



## Govt introduces National Health Sector Gender Policy to foster equitable healthcare system

- Page 3



## Bawku suffers conflict-driven malnutrition crisis, two dead as cases surge

- Page 2



**Best Western PLUS.**

Accra Beach Hotel, Nungua

For business or leisure, there's always a little something extra.

Reservations: 233 (0) 54 83 25 18 4 [bestwesternplusaccra.com](http://bestwesternplusaccra.com)

# General News

## Bawku suffers conflict-driven malnutrition crisis, two dead as cases surge

By Phoebe Martekie Doku

The ongoing conflict in Bawku, located in Ghana's Upper East Region, has led to a severe malnutrition crisis, resulting in the deaths of two children and affecting 65 others.

Health officials report that the persistent violence has disrupted economic activities, leading to food shortages and increased malnutrition, particularly among children. Speaking to the media, the Bawku Municipal Health Nutrition Officer, Bathomio Asigri, noted a significant rise in malnutrition cases compared to previous years.

"Bawku municipality is regarded as a business hub within the country. Unfortunately, within the past three years, trading activities

have dwindled, and families are struggling with food security and nutrition," he stated.

The conflict has also exacerbated health issues among pregnant women, with rising cases of anemia reported. Asigri highlighted that many families have reduced their daily meal intake due to economic hardships caused by the conflict, correlating with the increase in malnutrition cases.

"We've observed that the number of meals people take in a day has reduced since the conflict began, and this correlates with the increase in malnutrition cases," Mr Asigri explained.

The security situation in Bawku remains unstable following the resurgence of the chieftaincy conflict in October 2024. The

renewed tensions were triggered by the return of Alhaji Seidu Abagre, a rival chief installed by the Nayir.

Despite a curfew imposed by authorities, tensions persist, raising concerns about the safety and well-

being of residents.

Security agencies are actively investigating the recent developments and have called on the public to maintain calm while adhering to safety directives.



File Photo

## NDC's ORAL to fight corruption without salaries or perks

By Andy Ogbarmey-Tettey

The activities of the anti-graft team, Operation Recover All Loot (ORAL), formed by the incoming National Democratic Congress (NDC) government, will not place any financial burden on taxpayers.

In a Facebook post, Chairman of the Committee, Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa, revealed that the team, which held its first meeting at 2 pm on Tuesday, has resolved to work gratis.

"We shall not be receiving salaries, allowances, per-diems, or fuel coupons. None of our activities will come at a cost to the taxpayer. We continue to count on your support; let's do this for God and Country," he stated.

The ORAL team, a key initiative by President-elect John Dramani Mahama to fulfill his 2024 campaign promise of fighting corruption, will focus on recovering looted public funds and holding individuals accountable for corrupt practices. It will rely on reports from the public and other sources to investigate suspected cases of corruption.

However, prior to Ablakwa's

clarification, Majority Leader Alexander Afenyo-Markin raised concerns about the source of funding for the committee's operations.

He emphasized the need for transparency, stating, "If a private individual is funding it, they are talking about corruption; we need to know who is funding it."

The ORAL committee comprises notable anti-corruption advocates, including former Auditor-General Mr. Daniel Domelovo, retired COP Nathaniel Kofi Boakye, private legal practitioner Mr. Martin Kpebu, and investigative journalist Mr. Raymond Archer.

Mr. Domelovo has expressed confidence in the team's mission, highlighting their commitment to recovering misappropriated funds and investigating corruption allegations.

Corruption and the recovery of stolen public resources were pivotal elements of Mahama's 2024 campaign platform, and the swift formation of the ORAL team indicates his determination to deliver on this promise once he assumes office.

Meanwhile, the Executive Secretary

of the Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC), Emefa Narteh, has called on the ORAL team to ensure their actions do not foster further suspicion or erode trust in the institutions tasked with tackling corruption and the mismanagement of public resources.

She emphasized that their efforts

should aim to strengthen public confidence in these institutions' ability to address such issues effectively.

"Our citizens should be able to collaborate with our institutions, but ORAL's commitments alone will not get us there," she added.



Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa, Oral Team Chairman



# General News

## Govt introduces National Health Sector Gender Policy to foster equitable healthcare system

By Amanda Cartey

The government, through the Ministry of Health, has introduced the National Health Sector Gender Policy, a groundbreaking initiative aimed at ensuring equitable access to quality healthcare for all Ghanaians.

