



HON. SAMUEL AWUKU

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
AKUAPEN NORTH CONSTITUENCY

My Ref: MP/25/077

Your Ref: _____

Date: 25/09/2025

RE: NLA GOOD CAUSES? HOW FUNDS MEANT FOR THE POOR AND ORPHANS WERE BLOWN ON AWARDS, GALAS AND THE RICH.

My attention has been drawn to a publication by the Fourth Estate on the above-stated caption, indicating that during my tenure as Director-General of the National Lottery Authority, funds for Good Causes were “used for glamorous events and other questionable enterprises”, citing some events that were sponsored but largely remaining silent on the life-saving projects and donations for which the Foundation has become known.

Article 1 of the Ghana Journalists Association (GJA) Code of Ethics states that “The duty of every journalist is to write and report the truth, bearing in mind his/her duty to serve the public. The public has the right to unbiased, accurate, balanced, and comprehensive information, as well as to express themselves freely through the media. A journalist should make adequate enquiries and cross-check their facts”.

For journalists of the Fourth Estate’s calibre who pride themselves in working in the public interest, I believe it is only appropriate that the publications they produce are factual, balanced and not misleading, as they sought to do with this article and as clearly stipulated in the GJA Code of Ethics, which I would believe guides their journalistic work.

I would also like to place on record that it was at my instance that the Fourth Estate granted me an interview on August 18, 2025, when its coverage of the NLA-KGL and the Good Causes Foundation began, hence I expected an accurate portrayal of the facts I presented and not a lopsided story that omits the significant impact made by the Foundation.

That said, I would like to address the issues raised by the Fourth Estate by providing perspective and context to the NLA Good Causes Foundation.

Inception Of the Good Causes Foundation

Before the establishment of the NLA Good Causes Foundation in October 2021, the NLA had a Special Projects Department, which was responsible for its corporate social responsibility projects. The Department was established to identify and pursue sustainable community projects that foster community engagement and partnership with the NLA. The NLA’s CSR Projects were tailored to ensure regional balance, transparency, respect for stakeholder interests, and adherence to ethical practices, with a focus on Education, Health, Cultural Heritage, and Sports.



HON. SAMUEL AWUKU

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

AKUAPEM NORTH CONSTITUENCY

My Ref: MP/25/077

Your Ref: _____

Date: 25/09/2025

Upon assuming office and having observed the impact of the lottery on society in the Ivory Coast during a visit, I sought to replicate the same approach back home. Thus, on October 20, 2021, with the support of the Governing Board, the Special Projects was rebranded as the Good Causes Foundation to better serve the needs of the underprivileged and spearhead the Authority's corporate social responsibility.

This originates from Section 2 (3) of the NLA's National Lotto Act, 2006 (Act 722), which states that "there shall be conducted as part of the operation of National Lotto a lottery with the object of providing care and protection for the physically or mentally afflicted, the needy, the aged, orphans, and destitute children". The Good Causes Foundation, which is not a lottery as has been purported, aims to develop, implement, and maintain a structure based on four main pillars approved by the NLA Governing Board. They are: Health, Education, Youth and Sports Development, and Arts and Culture.

The NLA Governing Board also determines the discretionary support and projects that the Authority undertakes annually, which may not necessarily fall under these pillars.

With this background in place, I would like to throw some light on some projects and donations undertaken by the Good Causes Foundation during my tenure.

Projects And Donations

In 2023 and 2024, the Governing Board prioritized the construction of toilet facilities and mechanized boreholes across Ghana's 16 regions to promote good sanitary practices in our communities, complementing the government's efforts in providing social amenities.

Ejura, Drobonso in the Ashanti Region, Essikado in the Western Region, Kwawkrom in the Central Region, Bomaa and Odumase in the Bono Region, Accra Wesley Girls and Wesley Grammar High Schools in the Greater Accra Region and New Juabeng South and Akyem Tafo in the Eastern Region, include areas that have benefited from the 20-seater toilet facilities with mechanized boreholes. These facilities have been duly commissioned and handed over to the communities.

