



A DECISIVE WIN!! Mahama “floors” NPP to make a comeback to Jubilee House

- Page 2



Prof. Jane Naana Opoku-Agyemang becomes Ghana's first-ever female Vice President

- Page 2



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General News

Mahama returns to Jubilee House as Bawumia concedes defeat in 2024 presidential polls

By Phoebe Martekie Doku

Flagbearer of the National Democratic Congress (NDC), John Dramani Mahama, has emerged victorious in the 2024 presidential elections, making history as the first leader in the Fourth Republic to return to office after serving a term.

On Saturday, December 7, millions of Ghanaians went to the polls to elect the country's 8th President and representatives for the 9th Parliament, who will assume office on January 7, 2025.

Ahead of the official declaration of results by the Electoral Commission (EC), the flagbearer of the New Patriotic Party (NPP) and Vice President, Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia, conceded defeat in the presidential race.

Addressing the media on Sunday, Dr. Bawumia revealed that the NPP's internal collation of results showed a decisive victory for

Mahama and the NDC, both at the presidential and parliamentary levels.

"Ladies and gentlemen of the media, following yesterday's presidential and parliamentary elections, Ghanaians at home and abroad have been sitting on tenterhooks awaiting the outcome. Let me say that data from our own internal collation of the election results indicates that former President H.E. John Dramani Mahama has won the presidential election decisively," he said.

He added, "The NDC has also won the parliamentary election, even though we await final coalition for a number of seats. However, I believe ultimately this will not change the overall outcome. I have just called H.E. John Dramani Mahama to congratulate him as the President-elect of the Republic of Ghana."

Dr. Bawumia emphasized his respect for the decision of the Ghanaian people and called for calm to ease growing tensions. "I will respect the decision of Ghanaians," he stated.

In a Facebook post following his victory, Mahama acknowledged his engagement with his main contender and expressed gratitude to Ghanaians, simply writing, "Thank you, Ghana."

Meanwhile, the Electoral Commission is expected to announce the final certified results soon. Early projections indicate that the NDC has also secured a majority of the parliamentary seats.

Dr. Bawumia extended his appreciation to the grassroots supporters of the NPP and pledged to support Mahama in fostering national development over the next four years.



John Dramani Mahama, NDC Flagbearer & President Elect

Prof. Jane Naana Opoku-Agyemang becomes Ghana's first-ever female Vice President

By Andy Ogbarmey-Tettey

Ghana has achieved a significant milestone in gender-inclusive governance by electing its first-ever female Vice President, Professor Jane Naana Opoku-Agyemang, in the just-ended 2024 general elections.

Professor Opoku-Agyemang is set to assist in the administration of the National Democratic Congress (NDC) under President-elect John Dramani Mahama for the next four years.

Her historic achievement highlights the growing role of women in Ghana's development, particularly at a time when the country passed the Affirmative Action (Gender Equity) Bill, 2024. The bill, which had faced delays since 2011, was unanimously approved by Parliament on July 30 and later assented to by President Nana Akufo-Addo on September 19.

The legislation aims to address systemic gender imbalances that

have historically shaped Ghana's political, social, and economic landscapes.

During the campaign, Professor Opoku-Agyemang outlined key initiatives to support women, including plans to establish a Women's Development Bank. The bank is expected to empower female entrepreneurs by improving their access to loans and financial resources. This initiative seeks to reduce financial barriers, create jobs, and boost female-led businesses, enhancing women's contributions to Ghana's economy.

Despite increased female participation in employment, challenges remain. According to the Ghana Statistical Service's (GSS) 2023 Annual Household Income and Expenditure Survey (AHIES), more women than men were employed in 2022 and 2023, with differences of approximately 600,000 and 900,000 respectively. However, unemployment among females rose from 17.5% in the

second quarter of 2023 to 17.7% in the third quarter of the same year.

Additionally, by the end of the third quarter of 2023, 77.8% of employed females were in vulnerable employment compared to 57.7% of males. These are among the many challenges Professor Opoku-Agyemang has vowed to address through strategic policy interventions.

Professor Jane Naana Opoku-Agyemang brings extensive experience to her new role. Her political journey began in 2013 when she was appointed as Minister for Education under President Mahama's administration.

In 2020, she made history as the first woman to be nominated as a vice-presidential candidate by a major political party in Ghana. Her selection was widely celebrated as a progressive step towards gender equality and inclusivity in Ghana's political landscape.

Professor Opoku-Agyemang's election as Vice President marks

a transformative moment for Ghana, underscoring the country's commitment to empowering women and achieving greater gender parity in leadership.



