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Nkoko Nkitinkiti: An Underrated Programme with Great Potential

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National Anthem

God bless our homeland Ghana,
And make our nation great and strong,
Bold to defend for ever,
The cause of Freedom and of Right.
Fill our hearts with true humility
Make us cherish fearless honesty,
And help us to resist oppressor's rule
With all our will and might for evermore.

Hail to thy name, O Ghana,
To thee we make our solemn vow:
Steadfast to build together
A nation strong in Unity;
With our gifts of mind and strength of arm,
Whether night or day, in mist or storm,
In every need what'er the call may be,
To serve thee, Ghana, now and evermore.

Raise high the flag of Ghana
And one with Africa advance;
Black star of hope and honour,
To all who thirst for liberty;
Where the banner of Ghana freely flies,
May the way of freedom truly lie
Arise, arise, O sons of Ghanaland,
And under God march on for evermore.

National Pledge

I promise on my honour to be faithful and
loyal to Ghana my Motherland.

I pledge myself to the service of Ghana,
with all my strength and with all my heart.

I promise to hold in high esteem our
heritage, won for us through the blood and
toil of our fathers; and I pledge myself in all
things to uphold and defend the good name
of Ghana.

So help me God.

Colophon

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Nkoko Nkitinkiti: An Underrated Programme with Great Potential

By: Bala Ali



THE Nkoko Nkitinkiti literally known as the Little Birds programme attracted public ridicule when President John Dramani Mahama and the National Democratic Congress (NDC) first mentioned it during the party's 2022 presidential primaries. Some citizens brought it up in the 2024 election campaign, comparing it with the Free Senior High School (SHS) education policy, seeking to undermine it.

Regardless, the Mahama-led government decided to implement it upon winning the 2024 elections, as the initiative was launched on November 12, 2025. According to the President, the Nkoko Nkitinkiti scheme is a part of the Poultry Industry Revitalisation Programme, a flagship component of the broader Feed Ghana Programme.

The initiative is designed to bring poultry production directly to the doorsteps of the citizens, including homes, schools and communities across the country. Under the scheme, vulnerable households will receive pullets and starter packs to start production, aiming to transform subsistence into self-sustaining livelihoods.

According to the President, the government intends to distribute three million birds across all 276 constituencies, allocating 10,000 birds to each constituency. With this, 60,000 households are expected to benefit from this project. Each household is expected to receive 50 birds, field support and technical guidance.

The programme may appear less important, but a deeper assessment reveals it as a policy with enormous socio-economic benefits for citizens

and the nation as a whole. This article looks at the potential of the Nkoko Nkitinkiti programme. In a country where unemployment is a major problem, the Nkoko Nkitinkiti scheme will go a long way to boost the government's agenda to create jobs and address the downturn that has been bedevilling the youth. This will, in turn, address the problem of rural-urban migration, since the programme will be largely implemented in rural areas. In effect, the concomitant consequences of the twin problem of unemployment and rural-urban migration in urban communities, like congestion, poor sanitation, armed robbery and prostitution, will also be minimised if not eliminated.

Allied to job creation is the income-generating potential of the Nkoko Nkitinkiti scheme. Through the programme, the beneficiary households and individuals will earn income from the sale of eggs and other poultry products. This will improve their living conditions and general well-being.

The Nkoko Nkitinkiti initiative will boost poultry production in the country and increase food

security. This will make protein-rich foods accessible to many citizens, enhancing nutrition and health outcomes.

Effective implementation of the programme can result in a drastic reduction in import dependency. Thus, the production of more poultry products through the Nkoko Nkitinkiti initiative can reduce the country's reliance on poultry imports. This can conserve foreign exchange, stabilise the currency and promote self-sufficiency.

The potential of the Nkoko Nkitinkiti programme in promoting national development is enormous. The government and the citizens should therefore play their respective roles to make it successful. In view of this, the government should ensure access to quality breeding stock, feed, and veterinary services. An effective ready market, adequate training and extension services should also be provided, and beneficiaries should also demonstrate a high sense of responsibility and nationalism.



Celebrating The Cedi @60 with a Renewed Sense of Commitment: A Call to keep the Currency Stable and Valuable

By: Bala Ali



THE cedi, the country's legal tender, recently hit 60 years following its introduction on July 19, 1965. Under the theme, "60 Years of the Cedi: A Symbol of Sovereignty, Stability, and Economic Resilience," The Bank of Ghana outlined a catalogue of events to commemorate the golden jubilee of the currency. As the nation celebrates this golden jubilee, it is important to reflect on the cedi's journey and its role in the economy. This calls for celebrating it with a renewed sense of attitude and commitment to make it valuable on the currency market.

As part of efforts to preserve its value and

maintain it as a symbol of national pride, the cedi has undergone significant reforms, redesigns and policy evolutions over the years. For instance, the cedi was redenominated in 2007 by striking out four zeros from the old cedi. This move was intended to simplify transactions, reduce the cost of printing and managing the currency and restore public confidence. The redenomination exercise restored equivalence between the cedi and major international currencies, such as the pound and dollar.

The cedi has a history of lows and highs. At one point, it is touted as the best-performing

currency in the world and at another, the worst-performing legal tender. For instance, between 2016 and 2021, the cedi's performance improved. In the last quarter of 2022, however, Bloomberg claimed it was the worst-performing currency among Africa's top currencies.

A strong currency propels economic growth and positively impacts the livelihoods of the citizens. For instance, it enables consumers to purchase more goods from foreign markets at a lower price – it increases the purchasing power of the citizens. This promotes high standards of living as it enables the citizens to afford a wide range of products and services that are crucial to their well-being.

Therefore, for the welfare of Ghanaians, the government and the citizens must play their respective roles to ensure the continued stability and growth of the cedi. It is against this backdrop that this article seeks to exhort the Caesar of Ghana and the citizens to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the cedi with a renewed sense of commitment.

In doing so, the government has to, among other measures, ensure fiscal discipline. This calls for promoting prudent fiscal policies to reduce public debt and promote economic growth. Characterised by responsible tax policies, predictable government spending and a transparent public debt management strategy, fiscal discipline will contribute to a positive investment climate and reduce the risk of inflation and currency devaluation.

Setting the tone for an export-led economy will also go a long way to strengthen the cedi. The government is hereby called upon to create a conducive environment for industries to be created. This will result in the production of more goods for export to earn the country more foreign exchange.

An equally important phenomenon that can promote the health of the country's legal tender is adequate social infrastructure and amenities. Availability of adequate roads, railways, markets and electricity will boost social and economic activities. For instance, good roads and railways will boost trading activities. A

constant power supply, on the other hand, will promote industrial activities. To ensure this, the government should consider expanding and upgrading social infrastructure.

The role of the citizens in promoting the stability and growth of the cedi is equally important. They are expected to handle the banknotes with care to protect them against defacing. Handling the notes with care prolongs their lifespan and reduces the tendency of frequent replacement, which comes with a huge cost to the state. This saves the government money and resources. The citizens should therefore be educated and encouraged to handle the banknotes gently, store them in clean and dry places and desist from excessively folding and creasing them.

They should also cultivate a culture of consuming locally produced goods. This will stimulate the production of more goods and promote industrial activities. This will earn the country more foreign exchange, which is paramount in strengthening the cedi.

Certain pitfalls also need to be avoided by citizens and the government as part of efforts to promote the cedi's stability. Dollarisation – the culture of using foreign currencies to transact business should be eschewed. This will encourage confidence in the cedi, which is crucial for its appreciation.

Speculative trading, the act of buying and selling currencies with the sole aim of making profits, must also be eschewed. This act has greatly contributed to the cedi's volatility, a phenomenon that affects trade and investment decisions. The government should adopt measures to address this illegality in the foreign exchange market.

A stronger cedi makes a stronger Ghana, and a stronger nation makes stronger citizens. So, the citizens' commitment to strengthening the cedi is non-negotiable.



Electronic transfers: Government new policy to enhance transparency and accountability in the public sector

By: Abigail Amankwaa Amoako Boateng



IN a decisive move to enhance good governance and rebuild public trust in the governance system, the Government of Ghana has introduced a comprehensive policy mandating electronic transfers within the public sector. This initiative aims not only to modernize the financial system but also to improve transparency and accountability in the management of public funds. As the nation navigates the complexities of digital transformation, this policy is set to redefine the landscape of public administration in Ghana.

A Vision for Change

The introduction of electronic transfers in the public sector transactions aligns with the government's broader vision of modernizing its financial systems. Conservative ways of transacting money are usually associated with lengthy procedures that are subject to human mistakes and fraud. The government tries to

simplify these operations by moving to the electronic transfer, making financial transactions more transparent and safer.

Key Features of the Policy

Mandatory Electronic Transfers: One of the main components of the new policy is the mandatory implementation within all electronic transfers of all the public sector institutions. This involves the payment of salaries, suppliers and grants. Though this measure, the government is aiming to reduce the risks associated with the handling of physical money.

Real-Time Monitoring: The policy provides the introduction of a real-time monitoring system that would enable citizens and oversight bodies to monitor the public spending almost instantaneously. This aspect aims at availing relevant information about the financial situation to the stakeholders to create an atmosphere of accountability.

Auditable Processes: All electronic transfers will be recorded in detailed electronic audit trail. This implies that every transaction could be tracked and audited and this greatly minimized chances of corruption and fraud. The integrity of public finances will be enhanced as the auditors will be able to access financial records more easily.

User-Friendly Platforms: Electronic Transfer: The government will invest in electronic transfer by investing in the provision of user-friendly digital platforms. Such platforms will be open to the employees of the public sector and the vendors as well, and this will make the shift to electronic payments an easy and efficient one.

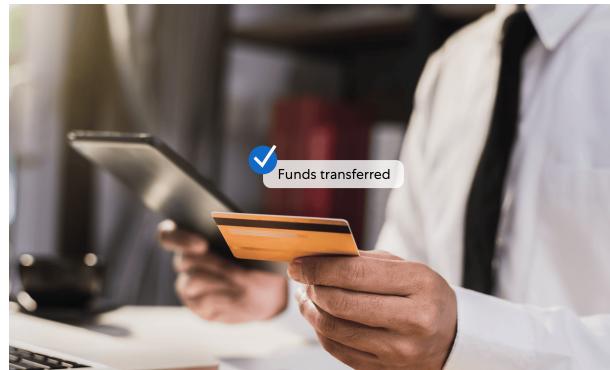
Citizen Engagement: Recognizing the importance of public trust, the government will also engage citizens in the implementation process. Organising sensitization educational programs, and creating feedback mechanisms which would also inform citizens about the benefits and functions of the new system.

Benefits of the Policy

Increased Efficiency: The new electronic transfer policy promises to significantly reduce the time taken for transactions, from days or weeks to mere hours. This efficiency will not only benefit government agencies but also enhance the experience for vendors and contractors who often wait long periods for payments.

Reduction in Corruption: By making financial transactions more transparent, the likelihood of corrupt practices diminishes. The digital audit trails will deter officials from engaging in fraudulent activities, as the chances of being caught increase with rigorous scrutiny.

Improved Public Trust: A healthy democracy is dependent on an empowered citizenry. The government expects to improve the level of trust that people have by increasing transparency in its financial transactions. It will enable the citizens to feel more educated about the responsibility with which their tax is spent.



Cost Savings: The shift to electronic transfers will lead to high cost saving to the government. It is expected that the outcome of the implementation of this advanced system will reduce paperwork, a decrease in administrative errors, and reduction in logistical costs.

Challenges

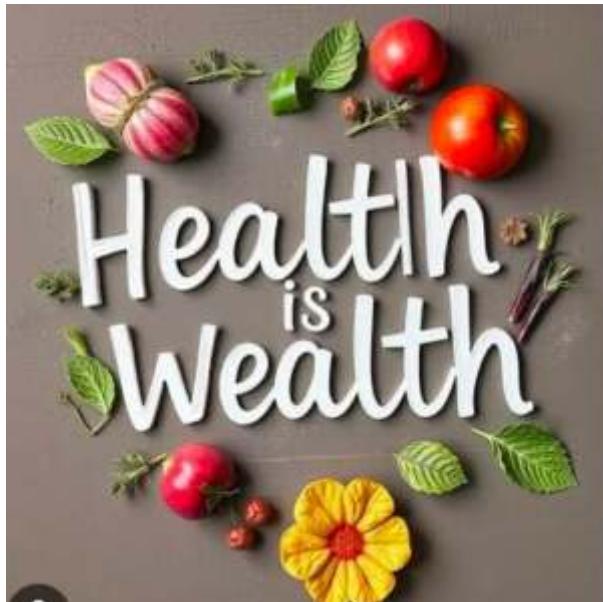
Despite the enormous potential benefits, the rollout of the electronic transfer policy is not without challenges. Technical difficulties, resistance to change within government agencies, and ensuring cybersecurity will be critical hurdles that need to be addressed. Comprehensive training programs for employees and ongoing technical support will be essential to ensure the policy's success.

Conclusion

The new policy of the government on the introduction of electronic transfer is one of the bold approaches to modernizing the public sector. This initiative will transform the financial environment of the public administration as it is going to be based on transparency and accountability. It is important that all the stakeholders, namely the government, technology suppliers and citizens work together to ensure that this vision becomes a successful reality in the future. By making such a promise of a bright future not only does the government improve its working integrity, but also builds greater foundations of democracy, making the citizenry more involved and knowledgeable.

Good Health is Wealth

By: Abigail Amankwaa Amoako Boateng



Good health is wealth is an adage that rings more than ever before in the fast-paced world we live in today. This statement is the basis of the theory that physical and mental health is the cornerstone on which all other successes in life are founded. Although money is generally regarded as a measure of success, it is our health, which defines the life quality and our lifespan.

