

ELECTING MIMDCES- IEA REJECTS MAHAMIA'S PLAN!

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Electing Mmdces- IEARejects Mahama's Plan!

...Says Presidential Nomination Of Candidates Undermines Open Local Elections

The Institute of Economic Affairs, IEA, has rejected the government's proposed framework for electing Metropolitan, Municipal and District Chief Executives, arguing that presidential control over the nomination of candidates would undermine the democratic purpose of introducing direct local elections.

In a position issued on Wednesday, September 2, 2026, the policy think tank said it supports the election of all MMDCEs but strongly opposed any arrangement under which the President would determine who is eligible to appear on the ballot. The Institute instead called for every citizen who meets the required qualifications to have the opportunity to contest through a non-partisan electoral process.

The disagreement centres on the government's proposed model for replacing Ghana's longstanding system under which MMDCEs are appointed by the President, subject to approval by the relevant assemblies. Under the government's proposed arrangement, the President would nominate five prospective

candidates, after which a vetting committee would assess the nominees and shortlist three for the electorate to choose from.

The IEA contends that such a structure would leave substantial presidential influence intact because citizens would only be permitted to choose among individuals who had first been selected through a presidential nomination process.

The Institute consequently argued that genuine local democracy requires citizens to determine not only who ultimately becomes their MMDCE but also who has the opportunity to compete for the position. In its assessment, removing the final appointment from the President while retaining presidential control over the candidate selection process would fall short of meaningful political decentralisation.

The position differs from the recommendation presented by the Constitution Review Committee chaired by Professor H. Kwasi Prempeh. The Committee recommended that MMDCE elections should be introduced progressively, with implementation taking account of the financial and administrative capabilities of individual districts. It also proposed

that the elections should be conducted on a non partisan basis.

The IEA has therefore aligned itself with the broader principle of electing MMDCEs while rejecting the presidential filtering mechanism contained in the government's proposal. The Institute argues that a more open system would strengthen accountability because local executives would derive their authority directly from residents rather than from a selection process controlled by the national executive.

The debate forms part of a much wider constitutional reform process initiated under President John Dramani Mahama. The President established the Constitution Review Committee in 2025 to examine previous proposals for constitutional change, conduct consultations with the Ghanaian public and develop recommendations for reform. Professor Prempeh's committee subsequently submitted its report to the President in December 2025.

The government has since begun the process of determining how the accepted recommendations should be translated into constitutional amendments, legislation and administrative measures.

As part of that process, Attorney General and Minister for Justice Dr Dominic Ayine inaugurated an eleven member Constitution Review Implementation Committee on August 28, 2026. The committee has been tasked with examining the government's position on the recommendations of the Prempeh Committee and developing an appropriate framework for implementing the reforms that have been accepted by the government.

The implementation committee is chaired by Presidential Legal Counsel and former Attorney General Marietta Brew Appiah Oppong, placing the question of local government reform within a broader institutional process aimed at reshaping aspects of Ghana's constitutional governance framework.

The IEA's objection to presidential nomination also reflects its wider position that Ghana's constitutional architecture should contain stronger safeguards against excessive concentration of authority in the Presidency. In its latest assessment of the constitutional reform proposals, the Institute called for substantial reductions in presidential appointment powers and advocated greater institutional

independence, stronger parliamentary oversight and deeper citizen participation in governance.

The Institute has also cautioned the government against moving too quickly with the constitutional review process, maintaining that reforms of such national significance require extensive public education, consultation and consensus building before final decisions are taken.

The disagreement over MMDCE elections is consequently emerging as one of the important questions in Ghana's constitutional reform debate. At its core is the issue of whether local democracy should merely replace presidential appointment with a limited electoral contest or whether citizens should receive unrestricted authority to determine which qualified individuals compete for leadership of their respective metropolitan, municipal and district assemblies.

For the IEA, the latter approach is essential if the proposed reform is to produce genuine decentralisation and make local government leadership more directly accountable to the communities it is intended to serve.



Ghana's Inflation Rises to 5.0% as Domestic Costs Intensify Pressure on Households

Ghana's annual inflation rate climbed to 5.0% in August 2026, increasing from 4.6% in July, according to the latest Consumer Price Index figures released by the Ghana Statistical Service. The latest reading represents a 0.4 percentage point increase and marks the second successive monthly acceleration in consumer price growth, indicating that the country's recent disinflation progress is encountering renewed pressure. Nevertheless, the August figure remains substantially below the 5.5% recorded in August 2025.

The latest statistics indicate that Ghana's current inflationary environment is being shaped increasingly by domestic cost conditions, particularly expenditure associated with housing, transportation, utilities and other services. At the same time, imported inflation remains comparatively subdued, suggesting that relatively stable exchange rate conditions continue to limit the extent to which external price pressures are being transmitted into the domestic economy.

Although food inflation recorded a marginal improvement during the month, substantial increases in the prices of particular food products, together with elevated expenses for rent, transportation, electricity, education and other necessities, continued to place pressure on household finances.

Food and non alcoholic beverages inflation declined slightly to 3.0% in August from 3.1% in July, reinforcing the broader moderation that has been observed in food related price pressures. However, the relatively modest aggregate figure conceals considerable disparities among individual commodities, with some food products experiencing exceptionally sharp annual price increases.

Fresh tomatoes recorded the most pronounced annual increase, with prices surging by 458.3%, while ginger registered an increase of 128.3%. Shrimp prices rose by 67.1%, whereas mango prices advanced by 57.7%. Other notable increases were recorded in parking space and related services, which rose by 40.0%, fresh coconut by 38.0%, charcoal by 35.6%, fresh green pepper by 30.5% and cabbage by 29.8%.

At the other end of the spectrum, several commodities became considerably cheaper. Lime registered the largest decline at 33.7%, followed by maize at 31.3%, while cocoyam leaves, sweet apples, fried fish and pawpaw also recorded reductions exceeding 20%. The contrasting movements demonstrate that Ghanaian households are not experiencing a uniform change in food prices, because while some products have become cheaper, others have become considerably more expensive.

Fresh tomatoes consequently emerged as one of the most significant individual sources of inflationary pressure in August. Beyond recording the largest annual price increase, tomatoes

contributed approximately 21.4% of the overall inflation rate. Rent payments followed with a contribution of 14.7%, while ginger accounted for another 12.2%. Other important contributors included charcoal, cooked rice, yam, public and private secondary school fees, bus and trotro fares, electricity and hotel accommodation.

The composition of the figures therefore demonstrates that Ghana's inflation challenge extends well beyond the food market. Everyday expenditures associated with accommodation, transportation, education, utilities and other services are increasingly shaping the overall cost of living.

