Commentary

Historically Disgusting: Chief Justice Not Chief Propagandist of Government!

HIS **name is Paul Baffoe-Bonnie; he is the current Chief Justice (CJ), of Kwame Nkrumah's Ghana; he is the Head of the Judiciary; he is the Fourth in-command per the constitution; he is supposed to a learned man; he is supposed to be the chief advocate of the principle of Separation of Powers; but unfortunately, he is turning himself into the Chief Propagandist (CP), of the Government.**

Never! Never! Never in the history of our beloved Motherland Ghana, have we seen a Chief Justice consciously and continuously gleefully dancing with his political benefactors as Paul Baffoe-Bonnie continues to do without let or hindrance.

Was it not said that his predecessor, Getrude Torkonoo, was politically biased, ONLY, because she was constitutionally appointed by the then President of the Republic?

So, under the new President, all was done to remove the former CJ - a disgraceful albatross hanging around the neck of Ghana's Fourth Republican dispensation.

Assuming without admitting that Getrude Torkonnoo was partisan, how does Paul Baffoe-Bonnie expect to be described in view of the historically despicable partisanship he continues to display without any form of shame?

When it all began, Paul Baffoe-Bonnie empaneled Justices of the Supreme Court to quash a High Court case against a certain Kevin Taylor.

As we speak, because of that decision by the Supreme Court under the watch of Paul Baffoe-Bonnie, Ghana is now the Number One country in the world where on a daily basis, the President, his wife, and family are subjected to unprecedented unprintable verbal abuse by faceless persons.

Adding to his partisan politics, Paul Baffoe-Bonnie, behaving like a party foot soldier, decided to join the Vice President and her political entourage to Canada to watch World Cup matches.

Is the CJ saying he could not have gone on his own?

Or just a classic case of "adufudi pe"?

Then, we saw Paul Baffoe-Bonnie at a funeral associated with one of the arrogant puppets of the Government - displaying cash publicly without understanding the high office he occupies.

Just before the recent Legal Vacation, Paul Baffoe-Bonnie chose to do the unthinkable and force judges to sit on the cases of political opponents - the Ghana Bar Association was compelled to publicly condemn this despotic/demonic conduct.

As if all the above are not enough, Paul Baffoe-Bonnie has now decided that he must abandon his Chief Justice (CJ) role, and become the Chief Propagandist (CP) of his political benefactors.

What business has Paul Baffoe-Bonnie have by going to state institutions to pass judgement on past administrations and praising the current government?

Is it a case that because of the legal vacation he is bored at home and so the devil is finding jobs for the idle minds?

Honestly, it is very difficult to really understand what the motivation behind this incongruous conduct of Paul Baffoe-Bonnie, is.

Indeed, The Informer is picking up very credible information that Paul Baffoe-Bonnie,who will hit the retirement age in December, 2016, is engaging in political activism orientation to become a Council of State Member to replace Sophia Akuffo, who resigned.

Yes: Paul Baffoe-Bonnie is being promised the Council of State appointment hence his descent into the very low levels he has found himself.

As we watch Paul Baffoe-Bonnie do what he is doing to destroy his career, The Informer is wondering why some human beings do not pause to understand the biblical truth in the fact that "good name is better than riches" Proverbs 22:1.

In all his array, King Solomon wrote in the Book of Ecclesiastes 12:8 that "... vanity of vanities ... all is vanity".

Paul Baffoe-Bonnie, we ask: What legacy do you think you will be leaving after you exit in December?

Paul Baffoe-Bonnie, you want your wife and children to be hooted at in public places because you are succeeding in turning yourself into a partisan CJ?

Paul Baffoe-Bonnie, you still have about three months to attempt to redeem your image and The Informer will pray that you do so.

However, if you fail to redeem your image and leave office with an ignominious image created by yourself, The Informer shall, in our honest way of doing things, not hesitate to call you the exact name you deserve to be called.

Paul Baffoe-Bonnie; The Informer has run our corn aground - peck it or leave it.

The choice is yours!

Who Goes Next?

♦...As Mahama Wipes Out Boards of Nine Institutions

News Desk Report

THE **question "Who goes next?" is increasingly dominating conversations within Ghana's state-owned enterprise sector following President John Dramani Mahama's decision to dissolve the governing boards of nine major state institutions with immediate effect.**

The latest presidential directive has heightened uncertainty across the public-sector landscape, particularly among chief executives and senior managers whose institutions are now without governing boards.

The affected institutions are the Bulk Oil Storage and Transportation Company Limited (BOST), Volta Aluminium Company Limited (VALCO), Consolidated Bank Ghana Limited (CBG), Ghana National Petroleum Corporation (GNPC), Ghana Post Company Limited, TDC Ghana Limited, Prestea Sankofa Gold Limited, the Road Maintenance Trust Fund and the National Sports Authority (NSA).

The Presidency announced the decision on Wednesday, September 2, 2026, in a statement issued by the Spokesperson to the President and Minister for Government Communications, Felix Kwakye Ofosu.

No specific reason was given for the dissolution.

CEOs Now Watching Closely

With the governing boards swept aside, attention is now turning to the chief executives and management teams of the affected institutions.

Although the presidential directive does not announce the removal of any CEO, the dissolution of governing boards inevitably raises questions about the future composition of management and whether further changes could follow when the new boards are constituted.

▲ *President John Mahama*

For CEOs whose institutions have come under scrutiny over performance, financial management, operational efficiency or governance, the latest development could therefore mark the beginning of a period of heightened uncertainty.

The big question now is whether the reconstitution of the boards will come with changes to existing management structures.

Who goes next?

State Institutions Under Scrutiny

The development comes at a time when the performance of state-owned agencies is receiving increased attention following the release of the 2025 performance report on state-owned agencies by the State Interests and Governance Authority (SIGA).

The dissolution therefore comes against a backdrop of growing calls for stronger accountability, improved performance and greater efficiency within state institutions.

However, the Presidency has not linked the latest board dissolutions to any specific findings contained in the SIGA report.

The relevant sector Ministers have been directed to take all necessary steps, in accordance with applicable laws and the governing instruments of the affected institutions, to give effect to the President's directive.

The boards are expected to be reconstituted in due course.

Another Wave of Changes?

The latest decision follows President Mahama's earlier directive, issued after his assumption of office, which brought an end to the tenure of individuals appointed to statutory boards, corporations, commissions and councils by the previous administration, in accordance with the Presidential (Transition) Act, 2012 (Act 845).

Those appointed by former President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo or a former Minister of State ceased to hold office on January 7, 2025, the date of President Mahama's inauguration.

The Presidency subsequently clarified that the directive did not affect independent constitutional bodies.

Until new boards are constituted, management of affected institutions had previously been required to seek clearance from the Chief of Staff before taking major decisions.

The Waiting Game

For now, the nine institutions are entering another period of transition.

New boards are expected to be appointed, but the timing and composition of those boards remain unknown.

And as government prepares to make its next appointments, CEOs and senior officials across the affected institutions will be watching developments closely.

The boardrooms have been cleared.

The next question is whether the CEO offices will remain occupied.

Who goes next?

Chief Justice Strays into Partisan Politics

♦...Goofs on SSNIT Assets

News Desk Report

THE conduct of the Chief Justice Paul Baffoe-Bonnie has prompted reactions from political and legal fronts, accusing him of straying into partisan politics; setting a dangerous precedent for judicial independence.