Redefining Wealth

Conventionally, the concept of wealth has been synonymous with material wealth in terms of money, property, and other material possessions. Although these factors are no doubt helpful in providing comfort and security, it cannot match the precious gift of health. The issues of money can be solved or addressed; however, health problems may dramatically reduce one's chances of living a full life. A healthy person can follow his or her passions, career objectives and build relationships, but at the same time impaired health may spoil even the most ambitious plans.

Impact on Productivity

Good health is directly proportional to

productivity. People who are more concerned with their physical and mental health tend to have better concentration, creativity, and strength. The working environment will be healthy because absenteeism caused by sickness will decrease and morale will be boosted. Employee wellness programs are associated with increased job satisfaction, reduced turnover, and an increase in the overall success of the company. The World Health organization estimates that, every dollar spent on health yields four dollars in improved health and productivity. This fact shows that it is worth investing in our health in the long term, not only to ourselves but also to the entire society.

The Pillars of Good Health

To build a foundation of health that supports wealth, we must focus on several key areas:

Nutrition: The Fuel for Life

Proper nutrition is the key to good health. The adage that you are what you eat pushes the need to maintain nutritious food intake to power our bodies and keep diseases off. Eating whole foods in the form of fruits, vegetables, low-fat proteins, and whole grains, are sources of vital nutrition that aid in the functioning of the body.

Workout: Moving Towards Wellness.

Exercising can be considered crucial both in physical health and mental and emotional well-being. Exercise also releases endorphins, which are also referred to as the feel-good hormones, and this may help relieve stress and elevate a person. As fitness expert Jane Fonda noted, "It's never too late to start over. If you weren't happy yesterday, try something different today." In case you were unhappy yesterday, you ought to do it today. It can be a brisk stroll, a yoga session, or a sports session with the team, but it is necessary to find an option to add movement to everyday life. Exercise will make the body strong, enhance immunity, and increase the quality of sleep, and these are all essential aspects of staying

healthy.

Sleep: The sleeping Power of the Body.

Sleep is a foundation of good health, and in our busy lives, it is one of the things that are overlooked. Sleep is beneficial in recovery of the body, reasoning as well as emotional stability. Several severe health problems such as obesity, heart disease and depression are all potential outcomes of chronic sleep deprivation. Before starting any treatment, it is essential to focus on the appropriate sleep hygiene, that is, bedtime schedule, cozy atmosphere, and reduced screen time, which may significantly improve the well-being.

The Mental aspect of health

Managing Stress

Physical health is connected closely with mental health. When stress is not controlled it may cause health complications. Techniques such as mindfulness, meditation, and deep-breathing exercises can significantly aid in managing stress levels. Also, activities such as reading journals and engaging in hobbies are important means of expressing emotions. Through the growth of our psychological health, we develop resilience and become more able to adapt to the problems in life.

Social connections

The social networks are significant in mental health. The positive relationships lead to a sense of belonging and support. It has been

demonstrated that than those who have weaker social connections, people with well-established social networks are healthier and experience a longer lifespan. When we invest time in relationships, we become emotionally healthy and develop a support network that makes one feel good in general.

The value of the work-life balance.

Creating a balance between the work life and personal life is very critical in ensuring good health. Professional duties may make one over commit herself or himself to work and become burned out. Setting boundaries, setting more importance to downtime, and having time to a family and personal interests are important to the overall wellness.

Conclusion

Good health is wealth serves as a guiding principle in our lives. As we strive for success, we must remember that our health is integral to achieving our goals and enjoying life. Investing in nutrition, exercise, sleep, and mental wellness creates a robust foundation for lasting happiness and fulfillment. Our main fortune in life is not the possessions that we have, but the very fact of being vivid and healthy. We should consider our health as the greatest investment so that our life is full of experiences, joy, and purpose. We have to take this fact in as we build our health and develop the wealth that is important.



Is There Any Lesson to Learn from The Unfortunate El-Wak Tragedy?

By: Joyce Adwoa Animia Ocran

THE El-Wak Sports Stadium tragedy remains a stark and painful event in Ghana's recent history, serving as a powerful warning about the dangers inherent in large-scale public gathering and systemic planning failures.

On the day of the Ghana Armed Forces (GAF) recruitment exercise, thousands of aspiring recruits converged at the venue, their presence driven by the desire national demand for stable employment. This mass gathering, intended as a gateway to national service, quickly devolved into a deadly stampede, resulting in multiple fatalities and injuries.

While the nation has observed a period of mourning, the focus must now shift to a rigorous, non-partisan assessment of the incident. This tragedy demands that government agencies and security organizations move beyond conventional explanations and initiate a comprehensive review of crowd management protocols, recruitment logistics, and infrastructure planning.

The incident raises unavoidable questions regarding the preparedness for such overwhelming numbers and the methods used to control the crowd and any possible panic panic.

The ultimate objective is clear, to derive actionable lessons and implement lasting reforms that ensure such a catastrophic collision between public aspiration and inadequate systems is never repeated.

The most immediate and obvious lesson is the sheer demand for formal employment in Ghana, particularly within the security forces. The thousands who surged the stadium that day were not merely citizens applying for a job; they were individuals seeking an escape from



the vast ocean of unemployment and economic uncertainty.

The El-Wak tragedy was not just a failure of crowd control; it was a visible symptom of a deeper, systemic illness. When a single recruitment drive attracts such an overwhelming, unmanageable number of applicants, it reveals a national failure to provide adequate opportunities for its growing youth population. The physical crush at the gate mirrored the metaphorical crush of aspirations in a constricted job market.

The authorities planning the event must surely have underestimated this desire. Proper planning for any large public gathering necessitates a deep understanding of the likely attendance, which, in this context, required an honest assessment of the national unemployment rate and the prestige attached to the military.

A fundamental lesson here is that in situations involving highly desired, scarce opportunities, the default assumption should always be an overwhelming response. Planning must be calibrated for the worst-case scenario, accounting for the desperation that makes people take risks and ignore sensible instructions.

The failure to deploy a robust, multi-layered barriers, clear accessible routes, adequate

security and medical presence for the estimated crowd size suggests a dangerous disconnect between the organizers and the applicants.

The role of security personnel on that fateful day also brings forth a necessary re-evaluation. While it is easy to point fingers at the situation was a complex one. Security forces, primarily tasked with maintaining order, were suddenly confronted by a wave of humanity driven by powerful desperation to seek employment.

The methods used to contain the surge reportedly involving baton charges and aggressive maneuvers may have inadvertently compounded the panic, turning a crowd management problem into a deadly stampede. A crucial lesson for all agencies involved in public interaction is the need for de-escalation training and humane crowd management techniques.

Security in such high-stakes, high-emotion environments requires specialized skills that go beyond traditional policing or military drill. It requires understanding crowd psychology, recognizing the early warning signs of a crush, and possessing the ability to communicate calm and order effectively, even when overwhelmed.

Future recruitment exercises and large public events must incorporate trained riot-control or public-order management units whose primary tools are communication, organization, and non-lethal, non-panic-inducing dispersal methods, rather than force. The goal should be to manage the flow of people, not to confront their despair.

Perhaps the most practical and immediate lesson lies in modernizing the initial stages of the recruitment process. The reliance on a single physical venue to process tens of thousands of applications is archaic, inefficient, and inherently risky. In an era where digital tools are commonplace, the initial screening and application process should be moved almost entirely online.

Imagine a system where the first stage is purely digital: applicants register, submit

documentation, and even complete preliminary aptitude tests from home. Only a pre-determined, manageable number of successful candidates, perhaps three or four times the number of final openings, would be invited to subsequent, staggered physical screening stages.

This would effectively and safely filter the masses, eliminate the need for a chaotic, all-at-once physical gathering, and reduce the logistics burden on the GAF and other security agencies. The initial human bottleneck the stadium gate could be replaced by a technical firewall, which is infinitely more scalable and safer. Utilizing technology not only mitigates stampede risk but also introduces a level of transparency and efficiency that builds public trust.

The El-Wak tragedy was a harsh, unforgiving mirror reflecting our failures in infrastructure, job creation, and event planning. It was a failure of imagination, a moment where those in authority failed to imagine the depth of the desperation they were dealing with. The individuals who died were victims not just of a physical crush, but of a systemic squeeze.

To truly honor the memory of the deceased, the national response cannot be limited to financial compensation or internal investigations. The real lesson is a mandate for fundamental change. It requires a national commitment to investing heavily in job creation opportunities through diversification, moving the youth away from a singular focus on government or security sector jobs.

It demands the adoption of world-class, digitized recruitment procedures across all public sectors. And it necessitates comprehensive training for all public service personnel in humane, safe, and effective crowd management.

The sacrifice at El-Wak must be used as a painful catalyst to create institutions that treat every citizen and aspirant with dignity, planning, and safety. If these reforms are not implemented, the next inevitable mass gathering could tragically repeat this avoidable history.

Gun Control: A Panacea to Reducing Armed Robberies, Conflicts, Target Killings and Gun Related Crimes.

By: Joyce Adwoa Animia Ocran



ONE of Ghana's current security challenges is the failure to register legally acquired weapons and the uncontrolled flow and manufacture of local production of arms and light weapons.

Reports confirm that a high percentage of gun crimes in the country are perpetrated with locally manufactured firearms, often produced by unlicensed artisanal gunsmiths, sometimes referred to as blacksmiths. This sophisticated, yet illicit, domestic industry produces not just basic handguns but also copies of high-caliber weapons like the AK-47.

This reality means that tightening the laws targeting the legal arms market the licensed imports and sales will only address a fraction of the problem. They will not deter the organized criminal gangs who source their 'washman' rifles from a blacksmith in Kumasi or smuggle them across an unmanned border with other

neighbouring countries.

The notion of a panacea dissolves entirely when confronted with Ghana's geopolitical reality. The country's location in West Africa places it within a vast and deeply interconnected network of arms trafficking, fueled by conflicts in neighboring states and by porous borders. The availability of small arms, often recycled from the civil wars in Liberia and Sierra Leone or diverted from state stockpiles in the Sahel, makes the demand among criminals and conflict groups continually met.

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has adopted conventions to manage the circulation of SALW, but enforcement is perpetually hampered by the sheer volume of illicit transfers and the logistical nightmare of controlling thousands of kilometres of unpatrolled frontiers.

For groups involved in armed robbery on major roads or those fighting in chieftaincy and land disputes, the legal source of weapons is irrelevant. They are equipped by the black market, a resilient entity that adapts instantly to new domestic regulations.

To effectively reduce gun-related crimes and stop target killings, one must address the underlying causes of violence. The firearm is an accelerator, not the engine.

In Ghana, communal conflicts are fundamentally rooted in ethnic tensions, historical grievances over land chieftaincy succession disputes, and competition for resources. The proliferation of small arms merely makes these pre-existing disputes exponentially more lethal, transforming skirmishes into massacres.

Removing the guns without resolving the root causes of the conflict will only delay the occurrence of potential conflicts or explosion. Lasting peace demands robust, impartial, and well-resourced traditional and judicial conflict resolution mechanisms that address grievances justly and sustainably.

Similarly, the rise of armed robbery is often tied to socio-economic factors. High youth unemployment, deep inequality, and urbanization pressures create a large pool of frustrated young men who may see involvement in criminal activity as one of the few viable, albeit high-risk, paths to wealth.

In dealing with the menace, a comprehensive approach must include economic development programmes, technical and vocational training, and poverty reduction initiatives that offer alternative livelihoods. If the motivation for desperate acts of armed robbery persists, criminals will resort to using knives, machetes, or improvised explosive devices, maintaining the overall level of societal violence even if gun homicides decline.

The Ghana National Commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons (NACSA) has rightly pushed for an updated, robust National Arms

Act to replace the fifty-year-old law. Such an act is necessary for better tracking, marking, and managing the legal stock. It is also necessary to modernise the legal framework for dealing with the illicit manufacturers, perhaps through licensing and integrating compliant artisanal gunsmiths into the legal economy. Ghana's decision to pursue a Gun Amnesty Programme is a welcome step toward mopping up the existing pool of unregistered weapons.

However, the path to a truly safer Ghana requires looking beyond the gun itself. It mandates a coordinated, whole-of-government approach that combines the following:

Enhanced Border Security and Regional Cooperation: Utilizing advanced technology and greater interagency coordination with ECOWAS partners to monitor and police illicit cross-border movements of arms.

Socio-Economic Development: Targeted programmes to reduce poverty, especially in the regions most afflicted by armed robbery and communal violence.

Strengthening Rule of Law: Equipping the Police Service and the Judiciary to enforce existing laws firmly and fairly, ensuring that possession and use of illegal weapons carries a certain and severe penalty.

Conflict Mediation: Investing in local, traditional, and governmental mechanisms that peacefully resolve entrenched disputes before they escalate into violence requiring firearms.

Gun control is not a panacea; it is a regulator of lethality. It can determine the difference between an attempted robbery and a fatal shootout, or between a communal clash and a civil war. But it cannot, on its own, resolve the deep structural issues of economic disparity, political grievance, and institutional weakness that allow violence to take root.

For Ghana to guarantee its future, the attempt to manage the tool must be balanced by a determination to heal the troubled hand that wields it.

The significance of Ghana's participation in the 2026 FIFA World Cup on the economy

By: Edem Aglevor



FOOTBALL in Ghana is a source of national pride, entertainment, and a way to bring people together in the country. The Black Stars, Ghana's national team, have a zealous fan base that never hesitates to throw their support behind them no matter how many times they let them down. If the team loses or wins at any tournament, the fans will always show up for them.

It cannot be wrong when it is pointed out that football always has the power to bring down the stress and tension the nation goes through at any given time be it local league, African cup or the world cup.

In Ghana, football is also about youth development, promoting education, and providing opportunities for young people to

grow and develop their skills.

