



GHANA SHIPPERS' AUTHORITY



GSA BI-GEST ²⁰²³

Highlights of Activities of the First Half of the Year



The **GSA's BI-GEST** is a compilation of the key programmes and activities the organization undertook or participated in during the first half of the year. (January - June 2023).

It is intended to provide a glimpse of the input of the organization to the socio-economic development of its stakeholders during the period and by that, inspire sustained momentum to raise the bar!

Enjoy the read!
Thank You.

-PR Team



GIFF Satisfied with Newly Negotiated Rates for their Members

Sunday, 8th January 2023

Following the successful negotiation of charges for Freight Forwarders and Clearing Agents by the GSA and the Ghana Institute of Freight Forwarders (GIFF), GIFF expressed satisfaction at the output.

Speaking on the Port and Maritime television programme “Eye On Port” on Sunday 8th January 2023, the 1st Vice President of GIFF, Mr. Paul Kobina Mensah commended the GSA for facilitating a successful negotiation despite the challenges that delayed the process.

According to him, the process was delayed by the emergence of major changes in the industry such as the Integrated Customs Management Systems (ICUMS) which required the attention and cooperation of GIFF, the GSA and other stakeholders for its successful implementation. He said that COVID-19 which affected global trade also impacted the negotiations and further delayed the process. Notwithstanding these delays, GIFF was satisfied with the outcome.



Ghana Shippers' Authority Committed to Effective Collaboration with MPS for Enhanced Shipper Services at Terminal 3

Wednesday, 18th January 2023

In line with efforts to protect and promote the interest of shippers in Ghana, the Ghana Shippers' Authority (GSA), through the Port and Infrastructure Committee (PIC), if its Board engaged the Meridian Port Services Limited (MPS) on measures needed to improve shipper services at the MPS Terminal 3 of the Tema harbour.

The engagement was done during a visit by the PIC to the terminal on Wednesday 18th January, 2023 on the back of several reports of protocol breaches by shippers and transporters, including the use of rickety vehicles for picking up containers, overstay of trucks after scanning and delay in shipping line notification for export-tagged containers.

Shippers also complained about the examination delays at the terminal and the absence of a weighing scale among others. They also requested for specialised forklifts to enhance operations at the terminal.

The PIC, led by the Board Chairperson of the GSA, Ms. Stella Wilson and the Commissioner of the Customs Division of the GRA, Alhaji Seidu Iddrisu Iddisah discussed the issues with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of MPS, Mr. Mohammed Samara. The outcome was a mutual commitment to ensuring improved services for all stakeholders.



High Compliance Would Boost the Fortunes of Africa's Shipping Sector – Panellists

Thursday, 19th January 2023



On Thursday 19th January 2023, the GSA participated in the “Regional Maritime Stakeholder Conference on Global Best Practices in Vessel Clearance” organized and hosted by the Ghana Maritime Authority (GMA). Speaking on the topic: “Positioning our Ports and Terminals for the Blue Economy and the AfCFTA Opportunity”, the panellists agreed that there are vast opportunities to attract more vessels to the continent provided that strict adherence to regulations that govern the operations at the ports would be enforced.

According to them, this would go a long way to reduce delays in cargo and vessel clearance which would then lead to the growth and development of the sector.

In his contribution to the discussions, the Head of Freight and Logistics Department of the GSA, Mr. Fred Asiedu-Dartey said that a reward scheme also be instituted to encourage compliance. He cited the “Ghana Shippers’ Awards” as an example where individuals and groups in the sector are honoured for compliance with regulatory requirements among other things to encourage others to emulate their desirable conduct.

Greater Accra Shippers Embark on Health Walk to Sensitize Public on Shipping Sector

Saturday, 4th March 2023

Members of the Greater Accra Shipper Committee (GARSC) embarked on a Health Walk on Saturday, 4th March 2023 to keep fit and also educate the public on the role they play in the Shipping and Logistics sector. The Shipper Committees, which are a creation of the Ghana Shippers' Authority (GSA), are spread across the country and have been in existence for 19 years. They comprise importers and exporters and are a medium by which the services of the GSA are brought to the doorstep of its key stakeholders. The Shipper Committees provide a platform through which the GSA continually educates shippers on happenings in the Shipping and Logistics sector, and also gathers information for policy formulation.



We are Open to Accelerating AfCFTA's Success – CEO of Ghana Shippers' Authority

Monday, 3rd April 2023

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Ghana Shippers' Authority (GSA), Ms. Benonita Bismarck expressed the readiness of the organization to collaborate with the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat to develop effective transport and logistics policies and programmes under the auspices of the AfCFTA Agreement. she said that the GSA is committed to doing so because, the success of AfCFTA largely hinges on an effective transport and logistics regime that can support trade among African states.

