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# General News

## Akosombo Dam spillage victims demand power supply restoration by ECG in 14 days

By Phoebe Martekie Doku

Residents of Adidome in the Central Tongu District of the Volta Region, affected by the Akosombo Dam spillage, have given the Electricity Company of Ghana (ECG) a 14-day ultimatum to restore power to their community.

The affected residents, who have been without electricity for two weeks following a disconnection, expressed frustration over the prolonged outage and what they describe as unfair billing practices. They are among several communities impacted by the disaster across the North, Central, and South Tongu districts in the Volta Region, as well as the Asuogyaman District in the Eastern Region.

In a press statement issued by the office of the Assembly Member for the area, Guggisberg Fiagbenu, residents and business owners decried the unreliable power supply and the perceived unjustified charges imposed by ECG.

“As the elected representative of the people of Adidome Central Electoral Area, it is my duty to advocate

for their rights and interests. Residents of Adidome have raised several concerns regarding the disconnection exercise, including: Lack of Actual Bills: Since the floods caused by the Akosombo and Kpong dam spillages, some residents have not received actual bills from ECG for payment.

Estimated Bills: Over 98% of residents who were victims of the floods were asked to pay estimated bills. This approach is unhelpful in addressing the challenges faced by affected communities,” parts of the statement read.

Residents are calling on ECG to issue timely notifications ahead of power outages to enable households and businesses to plan adequately. Additionally, they have requested increased public awareness campaigns through ECG’s digital platforms and urged authorities to take corrective action against personnel exhibiting unprofessional conduct.

Background of the crisis

In 2023, the spillage from the

Akosombo Dam submerged homes, businesses, schools, hospitals, and farmlands, forcing thousands of residents to flee. Indigenous communities along the Volta River were severely affected, with Mepe bearing the brunt of the devastation. Initially, reports estimated that 8,000 people across eight communities had been displaced. However, by October 19, this figure had surged to 31,000. Many sought refuge with relatives in safer areas, while others remained in temporary

shelters as floodwaters continued to engulf their communities.

The Akosombo Dam, with a vast storage capacity of 150 billion cubic meters and an optimal operating level of 276 feet, remains a critical source of hydroelectric power in Ghana. However, its operations have had far-reaching consequences for communities along the Volta River, sparking concerns over emergency response measures and long-term resettlement plans.



Akosombo Dam

## Speaker Bagbin lifts suspension of 4 MPs for chaos during ministerial vetting

By Amanda Cartey

Speaker of Parliament, Alban Bagbin, has revoked the suspension of four Members of Parliament (MPs) who were sanctioned for their roles in a violent clash that disrupted the ministerial vetting of some nominees appointed by former President John Mahama. Announcing his decision on Tuesday, Speaker Bagbin stated, “The jurisprudence is very clear. When contempt is clear, you don’t need to set up a committee to investigate the matter. I have lifted the suspension order, and I do so instantly. It takes effect immediately.”

The affected MPs—Minority Chief Whip Frank Annoh-Dompreh, Second Minority Whip Jerry Ahmed Shaib, Gushegu MP Alhassan Sulemana Tampuli, and Majority Chief Whip Rockson-Nelson Dafeamekpor—were initially suspended on January 31 following disturbances at the Appointments Committee hearing on January 30. The chaos erupted when Minister-designate for Health, Kwabena Mintah Akandoh, and Minister-designate for Foreign

Affairs, Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa, appeared for vetting.

The Speaker’s decision to suspend the MPs sparked strong opposition, particularly from New Patriotic Party (NPP) legislators, who staged protests in Parliament. On Monday, Minority MPs, clad in red and black, marched to the front of the parliamentary chamber to express their displeasure. Security personnel were deployed, erecting a barricade to prevent the suspended MPs from entering the chamber, further escalating tensions.

Prior to Speaker Bagbin’s ruling, Majority Leader Alexander Afenyo-Markin and Minority Leader Mahama Ayariga had both appealed to him to reconsider his decision, arguing that the suspension would serve as a deterrent to other lawmakers who might engage in misconduct.

With the Speaker’s latest ruling, the four MPs can now resume their parliamentary duties without hindrance. Bagbin noted that the lawmakers had complied with his earlier directives, paving the way for their reinstatement.

