



GHANA SHIPPERS' AUTHORITY

Annual Report 2024



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Our Vision

To build a world class, competitive, transparent and predictable commercial shipping industry in Ghana that creates value for the shipper across all modes of transport.

Our Mission

- Effectively and efficiently regulate the commercial shipping industry in Ghana.
- Ensure that all business practices in the commercial shipping industry in Ghana are fair, competitive, and transparent.
- Develop clear solutions and regulations for shippers on issues like demurrage, port/border crossing delays, freight rates, local charges, service standards, etc.
- Create unique service experience for shippers in their import/export businesses.
- Facilitate the provision of fit-for-purpose infrastructure to meet the development and technological changes in the shipping industry

Our Core Values

- Integrity
- Excellence
- Teamwork
- Commitment and Personal Development
- Resilience

Board Chairperson's Remarks



Ms. Stella Wilson
Board Chairperson

INTRODUCTION

The 2024 business year at the Ghana Shippers' Authority (GSA/Authority) was characterized by several interventions to catalyze the organization from an advocate and facilitator of commercial shipping in Ghana, into a world class commercial shipping Regulator. In this regard, the Board, Management and staff worked tirelessly to ensure the passage of its draft Bill drafted with the concurrence and supervision of its superintending Ministry, the Ministry of Transport; as well as the copious input of the stakeholders of the commercial shipping sector into law. The Bill was to amend the 50 years old law that established the

organization, the NRCD 254, which had outlived its potency on account of the rapid changes in the dynamics of the commercial shipping sector.

ACT 1122 (2024)

The passage of the Bill into law was pivotal to the transitioning of the GSA from an advocate and facilitator because, it embodied the fortified legal mandate needed to activate the expanded, strengthened and modernized world class industry the organization had envisioned. Thankfully, with the support and expert guidance of the Office of the Honourable Attorney-General and the Parliamentary Select Committee of Roads & Transport, the Bill was

passed into law on Monday, 29th July 2024. The passage was followed by the assent of the then President of the Republic of Ghana, His Excellency, Nana Addo-Dankwa Akufo-Addo on Thursday, 17th October 2024.

Armed with the bona fide legal mandate as well as the consent and goodwill of the key players of the shipping and logistics sector, GSA pursued its expanded mandate as the Regulator of the sector, a step above its previous mandate. Despite a few initial hiccups with the implementation of the law, as is common with every new endeavour, GSA took charge swiftly and decisively executed its strategy within the orbit of the law. The execution strategy was marked by regular stakeholder engagements to ensure that, all stakeholders understood and grasped the expectations of the law with respect to its relevance in the evolving global commercial shipping industry.

STRUCTURAL RE-ORGANIZATION & STAFF DEVELOPMENT

In line with the strategic agenda, a new organogram and operational structure were implemented. This was complemented with investment in training for staff and on some occasions, the Governing Board, to ensure a holistic revamp of the organization in line with its new legal mandate. Training via workshops, conferences, seminars, study visits amongst others were thus undertaken both locally and abroad.

INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Works on the Boankra Integrated Logistics Terminal (BILT) was continued alongside a passionate effort to secure investors to provide the needed financial capital to fund it. Coupled with this step was intense lobbying of the government for funding to be provided to expedite the construction of the rail lines on both the western and eastern corridors, which were designed to link BILT to the south and

north of the country. BILT was considered to be pertinent to the vision of enabling a more efficient commercial shipping sector that also drives effective world-class transnational trade, and was thus given the focused attention it required.

In like manner, steps were also taken to commence work on the Akatekyiwa Freight Park, which was intended to provide a fit-for-purpose rest stop for haulers, both domestic and international, who connect to the mid and northern parts of the country from the south, especially the western south.

GOLDEN JUBILEE

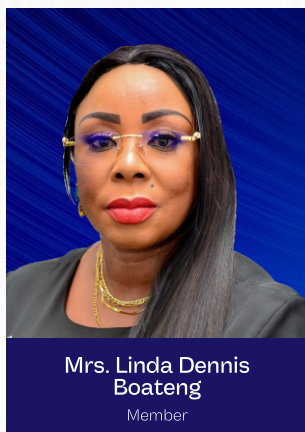
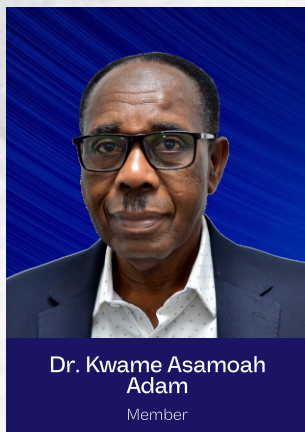
Another significant milestone during the year under review was the celebration of the golden jubilee anniversary of the establishment of the GSA. Established in 1974 by NRCD 254, it is remarkable that, it was in this year of jubilee that its establishment law was amended to signal the new era of the organization.

