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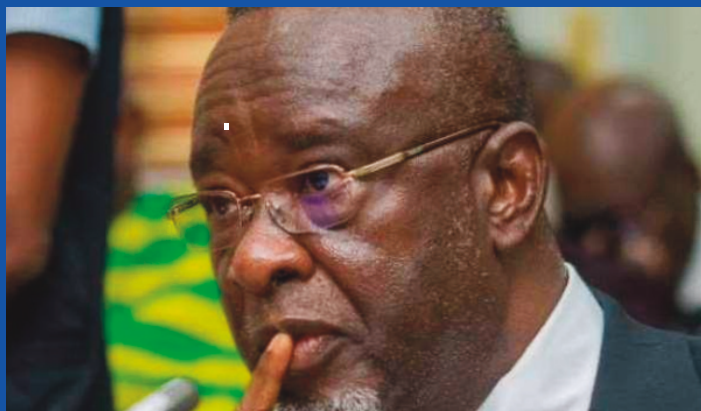
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...GPRTU, GRTCC Demand More as Fuel Prices Rise

The Ghana Private Road Transport Union and the Ghana Road Transport Coordinating Council have formally petitioned the Ministry of Transport for a review of public transport fares, amid fresh increases in the prices of petroleum products.

In a joint communication issued on Thursday, September 3, the two transport organisations explained that their request had been submitted in accordance with the Administrative Instrument that regulates the determination and periodic review of public transport fares.

The organisations said the request forms part of the established consultative arrangement through which fares are assessed, with consideration given to the various operational expenses incurred by commercial road transport operators.

According to the GPRTU and GRTCC, discussions with the Ministry of Transport are expected to begin shortly, after which the outcome of the consultations will be formally communicated to the public.



The two groups have consequently appealed to drivers, station masters, transport owners and commuters to re-

main composed and refrain from implementing or paying any unapproved fare increases while the consultation process

is underway.

Their intervention comes as petroleum prices recorded fresh in-

creases from Tuesday, September 1, with petrol, diesel and liquefied petroleum gas all coming under upward pressure.

COPEC had projected that petrol would rise to approximately GH¢16.21 per litre from an earlier mean pump price of GH¢15.43, representing an estimated increase of about five per cent. Diesel was projected to reach roughly GH¢17.61 per litre from GH¢17.17, equivalent to an estimated rise of 2.58 per cent, while LPG was expected to increase to about GH¢14.19 per kilogramme.

The latest development is expected to intensify discussions around the cost of operating commercial vehicles, particularly as fuel remains one of the principal expenses confronting transport operators.

However, the GPRTU and GRTCC have made it clear that any adjustment to public transport fares will follow the prescribed consultation process, with the final decision expected to be announced after engagements with the Ministry of Transport.

Tampuli Demands CJ's Resignation Over 'Political' Talk

Gushegu Member of Parliament Alhasan Tampuli has accused Chief Justice Paul Baffoe Bonnie of entering Ghana's partisan political discourse and has urged him to relinquish his judicial office if he intends to participate actively in politics.

Mr Tampuli's criticism follows remarks attributed to the Chief Justice during visits to public institutions on Wednesday, September 2, when Justice Baffoe Bonnie commended developments at the Minerals Income Investment Fund and other state entities under the current administration.

The Chief Justice reportedly expressed surprise at the progress he had witnessed, asking what Ghana had been doing during the preceding eight years. The comments have since triggered criticism from elements within the opposition New Patriotic Party, who contend that such observations could create an impression of political alignment.

Mr Tampuli argued that the Chief Justice occupies a constitutional position that demands exceptional neutrality, particularly because political disputes can eventually come before the courts for determination.

He questioned the appropriateness of the Chief Justice appearing to compare the performance of public institutions under the present National

Democratic Congress administration with that of the previous NPP government.

The legislator argued that the Judiciary could be placed in a difficult position if litigants perceive its leadership as having already formed political opinions before disputes reach the courts.

The NPP has subsequently intensified the criticism, formally demanding that Justice Baffoe Bonnie withdraw what it considers partisan political statements or resign from the position of Chief Justice and join the NDC openly.

In a statement issued on Thursday, September 3 and signed by General Secretary Justin Kodua Frimpong, the opposition party said it had watched the video containing the Chief Justice's remarks with profound concern and accused him of speaking in a manner inconsistent with the expected conduct of the head of the Judiciary.

The party argued that a Chief Justice's primary allegiance must be to the Constitution rather than to any president, political organisation or governmental programme.

The NPP further questioned comments attributed to the Chief Justice concerning his desire to support the success of President John Dramani Mahama's administration, especially against the backdrop of ongoing prosecutions involving individuals associated with the opposition under the



government's Operation Recover All Loot initiative.

The party also alleged that the Judiciary under Justice Baffoe Bonnie had demonstrated undue favour toward the governing administration while exhibiting excessive severity toward opposition figures. It cited the issuance of vacation warrants in cases involving NPP members and specifically referred to the incarceration of Ashanti Regional Chairman Bernard Antwi Boasiako, popularly known as Chair-

man Wontumi.

Beyond the question of political neutrality, the NPP criticised the condition of judicial infrastructure and working environments, arguing that significant challenges within the court system remain unresolved.

The party maintained that the Chief Justice should be concentrating on institutional reforms, including measures to address delays in the administration of justice, rather than making statements that could be interpreted as political commentary.

man Wontumi.

The controversy has consequently widened into a broader debate over judicial independence, constitutional neutrality and the boundaries of public commentary by senior judicial officers. Legal scholar Professor Kwaku Asare has also cautioned the Chief Justice against public remarks that could reasonably be interpreted as partisan political assessments.

COCMAG Introduces GH¢12 Temporary Surcharge as Tema Port Congestion Drives Up Cement Industry Costs

The Chamber of Cement Manufacturers, Ghana (COCMAG) has announced a temporary surcharge of GH¢12 on each bag of cement to help manufacturers absorb mounting clinker demurrage expenses arising from severe congestion at the Tema Port.

The decision was reached at an emergency meeting on Friday, August 28, 2026, as cement producers contend with prolonged vessel delays, restricted berth access and sharply escalating operational expenditure. The development has renewed concerns about the potential effect of port congestion on cement supply and construction activity across Ghana.