Following the reinstatement,

Majority Leader Mahama Ayariga assured the Speaker that both sides of the House would conduct themselves appropriately moving forward.

“We thank you for considering our appeals and lifting the suspension on our colleagues. We assure you that we will be of good behavior going forward,” he said.

Despite lifting the suspension, Speaker Bagbin has insisted that investigations into the disturbances

during the vetting process must continue. He also ruled that MPs responsible for damages to parliamentary property during the chaos will personally bear the cost of repairs. Additionally, he has directed the Clerk of Parliament to file a formal criminal complaint with the police.

As Parliament resumes normal operations, all eyes will be on lawmakers to ensure decorum prevails during future proceedings.



Alban Bagbin, Speaker of Parliament

# General News

## Korle Bu announces temporary suspension of dead body intake due to cold room renovation

By Abigail Twumwaa Ampofo

The management of Korle Bu Teaching Hospital (KBTH) has temporarily suspended the acceptance of new bodies and Brought-in-Dead (BID) cases for the next six weeks due to ongoing renovations of its cold room facilities.

In a statement released on Tuesday, the hospital explained that the refurbishment is aimed at improving service delivery. The renovation is expected to be completed within six weeks. However, the temporary suspension does not apply to cases from within the hospital.

As a result, the hospital's management has urged bereaved families with deceased relatives who have been in the mortuary for three to six weeks or longer to make immediate arrangements for burial or transfer to alternative facilities.

"We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and

appreciate your cooperation as we work to enhance our services," the statement read.

This directive presents logistical and financial challenges, particularly for families unprepared

for an immediate burial. Many may struggle to secure space at alternative mortuaries, especially if other facilities experience an influx of transferred bodies.

As the hospital proceeds with

renovations, affected families must quickly navigate the available options to ensure a dignified arrangement for their departed loved ones.



File Photo

## Discussions on 2025 minimum wage underway, govt calls for expedited process

By Phoebe Martekie Doku

Representatives from the government, employers, and organised labour under the National Tripartite Committee have begun discussions on Ghana's minimum wage for 2025.

The negotiations, which commenced on Monday, February 3, are crucial in setting wage benchmarks for the next fiscal year. Once an agreement is reached, attention will shift to adjusting the base pay for public sector workers.

However, the process has already exceeded the April 2024 deadline set by the Public Financial Management (PFM) Act, raising concerns about its potential impact on the 2025 Budget planning process.

To prevent further delays, the government is urging stakeholders to expedite discussions. Acting Presidential Spokesperson Felix Kwakye Ofori emphasised the need for a swift resolution to provide a clear financial framework for the upcoming fiscal year.

In 2024, Ghana's daily minimum wage increased to GHC 18.15, up from GHC 14.88 in 2023. Since 2007, the country's minimum wage has averaged GHC 7.98 per day, reaching its highest level in 2024, while the lowest recorded figure

stood at GHC 1.90 per day in 2007. Meanwhile, Minister-designate for Labour, Jobs, and Employment, Dr. Rashid Pelpuo, has warned employers against violating Ghana's minimum wage laws. He stated that under his leadership, offenders would face legal consequences.

Appearing before the Appointments

Committee of Parliament on Thursday, January 30, Dr. Pelpuo reaffirmed his commitment to ensuring strict compliance with wage regulations.

"If we agree on a minimum wage, the law mandates that it applies to all organisations. No employer should pay below that amount.

Anyone found guilty of doing so will face legal action. Ghanaians should not be cheated," he said.

As discussions continue, stakeholders are expected to finalise an agreement that balances economic sustainability with fair wages for workers.



Ghana Cedi Notes

# General News

## NUGS threatens demo, directs WAEC to release withheld WASSCE results in a week

By Phoebe Martekie Doku

The National Union of Ghana Students (NUGS) has issued a seven-day ultimatum to the West African Examinations Council (WAEC), demanding the immediate release of the withheld 2024 West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE) results of affected candidates.

NUGS has threatened to stage nationwide protests if WAEC fails to comply within the stipulated timeframe.

Addressing a press briefing on Tuesday, NUGS President Daniel Korley Botchway asserted that the council had been given sufficient time to complete its investigations. "They should release all the results within a week. Whatever investigations they are conducting should be concluded within this period. We engaged them as far

back as January 2, and over a month has passed—ample time for them to review all these cases," Botchway stated on February 4.

