CAGEI

Criticality Analysis of Governance & Economic Issues

Center for Economic, Governance and Political Affairs

Policy & Administration | Transparency & Accountability

Anti-corruption | Peace, Security & Stability

Human Rights & Justice | International Relations

IMANI
Center for Policy & Education

In this issue

1 On the ‘Left Side’ of Justice: Chief Justice Fights for Her Career, Pensions and Reputation.

2 Claims and Counter Claims: Who Is Right in the Fraud Case at Ghana’s Washington D.C. Mission?

3 The Missing Steps in the NPP’s Renewal from Rupture

4 Youth in Agriculture: A Practical Step, but Will the Structure Deliver?

5 Tackling High Prices: Why Structure, Not Populism, Is the Path Forward.

Criticality Analysis of Governance Issues

June 22-28, 2025





What is the Criticality Analysis of Governance Issues?

The output of good governance is socioeconomic development that has greater impact on the citizens. Government takes the wheels of affairs of the state on the back of the many promises made to the electorates. Yet, it is no easy task when it comes to the processes and mechanisms required for true public services delivery. It must follow policy guidelines religiously, maintain the social contract, avoid excesses and wastages, and be an accountable steward of that which it has been entrusted.

IMANI Centre for Policy and Education in a bid to monitor the processes and mechanisms for public services delivery has devised the Criticality Analysis to evaluate the key actions of the government in this pursuit. The Criticality Analysis follows the major news reports on the key governance issues categorised under the following six (6) themes:

1. Policy and administration.
2. Transparency and accountability.
3. Anti-corruption.
4. Peace, security and stability.
5. Human rights and justice.
6. International relations and development

The Criticality Analysis assesses the key governance issues by employing rigorous narrative analysis. First, we collect the key governance issues from reliable and credible news sources. A preliminary screening is conducted to filter out low-impact and non-governance related issues. The issues are then categorised under the 6 main themes. The criticality analysis is not a performance assessment of government actions.

During the assessment, critical attention is paid to the factual accuracy of the reports, relevance and timeliness, and impact and significance. In view of this, the reports are corroborated by analysing same from multiple sources and monitoring the trends and development. In addition, expert opinions on the key issues are analysed to inform the final output of the Criticality Analysis which includes our recommendations for policy and practice to enhance public service delivery and accountable stewardship



On The 'Left Side' of Justice: Chief Justice Fights for Her Career, Pensions & Reputation

> ***The situation I have been confronted with has shown me a module of injustice that I would never have thought possible if I had not been exposed to it. —Her Ladyship Justice Gertrude Torkornoo (Suspended Chief Justice)***

Ghana's embattled Chief Justice, Her Ladyship Justice Gertrude Torkornoo—suspended by President Mahama by warrant after determining a prima facie case upon receipt of three petitions for her removal according to the Constitutional provisions of Article 146—took the podium to deliver an emotional appeal to the people of the Republic of Ghana on June 25, 2025, outlining her ordeal in the hearing of the allegations levelled against her for her removal. Her reasons for the "State of the Removal Address" were to let Ghanaians in on the 'so called' allegations in the petitions since they were already public, the perceived breaches and the break of the rule of justice in the removal process, and her resolve to never resign in the wake of threats and advise from well-wishers.

Some have suggested that the Chief Justice should not have addressed the public in the manner she did, as it contravened the rules governing the proceedings. Her Ladyship's address nonetheless struck a chord. As she spoke, one could only think of the ordinary non-legal brain defendant on the 'left side' from the Bench view in the witness box with an ill-motivated defence lawyer. Yes, they will be led to the slaughter without knowing whether any due process in the Rules of Court have been breached.

Such was the fate of many who linger within the walls of Ghana's prisons—their only hope; the beam of light that shines through their cell windows each morning, signalling another day that will waste away. That light is not even a hope enough to cling on to.

In her address, she lamented that:

- The 146 Committee failed to recognize her lawyer because she was absent, going ahead to arrange the hearing without her lawyer's involvement.

- The Committee, mandated to 'inquire' according to Article 146(7) has ditched the Commissions of Enquiry Practices and Procedure Rules, 2010 (CI 65) for the High Court (Civil Procedure) Rules, 2004 (CI 47) in the absence of a CI on the Chief Justice removal process as it has chosen to conduct the hearing not as an inquiry but as a litigation; yet there's flagrant disregard for the rules of court.

- The Committee has failed to indicate the charges against her which she will need to defend; the committee has also failed to present to her formal copies of the petitions and the President's prima facie determination at the hearing

- The petitioners have been permitted not to testify; the petitions themselves have not been admitted into evidence; hence the petitioners cannot be cross-examined.

- Only subpoenaed public officials with less knowledge of the petitions are called in as witnesses.

- She has been barred from attending the hearing with emotional support—family or loved ones—and is subjected to thorough search in violations of protocols befitting the high office of a Chief Justice of a democratic state.

- The Adu Lodge facility chosen for the hearing bears a stark reminder in the planning of the killing of his uncle, Major Sam Acquah together with the 3 'martyrs of the rule of law'—the murdered High Court Justices—in 1982.

- The motivation for her removal is political as she has heard from sections of the media about a statement made by the government in 2022 when it was in opposition.

