework for maritime governance in Ghana.

Additionally, he is an active member of the Marine Manpower Development Think Tank, which is championing the creation of a marine manpower bank to provide seafaring and maritime job opportunities to Ghanaian youth.



>Goldfields Damang mine



Tamale Teaching Hospital Doctors Go Wild On Health Minister

> Story by ISSAH OLEGOR

The Crisis at the Tamale Teaching Hospital (TTH) has deepened following the dramatic dismissal of its Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Adam Atiku, and the appointment of Dr. Abubakar Bawah Abdulai—an action that has sparked widespread condemnation from medical professionals and a partial shutdown of the hospital's services.

Doctors at the facility, under the umbrella of the Doctors' Association of Tamale Teaching Hospital (DATTH), have declared an indefinite suspension of emergency and outpatient services, citing interference, disrespect, and deteriorating working conditions.

In a press release dated April 23, 2025, DATTH announced the suspension and listed a set of urgent demands. "With immediate effect, all members of DATTH have proceeded on an indefinite suspension of all emergency and outpatient services," the statement read.

The group, however, assured that "inpatient care shall continue for our clients currently on admission until they are safely discharged."

The action follows what the doctors describe as public humiliation and interference by the Health Minister, Kwabena Mintah Akandoh, and Tamale North MP, Alhassan Suhuyini, during their visit to the hospital's Emergency Unit on April 22.

The incident reportedly culminated in the dismissal of CEO Dr. Atiku without due process, a

move the Ghana Medical Association (GMA) has harshly criticized.

GMA Condemns "Abuse of Power"

The Ghana Medical Association, in a strongly worded statement signed by its President, Dr. Frank Serebour, and General Secretary, Dr. Richard Selormey, described the minister's conduct as "an affront to due process and an abuse of power."

"The GMA strongly condemns the unfortunate treatment of the doctors at the Emergency Unit during the visit by the Minister of Health and the MP for Tamale North and the subsequent dismissal of the CEO of the Hospital," it said.

They added that the public critique of a patient's death at the facility by the Minister raised serious concerns about ethical breaches.

"The ill-informed media audit of the death of the patient raises serious issues of breach of patient confidentiality," the GMA warned.

According to the association, the head of the Emergency Unit has since been subjected to cyberbullying and threats.

"The head has already received threats and cyberbullying, putting him and other staff at risk of physical harm and psychological trauma," the GMA said, calling for accountability and staff protection.

DATTH's Demands

In addition to an apology from the

Health Minister and the MP, the doctors have outlined a long list of resource requirements. These include:

Reliable water and electricity supply

Consistent availability of oxygen and medical consumables

Essential diagnostic machines including MRI, CT scan, and mammography equipment

At least 16 ventilators across various intensive care units

Mobile x-ray and ABG machines

The association emphasized that these are not luxury demands but essential tools for saving lives.

"We shall resume provision of emergency and outpatient services after we receive appropriate apologies," the group declared.

New CEO Faces Backlash

The appointment of Dr. Abubakar Bawah Abdulai as the new CEO has not gone down well with a significant section of the hospital staff.

While some see his appointment as an opportunity, others are less optimistic.

"He is the head of the MRI department which is always down," one head of department said questioning the new CEO's capability.

Others allege that the dismissal of Dr. Atiku was politically motivated to pave the way for an NDC party loyalist.



>A Zipline drone delivering supplies

Government Engages Zipline To Maintain Medical Supplies

> Story from the NEWS DESK

IN THE wake of ongoing disruptions to USAID's supply chain, the Government of Ghana has partnered with Zipline, the world's largest autonomous logistics system, to ensure uninterrupted access to essential health commodities, without adding a cedi to government spending.

By leveraging Zipline's existing network of autonomous drone delivery hubs, the government is reaching more patients than ever before while eliminating duplicative expenses long incurred by USAID.

In response to the recent stop-work order and the extended review of all USAID-funded programs, Ghanaian health authorities have swiftly prioritised the delivery of critical medical supplies through Zipline's on-demand system.

