

AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

Ghana Monthly Briefing September 2026

Ghana Summary 21 September 2026

President John Mahama (2025-present) swears in three new justices to the supreme court, bringing the number of active judges to 17. The opposition New Patriotic Party (NPP) accuses Mahama of unnecessarily rushing the appointment of these judges. The NPP approves 47 candidates to contest for positions on its national executive ahead of the party's upcoming internal elections. The two most important races are for party chairperson and party general secretary. Government statistician Alhassan Iddrisu reveals that the country's GDP grew by 6% in the second quarter (Q2) of 2026 compared with the same period last year. Potential corruption in Ghana's customs authorities is revealed after French officials seize a large drug shipment that had passed through Ghanaian ports.

President swears in new supreme court judges

President **John Mahama** (2025-present) [swore](#) in three new justices onto Ghana's supreme court during a ceremony on 10 September, including former court of appeal judge, **Sophia Rosetta Oduokunwa Bernasco-Essa**; Justice **Edward Amoako Asante**, a former president of the **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)** court of justice; and former **Ghana Bar Association (GBA)** president, Justice **Anthony Forson Jr.**

The appointment of the three justices brings the number of active judges at the supreme court to 17, nearly double the court's constitutional minimum of nine justices. The fact that there were no vacancies on the court that were constitutionally required to be filled drew criticism of the appointments. The opposition **New Patriotic Party (NPP)** [accused](#) Mahama of rushing through the new appointments and placing undue pressure on the legislature to expedite **Parliament's** vetting and approval processes. The NPP subsequently boycotted the vetting hearings of the three then-supreme court nominees in protest of this alleged rushed process. It is indicative of the current strength of the ruling **National Democratic Congress (NDC)** in Ghana's Parliament that this boycott had no impact on the legislative process and that Parliament approved the three justices regardless.

All three of the new appointees have strong legal backgrounds and appear to be qualified to sit on the supreme court. However, Mahama has not adequately justified why the supreme court needed an additional three justices when it already had 14 judges. This has revived suspicions that the president is seeking to stack constitutional bodies and state institutions with his own appointees. His desire to have his own appointees in the supreme court was first alleged after he removed former chief justice **Gertrude Araba Esaaba Sackey Torkornoo** from office in September 2025 and replaced her with **Paul Baffoe-Bonnie** that November (see *ARC Briefing Ghana Nov 2025*). The NPP similarly boycotted Baffoe-Bonnie's parliamentary hearings without success.

Mahama's push to add additional justices will dilute whatever residual influence his predecessor, **Nana Akufo-Addo** (2017-2025), may still have. As such, even if the three new judges are truly independent, Mahama will consider their appointment to his benefit.

The appointment of the three judges is also reflective of Mahama's ambition to rework the Ghanaian state, both through senior appointments to state institutions, as well as his aggressive economic and political reform agenda. His government is currently in the process of advancing sweeping constitutional reforms which could fundamentally alter Ghana's constitutional order and future trajectory.

Opposition approves candidates for internal elections

The NPP's continued impotence in Parliament has renewed focus on the party's upcoming 3 October **National Executive** elections. In an important step towards holding these internal elections, on 3 September, the party [cleared](#) 47 aspiring candidates to contest open positions on the party's National Executive, of whom four have been approved to contest the party's chairpersonship. The importance of the party chair in directing and organising the party has made this race the most closely watched of the party's internal elections. This is especially the case since the NPP held its presidential primary in January and has already elected former vice president **Mahamudu Bawumia** as the party's presidential candidate for the 2028 general election.

The [four candidates](#) cleared to contest for party chair include former party general secretary **John Boadu**, former national vice chair **Sammy Crabbe**, former NPP chairperson **Paul Afoko**, and former energy minister **Boakye Agyarko**. Boadu secured the top place on the ballot, indicating that he had the most support among party executives and is considered the current frontrunner to win the election. All four candidates have pledged to drive reforms within the NPP and to expand its support outside of its strongholds.

Following the race for chair, the contest to be party general secretary will be the most significant. This race is expected to centre on whether or not the influential incumbent, **Justin Frimpong Kadua**, will be able to retain his position. Kadua is under intense internal scrutiny given the NPP's disastrous 2024 general election performance. His election rival, **Eugene Boakye Antwi**, is [actively seeking](#) to place the blame for this defeat on Kadua.

The fact that the NPP has committed to putting Bawku forward as its candidate in 2028 means that the party's hope for fundamental reform must come from changes to its National Executive. Whoever is elected as the party's new office-bearers will need to work to revive the NPP's standing across Ghana and work to ensure that the party does not suffer a similarly disastrous outcome in the upcoming local government elections, currently scheduled for 2027.