Indeed, IMANI Center for Policy and Analysis in its Criticality Analysis of Governance Issues (CAGI) of March 23-28, 2025, reported on the removal petitions against the Chief Justice that,

> ***The unfolding petition process against Ghana's Chief Justice encapsulates a complex interplay between constitutional mandates, the evidentiary standards of a prima facie case, and emerging political influences.***

The CAGI further highlighted that, what complicates the narrative further is the 2022 video evidence where the current president—then a leading candidate—asserted that,

> ***Unfortunately, we have no hope that the current leadership of our judiciary can lead such a process of change. We can only hope that a new Chief Justice will lead the process to repair the broken image that our judiciary has acquired over the last few years.***

Speaking on the allegations in the petitions, Her Ladyship explained that:

- She transferred the case involving Daniel Ofori (a petitioner) because the presiding judge had a family crisis of which the judge had to travel outside the country for an extended period.

- Travel allegations and supposed misappropriation of funds levelled against her were frivolous as per the Judicial Service Travel Policy, she is allowed to travel on vacation two times per year with one other person who is also entitled to per diem. So, she did on one occasion with her husband and the other with her daughter, both of which she retired the impress upon her return.

- Most of the allegations levelled against her in the petitions were mainly case related which according to her, she is indemnified according to Article 127; and all her administration decisions were within the confines of the law, especially on her recommendation judges for appointment to the Supreme Court, citing

- There is a conflict of interest on Justice Pwamang (JSC) chairing the hearing committee as in the critical cases she is blamed to have ruled against Daniel Ofori, Pwamang (JSC) who was also a panel judge had ruled in favour of Daniel Ofori. In essence, it is Daniel Ofori's preferred judge who now chairs her removal process based on his petition against her.

The government spokesperson, Hon. Felix Ofosu Kwakye (MP) took to the Jubilee House Press Conference to clarify certain claims by the Chief Justice in her press briefing.

He explained that:

- The President has since the beginning of the process breached no Constitutional provision; and that the President had followed what the law stipulates in the removal of the Chief Justice.

- It was the committee that requested the hearing venue, Adu Lodge, and not the government or the President. They only granted the venue as it provided enhanced security for all parties and certainly not meant to intimidate.

- Since the process was now in the hands of the committee, certain claims made by Her Ladyship during her press briefing, he could breach the in-camera provision of the hearing should he comment on them.

With a high-profile unprecedented case like the removal process of the Chief Justice, it is the usual expectation that the process will be fair. Whereas the Constitution explains the process, there is no provision that describes the procedure. Therefore, the committee's decision to make the removal process a litigation is in breach of Article 146(7). Even so, the committee's failure to follow CI 47 judiciously as the petitions are not admitted into evidence and the petitioners exempted to testify are also a breach of the rules of court.

Truly, the President may not have violated any Constitutional provisions in Article 146, however, it does not also mean that the actions of the committee and the procedures it is following may not be contravening the rules of court and constituting an infringement on the rights and dignity of Her Ladyship.

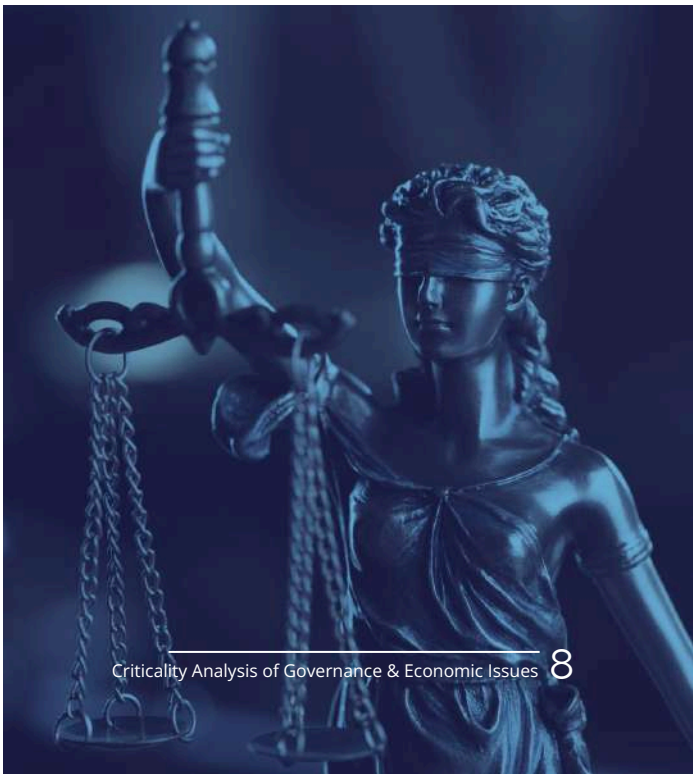
Every Ghanaian be Chief Justice, judge, lawyer or student of the law must speak up about injustice any time it occurs- such as the SALL debacle, which was described as a 'cardinal sin.' It should not have taken the Chief Justice to be on the 'left side' to realise something must be wrong. If she only knew that tables turn, sooner or later, perhaps she would have dedicated her tenure to correct infractions in the administration of justice in her beloved country. Wish her the best.

