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# General News

## Police arrest fugitive who threatened to kill IGP and other public officials

By Phoebe Martekie Doku

The man who went on the run after threatening to kill the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Dr. George Akuffo Dampare and other senior public officials, has been found and is now in police custody.

In a statement posted on their official X (formerly Twitter) account, the Ghana Police confirmed that Ibrahim Mohammed (also known as Kanawa) was apprehended on Wednesday following an intense search by the police. Mohammed had been on the run since a video, in which he made the chilling threats, surfaced and went viral across social media platforms.

“My fellow Ghanaians, I am the Kanawu revolution leader,” Mohammed declared in the video. “Errm IGP Dampare, I have now [sic] believed the accusations Kennedy Agyapong levelled against you some time ago. He said you know the person who killed JB Danquah. He threatened further, “Interior Minister, Henry Quartey, be careful, I am giving you a strong warning. You are big, so when there is a fight we will shoot your stomach and kill you. Akuffo-Addo declared all die, be die in 2012. This 2024 is all die, be die [sic].”

Mohammed now faces the wrath of the law as legal proceedings are to be brought against him.

“The Ghana Police Service has today,

11th September 2024, arrested suspect Ibrahim Mohammed for threatening to shoot and harm some public officials,” the statement read.

The arrest comes days after a widely circulated GH¢50,000 bounty was put on Mohammed’s head for any information that would lead to his capture. It is not clear if the reward played a role in locating his whereabouts, leading to his arrest.

In the video, Mohammed, who reportedly has ties to the National Democratic Congress (NDC), claimed his threats were motivated by accusations of corruption against several high-ranking officials.

He alleged that the police were involved in illegal recruitment practices aimed at influencing the upcoming December elections.

Apart from IGP Dampare, his threats also targeted Interior Minister Henry Quartey.

He additionally threatened officials of the Electoral Commission (EC) accusing them of undermining the election process. He in particular called out the EC Chairperson Jean Mensa and Deputy Chairperson Bossman Asare for what he called, siding with the ruling party and government. Demanding a fair election process, he went on to warn of violent consequences if the NDC’s chances of returning to power were

compromised.

“Jane Mensa and Bossman be careful; we know you are for the NPP. Whoever will misbehave in the elections shall not be spared. If you like, come and arrest me,” he dared.

With Mohammed now in custody, the police have assured the public that he will be prosecuted according to the law. They also reiterated the force’s commitment to ensuring peace and security ahead and during the December elections.



Ibrahim Mohammed

## Govt introduces mercury-free mining machines despite calls for ban on illegal mining

By Andy Ogbarmey-Tettey

Government has unveiled a new strategy to address the illegal mining crisis, with the introduction of mercury-free machines aimed at eliminating the harmful use of mercury in gold extraction.

Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, Samuel Abu Jinapor, during a press briefing on Wednesday, September 11, 2024, outlined a two-pronged strategy to address the widespread issue of illegal small-scale mining, commonly known as gamsey. This strategy focuses on both stringent regulatory enforcement and sector reforms.

A cornerstone of this strategy

is the deployment of mercury-free machines. These devices are expected to significantly mitigate water pollution caused by mercury, which is traditionally used in the amalgamation of gold. Mercury often contaminates water bodies directly through washing processes or indirectly via atmospheric deposition.

Alongside the new equipment, the government has introduced reforms such as the Community Mining Scheme and alternative livelihood programs for those displaced by illegal mining activities.

In addition to reform efforts, the government has intensified its law enforcement actions. The “Operation Halt” taskforce continues

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Mercury-free mining machine



# General News

## Govt introduces mercury-free mining machines to curb water pollution amid mounting galamsey crisis

- Continued from page 2

to decommission illegal mining equipment, while regional ministers and security councils have been instructed to ramp up enforcement in their areas. Guilty individuals face imprisonment under the government's zero-tolerance policy for illegal mining.

The Lands Minister highlighted the importance of collaboration between various governmental agencies, traditional authorities, civil society organizations, and local communities in educating the public about the dangers of galamsey and ensuring that perpetrators are held accountable.

He expressed confidence in the renewed strategy, stating, "With

the support of all stakeholders, I am certain that this fight will yield the necessary results for the benefit of the country. The fight against illegal mining is a national priority, and with a unified front, we can protect our waterbodies, preserve our environment, and secure the future for generations to come."

