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Ghana Summary 10 December 2025

Office of the Special Prosecutor (OSP) charges former finance minister Ken Ofori-Atta with corruption, accusing him of unlawfully securing lucrative government contracts for an information services firm while he was the finance minister. However, he has not been arrested as he is currently abroad. President John Mahama (2025-present) commits to signing the Promotion of Proper Human Sexual Rights and Ghanaian Family Values Bill, 2021, amid growing pressure on his administration to pass the controversial bill. The Bank of Ghana (BoG) (central bank) cuts the main monetary policy rate by 350 basis points to 18% amid lower inflation rates. The latest mediation effort to end the intercommunal conflict between the Mamprusi and Kusasi ethnic groups in Bawku (Upper East Region) ends but the full outcomes are yet to be released.

Former finance minister charged with corruption

The **Office of the Special Prosecutor (OSP)** [announced](#) on 18 November that it had charged former finance minister **Ken Ofori-Atta** with corruption, alleging he unlawfully secured lucrative government contracts for an **Accra**-based information services firm called **Strategic Mobilisation Ghana Limited (SML)**. As per the OSP's [statement](#), this scheme began in 2017 and involved a series of contracts for transaction audits, external price verification, petroleum sector measurement audits, upstream petroleum audits, and minerals audit services. According to prosecutors, these contracts were awarded despite there being no actual need for the services. They were also granted without **Parliament** and the **Public Procurement Authority's** required approval. Officials claim that these alleged corrupt contracts resulted in a financial loss to the government of approximately GHS 1.44 billion (\$125.8m) and that the accused involved intended to funnel a further \$2.8 billion to SML by 2030.

Ofori-Atta has been charged along with six other co-accused, most of whom are current or former senior officials in the finance ministry and the **Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA)**, as well as SML CEO and owner **Evans Adusei**. As yet, Ofori-Atta has not been arrested and arraigned on these charges, as he is [currently abroad](#); his lawyers indicate that he is presently in the **United States (US)**. Ofori-Atta has not been in Ghana since at least June this year, when the OSP first issued a warrant for his arrest. In that instance, prosecutors issued the warrant after Ofori-Atta failed to obey a summons to appear at the OSP head office to answer questions related to alleged corruption related to a controversial national cathedral project that was authorised while he was finance minister (*see ARC Briefing Ghana June 2025*).

Ofori-Atta's family and supporters have accused the OSP of targeting the former minister for political reasons. As finance minister under former president **Nana Akufo-Addo** (2017-2025), Ofori-Atta was the face of Ghana's recent economic crisis and the previous government's economic mismanagement. Accordingly, he is both deeply unpopular with the electorate and was a particular target of the now ruling, **National Democratic Congress (NDC)**, when it was in opposition.

The effort to prosecute Ofori-Atta is expected to be the NDC's hallmark case to illustrate that it is tackling past public sector corruption. The former finance minister makes for an ideal target given his widespread unpopularity, which will limit the extent to which his own party, the **New Patriotic Party (NPP)**, is willing to rally to support him.

However, it is unlikely that Ofori-Atta will actually be prosecuted as he is unlikely to return to Ghana while the warrants for his arrest are active. In June, the OSP secured an **Interpol** red notice for his arrest, but this has since been removed after Ofori-Atta submitted a petition to Interpol's **Commission for the Control of Files**. The OSP is expected to request a new red notice from Interpol based on these latest charges, as an actual corruption charge will carry more weight than the previous charge of failing to obey a summons. Yet, Ofori-Atta is expected to oppose any efforts to extradite him to Ghana, likely claiming that he faces political persecution.

Government under pressure to pass anti-LGBT bill

President **John Mahama** (2025-present) [stated](#) on 18 November that he would sign the **Promotion of Proper Human Sexual Rights and Ghanaian Family Values Bill, 2021**, into law if Parliament passes the controversial bill, indicating the pressure on his administration to pass and enact the anti-LGBTQI+ bill. This proposed law has been a central issue in Ghanaian politics for the past four years. Both major political parties back the bill and it is generally supported by Ghana's conservative and religious population. However, both the Akufo-Addo and Mahama administrations have wanted to delay or avoid addressing this matter as the draconian bill could have adverse impacts on Ghana's external funding and the country's investor-friendly reputation.

The bill seeks to further criminalise same-sex relations in the country as well as mandate a fine or even jail time for individuals who participate in public displays of same-sex affection or cross-dressing. Furthermore, the bill calls for prison sentences of up to ten years for same-sex couples and even those who advocate for marriage equality. Even more drastically, the bill will empower the government to force intersex people into surgery and LGBTQI individuals into so-called 'corrective therapy'.

Ghana's government is concerned that enacting this bill could endanger Ghana's relationships with key external funding partners, including the US, the **European Union (EU)**, the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**, and the **World Bank**. Notably, the World Bank suspended funding to Uganda after that country passed a similar law in August 2023. Akufo-Addo successfully obscured and delayed signing the bill even after Parliament passed it, claiming that he needed the supreme court to assess the constitutionality of the bill first. The NDC used this as one of its major lines of attack on the NPP ahead of the 2024 general election. Now the positions are reversed, and it is the NPP that is [accusing](#) Mahama of impeding the bill and demanding that the matter be prioritised.

