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SPECIAL PUBLICATION

RURAL BANKING

Special Report 2025

**Empowering Rural Banking
in a Digital Economy**

Rural & Community Banks

The unsung indispensable heroes of Ghana's financial ecosystem

Rural and Community Banks are rewriting Ghana's financial story, bringing banking to the farms, markets, and villages where universal banks rarely go. Once dismissed as "too small" or "too weak," these institutions are proving themselves as resilient, profitable, and indispensable engines of financial inclusion. B&FT's Seth KRAMPAH, a true advocate of the industry shines a spotlight on their successes, showing why rural banks deserve recognition as true pillars of Ghana's economic transformation.

formidable network of 147 banks with over 850 branches spread across 126 districts. Today, more than 7.5 million customers rely on RCBs for their financial needs. Unlike universal banks, which are concentrated in urban centers and often overlook rural populations due to perceived risks and lower profit margins, RCBs have embraced these communities wholeheartedly. They have tailored their products to meet the needs of smallholder farmers, traders, micro-entrepreneurs, and households, empowering them to grow businesses, expand agricultural production, and achieve financial stability.

The resilience of RCBs is evident in their financial performance over the past few years. Despite economic challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic and Ghana's Domestic Debt Exchange Programme, the sector has rebounded impressively. Capital adequacy ratios, which had dipped below regulatory thresholds in 2020 and 2021, surged to 18.95 percent by mid-2025, far above the minimum requirement.

Deposits grew from GH¢5.32 billion in 2020 to GH¢18.22 billion in 2025, reflecting strong public trust. Loans expanded from GH¢1.84 billion to GH¢5.90 billion within the same period, financing agriculture, small businesses, and household needs. Assets rose from GH¢6.14 billion to GH¢21.25 billion, while profitability skyrocketed, with profit before tax increasing from GH¢33.02 million in 2020 to GH¢422.03 million in June 2025—a staggering 1,178 percent growth. These figures dismantle the myth of weakness and demonstrate that RCBs are robust engines of growth, fully capable of competing within Ghana's financial ecosystem.

Agriculture, the backbone of Ghana's economy, has benefited immensely from the presence of RCBs. Farmers often struggle to access credit from universal banks due to collateral requirements and perceived risks. Rural banks have stepped into this gap, offering flexible loan schemes tailored to the agricultural cycle. Cocoa farmers in Ashanti, maize growers in Bono, and rice producers in the Northern Region have all benefited from financing for inputs, equipment, and post-harvest activities. This support has boosted productivity, reduced poverty, and strengthened food security. Similarly, small and medium enterprises, which are the backbone of job creation, have gained access to loans that enable them to expand, innovate, and contribute to local economic resilience.

RCBs have also played a critical role in empowering women and youth. Through initiatives such as the ARB Ladies Association, women in banking are being supported to take leadership roles, while female entrepreneurs gain access to credit and financial literacy training.

Youth employment has been bolstered by the agent banking model, which has deployed nearly 2,000 agents nationwide. These



By Seth KRAMPAH

agents act as mini branches, extending services to underserved areas, reducing operational costs, and creating jobs for young people. In this way, rural banks are not only providing financial services but also addressing social challenges such as unemployment and gender inequality.

Far from being outdated, RCBs have embraced digital transformation. Over 212,981 customers have been onboarded onto the USSD mobile banking platform (*992#), enabling transactions such as funds transfers, bill payments, and account checks from even the most remote villages. This digital leap has redefined accessibility, allowing farmers in Ejura or traders in Techiman to bank without traveling long distances. It also positions RCBs as key players in Ghana's digital economy, aligning with the promise of inclusive growth in the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Beyond profitability and innovation, RCBs are embedding Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles into their operations. ARB Apex Bank has appointed an ESG Manager to spearhead sustainability initiatives, ensuring that rural banking contributes to climate resilience, gender equality, and ethical governance. This forward-looking approach positions RCBs as leaders in sustainable finance, aligning with global trends while addressing local challenges such as deforestation, climate change, and social inequality.

The stigma surrounding RCBs that they are weak or inferior to universal banks ignores the facts. These banks perform full banking operations, including deposits, loans, transfers, and digital services. They are supervised by the Bank of Ghana and adhere to the same prudential standards as universal banks. Their profitability and asset growth rival, and in some cases surpass, segments of the universal banking sector. Most importantly, they are deeply embedded in local communities, making them more responsive to grassroots' needs than their urban-focused counterparts.

Strong Regulatory Oversight by the

Bank of Ghana

Rural and Community Banks in Ghana operate under the direct supervision of the Bank of Ghana, the nation's central bank. This oversight ensures that RCBs adhere to the same prudential standards as universal banks, covering areas such as capital adequacy, liquidity management, corporate governance, and risk controls. The BoG conducts regular audits, compliance checks, and stress tests to safeguard the sector's stability. This heavy regulation dispels any notion that RCBs are loosely managed institutions; instead, they are firmly embedded within Ghana's financial regulatory framework.

ARB Apex Bank:

The Sector's Backbone

Complementing the BoG's regulatory role is the ARB Apex Bank, established as the "mini-central bank" for rural banks. Apex Bank provides critical support services ranging from liquidity management and treasury operations to IT infrastructure and training. By centralizing these functions, Apex Bank enhances operational efficiency across the sector, allowing individual RCBs to focus on serving their communities while benefiting from shared expertise and resources. This dual structure of regulation and support makes it nearly impossible for RCBs to operate outside the legal framework.

Operational Efficiency and Risk Management

Through ARB Apex Bank, RCBs gain access to modern banking technologies, including core banking

Continued on next page

Rural and Community Banks (RCBs) in Ghana have long been underestimated, often stigmatized as weak institutions incapable of performing full banking operations compared to their universal counterparts. Yet, this perception is not only misleading but also unfair, because these banks have consistently

proven themselves to be resilient, innovative, and indispensable to Ghana's financial ecosystem. They are, in fact, the unsung heroes of financial inclusion, reaching communities and individuals who would otherwise remain excluded from formal banking.

Since the establishment of the first rural bank in Agona Nyakrom in 1976, the sector has expanded into a

How technology is transforming efficiency, trust, and access in rural banking operations

Rural and Community Banks (RCBs) have long been the lifeline of Ghana's financial inclusion agenda, serving farmers, traders, artisans, and households in communities where mainstream commercial banks seldom reach.

For decades, however, these institutions grappled with inefficiencies—manual record-keeping, slow transaction processing, and limited customer outreach. Today, the digital economy offers a transformative opportunity.

By embracing digitalization, rural banks are not only modernizing their operations but also redefining their relevance in a rapidly evolving financial landscape.

Digitalization is no longer a luxury; it has become a necessity. The adoption of mobile banking, core banking software, agent networks, and fintech partnerships is reshaping the way rural banks operate. Automation reduces human error and speeds up services, while real-time updates across branches eliminate duplication and delays. Compliance reporting, once a tedious manual exercise, is now streamlined through digital dashboards, strengthening governance and transparency.

Beyond efficiency, digitalization reduces costs.

Paperwork, physical storage, and manual labor are minimized, while mobile and agent banking reduce the need for costly branch expansion. Customers, too, benefit from convenience. With USSD mobile banking, they can check balances, transfer funds, and pay bills without stepping into a branch. Agent networks bring banking services to remote villages, saving time and transport costs. For farmers, traders, and small businesses, this convenience translates into empowerment.

The impact is already visible. Studies confirm that ICT investment significantly improves rural bank performance in Ghana, especially when combined with financial development and diffusion of digital tools. Deposits have grown as customers feel safer saving in banks with modern systems.

Automated credit scoring and mobile loan disbursement have expanded lending to SMEs and farmers. Efficiency gains have translated into higher profitability, enabling banks to reinvest in community development.

Yet challenges remain. Poor internet connectivity in rural areas slows adoption. Many customers, particularly older farmers, struggle with mobile apps and USSD codes. Cybersecurity risks loom large as banks digitize, exposing them to fraud and hacking. Smaller rural banks often lack the capital to deploy



advanced digital systems, making collaboration with fintechs and government support essential.

There are success stories worth highlighting. ARB Apex Bank's USSD platform has onboarded thousands of customers nationwide, enabling farmers to receive payments for produce directly into accounts and reducing reliance on cash. Agent banking has extended services to remote communities, with local shops doubling as banking points. Women, traditionally underserved in financial systems, are increasingly empowered through digital tools, saving securely and accessing credit without intermediaries.

Efficiency gains are evident across the board. Account opening, once a process that took days, can

now be completed instantly online. Loan processing, previously bogged down by paperwork, is accelerated through automated scoring. Customer service has expanded beyond the branch to call centers, apps, and agents. Compliance reporting is timely and accurate, while transaction costs are significantly reduced.

But digitalization is not just about machines and software, it is about people. Efficiency must translate into trust, inclusion, and empowerment. Farmers benefit from stable incomes and reduced risks when payments are digitized. Youth, more tech-savvy, are drawn to digital banking, creating a new customer base. Women gain autonomy through secure savings and credit access. Communities benefit when profitable rural banks reinvest in schools, clinics, and local development.

The Bank of Ghana has played a pivotal role in encouraging digital adoption, introducing e-money regulations that integrate mobile money with banking, issuing cybersecurity directives to safeguard customer data, and prioritizing rural outreach in its financial inclusion strategies. Government partnerships with fintechs and telecoms further support rural banks in rolling out mobile and agent banking.

Looking ahead, the future of rural banking in a digital economy is promising. Artificial intelligence will enhance credit scoring and fraud detection. Blockchain will secure transactions and record-keeping. Green digital finance will support climate-smart agriculture. Digital literacy campaigns will ensure no one is left behind.

For rural banks, the strategic imperatives are clear: invest in ICT infrastructure despite upfront costs, train staff and customers to use digital tools confidently, collaborate with fintechs to innovate faster, strengthen cybersecurity to protect trust, and promote inclusion by tailoring digital services to farmers, women, and SMEs.

Ultimately, digitalization is not merely about speed or convenience, it is about empowerment. For rural banks, efficiency means more than streamlined operations; it means empowering communities with access to finance, building resilience against shocks, and fostering inclusive growth. As Ghana deepens its digital economy, rural banks must seize the opportunity to transform themselves into modern, efficient, and inclusive institutions. The journey is challenging, but the rewards—stronger communities, empowered farmers, and thriving SMEs—are worth every investment.

Rural & Community Banks

The unsung indispensable heroes of Ghana's financial ecosystem

Continued from previous page

software, mobile banking platforms, and cybersecurity systems. Apex Bank also provides risk management frameworks and compliance training, ensuring that rural banks meet international standards of financial integrity. This support reduces operational risks and strengthens customer confidence, proving that RCBs are not "weak" institutions but rather well-equipped players in Ghana's banking ecosystem.

Continuous Monitoring and Compliance Culture

The Bank of Ghana and ARB Apex Bank jointly enforce a culture of compliance. RCBs are required to submit periodic reports on their financial health, loan portfolios, and governance practices. Any deviations trigger corrective measures, ranging from capacity-building interventions

to sanctions. This continuous monitoring ensures that rural banks remain transparent, accountable, and aligned with national financial policies. In effect, the system leaves little room for malpractice or inefficiency.

A Sector Built on Trust and Discipline

The combined oversight of the Bank of Ghana and the operational support of ARB Apex Bank have created a disciplined, trustworthy rural banking sector. Customers can rest assured that their deposits are safe, their transactions secure, and their banks compliant with national laws.

Far from being fragile, RCBs are among the most regulated financial institutions in Ghana, operating within a framework that prioritizes stability, efficiency, and community impact. This strong governance foundation is what allows rural banks to thrive and continue their mission of financial inclusion.

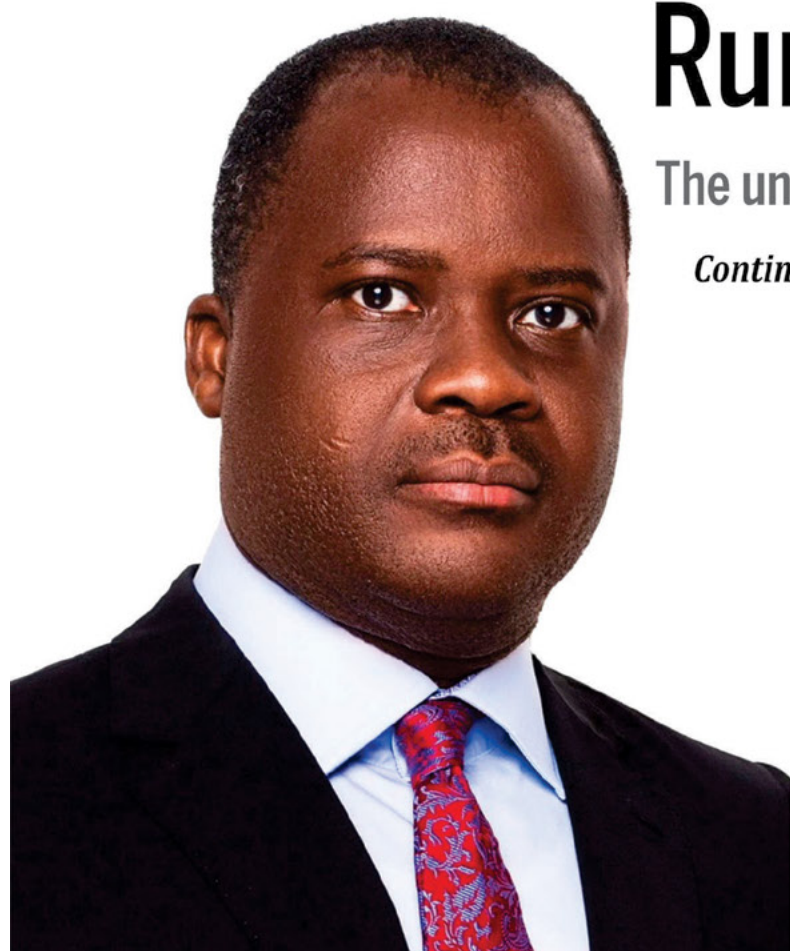
Looking ahead, RCBs are poised to lead Ghana's financial inclusion agenda. With continued investment in

digital platforms, ESG frameworks, and capacity-building, the sector can expand its reach, deepen its impact, and strengthen its reputation.

Opportunities abound in partnerships with fintechs to enhance mobile banking and digital payments, green finance initiatives to support climate-smart agriculture and renewable energy projects, financial literacy campaigns to empower rural populations, and regional integration to connect rural banking with broader African financial markets.

Rural and Community Banks are not the weak links of Ghana's financial system; they are its lifeblood. They embody resilience, innovation, and inclusivity, serving millions of Ghanaians who would otherwise remain excluded from formal finance.

It is time to celebrate their achievements, dispel the myths, and recognize RCBs as the unsung heroes of Ghana's economic transformation. As the sector continues to evolve, one truth remains clear: without rural banks, financial inclusion in Ghana would be a dream deferred.



Eric Appiah, National President, Association of Rural Banks, Ghana



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Ernest Dankwah is Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Ahafo Ano Premier Rural Bank PLC

Ahafo Ano Premier Rural Bank PLC

Leveraging digital banking for financial inclusion

Items	October 2025 GH¢	October 2024 GH¢	Percentage Growth
Deposits	270.0 million	190.8 million	41.5%
Investments	227.4 million	143.9 million	58.0%
Loans & Advances	52.2 million	40.5 million	28.9%
Total Assets	312.4 million	214.6 million	45.6%
Stated Capital	2.3 million	2.0 million	15.0%
Net Worth	25.9 million	9.6 million	169.8%
Profit (Loss) Before Tax	14.9 million	4.9 million	204.1%

Ahafo Ano Premier Rural Bank PLC, headquartered at Kunsu-Wioso in the Ahafo Ano South West District of the Ashanti Region, was established in 1983 with a clear mission of providing reliable and effective financial intermediation to individuals and viable economic ventures to stimulate growth and development within its catchment areas.

With nine branches strategically located at Suame, Tepa, Mankranso, Kunsu, Pokukrom, Mpasaso, Tarkwa Maakro, Wioso and Abuakwa, all within the Ashanti Region, the Bank has significantly bridged the financial inclusion gap by extending banking services to both the underserved and unserved populations across Ahafo Ano North, Ahafo Ano South West, Ahafo Ano South East, Atwima Nwabiagya North and parts of the Greater Kumasi Metropolis.

Most of the Bank's branches are located in predominantly rural communities where universal banks and other major financial institutions have limited presence. This distribution reflects Ahafo Ano Premier Rural Bank's enduring commitment to promoting financial inclusion and community development.

The Bank currently serves over

136,800 customers, reflecting strong public confidence and loyalty within its operating areas. This underscores the Bank's effectiveness in delivering on its core mandate of deepening financial inclusion and supporting economic empowerment at the grassroots.

Despite the challenges posed by the recent banking sector reforms, the Domestic Debt Exchange Programme (DDEP), and the prevailing macroeconomic conditions, Ahafo Ano Premier Rural Bank PLC has emerged as one of the most resilient and efficient rural banks in the country. The Bank has successfully navigated these disruptions and remains firmly positioned for sustained growth.

It can therefore be stated unequivocally that the Bank is stronger and continues to assure its key stakeholders, particularly investors and customers, of superior value for their confidence and investments.

