



Mobilizing the youth for AfCFTA

OPERATING AS THE NORTHERN STAR CENTRE

John Dramani Mahama Presidential Library & Legacy Centre

Preserving Legacy. Building Futures.

Where Legacy Becomes Leadership.

A Continental Institution for Leadership, Heritage, Research, and Human Dignity – rooted in Northern Ghana and serving Africa and the world.

Illuminating the Northern Stars of Yesterday. Inspiring the Northern Stars of Today. Preparing the Northern Stars of Tomorrow.

Navigate by Principle. Illuminate by Example. Transform by Action.

Bole District, Savannah Region, Ghana - www.jdmpllc.org



Our Vision & Mission



Our Vision

To become Africa's foremost institution for ethical leadership, living heritage, Indigenous Knowledge Systems, democratic resilience, and transformative learning – illuminating pathways for generations to come.



Our Mission

To preserve Africa's heritage, codify the lessons of transformational leadership, strengthen Indigenous Knowledge Systems, advance research and innovation for public good, and cultivate a new generation of ethical, competent, and visionary leaders for Africa and the world.



Our Scope

While the life and leadership journey of H.E. John Dramani Mahama serves as our foundational case study and primary light, the Centre documents, preserves, and projects the stories of transformational leaders from Northern Ghana, Ghana, Africa, and the global African family. The Mahama story is the first light we map. Our mission is to illuminate the entire constellation.



Our Purpose

Not merely to remember the past – but to shape the future. Africa's transformation is a multi-generational project requiring institutions capable of preserving memory, transmitting wisdom, strengthening democratic culture, and preparing future leaders. Every African carries a Northern Star within them.

The Northern Star shall rise. The constellation begins now.



Founding Decade: 2021–2031

FROM VISION TO CONTINENTAL INSTITUTION

2021 – The Vision Emerges

A bold idea was conceived: to transform presidential legacy into leadership capital for future generations and create a globally respected institution rooted in Northern Ghana and serving the African continent.

2026 – The Inflection Point

The land is secured. The endorsements are granted. The vision is clear. Now, we activate. While physical construction is mobilized, we launch the soft infrastructure – programmes, partnerships, fellowships, archives, and digital platforms – establishing the Centre's intellectual credibility and continental relevance from day one.

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2021–2025 – Foundations Secured

Land acquisition completed. Institutional endorsements secured. Conceptual, architectural, and programmatic frameworks refined. Strategic stakeholder engagement initiated. The foundation has been laid.

2031 – The Decade Delivered

A fully operational, self-sustaining institution connecting three integrated branches: **Mind** (Tamale), **Soul** (Busunu), and **Heart** (Bole) – a living civic, intellectual, cultural, and developmental engine serving Africa and the world.

The Mahama story is the first light we map. Our mission is to illuminate the entire constellation.



A CONTINENTAL IMPERATIVE

Why This Centre Matters

Africa's transformation is a multi-generational project. The continent requires institutions capable of preserving memory, transmitting wisdom, strengthening democratic culture, and preparing future leaders. From Bole, a young John Dramani Mahama rose through every level of public service to become President of Ghana — demonstrating that leadership is cultivated through service, learning, resilience, and commitment to the public good.



Why Northern Ghana?

A historic crossroads of trade, governance, culture, scholarship, and Indigenous Knowledge Systems — producing statesmen, scholars, diplomats, and visionaries whose stories deserve continental recognition.



A Global Institution Rooted in Africa

Africa is home to the world's youngest population. The Northern Star Centre offers a unique platform where leadership practice, democratic resilience, and Pan-African development can be studied and applied in real time.



One Journey, Many Lights

H.E. John Dramani Mahama — the only Ghanaian to serve at every level of elected and appointed office — provides a uniquely comprehensive framework for studying governance and democratic resilience.



Every African Carries a Northern Star

Millions of young Africans possess extraordinary potential. The Centre exists to identify, nurture, and empower these future leaders — building the Africa We Want, one leader at a time.



The Centre's Core Conviction

By investing in leadership, education, heritage preservation, civic responsibility, and innovation, the Northern Star Centre contributes directly to the realization of the Africa We Want. **The Northern Star shall rise.**

Across Africa today, millions of young people possess similar potential. The Northern Star Centre exists to help identify, nurture, and empower these future leaders.



The Northern Star Centre: Mind, Soul & Heart

A JOURNEY THROUGH THREE INTEGRATED BRANCHES



THE MIND – Tamale (GHANASCO)

Academic and Leadership Development Wing

The engine of analysis, innovation, and leadership development – where ideas are tested, frameworks are built, and future leaders are trained.

