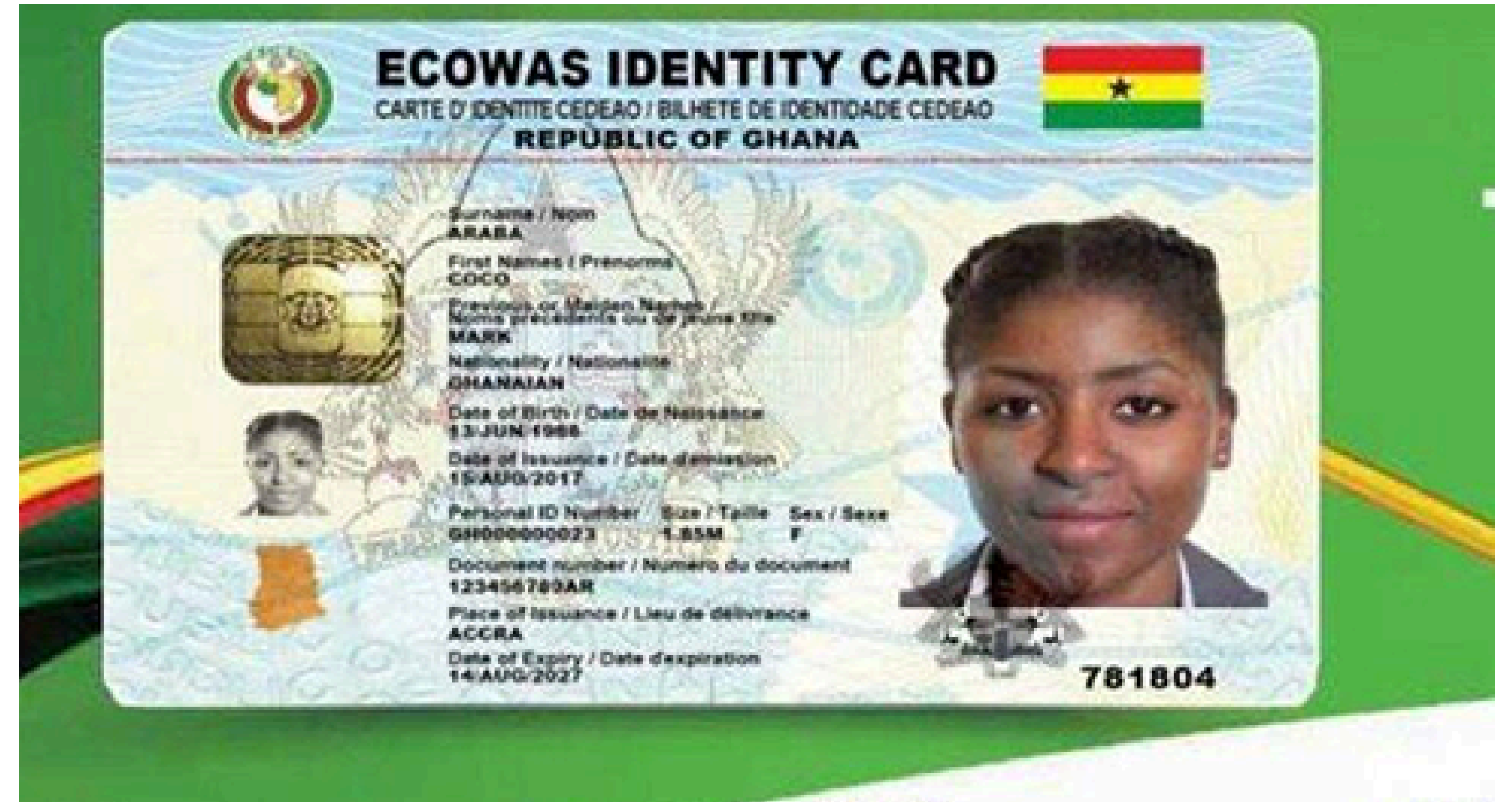


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Ghana Card not activated for financial transactions, NIA clarifies