The comment of the Chief Justice to the effect that he wonders what the country was doing in the past eight [8] years, is seen as a direct attack on the previous New Patriotic Party [NPP] government's performance in office.

"I must congratulate you. I mean, you have done marvellously well. See, because sometimes when we hear the things that you have done, the things that some organisations are doing now, we wonder; some of us keep wondering what really we have been doing in the past eight years".

"We've just come back from SSNIT, we went to SSNIT this morning, and the kind of things that we heard, and we hear, we even heard before we went there, what we were told, if you compare that to the fact that not too long ago, SSNIT was preparing to sell its prized assets like Labadi Beach Hotel, you wonder how Ghana could have sunk so low", Justice Baffoe-Bonnie remarked during a visit to Minerals Income Investment Fund [MIIF] on Wednesday.

Such a statement, many argued is not expected to come from a Chief Justice who is the Head of an institution that is expected to an independent arbiter on matters.

According to them [both legal experts and politicians], the Chief Justice's conduct calls into question the entire mandate of the judiciary, sparking fears of bias in the potential of making the public lose further trust and confidence in the judiciary in its dispensation of justice.

Justice Baffoe-Bonnie's decision to visit parastatals is also seen as straying into the mandate of the Executive Arm of government which suggests that the Chief Justice is now part and parcel of the Executive by mortgaging judicial independence to it [Executive].

This perception further weakens the judiciary which is expected to be an independent arm of government separate from the executive.

CJ on SSNIT

Justice Baffoe-Bonnie's comments also about the Social Security and National Insurance Trust (SSNIT) assets further expose him to partisanship or a display of total ignorance. This is because, SSNIT assets were never for sale but rather had to do with the off-loading of 59 per cent shares to the private sector, aimed at revamping the loss-making hotels.

This approach started by the previous NPP government, is the same thing being done by the current National Democratic Congress [NDC] administration.

Therefore, for the Chief Justice to create the impression that what is being done now is different from what was done under the erstwhile NPP administration is either ignorance or deliberate propaganda.

For the records

Contrary to the assertion by Justice Baffoe-Bonnie, the Director General of SSNIT, Kwesi Afreh Biney is on record as seeking partnership with the private sector to revamp the institution's hotel investments in some hotels.

According to him, the partnership is to support a turnaround of these investments without necessarily outright sales.

"We have decided not to sell any hotel assets, but rather revamp them to meet international standards to attract more patrons. Hotels like Labadi Beach give us dividends every year, and others as well. There is a case for Elmina Beach, which we're still engaging to get some partnerships to revamp it".

"This will not include outright sales at all", Mr. Afreh Biney is on record to told a section of the media during

▲ *Paul Baffoe-Bonnie*

an interaction.

Reactions

For instance, legal scholar Professor Stephen Kwaku Asare, who has described development as "unprecedented", cautioned the Chief Justice against entering territory that could be perceived as partisan politics.

In a *Facebook post*, Professor Asare said his concern was not necessarily whether the Chief Justice's assessment of government performance was right or wrong, but the language used.

"I understand the sentiment. But I worry about the language," he wrote.

He argued that the Chief Justice's reference to "the past eight years" carries a strong partisan meaning in Ghana's political discourse and could therefore be interpreted as an assessment of one administration against another.

"'The past eight years' carries an unmistakable partisan meaning in our political discourse. Coming from the Chief Justice, it can therefore easily be understood, fairly or unfairly, as an assessment of one administration relative to another," Prof. Asare said.

"That is territory the head of the Judiciary should avoid," he added.

According to Prof. Asare, judges do not lose their personal opinions when they assume office, but the judicial office imposes a greater responsibility for restraint in public pronouncements.

▲ *Oppong Nkrumah*

"Judges do not cease to be citizens when they assume office. But the robe necessarily constrains their public speech. This is especially so for the Chief Justice, whose words inevitably carry the institutional weight of the Judiciary," he said.

'The Obligation Is Reciprocal'

Prof. Asare said judicial independence requires restraint from both politicians and members of the Judiciary.

"We rightly insist that politicians respect judicial independence and stay out of the judicial arena. The obligation is reciprocal," he said.

"Judges, particularly the Chief Justice, must also exercise the restraint necessary to stay out of the partisan political arena."

He stressed that his criticism was not an accusation about the Chief Justice's motives.

"The point is not whether the observation is right or wrong. Nor is it about the motives of the speaker. It is about protecting an institution," he said.

Prof. Asare warned that perceptions of political alignment could become particularly damaging because cases involving decisions and actions of both the previous and current administrations could eventually come before the courts.

"There will be cases before our courts involving the acts and omissions of the previous government. There will be cases involving this government," he said.

He argued that no litigant should have cause to question whether the head of the Judiciary had already formed a favourable or unfavourable view of any particular administration.

"No litigant should have reason to wonder whether the head of the Judiciary has formed a favourable or unfavourable view of any administration," he said.

Prof. Asare concluded that the higher the judicial office, the greater the responsibility for restraint.

"Judicial independence requires political restraint, from politicians toward judges, and from judges toward partisan politics," he said.

"The higher the judicial office, the heavier the burden of restraint."

'This Is Unprecedented' — Oppong Nkrumah

In the same vein, Ofoase-Ayirebi Member of Parliament [MP], Kojo Oppong Nkrumah, who also described the Chief Justice's conduct as "unprecedented" said he could not recall any comparable situation in recent political history where the head of the judiciary had embarked on official tours of state-owned enterprises.

Speaking on *Asempa FM's Ekosiisen*, the former Information Minister argued that the Judiciary, as an independent arm of government, traditionally maintains institutional distance from the Executive and Legislature.

"For all the years that I have followed politics and governance, I haven't heard of such a thing as the Chief Justice touring state-owned enterprises. I haven't heard of that before," he said.

"The Judiciary is supposed to be more or less independent. It's an arm of government on its own; they don't mingle with whether it's the Legislature or the Executive," he stated.

He said it was an established practice for judges to exercise restraint in public engagements that could draw them into political or governance matters.

"It is a well-known, established practice that the Judiciary doesn't mingle, so you don't see judges going around mingling in public," he added.

Mr Oppong Nkrumah further expressed concern that the Chief Justice's comments could deepen existing perceptions about his relationship with officials of the governing National Democratic Congress (NDC).

"So, if upon that now there are official tours that are going on, it's bewildering, and then I find it strange to hear some of these comments being made by the Judiciary," he said.

"My first reaction is that this is bewildering; it's absolutely shocking. This is unprecedented. I haven't seen that before, that the Judiciary will get involved at this level," he added.

Growing Debate Over CJ's Public Role

The criticism comes amid heightened public interest in the activities and public engagements of the Chief Justice, particularly following his elevation to the position after the removal of former Chief Justice Gertrude Torkornoo.

While Justice Baffoe-Bonnie has pledged to uphold judicial independence and command confidence across the political divide, the latest criticism from both a senior opposition MP and a prominent legal scholar has reignited debate over the appropriate boundaries of public engagement by the head of Ghana's Judiciary.

At the centre of the debate is whether the Chief Justice's visits to state institutions should be viewed simply as institutional engagement or whether his accompanying comments risk creating perceptions of political alignment.

For his critics, the issue is not merely where the Chief Justice goes, but what he says when he gets there.