This includes a specific focus on malaria testing and treatment, which is critical amid growing concerns about the impact of climate change, including excessive rainfall and changes in weather patterns, which exacerbate the spread of malaria.

Additionally included are medications for pain relief, cough, parasitic worms, and nutritional deficiencies. Each Zipline distribution hub is capable of hundreds of autonomous drone flights per day, providing the government with ample flexibility to absorb and deliver supplies currently sitting in warehouses across the country.

Zipline is supporting the delivery of these commodities across the Northeast, Northern, and Eastern Regions, with discussions underway to expand support to other parts of the country. Its rapid response to emerging needs across the health system enabled Zipline to scale deliveries at its various hubs by 20–50% in the last two months alone.

The partnership builds on the "Fly to Save a Life" project, launched by Vice President Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia in 2024, which aims to improve healthcare delivery, especially in hard-to-reach areas.

The project utilizes drones to operate 24 hours a day, throughout the week, from four distribution centers with each center equipped with 30 drones.

Rather than navigating complex supply planning or rerouting, Regional Medical Stores centralised more products with Zipline, allowing on-demand deliveries to any patient, anywhere. By leveraging this flexible capacity, the government has significantly increased distribution volumes at no additional cost, while enabling system-wide savings by eliminating redundant logistics.

Suhum MP Launches Campaign Against Opioid Crisis

> Story by DANIEL BAMPOE

IN A decisive move to confront the growing threat of drug abuse among young people in the Suhum Municipality, Member of Parliament for the area, Frank Asiedu Bekoe, popularly known as Protozoa, has officially launched a full-scale anti-opioid and substance abuse campaign.

The initiative, themed "Illicit Drug Use Among the Youth of Suhum Municipality: Our Collective Responsibility in Curbing the Menace," marks one of the most comprehensive community-driven responses to the opioid crisis in recent times.

The campaign, titled "Life, Not Poison: Opioid Abuse Not a Painkiller but a Killer," was officially unveiled on Tuesday, April 22, during a community conference in Suhum.

This launch follows months of groundwork laid during Frank Asiedu Bekoe's thank-you tour, which involved key engagements with traditional authorities, Muslim and Christian leaders, as well as opinion shapers in the municipality.

Opioid and substance abuse have become increasingly prevalent in Suhum, reflecting a broader national trend of rising drug dependency among Ghana's youth.

While national statistics remain



>Frank Asiedu Bekoe launching the anti opioid campaign

limited, anecdotal evidence and reports from healthcare professionals point to an alarming increase in the misuse of prescription opioids and illicit substances in the area.

Speaking at the launch event, Asiedu Bekoe described the situation as a "silent killer," stressing that the menace threatens not just individual lives but the future prosperity of the entire community.

"The youth are the lifeblood of our future. If we lose them to drugs, we lose everything. This campaign is about saving lives," he stated passionately.

The MP's initiative has been welcomed as a non-partisan, inclusive effort to tackle the drug crisis from multiple angles.

During his address, Bekoe announced the formation of a new

Opioid and Substance Abuse Committee, which will coordinate sensitization activities, rehabilitation support, and prevention strategies across the municipality.

The campaign event drew representatives from a wide range of sectors—including traditional councils, religious institutions, health professionals, assembly members, NGOs, security services, and private entities.

Their collective message was clear: the fight against substance abuse must transcend political, religious, and ethnic divisions.

The campaign rollout is expected to include school outreach programs, community forums, radio and television discussions, and the distribution of educational materials in local languages.

Ida Adjoa Asiedu - The First Female MP For Ayensuano

> Story by DANIEL BAMPOE

IN THE 2024 general elections, Ghana witnessed a significant milestone in the political history of the Ayensuano Constituency in the Eastern Region as Ida Adjoa Asiedu of the New Patriotic Party (NPP) emerged victorious, becoming the first female Member of Parliament (MP) for the area.

Her win is not just a personal achievement but a turning point for a constituency that has traditionally been under the control of male politicians and plagued with underdevelopment.

Ayensuano is a rural, agrarian constituency made up of more than 470 communities.

