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GCAA Probes KLM Passenger Mistreatment Claims

By Priscilla Frimpong



The Ghana Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA) has launched an investigation into allegations of mistreatment involving passengers travelling on a KLM Royal Dutch Airlines flight from Amsterdam to Accra following reports of an extended delay at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport.

The Authority announced on Sunday that it had taken note of videos circulating on social media showing stranded passengers expressing dissatisfaction over their alleged treatment by KLM in connection with Flight KL589, which

had been scheduled to arrive in Accra on Friday, June 26, 2026.

In a statement issued in Accra, the GCAA said it viewed the incident with concern and had initiated an investigation as part of its mandate to safeguard passenger interests and uphold standards within Ghana's aviation sector.

"As Ghana's aviation regulator, with safety, security and consumer protection as our top priorities, the GCAA has commenced an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the reported tarmac

delay and the alleged mistreatment of some passengers," the Authority stated.

According to the regulator, the investigation will involve consultations with all relevant stakeholders to establish the facts surrounding the incident.

The Authority indicated that the findings of the investigation would be communicated where appropriate and in accordance with established regulatory procedures.

The GCAA reiterated that passenger welfare remains a key priority and assured the travelling public of its

commitment to enforcing high standards of service across the country's aviation industry.

"The GCAA remains committed to ensuring safety and security of passengers and high standards of service within the aviation sector," the statement added.

The outcome of the probe is expected to determine whether any regulatory action or recommendations will be taken concerning the incident involving Flight KL589.

African Airlines Lead Global Air Cargo Growth

By David Kwakutse



African airlines posted the strongest air cargo growth of any region in May 2026, underscoring the continent's expanding role in global logistics even as conflict-related disruptions continued to weigh heavily on carriers in the Middle East.

According to the International Air Transport Association's (IATA) latest air cargo market analysis, demand for freight services by African airlines rose 13.3% year-on-year in May, more than double the global average growth rate of 6.0%.

The performance placed Africa ahead of all other regions, highlighting growing demand for the continent's air cargo services amid strengthening trade flows and improving connectivity.

African carriers also expanded cargo capacity by 1.3% compared with the same period last year, while achieving an average cargo load factor of 46.9%, slightly above the global average of 46.3%. Despite the strong growth, Africa accounted for just 2.1% of the world's total air cargo market, illustrating the considerable room for further expansion.

The latest figures suggest

African airlines are benefiting from increasing demand for the movement of high-value, time-sensitive goods, even as the continent continues investing in airport infrastructure, cargo handling facilities and regional trade integration under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Globally, air cargo demand continued its upward trajectory, rising 6.0% year-on-year in May, while industry-wide cargo capacity increased by 1.9%, indicating that demand continues to outpace the expansion of available freight space.

In contrast, airlines in the

Middle East experienced a markedly different operating environment. The region recorded an 8.9% contraction in cargo demand as ongoing geopolitical tensions and war-related disruptions continued to affect trade flows and airline operations.

The divergence in regional performance reflects a shifting landscape for global air freight, with African carriers increasingly benefiting from evolving supply chains and growing intra-African commerce, while conflict-hit markets continue to face operational headwinds.

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Floods disrupt Accra, Interior Minister issues safety appeal



Alhaji Mohammed Mubarak Muntaka, Minister of Interior, has urged residents of Accra to remain indoors and avoid unnecessary movement as heavy rains continue to cause flooding in parts of the capital.

He said reports from the emergency services indicated that several roads linking communities to the Central Business District had already been inundated, while the Ghana Meteorological Agency had forecast heavier rainfall before midday.

"I have just spoken to the Director-General of the Ghana Meteorological Agency, and we are expecting heavier rains before midday. We are therefore pleading with everyone to stay where they are if it is safe to do so," he said in an interview.

The Minister appealed to residents who had not yet left home for work to remain indoors, saying the worsening flood situation posed a risk to

lives and property.

He advised commuters who had already left home but were still close enough to return to do so immediately to avoid being trapped by rising floodwaters.

Alhaji Muntaka urged workers who had already reached their workplaces to remain there until conditions improved instead of attempting to travel during the peak of the rains.

He appealed to public and private institutions to adopt remote working arrangements where possible to minimise movement and reduce exposure to the flood risk.

"Managers who have important meetings should consider holding them on Zoom. Please do not unnecessarily pull people out to travel under these dangerous conditions," he added.

The Minister said the directive was a precautionary measure to safeguard lives as emergency

management agencies monitored developments across the capital.

He urged motorists and pedestrians to avoid driving or walking through flooded roads, warning that fast-moving floodwaters could sweep away vehicles and people.

Alhaji Muntaka appealed to the public to cooperate with the security agencies, the National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO) and other emergency responders managing the situation.

He assured residents that the Government was monitoring the situation and would continue to provide updates and guidance as the weather conditions evolved.

