THE KYEREMA

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- Global legal shifts: U.S. rulings and policy updates.
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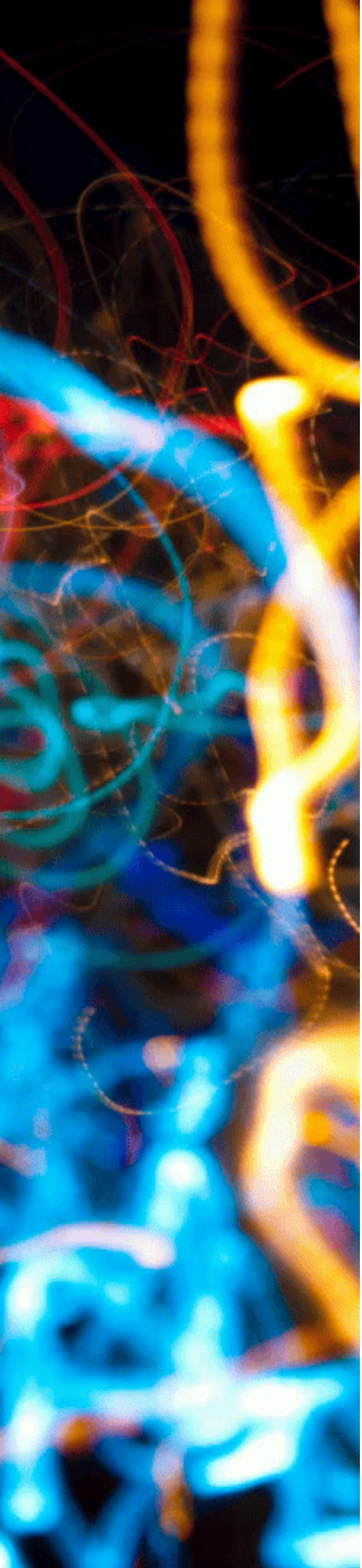

By Stephanie Asare-Kodua

WORLD IN FLUX?

CHAOS OR CALM?

3rd March,2026

January brought its challenges, but February surprised us all. While some prepared Valentine's gifts, others launched missiles, sparking global fears of WW3. Is the world truly safe? Discover the full stories on the world's affairs on the next pages.

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Vol-7

Ghana's Gold Sector: Turning Challenges Into Opportunity

Ghana's gold industry just hit the headlines, but this time for its bold attempts to *transform a long-standing smuggling problem into a major economic win*. The Ghanaian government has unveiled sweeping reforms aimed at formalising much of the gold that has been slipping through the cracks and into foreign hands.

At the heart of the strategy is the Ghana Gold Board (GoldBod), a new institution tasked with buying and officially channelling artisanal and small-scale mined gold (ASM) into the regulated market. Under the reforms, GoldBod will be *required to purchase roughly 2.45 tonnes a week,* equating to about **127 tonnes annually**, to generate more than **$20 billion in foreign exchange revenues each year.**

Why does this matter? For years, a large share of Ghana's gold, especially from artisanal miners has bypassed official channels and been smuggled out of the country. The result? Ghana may have lost *billions* in export earnings and forex inflows. The new framework seeks to curb this by offering competitive pricing, bonuses for licensed miners, and tighter traceability from mine to export.

The reforms also aim to strengthen local refining, improve environmental standards, and ensure that more of the gold value chain stays *within Ghana*. While some large-scale producers have expressed concerns that aspects of the broader mining reform could dampen investment, many see this as a strategic pivot from passive resource exporting to active *economic value capture*.

If successful, Ghana's approach could reshape not just its own economy by boosting forex, supporting the cedi and reducing smuggling but also provide a compelling model for other resource-rich nations wrestling with similar challenges.

Ghana Rescues 71 After Sea Attack

In a dramatic turn of events off Ghana's Central Region coast, 71 local fishermen were left stranded at sea after unidentified gunmen attacked their boats late one night, stealing outboard motors and leaving them adrift and vulnerable in the Gulf of Guinea.

