

WELCOME ADDRESS BY MR FREDERICK GAVOR
THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, OPERATIONS – CUSTOMS DIVISION
THE GHANA NATIONAL SINGLE WINDOW WORKING GROUP WORKSHOP
UNDER THE THEME
“ACHIEVING THE GHANA NATIONAL SINGLE WINDOW VISION – FEASIBILITY
STUDY FINDINGS”
HELD AT THE ROYAL SENCHI RESORT, AKOSOMBO
1ST – 3RD MARCH 2016

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to extend to you all a very warm welcome and to say how grateful I am to you for accepting our invitation to attend this Workshop.

It is an opportune time to meet and consider our current business processes and documentation requirements as captured in the Feasibility Study Findings.

During the next three days you will be called upon to identify and analyse any bottlenecks and redundancies in procedural and documentary requirements with the view to recommending improvements in our business processes and ICT infrastructure.

I am sure you will be most successful in this endeavour in the perspective of an enhanced collaboration and respect for each other's views. I urge you to adopt a non-protectionist attitude. Be prepared to cede some aspects of your business processes when they are found to be repetitions or redundant.

It has become common place to say, and repeat saying, that excessive bureaucracy is the most severe constraint to trade processing in Ghana. That Ghanaian Importers and Exporters remain uncompetitive in the global business arena is largely attributable in part to the number of days it takes to complete import and export processing and their attendant costs.

No matter how much we can do as individual Institutions and Agencies in addressing these bottlenecks, it is not enough. But in a spirit of true cooperation and collaboration we must join in an action-oriented effort to attack and solve the challenges that confront trade processing in Ghana.

When we join forces and pursue the goals of the National Single Window Concept, it would be relatively easy to create a solid foundation which will enable us achieve the 50% Better, Faster and Cheaper Trade across Border Indicators.

We await with great expectation the results of your deliberations throughout the workshop with a view to contributing to the transition from a culture of delays and high costs of doing business to a culture of Faster, Simpler, Automatic and Predictable means of processing Imports, Exports and Transit in Ghana.

I wish at this juncture to extend my sincere thanks to our Technical Partner, WestBlue Consulting Ltd, the Subject Matter Experts from selected agencies, the Feasibility Study Team and all of you participants at this workshop.

Finally I declare this Workshop open and hope that it would be steered to a fruitful end.

Thank you for your attention