The area is heavily dependent on farming, with the majority of its residents being women. It faces numerous developmental challenges, including poor access roads, lack of proper schools, limited access to clean water, and underdeveloped healthcare systems.

Historically, the NPP has maintained strong influence in Ayensuano, until internal party conflicts led to the loss of the seat to the National Democratic Congress (NDC) in the 2020 elections. In that election, the then-incumbent MP, Samuel Ayeh-Paye of the NPP, lost the seat to Teddy Safori Addi of the NDC by a narrow margin of fewer than 200 votes.

Grassroots Connection

Ida Adjoa Asiedu, born on April 27, in Koforidua, holds a degree from Atlantic International University in the United States. A businesswoman by profession, she first ventured into politics in 2020 when she contested the NPP parliamentary primary but lost to then-incumbent Samuel Ayeh-Paye.

Following that defeat, she remained politically active and established her presence through philanthropic efforts under her

foundation, the Abadehema Project.

Through this initiative, she embarked on several community development activities such as reshaping deplorable roads using her personal tractor, providing support for women in agriculture, and creating job opportunities for the youth, among others.

Encouraged by grassroots support—especially from women who felt neglected by previous MPs—Ida contested the NPP primary again in 2024.

This time, she faced four male candidates and emerged victorious. Her campaign was unique and self-financed, grounded in strong community outreach rather than lofty promises. She consistently emphasized listening to the concerns of residents and working to address them, rather than making vague political pledges.

Ida's campaign resonated with the constituents, many of whom had grown disillusioned with the traditional political class. Chiefs, religious leaders, and even supporters of opposing parties welcomed her and pledged their support. Her authenticity and commitment to development earned her praise across the political divide.

2024 Campaign

The 2024 Presidential candidate, Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia and his running mate, Dr. Matthew Opoku Prempeh visited Ayensuano to campaign for her, further boosting her visibility.

In the December 7, 2024, parliamentary election, she won with 18,229 votes (50.26%) while the incumbent, Teddy Safori Addi of the NDC, received 17,182 votes.

Despite the NPP's loss in the presidential election, her individual victory was seen as a significant boost for the party in the Eastern Region. Other candidates, such as Abrokwa



>Ida interacting with some youth of Otomfo



>Ida receiving a citation from the Speaker



>Ida in a pose with the chiefs of Dokorchiwa



>Ida being mobbed by some children on her tour

Sintim and Learned Obiri, received 722 and 140 votes respectively.

Following her win, Ida Adjoa Asiedu has commenced a comprehensive "Thank You" tour across the constituency, which is the first of its kind visiting churches, palaces, and community centers.

She acknowledged the support of constituents and pledged to remain accessible and accountable.

The residents praised her for being the first MP to formally thank them after an election—an act they said was unprecedented in the history of the constituency.

Even before officially taking office, Ida Adjoa Asiedu had already contributed to the constituency's development.

She began constructing a tissue factory intended to provide employment opportunities for local youth. Her visible contributions prior to her election helped build trust and admiration among voters.

The Chiefs and community leaders commended her efforts and called on her to prioritize infrastructural development during her term. Though her party is not in power nationally, Ida has committed to utilizing her MP's Common Fund to address pressing community issues.

In various public engagements, she reiterated that her mission is to serve all constituents regardless of political affiliation and to push for the development Ayensuano deserves.

Ayensuano Yaa Asantewaa

Ida Adjoa Asiedu's ascent to the political pinnacle has also had a profound impact on women and girls in the constituency. She has become a symbol of hope, inspiring many to believe that leadership roles are not exclusive to men. Affectionately called "Ida" by both adults and children, she has earned the nickname "Yaa Asantewaa of Ayensuano" for her

bravery and commitment. Some families have even named their children after her.

Beyond her local influence, she is a staunch advocate for gender equality and supports the Affirmative Action Bill aimed at increasing female participation in governance.

In Parliament, she serves on the Defence and Interior Committee as a member.