Other areas where 20-seater toilet facilities were constructed include Garu in the Upper East Region, Zabzugu in the Northern Region, and Aflao, among others.

Some of the projects undertaken under the various pillars include, but are not limited to:



HON. SAMUEL AWUKU

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
AKUAPEM NORTH CONSTITUENCY

My Ref: MP/25/077

Your Ref: _____

Date: 25/09/2025

Health

- Support for a 7-week-old baby, diagnosed with Spinal Bifida and Hydrocephalus, by paying all her bills for surgery at the Tamale Teaching Hospital.
- Support to the Bahass Foundation in Wa, Weija Leprosarium and Accra Psychiatric Hospital.
- Support to the Pantang Hospital in undertaking a Mental Health Awareness program.
- Donation of an incubator, phototherapy machine and a vital sign machine to the Hope Exchange Hospital in Kumasi.
- Donation of an incubator to the Tetteh Quarshie Memorial Hospital in collaboration with the Kokrokoo Charities Foundation.
- Construction of a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit for the University of Ghana Hospital in Legon.
- Support to Ho Teaching Hospital -Mattresses for the Accident and Emergency Centre
- Refurbished the Tema Polyclinic Recovery Ward and Koforidua Central Hospital Children's Ward.
- Donation of medical items and building materials to the Ankafu Psychiatric hospital to mark Mental Health Awareness month.
- Sharing of sanitary pads to over 2,000 schoolgirls in some deprived schools during the Menstrual Hygiene Awareness Day in Takoradi and the Afigya Sekyere District.
- Medical outreach and health screening programs in Jasikan, Nkwanta, Bonache in the Oti Region, Korle-Wokon, Somanya, Kadjebi, and Fiapre, benefiting over 6,000 people.
- May Day health talk on Lupus Awareness and menstrual hygiene for the head porters, truck pushers and children at Tema station and its environs. The head potters were given sanitary pads, refreshed and entertained.
- Cash Support to Individuals with Medical Ailments

Education

- Construction of a Smart Laboratory for the Borstal Correctional Institute in Accra
- Established an IT Lab in collaboration with Ask Ghana for schools in the Agona West Municipality
- Constructed a Three-Unit Classroom Block with Ancillary Facilities in Akyem Dwenase



HON. SAMUEL AWUKU

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
AKUAPEM NORTH CONSTITUENCY

My Ref: MP/25/077 Your Ref: _____ Date: 25/09/2025

- Provided educational materials and equipment for some remote schools
- Provided several brilliant but needy students with scholarships.
- Refurbished Schools – Gonten Primary School, Mamfe Presby Primary School.
- Constructed a basketball and Volleyball court for St. Louis Senior High School
- Supported Several senior high schools to refurbish dilapidated projects in their schools.

Youth And Sports Development

- Support of the Government's YouStart Program.
- Supported the Real Tamale United Football Team
- Supported the Accra Hearts of Oak and Kumasi Asante Kotoko football Teams
- Supported the Youth of Adumasa through the Nana Serwaa Brakutu Humanitarian Fund with training in Bead and Dress Making
- Supported the Hasaacas Ladies Football Team
- Support the Ampem Darkoa Ladies Football Team
- Supported Henrietta Armah for an International Taekwondo Tournament in Austria

Arts And Culture

- Celebration of our culture through Festivals and our Community Draws with Cash Donations – Kwahu Obomeng, Hogbetsotso, Fetu Afahye, Nsawam Adoagyir Odwira, Homowo, Akwasidae at Akwamufie, among many others.
- Partnered with the Citi FM Heritage Caravan to celebrate our cultural heritage.
- Supported a capacity-building workshop for some Queen mothers across Ghana

General Support

- Support for NADMO - Northern Region Disaster Victims
- Support for the people of Appiatse during the explosion
- Support for the Ghana Deaf Football Association to participate in the Centenary summit in China in June 2024.
- Construction of a Corn Milling Facility for the Gonten Community
- Donation of office equipment to the Ghana Police Service
- Support for the National Council on Persons with Disability with laptops





HON. SAMUEL AWUKU

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
AKUAPEM NORTH CONSTITUENCY

My Ref: MP/25/077

Your Ref:

Date: 25/09/2025

- Sponsored the Accra Rehabilitation Centre with crotches to support them to walk and provided them with toiletries and food items.