According to COCMAG, the additional charge comprises GH¢10 before taxation, together with GH¢2 representing applicable taxes and

levies. The Chamber has, however, stressed that the measure should not be regarded as a conventional increase in the underlying price of cement. Instead, it is intended as a temporary mechanism to recover exceptional expenses generated by extended vessel waiting periods at the port.

The Chamber disclosed that the average waiting period for vessels carrying clinker has deteriorated considerably, rising from approximately seven days in January to between 30 and more than 40 days by August 2026. Consequently, manufacturers across the sector are estimated to have accumulated between US\$45 million and US\$50 million in demurrage costs during the first eight months of the year, while individual vessels are reportedly attracting charges ranging from US\$800,000 to approximately US\$1 million.

The worsening situation has been

compounded by limited berth availability at the Tema Port, where COCMAG says only three principal berths are presently accessible for clinker discharge. Berths 10 and 11 remain unavailable to cement importers and manufacturers, thereby placing additional pressure on an already constrained port operation.

COCMAG Chairman Frederic Albrecht and Chief Executive Officer Bishop Dr George Dawson Ahmoah have warned that the continued disruption could threaten the reliability of clinker supplies, which are essential to domestic cement production. Should the delays persist, shipment cycles could stretch to almost three months, creating the possibility of interruptions to cement availability and imposing further pressure on Ghana's construction industry.

The concerns come amid wider congestion challenges at the Tema Port. The Ghana Ports and Harbours

Authority has recently acknowledged operational pressures associated with increased cargo volumes and has introduced measures intended to improve cargo movement and reduce delays. The Ghana Shippers' Authority also conducted a fact finding visit to the port on September 3 to assess congestion and explore measures to improve vessel turnaround and cargo clearance.

COCMAG is consequently engaging the Government of Ghana and the Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority in pursuit of immediate interventions to ease the bottleneck. Among the measures being advocated are shorter vessel waiting periods, expanded berth capacity and the restoration of access to Berths 10 and 11 for vessels transporting clinker.

The Chamber has made clear that the GH¢12 surcharge is not intended to become a permanent feature of cement pricing. It is scheduled to re-

main in force until December 31, 2026, after which a formal assessment will be undertaken in January 2027.

COCMAG has further indicated that it will evaluate the situation every month and could reduce, revise or completely withdraw the surcharge if conditions at the Tema Port improve. Its stated objective is ultimately to eliminate the extraordinary demurrage burden confronting manufacturers and, in turn, remove the need for the additional charge.

The development comes as authorities continue efforts to improve Tema Port's capacity. Recent dredging works involving several berths are expected to enable the facility to receive larger vessels and reduce delays affecting companies that depend on imported clinker, potentially improving efficiency and lowering some of the costs associated with cement production.



EDITORIAL

The On-going Battle between Commercial Drivers & the Police

Commercial drivers in Ghana often complain that they face serious intimidation from the police men and women who monitor roads and highways to ensure compliance to the laws.

They often complain of extortion, harassment, intimidation and abuse at the hands of the police personnel.

One such incident is believed to have happened when a policewoman, Gifty Oppong, allegedly shot and killed a taxi driver at Tetegu near Weija.

She has now appeared before the Adabraka District Court charged with murder.

Oppong is accused of shooting and killing Edward Awuku Owusu, also known as Papa Kwesi, following a confrontation.

The court did not take her plea and remanded her into lawful custody to reappear on February 25, 2026.

Mr Raymond Felli, counsel for Oppong, prayed the court to admit his client to bail. The prosecution was led by Chief Inspector Josephine Asondek.

In a statement, the Ghana Police Service said it was conducting investigations into the shooting incident, which occurred on January 19, 2026, around the Tetegu area near Weija.

Preliminary investigations indicated that the victim; Owusu, after he was shot, was rushed to the Police Hospital for treatment but was pronounced dead on arrival.

The statement further said the police-woman sustained injuries to the head and both legs after she was hit by a vehicle while attempting to leave the scene. She was also taken to the hospital for medical attention.

Exhibits retrieved from the scene included one live 9mm round, a magazine, and one empty 9mm cartridge.

Whilst the incident involving the police officer and the deceased does not arise from official conduct, the *Daily Searchlight* is of the belief that the time has come for the police service to dedicate more efforts towards training their personnel on the need for accountable conduct on the roads and highways.

Whilst it is an admitted fact that drivers can be stubborn and obstreperous, it is also a fact that it is unlawful to subject them to extortion, harassment, intimidation and abuse. We should work at identifying the proper means of ensuring compliance to law and order, and limit the abusive conducts that give the Ghana Police Service a bad name.

(Editorial of the Daily Searchlight of 6th February, 2026).

Esi' Corner



Why Declaring Your Intentions Early Matters and How to Spot Red Flags Before Entering a Relationship

The talking stage can be one of the most exciting periods in modern dating because it creates an opportunity for two people to discover each other before making a formal commitment. It is also one of the easiest stages in which to become emotionally attached without genuinely understanding what the other person wants.

A person may communicate with you every day, call you late at night, share personal experiences, compliment you constantly and even behave as though you are already together, yet none of those actions automatically establish commitment or define the direction of the connection. The talking stage is es-

might lead.

When people avoid that conversation, assumptions can quickly take the place of communication. One person may believe that frequent conversations indicate that a relationship is developing, while the other person may regard the same interaction as casual companionship. One individual may already be emotionally invested, while the other may still be entertaining several possibilities. Without an honest conversation, both people can continue moving forward while operating under completely different expectations.

A healthy talking stage therefore should not be measured solely by how frequently someone sends messages or how intensely they express affection. It

and then returns as though nothing happened, refuses to answer reasonable questions about their intentions or gives affection only when they fear losing your attention may be communicating more through their behaviour than through their words.

Another important warning sign is when conversation remains intense but progress remains nonexistent. You might speak for hours every night, exchange romantic messages and develop emotional familiarity, yet the person consistently avoids meeting you, refuses to make genuine plans or keeps postponing every opportunity to move the connection forward. Constant communication should not be mistaken for genuine investment. A talking stage becomes prob-



sentially a period of romantic exploration in which both individuals are supposed to determine whether their attraction, expectations, values and intentions are compatible.