IEA Rejects 5-Year Tenure Extensions for Presidents, MPs

News Desk Report

THE **Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) has rejected the proposal to extend Ghana's presidential and parliamentary tenure of office from the current four years to five years.**

The Institute revealed that it made its position known to the Professor Henry Kwesi Prempeh-led Constitutional Review Committee [CRC] during the consultation processes.

The IEA is forced to make this position public because the Committee rejected it and went ahead to propose five years tenure of office for Presidents and Members of Parliament [MPs].

Making the disclosure on *Channel One TV's The Point of View* on Wednesday, the former Chief Justice, Sophia Akuffo, who is also a Fellow at IEA, insisted that the current four-year tenure of office pertaining to presidents and legislators should be maintained.

Madam Sophia Akuffo argued that a four-year mandate is sufficient for an elected government if proper preparations are made before assuming office; questioning why newly elected administrations often take considerable time to constitute their governments, including appointing ministers, regional ministers and governing boards of public institutions

"I think we did mention that the proposal by the Prempeh Committee, which of course is acceptable to the Executive, is that the term should be five years rather than four years, and the IEA says no, we do not support such an extension".

"One would expect that you arrive and you're on your feet and you're running, and within hours of assuming office you're naming your ministers, you're naming your regional ministers and so on," she said.

'Come Prepared to Govern'

The former Chief Justice maintained that individuals seeking elected office should have a clearly defined agenda and know the team they intend to work with before taking office.

Her comments put the IEA's position at odds with the government's acceptance of the Constitutional Review Committee's recommendation.

The government has accepted the proposal to extend both presidential and parliamentary terms from four years to five years as part of its response to the committee's recommendations.

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Dr Dominic Ayine, announced the government's position in July 2026.

The proposed change would represent a significant alteration to Ghana's constitutional governance framework and is expected to form part of the broader national debate over the recommendations of the Constitutional Review Committee.

'Stop Clogging Supreme Court!'

Touching on the delays in Ghana's justice delivery system, the former Chief Justice called for tighter controls on appeals to the Supreme Court, warning against unnecessary interlocutory appeals.

She said some cases are taken to the apex court on interlocutory matters even while the substantive cases remain pending before the High Court, creating additional delays in the determination of disputes.

"Sometimes there are also some matters which come to the Supreme Court only on what is called an interlocutory appeal, which is so unnecessary and shouldn't have come to the Supreme Court because the case itself might still be in the High Court," she said.

Appeals can take years

According to Madam Sophia Akuffo, interlocutory appeals can remain before the Supreme Court for years, with the resulting delays affecting the determination of the substantive cases from which the appeals originated.

She noted that the practice was placing an additional burden on the apex court while prolonging litigation for parties awaiting final resolution of their cases.

To this end, Justice Akuffo therefore advocated for a more restrictive approach to determining which matters should proceed beyond the Court of Appeal, arguing that cases which do not involve novel legal questions or significant constitutional issues should ordinarily terminate at the Court of Appeal.

"A lot of other matters should end in the Court of Appeal if they don't raise new issues or very sensitive constitutional issues," she said.

Her comments come amid continuing concerns over delays in Ghana's judicial system and the workload confronting the country's superior courts.

Justice Akuffo's position suggests that limiting unnecessary interlocutory appeals could help reduce the caseload of the Supreme Court and enable it to concentrate on matters involving important constitutional, legal and national questions.

The former Chief Justice's call has consequently reignited debate over whether Ghana's appellate system requires further procedural reforms to ensure that litigation is resolved more swiftly and that access to justice does not become undermined by prolonged appeals.

School Indiscipline:

"Don't Rush to Change Policy"

♦...IFEST Warns Gov't

News Desk Report

THE **Institute for Education Studies (IFEST) has urged the government to evaluate the effectiveness of existing disciplinary policies in senior high schools before introducing new measures to tackle the growing incidence of indiscipline.**

Executive Director of IFEST, Dr Peter Anti, said the government must rely on evidence and scientific assessment to determine the underlying causes of indiscipline rather than hastily attributing recent violent incidents to particular policy decisions.

Speaking on Eyewitness News on Wednesday, September 2, 2026, Dr Anti said the Ministry of Education had the capacity to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the situation and use the findings to guide future policy decisions.

"I think that we need to hasten slowly with attributing reasons to why some of these things are happening," he said.

Review Positive Discipline Policy

Dr Anti specifically called for an evaluation of the policy introduced around 2015–16 to abolish corporal punishment in schools and replace it with a positive discipline toolkit.

"Around 2015-16 we decided to abolish corporal punishment. That was a policy decision. We introduced a positive discipline toolkit. That was a policy decision," he said.

He questioned whether the Ministry had adequately assessed the impact of the policy nearly a decade after its implementation.

"To what extent have they evaluated that shift in policy in 2015-16? That is almost 10 years now. Have we evaluated that shift in policy to see whether it is the change in the policy direction that is causing this kind of indiscipline that we are talking about?" he asked.

Dr Anti, however, cautioned against drawing a direct connection between the abolition of corporal punishment and the recent violent incidents without empirical evidence.

He stressed that policymakers must first identify the factors driving indiscipline before determining whether existing disciplinary approaches require modification.

▲ *Dr Peter Anti, Executive Director of IFEST*

Call for Stronger School Security

His comments follow violent incidents involving Okuapeman Senior High School and Mount Sinai Senior High School in the Eastern Region, which reportedly resulted in reprisal attacks and the destruction of school property.

Six Okuapeman SHS students were injured and hospitalised following an incident that occurred at about 2 a.m. on Wednesday.

At Okuapeman SHS, the Visual Arts studio, a teachers' office and seven classrooms were reportedly burnt, while examination papers and certificates were destroyed.

At Mount Sinai SHS, a storeroom and the boys' washroom were also reportedly burnt.

Beyond disciplinary policies, Dr Anti called for stronger security arrangements in senior high schools, arguing that the current reliance on watchmen stationed at school entrances may not be sufficient to detect threats or prevent conflicts from escalating.

"What we have there are people who stay at the entrance of the school, and they open and they close the school gate, what we call the watchmen," he said.

He suggested that the government should consider more effective security systems capable of identifying potential threats early and protecting students, teachers and school infrastructure.

Nurses, Midwives Present Challenges to Bawumia

News Desk Report

THE **Ghana Registered Nurses and Midwives Association (GRNMA) have presented their challenges to the standard-bearer of the New Patriotic Party [NPP], Alhaji Dr Dr Mahamudu Bawumia.**

They are hopeful that when elected president in 2028, Dr Bawumia will address the challenges which the current administration has failed to tackle.

The move by the Association is an expression of confidence in the opposition leader.

Amongst the challenges the executives of GRNMA engaged the former Vice President on included; recurring industrial actions relating to welfare concerns, infrastructure gaps in health facilities, career progression pathways, improved conditions of service and better recognition of the sacrifices made as well as capacity building of members in terms of education and continuous professional development.

Describing the engagement as "fruitful and enlightening", Dr. Bawumia commended the GRNMA leadership for their forthrightness and practical insights.

According to the NPP standard-bearer, the services of nurses and midwives are indispensable to Ghana's healthcare delivery.

"Without nurses and midwives, there is no healthcare system. You are the first point of contact, you are the last line of defence, and you are the heart of care delivery in Ghana. You must be seen and treated as indispensable".