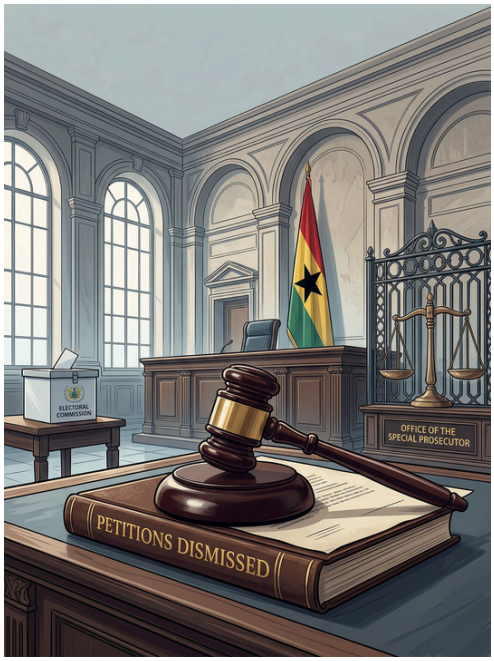
But this story isn't just about danger, it's also about swift action and community relief. Early the next morning, personnel from the **Ghana Navy** and **Ghana Air Force** launched a coordinated search-and-rescue mission that brought every single fisherman safely back to shore. The exhausted but relieved men were checked at a local hospital and discharged, a testament to how quickly help can arrive when systems work together.

Local authorities are now investigating the brazen assault, which highlights persistent security challenges in one of the world's most piracy-prone waters the Gulf of Guinea. While incidents

like this are still concerning; experts note that coordinated regional patrols and military efforts have helped reduce such attacks in recent years.

Fishing communities and maritime stakeholders are calling for even stronger security measures to ensure safety at sea and protect livelihoods that depend on these waters. For the rescued fishermen and their families, the crisis ended with relief and a renewed spotlight on the importance of maritime safety in Ghana's waters.

Petitions to Remove EC and Special Prosecutor Dismissed



In a significant development for Ghana's governance landscape, President John Dramani Mahama has dismissed **ten petitions** seeking the removal of senior officials at the Electoral Commission of Ghana (EC) and the Office of the Special Prosecutor (OSP). The decision followed a review by the Presidency of Ghana after the Supreme Court of Ghana determined that the allegations did not establish a **prima facie case** for removal.

The petitions had targeted key figures within the EC, including Chairperson Jean Mensa and her deputies, as well as leadership at the OSP. Petitioners alleged **misconduct and administrative breaches**, urging the President to initiate constitutional removal proceedings. However, after reviewing the complaints and consulting the Chief Justice, authorities concluded that the claims lacked sufficient evidence to justify further action.

A leaked letter from the office of the Chief Justice later clarified the reasoning behind the decision. According to the document, the allegations presented in the petitions **did not meet the legal threshold** required under Ghana's constitutional framework to trigger removal processes for independent officeholders. In essence, the evidence provided was considered inadequate to establish wrongdoing.

President Mahama's decision effectively brings the matter to a close, for now, allowing both institutions to continue their work without the disruption of prolonged investigations or removal proceedings. Supporters of the decision argue that it protects the independence of constitutional bodies from politically motivated challenges. Critics, however, contend that dismissing the petitions may raise concerns about accountability and transparency in public office.

EOCO's Big Win: Over GH₵600 Million Recovered and Counting

Ghana's fight against corruption hit an important milestone in President **John Dramani Mahama's** 2026 State of the Nation Address. He revealed that the **Economic and Organised Crime Office (EOCO)** has recovered **more than GH₵600 million** in *stolen public funds* as of **December 2025**, a figure representing years of intensified investigations into economic and organised crime.