The government also plans to enhance cooperation with National Security and the Ghana Armed Forces to enforce mining laws more effectively. The Minerals Commission will continue to focus on formalizing the small-scale mining sector and expanding responsible community mining schemes that prioritize environmental preservation.

Looming protests against galamsey. Despite these measures, public frustration with the government's handling of galamsey continues to grow. Organized labor, led by the Trades Union Congress (TUC), has issued a stern warning to the government, threatening a nationwide strike unless more decisive action is taken by the end of September.

Similarly, the University Teachers Association of Ghana (UTAG) has vowed to launch a protest if a total ban on illegal mining is not implemented by September 30.

Agricultural interests are also weighing in on the crisis. The Chamber of Agribusiness, in

collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), is raising alarm over the destruction of farmland caused by galamsey.

More than 1.2 million hectares of farmland have reportedly been lost to illegal mining activities, sparking concerns about the long-term viability of agribusiness in the country.

With protests looming and the clock ticking on public demands, the government faces mounting pressure to demonstrate that its efforts can deliver tangible results.

For now, however, Ghana remains at a critical juncture, where environmental concerns, public pressure, and political will are converging in the ongoing battle against galamsey.

## Alan Kyerematen names Kwame Owusu Danso as running mate for 2024 presidential bid

By Sebastian Akaho-Tay

Leader of the Movement for Change, Alan Kyerematen, has officially announced broadcast journalist and lawyer Kwame Owusu Danso as his running mate for the 2024 general elections.

This decision marks a significant move in Kyerematen's campaign, which focuses on engaging the youth in national leadership.

Kyerematen emphasized that his choice of Danso reflects his commitment to giving the youth a central role in shaping Ghana's future.

He praised Danso for his qualifications and ability to contribute meaningfully to the country's development.

In a statement following the submission of his nomination papers, Kyerematen described Danso as a distinguished figure with a strong track record of advocating for the youth.

"To the youth of this country, I have lived up to my commitment. I said I was going to deliver to you a young person to be my Vice Presidential nominee. I have done so by nominating a very fine gentleman, a lawyer by profession, political activist, broadcast journalist, and someone who has been fighting for the young people in the name of Kwame Owusu Danso."

Kyerematen, positioning himself as

a transitional leader, expressed his vision for paving the way toward an independent presidency in Ghana.

He reiterated his dedication to providing young leaders with the opportunity to take on greater roles in national governance.

"I have always made it clear: I see myself as a transitional leader. I have

served not only Ghana, but also Africa and the world with distinction. It is not for me to continue this job unless it is to bring a transition for the young people to have a chance to lead this country. I am pleased that today, I am initiating what will allow, finally, the first individual to be elected as a non-partisan, independent president of the Republic of Ghana," he noted.

On September 12, 2024, Kyerematen officially submitted his nomination to run as an independent candidate in the upcoming elections, backed by the Afrafranto Alliance.

His independent bid follows his resignation from the New Patriotic Party (NPP) in September 2023 after a defeat in the party's flagbearership race.



**Kwame Owusu Danso, Broadcast Journalist and Lawyer**



# General News

## NDC reveals approved route for voter register demo on Sept. 17

By Phoebe Martekie Doku

The National Democratic Congress (NDC) has revealed the approved route for nationwide demonstrations set for 17 September, aimed at pressuring the Electoral Commission (EC) to conduct a forensic audit of the voter register.

The demonstrations will take place across all regions of Ghana, with the main protest taking place in the country's capital.

Confirming the Accra protest route during a media briefing on Wednesday, NDC General Secretary Fifi Kwetey said the march will begin at Kwame Nkrumah Circle, proceed through Farisco Traffic Light, pass through TUC and the Ministry area, and conclude in front of the EC's headquarters.

"We had a very good meeting with the regional police bosses, and the agreement is that we are going to proceed with our demonstration on the 17th. It's going to happen not just in Greater Accra but in all other regions of the country at the same time," Kwetey said.

The announcement follows

discussions between NDC leaders and the Ghana Police Service at the Accra Regional Police Command.

National Communications Officer Sammy Gyamfi and Director of Elections Dr. Omane Boamah were also present at the meeting, where logistical arrangements and police approval were finalised.