"What I have heard today is invaluable. You have given me practical insights that you only get from those who are on the ground doing the work every day. My commitment is to work with you to build a healthcare system that values its workers and delivers for the Ghanaian people," he said.

He reiterated his vision of a modern and well-managed healthcare system where health workers are properly trained, motivated and supported to deliver quality care.

The meeting with the GRNMA forms part of a series of stakeholder consultations Dr Bawumia has been holding with professional bodies, youth groups, business leaders and civil society organisations as he develops his policy agenda for the 2028 elections.

Resign & Engage in Partisan Politics

♦*NPP Tells CJ Baffoe-Bonnie*

News Desk Report

IN the wake of the disturbing conduct, comments and posturing of the Chief Justice Paul Baffoe-Bonnie, the New Patriotic Party (NPP) has sternly stated that he resign as the Head of judiciary [the fourth highest office in land] and freely engage in partisan politics if he so wishes.

Speaking specifically to his unacceptable tour of some parastatals and the extremely partisan commentary, the NPP in a press statement has gone for the jugular painting Paul Baffoe-Bonnie as "partisan propagandist".

"This is not the language of a Chief Justice. It is the language of a party propagandist, of a kind exclusively reserved for NDC communicators and serial callers, and it has no place whatsoever in the mouth of the head of Ghana's Judiciary," the party said in statement.

Sideline commentary from the NPP posits that since the governing National Democratic Congress [NDC] is about to elect new national officers in December, Paul Baffoe-Bonnie can consider contesting National Communications Officer [formerly known as propaganda secretary].

According to the party, the comments by the Chief Justice is not only disturbing but fundamentally a big treat to Ghana's democracy and the justice delivery system of nation.

Making the point further, the NPP statement called on Justice Baffoe-Bonnie to concentrate on his territory - which is the third arm of government and address challenges bedeviling it rather than becoming the mouthpiece of the executive.

▲ **Mr. Justin Kodua Frimpong, NPP General Secretary**

"If political commentary is his true vocation, he should resign forthwith and formally take up membership of the NDC, where such contributions are handsomely rewarded."

"He has presented himself not as the impartial head of an independent Judiciary but as a leading member of the National Democratic Congress in judicial robes," the party stated.

"The day he does otherwise, he ceases to be a judge and becomes an instrument of the very power he was appointed to check".

"When the head of the Judiciary pledges his exertions to the success of the Executive's agenda, what conclusion is an accused person standing in the dock, or indeed any citizen, to draw?"

"With respect, My Lord, the leaking roofs are in your courts, not in the ministries," the statement added.

Consequently, the NPP has served notice of holding a full-blown presser and present to the general public a detailed trend analysis of the partisan posturing of Justice Baffoe-Bonnie per his actions and comments.

Credible information picked by *The Informer* from the Seat of Government [Flagstaff House] has it that the Presidency is deeply angered and disappointed by the indiscretion exhibited by the Chief Justice.

Background

The Chief Justice who has made it his preoccupation to be touring some parastatals recently on such visits to the Minerals Income Investment Fund [MIIF] said "I must congratulate you. I mean, you have done marvellously well. See, because sometimes when we hear the things that you have done, the things that some organisations are doing now, we wonder; some of us keep wondering what really we have been doing in the past eight years".

"We've just come back from SSNIT, we went to SSNIT this morning, and the kind of things that we heard, and we hear, we even heard before we went there, what we were told, if you compare that to the fact that not too long ago, SSNIT was preparing to sell its prized assets like Labadi Beach Hotel, you wonder how Ghana could have sunk so low".

The Chief Justice who spoke with factual inaccuracies, has since come under mounting criticisms both from the political and legal fronts with accusation of him drifting into partisan politics.

Ayariga Leads Technical Assessment of Jamestown Waste

♦... Ahead of Evacuation

THE **Minister for Local Government, Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs, Mahama Ayariga, has led a technical assessment exerciseof the accumulated waste at Jamestown in Accra as government prepares to commence a major evacuation exercise aimed at addressing the area's worsening sanitation situation.**

The assessment, conducted on Thursday, September 3, 2026, formed part of a three-day inspection of key waste management facilities across the Greater Accra and Eastern regions to determine the capacity and challenges within Ghana's waste management chain.

Speaking to the media at the Jamestown Waste Transfer Station, Mr Ayariga said the immediate priority was to establish, through technical assessment, the actual volume of waste accumulated at the site and the resources required to evacuate it.

"We see this from afar. We drive by, we really have no sense of the enormity of the challenge," he said.

The Minister explained that the technical assessment would provide government with accurate data on the quantity of waste, the number of trucks and heavy-duty equipment required, the number of trips to be undertaken and the estimated duration of the evacuation exercise.

He said government would mobilise resources from the Ministries of Local Government, Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs, Roads and Highways, Defence, Finance, and Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation to support the operation.

Contractors operating across the Greater Accra, Eastern and Central regions are also expected to be engaged to provide trucks, excavators, bulldozers and loaders, particularly equipment that may currently be idle at construction sites.

Mr Ayariga disclosed that the state already had more than 100 trucks and several pieces of heavy machinery which could be supplemented with equipment from the private sector.

Technical teams from Zoomlion Ghana Limited are meanwhile deploying drones to survey the Jamestown site and determine the volume of waste accumulated there.

The findings, he said, would enable government to move from estimates to a data-driven evacuation plan and allow contractors to commit to specific quantities of waste to be removed.

The Minister further indicated that government would engage mining companies and major industries to support the exercise through their corporate social responsibility programmes.

Rather than seeking cash donations, he said, companies would be encouraged to either deploy their own equipment or engage contractors to evacuate specified quantities of waste.

The intervention follows government's announcement on Wednesday that waste from Jamestown could be transported to the Adipa Engineered Landfill at Nsawam in the Eastern Region, which has substantial remaining capacity.

Mr Ayariga, however, stressed that the exercise would go beyond simply clearing the accumulated refuse.

According to him, government must address the underlying causes of waste accumulation, strengthen community organisation and reform weaknesses within the country's waste management system to prevent the situation from recurring.

He said the three-day assessment had exposed gaps across the waste management chain, including collection, transportation, treatment, recycling and final disposal.

The first phase of the exercise on Tuesday, September 1, covered the Accra Compost and Recycling Plant (ACARP), the Jamestown and Achimota Waste Transfer Stations, and the Kpone Landfill. The Minister on Wednesday inspected the Adipa Engineered Landfill at Nsawam.

Mr Ayariga also outlined plans to redevelop parts of Jamestown after the waste has been cleared, stressing that the redevelopment would not involve displacing residents from their communities and livelihoods.

He proposed the development of low-cost and high-rise housing, together with improved roads, sanitation facilities and other basic infrastructure, to create a cleaner and more organised urban environment while allowing residents to remain close to their sources of livelihood.

The Minister said the broader objective was to demonstrate that Ghana had the capacity to confront its long-standing sanitation challenges while addressing the structural problems that contributed to them.

He further linked the sanitation intervention to public health, arguing that reducing sanitation-related illnesses would lessen pressure on the health system and enable resources currently spent treating preventable diseases to be redirected towards prevention.

Mr Ayariga disclosed that the Ministry of Defence had already constituted a support team to assist with the exercise, while further decisions would be taken following President John Dramani Mahama's return from his international engagements.

