

AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

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Parliament passes the controversial anti-LGBTQ Human Sexual Rights and Family Values Bill which seeks to further criminalise same-sex relations; it remains draconian in nature despite some amendments that exempt health workers and legal professionals from being compelled to report LGBTQ individuals. President John Mahama (2025-present) hosts a conference on slavery reparations which numerous leaders from African and Caribbean states attend. Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire reach a cocoa sector cooperation agreement which includes improving coordination on farmgate prices and the timing of the cocoa season. Anti-South Africa protesters stage a demonstration opposing the renewal of a mining licence held by the South African mining giant Goldfields. South African firms are facing growing antipathy in Ghana in response to the rise in xenophobic violence in South Africa.

Parliament passes anti-LGBTQ bill.

Parliament [passed](#) the controversial anti-LGBTQ **Human Sexual Rights and Family Values Bill** on 20 May, marking the second time Parliament has passed the bill, having unanimously done so in February 2024; in fact, the law has been an active political and legislative issue in Ghana since 2021. Former president **Nana Akufo-Addo** (2017-2025) actively avoided consenting to the bill despite its widespread domestic support. This was due to Akufo-Addo's concern that Ghana could face negative repercussions if the bill became law including the suspension of aid and development assistance and even **World Bank** funding. The World Bank suspended funding to **Uganda** in August 2023 after that country implemented a similar anti-LGBTQI law. Akufo-Addo successfully put off signing the bill until the end of his presidential term in January 2025 by arguing that he needed to wait for all legal and constitutional challenges to first be resolved. Under Ghanaian law, if the president fails to promulgate a bill before the end of a parliamentary term, the law needs to be repassed by the next parliament, hence why the legislation needed to be passed twice.

The bill is a particularly draconian law that seeks to further criminalise same-sex relations as well as mandate a fine or even jail for individuals who participate in public displays of same-sex affection or even cross-dressing. Furthermore, the bill calls for prison sentences of up to ten years for LGBTQI 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'. The severity of the bill has raised questions that it may be in contravention of Ghana's constitution. To mitigate a future constitutional challenge, Parliament amended the original draft legislation to create exemptions for legal practitioners, media professionals, and health workers who previously would have been compelled to report any LGBTQ individuals that come across to the authorities.

However, these exemptions are unlikely to bring the law in line with Ghana's democratic constitution, which enshrines human rights. In addition, the way the bill was passed was procedurally flawed. Specifically, Parliament failed to ensure that the due process around incorporating amendments was properly distributed to members prior to the vote on the bill. [According](#) to speaker of parliament **Alban Bagbin**, this exposes the law to a constitutional challenge on procedural grounds; Bagbin has urged Parliament to reconsider and repass the bill.

This flawed Parliamentary procedure and the likely constitutional challenge will provide President **John Mahama** (2025-present) with an opportunity to similarly delay signing the bill into law.

Mahama will face intense political pressure to pass the bill both due to its widespread domestic support and because he [pledged](#) to sign the bill into law during his presidential election campaign. It is unlikely that he will be able to avoid addressing the matter for the rest of his Presidential term, and Mahama is expected to eventually sign the bill. This will undermine Mahama's efforts to position himself as a modern Western-leaning leader as well as weaken Ghana's efforts to make itself an investor-friendly business hub. Many multinationals will be reluctant to locate regional operations in a country where LGBTQ employees are unsafe.

Reparations conference held in Accra

The damage that the anti-LGBTQ bill will inflict on Ghana's international reputation will undermine Mahama's efforts to position himself as a leading statesman in Africa and weaken his advocacy for slave reparations for **African** and **Caribbean** states. In the latest development in this campaign, Ghana [hosted](#) a high-level conference on reparations in **Accra** from 17 to 19 June, which was attended by several African and Caribbean leaders. Mahama called this conference after the **United Nations (UN) General Assembly** [passed](#) a non-binding resolution Ghana put forward to declare slavery the gravest crime against humanity.

This conference, titled **Next Steps**, culminated in a joint [declaration](#) that called on states that were involved in the trans-**Atlantic** slave trade to "*offer full, formal and unconditional apologies as a foundational step towards reconciliation, trust-building and reparatory justice.*" The declaration further called for increased efforts to address debt burdens, provide debt relief, and improve efforts to address the lasting impact of slavery and colonialism.

Ghana is successfully ensuring that the issues of reparations and restitution are included in current global geopolitical discourse. The success of the conference will mean that Ghana should be able to keep this issue alive at the UN and other international bodies. However, there is little chance of actual reparations being paid. Instead, countries that were historically involved in the former slave trade may agree to increase development assistance and debt relief measures in lieu of actual payments. However, former colonial powers will face increased pressure to return cultural artefacts and human remains that were looted during the colonial era. Ghana has successfully positioned itself as the leading force on this issue, which will imbue the country with elevated diplomatic standing, especially among **West African** and Caribbean states.

Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire reach cocoa sector agreement.

Ghana and **Côte d'Ivoire's** governments [reached a new agreement](#) on cocoa sector cooperation during the **Côte d'Ivoire-Ghana High-Level Summit on the Future of the Cocoa** held in **Abidjan** on 16 June and attended by senior officials from both governments, including Mahama and Ivorian President **Alassane Ouattara** (2010-present).

Mahama confirmed that after the summit, Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire [agreed](#) to commence the annual cocoa season on 1 September and conclude it on 31 August 2027. The two countries further agreed to harmonise the guaranteed minimum prices paid to farmers for harvested cocoa. It is hoped that doing so will prevent cross-border smuggling of cocoa between the two countries. It is unclear whether this agreement is aligned with Mahama's [previous pledge](#) to pass legislation that would guarantee cocoa farmers at least 70% of the world market price.

