

THE GHANAIAN ENVOY



Ministry of Foreign Affairs
& Regional Integration

Newsletter of the
Ministry of Foreign
Affairs & Regional
Integration


In this issue:

A History of
Ghana's Foreign
Service *Page 14*

The African
Continental Free
Trade Area:
Prospects and
Challenges *Page 10*

PROMOTING A PEOPLE-CENTERED FOREIGN POLICY AGENDA

DECEMBER 2019 Edition



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CONTENTS

1. Editorial	04
2. Address by the President of the Republic of Ghana, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo at the 74 th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.	06
3. Regional Integration:	
a. African Continental Free Trade Area: Prospects and Challenges	10
b. Tit Bits from Africa	12
4. Ghana's Foreign Policy and Diplomatic Relations:	
a. A History of Ghana's Foreign Service	14
b. Doha Mission Celebrates its Maiden Ghana Day	21
c. Diaspora Relations:	23
Peer-to-Peer Exchange for Diaspora Desk Officers in Ghana Diplomatic Missions in Africa	
5. Economic Diplomacy:	
a. 2 nd Made-in-Ghana Bazaar	24
b. A Field Visit to Companies in the Free Zones Enclave	25
c. Highlights of Activities of Trade, Investment and Cultural Promotion	26
6. Peace, Security and Consular Matters:	28
Consular Protection: Widening Expectation Gap for Ghana	
7. Gender Issues:	32
International Relations and National Development: Women Empowerment and Inclusiveness	
8. Free Education Initiative Must Succeed- Some thoughts	36
9. Information Communication Technology:	
a. Personal Cygiene - Think Prevention!	39
b. Dext Technology Limited-Becoming a Global Leader in STEM Education.	41
10. Life Corner	
a. The Realities of a Duty Tour Abroad	43
b. My National Service Experience	44
c. The Better You	45
11. Did you know?	46
Services Provided by the Ministry	

EDITORIAL

Safeguarding national independence, security, sovereignty, political and territorial integrity, as well as the welfare of citizens are considered the primary obligations of the State. These are the cardinal elements of national interest – the concerns and aspirations which citizens of a State expect their leaders to fulfill.

In that sphere, Ghana's Constitution does not disappoint as it succinctly recognizes these obligations of the State. Article 35, clause 2 of the Constitution provides in part that the State *"... shall protect and safeguard the independence, unity and territorial integrity of Ghana, and shall seek the well-being of all her citizens."*

While national interest is largely national in character its execution requires internationalization as the nation-State exists within an international environment and interacts with other entities within the international system. Therefore, contrary to the advice given by George Washington in his 1789 Farewell Address to the American nation to *"avoid entangling alliances"*, countries now need to cooperate and engage with one another more than ever. In the 21st century, no country can remain an island as the borderless world of shared interests and shared problems has created a greater level of interdependence among nations.

What this means is that, even in the pursuit of their parochial national interests, States have to interact with other States. Ghana is no exception. Since joining the United Nations on 8th March 1957, as the 82nd Member State, Ghana has established diplomatic relations with over 170 countries and at the moment maintains sixty-six (66) resident diplomatic and consular Missions dotted around the world. The maintenance of diplomatic presence abroad has helped Ghana to attract political goodwill and international solidarity, as well as opened up markets and investments for national development.

As Government pursues a people-centred foreign policy agenda, it is important to also acknowledge the constitutional foundations that place the interests of the country and the citizens at the heart of foreign policy formulation and implementation. Ghana's Constitution prescribes to Government how it must conduct its relations with other States. It enjoins the Government in its dealings with other States to promote and protect the interests of Ghana and requires the Government to conduct Ghana's international affairs in consonance with the accepted principles of public international law and diplomacy in a manner consistent with her national interests.

Thus, ultimately, the purpose of foreign policy is to further the national interests of the State and guided by these prescriptions, the implementation

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of Ghana's foreign policy has been focused, in recent years, on the following objectives, among others:

- i. Promote Ghana's political and economic interests abroad, including international trade and investment;
- ii. Seek the welfare of Ghanaians and integrate the Ghanaian diaspora into the national development agenda;
- iii. Promote regional integration and a policy of good neighbourliness;
- iv. Develop and sustain international goodwill and support for national development.

Under the leadership of the President of Ghana, who, within Ghana's Foreign Policy Establishment, has the primary responsibility for shaping the country's foreign policy, enormous benefits, including critical development assistance, market opportunities and foreign direct investments have been derived from Ghana's engagements with other countries at both the bilateral and multilateral levels.

There is, however, still a lot more that the foreign policy goals have to work towards. As was eloquently expressed by President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-

Addo at the just-ended General Debate of the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, when he brought the broad concerns of the global South to the attention of world leaders, *"for us, poverty is a daily reality we live with and feelit robs us of the dignity that should be the inherent right of every human being"*.

It is therefore understood that key players of Ghana's foreign policy community, led by the dynamic Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, Hon. Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey and comprising Ghanaian Ambassadors and Diplomats will continue to play key and critical roles in the formulation and implementation of a people-centred foreign policy agenda in consonance with the given charge required to be kept with the Ghanaian people.

*Wishing our
cherished readers
a Blessed and
Happy New Year.*





ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA, NANA ADDO DANKWA AKUFO-ADDO

AT THE 74TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, ON THE THEME
"GALVANIZING MULTILATERAL EFFORTS FOR POVERTY ERADICATION, QUALITY EDUCATION,
CLIMATE ACTION AND INCLUSION"
NEW YORK, 25TH SEPTEMBER, 2019

Mr. President, Secretary-General,
Your Excellencies,

Ghana presents her compliments to you Mr. President, worthy representative of our great neighbour, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and extends hearty congratulations on your election to preside over this 74th General Assembly. We extend our appreciation to the President of the 73rd Session for her work, and commend the brave theme that has been selected for our consideration during this meeting. I note that there is a United Nations' accepted definition of poverty,

which, like everything undertaken by our institution, tries to find a form of words that is acceptable to all of us.

But, Mr. President, it is probably right to say that those of us, who live in countries generally referred to as developing countries, get somewhat bemused by arguments and complicated definitions of poverty. For us, poverty is a daily reality that we live with and feel, for far too many of our people are burdened with it, and it robs us of the dignity that should be the inherent right of every human being. We know that our

performance as governments will be judged by how successful we are in reducing and eventually eradicating poverty in our countries.

The responsibility is ours as individual sovereign countries not only to aim at reducing poverty, but, actually, to create prosperity for all our citizens. We, in Ghana, certainly are engaged in fighting to eradicate poverty from our country.

If the world wants to marshal all its undoubted energies to support this fight, there cannot be a better

start than an acknowledgement and a consensus among the nations of the world that, indeed, poverty anywhere degrades us all, whether in the developed or developing world.

Luckily for us, technological advances are short-circuiting the path that leads us out of poverty, and it is no longer the long and tortuous road it used to be.

A mere twenty years ago, mobile phones were a rarity that some feared would become a developed world status symbol, and another sign of the technology gap between the rich and the poor. Today, the poorest person in the most inaccessible place in the poorest country has a mobile phone, often a smartphone.

In many ways, it has transformed our lives. In the year 2000, in Ghana, there were ninety thousand (90,000) mobile phone subscribers, today there are more than forty-one million subscriptions. This has led to a remarkable difference in communications within our country and with the outside world. A sizeable and growing number of the population has been, and is being brought into the formal banking sector by the mobile phone.

Mr. President, the application of technology can be the tool to set us on the road to prosperity. The modernisation of agriculture through the application of technology could well turn out to be the fastest way to make the turnaround that we seek.

The young people of the world, especially the youth of Ghana and Africa, have demonstrated their ingenuity and innovative prowess, and we need to enlist them fully in the fight. It will be an easier battle, of course, if trade practices were seen to be more equitable and fairer. The question always remains whether the rich nations are prepared for an equitable and fair-trading order. It appears that they are not, and we have, thus, to continue to fight for a fairer world economic order.

It should not be lost on anyone that the minerals, on which the world depends to move industry and manufacturing, are mostly available in Africa, and yet, we, who own these fundamental resources by birth right, have remained poor, whilst our minerals have brought vast wealth to nations and peoples outside our continent.

It is worth pointing out also that not only do we not get a fair share of the wealth once extracted, our lands, our environment, our oceans, are often left devastated by the process, and the competition to gain control over these minerals has also often led to insecurity in our countries.

I do not seek to blame outsiders for our problems, but, since we are being urged to find multilateral solutions, I believe it is worth pointing out that unfairness in the economic order undermines the fight against poverty. Indeed, the flight of capital is continuing the foreign exploitation of Africa, represented by colonialism and imperialism. The report of

the panel chaired by the highly respected former South African President, Thabo Mbeki, on the illicit flow of funds from Africa, has raised the lid on what many had always suspected, but did not have the figures to support. According to that report, Africa is losing, annually, more than USD50 billion through illicit financial outflows. Collaboration, is certainly, needed amongst the nations of the world to stop this rape of Africa.

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), which recently came into effect, and whose Secretariat Ghana has the honour of hosting, is a major, collective effort by Africa to get to grips with mastery of her own development. It will be the world's largest free trade area since the formation of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), and will provide the vehicle for us to trade better more among ourselves; offer an opportunity to exploit our abundant wealth and resources for the benefit of our peoples; and give us protection in how to deal with other trading blocks.

Mr. President, the fight to eradicate poverty is intrinsically linked to quality education, the second part of the problems identified for special attention during this General Assembly meeting.

Wherever quality education is available, there is usually prosperity. Throughout the ages, education has been the most equitable source of providing opportunities and has provided the fastest and most reliable route out of poverty.

We, in Ghana, acknowledge that we need an educated and skilled population to be able to compete effectively in the world economy. We are, therefore, taking the courageous step of spending on education a substantial part of our national revenue, indeed a third of our nation's budget.

Mr. President, in this area also, we can and should employ technology to accelerate the provision of quality education to as many people as possible.

Very soon, we might not have to enter classrooms nor even go to the hallowed grounds of the famous universities to gain access to the knowledge that used to be exclusively available in those institutions.

It is possible now for our young people to listen to lectures and watch experiments by famous scientists and scholars on their smartphones and laptops, without setting eyes on, or physically ever entering an Ivy League university.

But, to be able to benefit from these opportunities made possible by technology, we need to raise our infrastructure to a basic, minimum level. We need to provide reliable electricity and internet services to the people in our towns and villages, and, then, they can truly join in the benefits of the technology that bring quality education to all. We can then have a realistic expectation of a prosperous future.

Mr. President, the General Assembly of the United Nations

is usually held at the time of year when the extremes of nature are on display around the world. Maybe we are being urged to take notice, and hopefully take practical and proactive steps to curb the human activities that are endangering our planet.

Our world is enriched by the diversity of cultures and religions and beliefs – they add spice to our lives. But there are scientific and mathematical truths that do not change with space or time, and these truths we all do well to uphold.

Now that the scientists have spoken on the realities of climate change, I believe it is time to direct our energies to what we can and should do to counteract the danger, and stop unnecessary arguments.

Nature has been brutal this year in demonstrating to us that our climate is changing, and we are probably pushing our world to destruction. The devastation wreaked by Cyclone Idai, Hurricane Dorian, the extreme summer temperatures across Europe, surely provide the evidence, if some were still needed, that it is time to take action to bring back our world from the precipice.

This year is the 50th anniversary of the historic landing on the moon, which was a seminal event that celebrated scientific achievement and humanity's triumph. The image that has stayed with me, since I was 25 years old, and which still brings me true awe and wonder, is that picture of the earth, taken from the

vantage point the astronauts had, which showed clearly the truth of the one world that we inhabit.

We could try to delineate our borders more clearly, we could make clearer distinctions on the basis of colour, race, language and creed; that picture tells us the natural path is to be inclusive.

This, in no way, is meant to paper over the many difficulties we have in our part of the world that we have to work to overcome, or to suggest that, because some parts of the world are developed and prosperous, we can pretend all is well with us as well.

In my part of the world, we do not argue over what constitutes poverty. We know it, we live with it, feel it and it is a daily reality.

As the old saying goes, birds sing not because they have answers but because they have songs.

There might not be any one answer to the theme of this 74th General Assembly, but the hope is that the discussions point us to the possibility of a new world, in which collaboration between the nations and peoples is on such a scale that we can dream of and achieve a sustainably prosperous world.

I thank you for your attention.

THE AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA: PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES

As part of efforts to accelerate Africa's development as well as promote its common identity, the African Union developed its flagship projects of Agenda 2063 to realise an inclusive social and economic development, continental and regional integration, democratic governance and peace and security, among others. These projects are aimed at repositioning Africa to become a dominant global player by the year 2063.