The NDC has expressed concerns over potential inaccuracies in the voter register and has been calling for a forensic audit to ensure transparency in the electoral process. Kwetey stressed the importance of a credible voter register for the upcoming general elections, arguing that a thorough audit would be in the national interest.

"There are issues, and we are pressing

for a forensic audit to be done, that's actually the reason why we want to embark on this demonstration. If there is nothing to hide, there should really be no problem at all," Kwetey added.

The party has called on all Ghanaians to join the protest, emphasising the need to protect the integrity of the electoral process and democracy.



NDC Demonstration

## FPSO J.A. Kufuor shutdown won't trigger power outages - ECG assures

By Amanda Cartey

The Electricity Company of Ghana (ECG) has guaranteed that the scheduled shutdown of the Floating Production Storage and Offloading (FPSO) vessel, John Agyekum Kufuor, from September 12 to 18, will not result in power outages.

The FPSO, a key element in Ghana's oil and gas industry, will undergo routine maintenance during this period.

Despite concerns, ECG has assured that alternative fuel arrangements have been made to ensure continuous power generation. The company stated that in the unlikely event of any disruption, the public would be promptly informed.

"Government has made alternative arrangements for fuel to mitigate the impact of the shutdown on power generation. We do not, therefore,

anticipate power outages as a result of this exercise. However, in the unlikely event that power generation is impacted, the public will be duly informed," ECG said in a statement.

The FPSO John Agyekum Kufuor is a key component of the Cape Three Points Offshore Development Project, which plays a vital role in extracting, processing, and storing oil and gas

from subsea wells.

The maintenance is part of efforts to sustain the country's energy supply.



J.A Kufuor floating oil vessel



# General News

## GFA seeks CAF's approval of Accra Sports Stadium ahead of AFCON qualifier

By **Andy Ogbarmey-Tettey**

Ghana is racing against time to secure a venue for its crucial 2025 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifier against Sudan after the Confederation of African Football (CAF) suspended Baba Yara Stadium, citing poor field conditions.

The Ministry of Youth and Sports has directed the Ghana Football Association (GFA) to seek CAF's approval for the Accra Sports Stadium and the University of Ghana Sports Stadium as alternative venues.

This comes after the Baba Yara Sports Stadium, which hosted Ghana's previous match against Angola, was banned by CAF.

During its most recent inspection

visit, CAF officials flagged numerous deficiencies, including uneven surfaces, poor drainage, and insufficient grass cover, making the pitch unfit for international competition.

With the October fixture looming, Ghana now faces limited options, including the possibility of hosting the match outside the country in neighboring nations like Togo, Nigeria, or Ivory Coast.

In response, the Ministry has urged the GFA to push for inspections of both the Accra and University of Ghana facilities.

"The Minister has further instructed the Ghana Football Association to immediately request CAF to inspect the Accra Sports Stadium and the newly-built University of Ghana stadium,

for approval as Category 3 match venues, for use by the Black Stars in its next international match in October," read the Ministry's statement.

The Accra Sports Stadium, home to several top-tier Ghana Premier League matches, has reportedly undergone significant improvements since its last CAF inspection. The University of Ghana Stadium, which has hosted CAF Category 2 matches, is also being proposed but is awaiting an inspection to qualify as a Category 3 venue.

With Baba Yara Stadium now out of the equation, the National Sports Authority (NSA) has been tasked with fixing the deteriorated pitch. The damage has been linked to a five-day religious event held at the venue in July, which left the

playing field in poor condition.

The use of national stadiums for non-sporting events has become a contentious issue in Ghana. While renting out these venues provides vital revenue for the NSA, it has also contributed to the deterioration of sports infrastructure.

This has been a recurring problem for major venues like the Cape Coast Stadium and Accra Sports Stadium, which often struggle to meet CAF standards.

As the clock ticks down to the October 11 match, securing a local venue is essential for the Black Stars to play in front of their home crowd. Ghana will face Sudan, managed by former Black Stars coach and current GFA Executive Council member Kwesi Appiah.



Baba Yara Stadium



# General News

## Ghana's fishing industry gets a boost as Jamestown Harbour opens today

By Amanda Cartey

The much-awaited Jamestown Fishing Harbour in Accra will be officially opened today, September 13th, according to Eugene Arhin, Director of Communications at the Presidency.

The harbour, now complete, forms part of the government's efforts to modernise infrastructure and support the fishing industry, a critical component of the country's coastal economy.

