



**Ghana's 2024 Elections**

# **Monitoring of Indecent Language on Radio**



**Findings for June 1-30, 2024**

**Contents**

1.0 Introduction..... 2

    1.1 Background ..... 2

2.0 Methodology ..... 3

3.0 Findings ..... 4

    3.1 Categories of Indecent Expressions Recorded ..... 5

    3.2 Radio Stations and Incidents of Indecent Expressions..... 5

    3.3. Social Media Broadcast..... 7

    3.4 Culprits of Indecent Expressions Used on Radio ..... 8

4.0 Assessment of Moderation of Programmes by Hosts ..... 8

5.0 Conclusion and Recommendations..... 9

## **1.0 Introduction**

This report presents findings from the daily monitoring of selected programs on nine radio stations in Ghana. The data was collected from 7<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2024. It specifically cites the number of indecent expressions recorded, categorizes these expressions, and identifies the individuals who made the remarks. The indecent expressions recorded are also presented according to the radio stations where these expressions were made as well as hosts who made indecent remarks. The report concludes with recommendations for relevant stakeholders.

### **1.1 Background**

Ghana has over the last 31 years remained relatively peaceful and democratically stable. This relative peace has received global recognition and rankings. For example, in the 2022 Global Peace Index (GPI) Report, Ghana ranked as the most peaceful country in West Africa, 2<sup>nd</sup> in Africa, and 40<sup>th</sup> in the world. This was an improvement over 2019 and 2020 rankings. However, the 2023 index saw a deep fall to 51<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 2<sup>nd</sup> position in the world, Africa, and West Africa respectively. The fall in Ghana's peace rankings is attributable to several factors including toxic narratives that fuel polarisation mainly along partisan, ethnic, religious and chieftaincy lines as well as radicalism. Such narratives are manifested through hate speech, intemperate language, political propaganda, and mis/disinformation via radio.

Electioneering periods in Ghana are often characterised by the use of abusive and other indecent expressions against political opponents, institutions and other groups. Unfortunately, a number of radio stations allow political parties and their representatives to abuse the airwaves with little or no restraint from programme hosts and presenters. This often results in heightened political tension in the country every four years. In a pre-emptive effort to bring the phenomenon under control, the Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA) has since 2012 been implementing the language monitoring project to monitor, report and name perpetrators of hate speech and indecent expressions on radio.

Based on lessons learnt from the 2012, 2016, and 2020 language monitoring projects, the MFWA is monitoring indecent language on radio during the 2024 electioneering period to contribute to strengthening Ghana's peace and democratic stability by fostering a national ecosystem that detest

hate speech, incitement to violence and other narratives that promote toxic polarisation; while promoting a narrative culture that advances and encourages peaceful and inclusive society as well as decent political discourse.

The project involves the daily monitoring of selected programmes on selected radio stations to track and report the use of hate speech and other indecent expressions by politicians and others who feature on the radio programmes monitored. It also assesses the performance of presenters or hosts in their moderation of programmes.

## 2.0 Methodology

The project involves the daily monitoring of expressions used by politicians and other actors who feature on radio programmes such as news bulletins, political discussions and current affairs discussions. It also involves assessing and reporting how presenters or hosts of selected programmes on radio stations handle their programmes and whether or not they tolerate the use of hate speech and other indecent language on their programmes. This report covers the monitoring of nine radio stations in Ghana from June 7 to June 30, 2024. The stations were selected based on findings from previous reports, perceived allegiance to or ownership by politicians or politically exposed persons, and geographical spread. Table 1 presents names and regional locations of the 9 radio stations that were monitored under the current phase of the project.

**Table 1: Radio stations monitored under the current phase**

No.	Name of Radio Station	Region
1	Accra FM	Greater Accra region
2	Angel FM	Ashanti region
3	Ashh FM	Ashanti region
4	North Star Radio	Northern region
5	Oman FM	Greater Accra region
6	Power FM	Greater Accra region
7	Radio Gold	Greater Accra region
8	Wontumi Radio	Ashanti region
9	Zaa Radio	Northern region

The monitoring is done based on a validated [monitoring instrument](#). Nine language monitors have been recruited (one monitor per station) and trained on the use of the monitoring instrument. Each monitor is assigned a digital recorder for purposes of recording the programmes they monitor. Monitors send daily reports to the MFWA which are analysed by a team of programme staff and researchers for a consolidated report to be produced.

