Africa Virtual Assets Summit (AVAS) 2026

Summit Theme: Tokenisation: Africa's Pathway to a Trusted, Inclusive and Innovative Digital Asset Ecosystem

Theme: Virtual Assets and the Future of Ghana's Financial System: Innovation, Stability and Trust

Goodwill Message

by

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The Director-General of the Securities and Exchange Commission,
Heads of Regulatory Institutions,
Representatives of International Organisations,
Leaders of Industry,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good morning.

It is a pleasure to bring the goodwill of the Bank of Ghana to the Africa Virtual Assets Summit 2026. I commend the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) for organising this important gathering and for its continued collaboration with the Bank of Ghana in developing the country's emerging virtual asset ecosystem.

The discussion before us is not simply about a new class of digital assets. It is about how technology could reshape the architecture of Ghana's financial system, and how we shape these developments deliberately, so that the system serves more people at lower cost while preserving the stability and public confidence on which it depends.

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1. Virtual assets and tokenisation can help shape a more inclusive and efficient financial system.

Ghana has already shown that it can adopt financial technology at scale: in August 2026 alone, mobile money platforms processed over one billion transactions worth approximately GH₵519 billion. The question now is what the next phase of that journey should look like.

For African economies, and Ghana in particular, virtual assets and tokenisation offer opportunities to address longstanding market imperfections: limited access to capital, high transaction costs, fragmented financial infrastructure, and barriers to cross-border payments and investment.

The opportunities span several areas. Virtual asset infrastructure could make remittances from our diaspora faster and cheaper, and digital settlement could support trade under the African Continental Free Trade Area, where payments between neighbouring economies are often slow, costly and routed through third currencies.

Tokenisation, the theme of this Summit, extends these possibilities further. By representing ownership of, or rights to, assets such as securities, commodities and trade receivables in digital

form, it could allow a small exporter to obtain financing earlier and at lower cost, reduce settlement times from days to minutes, and give smaller enterprises new channels for raising capital.

But neither virtual assets nor tokenisation is an end in itself. Their value lies in solving real economic problems. That is the future we should be building towards.

2. Trust and stability are the foundations on which that future must be built.

Shaping this future requires confidence. As the central bank, the Bank of Ghana's responsibility for price stability and the soundness of the financial system does not diminish with technological change; it becomes more important. Our task is to ensure that the financial system of tomorrow is as resilient as it is innovative.

The same principle applies to how money itself evolves. Stablecoins may offer benefits for payments and settlement, but their growing adoption, particularly those denominated in foreign currencies, could have implications for monetary sovereignty, currency substitution, capital flows and the effectiveness of monetary policy. Innovation in digital finance must support, rather than undermine monetary and financial stability and confidence in the Ghana cedi.

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This does not call for heavy-handed regulation. Not all virtual asset activities present the same risks, and our approach must reflect their nature, scale and complexity. What it does require is trust, built on consumer and investor protection, the safeguarding of customer assets, financial integrity, and sound connections with the traditional financial system. Trust is not the opposite of innovation; it is what allows innovation to grow, and it is earned through the way innovation is governed and operated.

3. Ghana is building the framework that will allow responsible innovation to grow.

The passage of the Virtual Asset Service Providers Act, 2025 (Act 1154) marks a significant milestone, establishing a dedicated legal framework for virtual assets with coordinated regulation by the Bank of Ghana and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Legislation is only the beginning. The real test will be translating the law into a credible and enforceable framework that gives responsible firms and investors the certainty they need to build and invest with confidence, and makes Ghana a trusted home for responsible innovation.

Stablecoins are a priority within this framework. The Bank of Ghana is developing a Stablecoin Directive to set clear requirements for stablecoin activities in Ghana, while providing clarity for any permitted activities.

The Bank is also working closely with the SEC and the Financial Intelligence Centre to develop the necessary regulatory instruments and supervisory arrangements. The inauguration of the Virtual Assets Coordinating Committee provides an important platform for cooperation among the relevant public institutions.

Conclusion

Our ambition is a financial system that is more inclusive, more efficient and more resilient: one in which a trader in Kumasi, a cocoa farmer and a young developer in Accra can all benefit from faster, cheaper and safer financial services.

Our collective task is not simply to build a digital asset market.

It is to build an ecosystem that is safe enough to be trusted, inclusive enough to serve our people, and innovative enough to support Africa's future.

I wish you fruitful deliberations and a successful Summit.

I thank you for your attention.

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