Non food inflation remained the principal source of price pressure during the month, increasing to 6.8% in August from 6.7% in July and accounting for approximately 70.9% of total inflation, compared with 29.1% attributable to food.

The significance of this development lies in the nature of the expenditure categories involved. Rent, transportation, electricity, education and accommodation represent expenses that households often cannot easily eliminate or substantially reduce. Consequently, even with food inflation remaining comparatively restrained, persistent increases in these essential areas can continue to undermine disposable incomes and household purchasing power.

Housing, water and energy recorded inflation of approximately 10.2%, while transportation inflation reached 10.5%. Education services recorded inflation of 6.6%, whereas clothing and footwear registered approximately 8.0%. Food and beverages recorded about 4.7%, while restaurants and hotels registered approximately 4.3%.

Services also continued to demonstrate stronger price pressures than goods. Services inflation increased to 8.6% in August from 8.5% in July, while goods inflation advanced from 3.6% to 3.8%. Services prices are therefore rising at more than twice the pace of goods prices, highlighting the growing importance of domestically generated cost pressures in Ghana's inflation dynamics.

The persistence of elevated services inflation presents a particular challenge because service costs are strongly influenced by domestic conditions. Wages, transportation expenses, electricity charges, rents, insurance costs and other operational expenditures can all feed into the prices consumers ultimately pay. Unlike imported merchandise, where exchange rate stability can provide substantial relief, reducing services inflation is likely to require improvements in domestic productivity and reductions in underlying operating costs.

The latest statistics also reinforce the increasingly domestic character of Ghana's inflation. Inflation for locally produced items increased to 6.1% in August from 5.9% in July, whereas imported inflation remained considerably lower at 2.2%, compared with 2.1% previously. Locally produced goods and services accounted for approximately



86.2% of total inflation, demonstrating the dominant influence of domestic factors.

The relatively subdued imported inflation rate suggests that exchange rate conditions are helping to contain price increases associated with foreign products. However, the acceleration in locally produced inflation indicates that greater attention may now have to be directed towards domestic production and distribution costs, including energy, transportation, logistics and other expenses confronting businesses.

Interestingly, the increase in annual inflation occurred alongside a decline in prices during the month itself. The month on month inflation rate showed that the general price level fell by 1.0% in August compared with July, despite the year on year rate rising by 0.4 percentage points. The Consumer Price Index reached 268.5 in August 2026, compared with 255.7 in August 2025, representing an increase of 12.8 index points over the twelve month period.

This apparent contradiction is important because annual inflation measures the change in prices compared with the corresponding period a year earlier, whereas the monthly measure captures movements between consecutive months. Consequently, the August figures indicate that prices declined during the month even though the overall price

level remained higher than it was a year earlier.

There were also considerable geographical differences in inflation across Ghana. The Central Region recorded the highest inflation rate at 11.1%, followed by the Ashanti Region at 8.7%. Greater Accra recorded 5.0%, which corresponded with the national average. At the lower end, Bono East recorded 3.3%, followed by the Volta Region at 3.6% and the Upper East Region at 3.7%.

The substantial variation between regions illustrates the different cost pressures confronting households across the country. Differences in market access, transportation expenses, agricultural supply conditions, housing costs and local economic activity can all contribute to divergent regional price movements.

Taken together, the August figures present a more nuanced picture of Ghana's inflation trajectory. The country continues to benefit from a substantial reduction in inflation compared with the elevated levels witnessed previously, while food and imported inflation remain relatively contained. However, the second consecutive increase in headline inflation indicates that the disinflation process is no longer progressing as smoothly as it did earlier in the year.

The principal challenge is increasingly centred on domestic costs. Rising expenses associated with housing, trans-

portation, energy, education and other services are exerting greater influence on household expenditure, while sharp increases in selected food products such as tomatoes and ginger continue to create additional pressure.

The latest data therefore suggest that sustaining Ghana's gains in price stability will require more than maintaining favourable exchange rate conditions. Greater attention to domestic production costs, transportation networks, energy expenses, agricultural supply chains, storage infrastructure and service sector productivity will become increasingly important if inflation is to return to a sustained downward trajectory.

For households, the immediate reality is that a 5.0% national inflation rate does not necessarily translate into a 5.0% increase in every item they purchase. The substantial differences across commodities and regions mean that the actual cost of living experienced by individual households can vary considerably depending on their consumption patterns and location.

For policymakers, however, the message from the August figures is clearer. Ghana has made considerable progress in reducing inflation over the past year, but the latest acceleration demonstrates that domestic cost pressures remain a significant obstacle to consolidating those gains.

EDITORIAL

Ghana's Road Casualties Deserve More Than a Declaration of Public Emergency

The call by the Director of the West Africa Regional Centre of CUTS International, Appiah Kusi Adomako, for the Government to treat road crashes in Ghana as a public health emergency deserves serious consideration. But it should also provoke a larger national conversation: what exactly would a declaration of emergency achieve if the institutions, laws, infrastructure and emergency systems required to confront the crisis remain substantially unchanged?

Speaking on JoyNews' The Law on Sunday, Mr Adomako argued that the scale of deaths on Ghana's roads warranted the same urgency that accompanied the country's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. His argument is compelling. Ghana is not merely experiencing an unfortunate collection of road accidents; it is confronting a persistent and largely preventable national catastrophe.

The latest figures make the point with frightening clarity. Ghana recorded 2,949 road-crash deaths in 2025, according to provisional National Road Safety Authority (NRSA) figures. That represented an 18.2 per cent increase over the 2,494 deaths recorded in 2024 and was reportedly the highest annual road-fatality figure in 35 years. There were also 14,743 reported crashes and 16,714 injuries.

In other words, approximately eight people were being killed every day on Ghana's roads. And this is not merely a statistical tragedy. Behind every number is a human being: a breadwinner, a mother, a father, a child, a student, a worker or an elderly person whose life was extinguished unnecessarily. Thousands more survive with injuries, disabilities and psychological trauma, while families are pushed into poverty and hospitals absorb the consequences.

The figures are therefore sufficiently grave to justify describing road crashes as a public-health crisis. Indeed, Ghana's own legal framework already recognises that road safety cannot be reduced to policing motorists after they have broken the law.

The National Road Safety Authority Act, 2019 (Act 993) gives the NRSA an expansive mandate to reduce road crashes, fatalities and injuries. Its functions include road-safety education, research, data collection, coordination with the DVLA, Police, road agencies and emergency-response agencies, enforcement of road-safety standards, and the establishment of road-safety audit procedures for road infrastructure.

This is important. The law itself recognises that road deaths are the product of a system, not simply the misconduct of individual drivers.