### 3.0 Findings

This report covers findings from monitoring conducted from June 7-30, 2024. We monitored over 500 radio programs, including news bulletins, as well as political and current affairs discussions aired on the nine radio stations. Altogether, we recorded 46 incidents of indecent expressions, with the majority (54.4%) captured during discussions about issues of: elections (21.7%), security (10.9%), corruption (10.9%), and development projects (10.9%). This was followed by issues related to the presidency (8.7%). Table 2 presents details of the subjects around which the violations were recorded.

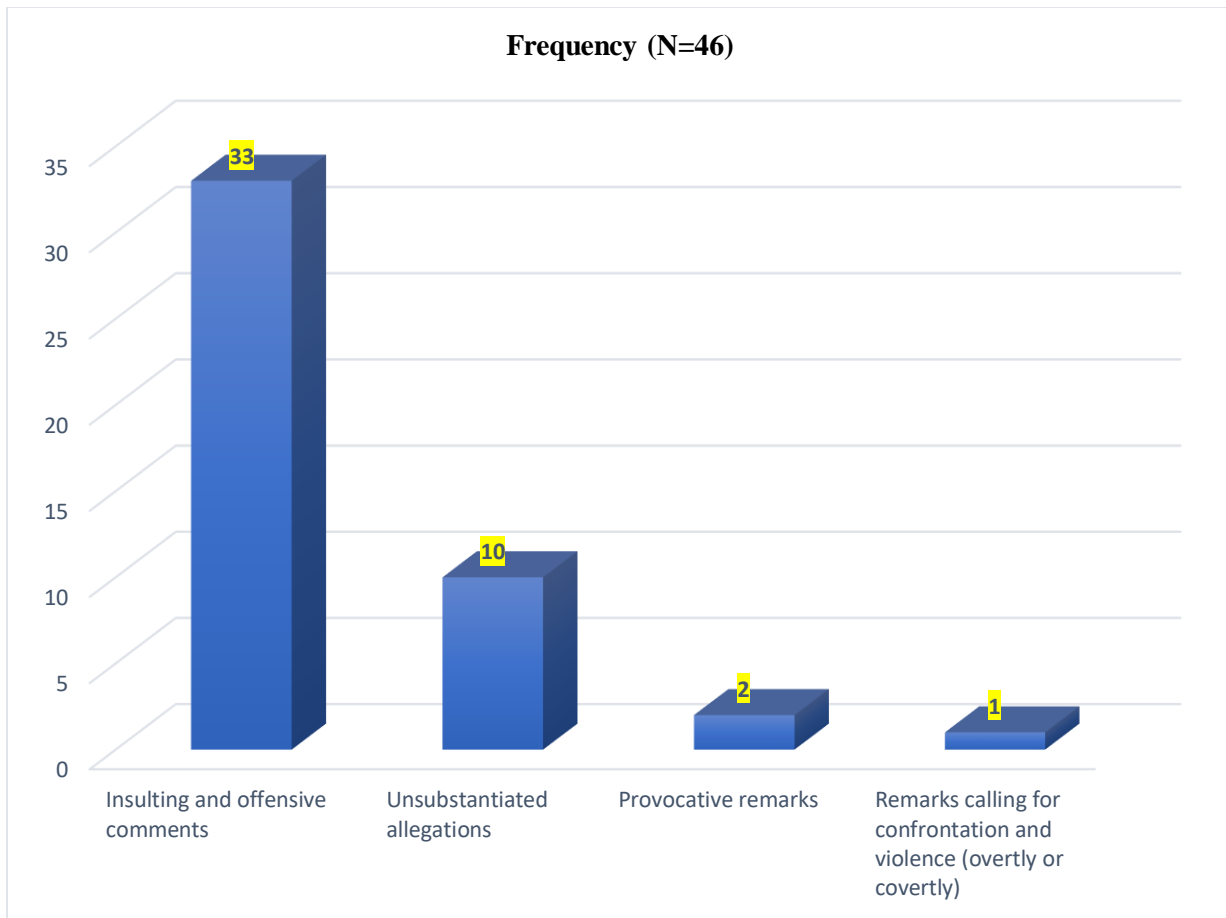
**Table 2: Main subject of news story/programme/discussion**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Frequency (N=46)</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Elections-related issues	10	21.7
Security	5	10.9
Corruption	5	10.9
Development Projects	5	10.9
President/Vice President/ Presidential affairs	4	8.7
Crime	3	6.5
Chieftaincy issues	3	6.5
Political party activities/issues	3	6.5
Conflicts, demonstrations, etc.	2	4.3
Constitutional matters	2	4.3
Other	2	4.3
Judiciary	1	2.2
Development	1	2.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>100</b>

