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(((Editorial)))

Chafas Institute Of Practical Studies - CHIPS

EXACTLY one year ago, on August 6, 2025, tragedy struck the nation when a Ghana Armed Forces Z-9 helicopter crashed in the Adansi area of the Ashanti Region. Eight patriotic Ghanaians—comprising cabinet ministers, public servants, and military officers—perished while on a mission to Obuasi to launch a major campaign against illegal small-scale mining.

AS the country marks the first anniversary of this national tragedy, the solemn speeches, wreaths, and interfaith memorial services must give way to a candid national self-assessment. We must ask ourselves the uncomfortable question: Have we honored their sacrifice, or are we rendering their deaths meaningless?

THE “Departed Eight” did not die in leisure; they died on the frontlines of an existential war to safeguard Ghana’s future. For years, galamsey has laid waste to our water bodies, turned once-fertile cocoa lands into toxic lunar landscapes, and poisoned our soil with cyanide and mercury.

WHEN high-level state actors board an aircraft to take the fight directly to mining heartlands, it underscores how dire the crisis remains. Yet, twelve months after that tragic crash, the harsh reality stares us in the face; poisoned waterways, persistent encroachment and political inertia all these still making the galamsey fight difficult

IF this tragic milestone is to be more than an annual ritual of empty rhetoric, government and society must internalize three crucial lessons: political will over political expediency, full accountability and transparency and finally an alternative livelihoods over temporary band-aids.

DIRECT military interventions, while necessary, cannot permanently end illegal mining if rural poverty and high youth unemployment remain unaddressed. Ghana must aggressively implement sustainable, community-owned small-scale mining models, eco-reclamation employment programs, and agricultural incentives that offer young Ghanaians viable alternatives to environmental destruction.

WREATHS will wither, and the sound of solemn hymns will fade. But our rivers, forests, and communities will remain as the permanent mirror of our collective resolve.

TO the government, security agencies, traditional authorities, and citizens of Ghana: the time for half-measures is over. Let us honour the fallen eight not with tearful tributes, but with clean rivers, restored forests, and an uncompromising victory over galamsey. Anything less is a betrayal of their ultimate sacrifice.

Ghanaian PhD students In UK Protest mandatory Loyalty oath

Story: Kukua Snead-Michaels

The leadership of Ghana Scholarships Secretariat-sponsored PhD students in the United Kingdom has rejected a proposed oath-taking exercise announced by the Ghana High Commission in the UK, describing it as discriminatory and unnecessary.

The exercise is intended to affirm the students’ commitment to return to Ghana after completing their studies in the UK.

In a statement issued on Friday, August 7, 2026, the student leadership said it was concerned about the decision to introduce the exercise, arguing that beneficiaries had already signed bond forms committing them to return to Ghana after their studies.

“We are aware of our annual progress review, which the Ghana Scholarship Secretariat (GSS) undertakes to validate, assess our members’ progress and renew their scholarship letters,” the statement said.

It said the review had traditionally been conducted through students responding to questions from an academic panel and providing evidence of previous scholarship award letters and academic progression records.

“Due to the geographically sparse nature of universities across the UK, these exercises were largely carried out remotely by the GSS Accra office in conjunction with the Education Liaison Officer in the UK,” the students said.

They therefore questioned the decision by the Ghana High Commission to organise a physical oath-taking exercise at unspecified locations across the UK.

“Therefore, it is strange that a letter is originating from the Ghana High Commission on social media asking students to attend an oath-taking event at unspecified locations in the UK,” the statement said.

The students also raised concerns about delays in the payment of tuition fees and stipends, alleging that several beneficiaries had been left without their statutory payments for months.

“We find this development to be a deliberate effort by the management of the scholarships to delay the statutory payments of students’ tuition fees and stipends, which have been in arrears for several months,” they alleged.

The student leadership further questioned the application of provisions in the Ghana Scholarship Authority Act, 2025, to students whose scholarships were awarded

under the former Ghana Scholarships Secretariat.

“We note with concern the consistent reference to Section 31 of the Ghana Scholarship Authority Act, 2025, a recent regulation that was not in effect at the time the scholarship letters were awarded to our members,” the statement said.

According to the students, all conditions governing the progression and renewal of their scholarships, as well as requirements for their eventual return to Ghana, were already contained in their scholarship award letters and bond forms.

“The issue of our members returning to Ghana is clearly captured in the bond form we signed before the scholarship letters were awarded,” they said.

The students also disputed the Ghana High Commission’s interpretation of Section 11 of the Oaths Act, 1972 (NRCD 6), which they said did not specifically require sponsored students in the UK to swear an oath before a diplomat.

“We categorically reject such misrepresentation of the Oaths Act because the said regulation does not state that sponsored students in the UK must swear before a diplomat,” the statement said.

The student leadership further described the proposed exercise as discriminatory, arguing that other Ghanaian students in the UK who are beneficiaries of scholarships administered through the Ghana Education Trust Fund (GETFund) and Ghana National Petroleum Corporation (GNPC) had not been included.

“We find the High Commission’s letter discriminatory, particularly given that there are other Ghanaian students on the

Ghana Education Trust Fund (GETFUND) and the Ghana National Petroleum Commission (GNPC) scholarships who are equally studying in the UK, but have not been included in this proposed oath-taking exercise,” they said.

The students consequently advised their members to boycott the exercise until their concerns were addressed.

However, they stressed that they were not opposed to measures aimed at strengthening scholarship administration.

“Our members can only participate in this oath-taking exercise after the itemised points below have been made explicitly clear in the oath and fulfilled entirely,” the statement said.

Among their demands were a clear timeline for the payment of all outstanding tuition fees and stipends, an assurance that students would not be required to return to Ghana until the payments had been fully settled, and guarantees of appropriate reintegration into the Ghanaian labour market after their studies. They also demanded that each student be given a completed copy of any document signed during the exercise.

The students further called for the validation process to be conducted online to reduce costs.

“In the spirit of frugality, we call on the management of the scholarships to minimize expenditure and ensure that the state does not incur any ancillary cost in the validation process,” they said.

“To that end, we suggest that the validation process be reverted to the online submission of forms through Google Forms to save cost.”

The students said their financial difficulties made it difficult for them to attend a physical validation exercise.

“We wish to inform the Ghana High Commission that since our members have not received their statutory allowances for several months, we are unable to transport ourselves to any venue for such a manual validation exercise,” the statement said.

They further alleged that some students had been evicted from their accommodation as a result of the financial difficulties.

“Since most of our colleagues are now homeless due to eviction from their accommodations, we believe that a more efficient way to validate the award letters should be through an online form system,” they

said.

The student leadership also raised questions about the scholarship authority’s reported issuance of Letters of No Objection (LONO) to students seeking two-year hands-on work experience in the UK.