The policy, developed with support from UNICEF Ghana and Global Affairs Canada, seeks to eliminate gender-based disparities within the healthcare sector. It provides a robust framework to integrate gender responsiveness into policies, programs, and service delivery across the country.

The National Health Sector Gender Policy outlines key strategies, including improving leadership and coordination on gender issues, tackling socio-economic and cultural barriers to healthcare

access, and securing sustainable financing to support gender-sensitive initiatives.

Speaking at the launch, Alhaji Hafez Adam, Chief Director of the Ministry of Health, underscored the urgency of addressing inequalities within the health system. He stressed that fostering a gender-inclusive approach will ensure that no one is left behind.

"The policy is a significant step towards breaking down the barriers that hinder access to healthcare, particularly for women and marginalized groups. Achieving this requires the commitment of all stakeholders," he noted.

Highlighting the progress of pilot programs that laid the foundation for this policy, Dr. Evans Aggrey Darkoah, Head of Civil Service,

commended institutions that have already begun implementing gender-focused reforms. These include capacity building on gender mainstreaming and the appointment of Gender Champions to lead transformational change.

"The success of this policy lies in collaboration among government agencies, private partners, and civil society. Together, we can build a healthcare system that provides equitable opportunities and quality services for all," Dr. Darkoah stated.



Alhaji Hafez Adam, Chief Director, Ministry of Health

## Salifu Amoako's son to serve 6 months for East Legon crash that killed two

By Phoebe Martekie Doku

The 16-year-old son of the founder of Alive Chapel International Church, Bishop Elisha Salifu Amoako, has been sentenced to six months at the Senior Correctional Centre following a fatal accident in East Legon, Accra.

The Family and Juvenile Court in Accra, presided over by Her Worship Bernice Mensimah Ackon, delivered the sentence after the teenager pleaded guilty to charges including two counts of manslaughter and driving without a license.

The incident occurred when the teenager, driving a Jaguar SUV without a license, collided with a Honda Acura carrying occupants, including two 12-year-old girls.

The impact caused the Acura to crash into a wooden electricity pole, leading to a fire that trapped and killed the two girls.

While the teenager and two other passengers in his car as well as the driver of the Acura managed to escape, the deceased girls were trapped inside the Acura and thus burned beyond recognition after the fire was doused.

The incident sparked public debate

on issues of parental responsibility and the enforcement of traffic laws. In addition to the juvenile's sentence, the court fined his parents, Bishop Salifu Amoako and his wife, Mouha Amoako, GH¢6,000 each for negligence in allowing their underage son to drive. They were also ordered to pay over

GH¢8,000 for damages to a light pole destroyed in the crash.

The grandmother of one of the victims, Justine Agbenu, Efua Benneh, expressed dissatisfaction with the sentence, calling for reforms to Ghana's Juvenile Justice Act 2003 (Act 653) to impose harsher penalties on juvenile

offenders in serious cases. She stated, "I hope that measures can be taken to change the law. It is unacceptable that someone can cause the deaths of two people through reckless driving and receive such a light sentence."



Bishop Salifu Amoako, Founder of Alive Chapel International Church

# General News

## Ghana Boundary Commission Bill gets Parliamentary nod

By Phoebe Martekie Doku

Parliament has approved the Ghana Boundary Commission Bill (GhBC), 2023, following its third reading on Wednesday.

This new legislation is designed to enhance the country's ability to efficiently manage boundary demarcation and resolve related disputes.

Commissioner General of the Ghana Boundary Commission, Major General Dr. Emmanuel Wekem Kotia, expressed his confidence in the bill's passage.

He explained that it would provide the Commission with more authority in addressing boundary issues and align its operations with international standards.

"The new law aligns the Commission's mandate with international best practices, enabling it to implement social interventions aimed at easing challenges faced by residents in deprived border communities

"The passage of this bill strengthens our mandate, and I believe Ghana

will be the ultimate winner as we work toward resolving boundary-related issues," he said.

The bill also allows the Commission to implement social interventions aimed at supporting marginalized communities in border areas.

Dr. Kotia stated that the legislation strengthens their mandate and expressed optimism that Ghana will benefit from improved boundary management.

"The passage of this bill strengthens our mandate, and I believe Ghana will be the ultimate winner as we work toward resolving boundary-related issues," he said.

He also emphasized that the bill would contribute to maintaining peace and stability along Ghana's borders, while enhancing the livelihoods of people in these areas. GhBC was established by the Ghana Boundary Act, 2010 (Act 795), with the responsibility of managing the nation's land boundaries.