### 3.1 Categories of Indecent Expressions Recorded

Out of the 46 indecent expressions that were recorded, a greater majority (71.7%) were insulting and offensive comments. This was followed by unsubstantiated allegations (21.7%), provocative remarks (4.3%), and remarks calling for confrontation and violence – overtly or covertly (2.2%). Figure 1 below indicates the frequency of use of each type of indecent expression recorded.

**Figure 1: Categories of Indecent Expressions Recorded**



### 3.2 Radio Stations and Incidents of Indecent Expressions

The frequency of indecent expressions recorded on all the 9 radio stations are presented in Table 3. The majority of violations (71.7%) were perpetrated on two Accra-based radio stations - Accra FM and Power FM. Specifically, Accra FM had the highest number of violations, with a total of

22. The bulk of these were insulting and offensive comments (19), followed by unsubstantiated allegations (2), and one remark calling for confrontation and violence.

Power FM recorded the second-highest number of violations, totalling 11. Most of these were insulting and offensive comments (9), along with unsubstantiated allegations (2). Like Accra FM, Power FM shows a pattern of offensive remarks and baseless accusations. Oman FM had 8 violations, with a notable distribution across categories. While it recorded fewer insulting and offensive comments (3) compared to Accra FM and Power FM, it had a higher number of unsubstantiated allegations (4).

Additionally, Oman FM had one provocative remark, indicating a varied pattern of violations. Ashh FM had 2 violations: one insulting and offensive comment, and one unsubstantiated allegation. Radio Gold recorded one violation, which was an insulting and offensive comment. Both Wontumi Radio and Angel FM (all in Kumasi) recorded one violation each, with Wontumi Radio having an unsubstantiated allegation and Angel FM having a provocative remark.

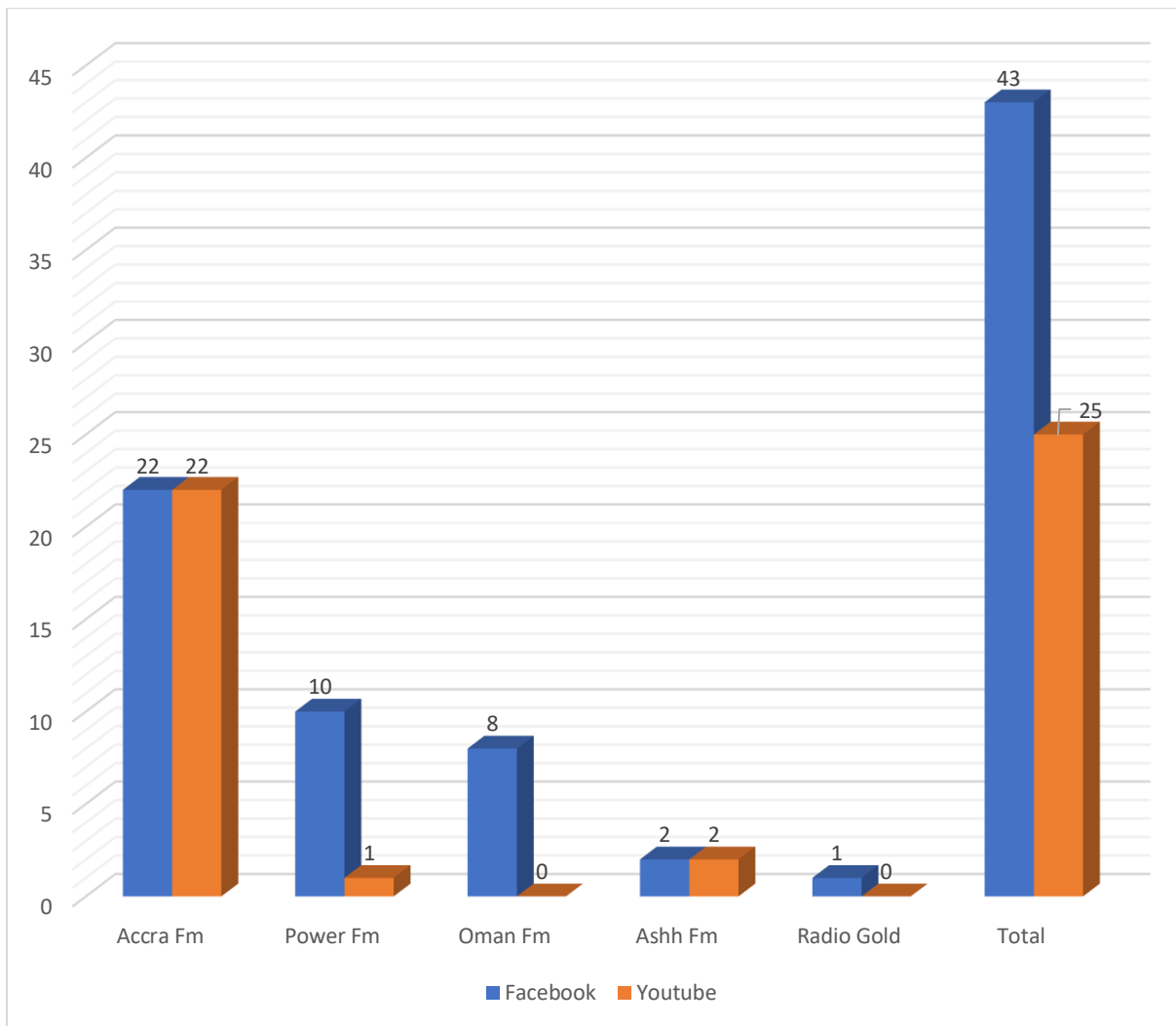
**Table 3: Radio stations and the category of violations recorded**