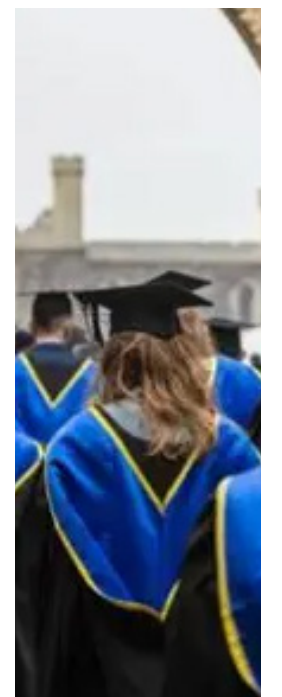
They questioned why such letters continued to be issued when the Director-General of the Ghana Scholarship Authority had reportedly criticised the arrangement on radio and television programmes.

“Why is he also issuing the same letter to students who have completed their studies, if it’s not right and beneficial?” they asked.

The students also questioned reported arrangements between the scholarship management and some UK universities concerning tuition fee payments.

“Why is the management of the scholarship and the High Commission on an agreement for a 10% tuition fee payment for students in universities such as the University of Nottingham and Birmingham if they are unaware of sponsored students in the UK?” they asked.

The leadership urged the Ghana High Commission and the Ghana Scholarship Authority to provide clarity on the proposed oath-taking exercise, outstanding scholarship payments and the conditions governing students’ return to Ghana.





Infrastructure Deficit Cripples Emergency Care At K'BU

Story: Reuben Sackey

Stagnant hospital expansion paired with systemic referral inefficiencies has created a severe bottleneck at the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital's Accident and Emergency Department. Head of Korle Bu Accident and Emergency (A&E), Dr. Henry Bulley cited financial clearance delays for healthcare personnel and underfunded regional facilities as key drivers of the congestion.

He advised policymakers to prioritize healthcare investment and district-level capacity building to absorb patient volume and safeguard timely emergency response. Dr Bulley made the observation in an interview with the media in Accra, citing the gap between population growth and expansion of healthcare infrastructure as a major challenge facing the health sector. He said Korle Bu had become a major referral centre for patients from across the country because of its specialist expertise and relatively lower cost of care. "When Korle Bu was built, Ghana's population was below six million. Today, we are over 30 million, yet there has not been a corresponding expansion of the hospital," he said. Dr Bulley said many patients were referred to Korle Bu from public hospitals, including some tertiary facilities, because they could not afford treatment elsewhere or required specialised care.

He said some patients who had already been stabilised at other hospitals were still transferred through the Emergency Department instead of being directed to specialist wards, contributing to congestion.

The situation, he said, had resulted in critically ill patients remaining in the Emergency Department for extended periods while waiting for beds in specialist units. Dr Bulley called for increased investment in hospital expansion, bed capacity and recruitment of healthcare professionals to meet the needs of the growing population. "You hear that nurses are sitting at home, yet when you come to the hospital the nurses on duty are overwhelmed. We are told it is because of financial clearance, but that is something policymakers need to address," he said.

Dr Bulley said expanding and strengthening district and regional hospitals would help reduce pressure on Korle Bu and allow patients to access quality care closer to their communities.



Mahama Names Zanetor, Ayariga In new Cabinet push

Story: Rebecca Tetteh

President John Dramani Mahama has nominated Klottey Korle Member of Parliament, Dr Zanetor Agyemang-Rawlings, as Minister for Environment, Science and Technology, as part of a cabinet shake-up aimed at filling key government positions.

If confirmed, she'll replace the late Minister for Environment, Science and Technology, Murtala Mohammed. The President has also nominated Bawku Central MP Mahama Ayariga as Minister for Local Government, Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs, while reassigning two other ministers to new portfolios.

The nominations were submitted to Parliament on Friday, August 7, 2026, in accordance with Article 78(1) of the 1992 Constitution, which requires parliamentary approval before ministers can assume office.

Dr Zanetor Agyemang-Rawlings, the daughter of former President Jerry John

Rawlings and former First Lady Nana Konadu Agyemang-Rawlings, has represented the Klottey Korle constituency in Parliament since 2017.

Her appointment comes after months of speculation over her possible elevation to cabinet, with the legislator having served on Parliament's Environment, Science and Technology Committee and

advocated for measures to address environmental challenges, including flooding.

The Environment portfolio had remained without a substantive minister following the death of Dr Ibrahim Murtala Mohammed in the August 2025 helicopter crash that also claimed the life of former Defence Minister Dr Edward Kofi Omane Boamah.

As part of the changes, President Mahama has reassigned Kenneth Gilbert Adjei from the Ministry of Works and Housing to the Ministry of Defence.

Dr Cassiel Ato Forson, who had been acting as Defence Minister since the death of Dr Omane Boamah, is expected to hand over the portfolio once the new nominees are approved. The President has also reassigned Ahmed Ibrahim, Member of Parliament for Banda, to

the Ministry of Works, Housing and Water Resources.

The appointments were announced in a statement signed by Felix Kwakye Ofori, MP, Spokesperson to the President and Minister for Government Communications.

The nominees are expected to appear before Parliament's Appointments Committee for vetting before their names are submitted to the House for approval.

The changes come as President Mahama continues efforts to strengthen his administration and fill positions that became vacant following the August 2025 tragedy that claimed the lives of eight officials, including two cabinet ministers.

NUGS Demands Social Media Ban For Under-15s

Story: Victoria Beeko-Danso

President of the National Union of Ghana Students (NUGS), Rashid Ibrahim, has called on the government to ban children under 15 from using social media to curb rampant indiscipline and restore moral standards in schools.

Speaking at the 4th Muslim Leaders and Catholic Bishops Dialogue, Mr. Ibrahim argued that unrestricted digital access, combined with weak parental supervision, was eroding student values. He pointed to similar restrictions in countries like Australia, France, and Indonesia as models Ghana should adopt.

"Our kids are abusing social media too much and they must not be allowed to do that," said Mr. Ibrahim, who is also a legal practitioner, adding that juveniles must face clear consequences for misconduct. He noted that inadequate parental control and weak supervision in schools were contributing to rising indiscipline among students.

He said children should understand that misconduct attracted consequences, stressing the need for appropriate sanctions for juveniles who breached rules and regulations.

For her part, Commission Secretary of the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE), Mrs Lucille Hewlett Annan, urged parents to plan their lives with the upbringing and welfare of their children in mind.

"Taking care of children require money. It requires time. It requires a lot of resources, and it requires prayers," she said.

Dr Haruna Zagoon-Sayeed, Senior Lecturer and Lead Convener of the Department of Religious Studies, University of Ghana, called for stronger government support for faith-based organisations to promote discipline in schools.

"Imagine a school with 2000 students and you have one chaplain who should be able to give the moral education that we expect," he said.

Dr Zagoon-Sayeed said growing indiscipline among children reflected declining societal values and added that broken family structures deprived children of the nurturing needed for their moral development.