A launch event to mark the milestone was held internally (for staff) as well as externally to include external stakeholders, in November 2024. The remaining events to celebrate the milestone were deferred to the 2025 business year.

CONCLUSION

In sum, 2024 was a step-changing year for the Ghana Shippers' Authority. Investments, both tangible and intangible, were made in systems, processes, structures, people, strategy and relationships to drive its new enhanced mandate. It is expected that, the achievements would be built upon towards the achievement of its vision to become a world class, competitive, transparent and more predictable commercial shipping industry that creates value for the shipper across all modes of transport.

Members of the Governing Board



Members of the Governing Board



**Alhaji Seidu Iddrisu
Iddisah**
Member



**Mr. Abraham Binapadam
Jawol**
Member



**Mrs. Esther Gyebi-
Donkor**
Member



**Dr. Yaw Adu-Agyei
Gyamfi**
Member



**Mr. Vincent Okyere
Akomeah**
Member



**Ms. Lawrence Boahemaa
Awuah**
Member



Mr. Patrick Yaw Nimo
Member



**Mrs. Victoria Maami
Ekua Hajar**
Member



**Ms. Nana Ama
Amponsah Ntim**
Member



**Ms. Sheila Ofori-
Diabene**
Member

Management Team



Management Team



Mr. Fred Asiedu Dartey
Head, Business Development and
Commercial Services



Bernice L. Natue (Ms.)
Head, Corporate Affairs



Mr. Charles Sey
Head, Eastern Zone



Mr. John B.A Glover
Head, Middle Zone



Mr. Fred Atogiyire
Head, Northern Zone



Mr. George Gyasi Adjei
Head, Legal and Estates



Mr. Joseph Assabil
Head, Finance



**Mr. Isaac Tersiah
Ackwerh**
Head, Internal Audit



Mr. Enoch Brew Amofa
Head, Procurement



FREIGHT FACTS

On 26th April 1956 the ***Ideal X*** was the first freighter to transport goods using McLean's new shipping containers. The ship transported 58 of the shipping containers from Newark to Houston.

Source: World Shipping Council, 2023.



TERMINOLOGIES

ADVANCED SHIPMENT NOTICE

A list transmitted to a customer or consignor designating items shipped. May also include expected time of arrival.



Ghana Shippers' Authority



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GHANA SHIPPERS' AUTHORITY - Providing Shipping Solutions

Executive Summary

2024 Global Shipping Outlook

The global shipping industry remained dynamic, shaped by shifting trade patterns, regulatory developments, and macroeconomic uncertainties. Freight rates showed signs of stabilization after experiencing volatility in previous years. Regional disparities, however, persisted due to port congestion, labour strikes, and rising bunker fuel prices influenced by carbon emission regulations and alternative fuel adoption.

Africa's maritime, shipping and logistics sector showed moderate growth, driven by increased intra-African trade under the AfCFTA framework, infrastructure development, and expanded port capacities. Challenges such as weak regulatory enforcement, high port charges, and limited integration of logistics, regrettably, remained key barriers.

Overview of Ghana's Output

As of the end of September 2024, Ghana's total cargo throughput stood at 20.1 million tonnes, representing a 5.1% increase compared to the same period in 2023. This growth highlights the resilience of the country's trade sector despite ongoing challenges such as fluctuating freight rates and regional economic pressures.

Import trade volume for the period declined by 6.9%, while export trade volume recorded a

strong growth of 30.7%, reflecting increased outbound trade activity. Additionally, transit and transshipment trade volume rose significantly by 58.8% over the corresponding period in 2023, underscoring Ghana's growing role as a transit hub within the sub-region.

At the Ghana Shippers' Authority (GSA), Mr. Kwesi Baffour Sarpong took over as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in December 2023. Under his leadership, the organization executed a new strategy founded on



Mr. Kwesi Baffour Sarpong, CEO

GHANA SHIPPERS' AUTHORITY ACT, 2024 Act 1122

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

Section

Ghana Shippers' Authority

1. Establishment of the Ghana Shippers' Authority
2. Object of the Authority
3. Functions of the Authority

Governance of the Authority

4. Governing body of the Authority
5. Functions of the Board
6. Duties and liabilities of member of the Board
7. Tenure of office of members of the Board
8. Meetings of the Board
9. Disclosure of interest
10. Establishment of committees
11. Allowances
12. Policy directives

Administrative Provisions

13. Appointment of Chief Executive Officer
14. Functions of the Chief Executive Officer
15. Appointment of other staff
16. Secretary to the Board
17. Internal Audit Unit
18. Rules for the conduct of officers and staff

Financial Provisions

19. Funds of the Authority
20. Borrowing powers
21. Bank account
22. Expenses of the Authority
23. Accounts and audit
24. Annual report and other reports
25. Exemption from taxes and rates

stakeholder representation and participation in decision-making, as well as improved regulatory oversight backed by the new legal mandate, Act 1122(2024).

