



GCNet

Ghana Community Network Services Limited

NEWS

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JUL- DEC 2017



GCNet HOSTS 6TH INTERNATIONAL SINGLE WINDOW CONFAB IN GRAND STYLE

- ▶ GCNet Still Leads In Ghana's ICT Sector
- ▶ GCNet Shows The Way In e-Health And Cross Border Data Management
- ▶ Vice President Praises GCNet And Registrar-General's Department

Millionth New Taxpayer Identification Number Issued

- Over 1 million Taxpayers have now registered with GRA for a new TIN
- trips™ tax administration system is now available nationwide in 59 GRA offices.

Between January and December 2017, over 258,000 new Tax Identification Numbers (TINs) were issued, up by 68% compared to the same period in 2016. The Millionth new TIN was issued at the Nkawkaw Small Taxpayer Office (STO) on December 14th 2017 marking another milestone in the roll-out of GRA's new computerised nationwide tax system, trips™, a system managed by GCNet on behalf of the Government of Ghana. This is largely due to the total number of Live Offices now using the Total Revenue Integrated Processing System (trips™) which stands at 59.

No New TIN? Register Today

If you have not registered for a new TIN it is essential that you do so as soon as possible. You can go to any Tax Office, complete the form and receive your TIN Certificate on the same day. The issuance of a TIN is free, all you need to do is bring a clear copy of a valid ID (National ID Card, Voters Card, Driving License or Passport) together with the ID itself. If you have a new TIN you must ensure that it is registered in the Tax Office where you pay tax.

Our Taxes Our Future

The Total Revenue Integrated Processing System (trips™) is a software for tax administration under the e-Government project headed by the Ministry of Communication. trips™ seeks to streamline and bring transparency to the business operations of the GRA Domestic Tax Revenue Division (DTRD).

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CONTENT

04	GCNet Still Leads In Ghana's ICT Sector: 20 th In Ghana Club 100 Ranking
06	Government Deepens Paperless Process with Launch of Revamped e-MDA Portal
08	Domestic Tax Collection Processed Through GCNet trips™ Hits 15.7 Billion Ghana Cedis
10	GCNet Hosts 6th International Single Window Confab in Grand Style
13	GCNet Participates In Ghana Transport and Logistics Business Strategy Round-table 2017
14	GCNet Joins AITI-KACE to Observe 2017 Innovation Week
16	Review Workshop On Paperless After 2 Months of Roll Out At The Ports
18	Vice President Launches RGD's e-Certificate On e-Registrar Portal
21	GCNet Pushes For Clarity On Single Window Parameters At 6th International Single Window Confab
23	Competition & Innovation Critical To Government Industrialisation Agenda
28	Company Registration In Ghana Goes Paperless
30	GCNet Deepens Relations With Parliament: Receives Select Committees On Communications And Trade And Industry On Working Visit
32	GCNet's LOC Recognised As Best Digital Finance Innovation Product
33	GCNet Consolidates Status As ICT Company Of The Year
34	GCNet Shows The Way In e-Health Product Innovation
35	GCNet Facilitates Roll Out Cross Border Data Management Programme
36	GCNet Sponsors Africa Mobile And ICT Expo 2017
38	8 th African Shippers' Day Celebration Held In Accra





GCNet STILL LEADS IN GHANA'S ICT SECTOR 20TH IN GHANA CLUB 100 RANKING

The Ghana Community Network Services Limited emerged the best ICT Company at the sixteenth edition of the Ghana Club 100 Awards organized by the Ghana Investment Promotion Centre (GIPC) in Accra recently.

The company also improved its rankings from 24th position in 2016 to the 20th position in the 2017 GC100 top companies rankings.

The Ghana Club 100 (GC100) is an awards scheme aimed at recognising Ghana's 100 most successful enterprises with a focus on corporate excellence.

Companies making it into the GC100 serve as role models for the private sector and provide a forum for corporate Ghana to interact with the government at a high level.

This year's event was on the **theme: "Industrialization: A Tool for Job Creation and Accelerated Economic Development"**.

GCNet's recognition as a leader in the ICT sector ranking was a result of its continued investments in building I.T infrastructure as well as ensuring integrity and excellence in its operations.

The Award was also anchored on

the Tier III Data Centre. It operates on international models which guarantees 99.982% availability for Tier III facilities.

Mr. Carl Sackey, Product Development Manager, who received GCNet's award gave the assurance that GCNet remained committed to the provision of the state of the art e-Solutions in Africa with tailored service offerings to ease the burden of doing business and add value to the trade chain while maximizing revenue collection.

"We will build on our years of track record of excellence and innovation while working with Government and the people of Ghana to contribute to national development for the benefit of all Ghanaians" Mr. Sackey reiterated.

Mr. Sackey observed that GCNet continued to leverage on many international certification regimes including ISO27001 for information security management and ISO9000 for quality management to further ensure security standards and compliance catering for the over

97 Customs sites and more than 50 Tax offices of the Ghana Revenue Authority across the length and breadth of the country.

Speaking on behalf of the President, the Senior Minister, Hon Yaw Osafo Marfo, stressed that the top 100 companies in the country have a responsibility to help government to develop the economy by generating employment and move Ghana from low middle income country to middle income proper and finally to a developed country.

"Once you are in this top 100, you cannot do business as usual, each of you must try and bring improvement in your respective business operations" he added.

In all, one hundred companies received awards for their respective rankings. This year's event also witnessed Special Awards for outstanding business performers in selected categories, including Corporate Social Responsibility and the Highest Tax Paying Company.



GOVERNMENT DEEPENS PAPERLESS PROCESS WITH LAUNCH OF REVAMPED E-MDA PORTAL



The Deputy Minister of Finance in charge of Revenue Mobilization, Hon. Kwaku Kwarteng launched the revamped electronic portal for Ministries, Departments and Agencies (e-MDA Portal) to facilitate approvals, exemptions and permits in the clearance chain.

The upgraded electronic platform (e-MDA portal), developed and deployed by the Ghana Community Network Services Limited (GCNet) would enable MDAs and their clients process applications for duty and tax exemptions electronically.

Hon. Kwaku Kwarteng lauded the initiative revealing that the effective usage of the system would help remove human interfaces

in the exemptions application process and deepen the paperless processes for port clearances introduced since September 2017.

Hon. Kwarteng said that the usage of the portal would help improve the tracking and monitoring processes for exemptions granted and the purposes for which such exemptions were granted.

He explained that Government at the beginning of 2017 had embarked upon a comprehensive review of import duty / tax exemptions granted to importers, which amounted to GH¢4 billion in 2016.

It would be recalled that Government in the 2017 Budget outlined a tax policy regime aimed

at boosting revenue, through strengthening tax administration, reduction in tax exemptions as well as combating tax evasion. As part of the exemptions review, a transitional arrangement was adopted under which, importers were obliged to make duty / tax payments and seek refunds subsequently.

To ensure that the exemptions facility is not abused, the Ministry of Finance has requested all exemption granting MDAs to be fully connected to the e-MDA Portal that is used to process applications for exemptions and permits required for trade and customs transactions to process such applications electronically within a paperless milieu, Hon. Kwarteng stressed.



He urged Ministries and their respective agencies to ensure continuous use of the Portal as further rationalization of the exemptions policy would be pursued in 2018.

He announced that the full implementation of the Excise Tax Stamp would be integrated into the Ghana Customs Management System (GCMS) also deployed for GRA (Customs Division) by GCNet to boost revenue collection and curtail the under-invoicing as well as smuggling of imported goods as well as imitation of locally produced goods.

Hon. Kwarteng stressed the need to sustain the positive efforts made as the Ministry would embark upon an intensive revenue mobilization drive as part of measures expected to be introduced under the 2018 Budget to generate necessary funding for the programmes to be pursued.

The Executive Director of GCNet, Mr Emmanuel Darko, said beyond enhancing government revenue, the new exemption system would create a platform for record-keeping of the exemptions granted.

He said the e-exemption system would help curtail some of the irregularities in the old exemption process, which is open to abuse since all the approvals will be given on the e-MDA portal so that it could leave the trail.