- Leadership Laboratory
- Pan-African Fellowships
- University Partnerships
- Public Policy Dialogues
- Leadership Research



THE SOUL – Busunu

Mama Habiba Wing for Character and Ethical Formation

A sanctuary dedicated to the moral foundations of leadership – inspired by the enduring legacy of Mama Nnaba Habiba Mahama.

- Character Formation
- Integrity and Values
- Family and Community Leadership
- Intergenerational Dialogue
- Youth Retreats



THE HEART – Bole

Global Headquarters and Living Heritage Hub

The historical and emotional core of the institution – where Africa's stories are preserved, celebrated, and projected to the world.

- Presidential Library
- Presidential Museum
- Northern Star Hall of Fame
- Conference Centre
- National Knowledge Centre
- Skills Transformation Hub
- Heritage Tourism Facilities

Three branches. One constellation. An institution built to last for generations.



The Mahama Leadership Framework (MLF)

A LIVING CURRICULUM FOR AFRICA'S FUTURE

The MLF is the Centre's flagship intellectual product — a structured body of leadership knowledge distilled from decades of public service and governance experience. Each pillar serves as a living case study for leadership education, research, and practical application across Africa and the world.

Service Above Self

Grounding leadership in the primacy of public good over personal gain — the foundational ethic of every transformational leader.

Infrastructure-Led Human Development

Demonstrating how strategic infrastructure investment unlocks opportunity, dignity, and economic transformation for communities.

Democratic Resilience

Navigating electoral pressures, constitutional transitions, and institutional preservation — protecting democracy even under strain.

Pragmatic Inclusion & Peacebuilding

Bridging ethnic, regional, and political divides through principled, evidence-based leadership and dialogue.

Pan-African Realism

Engaging continental development with pragmatic, evidence-based strategy — building African solutions for African challenges.

Accountability as a Core System

Building transparency and integrity into governance institutions themselves — not as an afterthought, but as a design principle.

The Centre does not exist simply because John Dramani Mahama became President. It exists because his public service journey — from Assemblyman to President — provides a uniquely comprehensive framework through which future leaders can study governance, democratic resilience, and national development.

The Leadership Laboratory & Indigenous Knowledge Systems Centre



The Leadership Laboratory — "How to Govern" Institute

Study Leadership. Practice Governance. Serve Humanity.

A first-of-its-kind, trans-partisan institute where participants examine the realities of governance through immersive case studies. Rather than focusing on theory alone, the Laboratory explores real-world leadership challenges:

- Crisis Management
- Infrastructure Delivery
- Public Accountability
- Ethical Decision-Making
- Democratic Governance
- National Development Planning

The Laboratory is not a monument to any individual. It is a training ground for future leaders.



Indigenous Knowledge Systems Centre

The root system of the entire institution. The Centre recognizes that many of Africa's most enduring governance traditions are embedded within Indigenous Knowledge Systems. Research and preservation efforts focus on:

- Traditional Governance Systems
- Conflict Resolution Mechanisms
- Oral Histories
- African Languages
- Traditional Ecological Knowledge
- Intergenerational Knowledge Transfer

The goal is to ensure that ancestral wisdom continues to inform contemporary leadership and development.

□ Together, the Leadership Laboratory and the IKS Centre represent the Centre's commitment to bridging ancient wisdom and modern governance — ensuring that Africa's future is built on the full depth of its past.



The Northern Star Hall of Fame & The PEECS Framework

The Northern Star Hall of Fame

The premier Pan-African repository celebrating transformational leadership and public service. The Hall of Fame honours individuals whose lives have expanded opportunity, justice, peace, knowledge, innovation, and human dignity — preserving the stories of those whose leadership changed lives and shaped history.

Public Service

Traditional Leadership

Scholarship

Entrepreneurship

Arts and Culture

Humanitarian Service

The Hall of Fame will preserve the stories of those whose leadership changed lives and shaped history.

The PEECS Framework

Our five foundational pillars guiding every programme, partnership, and initiative of the Centre:



Preserve
Democratic, cultural, intellectual, and historical heritage for future generations.



Empower
Youth, women, and communities through leadership development, skills training, and civic education.



Educate
Through fellowships, case studies, research, policy dialogues, and lifelong learning programmes.



Celebrate
African excellence, innovation, service, and achievement — honouring those who illuminate the path.



Sustain
Long-term institutional resilience, financial independence, and economic transformation for communities.



2026: The Year of First Light

SOFT INFRASTRUCTURE LAUNCH

2026 is the inflection point. While physical construction is mobilized, we launch the intellectual and programmatic infrastructure that will establish the Centre's credibility and continental relevance from day one. The light begins.