Overall, the interventions set in motion the revisioning of systems, procedures and operational culture to underpin the organization's enhanced mandate and consequent responsibility as a Regulator of the shipping and logistics sector, a departure from its previous role as a facilitator and advocate of the interest of shippers.

Notable achievements over the period are as outlined below:

Successful Enactment of Act 1122 (2024)

In pursuit of the strategic agenda outlined for the year, GSA continued to pursue the amendment of its 50-year-old Establishment Law (NRCD 254) to provide the requisite legal backing for its mission. In collaboration with key stakeholders of the shipping and logistics sector, and under the auspices of the superintending Ministry, the Ministry of Transport, the Parliamentary Select Committee on Transport and the Attorney-General's Department, the Bill to amend NRCD 254 was submitted to Parliament.

After successfully going through the established Parliamentary procedures, the Bill was passed into law on Monday, 29th July 2025 ushering in a new era for Ghana's shipping and logistics sector. The Act represents a major regulatory reform that modernises and strengthens the legal framework by which the GSA governs the sector.

nine pillars (The 9 Pillars) namely; Content, Context, Carrier, Compliance, Structure, Best Shipper Experience, Advocacy and Demand Enhancing Services. This strategic agenda underpinned the operations of GSA in the year under review. It sought to safeguard the gains made previously in the facilitation and regulation of the shipping and logistics sector; and on that basis, advance the interests of the entire industry and its stakeholders, especially shippers.

GSA aimed to strengthen the international trade sector, which is the fuel that propels the socio-economic engine of the nation, to enhance the viability and vibrancy of revenue generation for the country's development; and also position Ghana as the preferred destination within the West African sub-region for international trade.

The agenda was thus pursued vigorously through strategic stakeholder engagements, institutional and structural reforms, enhanced



A cross section of Parliament

Restructuring & Reorganization of the Shipper Committees for Improved Output

The Shipper Committees, which were set up many years ago across the country to aid effective stakeholder engagement and consultation were reorganized into five (5) zones, categorized by quantum and value of business. The reorganization separated shippers from shipping services providers to enable more open interactions on issues that are peculiar to each category of stakeholders. The service providers were also constituted into Stakeholder Committees across the same zones.



Engagement with Platinum and Gold shippers in the Southern Zone

The five (5) operational zones are: Northern, comprising the five regions of northern Ghana; Mid, comprising Ashanti, Bono, and Ahafo regions; Western, comprising the Western, Western North and Central regions; Eastern, comprising Eastern, Volta and Oti regions and the Tema municipality; and Southern, comprising the Greater-Accra region, except Tema.

The committees were further categorised into Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Bronze to allow for a more tailored dialogue and solution-oriented engagements. Issues discussed ranged from delay in the clearance of goods, charges by Shipping Lines, and duty drawback challenges to cross-border harassment and challenges with import/export procedures.

the operational Zones to ascertain their challenges and proffer solutions for remediation.

- Continuous sensitization on the provisions of the amended governing law, GSA Act 2024 (Act 1122) to aid its smooth implementation.
- Swift response to the internet blackout in March 2024 that impacted on the operations of ICUMS, and therefore shipping services at the ports and borders, to assure shippers that they would not be liable for any costs caused by the systemic failure, once it was proven that the shipper was not complicit.

Stakeholder Engagement, Regulatory Advocacy & Operational Support

To improve the operations in the sector, GSA facilitated several high-level stakeholder meetings, including:

- A workshop for Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) on how to avoid demurrage charges.
- Deliberations with Shipping Lines and Terminal Operators to streamline their operations to enhance the standards in service delivery.
- Engagement with top shippers across



A shipper seeking clarification during question time

- Similarly, the GSA intervened on behalf of motor dealers in the Northern zone who were harassed by tax officials. Both sides were engaged, and the issue was resolved.

Infrastructure and Institutional Development

- Work on the Boankra Integrated Logistics Terminal (BILT) was re-ignited under the auspices of the Ministry of Transport (MoT) and in collaboration with the Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority (GPHA). Steady progress was made alongside the search for investor funds to aid the completion of the first phase on schedule.
- A total of about fifteen (15) cross-functional staff (CEO's office, Operations, Business Development & Commercial Services, Audit) and selected members of the Governing Board participated in meetings of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), to gain firsthand experience of the workings of the



The CEO, Mr. Kwesi Baffour Sarpong and Head, Business Development & Commercial Services, Fred Asiedu Dartey with officials of FMC

UN Agency, and as well apprise themselves of the latest updates in international trade laws.