Within this context, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) was established to increase intra-Africa trade, resolve the many challenges in the integration process and enhance competitiveness among industries as well as create opportunities to increase production, market access and better resource distribution. In fact, the AfCFTA can be traced to the Lagos Plan of Action in 1980 and the Abuja Treaty of 1991.

In January 2012, 44 Heads of State met in Addis Ababa and agreed to establish a Continental Free Trade Area. Since its establishment, it has received support across the continent. As at July 2019, 54 out of 55 countries had signed the AfCFTA and 27 countries had ratified the agreement. Ghana was one of the first countries to sign the AfCFTA and ratify the agreement.

The AfCFTA will be a single market covering the entire African Continent with a total population of 1.2 billion and a combined Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of almost USD 3 trillion. It will also be the world's largest Free Trade Area, second only to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in terms of the number of member States.

According to the African Trade Policy Centre (ATPC) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the AfCFTA is expected to contribute to the achievement of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development from targets for decent work and economic growth (Goal 8) and the promotion of industry (Goal 9), to food security (Goal 2) and affordable access to health services (Goal 3). To realise these goals, it is crucial that Governments across Africa implement measures to accompany AfCFTA, such as the African Union's Boosting Intra-African Trade Action Plan, but also that the African private sector step up to invest in and take advantage of the opportunities arising from AfCFTA.

PROSPECTS OF THE AfCFTA

Following the endorsement of Ghana by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union to host the Secretariat of the AfCFTA, The Ghanaian Envoy interviewed the Association of Ghana Industries (AGI) and the Ghana National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GNCCI). Both the AGI and the GNCCI are in agreement with Government on the many benefits that Africa will derive from effective implementation of the AfCFTA including inter alia:

- Increased intra-African trade by approximately USD35 billion per annum or 52% by 2022. Imports from outside the continent could decrease by USD 10 billion per year, whereas Agricultural and Industrial exports could increase by USD 4 billion (7%) and USD21 billion (5%) above the baseline respectively (UNECA, 2014);
- Address the challenge of small fragmented markets in Africa by creating a single continental market which will lead to economies of scale;
- Added value to Africa's abundant natural



resources and promote economic diversification and industrialization;

- Developed regional value chains and facilitate cross border investments in Africa; and
- Enhanced access to an expanded market for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Africa on preferential trade terms.

CHALLENGES OF THE AfCFTA

The Association of Ghana Industries has however, expressed some fears with the implementation of the AfCFTA. Some of which include:

- Indigenous African companies do not have the capacity to meet the demand of Africa's combined market size.
- Large firms may take advantage of economies of scale to gain dominance in the production chain and create monopolies at the expense of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises.
- The lack of diversification may result in a mismatch between supply and demand.
- Inefficient transport infrastructure may result in delays with the movement of goods and services.

WHAT GHANA IS ALREADY DOING TO HARNESS THE BENEFITS OF THE AfCFTA

In order to harness the benefits of the AfCFTA, countries in the region have to identify specific areas of comparative advantage and strategic focus for diversification as well as develop value chains for both goods and services. In this vein, Ghana is embarking on some strategic steps to ensure the actualization of the AfCFTA.

The Government of Ghana has launched a “10-point industrialisation agenda”, an aggressive programme to ensure industrial transformation in all regions of the country. Under this agenda, there are a number of flagship programmes such as the One District One Factory (1D1F), Strategic Anchor Industries, Industrial Parks, Industrial Revitalization programme (Stimulus Package), among others. Ghana has also implemented a trade facilitation road map which seeks to reduce cost-related burdens and maximise efficiency with the movement of goods and services across the country.

Ghana's strategic steps extend to trade-related infrastructure where there has been significant expansion of its ports, roads, airports and revamping of its railway sector. The financial sector has also seen some vital reforms to improve financial access and stimulate local industries, especially the SMEs.

African Governments have a role to play to ensure the effective mitigation of the envisaged challenges that may confront the implementation of the AfCFTA. Areas that may require attention include reduction of interest rate; engaging SMEs to know their specific needs; building capacity through financing and training schemes; access to technology, particularly in the area of agriculture.

Governments should therefore collaborate with the private sector and all stakeholders to facilitate the implementation of the AfCFTA in order to ensure Africa derives maximum benefits from the market that is being created.

TIT BITS FROM AFRICA

A. 2019 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

In 2019, over 16 countries held elections across Africa, including Senegal, Nigeria, Benin, Malawi and Mauritius among others. The following is a recap of some elections which made headlines across the continent:



DR Congo

The Democratic Republic of Congo set the tone, in January 2019, with the swearing in of Felix Tshikdedi. In spite of the election results being called into question, the country was able to undertake a successful inauguration of the president-elect, marking its first peaceful transfer of power since independence from Belgium nearly 60 years ago.



Nigeria

Nigeria, also recovered speedily, after the impromptu postponement of its elections for a week by the Independent National Electoral Commission

(INEC), at 3am on 16th February, the election day. The elections finally took place on 23rd February, 2019, as rescheduled. According to the results from INEC, the incumbent, Muhammadu Buhari, retained power by a majority vote. Opposition forerunner, Former Vice President, Atiku Bubakar, alleging electoral fraud, petitioned the Presidential Elections Tribunal. The petition was rejected by the Tribunal in September 2019 on grounds of insufficient evidence.



Tunisia

In the North African State of Tunisia, former Law Professor and a newcomer on the political scene, Kais Saied, chalked a landslide victory as President-elect during the October 2019 polls. Opinion polls showed a rousing support for him among young people, who were particularly impressed with his 'incorruptible reputation'. In fact, Prof. Saied, who ran as an independent candidate, acknowledged the undeniable role of the youth in securing his victory. Known for his conservative social views and nicknamed the 'Robot or RoboCop' for his stern demeanor, Kais Saied ran an unconventional

campaign, refraining from elaborate advertisements. Besides, to remove any ambiguity, he did not embark on any personal campaign a week to the election, since his opponent, media mogul, Nabil Koroui, was at the time, incarcerated on charges of money laundering and tax fraud.

B. UPCOMING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

According to the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa, 15 African countries will head to the polls in 2020, to decide their political leadership for the next government tenure. In West Africa, Ghana and its neighbours will be holding presidential elections. Togo will take the lead in April, while Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso and Ghana have their elections slated for the last quarter of the year. Up North and across the Sahel, Egypt and Sudan will be undertaking parliamentary elections. For the transitional government in Sudan, this will set the tone for the 2022 presidential elections. Others include, Somalia and Ethiopia in the Horn of Africa; Tanzania and Burundi in the East; Gabon in the central part of the continent's mainland; as well as African Islands: Seychelles, Mauritius and Comoros Island in the Indian Ocean.

C. WEST AFRICAN SINGLE CURRENCY

According to a revised road map drawn by the Presidential Taskforce on the ECOWAS Single Currency Programme during their 5th meeting held in Accra in February 2018, West African States are expected to roll out the single currency in 2020. Member States are to achieve four primary key convergence criteria including, a single-digit inflation rate at the end of each year; a fiscal deficit of not more than 4% of the GDP; a central bank deficit-financing of not more than 10% of the previous year's tax revenues; and gross external reserves that can give import cover for a minimum of three months.

Meanwhile, in December 2019, the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) took a decision to change the name of their currency from CFA franc to Eco, effective 2020. It is worth noting that the 'Eco' had been advertised as the name of the common currency for the Economic Community of West African States, (ECOWAS) and was officially endorsed and adopted during the ECOWAS Summit in June 2019. UEMOA's announcement coincided with the 56th Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government that took place in Abuja, Nigeria, on 21st December, 2019 where Member States were called upon to expedite action towards the realisation of the common currency.

The change is a potential catalyst to realising a truly unified Economic and Monetary Union in the sub-region particularly because the strong financial link between francophone West Africa and France had usually been one of the foremost challenges to that aspiration. Thus, while this move is a step in the right direction there are still some loose ends to be wary of.

France will no longer sit on the board of the Monetary Union, nor will it retain 50% of the Union's reserves in its national treasury. Nevertheless, the new currency will remain pegged to the Euro. Some analysts argue that this 'arrangement guarantees unlimited convertibility of the Eco into euros and facilitates inter-zone transfers'. Still, this begs the following questions: what will that mean for Anglophone member States who eventually adopt the Eco? Are UEMOA States prepared to give up the relative fiscal stability they derive from having their currency pegged?

D. NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

In October 2019, the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed for his efforts to achieve peace and international cooperation, particularly, his decisive initiative to resolve the border conflict with neighbouring Eritrea. Prime Minister Ahmed, who was the sole African Laureate this year, was nominated along with 16 year old Swedish Climate Activist, Greta Thunberg, Brazilian environmentalist and Chief of the Indigenous Kayapo People, Raoni Metukire, and the Organisation, Reporters without Borders.

Last year, Congolese gynaecologist, Denis Mukwege, was announced joint laureate with Iranian Human Rights Campaigner, Nadia Murad. A year on, the two have launched the Global Survivors Fund to provide reparations for survivors of wartime rape.

E. ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BY GHANA

In February 2019, the Cabinet of the Republic of Ghana approved the establishment of diplomatic relations with a number of countries with which Ghana currently has no such relations. The 19 countries, include, Bhutan, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Kiribati, Laos, Liechtenstein, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Monaco, Nauru, Nepal, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Following the approval, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, Hon. Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey (MP), in the margins of the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, held in New York in September 2019, signed Joint Communiqués on the establishment of Diplomatic Relations with 4 of the above-mentioned States. The Permanent Mission of Ghana to the United Nations Office in New York has been requested by the Ministry to sign joint communiques with the remaining 15 States.

Ghana is hopeful that the expansion of its global diplomatic relations will enable it to explore new areas of cooperation and greater opportunities to pursue the interest of the people of Ghana.

A HISTORY OF GHANA'S FOREIGN SERVICE



By:
**Ambassador
Kwabena Baah-Duodu**
Retired Foreign Service
Officer

INTRODUCTION

I should start by stating the obvious that the Foreign Service is made up of people, whose sole job is to help to formulate and implement foreign policy.

Foreign policy can be defined as a set of political goals that seek to outline how a particular country will interact with the other countries of the world. Indeed, it is public policy which is applicable to the territorial borders outside the confines of the political system or State, thus to the international system.

Foreign policies are designed to promote and protect a country's national interests, which include national security, ideological goals, the welfare of a country's citizens and economic prosperity. Globally, every sovereign country has its own foreign policies that dictate how the country conducts her affairs with the outside world to reflect her interest.

For example, the foreign policy thrust of Ghana since independence has been to maximise the benefits of its

interactions with the international community, while preserving its sovereignty and making unique contributions to its neighbouring countries and to the world. Through multilateral diplomacy at the United Nations, Ghana has participated in the maintenance of global peace and security. On the African continent, Ghana has been an active participant in regional platforms and in initiatives to promote the socio-economic and political development of African countries.

Recent efforts to strengthen the country's international relations have focused on: accelerating economic and social integration with regional and sub-regional States; promoting international peace and sustainable development; and leveraging economic and technological opportunities for sustainable development.

A GHANA FOREIGN SERVICE?

The Ghana Foreign Service is part of the Ghana Civil Service, and not separated from the Ghana Civil Service. At independence, it would appear that there was an intention to

create a Foreign Service of Ghana as one of the public services of the nation. The mere fact that the rules governing the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration's (MFARI) personnel and finances were titled "*Foreign Service Regulations*" and "*Foreign Service Accounting Instructions*", respectively, were enough indication of the intention of the policy makers at that time, to create a Foreign Service. However, in 1974, the Ghana Government Commission on the Structures and Procedures of the Ghana Civil Service (GCS) dismissed the proposal for the creation of a Ghana Foreign Service.

It was suggested at the time that the decision to discount the creation of the Foreign Service was informed by a lack of appreciation of the distinctive character of the functions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the need, therefore, to suitably prepare and equip its personnel with the discipline and competence that should enable them operate effectively in the field of international relations and diplomacy. Over the years profound political, economic, scientific and technological changes worldwide have significantly altered the conduct of international relations.

For our purposes, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, which is part of the Ghana Civil Service, and its diplomatic missions abroad constitute the Ghana Foreign Service. They are charged with the control, direction and coordination of Ghana's external relations. In addition to diplomatic missions,

honorary consulates are established to complement the work of the former in the promotion of investment, trade and tourism as well as the discharge of consular functions in areas with significant Ghanaian communities.