That is precisely why declaring your intentions early matters. Being honest about what you are looking for does not mean demanding a relationship immediately or forcing another person to make a lifelong decision after only a few conversations. Instead, it means being sufficiently mature to communicate whether you are interested in a serious relationship, casual dating, getting to know someone without immediate commitment or simply exploring where the connection

should also be judged by consistency, honesty, genuine curiosity and the willingness to have meaningful conversations about expectations. A person who is genuinely interested in knowing you should ordinarily be able to discuss what they want without becoming unnecessarily defensive or evasive.

This is where paying attention to early warning signs becomes particularly important. Red flags do not always arrive dramatically. Sometimes they appear through small behavioural patterns that become increasingly obvious when observed over time. Someone who repeatedly avoids making concrete plans, disappears for extended periods

lematic when emotional closeness continues increasing while clarity, responsibility and real effort remain absent.

You should also pay close attention to whether the person shows interest in you as an individual. Someone who spends every conversation talking about themselves but rarely asks about your experiences, aspirations, family, values or feelings may be revealing an important aspect of their personality. Healthy communication involves reciprocity. You should not consistently feel as though you are interviewing someone who has no interest in discovering who you are.



Vance Pressed On Whether Iran War Will Be Resolved Before US Midterm Elections

Vice-President JD Vance faced questions from journalists at the first White House press briefing in weeks - here's a recap of what we heard

Asked if the Iran war will be resolved before the US midterm elections in November, Vance says he "wouldn't call it a war", adding that there's "no active shooting right now"

Vance adds, "You would have to ask the Iranians" when they will stop shooting at commercial ships

Pushed on the economy, he says the reason gas prices are so high in the US is because "Iranians are shooting at commercial shipping" in the Strait of Hormuz

Americans are extremely concerned about affordability - particularly petrol prices as the Iran war drags on, our White House reporter writes

Vance is also asked about reports of a US missile strike killing four people at a wedding celebration in Iran - the vice-president says officials are investigating. BBC Verify has looked into it

At today's White House press briefing, the first in weeks, Vice-President JD Vance covered a number of topics, including the war in Iran and the upcoming US midterm elections.

Here's a recap of what we heard:

On the economy, Vance was pressed on why Republicans and the Trump administration should not be blamed for high prices

He responded that the US inflation problem was not created in a day and the Trump administration is doing everything it can to bring down prices

Asked if the war with Iran will be over by the midterm elections, Vance said he "wouldn't call it a war" and there is "no active shooting right now"

He added that the US is trying to stop the Iranians from shooting at commercial ships and that efforts have prevented a global energy crisis

"Everything" is on the table to pressure the Iranian government, Vance said, including economic, military, diplomatic, and covert pressure

Vance said it's important that the US is not too reliant on one



energy supply as he praised the US-Venezuela oil deal as "win-win". He also criticised European allies for not helping to stabilise world energy markets

Shortly before the press briefing ended, Vance was asked about economic measures to isolate Iran - and how they can be successful without China.

He says he thinks China is "willing to play ball here".

He says while there might be some misalignment between the US and China, "they are not the sort of nation that shoots at commercial shipping because they're not getting their way in an international dispute".

They have been "much more responsible" than Iran, he adds.

Listing several other countries like Turkey, Azerbaijan, the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Qatar, he says they are doing "a lot of good things" to help the US ensure Iran pays a penalty for firing at commercial shipping.

It's about denying Iran the economic resources to rebuild its nuclear programme, should it decide to do so, he says. "So far, we haven't seen them try to do so", he adds.18:38

Vance is asked about the 2028 presidential election and whether he would support Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth or Texas Senator Ted Cruz if they were to make a bid for the White House two

years from now.

Vance dodges the question, saying he is focused on the November midterm elections and trying to get as many Republicans in office as possible.

He describes Hegseth as "a great guy" and says Cruz is "authentic and likeable".

"I could see myself supporting a whole host of people," he says of 2028, but notes that he is currently supporting a whole host of people in elections that are coming up far sooner.

Vance is asked how concerned he is about cyber attacks by Iranian hackers.

He says it is the administration's job to be concerned about everything and adds that he does not want the public to be paralysed by risk.

He says he is "quite confident that the homeland is safe" and he is also quite confident that the Iranians are going to try and do more.

Vance says people should be more worried about cyber attacks from other actors and calls the Iranians "quite limited".

He says Iran's ability to carry out cyber attacks is not zero but low compared to other countries.

The vice-president says the Federal Reserve should be lowering interest rates. He adds that it would be "proper and responsible" for them to do so.

For deeper questions about bond markets, he defers to Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent.

"Obviously, we care about this issue," he says. "We're doing a lot of things to try to keep those interest rates down. But it would be nice to have some help from the Federal Reserve."

Vance is now asked whether the Iran war will be over by the time the midterms come around.

"I wouldn't call it a war", he says, adding that there is "no active shooting right now".

He says "major combat operations lasted about six weeks," adding that Iran's nuclear facilities, industrial base and conventional military have been destroyed.

Vance says if the question is when Iranians will stop shooting at ships, he doesn't know the answer: "You would have to ask the Iranians."

Asked when it will stop affecting energy markets, he argues that it is having "less effect day by day".

He says the US is using the tools at its disposal to ensure people "never have to deal with the threat of an Iranian nuclear programme" and that world energy markets are "properly supplied".18:21

The vice-president is again asked about Iran. A reporter asks if the US blockade of Iranian

ports is indefinite, and how the US plans to declare an end to the war if a blockade remains in place.

Vance says major combat operations in Iran are not ongoing, and the US has made it harder for Iran to shoot at commercial shipping to preserve the flow of oil and gas.

Fifteen million barrels of oil came through the Strait of Hormuz last night, he says. "That's because of the United States," he adds, saying if not for the US there would be a "catastrophic global energy crisis".

As far as negotiations with Iran, Vance says the two countries are not speaking and won't until Iran starts shooting at commercial ships.18:18

Vance is asked if the US is considering arming or giving direct support to Iranian dissidents in reference to a social media post by US President Donald Trump.

The vice-president says the US is doing a lot to pressure the Iranians.

He says the US is "protecting a lot of ships" and is trying to stop the Iranians from shooting at commercial shipping. He says this means that the US has managed to prevent an energy crisis.

Vance says he will not advertise how the US will engage with the Iranians in the months and years to come.