"Children will not misbehave if they don't see misbehaviour in their environment," he said. Very Reverend Father Cosmos Ebo Sabah, Associate Professor at the University of Ghana, said educators should be given greater responsibility and authority to instill discipline in an education system that placed excessive emphasis on intellectual achievement at the expense of moral formation.



International News

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South African clothing factories struggle after migrant workers flee

Weeks after xenophobic protests drove thousands of migrant workers from South Africa, rows of sewing machines stood idle at a clothing factory in Newcastle, a manufacturing hub in the eastern province of Kwa-Zulu-Natal.

The campaign led by anti-immigrant group March and March sought to free up jobs for South Africans, a third of whom are unemployed. But local manufacturers have struggled to fill vacancies left by foreign workers.

Reuters visited three factories in late July whose owners said they had lost between 12% and 19% of their workforce during the protests. Some workers had sewing skills in short supply, the owners said, while few locals were willing to take the low-paying jobs. "People don't want to work in factories," said Mpho Nkosi, a 29-year-old South African administrator at one of the firms.

Migrants typically work in sectors unappealing to locals, analysts say. It is unclear how widespread current labour shortages may be, but there have also been reports of unfilled jobs in sugarcane fields.

A spokesperson for the Department of Employment and Labour said he was unaware of worker shortages and advised employers to seek the department's assistance with recruitment. Months of anti-immigrant marches and vigilante attacks culminated in a June 30 deadline declared by March and March for undocumented migrants to leave, prompting many to flee. The group claims immigrants are to blame for South Africa's economic woes, particularly high unemployment, although researchers dispute this. It argues that employers prefer foreigners who accept lower wages.

Factory owners counter that they mostly employ South Africans, while

some skilled workers from neighbouring Eswatini and Lesotho are needed for their experience in the garment sector.

"We can't immediately replace these skills with locals," said Alex Liu, a Newcastle factory owner. Another factory owner, Ronghua Yan, started a training course for seven local employees after losing about 40 foreign workers in June. Financial constraints do not allow him to train more, he said. The Southern African Clothing and Textile Workers' Union estimates that 15% of Newcastle's 15,000-strong textile workforce left during the protests.

Union representative Siyabonga Ntombela disputed the idea of a skills shortage and said the jobs were not being filled because the pay was too low for South Africans.

"We have plenty of qualified machinists in South Africa," he said, adding that commuting costs also deterred South African workers, while at some factories migrant workers lived on site. Labour market researcher Siphelele Ngidi said attracting South Africans to manufacturing jobs would require a government push to revitalise the sector.

"It's not just the wage alone, it's also the working conditions and the possibility of upward mobility," he said.

Most of Newcastle's garment factories are owned by Chinese nationals who have been in South Africa for decades.

They produce clothing for domestic retailers in an industry the government has championed to reduce reliance on imports and that is vital to Newcastle's economy.

But workers are typically paid per piece completed, meaning only the most productive might earn the national minimum wage of 30.23 rand (\$1.83) per hour. Many earn less.

Factory owners told Reuters they could not afford to raise wages because retailers pay little for their garments. A pair of jeans starts at 11.50 rand, while a T-shirt can fetch less than half that.

The industry suffered a setback in February when government inspections discovered illegal labour practices at some factories.

Liu said most factories had lost retail orders as a result, stressing that not all were equally guilty.



Todd Blanche, Trump's ex-lawyer, confirmed as US attorney general



President Donald Trump's former personal lawyer Todd Blanche has been confirmed as US attorney general - the nation's top law enforcement official.

Blanche won confirmation in a 50-49 vote, with Republican Senators Susan Collins and Lisa Murkowski opposing him.

Senator Bill Cassidy was the deciding vote after announcing he believed Blanche was the best option the president would put forward. Washington had been anxiously waiting for Cassidy's decision, due to years of acrimony between Trump and the senator.

The vote brings to an end a lengthy standoff between Senate Republicans and the Trump administration over Blanche, who has served as acting attorney general since April.

All Democrats voted against his nomination to lead the Justice Department.

Some Republican senators had raised concerns about his handling of the release of Jeffrey Epstein-related documents and his role in establishing Trump's \$1.8 billion "anti-weaponization" fund.

The fund was planned to provide compensation to individuals who alleged government persecution but critics including Murkowski feared it would go to individuals who were prosecuted for participating in the January 6 attack on Congress.

Blanche eventually pledged to walk back the fund after blowback from Republican senators during his confirmation hearings.

It remains unclear whether the commitment is legally binding or whether Trump could later persuade Blanche, his former personal attorney, to revive a similar scheme under another name.

These issues meant Collins and Murkowski held off on backing Blanche, with the latter citing her lack of confidence in Blanche to "check the worst impulses of this administration".

Murkowski announced on Friday she would oppose Blanche, citing concerns over the "politicisation" of the justice department.

Getty Images

Cassidy said he ultimately trusted Blanche to give the president candid legal advice.

Collins also raised concerns about Blanche's role in settling Trump's \$10 billion lawsuit with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), but said he ultimately trusted Blanche to give the president candid legal advice.

"This is not a referendum on President Trump, it is a decision regarding Mr Blanche, in very specific circumstances," said Cassidy on Friday. "All considered, I will vote for Mr Blanche."

Cassidy acknowledged Trump is the ultimate decider on the direction of the justice department, but that Senate confirmation would give Blanche "greater leverage to push for things that should be pushed for."

Cassidy also said he was reluctant to impede the department's work fighting violent crime.

During Trump's second impeachment in 2021, Cassidy voted to convict Trump over the 6 January 2021 Capitol riot. The vote did not pass, and when Trump returned to office, he successfully forced Cassidy into retirement by backing a primary challenger for his Louisiana Senate seat earlier this year.

Blanche was already deputy attorney general when he took up the interim leadership role in April, after Pam Bondi was fired.

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Ghana cites 5 weeks of fuel in reserve to allay fears over Middle East crisis

Story: Kukua Snead-Michaels

The National Petroleum Authority (NPA) has assured Ghanaians that the country has enough fuel stocks to withstand potential supply disruptions arising from escalating tensions in the Middle East.

The assurance comes as fears grow over the impact of possible conflict involving major oil-producing countries on global petroleum prices and supplies.

It also comes days after the government announced a ¢ 2-per-litre cushioning for diesel following another round of petroleum price increases.

Speaking to the media on Thursday, August 6, 2026, the Director of Economic Regulation and Planning at the NPA, Abass Tasunti, said ensuring the availability of petroleum products remained the regulator's highest priority.

"We keep saying at NPA that our topmost priority as a regulator is to ensure availability of petroleum products at all times, because trust me, if the fuel was not available in the first place, I'm not sure people would be more concerned about the price you are paying at the pump."

"Your interest would be to ensure that you get the product, and you can imagine the chaos and the impact non-availability of petroleum products will have on the economy that we have today", he said.

