

## AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

### Ghana Monthly Briefing September 2025

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#### Ghana Summary 12 September 2025

*President John Mahama (2025-present) dismisses chief justice, Gertrude Araba Esaaba Sackey Torkornoo, from office following the recommendation of the committee investigating allegations of misconduct by Torkornoo. Ghana Statistical Services (GSS) reveals that Ghana's economy expanded by 6.3% of real GDP year-on-year in the second quarter (Q2) of 2025 and that inflation has continued to fall, indicating that Ghana's economic recovery is continuing. Ghana Gold Board (GoldBod) announces that it will develop a new refinery to process the gold it buys from small-scale producers. Ghana's security developments are once again dominated by communal violence, this time in the Savannah Region, where at least 31 people are killed in intercommunal clashes.*

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#### President removes chief justice

President **John Mahama** (2025-present) [announced](#) on 1 September that he had removed Ghana's chief justice, **Gertrude Araba Esaaba Sackey Torkornoo**, from office after a five-member constitutional committee that had been called to investigate allegations of misconduct by Torkornoo [recommended](#) her dismissal. Mahama suspended Torkornoo in April ahead of the investigation into her alleged misconduct (*see ARC Briefing Ghana May 2025*).

The committee that investigated Torkornoo found that she [misused](#) public funds linked to her private travel, including using these funds to pay her husband and daughter allowances while on a private trip in **Tanzania** and the **United States (US)**. Totokornoo was also alleged to have interfered in appointments by sidestepping procedures for appointing supreme court judges and abusing powers in the transfer of a judiciary employee.

Torkornoo has [denied](#) these allegations and denounced them as politically motivated, adding that the process to remove her was conducted in an unlawful manner and undermined the rule of law in Ghana. Torkornoo's supporters have further claimed that the manner in which the investigation was conducted violated the constitutional requirement for such matters to be conducted in public. This view was shared by several influential legal sector bodies, including the **Ghana Bar Association** and the **Commonwealth Lawyers Association**.

It should also be noted that the government conducted this process in a relatively secretive manner. Not only were the committee hearings done behind closed doors, but the state also refused to reveal the specifics of the allegations against Torkornoo when Mahama suspended her in April. Mahama has been accused of intentionally seeking a means to remove the chief justice so he can nominate his preferred replacement. Under Ghanaian law, chief justices have tenure of office and can only be removed from office under specific and exceptional circumstances, such as incompetence and misconduct.

Mahama's action does warrant scrutiny as Torkornoo was appointed in 2023 by Mahama's predecessor and political rival, former president **Nana Akufo-Addo** (2017-2025). It is possible that the president and the ruling party, the **National Democratic Congress (NDC)**, are seeking to remove Akufo-Addo's appointees and ensure that all major branches of government and state agencies are led by Mahama appointees. The NDC's strong majority in the legislature, the appointment of **Johnson Panit Asiamah** as central bank governor in February, and the appointment of Major General **William Agyapong** as Chief of the Defence Staff in March means that Mahama effectively controls **Parliament**,

the **Bank of Ghana (BoG)**, and has his preferred candidate commanding the armed forces. A Mahama appointee as chief justice would complete his control over the state.

The government has sought to portray Torkornoo's removal as justified and procedurally sound. However, the lack of a public hearing into the allegations against her and Torkornoo's claims that the matter has been politically motivated has ensured that the matter remains controversial and likely to fuel political tensions. It could also potentially undermine Ghana's reputation for judicial independence. Accordingly, whoever Mahama nominates as Ghana's new chief justice will be closely scrutinised to assess whether they are truly independent or selected as an NDC deployee.

### **Economy strengthens in second quarter**

Although the manner in which Mahama removed Torkornoo was questionable, the President remains highly popular in Ghana, in large part due to the country's strong economic performance since he assumed office in January. Indicative of this, **Ghana Statistical Services (GSS)** [revealed](#) on 10 September that Ghana's economy expanded by 6.3% of real GDP year-on-year in the second quarter (Q2) of 2025. This was primarily driven by the country's services sector, which grew by 9.9%; this sector includes the finance, insurance, trade, and education industries. Government statistician, **Alhassan Iddrisu**, confirmed that the services sector contributed four percentage points to the 6.3% growth. In fact, Ghana's non-oil GDP grew by 7.8% indicating that the country's economy actually faced downward pressure from the weaker performance in its oil and gas sectors. This is potentially promising as it could suggest that Ghana's economy is diversifying, which is one of the country's key economic objectives.