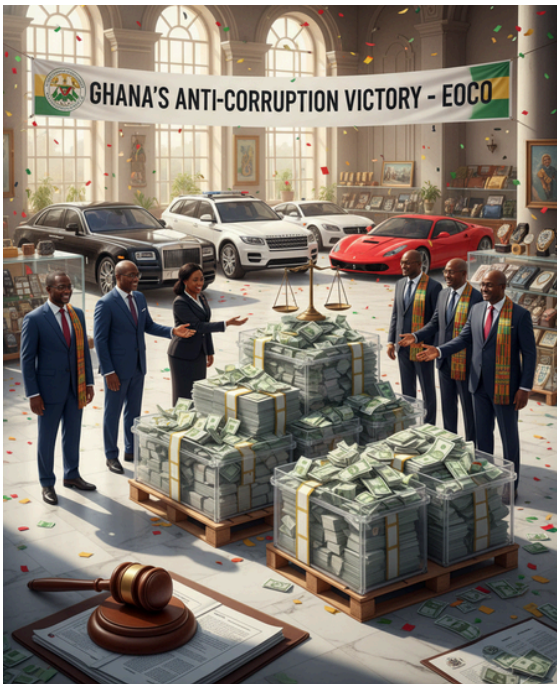
This isn't just money in the abstract; it's the result of **462 cases** investigated by EOCO, with **15 currently before the courts**, showing how deep the anti-graft drive now reaches. The effort has also seen the dismantling of **transnational car-jacking syndicates** and the recovery of **29 luxury vehicles** tied to criminal networks.

President Mahama told Parliament that the

government is determined to reclaim public resources for national development, making it clear that corruption will not be tolerated "regardless of status or political affiliation." He also stressed that due process and constitutional safeguards must guide every step of the accountability process.

While many Ghanaians have expressed impatience over the *pace of prosecutions*, the administration insists that thorough investigations and solid legal cases are essential to ensure justice is fair and lasting.

This latest recovery marks one of the largest returns of misappropriated funds in recent memory and underscores Ghana's renewed commitment to **transparency, accountability, and the rule of law.**



Ghana Rolls Out Specialised Courts to Fast-Track Justice

Ghana's justice system is gearing up for a major transformation aimed at speeding up the handling of serious and complex cases, especially those involving **illegal mining (galamsey), corruption, financial crimes, and other high-impact offences.**

According to the **Judicial Secretary,** Musah Ahmed Esq., the idea behind setting up **specialised** courts is pretty straightforward: just like experts in any field solve problems faster, courts that focus on specific types of cases can **deliver justice more efficiently and fairly.** These special divisions would sit within the High Court and handle cases that typically drag on from galamsey and environmental destruction to public accountability and organised crime.

Illegal mining in Ghana has grown into a **national concern**, with environmental degradation, community disruption, and public outcry pushing institutions to act. Specialised courts, the Judicial Secretary says, will help ensure that offenders are tried swiftly and transparently, sending a strong message that such activities won't be left to languish in backlogged dockets.

This reform isn't totally new; Ghana already uses specialised divisions like fast-track and financial crimes courts, but the expansion reflects a **renewed push to tackle persistent challenges head-on.** Experts point out that other countries have long used specialised courts with notable success, and Ghana's adaptation is designed to reflect local realities and priorities.

For many citizens waiting for justice in high-profile cases, especially those tied to environmental harm and corruption, this could be a game-changer in how fast and fairly justice is delivered.

GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

US Supreme Court Blocks Trump Tariffs

In a dramatic legal and economic development, the **U.S. Supreme Court** handed President Donald Trump a significant setback on **February 20, 2026,** with a landmark decision that *struck* down most of his wide-ranging global tariff programme. The court ruled **6–3** that Trump's use of a 1977 emergency powers law, the I**nternational Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA)**, did not give him the authority to impose sweeping tariffs on imports from countries around the world.

At the heart of the ruling was a simple constitutional principle: **only Congress can impose taxes and tariffs**. Chief Justice **John Roberts**, writing for the majority, said the president overstepped by trying to reinvent emergency powers into a broad tariff tool without clear legislative backing, a move that blurred the lines between executive action and congressional authority.