He said the authority continuously planned its supply chain to avoid shortages by balancing domestic production with imports.

"Our priority has always been to ensure that petroleum products are always available, so we always keep. That's why we plan, and so we always have a plan that ensures that we balance domestic production with imports to ensure there's adequate stock", he said.

Providing an update on current stock levels, Mr Tasunti said Ghana had sufficient supplies of the two main transport fuels. "In terms of actual stocks, we have a little over five weeks average for both petrol and diesel today."

Responding to a request for a breakdown of the figures, he explained that the stock levels were constantly replenished and should not be viewed as a fixed quantity that is simply being depleted.

"Whenever we say we have a little over five weeks or a little over four weeks, as an example, it doesn't mean that we are consuming that and nothing else is adding up."

He said fuel imports continued without interruption.

"As we speak right now, the vessel is discharging products. We never actually have free time at the facilities that discharge the petroleum products, so almost every time products have been discharged to add up to what we have, and that's why we have what we call the Line-up Programme to plan our imports", he stated.

Mr Tasunti also pointed to local refining as another source of supply resilience. "As Dr Kwaku Ofori earlier said, we also have the refinery... refining consistently and has not stopped production since last year July."

He said the combination of planned imports, continuous fuel discharge and local refining was designed to keep petroleum products available even as global uncertainty persists.

Government's GH¢2 diesel relief not sustainable – COPEC

Story: Business Desk

The Executive Secretary of the Chamber of Petroleum Consumers (COPEC), Duncan Amoah, says government's decision to cushion diesel prices is a welcome move, but insists it falls short of addressing Ghana's long-term fuel price challenges.

His comments come after the government announced a ¢ 2-per-litre intervention on diesel to cushion consumers following another round of increases in petroleum prices.

Speaking on an Accra-based FM station on Thursday, August 6, 2026, Mr Amoah said the intervention offered some relief but could not be relied upon as a lasting solution.

"I'm happy with government's intervention, but that is not enough", he said.

According to him, Ghana needed a permanent, sustainable mechanism to protect consumers from recurring fuel price shocks rather than relying on periodic interventions.

"You will need a longer-term sustainable programme", he said.

Mr Amoah argued that the country should prioritise building a strategic fuel reserve programme to reduce the impact of sudden price movements on the local market.

"A strategic reserve programme should be the way forward, and not the kind of interventions we are seeing."

He acknowledged that the government's decision deserved credit but stressed that such measures could not be maintained indefinitely.

"It is positive, but it is not sustainable", he emphasized.

His remarks come as concerns grow over the rising cost of petroleum products and their effect on transport fares, business operating costs and household budgets.

Government's announcement of the ¢2 diesel cushioning followed fresh increases in petroleum prices, with the intervention aimed at easing the burden on commercial transport operators, businesses and consumers who depend heavily on diesel.

While welcoming the immediate relief, Mr Amoah maintained that Ghana must shift its attention to policies that can provide greater stability over the long term.

He believed a strategic reserve programme would offer a more dependable buffer against global oil market volatility than occasional government interventions.

IMF raises Ghana to moderate risk of debt distress

Story: Business Desk

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has stated that a sustained improvement in the debt trajectory warrants upgrading Ghana's Debt Sustainability Analysis (DSA) rating from high to moderate risk of debt distress.

At the fifth review under the Economic Credit Facility (ECF), the IMF Staff applied judgement to retain a high-risk rating despite all debt indicators falling below their respective thresholds. This was due to uncertainty around the exchange rate and gold prices.

With continuing macroeconomic and exchange rate stability, and a clearer fiscal outlook, the IMF said in its Country Report on Ghana that the Staff now proposes to remove this judgement and upgrade Ghana to moderate risk of debt distress, consistent with the mechanical signal.

Despite this improvement, it pointed out that the space under the external debt-service-to-revenue ratio remains limited.

Despite progress, the IMF said the debt vulnerabilities remain elevated and require continued vigilance. "The DSA highlights that debt dynamics remain sensitive to external shocks given Ghana's reliance on gold and other commodity exports".

It added that stress tests show that adverse export and commodity price shocks could push both solvency and liquidity indicators above their thresholds for a prolonged period.

"The exchange rate remains a key transmission channel, given the substantial share of FX-denominated external debt and non-resident holdings of domestic debt. Contingent liabilities represent another key source of downside risk: fiscal risks from the energy sector, financial sector recapitalization needs, and quasi-fiscal activities remain particularly salient".

According to the Fund, these risks underscore the importance of fiscal and sectoral reforms, adequate external buffers, exchange rate flexibility, and efforts to diversify exports.

"Completing restructuring negotiations with residual external commercial creditors and signing the remaining bilateral agreements also remain a priority", it added.





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Local news

NDC slams Afenyo-Markin's Jantuah slur

Story: Edinam Djaton

The Deputy Women's Organiser of the National Democratic Congress (NDC), Abigail Elorm Mensah, has condemned Minority Leader Alexander Afenyo-Markin's description of Presidential staffer Nana Yaa Jantuah as a "nobody" following the presentation of a petition at the Presidency during the New Patriotic Party's (NPP) "Democracy Under Attack" demonstration.

She described the comment as "deeply offensive and sexist," arguing that it was disrespectful not only to Nana Yaa Jantuah, a senior government official, but also to women who continue to serve in leadership positions across the country.

In a statement posted on Facebook on Thursday, August 6, 2026, the NDC Deputy Women's Organiser said the remarks reflected a disregard for the contributions of women in governance and public service.

She argued that questioning Nana Yaa Jantuah's suitability to receive a petition because of her gender was unacceptable and undermined the principles of professionalism, competence and equality. "Nana Yaa Jantuah holds a legitimate and respected role at the Presidency. To dismiss her on the basis of gender is to undermine the principles of merit, professionalism, and equality that our nation must uphold," she said.

She further raised concerns about what she described as a broader attitude towards women in leadership within the New Patriotic Party (NPP), calling on the party's leadership to clarify its stance on gender equality.

"These comments cannot be viewed in isolation. They raise serious concerns about how women are regarded within the NPP and whether there is genuine respect for women in leadership within their

ranks," she stated. She called on Afenyo-Markin to issue an immediate and unreserved apology to Nana Yaa Jantuah and all Ghanaian women over the comments.

She also urged the NPP leadership to distance itself from what she described as discriminatory and demeaning remarks. The controversy followed an exchange during the presentation of the NPP's petition at the Presidency, where she was assigned to receive the document on behalf of the government.

During the event, Afenyo-Markin questioned the government's decision to delegate Nana Jantuah to receive the petition, arguing that it did not reflect the importance of the issues the NPP sought to raise.



EPA to honour late Murtala Mohammed

Story: News Desk

The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) has called on President John Mahama and Parliament to name Ghana's proposed plastics legislation after the late Minister for Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Dr Ibrahim Murtala Muhammed, in recognition of his commitment to tackling plastic pollution.