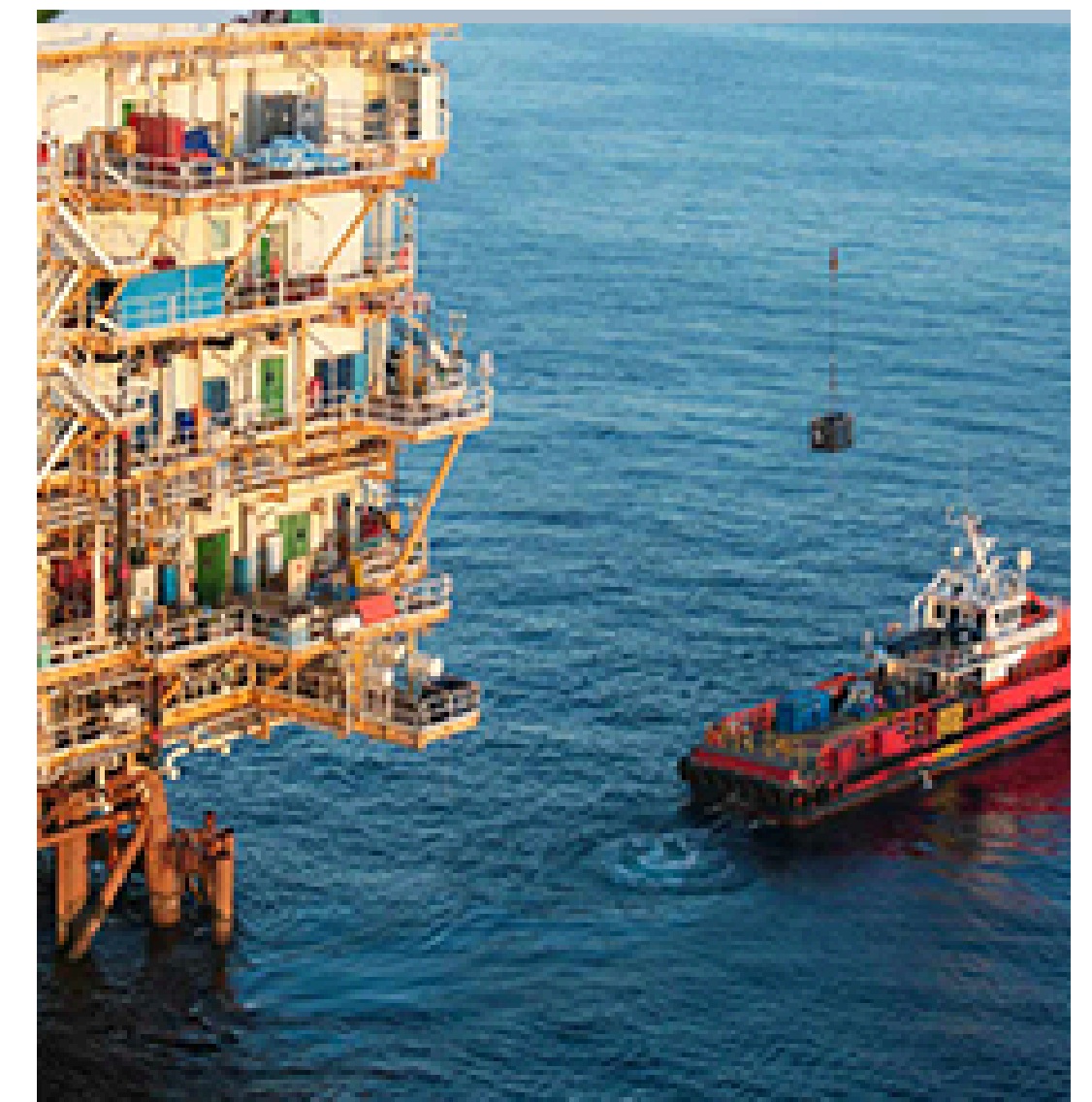
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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**Slide 1**

Ghana and France recast ties with focus on health and security



President John Dramani Mahama and Emmanuel Macron have taken a decisive step to reset Ghana-France relations following high-level talks at the Élysée Palace, signaling deeper cooperation across health, infrastructure, and economic recovery. The discussions, held after the One Health Summit 2026 in Lyon, positioned Ghana at the center of France's evolving engagement

particularly in health diplomacy and development policy. Particularly in health diplomacy and development policy.

The talks also reinforced Ghana's broader economic and development agenda. President Mahama highlighted support from France and China in debt restructuring, underscoring the importance of international partnerships for domestic recovery. Infrastructure projects and artificial intelligence collaborations were discussed. Security, regional stability, food security, and agricultural transformation were also central, reflecting a holistic approach to medium-term development. The Élysée meeting demonstrates a convergence of interests: Ghana seeks recovery and modernization, while France aims to recalibrate its African engagement toward structured, future-focused partnerships.

This news card provides a brief summary. Get full story on Insightghana.com.gh



**GOVERNANCE**

Slide 2

Ghana Card not activated for financial transactions, NIA clarifies

The National Identification Authority has clarified that the Ghana Card is not currently enabled for financial transactions, dismissing circulating claims as inaccurate. While discussions about integrating the card into financial systems are ongoing among policymakers and regulators, no final decision or rollout has been approved.