He said the ongoing technical assessment would guide both the immediate evacuation of the Jamestown waste and the government's longer-term reforms of the waste management sector.

While acknowledging that the scale and duration of the evacuation would depend on the outcome of the technical assessments, Mr Ayariga reaffirmed government's determination to mobilise national capacity and work with public and private-sector partners to address the sanitation challenge.

He also called on the public and the media to support the national sanitation agenda by participating in the first-Saturday-of-the-month national cleanup exercise and maintaining clean surroundings throughout the year.

Nimeli '06 Donates 150 Classroom Furniture to Adasco

THE **2006 Year Group of Ada Senior High School (Adasco), known as Nimeli '06, has donated 150 pieces of classroom furniture to the school as part of activities marking the 20th anniversary of their graduation.**

The donation, presented on Sunday, was aimed at supporting the school in addressing its growing furniture needs, following a significant increase in student enrolment in recent years.

Members of Nimeli '06 said the donation marked the first phase of a broader commitment to the development of their alma mater. They indicated that the provision of classroom furniture would serve as their legacy project, with plans to donate additional furniture in the coming years to help bridge existing gaps.

The anniversary celebration also offered members of the year group an opportunity to reconnect with the school, interact with students and staff, and reminisce about their experiences and cherished moments during their time at Adasco.

As part of the celebration, the group honoured an outstanding teacher, Mr Elvis Birinkorang, who was due to retire. He was presented with a citation and an undisclosed cash amount in recognition of his dedicated service and contribution to the education and development of generations of students.

Receiving the donation on behalf of management, staff and students, the Headmistress of Adasco, Mrs Adelaide Abayateye, expressed appreciation to Nimeli '06 for the gesture and its continued commitment to the development of the school.

She described the anniversary as not only a celebration of cherished memories and enduring friendships but also a demonstration of gratitude, responsibility and commitment to the alma mater.

Mrs Abayateye said the decision by the year group to give back to the school was deeply appreciated, adding that the donation would contribute meaningfully to the development of Adasco and inspire future generations of students.

She encouraged the old students to maintain their strong bond with the school and urged other year groups and stakeholders to emulate the gesture by supporting the institution's development.

The School Chaplain, Mr William Ankrah, also highlighted the urgent need for additional classroom furniture, noting that the school currently has a student population of more than 3,000.

He said the increasing student population had placed considerable pressure on the available furniture, particularly when the school was in full session.

"Our numbers keep increasing and we do not have enough furniture for the students, especially when the school is in full session. We therefore plead with you and other year groups to come back and support," he stressed.

The donation forms part of Nimeli '06's broader efforts to maintain its connection with Adasco and contribute to the school's infrastructure and educational needs.

The Informer BusinessNEWS

Banking sector faces fresh risk if cedi starts sliding again, Dr Atuahene says

BANKING and Corporate Governance Consultant, Dr Richmond Atuahene, has cautioned that Ghana's improving State-Owned Enterprise (SOE) finances could come under severe pressure if the cedi begins to depreciate again.

His warning follows a sharp turnaround in the financial performance of SOEs in 2025.

According to the State Interests and Governance Authority's (SIGA) 2025 State Ownership Report, SOEs recorded a consolidated net profit after tax of GH¢19.80 billion, reversing a GH¢2.25 billion loss in 2024. Revenue also rose from GH¢137.64 billion to GH¢176.43 billion.

However, Dr Atuahene says the figures should be examined more closely before being interpreted as evidence of significant operational efficiency.

"As Professor Isaac Boadi of UPSA said, I look at it, and he called it a miracle. But if you dive deep into it, it's not operational efficiency. It's completely, it's not operational efficiency."

He said a major factor behind the improved results was foreign exchange gains.

"If you are moved by foreign exchange gains by 60%, then you are not talking about efficiency. So, for me, it's not so much the profit, but are we talking about operational efficiency?"

Dr Atuahene warned that the gains could quickly be reversed if the cedi loses its current stability.

"Because other than that, when the reality comes, you're going to have a hit. When I mean the reality, should the cedi begin to go downwards, then you'll begin to see that we have a big problem."

The SIGA report indicates that the performance of the cedi helped reduce SOEs' finance costs by 42.49 per cent.

The entities also recorded net foreign exchange earnings of GH¢11.72 billion in 2025, compared with a foreign exchange loss of GH¢12.01 billion in 2024.

Dr Atuahene also raised concerns about the scale of debt accumulated by state enterprises.

"And also, the magnitude of the debt, 282 billion. If you run an economy with such a debt overhang, I don't know what you can do."

He noted that SOE liabilities accounted for about GH¢282 billion of the wider debt burden.

"Debt overhang of over ¢700 billion; ¢ 282 billion is by the state enterprises. That is where we should have a little bit of concern and worry."

The SIGA report puts total SOE liabilities at GH¢281.99 billion, with ECG alone accounting for GH¢82.31 billion.

Dr Atuahene said the government must therefore treat SOE reforms as a priority, particularly under the IMF programme.

"That is the reason why, in the IMF's PCI, one of the ten fundamental reforms that we are being required to do is to look at these SOEs, which is very, very important."

He warned that the underlying problems in state enterprises could eventually pose a wider threat to the economy.

"If we go the way we are going with SOEs, one day we will get up, and the country will come to a grinding halt."

He questioned whether profitability should be measured solely by financial statements, given that some enterprises continue to struggle to deliver basic public services.

"Produce the figures, talk about profit, but the reality, like Professor said, what is the output? You're not getting your light on. You're not getting your water."

"Are we measuring it by what measure? What metrics are we using?"

Inflation rises to 5% in August, reversing previous decline

GHANA'S year-on-year inflation rate has risen to 5.0% in August 2026, up from 4.6% in July, as higher non-food and services inflation put renewed pressure on the headline rate.

Data from the Ghana Statistical Service show that while overall prices fell by 1% between July and August, the annual inflation rate increased by 0.4 percentage points.

The divergence between the monthly movement in prices and the annual inflation rate highlights the changing composition of price pressures in the economy, with non-food items and services emerging as key drivers of the August increase.

Non-food inflation drives August increase

Non-food inflation climbed to 6.8% in August, from 6.1% in July, contributing significantly to the rise in the headline rate.

Services inflation also edged up to 8.6%, from 8.5% in the previous month, maintaining its position as one of the areas recording relatively high price pressures.

Food inflation, however, continued to ease, falling marginally to 3.0% in August, from 3.1% in July.

The data suggest that the recent moderation in food prices is helping to contain overall inflation, even as pressures in non-food categories and services remain elevated.

Goods and services show divergent trends

Inflation for goods increased to 3.8% in August, from 3.4% in July, pointing to a renewed rise in the annual pace of price increases for goods.

Inflation for locally produced items also rose to 6.1%, compared with 5.9% in July.

Imported inflation, meanwhile, increased slightly to 2.2%, from 2.0% in the previous month.

The relatively lower rate of imported inflation could indicate that external price pressures remain contained compared with domestic factors, although developments in global commodity and currency markets could still influence the inflation outlook.

Inflation remains well below 2025 levels

Despite the uptick in August, Ghana's inflation rate remains significantly below the levels recorded a year earlier.

The 5.0% rate in August 2026 compares with 11.5% in August 2025, representing a substantial 6.5 percentage-point decline over the 12-month period.