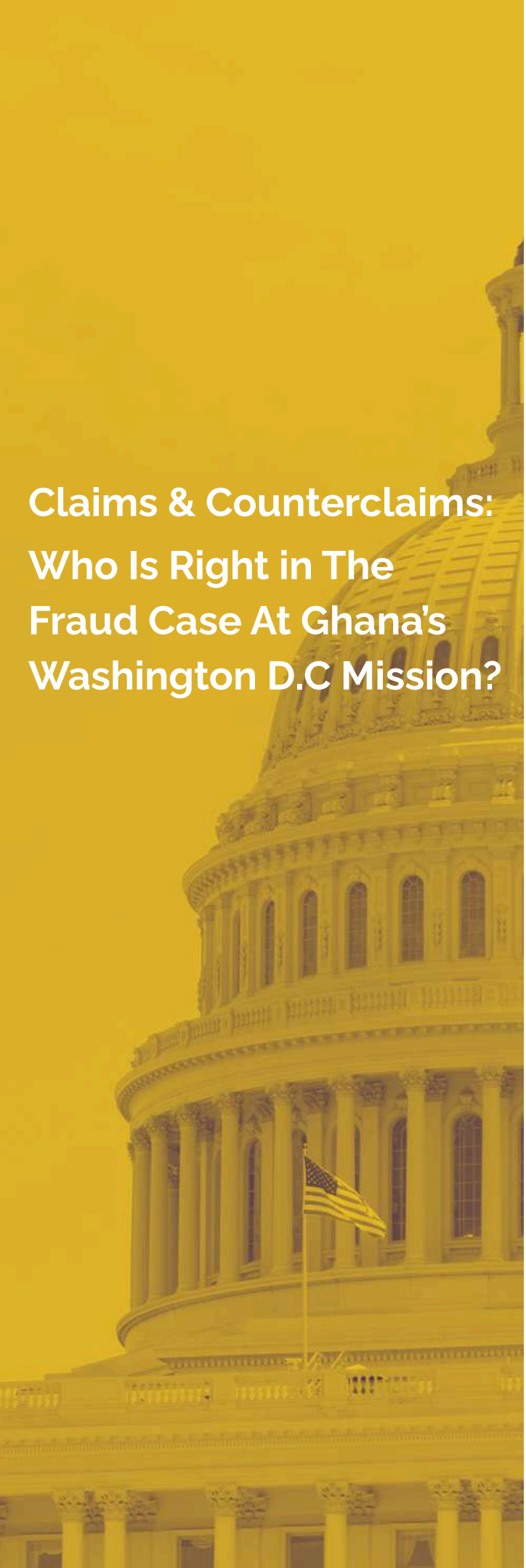
Further Readings:

- I chose to respect the President's warrant of suspension even though it had no basis - CJ Torkornoo - MyJoyOnline
- Read full statement by suspended Chief Justice, Gertrude Torkornoo - Ghanaian Times
- Chief Justice Getrude Torkornoo stands firm, says she will not resign amid impeachment proceedings
- Video: Kwakye Ofosu responds to Torkornoo's address - MyJoyOnline
- Torkornoo files for judicial review to declare removal proceedings void - MyJoyOnline

Recommendations:

In light of the troubling procedural lapses and emotional toll detailed by the Chief Justice, Ghanaians must demand clarity, consistency, and compassion in the administration of justice at all levels. Justice cannot be a shield reserved for the powerful nor a lament only when the gavel turns inward. Judges and judicial officers must see their role not merely as custodians of legal texts but as guardians against systemic injustice—lest the very flaws they overlook today return to haunt them in moments of personal crisis. It must not take the threat of removal for our leaders on the Bench to confront the brokenness within the system they serve. This moment calls not just for legal compliance, but for moral courage—one that reaffirms our collective commitment to due process, human dignity, and institutional fairness. Citizens, civil society, and legal minds alike must seize this opportunity to push for codified procedures in high-level removals and safeguard the independence of the judiciary against politicization. Justice must not only be inscribed in our Constitution—it must be etched in our daily practice, with vigilance, empathy, and unwavering resolve.





Claims & Counterclaims: Who Is Right in The Fraud Case At Ghana's Washington D.C Mission?

It is said that a single story is dangerous because it is incomplete, but even two stories can be more dangerous especially when it leaves many critical questions unanswered, or when each side picks to deliver a version that suits them. This is the case with information coming from the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Ghana's Former Ambassador to the US, H.E Hajia Alima Mahama. IMANI CPE had expounded on the visa fraud issue and how Ghana's diplomatic missions abroad can be brought under the government's reset accountability agenda. ***See CAGI of May 25-30, 2025.***

In the expectation of more information on the happenings at the embassy in Washington D.C., the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hon. Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa (MP) took to the floor of Parliament on June 18, 2025 to brief the house on the matter. He alluded to allegations of fraud, conflict of interest and corruption in the operations of the embassy with respect to visa and passport delivery. Summing up the case, he explained that one Fred Kwarteng recruited as IT Officer in August 2017 modified the embassy's website to direct applicants to his company's (Ghana Travel Consultant, GTC) website to facilitate visa and passport delivery. According to the Minister, GTC's services with the embassy started in September 2019. Mr. Kwarteng in November 2019 was queried by the Head Chancery on the 'unilateral important decision' to modify the website but no action whatsoever was taken against him. In January 2023, GTC's services were contracted formally with blatant disregard for Act 914, Act 921 and Act 1080. Within the said period, GTC had accrued a total revenue of $4 million without a single cent due to the Government of Ghana. However, GTC was depositing certain amounts to an unaudited welfare account of the embassy, accessible by the staff.