Inflation has also [continued to decline](#) in recent months. Annual consumer price inflation fell from 21.2% in March (the start of Q2) to 13.7% at the end of June (end of Q2). This trend has continued as the GSS revealed on 3 September that annual inflation fell to 11.5% in August from 12.1% in July. Inflation in Ghana has now fallen 1,200 basis points in 2025, declining from 23.5% in January to 11.5% in August. This is the result of the government's sustained aggressive monetary policy (Ghana's main interest rate is currently 25%), prudent fiscal policy, improved currency exchange rates, and the easing of global inflationary drivers. The lower inflation rate has translated into a reduction in price pressure on consumers and enabled greater stability in the economy as a whole. This steep and sustained decline in inflation has increased optimism that the BoG will implement further interest rate cuts this year. The last rate was in July when the BoG cut the rate by a sharp 300 basis points from 28% to the current 25%.

Ghana's strong economic growth and easing inflation levels have bolstered confidence in the country's economy. This will likely lead to increased consumer spending and investment, especially if further interest rate cuts are implemented. Improved economic conditions will also shore up popular support for Mahama and his government, which should provide the president with the necessary political capital to enact his wider governing agenda.

### **Gold board to launch state-owned refiner**

Among the steps taken by the government to drive diverse and inclusive economic growth is to strengthen Ghana's small-scale gold mining sector. This is also viewed as one of the best strategies to combat illegal gold mining in the country. In an important development towards strengthening this sector, the **Ghana Gold Board (GoldBod)** [announced](#) on 9 September that it would develop a new refinery to process the gold it buys from small-scale producers. GoldBod has already secured land in **Accra** near the **Kotoka International Airport** on which to build this refinery and an international standard assay laboratory.

In the meantime, GoldBod is working with existing private sector refineries to process the gold mined by the small-scale miners that sell gold to the agency. GoldBod was only established in April 2025 to drive improved industry regulation for small-scale miners and provide a guaranteed buyer. [According to GoldBod](#), Ghana's small-scale gold producers recorded around \$6 billion in exports between January and August this year, largely due to the new sector reforms and GoldBod's facilitation of these

operators' activities. GoldBod's figures indicate that there is a substantial opportunity in Ghana's small-scale mining sector and that the planned new refinery will be commercially viable and provide an important new source of state revenue.

### Dozens killed, thousands displaced in communal violence in the Savannah Region

At least 31 people [were killed](#) and around 50,000 displaced by intercommunal violence in **Savannah Region** during August. These clashes [originated](#) on 24 August in the village of **Gbiniyir**, located near Ghana's border with **Côte d'Ivoire**, between the **Gonja** and **Birifor** ethnic groups. The conflict is centred on a long-standing land dispute between the two groups.

The matter was instigated when one of the local traditional leaders sold a parcel of land in the disputed territory to a private developer without first securing the wider community consent, including from both ethnic groups. When the developer attempted to access the land, local residents responded violently. This escalated into a larger protest during which the chief's residence was set on fire, which in turn sparked a reciprocal attack leading to the wider intercommunal conflict.

The **National Disaster Management Organisation (Nadmo)** reported that over 10,000 of the 50,000 people displaced by the violence sought refuge in Côte d'Ivoire, meaning the matter could become a regional concern. The **Ghanaian Red Cross** has further warned that the scale of the displacement threatens to overwhelm humanitarian organisations' resources in the area and could lead to a larger humanitarian and health crisis.

In response, Ghanaian authorities, on 4 September, [imposed a nighttime curfew](#) in the area from 22:00 to 04:00 (local time). Under the conditions of the curfew, no unauthorised individuals may be outside of their residences, and any person found with weapons or ammunition will be arrested. In an effort to enforce the curfew and the wider peace, over 700 security force personnel, comprising both soldiers and police officers, were deployed to the area. Simultaneously, Ghana's **National Peace Council** has set up an investigative committee to investigate the causes of the conflict and mediate a resolution.

