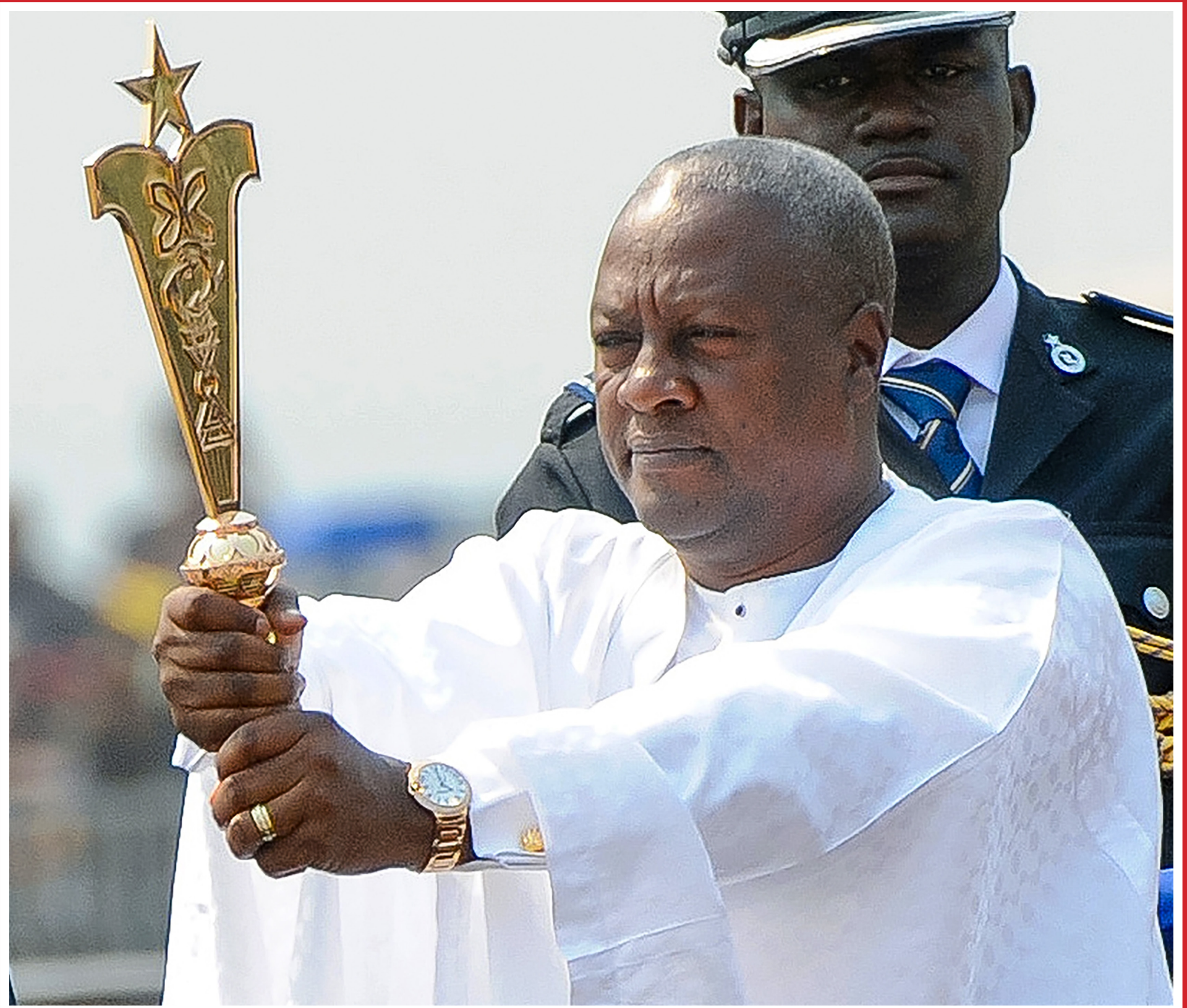


Mahama to be sworn in as President tomorrow

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General News

15 SHSs to suffer food shortage as thugs raid Buffer Stock warehouse in Northern region

By **Andy Ogbarmey-Tettey**

A food shortage is looming in 15 Senior High Schools (SHSs) in the Northern Region following a raid by unidentified thugs on the Buffer Stock Company warehouse.