The latest figures therefore point to continued disinflation compared with a year ago, even though the month-on-month increase in the annual rate suggests that the downward trend is not necessarily linear.

Daily Wealth Guide investment is a scam – BoG cautions public

THE Bank of Ghana (BoG) and the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) have issued a strong warning to the public against a purported crypto investment platform known as "Daily Wealth Guide".

Ghanaian culture articles

In a statement, the regulators described it as a scam and cautioned Ghanaians against depositing funds with the operators.

Individuals behind the platform are said to be using promises of high returns to lure unsuspecting members of the public into what amounts to illegal deposit-taking.

The warning comes amid the circulation of a doctored video allegedly showing President John Dramani Mahama endorsing the investment platform.

According to the BoG and SEC, the video is fake and should not be relied upon as evidence of any government endorsement or regulatory approval of the platform.

The 24-Hour Nightmare: A 24-Hour Economy? or E-Comedy? Or E-Tragedy?

By Kwesi Yankah

A NEW national policy launched over a year ago is so late in coming, the schedule officer could as well issue the notice: 'we are still looking into it.' It was also the policy teeming youths still await to take them out of joblessness.

Die-hard believers, even though skeptical have not given up, driven by sheer faith 'in His Mighty Name.' The situation is similar to Gen Acheampong's proposed Union Government in the late 1970s, which required considerable faith to swallow, and led to the slogan: 'Union Government, Yɛnte aseɛ, nso yɛasɔmu'(Union Government: hard to swallow yet we support). In those heady days of military governments, that was the safest slogan to chant in order to forestall imperial orders of 'monkye no….'

Happily though, many admit this is an albatross the big boss has brought home, but will be too embarrassing to withdraw. Said one Govt official on a trip abroad, 'The 24-hour policy is a good campaign message, but doesn't really make sense….'

I was probably not alone having a hard time with the 24-hour logic. Not even after a simple formula had been introduced. They called it 'Formula 1-3-3:' One job, three shifts, three workers. And what did all this mean for the jobless? Is it one monthly salary multiplied by three workers? 2) One salary divided by three workers? Or 3) One salary multiplied by free labour? Next, from whose 24-hour pocket was salary coming?

In the course of all this, came the sudden roaring of bulldozers across the country one morning. A demolition squad flexing its muscles. Their mission: to pave the way for the new Queen of Job-Creation, 24-hour markets. A total of 261 round-the-clock markets across the country! To ensure this, demolish all obstacles in the way of the Queen. The outcome was an eyesore: mosques pulled down; school buildings crushed; homes flattened; stores destroyed; kiosks pulverized. Then this horror tale: nearly completed markets, ravaged! No warning, no caution, no notice.

Across the country, trails of women's teardrops. Capital lost; rendered homeless, devastated, helpless. They wailed, sobbed, cried; some collapsed; others cursed. Some confronted the heartless invaders. "Demolishing an uncompleted market for a new market is insane," said one radio presenter normally friendly to Government: "This is a complete waste of the taxpayers' money."

But who masterminded this assault? Newsmen rushed to the secretariat of the 24 Hour Economy only to be told by its Director, 'we have no idea.' It was not their baby. So whose baby was this? Silence.

Government

Protests across the country: market women, chiefs, youths. Locations: Aowin, Enchi, Abossey Okai Zongo, Aseebu.

At Aowin, the street protest was rowdy. Men and women in mourning gear, holding placards: 'We don't want the 24-hour market:' 'No Konkomma Yam Market here,' 'No Nzema Market No Accra… Yɛn ani abre abre kɔɔ'

'Choooboei, 24 hour economy market yɛmpɛ ooooo.' Aowin voices chanted in anger.

Said one woman facing cameras:

"I stand here for market women, women who have toiled to take their children to school. Mr President, go to the markets in Accra at 2 pm and see how women toil to keep families alive. When you promised us the 24-hour economy, we didn't dream you were going to demolish our structures… structures from which we look after our children. Women have taken loans to work …and have to pay back….The children of many are in universities, nursing schools. ..how many jobs has Govt created? Is this what you promised? You have made us a laughing stock of the opposition; many point to what JDM has done to us…Who will wake up at dawn to sell pepper and tomatoes? Which markets? I have gone for loans; I am a citizen, and I will talk …

Economics

"Those who woke up at dawn to vote, you have disappointed them; they have regretted… You have enabled NPP to make us a laughing stock; I am so pained, I was so heated till I spoke this to camera, now my heart has cooled down…" She said, sobbing.

It is more scary to realise that the current war on women's livelihood is only a curtain raiser; the actual 24-hour package, when fully unleashed, may trigger thunder and earthquakes. Fire Service and NADMO please stand by.

By what logic were 24-hour markets birthed? None except for comic relief. Markets normally close at 5 pm when sellers and buyers disappear and night creatures take over. Indeed, women normally rush home at five to babysit Daddy… and possibly change his diapers.

Hear one angry chief from the Central region: 'Who will buy koobi at midnight in Asebu?' (comic relief) Indeed, our local siblings often think policy makers are simply dumb, only creating contract opportunities for themselves.

The entire market project could simply be contract-driven, not jobs for the youth. Not even single sourcing, but night-sourcing! A simple create, loot and share?

Campaigns & Elections

And don't forget possible outcomes of this comedy: abandoned market sites turned into motels by pilgrims of the night, comedy; day students from community schools celebrating the arrival of free housing, comedy.

Yet a few may indeed benefit from a midnight market. Don't forget citizens returning from wake keeping, but also the moral majority: those coming home from 'Awɔɔ shia.' Comic relief.

Finally, a friendly advice to policy makers: Never site a 24hour market within a kilometer of local cemeteries, Comedy.

At midnight and beyond, there may be unusual clients. Hahahahahaha!

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Minority Fights For PWDs … Says 'Disability Must Not Be Barrier to Jobs'

News Desk Report

THE **Minority Caucus in Parliament has called for urgent measures to address the growing unemployment challenges confronting qualified graduates with disabilities.**

The call follows a petition submitted by the Coalition of Unemployed Graduates with Disabilities, which is seeking government intervention to improve employment opportunities for its members.

The Coalition is demanding that qualified unemployed graduates on its verified list be considered for recruitment into the public service.

It is also calling for strict enforcement of the employment quota for persons with disabilities in public sector recruitment, as well as incentives for private-sector employers who hire qualified persons with disabilities.

According to the Coalition, many graduates with disabilities continue to struggle to secure employment despite acquiring the requisite academic qualifications, skills and professional competencies.

Minority Backs Petition

Receiving the petition on behalf of the Minority on Wednesday, September 3, Deputy Minority Leader and Member of Parliament for Asokwa, Patricia Appiagyei, said the concerns raised by the Coalition were legitimate and supported by existing laws.

She noted that Ghana's legal framework provides protections for persons with disabilities and places obligations on the State to promote their inclusion in employment.

The Minority cited Article 29 of the 1992 Constitution, which protects persons with disabilities against discrimination and exploitation.

The Caucus also referenced the Persons with Disability Act, 2006 (Act 715), which requires the State to assist persons with disabilities to secure employment and provides incentives for employers who engage them.

'Competence, Not Disability'

The Minority said it would push for measures to bridge the gap between the legal protections guaranteed to persons with disabilities and the realities they face in Ghana's job market.