The National Peace Council was established specifically to address the recurrent ethnic tensions and conflicts in Ghana. Such clashes occur frequently across the country and are typically centred on disputes over land and water rights as well as control over traditional chieftaincies. These clashes are often violent and marked by numerous fatalities and widespread displacements. The intensity of these conflicts has been exacerbated by the proliferation of firearms in Ghana in recent years.

The assertive security response will likely enforce calm in the area. However, the underlying tensions remain, and future conflicts between the two ethnic groups remain probable once the elevated security measures are repealed.

### Planner

15-18 Sep 2025 **Accra (Ghana)** Africa Oil Week;  
8-10 Oct 2025 **Accra (Ghana)** Africa Fintech Summit

### Chronology

10 Sep 2025 **Accra (Ghana)** *Ghanaian Times*. The **United Nations (UN) Development Programme (UNDP)** warns that Ghana loses around \$520m annually due to environmental destruction and degradation;

10 Sep 2025 **Accra (Ghana)** *GNA*. President **John Mahama** announces that his cabinet approved the submission of the **24-Hour Authority Bill** aimed at actualising the government's 24-hour economy plan to **Parliament**;

10 Sep 2025 **Accra (Ghana)** *GNA*. President **John Mahama** claims that Ghana still maintains strong diplomatic relations with the **United States (US)** despite the latter's new global tariff regime;

10 Sep 2025 **Accra (Ghana)** *GBC*. State-owned **Ghana National Gas Company** proposes increasing its tariff by 91%, which the company claims is essential to sustain its operations;

10 Sep 2025 **Accra (Ghana)** *Engineering News*. **Canada**-headquartered **Galiano Gold** suspends operations at its **Esaase** gold mine in the **Ashanti Region** after an outbreak of civil unrest on 9 September in which one person was killed;

10 Sept 2025 **Accra (Ghana)** *Reuters*. President **John Mahama** reveals that Ghana reached an agreement with the **United States (US)** to accept **West African** nationals deported from the US;

9 Sep 2025 **Accra (Ghana)** *Modern Ghana*. An Accra court orders opposition **New Patriotic Party (NPP)** member of parliament (MP) **Kwame Baffoe** to be remanded into custody pending his formal plea on charges of breach of peace and publication of false news;

7 Sep 2025 **Accra (Ghana)** *3news*. Health officials reveal that the ongoing Mpox outbreak in Ghana has reached 494 confirmed cases;

7 Sep 2025 **Accra (Ghana)** *GNA*. President **John Mahama** pledges to fully implement the findings of an investigative report into political violence during Ghana's 2020 and 2024 elections;

4 Sep 2025 **Accra (Ghana)** *GNA*. President **John Mahama** commissions 18 new diplomatic envoys to represent Ghana abroad;

29 Aug 2025 **Accra (Ghana)** *RFI*. Hundreds of workers demonstrate in Accra as part of the **International Trade Union Confederation-Africa (ITUC-Africa)**-backed protest to demand African debt cancellation;

27 Aug 2025 **Singapore (Singapore)** *GNA*. President **John Mahama** meets with **Singaporean** President **Tharman Shanmugaratnam** to discuss bilateral relations between the two countries;

27 Aug 2025 **Singapore (Singapore)** *GNA*. President **John Mahama** reiterates his commitment to adhere to Ghana's two-term presidential term limit;

22 Aug 2025 **Tokyo (Japan)** *GNA*. President **John Mahama** attends the **Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD)** summit;

22 Aug 2025 **Tokyo (Japan)** *GNA*. President **John Mahama** meets with **United Nations (UN)** secretary-general **Antonio Guterres** on the sidelines of the **Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD)** summit;

22 Aug 2025 **Accra (Ghana)** *Modern Ghana*. **Japanese** agritech firm **Degas Limited** announces plans to invest \$100m to develop an artificial intelligence (AI)-powered agricultural hub in Ghana;

14 Aug 2025 **Accra (Ghana)** *GNA*. Foreign minister **Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa** confirms that Ghana has requested technical assistance from the **United States (US)** to investigate the 6 August helicopter crash in the **Ashanti Region**, in which two cabinet ministers died.

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