In a statement posted on social media on September 10th, Mr Arhin outlined that the facility includes cold storage, processing units, a net mending bay,

and administrative offices.

These are expected to increase productivity for local fishermen and fishmongers by improving the preservation and processing of their catch.

President Nana Akufo-Addo will preside over the ceremony. The harbour is anticipated to become a key economic hub in Jamestown, boosting local employment and business opportunities.

This project, Mr Arhin noted, is part of a broader agenda to enhance livelihoods in coastal communities, where fishing remains a vital industry.



Jamestown Fishing Harbour in Accra

## Pius Hadzide's promise to send youth abroad sparks calls for his arrest

By Andy Ogbarmey-Tettey

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the National Youth Authority (NYA) Pius Enam Hadzide, who doubles as the New Patriotic Party (NPP) parliamentary candidate for Asuogyaman, has reignited controversy with his recent campaign promise to facilitate travel for constituents.

The former Deputy Sports Minister's pledge to arrange trips abroad, particularly for the 2026 FIFA World Cup in the United States, for those who vote for him in the upcoming elections has revived scrutiny of his alleged involvement in the 2018 Australian visa scandal.

Speaking at a campaign event in Yamfo, Hadzide highlighted his previous experience in facilitating travel for Ghanaians, stating, "Nananom, do you know something? If you're from Ghana and flying to Australia, it's an 18-hour flight, and people went [to Australia] through me."

He continued, "The next World Cup, which will be played next year, will be in America. It will take just seven hours to get there. If you want your children to go to America to work and bring money to this community, vote for me. No matter where you are from in this constituency, I will facilitate your travel if I become your MP."

This promise has rekindled scrutiny of his role in the 2018 scandal.

### The Australian Visa Scandal

The Australian visa scandal surfaced in April 2018, when 60 Ghanaians posing as journalists were arrested attempting to enter Australia during the Commonwealth Games. The scandal led to Mr Hadzide's suspension as Deputy Sports Minister while the Bureau of National Investigations (BNI) conducted its inquiry.

A statement from the presidency at the time explained, "This decision has been taken following preliminary investigations into the circumstances that led to the arrest of 60 Ghanaians, who had allegedly attempted to enter Australia by pretences in the ongoing 21st Commonwealth Games."

In July 2018, President Akufo-Addo cleared Hadzide of wrongdoing and reinstated him, stating, "On the Australian visa scandal, which has exonerated the suspended Deputy Minister for Youth and Sports from any complicity, I will lift his suspension on Monday and return him to office."

Despite this exoneration, Mr Hadzide's recent campaign comments have led to renewed discussions about his role in the scandal and his credibility as a parliamentary candidate.

### Calls for Prosecution

The opposition National Democratic

Congress (NDC) has seized on Hadzide's comments to call for his immediate arrest and prosecution. The NDC argues that the seeming admission undermines his credibility and is grounds for legal action.

Deputy National Communications Officer for the NDC, Malik Basintale, demanded action at a press conference, saying, "We know that this declaration may be a mission impossible because Pius Enam Hadzide is not just learning from himself. He is learning from his boss the chief mother serpent of corruption, President Akufo-Addo and his Vice President Dr Bawumia. We are calling for the immediate dismissal of Pius Enam Hadzide as the CEO of the National Youth Authority."

He added, "He has openly admitted that he was guilty in the Australian Visa Scandal and must be arrested and prosecuted without delay."

Also, Member of Parliament for North Tongu, Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa, has voiced strong criticism against Pius Hadzide, emphasizing that corrupt officials, once cleared of wrongdoing, often become emboldened to commit further crimes.

He suggested that Mr Hadzide's actions could result in damaging consequences for Ghana's international reputation, saying "Embassies are keenly following these reckless confessions from corrupt NPP officials."



Pius Hadzide, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the National Youth Authority



# General News

## Students dropping out of school for galamsey - GNAT laments worrying trend

By Abigail Twumwaa Ampofo

The General Secretary of the Ghana National Association of Teachers (GNAT), Thomas Tanko Musah, has raised alarm over the surging number of students dropping out of school due to illegal mining activities, known in the local parlance as galamsey.

He revealed that 21% of children aged 5-17 are engaged in child labour, with 14% involved in hazardous activities.

His remarks follow a study by the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS), which indicated that over 60% of school dropouts in mining areas leave school to engage in galamsey in search of quick money.