The EPA's Deputy Chief Executive Officer in charge of Operations, Prof Michael Ayamga-Adongo, said the proposed law would serve as a lasting tribute to the late minister's environmental advocacy and efforts to combat plastic waste.

Prof Ayamga-Adongo disclosed that the EPA was finalising legislation to support the planned ban on single-use plastics, including Styrofoam food containers, which is scheduled to take effect in January 2027.

"We are announcing the ban on Styrofoam from January next year, and we are in the process of developing legislation to reinforce the ban on single-use plastics going forward," he said.

Prof Ayamga-Adongo said he wanted the legislation to be named the Murtala Mohammed Law on Plastics in Ghana in honour of the late minister's contribution to the fight against plastic pollution.

"I am proposing to Members of Parliament that we name this legislation the Murtala Mohammed Law on Plastics in Ghana, it will go a long way in acknowledging his efforts to end plastic pollution in Ghana. That cause was very dear to him," he said.

He said dedicating the legislation to Dr Muhammed would preserve his legacy and continue to inspire Ghana's efforts to reduce plastic pollution and protect the environment.

Dr Ibrahim Murtala Muhammed was among eight people who died on August 6, 2025, when a Ghana Armed Forces Z-9 helicopter crashed in the Adansi Akrofuom District of the Ashanti Region while they were travelling from Accra to the launch of the government's Cooperative Mining Initiative, an anti-illegal mining initiative. The crash also claimed the lives of Defence Minister Dr Edward Kofi Omane Boamah, Acting Deputy National Security Coordinator Alhaji Muniru Mohammed, former Ashanti Regional Minister Dr Samuel Sarpong, former NDC parliamentary candidate Samuel Aboagye, and three Ghana Armed Forces personnel: Squadron Leader Peter Bafemi Anala, Flying Officer Manaen Twum Ampadu and Sergeant Ernest Addo Mensah.

A National Interfaith Memorial Service held on August 6, 2026, brought together bereaved families, government officials and members of the public to mark the first anniversary of the tragedy and honour the lives, service and sacrifices of the eight victims.



REGSEC issues 21-day eviction notice to Pink Flamingo residents

Story: News Desk



The Greater Accra Regional Security Council (REGSEC) has given residents and businesses occupying the buffer zone of the Kpeshie Lagoon at Laboma Beach 21 days to vacate the area ahead of a planned demolition exercise.

The directive affects structures within the Laboma enclave in the La Dade-Kotopon Municipality, including popular lounge Pink Flamingo, which authorities say have been constructed on a protected buffer zone. According to REGSEC, the area has experienced significant siltation and increased unauthorised development, contributing to the worsening flooding situation in parts of

the capital.

The Greater Accra Regional Minister, Linda Ocloo, who led a visit to the site, said the move formed part of government's broader efforts to address flooding and protect waterways across the region.

She warned that occupants who failed to comply with the 21-day notice would be removed forcibly to allow authorities to restore the integrity of the buffer zone.

The Regional Minister explained that some developers had been cautioned against continuing construction activities in the area but ignored the

warnings and proceeded with their projects.

"Some of the buildings here, when they were at their early stage, we asked the owners not to continue, but they still went ahead. People sometimes just push us and call you all kinds of names. At the end of the day, I am not even sure the encroachers even have permits," she said. She added that allowing further encroachment on waterways and wetlands could worsen flooding risks and undermine efforts to manage drainage challenges in Accra.

The planned demolition forms part of ongoing measures by authorities to reclaim waterways, remove illegal structures and improve flood resilience in flood-prone communities across the Greater Accra Region.

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Mahama nominates Defence Minister

Story: News Desk

President John Dramani Mahama has reassigned Kenneth Gilbert Adjei from the Ministry of Works, Housing and Water Resources to the Ministry of Defence.

This comes a year after the death of Defence Minister Dr Edward Omane Boamah in the military helicopter crash. In accordance with Article 78(1) of the 1992 Constitution, President Mahama has submitted the nominations to Parliament through the Speaker for prior approval. Kenneth Gilbert Adjei, who has served as Minister for Works, Housing and Water Resources, will assume leadership of the Defence Ministry, replacing Dr Edward Omane Boamah, who died in the military helicopter crash in the Adansi area of the Ashanti Region on August 6, 2025.

Meanwhile, Majority Leader Mahama Ayariga has been reassigned to head the Ministry of Local Government, Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs, subject to parliamentary approval.

Member of Parliament for the Korle Klottey Constituency, Dr. Zanetor Agyemang-Rawlings, has also been reassigned to the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology, with Ahmed Ibrahim headed for the Ministry of Works, Housing and Water Resources.

The nominees are expected to appear before Parliament's Appointments Committee for vetting before the House considers their approval.



Agalga takes over from Ayariga as Majority Leader

Story: Vida Wiafe



Member of Parliament (MP) for Builsa North, James Agalga, has been appointed the new Majority Leader in Parliament following Mahama Ayariga's nomination as Minister for Local Government, Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs-designate.

The change comes after President John Dramani Mahama nominated Mr Ayariga for the Cabinet position, requiring him to step aside from his role as Majority Leader.

Mr Agalga, a former Deputy Minister for the Interior, will now lead the Majority side in Parliament.

Meanwhile, President Mahama has reassigned Kenneth Gilbert Adjei from the Ministry of Works and Housing to the Ministry of Defence. A statement from the Presidency said the changes have been submitted to Parliament through the Speaker in line with Article 78(1) of the 1992 Constitution.

As part of the reshuffle, Ahmed Ibrahim, Member of Parliament, has been reassigned from the Ministry of Local Government, Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs to the Ministry of Works, Housing and Water Resources.

The President has further nominated Dr. Zanetor Agyeman-Rawlings, MP, as Minister for Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation-designate.

CUTS opposes DVLA 'delinquency' charges

Story: News Desk

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority (DVLA) is facing calls to suspend its escalating "delinquency" charges on expired driver's licences until it publicly establishes the legal authority, approval process and formula used to determine the fees.

The demand has come from CUTS International, a public policy think tank, which argues that the charges lack clear backing in the Road Traffic Regulations, 2012 (L.I. 2180) and could unfairly penalise motorists whose licences have expired even when they have not driven during the period.

In a statement issued on August 8, 2026, the Director of the West Africa Regional Centre of CUTS International, Accra, Appiah Kusi Adomako, said the DVLA should disclose the precise statutory instrument and approved fee schedule authorising each charge.

Under the DVLA's Summary of Licensing and Other Activity Rates for 2026, renewing a licence before its expiry costs GH¢127. However, the amount increases to GH¢204.25 for a licence expired by between one day and six months, GH¢279.25 for seven to 12 months, GH¢315.25 for up to two years, GH¢352.25 for up to four years and GH¢404.25 for more than four years. CUTS said similar escalating charges applied to the replacement of expired licences.

