

MON: JUN 15, 2026



Improving Mental Healthcare Delivery.

Page 7



Page 3

Page 4



Theme

**Economic Confidence and Fiscal Expectations:
Stakeholder Perspectives Ahead of
Ghana's 2026 Mid-Year Budget Review.**

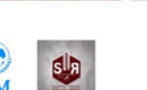
Date: Friday, 19th June 2026

Time: 5:00 – 6:30 pm

Speakers



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Child Labour Remains a Threat to Children's Rights – ICEDEG



The Executive Secretary of the Iustum Center for Democracy and Governance (ICEDEG Africa), Ellen Ofosu Asieduaa, has called for renewed efforts to eliminate child labour, stressing that childhood must be protected and not treated as a source of labour.

In a social media message to mark this year’s World Day Against Child Labour, she urged governments, institutions, communities and families to work together to safeguard the rights and welfare of children.

According to her, every child deserves the opportunity to learn,

grow and develop in a safe environment free from exploitation.

Protections

Ms. Ofosu Asieduaa noted that international and national legal frameworks clearly prohibit exploitative child labour and provide protections for children.

She referenced the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), which guarantees every child protection from economic exploitation and work that is hazardous or interferes with education and development.

In Ghana, she said, these protections are reinforced through the Children’s Act, 1998 (Act 560) and the Labour Act, 2003 (Act 651),

which establish standards on the minimum age for employment and conditions of work.

According to her, the laws affirm every child’s right to education, development and protection from harmful labour practices.

Beyond Legislation

While acknowledging the importance of legal safeguards, the ICEDEG Africa Executive Secretary stressed that legislation alone is insufficient to end child labour.

She called for stronger enforcement of existing laws, improved access to quality education, increased economic support for vulnerable

families and sustained public awareness campaigns. “Protecting children is not only a legal obligation; it is a moral and societal duty,” she stated.

Ms. Ofosu Asieduaa urged citizens to speak out against child exploitation, support child protection systems and advocate for policies that keep children in school and away from harmful work environments.

Protecting Ghana’s Future

She emphasized that ending child labour is essential to securing the future of the country, noting that children who are denied education and exposed to exploitation are often deprived of opportunities to reach their full potential. “A child’s place is in a classroom, not in labour,” she stated.

The World Day Against Child Labour is observed annually to raise awareness about the plight of millions of children worldwide who remain engaged in work that threatens their health, education and overall development.

Sophia Akuffo Resigns from 'Partisan' Council of State

Former Chief Justice of Ghana, Sophia Akuffo, has resigned from the Council of State, sources familiar with the matter have informed to this newspaper, ending her tenure on the country's highest presidential advisory body.

Although the exact reasons for her resignation have not been formally communicated, sources indicate that she stepped down over concerns about what she perceived as excessive partisanship within the Council, where key national issues are increasingly being treated through partisan lenses rather than strictly on national interest considerations.

She is understood to have submitted her resignation last year and has not attended any Council of State meetings since then.

Neither Justice Akuffo nor the Presidency has publicly commented on the development. The Council of State, a constitutional body mandated to advise the President on national

governance issues, is composed of elected and appointed members drawn from across Ghana.

However, according to individuals familiar with internal dynamics, divisions along political lines have increasingly influenced deliberations, a situation some members reportedly view as undermining the Council's non-partisan advisory role.

Judicial Controversies

Akuffo's exit follows a period in which she became a central figure in one of Ghana's most significant judicial controversies.

In April 2025, during Council deliberations on whether a prima facie case had been established against then Chief Justice Gertrude Torkornoo, 30 out of 31 members voted in favour, with Akuffo abstaining. She did not publicly explain her position at the time.

She later appeared before the Article 146 committee at the request of the suspended Chief Justice, where she gave testimony in defence of

Torkornoo. She also publicly criticised the process, describing it as a "treason trial" and arguing that it undermined judicial independence and fairness.

Public Debate

Her comments triggered strong reactions. Critics questioned her dual role as both Council member and witness in proceedings linked to decisions the Council had helped initiate.

Justice Akuffo, one of Ghana's most respected jurists and the country's 13th Chief Justice,

served on the Supreme Court for over two decades and was only the second woman to occupy the Chief Justice position.