The clarification affects both financial institutions and citizens. Banks and fintech companies must adjust expectations for Ghana Card-based authentication, while citizens are reminded that current services remain unchanged. The development fits a broader African trend of consolidating digital identity systems to support economic modernization, but the NIA signals a phased, cautious approach due to concerns over cybersecurity, data protection, and institutional readiness. The central focus now is on how Ghana manages the eventual transition to a fully integrated digital identity economy while safeguarding security and promoting innovation.

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BUSINESS**Slide 3**

Ghana's growth holds at 7.5% but signals a slowing pace of recovery



Ghana's economy grew by 7.5% in January 2026, according to the Ghana Statistical Service, signaling a continued recovery while also highlighting its limitations. The figure represents a slowdown from 8.2% in January 2025, suggesting that the post-crisis rebound is stabilizing rather than accelerating. The growth has been largely driven by services and agriculture, while industrial output,

particularly in oil and gas, continues to lag. Manufacturing and small-scale industries have shown some improvement, but they remain insufficient to balance the economy's overall structure. Consumer confidence has improved, supporting domestic demand despite lingering economic pressures. Economists warn that without targeted reforms, growth could plateau and fail to create enough jobs.

Despite the gains, structural challenges persist. High unemployment, elevated public debt, and limited private sector financing constrain the economy's long-term prospects, while government spending remains cautious due to fiscal discipline. The January 2026 figure thus represents both progress and a cautionary signal: Ghana has regained stability, but without deeper structural reforms, the recovery risks plateauing and leaving existing vulnerabilities unresolved.

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**BUSINESS**

Slide 4

Ghana's oil decline deepens as output falls for sixth straight year, PIAC warns

Ghana's upstream petroleum sector is under intense scrutiny after the Public Interest and Accountability Committee reported that crude oil production has declined for a sixth consecutive year, falling from 71.44 million barrels in 2019 to 37.3 million barrels in 2025. The decline reflects ageing fields, technical challenges, limited new discoveries, and slowed exploration activity, particularly affecting the Jubilee, TEN, and Sankofa Gye Nyame fields.

Structural and governance issues compound the problem, with previous PIAC reports highlighting unpaid petroleum revenues and weak enforcement of financial obligations in the sector. PIAC's warning is clear: without decisive intervention through exploration, targeted investment, or a strategic shift away from oil dependence, Ghana's petroleum sector risks a structural contraction that could have long-term economic consequences.

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SPORTS**Slide 5**

New coach for Black Stars to be announced next week - Kofi Adams



Ghana's economy grew by 7.5% in January 2026, according to the Ghana Statistical Service, signaling continued recovery but at a slower pace compared to 8.2% in January 2025. The growth reflects improved macroeconomic stability following recent fiscal reforms, debt restructuring, and monetary tightening, with services and agriculture driving much of the expansion.

Lower inflation, a more stable currency, and rising business confidence have also supported economic activity, reinforcing the narrative that the country is gradually emerging from its recent financial crisis.

However, the slowdown highlights underlying structural weaknesses. Ghana's growth remains heavily dependent on services, while the industrial sector—particularly oil and gas—continues to underperform, limiting broader economic transformation. High unemployment, constrained government spending, and limited private sector credit access further expose the fragility of the recovery. While growth remains strong, sustaining it will require diversification, stronger industrial capacity, and a shift toward productivity-driven expansion to ensure long-term, inclusive development.

This news card provides a brief summary. Get full story on Insightghana.com.gh



SPORTS

Slide 6

Uganda opens doors to Africa as AFCON 2027 fans to enter visa free



Uganda has announced a visa waiver for fans attending the Africa Cup of Nations 2027, allowing visa-free entry for a three-month period spanning before, during, and after the tournament. Co-hosted with Kenya and Tanzania, the competition is expected to attract up to 650,000 visitors, potentially generating at least \$500 million in tourism revenue.

The move is a strategic effort to boost tourism, stimulate economic activity, and position Uganda as a key destination during one of Africa's largest sporting events.

Beyond economics, the initiative reflects a broader push for regional integration, with plans for a joint "PAMOJA visa" to enable seamless travel across the three host countries. However, the success of the policy will depend on infrastructure readiness, effective coordination, and security management. While the visa waiver signals openness and ambition, its real impact will hinge on Uganda's ability to handle increased visitor flows while maintaining safety and delivering a smooth tournament experience.

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