Ghana also has the Road Traffic Act, 2004 (Act 683) and the Road Traffic Regulations, 2012 (L.I. 2180). The latter was specifically enacted to give effect to the Act and provides a regulatory framework covering such matters as licensing, vehicle standards, speed limits and other road-use requirements. The Ministry of Transport has itself acknowledged that deficiencies in the existing legal and regulatory framework have necessitated review.

The law, therefore, is not necessarily the problem. The more fundamental problem appears to be

implementation, enforcement, institutional coordination, infrastructure and political prioritisation.

That is why The Daily Searchlight supports the call for a much stronger national response, but believes that simply declaring road crashes a public-health emergency would be insufficient. Ghana needs a road-safety emergency programme, not merely an emergency declaration.

Retrain the nation

The first battlefield is the human being behind the steering wheel.

Ghana must seriously consider a nationwide driver re-education and retraining programme. This should not be limited to commercial drivers. It should cover private motorists, motorcycle riders, tricycle operators and other categories of road users.

Speeding, reckless overtaking, drink-driving, fatigue, mobile-phone use, dangerous loading and disregard for road signs are not obscure phenomena. The NRSA has repeatedly identified speeding, drink-driving, unlicensed driving and the use of unregistered vehicles among the major contributors to crashes.

The answer cannot therefore be another occasional public-information campaign consisting of posters, radio jingles and television advertisements during Easter and Christmas.

The country needs continuous road-user education, backed by enforcement and meaningful consequences.

There is already a legal basis for retraining and retesting certain drivers. The challenge is ensuring that the regulatory machinery is actually used effectively and consistently.

Re-engineer the roads

The second battlefield is the road itself.

A significant proportion of Ghana's major highways remain essentially two-way roads in which vehicles travelling in opposite directions are separated only by painted lines. At high speeds, the consequences of one mistake, one failed overtaking manoeuvre or one burst tyre can be catastrophic.

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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 essentially 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

they express affection. It 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 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 re-



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 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

mainly 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 problematic 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.

EU and Nato vow to step up pressure on Russia after 'new escalation' in Germany

Ursula von der Leyen and Mark Rutte accused Russia of becoming increasingly reckless in its attacks on Europe

The heads of Nato and the European Commission have warned that Russia is growing increasingly reckless and vowed to respond to a "new normal".

"Leipzig marks a new escalation on European Union soil directly attributed to Russia," said Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, a day after Germany blamed Russia for a failed drone attack last month on Leipzig airport.

"We have to step up and that means being ready to respond to Russia's recklessness faster and better," von der Leyen said. Nato Secretary General Mark Rutte said the whole alliance, which includes the US, stood "in full solidarity with Germany".

Russia has rejected German accusations that a drone carrying explosives deliberately targeted a Ukrainian cargo plane on 4 August.

The drone was defused by a robot at Leipzig/Halle airport and a second drone is thought to have collided with another cargo plane.

A third drone was reportedly found 10 days later at the airport, which is an important Nato hub and is regularly used by Ukrainian Antonov transport aircraft.

It was not until Tuesday that the German government said police investigations and intelligence finding had proved that Russia was behind the incidents.

The interior minister said that the drone's configuration, components, explosives and detonator were all known from other Russian hybrid operations.

Two suspects have reportedly been identified in the Leipzig attack, including a Belarusian with a Russian passport who entered on a tourist visa, and another with Latvian and Russian passports who arrived by plane in Berlin and flew out two days before the failed attack.

The Russian House in Berlin is to close as part of Germany's response to the Leipzig incident.

Berlin has said it will close the Russian consulate in Bonn as well as the Russian House cultural institution, widely suspected in Berlin of acting as a propaganda outlet for the Kremlin.

The Russian foreign ministry



promised to respond in "mirror-image" fashion and said Berlin had offered no evidence to back its claims. Germany's chargé d'affaires Bernd Finke was summoned to hear Moscow's rejection of Berlin's "entirely unfounded accusations".

Vladimir Putin has condemned Germany's measures as a serious mistake that "clearly runs counter to the interests of the German people".

Asked whether Moscow would be prepared to sever relations with Berlin, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Grushko answered "maybe", but said for now it was giving diplomacy a chance.

Critics in Germany suggested the German response was relatively weak, but Berlin has its eye on a more co-ordinated response with its allies, including extended EU sanctions and entry restrictions on Russian visitors across the bloc.

Von der Leyen was clear in her statement that the Leipzig attack had involved "military-grade material carried out by Russian operatives on European Union soil".

"We will not tolerate it," she said.

While she was meeting Rutte in Brussels, EU foreign ministers had gathered at Wicklow in Ireland, where France's Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot said action could be taken on a European level

against Russia's so-called "shadow fleet" of ships carrying oil and other cargo aimed at avoiding EU sanctions.

Barrot and fellow ministers from Belgium and the Netherlands said they had summoned Russian ambassadors in protest at the attack.

Lithuania's Foreign Minister Kestutis Budrys said it was obvious that Russia saw no political cost in its hybrid operations against European allies.

EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said they were working on how to tighten enforcement of existing sanctions, and added there was broad support for an EU visa entry ban on Russian ex-combatants as well as stricter visa limits on Russian tourists.

Several EU countries, including Sweden, the Netherlands, Poland and Spain, are pushing for more than €193bn (£165bn) in frozen Russian assets to be used to help Ukraine. The idea was first planned at the end of 2025, and rejected by Belgium where the money is held. However, Belgium's position is unchanged because it fears being held financially liable by the courts.

The Leipzig attack was part of a broader pattern of increasingly dangerous incidents, including drones and interference with critical infrastructure, von der Leyen

said.

Mark Rutte added there had been increased risk to Europeans from drones and missiles crossing into countries on the Alliance's eastern flank, and there had been more "malign activities targeting our territory directly, whether it is fires set in factories producing defence equipment for Ukraine or indeed the Russian hybrid attack in Leipzig".

Several acts of suspected sabotage have been reported in Germany in the past 24 hours alone, including two attacks on electricity substations, one in the east and one in the west near Cologne.

Although authorities do not yet know who was behind the incidents, North Rhine-Westphalia Interior Minister Herbert Reul said an attack that targeted power lines at Bergheim in western Germany was deliberate and whoever had carried out was attacking the country as a whole.

"We are investigating two possibilities: sabotage directed by a foreign state and left-wing extremism," he said.

Several power lines failed prompting five power plant units to go offline at two separate coal-fired power stations. Police said six launching devices had been found in a field.

High-voltage power lines were damaged near the Jänschwalde

coal-fired power plant in Brandenburg early on Tuesday and explosive devices were later found at a substation.

