

MARCH 10, 2025



PRESIDENCY COMMUNICATIONS

7TH EDITION

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION: PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA

02

Gov't presents 2025 Budget on Tuesday

Cabinet approves construction of second gas processing plant.

05

President Mahama visits Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso.

07

Agenda for Women's Rights and Equity Needs Reset - Vice President advocates

11



Gov't presents 2025 Budget on Tuesday.



The Minister for Finance will present the government's Budget Statement and economic policy to parliament for the financial year 2025 on Tuesday, March 11.

The budget will prominently feature tax rationalisation, enhanced domestic revenue mobilisation measures to close the compliance gap, public-private partnerships, and investments in priority infrastructure projects—

particularly in energy, transport, the extractive sector, agriculture and agribusiness, manufacturing, digital services, and job creation through the establishment of a 24-hour economy.

According to Felix Kwakye Ofosu, Minister of State for Government Communications, the outcomes of major economic engagements will inform the policy decisions the Minister of Finance will announce.

These include the recently concluded National Economic Dialogue 2025 and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) team meetings in Accra, which focused on revenue mobilisation drives to plug an estimated GHS 6.4 billion revenue shortfall, ballooning energy sector debt, and urgent structural reforms.

The Cabinet has been fully briefed and is satisfied with the proposals in the 2025 Budget statement to



reset and facilitate Ghana's economic transformation agenda. These proposals align with President John Dramani Mahama's vision, as captured in his 2024 Manifesto and the 120-day social contract with the people of Ghana.

"The budget will outline the financial state inherited by the National Democratic Congress (NDC) government while offering hope and strategic policies for national development"
 – Hon. Felix Kwakye Ofori stated at a post-Cabinet media briefing last Wednesday.

Government has already pledged to implement recommendations from the National Economic Dialogue.

Key among them

- Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD) must return to its role as an agency under the Ministry of Finance, ensuring a focus on core mandates and protecting farmers' interests.
- A comprehensive review of the Electricity Company of Ghana's (ECG) operations, with reforms aimed at positioning the company for potential private-sector involvement.

- Need to revise pension fund investment regulations to align with infrastructure projects, ensuring sustainable development and long-term economic growth.

- Need to introduce a stimulus tax system for agricultural inputs and outputs to promote efficiency and reduce sector burdens.

- Need to reform state-owned enterprises, enforce transparent financial reporting systems and good corporate governance practices.

Finance Minister responds to budget expectations.



Minister for Finance, Dr Ato Forson summarised his response to expectations when he engaged over 60,000 ordinary Ghanaians on KalyJay's Space on X on Sunday.

“Let us not deceive ourselves that the country is out of the woods. Our economy is still in distress, so we will focus on stabilising it to achieve our

manifesto promises. Some are time-bound, others are within the 120-day social contract, some within one year, and others after the foundation is laid. We can certainly not accommodate everything in the manifesto within one budget year. We will focus on those we can implement within the first year.”

Dr Cassiel Ato Forson also hinted that there will be a significant drop in primary expenditure. “We will go through a strong fiscal consolidation and an increase in debt servicing because the previous government has not been doing it for the past two years, particularly the Eurobond, and we have just resumed.”

Cabinet approves construction of second gas processing plant.



Cabinet has approved the construction of a second gas processing plant as part of broader measures to avert future power crisis due to lack of investment over the past eight years.

Minister for Energy and Green Transition, John Abu Jinapor, in a post-Cabinet briefing on Friday said the government intends to complete the project

within eighteen (18) months.

“The energy sector we inherited is riddled with poor infrastructure, huge unsustainable and mounting debt, which currently stands at over GH¢80 billion and what we used to call excess capacity now appears dwindled, and we have to start preparing to increase

the capacity to meet the demand requirements”, the Minister stated.

Giving a breakdown of the crisis, Hon. John Jinapor noted that the government currently needs \$700 million worth of liquid fuel to balance the deficit because the gas produced by the Atuabo Plant is now inadequate to meet the fuel requirement.



