

OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF THE CENTRE FOR DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT (CDM)

GHANA'S NAME IS ON THE LINE

THE COCAINE SAGA, THE 2018 DIRECTIVE AND THE SILENCE OF THE SECURITY CHIEFS

A CALL FOR A BI-PARTISAN ENQUIRY INTO THE COCAINE SAGA

The Centre for Democratic Movement (CDM) has followed with grave concern the run of narcotics seizures linked to Ghana, which reached its lowest point on 7 September 2026, when French customs at Dunkirk seized nearly 3.9 tonnes of cocaine, valued at about €225 million, in a container that had left Ghana.

I. A DISGRACE ON THE WORLD STAGE

Dunkirk does not stand alone. It follows 3.3 tonnes of cocaine seized at Pedu Junction in March 2025, 320 kilograms of methamphetamine found in Sydney in charcoal shipped from Ghana in April 2026, and parcels of cocaine concealed in gari at Tema Harbour in August 2026. The Minority puts the value of seizures linked to Ghana since 2025 above US\$1 billion. Ghana's name now appears in charge sheets in foreign courts. Honest exporters are met with suspicion abroad and innocent travellers with extra searches. Young Ghanaians who dream of studying abroad on scholarship now risk losing those opportunities. **Ghana took decades to build its good name, and it is losing it in months.**

The twelve cases linked to Ghana between March 2025 and September 2026 are listed below.

No.	Date	Location	What happened	Estimated value
1	4 Mar 2025	Pedu Junction, Cape Coast	3,319.66 kg (over 3.3 tonnes) of cocaine hidden under sand in a tipper truck, intercepted by the NIB	About US\$350m
2	Mar 2025	Takoradi to Cape Coast highway	About 120 slabs of cocaine in a second truck on the same corridor	About US\$150m
3	Mar 2025	Kotoka International Airport	Two aircraft from Gran Canaria alleged to have carried narcotics and undeclared US currency	Allegation raised by the Minority
4	23 Apr 2025	Swissport Cargo Terminal, KIA	73 slabs (89.74 kg) of cocaine in boxes declared as artefacts, bound for the Netherlands; four arrested	Not stated
5	Jul 2025	MV Sankofa vessel	Vessel under a forged flag released after paying part of a fine of nearly GH¢12m	Enforcement concern raised by the Minority
6	Feb 2026	Kotoka International Airport	Company manager arrested with cocaine hidden in packaged gari for export	Not stated
7	Aug 2026	Tema Harbour enclave	866 parcels of suspected cocaine in sacks of gari, bound for London	Not stated
8	2025	Netherlands	About 250 kg of cocaine shipped from Ghana in branded Ghanaian food products	Not stated

No.	Date	Location	What happened	Estimated value
9	4 Dec 2025	Port of Antwerp, Belgium	1.158 tonnes of suspected cocaine identified in a joint Ghana and Belgium investigation	Not stated
10	Apr 2026	Port Botany, Sydney	320 kg of methamphetamine in charcoal containers shipped from Ghana; three arrested in Australia	About US\$208m
11	7 Sep 2026	Port of Dunkirk, France	Nearly 3.9 tonnes of cocaine in plastic waste in a container from Ghana; three arrested in Ghana	About €225m (US\$261.45m)
12	Sep 2026	Johannesburg, South Africa	Man arrested with heroin after a flight from Accra	About US\$123,000

II. THE “DIRECTIVE” DEFENCE DOES NOT HOLD

At the high-level meeting convened by the President on 17 September 2026, the explanation offered was that a 2018 Cabinet decision had taken the Narcotics Control Commission (NACOC) out of joint container inspections at the ports. NACOC has since been ordered back.

We take no view here on the merits of the 2018 reform. We ask one thing: **if the directive carried a flaw grave enough to open our ports to cartels, why was the President not alerted before the crisis broke?** This government has been in office since January 2025. Pedu Junction, the Kotoka cargo seizure and Sydney were each a warning, and each was a chance for the security chiefs to say the system was broken. From all that is on the public record, the President learnt of the flaw only after Dunkirk. Either the chiefs did not see the gap, which is a failure of intelligence, or they saw it and kept quiet, which is a failure of duty.

It follows that **the President has been left sitting on a time bomb, and he can no longer place his trust in the security apparatus that allowed it to tick.** The security chiefs concerned cannot remain at post while the facts are being established, and those found wanting must be relieved of their duties.

The agencies at the centre of this saga, and those who lead them, are: COP Abdul-Osman Razak, National Security Coordinator; Charles Kipo, Director-General of the Bureau of National Intelligence; Maj. Gen. Maxwell Obuba Mantey, Director-General of NACOC; COP Christian Tetteh Yohuno, Inspector-General of Police; Lydia Yaako Donkor, Director-General of the CID; Aaron Kanor, Acting Commissioner of the Customs Division; Brig. Gen. Paul Seidu Tanye-Kulono, head of the Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority; Dr. Kamal-Deen Ali, Director-General of the Ghana Maritime Authority; Prof. Ransford Gyampo, Chief Executive of the Ghana Shippers’ Authority; and Yvonne Nana Afriyie Opare, Managing Director of Ghana Airports Company Limited. **Each of them must account.**

III. OUR CALL

CDM agrees with the Minority that a matter of this gravity cannot wait for the parliamentary calendar, and we support their request for an emergency sitting. Article 112(3) of the 1992 Constitution obliges the Speaker to summon Parliament within seven days of such a request. A recall alone, however, will not settle the matter, and this saga must not become one more contest between the two sides of the House. CDM therefore calls:

- **On the Speaker of Parliament**, Rt. Hon. Alban Sumana Kingsford Bagbin, to convene the emergency sitting without delay, and on the House to set up a bi-partisan committee of enquiry, drawn equally from the Majority and the Minority, sitting in public and using its powers under Article 103(6) to summon witnesses and compel the production of documents.
- **On the committee** to examine the whole record, from the 2018 Cabinet decision to the clearances and seizures of 2025 and 2026, so that responsibility is fixed by the evidence and not by party colours.
- **On the President** to publish the task force's findings in full and to act on the findings of the enquiry.

Ghana's ports and Ghana's good name belong to every Ghanaian, whatever their party. **They are owed answers, and a bi-partisan enquiry is where those answers must be given.**

We thank you.

Signed

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Democratic Accountability and Good Governance

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