Trump's tariff campaign, launched in 2025 and dubbed a cornerstone of his trade policy, had placed duties on imports from dozens of countries, stirring global trade tensions and unsettling markets. While the Supreme Court decision removed the legal foundation for this tariff regime, it also left important questions unanswered, especially around refunds for billions of dollars that importers already paid under the now-invalid tariffs.

That unresolved refund issue has now been sent back to the lower courts to sort out how importers might reclaim their money.

In response to the court's rebuke, the Trump administration swiftly pivoted, implementing a new **10 % global tariff** under a different law, a stopgap measure set to affect trade while other legal avenues are explored.

This ruling isn't just a legal footnote; it's a major constitutional check on presidential power and a reminder that big economic policies still need clear backing from lawmakers. As courts and policymakers navigate the fallout, the decision could reshape how international trade is managed in the years ahead.

Trump's Iran Strikes Ignite War Powers Clash

Late in February 2026, the U.S. and Israel launched a major military strike on Iran dubbed **"Operation Epic Fury"**, that included targeting Iran's nuclear and missile capabilities. What's grabbed headlines in Washington isn't just the unfolding conflict, but **how it was ordered without Congress formally declaring war.**

Under the **U.S. Constitution**, only **Congress has the power to declare war**, but presidents also

serve as **commander in chief**, giving them authority to act swiftly when immediate threats arise. The Trump administration says this operation falls into a **legal grey area,** not technically a "war"; and argues that it complied with the **1973 War Powers Resolution** by notifying a bipartisan group of congressional leaders.

That explanation hasn't satisfied many lawmakers. Democrats and some Republicans argue that taking such a major military step **without full congressional approval** undermines constitutional checks and balances. They're pushing for a **war powers vote** that could limit the president's ability to continue the conflict without legislative backing.

Supporters of the action, including Republican leaders like **Speaker Mike Johnson**, defend the strikes as necessary to protect U.S. and allied troops from imminent threats posed by Iran's arsenal, and note that briefings were provided in advance

Still, legal experts, lawmakers, and constitutional scholars point out that C**ongress hasn't declared war since World War II**, even as the U.S. has engaged in numerous overseas military actions. Critics call this latest campaign a stark reminder that the **system of checks and balances** is being tested like never before

As the debate unfolds on Capitol Hill, the central question remains: *Who really gets to decide when the United States goes to war?* a question with implications far beyond one conflict.

Global Gender Equality: A Distant Reality

A new **World Bank report** has delivered a sobering snapshot of gender equality around the world and the numbers make it clear there's a long way to go. According to the report, while many countries have passed laws aimed at ensuring equal economic opportunities for women, very few actually enforce them effectively. As a result, only about **4% of women globally live in economies that offer anything close to full legal gender equality**. That means the vast majority of women still face legal and institutional barriers to fair treatment at work and in business.

The study looked across **190 economies**, checking not just whether gender-equal laws exist on paper, but whether the systems and services needed to enforce them are in place. On average, countries score much higher for having laws on the books than they do for enforcing those laws or having strong institutions to back them up.

Even if existing laws were fully enforced, women would still enjoy only about **two-thirds of the legal rights men have**, according to the World Bank's analysis, a stark reminder that legal frameworks alone aren't enough without real commitment to implementation.

Areas like **childcare support, workplace protections, access to credit, and protections against violence** were flagged as especially weak, limiting women's ability to participate fully in economic life. In short, the report shows progress in many places but underscores a huge gap between gender-equality rhetoric and real-world results, reinforcing that laws without enforcement don't always deliver equality in practice.

Global Race to Regulate 'Killer Robots'

World leaders and diplomats are in **Geneva this spring wrestling with one of the defining security questions of our age:** how or even whether to regulate **lethal autonomous weapons systems** (LAWS), often dubbed "killer robots." These are weapons that can *identify, select, and engage targets with little or no human involvement*, a future some see creeping into today's battlefields.