Ghana has a rich football history, and the national team has produced world-class players like Abedi Pele, Michael Essien, Didier Drogba (who played for Ghana's U20 team), and Asiyeh Blackpool (a Ghanaian football legend), Asamoah Gyan and other great young players.

The biggest tournament that the whole of Ghana is waiting for is the World Cup 2026 and the nation's participation whilst it brings in a sense of unity, it is also expected to give a significant boost to the country's economy.

There is a significant chance that the 2026 World Cup will boost tourism. Ghana's national team's participation in the competition is expected to draw more visitors and supporters

from around the globe, bringing in money for regional companies and creating jobs.

This is because when the Black Stars are able to go far in the tournament or win the cup, countries will shift their interest and focus on Ghana. Tourists and investors will come to the country either out of curiosity to experience what the country has to offer bringing in a lot of foreign currencies to boost the economy.

During the opening session of the tournament, Ghana gets an opportunity to sell itself to the whole world. Through the exposition of our culture, tourism sites, our fabrics like the various kentes and beads. When the world sees all these on display it will draw them to visit the country which will end up boosting the economy.

The world cup event is expected to create thousands of jobs, both directly and indirectly, in sectors like the hospitality, transportation, and logistics. This will be through how best we market the country through goods like our cocoa, shea butter, palm oil, gold.

Investors will want to invest in these products through the building of factories to push production. They will also invest in infrastructure, such as stadiums, roads, hotels and hospitals which can benefit the country in the long run.

According to FIFA and the World Trade Organisation, the 2026 World Cup is expected to generate up to \$40.9 billion in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and create nearly 824,000 full-time equivalent jobs globally. With this projection Ghana will definitely have a fair share of the 'world cake'

The global exposure from the World Cup will

promote Ghanaian culture, arts, and products, attracting sponsorship and partnerships deals that will end up generating revenue for the national team and local businesses.

The Government has inaugurated an 11-member Inter-Ministerial Technical Working Group to oversee the country's preparations and maximize the benefits from the 2026 tournament event whilst the Ghana Tourism Authority is already collaborating with diplomatic missions to organize community-based tourism experiences, such as watch parties, across all 16 regions of the country.

To maximize the benefits from this tournament, Ghana needs to focus on Improving the Hospitality Services by enhancing service quality and creating experiences that compel visitors to return when they leave to their various countries.

Ghana needs to use AI-driven technology platforms during this world cup for personalized travel recommendations, real-time language translation, and smarter route planning as well as highlighting Ghana's investment possibilities and tourism potential to attract investors and promote economic growth.

Ghana securing a slot on the 2026 world cup should never be underestimated because the country stands to gain from this participation especially if the team go very far in the tournament. This will place the nation at the top of the world map and in the minds of people across the world which will eventually end up boosting the nation's economy without a doubt. It is the dream of every Ghanaian to see the National team to go for a win or get far in the tournament.

Ghana unemployment challenge: can investment in sports and music training help?

By: Edem Aglevor



THE Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) defines unemployment as people who are not employed, actively seeking work and available to start work immediately. Ghana's unemployment rate of which was around 4.7% in 2022, of which under-employment and informal employment are significant concerns.

In Ghana, unemployment is a significant challenge, especially among young people and can have serious social and economic impacts that include reduced economic growth as well as increased poverty and social unrest.

However, regardless of the circumstances, there is always a way out to change the

narrative. Investing in sports and music training can be one guaranteed way to address Ghana's unemployment challenge and create jobs for young Ghanaians, both locally and internationally.

People need to get to the point of realization that not everyone can or is expected to work in an office environment but instead talents in sports and music can be a legitimate avenue to get employed and not be a burden on society.

With the right training and investment, young Ghanaians can create their own sports or music-related businesses, generating income as well as creating jobs which can be termed as

entrepreneurship opportunities. Some of these sports business that can be created are the betting companies that are gaining grounds all over the world.

Ghana has very few sports and music Academies that focus on training the youth. These include; Right to Dream Academy, a football academy in Ghana that provides training and education to young players.

Music training can equip young Ghanaians with skills to become music professionals, such as performers, producers, songwriters, and music teachers. This training can equip young people to start their own music-related businesses, like recording studios, music schools, or event management companies.

Institutions like the Ghana Music Academy and the Rhythm Foundation offer training in music production, performance, and other related skills.

To maximize the impact on the unemployment challenge, Ghana needs to integrate sports and music into the school to equip student's curricula to equip them and prepare them for the job market instead of always expecting to work in the office.

Ghana's music scene more importantly, is thriving as compared to sports, with a diverse range of genres like Highlife, Hiplife, Afrobeats, and Hip-Hop/Rap gaining popularity globally. Artists like Shatta Wale, Stonebwoy, Sarkodie, and Black Sheriff are making waves internationally, showcasing Ghanaian music's commercial viability and has also made them solidly employed.

These artists are a testimony that investments in music can help reduce if not solve completely the unemployment challenge and help keep most of the youth off the streets.

In as much as training in music can help to reduce the unemployment challenge in Ghana, it faces challenges too which include limited access to quality instruments, equipment and facilities, funding constraints, industry competition in which breaking through can be very tough because of how expensive it can be. Job opportunities in music can be limited leading to uncertainty, music trainees might struggle to balance traditional Ghanaian music styles with modern influences.

Some challenges sport trainees might face in Ghana include limited access to quality sports facilities, equipment, and fields can be limited, funding constraints because pursuing sports training can be expensive, and funding opportunities might be scarce.

Inadequate coaches and trainers might be lacking in some sports disciplines, injury and health risks in sports are common, and access to quality medical care might be limited and extremely expensive, balancing sports and education responsibilities can also be challenging.

Limited sponsorship opportunity is another challenge because securing sponsorship deals can be tough in the sport industry, which will result in limited earning potential, getting visibility and recognition in the sports industry can be difficult, poor governance in sports administration and governance issues can affect athletes' careers.

If Ghana is determined to turn the unemployment challenge around, and scale the tide down then there is the need for the government as well as the private sector to invest massively in every aspect of sports and music which will go a long way to create jobs for the youth.

Ghana's 2026 Budget: What It Means for Your Wallet and Your Future

By: Faustina



THE government has unveiled its 2026 Budget, themed "Resetting for Growth, Jobs, and Economic Transformation." But what do these big words mean for the average Ghanaian family, worker, and business owner? This budget marks a significant shift from focusing solely on economic survival to pursuing genuine growth and improved job opportunities.

For many, the most important aspect of the budget is its impact on the cost of living and the search for decent employment. Here is a look at the major changes and what they promise for the year ahead.

1. Relief for the Family Budget: Lower Prices and Less Tax

After a period of high inflation in 2026 Budget brings some specific measures designed to ease the pressure on household finances: by bringing down the rate of inflation.

* **Targeting Single-Digit Inflation:** The government aims to keep inflation low—around 8.0%. If this goal is achieved, it means the prices of essential goods like food and transport will become more stable, allowing families to plan their spending without constant fear of price hikes.

* **Abolishing the COVID-19 Levy:** The budget

proposes to scrap the COVID-19 Health Recovery Levy. This levy added an extra cost to many goods and services. Its removal should result in a small but welcome reduction in the final price of many items, putting a little more money back into people's pockets.

*** Lowering the VAT Rate:** The Value Added Tax (VAT) rate is also set to be reduced slightly. This tax is applied to most goods and services, so a lower rate is a direct measure to reduce the cost of consumption and support businesses.

These financial measures are the government's biggest promise to restore stability and ensure that the economic progress felt at the national level translates into relief at home.

2. The Engine for Jobs: Energy, Roads, and a 24-Hour Economy

The theme of 'jobs and transformation' is at the heart of the 2026 budget plan. The budget focuses heavily on investments that directly create employment and support local businesses:

*** The Big Push Programme:** A substantial amount of money (GH¢30.0 billion) has been set aside for major infrastructure projects under the "Big Push Programme." This covers critical areas like energy, roads, and digital connectivity. Investing in roads, for instance, does not only create construction jobs now but also lower transport costs for goods later, benefiting farmers and traders.

*** Power Reliability is Key:** Reliable electricity supply is crucial for factories and businesses to operate. The budget includes targeted investments in energy infrastructure, aiming to improve power stability. This is essential for manufacturing, which cannot thrive with unpredictable power cuts.

*** The 24-Hour Economy:** This ambitious plan is designed to help businesses operate beyond the usual nine-to-five hours. The goal is to maximise productivity, especially in sectors like manufacturing and services, which can, in turn, create more shift-based jobs for young people.

3. Support for Small Businesses and Social Welfare

The budget recognizes that Ghana's economy relies heavily on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and that social protection must be maintained for the most vulnerable.

*** Support for Women Entrepreneurs:** An additional allocation is being made to the Women's Development Bank to provide funding to women-led micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs). This support is aimed at boosting financial inclusion and empowering women to grow their businesses.

*** Easier Tax Compliance for SMEs:** To help small businesses that struggle with complex rules, the VAT registration threshold has been raised significantly. This measure exempts many small businesses from needing to register for and comply with VAT, allowing them to focus more on growth.

*** Focus on Health and education:** key allocations are aimed at modernizing education, supporting the free senior High School program, and improving health care access through initiatives like 'MahamaCares', which seeks to secure funding for non-communicable diseases and expand health facilities.

The road to reality

The 2026 budget sets a confident tone, moving Ghana towards a goal 4.8%GDP growth. The promises of lower inflation and significant job creation offer hope. However, the success of this budget will not be measured on paper, but in its execution.

The government must stick to its spending limits and ensure that the massive investments planned for infrastructure and job creation are delivered efficiently, without waste, for the average Ghanaian, keeping an eye on how these budget promises translate into real stability in the cedi, lower prices at the market, and new employment opportunities will be the true test of this 'reset' year.

The Contribution of National Farmers' Day to Agricultural Development in Ghana

By: Grace Acheampong



NATIONAL Farmers' Day was first celebrated in Ghana in 1985, initiated by the government to acknowledge the contributions of farmers to the nation's economy. The day is marked by various activities, including awards for outstanding farmers, exhibitions of agricultural products, and discussions on agricultural policies and innovations. Over the years, it has evolved into a significant event that highlights the challenges and successes within the agricultural sector.

Agriculture has long been the backbone of Ghana's economy, employing a significant portion of the population and contributing to food security and export revenues. In

recognition of the vital role that farmers play in the nation's development, Ghana celebrates National Farmers' Day annually at district, regional and national levels in every first Friday in December. This event does not only honor the hard work and dedication of farmers but also serves as a platform for promoting agricultural development across the country.

One of the primary contributions of National Farmers' Day is the recognition it provides to farmers. By celebrating their achievements, the event motivates farmers to continue their hard work and strive for excellence. Awards are given to outstanding farmers in various categories, including crop production, livestock rearing, and sustainable farming practices. This

recognition does not only boost the morale of the awardees but also inspires other farmers to adopt best practices and improve their productivity.

The celebration of the National Farmers Day also serves as a platform for sharing knowledge and innovations in the agricultural sector. During the celebrations, various stakeholders, including government officials, agricultural experts, and NGOs, come together to discuss the latest trends, technologies, and practices in the agricultural sector. Workshops and exhibitions provide farmers with the opportunity to learn about new farming techniques, pest management strategies, and sustainable practices that can enhance their productivity and profitability.

The event also plays a crucial role in advocating for policies that support agricultural development. Discussions during National Farmers' Day often highlight the challenges faced by farmers, such as access to credit, land tenure issues, and the impact of climate change. By bringing these issues to the forefront, the event encourages policymakers to develop and implement strategies that address the needs of the agricultural sector. This advocacy is essential for creating an enabling environment for farmers to thrive.

Value chains and market expansion: By connecting farmers with buyers, processors, and financiers, exhibitions allow producers and agribusinesses shareholders to highlight value-added products. National Farmers' Day

promotes entrepreneurship and formalization within agricultural value chains by showcasing cooperative businesses and effective agribusiness models.

The National Farmers' Day event also reflects the industry's challenges despite its enormous contributions. Speeches and conversations frequently touch on topics including land tenure systems, post-harvest losses, climate change risks. How these issues are converted into tangible, year-round action outside of the celebrations will be the real test of the Day's influence. Additionally, since women and young farmers constitute the majority population of the industry yet are frequently underrepresented among national award winners, it is imperative to make the awards system is transparent and reaches the grassroots.

The celebration of the National Farmers' Day is more than a ceremonial occasion; it is an important catalyst for agricultural development in Ghana. By recognizing excellence, promoting technologies and facilitating dialogue among stakeholders, it supports productivity improvement, market development and greater inclusion. To maximize its developmental contribution, the celebration should be paired with deliberate follow-up, inclusive targeting and stronger linkages to extension, finance and private sector investment—ensuring that awards and ideas showcased translate into lasting improvements across Ghana's agricultural landscape.

The Expectations of the Re-launch of the National Sanitation Day on Solid Waste Management in Accra

By: Grace Acheampong



In recent years, Accra, the busy capital of Ghana, has faced significant challenges in solid waste management. Rapid urbanization, population growth, and inadequate waste disposal systems have led to a mounting crisis, with heaps of uncollected waste becoming a common sight in many neighborhoods. In response to this pressing issue, the government of Ghana has re-launched the National Sanitation Day (NSD), a nationwide initiative aimed at promoting cleanliness and improving waste management practices.

The National Sanitation Day was first introduced in 2014 as a monthly event where citizens were encouraged to participate in community clean-up exercises on the first

Saturday of every month. However, over the years, the initiative lost momentum due to various factors, including lack of public engagement, inadequate resources, and insufficient government support. Recognizing the need for a renewed commitment to sanitation, the government reintroduced NSD with a more robust framework and strategic objectives.