He says that "everything that could happen is on the table" and lists economic, military, diplomatic, and covert pressure as options.

Vance is now asked about the recent resignation of Army Secretary Dan Driscoll.

Driscoll's exit - the latest in a string of recent high-profile military leaders to depart - came after months of conflict between him and Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth, the BBC's US partner CBS News has reported. But the specific source of tension is unclear, according to CBS.

Vance says America has fought a lot of wars, but had not won many of them until Trump came into office. He asks, what does that say about US military culture and political leadership?

Hegseth has focused on reviving the "warrior spirit" within the US military, he says, adding that under President Joe Biden, the military was "woke".

Effutu Traditional Council Urges Government to Caution A Plus Over New Winneba Tensions

The Effutu Traditional Council has appealed to the government to caution the Member of Parliament for Gomoa Central, Kwame Asare Obeng, popularly known as A Plus, over public pronouncements it believes could intensify tensions between the Effutu and Gomoa communities following the deadly violence at New Winneba.

Chief of Staff to the Effutu Omanhene, Ebo Ghartey, has called on political and community leaders to exercise considerable restraint in their public statements, warning that unrestrained commentary could undermine ongoing attempts to restore peace and stability in the area.

His intervention follows remarks by A Plus, who warned that residents of Gomoa could resort to collective action if the Police failed to provide adequate protection in the aftermath of the deadly confrontation.

The Gomoa Central legislator also suggested that residents could issue the government a seven day ultimatum to resolve the security concerns, after which the various chiefs



within Gomoa would be brought together to determine a collective response to the situation.

Mr Ghartey, however, cautioned

that such pronouncements could aggravate an already volatile situation, particularly at a time when security authorities, traditional leaders and

local government officials are working to prevent further violence and rebuild confidence between the affected communities.

The appeal follows the violent incident at New Winneba in the Central Region on September 1, which resulted in three deaths and left 19 people injured. Police subsequently intensified security operations in the area, while several suspects were arrested in connection with the incident.

Speaking during a press conference at New Winneba, Mr Ghartey warned that the situation could deteriorate further if political figures and community leaders failed to demonstrate responsibility in their public communications.

He stressed the importance of allowing the security agencies to conduct their investigations while encouraging all parties to refrain from statements or actions capable of provoking retaliation.

The Chief of Effutu Ayipe, Nenyi Apraku, similarly appealed to politicians to utilise their positions to promote development, mutual understanding and peaceful coexistence between the people of Effutu

and Gomoa.

He urged political actors to prioritise reconciliation and community development rather than make declarations that could deepen mistrust or create conditions for renewed confrontation.

Meanwhile, the Abusuapanin of New Winneba, William De Carthia, has rejected allegations that the three people who lost their lives during the violence were killed by Effutu youth.

Mr De Carthia described the allegation as false and insisted that the circumstances surrounding the deaths must first be subjected to a thorough and impartial investigation before responsibility is attributed to any particular group.

The latest appeal comes amid heightened security and continuing efforts by local authorities and community leaders to prevent reprisals and contain the tensions generated by the New Winneba violence. Authorities have also urged residents on both sides of the dispute to remain calm and cooperate with the security agencies as investigations continue.

2026 SHS placement: 36,000 candidates apply to Aburi Girls, Achimota schools despite space for only 2100

More than 36,000 candidates who selected Aburi Girls' Senior High School and Achimota School as their preferred choices will compete for approximately 2,100 available places in the 2026 Computerised School Selection and Placement System (CSSPS).

The figures mean that more than 34,000 applicants who chose the two schools are unlikely to secure placement there and will have to compete for spaces in other schools when the 2026 CSSPS results are released on Friday, September 4, 2026.

CSSPS Coordinator, Sherif Sulemana, disclosed the figures during a radio interview on Joy FM moni-

tored by Graphic Online on Wednesday.

According to him, Aburi Girls' received 8,225 applications for about 800 available places, while Achimota recorded approximately 28,000 applications for only about 1,300 vacancies.

The competition is particularly intense among candidates with strong aggregate scores.

Mr. Sulemana said about 3,000 of the applicants to Aburi Girls' had aggregates between six and 12, despite the school having only about 800 places.

At Achimota, approximately 14,800 applicants recorded aggregates between six and 12, against about 1,300 declared vacancies.

"Those are the realities within which we operate, and we want the general public to understand," he



said.

Mr. Sulemana explained that securing a place at a preferred school was not determined by aggregate alone.

He said candidates were first ranked nationally based on their aggregate scores. Where two or more candidates seeking the same school, programme and residential arrange-

ment recorded identical aggregates, their raw examination scores were used to break the tie.

The placement process then matches candidates' programme selections and boarding preferences against the vacancies declared by individual schools.

He noted that a candidate with a comparatively weaker aggregate

could therefore secure a place ahead of another candidate if the former obtained higher raw scores in a tie-breaking situation.

Mr. Sulemana consequently urged parents and candidates not to determine their placement expectations solely on the basis of aggregate scores.

He also suggested that the CSSPS Secretariat may need to review the practice of publicly releasing candidates' raw scores, noting that the scores are primarily used internally to resolve placement ties.

Meanwhile, Press Secretary and Spokesperson for the Ministry of Education, Hashmin Mohammed, disclosed that heads of schools are allocated a discretionary quota of about 5 per cent of their declared vacancies.

Mahama Reaffirms TMA's Authority as Government Moves to Resolve TDC Dispute

President John Dramani Mahama has reaffirmed the Tema Metropolitan Assembly as the highest political and administrative authority within the Tema Metropolis, amid an ongoing institutional disagreement between the Assembly and TDC Ghana Limited.

The President's position is grounded in the constitutional and statutory responsibilities assigned to the Tema Metropolitan Assembly, which include overseeing the overall development of the metropolis, managing human settlements, providing municipal services and mobilising revenue through legally authorised rates, fees, taxes and other charges.

The Assembly's authority also derives from the Local Governance Act, 2016, Act 936, which establishes its responsibilities as the principal local government

institution within the metropolis.

In addition, the Land Use and Spatial Planning Act, 2016, Act 925, recognises the Tema Metropolitan Assembly as the relevant local planning authority responsible for regulating physical development and considering applications for development and building permits within its jurisdiction.