From now until **September,** representatives from **128 countries** are negotiating under the **Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons** to agree on a *non-binding diplomatic text* that could be the first step toward tougher, *legally binding rules*. The chair of the talks has warned that **progress is urgently needed**, or else technology could "overtake" policy, making meaningful oversight nearly impossible later.

There is agreement that existing **International Humanitarian Law (IHL)** applies to autonomous weapons. But crucial details about *how and whether human judgment must remain in the loop* are still unsettled. The draft text being discussed calls for "context-appropriate human control" over systems that make life-and-death decisions.

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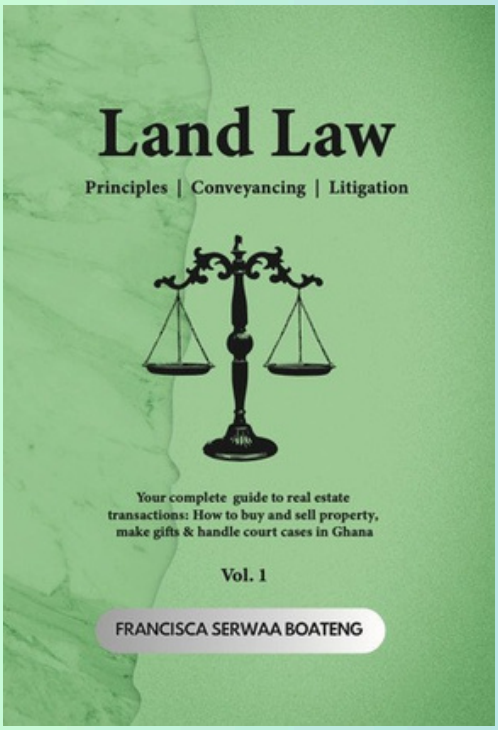