She made this known when a team from the AfCFTA Secretariat led by the Head of Trade Facilitation and Customs, Madam Demitta Gyang paid a working visit to the GSA at the Shippers' House in Accra on Monday 3rd April 2023. The meeting was part of efforts to strengthen the bond between the two organizations to enhance trade facilitation on the continent.



RMU Engages Ghana Shippers' Authority to Bridge Academia and Industry Gap

Friday 21st April 2023

The Regional Maritime University (RMU) as part of its efforts to bridge the gap between academia and industry paid a courtesy call on the Ghana Shippers' Authority (GSA). The meeting held on Friday 21st April 2023 and hosted by Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the GSA, Ms. Benonita Bismarck, was attended by a team from the RMU led by their Acting Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Jethro W. Brooks Jr. and some managers of the GSA.

Dr. Brooks Jr. said that the RMU had developed courses which will focus on Port and Terminal Performance Indicators among other areas, and will be happy to receive input from the GSA. The GSA's input is expected to help design a course that will address the decline in traffic being experienced at Ghana's ports, and which has led to loss of revenue for the state as well as stakeholders in the shipping and logistics industry. Dr. Brooks Jr. added that among other things, the visit was also to renew collaboration between the two organizations. He encouraged females to avail themselves for enrolment into the university.

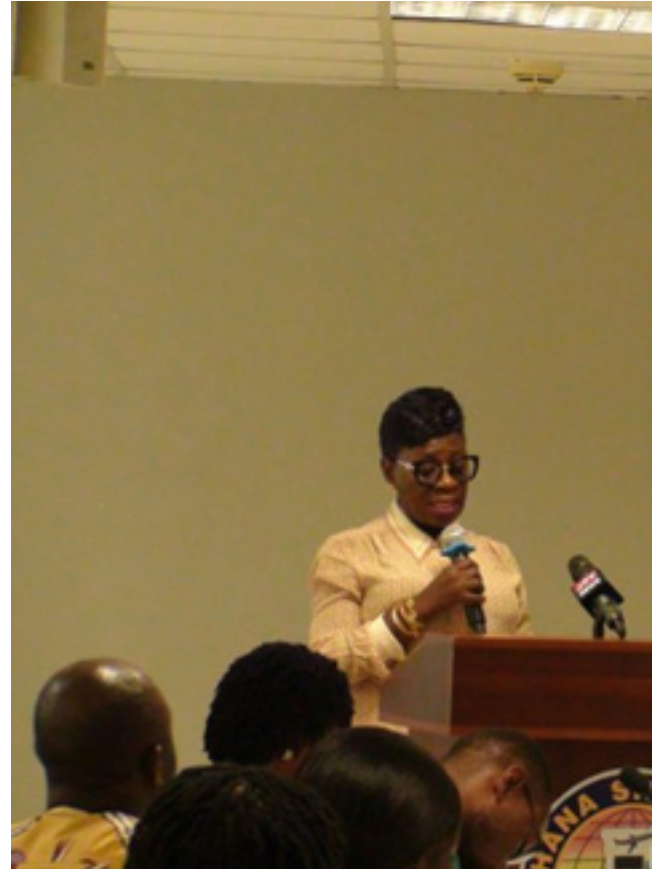
Ms. Bismarck noted that the GSA will play its role by providing technical assistance to the RMU for the design of courses to help bridge the gap between academia and industry.



Africa Shippers' Councils Deliberate on High Cost of Cargo Transportation in Ghana

Tuesday 25th and Wednesday 27th April 2023

The Union of African Shippers' Councils (UASC) have intensified efforts to address the increasing cost of transportation in the shipping and logistics industry, a development attributed to the high cost of doing business at African ports. In that regard, the UASC's Committee of experts on Transport Costs met on Tuesday 25th and Wednesday 26th April 2023 at the Shippers' House in Accra, Ghana to discuss and exchange ideas, share experiences, and explore ways to reduce the cost of transporting international cargo. The expected outcome of the meeting is an improvement in the competitiveness of member states for the mutual benefit of port service providers and shippers in the current dispensation of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) era.



May Day

Wednesday 1st May 2023

On Monday 1st May 2023, the Ghana Shippers' Authority (GSA) joined the rest of the business community to mark May Day in recognition of the hard work and selflessness of Ghana's workforce.

Staff of the GSA used the opportunity to fraternize and network with members of the Maritime and Dockworkers Union (MDU) and other stakeholders in the Shipping and Logistics Industry.



MDAs, Shippers' Councils and Industries Engaged on Port Tariff Review

Thursday, 18th May 2023

Landlocked Shippers' Councils, Government Agencies and Manufacturing Industries were engaged on the proposed Port Tariff Review and Restructuring mooted by the Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority (GPHA).

