REPUBLIC OF GHANA

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

STATEMENT ON PASSPORT ADMINISTRATION IN GHANA

ACCRA, 8TH NOVEMBER 2026 - The Ministry of Foreign Affairs wishes to assure all Ghanaians and our international partners that Ghana's passport administration regime continues to be undergirded by the highest standards of professionalism, integrity, security and innovation.

2. It is worth noting that Passport administration in Ghana is strictly governed by the Passports and Travel Certificates Decree, 1967 (NLCD 155) as amended by the Passports and Travel Certificates (Amendment) Law, 1993 (PNDCL 310).

3. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is legally responsible for the issuance of Ghanaian passports. Three types of passports are issued in Ghana, namely: Ordinary, Service and Diplomatic.

4. Since assuming office last year, the Government of Ghana, led by President John Dramani Mahama has initiated bold reforms aimed at enhancing the credibility, security, efficiency, modernization and affordability of the Ghanaian passport.

5. Ghana has introduced ICAO compliant gold-standard chip-embedded passports; established Passport Application Centres in all 16 regions of Ghana for the first time in our nation's history; started 24-hour operations; launched a free courier delivery system; rolled out an e-Tracking mechanism and invested in technology-driven security protocols.

6. Despite these impressive reforms and massive investments, the Passport Application Fee has been reduced from GHS500 to GHS350 to make the acquisition of passports affordable to all Ghanaians. We take the view that passports must be affordable for all Ghanaians.

7. The Ghanaian Passport is now considered amongst the most valuable in the world as further confirmed by the unprecedented number of Visa Waiver Agreements signed in recent months.

8. This year, Ghanaians surveyed by the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) declared Passport Administration in Ghana as the most transformed and least corrupt public institution in Ghana.

9. The Honourable Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hon. Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa (MP) continues to tirelessly champion these passport reforms with admirable dedication to duty, patriotism, integrity and zero tolerance for corruption.

10. These principles inspired the Minister's decisive and ruthless actions when the Ministry received two petitions pointing to an irregular Service Passport Issuance scheme which had been operating illegally since 2023.

REPUBLIC OF GHANA

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

STATEMENT ON PASSPORT ADMINISTRATION IN GHANA

11. The 2023 petitioner claimed he paid US$29,000.00 while the 2026 petitioner states that he paid US$5,000.00 to those involved in this criminal cartel.

12. On the instructions of the Honourable Minister, a committee was promptly set up on October 13, 2026 after the first petition was received on October 8, 2026 to investigate the matter.

13. The Acting Director of Passports, Mr. Mahama Yahaya Amantana has since been interdicted.

14. A junior Foreign Service Officer, Alhassan Sumani (FSO A5) who has been named in all petitions as the chief architect and one who operated as a "goro boy" in 2023 before he was recruited into the Foreign Service on November 29, 2024 has also been interdicted.

15. The two officers have also been referred to the Ghana Police Service for further investigations and possible prosecution.

16. The Ministry's preliminary fndings have confirmed that indeed persons who did not qualify to be issued with Service Passports were issued the following Service Passports since 2023 after allegedly making illegal payments to a syndicate:

I) Richard Sakyi Apenteng- Service Passport number: SX004034, issued on January 3, 2023;

II) Augustina Agyei Boateng - Service Passport number: SX004032, issued on January 3, 2023;

III) Juliet Amankwa - Service Passport number: SX004086, issued on January 31, 2023;

IV) Rebecca Agyeiwaa - Service Passport number: SX004089, issued on February 2, 2023;

V) Prince Ahensah - Service Passport number: SX0604674, issued on 28th May 2026;

VI) Maybel Ahensah - Service Passport number: SX0604687, issued on 28th May 2026;

VII) Twumasi Francis Kwame - Service Passport number: SX0605905 issued on 11th August 2026;

VIII) Gyabaah Anthony - SX0605895 issued on 11th August 2026;

IX) Frederick Ennin - Service Passport number: SX0605918 issued on 11th August 2026;

X) Bosompem Richard - Service Passport number: SX0605921 issued on 11th August 2026.

REPUBLIC OF GHANA

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

STATEMENT ON PASSPORT ADMINISTRATION IN GHANA

17. The Ministry assures that all the Service Passports listed above which were illegaly issued since 2023 have been cancelled and therefore cannot be used. Our international partners have been duly notified. The owners of the passports including two who successfully used the illegally acquired Service Passports to travel in 2023 are being vigorously pursued.

18. In the interest of fairness, impartiality and non-discrimination, the Director of Passports for the 2023 period in issue, Ambassador Mohammed Habib Idris, who is now retired, would also be investigated by the security services and sanctioned if found culpable just like his counterpart, Mr. Mahama Yahaya Amantana.

19. It is apparent that this Service Passport For Sale Scheme was a sophisticated operation which predates the current administration, we are however glad that the masterminds have finally been exposed and rounded up due to our heightened diligence and zero tolerance for corruption.

20. The Ministry ought to be commended for not playing ostrich or engaging in a cover-up even long before aspects of this matter came into the public domain. Every society has bad nuts and criminally-minded characters who try to have their way but the real test is the ability of leadership to courageously and promptly rise up to the occasion with integrity to defeat such criminal networks.

21. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs wishes to state for the record that so far, no evidence has emerged that Ghana's Diplomatic Passports are being sold.

22. For the avoidance of doubt, the matters under investigations are about Service Passports and not Diplomatic Passports.

23. We shall ensure that the culprits of this despicable act to undermine the credibility of our Service Passports are brought to justice. We promise full transparency, impartiality and accountability.

24. It is imperative to highlight that official data from the Passport Office indicates that between 2009 and 2016, a total number of 1,397 Service Passports were issued; from 2017 to 2024, a total number of 3,174 Service Passports were issued; from 2025 to date, a total of 754 Service Passports have been issued.

25. For Diplomatic Passports, official data confirms that between 2009 and 2016, a total of 2,899 Diplomatic Passports were issued; from 2017 to 2024, a total of 5,682 Diplomatic Passports were issued; since 2025 to date, a total of 1,944 Diplomatic Passports have been issued.

REPUBLIC OF GHANA

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

STATEMENT ON PASSPORT ADMINISTRATION IN GHANA

26. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will continue to pursue strict policies, institutional reforms and swift interventions aimed at safeguarding the credibility and sanctity of all categories of Ghanaian Passports.

27. Ghanaians and our international partners have had occasion to commend us in recent times for the remarkable credibility and efficiency of our new passport administration regime, we are determined to protect these gains and maintain the trust and confidence of all.

ENDS