Currently, more than 35 MDAs including the Minerals Commission, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Food and Drugs Authority, and the Ghana Free Zones Board are connected to the e-MDA portal which handles requests and approvals for permits and exemptions.



#OurTaxesOurFuture

DOMESTIC TAX COLLECTION PROCESSED THROUGH GCNet TRIPS HITS 15.7 BILLION GHANA CEDIS

The swift migration of taxpayers onto trips™ in all tax offices across the nation to guarantee speedy processing of tax returns and enhance revenue administration is gradually yielding the expected dividends as more tax offices continue to use trips™ in revenue collection efforts. This has been occasioned by an internal campaign in the form of a competition and awards scheme to motivate staff to use trips™ for TIN Registration, Tax Types Registration, Return Processing and the other modules initiated by the Ghana Revenue Authority and their Private Partner GCNet in order to promote the use of trips™.

The second half of 2017 saw quarter 2 and quarter 3 joint winners being declared. For the second quarter, another five tax offices (Kasoa Small Tax Office, Spintex Medium Tax Office, Agbogloboshie Small Tax Office, Asokwa Medium Tax Office and Sunyani Tax Office) were recognised as joint winners in the competition.

For quarter 3, a further five tax offices (Adabraka Medium Tax Office, Mataheko Small Tax Office, Agbogloboshie Medium Tax Office, Kaneshie Medium Tax Office and Ho Small Tax Office) were recognised as joint winners in the competition.

Earlier in the year – the first half 2017 – the first five joint winners for the competition were Large Tax Office, Spintex Medium Tax Office, Teshie Nungua Small Tax Office, Madina Small Tax Office and Adenta Small Tax Office. These offices were recognised as joint winners in the first quarter competition for their continued use of the Total Revenue Integrated Processing Systems (trips™) in revenue collection efforts of the Authority.

Over a million tax payers have been registered with the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) for the new Tax Identification Number (TIN) since the introduction of the regime.

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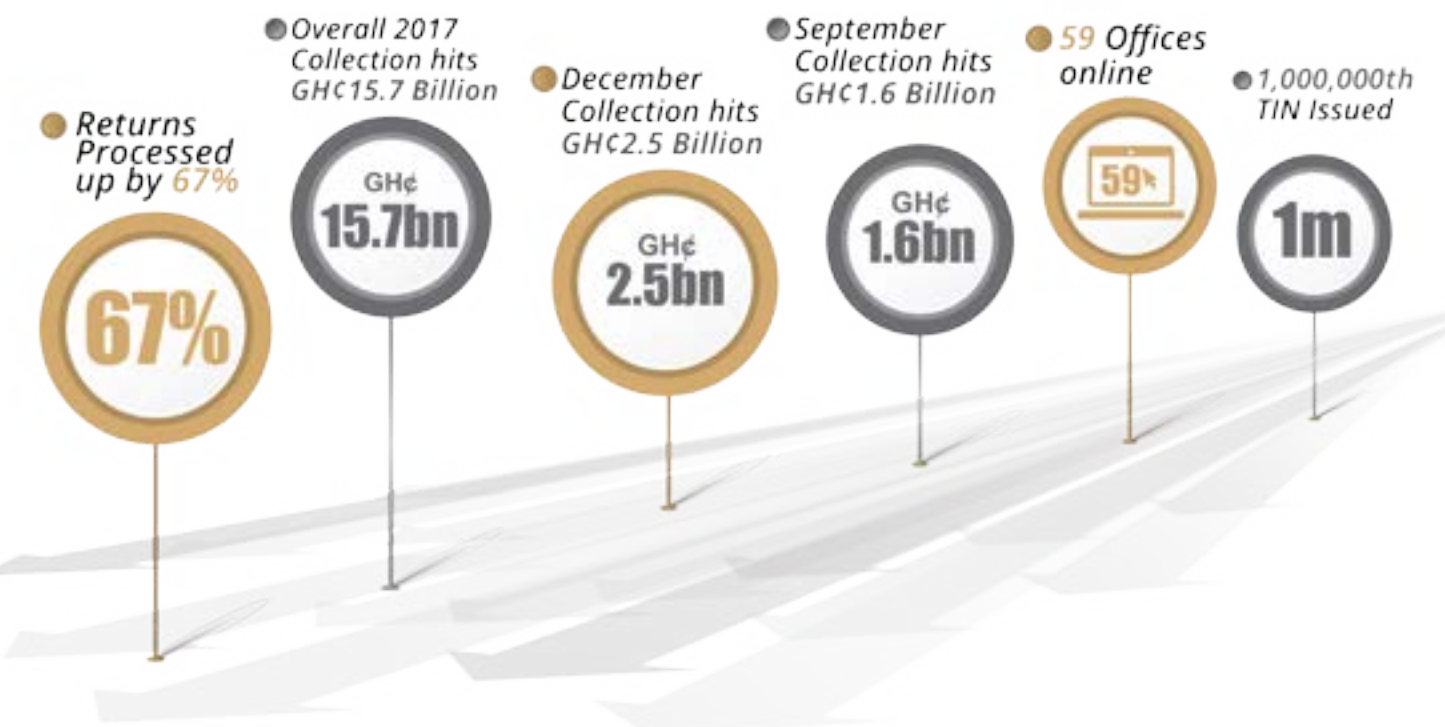
14th, 2017 marking another milestone in the roll-out of GRA's new computerised nationwide tax system, trips™, a system managed by GCNet on behalf of the Government of Ghana. With the expanded roll out of trips™ across all offices of the Domestic

Tax Division of the Ghana Revenue Authority nationwide, more individuals and entities will be roped into the tax net to enhance revenue mobilization efforts to meet national development needs.

The component of domestic tax collection and processed through the deployment of the GCNet's Total Revenue Integrated Processing System (trips™) in 2017 hit almost sixteen billion Ghana Cedis representing a thirty two per cent (32%) increase over the same period in 2016.

Over the past four years, there has been a sustained increase in domestic tax collection processed through Total Revenue Integrated Processing System (trips™) from GH¢3 billion that was recorded in 2014, to almost GH¢9 billion Ghana Cedis in 2015 and to almost GH¢12 billion Ghana Cedis in 2016.

The increase in domestic tax collection and processing through trips™, which has contributed to the overall domestic tax revenue, has been achieved with the deployment of more than 45 new offices by the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) between January and December, 2017. This brings the total number of Live Offices now using the Total Revenue Integrated Processing System (trips™) to 59.





GCNet HOSTS 6TH INTERNATIONAL SINGLE WINDOW CONFAB IN GRAND STYLE

Ghana showcased the latest developments in cross border e-commerce and the role of Single Window in Trade Facilitation when she hosted the sixth international single window conference in October 2017 in Accra at the plush Kempinski Gold Coast Hotel.

Organised by the African Alliance for E-Commerce (AACE) under the auspices of the Ministry of Trade and Industry in partnership with the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) and GCNet, the 3-day conference and exhibition was on the theme; ***“Trade Facilitation Agreement and E-Commerce Development: The role of Single Window as Catalyst”***

Opening the conference and exhibition, Vice President of Ghana, H.E. Dr. Mahamadu Bawumia challenged participants to let the outcomes of the conference

inform policies in the area of trade facilitation on the continent of Africa.

He commended the Ghana Community Network Services Limited (GCNet) for its pioneering role in the provision of single window platform and e-Solutions services for trade facilitation and revenue mobilization in Ghana over the years. He further expressed gratitude to AACE and other partners for their support to promote the concept of national Single Window.

According to Dr. Bawumia, the timing of the conference was very appropriate as it happened at a time Ghana was putting in place far reaching measures to improve the business environment to facilitate trade and urged participants to continue sharing knowledge and experiences when they returned

to their various countries.

Dr. Bawumia informed delegates that Ghana had removed all internal custom barriers and redeployed personnel to more critical operational areas in line with its efforts to facilitate trade. This, according to the Vice President, had resulted in increased free movement of goods between the country's ports and that of its neighbours.