She has also previously drawn attention for her public stance on governance issues, including her support for pensioners during debates over the domestic debt exchange programme. No official announcement has been made regarding her replacement on the Council of State.



NEWS



19 Law Faculties Given Green Light to Run Pre-Bar Courses



Resolution, Family Law, and Interpretation of Deeds and Statutes.

Students who successfully complete the programme will receive certification from their institutions, qualifying them to undertake the Law Practice Training (LPT) Programme, sit for the National Bar Examinations and eventually be called to the Bar.

Backlog
The policy also opens the door for thousands of backlog LLB graduates to enter the new legal education pathway. These graduates may enrol in the Pre-Bar Course at any accredited law faculty or the Ghana School of Law without sitting the former entrance examination.

The directive follows the repeal of the entrance examination regime under the new Act, effectively abolishing the Independent Examinations Committee (IEC).

The institutions identified to participate in the transition include the University of Ghana, GIMPA, KNUST, UPSA, University of Cape Coast, University for Development Studies, Central University, Mountcrest University, Ashesi University and 10 other accredited law faculties across the country.

Accreditation

Prof. Atuguba indicated that the transition period will also allow faculties to prepare for accreditation to run the practical Law Practice Training Programme under the new regime.

Law faculties have been advised to strengthen infrastructure, build practice-oriented teaching capacity and prepare applications for accreditation when the process officially opens in October 2026.

Nineteen law faculties across Ghana have been given the green light to run Pre-Bar Courses as part of transitional arrangements under the newly enacted Legal Education Act, 2026 (Act 1170).

The directive was issued by the Director of Legal Education and Director of the Ghana School of Law, Prof. Raymond A. Atuguba, following consultations between the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and the Chairman of the General Legal Council.

According to the directive, the move is intended to ensure a smooth transition to the new legal education framework while addressing the long-standing backlog of Bachelor of Laws (LLB) graduates seeking admission to professional legal training.

Under the new arrangement, law faculties accredited by the Ghana Tertiary Education Commission (GTEC) may retain their graduating LLB students for an additional academic year to undertake a Pre-Bar Course.

The programme will cover key theoretical subjects including Company Law, Commercial Law, Alternative Dispute



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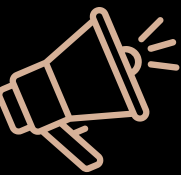


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UCC Opens Internal Probe Into Death of Level 200 Student

The University of Cape Coast (UCC) has opened an internal investigation into the death of a Level 200 student whose body was discovered at Hutchland Beach in Cape Coast.

The university confirmed that it is working closely with the UCC District Police Command to establish the circumstances that led to the tragic incident, which has shocked the campus community.

According to official information, the deceased, identified as Innocentia Atsufui Avinu, was a student of the university and was reported missing before her body was later found washed ashore.

Preliminary police findings indicate that the body was discovered in the early hours of June 12, 2026, at the beach, prompting an immediate response from security officers.

Investigators have since transferred the body to the Cape Coast Teaching Hospital morgue for preservation, identification, and autopsy to determine the exact cause of death.



Police have also ruled out visible signs of assault at the scene, with further forensic examination expected to provide clarity.

UCC management has indicated that the Office of the Dean of Students' Affairs is coordinating the institution's response and assisting law enforcement with relevant information and identification processes.

The university is also providing counselling and psychological support services to the deceased's

roommate, classmates,
and other students
affected by the incident.

Officials have further confirmed that they are serving as a liaison between investigators and the bereaved family to ensure smooth communication throughout the process.

Review

Preliminary accounts suggest that the student was last seen on the evening of June 10, 2026, after reportedly receiving

a phone call and leaving her hostel room. She did not return afterwards, prompting concern from colleagues and family members.

Police have cautioned the public against speculation as investigations continue, noting that the post-mortem examination will be critical in determining the exact cause of death. UCC management and security authorities have appealed for calm within the university community.



KGL Foundation Renovates Accra Psychiatric Hospital OPD

The KGL Foundation has completed the renovation of the Out-Patient Department (OPD) Centre of the Accra Psychiatric Hospital as part of efforts to enhance mental healthcare delivery and improve the well-being of patients.

The refurbished facility was commissioned last Thursday and forms part of the Foundation's broader initiative to create a more welcoming, dignified and patient-friendly environment for individuals seeking mental health services.