The re-introduction of the NSD with renewed political support, participation, and coordination between the Ministry of Local Government, Chieftaincy, and Religious Affairs is expected to yield positive results. The ministry has indicated that sanitation at the local level will now serve as a key performance indicator for all Chief Executives, with assemblies required to desilt

drains, remove waste heaps, and keep ceremonial streets and markets clean.

One of the most significant impacts of the re-launch of the NSD has been the mobilization of community participation in waste management. The initiative encourages citizens to take ownership of their environment by participating in clean-up exercises, which fosters a sense of community responsibility. Local organizations, schools, and businesses have also been engaged, leading to increased awareness about the importance of proper waste disposal and sanitation practices.

The re-launch has seen a resurgence in volunteerism, with thousands of residents coming together on designated NSD days to clean their neighborhoods. This collective effort not only helps to clear waste but also strengthens community bonds and promotes a culture of cleanliness.

The re-launch of NSD has also placed a spotlight on government accountability in waste management. With the initiative being a government-led program, there is the expectation for local authorities to provide the necessary support, including waste collection services, provision of waste bins, and the establishment of recycling facilities and plant. The renewed focus on sanitation has prompted local governments to prioritize waste management in their budgets and operational plans.

Moreover, the initiative has encouraged collaboration between government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and private sector stakeholders. This multi-stakeholder approach has led to the development of innovative waste management solutions, such as the introduction of waste segregation at the source and the promotion of recycling initiatives.

The environmental impact of poor waste management in Accra has been profound, contributing to pollution, flooding, and health hazards. The re-launch of the NSD has brought environmental issues to the forefront of public discourse, emphasizing the need for sustainable waste management practices.

Educational campaigns accompanying the initiative have focused on the importance of reducing, reusing, and recycling waste, thereby promoting a more sustainable approach to waste management.

By encouraging residents to adopt environmentally friendly practices, the NSD initiative has the potential to reduce the volume of waste generated and improve the overall cleanliness of the city. This shift in mindset is crucial for addressing the long-term environmental challenges faced by Accra.

Despite the positive impacts of the re-launch of the NSD, challenges remain. Sustaining community engagement beyond the designated NSD days is crucial for long-term success. Additionally, the government must ensure that waste management infrastructure keeps pace with the growing population and urbanization in Accra. This includes investing in waste collection vehicles, establishing more waste disposal sites, and enhancing recycling facilities.

Furthermore, continuous education and awareness campaigns are essential to instill a culture of cleanliness and responsible waste management behavior among residents. The involvement of schools in the NSD initiative can also play a pivotal role in shaping the attitudes of the younger generation towards waste management.

Reintroducing National Sanitation Day is a big step in solving Accra's solid waste management problem. The policy has the potential to completely change the city's waste management system by encouraging environmental awareness, increasing government accountability, and motivating community participation. However, sustained efforts and collaboration among all stakeholders will be essential to ensure that the positive impacts of the NSD are realized in the long term. As Accra continues to grow, and develop a collective commitment to sanitation and waste management will be vital for the health and well-being of its residents and the environment.

District Assemblies Common Fund (D A C F)



Builds the Village: Why Monitoring the District Assemblies Common Fund Matters Watching the Cedi That

By: Irene Wirekoaa Osei

THE District Assemblies Common Fund was established to breathe life into the principle of decentralization. It is a constitutionally mandated portion of the national revenue, not less than five percent, set aside for development projects across all districts.

The aim is to ensure equitable development and bridge the glaring gap between prosperous and less endowed regions. The allocation itself is a promise of progress, of roads, schools, clinics, and water, delivered to the doorsteps of those who need them most.

Yet, the promise is only as good as its execution. Without consistent and transparent monitoring, the fund risks becoming not a vehicle for development, but a conduit for disappointment.

Monitoring is the thread that connects allocation to outcome to evaluate resource allocation and performance. It moves beyond the simple tallying of cash disbursed from the central government to the district assemblies. It asks the necessary, uncomfortable questions. Did the money arrive in full? Was it spent on the intended project? Does the completed school have furniture and textbooks? Is the clinic stocked with medicines? This process transforms abstract budget lines into tangible community assets. It ensures that the farmer in the village can point to a rehabilitated feeder

road and know his share of the national wealth helped build it.

The mechanisms for this oversight exist, but their strength is often diluted. The office of the Administrator of the Common Fund provides guidelines, and the District Assemblies themselves are required to report.

When a community understands how much money its district receives and for what purpose, it gains the tools to demand answers. A vibrant local media that tracks project milestones, or a community group that routinely inspects a construction site, creates a layer of accountability no audit alone can match.

The consequences of lax monitoring are seen across the country in the form of abandoned projects and substandard work. They erode the social contract between the state and its citizens. When a community sees its allocated funds misapplied, a deep cynicism takes root. People begin to view not just the fund, but the entire concept of governance, with suspicion.

This disillusionment is more damaging than any single failed project; it undermines participation and fosters apathy, creating a cycle where lack of oversight leads to misuse, which in turn discourages the public from engaging in the monitoring process altogether.

On the other hand, where monitoring is embraced, the results speak loudly. In districts where assemblies regularly publicize their allocations and expenditures, and where community members are actively involved in project identification and tracking, the correlation with successful outcomes is clear. Completed projects bear plaques with accurate costs, tenders are competitively awarded, and contractors are held to their timelines. This transparency builds trust. It validates the tax contributions of every Ghanaian, proving that their money is not vanishing into an administrative void but is being translated into concrete improvements for their lives.

The challenge, therefore, is not merely technical but cultural. It requires a shift from treating the Common Fund as a distant government transaction to viewing it as a common resource, a shared investment in the nation's future. This demands capacity building for assembly officials in record-keeping and public engagement. It necessitates that citizens see themselves not as passive beneficiaries but as active custodians. Journalists and civil society must be equipped with the data and the

access to ask informed questions.

Ultimately, the importance of monitoring the District Assemblies Common Fund is about the integrity of Ghana's democratic experiment. Decentralization is not just about moving money from the capital to the districts; it is about moving power and accountability closer to the people. The fund is a test. Can the nation manage its collective resources with prudence and fairness?

The unfinished classroom and the borehole in that northern town provide two possible answers. The choice between them is made every day, not just in the halls of Parliament or the district assembly offices, but in the willingness of ordinary Ghanaians to look, to question, and to insist that a promise made is a promise kept.

The true measure of the fund's success will be found not in the amount disbursed, but in the quality of the development it leaves behind, and the strengthened belief of citizens in their own system of governance.

From Audit Findings to Accountability: Should Ghana Try Specialized Courts?

By: Irene Wirekoaa Osei

EVERY year, the Auditor-General's Report tells a familiar story. Public funds are misappropriated, procurement rules are breached, cost of contracts are inflated, and basic financial controls are treated as optional. The figures run into billions of cedis. The recommendations are clear. Yet the aftermath is often predictable: public outrage, media commentary, parliamentary hearings, and then silence. For many citizens, the real puzzle is not whether corruption exists, but why documented breaches rarely lead to sanctions. This frustration has revived an important question: would the establishment of specialized courts to handle the Auditor-General's Report infractions make Ghana's anti-corruption efforts more effective?

At the heart of the problem is not the lack of laws. Ghana has a strong constitutional framework, a well-defined mandate for the Auditor-General, and several anti-corruption agencies. What is missing is a reliable bridge between audit findings and enforcement. Cases arising from the Auditor-General's Report often get lost in the broader criminal justice system, competing with a wide range of civil and criminal matters. Delays, procedural hurdles, and weak follow-through dilute the deterrent effect of the reports. When sanctions are slow or absent, financial misconduct becomes a low-risk activity.

A specialized court to focus on the Auditor-General's Report infractions could change this dynamic. Such a court would deal exclusively with cases involving public financial management breaches identified through audit processes. Judges assigned to it would develop deep familiarity with audit evidence, procurement laws, and public sector accounting. This alone could shorten trial times and improve the quality of judgments. Instead of repeatedly explaining basic financial



concepts in court, prosecutors could focus on proving liability and securing restitution.

Speed matters in anti-corruption work. Justice delivered years after an infraction has little impact on behavior. A specialized court, operating under clear timelines, could ensure that cases are heard while records are still available and public interest remains high. Faster resolution would also help recover misappropriated funds before they disappear entirely. In a system where development needs are urgent, delayed justice is more than a legal problem; it is an economic one.

There is also the question of public confidence. Many Ghanaians view the Auditor-General's Report as a ceremonial exercise rather than a trigger for accountability. A dedicated court would send a different signal. It would tell public officers that audit findings are not mere administrative notes but potential legal liabilities. Over time, this could encourage better compliance with financial rules, not out of fear alone, but from a clearer understanding that breaches have consequences.

However, creating a specialized court is not a magic solution. One risk is that it becomes another institution with an impressive name but limited impact. Without strong prosecutorial capacity, clear procedures for case referral, and political backing, the court could struggle to deliver results. The experience of other anti-corruption bodies in Ghana shows that institutions can be undermined quietly through underfunding, staffing constraints, or overlapping mandates.

Another concern is selectivity. If only a few cases from the Auditor-General's Report are pursued while others are ignored, public trust may erode further. The court must operate within a transparent framework that explains how cases are chosen and why. Otherwise, it may be seen as a tool for settling political scores rather than promoting accountability. Independence, both real and perceived, would be essential.

There are also constitutional and legal questions to consider. Ghana already has courts with jurisdiction over criminal and financial matters. Any specialized court would need a clear legal basis to avoid conflicts and duplication. Careful design would be required to ensure that the new court complements existing structures rather than weakening them. This includes defining its relationship with bodies such as the Office of the Special Prosecutor, the Attorney-General's Department, and the Economic and Organised Crime Office.

Beyond structure, enforcement culture matters. A specialized court can only be as effective as the cases brought before it. If audit recommendations continue to be ignored at the executive and administrative levels, the court may sit idle. There must be a clear, automatic pathway from adverse audit findings to legal review. Public institutions should be required to respond within strict deadlines, with failure to do so triggering legal action. Without this pipeline,

the court risks becoming symbolic.

The economic implications are worth noting. Financial mismanagement drains resources that could be used for schools, hospitals, and infrastructure. When public funds are recovered and future losses prevented, the benefits ripple through the economy. Improved accountability can also strengthen investor confidence, as it signals that public finances are managed with discipline. In this sense, a specialized court is not just a legal reform; it is a governance reform with economic consequences.

Still, expectations must be realistic. Corruption is not defeated by courts alone. It thrives in environments where oversight is weak, systems are opaque, and political incentives reward silence. A specialized court can address one part of the chain, but it cannot replace broader reforms in public financial management, procurement transparency, and civic education. It should be seen as one tool among many, not the final answer.

So, can the establishment of specialized courts for Auditor-General Report infractions improve the fight against corruption in Ghana? The answer is yes, but with conditions. The court must be properly resourced, legally grounded, and insulated from political interference. It must operate with speed, consistency, and openness. Most importantly, it must be backed by the will to act on audit findings without fear or favor.

Ghanaians have heard enough promises about fighting corruption. What they want to see is follow-through. A specialized court, if designed and supported well, could help turn audit reports from annual rituals into instruments of accountability. That shift, more than any headline announcement, would mark real progress.

Irrigation Farming: The Shortest Way to Achieve Food Security in Ghana

By: Jacinta Amo-Apraku



In Ghana, where a large number of people rely on agriculture for their livelihoods, food security is a significant issue. Even though the country has great agricultural potential, unpredictable rainfall, pattern climate change, and lack of proper irrigation systems have made it difficult to produce food consistently. As Ghana works toward achieving food security, irrigation farming has become a promising solution. It offers the potential to boost crop yields, allow for year-round farming, and help ensure that the nation can feed its people.

Ghana's agriculture heavily depends on rainfall, which makes it especially vulnerable to the unpredictable changes in climate. According to the Food and Agriculture

Organization (FAO) 2023/2024 reports stated that around 30% of the world's population faces hunger, Africa faces the highest hunger rates over 20%. Many small-scale farmers find it difficult to grow enough food to feed their families.

This reliance on seasonal rains often leads to food shortages, especially during the dry season. To address these issues, both the government and various partners are increasingly focusing on sustainable farming practices, with irrigation farming taking center stage as a key solution.

Irrigation farming enables farmers to grow crops all year round, rather than depending

solely on seasonal rains. With a reliable and controlled water supply, crops can grow under better conditions, resulting in higher yields and improved quality of produce.

Farmers can cultivate a range of fruits, vegetables, and grains that are not usually appropriate for the local climate by using irrigation to diversify their crop production. In addition to improving food security, this diversification gives farmers more revenue streams.

As climate change increasingly disrupts weather patterns, irrigation farming provides a safeguard against droughts and unpredictable rainfall. With access to irrigation systems, farmers can keep their crops growing steadily, helping to reduce the risk of crop failure and ensuring more reliable harvests.

Expanding irrigation infrastructure creates job opportunities in construction, maintenance, and agricultural production. This can help alleviate poverty in rural areas, contributing to overall economic growth.

Irrigation farming can improve the nutritional value of food that communities have access to by cultivating a greater range of crops. Having access to fresh produce can lower malnutrition and enhance public health outcomes.

Despite its potential, irrigation farming in Ghana faces several challenges. Many regions lack adequate irrigation infrastructure, such as canals, pumps, and reservoirs. Investment in these systems is crucial for the successful implementation of irrigation farming. For smallholder farmers, the upfront cost of irrigation systems may be unaffordable. To promote adoption, access to reasonably priced funding and government assistance is crucial.

To guarantee the sustainable use of water resources, effective water management techniques are required. To use effective irrigation methods, farmers require assistance and training.