The Vice President noted that the implementation of the paperless port project, as initiated by government to address the issue of revenue leakage at the ports, due to the many human interventions in the process flow, was yielding positive results and pledged government's commitment to ensure its continued implementation.

“I am happy to report that the introduction of the paperless port programme in September after we announced it in May, has been achieved without spending a pesewa. It was achieved through collaboration with the relevant stakeholders” Dr. Bawumia said.



“I am happy to report that the introduction of the paperless port programme in September after we announced it in May, has been achieved without spending a pesewa. It was achieved through collaboration with the relevant stakeholders” Dr. Bawumia said.

On the new Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) signed in February 2017, Dr. Bawumia announced that to further facilitate trade, Ghana had signed an MOU with the United States government under the new US Trade Africa initiative to expand bilateral trade and investment cooperation to court support in four broad areas.

He therefore urged other countries which have not signed on to the TFA to follow Ghana's example, reminding delegates to help address the challenges that might be hindering the early signing on to the agreement by other countries.

Dr. Bawumia referred to the WTO estimates that the full implementation of its TFA could reduce trade cost by an average of 14.3% and boost global trade by up to \$1trillion per year with the biggest gainers being the poorest countries.

Welcoming delegates, Executive Chairman of GCNet, Dr. Nortey

Omaboe noted that the sixth international single window conference and exhibition presented an opportunity for industry players to deliberate on critical issues that impact trade development, trade facilitation and economic integration.

Dr. Omaboe therefore emphasized the need to establish new benchmarks that would be necessary in the journey towards the full attainment of all the goals enunciated under the World Trade Facilitation Agreement as well as other relevant protocols such as the World Customs Organisation framework of standards.





GCNet Participates In Ghana Transport and Logistics Business Strategy Roundtable 2017



The Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry, Hon. Robert Ahomka-Lindsay, said the conference provided a unique opportunity for policy makers and experts among others, to exchange views on single window and how it could be implemented effectively.

According to him, single window came in many forms so it required close collaboration for exchange of information between the private sector and governments in Africa

and beyond, saying a successful implementation of the concept could result in transformational development for countries.

The 2017 edition of the International Single Window Conference emphasised contributions and experiences from countries who had been implementing the Single Window concept in their various jurisdictions and how that had deepened E-Commerce and Trade Facilitation.

The conference, as the flagship largest global trade gathering of experts, policy makers, actors and partners on the continent, brought together more than 300 local and international participants from over 20 countries to deliberate on the way forward on the latest developments in cross border E-Commerce and the role of Single Windows in Trade Facilitation.

The Ghana Shippers Authority hosted the first Ghana Transport and Logistics Business Strategy Roundtable 2017 on the theme "Ghana's New Momentum: Promoting Sustainable Transport and Logistics Value Chains through Public-Private Dialogue".

Held from August 16 – August 18, 2017 in collaboration with the Ministries of Railway Development, Aviation and Business Development, the event hoped to create a synergy between the Public-Private sector in the transport and logistics and strengthen the collaboration by projecting opportunities for leveraging private and public sector dialogue for sustainable development.

It also assembled players, actors and institutions whose activities relate to the transport and logistics sector, relevant key stakeholders

and other bodies involved in the planning, policy formulation and regulation of the industry including government and non-government sectors.

The Ghana Transport and Logistics Business Strategy Roundtable was the very first time in Ghana that a major transport and logistics stakeholder dialogue platform had been created with the view to creating synergy between the Public and Private sector operators in the industry for efficient transport and logistics delivery in Ghana.

It attracted key personality and key stakeholders in the logistics and transport sectors to deliberate on economic development issues with a view to setting the agenda for Ghana's transport and logistics prosperity.

Delegates stressed the need for government and stakeholders

to deepen sensitisation on the necessity to integrate the country's people, systems and technologies to drive sustainable economic development and influence the adoption of sustainable transport and logistical development policies.

They pushed for greater advocacy programmes through media forums to bring to the attention of all players in the industry, critical transport and logistical development issues that need urgent redress to accelerate socio-economic growth.

The two day roundtable was chaired by the Executive Director of GCNet, Mr. Emmanuel Darko who represented the Executive Chairman of GCNet, Dr Nortey Omaboe.

It was organised by Ridmut Consult Limited.



GCNet Joins AITI-KACE to Observe 2017 Innovation Week



Consistent with its focus to deepen the advocacy on leveraging ICT to promote and enhance the pace of development, GCNet supported the Ghana- India Kofi Annan Centre of Excellence in the celebration of its 2017 edition of Innovation Week.

Themed, "Exponential Technologies and Innovation; An Enabler in The Socio-Economic Development of Ghana", the celebration, which is an annual event seeks to bring together key stakeholders to deliberate on emerging ICT issues which impact development.

Held from December 4 - 8, 2017, the week long celebration focused on embracing innovation and efficiency in all sectors and fast-tracking growth and success rates for Start-ups and SMEs.

The Innovation Week- "i-week" is an initiative of the Ghana - India Kofi Annan Centre of Excellence in ICT, aimed at showcasing ICT innovations in Ghana and her ECOWAS neighbors.

Speaking during a session at the i-week conference, Product Development Manager of GCNet, a sponsoring partner,

Mr. Carl Sackey, shared how his organisation leveraged on ICT solutions to support the automation of the processes of the Customs and Tax Divisions of the Ghana Revenue Authority and the entire port clearance chain.

As a leader and innovator of e-Solutions, Mr. Sackey explained that the interventions by GCNet had significantly boosted the push by Government to leverage on technology to foster trade development, reduce or eliminate human interference, save time and cost and enhance revenue mobilization.

He explained that key milestones such as the deployment of the Ghana Customs Management Systems (GCMS), Ghana Integrated Cargo Clearance Systems (GICCS), the e-Registrar, I - Transit, information text code - 1477 and the Total Revenue Integrated

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) represent key elements for economic and social development in Sub-Saharan Africa. Innovation should be showcased and promoted in all sectors of the economy including education, health, agriculture and business.

The development of home-grown applications, technological solutions, sustainable local ICT services, ICT-driven businesses, the use of Open Source technologies also need to be encouraged and given exposure for the growth of the technology ecosystem.

An additional feature of the 2017 edition of i-week was a 2-day developer-focused session, a purely problem-solving interaction that offers the opportunity to participants to gain practical skills on crafting code, DevOps, frameworks and more.

High Schools who developed an innovative solution which was showcased at the event.

There were vendor demonstrations, where a platform was created for vendors in the EXPONTEch space to showcase their innovative solutions and how the nation can leverage on the technology to develop. Some of the vendors that participated in the week-long celebration are Huawei, Samsung, Microsoft, Google, IBM, CISCO, Nuratel, Ericsson and Oracle, among others.

The itinerary for i-week celebration included the following:

- CTO / CIO / IT Managers Connect – a high-level discussion among decision makers on the current and potential threats to operational excellence and security challenges their organisations faced today.
- EXPONTEch & Drone Show – a platform for entrepreneurs who had built businesses on Exponential technologies and shared experiences on how to cash in on the emerging and lucrative EXPONTEch.
- Discussions around the use of drones in various sectors and demonstrations of how drones could be integrated into consumer and industrial Internet of Things applications.



Processing System (trips™) were all testimony of the pioneering and partnering role that GCNet had been playing in the socio-economic development.

A side attraction for the event was the initiative to unearth talents at the Senior High levels called the Raspberry Pi 4 Senior High; where Teams were selected from Senior





GCNet Holds Review Workshop on Paperless Regime after 2 Months of Rollout

The last quarter of 2017 (October – December) witnessed a number of stakeholder engagements as part of the strategic commitment of GCNet to deepen relationships in delivering services that continually enhance customer experiences in the usage of its e-solutions.

The TradeNet Department held its last in the series of engagements with Freight Forwarders, Shippers, Customs officials and Government agencies among others to continue education on the paperless regime which commenced on September 1, 2017.

Being the last quarter of the year, members were taken through some general guidelines which would positively impact operations throughout the year. Resource persons were drawn from the Customs Division of

the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA), Destination Inspections Companies (DICs) and other Government Agencies.