- The Chief Executive Officer and a staff of the Business Development & Commercial Services paid a study visit to the Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) of the U.S.A in February 2024 to enhance their knowledge and capacity for the expanded mandate of the organization.
- The Zonal Stakeholder Committees were formally inaugurated and charged to work to enhance efficiency in the commercial shipping sector.
- The CEO and selected staff of the Operations, Business Development & Commercial Services, and Research Monitoring & Evaluation (RME) Departments participated in the 2024/25 Cocoa Freight Rate Negotiation held in Turkey. It was successfully completed and secured competitive terms for cocoa export for the business year.

Promotion of Transit Trade and International Collaboration

- GSA reinforced its commitment to regional integration and transit trade facilitation by:



The Ashanti Regional Minister, Mr. Simon Osei Mensah inspecting the BILT Site plan

- Engaging with the Shippers' Councils of Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger to update the prevailing Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with them into fit-for-purpose documents.
- Responding to the trade disruptions that followed the notices from neighbouring Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger to withdraw from ECOWAS, GSA liaised with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Trade to provide guidance for transit traders in the plying of their trade.
- GSA intervened in the detention of Ghanaian cargo trucks at the Dakola border in Burkina Faso, and in collaboration with the Ministry of Transport, secured their release.



President of Transit Shippers of Landlocked Countries, Mr. Ibrahim Souley presenting a plaque to Mr. Kwesi Baffour Sarpong

• **Opportunistic Support**

About seventeen (17) institutions received support for social and community activities aimed at enhancing engagement with the public.

Corporate Social Responsibility

- Staff of GSA donated assorted food items and toiletries valued at approximately Fifty Thousand Ghana Cedis (GHC 50,000.00) to the Accra Psychiatric Hospital on Friday, 30th August 2024. The donation was funded through weekly voluntary contributions by staff.
- Financial support to the female Marine Engineering student of the Regional Maritime University continued in the year under review. Her bursary was paid to the institution per the established procedure for remitting the support.



Representatives of GSA and some staff of Accra Psychiatric Hospital

Staff Numerical Strength and Development

- As of the end of the year under review, the total staff strength of the GSA was 197, made up of 102 permanent staff, 39 National Service Personnel, 54 Contract staff, and 2 temporary staff.
- Fifty-four (54) Management, Senior, and Junior staff benefited from conferences, seminars, and workshops within and outside the country. The investment in the capacity-building interventions was aimed at enhancing productivity as well as the personal development of the beneficiary staff.
- A Senior Manager began his terminal leave on 11th December 2024 ahead of his retirement in February 2025. Another was served with a final notice of retirement, which would take effect in the 4th quarter of 2025.
- Staff were engaged via scheduled quarterly durbars to interact and dialogue on issues of mutual interest to themselves as well as the organization.



Some staff of GSA at the Ghana Business Award

Awards & Recognition

In the year under review, the GSA received the following awards at the 2024 Ghana Business Awards:

- Public Sector Company of the Year
- Trade Facilitation Company of the Year
- Certificate of Recognition from the Customs Division of the GRA

Conclusion

The activities undertaken by the GSA in 2024 reflected its strategic agenda; being stakeholder-driven reforms, trade facilitation, and regulatory impact. Through proactive engagement, international cooperation and support, the GSA reaffirmed its mandate to champion the enhanced viability of Ghana's ever-evolving commercial shipping sector.



Head of Corporate Affairs, Ms. Bernice L. Natue receiving a plaque from Acting Deputy Commissioner for Operations of the GRA Customs Division, Mr. Emmanuel Ohene,

1.0 HIGHLIGHTS OF OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

1.1 Operational Re-organization - Shipper Committees

In line with its re-vision strategy, the existing Shipper Committees in the GSA's operational Zones across the country were re-organized into Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze Committees based on the items traded in, the quantum and value of business, to aid tailor-made solutions for their challenges.

They were, as well, re-constituted into Shipper Committees and Stakeholder Committees, with the latter comprising Shipping Services Providers (SSPs) including Freight Forwarders, Clearing Agents, Terminal Operators, Shipping Lines, ICUMS) and the government's Regulatory Agencies.

The re-organization enabled shippers to espouse their challenges without fear of intimidation from SSPs who might have been the cause of the challenges espoused. It also enabled the Committees to focus on finding workable solutions for challenges they identified, instead of indulging in blame-games.

- Re-visioned operational objectives of the GSA
- Registration of products with the Ghana Standards Authority
- Leveraging cargo consolidation for importers and exporters
- Modalities for exporting livestock
- Effects of delay in processing Bills of Entry
- High local charges by Shipping Lines
- Clearance challenges at the ports
- Delay in inspection at the ports due to the unavailability of some all Inspection Officers at the same time
- Harassment at the Tumu Border by some officials of state Agencies
- Challenges with Duty Drawback for Free Zones companies
- Removal of tax exemption on manufacturing equipment

1.2 Relationship with Burkina Faso's Shippers' Council (CBC)

In aid of strengthening the collaboration and transit trade relations between Ghana and Burkina Faso, the GSA received a delegation from the Burkina Faso Shippers' Council (CBC) on Friday, 26th January 2024. The meeting centred on modalities to sustain the cordial ties between the two organizations and their respective countries.

