



Vice President, H. E. Opoku-Agyemang, Ministers of State, Chinese Ambassador to Ghana and other Dignitaries at the high table

GSA Participates in Commissioning of New Softcare Sanitary Pads Production Line

The Board Chairman, Mr. Hudu Mogtari and the Director-General of the GSA, Prof. George Agyei, on Monday, December 15, 2025, joined the Vice President, H. E. Prof. Naana Jane Opoku-Agyemang, Minister of Trade, Agribusiness and Industry, Hon. Elizabeth Ofori-Adjare, Chinese Ambassador to Ghana, Tong Defa and other Ministers of State, Government Officials as well as other key stakeholders, at the commissioning of the fourth production line of Softcare sanitary pads which has been certified by the GSA.

Speaking at the event, the Vice President said the government is committed to the systematic transformation of Ghana's economy and one mechanism of achieving this is the development of a gallant framework and transformation. She explained that at the heart of this framework is the deliberate promotion of local manufacturing to support import substitution, value addition and job creation.

She emphasised that under the accelerated export development programme, the government is targeting

high potential sectors to diversify Ghana's export. "Softcare exports quality pads and diapers to more than 20 countries across West Africa and as far as Peru. This success also reflects the practical value of the African Continental Free Trade Area, by improving infrastructure, access to finance and production standards, we are enabling Ghanaian firms to grow and compete confidentially within a duty-free continental market," she stated.

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Vision

To become a customer-focused world-class standards organisation.

Mission

To contribute towards the growth of industry, protect consumers and facilitate trade through standardisation, metrology and conformity assessment.

Core Values

- Excellence
- Customer-focus
- Integrity
- Teamwork

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Hon. Ofosu-Adjare said that government remains committed in delivering on its promise, by deepening value addition, strengthening local supply chain, and prioritising Ghanaian suppliers. She added that the new production line incorporates modern manufacturing technology, automation and a robust quality control system.

“On behalf of Ghana Standards Authority, the Food and Drugs Authority and international accreditation, these bodies have underpinned export success and set a benchmark for other manufacturers. This collaboration between government, Softcare FM and Sunda Group demonstrates the power of effective private public partnership,” she noted.

The event was climaxed with the official unveiling of the new softcare sanitary pad production line through a ribbon-cutting ceremony, after which the guest toured the facility.