Stakeholders from the Tema, KIA and Takoradi constituents in the ecosystem in the trade facilitation space were engaged during separate fora to share updates on the progress of the roll out of the paperless system and port clearance issues in the country.

Key among the broad issues that provoked deliberations and ways to address challenges identified included:

- **First-in First-out at Compliance**
- **Paperless exemption**
- **e-Payment**
- **Post Entry After Clearance**
- **Other projects**

Stakeholders in Tema, KIA and Takoradi were informed that

on the matter of first-in first-out at Compliance, discussions were ongoing with Customs to implement a system whereby declarations at Compliance would be worked on a first-in first-out basis.

It was pointed out that declarations that were queried and responded to were expected to be given priority. Further education was given on the changes in relation to the paperless system since roll out.

The changes were being done in consultation with the Customs Division of GRA by GCNet and other partners after reviewing some of the bottlenecks in the whole paperless process to enhance and ensure that the paperless regime worked more efficiently.



On the concern of e-Payment, stakeholders were taken through some of the new means by which as Declarants or Importers they could make payments for their declarations.

Some of the new means of payment included In-branch Banking (any branch of Ecobank or GCB Bank), Mobile Money, Mobile Apps (for the Banks), Internet Banking, use of Credit Card.

It was announced that in the future, clients would be expected to make duty payments at any branch of

other banks.

On the matter of the way forward in managing issues of Post Entry after Clearance, stakeholders were notified of a directive from Customs to GCNet to block Importers and Declarants who had outstanding payments with respect to Post Entry after Clearance from 1st January, 2014.

The directive meant that defaulters were to be automatically unblocked when payment on all affected declarations were made. The commencement date for the

implementation of that directive was 15th November, 2017.

The fora afforded stakeholders the opportunity to be taken through the status of other projects and enhancements that were on-going or had been completed.

These included EXIM Tax Implementation Levy, Free Zones Phase 1, Transit Data Exchange with Cote D'Ivoire, Integration with Terminals and CCVR/BOE Validation among others.





VICE PRESIDENT PRAISES GCNet AND REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

FOR INTRODUCING E-CERTIFICATE ON E-REGISTRAR PORTAL

Ghana took a giant leap towards ease of doing business reforms when it introduced the issuance of the electronic certificate platform on the e-Registrar portal marking the successful implementation of the online registration of companies as well as the authorization of operations of businesses.

The move expected to improve the country's target to perform better than the 46th position on the World Bank doing business index in 2018 is seen by many as a critical step in leveraging on technology to ensure digital transformation for economic growth.

Launching the historic milestone, the Vice President, Dr. Mahamadu Bawumia commended the Registrar-General's Department for its foresight in the adoption of innovative approaches to maximise

revenue for the government and ensure customer satisfaction through technology.

The Vice President observed that the introduction of the issuance of electronic certificate signaled the culmination of hard work to reform and enhance the Registrar-General's Department's service delivery in line with the President's vision to make Ghana the most business-friendly nation in Africa.

Dr Bawumia expressed optimism that once the new Company's Act currently before Parliament was passed into law, the commencement certificate would no longer be a requirement to start a business in addition to the incorporation certificate.

Dr. Bawumia commended development partners for their continued support and partnership

which in his estimation had birthed the online registration of companies which are all part of the reform agenda to re-engineer the business processes of the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) and the Registrar General's Department.

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What we are witnessing today is an example of Public Private Partnership with support from development partners, such as the World Bank with the aim of leveraging technology to ensure digital transformation for development.”



GCNet PUSHES FOR CLARITY ON SINGLE WINDOW PARAMETERS AT 6TH INTERNATIONAL SINGLE WINDOW CONFAB



In her welcome address, the Registrar-General, Mrs. Jemima Oware, indicated that the e-Certificate platform forms part of the Department's measures to leverage on the digital space to provide excellent services to clients.

The Executive Chairman of the Ghana Community Network Services Limited (GCNet), Dr. Nortey Omaboe assured that GCNet was willing to continue to work with government to implement initiatives that will transform the country from a passive technology consumer to one of innovations.

Dr. Omaboe intimated that the technology landscape was experiencing rapid transformation, which required the collaboration between governments and private sector technology experts to keep pace with the transformation.

He noted that it was critical that all important national technology systems were fully integrated within a seamless national technology ecosystem and that GCNet was fully committed unreservedly to play a leading role in that process.

Dr. Omaboe underscored the importance of the roll out as a clear manifestation of the very best of the ideals of a Public Private partnership assuring that the innovative e-applications developed and deployed by GCNet were robust and powerful and the e-certificate launch was an example of just one of such innovations conceived, tested and fully operational.

'We at GCNet fully vouch for the integrity of the technological solution that has been produced and we are extremely proud to be associated with its launch,' Dr. Omaboe assured.

Minister for Justice and Attorney General, Ms. Gloria Akuffo cautioned all stakeholders to avoid abusing the system so as to reap its full benefits to deepen the ease of doing business. She entreated both the Registrar-General's Department and GCNet to adhere to a rigorous and regular maintenance regime so as to gain optimum advantage from the systems.

Ms. Akuffo was optimistic that the new system would efficiently contribute to curbing corruption and address the issue of

overcrowding at the premises of the Registrar-General's Department.

The e-Certificate function on the e-Registrar portal platform is part of a number of online services, including the e-Shop which allows company searches, reservation of company names and the booking of marriage ceremonies amongst others. This is expected to promote the ease of doing business and improve business competitiveness while boosting business confidence and ensuring flexibility, transparency and accountability for Ghanaians.

The launch of the e-Certificate was part of the bigger e-Governance project with part funding by the World Bank conceived as a Design, Finance, Build, Operate and Transfer model to transform public sector service delivery.

The e-Registrar platform is linked to the Total Revenue Integrated Processing System (TRIPS), the domestic tax platform which integrates with the Customs platform and also the expenditure monitoring platform of the Ministry of Finance, known as the Ghana Integrated Financial Management Information System (GIFMIS).



Executive Chairman of the Ghana Community Network (GCNet), Dr. Nortey Omaboe has described as unfortunate the lack of clarity regarding what constitutes single window in Ghana.

According to Dr. Omaboe the non-clarity in the roles of e-solutions providers in the trade facilitation and revenue mobilization space following the cessation of the

destination inspection companies was of great concern to GCNet. He therefore called for urgent steps to address the worrying development with its inherent duplications and unnecessary cost to Government.

In a welcome address to delegates at the 6th International Single Window Conference and Exhibition in Accra, Dr. Omaboe observed that given the importance of trade growth and its facilitation

as well as revenue mobilized for national development, business competitiveness and economic performance, single window systems had been identified in all the relevant international protocols as being key for the integration of all the various systems including transportation, warehousing, cargo, tracking, payments etc that help to promote both trade and revenue flow.



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“The various sessions over the next few days include several important and practical topics and we trust that the industry players will all contribute their various experiences and perspectives towards enriching the outcome of the conference, and providing clarity over several issues surrounding the single window parameters” he said.

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COMPETITION AND INNOVATION CRITICAL TO GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIALIZATION AGENDA



According to him, the conference and exhibition presents an opportunity for industry players to deliberate on critical issues that impact trade development, trade facilitation and economic integration noting that the theme which is, harnessing the single window as a catalyst for trade facilitation and e-commerce was in line with the objectives

of international protocols and particularly for Ghana.

Dr. Omaboe stressed the need to establish new benchmarks that will be necessary in the journey towards the full attainment of all the goals enunciated under the World Trade Facilitation Agreement as well as other relevant protocols such as the World Customs Organisation

framework of standards.

Dr. Omaboe assured delegates that GCNet was poised for further growth and development in the years ahead as it leveraged on its continuous innovations in deploying systems that brought greater value to the Government and people of Ghana

The Minister of Trade and Industry, Hon. Alan Kyerematen has assured that his Ministry will continue to create and promote a competitive environment that fosters innovation and unleashes the spirit of partnership to realise government's trade industrialization agenda.