1.3 Transit Trade Cooperation

GSA took steps to address the challenge of fluctuating cargo transportation patterns along Ghana's transit corridors as was recorded in the 2023 business year. The steps taken included engagements with key stakeholders such as the Joint Association of Port Transport Unions (JAPTU) and state Regulatory Agencies among other players in the shipping and logistics value chain.

	Zone	Constitution (Regions)	Meeting Location
1.	Northern Zone	Northern, North-East, Upper East, Upper West, Savannah.	Tamale
2.	Middle Zone	Ashanti, Bono, Bono East, Ahafo.	Kumasi
3.	Western Zone	Western, Western-North, Central.	Takoradi
4.	Eastern Zone	Tema (Municipality) Eastern, Volta, and Oti.	Tema & Koforidua
5.	Southern Zone	Greater-Accra (excluding Tema)	Accra

During the year under review, meetings of the Zonal Shipper and Stakeholder Committees deliberated on the following matters of mutual interest amongst others;

- Sensitization of stakeholders on the new GSA Act, Act 1122 (2024)



A cross section of shippers in a meeting

The prevailing Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with the Shippers' Councils of the neighboring landlocked nations were also reviewed to make them relevant for the current dynamics of the sector.

1.4 Engagement of MDAs On Demurrage-Free Shipping

The GSA held a workshop on “Avoiding Demurrage and Rent” for Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) on Tuesday, 23rd April 2024.

The GSA's targeted campaign towards the MDAs was spurred by research findings that showed that, government Agencies ranked among the top payers of demurrage charges. It aimed to equip participants with the requisite information to enable them to forestall incurring demurrage costs.

1.5 Deliberation on How to Enhance Shipper Experiences – MPS & Terminal Operators

The GSA commissioned a meeting of key stakeholders in the shipping and logistics sector to address issues of cargo clearing delays and other unintended negative consequences that shippers experienced at the Terminals of Ghana's seaports.

The meeting held on Thursday, 14th March 2024, brought together representatives from the Customs Division of the Ghana Revenue Authority – (GRA) Tema Collection, Meridian Port Services (MPS), Golden Jubilee Terminal (GJT), and Tema Bonded Terminal (TBT).

1.6 Engagement of Key Stakeholders on the GSA Act, 2024

During the year under review, the Ministry of Transport assisted the GSA to engage relevant stakeholders in the shipping and logistics sector on the draft amendments to the Establishment Law of the Ghana Shippers' Authority (GSA), NRCD 254, 1974. The law had not been amended since its promulgation, despite the rapid changes in the dynamics of the shipping industry over its fifty years in force.

The stakeholders engaged included the Parliamentary Select Committee on Roads and Transport, Ghana Maritime Authority (GMA), Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority (GPHA), Shipowners and Agents Association of Ghana (SOAAG), Freight Forwarder Associations, Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs), and the various Trade Associations in Ghana including AGI, GUTA, TAGG and IEAG.

1.7 Engagement of Shipping Lines on the Need to Streamline Sector

In a meeting with the Shipowners and Agents Association of Ghana (SOAAG), the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of GSA requested Shipping Lines to make their charges more predictable, competitive and transparent.

He emphasized that the legal mandate of the GSA is to among others ensure a vibrant shipping sector characterized by competitive prices and world class service.



Engagement on the GSA Act with some members of SOAAG

1.8 Internet Disruptions: GSA's Assurance of No Extra Cost in the Clearance of Goods

On Thursday, 14th March 2024, Ghana was plunged into a sudden and unexpected internet blackout, which disrupted the lives of millions of Ghanaians and severely impacted the operations of many businesses.

Upon several complaints by shippers expressing fear that the disruptions in the internet services would cause delays in clearing their goods and thereby lead to demurrage and other storage costs, the GSA issued a Press Statement to assure shippers and the public that, the liability for any cost not occasioned by their actions or inactions was not theirs, and the GSA would ensure that no shipper would be burdened with such costs.

1.9 Implication of the Withdrawal of Burkina Faso, Mali, & Niger from ECOWAS on Cross-Border Trade with Ghana

During the year under review, the notice of withdrawal by Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) disrupted some trade activities of Ghanaian cross-border traders.

The traders, who exported items like veneer and wood products to Burkina Faso, suspended trading activities in response to the notification of withdrawal from ECOWAS. Their decision stemmed from their concern about the potential risks and uncertainties they could encounter pending the completion of the withdrawal process.

GSA liaised with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Trade to provide guidance for transit



An Ecowas Session



Mr. Kwesi Baffour Sarpong engaging some stakeholders

traders enabling them to continue to ply their trade.