Meanwhile, in neighbouring Poland, Prime Minister Donald Tusk said a fire at a factory producing combat drones at Skarżysko-Kamienna, 140km (85 miles) south of Warsaw was a deliberate act of arson and sabotage. Arson has also not been ruled out in a fire at a factory in Lublin on Sunday night.

Von der Leyen said sanctions had already been used to deter Russia, and EU foreign ministers were discussing further ways of "cutting deeper in Russia's war chest".

The EU has already agreed to loan Ukraine €90bn (£77bn), and von der Leyen said Kyiv had asked for billions of extra euros in funding to help pay for PAC-3 air defence missiles. Work was already taking place on a joint Europe-Ukraine Freyja anti-ballistic missile defence project, she added.

She promised that Europe and Nato would just maintain pressure on Moscow but "we will increase it and we will not stop, not until Russia stops bombing and killing innocent children, men and children in Ukraine".

Mahama Dissolves Nine State Boards Amid Renewed Scrutiny of State Owned Enterprises

President John Dramani Mahama has ordered the immediate dissolution of the governing boards of nine state institutions, triggering a fresh re-organisation of oversight structures across some of Ghana's most strategically important public entities.

The directive, announced by the Presidency on Wednesday, September 2, 2026, affects the governing boards of Prestea Sankofa Gold Limited, the Bulk Oil Storage and Transportation Company Limited, BOST, the Volta Aluminium Company Limited, VALCO, Consolidated Bank Ghana Limited, CBG, Ghana Post Company Limited, the Road Maintenance Trust Fund, TDC Ghana Limited, the Ghana National Petroleum Corporation, GNPC, and the National Sports Authority, NSA.

The decision was communicated in a statement issued by the President's Spokesperson and Minister for Government Communications, Felix Kwakye Ofori, who confirmed that the dissolution takes effect immediately. The Presidency, however, did not provide a specific explanation for the decision.

against the backdrop of heightened attention on the effectiveness and performance of Ghana's state owned enterprises and public institutions.

The affected institutions collectively operate across several critical areas of the national economy, including petroleum, mining, banking, infrastructure, housing, postal services and sports, thereby making the presidential directive significant for the administration of major public assets and services.

The relevant sector ministers have consequently been instructed to undertake all measures necessary to implement the dissolution in accordance with the laws and governing instruments establishing the respective institutions. The Presidency has further indicated that new governing boards will be constituted in due course.

In the interim, the management teams of the affected organisations are expected to remain responsible for their routine administrative operations while operating under the supervision of their respective sector ministries. However, they are not permitted to undertake major policy, financial or contractual decisions requiring board approval without prior authorisation from the appropriate authority.

The latest action comes

against the backdrop of heightened attention on the effectiveness and performance of Ghana's state owned enterprises and public institutions. The State Interests and Governance Authority, SIGA, recently released its 2025 performance report on state owned entities, intensifying public and institutional discussions about governance, accountability, financial management and operational performance within government owned organisations.

The dissolution also forms part of a broader pattern of institutional restructuring undertaken by President Mahama since assuming office in January 2025. Shortly after his inauguration, the President directed the dissolution of statutory boards, corporations, commissions and councils that had been appointed by the previous administration, pursuant to the Presidential Transition Act, 2012, Act 845.

Under that earlier arrangement, individuals appointed to governing boards by former President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo Addo or by a former Minister of State ceased to hold their positions on January 7, 2025, the date of President Mahama's inauguration.

The Presidency subsequently clarified that the cessation of board appointments did not extend to institutions established as independent constitutional creations.

Following that earlier dissolution, interim administrative arrangements were introduced to ensure that the affected institutions could continue functioning while new governing structures were being established. Management teams were required to obtain clearance from the Chief of Staff before taking significant decisions that ordinarily required board approval.

The latest directive therefore represents another substantial intervention in the governance architecture of key state institutions, although the Presidency has stressed that the dissolution is not permanent. Instead, the affected boards are expected to be reconstituted under the respective legal frameworks governing the institutions.

The development is particularly consequential for institutions such as GNPC, BOST, CBG, VALCO and the NSA, whose activities have considerable implications for Ghana's energy security, financial system,

industrial development, petroleum infrastructure and national sports administration. The dissolution of the NSA board, for instance, comes at a time when concerns surrounding sports infrastructure, facility management and the broader administration of Ghanaian sports have attracted renewed attention.

The nine institutions will therefore continue operating through their existing management structures until the government appoints new boards. The new governing bodies are expected to provide strategic supervision in accordance with the statutory mandates and governing instruments of the respective organisations.

President Mahama has also conveyed his appreciation to the outgoing board members for their service to the state, bringing the latest phase of the restructuring exercise into effect while leaving the precise composition and timing of the replacement boards to subsequent presidential decisions.



Attorney General's Office Explains Prosecutors' Absence From Adu Boahene Trial

The Office of the Attorney General has rejected claims that the prosecution deliberately failed to appear before the High Court on Wednesday, September 2, during proceedings involving former National Signals Bureau Director General Kwabena Adu Boahene.

The Attorney General's Press Secretary, Benjamin Alpha Aidoo, described the suggestion as a "mischievous" representation of events and explained that the prosecution's absence was caused by circumstances beyond its control.

According to Mr Aidoo, the prosecution had remained committed to bringing the case to an expeditious and fair conclusion and had no intention of abandoning the proceedings.

He explained that during the sitting on Tuesday, September 1, counsel for Mr Adu Boahene, Samuel Atta Akyea, requested an additional day to complete his cross examination. Both Mr Atta Akyea and the Deputy Attorney General subsequently agreed that Wednesday, September 2, would be used to conclude the cross examination.

The Attorney General's Office said the Deputy Attorney General,



however, informed the High Court that he was scheduled to appear before the Supreme Court on the same morning in connection with a review application filed by Ofoase Ayirebi Member of Parliament Kojo Oppong Nkrumah.

The Supreme Court matter had been scheduled for 9 am, and the prosecution consequently requested that the High Court proceedings be moved to 11:30 am on the expectation that the apex court hearing would have been completed by then.

That expectation was ultimately not fulfilled. The Supreme Court commenced its proceedings at 10 am

and remained in session until 1:20 pm, meaning the Deputy Attorney General was still before the apex court when the High Court was expected to resume the Adu Boahene trial.

By the time the High Court considered the matter, the prosecution team had not appeared, prompting the court to adjourn proceedings to Tuesday, September 8, when the final day of cross examination is expected to take place.

Mr Aidoo explained that the Deputy Attorney General had personally agreed to the revised schedule because he anticipated that the

Supreme Court proceedings would be concluded by approximately 11 am.

He said that once the Supreme Court proceedings extended beyond the anticipated timeframe, the prosecution encountered practical difficulties in arranging alternative representation at the High Court on such short notice.