Speaking at the 2nd National Trade Facilitation Awards (NTFA) ceremony in a speech read on his behalf by the Deputy Minister in Charge of Industry, Mr. Robert Ahomka-Lindsay, Hon. Kyerematen noted rewarding excellence will propel enterprises to constantly develop products and services

with the aim of meeting customers' requirements.

The 2017 NTFA on the theme “Deployment of e-Applications for the Efficient and Paperless Processing of Trade and Customs Transactions” brought together all stakeholders in the trade facilitation space to deliberate on preparations for the implementation of the reforms announced in May by the Vice President, Dr. Mahamadu Bawumia at the Ports Efficiency Conference.

The Ministry of Trade and Industry partnered with the Ghana Community Network Services Limited (GCNet) to host for the

second consecutive year the National Trade Facilitation Awards in July, 2017 at the Labadi Beach Hotel in Accra. The National Trade Facilitation Awards (NTFA) which rewards excellence in the country's trade facilitation industry was instituted in 2016 and designed to serve as a competitive barometer that drives industry players to achieve excellence in service delivery.

Hon. Alan Kyerematen noted that trade facilitation had increasingly become an important tool in integrating economies into global value chains, and creating wealth among nations while generating employment.





He announced that his Ministry had taken some pragmatic steps, including the launch of a Business Regulations Strategy (BRS) aimed at eliminating constraints to economic development, deepening and broadening current reform efforts in order to establish a national regulatory environment that sustainably reduces all the red-tape and barriers and better promotes private sector activity and job creation.

Hon. Kyerematen assured stakeholders that his Ministry was ready to work with all stakeholders to ensure the establishment of an effective, efficient and globally recognized trade facilitation

regime that facilitates trade, ensures the removal of red-tapes across national boundaries and sets the platform for private sector participation in global trade.

The Trade and Industry Minister reiterated Government's commitment to pursue long term trade and port reforms that accrued benefits ranging from reduced cost of shipping goods across borders and enhanced collection of fees, duties and penalties; to more comprehensive, streamlined and automated business compliance to Government legislative and regulatory requirements, including the terms of international trade treaties.

Hon. Kyerematen expressed optimism about the benefits of the Government's directive to go fully paperless which include reduced costs, enhanced collection of fees, streamlined and automated business processes and compliance to best international trade practices.

He commended GCNet for showing faith with the Ministry over the years which has seen the company sponsoring the 2017 edition as part of its commitment to foster trade development and improve revenue mobilization.

The Executive Chairman of GCNet, Dr. Nortey Omaboe, in his welcome address assured that his company had deployed the infrastructure since its inception to give full effect to the pursuit of the paperless transactions regime, noting that "it is on record that GCNet provided a paperless clearance system several years earlier, and won a World Customs Organisation Award as far back as January 2014".

Dr. Omaboe observed that 'we at GCNet are mindful of the fact that an effective and efficient trade development and facilitation is dependent on a number of players and systems in the value chain, including exporters, cargo tracking, warehousing, freight forwarders, payment systems-, e-payments, free zones, regulatory bodies, shippers among others. All these activities in the trade facilitation chain at the various ports are enabled by an electronic system powered by GCNet".

He assured that GCNet had collaborated with diverse stakeholders including the Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority (GPHA), Ghana Institute of Freight Forwarders, Ghana Airport Company, the terminal operators, the courier providers, and scan operators in the value chain to ensure that this objective was fully realized within the time frame stipulated.

Dr. Omaboe explained that GCNet recently deployed the e-CITES for the Wildlife Division, which would ensure that e-certificates were issued paperless and expressed excitement it was very much in line with the September 1 deadline alongside the e-manifest and e-

warehousing modules already in operation .

He said among the other e-solutions deployed is the introduction of GCNet's Letter of Commitment (LOC) for the Bank of Ghana which has aided in the elimination of human elements and interference in export monitoring as well as ensuring the tracking of exports proceeds into the country and also boosting the availability of forex in the economy.

He announced that there has been service upgrades on GCNet applications for regulatory agencies and other players in the trade facilitation space, all in a bid to ensure that the vision to go paperless which GCNet spearheaded in 2011 is fully realised and the benefits accrued to the citizenry.

Corporate Communications Manager of GCNet, Mrs. Aba Lokko said GCNet was excited to be partners of the event, which had happened on the heels of the company being recognised as the Trade Facilitation Company of the Year for its leadership and pioneering role in the trade facilitation space and significantly enhancing revenue generation and mobilization for the direct benefit of the citizenry of Ghana.

She explained GCNet had worked with the MoTI and the Ghana Revenue Authority over the years to deploy e-solutions to create a robust and reliable Single Window for the efficient and paperless transactions. She said it was not in doubt that fully automated systems as provided by GCNet had greatly impacted on national

development.

Acting Director of Communications at MoTI, Mr. Prince Boakye Boateng explained that the Ministry was still committed to its core policies which included ensuring speedy and efficient clearance of goods at the ports and borders.

The National Trade Facilitation Awards (NTFA), is an annual event organised by the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MoTI) in partnership with the Ghana Community Network Service Limited (GCNet) and Ghana Revenue Authority, to reward excellence in the country's trade facilitation industry.

The award scheme provides a platform to encourage Ministries, Department and Agencies (MDAs), freight forwarding agencies and other relevant bodies to work towards the attainment of international best practices in trade facilitation by reducing turnaround time in the issuance and approval processes of licenses, permits and exemptions for imports and exports transactions within 48 hours while ensuring safety and security.

The 2017 NTFA awards event had new award categories including Best Shipping Line and Best Transitor among others alongside the traditional categories namely Best eMDA, Best Large Freight Forwarder Medium Freight Forwarder and Best Terminal Operator. The novelty about the 2017 NTFA was that each award was labeled with a sponsor of the event as part of the partnership the awards scheme had attracted.



QUARTER ONE ACTIVITIES



Dr. Nortey Omaboe delivering his speech at the GCNet Praiz 2017



Immediate Past Commissioner of Customs - GRA, Mr. John Vianney presents an award to Mr. Hoegerle at the WCO 2017



GCNet visits the Business Development Minister, Hon. Mohammed Ibrahim Awal



Team GCNet at the 2017 Economic Outlook and Business Strategy Conference



GCNet officials presenting cheque to Ghana at 60 Planning Committee

QUARTER TWO ACTIVITIES



Team GCNet at the 2017 Data Protection Conference



GCNet officials with the Minister of Communication and her Deputies



Group photo from the RGD Professional Bodies requiremen workshop



Executive Director, Mr. Darko explains a point to members of Select Committee on Finance during working visit.



Chief Technical Officer, Matthew Soputamt, engages students from the Ho Technical University.

QUARTER THREE ACTIVITIES



Sensitisation workshop on roll out of Paperless regime.



Team GCNet at the maiden 2017 Ghana Shippers Awards



H.E. Dr. Mahamdu Bawumia and Dr. Nortey Omaboe at the ISWC 2017



National Trade Facilitation 2017 Winners



GCNet Wins Big at 2017 GITTA event

QUARTER FOUR ACTIVITIES



GCNet participates in the 8th African Shippers Day 2017



Mr. Carl Sackey making a point at the AITI-KACE 2017 i-Week celebrations



PSC Communication in a group photo with some officials of GCNet



Team GCNet at the 2017 GC100 Awards



GCNet 2017 End of Year Staff Party

COMPANY REGISTRATION IN GHANA GOES PAPERLESS



Ghana has successfully rolled out the introduction of an electronic issuance of business registration certificate to attain its ambition of becoming the friendliest business hub in Africa.

The Registrar-General's Department (RGD) successfully implemented the online registration of businesses, authorization of operations of businesses and registration of marriages. These functions are supported by a number of services online, which allow company searches, reservation of company names and the booking of marriage ceremonies amongst others.

The enthusiasm of the Ghanaian public for online services is evident in the number of registrations of businesses that have been achieved using the paperless system. It is also exciting to note that for the first half of 2017 over 6,855 online transactions were conducted via the Registrar

General's Department portal. One can conduct their end-to-end business registration on the RGD portal resulting in the issuance of an e-Certificate sitting in the comfort of one's home.