The Minister appealed for calm and vigilance, saying public cooperation would be critical in reducing the impact of the floods and preventing avoidable casualties.

He reiterated that protecting lives remained the Government's immediate priority and urged residents to heed official warnings until the heavy rains and flooding subsided.

Meanwhile, heavy rains on Monday morning caused flooding on several major roads in Accra.

The Weija-Kasoa Road and sections of the N1 Highway were submerged by floodwaters.

The Ghana Standards Authority-Shiashie stretch was partially blocked, with only one lane accessible to motorists.

The Atomic Roundabout was flooded and impassable, while the Legon-GIMPA Bypass Road was blocked around the new Law School building.

GNA

Enforce AI Guardrails Before It's Too Late

By Gabriela Ramos and Emilija Stojmenova Duh



The emergence of generative AI less than four years ago has already triggered a series of “Sputnik” moments. Just as the Soviet Union’s launch of the first artificial satellite into orbit in 1957 jolted the United States into upgrading its space program, the November 2022 release of ChatGPT, a large language model displaying an unprecedented level of complexity, triggered admiration and fear around the world. Other tech firms raced to develop similar tools, even as experts, including AI pioneers Yoshua Bengio and Geoffrey Hinton, warned that the technology could pose a “risk of extinction.”

The next Sputnik moment came in January 2025, with

the release of DeepSeek-R1, a frontier model developed by a Chinese startup at a fraction of the compute cost of the US systems it rivaled. This challenged the assumption that the US held an unassailable technological lead—and the belief that controlling access to chips would slow the competition.

But perhaps the most troubling Sputnik moment was the arrival of Anthropic’s Mythos model in April. Capable of identifying vulnerabilities in financial systems, payment networks, and other critical infrastructure, Mythos seemed to mark a qualitative shift in what AI models can do. It brings AI closer to “superintelligence”: self-learning features appear to be

within reach, and with them, the limits of human control. The fact that Anthropic, rather than a governmental body, made the decision to pursue a controlled rollout (only recently, after its public release, did the US take action) underscores the glaring absence of AI governance.

The consequences could be dire. Consider EternalBlue, a software exploit developed by the US National Security Agency. Soon after it leaked in 2017, hackers used it to power the WannaCry ransomware attack on the United Kingdom’s National Health Service, forcing the cancellation of nearly 7,000 appointments. EternalBlue was also behind the NotPetya cyberattack on the global

shipping giant Maersk, which caused an estimated \$10 billion in damage. If that was the fallout from one leaked vulnerability, imagine what would happen if Mythos, which has already found more than 10,000 vulnerabilities, fell into the wrong hands.

The governmental response to these developments has been woefully insufficient. To be sure, international bodies have sought to guide the responsible use of AI. There has been UNESCO’s Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, the OECD AI

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Principles, and the United Nations' Global Digital Compact. These efforts, to which we contributed, recognize that there is no value in innovation that is not aligned with human rights and dignity.

So far, though, the European Union is the only jurisdiction that has turned that lesson

policies to ensure safety and security within AI systems. But these efforts suffered a serious setback with the arrival of the Trump administration, which revoked the executive order and doubled down on the very incentives—profit-seeking and the scramble for geopolitical advantage—that have fueled the AI race from the outset.

The arrival of Mythos

to explain why Anthropic's models, but not OpenAI's equally powerful ones, were targeted, inviting scrutiny as these companies line up to launch IPOs.

In all these episodes, what is striking is the lack of forward thinking. Instead of preparing for future shocks, policymakers are scrambling to respond to the last one. But frontier models' self-learning

must heed the lessons of these AI developments, each more powerful than the last. To ensure that AI models—especially those that seem poised to upend labor markets and transform health and education systems—align with societal values, governments must foster democratic debate and establish meaningful guardrails. Anything less courts disaster.



into law, with the 2024 AI Act. But implementation is already off track. The Code of Practice, intended to help tech firms comply with the AI Act (including specific commitments for providers of models with systemic risk), is voluntary. Moreover, the Digital Omnibus has delayed the application of binding obligations for high-risk standalone systems from August 2026 to December 2027.

The AI safety summits convened by the United Kingdom, France, and India have delivered useful outcomes, particularly the establishment of safety institutes that are mandated to work together in a global network. Moreover, President Joe Biden's 2023 executive order introduced sensible

has highlighted the administration's incoherent and shifting approach. In June, Trump signed an executive order to expand federal oversight of frontier models—a sensible step. But compliance with the pre-release framework, which calls for collaboration between agencies and developers on cybersecurity testing, is voluntary.

A few weeks later, the Department of Commerce imposed export controls on Anthropic's latest models without clear evidence or consultation. The move was presented as a national security measure, limiting democratic oversight, alienating partners, and boosting the appeal of open-source models—a gift to China. Moreover, the government has failed

capabilities suggest that further breakthroughs will not be gradual; instead, they will most likely arrive suddenly and have compounding effects, leaving less time to adjust than before. The voluntary frameworks, industry self-assessments, and summits that produce declarations rather than binding commitments have not prepared us for what is coming.