Strong economic growth recorded

The NPP does face a difficult task given the Mahama administration's current popularity and Ghana's improved economic trajectory, as highlighted on 9 September when government statistician **Alhassan Iddrisu** [announced](#) that the country's GDP grew by 6% in the second quarter (Q2) of 2026 compared with the same period last year. Notably, non-oil economic growth was 5.4%, which is promisingly strong even though it is lower than the 8.5% in Q2 2025. Regardless, it means that Ghana is not overly dependent on the oil sector for economic growth, even though current elevated global energy prices are boosting oil revenue in the country.

[According to Iddrisu](#), the information, communication and technology (ICT) sector enjoyed particularly strong growth, expanding by 30.9% year-on-year and accounting for 41.5% of Q2 economic growth. Such strong ICT growth does come off a low base but also indicates that Ghana is enjoying the benefits of economic modernisation and diversification.

Ghana's strong economic growth is complemented by the fact that consumer price inflation remains under control. The **Ghana Statistical Service (GSS)** [reported](#) that inflation increased slightly to 5% in August compared with 4.6% in July but remains well below the 12-month high of 11.5% and the five-year high of 54.1% (December 2022). As such, the growth Iddrisu announced is legitimate and is likely contributing to increased wealth and job creation in the economy. Ghana is still recovering from its latest economic crisis, which was marked by the government defaulting on its debt, a rapid depreciation of the cedi, and soaring inflation rates. It was these economic conditions that primarily led to the NPP's disastrous 2024 general election. As such, Ghana's continued economic recovery will bolster the NDC in next year's local elections, especially if the economy continues to grow and attract investment.

Cocaine seizure highlights Ghana's role in drug trade

French customs authorities on 10 September seized 3.9 tonnes of cocaine [found in a container](#) shipped from Ghana, highlighting the important stop Ghana has become in global and regional drug trafficking routes. The drugs had an estimated street value of over EUR 225m (\$258.3m). This incident has been embarrassing for Ghana, as it meant that the drug shipment managed to pass through Ghana's ports without being identified by Ghanaian authorities or the country's export control systems. It is highly unlikely that this could have occurred without support from compromised individuals within Ghana's customs.

Underscoring this embarrassment, Ghanaian authorities have moved remarkably quickly to investigate this case and have already arrested four suspects who were [arraigned](#) in the **Accra** high court on 16 September. However, this was not an isolated incident; international organisations have [long identified](#) Ghana as a global transshipment point for illegal narcotics. The anti-crime organisation, **Enhancing Africa's response to transnational organised crime (ENACT)**, has previously [reported](#) that Ghanaian organised crime groups are "*big players in the global cocaine trade*"; in addition, the country is known as both a transit and destination country for heroin trafficking and synthetic opioids such as Tramadol. Ghana's place in international trafficking routes is a function of the country's geographical position, its comparatively advanced transport infrastructure, a lack of law enforcement resources and capabilities, and the relatively high levels of corruption in the country.

Planner

3 Oct 2026 **(Ghana)** Opposition **New Patriotic Party (NPP)** national executive elections;
 Nov 2026 **Accra (Ghana)** 2027 budget speech;
 2027 **(Ghana)** Constitutional referendum;
 2027 **(Ghana)** District Assembly elections;
 Dec 2028 **(Ghana)** General election (expected);

Chronology

17 Sep 2026 **Gindabour (Ghana)** *Citi Newsroom*. A lynch mob kills a police officer in Gindabour (**Savannah Region**) after a local man dies while in police custody;

17 Sep 2026 **Accra (Ghana)** *Citi Newsroom*. The opposition **New Patriotic Party (NPP)** expresses its opposition to the government's proposed constitutional reforms, arguing that the amendments amount to a fundamental overhaul of the country's constitutional order and the government should establish a constituent assembly;

17 Sep 2026 **Accra (Ghana)** *Citi Newsroom*. President **John Mahama** announces that the government has secured \$300m in financing from the **World Bank** to expand education infrastructure in the country;

17 Sep 2026 **Accra (Ghana)** *GNA*. President **John Mahama** reveals that the **2027 Budget Statement and Economic Policy**, set to be presented to **Parliament** in November, will focus on nine critical areas

16 Sep 2026 **Accra (Ghana)** *GNA*. The **Ghana Statistical Service (GSS)** reports that annual producer price inflation increased to 4.4% in August largely due to rising energy costs;

16 Sep 2026 **Accra (Ghana)** *CNBC Africa*. The state-owned energy and logistics firm, **Ghana Gas**, reveals that it intends to make the final investment decision on the \$500m 278km West-East onshore pipeline project connecting gas processing facilities in western Ghana to industrial hubs in the country's southeast;

16 Sep 2026 **Accra (Ghana)** *CNBC Africa*. The state-owned fuel distributor, the **Bulk Storage and Transportation Company (BOST)**, announces that it has cut exports to **Burkina Faso** and **Mali** out of a need to prioritise domestic demand;

15 Sep 2026 **Accra (Ghana)** *GNA*. The ruling **National Democratic Congress (NDC)** party opens candidate nominations for its constituency executive elections;