"The DVLA must show Ghanaians the law, the approved fee schedule and the formula behind every cedi it collects as a delinquency charge. Public power must rest on law. If the Authority cannot point to a clear legal basis for each charge, it must stop collecting the money and refund affected licence holders," Mr Adomako said.

At the centre of CUTS' objection is Regulation 33 of L.I. 2180, which provides for the renewal of a driver's licence both

before and after its expiry.

The organisation said the regulations expressly recognise that licences may be renewed after expiry and separately provide for an offence where a person fails to renew as prescribed.

Under the law, a person who fails to renew a driver's licence as prescribed is liable, upon summary conviction, to a fine of between 10 and 25 penalty units, imprisonment for up to 30 days, or both.

CUTS argued that the distinction was important because the law provides for enforcement and prosecution where an offence is committed, rather than automatically treating every expired licence as evidence of unlawful driving.

It therefore asked the DVLA to clarify whether the escalating amounts were approved renewal fees, administrative penalties or another form of charge.

"If the amounts are penalties, the DVLA must explain the legal process that permits an administrative system to impose them without proof of driving during the period of expiry, without a hearing and without a finding by a court," the statement said.

Mr Adomako stressed that CUTS was not advocating driving with an expired licence. "CUTS is not encouraging anyone to drive with an expired licence. Driving without a valid licence must attract lawful enforcement. Our concern is different: the DVLA should not presume that every person with an expired licence continued to drive, then impose an automatic escalating charge without first establishing the legal and factual basis," he said.

CUTS said the mere expiry of a licence should not automatically be equated with unlawful driving.

It noted that a licence holder could be living abroad, studying, ill or simply not driving for an extended period. Such a person, it argued, could return years later and seek to renew the licence without having driven on Ghanaian roads during the period of expiry.



The secret codewords that scammers hate



Deepfake scams might use your voice, but they don't know what's in your head. Five minutes of preparation could save your loved ones from falling for fraud. "It was the most terror I've ever felt," says Elizabeth Benz, a mother from Buffalo, New York. In September 2025, she got a phone call. "It was my 16-year-old son, John," she says. "He was sobbing, 'Mom, my friend is dead. He's dead.'" She panicked, but things were about to get even worse. A stranger took the phone. Over the course of 20 minutes, the man told her he'd just murdered her son's friend, and he'd do the same to John if she didn't meet him with \$7,500 (£5,570) in a Walmart parking lot. "He said, 'We are going to kill your son,'" Benz says. Soon she was driving over. But just in time, John's brother got hold of him. He was at a football game. John wasn't in danger, and that wasn't his voice on the phone. It was all an AI deepfake scam. "I couldn't believe it," she says. If you think you or your loved ones are too savvy to fall for a deepfake, you're wrong. AI is so good now you can no longer trust your senses, and criminals are perpetrating scams like these on a massive scale. Thankfully, it's a high-tech problem with a low-tech solution – one that could save you a lifetime of regret.

Your family needs a codeword that you use to verify each other's identity in a crisis. The scammer might have your voice. They don't know your secrets. Experts and victims say this is one of the single most important things you can do to stay safe. But the password alone isn't enough.

Just ask Benz. One of the craziest parts of her story is her family already had a password for this exact scenario when she got the scam call. "It just didn't occur to me to ask for it," says Benz. "These scams get you to an active place of panic where you can't think straight." It means you also need mental preparation. That's a little more complicated, but the tips below can help.

If you get targeted, it could be some of the most important advice you'll ever read. What's the codeword? Americans alone lost an estimated \$148.2bn (£110.1bn) to online scams and crimes in 2025, up nearly 26% from the year prior. AI-enabled scams accounted for \$6.3bn (£4.7bn) of that. Experts say they're growing exponentially. "This is not hypothetical," says Hany Farid, the co-founder of GetReal Security and one of the world's leading experts on AI deepfakes. "These scams are being perpetrated all over the world. "Imagine getting a call at 02:00, a voicemail, a video call, a loved one saying they're in trouble," he says. "Or maybe it's your CEO, screaming that he needs help logging in. The average consumer is not ready for this." Farid and other experts agree a codeword is the easiest way to protect yourself. "My wife and I have a password. If either of us gets an unusual call, we use it to verify identity," he says.

Pick something that's easy to remember and hard to guess. Inside jokes are a safe bet. "If my wife calls and asks me to pick up milk, I'm not asking for the password," Farid says. "But if I happen to know she's in a meeting, or she says been in an accident and needs me to transfer money, anything unusual, that's when you use it." But when you get that phone call and hear a loved one in crisis, pressure can tear your plans apart. You need to know how and when to be ready. Know the red flags

Gary Schildhorn, a lawyer from Philadelphia in the US, dodged a deepfake scam of his own in 2023. The experience was so jarring

he now works as a scam-safety advocate in his spare time.

"There are three red flags," Schildhorn says. They all have the same goal: scammers want you isolated and afraid, so there's no time to think.

"One red flag is time. Everything has to be done right away," he says. "Two is they never ask for traceable funds. If they need Bitcoin or gift cards or cash, you know the agenda. And three is they try to control who you speak to." Knowing the hallmarks of a classic scam are crucial, but awareness alone isn't enough.

"One of the most important things is how you react," says Brian Long, co-founder of Adaptive Security, which makes AI-security training programs for companies. "You need to train your mental model to prepare for this scenario."

And of course, you need to make sure you and your loved ones don't forget the codeword.

The best way to do that is practice, but it doesn't have to be exhaustive. I've been talking to experts about scams for years, and I've got a simple system for myself: I set up an alert on my phone that goes off every three months. It reminds me to bug my family to make sure we remember the codeword. And it prompts me to rehearse a little protocol for emergency calls: stay calm, ask for the password and consult someone I trust before acting.

"I share my story because I want people to know how urgent and scary and psychological and realistic these calls can be," says Benz. "Awareness is the greatest tool."



Opinion

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Is the “Democracy Under Attack” narrative real, or is it a convenient escape from accountability?

By: Evans Mawunyo Tsikata

The opposition has marched in red and black, chanting that democracy is under attack. The slogans are loud, the placards are colourful, and the cameras are rolling. But beneath the spectacle lies a simple question:

What exactly is under attack?