The name of the Ministry has undergone various changes in Ghana's recent history. Its current name, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, was so designated to emphasise the importance of regional integration as a foreign policy objective. I need to point out that although the Ghana Foreign Service is technically and legally part of the Ghana Civil Service, it is nonetheless peculiar and specialised, and has different *modus operandi*, requiring thus a peculiar setup to cope with its multifarious functions. Operating as it does primarily in the international arena, it has perforce to conform to some international practices and procedures.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Gold Coast, as it was called, became independent of British colonial rule on 6th March, 1957. This was after one hundred and three years of colonial administration, when it is calculated from the date of signing The Bond of 1844 between the then British Imperial Government and some chiefs and elders of the Gold Coast colony. On becoming independent, the Gold Coast assumed the name of Ghana. It is pertinent here to recall the words of Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, then Leader of Government Business, when he tabled the motion for the independence of the country at

the Legislative Assembly on 10th July, 1953. He stated that;

"...in the very early days of the Christian era, long before England had united into a nation, our ancestors had attained a great empire, which lasted until the eleventh century, when it fell before the attacks of the Moors of the North. At its height, that empire stretched from Timbuktu to Bamako, and even as far as to the Atlantic. It is said that even lawyers and scholars were much respected in that empire and that the inhabitants of Ghana wore garments of wool, cotton, silk and velvet. There was trade in copper, gold and textile fabrics, and jewels and weapons of gold and silver were carried. Thus, may we take pride in the name of Ghana, not out of romanticism, but as an inspiration for the future. It is right and proper that we should know about our past. For just as the future moves from the present so the present has emerged from the past."

"...our battles shall be against old ideas that keep men trammelled in their own greed; against the crass stupidities that breed hatred, fear and inhumanity. The heroes of our future will be those, who can lead our people out of the stifling fog of disintegration through serfdom, into the valley of light, where purpose, endeavour and determination will create that brotherhood, which Christ proclaimed two thousand years ago, and about which so much is said, but so little done".

Thus, choosing the name Ghana was for a mission to be fulfilled.

The need for a Ghana Foreign Service became obvious when the country started to make preparations for its independence. As you know, it would have been absurd if we were to leave the handling of the country's foreign relations with our former colonial master.

Just before the Gold Coast became Ghana, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah persuaded the last Governor General, Sir Charles Noble Arden-Clarke, to set up a small bureau in his office, christened the Bureau for External Affairs which later became the Ministry of External Affairs. Thereafter, the Bureau commenced the recruitment of those officers, who were to become the first Foreign Service Officers (FSOs) of the country.

The first Prime Minister, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah had already set out the orientation and broad outlines of Ghana's foreign policy in his writings and speeches over the years.

This policy was to be a radical departure from the country's colonial legacy, with its in-built bias towards the capitalist West, to one of free and open-minded intercourse with all countries whatever their political and ideological inclinations, and the vigorous promotion of African independence and unity on a continental scale. Herein lay the seeds of non-alignment and African Unity (OAU), which have been for a long time the pillars of Ghana's Foreign policy.

Nkrumah earnestly believed in a central role for Ghana in international affairs. Undoubtedly, from the beginning, his personality dominated Ghana's external relations because he felt that he had a specific mission for Africa which could be fully realised only under his control at the helm.

Nkrumah's vision of African unity, together with the strategies he employed to fulfil his foreign policy objectives, caused some amount of resentment and bitterness among some of his contemporaries, such as Felix Houphouët-Boigny of Ivory Coast, Sylvanus Olympio of Togo, and Julius Nyerere of Tanzania.

The Group of Ten (G 10)

It was essential for a corps of Ghanaian officers to be quickly put together and given the necessary training – however rudimentary – for this totally new enterprise of diplomacy for which no practiced veterans were available. Unlike the Home Ministries, where expatriate officials could be retained as useful bridges during the crucial post-independence transitional period, such a role could not be envisaged for expatriates in the diplomatic service, Ghana's direct window to the outside world.

It would also not have been compatible with Nkrumah's long-held conviction, articulated in many forms and on countless occasions that *"the black man is capable of managing his own affairs"* and where better to demonstrate this than in Ghana's shop-window. Security and confidentiality of information dictated by the very nature of the conduct of foreign



Dr. Kwame Nkrumah

relations also had to be taken into account. This is why no non-citizen is ever recruited into any country's diplomatic service. The exception was during the early years of the Provisional National Defence Council (PNDC), when one Mr. Banki F. Banki, a Gambian radical, was recruited into the service and posted to our Mission in Luanda, Angola, as Counsellor. He was later withdrawn after complaints from the career service.

The first batch of trainees, the so-called Group of Ten, recruited in September 1955 were drawn from the Colonial Civil Service and were mainly University graduates holding "European appointments", i.e. senior posts previously reserved for (mainly white) expatriates. After brief introductory and orientation courses at the London School of Economics and the British Foreign Office, they were sent out on attachment to British Embassies

for practical training. Given their background and experience, they were adjudged ready by late 1956 to assume charge of the Liaison Offices (Embassies-to-be) already established in London, Paris, and Washington DC/New York, and to strengthen the embryonic Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Accra.

A second batch of three was recruited in September 1956 as fresh graduates from the University of Ghana, Legon, with no working experience. Their training consisted of an academic year's course in International Relations and French at Oxford University, followed by a three-month "practical" course in French Language and Civilisation at the Poitiers University Language Institute, France, where they had to live *en pension* with French families for their total immersion in the language.

French was considered a premier diplomatic language at the time, and any diplomat worth his or her salt was expected to have a working knowledge of it. Unlike their seniors, their contact with the British Foreign Office was perfunctory, limited as it was to a week during vacation from Oxford. In any case after 6th March, 1957, Ghanaians ceased to be British subjects (citizens) and could no longer be let into the inner recesses of the "hallowed" cloisters of the British Foreign Office. They, therefore, had their practical training in diplomatic practice and procedure at the Ghana High Commission in London.

It may be recalled that the President of the Republic, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, on Wednesday, 4th

July, 2018, honoured Ghana's first 10 Foreign Service Officers at an event at the Jubilee House. The 10 Officers, 8 of whom are deceased, are Harry Reginald Amonoo, Frederick Sigfried Arkhurst, Kwaku Bapru Asante, Frank Edmund Boateng, Kenneth Kweku Sinaman Dadzie, Abraham Benjamin Baah Kofi, Alexander Quaison-Sackey, Henry Van Hien Sekyi, Richard Maximilian Akwei, and Ebenezer Moses Debrah.

These 10 men had the onerous responsibility of advancing and promoting the image of a country which had recently gained independence and was leading the struggle for liberation of Africa from colonialism and imperialism. As stated by the President, *"they were the most visible symbol of our country. Prior to their selection, they were subjected to the most rigorous of selection procedures, which ensured that their appointments were based wholly on individual merits, and not on ethnic, religious or political affiliations,"*

They served Ghana with distinction and dedication, and left so many identifiable diplomatic achievements and landmarks, that have served to enhance the image of our country.

Through the achievements of these great men, Ghana has become well-known and well-respected all over the world. Successive Ghanaian diplomats, as a result, have been inspired to enhance further our country's position amongst the comity of nations. Let's take a cursory look at their careers.

The late Ambassador Alex Quaison-Sackey, who served as the first black African to be elected President of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), at its 19th Session, from 1964-1965, is credited with having introduced the notion of "consensus", which has since become a favourite word, especially in multilateral diplomacy. In 1960, the resolute determination of African diplomats, under the leadership of Dr. Alex Quaison-Sackey, Ghana's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN and Chairman of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories manifested in various activities by African countries. For instance, supported by Asia and Latin America, the African Group succeeded in getting the UNGA to adopt Resolution 15140 (XV) and 15141 (XV) on the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. This in no small way helped in galvanising support for the struggle against colonialism in Africa.

The late Ambassador Ken Dadzie's name continues to reverberate within the circles of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) from where he, if fate had been kind to Ghana earlier, could have risen beyond being the first African Secretary-General of UNCTAD, perhaps, to becoming the overall head of the United Nations, even earlier than our illustrious compatriot, Kofi Annan.

Having opened Ghana's Diplomatic Mission in Moscow in 1960, the late Ambassador F.E. Boaten worked

at the Foreign Ministry between 1962 through to 1966, when he was elected the Secretary-General of the *"Accra Assembly"*, which gave birth to a peace initiative known internationally as the *"World Without the Bomb"*. He subsequently served at the UN in the capacity of Permanent Representative of Ghana, and was named by the UN as one of the 27 Eminent Personalities on Disarmament, with his name featured in the *"Who is Who"* publication of that period.

The late Ambassador Fred Arkhurst, who joined the Foreign Service of Ghana, after having obtained a First Class in Economics in Scotland, subsequently served at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), then headed by another eminent Ghanaian, Dr. Robert Kweku Atta Gardiner, regarded easily as the official with the record of longest service at UNECA. Ambassador Arkhurst devoted his life, after retiring from the Ghana Foreign Service, naturally to the writing of books and other engagements within academia.

For the late Ambassador K.B. Asante, his diplomatic life was centred on multilateral engagements, having served mostly in Europe, where he focused on the latter's relations with Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific, and on the European-based UN Institutions. On his return to Ghana, he became a public figure, who was eager to engage, publish, inspire and promote social, political, academic, media and other related causes.

The late Ambassador Amonoo, remembered for the role he played as Secretary to the Aburi *"Conference on Nigeria and Biafra"* in 1967, became a distinguished representative of Ghana, especially during the time he served in Ethiopia where he became Chairman of the Organisation of African Unity's Committee on Refugees; Member of the OAU Restructuring Committee; and Vice-Dean of the Diplomatic Corps.

The late Ambassador Henry Van Hieu Sekyi was the quintessential scholar, with an exceptional musical talent. As an astute diplomat, he gave distinguished service at key bilateral Diplomatic Missions of Ghana in Australia, Italy and the United Kingdom. Popularly referred to as *"Sir Henry"*, he was one of the Foreign Service Officers who accompanied our first President, Kwame Nkrumah, on his ill-fated trip to Hanoi in 1966. In retirement, he became the first Ambassador-In-Residence at the Legon Centre for International Affairs and Diplomacy (LECIAD).

The late Ambassador Abraham Benjamin Baah Kofi is remembered for the key assignments he played, especially on the eve of the formation of the OAU, when he was sent, in the company of the late George Padmore and the late Mr. Ako-Adjei, Foreign Minister, to confer with several African Heads of States, on the issue. He also accomplished, with distinction, his assigned task of opening a number of Ghana's Diplomatic Missions. Ambassador Richard Maximilian Akwei, beyond his distinguished service as the fourth Permanent

Representative of Ghana to the UN, became the Chairman of the International Civil Service Commission and, thereafter, became the Commonwealth representative for the training of prospective young diplomats for South Africa.

Ambassador E.M. Debrah rose to be Secretary to the Cabinet and Head of the Civil Service. He trained a lot of Commonwealth citizens in Namibia, Zimbabwe and the Caribbean to become diplomats. He was, until recently, a familiar face in this Ministry, where he had operated as a *"Consultant-In-Residence"*. As Ghana's first Ambassador to Ethiopia, USA, Australia and the United Kingdom, a Conference Room has been named after him in the new Foreign Ministry building.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs was formally established in 1957, with Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, then leader of Government Business, as the first Foreign Minister. He held this position from 1957 to early 1958 when apparently from the sheer weight of his responsibilities, he thought it prudent to divest himself of that extra burden, and appointed Mr. Kojo Botsio to assume the Foreign Affairs portfolio. Mr. Botsio, however, had only a brief stay initially at the Foreign Ministry, being assigned to the Ministry of Education in 1959, to be succeeded by Dr. Ako Adjei, who stayed until 1962.

Mr. Botsio assumed the Foreign Affairs portfolio once more from



Hon. Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey (MP)
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration

1963 to 1965. Both Mr. Botsio and Dr. Ako-Adjei are said to have brought new life and confidence to the Ministry, for, for the first time the Ministry had Ministers it could call its own, sitting in the Ministry and to whom officers could relate directly, as different from a non-resident one in far-away Flagstaff House issuing what one could only see as cold impersonal directives.

Nkrumah's long arm was said to be nonetheless ever present, "tele-guiding" the Ministry's affairs – something not unusual with Heads of Government in the domain of foreign relations.

With respect to career officers, Mr. A.L. Adu, one of the first Ghanaians to serve in the Senior Administrative Class in the Gold Coast Civil Service, was appointed the Permanent Secretary, aided by Principal Assistant Secretaries who headed the various departments. He later became the first Deputy Secretary General of the Commonwealth.

Those days, senior officers held floating schedules, in the sense that

they could be called upon at any time to undertake assignments not normally in their given schedules.

Mandate

On 6th March, 1957, when Ghana became independent, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah made a historic foreign policy pronouncement. The concept of free, proud, confident Africa was to dominate the foreign policy of Ghana. The independent State of Ghana had at its disposal, competent diplomats who had been selected and trained in 1955 to implement her foreign policy.

