



• President Mahama addressing Global Leaders Meeting on Women

Ghana to have female president soon — Mahama predicts

BY JULIUS YAO PETETSI

THE President John Dramani Mahama is predicting that a woman will in the “very near future,” ascend to the presidential throne in Ghana.

This is because Ghana has taken decisive steps to mainstream gender across its national development policies, culminating into the historic election of Ghana’s first female Vice President and the appointment of women to leadership positions in government, the judiciary, the security services, and key national institutions.

“I am confident that, in the very near future, our women will break the glass ceiling and that a woman will be president of the Republic of Ghana,” he stated.

President Mahama expressed this confidence when he addressed the Global Leaders’ Meeting on Women in Beijing, China, on Monday.

The meeting presented an invaluable opportunity to reaffirm the world’s shared commitment to advancing the rights of women and girls worldwide and to assess the progress that have been made under the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

According to President Mahama, Ghana’s commitment to gender parity is further demonstrated by robust institutional reforms and legal frameworks that are designed to protect the rights of women and girls.

He said critical agencies, including the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection, the Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit, the Domestic Violence Secretariat, and the Specialised Domestic Violence Courts have been strengthened with sustained budgetary allocations to enhance their capacity to deliver justice, protection, and social support to survivors of gender-based violence.

Many social protection programmes that directly benefit women and girls, like the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) initiative, the School Feeding Programme, nationwide distribution of free sanitary pads for schoolgirls, free tertiary education for persons with disability, amongst others, President Mahama said have been expanded to reach a wider populace.

The above interventions, President Mahama said were anchored in a strong legal and policy framework.

As a result, a suite of key instruments, including the National Gender Policy, (2025–2034), the Ghana National Social Protection Act, the Domestic Violence Act, the Human Trafficking Act, and the Justice for Children Policy have been enacted and or revised to address the challenges that confront women and girls, President Mahama itemised.

He also mentioned the recently passed Affirmative Action (Gender Equity) Act, 2024, which mandates a minimum of 30 per cent female representation in public appointments by the end of 2026, 35 per cent by 2028, and 50 per cent by 2030, as another step towards giving women a seat at the highest decision-making table.

“To further empower women economically, Ghana is establishing a Women’s Development Bank to provide low-interest loans, financial literacy, training, and business development support to our women entrepreneurs.

“This initiative aims to promote financial inclusion and create more opportunities for women across all sectors of our economy,” he explained.

He posited that the global order was changing rapidly and threaten to reverse the gains made under the Millennium Development Goals and the ongoing Sustainable Development Goals.