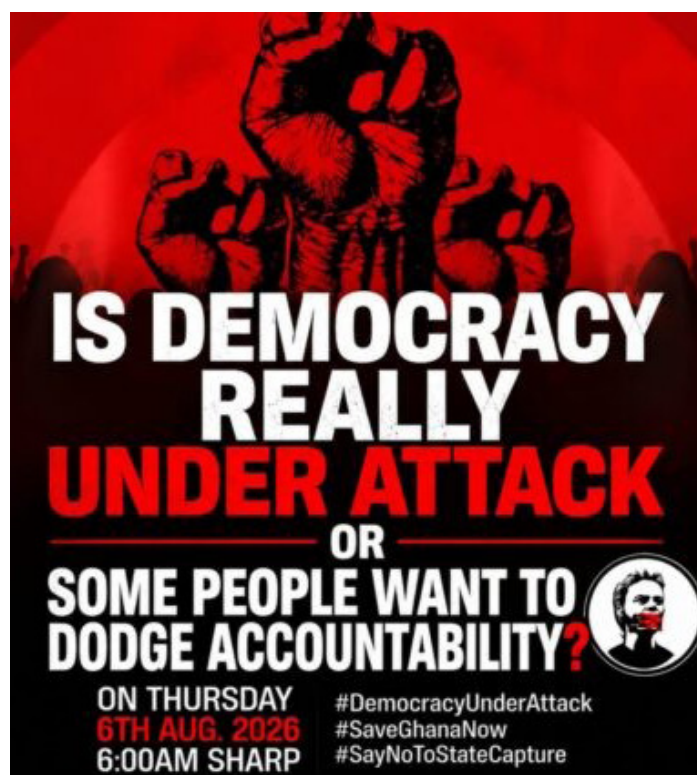
Is democracy under attack because former public officials are being investigated over decisions they took while exercising public power? If accountability has suddenly become oppression, then every anti-corruption institution should probably close shop. Is democracy under attack because people who allegedly spread falsehoods or make threatening statements are invited to answer before the law? Freedom of expression has never included a licence to publish anything without consequence. Rights exist alongside responsibilities.

Or is democracy under attack because political actors who once wielded the full machinery of the state now find themselves on the receiving end of the same legal processes they once defended?

There is a certain irony in watching those who once insisted that “the law must take its course” suddenly discover the vocabulary of victimhood when the law knocks on their own doors.

This is not to suggest that any government is above criticism. Every administration must be scrutinised, and every abuse of power must be resisted. Democracy thrives on dissent. But democracy also thrives on consistency. If accountability was patriotic yesterday, it cannot become persecution simply because the names on the docket have changed.

The greatest weakness of the “Democracy Under Attack” narrative is that it asks Ghanaians to suffer from selective amnesia. Citizens remember the years when journalists complained of intimidation, when critics accused the state of heavy-handedness, and when public confidence in governance steadily declined. Those memories cannot simply be erased with matching T-shirts and dramatic slogans.



Even more striking is the leadership presenting itself as the guardian of democratic values. A party once admired for discipline, intellectual depth, and organisational strength increasingly appears trapped between defending its past and explaining its present. Rather than offering a compelling alternative vision, it seems preoccupied with portraying accountability as oppression.

Of course, every political party has the constitutional right to demonstrate. Peaceful protest is itself an expression of democratic freedom. Ironically, the very ability to organise nationwide demonstrations, criticise the government publicly, and march through the streets under police protection is evidence that democratic space continues to exist.

Perhaps the demonstration was less about saving democracy and more about energising a discouraged political base. There is nothing inherently wrong with mobilising supporters. Political parties do it everywhere. But dressing ordinary political mobilisation in the robes of a constitutional emergency risks diminishing genuine threats to democracy when they actually arise.

Democracy is not endangered because former officeholders are called upon to account for their stewardship. We need a vigilant and constructive opposition not those full of hypocrisy. We deserve robust criticism of government and principled defenders of constitutionalism in honesty.

If every investigation becomes “persecution,” every prosecution becomes “dictatorship,” and every legal process becomes “an attack on democracy,” then the phrase itself loses all meaning.

Sometimes the loudest cries of “Save Democracy” are really pleas to save politicians from accountability.



Beverly Afaglo's daughter moves mourners to tears

Story: Vida Wiafe



Beverly Afaglo's daughter moved mourners to tears when she stepped forward to pay a heartfelt tribute to her late mother during her funeral on Saturday, August 8, 2026.

With remarkable composure, the young girl stood before family, friends, and other mourners and spoke about the woman she loved in a moment that captured the depth of the family's loss.

Among the words that touched hearts was her expression of gratitude to God for giving them Beverly as a mother.

She reflected on the belief that God had deliberately chosen Beverly for their family, making her life and presence a blessing they would always be grateful for.

"We know God chose you purposely for us, and we will forever thank Him," she said, expressing the family's appreciation for the years they shared with the late actress.

The young girl standing at a glass podium as she delivered the emotional tribute. Behind her were painted portraits of Beverly displayed against a red and orange backdrop, adding to the deeply personal atmosphere.

Despite the pain of losing her mother, the young girl managed to hold herself together and honour Beverly in front of the gathering.

Her courage touched many people who watched the video online, with several Ghanaians praising her strength and the heartfelt words she used to remember her mother.

Beverly Afaglo, who died on May 24, 2026, aged 42, was widely known for her contributions to Ghana's entertainment industry. Her death has left her family, friends, colleagues and fans mourning a woman whose life touched many.

As mourners gathered to celebrate her life, her daughter's tribute offered a poignant reminder that, even in grief, the family remains grateful for the years they had with Beverly.

For her daughter, Beverly may be gone, but the love, memories and blessings she left behind will remain with them forever.

Senegal court jails three TikTok influencers for insulting the president

A Senegalese court sentenced three TikTok influencers to serve prison time and pay a fine for insulting the president, their lawyer said in a video posted on Facebook, a move that critics said was an assault on free speech in the West African country.

The three men worked for online communications channel Feenal Digital, which produces content that some say favours Senegal's ousted Prime Minister Ousmane Sonko, the head of the PASTEF party.

Sonko recently split from his ally, President Bassirou Diomaye Faye, who launched his own party last month.

Feenal Digital aims to promote government and private-sector activities, according to its description on Facebook.

Mandoumbe Diop, known as Lamignou Darou, was sentenced to three months in prison without suspension. He appeared to be the most influential of the three, with over half a million followers on his TikTok channel. His videos often draw tens of thousands of views.

Magueye Diaw, known as Oustaz Thiep, and Moustapha Ndiaye, known as Ndiaye Touba, were each sentenced to two months without parole, Feenal Digital said on Facebook.

Their lawyer, Abdy Nar Ndiaye, described their posts on TikTok as comical and said they did not merit criminal prosecution. He said Diaw and Ndiaye were fined 500,000 CFA (\$800). Feenal Digital and a government spokesperson did not immediately respond to requests for comment.



Miss North Carolina USA stripped of title after 'information' surfaces

Miss North Carolina USA has been stripped of her title after a "thorough review" of information that surfaced, organisers of the event say.

Pageant organiser A Blaize Productions did not share details, but stated that it had made the "difficult decision" to "conclude Brittany Boltinhouse's reign" as Miss North Carolina USA. "The Miss USA organization does not tolerate racism, homophobia, transphobia nor language that strips any person of their dignity," Thom Brodeur, president of the Miss USA organisation said in a

separate statement.