"If they fail to do so, we will commence a series of protests and occupy their offices nationwide. We will make it uncomfortable for them. If they cannot handle the task, they should inform the Government of Ghana so a new examination body can be appointed," he added.

The controversy arises from allegations of malpractice during the 2024 WASSCE, prompting WAEC to withhold some results.

On December 30, 2024, WAEC announced the release of provisional results for the 2024 WASSCE. In its statement, the council disclosed that results for 4,108 candidates had been annulled, while 781 others remained under review due to suspected irregularities. Among the affected candidates, 483 had their

entire results voided for bringing mobile phones into the examination hall, while 209 were sanctioned for various infractions.

On January 30, a High Court ruled in favour of four students who had petitioned on behalf of 10,520 candidates whose results were withheld over alleged exam

misconduct.

In response, WAEC has filed a stay of execution application at the High Court, seeking to overturn the directive to release the results. The court is yet to rule on the matter.



WAEC Office

## NIA releases approved fees for Ghana Card services at premium centres

By Abigail Twumwaa Ampofo

The National Identification Authority (NIA) has announced the approved fees for Ghana Card services at premium centres across the country.

In a notice shared on its official Facebook page on Tuesday, February 4, the NIA outlined the charges for various services, including first-time registration, card replacement, and record updates.

According to the statement, first-time registration and record updates will each cost GH¢310.00. A card replacement will be charged at GH¢420.00, while individuals seeking both a record update and a card replacement simultaneously will pay GH¢355.00. Additionally, nationality updates will cost GH¢365.00.

The NIA clarified that these fees apply exclusively to designated premium centres and have been in effect since May 2024. However, first-time issuance of the Ghana Card remains free for all applicants at district offices. Those opting to register at premium centres must pay the required fees.

For applicants visiting district offices, the NIA announced that replacing a lost or damaged card

will cost GH¢125.00, while first-time applications at these offices remain free of charge.

The Ghana Card serves as the official national identification document for Ghanaians both locally and abroad. It verifies an individual's identity, citizenship, and residency

using biometric data for secure authentication.

Since its introduction, the Ghana Card has become essential for accessing government services, banking, healthcare, and voting. To date, over 18 million Ghanaians have been registered under the

system.

In 2024, the NIA expanded registration services to Ghanaians living abroad, with the first overseas Ghana Card issued in Ottawa, Canada.



Ghana Card

# General News

## Northern part of Ghana cut off global procurement supply chain by USAID via chemonics

By Andy Ogbarmey-Tettey

The Ghana Health Service (GHS) in the Northern Region has confirmed that the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has suspended its support for the Global Procurement Supply Chain managed by Chemonics.

This decision directly impacts the Last Mile Distribution (LMD) of health commodities, which ensures the timely delivery of essential medicines and supplies to healthcare facilities in the region.

Dr. Abdulai Bukari, the Northern Regional Director of the GHS, described the development as a major setback for healthcare delivery in the Northern, North East, and Savannah regions.

"This means that SkyNet Express, the logistics company responsible for transporting health commodities, has been directed to freeze its services for 90 days," he explained.

The suspension follows an executive order issued by U.S. President

Donald Trump, which triggered a global freeze on U.S. foreign aid. This freeze has disrupted the supply chain for essential health products, creating an urgent need for alternative solutions to ensure continued access to life-saving medicines.

The halt in distribution services has raised concerns about severe shortages of critical health supplies, including medicines, vaccines, and other essential products. These shortages could severely cripple healthcare delivery in the affected regions, and without prompt intervention, health facilities may struggle to maintain adequate stock levels, putting patients at risk.

Additionally, the loss of technical assistance and logistics coordination previously provided by Chemonics poses a significant threat to the efficiency of the procurement and supply chain systems. This disruption could weaken inventory management, tracking, and reporting systems, further compounding the problem.

Public health programs funded by USAID, such as maternal and child health services, malaria prevention, family planning, and HIV/AIDS treatment, now face potential disruptions. These services heavily rely on a continuous supply of essential commodities, and any prolonged shortage could negatively impact patient care outcomes.