Additionally, those who remain

in school suffer from reduced cognitive abilities due to exposure to harmful chemicals, such as mercury, used in mining operations.

Mr. Tanko made these comments during a press conference held by organised labour leaders on September 11, 2024. At the event, the leaders collectively called on President Akufo-Addo to declare a state of emergency to address the galamsey crisis.

The labour leaders expressed deep concern about the detrimental impact of illegal mining on the cognitive development of students and residents in mining communities, particularly in the Western and Central regions.

"Those in the schools now, their brains have been affected because

of the chemicals we use. It has affected them because they drink the water. We are very particular about their heads. After destroying it, they come, and we say we are giving them one nutritious meal. Which meal can destroy what mercury has damaged? Based upon these things, we are asking the President to act now," he urged. Mr. Tanko also emphasized the devastating impact of illegal mining (galamsey) on water sources, which has forced children to walk long distances in search of clean water. This disruption adds to the challenges they face in accessing education.

The contaminated water not only threatens their health but also exacerbates the cycle of poverty, impairing their mental development and pushing more

children into child labour. This situation leads to declining educational outcomes, which in turn reduces the availability of skilled labour for key industries in the future.

As a result, the country risks developing a less educated workforce, which could hamper productivity and innovation in critical sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, and services.

Given the severity of the issue, Mr. Tanko called on the government to declare galamsey a national emergency by the end of September. He warned that if the government fails to take action, GNAT would consider strikes that could have a significant impact on the education system.



School children involving in illegal mining (Galamsey)



# General News

## Why men can't accuse anyone of rape under Ghana's law

Recent discussions on Ghana's legal framework regarding rape, have highlighted concerns over its effectiveness in protecting and delivering justice for men who may be victims of sexual assault.

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the EYA Foundation for African Leaders, Dr. Esther Yesutor, has called for significant reforms in Ghana's constitution to address this issue. She argues that the current legal definitions and protections are inadequate for male victims of sexual violence.

During a recent discussion on sexual assault, Dr. Yesutor criticized this limitation, pointing out that the prevailing legal definitions fail to address the realities faced by

male victims.

She stated, "You think that sexual abuse is mostly a female thing. But when you pick 71 men, at least one of them has been sexually abused. But the unfortunate thing about our part of the world, especially in Ghana, is that men cannot be raped. So if you are a man in Ghana and somebody has sex with you without your consent, you cannot regard that as rape, so you get no justice for that."

Under Ghana's Criminal Offences Act of 1960 (Act 29), specifically Section 98 of Chapter 6 on Sexual Offences, the term "rape" is narrowly defined as the "carnal knowledge of a female" without her consent.

This gender-specific definition

excludes men from being recognized as victims of rape under the current legal framework.

For reference, Ghana's Criminal Offences Act outlines rape and other sexual offences as follows: Section 97 defines rape as a first-degree felony, with imprisonment ranging from five to twenty-five years.

Section 98 specifies that rape is the carnal knowledge of a female aged sixteen or above without her consent. Section 99 requires proof of at least the slightest degree of penetration for an offence to be considered rape. Section 102 addresses carnal knowledge of individuals with mental incapacity, imposing imprisonment for a term of five to twenty-five years.

Dr. Esther Yesutor has made a clarion call for legal adjustments to better encompass and protect all victims of sexual violence, regardless of gender.

She emphasized, "Rape can only be perpetrated by people who have a penis. How? If a woman forces herself on you, that is sexual assault and not rape, and I think our lawyers would have to do something about that."

The limitations in the current legal framework have been associated with underreporting and lack of comprehensive data on male victims of sexual violence. Societal attitudes and stigma contribute to the difficulties in documenting and addressing these cases effectively in the country.



File photo





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# Business

## Agric Minister unveils historic 129% cocoa price hike to GHC48,000 per tonne

By: **Sebastian Akaho-Tay**

The Minister for Food and Agriculture, Bryan Acheampong, has unveiled a historic 129% increase in the price of cocoa for the 2024/2025 season.

The new producer price has surged from GHC20,908 to GHC48,000 per tonne, offering a major boost to cocoa farmers across Ghana. This translates to a rise in the price of a 64KG bag from GHC1,308 to GHC3,000.

