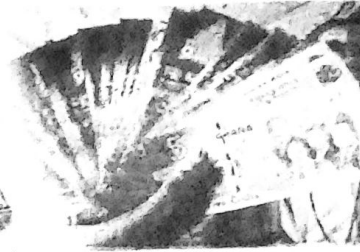




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## BoG, NIA, Fintech Players Push For Integrated Digital Economy

By Jennifer Ambolley

**T**he Bank of Ghana, the National Identification Authority and global fintech industry players have called for stronger integration of digital identity, payment systems and financial infrastructure to accelerate Ghana's transition into a fully connected digital economy.

The call was made during a high-level panel discussion at the 2026 3i Africa Summit in Accra under the session theme "One Nation, One ID, Infinite Possibilities: Leveraging National Digital ID for a Connected Digital Economy."

The session examined some of the toughest governance questions surrounding digital public infrastructure (DPI), including ownership, interoperability, regulation, access and the role of governments and private firms in shaping the future digital economy.

Moderating the discussion, Lorita Akuetteh of the Bank of Ghana said recent public excitement over false reports claiming the Ghana Card had been linked directly to payment systems showed that citizens increasingly desire

seamless digital services.

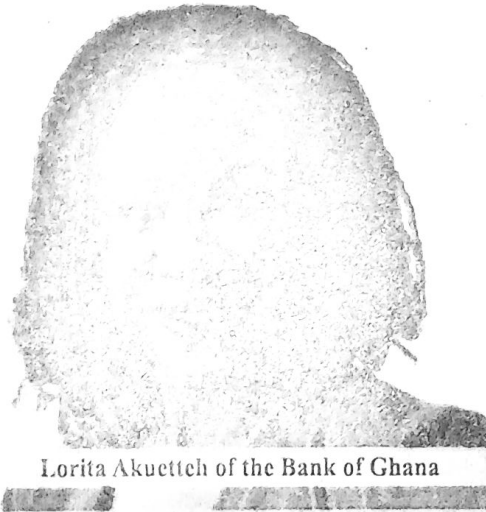
"It tells us that citizens are ready and imagining a future where identity, payments and services can all merge," she stated.

Dr. Fred Bedzrah, Deputy Executive Secretary of the National Identification Authority, described the Ghana Card as more than a physical identification card, insisting that it should be viewed as foundational economic infrastructure. "We should look at the Ghana Card beyond the plastic card we hold," he said.

According to him, the Ghana Card provides the trusted identity layer needed for secure transactions and service delivery across the digital economy. "It answers the question: Are you who you claim to be?" he explained.

Dr. Bedzrah noted that once a strong digital identity framework is established, opportunities emerge for integrated payments, digital commerce, stronger anti-money laundering systems and broader financial inclusion. "Once identity is established strongly, the possibilities are infinite," he stressed.

He further disclosed that the



Lorita Akuetteh of the Bank of Ghana

Ghana Card already possesses an e-money capability that could potentially support payment transactions in future. "The Ghana Card has an e-money profile, which can be activated at any time," he revealed.

However, he cautioned that integrating identity and payment systems into one platform must be approached carefully to avoid creating systemic risks. "We have to balance risk, confidence and innovation," he added.

Dominic Owusu, Director of Currency Management at the Bank of Ghana, stressed that despite the rapid evolution of digital public in-

frastructure, central banks must remain at the core of currency issuance and settlement systems.

According to him, while governments should provide trusted public infrastructure and regulation, private firms should continue leading innovation and customer-facing services. "The public infrastructure brings trust and the private sector brings innovation," he stated.

Mr. Owusu maintained that the responsibility for issuing and redeeming currency must remain with the central bank regardless of future digital finance developments. "The central bank must always remain at the core," he stressed.

He also argued that digital infrastructure systems must remain open and interoperable to prevent monopolistic control, and encourage innovation across the ecosystem.

According to him, settlement systems must also remain properly regulated to preserve public confidence and financial stability as digital transactions expand.

Karim Dia, Senior Mobile Money Regulatory Specialist at the GSMA, also stressed the impor-

ance of collaboration between governments and private sector operators.

Mr. Dia noted that government should focus on trusted infrastructure and regulation while private companies drive innovation, customer reach and service delivery.

Michael Wallis-Brown, Vice President for Payments and Banking at FIS Global, highlighted the growing global convergence between digital identity and financial services.

Drawing examples from Singapore, Estonia and Scandinavian countries, he said digital identity systems are increasingly becoming central to banking, payments and online commerce.

He further described Africa as uniquely positioned to leapfrog traditional financial systems because of its highly mobile and digitally connected population.

"Africa is positioned perfectly to leapfrog into the next generation of digital commerce," he said.

Mr. Wallis-Brown, however, warned that technology alone would not guarantee success without the right policy environment. "Technology is the easy part. Policy is the hard part," he stressed.