The engagement which was engineered by the Ghana Shippers' Authority (GSA) is part of measures to enhance consensus-building as views are collated to be factored into the review.

It took place at the Ghana Shippers' House at Ridge in Accra on Thursday 18th May 2023 and followed with a meeting with the Ghana Union of Traders Association (GUTA) on Tuesday 16th May 2023.

The GPHA ascribed the proposal for the tariff adjustment to the rising cost of providing port services, which they attributed to high inflation.



Haulage Truck Drivers Equipped with Precautionary Measures to Deal with Insurgents Along Ghana's Transit Corridor

Wednesday, 17th May and Thursday, 8th June 2023

The recent spate of insurgent attacks on haulage truck drivers in the West African sub-region has put stakeholders on high alert as measures to address the threat effectively are explored.

Reports were rife about trucks numbering over eighteen (18) that were on route to Ghana from Niger being attacked by suspected jihadists in Burkina Faso, and the trucks being burnt beyond recognition. The number of drivers who perished is yet to be known. To help address the threat, the Ghana Shippers' Authority (GSA) collaborated with the State Security Services to train haulage truck drivers on some protective measures they should adopt to escape from such incidents or to defend themselves.

The pertinent information was shared at the GSA's annual sensitization workshop for haulage truck drivers which was held at Tema and Takoradi on Wednesday 17th May 2023 and Thursday, 8th June 2023 respectively.

Personnel from the Military, Police and the Customs Division of the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) took the truck drivers through the Precautionary and Reactionary Security Assessment on the transit corridors.



AfCFTA Trade Facilitation Confab: Ghana Shippers' Authority Pushes for Robust Transport Infrastructure

Wednesday, 31st May to Saturday, 3rd June 2023

The Ghana Shippers' Authority (GSA) pushed for the development and operationalization of effective transport infrastructure programs to support the African Continental Free Trade (AfCFTA) initiative.

According to the GSA, transport infrastructure is key to the success of the AfCFTA as it is intrinsically linked to the major operationalization arms of AfCFTA. Delivering a paper at a four-day AfCFTA Trade Facilitation Conference for Transport and Logistics Services Providers held in the capital city of Togo, Lome, from Wednesday, 31st May to Saturday, 3rd June 2023. A Senior Shipper Services and Trade Facilitation Officer at the GSA, Mrs. Rhodalyn Djanitey said transport infrastructure programs must be simultaneously implemented alongside trade programs to yield the desired results.



Senior Shipper Services and Trade Facilitation Officer, Mrs. Rhodalyn Djanitey delivering her presentation.

CSR: Donations to Accra Psychiatric Hospital, Tarkwa Municipal Hospital, Salaga Municipal Hospital & Abrafo Women and Children's Hospital

Staff of the Ghana Shippers' Authority (GSA) made donations to three (3) health facilities in the Western, Savannah and Bono East regions.

They are; Tarkwa Municipal Hospital, Salaga Municipal Hospital, and Abrafo Women and Children's Hospital respectively.

All the donations were made by the GSA except that made to the Accra Psychiatric Hospital which was funded by the staff through voluntary offerings they gave at the weekly Morning Devotion meetings held every Friday in 2022 and also an annual Thanksgiving event held in January 2023.



Management of the Accra Psychiatric Hospital presents citation to Board, Management and Staff of the Authority for the donation.



Presentation of items to the Salaga Municipal Hospital



Presentation of items to the Salaga Municipal Hospital

Ghana Shippers' Authority Rolls Out Campaign on the Transportation of Dangerous Cargo

Friday 21st April 2023



The Ghana Shippers' Authority (GSA) in collaboration with some of its stakeholders, rolled out a campaign to sensitise the public, motorists and haulage truck-drivers on the transportation of dangerous cargo.

The campaign aims to create awareness for the dangerous cargo signages intended to caution all users of the road (public, motorists and haulage truck-drivers.) and by that enhance road safety to avert preventable disasters.

The GSA, in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), developed material on the nine (9) classes of dangerous cargo and facilitated a nationwide sensitisation programme on them. They are Explosives, Gases, Flammable Liquids, Flammable Solids, Oxidising Substances and Organic Peroxide. The rest are Toxic and infectious Waste, Radioactive materials, Corrosive Substances and Miscellaneous Dangerous Goods not covered by the other classes, such as Lithium battery packs in equipment.

Shippers & Customs House agents Trained on the New Exemption Act

Wednesday, 17th May 2023

On the back of several complaints from Freight Forwarders and shippers in relation to challenges they face with the implementation of the new Exemptions Act 2022 (Act 1083), the Ghana Shippers' Authority (GSA) collaborated with the Ghana Institute of Freight Forwarders (GIFF) to organize a day's training for its members, sister Associations and some shippers.