The NLA's investment in these projects was a way of giving back to the communities it serves and demonstrating to its patrons that even when they don't win, their contributions support a worthy cause.

I would like to emphasize that the above list is not exhaustive and does not encompass all the support and donations that have been made. The NLA Good Causes Foundation, funded by proceeds from the Caritas Lottery Platform, has positively affected over one million lives and brought about transformative changes in many communities and institutions across the country, assisting several individuals, including approximately 150 NLA staff members. In prioritizing the welfare of Staff, most of them received educational and medical support to cushion them and prevent them from the burden of taking loans with high interest and for this, I make no apology.

The NLA Caritas Platform

The NLA Caritas Lottery Platform was established in 2012 to regulate consumer promotions, games of chance, raffles, and draws, as well as points-based selection criteria, by companies, individuals, and well-meaning Ghanaians. This is hinged in Section 4 of the National Lotto Act, 2006, (Act 722), which states that "The Authority may, in consultation with the Minister, operate any other game of chance or enter into collaboration, partnership or joint venture with any person, society, association or corporate entity, to operate a game of chance, the collaboration, partnership or joint venture shall not be compensated for by the State or from the Lotto Account provided for under section 32".

Following a four-year hiatus, the Caritas Lottery Platform was relaunched in October 2021, alongside the Good Causes Foundation, to regain market dominance. Upon assuming office, the Caritas Lottery Platform had next to nothing in its kitty. Following the relaunch, however, the Caritas Lottery Platform generated a significant amount of revenue.

In 2021, the platform generated an amount of GHS 102,585.23. In 2022, it generated a sum of GHS 1,482,432.10. In 2023, the platform generated GHS 3,221,504.65 and in 2024, it generated an amount of GHS 6,251,500.50, cumulatively totalling approximately GHS 11,048,022.48 from October 2021 to December 2024, during my tenure.



HON. SAMUEL AWUKU

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
AKUAPEM NORTH CONSTITUENCY

My Ref: MP/25/077

Your Ref:

Date: 25/09/2025

Glamorous Expenditures and Questionable Enterprises

The NLA Caritas Platform has Corporate Ghana as its primary stakeholder. In addition to organizing stakeholder engagements with corporate Ghana to attract them to the Caritas Lottery Platform, we secured strategic sponsorships to capture key players and captains of industry who had previously associated with specific brands.

I must state, however, that the association with these brands brought several benefits to the NLA, including increased brand awareness and visibility, which helped the Authority pitch its brand to industry leaders for stakeholder collaborations, thereby generating revenue for the Caritas Lottery Platform, which in turn, funds the Good Causes Foundation. The Africa Prosperity Dialogue for instance helped the NLA form some international partnerships, which the Authority is currently exploring.

Support for the Rebecca Foundation, for instance, was in response to the former First Lady's call to Corporate Ghana and state institutions to help raise funds for the construction of the mother and child unit at the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital, which aligned with the functions of the NLA's Health Pillar.

Additionally, some of these sponsorships were influenced by the Authority's relationship with its stakeholders, including the government, the Governing Board and the Authority's supervisory ministries, which include the Ministries of Finance, Interior and the Ministry of Justice and Office of the Attorney-General's Department, who all had representation on the NLA Governing Board and whose periodic requests from could not be turned down.