With the Deputy Attorney General still engaged before the Supreme Court at 11:30 am and other members of the legal team already committed to their respective schedules, Mr Aidoo said it was not feasible to delegate another lawyer to appear at

the High Court and take over the proceedings at that point.

The Attorney General's Office therefore strongly rejected any suggestion that the prosecution had intentionally stayed away from court or sought to frustrate the proceedings.

Mr Aidoo reiterated that the prosecution remained prepared to conclude its case at the earliest opportunity permitted by the court's schedule and confirmed that the legal team would return to court on Tuesday, September 8, for the final stage of the cross examination.

The case concerns Mr Adu Boahene, his wife Angela Adjei Boateng and two other accused persons, who are facing charges connected to the alleged diversion of public funds in the procurement of cybersecurity software.

Mr Adu Boahene has denied the allegations and pleaded not guilty to the charges.

The latest development comes amid heightened public attention surrounding the prosecution of the former intelligence official, with proceedings involving the alleged procurement irregularities continuing to attract significant legal and political interest.

Central Regional Minister Calls for Calm After New Winneba Violence Leaves Three Dead

Central Regional Minister Ekow Panyin Okyere Eduamoah has expressed profound sympathy to the families of those killed in the violent disturbances at New Winneba, describing the incident as a deeply unfortunate development that has inflicted considerable pain on the affected community.

The Minister, who also chairs the Central Regional Security Council, visited the Winneba Trauma and Specialist Hospital on Wednesday, September 2, to sympathise with injured victims and their relatives while assessing the condition of those still receiving medical attention.

The violence, which erupted on Tuesday, September 1, resulted in three deaths and left several others injured after a group of about 300 people reportedly stormed New Winneba and attacked residents, shops and private residences. The Police Service said the group was armed with guns, stones, cutlasses and sticks, while security personnel were subsequently deployed to restore order.



Speaking to journalists after his visit to the hospital, Mr Eduamoah said the government and the Regional Security Council shared in the grief of the bereaved families and were committed to taking the necessary measures to prevent further violence and restore durable peace to the area.

He said the tragedy demanded restraint from all sides, particularly as

the security agencies continued their investigations into the circumstances that precipitated the confrontation.

The Minister further disclosed that the number of injured persons receiving treatment had begun to decline, with 12 patients discharged from the hospital while eight remained under medical observation and further assessment. His account placed the total number of seriously

wounded persons at about 20, although earlier police reports had cited approximately 15 injured victims.

Mr Eduamoah urged residents and the various groups connected to the dispute to refrain from retaliatory actions and allow the police to undertake a comprehensive investigation into the incident.

He emphasised that grievances arising from the dispute would be addressed through lawful channels and appealed to residents to prioritise peaceful coexistence rather than resorting to violence.

The authorities have so far arrested six suspects in connection with the disturbances, with the individuals being held to assist investigators as efforts continue to establish the full circumstances surrounding the attack.

The violence is believed to have originated from a longstanding land dispute involving communities in the Effutu and Gomoa areas, although the authorities have cautioned against assigning responsibility to any particular faction before investigations are concluded.

The Police Service has since reinforced security in New Winneba,

deploying personnel from several divisions together with specialised teams and two armoured vehicles. Six snap checkpoints have also been established, while day and night patrols have been intensified to prevent a recurrence of the violence.

The Central Regional Police Command has described the situation as calm and under control, even as security personnel remain stationed in the area and investigators work to determine the precise circumstances that led to the deadly confrontation.

For the Regional Minister, the immediate priority is to prevent further escalation, protect residents and create the conditions for the affected communities to resolve their grievances through established legal and institutional processes rather than through confrontation.

The latest intervention by the Regional Security Council comes as authorities seek to stabilise New Winneba, support those affected by the violence and ensure that those found to have participated in criminal acts are dealt with in accordance with the law.

A Plus Signals Major Protest as Gomoa Effutu Land Dispute Escalates After Deadly New Winneba Clashes

Member of Parliament for Gomoa Central, Kwame Obeng Asare, popularly known as A Plus, says residents of the area are preparing to stage a major demonstration over the longstanding land dispute between Gomoa and Effutu, following deadly violence at New Winneba that has deepened tensions across the affected communities.

The lawmaker said the situation in the area had returned to relative calm, but residents were increasingly frustrated by what they regard as the authorities' handling of the dispute and the security response to the latest violence.

The clashes at New Winneba on Tuesday, September 1, left three people dead and several others injured, with the Ghana Police Service confirming that about 15 people were wounded, including a police officer. Police subsequently reinforced security in the area with additional personnel and two armoured vehicles as investigations continued.

Speaking to Citi News on Wednesday, September 2, A Plus said residents were mobilising for a demonstration to demand action over the circumstances surrounding the conflict and what he described as excessive conduct by some police officers during the disturbances.

He alleged that police personnel had used lethal force against some residents during the confrontation. The allegation has not been independently established, and the circumstances surrounding the deaths remain subject to police investigation.

Despite his strong criticism, A Plus said the immediate situation remained calm and indicated that residents intended to pursue their grievances through collective action rather than allow the dispute to deteriorate into further uncontrolled violence.

The Gomoa Central MP also disclosed that he had taken steps



before the latest confrontation to obtain an official determination of the boundaries between Gomoa and Effutu in an attempt to address the underlying dispute before it escalated.

According to him, he wrote to the Lands Commission requesting clarification on the respective boundaries and subsequently forwarded the Commission's response to the Ministry of the Interior, asking the ministry to intervene in relation to the establishment of a police facility in an area he considers disputed territory.

A Plus argued that the naming and location of the Effutu North Police Station had created the impression that the state had taken a position in the longstanding territorial disagreement. He said he had therefore urged the Interior Ministry to review the matter and consider relocating the facility deeper into what he described as

undisputed Effutu territory.

His concerns come against the backdrop of a long running dispute over land and boundary claims involving communities associated with Gomoa and Effutu. The latest confrontation reportedly began after a group of about 300 people, allegedly armed with guns, stones, cutlasses and sticks, entered New Winneba and attacked residents, while shops, stores and private residences were damaged.

The scale of the violence has prompted renewed security measures in the area. Police have arrested suspects in connection with the incident, mounted additional checkpoints and intensified patrols to prevent further disturbances.

A Plus has also previously come under pressure from residents during his attempts to engage authorities over the incident. On Tuesday, the MP re-

portedly narrowly escaped an attack by angry residents after visiting the Effutu North District Police Command to obtain first-hand information about the violence. Security personnel intervened and escorted him away from the facility.

The lawmaker's proposed demonstration consequently adds a new dimension to an already volatile dispute, particularly as security agencies remain deployed and investigations into the violence continue.