Cocoa sector cooperation between Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire is significant as the two countries collectively account for as much as 60% of global cocoa output. Côte d'Ivoire is the larger of the two, producing between 35% and 45% of the world's cocoa; Ghana is the world's [second largest](#) producer, accounting for as much as 25%. Increased coordination between the two countries will give them global price-setting power that should enable them to bolster export earnings. Cocoa is one of Ghana's leading exports by both volume and value, earning \$3.86 billion in 2025, but the industry faces numerous threats ranging from crop disease to environmental destruction caused by illegal mining. As such, greater alignment with Côte d'Ivoire on cocoa sector policies, prices and operations could have a net positive economic benefit for Ghana and strengthen its influence over the global market.

Increased cocoa-sector earnings and farmgate prices are particularly significant as cocoa is a major source of income for rural Ghanaian communities. As such, the economic benefits from this product will help drive rural economic security and development, in contrast to other major industries.

Protesters target South African mining giant

Demonstrators from the **Ghana First Alliance** civil society movement [staged a protest](#) in Accra On 11 June to oppose the proposed renewal of mining leases held by the major **South African** mining company **Gold Fields**. The group reported that the demonstration, dubbed **Operation No Contract Renewal: South Africa Must Go**, was organised in response to rising xenophobic violence in South Africa.

Ghana has emerged as a leading critic of the rising xenophobia in South Africa that is primarily targeted at immigrants from other African states, leading the government in May to repatriate hundreds of Ghanaian nationals from South Africa (*see ARC Briefing Ghana May 2026*). Mahama's government has also called on the **African Union (AU)** to hold a debate about xenophobic violence in South Africa. It is likely that the government's public stance on this matter has resonated with nationalist Ghanaian organisations such as the Ghana First Alliance, deepening anti-South African sentiment in the country.

While the number of South African immigrants in Ghana is negligible, South Africa does have a large corporate and investor presence in the country. Gold Fields is particularly prominent as it operates some of the largest mines in Ghana, including the **Tarkwa** mine, which is the centre of the current license renewal negotiations. However, if xenophobic violence worsens in South Africa, other South African firms across sectors including mining, retail, telecommunications, and banking may be similarly subjected to targeted anti-South Africa protests.

The current political and diplomatic sentiment could present a political opportunity for Mahama's government. Ghana has actively been seeking to [increase](#) the state's share of gold revenue and increase local participation in the mining sector (*see ARC Briefing Ghana Apr 2026*). The public antipathy towards South African firms could provide some political cover for Mahama to oppose the renewal of Gold Fields' licence and transfer control of the Tarkwa mine to local operators. However, such an action would be risky as it could set a precedent that would undermine investor security in the minerals sector.

Planner

18-20 Sep 2026 **(Ghana) New Patriotic Party (NPP)** national executive elections;
Dec 2028 **(Ghana)** General election (expected);

Chronology

17 Jun 2026 **Accra (Ghana) Ghana Business News**. The **Ghana Gold Board (GoldBod)**, the **Ghana Armed Forces (GAF)** and the **Forestry Commission** sign a cooperation agreement to reclaim and restore territory inside the **Tano-Nimri Forest Reserve** in south west Ghana, damaged by illegal mining;

16 Jun 2026 **Accra (Ghana) Modern Ghana**. Security forces are deployed to **Bawku Senior High School** in the **Upper East Region** after students assaulted two teachers during a protest a day prior;

16 Jun 2026 **Accra (Ghana) Pulse**. The **Office of the Special Prosecutor (OSP)** claims it still believes it can still extradite former finance minister **Ken Ofori-Atta** from the **United States (US)** despite US immigration officials recently granting him permanent residency;

16 Jun 2026 **Washington D.C. (United States) World Bank Group**. The **World Bank** approves a funding arrangement for **Ghana** to support strengthening secondary education in the country;

10 Jun 2026 **Accra (Ghana)** *Ghanaian Times*. Officials confirm plans to offer tax incentives for companies to establish manufacturing facilities outside of Accra;

8 Jun 2026 **Accra (Ghana)** *3news*. President **John Mahama** issues a directive banning cabinet ministers and executives of state agencies from accepting awards without express approval from the presidency;

6 Jun 2026 **Accra (Ghana)** *Ghanaian Times*. The Accra-based **Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA)** raises concerns about threats to the freedom of speech in Ghana after recording several arrests linked to false news and offensive speech since January 2025;

5 Jun 2026 **Minsk (Belarus)** *Ghanaian Times*. President **John Mahama** commences a state visit to Belarus to meet with Belarusian President **Aleksandr Lukashenko**;

2 Jun 2026 **London (United Kingdom)** *Ghanaian Times*. President **John Mahama** meets with the **United Kingdom's (UK)** prime minister **Keir Starmer** at Starmer's official residence in London to discuss British-Ghanaian relations;

1 Jun 2026 **Seoul (South Korea)** *Pulse*. Foreign minister **Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa** signs a visa waiver agreement with his **South Korean** counterpart, **Cho Tae-yul**, allowing visa-free travel between the two countries for holders of diplomatic and service passports;

1 Jun 2026 **London (United Kingdom)** *Ghanaian Times*. President **John Mahama** oversees the signing of the GBP 284.76m (\$377.52m) **United Kingdom (UK)-Ghana Growth Partnership Agreement**;

29 May 2026 **Accra (Ghana)** *Ghanaian Times*. The government launches a \$182m initiative to enhance financial sustainability in the energy sector and promote renewable energy adoption.

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