1.10 Chief Executive Officer's Engagement with Top Shippers

The Chief Executive Officer of GSA, Mr. Kwesi Baffour Sarpong engaged Platinum and Gold shippers in the Southern Zone to discuss costs and conditions at Ghana's sea and air ports, as well as land borders. The meeting, held on Wednesday, 5th June 2024, was the third in a series following similar gatherings in the Western and Middle Zones.

The CEO acknowledged the GSA's five-decade legacy of championing shippers' interests in Ghana and emphasized the need for further improvements to reduce costly port delays that undermined the competitiveness of Ghanaian businesses.

1.11 Inauguration of Southern Zone Stakeholder Committee to Champion Enhanced Efficiency at the Port of Tema

The Southern Zone Stakeholder Committee was inaugurated on Tuesday, 21st May 2024, at the Shippers' House in Accra. Members of the Committee were urged to explore innovative approaches to streamline processes to reduce shipping costs and facilitate the speedy resolution of challenges associated with the clearance of goods.

1.12 Engagement of Northern Motor Dealers on Tax Issues

The GSA met with the Northern Motor Dealers Association on Sunday, 18th February 2024, at their meeting grounds in Tamale. During the meeting, members raised concern about harassment from tax collectors at the GRA's Internal Revenue Division.



Northern Zonal Manager, Frederick Atogiyire with Burkinabe Officials after the detained trucks were released

In response, the Northern Zonal Office wrote to the Internal Revenue Division, and requested their officers to educate the dealers on their tax obligations as a means to assist them to be compliant.

1.13 Meeting with Shippers' Councils of Landlocked Neighbors

The GSA held discussions with the Shippers' Councils of Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger to address key issues that affected international and transit trade. The meeting, which took place on Thursday, 16th May 2024, at the Shippers' House in Accra, focused on the need to review the Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) between the GSA and the three Shippers' Councils to make them effective for managing the prevalent challenges transit traders faced.

1.14 Breakfast Meeting with Shippers – Takoradi

In a proactive move to address the recurring issue of high business costs at the ports, the Chief Executive Officer of GSA, Mr. Kwesi Baffour Sarpong, espoused processes to enable enhanced value-added services for shippers at a Breakfast Meeting with Shippers in the Western Zone held on Tuesday, 14th May 2024. The meeting was held in Takoradi.

1.15 Facilitation of the Release of Six Ghanaian Cargo Trucks by Burkina Faso

The GSA, with support from the Ministry of Transport, secured the release of six (6) Ghanaian cargo trucks detained at the

Dakola border in Burkina Faso. In April 2024, the trucks were detained by Burkina Faso's Customs (Douanes) on suspicion that they were transporting prohibited goods from Ghana into Burkina Faso.

Also, in June 2024, the GSA intervened in the detention of twenty (20) trucks that were transporting unwholesome cargo into Burkina Faso and were flagged by Burkinabe authorities. The intervention followed unsuccessful efforts of the Joint Association of Port Transport Unions-Ghana's (JAPTU-Ghana) to resolve the issue.

The GSA and the Ministry of Transport held a series of stakeholder meetings at the Dakola border and Tema port with their Burkinabe counterparts, the Conseil Burkinabe des Chargeurs (CBC) and thereby secured the release of the detained trucks.

1.16 CMA CGM SCANDOLA

The GSA joined other stakeholders in the shipping and logistics sector to commemorate the arrival of the CMA CGM SCANDOLA to the port of Tema. The vessel was said to be the largest to call the port of Ghana and was received at the MPS' Terminal 3.

The Director of Operations, Ms. Sylvia Asana Duada Owu, and the Head of Business Development and Commercial Services, Mr. Fred Asiedu-Dartey, represented the GSA at an event held on Wednesday, 24th January 2024, at the Kempinski Ambassador Hotel to mark the significant occasion.



CMA CGM SCANDOLA

1.17 Ghana Expo 2024 In Tanzania

In line with Ghana's strategy to increase trade within Africa under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), the Ghana Shippers' Authority (GSA), in collaboration with the National Coordination Office (NCO) of the AfCFTA, participated in the Ghana Expo 2024 in Tanzania from Wednesday, 24th January to Sunday, 28th January 2024, at the Mlimani City Conference Centre in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

1.18 International Customs Day

The GSA was presented with a Certificate of Merit on International Customs Day, at a ceremony held on Friday, 26th January 2024, at the Head office of Customs Division of the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA), in Accra. The presentation was in recognition of the exceptional services GSA provided as well as their commitment to promoting and safeguarding the interests of shippers and stakeholders in the shipping and logistics industry.

The acknowledgment also signified the critical roles played by the GSA to facilitate the achievement of the revenue targets of the GRA for the year ending 2023. The presentation was done by the Commissioner of the Customs Division of the GRA, Alhaji Iddrisu Iddisah Seidu.