In response to the crisis, the Regional Health Management Team (RHMT) convened an emergency meeting with District Health Management Teams (DHMTs) and Budget Management Centre (BMC) heads to assess the situation and explore possible solutions.

A statement issued after the meeting revealed that, as an interim measure, SkyNet Express, previously contracted by USAID for Last Mile Distribution, could help maintain scheduled deliveries for 2025 while authorities seek a long-term resolution.

Health officials are urgently calling for intervention to prevent a full-blown crisis. "We urgently seek

guidance on possible interventions to bridge supply chain gaps and ensure uninterrupted access to essential health commodities," Dr. Bukari stressed. He further appealed for engagement with development partners and stakeholders to explore alternative funding sources and distribution mechanisms to sustain critical health services.

With the looming threat of medicine and supply shortages, authorities are now looking to the government and donor agencies for immediate action to prevent further disruptions to healthcare services in northern Ghana.



File Photo

## Cancer cases in Ashanti Region surge by 33.6% to 4,553 in 2024 - Report

By Abigail Twumwaa Ampofo

The Ashanti Region has recorded a sharp increase in cancer cases, with figures rising by 4,553 in 2024, marking a 33.6% surge from the previous year, according to a report by the Ashanti Regional Health Directorate.

The report identifies breast and cervical cancers as the leading contributors to this increase, with breast cancer cases skyrocketing by 92.12% and cervical cancer rising by 75.17%. In contrast, prostate cancer cases saw a decline of 17.55% over the same period.

The Ashanti Regional Health Directorate attributes the rising cancer burden to late diagnoses, poor treatment outcomes, and premature deaths. It also highlights low public awareness, limited access to screening services, and inadequate healthcare capacity as key factors exacerbating the situation.

### Breakdown of Cancer cases

In 2023, the region recorded 13,551 cancer cases. By 2024, this number had climbed to 18,104. The most notable increases were seen in breast and cervical cancers. Breast cancer

cases more than doubled from 292 in 2023 to 561 in 2024, while cervical cancer cases rose from 298 to 522.

Although prostate cancer cases declined from 1,208 in 2023 to 996 in 2024, the category labeled "All Other Cancers" saw the highest increase, surging by 4,272 cases. This represented a 36.35% jump from 11,753 in 2023 to 16,025 in 2024.

To address the growing cancer crisis, the Ghana Health Service (GHS) is aligning with global initiatives to emphasize people-centered care, particularly for prostate and liver cancers, which remain major health threats among men in Ghana.

Ashanti Regional Health Director Fred Adomako-Boateng has called for urgent interventions, stressing that cancer care should be a national priority.

"Although these cancers are among the leading causes of death in the country, they are unfortunately not highlighted enough for various reasons," he stated.

Citing data from GLOBOCAN 2022, he provided alarming statistics on prostate and liver cancers in Ghana.

"Prostate cancer accounted for 2,393 new cases, with 1,233 deaths,

reflecting a 52% mortality rate. Liver cancer in men recorded 2,656 new cases, with 2,390 deaths, translating to a staggering 90% mortality rate—meaning 9 out of 10 people diagnosed do not survive," he said.

Beyond the numbers, Adomako-Boateng emphasized the importance of a compassionate, individualized approach to cancer treatment.

"Cancer is more than just a medical diagnosis—it is a deeply personal matter. A people-centered approach that fully integrates each individual's unique needs, with compassion and empathy, leads to the best health outcomes," he added.

As part of the 2025 World Cancer Day commemoration, themed "United by Unique," the Ashanti Regional Health Directorate is launching an awareness campaign to promote early detection and improved treatment.

The campaign, according to Adomako-Boateng, will focus on strengthening healthcare facilities and personnel to enhance early diagnosis and intervention.

"The campaign will explore different dimensions of people-centered cancer care and new ways of making a difference. It will offer a three-year

journey from raising awareness to taking action," he noted.

He further called for increased investment in screening programs, particularly for prostate and liver cancers, and urged stakeholders to prioritize patient-centered care, including medical, psychological, and social support systems.

"We must highlight the importance of patient-centered care, including medical, emotional, psychological, and social support through patient navigation systems while addressing gender and socioeconomic disparities," he emphasized.