Announcing the increase, Acheampong highlighted its significance, stating, "We are pleased to announce that the producer price of cocoa for the 2024/2025 season is now GHC48,000 per tonne. This price adjustment from GHC20,908 to GHC48,000 per tonne, or from GHC1,308 per 64kg bag to GHC3,000 per 64kg bag, marks an unprecedented 129.36% increase."

He attributed the price hike to several factors, including market volatility and fluctuations in the global futures market. "Cocoa prices have experienced significant fluctuations, starting around

\$2,200 per metric ton, dipping to approximately \$2,000, and currently hovering around \$6,000. Additionally, the real activities of haulers and buyers supporting the crops have contributed to this increase," he explained.

Acheampong reassured the public of the government's continued commitment to the cocoa sector. "The cocoa industry remains robust for present and future generations. This significant price increase reflects the government's dedication to enhancing the sector," he said.

This price hike is expected to positively impact the livelihoods of cocoa farmers and strengthen Ghana's agricultural sector as a whole.

Meanwhile, Ghana Cocoa Board (Cocobod) CEO Joseph Boahen Aidoo, has noted a decline in cocoa production in the first quarter of 2024 compared to the previous year.

He attributed the drop to factors such as poor weather conditions, bean diseases, illegal mining, and cocoa smuggling. Aidoo pointed to foreign actors,

particularly from Russia, who are involved in purchasing smuggled cocoa at high prices and selling it on the black market for windfall profits.

"There are some Russians in Guinea, Togo, and they are buying. They want to buy the cocoa spot, they sell spot. They have nothing to lose. They don't spray, they don't buy chemicals for farmers, they are not providing any extension services for farmers, nothing. So they

can afford to sell spot. When they get the cocoa, they go to the market, they can sell at \$10,000," Aidoo remarked, expressing concern over the impact of these activities on the local cocoa industry.

The unprecedented price hike comes at a critical time for the sector, as the government seeks to address both the challenges and opportunities in Ghana's cocoa industry.



**Bryan Acheampong, Agric Minister**

## GHC1.5bn to be released to investors of defunct fund management companies

By **Abigail Twumwaa Ampofo**

The Government of Ghana, through the Ministry of Finance, has approved the release of GHC1.5 billion to continue the bailout programme for investors affected by the collapse of fund management companies whose licenses were revoked in November 2019.

This move follows a recent announcement by the Minister of Finance during his monthly economic update.

The bailout program, aimed at providing financial relief to thousands of investors, will be rolled out in three phases, according to the Security Exchange Commission (SEC).

The first tranche of GHC700 million is set to be disbursed in August 2024, followed by GHC400 million each in October and December 2024. This new release is in addition to the GHC4.46 billion previously allocated to settle claims of investors who were affected by the revocation of licenses of these firms.

The funds will be used to continue the settlement of investor claims, which include those from Blackshield Capital Management Limited (formerly Gold Coast Fund Management Limited) and Kron Capital Limited. The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), established under the Securities Industry Act, 2016 (Act 929) and amended by the Securities Industry (Amendment) 2021 (Act 1062), is overseeing the bailout to ensure fairness, transparency, and protection for investors.

In total, 84,202 investor claims have been addressed since the start of the bailout programme, with 69,445 claims (approximately 82%) fully settled. This additional GHC1.5 billion is expected to further ease the financial burden on affected investors, especially those who have accepted the government's bailout package.

The SEC described the decision as driven by humanitarian considerations and intended to bring much-needed financial relief to investors who have endured significant losses due to the failures of the fund management companies.

Under this new release, investors will receive either a minimum of GHC50,000 or 15% of their outstanding examined claims, whichever is higher.

With this top-up, close to 91% of affected investors are expected to have their claims fully settled. The funds will be managed through the Special

Purpose Vehicle, Amalgamated Mutual Fund (AM Fund), under the supervision of GCB Capital Ltd.

A meeting will soon be held by AM Fund managers to guide investors on how to access their funds and explore prospects for leaving their claims in the AM Fund for future management.



**Mohammed Amin Adam, Finance Minister**





# International

## Passengers stranded after strike at main Kenya

By BBC

**H**undreds of passengers have been stranded at Kenya's main airport after workers went on strike in protest at a planned takeover by an Indian business group.

Large queues formed outside Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) on Wednesday morning as flights were delayed and cancelled.

Union leaders on Wednesday evening said they would return to work and that normal operations would resume shortly.