Linked to the RGD portal is a fully functional e-payment platform which allows payments to be made in the course of online transactions. This is in line with Government's commitment to deepen the paperless regime to improve the ease of doing business in Ghana and to enhance the business competitiveness of the country.

An interesting new feature introduced to the automation of the RGD processes is the deployment of the e-shop information platform, which facilitates the search or requests for data regarding companies registered in Ghana.

The e-Certificate and e-shop

platforms are end to end registration portals developed and deployed by GCNet as part of the broad World Bank sponsored e-Gov project. It leverages ICT opportunities to generate employment enhancement and growth under the e-Gov application for the Revenue Generating Agencies and the Registrar General's Department.

RGD systems are integrated with the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) with plans advanced to link up with Ghana Investment Promotion Centre in the exchange of data to facilitate the ease of doing business in Ghana.

The data exchange is intended to encourage a paperless registration and tax regime aimed at significantly reducing administrative and operational overhead costs. It would greatly ease doing business while maximising revenue mobilization for accelerated development.

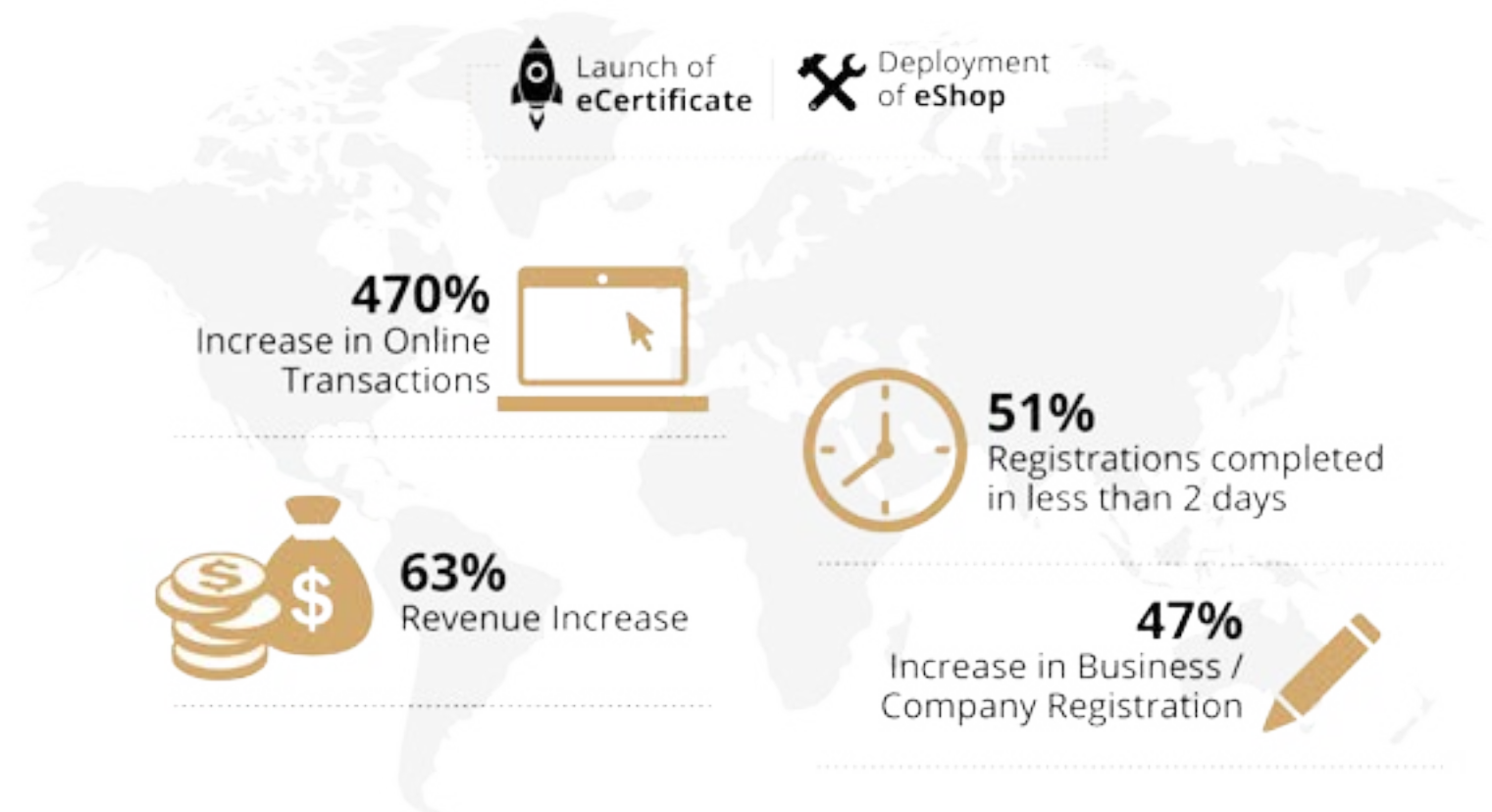
In fact, with respect to RGD Registrations, the Department has gone from 34,870 registrations in 2012, to 60,783 in 2016.

In 2017, more than 79,439 registrations were processed yielding a total of GH¢61.5m. Additionally, 11,473 re-registrations were also processed. Besides, over 17,157 online transactions using the RGD portal were recorded in 2017 which represents 17% of all transactions. This compares favourably with the 2016 figure

of 2119 showing a 740% increase year on year in portal transactions.

The Registrar-General of RGD, Mrs. Jemima Oware is proud of what has been achieved, saying "presently our clients, with the going live of the e-registrar are able to sit in the comfort of their offices and homes to register their businesses, marriages, among other services. This provides flexibility, convenience and transparency in our processes".

The Head of IT at the Registrar-General's Department, Doris Ampadu-Ameyaw hinted that in line with the commitment to enhance, and enrich customer experience the outfit was in the process of implementing a queue management system at the front office to improve the customer experience. This is expected to give true meaning to the ease of doing business in Ghana.



GCNet DEEPENS RELATIONS WITH PARLIAMENT... RECEIVES SELECT COMMITTEES ON COMMUNICATIONS AND TRADE & INDUSTRY ON WORKING VISIT



Following the May 17 directive by the Vice President, H.E., Dr. Mahamadu Bawumia at the Ports Efficiency Conference to kick start the paperless system operations from September 1, 2017, the Parliamentary Select Committees on Trade, Industry and Tourism and Communications took turns to visit GCNet on a knowledge building and familiarisation tour to acquaint themselves with first hand operations of the company.

The primary objective of the visits from the august Committees from Parliament was to ascertain the state of preparedness of GCNet for the commencement of the paperless initiative, know the possible challenges GCNet faced and how the Committees could intervene to ensure the Vice President's reforms at the port are achieved.

It was also an opportunity for the

members of the Select Committees led by the Chairpersons to use the working visit to engage management of GCNet to seek first-hand clarification of some reported process challenges that have bedeviled the implementation of the paperless regime.

The Chair of the Select Committee on Trade, Industry and Tourism, Hon Nana Amaniampong Marfo commended Management of GCNet for the bold measures put in place to ensure the readiness of the company in smoothly executing the implementation of the paperless regime intended to boost the business competitiveness of the economy, ease the cost of doing business and enhance revenue collection among others.

Accompanied by the Vice Chair, Hon. Ato Panford, Ranking Member, Hon. Fiifi Kwetey and other members of the Trade,

Industry and Tourism Committee, Hon. Marfo expressed the satisfaction of his Committee and pledged their support to ensure the successful implementation of the port reforms as directed by the Vice President, H.E., Dr. Mahamadu Bawumia.

For the Communications Select Committee led by the Chair, Hon. Ken Agyapong, the one day working visit to the Ghana Community Network (GCNet) to familiarise themselves with the operations of the company and its role in the 100% paperless regime roll out was timely and insightful.

According to Hon. Agyapong, the Committee's priority was to deepen their knowledge and understanding of issues in order to effect necessary policy reforms needed.