<b>Radio Station</b>	<b>Remarks calling for confrontation and violence</b>	<b>Insulting and offensive comments</b>	<b>Provocative remarks</b>	<b>Unsubstantiated allegations</b>	<b>Total</b>
Accra Fm	1	19	0	2	22
Power Fm	0	9	0	2	11
Oman Fm	0	3	1	4	8
Ashh Fm	0	1	0	1	2
Radio Gold	0	1	0	0	1
Wontumi Radio	0	0	0	1	1
Angel Fm	0	0	1	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>46</b>

### 3.3. Social Media Broadcast

Almost all (43 out of 46) of the indecent violations recorded on radio were also streamed live on social media. The show hosts frequently referred listeners to the radio stations' social media handles. All 43 violations streamed live were on Facebook, and 25 of these violations were also streamed simultaneously on YouTube. This is particularly troubling because the use of social media platforms does not only offer wider coverage for spreading indecent language but also preserves these inciteful comments, perpetuating their existence and potential negative influence on the nation's peace ahead of the general elections in December 2024.

**Figure 2: Social Media handles that broadcasted violations live on radio**





### 3.4 Culprits of Indecent Expressions Used on Radio

Table 4 shows the names of the individuals who authored the 46 indecent expressions. The expressions are presented according to the identified categories. Further details of the radio stations and the dates on which the categorised expressions were made are presented in the appendix of this report.

**Table 4: Number and categories of expressions authored by culprits**

No.	Name of culprit	Remarks calling for confrontation and violence	Insulting and offensive comments	Provocative remarks	Unsubstantiated allegations	Total
1	Kwabena Bobie Ansah	0	12	0	2	14
2	Listowel Nana Kusi Poku	1	6	0	1	8
3	Mugabe Maase	0	6	0	0	6
4	Anthony Nukpenu	0	2	0	1	3
5	Ransford K. Boakye	0	1	0	0	1
6	Gabriel Asiedu	0	0	1	0	1
7	Oheneba Boamah Bennie	0	1	0	0	1
8	Samuel Huntor	0	1	0	0	1
9	Nana Obiri Boahen	0	1	1	1	3
10	Solomon Quaye	0	1	0	0	1
11	Kwabena Frimpong	0	0	0	1	1
12	Kwabena Sarpong	0	0	0	1	1
13	Martin Luther	0	0	0	1	1
14	Paul Yandom	0	0	0	1	1
15	Owoahene	0	1	0	1	2
16	Prof. John Osei Bobie	0	1	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>46</b>

### 4.0 Assessment of Moderation of Programmes by Hosts

As part of the language monitoring project, moderators or hosts are assessed to find out how they conduct themselves on their respective programmes and also, how they handle their programmes to ensure that hate speech and other indecent expressions are not used on their platforms. Findings from the period under review (June 7-30, 2024) show that some moderators directly engaged in the use of indecent expressions.