Workers launched their protest over proposals to lease JKIA to the Adani group for 30 years. The aviation workers union argues the deal is "opaque" and could lead to job losses.

The unions agreed to return to work after being given assurances that the deal with Adani would not be finalised without their approval.

The government says the airport in the capital, Nairobi, is operating beyond capacity and needs private investment to upgrade it.

On Wednesday morning, dozens of airport workers blew plastic trumpets and chanted "Adani must go", according to footage shown on local broadcaster Citizen TV.

The video also appear to show a police officer hitting a protester with a baton.

Wilma van Altena, who was on holiday in Kenya but cut her trip short to return to the Netherlands for a funeral, was among those stuck at the airport.

"It's been chaotic... there were hundreds of people outside the airport when we arrived and we stood around and eventually made it inside," she told the BBC.

"We have no information. There's nothing on the boards, we've heard nothing from the airline. I need to get home but I have no idea when that will happen."

The Zimbabwe men's football team was also stranded. The squad had flown into Nairobi after an Africa Cup of Nations qualifier game in Uganda, but had been given no information about their onward flight to Harare, an official who did not want to be named told the BBC.

The BBC's Stewart Maclean, who is among those waiting to catch a flight, said that at around 05:45 BST (07:45 local time), the hundreds queueing outside the airport were calm and patient but frustrated.

He said that cabin crew and pilots were among those waiting. "Minimal operations" had resumed by 05:00 BST (07:00 local time), the Kenya Airports Authority, adding that it was engaging with relevant parties to settle the disruption.

Kenya Airways head Allan Kilavuka told the BBC that only a third of its scheduled flights had departed on Wednesday morning.

Workers at other airports across the country have also joined the strike. The Kenya Aviation Workers' Union has previously warned of an indefinite strike after the government failed to disclose details of the deal with the Adani Group, one of India's largest conglomerates.

The Law Society of Kenya and the Kenya Human Rights Commission also criticised the plans, arguing that it is unreasonable to lease a strategic national asset to a private company.

The two parties filed a challenge to the High Court, which subsequently halted the deal to allow time for a judicial review. The date for a final court decision has yet to be set.

In the proposal, the Adani Group would lease JKIA in exchange for a \$1.85bn (£1.41bn) investment. The upgrades would involve a new runway and an improved passenger terminal.

The Adani group was founded by billionaire Gautam Adani and operates across a range of sectors, including commodities trading, airports, utilities, ports and renewable energy.

In July, Kenyan protesters against the takeover threatened to shut down JKIA, citing allegations that the Adani Group had engaged in corrupt practices.

Mr Adani is perceived as being close to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and has long faced accusations that he has benefited from this relationship, an allegation which he denies.

Last year, a US-based investment firm accused the Adani Group of decades of "brazen" stock manipulation and accounting fraud. The Adani Group rejected this allegation, but India's market regulator has launched an investigation.



Stranded passengers wait for their delayed flights out of JKIA airport

## More than 260 women sexually assaulted during Congo prison break, UN report shows

By Reuters

**M**ore than 260 female inmates were sexually assaulted during an attempted mass escape from Democratic Republic of Congo's Makala Central Prison this month, an internal U.N. report reviewed by Reuters showed.

At least 129 people were killed when prison guards used live fire against inmates trying to break free from the Kinshasa prison, which official figures say has a capacity of 1,500 prisoners, but housed more than 15,000 people.

The government had said after the attempted breakout in the early hours of Sept. 2. that women had been sexually assaulted, without providing a figure.

But an internal U.N. report seen by Reuters on the incident said 268 out of 348 women incarcerated at Makala had been subjected to sexual violence, including rape, while the chaos unfolded. Of these, 17 were younger than 19.

The report had detailed numbers of the victims as each needed post-attack kits and emergency contraception within 72 hours.

A spokesman for the government did not immediately respond to requests for comment on Thursday.

One victim who did not wish to be named for fear of reprisals told Reuters by phone that at least a dozen inmates had raped her.

"I saw the male prisoners throwing themselves at the female prisoners, it was horrible," said another female prisoner who witnessed the events, adding that even elderly women had been attacked.

She also asked to remain anonymous for safety concerns. They said prisoners attacked the block most of the women were housed in, one of seven out the prison's 11 blocks that was vandalised in the breakout attempt.