H.E Hajia Alima Mahama, in an interview on 3 FM on June 20, 2025, clarified the controversy surrounding the allegations by the minister saying that the minister had less knowledge of the operations of the embassy. First, she mentioned that the embassy does not provide delivery services so it could not sublet that through a contract with a third party. However, visa and passport applicants have the option to pick up or have their visas and passport sent by self-addressed envelopes that they submit their applications in through mailing services like FEDEX and UPS. This was however fraught with issues like delays in postage as the embassy did not operate a mailing department, underpaid postage stamps which the embassy incurred the burdened cost though it had no budget for that, and wrong mailing address leading to returns. So, in finding a solution to this, she had asked the IT services to find a solution which Mr. Kwarteng offered. He has a company, GTC, that offers similar solutions —retrieval and delivery. He was asked to undertake the services provided that the embassy does incurs zero-cost in the retrieval and delivery, and that the embassy is indemnified and not liable in the cases of non-delivery and loss of passports and visas. The Ambassador added that the GTC's services drastically reduced issues with passport delivery and enhanced the efficiency and operations of the embassy.

The Ambassador alludes that the embassy does not provide mailing services so it cannot subcontract the service which it would benefit from financially. Hence the claim by the Minister that there was a breach of the PPA Act (Act 914 as amended) is untenable, and that there could not have been any revenue sharing agreement. She also added that there was no loss of revenue to the embassy or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (the Government) as applicants paid their application fee online which is separate from the fees charged for opting for retrieval and delivery by GTC; thus, using a third party for collection of their passports and visas.

While these two explanations provide insights into the case, it leaves many questions unanswered. For instance;

- Where is Fred Kwarteng, the IT Officer around whom this whole scandal revolves?

- Upon the reopening of the embassy after the short closure, the Minister mentioned that a team was being sent to restructure the embassy. In his address to Parliament, he mentioned that the link that directs applicants to GTC's website to facilitate retrieval and delivery is still active. Why is it so, after more than a month if there is indeed suspicion of fraud, conflict of interest, and corruption?

- When was GTC founded? Was Fred Kwarteng operating GTC jointly or solely before joining the embassy?

- Why are there conflicting years of employment for Fred Kwarteng? The minority after the Minister's presentation suggested that he was employed in 2015.

- If the embassy was not providing mailing services, why would it sublet it as a contract to GTC, to the point that it allowed its website as a conduit for GTC?

- If there was indeed a contract as both the Minister and Ambassador all allude to, what is the sort of legal, regulatory and institutional modalities that govern the embassy's engagement with GTC and Fred Kwarteng? Was there any breach at all?

- Did GTC serve only Ghanaian passport and visa applicants?

- Why was GTC depositing funds into the Embassy's Staff Welfare Account and why was that account not allowed to be audited?

- Why did the Washington D.C. mission not allow EMH Global—the company contracted by the Government of Ghana to standardise the websites of its missions abroad in 2022 and 2024—to standardise the embassy's website?

These questions, if answered will help Ghanaians to get to the crux of the matter and appreciate the full weight and implications of the fraud, conflict of interest and corruption allegations. For a strategic mission like the embassy in Washington D.C. these happenings and allegations are a dent on Ghana's image at heart of the territory of its foremost strategic partner.

In recent memory, Ghana has had to deal with its international image on finance and economic fronts. The country in 2022 was removed from the EU's list of high risk third countries with strategic deficiencies in their Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Finance of Terrorism (AML/CFT) regime. Fast forward to June 2025, the country faces potential ban on entry into the US because of students overstaying their F-1 visas.

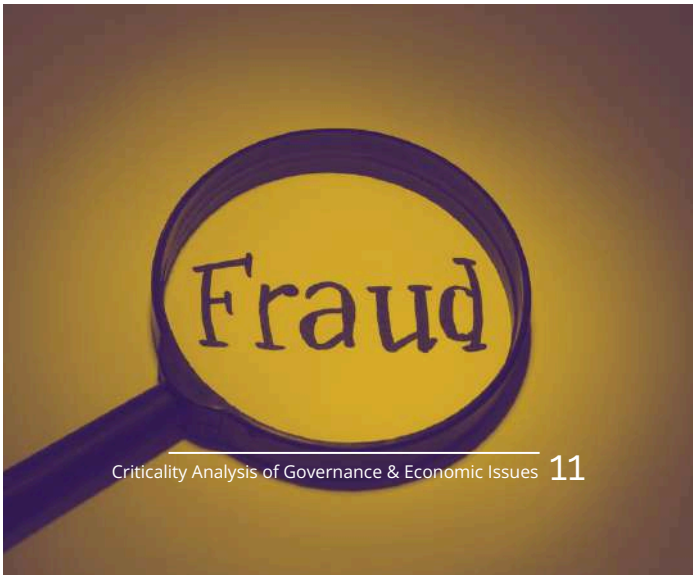
While these two instances may be unrelated to the situation at the embassy in Washington D.C., they speak volumes into growing concerns about Ghana's dwindling international image. That is why aside from the special forensic audit of the embassy in Washington D.C., it prompts the launch of special investigations into the allegations of fraud, conflict of interest and corruption to bring any unscrupulous beneficiary of the deal to justice for the state and the people.