Dr. Nkrumah's programme for the quickest possible emancipation of colonised Africa was a passion, and his dedication to the unity of emancipated Africa an obsession. For the quick implementation of these objectives, he considered the Foreign Ministry wanting, hidebound as it was with the civil service rules or what some called "colonial mentality" and its administrative foot-dragging, in addition to its suspect loyalty.

He, therefore, found it necessary to bring the prosecution of his

African policy under his direct control at the Flagstaff House and accordingly set up an autonomous African Affairs Secretariat literally under his nose, but staffed, nonetheless, with personnel mainly from the Foreign Ministry, of which the Secretariat was technically a part.

A state of healthy and friendly rivalry developed between them, which enhanced in the end the overall enrichment and improvement of the Foreign Service, from the expertise in African affairs, which the Secretariat developed. The Secretariat became the President's "favourite son" and was showered with all the means that would facilitate its mission. It did not, for instance have to queue for funds from the normal sources for its operations, which were invariably urgent.

By far the biggest, most complicated and expensive assignment undertaken by the Secretariat was Ghana's deep involvement in the Congo crisis in 1960, when Ghanaian troops were despatched there as the largest contingent of a United Nations peace-keeping and peace enforcement force. The whole U.N. operation was at the instance of Nkrumah, whose objective was to protect the legitimate government, led by Patrice Lumumba, and halt the young country's headlong stride into anarchy.

A Ghanaian civilian technical assistance team was also despatched to help install a viable administration. That the operation ended ignominiously and even

disastrously for Ghana, with the massacre of forty of our soldiers by a mutinous Congolese army can certainly not be blamed on any bungling by the Secretariat but rather squarely on the Western powers, especially Belgium, the immediate past colonial authority, for their unabashed duplicity and downright sabotage.

During Nkrumah's time the Service assisted President Nkrumah to forge far-flung alliances and made economic sacrifices to maintain them with what was perceived as progressive countries, in the language of the time.

Despite the forged close political ties, however, Ghana's economy remained heavily dependent on the markets and the far superior financial resources of the capitalist world. The country could, therefore, not break away from their influence, despite her radical outlook and ideological pretensions. Consequently, Ghana had to seek the middle ground that would enable her pursue her political agenda without sacrificing her economic interests. The NAM provided just the vehicle needed to be able to strike the right balance between her political and economic interests.

After Nkrumah's overthrow in February 1966, the African Affairs Secretariat was incorporated into the Ministry.

While Nkrumah's foreign policy was largely successful, it had its failures as well. Some of his policies, for example, marred relations with our neighbours, especially, Togo. His fall in 1966, however, signalled

the decline in Ghana's centrality and influence in global and African politics.

The decline in international influence had been partly precipitated by a perceptible and devastating stagnation of the national economy, which some analysts have blamed on Nkrumah's preoccupation with foreign relations.

POST-NKRUMAH GOVERNMENTS

Successive governments of Ghana have, nonetheless, embraced the principles of foreign policy as initiated by Nkrumah. The execution of these principles has differed from one administration to another due to, in the words of Henry Kissinger, *"experiences which form the leaders in their rise to eminence"*. According to him, *"a leader's vision, personal aspirations, temperament, prejudices, force of personality, ideological persuasion, moral orientation and perception of world issues tend to have a strong bearing on the manner in which these principles are put into action"*.

CONCLUSION

The question of whether the Foreign Service should maintain a separate identity and even perhaps be independent with its own Governing Board, albeit as part of the Civil Service on the lines of the Judicial Service, has been under discussion for a long time. The E.K. Okoh Commission on the Structure and Procedures of the Ghana Civil Service set up in 1974 examined the issue thoroughly, and in its wisdom concluded without equivocation that the

separate identity of the Foreign Service should be recognised and maintained if it were to perform its peculiar functions properly. It, however, did not find that *"independence"* was essential for its proper functioning, once its peculiar and separate identity was granted.

I, on the other hand, believe that we need a separate Foreign Service outside the Civil Service.

The world in which our officers, who work abroad operate today is a kaleidoscope of opportunities and challenges, including violent non-state actors; global issues such as women's empowerment, energy and climate change; negotiation of trade agreements and managing financial crises. It is a world that is also defined by the need to recognize the overriding reality of simultaneity: the political, economic, military, cultural, humanitarian and media spheres have merged. Our policies must, therefore, be as multifaceted as the challenges we face.

A separate Service will ensure that all actions relating to the Service are expedited and not constrained by the strictures of the Home Service.

It is gratifying to note that Ghana's Medium-Term Plan (2018-2021) envisages the establishment of a separate Foreign Service outside the Civil Service for Ghana.

DOHA MISSION CELEBRATES ITS MAIDEN GHANA DAY



H. E. Mr. Emmanuel Enos with the Minister for Justice of the State of Qatar, H. E. Dr. Issa Bin Saad Al Jafali Al Nuaimi, the Minister for Municipality and Environment of the State of Qatar, H. E. Mr. Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz Bin Turki Al Subaie, the Director of Protocol, Ambassador Ibrahim Yousif Abdullah Fakhro and the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps.

In view of the growing relations between the Republic of Ghana and the Gulf States, Ghana increased its presence in the region with the opening of three (3) Embassies namely: the Kuwait, Doha and the Abu Dhabi Missions.

The Doha Mission was officially inaugurated by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, Hon. Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey (MP), in May 2018.



Ambassador Emmanuel Enos and spouse with some members of the Ghanaian community in Doha

The Mission held its first National Day celebration on 7th March, 2019 to commemorate the 62nd Independence Anniversary of the Republic of Ghana. The very colourful event took place at the prestigious Marsa Malaz Kempinski Hotel at the Pearl of Doha with over 250 guests in attendance. Among the respected dignitaries that graced the occasion were His Excellency the Minister for Justice of the State of Qatar, Sheikh Dr. Issa bin Saad Al Jafali Al Nuaimi, the Minister for Municipality and Environment, Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz bin Turki Al Subaie, and



H. E. Mr. Emmanuel Enos and members of the Diplomatic Corps

the Director of the Department of Protocol of the host Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Ibrahim Yousif Abdullah Fakhro as well as the Diplomatic Corps and Ghanaians living in the State of Qatar.

Guests to the event were welcomed with rich cultural display and were adorned with Kente stoles.

Guests were treated to the rich traditional dances of Kpalongo, Takai, Abgadza and Kete and were also served with sumptuous Ghanaian dishes.

The celebration provided a rare opportunity to the Ghanaian community to renew their sense of belonging and also receive poignant updates on the state of the Ghanaian economy. To our

host State, the event afforded the platform to further consolidate the growing bilateral relations between Ghana and Qatar.



H. E. Mr. Emmanuel Enos, the Minister for Justice of the State of Qatar, H. E. Dr. Issa Bin Saad Al Jafali Al Nuaimi, the Minister for Municipality and Environment of the State of Qatar, H. E. Mr. Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz Bin Turki Al Subaie and the Director of Protocol, Ambassador Ibrahim Yousif Abdullah Fakhro.



Leaders of the Ghanaian community in Doha, Dr. David Nkansah, Mr. Stephen Adjei and other members of the community



Ambassador Emmanuel Enos and spouse with members of the Ghanaian Cultural Troop in Doha and some members of the Diplomatic Corps.

PEER-TO-PEER EXCHANGE FOR DIASPORA DESK OFFICERS IN GHANAIAN DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN AFRICA

18TH - 19TH NOVEMBER 2019, NAIROBI, KENYA.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration in collaboration with GIZ organised a Peer-to-Peer Exchange Training Programme for Diaspora Desk Officers in Ghana Diplomatic Missions in Africa at the Safari Park Hotel in Nairobi, Kenya, from 18th to 19th November, 2019.

The theme for the two-day workshop was *“Engaging the Diaspora in National Development of Ghana”*. The purpose of the training programme was to enhance the capacity of the Diaspora Desk Officers in their engagement with Ghanaian Diaspora at their respective location for the sustainable development of Ghana.

The event was opened by Ghana’s High Commissioner to Kenya, H. E. Mrs. Francisca Ashietey-Odunton. In her remarks, H.E Mrs. Ashietey-Odunton stated that governments around the world increasingly recognize the value that Diaspora populations bring to development efforts and are therefore actively seeking ways to utilize their human capital and financial resources for the development of their various



countries of origin and Ghana was no exception. Continuing, she indicated that the training was taking place at an opportune time as it seeks innovative ways of engaging the Ghanaian Diaspora to contribute towards national development.

Also, present at the event were 26 out of the 27 invited Diaspora Desk Officers in Ghana’s Missions in Africa, representatives from the Diaspora Affairs Office at the Presidency and Center of Migration Studies, University of Ghana as well as officials from GIZ, Ghana and Kenya offices.



2ND MADE-IN-GHANA BAZAAR

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration as part of its mandate to promote the economic advancement of the country using the tool of economic diplomacy, organized the 2nd Made-in-Ghana Bazaar under the theme “*Promoting Made-in-Ghana Products Abroad*”.

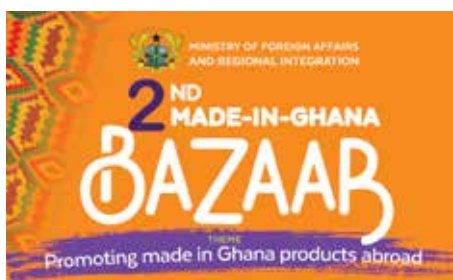
The programme was held from 26th to 30th July 2019, and was designed to harness efforts of local industries to obtain global recognition through Diplomatic Missions abroad.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the Bazaar, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, Hon. Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey (MP) said, the exhibition was to provide a platform to build links with various

Diplomatic Missions, boost exports, create jobs and strengthen Ghana’s currency through foreign exchange earnings using the tools of economic diplomacy.

She emphasised that the Ministry was working earnestly to fulfill its mandate which include promoting the interest of Ghana abroad through, trade, investments and tourism among others.

The 2nd Made-in-Ghana Bazaar attracted over 200 exhibitors, members of the Diplomatic Corps, Departments and Agencies as well as potential investors.



A FIELD VISIT TO COMPANIES IN THE FREE ZONES ENCLAVE

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration intensified efforts to promote Economic Diplomacy by organising a field visit for its officers to some manufacturing companies to acquire firsthand information about their operations.

The field visit took place on Friday 26th April 2019, and was organised in conjunction with the Ghana Free Zones Authority, one of the Ministry's stakeholders in promoting economic diplomacy.

The visit gave officers insight into the processes of manufacturing some "Made-in-Ghana" products. The companies visited were the Niche Cocoa Confectionery Limited and Ghana Specialty Fats Industries both located within the Tema Export Processing Zone (EPZ).

The Director for the Economic Trade and Investment Bureau (ECITB), Ms. Khadija Iddrisu, during an interactive session with staff of the two companies visited, indicated that the Ministry was working to support the country's efforts at diversifying and increasing export by actively seeking markets for "Made-in-Ghana" products abroad.



HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES OF TRADE, INVESTMENT AND CULTURAL PROMOTION

-GHANA HIGH COMMISSION, CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA.

Over the years, the Ghana High Commission in Canberra has used festivals and trade platforms such as the “National Multicultural Festival”, “Africa in the Park”, “Africa Trade and Cultural EXPO”, among others, to provide the Australian public the opportunity to taste, see and feel Ghana. During these events the Mission takes the opportunity to inform visitors on available investment opportunities in Ghana, show case made-in-Ghana goods and also promote tourism. With the creation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), Africa is ready for business and such platforms provide new markets to promote Ghanaian and African products.



H.E. Edwin N. Adjei, High Commissioner of Ghana to Australia, in a group photograph with the Ghana delegation at the Africa Down Under Mining Conference



Promoting Ghana at the 2019 National Multicultural Festival



The Ghana stand at the Africa in the Park Festival 2019





Promoting Ghana at the 2019 National Multicultural Festival



Ghanaian exhibits at the Windows To The World Expo

CONSULAR PROTECTION: THE WIDENING EXPECTATION GAP FOR GHANA



By:

Audrey Naana Abayena,
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You would imagine that, as a citizen of any country, it is a reasonable expectation to hold that your country would come through for you at all times of your need in a foreign land, right? Well....not quite. The answer lies anywhere in a wide spectrum of opinion, some even in the realm of borderline absurdity, you would say. But the underpinnings of every opinion in the spectrum are a set of realities that are shaped from personal histories and circumstances. Even where there are laws and rules to regulate this expectation, you would find in practice that it is not always the case that there is the meeting of minds between consular service givers and receivers.

In international law, consular protection is defined as the State protecting the rights of its citizens in a foreign country. It refers to the help a country provides to its citizens who have travelled to or live abroad and are in need of such help; it enables a State to defend the rights of its citizens abroad. This must be exercised within the confines of

the laws of the host country. Consular protection differs from diplomatic protection in that the State does not assert its own right but demands redress for a violation of international law. Furthermore, the conditions applying to the exercise of consular protection are less strict than in the case of diplomatic protection.