Ida Adjoa Asiedu's election to Parliament marks a new chapter for Ayensuano. Her grassroots approach, dedication to community development, and barrier-breaking role as the first female MP in the constituency represent a new era of inclusive and people-centered leadership.

Her tenure promises to challenge the status quo and address long-standing developmental gaps in one of Ghana's most deprived constituencies.

From Selling Kenkey To Becoming Police Commissioner - ACP Sarpong Story

> Story by GRACE ZIGAH

ACP Kofi Sarpong, a respected police officer and gospel musician, has shared his inspiring story of overcoming adversity to achieve success.

Growing up, Sarpong faced significant challenges, including poverty and dropping out of school multiple times due to unpaid fees.

However, he refused to let his circumstances define him and instead found a way to support himself by selling kenkey.

The Struggles

ACP Sarpong began selling kenkey at the age of 13 to help fund his education.

He would prepare and sell kenkey at lorry parks and stations, often facing embarrassment and shame when he encountered his peers.

Despite the challenges, he persevered, balancing his kenkey business with school.

He would sell in the mornings before heading to class, often arriving late and facing punishment.

Turning Point

ACP Sarpong's hard work and determination paid off when he earned enough money from selling kenkey to continue his education at Bereku Senior High School.

He later joined the Ghana Police Service and worked his way up to the rank of Assistant Commissioner.

Today, he is a respected police officer, gospel musician, and fashion entrepreneur.

A Message of Hope

He encourages young people

not to let their circumstances define their future, saying, "God has purpose and plans for everyone. Never let your present situation weigh you down. Keep pushing. Never be despaired. Move on."

When asked if he plans to venture into the kenkey business again, Sarpong laughed and said, "One should not be surprised if you hear Kofi Sarpong Kenkey House."

"While it's unclear if he'll follow through on this idea, it's clear that Sarpong's experience selling kenkey has had a lasting impact on his life.



>ACP Kofi Sarpong



> Justice Gertrude Torkornoo

> Story by DANIEL BAMPOE

THE GHANA Bar Association (GBA) has issued a carefully worded but firm statement on the ongoing constitutional process to remove the Chief Justice of the Republic, Justice Gertrude Torkornoo urging all parties involved to adhere strictly to the rule of law and constitutional procedure.

This comes in the wake of increasing public debate and legal actions surrounding the suspension of the Chief Justice by President John Mahama.

The GBA's intervention follows weeks of mounting tension over the fate of the country's top judicial officer.

As of March 27, 2025, the Association had confirmed that three separate petitions seeking the Chief Justice's removal had been

GBA Cautions Against Political Tricks In Chief Justice Removal Saga

submitted.

In parallel, two legal suits were also filed at the Supreme Court, challenging the legitimacy of the removal procedure and seeking injunctions to halt the process.

Citing Articles 146 (6) to (10) of the 1992 Constitution, the GBA clarified that the removal of a sitting Chief Justice must follow a very specific process.

According to the Constitution, once a petition is filed, the President, in consultation with the Council of State, is required to appoint a five-member committee—comprising two Justices of the Supreme Court (one of whom chairs the committee), and three non-lawyers who are not members of Parliament or the Council of State.

This committee is then tasked with investigating the petition and making a recommendation on whether the Chief Justice should be removed.

The Constitution further states that the committee's sittings must be held in camera, and that the President, upon advice from the Council of State, may suspend the Chief Justice while investigations are underway.

It is this constitutional clause that formed the basis for the President's recent decision to suspend the Chief Justice—a move that has sharply divided legal and political commentators.

In its statement dated April 24, 2025, the

GBA acknowledged that the matter is now sub judice but underscored the importance of respecting constitutional norms and upholding the rule of law.

The Association emphasized that every individual involved in the process—regardless of the scale of their role—must act with fairness, impartiality, and in accordance with Article 296 of the Constitution, which governs the exercise of discretionary power.

"Justice emanates from the good people of Ghana and is administered by the Judiciary headed by the Chief Justice," the

GBA stressed, adding that any action which undermines judicial independence risks weakening public confidence in the country's democratic institutions.