9 Sep 2026 **Accra (Ghana)** *Ghanaian Times*. Foreign affairs minister **Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa** announces the government's plan to create a **Ghanaian Diaspora Consular Fund** to help better mobilise emergency resources to support nationals in crisis situations abroad;

8 Sep 2026 **Accra (Ghana)** *Ghanaian Times*. Authorities order residents living downstream of the **Weija Dam (Greater Accra Region)** to evacuate due to planned spillage from the dam;

8 Sep 2026 **Accra (Ghana)** *GNA*. President **John Mahama** inaugurates the new **Independent Fiscal Council** which will conduct oversight of Ghana's fiscal policy;

7 Sep 2026 **Accra (Ghana)** *GNA*. Communications minister **Samuel Nartey George** announces that the **National Communications Authority (NCA)** will complete the 5G spectrum assignment before the end of 2026, paving the way for the rollout of 5G services;

3 Sep 2026 **Accra (Ghana)** *Reuters*. Energy minister **John Jinapor** announces that the government has signed non-binding production rights agreements with the **United States (US)** energy firm **Chevron** and **United Kingdom**-headquartered **Shell** for Ghana's **South Deepwater Tano Cape Three Points** oil and gas block;

2 Sep 2026 **Accra (Ghana)** *GNA*. President **John Mahama** dissolves the boards of nine state-owned institutions namely **Prestea Sankofa Gold, Bulk Storage and Transportation Company (BOST), Volta Aluminium Company (VALCO), Consolidated Bank Ghana (CBG), Ghana Post Company, Road Maintenance Trust Fund, TDC Ghana Limited, and the Ghana National Petroleum Corporation**;

1 Sep 2026 **Belgrade (Serbia)** *GNA*. President **John Mahama** attends the 65th Anniversary Conference of the **Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)**;

1 Sep 2026 **Accra (Ghana)** *Al Jazeera*. The **Ghana Gold Board (GoldBod)** implements some export restrictions on semi-refined gold ore, known as dore, as part of its efforts to localise the gold value chain;

30 Aug 2026 **Luanda (Angola)** *GNA*. President **John Mahama** attends the **African Union (AU) Extraordinary Summit on Conflict Prevention** in Luanda;

26 Aug 2026 **Accra (Ghana)** *GNA*. President **John Mahama** appoints **Abdul-Rashid Pelpuo** as the new minister of state for special initiatives, replacing him as labour minister with **Emmanuel Kwadwo Agyekum**;

26 Aug 2026 **Accra (Ghana)** *GNA*. President **John Mahama** signs ten bills into law, including the **Tribunal Bill, the Customs Bill, the Community Service Bill, the Maritime and Related Offences Bill, the National Defence University Bill, the Income Tax (Amendment) Bill, the Energy Sector Levies (Amendment) Bill, the Ghana Cocoa Board Bill, the Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, and the Excise Bill**;

24 Aug 2026 **Accra (Ghana)** *Ghanaian Times*. **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** representative to Ghana **Adrian Alter** reveals that the institute has upgraded Ghana's debt distress rating from high risk to moderate risk;

24 Aug 2026 **Accra (Ghana)** *GNA*. President **John Mahama** nominates **National Democratic Congress (NDC)** member of parliament (MP), **James Agalga**, as the acting majority leader in Parliament.

About Africa Risk Consulting:

Africa Risk Consulting (ARC) is a pan-African consulting company that provides timely, relevant information and advice that enables its clients to take informed investment decisions and to safeguard their reputations.

ARC's core consulting services include integrity due diligence and corporate investigations, political advisory and country assessments, opportunity monitoring and reputation risk management. Most relevant to private equity firms is ARC's integrity due diligence and corporate investigations capability. Specifically, ARC offers pre-deal integrity checks to highlight red flags before negotiations start; full detailed multi-jurisdictional reputation due diligence; and supplier and senior hire vetting and repeat due diligence for compliance programmes. ARC is unique in that it offers a 10-day delivery for a routine integrity due diligence. ARC also offers a suite of corporate investigations services from immediate investigation, evidence gathering, e-discovery, forensic accounting and whistleblower support on one end to crisis media management and regular monitoring on the other.

www.africariskconsulting.com

About ARC Briefing:

ARC Briefing is ARC's essential business information service.

Companies at any stage in their Africa expansion, whether building or communicating an Africa strategy, investing directly, expanding current operations, financing other investors, doing the legal leg-work or researching the Africa growth trend, need ARC Briefing.

ARC Briefing is an information service keeping you:

- Up to date with Country Chronologies of business-critical events
- In the know via Country Briefings on political, economic, business and operating trends. Written in-country, ARC experts analyse and comment
- Ahead with Country Planner which details future elections, budgets, regulatory changes etc.

www.africariskconsulting.com

Getting in touch

Please contact us by email info@africariskconsulting.com

Africa Risk Consulting (ARC) Pty Ltd expressly forbids the collection of information and content from ARC Briefing as data to train generative artificial intelligence models.

© Africa Risk Consulting (ARC)