In the performance of their diplomatic and consular functions, countries all over the world have a duty to protect and seek the welfare of their citizens at all times. Over the years, this duty has become part of customary international law and was eventually codified into the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations (VCCR) of 1963. There are also two optional protocols, which came into force on 19th March, 1967. Prior to that, consular law existed as practices that arose out of bilateral agreements between States. Compared with diplomatic law, the state of customary international law as it pertained to consular matters was more fragmented.

The VCCR describes the establishment, operation, and termination of consular missions as well as the functions, privileges, and immunities pertaining to consular officials and other individuals at a consular post. About 180 States are parties to the VCCR as of 13th October, 2019 and Ghana became State party upon the deposit of its instrument of ratification on 4th October, 1963. The VCCR further codifies key principles and practices that are now widely accepted, such as *persona non grata*, the inviolability of consular premises, the inviolability of communications, documents and archives as well as the consular bag.

Article 5 of the VCCR outlines the consular functions that may be undertaken by a consular post, or a diplomatic mission in the case where the country does not have a consular post in the host State. The relevant portions include, *inter alia*, within the limits permitted by international law and with due regard for the laws and regulations of the host State:

- (a) Protecting in the receiving State the interests of the sending State and of its nationals, both individuals and bodies corporate;
- (b) Issuing passports and travel documents to nationals of the sending State, and visas or appropriate documents to persons wishing to travel to the sending State;
- (c) Helping and assisting nationals, both individuals and bodies corporate, of the sending State in the area of acting as notary and civil registrar and in capacities of a similar kind, and performing certain functions of an administrative nature;
- (d) Safeguarding the interests of nationals, both individuals and bodies corporate, of the sending State in cases of succession *mortis causa* in the territory of the receiving State;
- (e) Subject to the judicial practices and procedures pertaining in the receiving State, representing or arranging appropriate representation for nationals of the sending State before the tribunals and other authorities of the receiving State, for the purpose of obtaining, in accordance with the laws and regulations of the receiving State, provisional measures for the preservation of the rights and interests of these nationals, where, because of absence or any other reason, such nationals are unable at the proper time to assume the defence of their rights and interests;
- (f) Performing any other functions entrusted to a consular post by the sending State which are not prohibited by the laws and regulations of the receiving State or to which no objection is taken by the receiving State or which are referred to in the international agreements in force between the sending State and the receiving State.

The last provision above provides the opportunity to expand the scope of the consular functions of the sending State with deference to international law and the prevailing laws and regulations of the host country. This is what defines the

extent of State consular protection from one country to another.

In the case of Ghana, the execution of consular duties has largely been on the basis of the VCCR. There is no evidence pointing to the execution of any bilateral treaty on consular protection or a consular treaty as it is known within international law.

On the bedrock of the VCCR, Ghanaian diplomatic missions and consular posts abroad would serve citizens who require consular services such as the issuance of passports, emergency travel documents, assistance in an arrest or detention, being a victim of crime, serious accident or injury, relief and repatriation in case of an emergency or in a state of destitute and death. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration has been performing these functions in diverse ways over the years throughout the world where Ghana has presence through its missions abroad including countries of concurrent accreditation. In recent times, however, the tension and complexities surrounding contemporary migration have stretched the clearly defined functions under VCCR into uncharted territory. This has been evident in the increased number of cases of human trafficking of girls/women for prostitution and labour, particularly in the Gulf Region, and copious instances involving Ghanaians seeking greener pastures and undertaking perilous adventures through the desert to Libya and the Mediterranean to reach Europe and other parts of the world.

This development has brought in its wake a requirement for non-existent additional financial outlay to cater for the widening responsibility beyond the fundamental provisions of the VCCR, which puts the modest, dedicated, and conscientious service providers in the missions and consular posts on a collision course with a growing number of our compatriots in dire need of help on a foreign land. Whereas service givers are constantly under pressure to work to meet the rising expectations of service receivers, service receivers, on the other hand, are more inclined to the make-believe vision of grandeur and self-righteousness of service givers. This is what I refer to as the expectation gap. And reinforcing this rancorous stage is a heavy-duty bombardment of criticism of the Ministry by the affected individuals, their relatives and other opinion leaders over the airwaves and mostly supported by some media sensationalism.

The Ministry has coped inimitably, reaching out for support from anywhere necessary and from its own meagre resources. For instance, the Foreign Ministry had to intervene in the repatriation of some stranded Ghanaian nationals who had travelled to Russia to watch the 2018 FIFA World Cup. In this particular exercise, the Ministry was graciously supported financially by the Office of the Chief of Staff to the President and with air logistical support from the Nigerian Government.

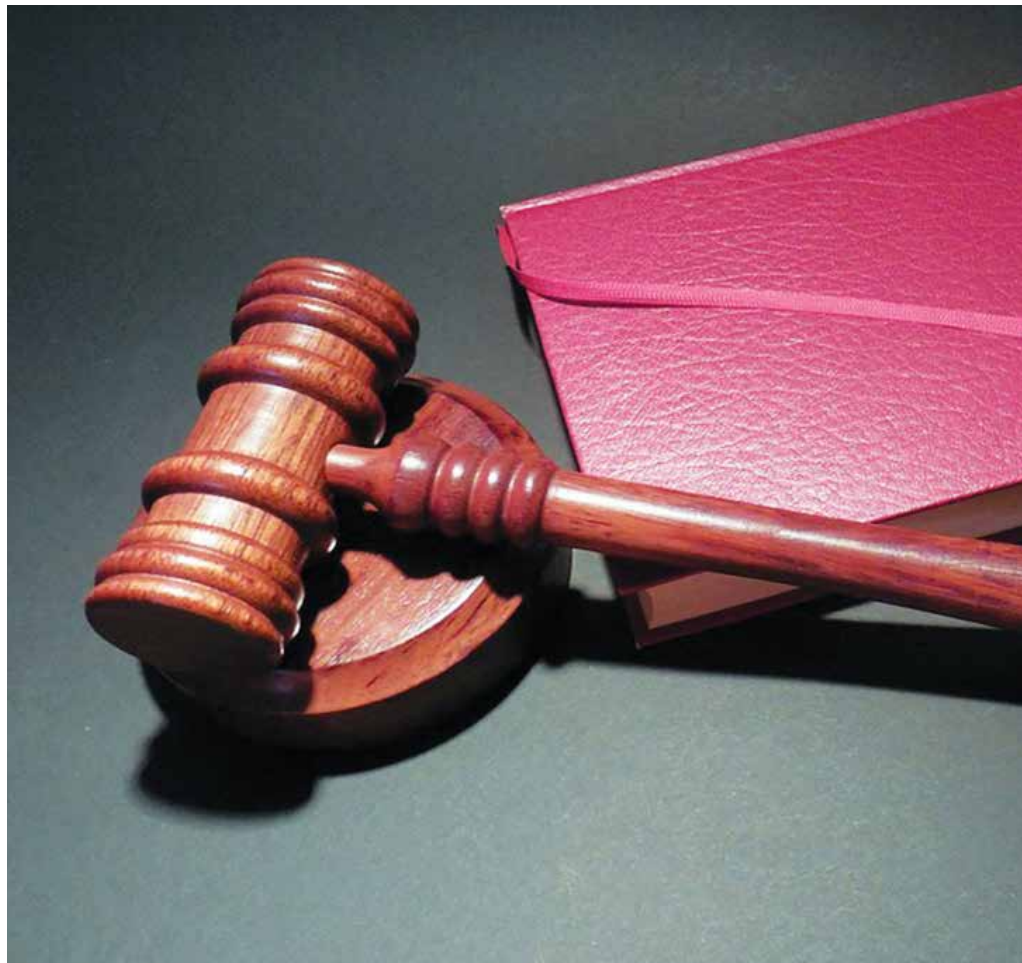
In August 2019, about seven (7) Ghanaian fishermen who were

stranded in Cameroon when their boat run aground were assisted by the Ghana Missions in Malabo and Lomé to return home at the expense of those Missions.

The largest evacuation of Ghanaians took place during the 2011 Libyan conflict. The Ministry undertook this task with the assistance of other stakeholders including international partners such as the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to successfully evacuate over ten thousand (10,000) Ghanaians to safety.

The reality is that there is no regular budget for such consular assistance, despite persistent representations made to the Ministry of Finance

on the matter. This is not peculiar to Ghana though. My research and interaction with some consular officers of other countries revealed that the first action whenever such a situation is brought to the attention of the Mission or the authorities is to reach out to the families of the affected persons. This is especially the case when the form of assistance being sought is financial and, indeed, it is not uncommon for diplomatic or consular representatives to be approached by their nationals for financial assistance in case of travel distress. Many officers abroad often find themselves having to provide tickets from their own resources for distressed Ghanaians for their return home or to cover hospital bills, rent, school fees and.....the list is endless.





The fundamental criterion to qualify for any form of consular assistance is that the seeker must be a citizen of the country. Other considerations in determining financial assistance are not well defined, however certain core elements may include whether the person concerned found himself/herself in that situation as a result of their own misbehaviour or ill judgement and whether there are other sources of assistance, especially from host authorities, non-governmental and international organisations or families back home.

Some best practices which may be considered for Ghana Missions Abroad are, for instance, in the United Kingdom, where consuls are allowed to repatriate British

citizens at the lowest possible cost without prior application to the Home Office. Giving financial assistance is discouraged except in very special cases. In the case of the United States of America, consuls may advance loans to facilitate the repatriation of the affected person, who is required to repay the loan and is restricted from travel until full payment is made.

The literature also indicates that Japanese consuls are authorised to assist in the relief and repatriation of Japanese nationals who are destitute and want to return home.

In the case of India, it is stated that Heads of Missions are allowed to exercise discretion in the matter of giving financial assistance, which could be in the form of cash payments or loans to the affected person. In the case of repatriation of an Indian national, prior permission of the Ministry of External Affairs is generally required and any money spent on the repatriation is usually recovered from the guarantor who gave the financial guarantee at the issuance of the national passport to the applicant.

One critical point to be stressed in the Ministry's sensitisation of Ghanaian travellers is that once you decide to travel, the onus lies on you to ensure that you have the requisite travel documents and permits, where necessary, you have secured accommodation as well as funding to cover the trip, health care, food and other contingencies. Maybe it is also

about time travel insurance was made mandatory for all Ghanaian travellers.

That notwithstanding, it is worth assessing the above-stated best practices to model a practicable approach to handling the expanding demand for consular services, especially the ones requiring expending financial resources.

In an effort to design a comprehensive consular policy for all Missions, it is crucial that a credible, reliable and comprehensive database of Ghanaians living abroad is developed. Resources have to be devoted to this system which would not only enhance and improve the delivery of consular services and the promotion and protection of the welfare of Ghanaians, but it would also be a useful tool in the identification and verification of the nationality of a person living abroad.

Ghana may also consider engaging countries, particularly those hosting large numbers of Ghanaian nationals, with the objective of executing consular treaties.

Till then, the Ministry will continue to execute its consular mandate in the best possible ways and as is the advice to every Foreign Service Officer, when in doubt seek the advice and guidance from capital and obtain the appropriate instructions.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT: WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND INCLUSIVENESS



By:
**Nana Ama Owusuaa
Afriyie Kankam**
FSO A5

ABSTRACT

International relations discourse has been widely dominated by subjects considered to be masculine in inclination with relatively minimum focus on gender theory discourse. Although overly criticized for not making rational inputs in international relations theory, gender theories have proven beyond reasonable doubt that the subject matter of gender is equally relevant to all disciplines. Thus, it is no longer a matter of *"You Just Don't Understand"* but insightful arguments have been contributed to support claims of feminists. Owing to new trends in international politics, the tenets of gender theorist, and in this case feminist tenets, have been cited within the spheres and framework of soft power and human security. These are the claims and narratives of gender theorist since the 1980s. It is not out of context that on the global front, gender issues featured in the Millennium Development Goals and is currently being pursued in the Sustainable Development Goals. These measures have contributed in providing the requisite impetus for issues related to women empowerment

to gain preeminent foci of global human development conversation. In light of this, the paper seeks to bring to the fore some contributions of African women to development on the continent of Africa, illuminating their key achievements. In the case of Ghana, it presents a panoramic view of measures being initiated to enhance women empowerment and inclusion in decision-making in the country. It concludes that disregarding women empowerment and their agency through inclusion and participation in decision-making processes is counterproductive to national development.