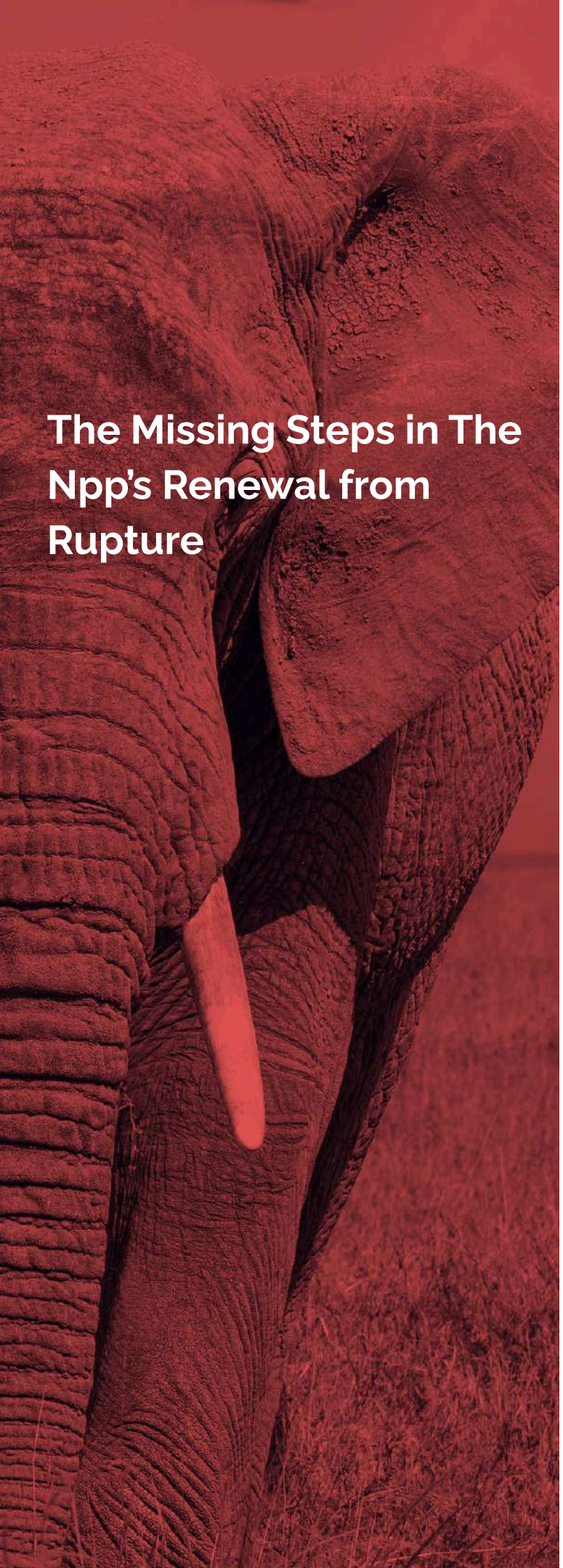
Further Readings

- Foreign Affairs Ministry uncovers visa fraud at Washington Embassy; staff recalled
- Ablakwa Reveals The Shocking Truth Behind Ghana's Washington Embassy Scandal — What Really Happened
- Ghana's embassy in US lost about $4.8m annually to fraud - Ablakwa calls for forensic audit - Graphic Online
- Embassy Saga: 'It can't be true' – Alima Mahama challenges Ablakwa's 'Kwarteng made $4.8m annually' claim
- Fmr Ambassador to USA debunks Ablakwa's $4.8 M scandal at the Ghana Embassy in Washington DC
- Ablakwa fires back at Alima Mahama, vows no tolerance for corruption in Embassy visa fraud scandal - MyJoyOnline

Recommendations

It is welcoming news that EOCO and the Attorney General have been invited to probe the full scope of the Washington D.C. embassy operations, particularly the origins and legality of GTC's involvement, the handling of state-linked funds, and the procedural lapses that enabled this situation. Simultaneously, a clear digital governance framework must be introduced across Ghana's foreign missions to regulate third-party services, website administration, and welfare accounts, with all contracts subjected to standard procurement rules and external auditing. These reforms should not only address the current case but serve as a systemic accountability reset to insulate Ghana's diplomacy from reputational risk and institutional fragility.





The Missing Steps in The Npp's Renewal from Rupture

The New Patriotic Party (NPP), once buoyed by the mandate of 2016 and the renewal of 2020, now stands at its most vulnerable moment in decades. The defeat in the 2024 general elections was not merely electoral—it was existential. For a party that has long claimed the mantle of liberal economic stewardship and democratic resilience, the silence after the fall has been telling. But is a direction emerging out of the loud silence? The party's decision to hold its presidential primaries on January 31, 2026 has kickstarted the compass reset, or has it missed steps in reconciliatory efforts and following due process in the party's constitution.