1.19 Courtesy Call by Ambassador of Suriname to Ghana

Ghana and Suriname expressed mutual interest in strengthening their trade relations when the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Suriname, Fidelia Graand-Galon, called on Chief Executive Officer of the GSA, Mr.



Mr. Kwesi Baffour Sarpong in a hand shake with Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Suriname, Fidelia Graand-Galon



GSA's booth at the Ghana Expo 2024 in Tanzania

Kwesi Baffour Sarpong, on Wednesday, 22nd February 2024.

Their discussions centered on possible business ventures, and the crafting of strategies to boost socio-economic collaboration between the two countries.

1.20 Call by Ghana Chamber of Shipping for Collaboration with GSA

In a move to forge a stronger bond within Ghana's maritime, shipping and logistics industry, the Ghana Chamber of Shipping (GCS) paid a visit to the GSA. The GCS, a leading trade association and Think Tank, affirmed their commitment to nurturing partnerships across the spectrum of governmental, parliamentary, and international bodies, as well as institutions engaged in the industry.

1.21 Parliament's Passage of the Ghana Shippers' Authority Bill into Law

Parliament passed the Ghana Shippers' Authority Bill, 2024, into law on Monday, 29th July 2024, following its successful 3rd reading on the floor of the House. Among other provisions, the law, which amended its 50-year-old establishment law, NRCD 254 (1974), aims to strengthen the regulation of the commercial activities of the shipping and logistics industry to address particularly, the issue of unfair and excessive charges that burden traders who use Ghana's seaports, airport as well as land borders to conduct their international trade.

It further introduced transparency in the determination of port fees and charges, to ensure

accountability in the movement of cargo across all the borders of Ghana.

1.22 Sensitization Seminars on the GSA Act 2024

The GSA held sensitization seminars across the country through its Zonal Offices to educate shippers on the GSA Act 2024 (Act 1122), with respect to its impact on the shipping and logistics industry. The sensitization fora were also used to collect input for the Legislative Instrument to be passed to guide its implementation.



GSA Delegation with the Asantehene Otumfuo Osei Tutu II

1.23 Call on Asantehene, Otumfuo Osei Tutu II

On Friday, 14th June 2024, a delegation of the Board and Management of the Ghana Shippers' Authority (GSA) called on His Majesty, the Asantehene, Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, at the Manhyia Palace in Kumasi to formally introduce the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the organization to him.

Led by the Honourable Minister for Transport, Honourable Kwaku Ofori Asiamah, the delegation took the opportunity to update the king on the progress of works at the Boankra Inland Port & Logistics Terminal (BILT), which is situated within the Ejisu Municipality of his traditional jurisdiction.

1.24 GSA@50 Anniversary Launch

The GSA received commendation from the government for its remarkable contributions to Ghana's shipping and logistics industry over the 50 years of its existence. The commendation was delivered by the Minister of Transport, Hon. Kwaku Ofori Asiamah, during the launch of GSA's 50th Anniversary Celebrations in Accra.

The Golden Jubilee celebration, themed "Celebrating 50 Years of Resilience, Honoring Our Legacy, and Inspiring Innovative Excellence," highlighted the GSA's journey as a cornerstone of Ghana's maritime, shipping and logistics sector. In his remarks, Hon. Asiamah expressed confidence that the GSA would achieve even greater milestones with the enactment of the GSA Act 2024, Act 1122.

1.25 Best Public Sector Company of the Year - 7th Ghana Business Awards

GSA was adjudged the "Public Sector Company of the Year" and the "Trade Facilitation Company of the Year" at the 7th Ghana Business Awards, held on Saturday, 26th October 2024, at the Kempinski Hotel in Accra.

The accolades, the second time in four (4) years, affirmed GSA's excellence in service delivery and thought leadership within the shipping and logistics sector.

1.26 Meeting at the Ashanti Regional Coordinating Council

The GSA participated in a Public Forum organized by the Ashanti Regional Coordinating Council to mark the 30th Anniversary of the Fourth Republican Parliament. The event reflected Parliament's achievements, challenges, and the importance of public participation in governance.

It brought together government officials, civil society organizations, and a cross-section of the public; and was focused on national development, legislative progress, and Parliament's role in policymaking.



Unveiling the GSA @ 50 logo

2.0 HIGHLIGHTS OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & COMMERCIAL SERVICES

2.1 2024/25 Cocoa Freight Negotiation

Together with the Cocoa Marketing Company (CMC) and seventeen (17) Shipping Lines involved in Ghana's cocoa trade, GSA successfully concluded negotiations on freight rate for shipping cocoa from Ghana abroad. At the end of the negotiation, an average of 5% increase in the basic freight rate for the 2024/2025 cocoa season was agreed. The Bunker (Fuel) Adjustment Factor (BAF), however, was maintained as it was for the 2023 season.

The new rates, based on negotiations held in 2023 for the 2024 business year, would come into effect on 1st October 2024.