Strong capital growth and improved solvency

A clear demonstration of the Bank's strong financial footing is the remarkable improvement in shareholders' funds, which rose from GH¢9.6 million in October 2024 to GH¢25.9 million in October 2025, representing a growth of 169.8 percent. This significant capital growth has

strengthened the Bank's Capital Adequacy Ratio, which is now well within the Bank of Ghana regulatory benchmark, enhancing its solvency and capacity to absorb financial shocks.

In addition, customer deposits recorded an impressive growth of 41.5 percent, increasing from GH¢190.8 million in October 2024 to GH¢270.0 million in October 2025.

Leveraging digital technology

The Bank's growth trajectory is further evidenced by its strategic deployment of Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) and Mobile Banking Technology via USSD short code *992#. These platforms serve as alternative customer touchpoints to deepen financial inclusion and enhance convenience. These digital channels allow customers to access

funds and perform transactions anytime and anywhere without necessarily visiting a banking hall. Customers and the general public are assured that these 'self-service' digital platforms are powered by robust systems comparable to those used by universal banks.

Financial performance snapshot

Despite industry-wide challenges including locked-up funds arising from the banking sector clean-up, the DDEP and macroeconomic pressures, Ahafo Ano Premier Rural Bank PLC continues to post strong financial performance across key indicators such as asset quality, liquidity, solvency, operational efficiency and profitability.

The table highlights the Bank's financial performance.

The Bank's

strategic intent

Ahafo Ano Premier Rural Bank PLC recognises that modern banking goes beyond financial performance to include employees, customers and the wider community. The Bank's strategic focus is therefore driven by the implementation of robust internal controls and a strong Customer Service and Retention Strategy (CSR) to ensure sustainable performance and positive social impact.

The Bank also continues to invest in effective customer experience management to drive satisfaction, loyalty and competitive advantage. Customers and potential clients are therefore assured of continued access to superior and value-added banking services.

Recognising that human capital is central to banking success, the Bank remains committed to continuous staff training, welfare and professional development to attract and retain top talent and deliver exceptional customer service.

Rural Banks urged to build stronger leadership pathways for women

Rural and Community Banks (RCB) across the country have been urged to deliberately take bold and intentional steps to build stronger leadership pathways for women, describing gender

inclusion as essential to the growth and sustainability of the rural banking sector.

Addressing participants at the 2nd ARB Women's Conference, the former Executive Director,

Association of Rural Banks, Mrs Comfort Owusu, praised the theme "Building a Leadership Pathway for Women in Rural Banking" as both timely and strategic.

She noted that women's

potential in the sector has long been evident, yet often overlooked or undervalued, making it necessary to confront the structural and cultural barriers that hinder their rise to leadership.

She highlighted the glaring gender disparities within leadership ranks. Globally, she referenced data showing that only 26 women held Chief Executive Officer (CEO) positions in the Fortune 500 as far back as 2015. In Ghana's rural banking space, the situation is equally stark, with only eight female CEOs among the 147 rural and

Continued from page 18

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Ahantaman Rural Bank PLC

Steady growth, strong governance, lasting community impact

Ahantaman Rural Bank PLC was established in November 1984 with headquarters at Agona Nkwanta in the Ahanta West Municipality of the Western Region.

The Bank currently has 402 employees and provides Banking and Micro finance services to its surrounding communities through its current headquarters at Agona Nkwanta and 22 other networked branches and agencies spread over the Sekondi/Takoradi Metropolis, Ahanta West, Nzema East and Tarkwa-Nsuaem Municipalities in the Western Region, Assin Fosu Municipality and Twifo-Atti-Morkwa District in the Central Region.

The Bank is 100 per cent owned by the community (shareholders) and as at November 2025, had a paid-up capital of over GH¢11.5million with total assets of a little over GH¢620 million and approximately GH¢520 million in deposits.

The vision of Ahantaman Rural Bank is to become the preferred financial institution in Ghana offering utmost satisfaction to all its stakeholders.

Mission

The Bank's mission is to be and remain the leading rural bank in the country, meeting stakeholder expectations.

Key financial performance indicators of the bank for 2021 to November 2025 as follows:

INDICATOR	2021 GHC	2022 GHC	2023 GHC	DEC. 2024 GHC	NOV. 2025 GHC
Total Income	40,824,982	45,956,887	60,001,892	105,797,285.00	144,175,851.63
Total Operating Cost	34,460,654	40,711,757	52,995,697	85,296,654.00	102,925,885.21
Deposits	143,303,446	178,237,582	236,095,344	367,253,780.00	519,686,059.51
Investments	85,291,613	88,786,719	113,426,367	128,619,667.00	108,133,876.22
Advances (Net)	49,685,290	69,386,196	109,862,288	235,831,490.00	366,426,387.38
Shareholders' Funds	18,157,753	19,433,850	23,954,655	37,250,216.00	79,322,281.94
Paid-up Capital	5,745,516	7,096,624	7,173,984	7,580,647.00	11,549,051.78
Net Impairment	2,539,092	2,843,599	2,262,898	6,542,432.00	16,324,601.24
Profit Before Tax	6,364,328	5,245,130	7,006,195	20,500,631.00	41,249,966.42
Total Assets	166,019,417	207,458,353	269,126,368	430,559,105.00	620,759,543.77
Capital Adequacy Ratio	17.98%	14.98%	13.23%	13.73	16%

The Bank seeks to strengthen stakeholder relationships by providing the right solutions that combine technologies, expertise and financial strength.

The Bank also seeks to create customer loyalty, shareholder value and employee satisfaction.

Core Values

- ◆ Confidentiality
- ◆ Result Oriented
- ◆ Integrity
- ◆ Teamwork
- ◆ Innovation
- ◆ Customer Satisfaction

Products & Services

- ◆ Savings and Current Accounts
- ◆ Susu Savings and Loans Scheme
- ◆ Fixed Deposit Accounts

- ◆ Group Savings/Loans Scheme
- ◆ Daakye Investment Account
- ◆ Salary Advance for Workers
- ◆ Festivity Loans for Salaried Workers
- ◆ 'Ahantaman 24 Hours' Loan for Government Employees
- ◆ Business and Sundry Loans for MSMEs
- ◆ Akuafio Boafio for Cocoa, Oil Palm, Rice and Rubber Farmers
- ◆ Transport Loan
- ◆ Outboard Motor Assistance Scheme
- ◆ Treasury Bills Purchases
- ◆ Domestic Money Transfer Services
- ◆ E-zwich Services
- ◆ Management of Funds for Institutions, MMDA's (Donors).
- ◆ Bancassurance

- ◆ Ahantaman PAY (24/7 Digital Banking Platform *742#)

Achievements

The Bank was admitted into the Prestigious Ghana Club 100 in the year 2003 and has consistently featured in it ever since, placing No. 100 in the 21st edition of the rankings held in October 2024.

The Bank has also received numerous awards from various institutions domestically and internationally. It was awarded the 1st runner up in Loan Financing at the 6th RCB Excellence Awards held in Kumasi in 2024.

FIAC lifetime achievement award in Malaysia for the CEO 2025, Osagyefo award September 2025 and Ghana outstanding community leadership awards 2025.

The CEO holds the most respected CEO in Ghana and worldwide in the rural Banking industry as at October 2024.

Board of directors

The business of the Bank is directed by the Board of Directors made up of the following:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Elizabeth Obeng | Chairperson |
| 2. Rt. Rev. Daniel Degraft Brace | Vice Chairman |
| 3. Dominic Cobbinah | Member |
| 4. Vincent Blaychie Essien | Member |
| 5. Christopher Kobina Dentu | Member |
| 6. Grace Eshun | Member |

Executive management

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Benjamin Afful-Eshun | Chief Executive Officer |
| 2. Samuel Nyanzu Ackah | Deputy Chief Executive Officer |
| 3. Rashid Abrobrah | Head, Credit |
| 4. Timothy Fenyi Baah | Head, Finance & Operations |
| 5. Doris Nusenu | Head, Internal Audit |
| 6. Roderick Amanful | Head, Human Resource |
| 7. Doreen Tei Avo | Head, Compliance & Risk |
| 8. Joseph Ato Haizel | Head, ICT |
| 9. Isaac Kofi Asamoah | Head, Banking Operations |
| 10. Catherine Botsio | Head, Sales and Business Development |

Board Chairperson – Elizabeth Obeng

Elizabeth Obeng is a seasoned professional with a strong background in accounting, auditing, and finance. She is currently the Director of Internal Audit at Takoradi Technical University and serves as the Board Chairperson of Ahantaman Rural Bank PLC.

As Chairperson of Ahantaman Rural Bank, Ms. Obeng has spearheaded numerous initiatives that have contributed to the Bank's growth and community development. Notably, she has led the Bank's efforts to increase financial inclusion, particularly among women and youth, by providing access to micro loans and promoting financial literacy.

Under her leadership, the Bank has supported various community development projects, including education and healthcare initiatives, and has maintained a strong commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). Ms Obeng's advocacy has led to the allocation of a significant portion of the Bank's CSR budget to women and child-centered activities, benefiting the community.

A Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants Ghana, Ms Obeng holds professional qualifications in accounting, auditing, and taxation, as well as an MSc in Accounting and Finance from the University of Ghana, an MBA in Management Information System from Paris Graduate School of Management, and a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of Cape Coast.

Achievements as board chairperson, Ahantaman Rural Bank PLC

- ◆ Led the Bank's expansion into new communities, increasing access to financial services for rural populations
- ◆ Initiated programs to promote financial literacy and inclusion, particularly among women and youth
- ◆ Strengthened the Bank's corporate governance and risk management frameworks, ensuring stability and sustainability
- ◆ Fostered partnerships with local organizations to support community development projects and promote economic growth.



Chief Executive Officer – Benjamin Afful-Eshun

Benjamin Afful-Eshun is currently the Chief Executive Officer of the Bank. He holds a BSc honours degree in Agriculture from the University of Science and Technology (KNUST) - Kumasi, Diploma in IT & MCSE from IPMC College of Technology, ITIL (Foundation) from GIMPA, Commonwealth Executive Masters in Business Administration (CEMBA) from KNUST, Masterclass Certificate in SME Management from China Europe International Business School (CEIBS).

Mr. Afful-Eshun joined the Bank in September 2001 as a Project Officer and rose through the ranks as Assistant Banking Officer, Banking Officer, and Assistant Manager. In 2005 he was transferred to the newly created ICT Department to oversee the computerisation program of the Bank. He was appointed the Chairman of the three-man Interim Management Committee of the Bank in June 2013. He was subsequently appointed the substantive CEO in July 2014.

He has attended several seminars, workshops and certificate programs both locally and internationally, which has equipped him for leadership positions in several capacities.

He has held several positions in society and in the Methodist Church of Ghana, rising to the position of Connexional President of the Singing Band and Connexional Organizer of the Lay Movement Council of the Methodist Church Ghana. He is currently the Honorary Treasurer of the Sekondi Diocese of the Church.

He is the Chairman of the Western Chapter CEOs Group and an Executive Member of the National Association of Rural Banks CEOs.

He is a recipient of numerous awards for meritorious services rendered in various fields of endeavours; the most recent being the Most Respected CEO in the Banking (Rural) Category at the 5th Ghana Industry CEOs Awards organised by the Business Executive Magazine.

His skills in IT Systems and Credit Administration, coupled with his experience in main stream banking, have put him in a unique position to lead the bank to achieve continuous success.

He is a fellow of the Chartered institute of credit management (Ghana).

Mr. Afful-Eshun is Married to Rosa, a teacher by profession and they have four children; Benedicta (First Lady) – a nurse in the USA, Dr. Marian (Iron Lady) – a medical officer, Benjamin Jnr (Golden Boy) – an accounting graduate, and Michael (Angel Boy) – a university student. They are also blessed with three adorable granddaughters.



Corporate Social Responsibility

The Bank has lived up to its responsibility to support the development of communities in its catchment area. Notable among these are:

- ◆ Support for community projects.
- ◆ Financial support for health facility improvement programmes.
- ◆ Support for education improvement, through various programmes including Sponsoring mock exams for basic schools in the Ahanta-West Municipality.
- ◆ Provision of farming inputs and other award items to the region and MMDAs towards the National Farmers' Day celebrations year after year.
- ◆ Scholarship scheme for 100 tertiary students from the Bank's catchment area costing an average of GH¢200,000 per annum.

Water and sanitation support scheme



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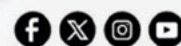


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Securing attractive future gains for shareholders

Amansie Rural Bank PLC (formerly Amansie West Rural Bank Limited), one of the foremost formidable Rural Banks in the Ashanti Region was established and incorporated as a limited liability company under the company's code "Act 179" of 1963 on 3rd October 1983. It was then certified to commence business within the region on 22nd October 1983.

The Bank finds itself in one of the naturally endowed districts in the Ashanti Region "Amansie West District" of which its name was coined as, Amansie West Rural Bank Limited.

The Bank has successfully changed its name in the records of the Office of the Registrar of Companies (ORC) and the Bank of Ghana from Amansie West Rural Bank Limited to the Amansie Rural Bank PLC which was approved by the Shareholders in 2020.

The idea is to associate the name to all corners and enclaves of Amansie without borders. The new corporate Identity which also includes a logo, slogan and colours has also been officially unveiled to the public for recognition in our business relationship.

The Board and Management undertook a comprehensive plan to disseminate such information to the shareholders, customers and other external stakeholders of the Bank on the name change.

Vision

"To be the Centre of Excellence in Rural Banking in Ghana"

Mission Statement

"To provide sustainable financial services to our communities through innovative banking products motivated staff and continuous improvement in service delivery".

Objectives

- ✓ Mobilize deposits through a network of branches and agencies in the areas we operate.
- ✓ Ensure sustained growth in profitability and payment of returns to shareholders through capital appreciation and payment of dividends.
- ✓ Institute effective training programme to improve skills of both Staff and Directors.

Governance

The Bank has seven members Board of Directors with diverse expertise who steer the affairs of the Bank.

1. Ben Kwakye-Adeefe, Esq.	-	Chairman
2. Maxwell Donkor	-	Vice Chairman
3. Noble George Osei-Mensah	-	Member
4. Very Rev. Agyeman Opambour	-	Member
5. Prof. Samuel Kwaku Agyei	-	Member
6. Jacob Baah Nyarko	-	Member
7. Rebecca Achiaa	-	Member

Key management

The Bank has nine dynamic Key Management Personnel led Frederick Kwakye Kyei Esq. (Chief Executive Officer) who are in charge of the day-to-day management of the Bank.

Other member of the Management Team includes;

1. Frank Kankam	-	Chief Operating Officer
2. Awudu Issaka	-	Head, Internal Audit
3. Jerry Mohammed Amidu	-	Head, Risk & Compliance
4. Collins Sarpong Donkor	-	Head, Administration & HR
5. Frank Owusu	-	Head, Finance
6. Emmanuel Owusu	-	Head, Credit
7. Emmanuel Kwaku Asamoah	-	Head, Digital Banking & IT
8. Anna Adu Gyamfi	-	Head, Bus. Dev't & Rel. Banking

Branch networks

Currently, the Bank has 12 branches across Amansie West & South, Bekwai Municipality, Adansi South and Kumasi.

Important financial indicators

The Bank recorded strong growth in all the important financial indicators between September 2024 and September 2025 with summary of the results indicated in the table.

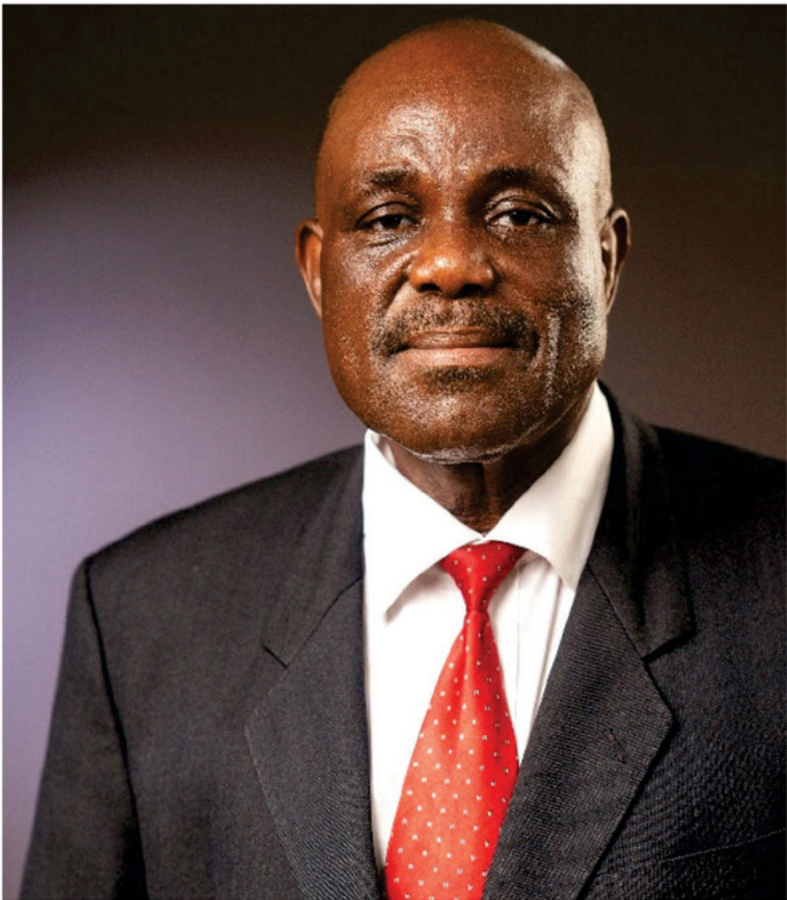
Core values

- ✓ Acclaimed professionalism
- ✓ Meticulous
- ✓ Accessibility
- ✓ Networking
- ✓ Sustainable financing
- ✓ Integrity
- ✓ Excellence

Products and services

Savings Account
Current Account

INDICATOR	SEPT. 2024	SEPT. 2025	GROWTH	GROWTH
	GH¢	GH¢	GH¢	%
DEPOSIT	622,388,219.91	832,628,994.79	210,240,774.88	33.78
INVESTMENT	462,411,447.36	646,117,772.79	183,706,325.43	39.73
NET WORTH	51,468,780.40	102,623,668.93	51,154,888.53	99.39
LOAN	98,429,990.24	146,167,222.84	47,737,232.60	48.50
CAPITAL	5,115,105.96	7,711,571.29	2,596,465.33	50.76
PROFIT BEFORE TAX	27,404,581.85	58,210,256.48	30,805,674.63	112.41
TOTAL ASSET	724,016,037.04	970,638,743.91	246,622,706.87	34.06



Ben Kwaakye Adeefe Esq., Board Chairman



Frederick Kwakye Kyei, Esq., CEO

Fixed Deposit

Susu Deposit

Me Daakye Anidasoo

Yen Nkwadaa Daakye

Akuafoo Anidasoo

Express Loan

Susu Loans

MSME Loan

Digital services

USSD *992#
AirtelTigo/Telecel Push/Pull-*110#
Gh-link Card

Corporate Social Responsibility

The Bank once again increased its spending by 151% on its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in 2024 over 2023 figure.