It is unclear what "information" was found. Brodeur said Boltinhouse had apologised and would release a statement of her own. The BBC contacted her for comment.

"What was brought to us was not a single moment," Brodeur said. "It reflected conduct over an extended period of time. That is why this outcome was reached, and I stand behind it without qualification."

Boltinhouse, 27, won the title in June and was preparing to represent her state at the 75th annual Miss USA pageant in Miami later this month.

She was formally dethroned of her title on Wednesday.

"This decision was not made lightly," the organisers said in a statement. "It followed a thorough review of recently surfaced information and was based on the totality of the circumstances and our responsibility to preserve the integrity of the Miss North Carolina USA title and the values of our organization."

Runner-up, Myla Hadley, will now represent the state at the Miss USA pageant in Miami. The winner of that pageant will represent the US at the Miss Universe pageant in November.

Hadley thanked her supporters while acknowledging the task ahead.

"I understand the seriousness and level of prestige that this title carries, and I can confidently say that both my team and I are ready to take this on," she said in a statement on Instagram.

Lionel Messi loses father

Jorge Messi, the father of soccer star and Argentina captain Lionel Messi, has died at the age of 68 on August 8, at a hospital in the central Argentina city of Rosario. The Rosario-based Club Atlético Newell's Old Boys announced his death in a social media post that said he had undergone treatment in recent months for an unspecified illness.

The post described him as "the pillar and the person who, with vision, rigor and affection, supported the career of the best player of all time, alongside his wife, Celia Cuccittini."

The South American Football Confederation, CONMEBOL, in a statement also offered its condolences "with respect and affection for Lionel." Lionel Messi led Argentina to a runner-up finish in this year's World Cup. In the team's first match, against Algeria, he was visibly emotional after scoring the first of his three goals. He said later that he wept for "a reason unrelated to sports." "I went through some difficult, complicated days," he said. "I am grateful to the delegation, to all my teammates, because they were always by my side wishing me strength so that I would be OK." Media reports at the time outraged the Messi family, which days later released a statement confirming that "Jorge is experiencing a health issue," without specifying the nature of his condition.

"A person's health and the peace of mind of their loved ones should not be the subject of speculation or irresponsible media interest," according to the statement, which also expressed "discomfort at the lack of sensitivity, respect and scruples with which some people have treated a strictly private and family matter."

Jorge Messi was a chemical technician and worked as a steelworker. He played soccer as a midfielder and reached the youth ranks of Newell's Old Boys but had to abandon the sport to complete his mandatory military service in Argentina.

He played a fundamental role in his third son's career, serving as his agent and managing his business affairs. He was the one who traveled with a young Messi to Barcelona in the early 2000s for the trial that would open the doors to La Masia, the Catalan club's youth academy. Lionel Messi made his professional debut in 2005 and went on to win eight Ballon d'Or awards. He led Argentina to the 2022 World Cup title. "My dad was always by my side,"

Lionel Messi said in a 2007 interview with Radio del Plata. "Sometimes I would lock myself in my room to cry when we arrived in Barcelona, or my dad would do the same without me seeing him, or thinking I didn't see him. We pretended we were both OK, but we weren't. My dad even asked me what I wanted to do when we were feeling down, if I wanted to stay or go back, and I wanted to stay, and he stayed with me."

His father negotiated the contracts with Barça and later his transfers to Paris Saint-Germain and Inter Miami, while also managing the use of his famous son's image rights and his numerous investments in real estate, hotels, and restaurants.

In 2016, father and son were convicted in the Spanish courts on tax evasion charges, but avoided prison because the sentence was less than two years.



Norway call for Infantino to resign as Mexico and Argentina back president



Norway have called on Fifa president Gianni Infantino to resign following his aborted attempt to sell off stakes in the World Cup to private investors, but Mexico and Argentina have voiced their support for the 56-year-old. Norway have gone a step further than the football associations of England, Wales, Croatia and Albania, all of whom have withdrawn support for Infantino without explicitly calling for him to resign. "He [Infantino] does not have the institutional trust required to govern Fifa stably in the times we are in," Norwegian Football Federation (NFF) president Lise Klaveness said on Friday. "There is no going back for Gianni Infantino. The international football cooperation is very much in trouble, and we must have a reason to get together now, and we want to ask the Fifa president to resign now."

"We will see which other countries eventually join in, if that becomes the strategy from the Uefa board. We are not going to ask for an extraordinary [Uefa board] meeting, we will ask him to resign in our dialogue with Fifa."

Klaveness, who is a qualified lawyer, went through a list of concerns that the Norwegian FA has expressed to Fifa during her four-year tenure.

Among them were questions around the awarding of tournaments, the inaugural Fifa peace prize that was awarded to US President Donald Trump in December, and the overturning of a ban for American forward Folarin Balogun during the recent World Cup following a phone call from Trump.

Fifa has been approached for comment. Meanwhile, earlier on Friday the Mexican Football Federation broke ranks with its regional governing body Concacaf to come out in support of Infantino. Concacaf, which runs football in North and Central America and the Caribbean, called for a "comprehensive reckoning" of Infantino's presidency after he aborted plans to sell off stakes in the World Cup to private investors.

However, 2026 World Cup co-hosts Mexico have backed Infantino's leadership amid widespread calls for him to resign. "The FMF [Mexican FA] supports president Infantino's leadership in continuing to promote the development of football through institutional strengthening," a statement read.

It echoed a statement from Conmebol -

South America's governing body - in saying it would reject any attempt to remove Infantino without a vote involving all 211 Fifa members.

However, Conmebol did "express its concern about the repeated unilateral actions taken without resorting to dialogue or the institutional mechanisms provided for dealing with this type of situation".

Meanwhile, the football association of 2026 World Cup runners-up Argentina praised Infantino for recognising and apologising for his "errors".

It described his decade-long tenure as Fifa president as "centred on the development of soccer worldwide and institutional strength based on a clear, stable, and transparent governance model".

Infantino is unanimously backed by the Confederation of African Football (CAF), but faces opposition from European football's governing Uefa and Concacaf. European teams could still boycott the World Cup as Uefa said its conditions had not been met, despite Infantino's plan being aborted.

Uefa has already said it has lost confidence in Infantino, calling the Fifa Forward Enterprise (FFE) proposal a "shabby, back room, opaque deal".

The English FA has sent a letter withdrawing its support for Infantino, while Wales, Albania and Croatia are among other individual associations to have turned their back on the 56-year-old.

Concacaf described Infantino's proposal as "a symptom of leadership that has stopped putting football first", and that "this recent unilateral and egregious act of poor governance and leadership follows a pattern of missteps and similar behaviour".

However, unlike Uefa, it did not go as far as to say it had lost confidence in the Fifa president.

Before Infantino withdrew his proposal, the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) said it stood "in solidarity" with Uefa and Concacaf in opposition to the plans.