The Caucus assured the Coalition that its petition would receive the necessary attention and that the concerns raised would be pursued through the appropriate parliamentary processes.

It stressed that disability should not be used as a basis for denying qualified persons employment opportunities.

The Minority maintained that recruitment should ultimately be based on competence, qualification and ability rather than disability, while urging stronger implementation of existing laws to ensure persons with disabilities can participate meaningfully in Ghana's workforce.

More than 80 feared dead after boat drifts in Atlantic for 27 days

MORE **than 80 people, including a baby, are feared to have died in a boat that was adrift in the Atlantic Ocean for 27 days.**

Spanish Maritime Rescue teams located the vessel some 65 nautical miles southwest of Gran Canaria's coastal town of Arguineguín on Wednesday and found 44 survivors, with five dead bodies also on board.

The boat is believed to have departed The Gambia in West Africa in early August with 127 occupants on board. Human rights activist Helena Maleno Garzón, founder of Spanish charity Caminando Fronteras, said 83 people had lost their lives.

Rescuers were forced to leave the five bodies they found due to the rough sea conditions, Maritime Rescue said.

The organisation was unable to verify how many people were originally on board.

The 44 survivors are men from sub-Saharan Africa, Maritime Rescue said in a statement.

"Once the rescue was complete, adverse weather conditions in the area - featuring 20-knot winds and 2.5m waves - made it impossible to recover the five bodies found on board the vessel," it added.

Three of the survivors were airlifted to hospital in critical condition.

The rest were transported by sea to Gran Canaria, where they disembarked in the early hours of Thursday morning.

Fernando Clavijo, head of the Canary Islands government, posted on X: "It is intolerable that lives continue to be lost. The Canaries cannot get used to or accept as normal the fact that the Atlantic continues to be a death trap."

The Atlantic route from West Africa to the Canary Islands is one of the world's deadliest migration crossings.

Thousands of migrants attempt the perilous journey each year seeking to reach Spanish territory despite the risks posed by rough seas, strong currents and long distances.

Source: BBC

US launches $1 coin featuring Trump's face

DONALD **Trump's portrait has made its way onto a US coin – the first time a living president has appeared on American currency in a century.**

On Wednesday [September 2], the US Mint launched the commemorative $1 coin with a portrait of Trump alongside the words "IN GOD WE TRUST" to celebrate America's 250th anniversary.

The special-edition coin captures "the spirit, pride, and legacy of a nation approaching its landmark anniversary", the US Mint said.

The coins – priced at $61 (£45) for a roll of 25 and a bag of 100 for $154.50 – were "not currently in stock" on the US Mint's website within hours of going on sale. The BBC has contacted the US Mint, the Treasury and the White House for further details.

The coin has been "created to celebrate this historic national milestone" with a "once-in-a-generation

anniversary design destined to become a standout addition to modern collections", the US Mint said.

They are also being sold in vending machines at the US Mint store in Washington, DC.

While the coins have a golden colour they do not contain any actual gold. According to the US Mint, they are 88.5% copper with the balance being made up of zinc, manganese and nickel.

Back in May, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said his department was planning to issue a new $250 bill bearing a portrait of President Trump.

Federal law bars the printing of US money with the image of a living person. Trump allies in Congress have introduced legislation that would make an exception, although the proposal is currently stalled.

At the time, Bessent highlighted that another living US president has previously appeared on the country's currency.

A half-dollar that was issued to commemorate America's 150th anniversary in 1926 featured then-President Calvin Coolidge.

The Trump administration has also cited the Circulating Collectible Coin Redesign Act of 2020, from Trump's first term.

While this statute prohibits portraits of living people on the reverse (tails side) of coins, it does not explicitly cover the obverse (heads side), where Trump's likeness appears on the new $1 coins.

The Thayer Amendment of 1866 bans the portrait of any living person on US notes, although this traditionally does not apply to coins.

Source: BBC

Disappointment as Ivory Coast keeps cocoa price unchanged

▲ *The government will buy the crop at 1,200 CFA francs per kilo*

IVORY **Coast will keep the farmgate price of cocoa unchanged for the crop's main harvest season, the country's agriculture minister announced.**

The government will buy the crop at 1,200 CFA francs ($2.12) per kilo, the same amount announced in March for the mid-crop season, after months of crisis in the sector.

"It has been decided that a kilogram of well-fermented, well-dried, well-sorted cocoa will be purchased at the farm gate price of 1,200 francs per kilo," said Bruno Nabagne Kone, the Ivorian Minister of agriculture.

The announcement has left farmers who were hoping for a shift in the price disappointed.

Ivory Coast, the world's leading cocoa producer, in March cut the price paid to its growers by nearly 60 percent to try to address a sales slump affecting the sector.

"We were expecting the farm-gate price to go back up a bit, either to 2,000 or to 1,800; that was the hope. Unfortunately, it's still stuck at 1,200. Well, they're the ones who've done their calculations. Honestly, it's a disappointment in a way. But what can we do about it?," asked Thibaut Yoro, a cocoa grower.

The sector accounts for 14 percent of the west African country's gross domestic product and around five million people depend on it for their living.

In October, just ahead of his re-election, President Alassane Ouattara announced himself that authorities were setting the price at a record high of 2,800 CFA francs a kilo.

But global cocoa prices, which went through the roof in 2024 before starting to drop in 2025, have plunged this year, meaning Ivorian cocoa cost much more than world market prices.

Lionel Richie hospitalised after St. Louis concert, doctors conduct cardiac tests

AMERICAN music legend Lionel Richie has been hospitalised following his recent concert in St. Louis, Missouri, with reports indicating that doctors are conducting further tests on the 77-year-old singer.

Richie checked himself into a local hospital after performing at The Muny in St. Louis on Saturday, August 29. A source close to his tour told *Rolling Stone* that the singer was doing okay and had sought medical attention as a precaution.

The latest reports, however, indicate that Richie remains in intensive care while undergoing cardiac tests. According to *People*, he is expected to return home on Wednesday, September 2, although no detailed medical diagnosis has been publicly announced by Richie or his representatives.

Concern about the singer's condition emerged during Saturday's performance when he appeared to struggle toward the end of his set. Witnesses reported that Richie requested a chair while performing his closing number, the 1983 classic "All Night Long", and completed the song while seated.

The hospitalisation comes just over two months after another health scare during the opening night of his current tour with Earth, Wind & Fire.

Second health scare in two months

On June 24, Richie became dizzy and ended his concert in St. Paul, Minnesota, earlier than planned. Two subsequent shows were postponed after doctors advised him to rest.

He returned to the stage on June 30 and later reassured fans that he was recovering. Reports at the time attributed the episode to dehydration.

The latest incident has therefore renewed concerns about the veteran performer's health, particularly as he continues a demanding touring schedule at 77.

Despite the latest development, Richie's tour has not been broadly cancelled. His official website currently lists his next performance for September 26 at Chase Center in San Francisco, followed by shows in Chicago on September 30 and Columbus, Ohio, on October 2.

He is also scheduled to begin a Las Vegas residency at the Encore Theater at Wynn Las Vegas in October.

A career that continues to span generations

Lionel Richie remains one of the most influential figures in popular music, having built a career spanning more than five decades.

He first achieved international fame as a member of the Commodores before establishing himself as a solo star with hits including "Hello", "All Night Long", "Say You, Say Me", "Easy" and "Three Times a Lady".