According to a faction of party faithful, to dismiss the primaries as premature is to ignore the ambitious restructuring already underway. The NPP is poised to elect 317,000+ grassroots officers, including over 286,000 polling station executives and 31,000 electoral area executives. These elections, for the first time, will constitute about 95% of the presidential primary delegate pool. The proposed constitutional reforms to be voted on at the July 19, 2025, Delegates Conference will expand the pool further by including:

- All card-bearing ministers since 2001.
- All MPs (past and present).
- All MMDCEs since 1997.
- All party executives at constituency, regional, national, and external branches since 1992.

> ***The party will never close ranks in unity until the flagbearer election is over. - Ghanaian political strategist and leading figure of the NPP, Nana Akomea***

But the likes of other leading figures like Hon. Patrick Boamah (MP, Okaikwei Central) speaking Channel 1's Point of View broadcast on June 23, 2025, disagreed highlighting systemic inefficiencies in the decision process to hold an early primary as announced by the General Secretary, Justin Kodua Frimpong. He stated that Article 19 of the NPP Constitution provides that no amendment to the constitution shall be made unless;

> ***The General Secretary has circulated the proposed amendment to every Regional and Constituency office at least one 1 month before the National annual Delegates Conference.***

Upon receipt of the proposed amendment, the Constituency and Regional offices are mandated at their annual delegates conferences to:

> ***Pass any resolution or make recommendations for consideration by the Regional and National Annual Delegates Conference, respectively***

The Regional Executive Committee is mandated by Article 9(28) of the NPP Constitution to submit a report thereon within two weeks to the National Executive Committee on their proceedings of the Regional Annual Delegates Conference. As of end June 2025, no such regional conferences had taken place.

According to Hon. Boamah (MP), the minority caucus, who will be affected by the proposed changes in the delegate structure during their parliamentary primaries are yet to see the Ocquaye Report (2024/5), alleged to have contained such propositions for reforms and amendments. Likewise, the circular that should contain the proposed constitutional amendment are yet to be received at his constituency where he is an officer.

With an indisposed Chairman and inactive vice chairpersons, the NPP claims the early primaries will provide a clearer runway for candidates to engage the reconfigured base. But first things must come first. Although the Constitution allows that the National Council may vary the date of the Presidential primaries, the latest it could be held for the 2028 general elections is December 6, 2026. Unless 24 months is not enough to form a campaign team that can travel across the length and breadth of the country to rally support, or the 6 months after the July 19, 2025, National Annual Delegates Conference is an ample time period to conduct the polling station, electoral area, constituency, regional, and national executives' elections. Clearly, this kind of scheduled arrangement will be overwhelming for the party.

Sidestepping critical party constitutional provisions in the name of structural recalibration fusing institutional memory with grassroots resurgence in ways that redefine how power is accessed and shared within the NPP is a zero-sum game. This may not be how to win Election 2028, especially not against the backdrop of the current momentum of the NDC government. There should be transparency and adherence to due process in implementing the recommendation of the Ocquaye Report. Where actions conflict with constitutional provisions there should be broader consultations with parties and stakeholders for general agreement, ownership and technical grounds for implementation.

Further Readings

- NPP elects flagbearer in January 2026, Dept. General Secretary explains decision for early primaries
- LIVE: Okaikwei Central MP Patrick Boamah Joins Bernard Avle on #PointofView
- Former NPP presidential aspirant Boakye Agyarko slams party's early primaries decision
- NPP urged to prioritise reforms over early primaries - CDD Fellow cautions - MyJoyOnline
- 99% of NPP Council members backed early presidential primary – Justin Kodua - MyJoyOnline

Recommendations

To chart a credible path toward renewal and electoral viability, the NPP must urgently anchor its restructuring efforts in constitutional fidelity and inclusive consultation. This includes transparently circulating proposed amendments, convening regional and constituency conferences per Article 19, and disclosing key documents like the Ocquaye Report to all relevant stakeholders. Without a clear, participatory, and legally grounded process, attempts at grassroots empowerment may be perceived as elite-driven recalibration, deepening internal fractures rather than healing them. The party's quest for unity and reinvention must start with process integrity, not procedural shortcuts—only then can it credibly rebuild from rupture.



Criticality Analysis of Key Economic Issues

June 23 – June 27, 2025





Introduction

The objective of this report is to provide a clear and concise evaluation of the most important economic news stories in the preceding week, focusing on their factual accuracy, relevance and timeliness, and impact and significance.

2. Methodology

Selected publications are grouped under five central economic themes. These include:

- Economic Stability.
- Growth and Job Creation.
- Taxation and Revenue Mobilization.
- Trade and Investment.
- Infrastructure Digital Economy.

Evaluation

The analysis criteria are applied at this stage. News stories are evaluated based on the following:

Factual accuracy: can the facts in the news be verified; is the news published by other outlets; are there links and references to original sources.

Relevance and timeliness: is the news a developing story or does it provide updates on existing stories?

Impact and significance: does the news have a potential impact on society, policy and the economy; is it of high interest to the public?

3. Critical news stories

The week ending June 27, 2025, had the following news headlines:

1. Youth in Agriculture: A Practical Step, but Will the Structure Deliver?
2. Tackling High Prices: Why Structure, Not Populism, Is the Path Forward.