In a letter communicating the President's position on the dispute, Secretary to the President, Dr Callistus Mahama, explained that although TDC Ghana Limited has played an important historical role in the development and planning of Tema, its present status as a commercially oriented real estate development company does not grant it municipal, legislative, regulatory or spatial planning authority.

The government has consequently directed TDC to recognise and comply with the lawful mandate of the Tema Metropoli-

tan Assembly in areas including development control, spatial planning, permitting, municipal services, rates, fees and other regulatory obligations.

The President has nevertheless cautioned the Assembly to exercise its powers responsibly, fairly and transparently and to remain strictly within the confines of the law.

He stressed that TMA's regulatory authority must not be applied arbitrarily or in a manner that unnecessarily impedes legitimate development, investment or the lawful commercial activities of TDC.

The government has further directed that neither institution should assume responsibilities legally assigned to the other, thereby establishing a clearer separation between the Assembly's municipal and regulatory functions and TDC's commercial property development responsibilities.

Under the proposed arrangement, TMA will retain its constitutional and statutory municipal mandate while TDC will continue to concentrate on its commercial property development functions and related responsibilities.

To formalise the relationship, the Ministers for Works, Housing and Water Resources and Local Government, Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs have been tasked with developing an administrative and operational framework that clearly defines the respective functions and working relationship between the two institutions.

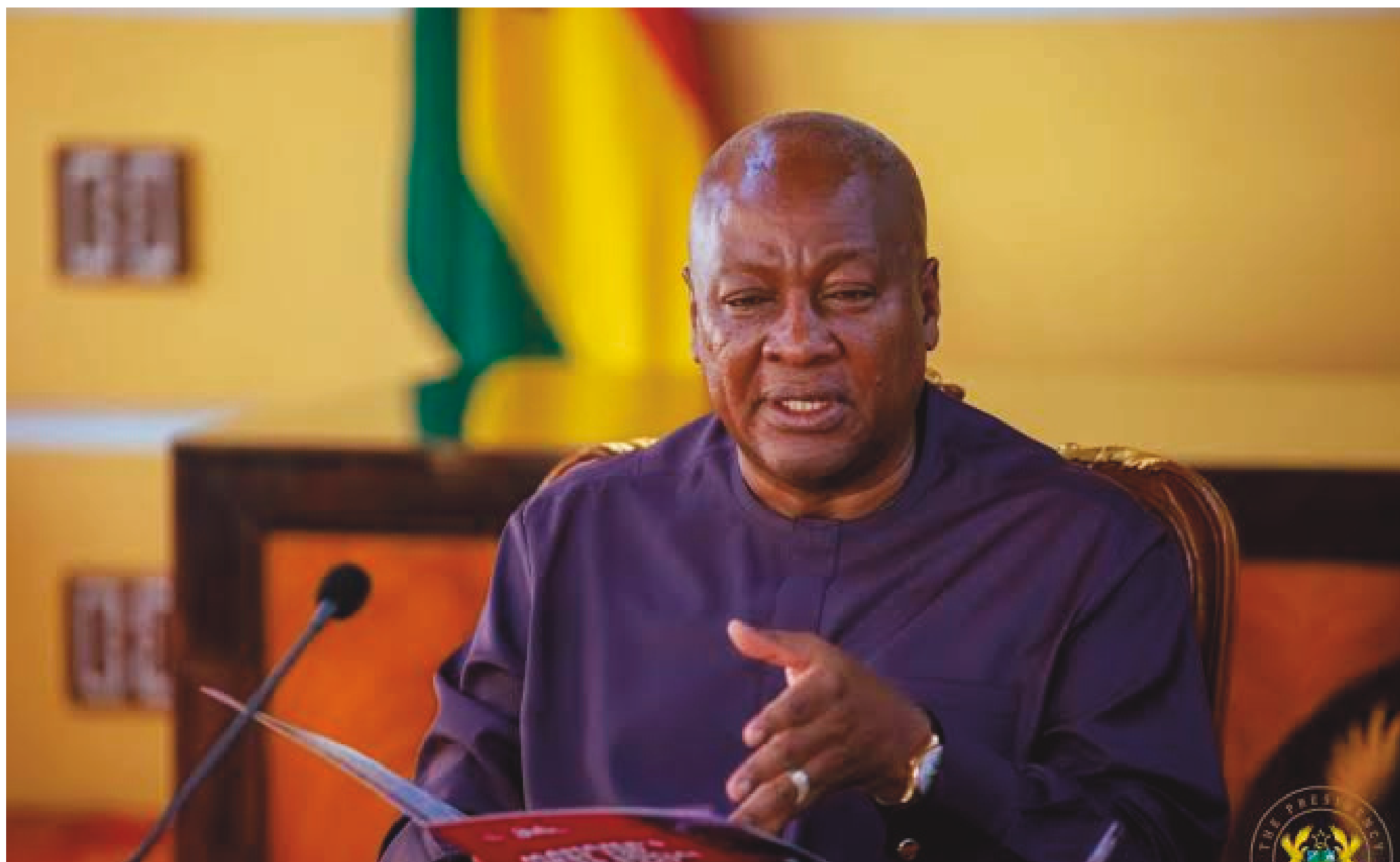
The framework is expected to address development permitting, infrastructure coordination, revenue responsibilities, information sharing, mechanisms for resolving disagreements and periodic consultations between TMA and TDC.

The government has also in-

structed both institutions to immediately discontinue actions, public statements and media engagements that could further intensify the disagreement.

The two Ministers are expected to convene the leadership of the Tema Metropolitan Assembly and TDC Ghana Limited, facilitate agreement on the outstanding matters and submit the proposed operational framework together with a comprehensive report to President Mahama within fourteen days.

The President has warned that any renewed institutional confrontation, public disagreement or refusal by either party to comply with the directive will be treated seriously as the government seeks to establish a clearer and more functional relationship between the two institutions.



GJA Demands Immediate Probe Into Alleged Military Assault on Adom Journalist in Nkwanta South The Ghana

Journalists Association has demanded an immediate, comprehensive and impartial investigation into the alleged assault of Adom Brands' Oti Regional Correspondent, Obrempongba Kwame Owusu, by suspected military personnel in Nkwanta South.

The appeal was made by GJA President Albert Kwabena Dwomfour during a press conference in Accra on Thursday, September 3, as the Association renewed its call for accountability over an incident that has raised fresh concerns about the safety and professional freedom of journalists operating in security sensitive environments.