Though the GBA stopped short of directly criticizing the President's decision, the tone of the statement appeared to caution against any politically motivated attempt to undermine the judiciary.

The Bar reaffirmed its mandate to act as the guardian of the justice delivery system, pledging to continue serving as the "voice of the voiceless" and to defend the Constitution.



> Major General Lawrence Kwaku Gbetanu, addressing the media in Bawku

Military Warns Bawku Militants

> Story by ISSAH OLEGOR

THE GHANA Armed Forces (GAF) has issued a strong warning to individuals or groups perpetuating violence in Bawku, declaring that any attack on military personnel or civilians will be met with "full and deliberate strength."

The warning comes amidst continued unrest in the Upper East regional town, which has long been plagued by intermittent ethnic and chieftaincy-related clashes.

During a press briefing following his recent working visit to Bawku, the Chief of Army Staff, Major General Lawrence Kwaku Gbetanu, emphasized the military's uncompromising position in ensuring peace and stability in the conflict-ridden area.

"I want to assure the people of Bawku and the entire nation that the Ghana Armed Forces is committed to its responsibility of protecting lives and properties," Major General Gbetanu said.

"We will not relent in our efforts to create an environment of peace and security."

He issued a direct caution to those responsible for the recurrent violence, stating, "Let me however serve a word of caution to all, especially those fomenting the trouble in Bawku, that their days are getting numbered."

"Any attack on innocent civilians or any military personnel will be considered as an accident of extremism and will be met with the deliberate full strength and resolve of our forces."

Bawku has experienced a series of violent clashes over the years, often rooted in complex ethnic rivalries and contested claims to traditional authority.

These conflicts have led to multiple fatalities, displacement of residents, and destruction of property, prompting a consistent military presence as part of efforts to stabilize the area.

As part of his visit, Major General Gbetanu reaffirmed the Armed Forces' commitment to working with local authorities and traditional leaders to find a sustainable resolution.

"The military is ready to collaborate with all stakeholders," he said, adding that peace in Bawku is "a shared responsibility."

The Chief of Army Staff was accompanied by key military figures including Brigadier General Frank Nartey Tei, General Officer Commanding the Northern Command; Colonel Emmanuel Larbi Gyadu, Director of Operations of the Ghana Armed Forces; Colonel Rosslyn Foli Atiogbe, Commander of the Bawku Taskforce; and Lieutenant Colonel Kara Sau-Antwi, Commander Rear of the 11 Mechanized Battalion.

In response to the army's call for collaboration, the Bawku Naba, Asigri Abugrago Azoka II, pledged the support of the Bawku Traditional Council towards restoring peace.

"We urge the military to be professional in the discharge of their lawful duties, and you have our full cooperation," the traditional leader stated.

The Ghana Armed Forces also urged residents to desist from acts that incite violence and instead support peace-building efforts.

The Army reiterated that while their mission is to protect lives, they will not hesitate to act decisively against aggressors.

Former Spy Chief Adu Boahene, Wife Sue A-G Over Land Dispute

> Story by ISSAH OLEGOR

IN A dramatic legal twist that deepens the controversies surrounding a former national security chief already under criminal investigation, a fresh civil lawsuit has emerged from the High Court in Accra involving Kwabena Adu-Boahene and his wife, Angela Adjei-Boateng, who are now suing the Attorney General and Minister of Justice over a disputed property.

Adu-Boahene, a former Director-General of the National Signals Bureau (NSB), and his spouse Angela Adjei-Boateng have initiated legal proceedings against Dr. Dominic Akuritinga Ayine, the Attorney General, accusing him of wrongful claim and encroachment on a property located at Mayfair Gardens Estates in East Airport, Accra.

The property is registered under the names of the plaintiffs.

A writ of summons served on Dr. Ayine, who resides at House No. C60E/23, First Close, Lily Street, East Legon, directs him to enter an appearance within eight days or risk judgment being entered in default.

This legal action arrives on the heels of intense public scrutiny of Adu-Boahene, who only recently secured bail after enduring weeks in custody under stringent conditions.