It is also worth noting that the figures quoted for some of the donations, termed as glamorous, are not entirely accurate. The figures had been lumped together to create the impression that recipients were paid a single lump sum. In contrast, some of these sponsorships were actually paid separately over a period of two to three years. I must also categorically state, however, that as Director General, my approval threshold was GHS 100,000, and any amounts exceeding that were submitted to the Governing Board for approval.

These sponsorships, I dare say, may account for approximately 5% of the total, compared to roughly 95% of projects and donations made to save and transform individuals, communities, and institutions.



HON. SAMUEL AWUKU

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
AKUAPEM NORTH CONSTITUENCY

My Ref: MP/25/077

Your Ref: _____

Date: 25/09/2025

I therefore find it quite unfortunate that the names of NLA staff and other beneficiaries, including cancer patients and people with other medical conditions, will be flagrantly published by the Fourth Estate under the guise of public interest without warning or right to privacy, and I would urge them to do better.

Awards

Regarding Awards, I would like to state for the record that I received several nominations and letters from institutions for recognition as Director-General and for the NLA as an Authority. Many of these awards, however, were turned down as a matter of principle, and the records are there to show for it.

NLA, however, sponsored some key programs, such as the EMY Awards, the Ghana Club 100 Awards, and the Ghana CEO's Summit, which were key events on the Marketing Department's calendar to attract new clients and appeal to corporate giants and top brands —the key stakeholders of such events. These sponsorships, which culminated in many accounts, grew the Caritas Lottery Platform from GHS 100,000 in 2021 to over GHS 11,000,000 by the end of 2024.

Although I may have received an award or two at such sponsored events, the intention was not to purchase an award, as alleged. The NLA has consistently been a sponsor of the Ghana CEO's Summit from 2022 through to 2025. It is a falsehood to state that because the NLA is a sponsor, the awards are bought, as there were no awards received, for instance, in 2022 and 2025. The NLA also never picked up awards at the Ghana Club 100 Awards. The awards I received were in recognition of the collective effort and achievements of my management and staff and not bought.

Conclusion

I want to conclude by alluding to reports from the World Lottery Association (WLA), which indicate that WLA member lotteries contributed almost USD 83 billion to fund good causes on average in the last three years, and since 1999, have raised an estimated USD 1.6 trillion." These funds support education, care for the aged, grassroots sports, and the respective communities of member countries.

The National Lottery Authority, a member of the World Lottery Association, African Lotteries Association (ALA) and European Lotteries (EL) primarily through my influence and the hard work of my then staff and management team, has replicated the same by touching the lives of many communities, individuals, and institutions through the building of recreational centres, sanitary facilities, mechanized boreholes, refurbishing



HON. SAMUEL AWUKU

**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
AKUAPEM NORTH CONSTITUENCY**

My Ref: MP/25/077

Your Ref: _____

Date: 12/08/2025

schools and hospitals, granting scholarships to brilliant but needy students, and providing educational and medical equipment and support, amongst many other things.

These have been endorsed by the former WLA President, Madam Rebecca Paul, who, during the celebration of the NLA's 60th Anniversary in 2022, in widely publicized accounts of the event, commended the NLA for its efforts in Good Causes. Additionally, the former Maltese President, H.E. Dr George Vella, during a state visit to the NLA in March 2024, also commended the NLA for its Good Causes.

The Accounts of NLA's Good Causes have been previously published in the dailies and online and can be easily verified. When I assumed office in 2021, the NLA had incurred losses in revenue; however, in the ensuing years until I left, these were turned around into profits. The financial reports are captured in the Auditor General's Report and can be verified.

I want to state unequivocally that during my tenure as Director-General, I worked diligently, served with integrity, and did my best to project and leave the NLA in a much better state than I found it. While the Fourth Estate seeks to highlight the ills of the NLA Good Causes Foundation, I believe an accurate version would be worth everyone's while.

Yours Sincerely

Hon. Samuel Awuku, Esq.

MP, Akuapem North Constituency, Eastern Region, Ghana.