He has not yet announced a specific date, route or formal organisational arrangements for the planned demonstration. However, his call for residents to mobilise reflects growing pressure for the government to provide a definitive resolution to the boundary dispute and address concerns surrounding security and land administration in the affected communities.

The MP has also urged the relevant state institutions to establish clear boundaries between Gomoa and Effutu and ensure that disputes over land are resolved through authoritative legal and administrative processes rather than through confrontation.

For now, the security situation in New Winneba remains under close observation, with authorities maintaining a visible presence to prevent reprisals. Police have appealed to residents to remain calm and cooperate with investigations as efforts continue to establish the full circumstances behind the deadly clashes.

With three lives already lost and tensions surrounding the land dispute continuing to simmer, the proposed demonstration could become a significant test of the government's ability to contain the situation while addressing the deeper territorial and administrative grievances at the centre of the conflict.

Supreme Court Refuses Review on Legal Vacation Trials

The Supreme Court has unanimously dismissed a review application filed by the Member of Parliament for Ofoase Ayirebi, Kojo Oppong Nkrumah, in his continuing challenge against the hearing of selected criminal cases during the legal vacation.

A three member panel of the apex court, presided over by Justice Emmanuel Yonny Kulendi, dismissed the application on Wednesday, September 2, 2026, after determining that the legislator had failed to satisfy the stringent threshold required for the Court to exercise its review jurisdiction.

The application followed an earlier ruling by Justice Gabriel Scott Pwamang, sitting as a single Justice of the Supreme Court, which rejected Mr Oppong Nkrumah's request for an interlocutory injunction intended to prevent the enforcement of warrants authorising selected High Court judges to conduct criminal proceedings during the legal vacation.

The Ofoase Ayirebi legislator had challenged the constitutionality

and legality of the warrants, arguing that the decision to allow certain criminal trials to proceed during the vacation raised important questions concerning the administration of justice and the proper exercise of the Chief Justice's powers.

After the initial injunction application was dismissed, Mr Oppong Nkrumah invoked the review jurisdiction of the Supreme Court in an effort to overturn that decision. His legal team maintained that the earlier ruling contained errors apparent on its face and therefore warranted intervention by the apex court.

At Wednesday's proceedings, however, counsel for the MP, Frank Davies, first sought an adjournment, explaining that documents filed by the Attorney General's Department had been served on him late. He argued that additional time was necessary to examine the documents and prepare an adequate response before the substantive application was heard.

The Court declined the request and proceeded with the review application. Justice Kulendi noted that the Court had sufficient material before it to determine the legal questions

arising from the application and consequently directed counsel to proceed with his arguments.

In advancing the review application, Mr Davies argued that the single Justice had adopted an erroneous approach to the distinction between civil proceedings and criminal trials during the legal vacation. He questioned why warrants would be necessary to authorise criminal proceedings during the vacation if such trials could ordinarily continue without them.

Counsel further contended that the earlier ruling had ventured too deeply into issues relating to the merits of the substantive constitutional case. He also challenged the approach taken in assessing the request for an interlocutory injunction, arguing that the appropriate consideration should have been whether there was a serious legal question requiring determination rather than whether the substantive case had strong prospects of success.

The Attorney General's Department opposed the review application. Deputy Attorney General Dr Justice Srem Sai argued that the Supreme Court's review jurisdiction

is limited and should not be transformed into another avenue for appealing or re-arguing matters that had already been considered by a single Justice.

According to the Deputy Attorney General, Mr Oppong Nkrumah had failed to demonstrate the special or exceptional circumstances required for the Supreme Court to interfere with the earlier decision. He maintained that the grounds advanced by the applicant essentially revisited arguments that had already been presented before Justice Pwamang.

After considering the affidavits, statements of case, legal authorities and oral submissions from both sides, the Supreme Court concluded that the application had failed to meet the required threshold on every ground raised.

The Court consequently dismissed the application as unmeritorious, leaving the earlier decision of Justice Pwamang intact. The full reasons for Wednesday's decision are expected to be made available at the Registry of the Supreme Court on September 7, 2026.

The dispute originated from Mr

Oppong Nkrumah's substantive constitutional action concerning warrants issued to selected High Court judges to enable them to hear criminal cases during the legal vacation, which runs from August 1 to September 30, 2026.

The warrants relate to criminal proceedings involving former National Signals Bureau Director General Kwabena Adu Boahen and former National Food Buffer Stock Company Chief Executive Officer Abdul Hanan Wahab. Mr Oppong Nkrumah had sought to suspend the operation of the warrants until the Supreme Court determines his substantive constitutional challenge.

The latest ruling therefore constitutes another setback for the Ofoase Ayirebi MP in his attempt to challenge the legal framework governing the conduct of criminal trials during the judicial vacation. However, the dismissal of the review application does not itself determine the substantive constitutional questions raised in his broader action, which remain before the Court.



Ariana Grande Makes Emotional Tour Exit And Steps Back From Public Life

Ariana Grande made an emotional exit on Tuesday night, as she wrapped up her Eternal Sunshine tour, and prepared to step back from public life.

The singer was occasionally close to tears - most notably during One Last Time, the song that took on extra meaning as an anthem for survivors of the 2017 Manchester terror attack.

"London, I'm going to need you to help me on this one," she said, kneeling down to be near the audience throughout the performance.

Last month, Grande announced a break from all future public-facing appearances following months of intense speculation about her health and appearance.

The step-back includes Grande's withdrawal from a production of Stephen Sondheim's Sunday in the Park with George at London's Barbican next summer.

She was due to appear alongside her Wicked co-star Jonathan Bailey. He also pulled out of the production on Tuesday.

On stage in London, Grande showed no signs of fragility or poor health - other than a foot injury that required her to swap her trademark stilettos for a succession of knee-high platform boots.

Nonetheless, she sprang across the stage in sync with her dancers, often on tip-toe to compensate for the lost height of her high heels.

But her voice faltered again during the song Nowhere, Nobody, as she sang the line: "Hard to believe in a perfect ending."

The blip was short-lived, though. Professional to the core, Grande regained her composure and was never less than magnetic on stage.

The star has told fans she may not tour again for a "long, long" time.

Addressing the audience towards the end of the show, the singer thanked fans for their support.

"This has been one of the most beautiful extraordinary experiences of my life and I just wanted to express my gratitude without sobbing completely," she said.

"I'll cherish this experience al-



ways. I have the best fans in the entire world and I always have. Thank you for all of your effort and continuing to make this so special.

"I have loved every minute of this with you all and I just wanted to make sure I express how grateful I am."

'Boundaries need to be set'

Grande announced her hiatus last month, shortly after releasing the music video for her latest single, Petal, which led some fans to express concern about her weight.