The Commission's core objectives include overseeing boundary management, resolving disputes,

promoting cross-border collaboration, and turning border areas into zones of economic growth and development.

The GhBC's activities are aligned with international law, as well as the protocols set by the African Union (AU) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

While the GhBC operates through

a specialized Land Boundary Technical Committee, which deals with boundary disputes, demarcation, and development, its full administrative framework was set up in July 2020 with the appointment of its first Chief Executive Officer by President Akufo-Addo.



Major General Dr. Emmanuel Wekem Kotia, Commissioner General of the Ghana Boundary Commission

## GES launches one-Stop Portal to streamline staff, student data

By Amanda Cartey

The Ghana Education Service (GES) has launched a centralized digital platform to enhance the management of all service-related information across the country.

The platform, known as Ghana Education Service Management Information System (GESMIS) has been designed to efficiently gather, organize, utilize, and store data for both teaching and non-teaching staff within the service.

In an engagement with the media, Director-General of GES Dr. Eric Nkansah, noted that each staff member has been assigned a unique personal identification number which will allow them to access the portal.

He explained that the portal will securely store and provide all relevant information about the service and its staff.

He explained that the locally developed portal would be utilized for various administrative purposes, including recruitment,

transfers, and promotions.

Adding that the system would extend its coverage to include data on learners from kindergarten to senior high school, collectively.

He explained that the GEMIS portal has been designed to eliminate the challenges employees previously

faced when seeking transfers, such as traveling long distances to obtain approval letters. The process has now been greatly simplified for their convenience.

"This management information system will capture all the information on our employees, right from the date you are employed to the date you exit. You will know

the dates that you retire, how many years you have left for retirement, your rules, all the ranks that you have crossed and how many years to your next promotion, when you are due for it, So, it is important that we have accurate, up-to-date data at all times for scientific decision-making," Dr Nkansah said.



Dr. Eric Nkansah, Director-General of GES

# General News

## 2 arrested for vandalizing vehicles at Parliament

By Andy Ogbarmey-Tettey

Two individuals, identified as Wisdom Ahlie and Christopher Okyere were arrested for vandalizing parked vehicles within the precincts of Parliament, on Wednesday, December 18.

The suspects, 42 year-old and 33 year-old respectively, were caught damaging the windcreens and side glasses of five vehicles, including two Toyota Land Cruisers belonging to Members of Parliament, a Toyota Rav 4, and two Toyota Camry vehicles owned by staff of the Parliamentary Service.

An axe head was reportedly used to carry out the attack. The motive behind the act remains unknown. One of the suspects after being apprehended exclaimed "Father have mercy on them. Daddy, they don't

know what they are doing... It is for your own good."

The swift intervention of the Parliamentary Security Unit led to the immediate arrest of the perpetrators, however, some

citizens have raised concerns about how the suspecting behaviour of the suspects did not raise suspicion earlier.

They have since been handed over to the Parliamentary Protection

Unit of the Ghana Police Service for further investigation.

There were no casualties, however, the full extent of the damage is yet to be determined, according to Parliament.



Wisdom Ahlie and Christopher Okyere, Culprits

## WAEC forced to hold back results for 460,000 students due to unsettled GHS118m debt

By Amanda Cartey

The West African Examinations Council (WAEC) has announced that it has been compelled to withhold the results of around 460,000 students due to an outstanding debt of GH¢118 million.

According to WAEC's Public Relations Officer, John Kapi, the council has reached a financial standstill, having depleted all its financial buffers. As a result, the release of results for these students cannot proceed until the outstanding debt is settled.

"We've used every resource we had to sustain operations. So this time around, we have nothing to fall back on, and that's why we are asking for the payment to be made so we can continue our work," he said.

The delay has left many students anxious as they await their results, especially with university application deadlines approaching.

Some are concerned that the longer the delay continues, the more it will affect their plans for further studies. Many students have expressed frustration and confusion over the situation.

Some of them told the media: "The current situation with our results is making us worried and anxious. The results have not yet been released, which means that our whole

academic progress is stagnant. Without the results, we can't move forward in our academic journey, so I feel the government should do everything possible to ensure our results are released."

Another added, "The results are supposed to be released before next year, so we'll know which schools have chosen us. But if they are released next year, there will be a lot of pressure and chaos."

Executive Secretary of Vice Chancellors' Ghana, Dr. Cynthia Kpeglo, has also raised concerns about the potential disruption to academic schedules if the issue is not addressed quickly.