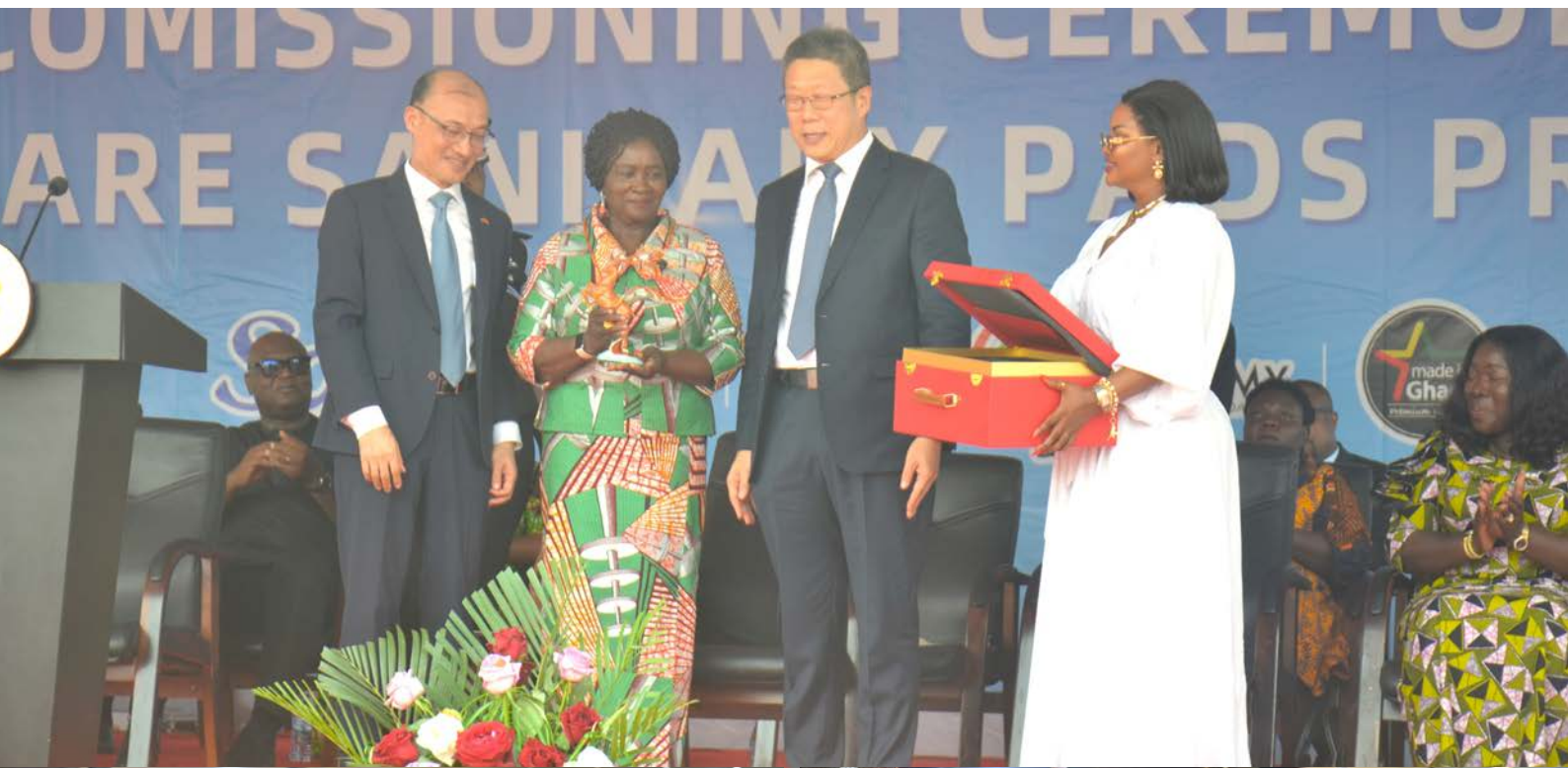
The GSA was well represented by the Board Chair, Mr. Hudu Mogtari; the DG, Prof. George Agyei; Ag. Head Public Relations, Mr. Kofi Yeboah Debrah; Mr. Fotwe Afful and Mr. Nathaniel Kofi Afram from the Public Relations Department.



Vice President, H. E. Prof. Naana Jane Opoku Agyemang



Hon. Elizabeth Ofosu-Adjare







Prof. Agyei receiving the dummy cheque on behalf of the Authority

MTN Ghana Foundation Donates GHC 1.5 mln to GSA to support Cancer Diagnosis

The GSA, on Monday, December 8, 2025, received a sum of GHC 1.5 million from the MTN Ghana Foundation to support cancer diagnosis at the institution's Histopathology Laboratory.

This investment spans over a 5-year period, contributing GHC 300,000 annually to the GSA to help the laboratory purchase consumables and test kits to facilitate cancer diagnosis.

At a brief ceremony to present the dummy cheque, Mr. Albert Amoah, delivering the remarks on behalf of the Chief Corporate Service and Sustainability Officer of MTN, noted that his outfit believes every Ghanaian

deserves access to high quality healthcare and the GSA can lead the scientific advancement to save lives when given the needed investment.

The cheque was received on behalf of the Authority by the Director-General (DG), Professor George Agyei, his deputy, Dr. Awal Mohammed and other officials, who expressed the Authority's appreciation to the MTN Ghana Foundation for the gesture, stating that, MTN Ghana's support has positioned the telecommunication giant as a pacesetter, encouraging other corporate entities to step forward and contribute to the Authority's work.

"This is a very noble gesture and it's an investment in families. The GSA, on our part, will take good care of this investment and prudently use the resources well. As for cancer, everybody is at risk since we are living in a country with a lot of environmental degradation like galamsey and other negative activities in our society," Prof. Agyei added.