Fred Adomako-Boateng, Ashanti Regional Health Director

# General News

## Health workers to be vaccinated prior to deployment to Central Region in cholera fight

By Abigail Twumwaa Ampofo

The Ghana Health Service (GHS) has announced that all health workers set to be deployed to cholera hotspots in the Central Region will receive vaccines before commencing their duties.

This proactive measure aims to protect frontline workers and curb the further spread of the disease.

Dr. Samuel Kaba Akoriyea, the Acting Director-General of GHS, explained that the vaccination of health workers is essential for ensuring their safety and maintaining the continuity of care.

“We need to boost the morale of health workers and ensure they continue providing care without fear. That’s why we have decided to start vaccinating health workers and the families of those already infected to prevent further transmission,” he said.

Cholera outbreaks have been reported in several regions,

including Greater Accra, Central (especially Agona West Municipality), Western (Sekondi-Takoradi, Effia Kwesimintsim, Shama, and Ahanta West), Eastern, and Ashanti regions.

Since October 2024, these areas have faced rising cholera cases, with the Central Region notably recording 14 cholera-related deaths and several others receiving medical attention. This has raised serious public health concerns.

During a media appearance following a visit to cholera patients at the Winneba Municipal Hospital, Dr. Akoriyea revealed that a team will soon be deployed to schools and market centers to educate the public about cholera prevention and control measures.

“Contact tracing can be challenging, so the key priority is vaccination to prevent an escalation,” he added.

In addition to vaccination efforts, Dr. Akoriyea stressed the importance of collaboration with non-health

actors and key stakeholders. He emphasized that tackling cholera requires a joint effort between the health sector and other groups, including the Regional Coordinating Council, local government, water and sanitation agencies, as well as traditional and religious leaders. Their involvement, he noted, is crucial in the fight against the

disease.

The GHS’s intervention seeks to improve public health safety and minimize the impact of the cholera outbreak in the region. Health authorities are calling for continued vigilance and community cooperation to prevent further spread of the disease.



Dr. Samuel Kaba Akoriyea, the Acting Director-General of GHS

## Ministry of Roads begins audit to verify GH¢40bn debt owed to contractors

By Amanda Cartey

The Ministry of Roads and Highways has begun a comprehensive review to determine the exact amount the government owes road contractors, with the debt estimated at nearly GH¢40 billion.

Minister of Roads and Highways, Kwame Govers Agbodza, has instructed officials from the ministry, along with teams from the Urban Roads, Feeder Roads, Ghana Highways Authority, and Road Fund, to gather data on all pending payment certificates issued to contractors.

This review aims to provide a clearer understanding of the government’s financial obligations in the road sector and inform future policies for more effective infrastructure management.

“The information available to me indicates that the current outstanding amount is estimated to be close to GH¢40 billion,” Agbodza revealed.

During a meeting with contractors last Monday, Agbodza emphasized the importance of verifying these figures and working closely with all stakeholders to resolve the debt.

He stressed the need to ensure that future road projects are well-planned and sustainable.

“One of my main responsibilities is to work with you—contractors, my ministry’s staff, and consultants—to find out whether we actually owe that amount of money. If we do, how do we work together to resolve it? And going forward, how do we ensure that projects are sustainable?” he said.

As the Member of Parliament for Adaklu, Agbodza also used the meeting to introduce himself to contractors, share his vision, and seek their cooperation in addressing challenges in the road sector. Key issues discussed included increasing funds for road construction, managing existing debt, using resources efficiently, negotiating interest on delayed payments, and possibly reintroducing road tolls to raise money for road projects.

Agbodza pointed out that public expectations for better roads do not align with the funds allocated to the ministry by the government.

“In the coming days, the government will organize a national discussion on how we can

fund road construction with our own resources,” he announced. “For example, if you request GH¢16 billion to complete road projects but only GH¢3 billion is approved, it obviously means you won’t be able to do much,” he added.

Contractors present at the meeting raised concerns about delayed payments, bureaucratic processes, and the rising cost of materials. Despite these challenges, they welcomed the minister’s commitment to collaborating closely with the private sector to find solutions.