“The Atuabo Gas Processing Plant, located in the Ellembele District in the Western Region, can generate only 100 million standard cubic feet of gas per day.

ENI contributes about 250 million, while N-Gas accounts for about 100 million. However, due to increasing demand, we still face a shortfall of 100 million standard cubic feet,” he explained.

In September this year, ENI, which generates about 250 million standard cubic feet of gas daily, will shut down. If nothing

is done in the medium to long term to address the shortfall, it can lead to a deficit of 1,300MW in power generation, and we are working around the clock to mitigate that impact.

He said the Cabinet has also approved the operationalisation of the Renewable Energy Investment Fund, which will see the deployment of solar rooftops, EV charging stations, chargeable outboard motors, solar street lights, and other measures to suppress peak demands.

Cabinet has also ordered the suspension of all non-critical expenditures by agencies under the Energy Ministry.

“In the downstream petroleum sector, a second mooring system is also to be constructed in Tema to augment demand for petrol and diesel, which has increased by over 186% since the construction of the current facility in 2006,” Mr Jinapor further disclosed.

President Mahama visits Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso.



President John Mahama has intensified moves to strengthen Ghana's relations with its West African neighbours.

Following on previous visits to Ivory Coast, Senegal, Benin, Togo and Nigeria, the president over the weekend visited Mali and Niger, and travelled to Burkina Faso on Monday.

The visits are part of the President's efforts to

engage with and strengthen Ghana's policy of good neighbourliness. Discussions in the three countries focused on improving regional security, trade, and economic integration and on the need to improve relations between the West African grouping ECOWAS and the newly formed Alliance of Sahel States.

In Bamako, Mr Mahama noted that the visit underscored the enduring

friendship between the two nations, built upon a foundation laid by their founding fathers, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah and President Keita.

Speaking to the press after a closed-door meeting with the Malian Transition President, Mr Mahama emphasised the historic ties between Ghana and Mali.

"Everybody knows the historic relations that have



existed between Ghana and Mali since the period of our ex-presidents, Keita and Dr. Kwame Nkrumah... and so I came on a friendly visit, and also to thank President Goita for allowing Prime Minister Maiga to visit Ghana when I was being inaugurated as president.”

Mr. Mahama underscored the importance of transit trade and the deep cultural ties that bind the two nations, reiterating Ghana’s dedication to promoting economic growth across the subregion. Discussions also focused on reviving the Permanent Joint

Commission for Cooperation which was stalled in 2011, to address existing trade and diplomatic bottlenecks.

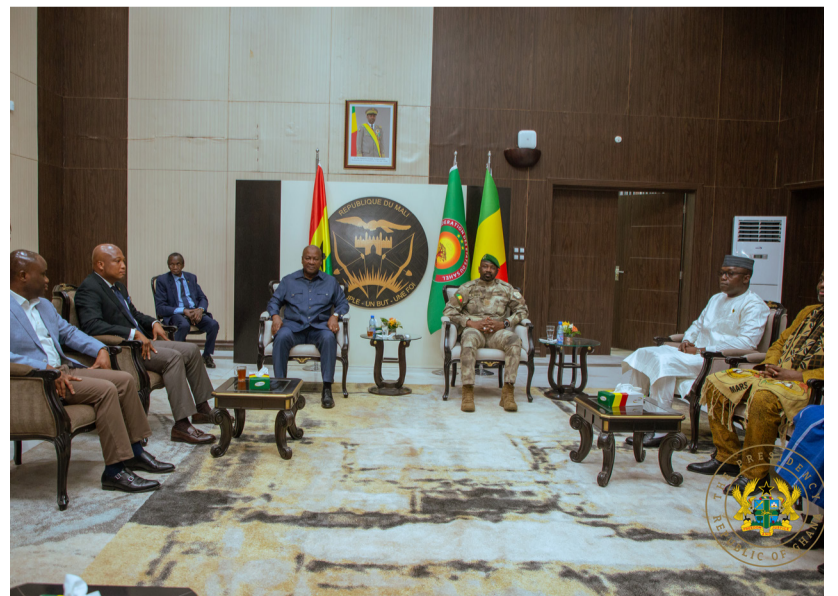
Recognising the growing threat of insurgency and terrorism in West Africa, President Mahama engaged in crucial discussions regarding enhanced security cooperation, particularly with the Alliance of Sahel States (AES).