THE GHANA STANDARDS AUTHORITY (GSA) LAUNCHES A GROUNDBREAKING DIGITAL CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT SYSTEM TO COMBAT FAKE GOODS FROM MARCH 2026

NOTICE NO. GSA/DGS/PN/25/04

#ScanBeforeYouBuy

The Ghana Standards Authority (GSA), the national body mandated to ensure the quality and safety of goods and services, today announces a major strategic initiative to safeguard Ghanaian consumers and legitimate businesses from the scourge of sub-standard and counterfeit products.

The proliferation of fake goods in our markets poses a significant threat to public health, safety, and the economic well-being of our nation. It undermines consumer confidence and unfairly disadvantages manufacturers and importers who adhere to GSA's rigorous certification standards.

To tackle this challenge head-on, the GSA will be rolling out a state-of-the-art **Digital Conformity Assessment and Product Authentication System in March 2026**. This innovative, nationwide solution will empower every Ghanaian with the ability to instantly verify the authenticity of GSA-certified products directly from their smartphones.

How the New System Will Work:

1. Unique QR Codes

All GSA-certified products will feature a unique, secure QR code.

2. Instant Verification

Consumers can simply scan this QR code using a dedicated, free mobile application.

3. Real-time Authentication

The app will provide immediate confirmation of the product's authenticity, displaying key information such as the product name, manufacturer, and GSA certificate details.

4. Report on Suspected Fakes

The system includes a feature for consumers to report suspected counterfeit products directly to the GSA, providing valuable data for our market surveillance and enforcement operations.

A CALL TO ACTION FOR ALL STAKEHOLDERS

The success of this transformative project depends on the collaboration of all stakeholders.

To All GSA License Holders (Manufacturers, Importers, and Distributors)

You are our primary partners in this endeavour. We entreat you to fully embrace this system and begin preparations for its integration into your product packaging and labelling. Widespread adoption of the QR codes is crucial for creating a unified front against counterfeiters. The GSA will provide comprehensive guidelines and onboarding support in the coming months.

To the Retail Community

You are the vital link between products and consumers. We urge you to support this initiative by stocking and promoting products bearing the official GSA QR code. This will not only protect your customers but also enhance the credibility and trust in your establishments.

To the General Public

Your role is paramount. We call upon all Ghanaian consumers to actively participate in this national effort. When the system goes live, we encourage you to download the official GSA authentication app and #ScanBeforeYouBuy. Your vigilance is the most powerful weapon we have in the fight against fake goods.

To Other Regulatory Bodies and Industry Associations

The GSA seeks your collaboration to ensure a cohesive and widespread implementation of this system across all sectors. Together, we can create a safer and more transparent market for all.

This Digital Conformity Assessment System represents a significant leap forward in our mission to protect consumers and promote fair trade. It leverages technology to put power directly into the hands of the people, making it increasingly difficult for illicit goods to survive in the Ghanaian market.

The GSA is committed to a smooth rollout and will conduct extensive stakeholder sensitization and public education campaigns in the lead-up to the MARCH 2026 LAUNCH.

Let us work together to restore integrity to our markets and protect the health and safety of every Ghanaian.

Signed,

Prof. George Agyei
Director-General
Ghana Standards Authority

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Tuesday, December 2, 2025



Prof. George Agyei, in a group photograph with Swiss Ambassador, H. E. Simone Giger and representatives from Metrohm AG

Director-General Participates in Metrohm Central Africa's Office Inauguration

The Director-General of the GSA, Prof. George Agyei, on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, joined the Switzerland Ambassador to Ghana, H. E. Simone Giger, representatives from Metrohm AG, regional partners, as well as other key stakeholders, to inaugurate Metrohm Central Africa - a new Regional Support Centre designed to enhance service delivery, application support, and customer engagement across 17 countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

In a remark, Prof. Agyei acknowledged the key role Metrohm plays in Ghana's quality infrastructure while congratulating the institution for establishing a permanent office in Ghana.

He described the centre's establishment as timely and pivotal to the government's industrial transformation agenda.

According to him, the success of Ghana's industrial ambitions will depend on strong private sector participation and the availability of robust scientific and technological infrastructure. He pledged the Authority's support to Metrohm in carrying out its duties.