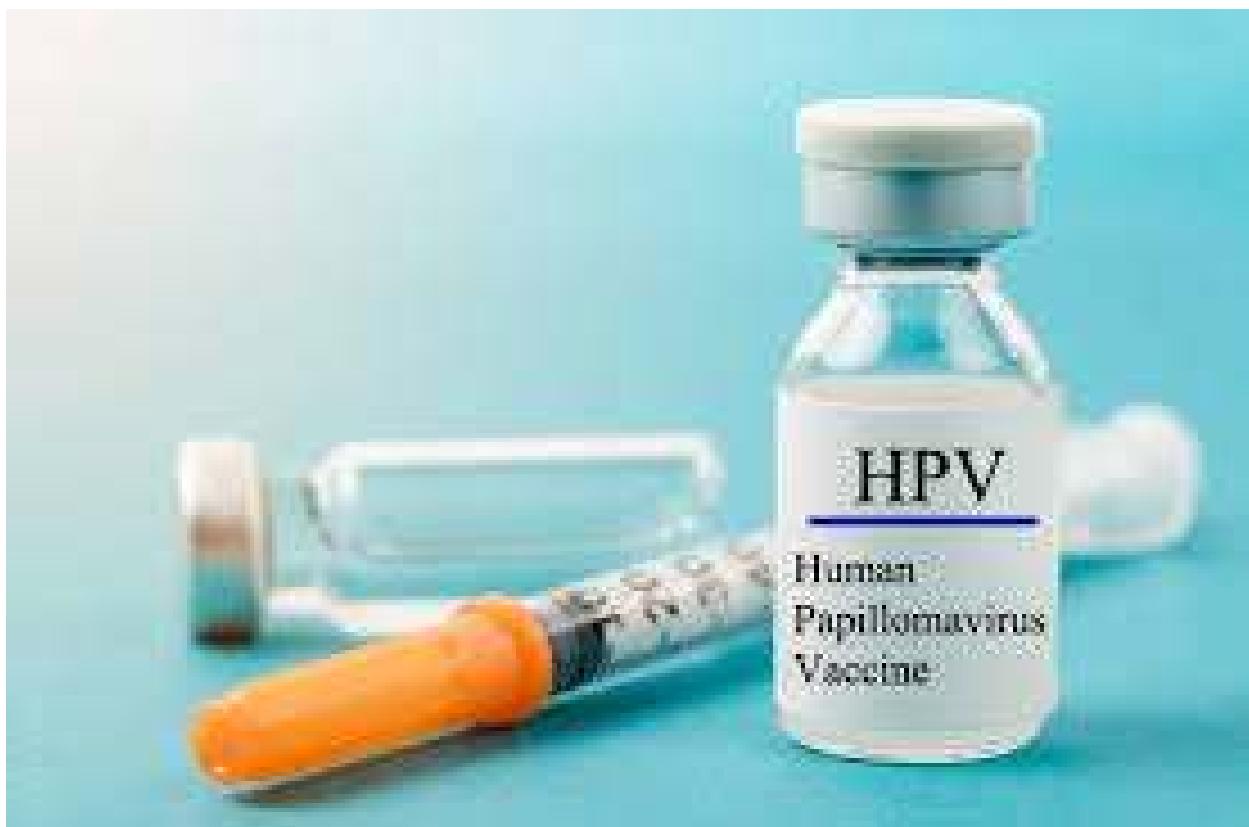
The growth of irrigation farming may be hampered by a lack of clear policies and governance frameworks. To create an environment that is favorable for irrigation growth, cooperation between the government, non-governmental organizations, and local populations is essential.

The government has recognized the importance of irrigation farming in achieving food security and has initiated several programs to promote its adoption. The Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA) has launched initiatives aimed at improving irrigation infrastructure, providing training for farmers, and facilitating access to financing. Additionally, partnerships with international organizations and NGOs have led to the development of community-based irrigation projects that empower local farmers.

In Ghana, irrigation farming offers a viable option to achieve food security. The nation can increase agricultural output and climate change resistance by investing in irrigation infrastructure, offering financial assistance, and encouraging sustainable water management techniques. Adopting irrigation farming would be essential to ensure that all Ghanaians have access to enough wholesome food as the country continues to struggle with food insecurity. Now is the moment to take action, and Ghana can lead the way toward a future with greater food security if all parties work together.

The Impact of Ghana's National HPV Vaccination Campaign on Young Girls

By: Judith Twumwaa



CERVICAL cancer continues to be one of the most pressing public health challenges facing women in Ghana. Every year, the country records an estimated 3,000 new cases, and close to 1,800 women lose their lives to this entirely preventable disease. At the centre of this crisis is the Human Papillomavirus (HPV), a common viral infection responsible for the overwhelming majority of cervical cancer cases worldwide. Confronted with this reality and the resolve to address the challenges, the Government of Ghana, supported by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, UNICEF, and the World Health Organization (WHO), launched a historic National HPV Vaccination Campaign to protect the next generation of Ghanaian girls.

Before the national rollout, access to the HPV

vaccine was limited and inconsistent. The vaccine, known globally for its ability to prevent most cases of cervical cancer, was available mainly in private facilities or through small, donor-funded projects. For many families, especially in low-income or rural areas, the cost and limited availability made vaccination nearly impossible. Thousands of girls remained at risk, and Ghana's three-year cervical cancer survival rate hovered around 39%, highlighting the urgent need for prevention, not just treatment.

Recognizing this gap, Ghana made a bold decision to integrate HPV vaccination into the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI). This move ensures that girls across the country, regardless of where they live or their family's income, can access lifesaving medication and

protection for free.

Launching the Campaign: Scope and Strategy
Officially introduced in late 2025, the National HPV Vaccination Campaign focuses on girls aged 9–14 years. This age range is medically strategic, as the vaccine is most effective when administered before HPV exposure and before the onset of sexual activity.

Target Population and Vaccine Type

The campaign aims to vaccinate more than 2 million girls. Ghana has secured 2.5 million doses of the Gardasil 4 vaccine, which protects against HPV types 16 and 18, the strains responsible for most cervical cancer cases, as well as types 6 and 11, which cause anogenital warts. The country has adopted a single-dose strategy, a scientifically validated approach that ensures broad protection while maximizing coverage.

An initial shipment of 441,860 doses paved the way for the nationwide rollout, setting the stage for one of the most ambitious immunization campaigns in Ghana's history.

A Multi-pronged Delivery Approach

To reach all eligible girls, the campaign employs several complementary delivery channels, which includes the following:

- **School-Based Vaccination:** Since most girls aged 9–14 attend school, educational institutions serve as the primary vaccination sites. This approach leverages existing school structures to optimize access and ensure high coverage.
- **Community Outreach:** Not all girls in the target group are in school. Therefore, Community outreach activities, especially for girls such as Kayayei (head porters) and daughters of nomadic pastoralists, are employed to ensure no child is left behind.
- **Health Facilities:** Clinics and health centers provide additional vaccination points for families who prefer or require routine facility-based services.

This blended delivery method allows the campaign to reach girls across diverse settings, from urban centers to remote rural communities.

Partnership and Community Engagement: The Backbone of Success

The success of the HPV vaccination campaign rests on strong partnerships and community trust. The Ghana Health Service, Ministry of Education, WHO, UNICEF, and Gavi work hand-in-hand to coordinate logistics, train health workers, and ensure vaccine availability nationwide.

But equally important is the involvement of the local communities and other relevant stakeholders. Traditional rulers, religious leaders, teachers, civil society organizations, and the media play crucial roles in dispelling myths and increasing public confidence. Historically, misinformation and cultural misconceptions have created hesitancy around the HPV vaccine. To address this, the campaign uses radio programs, school information sessions, community durbars, and social media messages to educate families.

These efforts are paying off. Research shows that when parents fully understand the benefits, up to 94% are willing to vaccinate their daughters. Trust, education, and clear communication remain essential pillars of the campaign.

Positive Outcomes: Protecting Girls and Transforming Futures

Preventing Disease and Saving Lives

The most immediate impact of the HPV vaccination campaign is protection against cervical cancer. HPV vaccines are among the most effective cancer-prevention tools available today. For every 1,000 girls vaccinated, an estimated 17 future cervical cancer deaths may be prevented. At the national scale, this translates to tens of thousands of lives saved over the coming decades.

By vaccinating girls before they are exposed to HPV, Ghana is significantly reducing their risk

of developing cervical cancer in adulthood. The long-term benefits of this single-dose intervention cannot be overstated.

Advancing Gender Equity and Empowerment

Beyond health protection, the campaign has broader social and economic implications. Cervical cancer disproportionately affects women, especially those in disadvantaged communities. Preventing this disease is a major step toward promoting gender equity and improving the well-being of future generations of Ghanaian women.

With improved health, girls are better positioned to fulfill their educational and personal aspirations. Reducing the burden of cervical cancer also protects families from the emotional and financial hardships commonly associated with late-stage disease.

Furthermore, the campaign encourages open conversations about sexual and reproductive health, topics that are often surrounded by stigma. Increased awareness promotes healthier behaviors, greater autonomy, and stronger communities.

Challenges and the Road Ahead

Despite its promise, the campaign faces several challenges. Vaccine hesitancy, often driven by misinformation, remains a significant obstacle. Some communities may question the safety or purpose of the vaccine without proper education. The campaign addresses this through consistent, culturally sensitive public engagement and collaboration with trusted community leaders.

Supply-chain management is another challenge. Ensuring reliable vaccine availability

and maintaining cold-chain integrity across remote and underserved areas demands meticulous planning and continuous monitoring.

A Vision for Sustainability

The long-term goal is to make HPV vaccination a permanent part of Ghana's routine immunization schedule for all 9-year-old girls. This aligns with the WHO's global strategy to eliminate cervical cancer, which aims at:

- 90% of girls fully vaccinated against HPV
- 70% of women screened at least twice in their lifetime
- 90% of women with precancer or cancer receive appropriate care

Ghana also aims to strengthen screening and may consider expanding vaccination to boys in the future to reduce HPV transmission and enhance herd immunity.

Conclusion

Ghana's National HPV Vaccination Campaign is more than just a public health intervention—it is an investment in the future of the nation. By providing free, equitable access to HPV vaccines, Ghana is taking a bold and compassionate step toward protecting millions of girls from a preventable cancer.

Through strong partnerships, strategic planning, and active community involvement, the country is charting a path toward a future where cervical cancer is no longer a threat. This campaign is a promise of hope, health, and empowerment for Ghana's daughters, today and for generations to come.

The Significance of the Introduction of the Same-Day Passport Service for Ghanaians

By: Judith Twumwaa

In a major step toward modernizing public services, the Government of Ghana has rolled out a same-day passport service programme, or acquisition, marking a turning point in the country's approach to administrative efficiency. Starting November 13, 2025, Ghanaians who urgently need to travel can obtain their passports within 24 hours at a special fee of GH₵2,000. This initiative reflects the government's commitment to reducing bureaucratic delays, improving customer experience, and strengthening the security of Ghana's passport system.

Addressing Long-Standing Challenges

For decades, applying for a passport in Ghana has often been a frustrating experience. Many applicants have had to endure lengthy queues, slow processing times, and complicated paperwork. These challenges created fertile ground for the rise of unauthorized intermediaries popularly known as "goro boys" who profited by promising faster access to official services.

The same-day passport service acquisition is a direct response to this long-standing problem. It offers a legitimate, structured option for applicants facing urgent travel needs, such as emergency medical care abroad, sudden business trips, or pressing official duties. By providing a fast and transparent alternative, the government aims to discourage reliance on unofficial channels while making sure genuine



emergencies receive the timely attention they deserve.

Enhancing Convenience Through Streamlined Processes

The expedited service is specifically tailored for the 48-page passport booklet and includes thorough security and biometric checks to ensure safety is not compromised in the pursuit of speed. For everyday applicants, the government has also taken steps to make the standard process more affordable and user-friendly. The standard passport application fee has been reduced from GH₵500 to GH₵350, significantly lowering the financial burden for many household applicants.

Furthermore, the introduction of nationwide doorstep delivery at no extra cost marks a major improvement in customer convenience. Applicants no longer have to make repeated

trips to passport offices or wait in crowded halls. Instead, finished passports are delivered directly to their homes, adding a layer of ease and reliability that many Ghanaians have long hoped for.

A Stronger Focus on National Security

While speed and convenience are vital, the government's recent reforms also place heavy emphasis on enhancing national security. Since April 2025, Ghana has begun issuing chip-embedded passports that meet International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) global standards. These passports contain advanced security features that help prevent identity fraud, document tampering, and unauthorized duplication.

To further reinforce integrity, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration has introduced "mystery applicants", an innovative monitoring initiative used to evaluate service delivery and expose corruption or misconduct among staff. This proactive strategy is intended to deter unethical behaviour, curb the influence of intermediaries, and build public confidence in the passport issuance system.

Decentralizing Passport Services Across All Regions

A key component of this reform is ensuring that passport services are accessible to all Ghanaians, regardless of their location. By the end of 2025, the government plans to establish Passport Application Centres (PACs) in all 16 regions. This decentralization will drastically reduce the need for applicants in remote communities to travel long distances to major cities such as Accra or Kumasi, which has historically been time-consuming and costly. With more centers available nationwide, citizens will enjoy shorter processing times, reduced congestion at major PACs, and a more equitable distribution of services across the country.

Real-Time Tracking and 24-Hour Operations
Another notable advancement is the rollout of a digital real-time application tracking system. This platform allows applicants to follow each stage of their passport application, from submission to delivery, reducing uncertainty

and anxiety. It also improves transparency by showing exactly where delays, if any, might occur.

In addition, the Passport Head Office now operates 24 hours a day, ensuring that emergency cases, high-volume periods, and varied applicant schedules can be accommodated at any time. This extended operational window reinforces the government's efforts to provide a responsive and modern public service.

