



**SOCIALIST MOVEMENT OF GHANA (SMG)**

**BOLGA COLLECTIVE**

24th October 2025

**BOLGA COLLECTIVE OF THE SOCIALIST MOVEMENT OF GHANA (SMG) WELCOMES  
NEW PASSPORT OFFICE BUT DEMANDS TRUE CONNECTIVITY AND PEOPLE-  
CENTERED DEVELOPMENT**

The Bolga Collective of the Socialist Movement of Ghana (SMG) acknowledges and commends the government on the unveiling of the Upper East Passport Office, an important step in decentralising essential state services. For decades, the people of the Upper East Region have been compelled to travel long distances to Tamale or Accra to access basic documentation, placing a heavy burden on workers, traders, students, and rural communities.

However, as a movement committed to equitable development, we stress that real progress must go beyond administrative infrastructure. The unveiling of a passport office, while commendable, must be part of a broader programme of economic justice, mobility, and national unity.

**OUR CORE DEMANDS FOR TRANSFORMATIVE DEVELOPMENT**

The Bolga Collective of the Socialist Movement of Ghana brings the following demands to the fore, that:

**1. A National Railway System Connecting All Regions**

To guarantee true national integration, the SMG Bolga Collective calls on government to commit to the creation of a modern railway system linking the Northern Belt, Upper East, Upper West, and the Northern Region, to the rest of the country. A rail network would:

Provide affordable transportation for the working masses.

1. Facilitate safe, mass movement of goods and people.
2. Decolonise development planning by ending the long-standing neglect of northern Ghana.
3. Deepen Pan-African regional integration through potential extensions to Burkina Faso, Mali, and beyond.

A passport enables international travel, but without affordable domestic mobility, thousands remain trapped by geographic inequality.

**2. A Foreign Policy Rooted in People's Mobility and Dignity**

The opening of a passport office must align with a foreign policy that defends workers, migrants, and oppressed peoples, not just diplomatic protocol. Ghana's global standing must reflect:

1. Protection of Ghanaian migrants abroad, especially in the Middle East and Europe.
2. Solidarity with oppressed nations such as Palestine, Western Sahara, and countries facing neo-colonial exploitation.

**[www.smghana.org](http://www.smghana.org)**

**P.O. Box NT 272, Accra – Newtown Accra**

3. Pan-African cooperation that prioritises rail, energy, and food sovereignty, over elite summits and photo ceremonies.
4. Reduced Passport Fees and Expanded Access

A passport office in Bolgatanga is only meaningful if ordinary citizens can afford to use it. We insist on lower passport fees so that the right to travel does not become a privilege of the wealthy.

#### INFRASTRUCTURE FOR JUSTICE, NOT CEREMONY

The Bolga Collective reiterates: regional inclusion is not achieved through ribbon-cutting events, but through public infrastructure that serves the masses such as railways, hospitals, schools, and accessible transportation systems.

In conclusion, we welcome the Upper East Passport Office as a step forward, but we strongly call on the state to match symbolism with substance. Let this mark the beginning of a developmental vision that unites our nation through rail, dignity, and progressive planning.



Martin Ayamga  
Convener,  
Bolga Collective - SMG