Specifically, Kwabena Bobie Ansah, host of *The Citizen Show* on Accra-based Accra FM, recorded 14 violations; and Mugabe Maase, host of *Inside Politics* on Accra-based Power FM recorded 6 violations, making them the highest and third highest culprits. Hosts are expected to moderate discussions and maintain decorum, yet their significant involvement in making indecent expressions undermines this role.

## **5.0 Conclusion and Recommendations**

This report covers findings from monitoring conducted from June 7 to 30, 2024, across nine radio stations in Ghana. Overall, 46 indecent expressions were recorded, predominantly, insulting and offensive comments during discussions on elections, security, corruption, and development projects. Accra FM and Power FM featured prominently for violations. Social media amplification of these violations on platforms like Facebook and YouTube increase the reach and potential consequences of such indecent expressions.

Hosts themselves were responsible for a significant number of violations, indicating a lapse in moderation and accountability within media outlets. Specifically, Nana Bobie Ansah, host of 'The Citizen Show' on Accra-based Accra FM, was found to be the most abusive, having made 14 indecent expressions out of the 46 recorded.

In consideration of the above findings, the MFWA makes the following recommendations:

1. Radio stations, particularly presenters and moderators, should maintain professionalism by refraining from indecent expressions and ensuring that their guests adhere to respectful, fact-based expressions.
2. Program moderators should establish and enforce clear ground rules for their shows to maintain decorum.
3. The National Media Commission (NMC), the Ghana Independent Broadcasters Association (GIBA), and the Ghana Journalists Association (GJA) need to enhance regulatory and self-regulatory mechanisms to enhance media professionalism.
4. Political party leaders should urge their representatives, affiliates, and communicators to prioritize issue-based discussions and avoid using indecent language.

## Appendix: Reference to Indecent Expressions Recorded in June 2024

Name	Designation	Radio Station	Name of Programme	Date	Type of violation	Frequency
Anthony Nukpenu	Discussant	Power FM	Inside Politics	21.06.2024	Insulting and Offensive Remarks/ Comments	1
Anthony Nukpenu	Discussant	Power FM	Inside Politics	21.06.2024	Insulting and Offensive Remarks/ Comments	1
Anthony Nukpenu	Discussant		Inside Politics	21.06.2024	Unsubstantiated Allegations	1
Gabriel Asiedu	Discussant	Angel FM	Angel Breakfast	21.06.2024	Provocative remarks	1
Kwabena Bobie Ansah	The Host	Accra FM	The citizen show	19.06.2024	Insulting and Offensive Remarks/ Comments	1
Kwabena Bobie Ansah	The Host	Accra FM	The citizen show	19.06.2024	Insulting and Offensive Remarks/ Comments	2
Kwabena Bobie Ansah	The Host	Accra FM	The citizen show	18.06.2024	Insulting and Offensive Remarks/ Comments	1
Kwabena Bobie Ansah	The Host	Accra FM	The citizen show	18.06.2024	Insulting and Offensive Remarks/ Comments	1
Kwabena Bobie Ansah	The Host	Accra FM	The citizen show	12.06.2024	Unsubstantiated Allegations	1
Kwabena Bobie Ansah	The Host	Accra FM	The citizen show	11.06.2024	Insulting and Offensive Remarks/ Comments	2
Kwabena Bobie Ansah	The Host	Accra FM	The citizen show	10.06.2024	Insulting and Offensive Remarks/ Comments	1
Kwabena Bobie Ansah	The Host	Accra FM	The citizen show	27.06.2024	Unsubstantiated Allegations	2
Kwabena Bodie Ansah	The Host	Accra Fm	The Citizen Show	21.06.2024	Insulting and Offensive Remarks/ Comments	1
Kwabena Bodie Ansah	The Host	Accra Fm	The Citizen Show	19.06.2024	Insulting and Offensive Remarks/ Comments	2
Kwabena Frimpong		Oman FM	National agenda	20.06.2024	Unsubstantiated allegations	1
Kwabena Sarpong		Oman FM	The National Agenda	19.06.2024	Unsubstantiated allegations	1
Listowel Nana Kusi Poku		Power FM	Inside Politics	13.06.2024	Unsubstantiated allegations	1
Listowel Nana Kusi Poku	Discussant	Accra FM	The citizen show	13.06.2024	Insulting and Offensive Remarks/ Comments	1
Listowel Nana Kusi Poku	Discussant	Accra FM	The citizen show	13.06.2024	Insulting and Offensive Remarks/ Comments	2
Listowel Nana Kusi Poku	The Host	Accra FM	The citizen show	10.06.2024	Remarks calling for confrontation and violence	1