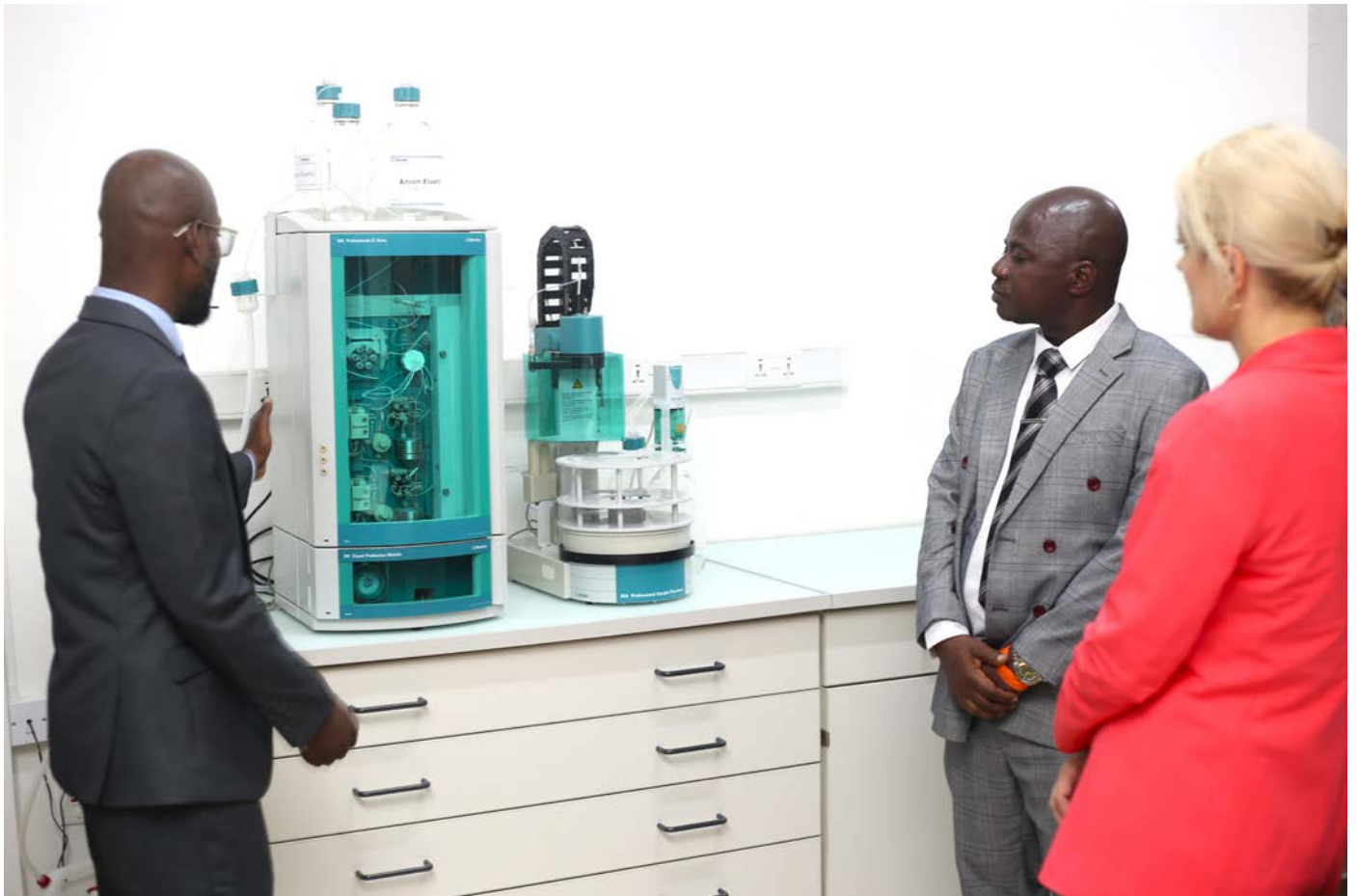
The General Manager of Metrohm Central Africa, Foster Mensah, assured industry players of consistent access to reliable, precision-driven solutions tailored to their specific needs. He believes the Ghana hub will help

reduce downtime, enhance efficiency, and support local innovation across multiple sectors.

The Swiss Ambassador, in a remarks, said Metrohm's expansion into Ghana reaffirms the country's reputation as a preferred destination for investment and technological advancement.