A total amount of GH¢1.05Million was spent in 2024 as compared to GH¢419,125.00 in 2023.

The significant portion of the CSR went into the construction and completion of the AMANSIE Community Centre (Pavilion) at Antoakrom, thereby registering the Bank's footprint on the land of its birth; as well as other increased support for the socio-economic development in its catchment areas.

Other sectors of the Corporate Social Responsibility include education, agriculture, "Agroyesum-Nkontene" Police tent city, health and many others.



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Amenfiman Rural Bank Plc

Empowering rural banking in a digital economy

For more than four decades, Amenfiman Rural Bank PLC has evolved from a modest one-branch institution into Ghana's most influential rural bank—an 18-branch financial powerhouse operating across four regions with over 600 employees.

Guided by a clear mission to become the most preferred bank for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), Amenfiman has consistently demonstrated that a rural bank can drive national-level impact through innovation, technology adoption, and deep community engagement.

In a financial landscape where inclusion remains a national priority, Amenfiman has positioned itself as a development partner to the underserved—women, youth, farmers, and rural entrepreneurs.

Backed by strong corporate governance and values rooted in integrity, commitment, respect, equity, teamwork, ambition, and excellence, the Bank continues to prove that socially responsible banking can coexist with strong financial performance.

A legacy of growth and financial strength

Amenfiman's transformation story is told vividly through its financial trajectory with an Impressive Asset Growth from GH¢1.2 million in assets in the late 1980s to GH¢73 million by 2014, the Bank entered a decade of unprecedented expansion.

By the end of 2024, total assets surpassed GH¢1.7 billion, with a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) above 30%, significantly outperforming the industry average. In mid-2024, Amenfiman became the first rural bank in Ghana to cross the GH¢1 billion asset marks, demonstrating both strategic foresight and operational discipline.

The Bank remains a strong deposit mobilisation powerhouse, being widely recognised as Ghana's leading deposit-mobilising rural bank. Customer deposits rose sharply from GH¢59 million in 2014 to GH¢1.5 billion in 2024, with a historic milestone reached in June 2024—surpassing GH¢1 billion in

deposits for the first time in rural banking history.

This success is driven by:

- ◆ A broad suite of deposit products
- ◆ Competitive interest rates
- ◆ Community engagement and trust-building initiatives
- ◆ Innovative products such as Amenfiman Susu, a mobile daily deposit service that has become a preferred savings method for traders, artisans, and small businesses.

The result is a stable, low-cost funding base that enables sustained lending and development financing.

Credit that transforms lives and local economies

Amenfiman's loan portfolio reflects its development mandate. With the Bank's loan portfolio growing from GH¢93 million in 2019 to over GH¢500 million in 2023 the Bank's loan portfolio has exceeded GH¢1 billion in 2025 with multiple credit programs covering MSMEs, microfinance, Susu programs, and recently women and youth led business lending.

The Bank is deeply rooted in communities that cherish agriculture and agri-businesses and this is an area that the Bank continues to build programmes towards expanding and deepening its impact.

In 2024, the Bank launched the MSME Donkomi program—an innovative, collateral-light scheme offering financing and training for micro-entrepreneurs. This program is already delivering tangible impact by supporting rural businesses that often lack access to traditional collateral requirements.

Amenfiman's lending philosophy emphasises responsible finance, combining credit with guidance, relationship-building, and flexibility—leading to solid repayment performance and loyal customer relationships.

Driving digital transformation in rural banking

Technology has become a central pillar of Amenfiman's growth strategy. The Bank has made significant investments to modernize operations, expand access, and meet the evolving needs of a younger, mobile-first customer base.

Key Digital Innovations

- ◆ A robust core banking system enabling real-time transactions across all branches
- ◆ Mobile banking through GhanaPay (app + USSD access)
- ◆ ATMs and GH-Link interbank integration for nationwide access
- ◆ EMV chip-enabled debit cards
- ◆ Agency Banking model to deepen outreach in low-infrastructure communities
- ◆ Integration with mobile money platforms (MTN MoMo, Vodafone Cash, AirtelTigo Money) for seamless account-wallet transfers

The Bank's digital investments have reduced manual processing, improved turnaround time, enhanced cybersecurity, increased business volume per staff, and enabled daily/weekly staff performance monitoring through new digital tools.

Clients are also able to access the Bank's services remotely and conveniently which has significantly improved customer experience while strengthening the Bank's competitive advantage.

The Bank continues to serve the unbanked and under banked through agent banking, mobile platforms, rural outreach programs, and partnerships with development organizations. Amenfiman has brought thousands of individuals—farmers, traders, young entrepreneurs—into the formal financial system for the first time.

With every product being evaluated by asking: "How will this make life easier for the rural teacher, farmer, market woman, or artisan?"

This philosophy has earned Amenfiman over 200,000 active customer accounts and a reputation for trust, reliability, and community partnership.

Future Outlook: Leading rural banking into a



Dr Alexander Asmah, CEO

digital era

Amenfiman's future strategy focuses on deepening digital innovation and maintaining leadership in finTech adoption among rural banks.

- Planned advancements include:
- ◆ Upgraded core banking infrastructure
 - ◆ Enhanced cyber security systems
 - ◆ Expanded mobile app features
 - ◆ Instant digital loan applications within the app
 - ◆ Merchant payment solutions to promote cash-lite local economies
 - ◆ USSD-based micro insurance enrolment
 - ◆ Mobile banking interfaces available in local languages

These initiatives will position Amenfiman Rural Bank as a forward-thinking institution ready to meet the

needs of Ghana's rapidly changing financial ecosystem.

Conclusion

Amenfiman Rural Bank PLC stands today as a shining example of what a committed, technology-driven rural bank can achieve. From pioneering digital adoption and growing a billion-cedi balance sheet to empowering women, supporting MSMEs, and transforming rural communities, Amenfiman has redefined the possibilities of rural banking in Ghana.

As the Bank continues its digital transformation journey, its story serve as a powerful reminder that when technology is blended with vision, values, and community focus, rural finance becomes a catalyst for national development.

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COMMERCIAL LOANS & OVERDRAFT
BONANZA LOANS
MICRO FINANCE & SME LOANS

SOCIAL LOANS (MARRIAGE & FUNERAL)
CHURCH DEVELOPMENT
AGRICULTURAL LOANS
LOCAL (NRT) AND FOREIGN MONEY TRANSFER
ELECTRONIC BANKING (USSD & AGENCY BANKING)



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Francis Agyei Bekoe, Chief Executive Officer

Bosomtwe Rural Bank

Strengthening communities through smart banking operations

Financial results as at June 2025 (The performance of the bank based on the key balance sheet indicators summarized below)

Performance Indicators	2021 GH¢	2022 GH¢	2023 GH¢	2024 GH¢	June 2025 unaudited
Deposit	121,982,683	151,183,960	187,652,363	297,263,573	346,190,373
Investment	76,027,801	105,368,710	134,010,433	239,013,349	292,604,358
Loans and Advances	31,526,434	32,910,085	43,132,696	50,689,297	63,131,195
Total Assets	136,715,499	168,047,360	206,160,098	343,029,680	410,639,180
Stated Capital	3,909,545	3,923,225	3,976,558	5,437,645	5,581,504
Net Worth	8,909,830	9,949,057	12,487,105	19,260,086	38,283,029
Profit before Tax	2,093,043	2,499,113	6,729,996	12,093,477	15,633,646

entrepreneurs to large trading concerns quasi-governmental institutions and corporate customers.

The Bank has achieved unprecedented growth over the years and it is acclaimed one of the leading Rural Banks among the Rural and Community Banks (RCBs) in the country.

Financial performance

We are among the rural banks in the country that was able to survive the storm of the banking sector clean up exercise. Bosomtwe Rural Bank PLC was rated the highest capital mobilizer among (54) Rural Banks in the country.

The Bank has grown its balance sheet tremendously with a balance sheet size from GH¢206 million in 2023 to GH¢410.6 million at the end of June 2025. This translates to a GH¢204.6million-99percent-increase as well as the other financial indicators also showing massive growth.

Profile of Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

Francis Agyei Bekoe is a seasoned rural banking professional with over 25 years of experience in Ghana's RCB sector. He currently serves as the CEO of Bosomtwe Rural Bank PLC, where he provides strategic leadership and oversees the overall operations of the bank.

He began his banking career at Nkoranman Rural Bank, where

he gained valuable foundational experience in branch operations and customer service. He later served at Adansi Rural Bank, where he further strengthened his expertise in credit management, risk control, and rural banking operations. His rich professional journey has equipped him with deep knowledge of community banking, Small Medium Enterprise (SME) financing, and Agricultural lending.

Mr. Bekoe holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of Cape Coast and Master of Business Administration (MBA) in Finance from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST). He combines strong academic training with practical industry experience to drive institutional growth and operational excellence.

Since joining Bosomtwe Rural Bank PLC, he has led initiatives that have strengthened corporate governance, improved financial performance, enhanced service delivery and expanded the Bank's role in community development.

He is known for his passion for financial inclusion, staff development, customer-focused banking, and sustainable rural economic growth.

Senior management team
The Senior Management Team is headed by the Chief Executive Officer who is responsible for the day to day administration and operations of the Bank.

The other members includes: Augustine Appiah-Operations Manager, Gideon Agyei-Mensah-HR/Admin manager, Muhayadeen Adam Kaleem - Credit Manager; Alfred Osafo - Internal Audit Manager, Robert Kwadwo Yeboah -Risk/Compliance Manager and Kwadwo Sarpong Gyekye - Finance Manager

Future outlook

Bosomtwe Rural Bank PLC will leverage on technology to bring financial services closer to our customers and non-customers in order to bridge the gap between urban and rural access to banking. We will implement the following key activities to drive growth, strengthen operations, enhance service delivery and empower digital growth.

1. Deposit Mobilisation Campaigns

- Launch targeted deposit drives across all operating communities
- Introduce innovative savings and investment products
- Strengthen partnerships with traders' associations, SMEs, churches, and schools

2. Credit and Loan Portfolio Growth

- Expand lending to SMEs, farmers, salaried workers, and micro-entrepreneurs
- Strengthen credit appraisal and monitoring systems
- Intensify loan recovery and default management activities

3. Digital Banking Expansion

- Increase the number of agency banking outlets
- Promote mobile banking...

Digital payments platforms for convenience

Financial inclusion to reach the unbanked
Economic growth supports rural economies and stimulates local growth
Cost Effective making financial services more affordable for rural customers

Corporate Social Responsibility

The Bank has always been a good corporate institution who seeks to improve the lives of citizens in our catchment areas and Ghanaians as a whole. We have consistently supported the activities of the Ghana Police Service, customers, farmers and our various Municipal assemblies.

The Bank spent almost GH¢155,000 on Corporate Social Responsibility this year. The donation included; Photocopy machine for Trade customer; Furniture for Bosomtwe District Police Station; Donation to Atwima Nwabiagya District for Menstrual Hygiene; Farmers Day Donations to Kwadaso Municipal Assembly, Asokwa Municipal Assembly, Bekwai Municipal Assembly, Atwima Kwanwoma Municipal Assembly, Suame Municipal Assembly and Abuakwa South Municipal Assembly.

The Bank has won five times Otumfuo's Ashanti Financial Services Excellence award and also received Five times member award from Ghana Club 100 among the best companies in Ghana.

By Regina Vandyke

Bosomtwe Rural Bank PLC was established in November 1981 to alleviate the suffering of farmers in Kuntanase and its surrounding villages that had to travel long distance to cash their Akuaficheques.

The Bank was authorised to carry on the business of banking under the Banking Act, 1970 (Act 339) on 9th December 1982 with an initial capital of GH¢87.50p contributed by Amaning Kwarteng, Kwaku Nyamekye, Kwaku Bio, Kwame Owusu Bempah, Kwame Appiah, Kwaku Krah, Kwame Appiah, Nana Kwasi Appiah, Opaning Yaw Manu and Ofori-Dadzie who happened to be the first shareholders of the Bank. The Bank provided credit to small-scale farmers, businesses and supported agricultural development projects within its catchment areas.

Our vision is to be a leading and efficient Rural Bank in our target market and provide tailored -customer services.

Mission of the Bank

Bosomtwe Rural Bank's mission is to be a reliable rural financial intermediary capable of mobilising idle resources to support viable economic ventures in its catchment area as a way of promoting growth and development so as to meet the expectations of stakeholders.

Since its inception, the Bank has achieved remarkable growth, expanding its services to small-scale farmers, businesses and development projects in its catchment area. The Bank saw the need to open branches in order to extend its financial services to its customers.

Today Bosomtwe Rural Bank PLC has 12 branches across the Ashanti Region offering various products and services. Our branches include Kuntanase, Atonsua-Agogo, Jachie, Kokofu, Trede, Ahenema Kokoben, Edwenase, Abuakwa, Afia Kobi, Atonsua Bokro, Aputuogya and Magazine. The Bank has helped bridge the financial inclusion gap by making it possible for the underserved and unserved segments of the population to have access to

financial services.

Products, services of the Bank

The Bank is licensed to carry out the business of Banking and related services including taking deposits and lending money. The following are our products and services:

DEPOSIT PRODUCTS

Savings Account
Current Account
Kiddy Account
Fixed Deposit

LOANS

Nkosuo Susu Loans
Transport Loans
Salary Loans & Advances
Commercial Loans & Overdraft
Bonanza Loans
Micro Finance & SME Loans
Social Loans (Marriage & Funeral)
Church Development loan
Agricultural Loans

Money transfers

NRT AND ACH
Western Union
Ria
Itrans
Apex Link
Unity Link

Electronic banking

USSD
Agency Banking
Ghana Pay
MTN Mobile Money
E-ZWICH

Bosomtwe Rural Bank PLC provides a wide range of products and services for the benefit of its customers. The growth of the Bank have been incredible with more than 300,000 customers currently. At the initial operation, the Bank's customers were mainly farmers and other traders.

With hardwork and determination, Bosomtwe Rural Bank PLC now has a customer profile that ranges from salaried workers through small and medium scale

KUMAWUMAN RURAL BANK PLC



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BANKING
NEEDS ARE,
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YOU COVERED**

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Telephone: **0501340083/ 0501699785**

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AHINSAN - 0501582614
ALABAR - 0501606147

BANKO - 0509787160
ADAKO-JACHIE - 0501699782
KEJETIA - 0501699786

EFFIDUASE - 0202028333
BOMSO - 0501485603
TAFO - 0501337163

BODOMASE - 0201680670
AMAKOM - 0501699787
ASAFO - 0200136094

Kumawuman Rural Bank PLC

43 years of supporting the Growth of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and still counting...

Kumawuman Rural Bank PLC, established in 1982, has become a household name in Ghana's rural banking industry, especially in the Ashanti Region. With a strong focus on promoting financial inclusion, supporting Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), and fostering community development, the Bank continues to deliver high-quality banking services that makes it the first choice for customers, employees, and investors alike.

Since its inception, the Bank has continuously evolved to build a strong reputation for providing tailor-made banking solutions to both urban and rural communities. With 13 branches and a loyal customer base of over 203,000, the Bank has proven its commitment to growth, innovation, and community development. Over the last four decades, the Bank's focus on solid financial performance, excellent customer service, and community support has positioned it as a leader among rural banks in Ghana.

The Bank's vision of being the preferred choice for employees, customers, and shareholders continues to drive its strategic goals. Its core principles - excellent customer service, robust financial performance, and community support have enabled the Bank to carve a unique place within the financial landscape.

Performance

Kumawuman Rural Bank PLC is among the top performing rural banks in Ghana. The Bank recorded strong financial results for the year 2024. Total income grew by 63.64% from over GH¢42.7million in the year 2023 to almost GH¢70 million in the year 2024. Customer deposit increased by 45.35% rising to just over GH¢370million in 2024.