The original Sputnik moment triggered a genuine reorientation of priorities, institutions, and resources. The US government created NASA, increased public investment in science and technology, and 11 years later put a man on the moon.

Of course, today's geopolitical conditions look nothing like the Cold War. But policymakers

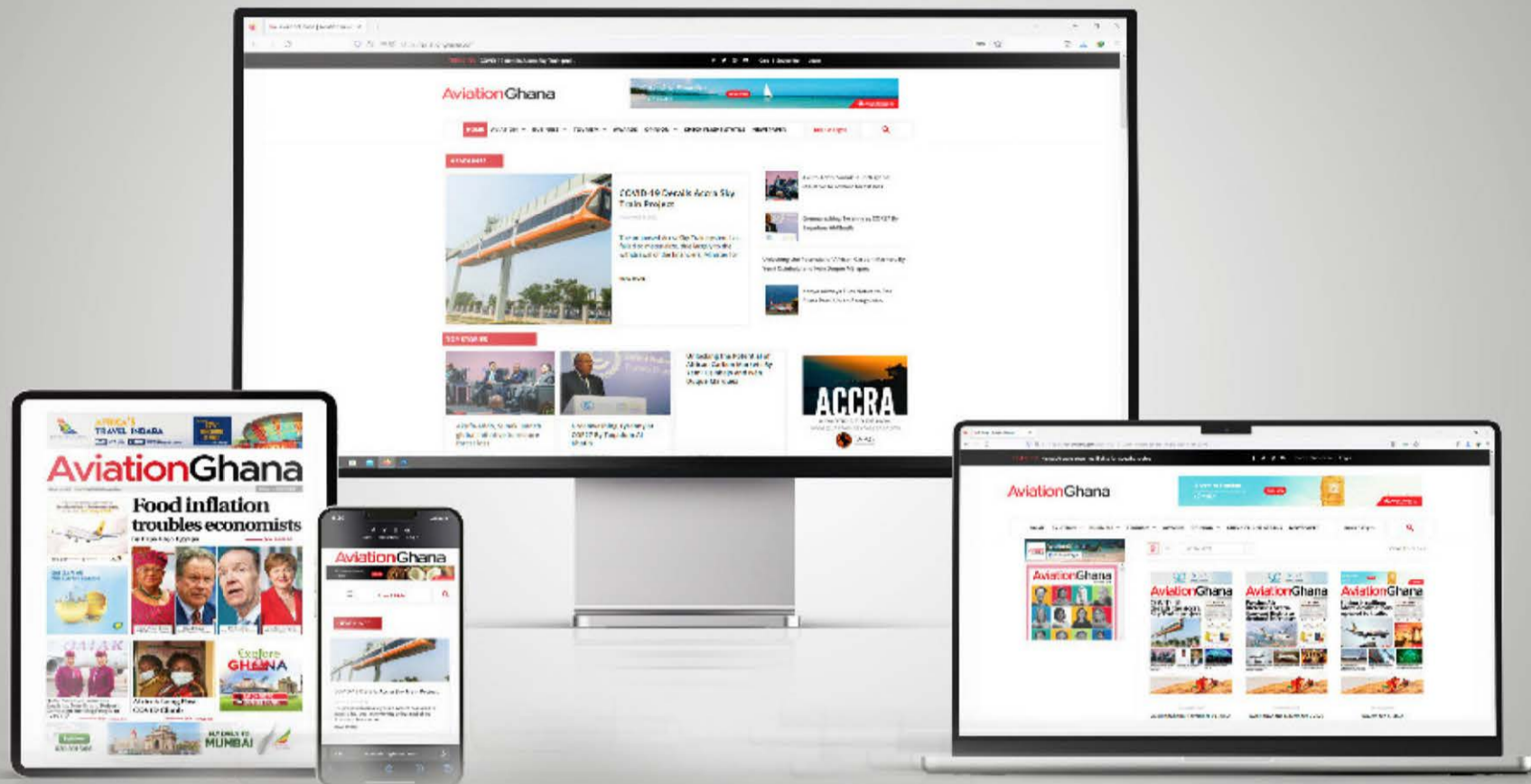
Gabriela Ramos, Co-Chair of the Task Force on Inequalities and Social-Related Financial Disclosures, is a former assistant director-general for social and human sciences at UNESCO, where she oversaw the development of the Recommendation on the Ethics of AI, and a former OECD chief of staff and sherpa to the G20, G7, and APEC. Emilija Stojmenova Duh, Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering at the University of Ljubljana, is a member of the Globethics Foundation Board, a member of the EU AI Scientific Panel, and a former minister of digital transformation of Slovenia.

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