Broader Economic and Social Benefits

Beyond individual convenience, the introduction of the same-day passport service has wider implications for Ghana's economy and international mobility. Faster processing allows business executives, entrepreneurs, and professionals to respond quickly to international opportunities, strengthening Ghana's presence in global markets. Reduced wait times and fees can also attract foreign investors and tourists who view efficient administrative systems as a marker of a stable and progressive country.

For families, students, and workers, the reforms offer peace of mind. Whether traveling for education, schooling, medical treatment, or work opportunities, Ghanaians can now navigate the passport process with greater confidence and less stress.

Conclusion

The launch of the same-day passport service is more than a policy update, it is a strong statement about Ghana's commitment to modernization, transparency, and citizen-centered governance. By tackling long-standing inefficiencies, upgrading security measures, decentralizing services, and leveraging technology, the government has set a new benchmark for public service delivery.

As these changes become fully integrated, Ghanaians can expect a smoother, safer, and more accessible passport acquisition process. Ultimately, these reforms open the door to greater mobility, expanded opportunities, and a brighter, more connected future for all citizens.

An Overview of the National Communication Authority Bill: Paving the Way for a Transformed Communication Landscape

By: Margaret Adjeley Sowah

THE National Communications Authority Bill, 2025 represents a substantial milestone in Ghana's journey toward modernizing its communications sector. Introduced as a replacement for the Electronics Communications Act, 2008 (Act 775), the Bill is designed to strengthen regulatory independence, align governance with international best practices, and ensure that the country's communications framework keeps pace with rapid technological change.

At its core, the Bill seeks to provide clarity on the statutory functions and powers of the Authority, giving it the tools to regulate effectively in an era defined by digitalization, artificial intelligence, and global connectivity.

Key Provisions of the Bill

The Bill emphasizes transparency and accountability, ensuring that licensing, frequency management, and consumer protection are handled with greater efficiency and fairness. It introduces clearer rules for the issuance, renewal, suspension, and revocation of licenses, while granting the Authority flexibility to amend licenses in emergency situations to safeguard continuity of service. This forward-looking approach reflects Ghana's ambition to build a resilient communications sector that can adapt to emerging technologies and foster innovation.

Beyond regulation, the Bill emphasizes the importance of consumer rights, mandating stronger protections against unfair practices such as exploitative premium rates and ensuring that subscribers are treated equitably. It also highlights the need for inclusivity,



recognizing that communications infrastructure must serve both urban and rural communities to avoid deepening inequalities. By embedding these principles, the Bill positions the National Communications Authority not merely as a regulator but as a guardian of public interest in the digital space.

The broader significance of the Bill lies in its alignment with Ghana's vision of becoming a digital economy leader in Africa. By modernizing its communications governance, Ghana is signaling its readiness to integrate more fully into global networks, attract investment, and support innovation across sectors such as fintech, e-commerce, and smart infrastructure. The Bill is therefore not just a legal instrument but a catalyst for transformation, enabling the country to harness

technology for economic growth and social development.

Challenges

While the NCA Bill holds great promise, its successful implementation will require concerted efforts from all stakeholders. The effectiveness of the Bill will depend on its implementation, the independence of the Authority, and the ability to balance regulation with innovation. Ensuring that the Authority operates free from political interference while remaining accountable to the public will be critical. It is equally vital to ensure that rural and underserved communities' benefit from

improved communications governance, preventing the digital divide from widening.

Conclusion

Ultimately, the National Communications Authority Bill, 2025 is a bold step toward a future where regulation is not a barrier but a driver of progress. If passed and implemented effectively, it has the potential to redefine how Ghanaians connect, communicate, and participate in the digital economy, laying the foundation for a communications sector that is transparent, inclusive, and globally competitive.

AI: A New Phenomenon to Enhance Good Governance

By: Margaret Adjeley Sowah



In today's era of rapid technological advancement, Artificial Intelligence (AI) stands out as a groundbreaking phenomenon with the potential to revolutionize governance. It is emerging as a transformative force in governance, offering tools to enhance transparency, efficiency, and accountability while also posing new challenges that demand careful oversight. Beyond laboratories and tech firms, AI is reshaping how governments operate; automating services, detecting fraud, and improving accountability.

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) notes that governments worldwide are deploying AI

across justice systems, financial management, and civil service reforms. As OECD Director for Public Governance, Elsa Pilichowski, observes, "AI is one of the most transformative technologies of our time."

Ghana is not standing on the sideline. In May 2025, the country launched its National AI Strategy, a bold plan to integrate AI into agriculture, healthcare, logistics, smart cities, and financial inclusion. The Minister for Communication, Digital Technology and Innovation, Mr. Samuel Nartey George emphasized that "data is the new fuel, and the application of intelligence to this data through AI is what generates real value."

One of AI's greatest contributions is its ability to analyze vast amounts of data quickly and accurately. Governments are tasked with making decisions that affect millions, and relying solely on traditional methods can lead to oversights and inefficiencies. By examining economic indicators, demographic trends, and social data, policymakers can design more effective policies and allocate resources efficiently.

Transparency in governance is essential for building public trust, and AI technologies provide innovative solutions to promote accountability. Automated reporting systems powered by AI can monitor government spending in real time, making financial activities more accessible to citizens. These systems allow for greater scrutiny, empowering citizens to hold their governments accountable on how the taxpayer's money is spent. An informed public is better equipped to engage in civic matters, thereby enhancing the democratic process.

AI also promotes citizen engagement. Chatbots and virtual assistants provide direct communication channels, allowing citizens to access information, submit inquiries, and share feedback conveniently. This two-way interaction ensures that people feel heard and connected to governance.

Corruption remains an important barrier to effective governance in many countries, undermining public trust and siphoning resources away from essential services. AI can play a crucial role in detecting and preventing fraudulent activities. By identifying patterns and anomalies in public service data, AI algorithms can flag suspicious behavior, leading to timely investigations and reduced malpractice.

However, challenges remain. Concerns about data privacy, algorithmic bias, and job displacement must be addressed to ensure ethical deployment. Furthermore, there must be an emphasis on inclusivity, ensuring that AI solutions are accessible to all segments of the population and do not exacerbate existing inequalities.

As governments embrace AI, the possibilities are transformative. Harnessed responsibly, AI can enhance efficiency, strengthen democracy, and build lasting trust between citizens and their leaders. The task ahead is not only adoption but alignment with the principles of good governance, ultimately strengthening democracy to improve lives worldwide.



The Performance of the Ghana Cedi Against the Dollar After 60 Years of Its Circulation

By: Deborah Narkie Nartey



Introduction

Since the cedi's introduction in July 1965, it has undergone a complex journey marked by economic restructuring, political transitions, global shocks, and domestic policy reforms. As Ghana's principal legal tender, the cedi's performance against the US dollar has become a critical indicator of macroeconomic stability and national economic health. Sixty years on, the cedi's trajectory tells a broader story of Ghana's economic strengths, vulnerabilities, and evolving financial systems.

Historical Background

Ghana replaced the British West African pound with the cedi in 1965 under Kwame Nkrumah. Over the decades, the currency has experienced several reforms, including: The

first introduction of the cedi in 1965, the Second cedi introduced in 1967 after re-denomination to curb inflation, and in 2007 the New Ghana cedi (GHS) also introduced which is still in operation. These structural changes were not merely cosmetic; they reflected broader macroeconomic challenges.

A Period of Relative Stability: 1965–1980

During the first decade, the cedi experienced manageable levels of depreciation. Ghana's economy was largely state-controlled, with fixed exchange rate regimes typical of post-independence African countries. Although the cedi was overvalued at times, the rate of decline against the dollar was slow compared to later decades. However, there was a turning point in the 1980s, which included severe

macroeconomic imbalances, decline in exports, rising import bills, political instability, and fiscal deficits which triggered the cedi's depreciation.

Sharp Declines and Economic Turbulence

By the late 1990s, the cedi had lost the bulk of its early value. During this period the cedi transitioned from fixed to flexible exchange rates, there was rapid depreciation which was triggered by inflation and low productivity, the cedi relied heavily on the dollar for trade and reserves and there was gradual dollarization of the economy.

Re-denomination and Temporary Stability of the Cedi: 2000–2010

In 2007, the Bank of Ghana re-denominated the currency to simplify transactions and restore confidence. Initially, the new Ghana cedi performed strongly due to: improved fiscal discipline, favorable global commodity prices, and growth in the mining and telecoms sectors. However, structural issues such as: The rise in external debt, budget deficits, and import dependence soon resurfaced and weakened the currency again.

Persistent Pressures and Episodes of Sharp Depreciation: 2010–2025

Over the last 15 years, depreciation of the cedi has accelerated due to the rise in external borrowing, high inflation, decline in investor confidence, global shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic, fluctuations in commodity prices, especially cocoa, gold, and crude oil, and seasonal pressure from import demand. By 2025, the cedi was consistently ranked among Africa's weaker currencies in terms of annual depreciation rates, reflecting continued structural and fiscal vulnerabilities.

Causes of Long-Term Depreciation

Several factors explain the cedi's long-term decline against the US dollar, these includes the following: Trade Imbalances: Ghana imports goods more than it exports hence, increasing the demand for the dollar. Also, dependence on Commodity Exports: Resources such as Cocoa and gold revenues fluctuate, this affects forex supply. Again, Fiscal

Deficits: Persistent government overspending increases inflation and weakens the country's currency. Public Debt Accumulation: Refunding external debt requires dollars which puts pressure on the cedi. Lastly Low Industrialization: Limited local production forces continuous reliance on foreign goods Speculation which accelerates depreciation.

Achievements and Resilience

Despite persistent challenges, the cedi has also demonstrated resilience and growth as Ghana remains one of West Africa's liberal and functional financial economies. Mobile money and digital financial reforms have improved monetary controls, and The Bank of Ghana has adopted modern inflation targeting policies. Also Export diversification efforts such as the one in petroleum, and the value added to agriculture offer long-term hope.

Summary: The Cedi-Dollar Relationship After 60 Years

The cedi has gone from near parity with the US dollar to extreme depreciation. However, structural weaknesses and external shocks have shaped its long-term performance. Also, periods of stability have occurred but they have been short-lived compared to longer phases of decline. Nonetheless, significant policy reforms have occasionally restored confidence, but sustained recovery remains elusive.

Conclusion

The 60 years' performance of the Ghanaian cedi against the US dollar reveals a currency shaped by Ghana's broader economic journey, its aspirations, its vulnerabilities, and its resilience. The cedi's depreciation does not simply reflect mismanagement; it reflects deeper structural realities of developing economies: limited production, dependence on imports, and exposure to global markets.

As Ghana approaches the next decade, long-term stability of the cedi will require bold structural reforms, disciplined fiscal management, and sustained investment in industrialization. Only then can the cedi's next 60 years tell a story of sustained strength rather than recurring depreciation.

Nana Agyeman Konadu Rawlings: A woman activist and a buoyant politician

By: Priscilla Osei-Wusu Nimako

ONE of the most influential and revolutionary individuals in Ghana's recent history is Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, [a Former first lady]. Her life was a powerful combination of perception, political engagement, grassroots activity, and unwavering advocacy that redefined the First Lady's role and finally broke a significant political barrier for women.

Her most enduring legacy is the 31st December Women's Movement (31st DWM), which she founded and launched in 1982. This was not merely a First Lady's charity; it was a potent, development-oriented Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) that mobilized millions of Ghanaian women. Its core philosophy was that women's freedom was inseparable from economic and political power.

Through training in small-scale processing, group enterprises, and savings cooperatives, countless women leaped from dependence to enterprise. Cassava-to-gari processing, palm-oil extraction, soap-making cooperatives, garment workshops, and market trading units emerged under her guidance.

These modest ventures were powerful because they utilized local resources, tapped into local demand, and harnessed the collective will of the citizens/women. Through these initiatives, women earn incomes, reinvest in their businesses, educate their children, and transform their communities.

The Impact of 31st DWM's was tangible and widespread:

Economic Upliftment: It created several microbusinesses, cooperatives, and skill-training initiatives with an emphasis on value addition, including the extraction of palm oil and the processing of cassava into gari. With this strategy, women were empowered to become



entrepreneurs and important participants in Ghana's value chains.

Nana Konadu established the groundwork for what is now known as women-led SMEs by increasing the capacity of women at the local level economic ventures. Numerous of these (projects) have expanded, diversified, and encouraged younger women to do same. They demonstrate how small beginnings may become scalable operations with the correct assistance. Stronger entrepreneurship, more inclusive growth, and a more equitable allocation of economic activity are the outcomes for the economy.

Social Infrastructure: Nana Konadu recognised that for women to thrive in business they needed practical support, especially in reconciling caregiving responsibilities with income-earning work. The Movement established over 870 community-based crèches and pre -schools across the nation. This was a critical intervention, providing safe childcare that, in turn, enabled mothers to engage fully in economic and educational activities.

The Movement also offered leadership training,

savings-and-loan cooperatives, and adult literacy programs. Women who had previously been socially marginalized, financially excluded, or have no formal education were integrated into networks, organized groups, and business training programs. By doing this, Nana Konadu closed the gap between ambition and reality, giving women the means to assert their right, create enterprises, and direct their own destinies.

Legal Reforms: Nana Konadu's advocacy was instrumental in the passage of the Intestate Succession Law (PNDCL 111) of 1985. This landmark legislation provided clear and fair inheritance rights to surviving spouses and children, directly challenging customary laws that often-left women destitute upon the death of their husbands. This act fundamentally protected women's economic stability and property rights.

By combining business training, legal protection, and social support, she empowered women to articulate their thought, build businesses, and function as economic citizens, not just laborers. This has profound implications for business development, investment and growth. It means that when women own, invest and lead enterprises the economy becomes richer and more diversified.

Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings was not content with the ceremonial duties of a First Lady. She transformed the office into an institution for national development and political mobilization, working alongside her husband, the late President Jerry John Rawlings, through his two tenures in office as president.

But her political career went much further. She boldly ran against the late John Evans Atta Mills, the president at the time, in 2011 for the National Democratic Congress (NDC) flagbearer post, which her husband co-founded. Despite the unsuccessful attempt, this action cemented her reputation as a political

activist who isn't scared to take on the establishment.

In 2016, she made history as the first female presidential contender in Ghana by founding the National Democratic Party (NDP). Her bid, which was repeated in 2020, was a potent symbolic move that shattered Ghana's top gender barrier and encouraged more women to pursue leadership positions. It was a declaration that men were not the only ones qualified for the top position.

Beyond politics and activism, Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings was a creative and cultural woman who supported various cultural programmes and a product of the of Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) to study art and textiles.

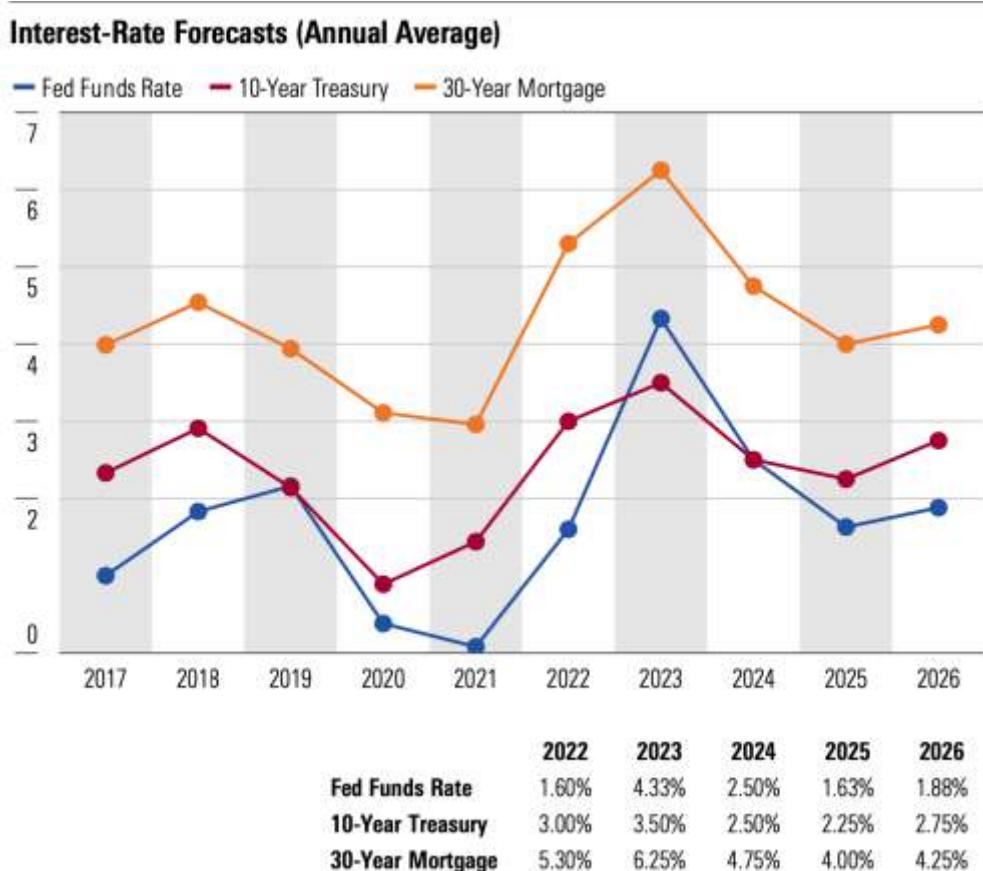
Her upbringing influenced her refined and culturally complex sense of style, which frequently featured Ghanaian textiles like Kente as a global symbol of African pride.

Her memoir, "It Takes a Woman", offers reflections on a life shaped by conviction, leadership, and a deep commitment to social justice. She was, in the words of many, a force of nature, bold, articulate, and purposeful, who refused to be silenced or confined.

Her legacy is therefore two-fold: she was an activist who spearheaded a revolution that granted women economic and legal power at the grassroots level, and she was a politician who broke the ultimate glass ceiling, forever altering the landscape of Ghanaian democratic leadership. Her life is a powerful lesson that the progress of its women measures true national progress. She is a testament to the idea that the most powerful position is not always the one you are given, but the one you construct for yourself and then use to lift others to see the horizon you saw all along.

Impact of Interest Rate on Personal and Business Loans

By: Priscilla Osei-Wusu Nimako



MONEY is the fuel of our modern world, but it doesn't come for free. Most of us see interest rates as a dull number on a bank statement, but in reality, they are the "price of time." When central banks adjust these rates, they aren't just changing a decimal point; they are influencing how much a family can afford for a home and whether a local shop can keep its staff.

Interest rates can be defined as the cost of borrowing money or the reward for saving it. Essentially, they represent the price of money. Interest rates come in various forms, including fixed, variable, nominal, real, and annual percentage rates (APR), each with distinct characteristics and implications.

Interest rates, often viewed as an abstract

economic metric, are the single most critical factor determining the real-world cost of borrowing. They are the price of money, and their fluctuations send ripples across the financial landscape, profoundly impacting everything from an individual's monthly budget to a business's expansion plans. Understanding the mechanics of this impact is essential for anyone seeking credit.

For businesses, interest rates play a crucial role in financing operations and expansion. Higher rates increase the cost of borrowing capital, which can affect a company's decision to invest in new projects, hire additional staff, or upgrade equipment.

This can lead to:

Reduced Investment: Companies may delay or

forego capital expenditures due to increased financing costs.

Impact on Small Businesses: Smaller firms, often more reliant on loans for growth, may find high-interest rates particularly burdensome, limiting their ability to compete and expand.

Cash Flow Management: The cost of servicing debt rises, which can strain cash flow and affect profitability.

Interest rates significantly impact personal finances, influencing everything from mortgage payments to savings account returns. Whether you are planning to buy a home, saving for retirement, or managing debt, understanding interest rates can help you make informed financial decisions.

Higher borrowing costs: When interest rates rise, personal loans, credit cards, and mortgages become more expensive. Monthly payments increase, straining household budgets.

Reduced disposable income: With more income going toward loan repayments, individuals have less money for discretionary spending, which can slow overall consumption. **Debt management challenges:** Rising rates make it harder for borrowers with variable-rate loans to keep up with payments, increasing the risk of defaults.

Savings incentive: On the flip side, higher rates encourage saving, since banks offer better returns on deposits.

The Bank of Ghana (BoG) has indicated another cut in borrowing costs, with a substantial decrease in its policy rate the rate at which it loans to commercial banks.

The central bank reduced the policy rate from 21.5 percent, set in September this year, to 18 percent, marking the second consecutive significant cut since May this year.

The reduction was a reflection of the continued decline in inflation, strong economic growth,

and improved external buffers. The lower rate is expected to enable financial institutions to offer more affordable credit to various customer groups, thereby supporting business expansion and job creation, as well as helping individuals meet their needs.

The majority of committee members supported the decision to reduce the rate by 350 basis points to 18 percent. It will continue to monitor developments and take the appropriate policy decisions to ensure sound and stable macroeconomic conditions.

Central banks influence interest rates primarily through monetary policy, which involves adjusting the benchmark rates to achieve economic growth and stability. By raising or lowering these rates, central banks affect borrowing costs for consumers and businesses, thereby influencing spending and investment decisions. Lower interest rates typically stimulate economic activity by making loans more affordable, whereas higher rates can help control inflation and stabilize an overheating economy, reflecting the central bank's strategic objectives.

Commercial banks do not set interest rates in a vacuum. Their lending rates are largely anchored to the Monetary Policy Rate (MPR), or base rate, set by the nation's central bank.

To Combat Inflation (Rates Rise): When inflation (the general increase in prices) is high, the central bank often raises the MPR. The goal is to make borrowing more expensive, which slows down economic activity, discourages consumer spending, and ultimately helps to cool down prices. Banks pass this higher cost on to their customers.

To Stimulate Growth (Rates Fall): During economic downturns or recessions, the central bank may lower the MPR. This makes borrowing cheaper, encouraging individuals and businesses to take on loans, invest, and spend, thereby boosting economic activity.

This central bank action acts as the foundation upon which commercial banks build their

personal and business loan rates, factoring in their own operational costs and the borrower's risk profile

Types of Interest Rates can be classified into several categories

Fixed Interest Rates: These rates remain constant over the life of the loan or investment.

Variable Interest Rates: These rates fluctuate over time, depending on the underlying benchmark rate.

Nominal Interest Rates: These are the stated rates without adjustments for inflation.

Real Interest Rates: Nominal interest rates adjusted for inflation.

Annual Percentage Rates (APR): These rates represent the annual cost of borrowing, including all fees.

Interest rates significantly influence economic activity; this is as follows.

Consumer Behavior

Interest rates play a crucial role in shaping consumer spending. When interest rates are low, borrowing costs decrease, making it cheaper for consumers to take out loans for big-ticket items such as homes and cars. This encourages spending and can stimulate economic growth. Conversely, high-interest rates increase borrowing costs, which can lead to reduced consumer spending and slower economic activity.

Business Investment

Interest rates also impact business investment decisions. Lower interest rates reduce the cost of financing, making it more attractive for companies to invest in new projects, expand operations, and hire more employees. This can lead to increased economic growth. On the other hand, higher interest rates can deter investment, leading to slower economic growth and potentially higher unemployment rates.

Inflation Control

Central banks, such as the Federal Reserve, adjust interest rates to control inflation. High-

interest rates can help reduce inflation by making borrowing more expensive, which slows down economic activity. Conversely, low-interest rates can spur inflation by encouraging spending and borrowing. This delicate balance is crucial for maintaining economic stability.

Overall Economic Growth

Historical data indicates that a 1% cut in interest rates can boost GDP growth by approximately 0.5% to 0.8% within a year. Conversely, rate hikes of the same magnitude typically reduce GDP growth by around 0.6%, reflecting restrained consumption and investment. Thus, interest rate adjustments are a powerful tool for influencing the overall pace of economic growth.

Market Reactions

Changes in interest rates can also lead to significant reactions in financial markets. For instance, when central banks raise rates, it can lead to increased market volatility and investor uncertainty. Conversely, rate cuts can stimulate market activity by improving borrowing conditions for consumers and businesses, promoting job creation and economic growth.

In summary, interest rates are a fundamental economic lever that affects various aspects of the economy, from consumer behavior to business investment and inflation control. Understanding these impacts is essential for policymakers and investors navigating the economic landscape.

Interest rates wield significant influence over loans, impacting personal loan, consumer behavior, business investment, and broader economic trends. Understanding this relationship is crucial for policymakers, businesses, and consumers alike, as interest rate changes can have both immediate and long-term effects on financial decisions and economic health. Whether rates are rising or falling, the underlying mechanics remain the same: interest rates serve as a pivotal lever in the intricate machinery of the economy.

DVLA's RFID Vehicle Tracking System: What You Need to Know

By: Richard Aniagyei



THE statistics are sobering. Vehicle theft in Ghana costs the economy millions annually. Traffic offenses go undetected. Hit-and-run incidents leave victims without recourse. Stolen vehicles cross borders before authorities can respond. In 2026, the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority (DVLA) is rolling out Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) - embedded number plates across Ghana, a laudable initiative to curb the menace by the DVLA.

According to the DVLA, the rollout will be implemented in phases, starting with new vehicle registrations from January 1, 2026, followed by the re-registration of all existing vehicles from April 1, 2026.

RFID, represents a technological evolution from traditional license plates. While conventional plates rely on visual identification, RFID plates contain embedded microchips and antennas that transmit vehicle data wirelessly to readers positioned at strategic locations. When a vehicle with an RFID plate passes a

reader at a police checkpoint, border crossing, or urban intersection, the system instantly captures the vehicle's registration information, ownership details, insurance status, and traffic violation history, all at highway speeds without requiring the vehicle to stop.

For law enforcement, RFID technology represents a transformative capability. Consider a hit-and-run incident. Currently, investigations depend on eyewitness descriptions, CCTV footage quality, or fortunate discovery of vehicle fragments, with resolution rates frustratingly low. With RFID, a police officer at the scene activates a mobile reader, and any vehicle passing that location in the relevant timeframe is logged. Rather than relying on witness memory or limited footage, investigators have precise data within minutes. Vehicle theft becomes substantially more difficult; a stolen car with an RFID plate immediately broadcasts its location to any reader it passes, making recovery rates climb substantially from current estimates of 40-50 percent.

The technology also enables sophisticated traffic management. Traffic lights can adjust timing based on real-time vehicle flow data. Emergency vehicles can receive green lights automatically, saving minutes in life-or-death situations. The system enables detection of traffic violations with unprecedented precision. A vehicle speeding past an RFID reader with integrated speed detection is automatically identified and recorded, changing driver behavior when enforcement becomes systematic and unavoidable rather than sporadic. Studies from countries with existing RFID systems show significant reductions in traffic violations and accident rates once the technology becomes operational.

Insurance companies are eager participants. The RFID data, how fast vehicles travel, traffic violation patterns, accident involvement, provides insurers with unprecedented risk assessment capability. Premiums can be individualized based on actual driving behavior rather than demographic proxies, incentivizing responsible driving. The logistics and transportation sector sees efficiency potential; delivery companies can track vehicle locations in real-time, optimize routes, and monitor driver behavior, making supply chains more transparent and efficient. Border authorities gain capability to track vehicle movement across international boundaries, reducing smuggling while facilitating legitimate trade.