In addition, the Bank's balance sheet grew by 52.57% in 2024, with total assets reaching GH¢401million. The Bank's profit before tax for 2024 also grew by 420.44%.

The continuous and consistent growth of all key performance indicators of the Bank is a testament to its quest to be positioned as the best rural bank in Ghana. Furthermore, the growth encapsulates not only the trust customers place in the Bank but also

the dedication of its Board, Management, and staff.

Support to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)

Kumawuman Rural Bank PLC plays an active role in supporting the growth and sustainability of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Ghana, particularly in the Ashanti Region. With a mission to provide reliable, cost-effective and accessible financial services, the Bank offers a suite of tailored products and services that address the financial needs of small businesses, traders, artisans, and entrepreneurs who often face barriers in accessing formal credit.

The Bank supports MSMEs through diverse range of loan and credit products designed to provide working capital, inventory financing, and business expansion on favourable terms. These products include microfinance loans, group loans with no collateral requirements, trading loans, susu loans, overdrafts, and other credit facilities that accommodate the cash-flow patterns of smaller enterprises. The group loan product, in particular, enables informal business groups to access credit collectively, fostering collaboration and financial inclusion for members who might otherwise struggle to qualify for individual loans.

The Bank has opened its doors to all legitimate businesses, particularly MSMEs who intend to expand their business activities to come for facilities at competitive rates. Accordingly, Kumawuman Rural Bank shall continue to support the growth and expansion of MSMEs in Ghana.

Community Impact and CSR

Kumawuman Rural Bank PLC's impact goes beyond financial services. The Bank has been pivotal in fostering socioeconomic development in its operational areas.

Notably, financial support towards the construction of Bodomase Secondary and Technical School, donation of dustbins and football jerseys to Tweneboa Kodua SHS, the renovation of Woraso Health Center, scholarships to over 20 tertiary students, amongst others.

Additionally, the Bank continues to support local community development by providing farmers and micro traders with low interest loans. Also, through the District Assemblies within the Bank's catchment areas, the Bank annually donates varying equipment to farmers to help boost their farming activities.

Furthermore, the Bank continues to play an active role in promoting financial literacy and inclusion, especially in rural communities. Through its micro-lending activities, the Bank assists and supports the expansion of micro-businesses in rural communities.

Awards

Kumawuman Rural Bank PLC has received several awards for its tremendous performance in the areas of deposit mobilisation, financial inclusion and Corporate Social Responsibility. The Bank was awarded the 2nd best in Highest Outreach in Rural Areas by Ghana Microfinance Institutions Network (GHAMFIN) and the Financial Inclusion Advocacy Center.

The Bank was also adjudged the Best in Deposit Mobilisation during the Financial Inclusion Excellence Awards. Similarly, the Association of Rural Bank also awarded the Bank as the 2nd runner up for Best Bank - Deposit Mobilisation.

More recently, the Bank had been adjudged as the 1st runner up for Corporate Social Responsibility by the Association of Rural Banks.

The attainment of these feats is a testament of the Bank's growth, and resilience in promoting financial inclusion and advocacy.

Message to Investors

As Kumawuman Rural Bank continues to grow, it presents a unique investment opportunity for those looking to be part of a financial institution that prioritises community development and



Evans Sarfo-Kantanka, Chief Executive Officer.



Charles K. Nimoh, Board Chairman

economic sustainability. The Bank's robust financial performance in 2024, with total income growing by 63.64% to GH¢69.95 million, provides clear evidence of its sound management and ability to generate profit. More importantly, the Bank has shown a strong commitment to sustainable growth through year on year increase in profitability, total assets and deposits.

Furthermore, with a community-centered growth approach and the mission to support local economic developments, the Bank allocates significant resources to community projects. In 2024, the Bank invested GH¢493,173 in various initiatives, contributing to socioeconomic development. Thus, by investing in the Bank, you contribute to a wider impact that supports education, infrastructure, and financial literacy in under developed communities.

Additionally, the Bank's strong financial performance and strategic outlook makes it a compelling choice for both local and international investors. The share price of Kumawuman Rural Bank PLC is GH¢0.50 per share and a minimum of 100 shares can be purchased.

Future prospects

and strategic focus

Kumawuman Rural Bank is not resting on its laurels. The Bank's leadership is focused on growing its asset base and reducing non-performing loans (NPLs) through stringent risk management practices. Also, the Bank is rapidly expanding its digital banking services to enhance customer convenience and further broaden its reach. These initiatives will ensure that the Bank remains competitive in an increasingly digital economy, attracting tech-savvy customers and expanding its market share.

Again, with strong leadership under the auspices of C.K Nimoh (Board Chairman) and Evans Sarfo-Kantanka (CEO), the Bank shall continue to grow its assets, profit and deposits. Furthermore, with the renewed commitment to community development, a clear vision for the future, Kumawuman Rural Bank PLC is well positioned to be the best rural bank in Ghana.

Looking ahead, Kumawuman Rural Bank PLC shall focus on continuing its growth trajectory through innovative product offerings, enhanced customer engagement, and prudent financial management for continued success in the future.



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Cashew and Mango farming**



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Saving and Loans Association**



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in the communities**

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Switch!
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to improve access to finance for
farmers and Agriculture**

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MICRO-FINANCEE GROUP
MMAA NKOSOO
CONTROLLER & ACCOUNTANT
GENERAL DEPT. LOANS
AGRO LOANS
FUNERAL LOANS
COMMERCIAL LOANS

OVERDRAFT
SUSU SAVINS
FIXED DEPOSIT
MMOFRA MPUNTUO ACCOUNT
(CHILD EDUCATION PLAN)
ME MPANIFIESO ANIDASO
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Service to Humanity    

Kintampo Rural Bank PLC

Powering local growth through financial impact

Kintampo Rural Bank PLC is a financial institution incorporated in Ghana on October 28, 1978 and issued with license to operate rural banking business on January 10, 1984 by the Bank of Ghana.

The Bank is one of the premier rural banks in Ghana. It is the first Rural Bank to be established in the then Brong-Ahafo Region and the seventh in the country. It has its headquarters at Kintampo in the Bono East Region.

Kintampo Rural Bank PLC is the best ranked Rural/Community Bank in the Bono and Ahafo Regions in all rankings and a prestige member of the Ghana Club 100.

Kintampo Rural Bank PLC having deep understanding of financial inclusion and the need to bring financial services to the door steps of rural folks, has expanded its branch network to cover three municipal and two district assemblies in Ghana with seven Agencies, which are Kintampo Agency, Techiman Market Agency, Techiman-Kenten Agency, Buipe Agency, Jema Agency, Damongo Agency and Babatokuma Mobilization Centre.

The Bank invests heavily in corporate social responsibilities to give back to the communities it operates in the areas of healthcare, community development, education and agriculture as grounded in its belief that the road to prosperity is paved with shared success. The recent CSR activities of the Bank include:

- ◆ Rehabilitation of the Kintampo Divisional Police Armoury.
- ◆ Construction of mechanized boreholes for Yipala Community of Buipe and the Kintampo Methodist Basic Schools.
- ◆ Sponsoring Special Award for the Best Female and Physically Challenged Farmers during the 41st Farmers Day Celebration, 2025 in all the six municipalities/districts the Bank has branches.

Kintampo Rural Bank PLC has delivered an exceptional financial performance within the past five years planned exceeding all key projections. The positive variance across assets, deposits, loans, investments, profits, and equity highlights strong strategic execution and positions the Bank well for the next five year strategic planning cycle.

The financial performance of the Bank for the past five year 2020-2024 is depicted on the table.

The table shows some of the remarkable milestones we achieved over the past five years, which highlight our continued commitment to excellence, resilience and sustainable growth.

- ◆ **Balance Sheet Growth:** The Bank's Asset expanded significantly by 138%, rising from GH¢55.09 million in 2020 to GH¢131.06 million in 2024; driven by a strong deposit mobilisation strategy.
- ◆ **Customer Deposits:** Deposits from customers increased by 172% to GH¢107.47 million in 2024, up from GH¢39.45 million in the 2020, demonstrating continued customer confidence in our brand.
- ◆ **Investment in Securities:** The Bank's investment portfolio grew by 101% a move from GH¢ 32.24 million in 2021 to GH¢64.90 million in 2024.
- ◆ **Loans and Advances:** The Bank's Loans and Advances grew by 216% to GH¢44.43 million at the end of 2024 from GH¢14.05 million in 2021.
- ◆ **Shareholders' Funds:** The Bank's Equity grew by 87% to GH¢20.40 million in 2024, compared to GH¢10.90 million in 2021, reinforcing our financial stability.

Income

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	2020 GH¢	2021 GH¢	2022 GH¢	2023GH¢	2024 GH¢	VARIANCE	%
Total Income	7,365,832	8,609,624	12,189,629	18,983,595	27,525,498	20,159,666	274%
Profit Before Tax	1,443,659	1,829,513	1,774,693	3,504,227	10,291,025	8,847,366	613%
Profit After Tax	934,557	1,335,308	1,262,153	2,749,209	6,939,772	6,005,215	643%
Total Assets	55,096,849	62,217,834	70,771,042	96,402,105	131,061,693	75,964,844	138%
Total Deposits	39,454,969	43,648,782	51,865,964	78,333,865	107,473,908	68,018,939	172%
Loans and Advances	14,053,029	18,649,771	22,092,132	32,940,191	44,427,259	30,374,230	216%
Shareholders Fund	10,936,749	12,301,962	13,204,610	14,231,737	20,394,018	9,457,269	87%
Investment	32,237,259	34,669,448	35,168,410	47,949,676	64,898,965	32,661,706	101%
Basic Earnings Per Share (GHP)	0.01	0.06	0.06	0.12	0.25		

statement resilience

From the above, the Bank's Pre-tax Profit increased by 613% to GH¢10.29 million in 2024, up from GH¢1.44 million in 2021. Profit after tax remained strong at GH¢6.94 million in 2024 against GH¢0.93% million in 2021 an increase of 643%, reflecting both strategic cost management and an increase in operational efficiency over the past five years.

The Bank's Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) of 29.51% as at the year-end 2024 comfortably exceeded the regulatory minimum of 10%, reinforcing our strong capital position and capacity to support future growth.

We delivered sustainable value to our shareholders by achieving a Return on Assets (ROA) of 5.30% and a Return on Equity (ROE) of 34.03% at the close of the year 2024.

Kintampo Rural Bank PLC operating in rural agrarian communities with high poverty rate partnered with the Government of Ghana and several organisations both internationally and locally to reduce poverty by accessing affordable finance for small businesses and farmers in its operational areas . Some of these Intervention Programmes includes:

1. **Ghana Commodity Exchange (GCX):** The Bank is in partnership with the Ghana Commodity Exchange and Ghana Warehouse Receipts System (WRS) to provide warehouse receipts for farm produce to be used as collateral to facilitate access to credit for farmers.

2. **Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)-Support to the Private and Financial Sector (PFS) programme:** This is a partnership programme with the GIZ, with funding from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) to support the Bank to develop a unique product for



Martin Mensah, CEO

agribusinesses. Under the project, the Bank provided financing for agricultural inputs and trade, targeting the cultivation of maize, rice, soya, cashew and mango and their value chains. An amount of GH¢4.22 million had been disbursed to 596 farmers consisting of 505 males and 91 females.

funding is aimed at building resilience for food and nutrition security for women, youth and vulnerable groups in the Northern Savannah Ecological Zone. The Bank has disbursed an amount of GH¢596,000.00 to 151 individuals, comprising 151 males and 25 females.

6. **Affordable Agricultural Financing for Resilient Rural Development (AAFORD):** The project aims to improve the food security and living standards of smallholder farmers, vulnerable women, and youth in six regions of Ghana which includes Bono, Bono East, Ahafo, Northern, Savannah, and North East. The Bank has disbursed a total amount of GH¢4.46 million to 566 individuals comprising 276 males and 290 females

7. **The Social Investment Fund, Post-COVID-19 Skills Development and Productivity Enhancement Project (SIF/ AFDB-PSDPEP):** The project aims to contribute to Ghana's sustainable post-COVID-19 recovery by enhancing skills and supporting livelihoods for youth and women. The PSDPEP provides loans as part of its efforts to support Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). The Bank's disbursement under this project stood at GH¢2.13 million to 82 individuals, with 35 males and 47 females.

The continuous introduction of innovative products and services to enhance the socio-economic well-being of its customers and the communities in which the Bank operates, has won it many recognition and awards from high profiled institutions in the country such as the Ghana Club 100, CENBA Africa Business Excellence Awards and Ghana Financial Intermediation Awards organized by the Business Executive.

4. **Ghana Financial Sector Development Project:** The Bank is among the five financial institutions that partnered with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning under the Ghana Financial Sector Development Project to link Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) for formal financial services. The project benefited thousands of women and men in the Bono East and Savannah regions by providing financial management training and access to loans and savings. The Bank has disbursed a total amount of GH¢2.60 million to 1,605 individuals comprising 562 males and 1,043 females

5. **Global Agriculture Food and Security Programme -Addition Financing to Savannah Investment Programme (GAFSP-AFSIP):** This

Yapra Rural Bank celebrates 40th anniversary

Hands over GH¢390,000 school project

Yapra Rural Bank PLC, headquartered at Prang in the Bono East Region, marked its 40th anniversary with plans to deepen financial inclusion, expand agricultural financing and scale digital services, leveraging four decades of engagement with rural communities across the Bono East and Savannah regions.

The bank which started operation on December 8, 1984, was founded by chiefs, traders, teachers and farmers from Yeji, Abease, Atebubu, Prang and surrounding communities. It was created to mobilize rural savings and provide accessible financial services to areas previously underserved by commercial banks.

Key promoters included Nana Kwadwo Nyarko III, Paramount Chief of Prang, former MP Alhaji Abdul Rahman, Nana Kwapare of Abease, and Nana Atali Sodolo, whose advocacy shaped the early direction of the bank.

From a single branch in Prang, Yapra Rural Bank has grown to eight branches and a mobilization centre across two regions, serving a customer base of 50,290 and employing 130 staff as of October 31, 2025. The bank reported total assets of GH¢95.21 million and deposits of GH¢86.33 million as of December 31, 2024, underscoring steady growth despite the broader

economic challenges in Ghana's rural financial sector.

At a durbar of chiefs and residents to commemorate the anniversary, Board Chairman Baabotin Terah Musah said the bank had strengthened its capital position and improved profitability over the years, placing it in a stronger position to expand lending to priority sectors.

He said Yapra Rural Bank plans to broaden support for agriculture, small and medium-sized enterprises, youth-led initiatives and women-owned businesses, stressing that the bank is developing new loan products tailored to rural economic activity, with a goal of stimulating local production and improving household incomes.

"Yapra Rural Bank will continue not only to be a financial institution but a beacon of light and hope," Mr. Musah said, adding that the bank will pursue financial inclusion by extending services to communities still without formal banking access.

The Managing Director of ARB Apex Bank, Alex Kwasi Awaah, commended Yapra Rural Bank's contributions to rural economic development, particularly its support for agriculture and petty trading, which form the backbone of economic activity in the Bono East enclave.

He urged the bank to leverage its stable foundation to drive sustainable growth, noting that digital

banking would be essential for scaling operations efficiently. Mr. Awaah encouraged the adoption of Apex Bank's digital solutions to expand reach and enhance customer experience.

"After 40 years of rural banking excellence, it behooves the bank to explore all relevant catalysts, including digital banking, to broaden access and deepen its footprint," he said.

The Chief Executive Officer of Yapra Rural Bank, Alhaji Siibawaih Yakubu, said the bank would continue to roll out services to unbanked and underserved areas, adding that agency banking would anchor its next phase of expansion. He said Yapra Rural Bank is committed to strengthening agricultural financing, especially for actors across the value chain.

Mr. Yakubu called on government and relevant agencies to support market access for farmers, warning that persistent gluts undermine investment and discourage production. He said improved pricing, aggregation systems and market reforms were critical to sustaining agriculture-led growth in rural districts.

As part of the celebration, the bank honoured individuals and institutions that have played significant roles in its development. Notably, its CEO received recognition for 32 years of service in various capacities at the bank. Management said the awards were a testament to the institution's emphasis on continuity, operational discipline and community partnership.

GH¢390,000 school project handed over

In a major corporate social responsibility initiative tied to the anniversary, Yapra Rural Bank handed over a three-unit classroom block with ancillary facilities to Prang D/A No. 1 Primary School.

The GH¢390,000 project replaces a structurally weak block that had long served lower primary pupils. Alhaji Siibawaih Yakubu, CEO of Yapra Rural Bank (left) receives TV set from Alex Kwasi



3-unit classroom block for Prang D/A No. 1 Primary School



Alhaji Siibawaih Yakubu, CEO of Yapra Rural Bank (left) receives TV set from Alex Kwasi Awaah, MD of ARB Apex Bank.



Dignitaries cut the anniversary cake

Awaah, MD of ARB Apex Bank.

3-unit classroom block for Prang D/A No. 1 Primary School. The school, founded in 1947 and currently serving 273 pupils, has struggled with

infrastructure deficits for decades. The new facility is expected to create a safer and more supportive learning environment for children in the deprived community.