One wrote on X that the 33-year-old had "become so thin that people are genuinely concerned".

Two days later, Grande's publicist announced her "step back from visibility", due to "endless, ongoing public scrutiny".

Speaking to People magazine, a source close to the singer noted that she "performs a very physical show... healthily and successfully at a very high level night after night".

Grande herself moved to reassure fans the following night, saying her decision came from a "thoughtful, empowered place", and had been planned "a long time ago".

"I heard my fans were worried

negativity was ruining things for me but... that could not be more than the opposite," she said on stage in Chicago.

"Boundaries need to be set, human beings do need a break sometimes."

The Eternal Sunshine tour marked Grande's return to the stage after a seven-year absence.

Even before that announcement, Grande had described the Eternal Sunshine tour - which started in the US in June - as "one last hurrah", saying she wanted to take more acting roles after her Oscar-nominated performance in Wicked.

That meant her 10 show residency at London's O2 Arena represented many fans' last chance to see her in concert.

They flew in from all over the world - from China and Australia and cities all across Europe - with 200,000 people attending the London dates alone.

On the second night, Grande surprised the audience by bringing out her Wicked co-star Cynthia Erivo for a rendition of their movie duet For Good.

Across the board, reviews were

positive.

"There's no question about it - Ariana Grande is one of the best singers of her generation," wrote Rolling Stone magazine, noting that "there were no signs" of the singer "struggling or not wanting to be there".

The Telegraph called the show "flawless", praising its "Hollywood-indebted" staging, and Grande's "genuine affection for Britain".

My own review highlighted quieter songs like Imperfect For You felt delicate and gorgeous and strangely intimate in a room of 20,000 people.

But Guardian writer Kate Solomon said she was "gripped by genuine concern" for Grande, even when she was enjoying the show, adding: "I really hope this tour does not go down in history for the wrong reasons".

The NME, by contrast, was left breathless by the star's physical prowess.

"Throughout the show," marvelled Nick Levine, "she skips across the stage in skyscraper heels that most drag performers would balk at."

That wasn't the case on the final

night, however, due to what Grande described as a "deep cut" on her foot.

Writing on Instagram, she assured fans the injury wasn't serious, insisting she was "on the mend" and would complete her final shows "even if I am a few inches shorter than usual".

She did so with a huge smile spread across her face, leaning into the big notes of Dangerous Woman, and sprinting across the stage during Break Free - one of many up-tempo highlights.

She ended the show as she always does - attached to a harness, ascending into the rafters of the O2 and disappearing.

Fans were left wondering when, if ever, they'd see her perform again.

Among them was Rachid, a London fan who said he was "devastated" by Grande's withdrawal from touring.

"That's why I really, really wanted to come to the last show because I was like, 'What if she never comes back?'" he said.

"So that's why I was here - to enjoy everything she has to give us, and hopefully she gets a nice break now."

"I'm not gonna lie, I'd do the same thing," joked Manchester fan Nadine.

"Like, I made my money, got on stage, sang my heart out... I'd bugger off, too! Straight to Hawaii, or somewhere else where nobody knows who I am, you know what I mean?"

Lukas, who'd travelled from France for the concert said it was good to see Grande taking matters into her own hands.

"She's said goodbye and now she's gonna rest for her safety," he said. "If she needs the break, she takes it and we, the real fans, understand."

"It's sad that people are speculating about someone else's health," said Polish fan Alejandro Grande (no relation, he insisted).

"And it's sad that she has to make a decision for herself just to reclaim her power and her energy."

"Yeah, it's completely up to her," agreed Bella Hopkins from Brompton. "I think people should respect how she feels and what she needs."

Agbodza Threatens to Terminate Techiman to Wenchi Road Contract Over Delays

The Minister for Roads and Highways, Kwame Agbodza, has issued a strong ultimatum to Volta Impex Construction, warning that the government will terminate its contract for the 32 kilometre Techiman to Nkonsia to Wenchi road project if the contractor fails to significantly accelerate the pace of construction.

Mr Agbodza expressed deep concern over the contractor's failure to meet agreed implementation targets, noting that repeated warnings from the Ghana Highway Authority had not produced the level of improvement expected on the project.

According to the Minister, physical progress on the road has reached only six per cent, despite the project being expected to have attained between 15 and 20 per cent completion by this stage.

He issued the warning during an inspection of the project as part of a wider assessment of major road infrastructure works across the Bono, Bono East, Upper West, Upper East and Northern Regions.

Mr Agbodza said the government could no longer countenance



prolonged delays on strategically important road projects, particularly where contractors had already received substantial mobilisation funding to commence and sustain construction activities.

Volta Impex Construction received GH¢66 million in mobilisation funds in May to facilitate its deployment to site and accelerate the execution of the project. The Minister, however, expressed disappointment that the level of activity

observed at the site remained significantly below expectations.

He questioned the contractor's commitment to fulfilling its obligations and indicated that the government would take a decisive position on the future of the contract after a meeting with the company scheduled for Monday, September 7.

Mr Agbodza said the meeting would provide the contractor with an opportunity to explain the reasons for the slow progress and demon-

strate whether it had the capacity and determination to complete the project within an acceptable time-frame.

The Minister stressed that the government's investment in the road programme was intended to produce tangible infrastructure improvements rather than allow contractors to receive mobilisation funds without corresponding progress on the ground.

The Techiman to Nkonsia to Wenchi road forms part of the government's Big Push infrastructure programme and is intended to improve transportation links within the Bono East corridor while facilitating the movement of people, agricultural produce and commercial goods.

Official records from the Ministry of Roads and Highways identify Volta Impex as the contractor responsible for the rehabilitation of the 32.6 kilometre route, with the project carrying a contract value of approximately GH¢1.19 billion.

The Minister's latest intervention follows an earlier confrontation with contractors over the same project, during which he expressed frustration about the limited work taking place despite the release of approximately GH¢66 million in mobilisa-

tion funds.

Mr Agbodza has consequently made it clear that the government will not allow critical infrastructure projects to remain stagnant while public resources have already been committed to their execution.

He said contractors entrusted with major public projects must demonstrate efficiency, commitment and accountability, particularly when substantial financial resources have been released to facilitate construction.

The government is therefore expected to make a definitive decision on the Volta Impex contract following Monday's meeting, with termination and the possible reassignment of the project becoming an option if the contractor fails to provide satisfactory assurances or demonstrate a credible improvement in performance.

The warning reinforces the Roads Ministry's broader position that contractors working on government funded infrastructure must adhere to agreed schedules and deliver measurable progress in return for the financial commitments made by the state.