His career has earned him multiple Grammy Awards and a place among the world's most recognisable entertainers. In recent years, he has also remained visible to younger audiences as a judge on *American Idol*.

For now, attention remains focused on his condition as doctors complete their assessments.

While reports have described the hospital visit as precautionary and a source close to his tour has said he is doing okay, there has been no official confirmation of a specific heart condition or other serious diagnosis.

I'll soon leave music

♦*Davido taunts Erigga*

AFROBEATS star, Davido has revealed that he will soon leave music to focus on making billions.

He said this while responding to a post by Nigerian rapper, Erigga on X.

Erigga had posted a message praising musicians who did not come from wealthy families and had to work for every dollar they earned.

"Shoutout to all the musicians who don't come from family money and had to grind for every single dollar they earn," Erigga wrote.

Davido disagreed with the message, saying musicians who came from family money could also work hard to reach the top.

"No be we say make your pops no guard o. Shoutout to the ones that came from family money and still grind to the top," he responded.

The singer then described Erigga's message as "useless motivation" and called him an "imbecile."

Davido went on to say he would soon leave music to pursue his financial goals.

"No worry o I go soon leave their music for una go make my billions... then that shit gonna be boring AF," he wrote.

He ended the exchange by questioning whether people genuinely want to live in poverty, asking, "Deep down, who like poverty?"

No ban on dyed hair, dreadlocks – Komenda Council sets record straight ahead of Nyeyi Afahye

THE **Komenda Traditional Council and the Komenda Nyeyi Afahye Planning Committee (KNAPC) have dismissed rumours circulating about restrictions allegedly being imposed during the 2026 Nyeyi Afahye celebration.**

The organisers described the claims as false and urged the public, particularly indigenes of Komenda, visitors and festivalgoers, to disregard them.

Among the rumours is a claim that persons with dyed hair, dreadlocks or Rasta hairstyles would be barred from entering Komenda during the festival and fined.

Another claim suggests that Komenda natives living in Tarkwa would be required to undergo health screening before they could enter the town for the celebration.

There have also been reports that masqueraders would only be allowed to display on the streets of Komenda on Sunday, September 13, 2026.

However, the Komenda Traditional Council and KNAPC have categorically denied issuing any such directives or making arrangements of that nature.

In a statement issued on behalf of the Paramount Chief of the Komenda Traditional Area, Okatakyi Komeh VIII, and the Komenda Traditional Council, Justice Ghartey Jones said none of the reported restrictions had been sanctioned by the traditional authorities or the festival planning committee.

"There is no such directive, prohibition or arrangement from the Paramount Chief, the Komenda Traditional Council or the Nyeyi Afahye Planning Committee," the statement said.

The organisers have therefore cautioned the public against giving credence to the claims, circulating them or acting on information that has not been officially confirmed.

They said any legitimate information or directive concerning the 2026 Nyeyi Afahye would be communicated through the authorised channels of the Komenda Traditional Council and the Nyeyi Afahye Planning Committee.

The committee has encouraged residents, visitors and other stakeholders to disregard the misinformation and join in the celebration in a spirit of peace, unity and enthusiasm.

The clarification comes as preparations continue towards the 2026 Komenda Nyeyi Afahye, with the organisers seeking to prevent misinformation from creating confusion among residents and visitors ahead of the festival.

Asante Kotoko confirms departure of 14 first-team players

ASANTE **Kotoko has confirmed the departure of 14 first-team players as the club reshapes its squad ahead of the 2026/27 Ghana Premier League season.**

The Kumasi-based side said the exits follow the arrival of a new technical direction headed by Director of Football Stanley Menzo.

Kotoko said the players who were part of the squad during the 2025/26 campaign had been assessed as part of the club's preparations for the new season, leading to the conclusion of the player exit process.

Six players left the club after their contracts expired.

They are goalkeeper Mohammed Camara, centre-backs Samba O'Neil and Henry Ansu, midfielder Baba Yahaya, and forwards Peter Amidu Acquah and Albert Amoah.

Kotoko also confirmed that agreements were reached with eight other players to terminate their contracts by mutual consent, making them free agents.

The players are goalkeeper Benjamin Twum, centre-back Zackaria Fuseini, left-back Francis Acquah, midfielder Prince Badu, and forwards Isaac Mintah, Kwame Opoku, Johnson Owusu and Elvis Kyei Baffour.

The significant squad overhaul comes as Kotoko seek to build a team capable of competing for honours under their new technical structure.

The club have already been active in the transfer market, bringing in a number of players as they prepare for the upcoming campaign.

Kotoko will begin their 2026/27 Ghana Premier League campaign away from home against newly promoted Debibi United.

The opening fixture will provide the first competitive test of the club's revamped squad following the changes made during the close season.

Carlos Queiroz reappointed as Black Stars head coach

THE **Ghana Football Association (GFA) has reached an agreement with Carlos Queiroz for the Portuguese coach to continue as head coach of the Black Stars.**

The announcement comes a few weeks after Queiroz's previous mandate, which included leading Ghana at the just-concluded FIFA World Cup, came to an end.

According to the GFA, discussions between the coach, the Association and the Ministry of Sports and Recreation resulted in an agreement for Queiroz to take up a new coaching mandate.

His new tenure will commence with the upcoming international window.

The GFA said Queiroz's extensive international experience, technical expertise and knowledge of the Black Stars made him the preferred choice to lead the team into the next phase of its programme.

"The GFA believes Queiroz's extensive international experience, technical expertise and knowledge of the Black Stars position him strongly to lead the team into this next chapter," the Association said in a statement on Wednesday, September 2.

The football governing body did not disclose the duration or specific terms of the new mandate.

It said further details about Queiroz's new assignment and the Black Stars' upcoming programme would be announced in due course.

The coach will now turn his attention to preparing the team for its next international engagements as the GFA seeks to build what it described as a successful new phase for Ghana on the international stage.

Ayew brothers among Ghanaians without clubs after transfer window closes

SEVERAL **Ghanaians, including Black Stars captain Jordan Ayew, are without clubs following the closure of the transfer window across the major leagues in Europe.**

Jordan is unattached after his contract with Leicester City expired at the end of last season.

His elder brother André Ayew is also a free agent.

The former Black Stars captain joined Dutch side NAC Breda on a short-term deal in December last year, helping the club in its fight against relegation.

But after the season ended, NAC Breda opted against extending his contract, leaving the forward without a club.

Another former Black Stars midfielder, Mubarak Wakaso, has also been without a club since leaving the Chinese Super League in January 2024.

Jojo Wollacott is another Ghanaian player in the same situation following the expiration of his contract with English club Crawley Town.

Former Celta Vigo defender Joseph Aidoo became a free agent in July after seven years with the Spanish club.

Midfielder Majeed Ashimeru has also ended his five-year association with Anderlecht after the two parties agreed to terminate his contract, leaving him a free agent.

Other Ghanaian players currently without clubs include Hakim Sulemana, Tariq Fosu-Henry, Kwabena Owusu and Joselpho Barnes.

Although the transfer window has closed in most major European leagues, opportunities remain in some countries where the window is still open.

Turkey's transfer window closes on September 4, 2026, while Portugal's remains open until September 15. In Saudi Arabia, clubs can make signings until October 12, 2026.

Clubs can also still sign players who are without a club outside these transfer-window dates, subject to the relevant squad registration rules.