Mrs. Comfort Owusu, the immediate past Executive Director of the Association of Rural Banks, Ghana, the initiator of the ARB Women's Conference

Rural Banks urged to build stronger leadership pathways for women

Continued from page 5

community banks nationwide.

Mrs. Owusu further emphasised that the shortfall is not due to a lack of competence or ambition among women, but rather the result of enduring gender bias, glass ceilings, limited access to mentorship, and societal expectations.

Drawing on her own 24-year journey in rural banking, she recounted moments when she was

the only woman in key meetings and experiences that initially made her question whether she truly belonged.

Mrs. Owusu underscored that when a woman rises to leadership, she becomes a symbol of possibility for countless others. Leadership, she said, is not about personal glory but about collective growth, and rural banks stand to benefit immensely when women are part of their governance and management structures.

She referenced evidence showing that institutions with women

in top positions often perform better, adding that Ghana's female rural bank CEOs have consistently demonstrated excellence in governance, innovation and institutional performance.

Mrs. Owusu explained that building a clear pathway for women requires a shared commitment across the industry. She emphasised mentorship as a critical tool, one that must be supported by both male

Continued on page 32

Celebrating Dr. Toni Aubynn

A visionary leader driving growth and stability

By Ruth Osei-Asante
First Vice Chairperson – PMSU/LU

During the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, ARB Apex Bank Plc's new Board of Directors was formed to manage the Bank for three years. It is customary for an existing member to be named Chairman of the Board of Directors of a Bank. However, things changed in 2020. The ARB Apex Bank Board elected a newcomer, Dr. Anthony Kwesi Aubynn, to the position of Chairman.

Dr. Aubynn brought fresh perspective and extensive experience in banking and finance to the role, signaling a new direction for ARB Apex Bank Plc. His appointment was seen as a strategic move to navigate the challenges posed by the pandemic and drive growth in a rapidly changing financial landscape.

I had high hopes in him because

of the incredible things I had heard about his twenty-year career in the Ghanaian mining and petroleum industry, during which he helped build Amenfiman Rural Bank Plc into one of the country's most successful rural banks.

Board leadership

As a leader, he stood out tall in my opinion. "There were difficulties throughout your tenure as Chairman but your solutions to these problems were so lovely to see."

In all candour, 2022 was a challenging year for the Bank's leadership. There was division and a number of groups did exist and opinions were divided. Those were occasions of great difficulty. I experienced it firsthand as a Union leader. I still recall the times when I would call you to talk about my worries and disappointments. "Serwaa, everything is going to be fine." Your reassuring words were a constant companion throughout this, and I will

never forget them. The Bank did very well, just as you predicted.

It is my bold assertion that ARB Apex Bank owes its success and longevity to your outstanding leadership, Dr. Aubynn. Amazing things are happening at the Bank.

In 2023, your re-election as Board Chairman was expected and justified. Your leadership, which has been marked by resilience, resourcefulness, and a consultative approach that promotes unity and collaboration across board in the Bank's corporate governance structures, has been well-received.

Union Backing

Working with you has been a pleasure for me in my role as First Vice Chairperson of the Professional Management Staff and Local Union (PMSU/LU) of the Union of Industry, Commerce, and Finance Workers (UNICOF). No matter what difficulties we faced, you were



always there to help us. Even when our problems were seemed challenging and insurmountable, you always managed to get us to see things from each other's perspectives and come to a compromise. You were always there to listen and find solutions.

In my opinion, you should have served as Chairman for an extended duration. But now is your moment to shine. Such a brief time frame. Perhaps it's because I always intended for you to remain with the Bank.

My sincere congratulations are in order for your fruitful term in office. You have my utmost admiration.

My best wishes are with you as you venture into new opportunities especially now that you have qualified as a lawyer. I have faith that you will always have a positive influence on others around you.

You should be honoured for being a precious diamond. Your dedication and leadership have truly made a lasting impact on those around you. Your ability to inspire and guide others is a rare gift that should be celebrated. I have no doubt that your future endeavours will be just as successful and rewarding.

Rural Banks Record 1,178% Profit Surge as Apex Bank Charts Bold ESG Future

Rural and Community Banks (RCBs) across Ghana have posted unprecedented growth in profitability and financial strength, with profit before tax soaring by more than 1,178 percent in just five years, according to Managing Director of ARB Apex Bank PLC, Alex Kwasi Awuah. He made the announcement at the climax of the 10th Rural Banking Week and the 2nd National Women's Conference held at the Volta Serene Hotel in Ho.

Addressing dignitaries including Togbe Adzie Lakple Howusu XII, Mr. Eric Appiah, Dr. Frank Boateng, and Mr. D.O.K. Owusu, Mr. Awuah commended the foresight of the National Association of Rural Banks in establishing the Apex Bank, which has brought stability and confidence to the sector. He also lauded the ARB Ladies Association for mainstreaming women's empowerment in rural banking.

Highlighting the theme, "Driving Sustainable Financial Inclusion and Good Governance in Rural and Community Banks through ESG Principles," Mr. Awuah emphasized that RCBs remain the backbone of Ghana's financial inclusion architecture. Since the establishment of the first RCB in Agona Nyakrom in 1976, the network has expanded to 147 banks and over 850

Rural Banking at a Glance (2020 → June 2025)

Indicator	2020	June 2025	Growth
Deposits 🏠	GHS 5.32 bn	GHS 18.22 bn	+242%
Loans 📄	GHS 1.84 bn	GHS 5.90 bn	+220%
Assets 🏢	GHS 6.14 bn	GHS 21.25 bn	+246%
Profit Before Tax 📊	GHS 33.02 m	GHS 422.03 m	+1,178%
Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) 🏦	9.93%	18.95%	+91%

branches across 126 districts, serving millions in communities once excluded from mainstream banking.

The Managing Director revealed that RCBs now serve over 7.5 million customers, with more than 80 percent actively engaging the branch network. He noted that the sector's Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR), which fell below regulatory thresholds in 2020 and 2021, has rebounded impressively to 18.95 percent by June 2025,

reflecting resilience despite economic headwinds and the Domestic Debt Exchange Programme.

Financial indicators showed remarkable growth across all fronts. Total deposits rose from GHS 5.32 billion in 2020 to GHS 18.22 billion in June 2025, representing a 242 percent increase. Total loans expanded by 220 percent, reaching GHS 5.90 billion, while total assets

climbed by 246 percent to GHS 21.25 billion. Most strikingly, profit before tax jumped from GHS 33.02 million in 2020 to GHS 422.03 million in June 2025.

"These are not just numbers," Mr. Awuah stressed. "They represent farmers financed, SMEs revived, women empowered, households stabilized, and dreams realized." He added that many RCBs continue to support community development through corporate social

responsibility initiatives in education, health, policing, and agriculture.

On governance and sustainability, Mr. Awuah announced that ARB Apex Bank has engaged an ESG Manager to embed environmental, social, and governance principles across the sector. Extensive capacity-building programmes for directors, staff, and partners are planned for 2026, alongside a new strategic plan that prioritizes ESG.

Digital transformation has also been a major focus. Over 212,981 customers have been onboarded onto the USSD mobile banking platform (992#), enabling services such as funds transfers, bill payments, and account checks. Additionally, 1,931 RCB agents have been deployed nationwide, acting as mini branches to extend financial access, reduce costs, and create youth employment.

Mr. Awuah urged directors and managers to leverage digital innovations, ESG frameworks, and regulatory support to create superior value for shareholders and communities. Quoting McKinsey on the Fourth Industrial Revolution, he said: "The more we think about how to harness the technology revolution, the more opportunities we have to shape a future that improves the state of the world." He affirmed that RCBs are poised not only to participate but to lead in sustainable rural finance.

Fiaseman Rural Bank Plc

The most profitable rural bank in Ghana

Fiaseman Rural Bank PLC, headquartered in Bogoso in Ghana's Western Region, is a leading financial institution in the Rural and Community Banking (RCB) sector. Renowned for its sound governance, prudent financial management, and innovative banking solutions, the Bank has consistently demonstrated its capacity to navigate challenging economic landscapes.

Fiaseman stands as a beacon of excellence within Ghana's rural and community banking sector. With a proven track record in financial intermediation, the Bank is widely recognised for its innovative approach, and consistent performance.

As a leader in the industry, Fiaseman continues to set the benchmark for navigating complex economic environments and guiding sectorial stability—earning the trust of regulatory bodies such as Bank of Ghana (BoG) and ARB Apex Bank which increasingly looks to Fiaseman for direction and leadership in the industry.

Leadership excellence

At the helm of the institution is Nana Dr. Godfred Frank Opoku, an accomplished banker with over 30 years of industry experience.

Dr. Opoku holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA) in Accounting, a Bachelor of Commerce, and several microfinance certifications from the University of Cape Coast, alongside a Diploma in Modern Administration from Cambridge International College, UK.

He also holds a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree from the Presbyterian University College, Ghana. Under his visionary leadership, the Bank continues to attain new heights in financial and operational excellence.

Reputation and industry rankings

Fiaseman Rural Bank entered the prestigious Ghana Club 100 rankings by the Ghana Investment Promotion Centre (GIPC) in 2005, consistently improving its position. By 2019, it ranked 31st among the top 100 companies in Ghana—an exceptional feat for a rural

bank.

In sector-specific assessments, the Bank has consistently ranked within the "strong category" of the Efficiency Monitoring Unit (EMU) performance rankings by ARB Apex Bank.

It was named Overall Best Rural Bank in Ghana at the 2017 RCB Excellence Awards by the Association of Rural Banks and received a Gold Award at the 2022 Ghana Premier Business & Finance Excellence Awards in recognition of its contribution to economic development in rural banking.

Milestones and achievements

In 2023—its 40th anniversary year—Fiaseman Rural Bank continued its upward trajectory, earning multiple accolades, including:

- ◆ Most Profitable Rural Bank of the Year
- ◆ Best in Credit Protection
- ◆ Best Contribution to Financial Literacy

At the GHAMFIN NBFI 2023 Awards) Additionally, the Bank has received other accolades, reflecting its operational excellence and industry leadership:

- ◆ GIPC Club 100 Rankings: In the 20th and 21st editions, the bank ranked 45th and 52nd respectively—2nd among all rural banks in both editions.
- ◆ Best Rural Bank in Ghana by the Chartered Institute of Credit Management during the 2023 Ghana Credit Excellence Awards.
- ◆ 2024 RCB Excellence Awards: Honoured with three awards, including Best Rural Bank in Loan Financing, underscoring its innovative SME support through products like the Smart Loan.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

Fiaseman Rural Bank remains deeply committed to community development. In recent years, the Bank has invested over GH¢1 million in CSR initiatives across sectors such as education, health, clean water, security, community development and support for traditional councils. These efforts affirm the bank's deep commitment

to socio-economic impact beyond financial performance.

To honor the memories of its past heroes, the Bank built a multi-purpose health block for the Himan Prestea Health Centre at a total cost of GH¢2.1million in honor of Joseph Effie Cudjoe, a founding father of the Bank and the first board chairman.

Branch network and strategic investment

Established in November 1983, the Bank has expanded beyond the Western Region into the Central Region, with a total of 14 branches located in:

- ◆ Western Region: Bogoso, Sikafie-Bogoso, Prestea, Bawdie, Ateiku, Tarkwa, Aboso, Tamso, Huni Valley, Wasa, Damang, Asankrangwa, Agona Amenfi, Takoradi,
- ◆ Central Region: Abura-Cape Coast

Product innovation and digital transformation

The Bank offers a comprehensive suite of financial products and services tailored to meet the evolving needs of its customers. Its latest innovation, the Smart Loan (Simply Dial *899*33#), is specifically designed for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), supporting working capital, inventory purchases, shop rentals, and asset financing—accessible through digital platforms such as to enhance customer convenience.

Leveraging on the RCB mobile platform, the Bank launched FIASEPAY USSD mobile banking where customers have seamless access to all banking transactions just in their palm by dialing *992#

Financial performance highlights

Fiaseman Rural Bank has been Ghana's most profitable rural bank for three consecutive financial years: 2021, 2022, and 2023.

Other key financial metrics:

- ◆ 2022 Income: GH¢75.74 million (↑26% from GH¢60.28M in 2021)
- ◆ 2022 Total Assets: GH¢351.89 million (↑46% from GH¢240.71M in 2021)
- ◆ 2022 Deposits: GH¢308.27 million (↑48% from GH¢208.24M in 2021)
- ◆ 2022 Loan Portfolio: GH¢111.58 million (↑29% from GH¢86.43M in 2021)
- ◆ 2023 Income: GH¢134.42 million (↑77.5% from GH¢75.74M in 2022)
- ◆ 2023 Total Assets: GH¢536.65 million (↑52.51% from GH¢351.89M in 2022)
- ◆ 2023 Deposit: GH¢465.18 million (↑50.90% from GH¢308.27M in 2022)
- ◆ 2023 Loan Portfolio: GH¢229.98 million (↑106.1% from GH¢111.58M in 2022)
- ◆ 2024 Income: GH¢205.82



Nana Dr. Godfred Frank Opoku, CEO



Frank Amo Owusu, Board Chairman

- ◆ million (↑53.11% from GH¢134.42M in 2023)
- ◆ 2024 Total Assets: GH¢961.17 million (↑79.51% from GH¢536.65M in 2023)
- ◆ 2024 Deposit: GH¢830.97 million (↑78.63% from GH¢465.18M in 2023)
- ◆ 2024 Loan Portfolio: GH¢294.62 million (↑28.10% from GH¢229.98M in 2023)

It is instructive to note that the Bank has crossed the dreaded GH¢1billion deposit mark, making it the 2nd rural bank in the country to have achieved that milestone. These results reflect robust growth, operational efficiency, and strong customer confidence in the bank as a secure financial institution.

Investment in Twifo Rural Bank Plc

Instructively, the Bank has 60% equity in Twifo Rural Bank PLC, located at Twifo Praso in the Central Region, making it the first Rural Bank in the country to have a stake in another Rural Bank.

Industry leadership amid economic reform

As Ghana navigates critical economic reforms—including the domestic debt exchange programme and broader fiscal adjustments—Fiaseman Rural Bank remains a pillar of resilience and innovation. Its exceptional performance positions it as a key institution that will continue to provide leadership and inspiration within the rural banking ecosystem.

Conclusion

Fiaseman Rural Bank PLC is more than a financial institution; it is a catalyst for inclusive growth and rural economic empowerment. With a legacy spanning over four decades, unmatched profitability, and a commitment to excellence, the Bank is poised to lead the next generation of rural banking in Ghana.

Year	Profit Before Tax
2021	GH¢11,099,819
2022	G¢14,399,000 (↑30% YoY)
2023	GH¢36,976,180 (↑157% YoY)
2024	GH¢69,590,502 (88% YoY)



FIASEMAN
RURAL BANK PLC



- * Flexible Loan conditions
- * Unrestricted Loan amount

Fuel Your Growth

HEAD OFFICE:
BOGOSO
P. O. Box 80,
Bogoso-W/R

✉ info@fiasemanbank.com.gh
🌐 www.fiasemanbank.com.gh
f Fiaseman Rural Bank Plc.

📞 050 133 0918
📞 031 229 7703

La Community Bank Limited

A legacy of Growth, Governance and Community Impact

In 1979, a community-based organisation, the La Mansaamo Kpee (LMK), La Town Development Association, was established by the youth in the town to mobilise community resources for community development. One of the projects of LMK was a Community Bank.

In 1984 the Association made a formal application to the African Development Foundation (ADF) in the United States to assist in the establishment of the Bank. ADF considered and approved the request in 1985 and an amount of US\$164,561 was granted by ADF to LMK to cover cost of renovation, furniture, stationery and equipment etc. and a revolving fund of US\$83,103.

Bank of Ghana (BoG) License was obtained and on 3rd November 1987, the Bank was opened to the public with the help of individuals such as late Justice Nii Amaa Ollennu, patron of LMK and P. V. Obeng, a member of the government at the time.

Prior to the opening, the people of La had been invited to subscribe to the shares of the Bank. The response was overwhelming. The people of La subscribed fully the 184,500 shares allotted to them with LMK taking 48,350 shares.

Mission

To provide best financial services for the development aspirations of the people of La and its environs.

Vision

The vision of the Bank is to become the best financial institution in Ghana, returning the best value for shareholders and the community.

Core values

The core values of the Bank are honesty,

• Seth N.S. Quao	Chairman	Chartered Accountant
• David E.A. Oddoye	Vice Chairman	Chartered Accountant
• Kennedy Wiafe Effah ESQ.	Member	Banker/ Lawyer
• Isaac Nsiah Odoi ESQ	Member	Lawyer
• Lovelace Adjei- Aku	Member	Banker / sales consultant
• Betty N. A. Aryee	Member	Chartered Banker /Consultant

The Management team is led by Peter Vanderpuije as the Chief Executive officer with the following performing the undernoted functional roles

• Kenneth Owusu Twumasi	Human Resource & Admin
• Deborah Anang	Finance
• Emmanuel Plange	Risk and Compliance
• Isaac A. Adentwi	Internal Auditor
• Benjamin Tamatey	La Branch Manager
• Isaac Ayisah	Information Technology
• Magrosis Pobee	Credit Risk Manager

DEPOSIT PRODUCTS	LENDING PRODUCTS	OTHER SERVICES
Current Account	Personal loans/overdraft	Mobile money services
Savings Account	Salary loans	ECG bill payment
LACOsave Account	Salary overdraft	
Fixed Deposit	Corporate loans	Apexlink
Call account	Corporate overdraft	USSD/Smart banking
Trust Account	CAGD Loans	Ezwich services
Corporate Account	Pension Loans	Ghanapay services
LACObill	LACOlloan	Treasury bill purchase

excellence, loyalty and professionalism.