Ghana Police Arrest 68 Suspects and Seize 835 Devices in Major Interpol Cybercrime Operation

The Ghana Police Service has intensified its campaign against cybercrime following the arrest of 68 suspects and the seizure of 835 digital devices in a coordinated operation conducted in collaboration with the International Criminal Police Organization, Interpol.

The operation also enabled investigators to identify 108 victims, trace financial losses exceeding US\$450,000 and recover a substantial portion of funds believed to have been obtained through fraudulent activities.

Director General of the Criminal Investigation Department, COP Lydia Yaako Donkor, disclosed the development during the launch of the 2026 National Cyber Security Awareness Month for the Ghana Police Service and the wider law enforcement community on Tuesday, September 1, 2026.

She said the outcome demonstrated the growing effectiveness of intelligence driven policing and international cooperation in con-

fronting increasingly sophisticated cybercrime networks whose activities frequently extend beyond national jurisdictions.

COP Donkor explained that the operation formed part of broader efforts by the CID and its domestic and international partners to identify criminal networks, disrupt their activities and bring suspected offenders before the appropriate authorities for prosecution.

According to her, the evolving character of technology enabled crime has compelled the Police Service to strengthen its investigative capabilities, particularly in the areas of digital forensics, cyber intelligence and investigations involving virtual assets.

She further stressed that collaboration with law enforcement institutions both within Ghana and across international borders had become indispensable because cybercriminals increasingly exploit digital platforms and financial systems that transcend geographical boundaries.

Such cooperation, she noted, gives investigators greater capacity to locate suspects, preserve and anal-



yse electronic evidence, follow digital trails and trace illicit financial transactions, thereby improving the prospects of recovering funds obtained through criminal activity.

COP Donkor also challenged the perception that the anonymity offered by the internet provides permanent protection for individuals

engaged in cybercrime, maintaining that technological sophistication and international coordination are steadily improving the ability of investigators to identify those operating behind digital identities.

Her comments come against the backdrop of a rapidly changing cybercrime environment in Africa, where criminals are increasingly exploiting artificial intelligence, cryptocurrency, social engineering and other digital tools to make fraudulent schemes more convincing and difficult to detect. Recent findings presented by COP Donkor indicate that artificial intelligence now facilitates a significant proportion of reported cybercrime across the continent.

The CID Director General further disclosed that a separate joint operation undertaken by the Cyber Security Authority and the Criminal Investigation Department in a suburb near Tema in 2025 resulted in the arrest of 39 suspects.

Several digital devices were recovered during that intervention from a location investigators suspected was being used as a cyber

fraud centre, reinforcing concerns over the emergence of organised spaces dedicated to technology enabled criminal activity.

The latest arrests and seizures therefore underscore the increasingly coordinated nature of Ghana's response to cybercrime as law enforcement agencies expand their reliance on digital intelligence, forensic examination and cross border partnerships to dismantle criminal networks.

COP Donkor maintained that the Ghana Police Service would continue to deepen its collaboration with Interpol and other strategic partners while investing in specialised investigative expertise to ensure that offenders cannot exploit technological advancement to evade detection and accountability.

The development forms part of Ghana's broader effort to strengthen digital security and protect citizens, businesses and institutions from the financial and social consequences of cybercrime as the country's dependence on digital services continues to expand.

Sports

Carlos Queiroz Set to Continue as Ghana Coach as GFA Contract Talks Near Completion

Islam Makhachev cemented his status as the best pound-for-pound fighter in the world with a commanding victory over Ian Machado Garry to defend his welterweight title at UFC 330 in Philadelphia.

Russian Makhachev dominated large portions of the fight in Pennsylvania to win by unanimous decision for a historic 17th successive UFC win, breaking Anderson Silva's 13-year record.

The victory at the Xfinity Mobile Arena ended Machado Garry's quest to become the first Irish champion in the UFC since Conor McGregor.

Makhachev, who is a former lightweight world champion, extended his glittering record to 29 wins and one defeat, while 28-year-old Machado Garry suffered the second loss of his 19-fight career.

"Ian is a great fighter, good man and I respect him. He gave me a hard time but I still prove every fight," said 34-year-old Makhachev.

The bout was billed as a classic grappler versus striker match-up, with Makhachev's signature wrestling providing the backbone for his dominant run in the UFC.

Despite Makhachev's record, Machado Garry displayed typical confidence as he made his walkout, before greeting his wife and draping an Ireland flag around him prior to entering the octagon.

Makhachev was greeted by loud cheers as he made his walkout and made a statement in the first round as he took Machado Garry down at the first attempt.

The Irishman defended on the ground admirably, but it was a sign of things to come as Makhachev controlled the rest of the round with the challenger trapped against the side of the

cage.

Makhachev's dominance continued into the second round as he knocked Machado Garry down with a head kick, before slamming the dazzled Irishman to the canvas.

Again Machado Garry survived until the end of the round and although he found some success with a number of kicks midway through the fight, Makhachev continued to assert control when the pair grappled.

Machado Garry bloodied Makhachev's face with some punches in the clinch, but the Russian shrugged it off to reach the final bell ahead in a number of key stats.

He secured seven unanswered takedowns and clocked over 12 minutes of control time to Machado Garry's 34 seconds.

Although the Irishman landed 29 significant strikes to Makhachev's 22, it was not enough to convince the judges of the win.

In a show of respect, the pair

embraced before Machado Garry raised Makhachev's arm in victory.

"To all my fans, Ireland, everybody, I'm sorry I couldn't get this done," said Machado Garry.

"But I stand here as a man proud of what I've done, proud of where I came from and proud where this will take me. To all the fans who doubt me, I'll be back."

At 28, Machado Garry has plenty of time to realise his dream of becoming a UFC champion, while Makhachev's victory adds weight to claims he's closing in on being regarded as the greatest UFC fighter of all time.

In the co-main event, American-Brazilian Mackenzie Dern beat Canada's Gillian Robertson on points to make the first defence of her strawweight title.

Dern, 33, won the majority of the grappling exchanges to win by unanimous decision and secure her fourth straight victory.

Dern came close to finishing 31-year-old Robertson a couple of times during the contest and was rarely threatened throughout.

"My first title win I got taken down a lot of times so I've been working on my wrestling. I'm still the champion," said Dern.

Elsewhere it was announced Australia's Alexander Volkanovski will defend his featherweight title against Russia's Movsar Evloev at UFC 333 in Abu Dhabi on 24 October.

The co-main event sees Russia's Petr Yan defend his bantamweight belt in a rematch against Georgian former champion Merab Dvalishvili.

England's Lone'er Kavanagh takes on Uzbekistan's Ramazan Tamirov in a flyweight contest earlier on the card, while English featherweight Arnold Allen faces American Aaron Pico.