INTRODUCTION

With the evolving trends of society, the field of International Relations (IR) is no longer dominated by conventional subject areas such as inter-state wars, sovereignty and state security. Subject areas including ethnic identity, human security, smart power, gender and economy have been introduced to the IR discipline. The conventional subject matter of IR has masculine underpinnings which leaves little or no room for gender deliberations. However, the changing



The utility of this in women empowerment and in all national sectors (including the economic, political and social divisions) bespeaks the need for States, intergovernmental organizations and other relevant development partners to initiate measures to enhance attainment of the development goals and promote women participation in decision-making.

dynamics of international politics and development makes evident feminist narratives which seek to amplify gender issues in IR. Some IR theorists argue that, gender discussions do not make rational inputs in international relations but rather alludes to feminine sentiments. Feminists, on the other hand, have countered this view that make logical contributions to IR discussions by citing their tenets within the parameters and scope of human security, interdependence, diplomacy and soft power. The works of feminists such as Ann Tickner, Cynthia Enloe, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, and Sylvia Tamale, for instance, demonstrate feminists' contribution to mainstreaming gender in development discourse as a relevant subject matter in IR.

Following the above, gender related issues, especially women empowerment has become a critical issue in international affairs. This has contributed to development and activation and establishment of numerous policy frameworks to address the chasms in gender inequality in countries across the world. It is not surprising that in

the past, MDG 3 emphasised the need to promote gender equality and empowerment of women. This goal sought to enhance the status and well-being of women through knowledge and skills acquisition, economic empowerment as well as inclusive participation in decision-making processes across the world. As talks on the MDGs ended, a new policy framework, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has been initiated. Due to its relevance, gender has been featured in the ongoing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Goal 5 of the SDGs seeks to "Achieve Gender Equality and empower all women and girls". It recognizes the entrenched socio-cultural norms that continue to hinder women and girls development in societies. In recognition of this, the United Nations (UN) makes provisions to correct the anomaly with Goal 5 of the SDGs. It is expected that the stipulated targets set for gender equality will be attained at the end of the agenda of SDGs in 2030. "Targets 5.1, 5.a, 5.b and 5.c" of Goal 5 are geared towards harnessing women participation, advancement and empowerment.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN AFRICA

The marginalization and relegation of women to the periphery of national development largely undermines development in most countries of which Africa is not an exception. While current trends suggest that African States have initiated a number of policies that are aiding women empowerment through education, economic opportunities, technical and vocational skills as well as creating spaces for women participation, statistics have shown that, *"the number of women occupying leadership and influential positions is increasing steadily but with hindrances of masculine dominated ideologies"*. These include what are considered as the preserve of women- childbearing and rearing, as well as home managers and caretakers. According to Sethi S. (2016) *"African women have been key players in restructuring the continent and are indeed a vital force for growth and development- as leaders, mothers, educators and decision makers"*. This is evident in plethora of research work which have shown that gender empowerment is catalytic to sustainable economic development

in the world. For this reason, the McKinsey Global Institute asserts that, *“gender inequality is a critical global economic challenge since women account for half the world’s working-age population and if it happens that they are unable to attain full heights in their economic potential then, it is indeed a global economic challenge”*.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF SOME AFRICAN WOMEN

The strides of women on the continent show that national development is attainable at a fast and better rate with women involved in decision-making processes and in some cases allowed to spearhead the affairs of developmental projects.

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, was the first female Head of State in Liberia and Africa as a whole. Her role as a president was admirable. For a woman to be able to manage the affairs of a country is a daunting task, more-so, for a country that was coming out of war. This is because, women in leadership positions usually must be firm in order to work with their male subordinates or colleagues amidst criticisms of their roles. African women have chalked successes globally. Together with Ellen J. Sirleaf, Leymah Gbowee, a Liberian received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2011.

Again, Wangari Muta Maathai, a Kenyan, received the Nobel Peace Prize 2004 for her contribution to sustainable development, democracy and peace. Dambisa Moyo, a Zambian is known for her remarkable inputs on the subject

matter of *“aid”* in the discipline of international economic relations.

Winnie Byanyima, a Ugandan woman, has chalked many successes by contributing her quota to the international community as *“Director of Gender and Development of the United Nations Development Programme”*, *“Director of the Directorate of Women, Gender and Development at the African Union headquarters”* and is currently serving as the *“Executive Director of the United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)”*. The above-mentioned achievements of African women suggest that creating spaces for harnessing women empowerment is crucial and will contribute a great deal towards development of African countries and the continent as a whole.

WHAT GHANA IS ALREADY DOING

The story of women empowerment in Ghana is no different from that of the rest of the world. Over the years, the Government of Ghana has been pursuing some policies to find solutions to gender inequality in the country.

In recent times, although Ghana has recorded a considerable number of women participation in governance and decision-making processes at both community and national levels, their number is relatively low. Citing an example from Ghana’s Parliament, statistics show that out of two hundred and thirty (230) Members of Parliament (MPs), 28 were recorded as women in the 5th Parliament of the Fourth Republic.

In the 6th Parliament, thirty-six women MPs were elected out of a total number of two hundred and seventy five MPs. The numbers are increasing but at a relatively low rate taking into consideration that the number of seats for the MPs generally increased. This notwithstanding women have occupied various influential positions and have contributed their quota towards the nation’s development. The following are some ministerial and other high level positions that Ghanaian women have occupied in the Fourth Republic: *“Chief of Staff”*, *“Chief Justice”*, *“Electoral Commissioner”*, Ministers for *“Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration”*, *“Attorney General and Justice”*, *“Aviation”*, *“Fisheries and Aquaculture”*, *“Gender, Children and Social Protection”*, *“Communication”* and *“Local Government and Rural Development”*, among others.

It is worthy to note that the creation of a Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection in Ghana is a testament to the efforts by Government to provide an institutional framework to address issues of gender inequality and discrimination.

There are upcoming gender policies in Ghana including the Affirmative Action Bill. The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection has been pushing for this bill to be passed as law. A former Gender Minister, Nana Oye Lithur, in 2016, posited that, the Affirmative Action Bill, when passed, will be victory for Ghana and its political spheres since it will contribute to enhancing the general well-

being of women towards national advancement. She further indicated that *"Affirmative action bill is an institutional remedy for discrimination and not women privileges"*. Other gender policies, which have been instituted in Ghana, include provisions from the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), SDGs and the African Union Gender Policy.

Also, in some sectors of the Ghanaian economy, infrastructure including restrooms, daycare and nursery centers have been provided to cater for the needs of women (especially pregnant and lactating mothers). Sectors such as the security agencies, have designed female uniforms for pregnant women. Some State and private institutions have also initiated certain policies including maternal healthcare policies, incentives, provision of scholarships and skills

training in order to enhance gender equity and the socio-economic well-being of women. The above-mentioned initiatives have made it possible for women to work and contribute to development projects.

Although policies have been made to amend the inequality in society, the lapse is really about the implementation of these gender policies. Gender related bills have been passed but the challenge is with the implementation plan.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The empowerment and inclusion of women in social, economic and political spheres has received critical attention on the international front. The rate of development, to an extent, has a direct link with the level of inclusion and participation of women in various sectors of life. Reports from the United

Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 2016, indicate that, the exclusion of women in peace and development enterprises is detrimental to the growth of most nations. The UNDP report also stresses on the narrative that, equal participation is key to credible development of a country as it improves the country's development.

In Ghana, women account for about 51% of the entire population. This informs us that empowering women and giving them the opportunity they deserve in critical sectors will improve national development. It is evident that efforts are being made to involve women in decision-making projects across all work sectors. However, this has to be strengthened with a robust implementation of all action plans. This has the potential to contribute to national developments in Ghana.

EMPOWERED
WOMEN
EMPOWER WOMEN

FREE EDUCATION INITIATIVE MUST SUCCEED — SOME THOUGHTS



By:

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"Education is the passport to the future. For tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today." --- Malcolm X

Ghana is embarking on a quest to prioritize education as a tool for transformation. How far along are we on this most noble path? "Education" has been a major issue in previous elections and has become the flagship initiative of the new government.

Free basic education has existed for a long time in well-developed countries. The phenomenal advancement of those countries alone should spur us on towards the imperative task of providing free basic and secondary education for all Ghanaian children. Not only must the education be 'free' but it must be of the highest quality and standard possible so our children can contribute productively and positively within an increasingly globalized workforce.

The implementation of the Free Education Policy has started with some unavoidable challenges, and our collective resolve is required to sustain it in the national interest.

The relevant authorities may pay attention to the following among the numerous policy options at their disposal:

SUPERVISION OF SCHOOLS

Lack of adequate supervision over many decades has contributed to the steady erosion of teaching and learning

standards in our public school system. Our senior citizens will confirm that regular and unannounced visits to schools in the past by "School Inspectors" served as an effective check on the teacher-student environment. A drive around some schools, especially in the rural and remote areas, reveals that school hours are too often spent on outdoor activities such as sports, weeding and other menial activities at construction sites or farms. The end result is that some public schools are failing our children who complete Junior High School and still cannot read or write.

Supervision must include inspection of facilities, teaching methods, teacher and student compliance with attendance and punctuality standards, as well as application of sanctions on errant teachers and students.

The creation of well-functioning school boards for each school, comprising parents, administrators, teachers, even students, can strengthen the overall accountability mandate of public schools.

The educational authorities can create social media handles/helplines to empower parents and communities to report any lapses in the school system. The Minister for Education and his management team may consider adding an element of regular unannounced visits to schools.

Supervision may also be outsourced through Public Private Partnership (PPP) arrangements in an effort to inject fresh ideas and approaches to managing our public schools.

EXPAND MANDATE OF SOCIAL WELFARE AGENCIES

Our nation's forward march will be hampered if we cannot enforce attendance and enrollment in schools. Consider the heavy toll widespread illiteracy and ignorance has levied on our national aspirations! Our nation offers free basic education and yet children of school-going age children still loiter about on the streets and in communities. How can we expect to move forward when a significant percentage of our children stand on street corners begging or selling chewing gum, carrying heavy loads in the markets, or are used to provide free farm labour? It is time to establish – and enforce -- a binding social contract that there is no excuse for children to stay out of school.

We must expand the mandate of the Department of Social Welfare as well as law enforcement agencies to sanction irresponsible parents and truant children. Indeed, we must institutionalize a policy to hold accountable those parents/families who do not ensure their children attend school.

CURRICULA REVIEW

Our changing world requires a review of our school curricula. Proper education must deepen the nexus between what is taught in the classroom and its practical application in the 'real world'. The new curricula should accentuate critical thinking and problem-solving skills that will equip our youth to face the myriad



challenges our country faces. Why, for example, after all these years of zoological and botanical studies, we here in Ghana cannot establish well-functioning zoos, nature parks and gardens as we see elsewhere? How prepared are our Agriculture students to improve upon traditional farming practices? Despite Survey, Planning and Civil Engineering Departments in our education system, can we state that all towns, cities and villages are expanding in accordance with a well-defined plan?

SOCIAL BENEFITS

The free education policy will come at a cost and in order to derive the full societal benefits, the school system itself must instill 'life lessons' that are critical to our progress. Respect and care for the environment, a responsible and productive work ethic, punctuality, peaceful conflict resolution, service to others, personal integrity and responsibility are ideals that should be modeled for children by parents, community members, teachers, and administrators. The 'new Ghanaian' must be taught to

believe that no one else can make our country better than Ghanaians themselves.

THE ROLE OF THE DIASPORA

Ghanaians who have earned teaching degrees overseas or who have worked in advanced nations for a length of time should be encouraged to return home to assist as teacher trainers, teachers, and administrators. Retirees who have served in various sectors should also be encouraged to impart their skills to the youth. These individuals can serve as inspiring role models for students.

NEW SOURCES OF FUNDING

The free education policy is going to be a very expensive national project, but the simple answer to the naysayers is the wise adage "*if you think education is expensive, try ignorance*". Additional avenues will have to be explored to provide back-up support to the central government in the provision of adequate funding for education. The, Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) with possible contributions from



religious bodies as well as old student groups could be counted upon.

Real Estates Sector

There is large revenue potential in the real estate sector of the country. An education tax is required in all real estate transactions and when adopted, contracts, purchase, lease and tenancy agreements could only be sealed with proof of payment of the proposed tax.

Development Partners

Enough signals have been given to move the country beyond foreign aid. However, we can call on our development partners, especially the migrant-receiving nations, to assist with our national

priority to improve the quality and accessibility of education.

CHALLENGES

A major identified challenge is lack of Information Communication Technology infrastructure and application within the school system, especially in rural areas. Another hurdle is the burgeoning student populations in the larger second cycle schools. Many more sacrifices are needed for facility expansion in existing institutions alongside the establishment of new fully equipped second cycle institutions in each constituency or district.