"Once the academic calendar is affected, teaching and learning are disrupted, and restructuring the whole programme to accommodate this may be difficult. It has financial implications, and more. It means

that students may not receive the full academic knowledge they should before graduating. Whatever is causing this issue, we need to address it immediately," she said.

Meanwhile, students and other concerned parties have urged the government to settle the debt promptly to prevent further interruptions to the academic schedule.



File Photo

# General News

## Afenyo-Markin can stand the heat, he must continue as Minority Leader in 9th Parliament – Joe Wise

By Phoebe Martekie Doku

The First Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Joseph Osei-Owusu, has publicly endorsed Alexander Afenyo-Markin to retain his position as the leader of the New Patriotic Party (NPP) caucus in the 9th Parliament.

As his tenure nears its end, Osei-Owusu has stressed the importance of maintaining experienced leadership in Parliament, particularly as the NPP faces heightened competition for the leadership role ahead of the upcoming parliamentary term.

Addressing the press, Mr Osei-Owusu emphasized the value of longevity and experience in leadership, pointing to the example of the former Majority Leader, Osei Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu who served effectively in both Minority and Majority roles.

According to Osei-Owusu, Kyei-

Mensah-Bonsu's rise through the ranks, from Chief Whip to Majority Leader, demonstrated how sustained leadership builds clarity and effectiveness.

"I strongly believe in longevity and experience. From our own actions and inactions, you can see that when Kyei [Osei Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu, former Majority Leader] served as both Minority and Majority Leader, he stood out very clearly.

"But it didn't happen by accident. He started as a Chief Whip and grew up to become a leader. Longevity brings experience and clarity. I would not support any request for a new person to be brought into the picture," he said.

Osei-Owusu stated that, aside from Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu, no other NPP member who will be in the 9th parliament has the experience to match Afenyo-Markin's capability in leading the caucus.

He expressed confidence that Afenyo-Markin's leadership would be crucial for fostering cohesion within the NPP, particularly as the party moves forward with a diminished representation in Parliament.

"My view is that Afenyo-Markin should continue, he brings the

necessary experience, and we need someone strong and resilient, who can stand the heat of our current position in Parliament. We need a leader who will make our voices heard and advocate effectively despite our minority status," he added.



Joseph Osei Owusu, First Deputy Speaker of Parliament

## Upholding 'forced' election results will damage Ghana's reputation - EC

By Amanda Cartey

The Electoral Commission (EC) of Ghana has expressed significant concerns about the potential damage to the country's reputation if 'forced' election results are upheld.

The EC made this statement while providing updates on the nine outstanding constituencies where parliamentary results have yet to be completed following the December 7 general election.

In a press conference held this afternoon, the EC elaborated on the disruptions that have hindered the collation of results in these constituencies.

According to the Commission, some political party leaders had directed their supporters to storm the constituency coalition centers, preventing the collation process from proceeding smoothly.

"It is important to note that the coalition in all the centers was proceeding in accordance with processes enshrined in CI 127 before the supporters entered the constituency coalition centers," the EC explained.

The presence of hundreds of protesters led to the destruction of Pink Sheets, results collation forms, and computers used for electronic result tallying.

According to the EC some staff

members were physically assaulted and threatened with death, bringing the collation efforts to a halt.

It noted that due to these disruptions, the declaration of results in constituencies like Ablekuma North and Okaikwei Central did not adhere to the proper procedures.

In these areas, winners were declared without collating results from numerous polling stations.

The Commission pointed out that in Okaikwei Central, results from 31 polling stations were omitted, while results from 62 polling stations in Ablekuma North were excluded from the collation process.

"The Commission considers these declarations illegal and will not uphold them. This is not just about completing a process; it's about ensuring transparency and maintaining the integrity of the electoral system," the EC noted.

While the collation process for three constituencies (Akwatia, Fanteakwa North, and Suhum) was completed successfully, other constituencies faced continued threats and disruptions despite police presence.

The EC revealed that even after relocating the process to the Tesano Police Depot, the collation efforts were interrupted again due to intelligence reports warning of

planned unrest by party supporters.

Consequently, the collation scheduled for Friday, December 13, was called off.

In an effort to resolve the matter, the EC once again met with the Ghana Police Service on Monday to discuss alternative locations for collation.

However, on Tuesday, the police informed the EC that further unrest was anticipated in both Accra and Kumasi, preventing the planned collation from taking place.