The criminals stole over 150 bags of maize and other food items meant for school feeding, putting the affected institutions in a difficult position.

The theft, which occurred on the evening of January 3, came just hours after schools reopened for the 2024/25 academic year. Reports indicate that only three schools had managed to pick up their allocated food supplies before the raid took place.

Warehouse Supervisor for Buffer Stock, Alhassan Salifu, disclosed that the looters initially targeted food meant for the Tamale Metro

Assembly before proceeding to steal food intended for the schools.

Bukari Dahmani, the Northern Regional Coordinator for the Free Senior High School program, warned that the incident could delay the reopening of schools if the government fails to intervene urgently.

Douglas Haruna Yakubu, Headmaster of Ghana Senior High School, expressed concerns over the worsening food shortage, noting that schools were already anticipating supply challenges before the theft.

Meanwhile, police have arrested four individuals suspected to have been involved in the raid, and they are currently assisting with investigations.

Sources indicate that the theft is part of a series of raids targeting warehouses across the Northern

Region since December 2024. Facilities belonging to the Tamale Metro Assembly, the Department of Agriculture, and the Veterinary Service have also been ransacked,

with food supplies, agricultural chemicals, and fertilizers reported stolen, raising concerns about food security and supply stability in the region.



Buffer Stock Company warehouse

Ghana's Dr. Victor Lawrence receives highest honour in engineering from Biden

By **Abigail Twumwaa Ampofo**

Ghanaian-born engineer living in the U.S., Dr. Victor Lawrence has been honored with the National Medal of Technology by President Joe Biden at a ceremony in the White House on January 5, 2025.

This prestigious award, the highest in engineering in the U.S., celebrates Dr. Lawrence's critical work in digital signal processing, which helped move the world from analogue to digital communication systems making him the first African-born person to receive this award.

His innovations played a key role in improving early internet access and global data sharing, making him a leader in science and technology. With more than 20 patents to his name, Dr. Lawrence has greatly influenced modern digital systems.

He is also the first African-born person to receive this award, marking a major milestone in his remarkable career. President Biden remarked that the recipients embody the promise of America by pushing the boundaries of what is possible.

Established by Congress in 1980 and administered by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, the National Medal of Technology and Innovation honours American innovators whose vision, intellect, and creativity have strengthened the economy and improved quality of life.

About Dr Victor

An alumnus of Achimota School in Accra, Ghana, where he first nurtured his passion for science, Dr. Lawrence attended the institution from 1957 to 1964. He pursued further studies at Imperial College London, earning

a degree in electrical engineering. After completing his graduate training in 1972, Dr. Lawrence returned to Ghana to teach at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) for a year before moving

to the United States. His most significant achievements came during his tenure at the renowned Bell Laboratories, where he made pioneering advances in digital signal processing and telecommunications.



Dr. Victor Lawrence, Engineer

General News

Gbese Stool warns against unauthorised reconstruction of Kantamanto Market by traders

By Andy Ogbarmey-Tettey

The Gbese Stool, led by Paramount Chief Nii Ayi Bonte II, has warned traders against unauthorized reconstruction of the Kantamanto Market with wooden structures, emphasizing that the Kantamanto lands are not government-owned property.

During a press conference, Nii Ayi Bonte II reaffirmed the Gbese Stool's ownership of the land and announced plans to collaborate with investors for its development to maximize its potential. He expressed sympathy for the victims of the recent fire outbreak but firmly stated that unauthorized rebuilding would not be tolerated.

To enforce compliance, the Gbese Stool has established a task force responsible for the removal of unapproved structures on the land.