CONCLUSION

Every Ghanaian has their perspectives on the big issues of

our time, but we are all in agreement that the seed of a prosperous, inclusive, secure society we want for our children tomorrow must be planted today. The seed begins to take root in the nutrient-rich soil of a quality education available to all our children as prescribed not only by our 1992 Constitution but also as envisioned in the A.U. Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – *“Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”*.

“An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.” – Benjamin Franklin

PERSONAL CYGIENE- THINK PREVENTION!



By:

George Mills

Principal Computer
Operator

Personal Cygiene is a coinage of the term personal cyber hygiene which can be likened to personal hygiene in a cyber space. Personal cygiene is the act of taking steps to ensure optimal performance and enhanced security of one's Internet of Things (IoT).

Practicing Personal Cygiene can help us prevent or minimize cyber-attacks. It is of the utmost importance that we protect our identity and other personal data that could be stolen or compromised. According to the 2019 Identity Fraud Study from Javelin Strategy & Research, the number of consumers who were victims of identity theft decreased from a record high of 16.7 million in 2017 to 14.4 million in 2018 due to the practice of this phenomenon.

The Government of Ghana in digitizing the Ghanaian economy has introduced a number of technological innovations in the field of Information Communication Technology (ICT) to make delivery of public services more reliable and efficient. These innovations include, online passport applications, online registrations at the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority (DVLA), introduction of a paperless system at ports and harbours in Ghana, among

others. With the tremendous growth in the new financial technologies (fintech) including Mobile Money Interoperability, it is essential to be cognisant of the dangers of cyber-attacks as well as the benefits of practicing personal cygiene. Poor personal cygiene can expose one to cyber-attacks including the following:

- **E-mail spoofing:**

E-mail spoofing is basically sending an e-mail with a forged sender address. It is a popular attack where the sender changes the message headers so that messages appear as sent from someone else. Attackers use e-mail spoofing to deceive and dupe employees of a company to fetch their personal data, login credentials and other confidential data.

- **Cyberstalking:**

Cyberstalking is a criminal practice in which an attacker harasses a victim through the internet via e-mail or instant messaging (IM) or messages posted to a discussion group or website. Cyberstalking may include sending manipulative, threatening, lewd or harassing emails from an assortment of email accounts, libel, identity theft, et cetera.

- **Spamming:**

Spamming involves sending indiscriminate messages to a mailing list or a large number of internet users.

- **Hacking:**

"Hacking is identifying weakness in computer systems or networks to exploit its weakness to gain access. An example of hacking is using a password cracking algorithm to gain access to a system".

- **Virus dissemination:**

"A situation where a malicious software attaches to other software that destroys the system of the victim".

- **Dumpster diving:**

A technique used by unauthorized persons to retrieve information of victims by doing a thorough search through trashcans, scouting for receipts and invoices in pursuit of credit card details and other credentials.

- **Cyberbullying:**

The use of electronic communication of an intimidating or threatening nature to bully a person.

Cybercrime is on the rise and this was confirmed in an article by Bob Violino, in which a study by Accenture and the Ponemon Institute revealed that the average cost of cybercrime for an organization had increased by USD1.4 million in 2018 to USD13.0 million and the average number of security breaches in the last year rose by 11 percent from 130% to 145%.

Now let us take a look at some good Personal hygiene practices that

can significantly improve a person's security when using online devices.

- **Know your devices:**

Know your hardware specifications, such as computers (Hard Disk Drive (HDD) 500gig, Random Access Memory (RAM) 4gig), printers (Printing type, paper size, printing technology), smartphones (Operating system, display, chipset, RAM) and tablets. Know the software you use for example Adobe reader, Microsoft Office.

- **Regular password change:**

The computer stores many sensitive data. One security nugget usually given to users is to regularly change their passwords. According to Thytocitic, 80% of all cyber security attacks involve a weak or stolen password. Changing your password regularly reduces your risk of exposure and avoids a number of dangers.

- **Regular software update:**

Software updates are imperative as they include critical patches to security lapses. They can also improve your software stability and remove outdated features.

- **Regular hardware update:**

Upgrading the hardware components for example, the computer's RAM and hard drive can significantly improve the computer's performance and run programs efficiently.

- **Regular data backup:**

Backing up of data is to create a duplication that can be recovered in the event of data failure which can be the result of software or

hardware failure, natural disaster, or data corruption, such as a malicious attack.

- **Practice selective software installation:**

The world wide web is made of vast traps for novice users when downloading a software. There are a lot of fake "Download" buttons that are actually advertisements. Refrain from installing any advertised software that does not serve your purpose to avoid viruses and malwares. Always install software that is needed to complete a specific task from reliable sources.

- **Installing antivirus software:**

An antivirus software is like the police officer at the gate of a computer system. It protects the computer from incoming threats, seeks out, destroys and warns of possible threats to the system. New viruses are created all the time and it is the job of the user to find the latest antivirus software to combat these threats.

A cyber-attack, just like a deadly disease may take a lot of time to resolve. It may also be more expensive to cure, therefore we must learn to prevent rather than going through the pains for a cure. The human being has been identified as the weakest link in the cyber security chain that means you can be your weakest link. Make it your responsibility to practice Personal Hygiene in this information age and it might help you eliminate cyber threats and reduce the risks of cyber-attacks.

DEXT TECHNOLOGY LIMITED BECOMING A GLOBAL LEADER IN STEM EDUCATION



According to the United Nations Africa Renewal Magazine (October 2017), Africa needs at least 45% of its workforce to be scientists and engineers in order to sufficiently grow and develop. However, for many primary school students across Africa, the subject of science and engineering seem difficult and uninteresting. This is largely due to the lack of tools and facilities needed to teach science in a practical way. This has led to a general disinterest in science with only 12% of students currently



choosing to pursue the subject in Africa.

At USD10,000, the average cost of a science laboratory is too high for most communities leaving up to 90% of schools without a well-equipped science laboratory.

Over the past two years, a company which was founded by two young innovators from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology has been developing what they call the science set – a groundbreaking yet simple product that could solve this continental problem.

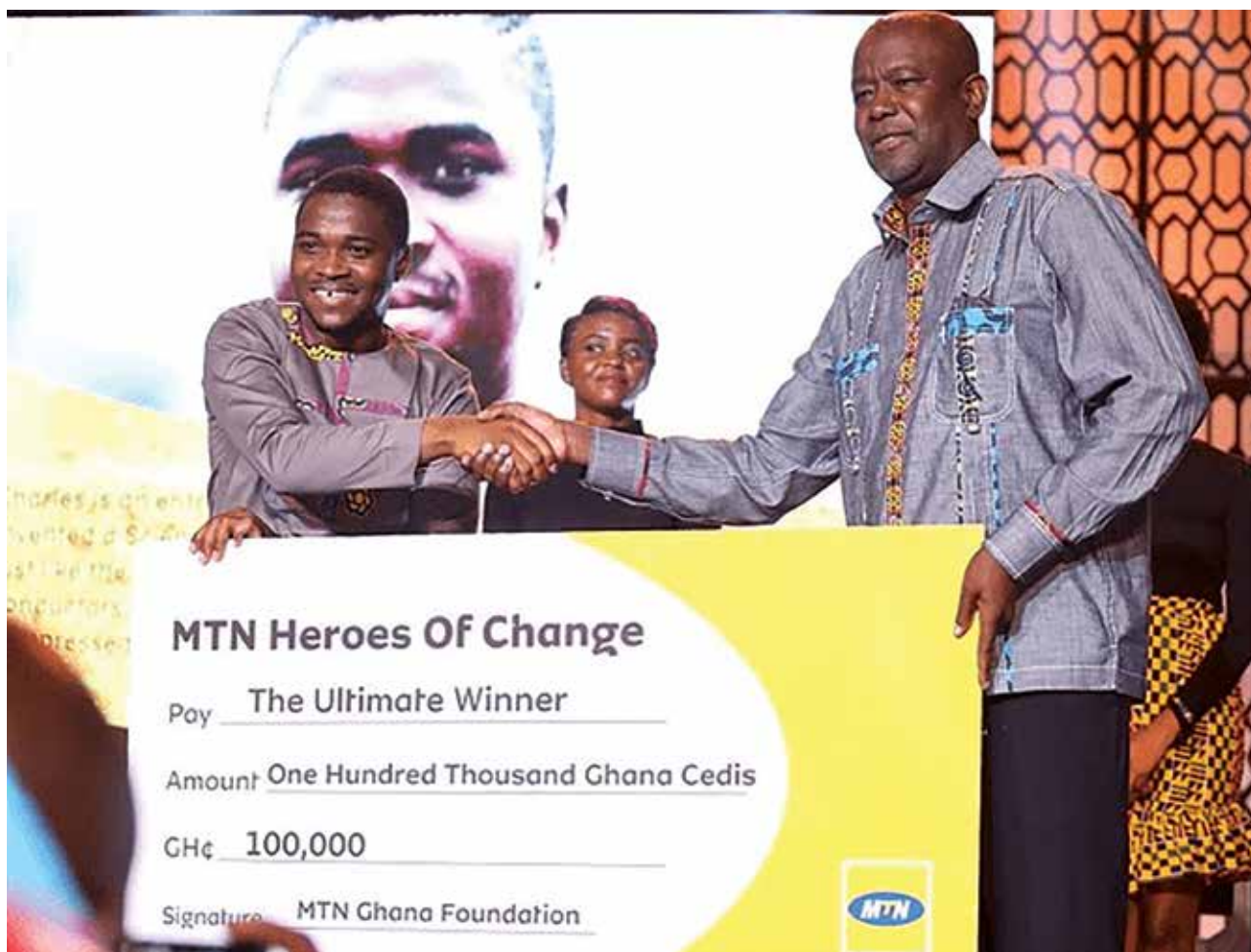
The science set, which was adjudged the most innovative education solution on the African continent by the African Union in 2018, is a 'lab' that is small enough to fit in a student's bag. A textbook sized box that contains over 45 materials and components for experiment, the science

set can engage 30 times more students compared to a traditional laboratory for half the cost.

The science set has electronic components, a robot and solar panels along with other materials that enable the effective teaching and learning of fundamental 21st century science and engineering concepts. Furthermore, besides providing an unparalleled personalized experience, the science set provides the easiest and least intimidating path to introduce students to innovation, technology and problem-solving.

Currently, the science set can be found in over 700 schools in Ghana and abroad with awards from several international organization including, International Trade Center (ITC), American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the Royal Academy of Engineering.

Dext Technology is partnering with Government and organizations to bring their innovative product to schools all over the continent and around the world. Their vision is to propel Africa to become a global leader in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education.



In August 2019, Dext Technology collaborated with the Royal Academy of Engineering to supply five hundred (500) schools in the UK with resources, which included the science set that will be used to help build students' creative capacity and introduce them to problem-solving as well as innovation. With the aid of the science set, which is fully manufactured in Ghana, these schools will also teach students about smart homes, green energy, electronics and vertical farming.



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THE REALITIES OF A DUTY TOUR ABROAD



By:
Rose Adobea Agyapong
FSO C2

Most of the time, you will have mixed feelings when you are posted abroad. There is always a sense of excitement, but also anxiety: excitement because you are going abroad to represent your country and to enjoy the conditions that come with it; anxiety because of the unknown. You never get to see the full picture of what awaits you until you get there; and when you do, the reality can hit you as hard as a tornado.

The schedule at post may be different from that at base. The work is very hectic, and you need to keep pace with the dictates of each day. You must keep up with arriving early, closing late, the weekend duties, the emergency and unexpected protocol requirements... and the list goes on and on and on. But that is not the full story – there is a lot to learn from all of these if you apply yourself diligently to your work; and that, essentially, is what you are sent to do – to work.

You also have an opportunity to deepen your cross-cultural experience and learning about the country in which you live – the people, their language, values, and customs, among others. Understanding your new society is essential to your daily existence and ability to work effectively at post. Therefore, take advantage and learn new things. It will be good for your own development and world view.

The tricky part of your duty tour abroad, however, is how you relate

with your own colleague officers in the Mission. It is often said that your tour of duty is as successful as the people you meet at post. Team work is always the desired expectation. But that is sometimes not the case. Because of the close working environment, you get to know some officers much better when they are at post. Officers you work with at base whom you consider to be pleasant, hardworking and easy to relate with may suddenly turn out differently. But you will also encounter very affable officers, sometimes to your own surprise; perhaps they didn't show those attributes whilst at base – warm, affectionate and mature.

Always remember that your job at post is to help build our nation, Ghana. You need to dedicate yourself to your work, concentrate on what you are assigned to do and give it your best. Some duty posts can be challenging, especially in situations where officers cannot be joined by their families; and the last thing they need is for you to be the source of further stresses.

Now you know. More than anything else, pray for the right team both at post and at base and also make the personal effort to develop cordial relations with all colleagues. You will thank me later for this tip.