Yet beneath these benefits lies a fundamental challenge and tension among stakeholders. A system that tracks vehicle movement is, by definition, a surveillance system. It logs where people travel, when they travel, and with what frequency. The DVLA acknowledges these risks and has designed safeguards. Only authorized personnel, police investigating specific crimes, border authorities checking for stolen vehicles, insurance companies verifying claims, can access RFID data. Every data access is logged, creating accountability.

Vehicle movement data is retained for 90 days unless relevant to an active investigation. All data transmission and storage uses military-grade encryption. A newly established Data Protection Commission will conduct quarterly audits of RFID system use, and Parliament is drafting the Digital Vehicle Identification Act, which will codify RFID system rules, establish penalties for misuse, and create citizen recourse mechanisms.

Ghana is not pioneering this technology. Malaysia deployed RFID vehicle identification in 2009, achieving a 35 percent reduction in vehicle theft within three years. Singapore uses it extensively for congestion pricing. South Africa deployed it for toll collection and vehicle tracking. Ghana's phased rollout, informed by these experiences, builds in longer testing periods and anticipates integration challenges.

Not everyone welcomes RFID implementation. Privacy advocates worry about government overreach. Some vehicle owners view it as surveillance targeting citizens. Informal sector operators worry about stricter enforcement. However, the DVLA emphasizes transparency and genuine safeguards. With vigorous oversight, credible implementation, and commitment to privacy protection, RFID can be a powerful tool for improving public safety and transportation efficiency.

The challenge ahead is innovation without surveillance, efficiency without oppression, safety without sacrifice of privacy. Ghana has the opportunity to model responsible RFID implementation, proving that developing nations can leverage advanced technology while protecting citizen rights. How it unfolds depends on government commitment to responsibility and citizens demanding accountability.

Ghana's Ports as a Mirror of National Governance

By: Richard Aniagyei



EVERY day at Ghana's ports, decisions taken quietly in offices ripple across the entire economy. From the price of imported food to the competitiveness of exports, from government revenue to public trust in institutions, the operations of the Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority (GPHA) sit at the intersection of trade, governance and national development.

As President John Dramani Mahama's administration settles into office in 2025, attention is turning to the ports, not only as physical gateways, but as governance institutions whose efficiency and integrity shape Ghana's economic fortunes.

Ghana's maritime ports, Tema and Takoradi, handle more than 80 per cent of the country's international trade. In November 2025, President Mahama commissioned Phases One and Two of the landmark Tema Port Expansion Project, a major upgrade built through a public-private partnership (PPP) with Meridian Port Services (MPS), Africa Global Logistics (AGL), APM Terminals and GPHA. Representing an estimated US\$1.5 billion investment, this expansion solidifies Tema's position as one of West Africa's most modern container terminals, boosting its container handling capacity from roughly 800,000 Twenty Foot Equivalent Units

(TEUs) to around 3 million TEUs.

These ports are major revenue channels. Customs duties, port charges, handling fees and related levies form a portion of government income. Any inefficiency translates directly into higher costs for businesses, lost revenue for the state, and increased prices for consumers. Beyond economics, the ports reflect the quality of governance. How GPHA, the Ghana Revenue Authority, shipping lines, terminal operators, and security agencies are coordinated often determines whether trade flows smoothly or becomes entangled in delays.

Established under PNDC Law 160, GPHA is mandated to plan, build, manage and regulate Ghana's ports. Over the years, its role has evolved from direct operator to landlord authority, overseeing private terminal operators under concession agreements. President Mahama has championed this model, emphasizing that government invested no direct capital, with GPHA now earning dividends and royalties, a governance framework aligning private-sector efficiency with protected public revenue streams. The model has delivered clear gains in capacity and infrastructure, significantly increasing container handling and reducing vessel turnaround times.

Yet governance challenges persist. Questions around concession agreements, tariff structures, and oversight mechanisms continue in public debate. The issue is not whether private participation is necessary, but whether GPHA's regulatory arm is strong enough to protect public interest.

The introduction of the Paperless Port System in 2017 aimed to reduce human discretion, cut clearance times and limit corruption by digitising port and customs processes. While it led to measurable improvements, implementation exposed deeper institutional issues. System overlaps, multiple agency approvals and fee disputes revealed that digitisation alone cannot fix governance gaps without institutional discipline.

Under the current administration, policy direction suggests renewed emphasis on trade facilitation. This is being given practical force through directives to implement a full 24-hour operational model at both Tema and Takoradi ports. Extending services beyond ship-side activities to key terminals, including the Transit, Reefer, and Golden Jubilee Terminals, aims to speed up cargo handling and reduce delays. GPHA is collaborating with the National Petroleum Authority to prepare for 24-hour petroleum jetty operations at Tema Port, ensuring the downstream sector benefits from continuous service.

For traders, especially small and medium-sized importers, the difference between efficient coordination and bureaucratic congestion can mean survival or collapse.

Ports are among the most revenue-sensitive institutions in the country, making transparency non-negotiable. GPHA's role in setting port tariffs, negotiating concessions and supervising terminal operators places it at the centre of accountability conversations. President Mahama in July 2025 ordered an immediate audit of revenue collections at Tema Port, tasking ministerial teams with identifying why government revenue was not keeping pace with soaring cargo volumes. This underscores that when costs rise or revenue falters at the ports, effects are quickly felt

across the economy.

Good governance at GPHA extends beyond internal controls to include public disclosure, predictable tariff regimes and effective oversight. As Ghana seeks to position itself as a regional logistics hub, investor confidence increasingly depends on the credibility of port governance frameworks.

In his second term, President Mahama has emphasized experience and performance in public sector leadership. This was signaled with the appointment of Brigadier-General Paul Seidu Tanye-Kulono as Acting Director-General of GPHA, bringing military and legal experience to oversee port governance. Ports are high-risk environments for rent-seeking, given the volume of transactions and discretionary decisions involved.

Ghana's ports compete directly with Lomé, Abidjan and Lagos, all investing heavily in capacity and efficiency. To maintain its edge, GPHA has outlined plans to dredge the Tema Port harbour to a depth between 12 and 14 meters. This project, expected to commence by late 2025/2026, will enable the port to receive much larger vessels directly, reducing turnaround times and lowering shipping costs.

The ambition to make Ghana a West African trade and logistics hub depends not only on infrastructure, but on predictability, speed and trust. GPHA's ability to regulate fairly, plan sustainably and coordinate agencies will determine whether Ghana capitalizes on its geographic advantage.

Ultimately, GPHA is more than a manager of docks and terminals. It is a test case for public sector governance in a modern economy. As the Mahama administration advances its governance agenda, marked by PPP infrastructure commissioning, 24-hour operations, revenue audits, and strategic appointments, GPHA stands as one of the institutions where reform will be most visible and most consequential. Ghana's ports are not just gateways for goods. They are gateways to credibility, accountability and economic resilience.

Political thugs, election violence, the two canker eroding Ghana's democratic credence, peace and development.

By: Sarah Safo Boamah



PRIOR to the country's general elections on December 7, 2024, there have been calls from various segment of the country on the government to do all it can to ensure a violent free general elections throughout the country. The calls have been necessitated by the experiences of past general elections in the country.

Political thuggery, characterised by the mobilisation of party-aligned groups to intimidate opponents, manipulate voting processes, snatch ballot boxes, or disrupt polling stations, has become a recurring and troubling feature of Ghana's elections in the past. Though often dismissed as isolated

incidents, the pattern has been consistent enough to suggest systemic weakness.

The existence and activities of politically affiliated vigilante groups have at various times heightened tensions and created hostile environments, especially in hotspot constituencies. Despite political parties pledging to disband these groups associated with the political parties, many of them continue to operate covertly, waiting for election seasons to resurface.

Election violence goes beyond physical confrontation. It includes verbal threats, destruction of property, hate speech, cyber

misinformation, and emotional intimidation of voters. These actions do more than disrupt voting; they chip away at citizens' willingness to participate in choosing their leaders freely. Democracy loses its meaning when voters feel unsafe expressing their political choices.

Victims, whether electoral officers, ordinary citizens, journalists, or political actors, often suffer lifelong fear and trauma. Some regions experience heightened ethnic and partisan tensions long after elections, affecting community cohesion and governance.

The legitimacy of any government rests on the credibility of the electoral process. When elections are tainted by violence or coercion, the outcome becomes questionable. Citizens may view elected leaders as individuals who gained power through force rather than through the sovereign will of the people.

This perception breeds apathy, distrust in institutions, and a decline in voter turnout, all symptoms of a weakening democracy. A generation of young voters, especially first-time voters, sees politics as dangerous rather than empowering, further deepening disengagement.

Ghana has long been celebrated for its peaceful transitions of power. Yet peace is not merely the absence of war, it is the presence of fairness, justice, and respect for human rights. Political thuggery and violence disrupt this delicate balance.

Such practices stoke fear, escalate tensions between rival party supporters, and in extreme cases, ignite chaotic clashes. The ripple effect may threaten national unity, create insecurity, and weaken social stability.

Investment, local or foreign, thrive in environments of predictability, transparency, and peace. Election-related violence signals instability and unpredictable risk. When businesses do not flourish national development slows.

Government resources that could support

healthcare, education, infrastructure, and job creation are instead channeled into conflict management, security reinforcement, and post-violence mediation efforts.

Economic progress cannot thrive in an environment where political competition resembles warfare rather than civil contest of ideas.

The way forward to preserve and strengthen the country's democratic credentials, Ghana must urgently confront the roots of political violence.

There must be strict enforcement of electoral and criminal laws against perpetrators and sponsors of political thuggery.

Institutions such as the National Peace Council, the Electoral Commission, and the Judiciary must be strengthened to remain independent and uncompromised.

There must be civic and political education to empower citizens to reject manipulation and violence.

Accountability from political parties, including the disbandment of vigilante groups and transparent campaign practices must be ensured.

There must be youth employment and empowerment, reducing vulnerability to recruitment into violent political activities.

Ghana has come too far to allow its democratic gains to be eroded. Political thuggery and election violence, if unaddressed, risk transforming democratic competition into a culture of fear. The responsibility lies with political actors, institutions, security agencies, and citizens to ensure that elections remain free, fair, and peaceful.

The strength of democracy is not measured by how loudly parties compete, but by how peacefully power changes hands. Ghana must choose civility over chaos if it intends to protect its future.

The Politics of anti-gay bill: Is there any lessons to learn from the differing Perspectives?

By: Sarah Safo Boamah



DEBATES around Ghana's Human Sexual Rights and Family Values Bill, commonly called the "anti-gay bill," have generated intense public interest, political conversations, and international reactions. Far beyond a legal discussion, the bill has evolved into a social, cultural, and ideological battleground reflecting Ghana's historical values, global integration challenges, and the realities of modern governance.

As Parliament, civil society groups, traditional leaders, faith based organisations, and international actors voice sharply differing views, an important question emerges: Are there lessons to be learned from these

contrasting perspectives?

For many supporters of the bill, the debate is not simply about lawmaking. It is framed as a defense of cultural norms, religious beliefs, and long-standing societal expectations about family values and morality. Ghana, like many African states, has deep-rooted family structures and moral frameworks shaped by religion, tradition, and social upbringing.

Religious leaders argue that the bill protects children, preserves the traditional family system, and guards against what they perceive as moral erosion. Some political leaders also view supporting the bill as reflecting the will of

the majority of citizens, especially in a democracy where public sentiment matters.

Opponents of the bill approach the issue from a constitutional and human-rights perspective. They argue that laws affecting personal identity, privacy, and expression must be evaluated through the lens of human rights guaranteed by the constitution and international legal frameworks Ghana has signed on to.

Civil society organisations and human rights advocates warn that the bill could lead to discrimination, fear, and stigma against already vulnerable groups. International organisations and foreign governments have also expressed concern, tying the debate to global human-rights standards and diplomatic relationships.

The debate has also revealed an interesting political tension: the balance between national sovereignty and international partnerships. Some citizens interpret external criticism of the bill as interference in Ghana's domestic affairs. Others argue that cooperation with the international community requires alignment with global norms.

In this sense, the bill has become a symbol, not only of rights and identity, but of Ghana's position in global politics.

Opinion polls and public discussions show strong support for the bill, but they also reveal generational and rural -urban divides. While many older and rural communities strongly support the legislation, younger urban citizens, exposed to global conversations and social media, show more variation in views.

This complexity suggests that public opinion, while leaning in one direction, is not uniform. Whether one supports or opposes the bill, there are meaningful lessons in the differing perspectives. These are:

1. Democracy Thrives on Debate

The intensity of the public discussion demonstrates that Ghanaians are engaged in democratic processes. Open disagreement is not a sign of weakness, but evidence of civic participation.

2. Law and Culture Do Not Always Evolve at the Same Pace

Societies sometimes struggle to balance cultural identity with global social change. The debate reminds policy-makers that laws addressing deeply emotional and identity-based issues require careful public dialogue.

3. The Role of Evidence and Education

Emotions have dominated much of the conversation. However, policies benefit when research, expert opinion, and public awareness accompany value-based arguments.

4. The Need for Respectful Disagreement

Regardless of position, respecting others' dignity remains essential. The tone of national conversations can either strengthen unity, or deepen division.

5. International Relations Matter

Ghana's position on human rights influences diplomacy, trade partnerships, and global cooperation. Policymakers must consider both domestic expectations and international implications.

The politics surrounding Ghana's anti-gay bill highlight more than a disagreement about sexual orientation. They reveal a nation negotiating its identity at the crossroads of culture, rights, democracy, and global integration.

Whether the bill becomes law or undergoes revisions, the dialogue it has sparked presents an opportunity, for reflection, civic maturity, and continued learning. What remains crucial is that the debate respects human dignity, strengthens national unity, and upholds principles of fairness and constitutional governance.





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