Hon. Agyapong accompanied by his Vice, Hon. Charles Bintim, Ranking Member, Hon. A.B.A Fuseini and other members of the Committee, was also full of satisfaction about GCNet's preparedness to ensure that all bottlenecks in the clearance systems were addressed with the use of technology to enhance efficiency and improve business competitiveness of the country.

For the two Select Committees, the working visit was useful in deepening its engagement with management of GCNet and to have the opportunity to seek first-hand clarification of some reported process challenges that have bedeviled the implementation of the paperless regime and what steps were being taken to address the challenges.

Receiving the Select Committees to GCNet on their working visits, Executive Director, Mr. Emmanuel Darko thanked the delegation for the visit and hoped the knowledge gathered about the operations of GCNet would positively influence

policy decisions in improving the business competitiveness of the country. Mr. Darko explained that GCNet had been spearheading advocacy to fast track integration of the reporting regimes of the various agencies on its e-MDA portal so there was improved synergy among them.

In a presentation, Product Development Manager, Mr. Carl Sackey explained that GCNet's systems had been designed to support a paperless regime since 2002 and threw light on the new process flow highlighting the key changes that GCNet had effected to upgrade its systems ahead of the 100% paperless regime.

He told the lawmakers that GCNet had made enhancements to the electronic delivery order and online container booking platforms of its systems and configured all other components on its platforms to eliminate all forms of paper processing in the clearance chain.

He was confident that with the experience and track record

that GCNet had built in piloting the process at Takoradi and KIA between 2012 and 2013 and having re-introduced it in 2017 following the Vice President's directive, there was no way it would not succeed if enforcement was strictly adhered to since the infrastructure had already been deployed.

Mr. Sackey further explained that GCNet as part of tracking performance of its systems, had deployed an information text code - 1477 to all networks with the declaration number - an SMS alert system that helps track the status of the clearance process by a customer.

The members of the Select Committees were taken on a guided tour of the Networking Operating Centre and some offices of GCNet by the Chief Technical Officer, Mr. Matthew Sopotamit.

The Committee pledged their support and commitment to policy reforms at the ports to improve port efficiency.





GCNet LOC RECOGNIZED AS BEST DIGITAL INNOVATIVE FINANCIAL PRODUCT

At the maiden Ghana Accountancy and Finance Awards held in Accra in November, 2017, the Ghana Community Network Limited's (GCNet) innovation in provision of e-application was recognised when it was awarded the Digital Finance Innovation Award for 2016 / 2017.

The award is in recognition of GCNet's innovation in developing and deploying the Letter of Commitment (LOC), a module on the e-MDA portal for the Bank of Ghana to track all export related activities to ensure effective monitoring of export and repatriation of export proceeds.

The awards event provides a platform to recognize individuals and companies that play a significant role in the development of the accounting and finance sector while recognising the key functions within the industry that

promote standards and excellent stewardship.

The Digital Finance Innovation Award comes at a time the Bank of Ghana reports that the country has saved more than \$4bn in exports value following the introduction of the Letter of Commitment module (LOC) by GCNet to track the repatriation of export proceeds into the economy since July 1, 2016. It has also aided in the elimination of human elements and interference in export monitoring as well as ensuring the tracking of exports proceeds into the country and also boosting the availability of forex in the economy.

Available data indicates that between July 2016 and June 2017, export proceeds repatriated amounted to more than \$4.2bn through the LOC system by GCNet. Currently there are thirty three (33) participating banks using the LOC with core functions to process

Bank pre-registration requests and remittance registrations.

This has significantly boosted the drive to address an annual estimated loss of \$3bn, which make up a third of the country's value from export proceeds through the violation of the foreign account regulations.

Corporate Communications Manager of GCNet, Mrs. Aba Lokko intimated the company was proud to be associated with such a brand that recognises the critical role of e-solutions in the transformation of the economy.

According to the organisers, Strategic Accountancy Africa (SAA), as a premier financial recognition event, the awards platform was instituted to showcase the prudence and innovation within Ghana's accounting and finance sectors.



GCNet CONSOLIDATES STATUS AS ICT COMPANY OF THE YEAR

GCNet's pioneering leadership presence as an Innovator and Leader in the Provision of e-Solutions to Government and its agencies took center stage at the 7th Edition of the Ghana Information Technology and Telecom Awards 2017 (GITTA) when the company picked up the ICT Company of the Year and Public Sector e-solutions Provider of the Year awards for the second successive time.

GCNet's recognition as ICT Company of the Year and e-Solutions Provider of the Year for the Public Sector stemmed from its continued investments in building I.T infrastructure and capacity consistent with its mission to provide ICT based solutions that foster Trade Development and Facilitation, promote business

competitiveness and ensure effective mobilization of revenue for Government.

GCNet as a repository of government data also continues to leverage on many international certification regimes including ISO 27001 for information security management and ISO 9000 for quality management to further ensure security standards and compliance catering for the over 97 Customs sites and more than 50 Tax offices of the Ghana Revenue Authority across the length and breadth of the country.

In all, more than 20 companies competed for over 20 award categories including the flagship recognition for the night, CEO of the Year award, which was won by the Chief Executive Officer of MTN,

Mr. Ebenezer Asante.

Commenting on the awards, Mrs. Aba Lokko, Corporate Communications Manager, observed GCNet will continually strive to be and remain the leader in the provision of e-solutions in Africa with tailored service offerings to ease the burden of doing business and add value to the trade chain while maximizing revenue collection.

She observed that the awards had come on the back of the other milestones chalked in the course of the first half of 2016 when GCNet took home the two top most awards: Trade Facilitation Company of the Year and CEO of the Year at the maiden Ghana Shippers Awards.

GCNet SHOWS THE WAY IN E-HEALTH PRODUCT INNOVATION

The Ghana Community Network Services (GCNet) in partnership with the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) rolled a major groundbreaking initiative to deepen the transition to a fully paperless regime in all aspect of its operations.

The milestone is the deployment of an e-health project – a Web Based Electronic Health Management Information System (eHMIS) which sits on GCNet's robust and tested electronic tier three data platform.

Facilitated by GCNet, this pioneering initiative is seen as an extension of the paperless concept to the health sector in the country which is the manifestation of public private partnership between GCNet, GRA and GIZ.

The comprehensive web enabled system provides customized services for staff, users, organisations, health providers and insurance companies as it offers a general and personalized health education and communication via SMS and e-mails among others. The system's key attributes include portable personal confidential

electronic health record and related personal risk assessment with automatic follow up mechanism.

Staff, who sign on to it, would have more access to their personal confidential electronic health records and targeted reliable health information to support the adoption of healthy lifestyles.

In the words of the General Manager of GCNet, Mr. Alwin Hoegerle, GCNet's mandate as a technical partner to the GRA has resulted in the deployment of e-solutions for the automation of GRA operations and deepening the single window platform for trade facilitation and business competitiveness.

According to Mr. Hoegerle, the partnership over the years had been growing and blossoming into different projects one of which is the web based Electronic Health Management Systems (eHMIS) whose value hinges on the capture of medical and laboratory data (old and new results, prescriptions, appointments, and medical examinations) and makes them

available all the time through a web based platform to user.

Commissioner-General of GRA, Mr. Emmanuel Kofi Nti reiterated management's commitment to ensuring the well-being of employees through various schemes to keep staff motivated urging staff to patronize the platform, while steps are taken to support other organisations to also benefit from it in order to cut down cost.

The Board Chair of GRA, Mr. Harry Owusu said "the staff wellbeing at Ghana Revenue Authority is a pre-requisite for us, a professional modern organisation, and we have therefore been implementing a programme to support our staff enjoy good health in a conducive working environment."

Mr. Owusu said the Authority was determined to improve its efficiency and effectiveness among other measures the provision of enabling environment for effective human resources management.