Prof. Jean Naana Opoku Agyemang, Vice President Elect



General News

2024 electoral violence leaves 2 dead; 8 arrested as Police probe murder cases

By Andy Ogbarmey-Tettey

The 2024 general elections held on December 7 were marred by incidents of electoral violence, resulting in the tragic deaths of two individuals and injuries to others.

In the Northern Region, a shooting incident at Nyankpala led to the death of one person and left another injured. The clash reportedly occurred between supporters of the National Democratic Congress (NDC) and the New Patriotic Party (NPP) during voting.

The Ghana Police Service has since arrested four individuals—Majid Issah, Fodi Issiage Kamara, Yakubu Simalia, and Alhaji Bashiru Mohamed—who are assisting with investigations. According to a police statement, the body of the deceased has been sent to the morgue for preservation and autopsy.

In a separate incident in the Awutu Senya East constituency

in the Central Region, another fatal shooting claimed one life and critically injured another. Reports suggest that the victims, both NDC supporters, were attacked by unidentified assailants in a V8 vehicle after leaving the vote counting and collation centre.

The incident followed a declaration by Phyllis Naa Koryoo Okunor, the NDC Parliamentary Candidate, that she had won the election. The attackers reportedly trailed the victims before opening fire on their way home. In the aftermath, Phyllis Naa Koryoo Okunor called for justice and protection, citing concerns for her safety.

The Ghana Police Service has arrested four suspects in connection with the Awutu Senya East incident: Awudu Yakubu, Kwabena Essah, Hakeem Bawa, and Issaka Mashual. The Police recovered an AK-47 rifle with 69 rounds of ammunition from the suspects, who are expected to

be arraigned before court to face justice.

The swift response by the Police Service has been met with praise from sections of the public, who have urged the authorities to ensure the perpetrators are brought to book.

Some stakeholders including the National Peace Council have condemned this year's violence and also called on the Police

to restore public confidence by addressing concerns surrounding justice for the families of eight individuals who lost their lives during electoral violence in the 2020 general elections.

The incidents have once again highlighted the recurring issue of violence during elections, raising calls for stronger measures to ensure peace and security during Ghana's electoral processes.



File Photo

NDC becomes Majority Caucus in 9th Parliament as top NPP MPs get kicked out

By Andy Ogbarmey-Tettey

The National Democratic Congress (NDC) has secured 185 parliamentary seats nationwide at the end of the 2024 parliamentary elections, according to its National Communications Officer, Sammy Gyamfi.

Addressing a press conference on Sunday, December 8, Mr. Gyamfi explained that the figure is based on the NDC's internal collation of results from polling stations across the country.

"Our internal collation shows that the NDC has tentatively won 185 parliamentary seats. This reflects the overwhelming confidence that Ghanaians have placed in us to represent them in Parliament," he declared.

In a surprising turn of events, several prominent Members of Parliament (MPs) from the New Patriotic Party (NPP), including key figures in President Akufo-Addo's government, lost their seats to the NDC.

Some of the notable NPP stalwarts who lost their seats include Ursula Owusu-Ekuful of Ablekuma Central, Andrew Agyapa Mercer of Sekondi, Hawa Koomson of Awutu Senya East, Henry Quartey of Ayawaso Central, Lydia Alhassan of Ayawaso West Wuogon, John Peter Amewu of Hohoe, and Kobina Tahir Hammond of Adansi Asokwa.

With these results, the 9th Parliament is set to have an emphatic Majority Caucus led by the National Democratic Congress.

Meanwhile, Speaker of Parliament Alban Sumana Kingsford Bagbin has directed the 8th Parliament to reconvene on Monday, December 16, at 10 a.m. The venue for the sitting will be announced at a later date.

In a statement issued on December 2, Speaker Bagbin cited Order 58 of the Standing Orders of the Parliament of Ghana as the basis for the recall. He emphasized

the need to transact all pending business before the transition to the 9th Parliament.

The Finance Minister, Dr. Mohammed Amin Adam, has also expressed concern over the ongoing parliamentary deadlock. According to him, the impasse is preventing the government from accessing a critical US\$300 million World Bank facility, which is essential for economic stability and addressing fiscal deficits.

The stalemate in Parliament has persisted as the NPP and the NDC

continue to dispute control over the majority of seats. This unresolved tension has led to an indefinite recess, further delaying important parliamentary proceedings.

In a memo dated November 26, Speaker Bagbin urged members to maintain decorum during parliamentary sessions. He stressed the importance of prioritizing the national interest over partisan considerations to ensure a smooth transition and effective governance.



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