Traders at the Kantamanto Market have begun reconstructing their burnt shops with wooden structures despite the warning, citing delays in government assistance after the devastating fire. The massive blaze, which erupted at dawn on Thursday, January 2, 2025, destroyed over 7,000 shops, seriously injured 14 people, and affected more than 30,000 traders.

Chairman of the Kantamanto Traders Association, Samuel Amoah, described the situation as devastating and appealed for government intervention.

"Many traders have lost both their homes and livelihoods, and their only hope is to be allowed to return and work peacefully," Mr. Amoah told JoyNews.

President Nana Akufo-Addo, in his final State of the Nation Address on Friday, January 3, extended

his condolences to the victims, acknowledging the severe impact on the affected traders.

"The incident is deeply shocking," the President remarked, assuring affected traders of the government's support in their

recovery efforts.

Meanwhile, Nana Kwame Bediako, leader of The New Force, has donated GHC 50,000 to assist the traders as they work to rebuild their market and livelihoods.



Nii Ayi Bonte II, Paramount Chief of the Gbese Stool

EC recollates results for 3 disputed constituencies after High Court order, NPP grabs seats

By Abigail Twumwaa Ampofo

The New Patriotic Party (NPP) has snatched three out of the four disputed seats from the National Democratic Congress (NDC) after the Electoral Commission (EC) successfully recollated the results on January 5, following a High Court order.

The High Court in Accra last Saturday directed the Electoral Commission (EC) to finalize the collation of results in Tema Central, Ablekuma North, Okaikwei Central, and Techiman South by January 6, 2025. This directive was issued after the court upheld mandamus applications filed by New Patriotic Party (NPP) candidates from the affected constituencies.

The ruling party secured victories in Okaikwei Central, Tema Central and Techiman South. NPP's Patrick Yaw Boamah retained his seat with 21,099 votes, overturning an

earlier declaration in favor of the NDC candidate, Baba Sadiq in the Okaikwei Central constituency.

Also in the Techiman South constituency, NPP's Martin Adjei Mensah Korsah secured victory with 46,663 votes, while his closest rival, Christopher Beyere Baasongti of the NDC, garnered 43,429 votes. Charles Forson of the NPP won the Tema Central seat with 18,870 votes, narrowly defeating the NDC candidate, Ebi Bright.

As of the time this article was put together, the Commission was yet to collate the results for Ablekuma North. The race is between the NDC's Ewurabyna Aubynn and the NPP's Akua Afriyie.

Meanwhile, the National Democratic Congress (NDC) has served notice of appeal against the High Court's ruling on all the four constituencies.



Patrick Yaw Boamah (left), being declared winner of the Okaikwei Central

General News

Mahama to be sworn in as President tomorrow

By **Andy Ogbarmey-Tettey**

The swearing-in ceremony of President-elect John Dramani Mahama will take place tomorrow, Tuesday, January 7, at the Black Star Square in Accra, with enhanced security measures in place to ensure a smooth and safe event.

The ceremony will be attended by 10 Heads of State, two Vice Presidents, one Speaker of Parliament, two former presidents, and various representatives from international organizations.

Among the international dignitaries attending, the United

States delegation will be led by Shalanda D. Young, Director of the Office of Management and Budget, along with U.S. Ambassador to Ghana Virginia E. Palmer, Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass, and Frances Z. Brown, Senior Director for African Affairs at the White House National Security Council.

The seating arrangement at the Black Star Square will be divided into three distinct zones. Zone 1, the Parliamentary Sitting Area, will be reserved for invited guests, with entry restricted to those holding official invitation cards. Zone 2, the Public Stands, will be open to the general public, but strict security screening will be

enforced. Zone 3, the Media Area, will accommodate accredited journalists and be equipped with facilities to support media coverage.