He stressed the importance of strengthening ties to advance Africa’s sovereignty and find collaborative solutions to these pressing regional challenges.

Addressing the complex relationship between the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Sahel states (Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger), President Mahama expressed his belief that despite their departure from ECOWAS, the friendship and brotherly love between the people should continue.

He advocated for continued dialogue and reconciliation between the Sahel states and the regional bloc.





President Mahama meets Captain Traoré in Ouagadougou.



President John Dramani Mahama met with Captain Ibrahim Traoré, the Interim Leader of Burkina Faso, in Ouagadougou on Monday.

The meeting continues President Mahama's visit to West African states in pursuit of Ghana's long-standing foreign policy of good neighbourliness.

Speaking to the press after their closed-door meeting, President Mahama expressed his gratitude to

President Captain Traoré for attending his inauguration on January 7 in Accra.

The two leaders discussed matters of mutual interest, such as the Alliance of Sahel States, a confederation formed by Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso after departing from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

President Mahama had earlier visited his Malian counterpart, President

General Assimi Goita in Bamako on Saturday and General Abdourahamane Tchiani, President of the National Council for the Safeguard of the Homeland of Niger in Niamey on Sunday.

He noted that he had got new perspectives about the concerns that the three countries had in respect of their relations with ECOWAS and assured his Burkina Faso counterpart that at



the next ECOWAS meeting he would pass on what they had explained to him to the other West African leaders.

“I think there’s a breakdown of trust amongst the leadership. It will take time to rebuild it, but we must work on it to restore trust and confidence with each other; so that we can work together, even if we are not part of the same regional body,” President Mahama said.

Touching on security, President Mahama quoted an African proverb: “When

your neighbour’s house is on fire, you have to help him to quench it; otherwise, it will spread to your own house.”

He said terrorism started with Mali and had spread gradually into Niger and now into Burkina Faso. “Terrorism is like a cancer. If you don’t fight it together, it will spread throughout the body. So, how we can collaborate in terms of the fight against terrorism is another issue we discussed.”

He said they also discussed economic relations

regarding trade between their people, the free movement of their people between the two countries, and how to improve the transit trade through Ghana for Burkina Faso importers, who bring their goods through Ghana to Burkina Faso.

President Mahama said they discussed improving the transit corridor without any disturbance. They also discussed agricultural product trade between Ghana and Burkina Faso and the exportation of some products from Ghana to



Burkina Faso and vice versa.

Mr Mahama mentioned the interest of a Ghanaian-registered airline in commencing direct flights from Accra to Ouagadougou at least once a day.

Regarding energy, President Mahama

said they discussed how Ghana could increase power supply to Burkina Faso and the transit corridor for petroleum products.

He said Burkina Faso recently bought a storage terminal in Tema and was looking into how to use the pipeline.

“We have a pipeline to Bolgatanga, and we want to extend it to Ouagadougou so that we can push the fuel and diesel products through,” President Mahama said.

Story credit: GNA.





President's Independence Day Awards - 52 students honored

Established in 1993, the prestigious President's Independence Day Awards, celebrates young achievers for their academic excellence.

The 52 recipients, drawn from both public and private Junior High Schools across the 16 regions of Ghana included persons living with disabilities.

Each award winner received a laptop, Nestlé souvenirs, and one year's supply of Nestlé products, as

well as a plaque and a signed certificate by the President of the Republic of Ghana, for their outstanding performance in the 2024 Basic Education Certificate Examination.'

Speaking at the ceremony held at the Accra International Conference Center, Vice President Opoku-Agyemang, acknowledged the role of parents, guardians and teachers for their contribution to the success of the awardees.

She challenged the students to strive harder for higher heights to make their parents and Ghana proud.