The alleged assault reportedly occurred on Saturday, July 11, 2026, when Mr Owusu was covering developments surrounding the New Patriotic Party constituency executive elections in Nkwanta

South in the Oti Region. The incident is said to have unfolded while security personnel were enforcing a curfew imposed in the municipality.

According to accounts previously provided by the GJA and the Multimedia Group, the electoral exercise had extended into the period when the curfew was due to commence, leaving delegates, election officials and journalists at the venue while preparations were being made for the declaration of the results. Mr Owusu was reportedly documenting events surrounding the enforcement of the restriction when he was allegedly confronted and physically assaulted by some military personnel.

The journalist was subsequently taken to St Joseph Hospital in Nkwanta South for medical attention after reportedly sustaining injuries during the incident. Earlier accounts indicated that personnel

from the Ghana Police Service, the Bureau of National Investigations and election officials intervened and helped remove him from the situation.

Addressing journalists, Mr Dwomfour called on the Chief of Defence Staff to ensure that the circumstances surrounding the alleged attack are established without further delay and that any individual found responsible is subjected to the appropriate sanctions.

He maintained that media practitioners should be able to carry out legitimate professional assignments without intimidation, apprehension or physical violence, particularly when reporting on issues that have significant public interest and implications for national security.

The GJA President further revealed that the Association possesses photographic material which could potentially assist in-

vestigators in identifying the individuals allegedly involved in the incident. He indicated that the Association is willing to submit the material to the relevant authorities and make it available to the media when appropriate.

The GJA, however, has chosen not to publish the photographic evidence at this stage. According to the Association, the decision is intended to give the Ghana Armed Forces and the Ghana Police Service adequate opportunity to conduct their respective investigations without compromising the evidentiary process.

The Association has consequently urged security institutions to exercise professionalism and restraint when carrying out their responsibilities, while ensuring that the fundamental rights and personal safety of journalists are respected.

Mr Dwomfour stressed that safeguarding media practitioners remains essential to the effective

functioning of the press because journalists play a central role in supplying citizens with timely, credible and accurate information, especially during security operations, political activities and other developments of national significance.

The GJA is therefore expecting the relevant authorities to establish precisely what transpired in Nkwanta South, determine whether any security personnel acted outside the law and take appropriate disciplinary or legal action where culpability is established.

The Association has also reaffirmed its determination to defend the safety, welfare and professional rights of journalists across the country, while encouraging security agencies and media organisations to strengthen cooperation so that similar confrontations can be prevented in the future.



GJA Unveils New Website as Digital Home for Ghana's Journalists

The Ghana Journalists Association (GJA) has unveiled a new official website, www.gjaghana.com, as part of efforts to strengthen communication, improve access to information and deepen engagement with journalists, members and the general public.

The GJA President, Albert Kwabena Dwumfour, announced the new platform on Thursday, September 3, 2026, describing it as a major step in the Association's ongoing digital transformation.

According to Mr. Dwumfour, the website will serve as the new digital home of the GJA, providing a central and reliable platform for official information about the Association and its activities.

He said the development of the platform was driven by the need for the umbrella body of journalists in Ghana to have a modern, accessible and dependable digital presence capable of effectively communicating its programmes, policies and advocacy initiatives.

The new website will provide information on GJA activities, statements, press releases, programmes, training opportunities, events and



membership-related matters.

It will also feature information on media development initiatives, journalist safety and press freedom advocacy, alongside other resources relevant to journalists and media practitioners.

Mr. Dwumfour said the website would extend beyond serving GJA members, offering the public and key stakeholders direct access to information about the work of the Association.

These stakeholders include development partners, government institutions, diplomatic missions, civil society organisations and other institutions interested in the media and

journalism in Ghana.

The GJA President noted that the launch of the website was particularly significant at a time when digital platforms had become central to communication, information sharing and public engagement.

He said the Association was committed to ensuring that its digital presence reflected the professionalism, credibility and dynamism of Ghana's journalism community.

The GJA has consequently urged journalists, members and media practitioners across the country to visit www.gjaghana.com, familiarise themselves with the platform and make it a regular source of official

information from the Association.

The Association said it would continue to develop and update the website to ensure that it remained responsive to the needs of its members while providing timely and useful information on developments affecting journalism and the media industry.

Website to Drive Greater Engagement

The launch forms part of the GJA's broader efforts to build a more connected, accessible, transparent and digitally responsive professional association.

Through the platform, journalists and members are expected to have easier access to official announcements, programmes, training opportunities and other resources without relying solely on traditional channels of communication.

The website will also provide an avenue for the Association to engage more effectively with the wider public and stakeholders on issues relating to journalism, press freedom and the safety of journalists.

The GJA said the platform would complement its broader mandate of promoting and defending press freedom, freedom of expression and the interests of journalists in Ghana.

The new digital platform will also play a practical role in the Association's flagship activities.

For instance, entries for the 30th GJA Media Awards are being submitted online through the new website. The awards entries opened on September 3, 2026, and will close on September 18, 2026, at 11:59 p.m.

The GJA believes the website will make it easier for its members to remain informed, participate in Association activities and access important professional opportunities.

The Association said the launch of www.gjaghana.com marks another important step towards building a modern GJA that is better connected to journalists and responsive to the changing dynamics of the media industry.

The GJA has therefore encouraged members and media practitioners to regularly visit the platform and stay connected to official information from their professional body.

The strongest headline angle here is "GJA Unveils New Website as Digital Home for Ghana's Journalists" because it captures both the announcement and the strategic significance of the platform.

PAGA Calls on Chief Justice Baffoe Bonnie to Resign Over Alleged Political Bias

The People's Alliance for Governance and Accountability has called on Chief Justice Paul Baffoe Bonnie to resign, accusing him of compromising public confidence in the independence, impartiality and political neutrality of Ghana's Judiciary.

In a statement issued on Thursday, September 3, 2026, PAGA expressed concern over the Chief Justice's recent visits to public institutions, including the Minerals Income Investment Fund and the Social Security and National Insurance Trust, as well as comments attributed to him regarding the performance of those institutions.

The organisation was particularly critical of remarks reportedly made by Justice Baffoe Bonnie during his visit to MIIF, where he questioned what Ghana had been doing during the previous eight years.