The government’s renewed focus on road development is seen

as a vital step in improving the country’s infrastructure and overall living conditions. During his vetting before Parliament’s Appointments Committee on January 20, Agbodza stated that the previous administration left behind GH¢135 billion in road sector debt. This includes GH¢100 billion for committed but unpaid projects, GH¢20 billion in unpaid certificates for completed projects, and GH¢15 billion in road fund certificates.

“In 2018, the government owed about GH¢113 million, and the interest on that debt alone has grown to GH¢665 million this year,” he disclosed.



Kwame Govers Agbodza, Minister for Roads and Highways



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# Business

## Review of 'Gold for Oil Policy' begins amid potential fuel shortage

Source: Diageo

The government has initiated a reassessment of the controversial Gold for Oil (G4O) policy as concerns rise over potential fuel shortages in various parts of the country.

The review was triggered by Energy Minister John Jinapor, who met with key industry stakeholders to discuss the future of the policy and its impact on the petroleum sector. On his first day in office, Minister Jinapor held talks with representatives from the Bulk Oil Distribution Companies, the Chamber of Oil Marketing Companies, and other major players in the energy sector.

The discussions focused on evaluating the sustainability of the G4O initiative and exploring alternatives to ensure a stable fuel supply.

"We're also reviewing the Gold for Oil programme, as we promised in our manifesto," Minister Jinapor announced during the meeting on Tuesday, February 4.

He provided further insight into the government's approach, stating, "The Minister of Finance is already working on the gold aspect and intends to set up what he describes

as a Gold Board. On our side, we are reviewing it [the Gold for Oil policy]. If you see some work, it's just an interim arrangement."

While acknowledging the need for a review, Jinapor emphasized that an immediate halt to the policy is not feasible without a viable alternative in place.

As part of efforts to enhance governance within the energy sector, the Minister assured stakeholders of increased transparency. He revealed that President John Dramani Mahama is establishing an independent committee to oversee operations in the energy industry.

"We intend to work with you [stakeholders]. We cannot claim to know everything, and in this sector, you captains of industry sometimes know better than those of us in office," he acknowledged.

The Gold for Oil initiative, introduced in 2022 by former Vice President Mahamudu Bawumia, was designed to reduce Ghana's reliance on foreign currency reserves for oil imports. By bartering gold for petroleum products, the policy aimed to ease pressure on the Cedi, stabilize fuel prices, and address balance of payment challenges.

Under the initiative, the Precious Minerals Marketing Company (PMMC) purchased over 60,000 ounces of gold worth more than \$97 million from local miners by March 2023. However, the company had set a higher monthly target of acquiring at least 160,000 ounces, valued at around \$300 million, to meet about 50% of Ghana's oil consumption needs.

Despite its objectives, the policy has faced criticism from experts, including the Institute of Statistical Social and Economic Research (ISSER), over concerns about transparency and financial risks.

Dr. Fred Dzanku, Principal Investigator at ISSER, warned that the initiative is vulnerable to illicit financial flows due to the lack of

parliamentary oversight and a proper legal framework.

He further noted, "The absence of pricing regulation, along with the lack of clarity on the refinery status of gold before it is sold, creates opportunities for mispricing and under-devaluation when exchanged for oil."

Dr. Dzanku also raised concerns about the selection process for suppliers and buyers, highlighting that the opacity of key transactions could exacerbate transparency issues.

With the review now underway, stakeholders in the petroleum sector are closely monitoring the government's next steps, especially as the country faces the possibility of fuel shortages.



John Jinapor, Energy Minister

## Ghana Stock Exchange kicks out Worldwide Securities over regulatory violations

By Amanda Cartey

The Ghana Stock Exchange (GSE) has officially expelled Worldwide Securities Limited (WSL) from its Licensed Dealing Membership (LDM) following multiple regulatory breaches. The expulsion takes immediate effect, barring WSL from operating as a broker or dealing in securities on the exchange.

In a statement, the GSE outlined the reasons for WSL's expulsion, emphasizing key violations of the Exchange's Dealing Membership Rules.

According to the GSE, WSL failed to renew its broker-dealer license with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), which is required under Rule 9(2)(e). The firm also defaulted on its financial obligations to the Exchange, violating Rule 9(2)(b).

Additionally, WSL breached Rules 6(j) and 6(k) by failing to maintain the necessary staff to

run its brokerage operations. The Exchange further found that WSL was not actively engaging in its broker-dealer business at an acceptable level, contravening Rule 6(L).