"This is the worst case we have seen in terms of the number of rapes during an escape," said Congolese rights defender Emmanuel Cole, who has been monitoring prisons since 1997.

He said the U.N. figures were likely to be an underestimate, as some of the victims

may have been too afraid of repercussions to speak. President Felix Tshisekedi has ordered an investigation into the Makala prison break and a review of the main prisons to reduce overcrowding. No escapes were ultimately reported in the incident.

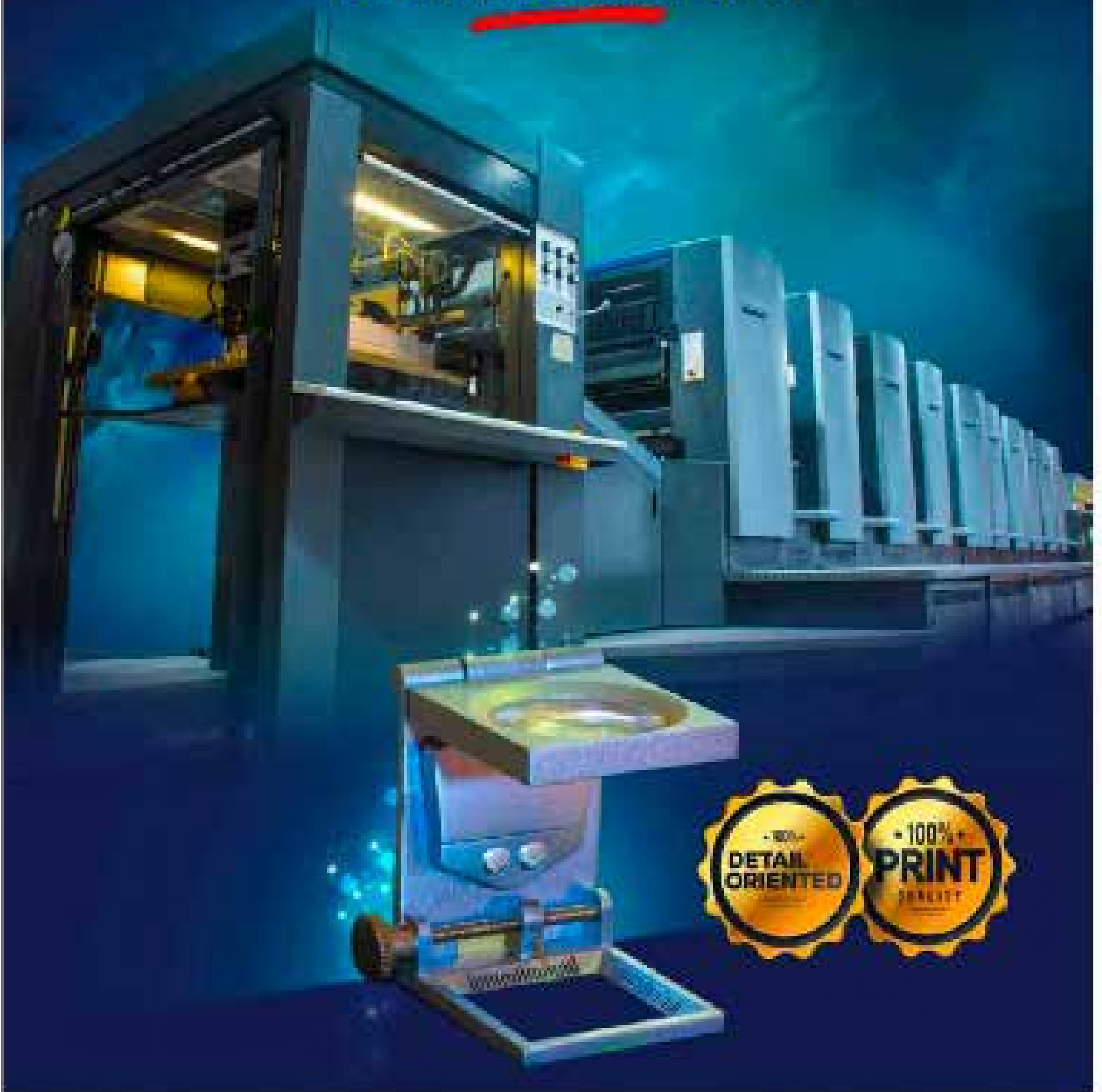


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