"Despite the challenges, our staff has remained resolute, showing remarkable courage and commitment to completing their tasks. Their dedication has been commendable, and we laud their efforts in the face of threats and intimidation," the EC said.

The Commission reiterated that it will not uphold any results derived from unlawful processes.

It mentioned constituencies like Nsawam Adoagyiri, where party supporters besieged the collation center and disrupted proceedings. Similarly, in Ahafo Ano North and South West, collation processes were disrupted, and no winners were declared.

In some constituencies like Obuasi East, the returning officer was physically assaulted, with threats

made at gunpoint to declare a winner, despite the incomplete collation.

The EC assured the public that such unlawful declarations would not be recognized.

The Commission has therefore urged the government and security agencies to ensure the safety of its staff and the integrity of the electoral process.

"We humbly call on the President of Ghana, His Excellency Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, and President-Elect, His Excellency John Dramani Mahama, to intervene and help secure our processes," the EC appealed.



Jean Mensa, EC Chairperson



## For business or leisure, there's always a little something extra.

### Amenities:

- Delicious Breakfast
- 24 Hour Parking
- Complimentary continental breakfast
- Pool with waterfall
- Refrigerators in all rooms
- WiFi Internet
- 37 min from the airport

### Accra Beach Hotel

51 Beach Drive, Nungua P: 233 (0) 302 71 11 11 - 8  
Reservations: 233 (0) 54 83 25 18 4 [bestwesternplusaccra.com](http://bestwesternplusaccra.com)

**Wherever Life Takes You, Best Western Is There.®**

Each Best Western® branded hotel is independently owned and operated.

# Business

## Ghana's Producer Price Inflation dropped to 26.9% in November - GSS

By Phoebe Martekie Doku

Ghana's Producer Price Inflation (PPI) dropped to 26.9% in November 2024, according to recent data from the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS).

This marks a 6.1 percentage point decrease from October 2024, reflecting a slowdown in the rate of price increases at the production level.

The month-on-month change between October and November 2024 also showed a decline of 1.9%, further indicating a reduction in inflationary pressures at the production stage.

This drop in PPI points to an easing of cost increases across various sectors.

The industrial sector, excluding construction, saw a significant reduction in producer inflation, which fell from 48.9% in October to

41.3% in November.

This drop is a positive development, especially for manufacturing and industrial producers, as it signals a slowdown in rising production costs.

Similarly, the construction sector experienced a decline in its producer inflation rate, decreasing from 34.5% in October to 31.1% in November.

Despite this decrease, the construction sector's inflation rate remains above the national average, highlighting the continued challenges the sector faces.

In the services sector, producer inflation stood at 12.5% in November, reflecting a more moderate increase in prices.

Meanwhile, the mining and quarrying sector recorded a producer inflation rate of 41.9%, and accommodation and food

services saw a rate of 32.5%.

The transportation and storage sector also experienced inflation of 31.7%.

The water supply, sewerage, and waste management sector had the lowest producer inflation rate, with a modest 5.0% in November 2024.



GSS Logo

## IMF urges Bank of Ghana to uphold strict monetary policy

By Amanda Cartey

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has advised the Bank of Ghana (BoG) to maintain strong control over the country's monetary policy due to rising inflation risks.

In its latest review of Ghana's Economic Credit Facility program, the IMF urged BoG to intensify efforts in following its recommendations to improve safeguards.

The IMF stressed the need for BoG to implement strict policies and effective measures to manage liquidity, particularly in light of the ongoing drought and the recent decline in the value of the cedi.

According to the financial agency, this strategy is crucial to prevent inflation from escalating and to bring it back within the BoG's target range.

The IMF highlighted the need for further progress in following the Fund's advice on strengthening the Bank of Ghana's independence and improving its operational efficiency. It continued that rebuilding international reserves and accelerating reforms to enhance BoG's foreign exchange intervention

framework remain key priorities under the programme.

The IMF emphasized the importance of making continued progress in adhering to its recommendations aimed at strengthening the Bank of Ghana's independence and improving its operational efficiency.

The Fund also stressed that rebuilding international reserves and expediting reforms to enhance the BoG's foreign exchange intervention framework are critical priorities under the current program.

"The overperformance of reserves accumulation targets is welcome but mainly reflects a significant expansion of the gold for reserves programme, which warrants careful management of related portfolio risks and liquidity implications. Going forward, limiting FX [foreign exchange] interventions remains key to rebuilding external buffers," it noted.

The IMF has also urged Ghana to continue making robust and consistent efforts to strengthen its financial system.