Virtual Northern Star Library & Digital Archive

A globally accessible digital repository of leadership case studies, oral histories, governance research, and archival materials from across the African continent — making the Centre's knowledge available to the world from day one.



Northern Star Annual Lecture

Establishing a premier annual intellectual forum that convenes leaders, scholars, policymakers, and innovators to advance dialogue on governance, development, and African futures — positioning the Centre as a continental thought leader.



Pan-African Fellowship Programme

A flagship cohort programme selecting exceptional young leaders from across Africa for immersive leadership development, mentorship, and continental networking — the first cohort of the Northern Star generation.



Indigenous Knowledge Systems Oral History Blitz

A systematic, urgent effort to record, preserve, and digitize the oral histories and traditional governance wisdom of communities across Northern Ghana and beyond — before these irreplaceable voices are lost.

These initiatives establish the Centre's intellectual footprint while physical infrastructure is being developed. 2026: The Light Begins.



Call for Strategic Partnerships

The Northern Star Centre is not built by one person. It is illuminated by a constellation. We invite partners from every sector and every continent to join us in shaping this enduring institution.

University Partnerships

Foundational Anchor Partner: University for Development Studies (UDS), Tamale

Areas of collaboration include: Leadership Laboratory, Indigenous Knowledge Systems Research, Fellowship Programmes, Student Leadership Development, and Joint Publications.

International University Partnerships

We seek collaboration with universities across Africa, North America, Europe, Asia, and the Caribbean in: Curriculum Co-Design, Faculty Exchanges, Joint Research, Research Chairs, Governance Studies, Democratic Resilience Research, and Indigenous Knowledge Documentation.

The Centre offers scholars access to unique archives, oral histories, leadership datasets, and governance case studies unavailable elsewhere.

We Invite Partners Across All Sectors

Universities

Foundations

Development Partners

Corporations

Philanthropists

Traditional Authorities

Governments

Diaspora Communities

Together, we illuminate the constellation.

Self-Sustaining Model & Governance

Long-Term Sustainability Strategy

Earned Income

- Heritage Tourism
- Legacy Presidential Hotel
- Conference Services
- Executive Education
- Consultancy Services

Revenue generated from world-class facilities and programmes.

Philanthropic Capital

- Endowment Fund
- Naming Rights
- Fellowship Sponsorships
- Friends of the Northern Star Network

Building a permanent financial foundation for the institution.

Strategic Partnerships

- Research Chairs
- Fellowship Endowments
- Joint Programmes
- Government Grants

Collaborative arrangements that generate both funding and intellectual capital.

Governance — The Firewall Charter

Our independence is protected by four inviolable principles that ensure the institution remains forever larger than any individual, political party, government, or administration:

Non-Partisan Integrity

Serving all Ghanaians and all Africans, regardless of political affiliation.

Independent Trusteeship

Governed by an independent board of trustees with no political mandate.