How we create value

Creating value for all stakeholders is central to all our actions and we do this by

- ◆ Acting with absolute integrity
- ◆ Collaborating, supporting and respecting one another
- ◆ Communicating openly, honestly and frequently
- ◆ Developing a highly motivated, valued and diverse workforce
- ◆ Optimizing our financial and

physical resources
Simplifying and improving our processes continuously

Our governance structure
La Community Bank can pride itself as having some of the best professionals in Ghana. Some of former directors included the late Dr. KB Asante, Helen Lokko, the first female Managing Director of GCB Bank, Benjamin Gogo, former Deputy Managing Director of SG SSB, Dr. Nii Kwaku Sowa, former Director General of Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Amarkai Amarteifio Esq., Nicholas Oko Sai former Head of BSD Bank of Ghana amongst others. The Banks governance



Seth Nii Sodjah Quao, Board Chairman



Peter Vanderpuije, CEO

structure start from the Board which is made up of the undernoted professionals.

Our Business

The Bank started with heavy presence in the retail mass market segment through its flagship susu product which was able to finance small businesses in its catchment area and in keeping with the Banks tag line 'we grow with you' has been able to elevate startups to Small Medium scale Enterprises (SMEs).

Digital banking

The Bank has its own mobile banking service on Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD) short code *957# and this affords customers the ability to do banking 24/7. The Bank host its flagship susu service on an extended shortcode *957*222#.

With the widespread acceptance by customers and the community through our digital support partner IT consortium we are poised to offer more value added services like e- collection which affords schools and companies to have their dedicated short code for fee collections and to be able to monitor collections real-time.

The service further allows customers to transfer from wallet to bank, bank to wallet, and transfer to third parties in other banks, deposit cash into their bank account and make periodic deposit to their bank account either to save or pay maturing loans.

Our Branch network

La Community Bank has three branches located within three different municipalities namely LA Dadekotopon

Municipal (LADMA), Ledzokuku Municipal (LEKMA) and LA Nkwantanan Municipal (LANMA). The head office which also houses the head office branch is located in No. 1 Lami jwaah, opposite the main taxi station. The Teshie-Nungua branch can also be located at Teshie 1st junction. Our Madina branch can also be located near Rawlings circle, close to St. Peters Anglican church.

Financing economic activities

The urbanisation of the catchment area of the Bank has resulted in the need to shift from micro loans to financing startups and small medium scale business to reflect the needs in the catchment area. As a listening bank that prides itself in growing with its customers resulting in products that takes care of the customer from childhood till pension and it's a service promise we hold dear and intend to keep at all times. Our bouquet of lending include the following

- Personal loans/overdraft
- Salary loans
- Salary overdraft
- Corporate loans
- Corporate overdraft
- CAGD Loans
- Pension Loans
- LACOlloan

Financial performance

Over the years, La Community Bank (LCB) has made significant strides in key financial indicators. Interest income over the last six years ending September 2025 has increased by 120.28%. Profit before tax has tremendously increased by 640.45% in the last five years to 2024 and 27.68% from to September 2025. Profit after tax has also seen significant growth of 560.92% over the period to September 2025.

Total assets and equity have equally seen growth over time despite the biting effects of both the financial sector clean up and the domestic debt exchange program which negatively affected the fortunes of the Bank.

Total assets grew by 65.80% and equity by 141.21%. LCB has significantly and strategically increased its loan book over the years growing it by 626.51% over the period from 2020 to September 2025.

Deposit have not been left out of the growth, deposits have grown by 57.73% to September 2025 with deposits hitting 100million bracket. LCB is very sound with its prudential benchmarks, with the growth in income this year, its cost to income and staff cost to income is at 69% and 30% respectively against prudential benchmarking efficiency at managing its cost in an industry where cost to income is usually above prudential benchmark of 70% and 40% staff cost to income.

The Non-performing Loans (NPL) as at September 2025 was 6.52% (benchmark 10%) an indication of the strong and effective monitoring of our loan book. The Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) of the Bank which expresses the capital buffer as a proportion to its risk weighted assets stood at 23.43% as at September 2025 which is far above the prudential benchmark of 8%.

Corporate Social Responsibility

Owning from the idles of the founding fathers of the Bank and the objective of developing the Town, the Bank instituted a scholarship scheme for brilliant but needy children in the community and the aim was to support their schooling until they complete. This scheme has produced doctors and other professionals and this endears the love the community has for the Bank.

The Bank is well noted for its contribution to education and sanitation initiatives within the community and its worth mentioning the La Town Development fund.

The Bank appropriates funds into the fund annually to cater for the development aspirations of the Town.

Our financial performance

YEAR	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Management Accounts 9/30/2025	GROWTH RATE %
INTEREST INCOME	7,327,120.00	11,401,844.00	9,847,942.00	11,734,666.00	15,445,678.00	16,140,458.91	120.28
INTEREST EXPENSE	(2,881,824.00)	(3,233,060.00)	(1,521,936.00)	(909,715.00)	(1,332,382.00)	(2,131,328.20)	(26.04)
FEES AND COMMISSION INCOME	565,835.00	853,535.00	1,173,909.00	1,477,371.00	1,603,891.00	1,060,644.86	87.45
OTHER OPERATING INCOME	80,836.00	129,094.00	69,001.00	32,790.00	27,942.00	534,258.00	560.92
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSE	(7,394,741.00)	(11,654,811.00)	(7,917,076.00)	(9,786,530.00)	(11,068,764.00)	(10,129,465.00)	36.98
PROFIT BEFORE TAX	579,050.00	(2,760,396.00)	1,380,196.00	2,129,027.00	4,287,589.00	5,474,567.46	845.44
PROFIT AFTER TAX	536,796.00	(1,958,778.00)	1,213,362.00	1,293,858.00	2,943,218.00	3,538,626.23	559.21
TOTAL ASSETS	83,063,060.00	74,394,492.00	75,909,752.00	85,262,888.00	110,436,263.00	137,721,237.11	65.80
EQUITY	4,846,973.00	2,889,695.00	4,245,147.00	5,405,694.00	8,152,912.00	11,691,537.23	141.21
TOTAL LIABILITIES	78,216,088.00	71,504,799.00	71,664,606.00	79,857,194.00	102,283,351.00	126,029,699.83	61.13
INVESTMENTS	61,964,017.00	44,673,535.00	41,289,671.00	41,013,396.00	41,775,807.00	41,811,738.98	(32.52)
LOANS	3,260,700.00	3,334,589.00	6,754,052.00	11,092,561.00	16,433,833.00	23,689,275.24	626.51
DEPOSITS	75,753,076.00	65,148,986.00	69,280,204.00	77,473,876.00	97,795,206.00	119,484,796.02	57.73



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Lower Pra Rural Bank Plc

Strengthening financial inclusion through innovation, strong balance sheet growth & renewed leadership focus

Lower Pra Rural Bank PLC continues to reinforce its position as one of the most dynamic and forward-looking rural banks in Ghana.

The Bank is driven by strong financial performance, digital transformation momentum, and a renewed commitment to customer-centric banking.

The Bank's 2024 results reflect resilience, disciplined execution, and deepening trust among customers across its operational territories.

Message from the new chief executive officer

The new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) brings a refreshed vision anchored on customer-centric transformation, responsible portfolio growth, operational efficiency, talent development, and strong Environment Social and Governance (ESG) practices.

He acknowledges the firm foundation built by previous leadership and emphasises a transparent, results-driven approach to creating long-term value for shareholders.

Management is implementing targeted measures to strengthen the Bank's capital position, improve shareholder returns in the medium term, and sustain profitability. With renewed strategic focus and a dedicated workforce, the Bank is poised for greater impact and accelerated growth in the years ahead.

Financial performance – 2024 Overview

Lower Pra Rural Bank PLC delivered one of its strongest financial performances in recent years, recording significant growth across all key indicators.

Income Performance

• Interest Income: GH¢ 88.43m in 2024 versus GH¢ 67.13m in 2023 (+31.7%)

• Net Interest Income: GH¢ 76.43m versus GH¢ 58.74m (+30.1%)

• Net Fees & Commission Income: GH¢ 6.58m versus GH¢ 6.28m

Total operating income rose from GH¢ 69.57m to GH¢ 85.34m, representing 22.7% year-on-year growth.

Cost efficiency

Despite inflationary pressures, total operating expenses reduced to GH¢ 63.54m from GH¢ 64.05m. Impairment charges dropped sharply from GH¢ 1.86m to GH¢ 0.40m,

reflecting improved credit compliance and effective loan management.

Profitability

The Bank recorded a remarkable surge in profitability:

- ◆ Profit Before Tax: GH¢ 21.80m versus GH¢ 5.51m (+296%)
- ◆ Profit After Tax: GH¢ 14.91m versus GH¢ 3.77m (+295%)

This solidifies LPRB as one of the high-growth performers in the rural banking sector.

Balance sheet growth & liquidity strength

Lower Pra Rural Bank's balance sheet expanded significantly due to increased customer confidence, effective deposit mobilisation, and improved treasury management.

Total Assets

- ◆ GH¢ 379.54m in 2024 versus GH¢ 256.28m in 2023, 48.1% asset growth, deposits from customers
- ◆ GH¢ 333.63m versus GH¢ 236.02m more than 41% growth, demonstrating strong public confidence

Loans & Advances

The loan book increased modestly to GH¢ 104.92m, reflecting prudent lending and an emphasis on credit quality.

Equity & Reserves

Total equity strengthened from GH¢ 16.02m to GH¢ 30.75m (+92%), positioning the Bank favorably for regulatory compliance and future expansion.

Digital Transformation & Operational Efficiency

In line with industry trends, Lower Pra Rural Bank continues to enhance digital access and operational effectiveness through:

- ◆ Expansion of mobile and USSD banking solutions
- ◆ Strengthening agency banking operations
- ◆ Improved internal automation and reporting systems

- ◆ Steps toward deeper data-driven decision-making
- ◆ Enhancements in customer service delivery and transaction turnaround times

These initiatives are positioning the Bank to meet evolving customer expectations and drive financial inclusion across its catchment areas.

Supporting communities & financial inclusion

Lower Pra Rural Bank remains committed to empowering traders, farmers, artisans, Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs), and salaried workers through tailored financial products and community-focused interventions. The Bank continues to play a key role in:

- ◆ Supporting micro and small enterprises
- ◆ Financing agric value-chain activities
- ◆ Providing accessible credit for individuals and groups
- ◆ Enhancing savings culture through innovative deposit products

With its community-rooted approach, the Bank is widening access to finance and contributing to local economic resilience.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

Lower Pra Rural Bank PLC has significantly expanded its CSR footprint, demonstrating a renewed commitment to social development and community well-being across the Western Region. The Bank has delivered a broad range of interventions across health, education, sanitation, infrastructure, and community development.

A. Health Support & Medical Assistance

1. Donation Towards a Heart Surgery – Providing life-saving financial assistance to a patient in urgent need of specialized surgical intervention.
2. Donation towards a brain tumor operation – Extending compassionate financial support to help a family undertake a critical neurosurgical procedure.
3. Contribution to fundraising for the establishment of an ICU at Takoradi Hospital – Supporting regional healthcare development through the establishment of a



Ernest Nii Tackie-Otoo, CEO

modern Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

B. Education & Capacity Development

1. Financial support to Effia Nkwanta Nursing and Midwifery Training College (NMTC) SRC – Strengthening health education by empowering the student leadership to execute quality training programs.
2. Support to Shama Methodist Basic School – Providing essential academic resources to improve teaching and learning conditions.
3. Assistance to Morning Star Academy – Supporting private education through infrastructure and learning enhancements.
4. Educational Scholarships to thousands of needy students – Offering long-term support to brilliant but financially constrained students across the district.
5. Rehabilitation of Shama Senior High School administration block – Upgrading a key educational facility to improve school administration and academic service delivery.
6. Assistance to Mpraem Community District School – Supporting rural education through facility improvement and provision of essential learning resources.

C. Youth development & social empowerment

1. Rehabilitation of the Shama Youth Center – Reviving a major community facility to promote youth development, skills training, and social engagement.
2. Assisted in the Rehabilitation of the Daboase Community Park – Enhancing recreational infrastructure to support sports, social events, and youth activities.

D. Sanitation, water & community infrastructure

1. Construction support for Apo community toilet/washroom facility – Promoting public health, hygiene, and human dignity within the community.
2. Construction of community

toilet/convenience facilities for the following communities:

- o Nyankrom
- o Assorku
- o Atta Ne Atta
- o Abuesi

3. Provision of a borehole for the Fawomanye community – Improving access to clean and potable drinking water for households.

4. Distribution of countless street lights across the Shama District – Enhancing community safety, visibility, and security through improved public lighting.

5. Agricultural development & national support

1. Over a decade support to Nine (9) MMDAs in the Western Region for Farmers' Day Celebration – Strengthening agricultural development by supporting district assemblies to honor farmers and promote national food security initiatives.

These CSR investments reflect the Bank's unwavering belief that a strong and responsible financial institution must meaningfully contribute to the social, economic, and infrastructural development of the communities it serves. Lower Pra Rural Bank PLC continues to demonstrate that its commitment extends well beyond banking—reaching into education, healthcare, sanitation, youth empowerment, agriculture, and sustainable community development.

Future outlook

Under new leadership, Lower Pra Rural Bank PLC is entering a phase of strategic consolidation and accelerated growth, with a focus on:

- Strengthening capital and asset quality
- Enhancing shareholder value
- Driving operational efficiency and digital transformation
- Expanding high-value and inclusive financial products
- Building a stronger, more customer-focused institution

With a solid financial base, a committed team, and renewed strategic direction, Lower Pra Rural Bank is well-positioned to scale new heights and deepen its contribution to rural development and financial inclusion in Ghana.



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P. O. Box 18, Shama, W/R

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www.lowerpraruralbank.com
info@lowerpraruralbank.com

Manya Krobo Rural Bank PLC

Prioritising women's trade support and digital banking for growth

Manya Krobo Rural Bank was established in 1978 by the Krobo Women Association as a community bank at Abanse in Manya Krobo District of the Eastern Region of Ghana.

The Bank is the 5th Rural Bank to be established in the country and was opened for business on 25th August, 1978.

Over the past 47 years, the Bank has maximised operational efficiencies with two expansive regional branch network comprising eight brick-and-mortar outlets, three mobilisation centres, four Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) and several Point of Sale (POS) devices advancing financial inclusion and bringing clients at the base of the pyramid into the mainstream financial services using innovative range of products and services.

Since its inception, Manya Krobo Rural Bank PLC (MKRB) has focused its key activities on the marginalised, the under-banked, unbanked and those who are excluded from mainstream formal financial services. The Bank has some tailor-made products that is the star among the products of the Bank and has introduced an Agro product to the list of tailor-made products of the Bank.

Corporate Social Responsibility

Manya Krobo Rural Bank continues to support and contribute to its local communities in the form of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in various ways.

A total sum of a little over GH4367,000 was incurred on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities in 2024. This included scholarship disbursements of more than GH445,000 to brilliant but needy students in the Bank's catchment areas.

Other beneficiaries were

traditional councils, the Police command, schools, and civil society groups in the area. A key component of the Bank's Environment Social and Governance (ESG) drive is to align its corporate social responsibility with its social impact framework.

Environment, Social and Governance (ESG)

The Bank's initial commitment to ESG is reflected in a special report on its ESG journey, which has been included in this annual report. We see sustainability as a core driver of future growth and will be the cornerstone of our business strategy. Our ESG objectives are to improve long-term financial performance, enhance brand reputation and capitalize on opportunities in the growing sustainable finance market.

The Bank is currently building the required ESG capacity and awareness among its employees in order to ensure that ESG principles are embedded into its operations. ESG data collection will also be improved in order to analyze and report on the metrics. These are major steps that we are taking to ensure that the bank's

sustainability strategy aligns with the long-term expectations of its development partners.

International Award

The institution was recently honoured with the Best Rural Bank in Asset Quality & Recovery Management Award, a distinction that underscores its reputation for financial discipline, innovative recovery strategies, and consistent asset quality management.

The award was presented by the Financial Inclusion Advocacy Centre (FIAC), a UK-based Ghanaian organisation dedicated to promoting financial inclusion across the globe. FIAC's recognition is reserved for rural banks that demonstrate exceptional performance, strong governance, and impactful community-focused banking.

This achievement places Manya Krobo Rural Bank among the top-performing rural financial institutions in Ghana, affirming its role as a model of resilience and excellence in the rural banking industry.

Receiving the award in Kuala Lumpur, the Bank's Chief Executive Officer, Godfred Asante Hanson, described the honour as a "major milestone" in the institution's journey. He noted that the recognition affirms the Bank's unwavering commitment to prudent banking practices, operational excellence, and its mission to deliver reliable, inclusive, and transformational financial services to the communities it serves.

The Bank attributes its achievements to its embedded values coupled with the highly trained, committed and skilled employees. It makes significant investments in the training and professional development of its staff.

Outlook for 2026 and beyond

The Bank aims at expanding the Agric loan program to finance all players within the value chain.

