

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: 16<sup>TH</sup> April, 2026

COALITION STATEMENT FOLLOWING THE MEETING WITH HON. DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE AND  
GHANA REVENUE AUTHORITY

The leadership of the joint business forum wishes to inform its members, stakeholders, and the general public of the outcomes its engagement held today with the Hon. Minister of finance and the commissioner- General of the Ghana revenue authority (GRA).

At the meeting, the trade community tabled four key demands as follows:

1. The immediate suspension of the publican AI system.
2. A reversion to the status quo with respect to the process for appealing valuation outcomes, including a guaranteed 24 - hour turnaround time for the resolution of all appeals.
3. Full disclosure of the operational, technical and contractual details governing the publican AI system.
4. Participation in the proposed multi-party committee only upon the establishment of clearly defined and mutually agreed terms of reference.

Following the extensive deliberations, the following outcomes were reached:

1. Government has agreed to revert the process for appealing valuation outcomes to the status quo and ensure that all appeals are addressed within a 24-hour period. To give effect to this, the ministry of finance has committed to expand the committee in the place to address appeals to a twelve-person committee from a six – person committee.
2. On the proposed multi-party committee, it was agreed that the terms of reference governing its work will be jointly developed with us on Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2026.
3. With respect to disclosure of the details of the entities and contractual arrangement underpinning the Publican AI system, regrettably, the ministry maintain its position that, while it will grant leadership of the trade ecosystem access to interrogate the system and also meet the people behind the publican AI. It will not provide any broader disclosure beyond this arrangement.
4. On the critical issue of the suspension of the Publican AI system, the ministry decline the request, instead urging the trade community to channel its concerns through the multi-party committee to address all outstanding issues.

The leadership of Joint business forum, while not satisfied, acknowledges and welcomes the concessions made by the government. This is a welcome departure from dismissiveness and condescension from the previous attempt to engage.

However, we wish to state unequivocally that we remain resolute in our demand for the suspension of the Publican AI system to allow for comprehensive stakeholder engagement, transparency, and necessary corrections to its implementation.

Notwithstanding this, and in a good faith we have to agree to put on hold our current industrial actions pending our initial engagement with multi-party committee. The outcomes of that engagement will be critically assessed and will inform our subsequent course of actions. To be clear, our industrial action has only been put on hold, not withdrawn.

The leadership of joint business forum remains committed to constructive dialogue but will not hesitate to take all necessary steps to protect the integrity, sustainability, and fairness of Ghana's trading environment.

Long live Ghana

Long live joint business forum

Signed:

Ghana union of trader's association(GUTA)

Traders advocacy group Ghana (TAGG)

Food and beverages association of Ghana(FABAG)

Ghana institute of freight forwarders(GIFF)

Association of custom house agent of Ghana (ACHAG)

Custom brokers association of Ghana(CUBAG)

Coalition of importers and exporters

Freight fowarders association of Ghana (FFAG)