Alongside his wife, he is the subject of a high-level investigation by the Economic and Organised Crime Office (EOCO) for allegedly causing financial loss to the state during his tenure at the NSB — an agency previously known as the Bureau of National Communications and operating directly under the Office of the President.

Earlier this month, the couple was released following a High Court decision to



> Kwabena Adu Boahene

revise their controversial police inquiry bail terms. Originally, Adu-Boahene's bail was set at GH¢120 million with two sureties — one required to justify their worth. Angela Adjei-Boateng's bail stood at GH¢80 million with similar conditions.

Their legal counsel, Samuel Atta Akyea, succeeded in getting the terms relaxed by Justice Ruby Aryeetey, leading to their eventual release.

The new civil suit, however, adds a layer of complexity to their already delicate legal standing.

Details about the nature of the land dispute remain limited, but insiders suggest the plaintiffs are asserting legal ownership over the Mayfair Gardens property and accusing Dr. Ayine of either trespass or disputing their title.

With a criminal case and a civil land battle now unfolding simultaneously, legal analysts say the coming months could prove pivotal for the couple — and politically sensitive for Dr. Ayine, who has yet to comment publicly on the lawsuit.

sports



Saudi Giants Al Nassr Offer £100m For West Ham's Mohammed Kudus

> Story by ISSAH OLEGOR

WEST HAM United's Ghanaian star Mohammed Kudus has become the top target for Saudi giants Al Nassr, who are reportedly preparing a massive £100 million bid for the 24-year-old this summer.

According to reports, Al Nassr already made an attempt to sign Kudus in January and are ready to return with a new offer.

Kudus has impressed in his debut Premier League season, featuring in 27 matches with three goals and two assists. His skill, versatility, and work rate have quickly made him one of West Ham's standout performers.

The Ghanaian midfielder's impressive form has caught the attention of several top clubs, but Al Nassr are reportedly keen on securing his signature.

Kudus' contract includes a £120 million release clause that applies only to Saudi clubs between July 1 and 10.

However, Al Nassr believe West Ham could accept a fee lower than this amount.

The Saudi side is also aware of the £85 million release clause set for Premier League sides, but they are optimistic about securing Kudus' signature.

Al Nassr's interest in Kudus is no surprise, given his impressive form and versatility on the pitch.

The Saudi side has been monitoring Kudus' progress and is keen on securing his services.

While it's still unclear if Kudus would accept a move to the Middle East, Al Nassr are reportedly confident about securing his signature.

Other Targets

In addition to Kudus, Al Nassr are also monitoring Ghanaian striker Antoine Semenyo.

However, Kudus remains their priority, and they are willing to make a significant offer to secure his services.

The potential move would be a significant coup for Al Nassr, who are looking to strengthen their squad with top talent.



>The Ghanaian team celebrating their victory

Ghana Secures First Win At African Schools Football Tourney

> Story by NADIA NTIAMOAH

THE GHANAIAN team got off to a winning start at the African Schools Football Championship 2025, thanks to a brilliant performance from John Andor.

The left winger scored a brace, securing a 2-0 win for Ghana against Uganda at the University of Ghana Stadium.

Brilliant Display

Andor opened the scoring just three minutes into the game, showcasing his impressive skills with a solo run and a finish at the near post.

He doubled Ghana's lead after the restart, scoring from a rebound after Rockson Adjei's initial effort was saved by the Ugandan goalkeeper.

Andor's second goal made him the first player to hit a brace in the competition.

Ghana controlled the tempo of the

game, holding their nerves and dictating the pace of play.

Although Uganda threatened little, Ghana created several chances to add to their goals, but were unable to take their opportunities.

Emmanuel Drah's brilliant run down the right flank almost yielded a goal, but his shot was tipped onto the post by the Ugandan goalkeeper.

What's Next

Ghana's next challenge is a match against South Africa followed by a game against Algeria.

With their first win under their belt, Ghana will look to build on their momentum and make a strong impression in the tournament.

The African Schools Football Championship 2025 promises to be an exciting tournament, with several talented teams vying for the top prize.