MY NATIONAL SERVICE EXPERIENCE



By:

Daniel Awoonor-Williams

National Service Person,
2018/2019

In September 2018, I was posted to do my one-year mandatory National Service at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration. The very thought of working there got me thrilled. I would soon come to realise that work there was overwhelming due to the critical role played by the Ministry both within the country and overseas.

I was assigned to the Office of the Chief Director with five other Service Persons. Our duties included: research, basic administrative tasks including updating internal and external directories, as well as assisting in organising Bureau meetings.

My earliest memory goes back to the first month when the Service Persons in my Bureau were tasked to coordinate a project. Under the mentorship and guidance of our immediate superiors, we were able to coordinate and work as a team. It gave us a sense of accomplishment as we managed to complete our very first assignment on time. It was a whole new learning experience for me, and I could realize that my organizational skills had improved.

Over time, I got to hone basic administrative skills and learned to work under pressure. Some of these skills were utilized unconsciously.

I believe the toughest challenge I came across was when about three months into the Service, my colleagues and I

were tasked to create a matrix in order to track some delivery outcomes. Indeed, this task was tedious because we were required to constantly follow up at every Bureau to gather data. We had to work under a lot of pressure to meet the deadline as this task was to be accomplished in a single week.

The Ministry organised monthly lecture series that both Staff and National Service Persons could attend. These lecture series were insightful and refreshing, as each session offered a new learning experience and also deepened my knowledge on a wide range of subjects.

The work environment was collaborative and fast-paced as most assignments were treated with a degree of urgency. Initially, this was something I struggled with since I preferred working alone but I had to change. You get to know that you cannot do everything by yourself. At one point, I realised the importance of teamwork.

The most memorable experience I had during my National Service was being surrounded by professional supervisors and interesting friends.

In a nutshell, working at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration has not only equipped me with diverse working skills but ultimately has piqued my interest in diplomacy.

The Better You



By:
Grace Maakinyi Mbiba
FSO A5

POEM

Life is not a race but a stage
Life is a journey full of struggles
Life is full of ups and downs
Sometimes smooth, other times rough
It is endlessly indescribable

How well you start matters not
Rather how well you finish
What you start with matters not
Rather what you end with
The end speaks greater volumes

Life is no straight path but a wavy one
With setbacks and obstacles along the way:
The richest man trod the path of wretchedness
The academic encountered numerous failures
The genius, myriad disappointments

No one remembers and cares about your failures-
Neither the incapacities nor inadequacies of the morn
No one recalls the painful moments and disappointments-
Neither the countless setbacks nor the lonely struggles
And certainly, neither the shame nor even the disgrace along the way

Remain resilient and hopeful beyond the seen
Keep the lamp burning bright
Remain assiduous and optimistic
Trust in your Maker's leading
Trust in His perfect timing and purpose

For in just a little while, the dawn will break with joy and laughter
A new chapter will unfold
And you'll reach your desired haven
Then will you realise this one truism of life:
That life's wavy unpleasantness
Only prepares and refines you
For a better YOU!

SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE MINISTRY

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration renders some services to the general public through its bureaux and offices. Some of which include the Accra International Conference Centre, the Legal and Consular Bureau and the Passports Office.

ACCRA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE (AICC)

The Accra International Conference Centre (AICC), formerly known as the NAM Conference Centre, was built in 1991 to host the Tenth Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) that was held in Accra in September 1991. The AICC is the biggest host of conferences in Ghana and one of the leading conference centres in Africa. It is a multi-purpose conference centre capable of seating over 3,000 people.

Facilities at the AICC

1. Conference Halls.

These are: the Main Hall or Auditorium, two Committee Halls, three Meeting Rooms and a Foyer.

a. Main Hall/ Auditorium

The Auditorium provides seating for up to 1,600 people with a Gallery that has 132 seats. The hall provides full audio facility for simultaneous interpretation into five languages. The multi-purpose hall can also be used for musical shows, concerts, lectures, theatrical performances and other public events.

b. Committee Halls

Two (2) Committee Halls can be found on the ground floor, each with a seating capacity of 208 persons. Each Committee Hall has audio facilities for simultaneous interpretation into five (5) languages as well as for television transmission.

c. Meeting Rooms

The Centre has three Meeting Rooms; two (2) on the ground floor; with 34 and 54

seats respectively, while the third room is on the first floor and can seat 54 persons.

d. Foyer

The Foyer has a seating capacity of six hundred (600) people. It can also be used as an exhibition area capable of hosting a minimum of fifty (50) exhibitors.

2. Press Centre (West Wing)

The Press Centre is located on the first floor and equipped with modern facilities for eighty (80) Journalists. The Press Centre also consists of a working area which can be used for exhibitions, lunch, dinner, cocktail, etc.

3. The Ground Floor Corridors:

Corridor I & II (East Wing & West Wing)

These can also be used for exhibition, dinner, lunch and reception for 150–200 people.

4. Corridor III (East Wing)

Also located on the first floor, (East Wing), is a corridor which has a snack bar and seating space for two hundred (200) persons for dinner, cocktail, lunch and exhibition.

5. Corridor IV (West Wing)

On the first floor, adjoining the Press Centre, is a snack bar and an area with a seating capacity of one hundred and fifty (150) people, suitable for dinner, cocktail, lunch and exhibition as well.

6. Outdoor Grounds

The grounds of the AICC are also available for events.

RESERVATIONS

Further enquiries may be made at:

Telephone: +233 302 669 600

Email: aicc@mfa.gov.gh

aicc.enquiries@gmail.com

THE LEGAL AND CONSULAR BUREAU

The objective of the Legal and Consular Bureau (LECB) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration is to provide legal and consular services in the implementation of the Foreign Policy Objectives of Ghana.

Legal Services

The Bureau provides legal counsel to the government on its international obligations and contributes in the negotiation and interpretation of international agreements. The Bureau further prepares instruments of ratification and coordinates activities arising from Ghana's participation in the affairs of the multilateral bodies such as the United Nations (UN), African Union (AU) and ECOWAS.

Consular Services

The Bureau works with Ghana Missions abroad to extend consular assistance and protection to Ghanaians abroad and informs Ghanaians on matters relating to consular protection overseas. In line with government policy to support Ghanaians abroad, the Bureau provides a wide range of consular assistance to Ghanaians, ranging from tracing lost relatives abroad, claims for compensation for death, injury or loss of employment, burial of deceased relatives and claims thereon, to liaising with host authorities of countries to trace culprits of fraudulent deals against Ghanaians/foreigners and monetary claims arising from commercial transactions.

In collaboration with the Ghana Immigration Service and the Ministry of the Interior, the Bureau processes

all requests for Residence Permits, Work Permits and Visas for Diplomatic staff and their families/dependents as well as handling applications for travel certificates for foreign nationals. The Bureau also handles requests for extension of consular access to foreign nationals in Ghanaian prisons.

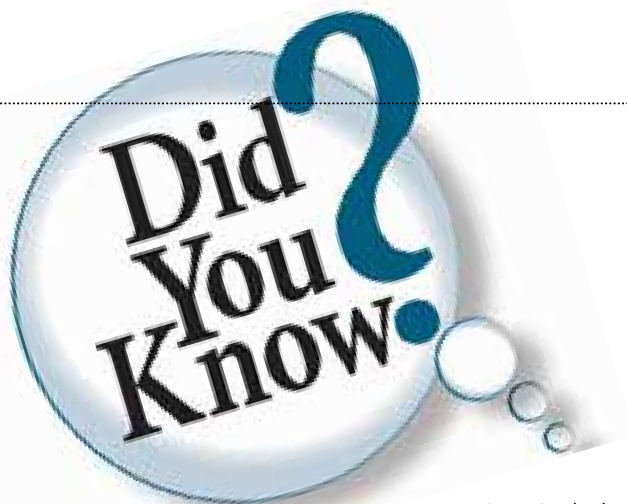
The Bureau further processes applications for renunciation and dual citizenship received from Missions abroad. The Bureau also undertakes the attestation/legalisation of documents as well as foreign entities' requests for verification of documents issued by Ghanaian authorities.

The fees for Consular Services are as follows:

NO.	SERVICES	PRICE
1	Attestation of legal documents	GH¢ 37.50
2	Travel certificates	GH¢ 37.50
3	Visa on arrival for diplomatic entities	Gratis
4	Residence permit for members of diplomatic Missions and international organisations	Gratis
5	Application for dual citizenship from Ghana Missions abroad	Payable at the Missions
6	Application for renunciation of citizenship from Ghana Missions abroad	Payable at the Missions
7	Application for diplomatic and service passport	Gratis
8	Consular assistance to Ghanaians in Ghana and abroad	

NB: Please note that the above quoted reviewed fees by the Government, will take effect within the first quarter of 2020.





PASSPORTS OFFICE

The Passports Office exists to issue passports and other travel documents of Ghana to Ghanaian Citizens in accordance with the Passports and Travel Certificate Decree 1967, (NLCD 155). The broad objective of the Passports Office is to ensure the security and integrity of Ghanaian passports.

HOW TO APPLY FOR A GHANA PASSPORT?

There are two (2) ways of applying for a Ghana passport: The Online Passport Application and Manual Passport Application.

For online applications visit passport.mfa.gov.gh and log in as an existing user or register and sign up as a new user.

Online payment options include the following:

1. e-voucher from the following Banks:
 - a) Ecobank Ghana
 - b) GCB Bank
 - c) Zenith Bank
2. Mobile Money payments
 - a) MTN Mobile Money
 - b) AirtelTigo Cash
 - c) Vodafone Cash
3. Debit or Credit Cards
 - VISA and Master Cards

For manual applications visit <https://mfa.gov.gh>

Click on the Passports tab and follow the manual passport application link. Download and print PDF form, fill and attach all the necessary documents, proceed to any passport application centre nationwide for capturing and processing. *(Please note that the manual passport application platform will cease to operate by the end of the first quarter of 2020).*

Payment options include:

1. Mobile Money payments
 - a) MTN Mobile Money
 - b) AirtelTigo Cash
 - c) Vodafone Cash
2. Debit or Credit Cards
 - VISA and Master Cards

FEES AND CHARGES

- Express (32 pages) GH¢150.00
(48 pages) GH¢200.00
- Regular (32 pages) GH¢100.00
(48 pages) GH¢150.00

NB: Please note that the above quoted reviewed fees by the Government, will take effect within the first quarter of 2020.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. Birth Certificate (proof of Ghanaian citizenship or old passport, if a renewal)
2. Documents to support identity such as driver's license, national ID card;
3. Proof of profession, a work related photo ID card or an introductory letter from the applicant's employer. A student ID is required if the applicant is in school.

REQUIREMENTS FOR BIOMETRIC PASSPORT RENEWAL

1. Completed passport application form
2. Old passport
3. Copy of valid visa if applicant has any in old passport
4. Copy of last page
5. Proof of profession if changed

REQUIREMENTS FOR MISSING PASSPORT

1. Completed passport application form
2. Police report
3. Affidavit

4. Birth certificate
5. Proof of identity

REQUIREMENTS FOR DAMAGED PASSPORT

1. Old damaged passport
2. Affidavit
3. Birth certificate (if ID page of passport is destroyed)
4. Proof of identity

REQUIREMENTS FOR CHANGE OF NAME

1. Marriage/divorce certificate
2. Affidavit
3. Gazette

REQUIREMENTS FOR CHANGE OF DATE OF BIRTH

1. Affidavit
2. Gazette



ADDRESSES OF PASSPORT APPLICATION CENTRES (PACs)

Location	Address	Contact
Ridge PAC (official only)	Ridge	0299015612
Accra PAC	Kinbu (old Foreign Affairs building)	0299015600
Tema PAC	Community 4, former IRS Office	0299015613
Accra Premium PAC	Accra Digital Centre, near STC	0299015599
Kumasi PAC	Ministries Adum	0299015601
Kumasi Premium PAC	Thankful Heights Building, Adum	0302214944
Takoradi PAC	Ghana Immigration Service	0299015614
Sunyani PAC	Adjacent to Jubilee Park	0299015596
Ho PAC	Ghana Immigration Service	0299015597
Tamale PAC	Police Park (old library)	0299015598
Koforidua PAC	PWD Office, SSNIT Office Area	0299015595

As part of efforts to enhance service delivery, the Ministry has set up a Client Service Unit, which operates a call-in-system. This enables clients to get in touch with the Ministry no matter where they are located. The Client Service Unit can be reached on **+233 302 73 84 73**

DIPLOMATIC PROTOCOL

A GUIDE FOR
GHANAIAN DIPLOMATS AND
SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS



Harold Adlai Agyeman, FSO A1

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President of the Republic of Ghana
by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
and Regional Integration.