As a result of these breaches, WSL is now prohibited from opening or managing brokerage and investment accounts for the public. It is also barred from trading securities across any of the Exchange's markets and from presenting itself as a member of the GSE.

The Exchange has urged clients of WSL to make immediate arrangements to transfer their securities accounts and holdings to other Licensed Dealing Members. "Clients of WSL should contact the Exchange for assistance with transferring their securities accounts and holdings to any Licensed Dealing Member of their choice," the GSE stated.

This action underscores the Exchange's commitment to

maintaining strict regulatory compliance and ensuring the integrity of Ghana's capital markets. The GSE reiterated its dedication to

a robust and transparent market, warning that non-compliance with regulatory standards will not be tolerated.



Ghana Stock Exchange Logo



# International

## 135,000 women risk losing their lives to breast cancer by 2040 in sub-Saharan Africa - WHO

Source: WHO

An estimated 135 000 women could lose their lives to breast cancer by 2040 in sub-Saharan Africa if urgent actions are not taken to reverse the trends, a new World Health Organization (WHO) report finds.

The WHO study assessed breast cancer control capacities in 42 of the 47 countries within the African region, focusing on six critical areas: leadership, governance and financing, health workforce, health information systems, and service delivery. The assessment revealed significant gaps and disparities in breast cancer control across the region highlighting critical shortage of healthcare workers essential for prevention, diagnosis, and treatment, as well as limited access to specialized cancer centres, hindering progress toward the Global Breast Cancer Initiative (GBCI) goals.

The analysis finds that only 5 out of 47 countries in the region have established organized breast cancer screening programmes with many countries still relying on opportunistic screening programmes. Access to pathology in Africa remains limited, with only two countries meeting the standard of one lab per 100 000 people.

Breast cancer-related deaths in the region are largely driven by late diagnosis and insufficient prevention and care measures. In 2022 alone, 38 out of every 100 000 women were diagnosis with breast cancer and 19 per 100 000 tragically lost their lives to the disease.

To enhance breast cancer care in the region, the WHO report underscores the urgent need for investment in leadership, governance and financing as fundamental steps. Strengthening these elements will pave the way for advancements in strategic planning, healthcare

infrastructure, workforce training and, most importantly, equitable access to essential services.

The report calls countries to develop and adequately fund comprehensive National Cancer Control Plans, providing a strategic framework for coordinated national efforts to combat breast cancer effectively.

To address the severe shortage of cancer care healthcare professionals, WHO advocates for the expanding and enhancement

of oncology training programs. Building a well-equipped workforce is essential to ensuring high-quality cancer prevention, diagnosis, and treatment services. Beyond workforce development, the report highlights the urgent need for organized breast cancer screening and early diagnosis programmes in countries. Ensuring these programs are accessible to all women in the region is crucial, as early detection significantly improves treatment outcomes and survival rates.



File Photo

## Ramaphosa speaks with Musk after Trump criticizes land reform

Source: Africanews

South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa spoke to Elon Musk on Monday about spreading misinformation and distortions about the country.

On Monday, the billionaire – who was born and brought up there – accused South Africa of having “openly racist ownership laws” prejudicing white people.

The presidency says Ramaphosa reminded Musk of the country's respect for the rule of law, justice, fairness, and equality, which are enshrined in its constitution.

Musk, who is a close ally of Donald Trump, made his comments on his social media platform, X, after the US president said he would suspend aid to South Africa.

Trump accused the country of “confiscating land” and treating “certain classes of people very badly”.

He added that there would be no more money for South Africa until the outcome of a full investigation into the country's policies.

Trump's unsubstantiated claims appeared to be related to a bill, signed into law by Ramaphosa last month.

The Expropriation Act will make it easier for the state to confiscate land in the public interest, in some

cases without compensation.

Ramaphosa responded saying no expropriations have taken place, and that the new law was aimed at ensuring equitable access to land.

Some analysts suggest Musk is sore because his Starlink internet

service has not yet secured a licence to operate in South Africa.

The country requires international companies to have 30 per cent ownership by previously disadvantaged local groups.



Cyril Ramaphosa, President of South Africa

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