PAGA interpreted the comments as an apparent political assessment of the previous administration and an endorsement of the performance of public institutions under the present government.

The organisation argued that such observations could conflict with the constitutional expectation that the Judiciary remains independent from partisan political interests and maintains an appropriate institu-

tional distance from the Executive.

According to PAGA, the principal responsibility of the Chief Justice should centre on protecting the integrity of the courts, strengthening the administration of justice and preserving citizens' confidence in judicial independence.

The organisation acknowledged that there is nothing inherently improper about the Chief Justice engaging officials of state institutions, particularly on matters connected to the administration of justice.

However, it argued that such engagements become problematic when public comments appear to commend one political administration while implicitly criticising another.

PAGA said the concern becomes even more significant because institutions such as MIIF and SSNIT could potentially become parties to legal disputes that may eventually reach the courts.

The organisation therefore questioned whether litigants could genuinely maintain confidence in the impartiality of proceedings if the head of the Judiciary had previously made public comments appearing to favour the performance of institutions involved in a dispute.

PAGA further contended that such perceptions could impose an unnecessary burden on the Judiciary because judicial decisions involving



politically sensitive institutions could subsequently be interpreted through a partisan lens.

The group also accused Justice Baffoe Bonnie of diminishing the standards expected of the office by publicly assessing the performance of competing political administrations.

It said the cumulative effect of his conduct had caused the organisation to lose confidence in his judgment and his ability to preserve the political neutrality associated with the office of Chief Justice.

PAGA additionally raised con-

cerns over what it described as the possibility that the Chief Justice could be seeking favourable relations with the Executive in anticipation of recognition or a possible appointment to the Council of State after his retirement.

The organisation has therefore called for Justice Baffoe Bonnie's resignation and urged the appropriate constitutional authorities to consider the procedures provided under Article 146 of the 1992 Constitution should he decline to step aside.

PAGA has also appealed to the Judicial Council to review the Chief

Justice's engagements with state institutions and establish clearer guidelines governing interactions between serving judicial officers, government officials, political actors and state owned institutions.

The organisation maintained that its position is motivated by the need to preserve public confidence in the Judiciary, warning that judicial decisions involving politically sensitive matters could become vulnerable to public suspicion if citizens believe that the head of the Judiciary is aligned with a particular political administration.

Kweku Smoke to Headline MoMoFest Revival Concert as Berekum Hosts Major Digital Finance Campaign

Ghanaian rapper Kweku Smoke is set to headline the MoMoFest 2026 Revival Concert in Berekum in the Bono Region, where music, commerce, community engagement and digital financial education will converge in a major customer activation organised by MobileMoney Fintech Limited.

The free public event, scheduled for September 4 and 5, 2026, will form the centrepiece of a broader three week engagement programme designed to encourage customers to make greater use of the MoMo App, embrace cashless transactions and become more vigilant when conducting digital financial activities. Recent event information places the concert at Mixed Park in Berekum, following a reported change from the initially announced Golden City Park to accommodate anticipated attendance.

The Berekum activation is being positioned as more than an entertainment gathering, with organisers seeking to combine live music with practical demonstrations of how digital financial services can support everyday payments, commercial activities and access to additional financial products.

According to MobileMoney Fintech Limited Head of Marketing Alfred Dowuona Hammond, the central objective of MoMoFest is to encourage customers to do more with MoMo while ensuring that they understand how to use the platform securely and confidently.

The programme will feature a cashless marketplace where festival-goers can purchase a wide range of products, including food, beverages, beauty products, clothing, household necessities, mobile phones and accessories, with payments made through MoMo. The initiative is intended to demonstrate how digital transactions can provide a convenient alternative to conventional cash payments while also creating opportunities for merchants to expand their use of electronic payment systems.

Customers will additionally have



access to the GH¢100 MoMo Shop and Mega Rewards promotion, through which selected products will be offered for GH¢100 to participating customers who make payments using MoMo. Participants will also have opportunities to win rewards at various points during the activation.

Entertainment will extend beyond the headline concert, with the MoMo Keteke Gameshow expected to provide an interactive component to the festival. Participants will compete in questions and challenges for the opportunity to win cash prizes reaching as much as GH¢10,000.

The programme will also incorporate activities aimed at families and the wider Berekum community.

These include a football gala, a community clean up exercise, a children's section and a Guinness Smooth English Premier League viewing experience, thereby broadening the festival beyond music and commercial engagement.

Kweku Smoke's appearance is expected to add particular significance to the Berekum event because of the rapper's longstanding connection to the town. The artist, whose real name is Paul Amankwah, has spoken publicly about growing up in Berekum, making the homecoming performance an important moment for both the musician and his local supporters.

The rapper will perform along-

side other musicians during the Revival Concert, which will serve as the entertainment climax of the MoMoFest activation. Organisers are expecting the combination of a free concert and a broad programme of commercial and community activities to attract substantial participation from residents and visitors.

At the same time, customer protection will remain a central component of the campaign. MobileMoney Fintech Limited plans to use the Berekum activation to educate participants about common fraudulent practices and the importance of protecting personal identification numbers, verifying transactions before

confirming them and using authorised channels to report suspicious activity.

The company says the emphasis on fraud prevention reflects its broader objective of ensuring that increased adoption of digital financial services is accompanied by stronger consumer awareness and responsible usage.

MoMoFest has subsequently expanded beyond a conventional financial services campaign by incorporating entertainment and cultural events as platforms for direct customer interaction. Following the Berekum activation, the programme is expected to extend its presence to prominent events including the Asogli Festival, ShattaFest, Rapperhollic and Made in Tadi.

The strategy allows MobileMoney Fintech Limited to reach customers in settings where entertainment, commerce and community participation naturally converge, while creating opportunities to introduce digital financial services to people who may not otherwise engage with conventional financial education programmes.

The Berekum programme therefore forms part of a wider effort to move customers beyond basic awareness of mobile money towards more confident use of digital services, including payments, transfers, savings, insurance and credit.

The 2026 edition of MoMoFest is being supported by Ecobank Ghana, Guinness Ghana Breweries Limited, Ayo Ghana and MTN Business. Their participation is expected to strengthen the festival's combination of entertainment, commercial activity and financial services engagement.