A cross section of participants at the 2024/25 Cocoa Freight Negotiations

2.2 Inspection of Progress of BILT - Ashanti Regional Minister

The Ashanti Regional Minister, Hon. Simon Osei Mensah, visited the Boankra Inland Logistics Terminal (BILT) at Boankra, an inland port, located near Ejisu in the Ashanti Region to inspect the progress of ongoing construction.

The execution of the project, an initiative of the Government of Ghana through the Ministry of Transport, is being led by GSA and has been supported by the Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority (GPHA).

The Ashanti Regional Minister expressed satisfaction with the progress and quality of work executed.

2.3 GSA Board Pays Working Visit to Western Rail Line & BILT

The Chairperson of the Governing Board of the GSA, Madam Stella Wilson, led a team comprising members of the organization's Governing Board and a representation of Management to visit the Western rail line under construction by the Ghana Railway Development Authority (GRDA); as well as the Boankra Integrated Logistics Terminal (BILT) located within the Ejisu Municipality of the Ashanti region.

The rail line was part of the construction of standard gauge lines across the country to facilitate international trade between Ghana and her landlocked neighbours, as well as the movement of cargo between the southern and northern parts of the country. They were expected to be connected to BILT.

2.4 Governing Board Visit to Centre Point Intermodal Centre

The Governing Board undertook a visit to the Centre Point Intermodal Centre, an inland port in Chicago, Illinois of the U.S.A in July 2024. The visit was to give the members of the Board firsthand experience of the operations of an inland port as part of their capacity building towards the full execution of the BILT project.



Adam Roth, Executive Vice President of Industrial Services at Hiffman National, briefing some members of the GSA delegation at CIC

3.0 CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



Donation to Accra Psychiatric Hospital

3.1 Donation of Grocery to the Accra Psychiatric Hospital – GSA Staff

On Friday, 30th August 2024, staff of GSA donated assorted food items and toiletries valued at approximately GHC 50,000.00 to the Accra Psychiatric Hospital. The donation was funded weekly voluntary contribution by the staff.

The items donated included rice, sugar, flour, milk, chocolate beverage, oatmeal, cooking oil, margarine, washing powder, toilet roll.

3.2 Educational Scholarship – Female Marine Engineering Student of RMU

Financial support to the female Marine Engineering student of the Regional Maritime University continued in the year under review. Her bursary was paid to the institution per the procedure for the support.

3.3 Opportunistic Support

About Seventeen (17) institutions received support for their social and community activities aimed at enhancing engagement with the public.



Staff of GSA and officials of Accra Psychiatric Hospital

4.0 HR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

4.1 Staff Position

As of the end of the year 2024, total staff numbered 197, made up of 102 permanent staff, 39 National Service Personnel, 54 Contract staff, and 2 Temporary staff.

4.2 Staff Training and Development

During the period under review, about Fifty-four (54) Management, Senior, and Junior staff attended conferences, seminars, and workshops within and outside the country.

4.3 Retirement

A Senior Manager began his terminal leave on 11th December 2024 ahead of his retirement in February 2025. Another was served with a final notice of retirement, which would take effect in the 4th quarter of 2025.

4.4 Staff Durbar

Staff were engaged via scheduled quarterly durbars to interact and dialogue on issues of mutual interest to themselves as well as the organization.



Cross section of Staff at the Launch of the GSA @ 50 celebrations



Winner of the scrabble competition at the 2024 Citi Business Olympics, GSA's Mr. William Amissah



GSA Happy Hour, Rep your Jersey Edition



5.0 CONCLUSION

2024 was a pulsating year for the Ghana Shippers' Authority. From the change in leadership through the revisioning and its attendant operational changes to the execution of the strategies birthed, the entire hierarchy of the organization was actively engaged.

Through proactive engagements with industry stakeholders, the superintending Agency, the Ministry of Transport, and other relevant government Agencies, the fundamental objective remained to advocate not only the enlarged and fortified mandate of the organization as the Regulator of the shipping and logistics industry, but to assure all concerned of its readiness in capability, resources and the will to deliver this enhanced mandate without let or hindrance.

In pursuit of that, the activities undertaken throughout the year reflected strategic priorities, including stakeholder-driven reforms, trade facilitation, regulatory impact, and international collaboration. The GSA affirmed its commitment to champion the strengthening of the sustainable viability of the ever-evolving commercial shipping sector in Ghana.



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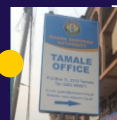
TEMA

GPHA TOWERS, TEMA MAIN
HARBOUR, TEMA



KUMASI

1ST FLOOR NCA BUILDING, DANYAMI



TAMALE

2ND FLOOR, UNITY PLAZA



7th Floor Ghana Shippers' House

NO. 12, CRUICKSHANK STREET AMBASSADORIAL ENCLAVE, WEST RIDGE