4. Categorization of news stories under central economic themes

Economic Stability	Growth & Job Creation	Taxation & Revenue Mobilization	Trade & Investment	Infrastructure & Digital Economy
-	Youth in Agriculture: A Practical Step, but Will the Structure Deliver?		-	Tackling High Prices: Why Structure, Not Populism, Is the Path Forward

Youth in Agriculture: A Practical Step, but Will the Structure Deliver?



The government's plan to engage over 100,000 post National Service Scheme (NSS) personnel in agriculture, cocoa production, livestock, and agribusiness is a bold youth employment effort. Announced by Youth Development and Empowerment Minister George Opare Addo, the initiative includes microgrants, input support, access to land banks, and technical mentorship. The programme includes plans to pair young farmers with experienced cocoa producers, with the aim of revitalizing Ghana's aging cocoa workforce while increasing food and cash crop output. This effort responds to long-standing calls for a more ambitious national approach to youth employment and agricultural transformation. It reflects a growing consensus that the sector must become more than a rural safety net; it must function as a strategic platform for job creation, industrial inputs, and export competitiveness.

While the programme is a step in the right direction, broader structural issues continue to define the limits of success in Ghana's agriculture sector. Underinvestment remains a core challenge. Despite agriculture's contribution to employment and GDP, public financing for the sector remains well below the Maputo 10% target. Initial input support is not the same as input market reform. While post-NSS beneficiaries will receive inputs and microgrants, the broader ecosystem, particularly grain producers, poultry farmers, and agro-processors, still battles high input costs due to import dependence, price volatility, and smuggling of subsidized fertilizers. Unless input markets are restructured and leakages addressed, this programme risks becoming another one-cycle intervention.

Financing remains short-term and misaligned. Many agribusinesses lack access to credit with terms suitable for farming cycles. Highlighted during IMANI-GIZ policy reform dialogues[1], credit for agriculture typically lasts 12 months or less, far below the 2–3 years needed for meaningful investment in tree crops, irrigation, or equipment. It's unclear how this programme will overcome that systemic constraint, especially beyond the startup phase and without a sustained financial push, we may be unable to scale into broader sectoral reform.

Market access and price certainty remain unaddressed. Increasing production is only part of the puzzle. This framing is heavy on production but light on markets, pricing, and post-harvest integration. Beneficiaries must be linked to stable markets and pricing structures that guarantee offtake.

The post NSS youth-in-agriculture programme has the right ingredients: it targets a pressing employment gap, builds production capacity, and encourages repayment and discipline through its support structure. It also opens a pathway for Ghana's aging cocoa sector to attract new, younger farmers, a critical demographic shift long overdue.

However, real transformation will depend on what happens after the launch. Will this effort feed into a larger national agriculture strategy? Will input and credit systems be reformed to serve the entire value chain? Will market access be predictable and profitable? To avoid past mistakes, this youth programme must be backed by serious investment in the entire agricultural value chain.Expanding irrigation infrastructure, building resilient transport and storage systems to reduce post-harvest losses, investing in research, extension services, and agri-data to guide real-time decision-making, and ensuring coordinated and consistent policy alignment across to prevent fragmentation.

[1] https://imaniafrica.org/2022/08/how-ghanas-17th-imf-program-will-impact-investment-in-the-agricultural-and-manufacturing-sector/

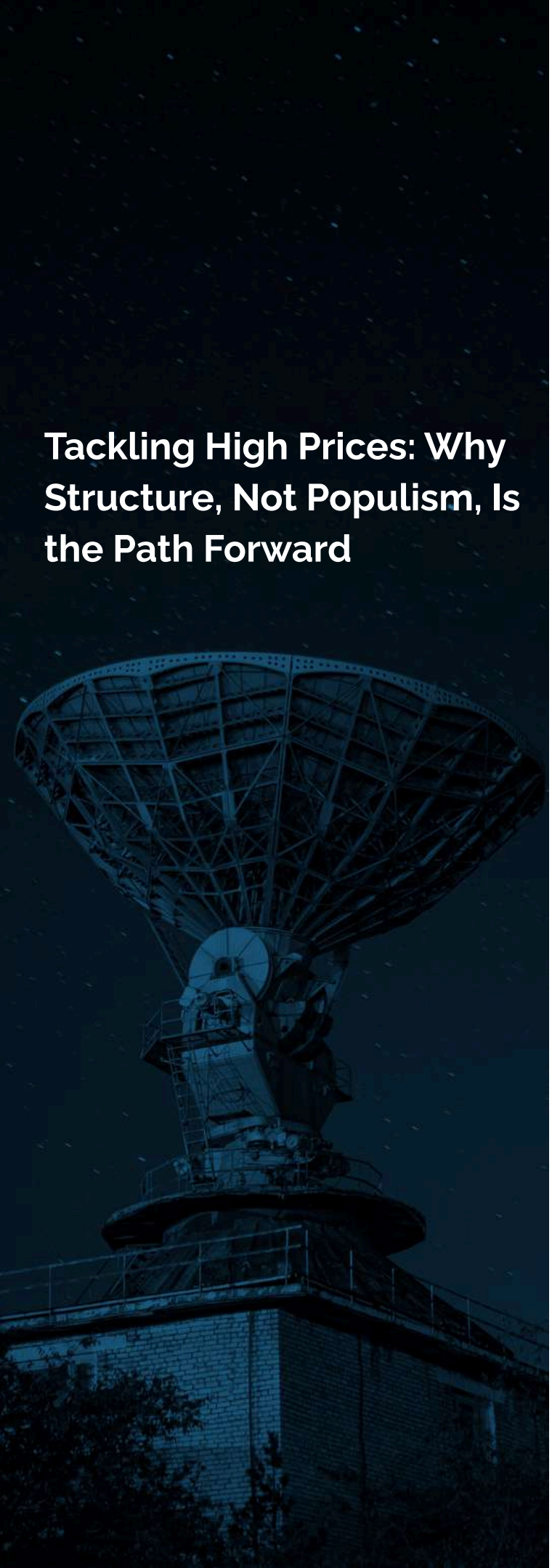
Agriculture cannot be expected to boost food security today and drive industrialization tomorrow if policy and infrastructure continue to work at cross purposes. To truly shift Ghana's agricultural and employment trajectory, the programme must be nested in a broader reform agenda that tackles input market reform, land governance, access to credit, logistics infrastructure, and policy harmonization. That is the only way to ensure these efforts feed into agro-processing, manufacturing, and exports, not just seasonal production targets.