Mahama faces a fundamentally different political environment than Akufo-Addo and he has stronger control over his party and parliamentary caucus. Ghana is also no longer as dependent on IMF and World Bank funding, and the current US administration is much more conservative and is unlikely to place any diplomatic pressure on Ghana over the proposed law. However, if enacting the bill results in the suspension of development assistance and access to World Bank funding, it still could threaten Ghana's economic recovery. As such, Mahama will likely seek to copy his predecessor and attempt to delay enacting the bill for as long as possible.

Central bank continues cutting cycle

The **Bank of Ghana (BoG)** (central bank) [cut](#) the country's main monetary policy rate by 350 basis points on 26 November from 21.5% to 18%, the latest major rate cut the bank has implemented in the past year. The BoG has reduced its main policy rate by 1,050 basis points since June, when the interest rate was 28%.

The BoG has implemented these substantial rate cuts in response to falling inflation rates in the economy. This was underscored by **Ghana Statistical Services (GSS)** on 3 December when it [released](#) its latest inflation report, revealing that annual consumer price inflation had declined for an 11th consecutive month in November, falling to 6.3% in November from 8% in October. This represents a substantial improvement in the inflationary environment in Ghana compared with the 12-month high of 23.8% in December 2024 and a five-year high of 54.1% in December 2022. This is the result of the government's sustained aggressive monetary policy, prudent fiscal policy, improved

currency exchange rates related to higher gold prices, 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 in the coming year.

The lower interest and inflation rates should help bolster consumer spending and investment in Ghana in the coming months which should help drive increased economic activity. 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.

Bawku conflict mediation concludes

The Asantehene, traditional leader of the **Ashanti, Otumfuo Osei Tutu II**, [concluded](#) his mediation efforts between the **Mamprusi** and **Kusasi** ethnic groups in **Bawku (Upper East Region)** on 1 December, bringing to an end one of the most significant interventions to negotiate an end to the protracted intercommunal conflict between the ethnic groups over the local chieftaincy in Bawku. This dispute has escalated in recent years and destabilised the security environment throughout much of Upper East.

Otumfuo Osei Tutu II released a [statement](#) noting that the two sides have agreed that they are “*one people*” with “*no reason to be at war*”. As yet, the Asantehene has not released the details of the outcome of this mediation but is set to hand over the report to Mahama on 11 December. In a worrying development, members of both the Kusasi and Mamprusi have [claimed](#) that the mediation led to an outcome that favoured their position, raising concerns that an informed consensus was not achieved and that one or both sides will ultimately be aggrieved by the final report.

Furthermore, it is unclear how much control the Mamprusi and Kusasi community leaders currently have over the more militant elements in Bawku. The conflict has gone on for several years and has resulted in dozens of deaths. As such, the mediation is unlikely to have resolved the enmity between the two groups and the desire to carry out reciprocal attacks.

Indicative of the continued poor security environment in Bawku, the interior ministry [renewed](#) the 20:00 to 05:00 local time curfew in the municipality on 1 December. This latest mediation will likely lead to a brief respite in the communal violence in Bawku, but is unlikely to result in a long-term solution to the conflict.

A look at 2026

Ghana’s economic recovery is expected to accelerate in 2026, buoyed by government reforms, strong mineral sector revenue, and increased investment. The BoG will also continue its rate-cutting cycle as at 18%, Ghana’s interest rate remains objectively very high, especially given that inflation has fallen below 7%. Further aggressive rate cuts should provide a further boost to economic activity and encourage consumer spending and investment.

Politically, Ghana will be stable throughout 2026 due to the NDC’s strong parliamentary majority and Ghana’s improved economic outlook. The most notable political development will be the NPP leadership election in the first quarter of the year.

However, Ghana will face a more uncertain security environment as intercommunal violence will remain a persistent and worsening problem. This violence is partly a function of the country’s traditional leadership system and is unlikely to end without major reforms to this system, which the government does not have the appetite to pursue. Bawku will continue to experience the highest levels of such violence, as the recent mediation is unlikely to lead to a sustained peace. Illegal mining (locally referred to as Galamsey) is also expected to worsen due to rising gold prices and the growing presence of organised crime syndicates in the illegal mining sector. This activity poses a serious threat to the local security environment near these mines as well as Ghana’s environmental and water security due to the related pollution. Ghana will also be concerned by the continued instability from

the increased rate of coups in **West Africa**, but the country itself is not considered at risk of such a putsch. However, Ghana is exposed to wider regional concerns as terrorism and cross-border crime.