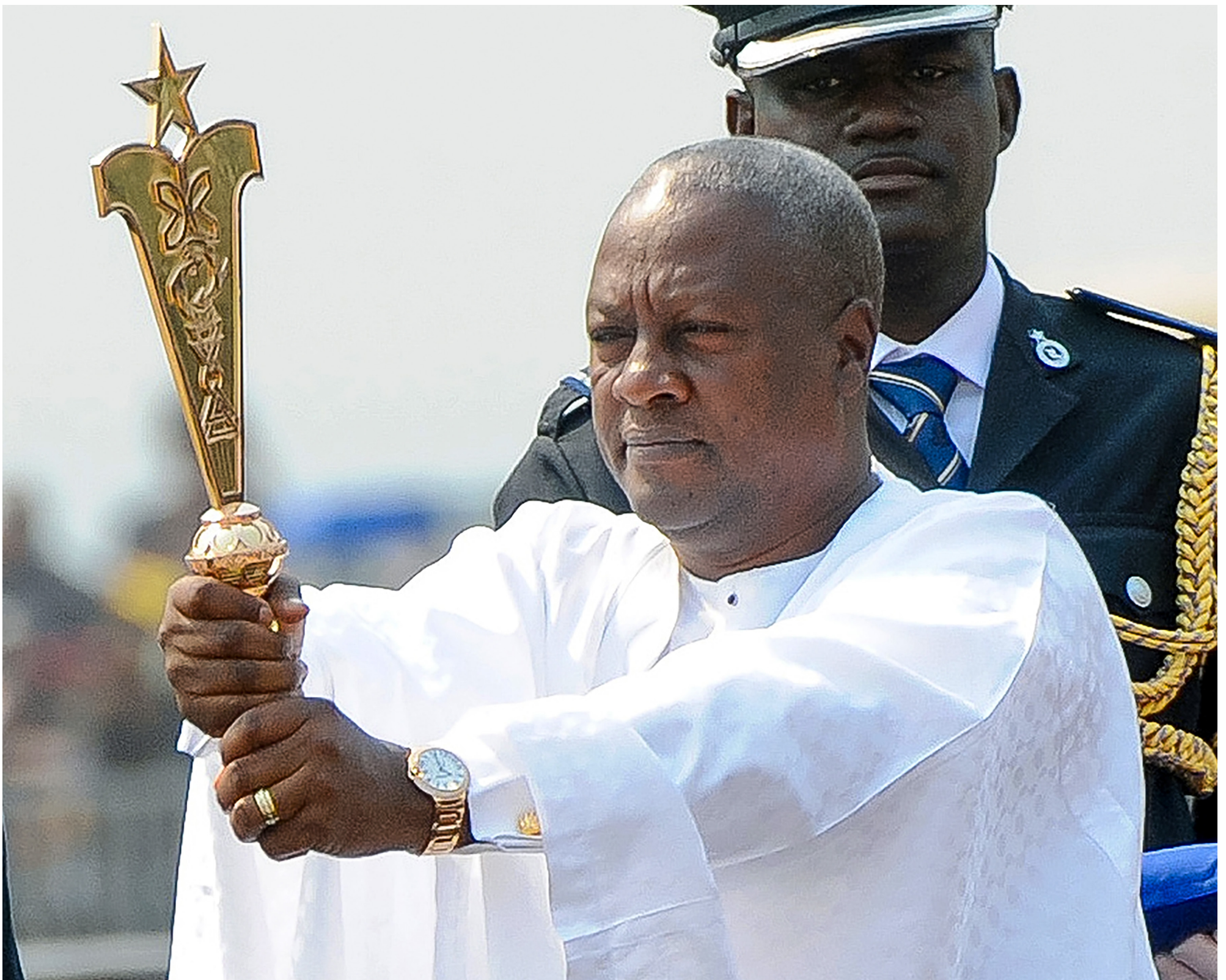
In anticipation of the large turnout, traffic adjustments will be made around the venue. Roads including the 28th February Road, Osu Cemetery Traffic Light, Castle Road, and Starlet 91 Road will be temporarily closed, with diversions to alternative routes such as Salem Avenue, Oxford Street, and Liberia Road.

