



## Protest

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### **Ghana Tactical: #FixTheCountry activists slated to hold protest march in Accra on August 4; maintain heightened vigilance**

#### **Please be advised:**

- According to an official communique circulating on social media, #FixTheCountry activists are slated to hold a protest march in Accra between 06:30-14:00 (local time) on August 4.
- Protesters are slated to gather at Obra Spot at 06:30 (local time). The protesters are then slated to depart at 08:00, and march through the Kwame Nkrumah Avenue, to Farisco Traffic Lights, to turn left towards the Trades Union Congress (TUC) and continue on the road leading past Kinbu Senior High School, to join the John Evans Atta Mills High Street.
- The meeting point is Black Star Independence Square, and protesters are expected to disperse at 14:00.
- In an official notice released on social media, the Ghana Police Service reportedly held a meeting with the organizers of the protest on July 19, and stated that it had authorized the protest on August 3.
- Police forces will reportedly assist protesters by providing direction to the participants and prevent obstruction of pedestrian and vehicular traffic.
- Additionally, separate sources depicting a video of a #FixTheCountry member indicate that the protest was organized on August 4 as it is the date of Founder's Day, which is a public holiday celebrating Ghana's independence from British rule in 1957.



## Assessment & Forecast:

1. The slated protest seems to be the first one organized exclusively under a #FixTheCountry leadership, with notably a similar protest organized by the opposition National Democratic Congress (NDC) on [July 6](#), witnessing hundreds of participants. Considering the widespread criticism faced by the authorities following the forceful repression of several protests by security forces, the possibility for the Ghana Police Service to have authorized the march in order to project tolerance towards anti-government demonstrations cannot be ruled out.
2. The protest is also likely being held to underscore the movement's intent to distance itself from the NDC, as the latter appeared to capitalize on the #FixTheCountry's gained momentum against the New Patriotic Party (NPP) government, which had originally emerged as a civil society movement criticizing the socio-economic challenges including perceived governmental corruption. The fact that the protest occurs on August 4 denotes the movement's intent to capitalize on the symbolic value attributed to Ghana's independence, and thereby garner wide participation.
3. **FORECAST:** However, given past instances of association between the #FixTheCountry movement and the opposition NDC party, it remains plausible that opposition elements, along with movement supporters will attend the protest. To that end, the protest march is likely to witness a turnout in the mid-to-high hundreds. Bolstered deployments of security forces can be expected in the vicinity of the protest march's locations, as well as across Accra. This will likely include erecting roadblocks and barricades to monitor the proceeding and guide participants' movement along the approved route.
4. **FORECAST:** In light of past forceful repression of such protests by security forces, the possibility for scuffles between police forces and protesters cannot be ruled out despite the authorization of the march. Such actions may be triggered over the perceived unruly behavior of participants over non-adherence to COVID-19 measures. Ultimately, traffic disruptions can be expected in the vicinity of the protest venues during the morning and early afternoon hours.

## Recommendations:

Those operating or residing in Accra on August 4 are advised to maintain heightened vigilance in the vicinity of Obra Spot, along the Kwame Nkrumah Avenue, Farisco Traffic Lights, Trades Union Congress, Kinbu Senior High School, the John Evans Atta Mills High Street and the Black Star Independence Square.