Planner

31 Jan 2026 (Ghana) Opposition **New Patriotic Party (NPP)** Party leadership primaries

Chronology

9 Dec 2025 **Accra (Ghana)** *Ghanaian Times*. **Parliament** officially declares the **Kpandai** constituency seat in **Northern Region** vacant after the high court ordered that the election for that seat be rerun;

9 Dec 2025 **Accra (Ghana)** *Ghanaian Times*. The **Ghana Health Services (GHS)** raises concerns about air pollution in Ghana's cities;

9 Dec 2025 **Accra (Ghana)** *Ghanaian Times*. **European Union (EU)** Special Representative to the **Sahel, Jao Cravinho**, pledges the EU's increased cooperation with Ghana to enhance security in the **Gulf of Guinea**;

9 Dec 2025 **Accra (Ghana)** *Ghanaian Times*. The Ghanaian government condemns the military coup that took place in **Guinea-Bissau** on 26 November;

9 Dec 2025 **Accra (Ghana)** *Modern Ghana*. Interior ministry launches an investigation into an alleged assassination attempt on a special prosecutor by Ghanaian police officers;

9 Dec 2025 **Accra (Ghana)** *Graphic*. Police rescue a kidnapping victim in **Tamale (Northern Region)**;

9 Dec 2025 **Doha (Qatar)** *3news*. Foreign minister **Sam Okudzeto Ablakwa** meets with Qatari labour minister **Ali bin Saeed bin Samikh Al Marri**, during which he calls for increased Ghanaian migrant labour to Qatar;

9 Dec 2025 **Accra (Ghana)** *3news*. The **National Anti-Illegal Mining Operations (NAIMOS)** task force arrests two **Chinese** nationals for illicit mining in the **Western North Region**;

8 Dec 2025 **Accra (Ghana)** *GNA*. Trade unions and opposition parties condemn the **Public Utilities Regulatory Commission's (PURC)** plans to increase utility tariffs;

8 Dec 2025 **Accra (Ghana)** *3news*. Interior minister **Mohammed Mubarak Muntaka** lifts the curfew on **Bole township (Savannah Region)** on the recommendation of the **Savannah Regional Security Council**, which believes the threat of communal violence has declined;

8 Dec 2025 **Accra (Ghana)** *GNA*. Ghana confirms that it will contribute troops to the **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)** regional force to support the government of **Benin** following an attempted coup in that country;

8 Dec 2025 **Accra (Ghana)** *GNA*. **National Anti-Illegal Mining Operations (NAIMOS)** announces plans to deploy an additional 50 officers to the **Western Region** to combat illegal mining;

8 Dec 2025 **Accra (Ghana)** *Modern Ghana*. The **Ghana Tourism Authority (GTA)** announces that it is investigating the recent alleged kidnapping and extortion of **United States (US)** nationals by police officers;

5 Dec 2025 **Accra (Ghana)** *Pulse*. **Parliament** approves the purchase of new aircraft, including a helicopter and a jet plane for the **Ghana Air Force**, worth a combined \$205m;

4 Dec 2025 **Accra (Ghana)** *GNA*. The **Minerals Income Investment Fund (MIIF)** reveals that Ghana's mineral sector recorded significant increases in revenue despite production volume declines due to higher gold and critical mineral prices;

2 Dec 2025 **Accra (Ghana)** *My Joy Online*. The **Public Utilities Regulatory Commission (PURC)** announces that water and electricity tariffs will increase by 15.92% and 9.86% respectively from 1 January;

2 Dec 2025 **Accra (Ghana)** *3news*. The opposition **New Patriotic Party (NPP)** criticises the government's proposed plan to increase the airport passenger service charge as illegal, as it has not been approved under the **Fees and Charges Act**;

27 Nov 2025 **Accra (Ghana)** *GNA*. **Mahama Ayariga**, the leader of government business in **Parliament**, reveals that the government has awarded contracts worth a combined \$60 billion thus far under its ongoing infrastructure drive;

27 Nov 2025 **Accra (Ghana)** *GNA*. **Parliament** approves the **Value Added Tax (VAT) Bill 2025**, which will exempt small businesses from some VAT obligations;

25 Nov 2025 **Accra (Ghana)** *Modern Ghana*. The **United States**-headquartered analytics firm **Fitch Solutions** projects that Ghana's economy will grow by 5.9% of real GDP in 2026;

25 Nov 2025 **Accra (Ghana)** *GNA*. President **John Mahama** announces that he will appoint his new defence and environment, science and technology ministers in the new year;

24 Nov 2025 **Accra (Ghana)** *Pulse*. Foreign minister **Sam Okudzeto Ablakwa** announces that the **United States (US)** has repealed the tariffs imposed on Ghanaian cocoa earlier this year;

20 Nov 2025 **Accra (Ghana)** *Defence Web*. The **United Kingdom (UK)** donates a patrol boat to the **Ghana Navy** to bolster Ghana's maritime security capabilities;

20 Nov 2025 **Accra (Ghana)** *Channel Africa*. The government proposes abolishing Value Added Tax on mining exploration to boost investor interest in the sector;

19 Nov 2025 **Accra (Ghana)** *GNA*. President **John Mahama** announces that he would deploy members of Ghana's **48th Engineers Army Regiment** to assist **Jamaica** in its recovery efforts following the passage of a severe tropical storm;

18 Nov 2025 **Accra (Ghana)** *Pulse*. Interior minister **Mohammed Mubarak Muntaka** announces a six-week amnesty period to hand in any unregistered or illegal firearms.

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