The ceremony was witnessed by Ministers of State, members of the Diplomatic Corps, Heads of Departments and Agencies, as well as Traditional Leaders.

This year's President's Independence Day Award, is leveraged on the theme - "Reflect, Review and Reset."



Agenda for Women's Rights and Equity Needs Reset - Vice President advocates

Vice President, Naana Jane Opoku-Agyemang is advocating a sustained action plan to advance gender equality and women empowerment.

Speaking at the 2025 Women's Dialogue, in commemoration of International Women's Day in Accra, Professor Opoku-Agyemang said the day must be for reflection and decisive action rather than mere lip service to pledges.

She called for appreciation of strides made in the fight for gender equality while acknowledging that there is still more work ahead to break existing barriers.

Reaffirming the government's commitment to gender equality, The Vice President highlighted key initiatives aimed at enhancing women's leadership,





strengthening legal protections against gender-based violence, and addressing systemic challenges such as child marriage, female genital mutilation, and the high dropout rates among girls.

Citing menstrual health and its impact on girls' education, Vice President Opoku- Agyemang described as unacceptable the barrier to young girls' academic progress, as a result of affordability of sanitary pads.

“A directive has already been given to the Minister for Education to take immediate action.

We will continue working to ensure that no girl is left behind due to a lack of resources,” she assured.

The event, attended by government officials, gender advocates, international organizations, and civil society groups, provided a platform for discussions on the progress and challenges of achieving

gender equity in Ghana and beyond.

It also featured solidarity messages from the Minister for Gender, Children, and Social Protection, Naa Momo Lartey, international organizations and development partners, including UNICEF Ghana.

It was under the theme: “Resetting the Agenda for Women: Accelerating Action on Women’s Rights, Equity, and Empowerment.”

Hope for tidal wave victims.



President John Dramani Mahama directed the Minister for Finance to allocate funds in the 2025 budget for the project's commencement after inspecting damage caused by ravaging sea waves in the Agavedzi, Salakope, Amutinu, Adina, and surrounding communities.

“Completing the Blekusu Sea Defence Project is not just a promise; it is a necessity. We cannot allow our people to suffer year after year while solutions remain on paper,” the President, who spent Independence Day touring the affected communities, said.

Addressing the Chiefs and people of Agavedzi, the President blamed the severity of the problem on the previous government's failure to continue the Blekusu Phase 2 project,

“There are two things we need to do—start building phase two of the defence wall and, at the same time, resettle those whose houses have been affected. So, we will look for a more suitable site for the resettlement project.”

Over 300 people have been displaced by the waves, destroying several homes and other buildings, with an

80-kilometre stretch of coastline under threat of being swallowed by the sea.

President Mahama presented relief items including 750 bags of rice, cooking oil, detergents, mosquito nets, and other items to the affected communities.

The feasibility studies for the project are already complete, and contractors are expected to be back on site as soon as the government allocates the necessary funds.

Resetting Ghana: Vice President Calls for Collective Action on Economic Growth.



Vice President, Naana Jane Opoku-Agyemang, has reaffirmed government’s commitment to an all-hands-on-deck approach to build a resilient economy.

Addressing the closing session of the National Economic Dialogue, she stressed the urgent need for homegrown solutions less dependent on donor support.

The Vice President who underscored the importance of transparency,

accountability and inclusivity in driving economic progress, called for strong partnerships between the government, private sector, and development agencies to ensure policies translate into real benefits for Ghanaians.

A critical focus of her address was infrastructure development, particularly modernizing the country’s transport network to enhance trade, support industrialization, and improve the ease of doing business.

She reaffirmed the government’s commitment to making strategic investments that unlock new economic opportunities.

The two-day dialogue under the theme, “Resetting Ghana: Building the Economy We Want Together.”, brought together policymakers, industry leaders, civil society, the academia and ordinary Ghanaians who have since presented their recommendations to government for action.







Editor:
Eric Ahianyo

Design & Layout:
Francis Nsiah

Photography:
Francis Osei-Wusu
Eric Koomson
Bright Wirekoh

  @GhanaPresidency
office@presidency.gov.gh