Name	Designation	Radio Station	Name of Programme	Date	Type of violation	Frequency
Listowel Nana Kusi-Poku	Discussant	Accra FM	The Citizen Show	24.06.2024	Insulting and Offensive Remarks/ Comments	1
Listowel Nana Kusi-Poku	Discussant	Accra Fm	The Citizen Show	21.06.2024	Insulting and Offensive Remarks/ Comments	2
Martin Luther		Oman Fm	The National Agenda	19.06.2024	Unsubstantiated allegations	1
Mugabe Maase	The host	Power FM	Inside Politics	21.06.2024	Insulting and Offensive Remarks/ Comments	1
Mugabe Maase	The Host	Power FM	Inside Politics	14.06.2024	Insulting and Offensive Remarks/ Comments	1
Mugabe Maase	The Host	Power FM	Inside Politics	14.06.2024	Insulting and Offensive Remarks/ Comments	1
Mugabe Maase	The Host	Power FM	Inside Politics	13.06.2024	Insulting and Offensive Remarks/ Comments	1
Mugabe Maase	The Host	Power FM	Inside Politics	13.06.2024	Insulting and Offensive Remarks/ Comments	1
Mugabe Maase	The Host	Power FM	Inside Politics	28.06.2024	Insulting and Offensive Remarks/ Comments	1
Nana Obiri Boahen	Discussant	Wontumi Radio	Morning Show	15.06.2024	Unsubstantiated allegations	1
Nana Obiri Boahen	Discussant	Oman FM	Pr3mtumr3 Kase3b)	19.06.2024	Provocative remarks	1
Nana Obiri Boahen	Discussant	Oman FM	Pr3mtumr3 Kase3b)	19.06.2024	Insulting and Offensive Remarks/ Comments	1
Oheneba Boamah Bennie	Discussant	Power FM	Battle Grounds	10.06.2024	Insulting and Offensive Remarks/ Comments	1
Owoahene	Discussant	Oman FM	Premuto mre Kase3b)	19.06.2024	Insulting and Offensive Remarks/ Comments	1
Paul Yandom	Discussant	Ashh FM	Key Note	14.06.2024	Unsubstantiated allegations	1
Prof. John Osei Bobie	Discussant	Ashh FM	Key Note	22.06.2024	Insulting and Offensive Remarks/ Comments	1
Ransford K Boakye	The Host	Radio Gold	Pampaso	19.06.2024	Insulting and Offensive Remarks/ Comments	1
Samuel Hunter	Discussant	Accra FM	The citizen show	28.06.2024	Insulting and Offensive Remarks/ Comments	1
Solomon Quaye	Discussant	Oman FM	National agenda	25.06.2024	Insulting and Offensive Remarks/ Comments	1
Owoahene	Discussant	Oman FM	National agenda	25.06.2024	Unsubstantiated allegations	1



Media Foundation for West Africa

Aar-Bakor Street, Ogbojo

Telephone: +233 (0) 302 555 327

Twitter: @TheMFWA

Facebook: Media Foundation for West Africa

[info@mfwawest.org](mailto:info@mfwawest.org)

[www.mfwawest.org](http://www.mfwawest.org)



[@themfwa](https://twitter.com/TheMFWA)



[www.mfwawest.org](http://www.mfwawest.org)



[themfwa](https://www.facebook.com/TheMFWA)