While recognizing the Bank of Ghana's proactive role in monitoring the situation and ensuring banks

maintain sufficient liquidity, the IMF stressed that further work is necessary.

In particular, it called for the phasing out of temporary measures that have been relaxed for banks. Given the high levels of non-performing loans, the IMF emphasized the need for implementing stronger measures to better manage lending risks and improve the stability of banking operations.

"The BoG made welcome progress in adopting a more robust FX reference

rate computation method—which would limit the occurrence of MCPs [Multiple Currency Parctices]. Implementation of a formal internal FX intervention policy framework and replacement of bilateral adjudications with a transparent auction-based FX auctions—complying with MCPs policy requirements—are additional important steps to enhance the functioning of the FX market", it added.



Bank of Ghana Building





# International

## Burkina Faso frees four French spies after Moroccan mediation

Source: Reuters

People hold a sign as they gather to show their support to Burkina Faso's new military leader Ibrahim Traore and demand the departure of the French ambassador at the Place de la Nation in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso January 20, 2023.

The sign reads: "France's army get out from our country". Four French nationals held in Burkina Faso for a year have been released following mediation from Morocco, France and Morocco said on Thursday, resolving a diplomatic row over their detention.

The head of France's foreign intelligence agency, the DGSE, has previously said that they were spies.

A spokesperson for the French military, which oversees the DGSE, and the DGSE did not respond to a

request for comment.

They had been held in Ouagadougou since December 2023.

The French presidency said in statement that President Emmanuel Macron had on Wednesday thanked Morocco's King Mohammed for his mediation "which made possible the liberation of our four countrymen who had been held in Burkina Faso for a year".

Morocco's foreign ministry also praised King Mohammed and Burkina Faso's President Ibrahim Traore and said "this humanitarian act" was made possible due to the good relations between their countries.

Following three years of tensions between Paris and Rabat fueled by immigration issues and the disputed territory of Western Sahara, France reconciled with Morocco, one of its former protectorates, in October

following a series of moves.

Morocco maintains good ties with Burkina Faso and other military-ruled Sahel states, promising them access to global trade through the Atlantic.

But France's ties with its former colonies in West and Central Africa, including Burkina Faso, remain strained. Ouagadougou has expelled French troops and diplomats, ordered France's defence attache

and ambassador to leave, and suspended some French media.

Burkina Faso, run by a military junta that seized power in a coup in 2022, has drawn criticism from international rights groups for cracking down on freedom of speech and intimidating critics as it tries to contain a security crisis caused by militants tied to Al Qaeda and Islamic State.



File Photo

## Several children in Nigeria killed at a fair

Source: Africanews

Several children have died during a stampede on Wednesday at a funfair in southwestern Nigeria, authorities said.

The incident happened at the Islamic High School in Basorun, Oyo State, near the economic hub of Lagos. Security forces attended the scene and arrested the event organizers, state governor Seyi Makinde said in a statement.

"Earlier today, an incident occurred in Islamic High School Basorun, the venue of an event organised for families. Sadly, a stampede at the venue has led to multiple loss of lives and injuries. This is a very sad day," Makinde said.

"We sympathise with the parents whose joy has suddenly been turned to mourning due to these deaths," he added.

Nigeria's national emergency services said it has deployed a team to help provide assistance to the victims.

Children injured at the venue were taken to local hospitals where parents were asked to check for missing persons.

Video footage that appeared to be from the scene showed a large crowd of mostly children looking on as some children were being

carried away from an open field.

Local media identified the event organizers as the Women In Need Of Guidance and Support Foundation, which held a similar event for children last year.

The group was preparing to host up

to 5,000 young people at this year's event, the Oyo-based Agidigbo FM radio station reported on Tuesday, citing the organizers who had featured on its programme. Children "will win exciting prizes like scholarships and other bountiful

gifts," they said.

An investigation has been opened into the causes of the stampede, Makinde said, adding "anyone directly or remotely involved in this disaster will be held accountable."



File Photo

Our excellent customer service and high quality printing make us the most reliable printing partner for all the projects you need done, right now.

## Your Print Solutions Partner



**Universal**  
CRYSTAL PRINT GHANA LTD.

No. 13 St. John's Road, Achimota  
P.O. Box AN 19472 Accra North

+233 (0) 302 409 210  
+233 (0) 302 409 211

[www.universalcrystalprint.com](http://www.universalcrystalprint.com)  
[info@universalcrystalprint.com](mailto:info@universalcrystalprint.com)

com