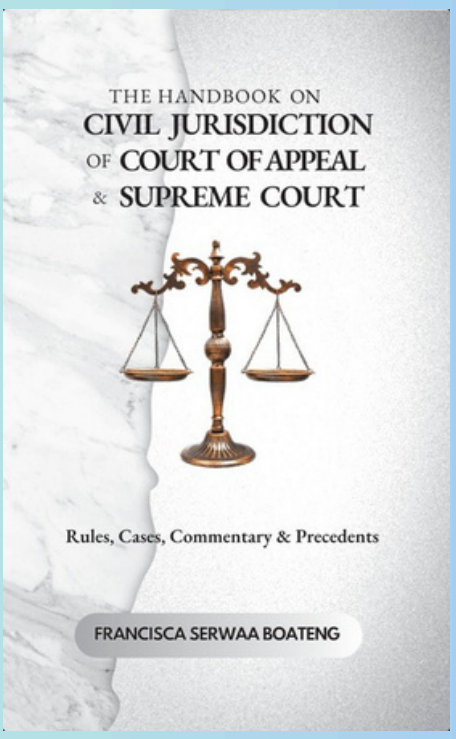

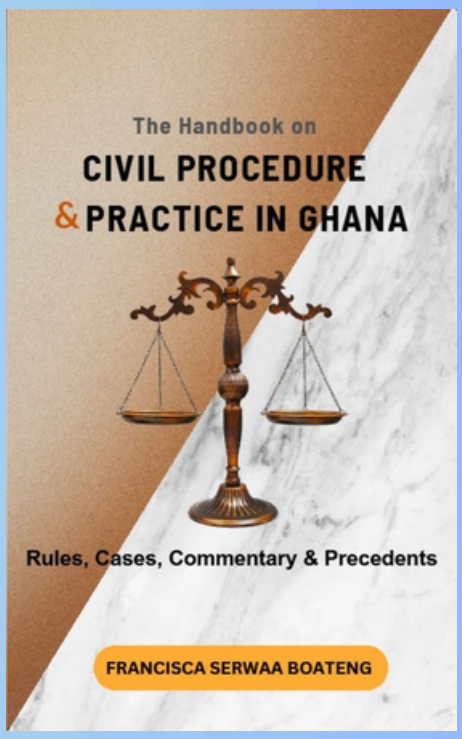

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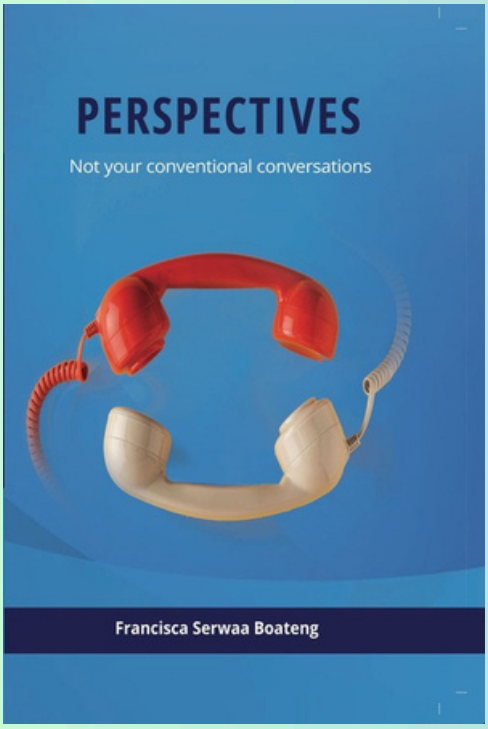

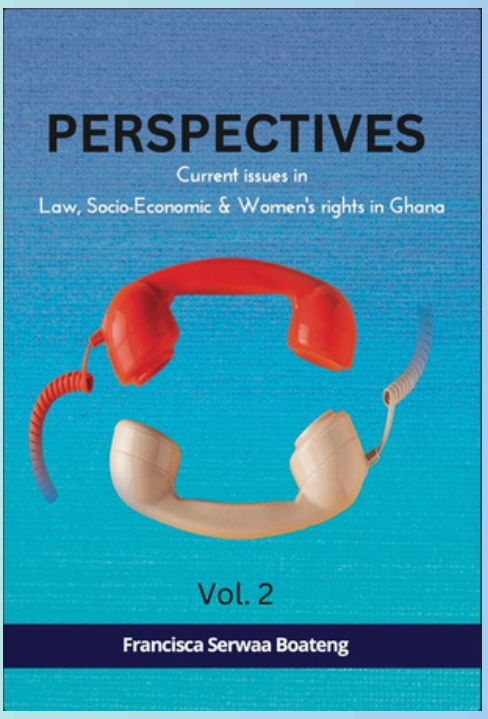

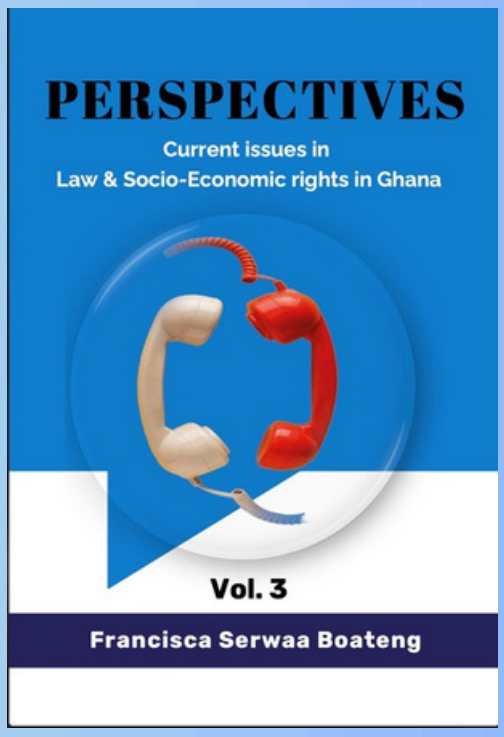

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