>The winning team with the MP

Atiwa East MP Holds 2025 Easter Gala Tournament

> Story by DANIEL BAMPOE

THE MEMBER of Parliament for Atiwa East in the Eastern Region, Abena Osei-Asare, brought the 2025 Easter celebrations to a vibrant close with a spirited football gala that united communities across the constituency in a display of sportsmanship, culture, and community pride.

Held on Easter Monday, the grand finale of the annual Easter Gala Tournament drew scores of spectators and dignitaries, transforming the festive event into more than just a football contest.

Among the distinguished guests were the Chief of Anyinam, the Deputy Director of Protocol at the NPP national headquarters, the Eastern Regional Youth Organizer, and the District Minister of Anyinam Presbyterian Church.

Their presence underscored the significance of the event in the socio-political life of the constituency.

After the match, the MP expressed heartfelt gratitude to all who contributed to the success of the tournament.

"The Easter Gala has truly strengthened the love and harmony within our constituency," she remarked, highlighting the unifying power of sports in promoting peace and development.

The fiercely contested games saw Moseaso football team emerging as champions, after an impressive performance throughout the tournament.

Kwakwaduam team came in second,

followed by Anyinam and Sekyere teams in third and fourth places respectively.

In addition to team accolades, individual excellence was also honoured.

Kenneth Dankwa from the Moseaso team was named Best Goalkeeper.

Isaac Appiah, also of Moseaso, took home the Best Coach award.

Asante Isaac from the Kwakwaduam team earned the Best Player title.

The Joint Top Scorers award was shared by Emmanuel Asamoah and Ebenezer Darko, both standout talents from the Kwakwaduam side.

To reward their efforts and encourage continued participation in community sporting activities, cash prizes, jerseys, footballs, and medals were presented to the top four teams, with special recognition for the first and second-place winners.

The 2025 Easter Gala, now a staple of the Atiwa East calendar, is part of Abena Osei-Asare's broader efforts to promote youth development, communal harmony, and grassroots engagement.

In previous years, the tournament has been praised for helping bridge divides among local communities while offering a platform for young talent to be showcased.

"This event is more than just football—it's about investing in the next generation, fostering unity, and celebrating the spirit of community," the MP emphasized.

Cristiano Ronaldo's £171m Lucrative New Deal With Al-Nassr

> Story by GRACE ZIGAH

PORTUGUESE SUPERSTAR Cristiano Ronaldo is set to receive a massive pay rise after agreeing to a new deal with Saudi Pro League club Al-Nassr.

The 40-year-old's current contract with the Saudi club is set to expire on June 30, 2025, but he has already agreed to terms on a new two-year deal worth £171 million.

Numbers Behind the Deal

According to reports, Ronaldo will earn a staggering £5.45 (GHC111.64) per second, £327 (GHC6,698.51) per minute, and £19,600 per hour.

His annual salary will be £171.5 million, with a monthly salary of £14.289 million and a weekly salary of £3.298 million.

The deal also includes a daily salary of £471,000.

Second Year

The second year of the deal is reportedly a team option, but it's clear that Al-Nassr is committed to keeping Ronaldo on board.

The Portuguese star has been in impressive form for the Saudi club,



>Cristiano Ronaldo

scoring 32 goals and providing four assists in 36 games in all competitions this season.

Ronaldo is expected to play out the upcoming season and potentially participate in the 2026 FIFA World Cup in the USA, Mexico, and Canada.

This would be the sixth World Cup of his career, and he's clearly looking to continue performing at the highest level.

Ronaldo's new deal with Al-Nassr is a testament to his enduring talent and dedication to the sport.

entertainment



Napo Responds To Comedian OB Amponsah's Jokes



>OB Amponsah

> Story by DANIEL BAMPOE

DR. MATTHEW Opoku Prempeh, popularly known as "Napo," has broken his silence over viral jokes made about him by comedian OB Amponsah.

During a performance at the Bukom Boxing Arena, OB Amponsah humorously addressed Napo, highlighting his remarks during the 2024 election campaign.