Further Readings

- Government to engage over 100,000 post NSS Personnel in sustainable agriculture – GhanaWeb
- Government to engage over 100,000 post NSS Personnel into sustainable agriculture initiatives – Ghana News Agency



Tackling High Prices: Why Structure, Not Populism, Is the Path Forward



The Minister for Communications, Digital Technology and Innovations, Hon. Samuel Nartey George, has engaged executives of MultiChoice Ghana, operators of DSTV, on their pricing strategy, citing concerns about affordability, revenue leakages, and regulatory compliance. He has requested further dialogue with the Group CEO of MultiChoice Africa to explore how the company can better align its operations with Ghana's economic context. This intervention, while well-meaning in its intent to protect consumers, once again raises the recurring tension in Ghana's economic policy space: the temptation to address market outcomes through pressure, rather than through structural reform and regulatory coordination.

Affordability Must Be Built, Not Demanded; DSTV pricing, like many services in Ghana, reflects a confluence of factors that no single directive can fix: exchange rate volatility, which affects licensing costs and satellite operations, taxation on digital services, market structure, where limited competition gives dominant players more pricing power, and operational overheads. These are systemic factors, not mere corporate preferences. While consumer frustration is valid, a meaningful and lasting solution cannot come from ordering price alignment, but rather by reforming the conditions that make prices high in the first place.

Recent policy history offers a useful parallel. When the Ministry of Trade and Industry introduced a Legislative Instrument (LI) aimed at regulating cement prices, it sparked sharp pushback. The original draft suggested government control over factory pricing, but after consultation, that clause was dropped. What remained was a regulatory framework focused more on transparency than control. This outcome was instructive.

It showed that Government can and should work to ensure fairness and predictability in pricing, especially in oligopolistic sectors. However, practical control over pricing in liberalized markets where inputs are volatile is extremely limited. The better role for the state is to strengthen regulatory oversight, promote competition, and create conditions where market forces work for the consumer.

DSTV and cement operate in different sectors, but the lesson holds: price fairness is a by-product of good policy, not administrative pressure. If the state wishes to reduce prices for pay-TV, internet data, and related services, the following steps are more productive than direct pricing pressure. Strengthen competition by supporting alternative platforms (e.g. local streaming services) and lowering entry barriers, review and rationalize the tax burden on digital services, enhance enforcement of content bundling regulations, transparency on charges, and quality-of-service metrics.

Hon. Samuel George's efforts reflect a genuine desire to protect the public from rising costs in an era of economic strain. But pricing pressure alone, especially in a liberalized can only go so far. Ghana needs to rebuild the economic and regulatory structures that allow prices to fall sustainably, not demand it. The lesson from the cement case is clear: transparency matters, but real price relief comes when structural problems are addressed, exchange rate exposure, tax regimes, and regulatory inertia.

Agriculture cannot be expected to boost food security today and drive industrialization tomorrow if policy and infrastructure continue to work at cross purposes.

To truly shift Ghana's agricultural and employment trajectory, the programme must be nested in a broader reform agenda that tackles input market reform, land governance, access to credit, logistics infrastructure, and policy harmonization. That is the only way to ensure these efforts feed into agro-processing, manufacturing, and exports, not just seasonal production targets.

Further Readings

- Improve service quality by December or face heavy fines – Sam George.
- Sam George's engagement with MultiChoice Ghana over DSTV pricing concerns.



IMANI
Center for Policy & Education

IMANI Center for Policy & Education is a Think Tank of considerable local and international repute based in Ghana. Founded on the 9th of March 2004, IMANI has carved a niche in Ghana's policy environment for putting out objective, independent analysis and critique on many issues, using tried and tested techniques that apply across different disciplines.

Office Loc: No. KD14 Darko Street KOANS Estate-Kutunse

P.O.Box Box 443, Achimota, Accra-Ghana

Tel: +233 030 395 5859

Email: info@imanighana.org

Support IMANI's course of freedom as we continue to blend accessible research within high-powered advocacy.

Please contact our **Accounts & Finance Officer, Caroline** cackomdufie@imanighana.org on **donating** to support our work at IMANI.