We have secured funding agreements with



Patrick Amanor Buckor, Board Chairman



Godfred Asante Hanson, CEO

some funding institutions to assist its efforts in agricultural funding, leading to a brighter future outlook for the project.

As we look ahead, we envision a bank that not only leads in performance but also in being a great example in the delivery of superior customer service and creating shareholder value.

The Bank's next strategic focus is to build a future-ready bank along the following themes: growth, strategic partnerships and exceeding customer expectations. Our customer experience management is what makes this bank the most preferred financial services provider in our operational areas.

We have delivered value-driven solutions to our customers through our regular channels of distribution, and it is now time to scale up this customer experience through digitalization.

To this end, we have taken many steps to onboard a lot of customers onto the Bank's USSD and Ghana Pay channels. User enrolments on these channels saw an impressive growth in the course of the year. Higher transaction limits and user interface improvements contributed greatly to the growth. These alternative solutions have made it possible and easier for customers to access our services anywhere in the country, leading to higher satisfaction and loyalty. Soon, we will look at introducing an AI-powered digital assistant for dealing with customer complaints and requests.

A major business improvement drive for 2026 is to focus on providing tailored financing products to SMEs through a partnership with CapPlus for lending to businesses within the agricultural value chain.

We also have a similar arrangement with the Development Bank of Ghana to finance credits to SMEs which meet certain criteria. Both arrangements are aimed at driving financial inclusion with the ultimate aim of increasing the profit-generating capacity of the Bank.

The Board and Management reckon that the next growth path will be driven by responsible lending, innovation and exceptional customer service.

Through the partnership with our development partners, the Bank will invest in advanced technologies and software to streamline operations and overall record-keeping. As a growing Bank, we are open to more strategic partnerships and collaborations that will expand our reach.

Additionally, we will continue to strengthen our engagement with the SME and the business community and ensure that their needs are met through tailored financial solutions. This will help us to build mutually beneficial relationships over the long term.



Five-year financial performance

A five-year comparative performance summary of the Bank is presented below:

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	2024 (GH¢)	2023 (GH¢)	2022 (GH¢)	2021 (GH¢)	2020 (GH¢)
Net Operating Income	41,339,267	29,127,502	24,928,801	21,429,543	16,354,714
Operating Expenses	34,797,399	25,118,312	21,485,106	17,568,350	15,732,218
Pre-Tax Profit	6,541,868	4,009,190	3,443,695	3,861,193	622,496
Profit After Tax	4,038,167	2,814,274	2,328,470	2,957,863	297,001
Total Deposit	227,027,321	150,654,502	116,095,078	107,818,794	92,599,415
Gross Loans and Advances	73,882,966	42,407,967	33,027,172	31,583,815	25,609,909
Investments	146,433,345	109,468,168	86,114,487	73,657,601	59,552,299
Stated Capital	5,461,401	5,036,314	4,972,862	4,785,290	4,475,918
Shareholders' Fund	18,748,272	15,094,897	13,283,325	11,602,082	9,015,823
Total Assets	262,967,819	175,796,142	134,669,189	122,442,636	104,541,308





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Odotobri Rural Bank

Poised to make the greatest impact in operational territories through CSR

The establishment of Odotobri Rural Bank PLC was a response by the government to Odotobri Cocoa Farmers' appeal to help alleviate their plight at a time when they had to travel long distances of over 20km, most often on foot to cash their Akuafo Cheques at Ghana Commercial Banks and Agricultural Development Banks in Bekwai, Obuasi and Kumasi as the case may be.

Odotobri Rural Bank PLC was incorporated by shares in March 29, 1982 with registration number 20476 under the Companies Code of 1963(Act 179). The Bank was issued with a license to commence Banking Operations on September 7, 1982 under the Banking Act 1970 (Act 339).

The Bank started actual operations to the public on September 16, 1983. With coming into force with the new Companies Act 2019 (Act 992) the Bank has completed re-registration of its name and the Bank is now called Odotobri Rural Bank PLC.

Vision

To be an accomplished giant in unit banking

Mission

To provide efficient financial services through customised products, good corporate governance, well-motivated human resource, maximisation of shareholders' wealth, consistent application of improved technology and being socially responsible.

Corporate values

The corporate values are expressed in the 5Rs of Odotobri Rural Bank Limited as below:

- ◆ Responsibility to clients
- ◆ Responsibility of employers
- ◆ Responsibility to the society
- ◆ Responsibility to shareholders
- ◆ Responsibility to employees

Broad goals

The Bank on inception had the following broad-based objectives

- Deposit Mobilization and Credit delivery
- Customer Care
- Human Resource Development
- Profitability and Growth
- Maximization of Shareholders Wealth
- Survival in the Long Term
- Efficiency and Effectiveness
- Social Responsibility

Organisational structure

A seven-member Board of Directors governs Odotobri Rural Bank. The collective shareholders are at the apex of the Bank's organogram and is the highest decision making body of the Bank.

The Board exercises its oversight role and responsibilities through the following standing committees:

- * Credit Committee
- * Asset and Procurement Committee.
- * Audit, Finance and Risk Committee
- * Human Resource and Compensation Committee
- * ICT and Business Development Committee

Management team

The Board is assisted by a management team with varied and rich working experiences in banking. The Management is headed by the Chief Executive Officer who is responsible for the day to day administration and Operations of the Bank. Other members of the Management Team are the Chief Operating Officer, Central Accounts Manager, ICT Manager, Audit Manager, Credit Manager, Human Resource Manager, Risk and Compliance Manager and the Business Development Manager.

Product and Services

The Bank offers a variety of services to its clientele in the form of lending products, deposits, money transfer as well as non-financial services.

Deposit products

Our deposit products are essentially made up of the following:

- a) **Savings Account:** The purpose of this product is to allow clients save for investment or to raise capital.
- b) **Current Accounts:** This account type is normally termed as business account that is recommended for individuals, corporate bodies and those engaged in brisk business.
- c) **Salary Accounts:** This account type is designed for salaried workers whose salaries and allowances are paid through the Bank.

individuals, Corporate Bodies and Enterprises that needs working capital to expand their business.

c) **Salary Loans:** This facility is granted to salary account holders who have their salaries channel through the Bank.

d) **Funeral and Social Loans:** The Funeral and Social Loans are designed to enable client's access funds to perform the funeral rites of a deceased person and wedding ceremonies.

e) **Micro Finance Loans:** Loans are granted to men and women groups who own small and micro enterprises or are engaged in productive activity.

f) **Ghana Blind Union (GBU) Loans:** Odotobri Rural Bank in collaboration with Ghana Blind Union (GBU) offers credit facilities to the blind yet skillful, to expand their micro businesses.

g) **Transport Loans:** Clients in transport business or those who wish to own vehicles for business purposes are assisted with transport loans by the Bank.

h) **Sawah Loans:** Sawah Loans are granted to clients who want to impact human lives in the areas of sanitation, Water and Hygiene.

Money transfer

The Bank is engaged in both foreign and domestic money transfer services with ARB Apex Bank and other collaborators.

a) **Western Union Money Transfer:** This product is designed to enable clients and the general public to receive funds from Europe, America, Asia and

The table below depicts the said performance under his leadership:

	2024 GH¢	2023 GH¢	2022 GH¢	2021 GH¢
Profit before Tax	29,659,459	13,624,874	4,663,415	4,048,153
Total Assets	583,954,824	357,993,798	273,808,115	229,529,839
Deposit	516,057,508	314,372,747	242,773,461	203,409,727
Investment	398,880,413	240,450,366	177,483,169	137,694,073

d) **Susu Savings Account:** This innovative Savings Product is designed for clients who find it difficult to leave their homes and workplaces to go to the Bank and for those with small cash holding who cannot meet the Bank's minimum deposit requirement to open Savings Account. It gives them the unique opportunity to save with the Bank through the network of the Banks mobile banking staff.

e) **Fixed Deposit:** The Fixed Deposit Product is typically a Savings Account, which is lodged for a fixed tenure of 3 months, 6 months etc. The rate of return is relatively higher.

f) **Cash collection services:** Under this product the Bank's accredited officials undertake cash collections at the door steps of customers who are too busy to visit the Bank. These collections are then deposited with the Bank on behalf of the clients in their respective accounts.

Lending products

a) **Susu Loans:** The Susu Loans Product is to provide financial assistance to clients to expand their businesses. The loan product is designed to enable the clients repay such loans on daily or weekly basis.

b) **Traditional Loans and Overdraft:** This is a business loan/facility targeted at Current Account holders such as

Far East and other African countries through Western Union Money Transfer and Standard Chartered Bank.

b) **Money Gram:** The Bank in Partnership with the ARB Apex Bank Ltd. provides MoneyGram services to clients.

c) **Mobile Money Services:** The Bank engages in the sending and receiving of cash through MTN Mobile Money platforms.

Awards / Achievements

The Bank has received several awards. In recent times, the Bank received MSME Rural Bank of the year at the 5th Ghana Credit Excellence Awards organised by the Chartered Institute of Credit Management (CICM). The Ghana Investment Promotion Centre also ranked the Bank 80th out of 100 companies in Ghana. (Club 100) Again, the Bank received Gold Award at the 21st Ashanti Business and Financial Excellence Awards under the auspices of Manhyia Palace.

Corporate Social



Chief Executive Officer – Abraham Coffie



Benedict Boadi, Board Chairman

Odotobri Rural Bank PLC currently operates 14 branches; they are Jacobu Branch in the Amansie Central District, Obuasi Main and Tutuka in the Obuasi Municipal Assembly, Bekwai in the Bekwai Municipal Assembly, Asawasi, Maakro, Roman Hill, Krofrom, Agric-Nzema, Old Tafo, Ayigya, Bantama, Santasi and, Abuakwa branches all in the Kumasi Metropolis of the Ashanti Region of Ghana.

The Bank has installed Wide Area Networks at all its branches on which the Teksol Prime 5 Core Banking Application software runs to render technologically improved services to its customers.

Mr. Abraham Coffie is the Chief Executive Officer of the Bank. He has 15 years banking experience and holds BSC (Agriculture) from the University of Cape Coast and Master of Business Administration (MBA) Finance Option from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi. He is a member of Chartered Institute of Bankers (CIB) and Chartered Institute of Credit Management (CICM). He is also undergoing professional studies at the Institute of Chartered Accountants (ICA), Ghana.

Mr. Coffie assumed Office as the Chief Executive Officer of the Bank in January 2021. His exemplary leadership has led to impressive improvement in some key performance indicators of the Bank since his assumption to the role as the head of Management.

His result-oriented culture, staff motivation, innovation and professionalism in his stewardship have been his core philosophy which have accounted for successes indicated above. He has also gained considerable support from the Board of Directors in the overall governance of the Bank which could go a long way to help sustain and further improve upon the gains.

Responsibility

The Bank has always been a good corporate citizen and seeks to improve the lives of citizens in its catchment areas and Ghanaians as a whole. It has consistently supported the activities of the Ghana Police Service to foster security. Hospitals, schools, several other institutions as well as farmers have also benefited from the CSR activities of the Bank. The Bank spent an amount of GH¢191,430 on Corporate Social Responsibility in 2023 financial year.

Further to this, bursaries are granted to brilliant but needy students annually to contribute to nurturing human resources for the country at large. In the 2023 financial year for instance, scholarships and bursaries granted amounted to GH¢28,209. Considering the positive impact the Bank's generosity is making in the lives of communities, it would not renege on its Corporate Social Responsibilities.

Operational areas

The Bank's head office is situated at Jacobu – Amansie Central District Capital – which lies 19km distant from the Bekwai Municipal Assembly also in the Ashanti Region.


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Michael Aidoo, CEO

Sekyere Rural Bank Plc

Bridging the gap between traditional and digitalized banking

The idea to establish Sekyere Rural Bank was conceived and proposed by Captain Osei Ntem, a native of Jamasi Township in the Ashanti Region.

He made the proposal in 1981 to the elders of Jamasi to establish a Rural Bank at Jamasi. A letter was sent to the Bank of Ghana (BoG) for consideration after which Kwadwo Mpiani had a discussion with the BoG team about the possibility of establishing the Bank.

Sekyere Rural Bank was then set up and commissioned in 1983 at Jamasi in the Ashanti Region of Ghana with a mandate of primarily mobilising resources from its operational area for onward lending to individual savers, Small and Medium scale Enterprises (SMEs).

Traditionally, the role of the Bank is to play an intermediary between surplus fund holders and those in need of funds for their economic activities in the communities in which the Bank operates. The nature of businesses that the Bank is authorised to carry out are:

- ◆ The provision of current and deposit accounts for customers
- ◆ To act as agent for other financial institutions in the country
- ◆ To accept and discount bills of exchange
- ◆ To act as executors or trustees of wills for people in the community
- ◆ To provide finance for farmers, small and medium scale enterprises
- ◆ Safe keeping

After registering under the Ghana Companies Code 1963, Act 179 as amended Companies Act 2019, (Act 992), Sekyere Rural Bank PLC has a clear vision which is 'to be the Rural Bank of Choice'.

To successfully achieve this vision, the board deemed it necessary to outline the Bank's mission and a core value or some standards to guide everyone towards the achievement of the stated vision.

The Bank's mission statement is 'Unique Bank, propelled by a motivated workforce, customised products, and best banking services, creating value for our shareholders'.

Core values

Core Values of the Bank has been modified and rearranged with the acronym "DIPS"

- ◆ Diligence: We operate with high sense of due care and vigilance
- ◆ Innovation: We foster a climate which encourages innovation

Board of Directors

The affairs of the Bank are directed by the following able and competent Board of Directors:

Constance Asamoah
Dr. Steven Antwi
George Oppong Esq.
Godfred Adu-Yeboah

Chairperson
Vice Chairman
Ag. Secretary
Member

Executive management

The Bank prides itself with well-qualified professionals and competent Executive Management team:

Michael Aidoo
Prosper Badu
James Owusu -Ansah
K. Krobea Asante
Muntala Mohammed
Simon Aboagye
Ulric Ofori Asare
Samuel Opoku Ware
Esi Ampiah Adu-Gyamfi
Percy Sydney Annan
Maxwell John Adu

- Chief Executive Officer
- Head of Operations
- Head of Finance
- Manager, Risk and Compliance
- Manager, Audit
- Manager, Microfinance
- Manager, IT
- Manager, Credit
- Manager, Human Resource
- Manager, Marketing
- Manager, Administration

Performance analysis

Sekyere Rural Bank Limited has been recording impressive year-on-year performance in some key performance indicators as depicted below:

Performance Indicator	2024 (GH¢)	2023 (GH¢)	% Incr. / (Decr)
Deposit	295,351,434.23	187,765,133	57.30
Loans and Advances	65,790,900.39	52,849,797	24.49
Investment	207,118,409.21	108,925,423	90.15
Total Assets	319,512,627.99	201,576,201	58.51
Share Capital	2,390,108.19	2,340,368	2.13
Profit / (Loss) Before Tax	6,679,453.74	(3,954,306)	268.92

◆ Partnership: We partner individuals, groups, government, and non-governmental organisations for community development

◆ Standards: We operate at the highest standards and with best practices

customers, small and medium enterprises, micro unit institutions, and farmers to ensure accelerated economic growth and development in the communities in which we operate with a prime aim of alleviating poverty in the short term and eliminating same in the long run.

Target market of the Bank

Our primary focus is to provide tailor made solutions and wide range of financial services to the unbanked and under banked within the rural and peri-urban communities by mobilising surplus funds from the communities and channeling such funds into the productive sectors of the economy.

The Bank supports retail

Products and services

Savings Products: Current Accounts, Savings Accounts, Fixed Deposits, Susu Savings Accounts, Medaakye Savings (Investments Account), Bronya Anidaso Savings, Aku Sika Group Savings

Loans and Advances: Overdrafts Facilities, Salary Advance,

Commercial Loans, Salaried Loans, Credit Line, S- Smart Loan (Controller Loan Product), X'mas Loan, Group Loans (Aku Sika), Susu Loans, Funeral Loans, Fast Track Loan (FT), Agric Loan

Other Services

- ◆ Domestic Funds Transfers
- ◆ Advisory Service (Trust, Investment)
- ◆ Safe-Custody Services (Bailment Agreement)
- ◆ Executors and Trustees for Wills
- ◆ Agent for the ARB Apex Bank and other Financial Institutions in the country

Distribution channel

The Bank currently has nine vibrant & fully networked branches across the region and has its head office located at Jamasi. The branches are as follows: Jamasi, Agona, Ntonso, Mampong, Ahwiaa, Dr. Mensah, Abrepo Junction, Kronom and Afrancho.

Awards

As a result of our outstanding performance, Sekyere Rural Bank has won so many awards, locally and internationally. Six Gold Awards have been won at the Ashanti Financial Services Excellence Awards, held under the auspices of the Manhyia Palace, Kumasi.

The Bank won an International Gold Award on Quality, Innovation and Excellence during the 2012 BID Century International Quality ERA Convention in Geneva, Switzerland. Another award was also won in Best Practices Award in Excellent Performance, instituted by the Chartered Institute of Financial and Investments Analysts - Ghana. The Bank was awarded Platinum (International Arch of Europe) for Quality, Leadership, Technology and Innovation in Frankfurt, Germany.

Corporate Social Responsibility

The contribution of the Bank towards socio-economic development of the country, through its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) has been enormous. Our CSR contributions cut across several sectors, including health, education, security, agriculture, etc.