Conducive Environment

Speaking at the commissioning ceremony, the Chief Executive Officer of the KGL Foundation, Mr. Elliot Dadey, said the project was inspired by the need to make a meaningful contribution to Ghana's mental health sector while encouraging greater investment in mental healthcare infrastructure.

According to him, the physical condition of healthcare facilities plays a critical role in the treatment, recovery and overall experience of patients.



Mr. Dadey expressed confidence that the upgraded OPD centre would provide a more conducive environment for both patients and healthcare professionals, thereby improving the quality of care delivered at the hospital.

He also called on corporate institutions and philanthropic organisations to support efforts aimed at strengthening mental healthcare services across the country.

"Mental health remains an essential component of national development, and we must all play our part in supporting the sector," he said.

Commendation

The Director of the Accra Psychiatric Hospital, Dr. Kwadwo Marfo Obeng, commended the KGL Foundation for what he described as a transformative intervention.

He noted that the renovation had significantly improved the appearance of the hospital and enhanced conditions within consulting rooms, creating a safer and more comfortable environment for patients, visitors and healthcare workers.

According to Dr. Obeng, the facelift is also helping to reduce the stigma associated with mental illness by making the facility more attractive and accessible.

"The improvement in the physical environment is encouraging more people to seek professional mental health support and helping to change public perceptions about psychiatric care," he stated.

The commissioning ceremony was attended by key stakeholders in the mental health sector, including the Chief Executive Officer of the Mental Health Authority, Dr. Eugene Dordoye.

HEALTH





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Late Drama Seals Victory for Ivory Coast



Ivory Coast opened their 2026 FIFA World Cup campaign with a dramatic 1-0 victory over Ecuador after Amad Diallo scored a late winner deep into the contest.

The Group E encounter looked destined for a stalemate until Diallo struck in the 90th minute, finishing off a swift attacking move to hand the Ivorians all three points and end Ecuador's resistance in heartbreaking fashion.

Ecuador had earlier come close to breaking the deadlock, hitting the woodwork twice in a dominant first-half spell, but were unable to convert their chances into goals.

The decisive moment came late in the game when Ivory Coast launched a final attacking surge. Wilfried Singo drove forward and

delivered a well-weighted pass **Strong Start**

into the attacking third, where Diallo calmly guided the ball into the far corner to secure victory.

The goal capped a resilient performance from the African side, who gradually grew into the match and improved significantly after the break.

Despite controlling large phases of the match, Ecuador were punished for their lack of clinical finishing. Their inability to capitalise on early dominance ultimately proved costly as Ivory Coast remained patient and struck at the decisive moment.

The result also ended Ecuador's long unbeaten run, stretching back to September 2024, against Germany, a match that underlining the significance of the defeat.

The win places Ivory Coast in a strong position in Group E, giving them early momentum in a group that also includes heavyweights Germany and competitive opposition in Curacao.

Diallo's late heroics will further boost confidence in the squad as they aim to progress beyond the group stage.

Elsewhere in the group, Germany recorded a commanding 7-1 win over Curacao, setting an early pace at the top of the standings.

Ivory Coast will next turn their attention to a crucial fixture against Germany, a match that could prove decisive in shaping the group's outcome.





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AIM
To promote just, accountable, and resilient governance systems that deliver the public good and safeguard the rights of all citizens.

VISION
To be a leading policy research and advocacy institute in Ghana and across Africa, committed to strengthening accountable governance, promoting institutional responsibility, protecting consumers, and advancing the integrity and efficiency of the justice system through rigorous, evidence-based research, constructive engagement, and practical policy development.

MISSION
To contribute to building a Ghana and Africa defined by self-sustaining democratic institutions, where the rule of law is universally upheld and public trust is secured through accountable and efficient service delivery, and where citizens participate meaningfully in decisions that shape their lives.

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TIMELINESS	IMPARTIALITY

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 Mr. Kwame Agyemang Former Executive Director, Ghana Journalists Association	 Ms. Patricia Agyemang Executive Director, ICEDEG Africa	 Mr. Kwame Agyemang Policy Lead for Finance, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development
 Mr. Kwame Agyemang CEO, LBG - The Iustum Center for Democracy and Governance	 Mr. Kwame Agyemang Executive Director, LBG	 Ms. Patricia Agyemang Executive Director, LBG

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