

Name : Mahama Ayariga
Position : Minister
Designation: Minister of Local Government
Duration: August 24, 2026 till Date



Mahama Ayariga is a Ghanaian politician and a member of the New Democratic Congress (NDC). lawyer. He was the Minister of Information and Media Relations and the Minister of Youth and Sports under the John Dramani Mahama administration. He is currently the Member of Parliament representing Bawku Central constituency of the Upper East Region of Ghana in the 4th, 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th Parliament of the 4th Republic of Ghana. He is the current the majority leader in the 9th parliament of Ghana.

Mahama Ayariga was born on 12 May 1974 in Bawku in the Upper East Region of Ghana and a lawyer by profession. He was educated in Ghana and Nigeria and the United States of America. He attended the Barewa College in Zaria in Kaduna State, Nigeria. He holds a Master of Law (LLM) degree from the Harvard Law School in the United States of America and a Bachelor of Law (LLB) Degree from University of Ghana, Legon. He was the Executive Director of Legal Resource Centre in Accra.

Ayariga's older brother Hassan Ayariga was the presidential candidate of the People's National Convention (Ghana) for the 2012 General Elections in Ghana.

He started his career as a teaching assistant in natural resources law and international law at the Faculty of Law, University of Ghana. He also co-founded and was the Executive Director of the Legal Resources Centre, an organization aimed at promoting human rights, community development and social justice.

Ayariga was the member of Ghana's parliament for the Bawku Central constituency from 2005 but lost his seat in the 2008 Elections to Adamu Dramani Sakande of the NPP. The seat became vacant when Adamu was convicted and jailed by a court for having stood for the election while being the citizen of another country which is against the Ghana constitution. Ayariga recaptured the seat in the 2012 General Elections. He has been elected as the Member of Parliament for this constituency in the fourth, sixth and seventh parliament of the fourth Republic of Ghana.

In 2009, when Prof John Evans Atta Mills won the elections, Ayariga became the Presidential Spokesman before he was subsequently appointed Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry. He was subsequently appointed Deputy Minister of Education. Mahama Ayariga was nominated for appointment as Minister for Information by President John Dramani Mahama in January 2013.

He serves on the Appointments Committee of the Parliament of Ghana.

Ayariga was elected as the Member of Parliament for Bawku constituency of the Upper East Region of Ghana in the 2004 general elections. He won on the ticket of the NDC. His constituency was a part of the

9 parliamentary seats out of 13 seats won by the National Democratic Congress in that election for the Upper East Region. The National Democratic Congress won a minority total of 94 parliamentary seats out of 230 seats. He was elected with 18,518 votes out of 38,108 total valid votes cast. This was equivalent to 48.6% of total valid votes cast. He was elected over Amidu Mamudu Sisala of the Peoples' National Convention, Hawa Yakubu of the New Patriotic Party, Yussif Taiban Kundima of the Convention People's Party, Sadat Amadu and Abubakar Jibreel Ustarz both independent candidates. These obtained 333, 10,169, 353, 161 and 8,574 votes respectively of total votes cast. These were equivalent to 0.9%, 26.7%, 0.9%, 0.4% and 22.5% respectively of total valid votes cast.

In 2012, he was elected as the Member of Parliament for the same constituency. He won on the ticket of the National Democratic Congress. He was elected with 24,071 votes out of 43,876 total valid votes cast. This was equivalent to 54.86% of total valid votes cast. He was elected over Awuni Aguuda Joseph of the Peoples' National Convention, Alhassan Haruna of the New Patriotic Party, Iddrisu Mubarak of the Progressive People's Party and Ibrahim Zaliya of the Convention People's Party. These obtained 303, 19,082, 269 and 151 votes respectively of total votes cast. These were equivalent to 0.69%, 43.49%, 0.61% and 0.34% respectively of total valid votes cast.

He is currently the Majority Leader of the 9th Parliament. Mahama Ayariga is a Muslim.