Designated parking areas will be provided at the back of the Independence Arch, the forecourt

of the State House, and the Access Bank Car Park.

In addition to traffic and crowd management, the Ministry of National Security has imposed a ban on all drone operations during the ceremony to further heighten security.

Mahama, who secured victory in the December 7, 2024, presidential election, defeating incumbent Vice President Mahamudu Bawumia, will return to power after serving as Ghana's president from 2012 to 2017. His swearing-in marks the beginning of his second term in office.



John Dramani Mahama, President-elect



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Business

Ghana is not broke, govt handing over almost \$8bn in international reserves - Akufo-Addo

By **Andy Ogbarmey-Tettey**

Outgoing President Nana Akufo-Addo has emphasized that Ghana is not financially distressed, citing nearly \$8 billion in gross international reserves as his government prepares to leave office.

Addressing Parliament during his final State of the Nation Address, President Akufo-Addo on January 3, stated that the economy was showing strong signs of recovery, with improved fiscal stability and debt sustainability.

“The economy is rebounding strongly. Our fiscal position is more stable. Our debt sustainability has significantly improved,” he noted.

Rejecting claims that the country was bankrupt, he added, “Mr. Speaker, the country is not broke as some propagandists want us to

believe. We are handing over the country with gross international reserves of almost \$8 billion. This is more than the \$6.2 billion gross international reserves my administration inherited in 2017.”

Data from the Bank of Ghana (BoG) confirms the reserves, showing an increase from \$7.83 billion in September to \$7.92 billion in November 2024.

Despite the positive outlook on reserves, Ghana’s debt stock remains a challenge, reaching GH¢761.2 billion as of July 2024, representing 75.7% of the country’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

This marks a significant rise compared to the GH¢587.7 billion recorded during the same period in 2023, which accounted for 70.3% of GDP.

The Bank of Ghana’s September 2024 Summary of Economic and Financial Data also indicated that the external component of the debt increased to \$31.6 billion from \$30 billion a year earlier, representing 46.1% of GDP.

Meanwhile, the domestic debt

component stood at GH¢290.9 billion, equivalent to 28.5% of GDP.

The government’s Domestic Debt Exchange Programme (DDEP) was introduced to address the rising debt by restructuring existing liabilities.



Nana Akufo-Addo, Outgoing President of Ghana

ICC rules in favour of Tullow Ghana in \$320m tax dispute with GRA

By **Abigail Twumwaa Ampofo**

Tullow Ghana has won a major legal case against the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) in a high-stakes tax dispute

This comes after Tullow Ghana filed the request for arbitration with the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) in February 2023. This was in response to the tax assessment imposed by the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) and the disagreement over the application of the Branch Profit Remittance Tax (BPRT).

After 11 months of legal battle, the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) on January 2, 2025 ruled in favor of Tullow Ghana.

This ruling clears Tullow of the \$320 million tax liability and ensures it will not face similar tax claims in the future.

It also highlights the importance of respecting the Petroleum Agreements, which guide Tullow’s activities in Ghana.

Tullow Chief Executive Officer, Rahul Dhir expressed satisfaction with the Tribunal’s decision, describing it as a reaffirmation of the company’s interpretation of the Petroleum Agreements.

“We are delighted with the outcome and decision of the Tribunal, which affirms our assessment and removes a material overhang from our business,” Dhir said.

Tullow has expressed its commitment to working positively with the Government of Ghana to settle two remaining tax disputes currently being handled by the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC).

These disputes, submitted to the ICC in February 2023, are a top

priority for Tullow as it aims to reach fair agreements with the Ghanaian authorities.

The company also plans to strengthen its partnership with

the government to fully harness the potential of its major oil fields, Jubilee and TEN, which play a significant role in Ghana’s oil production.



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