With the Berekum activation combining a major homecoming performance by Kweku Smoke with a cashless marketplace, customer rewards, interactive games, community activities and fraud awareness initiatives, MoMoFest 2026 is set to present digital finance in a more practical and accessible setting while strengthening engagement between MobileMoney Fintech Limited, merchants and customers.

Fifa accuses Uefa of 'smear campaign' against Infantino

Fifa has accused Uefa of a "smear campaign" against it and its leadership in a challenge to litigation over president Gianni Infantino's scrapped plan to sell off stakes in the World Cup to private investors.

Last week European football's governing body filed legal papers in the US requesting disclosure of evidence and documents from Fifa as part of potential criminal claims in Switzerland.

In a dramatic escalation of the controversy, Uefa accused Infantino of "criminal mismanagement" and "a fraudulently off-market price promoted by [him] for his own benefit" over the now-shelved Fifa Forward Enterprise (FFE) scheme.

However, world governing body Fifa has now responded with court filings lodged in the US - and seen by the BBC - requesting that a court "oppose" the

application by the end of the month.

Fifa claims Uefa's argument "suffers from a fundamental defect" and "legal deficiencies".

"Uefa seeks discovery in aid of a foreign criminal proceeding that does not exist and that Uefa admittedly lacks the authority to initiate. Despite that threshold problem, Uefa asks this court to authorise sweeping discovery about the FFE."

It said it had "made clear" that the creation of FFE was "only a proposal", adding that it could have only proceeded on the condition that the majority of member associations supported it and "the relevant approvals of the Fifa Council".

"Rather than participate in that democratic process, Uefa issued a press release - the beginning of a weeks-long smear campaign against Fifa and its leadership," it wrote in the court filing.

It also claimed that Uefa's

"economic motivation" was to prevent smaller countries from having the "financial strength to compete with the European elite".

"If soccer is strengthened in the developing world, global competition increases, which ultimately reduces Uefa's market power and provides more competition for its flagship tournaments," Fifa said.

"By raising funds to allow some of Fifa's smaller member associations to better develop soccer, FFE would lead to more players from those nations choosing to represent their countries of origin and playing in their home leagues rather than playing abroad."

Uefa has declined to comment, although BBC Sport has been told insiders believe that if Fifa has nothing to hide, it should disclose the documents and speed up the legal process. It has led the rebellion against the Fifa president, who is facing calls to stand

down from three confederations.

Uefa has also asked a court in New York to approve a legal document ordering testimony and documents from venture capitalist Joshua Kushner, the brother of US President Donald Trump's son-in-law, who was set to be the lead investor in FFE, and his company Thrive Eternal.

Thrive had held talks with Infantino about heading up a \$4.2bn (£3.1bn) investment in 20% of a new Fifa commercial subsidiary, before the idea was abandoned days after it was revealed in July amid a huge backlash.

At the time, Fifa claimed FFE would have increased the funding distributed to each national association for the 2027-2030 cycle from £5.9m to £14.7m.

On Sunday, Kushner expressed regret over FFE, saying: "While we stand behind the motivations of FFE, we failed to appreciate the political dynamics of global football, and the lengths

some would go to... had we known what this would devolve into, we would not have gotten involved."

Uefa has also asked for the disclosure of documents from American financier Greg Maffei, who was a key adviser on the deal.

While Uefa says neither Kushner nor Maffei are anticipated defendants in any legal proceedings, it claims the pair first discussed the FFE concept in July 2025 and that Infantino had "been discussing the underlying concept with Kushner for nearly a year before the terms sheet was ultimately signed".

Its lawyers also argue the World Cup was deliberately undervalued at about £15bn, which it says is "a figure that was neither the product of an open, competitive auction, nor tested by any independent valuer". Uefa claims Infantino failed to consult Fifa's hierarchy over the plan.



Sports

Carlos Queiroz Sets Sights on 2030 World Cup as Ghana Begins New Black Stars Era

Black Stars head coach Carlos Queiroz has unveiled an ambitious long-term blueprint for Ghana, signalling that his plans for the national team extend well beyond the forthcoming Africa Cup of Nations and are firmly centred on building a side capable of competing strongly at the 2030 FIFA World Cup.

The experienced Portuguese coach has been retained by the Ghana Football Association following Ghana's encouraging campaign at the 2026 FIFA World Cup in North America, where the Black Stars secured a place in the knockout phase of the competition.

Ghana defied expectations to

progress from the group stage for the first time since the 2010 edition of the global tournament. The Black Stars finished third in Group I with four points and subsequently advanced to the Round of 32, where their campaign came to an end following a narrow 1 goal defeat to Colombia.

For Queiroz, however, Ghana's World Cup showing represents the beginning of a broader project rather than the conclusion of one. The veteran tactician views the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations as an important stage in the development of a more formidable national team that can eventually establish itself as a consistent force on the international stage.

Queiroz has described the forthcoming continental champi-

onship as a crucial opportunity to strengthen the foundations of the Black Stars while preparing the team for a more demanding campaign at the 2030 World Cup.

The Portuguese coach has made it clear that his immediate priority will be guiding Ghana through the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations qualifying campaign, although his broader objective is to use the qualification process and the tournament itself to develop a disciplined, united and increasingly competitive national side.

His message reflects an emphasis on sustained improvement rather than short term success, with the coach seeking to create a team capable of combining tactical organisation, collective commitment and national pride.

Ghana's preparations for the

next phase of the project will begin with the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers, where the Black Stars are scheduled to travel to face Côte d'Ivoire before returning home to take on The Gambia.

The fixtures will provide Queiroz with an early opportunity to assess his squad, refine his tactical approach and begin shaping the group of players he believes can carry Ghana into the next stage of its international football ambitions.

The Black Stars coach has also placed considerable emphasis on national unity, calling for a collective effort from the team and supporters as Ghana seeks to restore itself among Africa's leading football nations.

With the 2030 FIFA World

Cup already forming part of his long term calculations, Queiroz's continued tenure represents an opportunity for Ghana to pursue a more structured approach to national team development while building on the momentum generated by its 2026 World Cup campaign.

The Portuguese tactician will therefore enter the next phase of his tenure with expectations extending beyond qualification for the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations. His larger challenge will be to transform the promising signs demonstrated in 2026 into sustained competitiveness, greater consistency and a Black Stars team capable of making a significant impact on the global stage in 2030.