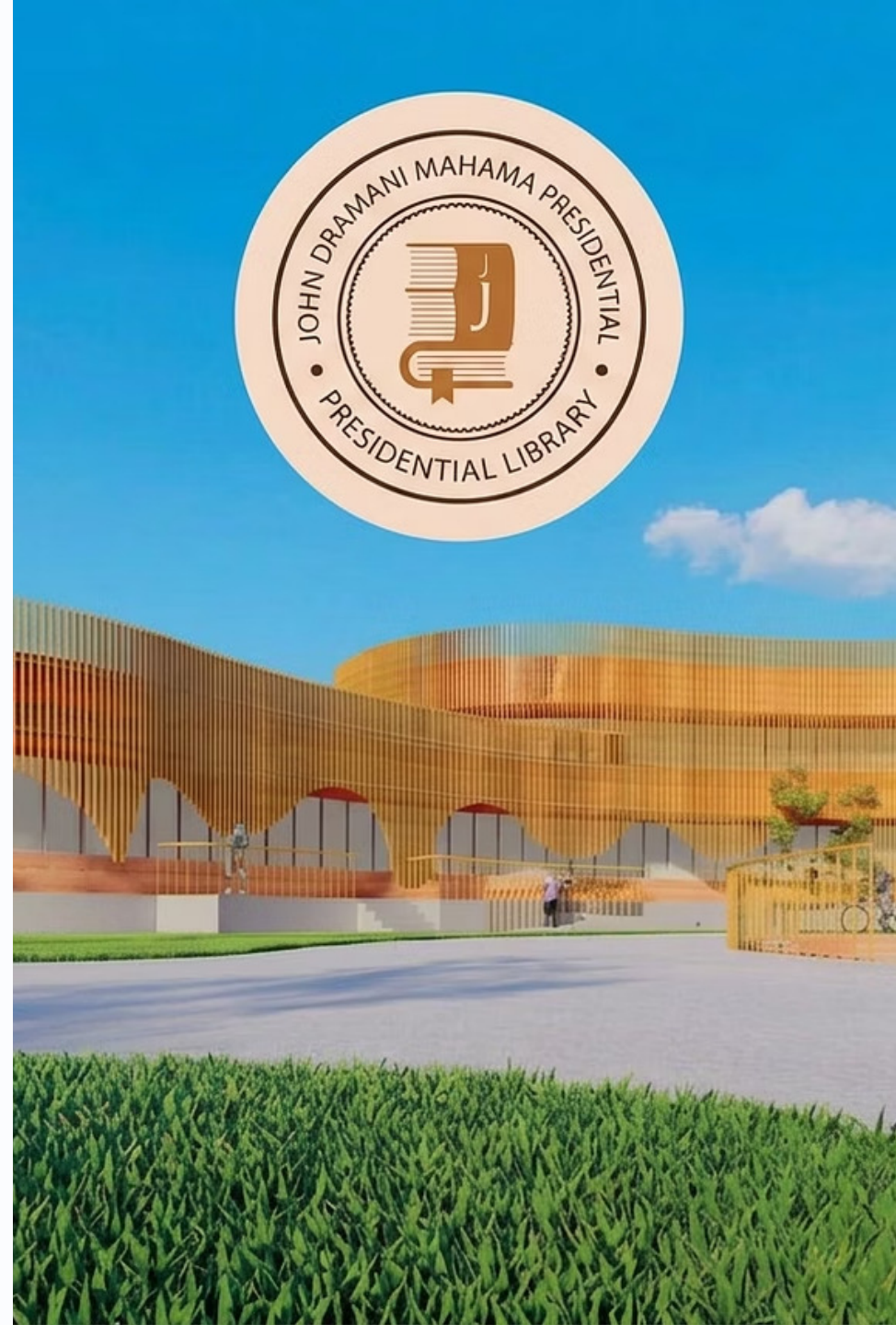
Radical Transparency

Full public accountability for all finances, programmes, and decisions.

Perpetual Mission Protection

Constitutional safeguards ensuring the mission cannot be altered or captured.

The institution shall remain forever larger than any individual, political party, government, or administration.





Vision 2031: The Decade Delivered

By 2031, the Northern Star Centre will stand as a fully operational, globally recognised institution — a living civic, intellectual, cultural, and developmental engine serving Africa and the world. Our commitments:



Global Digital Reach

Virtual Northern Star Library accessible worldwide, with Pan-African Fellowship Programme producing annual cohorts of ethical leaders from across the continent.



International Recognition

Northern Star Annual Lecture established as a premier intellectual forum. Indigenous Knowledge Systems Centre recognized internationally — a pathway established toward future UNESCO-level recognition.



Fully Operational Facilities

Presidential Library, Museum, Hall of Fame, and Conference Centre fully operational across all three branches — Mind (Tamale), Soul (Busunu), and Heart (Bole).



Sustainable Impact

Thousands of direct and indirect jobs created. Long-term financial sustainability achieved through diversified income streams, a growing endowment, and a thriving heritage tourism economy.

This is an Invitation, Not a Conclusion

The Northern Star Centre is not being built merely to remember the past. It is being built to shape the future. In every generation, a few individuals illuminate the path for others. We call them Northern Stars. This institution exists to preserve their stories, study their leadership, and prepare those who will follow.

The Northern Star shall rise. The constellation begins now.



Join the Constellation

Contact & Partnership

We invite sovereign governments, development partners, global foundations, academia, the private sector, traditional authorities, diaspora communities, and youth networks to co-create this enduring legacy of impact. The Northern Star Centre belongs to Africa – and to the world.

Africa for Africa Youth Empowerment Foundation (AfYEF)

Web: www.afyef.org

Email: president@afyef.org

JDM-PLLC / The Northern Star Centre

Web: www.jdmpllc.org

Email: info@jdm-pll.org

Phone: +233 24 402 0280

CoLDevCo

Co-Laboratory for Development and Innovation – partnering to advance research, innovation, and institutional development across Africa.

Preserving Legacy. Building Futures.

Illuminating the Northern Stars of Yesterday. Inspiring the Northern Stars of Today. Preparing the Northern Stars of Tomorrow.

THE NORTHERN STAR SHALL RISE.

Our Partners & Affiliates