GCNet FACILITATES ROLL OUT CROSS BORDER DATA MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

Riding on the back of the roll out of the Electronic Health Management Information System (eHMIS), GCNet facilitated a transit data exchange programme between the Customs Division of the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) and its Ivorian counterpart to boost the business competitiveness, prevention of fraud, eliminate delays and facilitate the movement of goods and people among others between the two countries

The historic exchange collaboration, to enhance cross-border trade in the West African sub region, would transit related challenges in cross border trade and serve as a huge boost to revenue mobilization.

It would also eliminate barriers that militate against easy movement of goods across the borders of the two countries and change the face of transit trade in the sub region's corridors. The roll out satisfies a World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement on exchange of data between Customs administrations of countries to

facilitate transit trade and also in fulfillment of the Abidjan - Lagos Trade and Transport Facilitation Project (ALTTFP) launched in 2007.

The Commissioner of the Customs Division of the Ghana Revenue Authority, Mr. Isaac Crentsil commended the World Bank and GCNet for their commitment and support to the project which will help address the challenges in transit trade as espoused by the Vice President during the Port Efficiency conference.

He noted that the initiative had addressed a major challenge of transit trade and served as a boost to facilitate paperless regime in Ghana and pledged the commitment of the Customs Division to ensure that the project succeeds.

General Manager of GCNet, Mr. Alwin Hoegerle noted that Information Communication Technology including e-solutions had become important enablers of innovations and development the world over and regretted that Ghana was yet to take advantage

of the full benefits of e-solutions, which would revolutionize our economy.

"It is for this reason that GCNet has been at the forefront of playing a pioneering and leadership role in deploying e-solutions in the trade facilitation environment". Mr. Hoegerle said.

The data exchange program between Ghana Customs and Cote d'Ivoire was timely as it had commenced following the 2017 World Customs Organisation IT Conference and Exhibition in Tbilisi, Georgia on the theme: The Power of Data – Advancing Border Management.

There was a live demonstration of exchange of transit data by the Operations team of GCNet led by A Deputy Manager, Mr. Anthony Nkansah. The exchange programme was expected to be replicated in the other corridors of the sub region including Togo and Burkina Faso as a way of deepening the compliance of the exchange of trade data among Customs administrations.





GCNet SPONSORS AFRICA MOBILE AND ICT EXPO 2017

2017 witnessed a number of ICT related events held to deepen awareness on the critical role of technology to leapfrog the development journey of the country.

One of such flagship ICT events is the third edition of the Africa Mobile and ICT Expo (Mobex) held at Kempinski Gold Coast City Hotel in Accra which offered a platform for actors in the space to brainstorm on how Ghana could take advantage of the possibilities arising with the surge of technology.

GCNet supported the 2017 event which focused on e-health, education and agriculture. It was aimed at harnessing Information Communication Technology (ICT) skills, knowledge, innovations and creativity on

how to leverage them to build a better economy for the country. Opening the conference, Hon. Carlos Kingsley Ahenkorah, Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry observed that in the last five years, Mobex had served as a vehicle of Ghana's own ICT transformation and had propelled Ghana's digital economy towards greater heights.

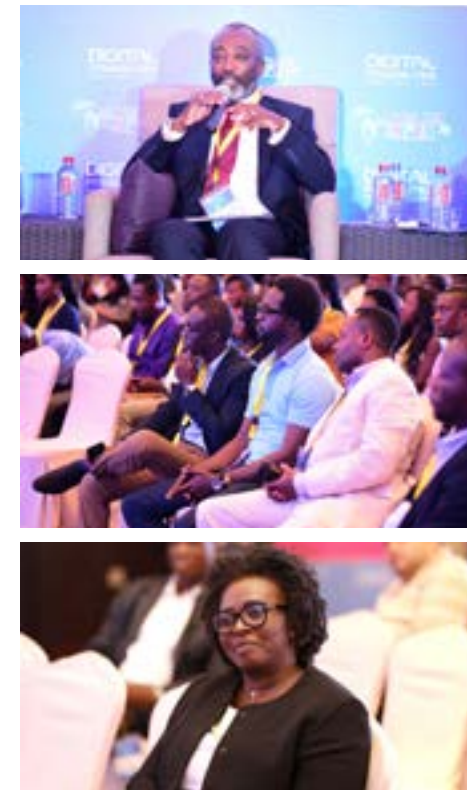
Hon. Ahenkorah commended the leadership of Mobex for the foresight in organizing the expo and urged them to continue to explore other opportunities that afford the platform for different levels of technology and entrepreneurs for all sectors of the economy to benefit from.

"What I have seen here in terms of innovation is heartwarming especially when I learnt that some of the products were manufactured

or created here with our own Ghanaian expertise, it tells you that we have come of age to invent what others have done in their countries here in Ghana."

Mr. George Spencer Quaye, Chief Executive Officer of Coasters Company Limited, organisers of the event explained that the event was a conversation on technology that assembled the best and finest brains in innovations and digital solutions to address some of the bottlenecks impeding the speedy growth of the country by preferring e-solutions as a reliable antidote.

He noted that technology has formed part of every country's socio-economic development and has become the center of all pillars of growth.



"In today's world you cannot compete if you have not imbibed the culture of technology in all your spheres of life and we cannot drive our economy without appreciating the role of technology and improve our processes."

Carl Sackey, Product Development Manager of GCNet, noted that ICT has so many possible multiplying effect on all sectors of the economy to ensure their rapid growth and therefore must be of prime interest

so the local economy could fully integrate into the modern global economy.

He said the development of ICT had characterized the significant inflows of investment and requires maximum attention from all stakeholders. He commended Government for its reforms in the area of doing business in Ghana like the automation of ticketing at the Kotoka International Airport, online business registration,

e-parliament, e-cabinet system and the introduction of the paperless system at the country's ports.

The event showcased products from Computer Hardware & Software, IT & Technology industries while providing opportunity for networking with investors, policy makers and implementers as well as consumers of products and services of participating ICT firms.





8TH AFRICAN SHIPPERS' DAY CELEBRATION HELD IN ACCRA

The Ghana Shippers' Authority (GSA), under the auspices of the Ministry of Transport, and in collaboration with the Union of African Shippers' Councils hosted the 8th African Shippers' Day (ASD) celebration.

The three day event dubbed, "Trade Facilitation and its impact on Africa's Industrialisation", took place from November 22 – 24 bringing together participants with a stake in international trade, notably, Shippers from West and Central African countries,

National Shippers' Councils, Chambers of Commerce, Port Authorities, Shipping Insurers and Bankers, African and International Organisations.

The African Shipper Day conference, marked biennially since 1999, was initiated within the framework of refocusing the missions of African Shippers' Councils and creates a platform for reflection and exchange on the diverse issues relating to maritime transport and international trade.

The 2017 African Shippers' Day Conference focused on the World Trade Organisation's (WTO), Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), entered into in February, 2017, which lays down specific measures for import, export, and transit formalities, to facilitate trade in order to enhance administrative efficiency and effectiveness. The agreement also helps in reducing transaction cost and time, while enhancing the predictability of the global markets."

The three-day programme discussed, among others, opportunities and challenges for shippers including the measures taken to make trade facilitation effective and how they were implemented.

Other matters that received due attention in deliberation included regulatory or physical barriers identified in the implementation of the TFA, the corrective measures taken to enhance trade facilitation and their effectiveness, and how all these could have an impact on Africa's industrialisation effort.

Delegates affirmed that for Africa to industrialise, it was imperative for the continent to move from being a producer of raw materials to a producer of finished products and value added goods.

They further noted that for Africa to



join other nations in international trade and transport, there was the need for reforms that could catapult its economies in order

to be competitive and that trade facilitation, if well implemented, could have such an impact.





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*Ghana Shippers Awards 2017
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C.E.O of the Year 2016*

*Ghana Accountancy & Finance Awards 2017
Digital Finance Innovation Award*

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Year: 2013
Make: Toyota
Model: Fortuner 4WD S/Wagon
Del. No: 43015133697
Duty Payable: GHC 17,096.30
Paid: Yes
Date Paid: Nov/13/2013 15:00:26
Importer: Kofi Mensah
Cus Res: Delivery is allowed.
Goods examined.
Date: 14/11/2013 15:37:57

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GRA



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