Napo's comments, particularly his comparison of President Akufo-Addo's achievements to those of Ghana's first President, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, sparked public debate and became a highlight of OB's commentary.

Napo acknowledged the use of his name in OB's stand-up performance, saying, "If somebody who is a comedian is using my name and he is filling halls, I am very happy. I thank him because he is putting my name out there for free."

However, he jokingly added that he would like to share in the financial rewards, stating, "But I will let my lawyers write to him so that we share the proceeds, the revenue, because I am unemployed."

Controversial Statement

During his unveiling as the running mate in Kumasi on July 9, 2024, Napo said that no president, including Dr. Nkrumah, has developed Ghana like President Akufo-Addo.

This statement sparked widespread reactions, with many social media users expressing outrage and disbelief.

Despite the controversy, Napo remains committed to his role and has dismissed speculation that he is positioning himself for a future presidential bid.

Speaking to journalists on the sidelines of a party engagement in Accra, Napo said, "Me personally, I am not running in 2028."

He emphasized that ensuring the unity of the party is paramount and that he is committed to seeing that through.



>Dr. Matthew Opoku Prempeh

GTA Drags Accra Hotel To Police For Allowing Minors

> Story by ISSAH OLEGOR

THE GHANA Tourism Authority (GTA) has taken decisive action following reports circulating on social media regarding an alleged incident involving minors taken to a hotel in Accra New Town.

According to a statement issued by the GTA, the case has been formally reported to the Nima Division of the Ghana Police Service for investigation.

The GTA's CEO, Maame Efuah Houadjeto, delegated a team to visit the facility and verify the facts on the ground.

The team, which included Deputy CEOs Gilbert Abeiku Aggrey and Ekow Sampson, along with the Greater Accra Regional Director, Roberta Dawson-Amoah, and the Deputy Director of Marketing, Clara Nketiah, worked in collaboration with the Ghana Police Service to investigate the matter.

During the visit, the team also inspected Royal Dede Beach Resort, which had been converted into a hostel under new management without official notification to the GTA.

The inspection revealed that the hostel's operations were not in compliance with the Tourism (Registration and Licensing of Accommodation) Regulations, 2016 (L.I. 2239).

The operator has been directed to the Standards and Quality Assurance Department of the Authority for necessary regulation.

The GTA has reiterated its commitment to safeguarding the public and upholding the highest standards in the hospitality sector.

The Authority reminds all accommodation operators that registration and licensing are mandatory before commencing operations.

The public is urged to report suspicious or non-compliant facilities to the nearest GTA office.

KOD Appoints Wife Creative Director Of Nineteen57

> Story by GRACE ZIGAH

IN A significant move within Ghana's fashion and public service spheres, celebrated broadcaster and fashion entrepreneur Kofi Okyere-Darko, popularly known as KOD, has officially handed over the creative reins of his iconic menswear label, Nineteen57, to his wife and acclaimed fashion designer, Ophelia Crossland.

The transition comes as KOD assumes a new national assignment as the Director of Diaspora Affairs at the Office of the President—a position that places him at the forefront of Ghana's efforts to connect with its diaspora community worldwide.

With this new chapter in public service, KOD has entrusted Nineteen57—his brainchild brand known for championing African sophistication in menswear—to his wife, Ophelia Crossland, who is a leading figure in Ghana's luxury fashion scene.

In her new position, Ophelia will

oversee both the day-to-day management and creative direction of Nineteen57.

Her leadership is anticipated to usher in a refreshing era for the brand, blending its signature bold African style with contemporary elegance for the modern gentleman.

"Nineteen57 has always stood for bold sophistication and African excellence," Ophelia said in a statement. "I'm excited to build on that legacy and explore new creative horizons with the team."

KOD, a longtime style influencer and cultural tastemaker, launched Nineteen57 with a vision to redefine African menswear. Under his stewardship, the brand became synonymous with premium craftsmanship, modern African identity, and sartorial pride. With his departure into government service, this handover represents both a personal and professional milestone for the couple.



>Ophelia Crossland



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