To mention a few, the Bank single handedly built a Police Post for the Ghana Police Service at a strategic location in-between Jamasi and Asante Mampong scalp, where armed robbers attack was rampantly experienced by

several commuters. Since this onerous intervention by Sekyere Rural bank, cases of armed robbery have now become a thing of the past in the area.

The Bank prides itself as an institution that applied its initiative to build and fully furnish a 50-seater ICT Centre for the Interbeton JHS in Agona Ashanti, to uplift ICT education at the school. It has annually supported the National Farmers Day celebration by providing items and equipment's to Municipal and District Assemblies within its catchment areas to be awarded deserving farmers. The Bank has also donated several quantities of branded exercise books in support of the Otumfour Educational Fund, other schools, and also sponsored educational quizzes, among others.

Additionally, the Bank did some donations as part of its CSR activities to help bring some relief within our education sector of which few are outlined below;

- ◆ Fifteen (15) packets of roofing sheet to St. Joseph Catholic Junior High School at Jamasi
- ◆ Fifty (50) desks (both dual and mono) to the Boanim Technical Senior High School
- ◆ A printer and a box of A4 sheet to the Afigya Kwabre North District Education Office
- ◆ Fifteen (15) desks to the Jamasi S.D.A Primary School

With all these done one will say that Sekyere Rural Bank is really making waves into its operational area and beyond with its corporate social responsibilities. But because we see ourselves as family from the society and living within it, we intent to give more and indeed we gave more.

The Bank recently built and furnished a security post for the Jamasi Health Center to improve security at the hospital. The Bank once again, donated four table top fridges to the four districts; the Afigya Kwabre North and South, Kwabre East and Sekyere South toward Farmer's Day celebration within the afore mentioned districts.

Again, the Bank built a bathhouse for the Boys' Dormitory at the Adu Gyamfi Senior High School. The Bank has also helped the Ntonso MA Junior High School with the roofing of it toilet facility. This has given some facelift to these schools and restores some sanity with these issues. The installation of intercom system, donation of laptop and a system unit was given to the Afigya Kwabre South District Education Office for some smooth running of the office.

What to look out for in 2025

The Bank will continue to pursue strategies and programs that would well position and drive the performance of the Bank towards achievement of corporate objectives. Compliance with regulations, good corporate governance practices, effective risk management systems, and excellence in customer service would continue to be given significant attention by the Board and Management.

The Bank will continue to employ technologically efficient and effective systems, including digitisation, to enable it to continuously offer unequalled services to our cherished customers and shareholders. Performance management systems will continue to improved in aspect such as

- Ø Excellent customer service.
 - Ø Offer lending to its customers at very moderate lending rates.
 - Ø The use of innovative ways to sell the Bank's products through digitalization.
- Introduction of new products and repackaging of existing ones that will meet the needs of our customers.



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Subin-Akwaboso Rural Bank

The most promising rural bank

Visionary dedicated board and promoters.

Sarbank has a visionary and dedicated Board of Directors led by Edward Anti Nyinaku. The board is committed to fulfilling its fiduciary duties as directors and providing unwavering support to management in delivering the Bank's strategic plan and enforcing robust risk management practices.

We also commend our promoters, led by James Kwadwo Afram, an astute businessman and shareholder, for their foresight in establishing the Bank. Their initiative has significantly promoted financial inclusion among the people of Subin, Akwaboso and other surrounding communities.

Outstanding achievements

Sarbank has made remarkable achievements in just three years of operation including:

- ◆ The Bank won the most promising Rural Bank of the year at the 4th National Governance and Business Leadership Awards.
- ◆ The Bank again, won the most promising Rural Bank of the year at the 23rd BGM & 5th Rural Banking Excellence Awards, 2024.
- ◆ Being the first Rural Bank to record profit in first year of



operation in the history of rural banking in Ghana.

- ◆ The first rural bank to record deposit of GH¢69.5 million in the 3rd year of operation.
- ◆ Among the few rural banks with the highest Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR). We recorded a CAR of 40% in October 2025 which is far higher than the regulatory benchmark of 10%. This shows that we are highly solvent and has the muscle to withstand shocks.
- ◆ The CEO, Francis Azure won transformational leader of the year 2024 at the 4th National Governance and Business Leadership Awards.
- ◆ The Board Chairman, Edward Anti Nyinaku, was also inducted into Ghana Corporate Hall of Fame 2024.
- ◆ The Bank in recent time, won the most promising Rural Bank of the year in Malaysia, by Financial Inclusion Advocacy Centre at their Financial Inclusion Excellence Awards, Malaysia 2025

Financial performance

Even though we are three years of operation and one branch bank, we are doing well in the area of financial performance.

In our second year of operation, we made profit of GH¢3.85 million (December 2024).

Deposit has also increased from GH¢47.71 million as of October 2024 to GH¢69.5million.

Our strategic aspiration

As a bank, these are our strategic aspiration

- * Strengthening our market penetration strategy to grow our deposit.
- * Adopting and implementing market development strategy by expanding our footprint in other area within our catchment area to address financial exclusion and also avoid concentration risk.
- * Aspire to be a dominant player in the Rural banking industry.
- * As most promising Rural Bank, we aspire to play our part in the rural banking industry through innovation, operational excellence and optimization of operational efficiency.

Subin-Akwaboso Rural Bank (Sarbank), headquartered in Subin-Hill in the Upper Denkyira West District of the Central Region, began banking operations in August 2022 as the newest rural bank, increasing the total number of rural banks in Ghana to 147.

As a Bank, we are committed to providing tailored innovative banking solutions to the delight of individuals and support businesses in achieving their aspirations while creating superior value for shareholders.

As part of our mission, we remain committed to being people-centered, as we aim to grow along our stakeholders, including employees and customers. We, therefore, place customers, shareholders and employees at the heart of our operations.

With just a single branch, we recorded an impressive profit of more than GH¢5.3 million as at

October, 2025. This is unprecedented in the rural banking landscape since 1976.

The bank was rated strong and ranked 2nd out of 147 rural banks in Ghana by the Efficiency Monitoring Unit of the ARB Apex Bank PLC in the Second quarter, 2025.

Furthermore, the bank as at the end of October 2025, achieved an impressive deposit portfolio of GH¢69.5 million, marking our third year of operation.

Our previous two-time achievement as the most promising rural bank and the most recent award in Malaysia in same category, posts lots of confidence in our customers and makes us a prime choice for the investing public.

Investing with us certainly, means to earn superior returns in the near future. We encourage existing and prospective customers within and outside our catchment area to continue to trust and maintain a strong banking relationship with us.

See the table below for our key financial soundness indicators

Item	Year October 2024
CAR	4% above the regulatory benchmark of 10%
NPL	0% full recovery of all loans
Liquidity	Far above regulatory benchmark
Cost to income ratio	59% below regulatory maximum benchmark of 70%

Rural Banks urged to build stronger leadership pathways for women

Continued from page 18

and female leaders.

While acknowledging the cultural hesitations that sometimes discourage women from seeking guidance from male mentors, she encouraged participants to remain open to mentorship opportunities, insisting that support and advocacy are vital to unlocking women's leadership potential.

She further stressed the need for deliberate investment in capacity

building, particularly training programmes that equip women with leadership skills, confidence and strategic thinking. Human resource departments, she said, must integrate women-focused programmes into their annual development plans to ensure that women are empowered at every stage of their careers.

Rural and community banks must review their policies to create environments where women can thrive through transparent promotion processes, equal access to senior roles, and flexible systems that

support work-life balance. But she cautioned that women must also embrace self-belief.

Mrs. Owusu encouraged women to silence the inner doubts that often hold them back, the fear of failure, the belief that they are not good enough, or concerns about the frustration they may encounter.

Meanwhile, leadership of the Association of Rural Banks (ARB) Women's Association presented a beautiful citation to Mrs. Owusu for her idea of the ARB Women's Conference and her exceptional

impact as Executive Director.

The citation reads; "In your capacity as the Executive Director of the ARB, you took the bold step to establish the ARB Women's Association, creating a strong and united platform for women working in rural banks across Ghana. Through your foresight, women now have a space to learn, grow, build confidence, and support each other in their professional journeys.

Your dedication has opened doors for greater representation,

leadership, and visibility for women in the sector. The strength of this Association today is a direct result of the foundation you laid and the encouragement you continue to give.

As we mark the 2nd ARB Women's Conference, we honour you for planting the seed that has grown into a vibrant and empowering movement for women. Your vision has made a lasting impact. Your efforts will always be remembered," the citation read.

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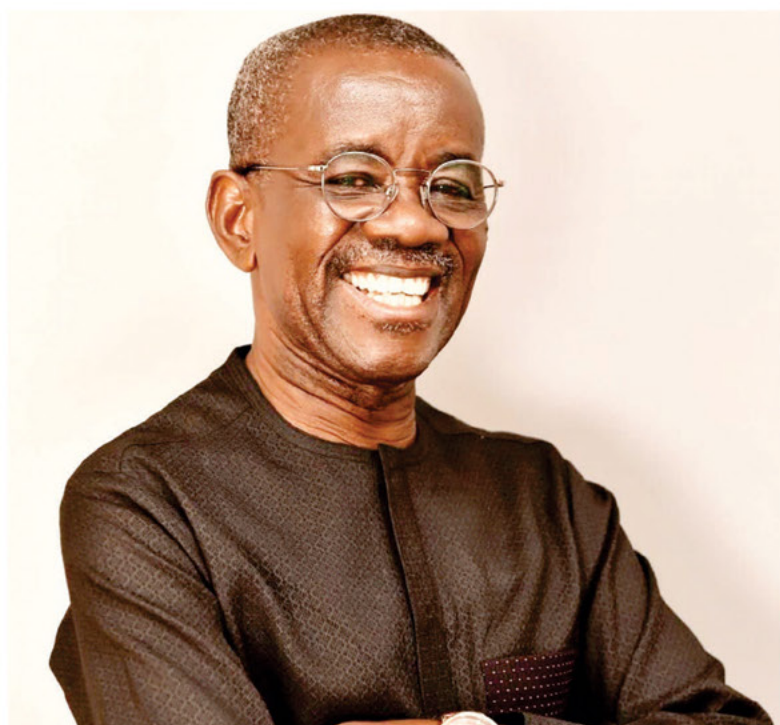
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Subin-Hill in the Upper
Denkyira West District



Kwame Kyei Kusi, Board Chairman



Samuel Sekyere Bonsu, CEO

In the competitive landscape of Rural and Community Banking (RCB), one institution consistently stands out as a trailblazer—Atwima Kwanwoma Rural Bank PLC (AKRBank).

True to its slogan, “The Pace Setter,” AKRBank is setting benchmarks for innovation, customer satisfaction, and financial inclusion in Ghana. As the nation marches toward its financial inclusion agenda, AKRBank is boldly leading the charge, proving that rural banking is not just relevant but revolutionary.

A legacy of excellence:

Comparative analysis - key performance indicators October, 2024 and October, 2025

INDICATOR	OCTOBER, 2024	OCTOBER, 2025	GROWTH	% CHANGE
	GHC	GHC	GHC	%
Investment	500,934,183.03	614,410,627.80	113,476,444.77	22.65
Loans & Advances	97,628,806.27	174,989,401.36	77,360,595.09	79.24
Total Assets	692,790,929.55	916,628,935.05	223,838,005.50	32.31
Paid-up- Capital	4,642,728.61	9,303,558.11	4,660,829.50	100.39
Reserves	113,764,696.68	158,956,843.05	45,192,146.37	39.72
Shareholders' Funds	118,407,425.29	168,260,401.16	49,852,975.87	42.10
Deposits	555,327,794.37	725,226,699.74	169,898,905.37	30.59
Total Income	109,498,063.44	142,822,712.36	33,324,648.92	30.43
Total Expenditure	55,012,867.46	78,808,625.09	23,795,757.63	43.25
Profit	54,485,195.98	64,014,087.27	9,528,891.29	17.49

AKRBank at a glance

Founded in 1983, Atwima Kwanwoma Rural Bank has become a pillar of strength and innovation in the rural banking sector. Headquartered at Pakyi No. 2 in the Ashanti Region, the Bank operates 11 branches, serving communities with a range of tailored financial products.

With multiple Chartered Institute of Marketing Ghana (CIMG) Rural Bank of the Year awards under its belt, AKRBank has cemented its position as a leader in rural and community banking.

Its mission to transform lives through cutting-edge technology and exceptional customer care reflects its commitment to being Ghana’s “Pace Setter” in rural banking innovation.

Atwima Kwanwoma Rural Bank Plc Setting the pace for government’s financial inclusion agenda in rural banking

Digital transformation: breaking new ground in rural banking

While other rural banks are grappling with the challenges of technology adoption, AKRBank has boldly embraced the future. Its suite of digital solutions is revolutionising how rural banking is done.

1. The Mobile Banking App: Banking anytime, anywhere

The AKRBank Mobile App is not just a tool—it’s a lifeline for customers who want convenience without compromising reliability. This app offers features unmatched in the rural banking space:

Account-to-Mobile Wallet and Vice Versa: Seamlessly transfer funds between your bank account and mobile wallet.

Utility Payments: Pay for electricity, water, and school fees in a few clicks.

Interbank Transfers: No matter where your recipient banks, AKRBank ensure swift transfers.

Integrated Complaint Management: Customers can lodge complaints directly through the app for fast and efficient resolutions.

2. USSD Banking: Inclusivity at Its Core (Launching Soon)

Recognizing the digital divide in rural areas, AKRBank is introducing USSD banking for customers without smartphones. This groundbreaking service mirrors the mobile app’s features, ensuring even those with basic phones can enjoy modern banking.

Customer Service that sets the pace

Often, customer care is overlooked in the rural and community banking sector, but not at AKRBank. The Bank’s dedicated customer service channels,

including telephone and email support, ensure that customers’ voices are heard and their issues resolved swiftly. This commitment to excellence reinforces AKRBank’s position as the go-to rural bank for those who value service and reliability.

Financial strength backing innovation

AKRBank’s financial performance speaks volumes about its leadership in rural banking:

- Profit Surge: A 146% increase in profit before tax in 2023 positions AKRBank as a financially resilient institution.

- Deposit Growth: With a 28.5% rise in customer deposits, AKRBank is winning the trust of the communities it serves.

- Technological Investments: Unlike its peers, AKRBank is channeling resources into scalable digital infrastructure, ensuring seamless operations and future growth.

Rural banking pioneer in financial inclusion

AKRBank’s alignment with Ghana’s National Financial Inclusion and Development Strategy (NFIDS) is a testament to its forward-thinking approach. While other rural banks are catching up, AKRBank has already positioned itself as a leader in:

- Expanding Financial Access: Digital platforms like the mobile app and USSD banking bring financial services to remote areas.

- Empowering Entrepreneurs: Loan products tailored for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) fuel local businesses, driving community development.

- Promoting Financial Literacy: The Bank actively educates customers on leveraging digital tools to make informed financial decisions.

Why AKRBank Is “The Pace Setter” in rural banking

In a sector that often struggles to keep up with modern demands, AKRBank is a shining example of how rural banks can lead, innovate, and inspire. Its unparalleled commitment to customer satisfaction, cutting-edge technology, and financial inclusion initiatives sets it apart from the competition.

Choosing AKRBank is choosing progress, convenience, and excellence—a decision that echoes the Bank’s promise to always be ahead of the curve.

With the practice of excellent corporate governance directives by the Board, chaired by Kwame Kyei Kusi and the solid management team also headed by Samuel Bonsu Sekyere, the Bank has remained the pacesetter in the Rural Banking industry since its inception.

In the year under review, the Bank was adjudged the most innovative Rural Bank for the year 2025 in the Ghana Business & Innovations Awards, ethical rural bank of the year 2025 in the Ghana Business standards Awards, SME Rural Bank of the year and the most profitable Rural bank by the Association of Rural Banks—Ghana.

With our mission to be the preferred Rural Bank poised to transform the lives and business of our stakeholders through motivated and competent Human resource, customer driven products and the use of modern technology, the Bank is leveraging on the modern technology to provided solutions to boost customer experience.

The Bank operates digital banking services like the Mobile Banking Application, USSD, School fees payment platform among others which has reduced the stress and hustle of our cherished customers in accessing banking services.

With the School fees payment platform, parents can pay their wards fee at the comfort of their homes without going to the Bank or the school.

The Bank has been intentional in its financial inclusion agenda thereby collaborating with CUPPLAS and Development Bank of Ghana (DBG) to expand MSME, Women and Youth based facilities and to build the capacity of Staff in this regard.

With the introduction of our “Adwuma Nkosuo” MSME Loan product, the youth and women can now access credit facilities to the tune of GH¢50,000.00 without collateral. With this, client with no collateral, which are mainly women and youth are brought onboard to access funds from the Bank to expand their businesses and improve their livelihoods.

Into the future, the Bank seeks to develop a customer experience strategy with focus on customer education and to leverage technology and analytics to make service quicker, easier, and more efficient.

Bank with the Best—Join the AKRBank Revolution Today!

Whether you’re a seasoned entrepreneur or a first-time account holder, AKRBank has something for everyone. Download the Mobile App, watch out for the upcoming USSD launch, or visit any of our branches to join the future of rural banking.

AKRBank isn’t just a bank—it’s your partner in financial growth. Together, we’re setting the pace for a financially inclusive Ghana.



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Pace setters in rural banking



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