The training which was held at the GIFF conference room at the Kotoko International Airport (KIA) on Wednesday, 17th May 2023 had over 70 participants in attendance. Delivering the opening remarks, the Head of Shipper Services and Trade Facilitation at the GSA, Mrs. Monica Josiah noted that it is important for shippers and Customs House Agents to understand the rudiments of the Exemptions Act 2022 (Act 1083) which was passed on 12th September 2022, because it is intended to facilitate their business operations and help them to avoid unnecessary costs.



Exporters' Forum

Thursday, 29th June 2023

As part of efforts to accelerate economic growth and drive foreign exchange earnings for the country, the Ghana Shippers' Authority (GSA) held a forum to apprise importers and exporters on some of the country's Trade Agreements and how they can position themselves to take advantage of them. The Forum which was under the theme; "Facilitating Shipment under Ghana's Preferential Trade Agreements" had importers and exporters from different sectors in attendance. It was held at the M.T Addico Hall of the Ghana Shippers' House at Ridge in Accra. Staff were also invited to the Forum to expose them to pertinent information.





Regional Lenses



Saturday, 7th January 2023

Challenges of Cloth and Tomatoes Cross-Border Traders Addressed by Ghana Shippers' Authority

Some challenges expressed by cross-border traders who deal in cloth, tomatoes and other goods from Burkina Faso and Togo were addressed.

<https://shorturl.at/quHMZ>



Tuesday, 17th January 2023

State Agencies Manning Namoo Border Engaged by Ghana Shippers' Authority

State Agencies manning the Namoo border in the Upper East Region were engaged over challenges shippers experience at the border.

<https://shorturl.at/epzLP>



Friday, 10th March 2023

Leverage AfCFTA to Boost Income - Global Shea Alliance to Members

Members of the Global Shea Alliance in Ghana were encouraged to venture into the exportation of their products to available markets on the continent under the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

<https://shorturl.at/mvEPQ>



Tuesday, 14th March 2023

Follow Due Process to Cut Costs – FDA to Bono and Ahafo Shippers

The Food and Drugs Authority (FDA) urged shippers in the Bono and Ahafo Regions to consistently apprise themselves of all shipping processes and comply with them to cut needless cost.

<https://shorturl.at/uBFGM>



Tuesday, 21st March 2023

Seek Shipping Service Support from MDAs – Shippers' Authority

Shippers in the Eastern Region were urged to apprise themselves of the duties of Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) whose operations have a bearing on their business operations, and to seek their support whenever the need arose.

<https://shorturl.at/rJORY>



Monday, 20th to Wednesday, 22nd March 2023

GSA Moves to Resolve Challenges Encountered by Cross Border Traders in the North

The Tamale Branch of the Ghana Shippers' Authority (GSA) embarked on an outreach to Bolgatanga in the Upper East Region from Monday 20th to Wednesday 22nd March 2023 to engage some cross border traders on their operations. <https://shorturl.at/zUZ35>



Wednesday, 22nd March 2023

GEXIM Exposes Shippers to Credit Facilities to Support Operations

Members of the Ashanti Regional Shipper Committee (ARSC) were educated on credit facilities at the – Ghana Exim Bank (GEXIM). The education was aimed at enabling the exporters to enhance their operations to increase the volumes of their operations to increase the volumes of their export and through that help to strengthen the Cedi. <https://shorturl.at/fipuN>



Friday, 14th April 2023

Kumasi: Shippers Request Seminars to Boost Operational Efficiency

Shippers in the Ashanti Region called for more seminars on operational efficiency to help them to reduce the cost of doing business. According to them, such seminars are crucial in these times of global economic instability which has caused quick depletion of their margins. <https://shorturl.at/yzAHM>



Tuesday, 16th May 2023

Western Region: Shippers' Authority, GUTA Strengthen Ties.

The Ghana Shippers' Authority (GSA) and the Ghana Union Traders Association (GUTA), in the Western Region agreed to enhance their collaboration to promote the activities of traders in the Region.

<https://shorturl.at/eDLS0>



Tuesday, 16th May 2023

Consolidate to Meet Demand from Foreign Partners – Shippers Advised.

Importers and Exporters were advised to take advantage of cargo consolidation to enhance their operations and increase turnover. The advice was given at a time when demand for commodities from Ghana is on the rise, putting a huge burden on shippers.

Cargo consolidation/refers to the pooling of multiple small shipments into one truckload for delivery to the same location.

<https://shorturl.at/bloP2>



Friday, 2nd June 2023

Western Region Shippers Urged to Adhere to Customs Procedures

Importers and Exporters in Tarkwa a town in the Western Region have been urged to apprise themselves of the Customs Division of the GRA procedures for processing imports and exports to enhance their operations and improve the fortunes of shippers in the region.

<https://shorturl.at/hnvDN>