She highlighted Ghana's stable business environment and growing scientific ecosystem as key attractions for Swiss companies.

Metrohm, founded in Switzerland in 1943, is one of the world's most trusted manufacturers of high-precision instruments for chemical analysis.





GSA's Victor Kwansa Obtains PhD

Victor Charles Kwansa, a Scientific Officer at the Special Projects/Enforcement Department, has obtained a PhD in Environmental Sanitation and Waste Management. He was awarded the Doctorate Degree on November 1, 2025, by the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), having satisfied all the requirements of the University.

He joins a growing and impressive list of GSA staff who have acquired a PhD.

In an interview with the Digest team, Dr. Kwansa explained the motivation behind him pursuing a Doctorate degree in Environmental Sanitation and Waste Management.

“During market surveillance activities, I observed that recycled plastic waste was being used to produce thin single-use carrier bags, many of which are widely used for food packaging in Ghana. In some cases, food is directly consumed (especially by children), or even cooked using these bags to retain heat. These observations raised concerns about potential public health risks, environmental sustainability, and regulatory gaps, prompting my interest in the PhD study,” he said.

His focus during his study was:

- Gaps in regulatory framework and standards
- Consumer perception on the use of plastics for food packaging



Dr. Victor Kwansa

- Leaching and health risk assessment of phthalates and bisphenol A from recycled PE food packaging into food

He further stated that during his study, he identified notable regulatory gaps that undermine effective consumer safety and protection. One of these gaps identified was the absence of clear regulatory

specifications for individual chemicals and contaminants, whether intentionally or unintentionally introduced into plastics, such as flame retardants, phthalates, bisphenol A, and heavy metals, that could leach out into food.

“The study also highlighted some potential health risks of the recycled plastics (particularly polyethylene)

used for food packaging purposes, important to inform the revision of the applicable regulations on plastic recycling and food safety, and the applicable Ghana standards including GS 173:2018 and GS 1186: 2018.

Integrating the findings of my PhD study into regulatory revisions and enforcement actions will enable the GSA to strengthen consumer safety in plastic food packaging, while positioning Ghana as a leader in Africa in aligning plastic recycling, environmental sustainability, and public health protection,” he added.

He expressed his sincere appreciation to GSA and the staff for the encouragement and support offered him as he undertook his PhD.

He added that he would encourage GSA staff to recognise that the PhD journey, just as any demanding task they may encounter in their careers, is tough, rigorous and an often tumultuous process.

“Success and excellence requires patience but a lot of dedication, discipline, hardwork, resilience, and a strong willingness to learn, adapt, and engage with new ideas. Without these attributes, completing a PhD or accomplishing any complex task can quickly become a herculean challenge. Embracing these attributes can help anyone to achieve a PhD degree as well”.



GSA delegation in a group picture with the North-East Regional Minister (third from left), and Regional Coordinating Director (second from left)

Summary Report On Regional And Border Familiarisation Visits By The Ghana Standards Authority

As part of Management's nationwide stakeholder engagement and operational assessment exercise, a delegation from the Ghana Standards Authority (GSA), led by Hon. Samuel Abdullai Jabanyite, Deputy Director-General (General Services), undertook a series of familiarisation visits to regional offices and strategic border posts across the Savannah, Upper West, Upper East, North East, Northern, and Oti Regions.

The visits were aimed at understanding on-the-ground operations, identifying challenges and opportunities, strengthening inter-agency collaboration, and reaffirming

Management's commitment to effective standards enforcement and trade facilitation.

Border Operations and Trade Facilitation

At the Chache Border Post in the Savannah Region, the delegation engaged officers at the newly established and still-developing GSA border office. The team observed that the post is understaffed and lacks key technical officers, including a Certification Officer and a Scientific Officer. Logistical constraints, particularly the absence of a vehicle or motorbike, were also highlighted. Hon. Jabanyite emphasized the

strategic importance of the border, noting significant trade in cashew and cocoa and the risks posed by smuggling through unapproved routes. He stressed the need for strong collaboration with Immigration and security agencies to curb the influx of substandard goods and illicit drugs, reiterating that border operations require the same level of professionalism as seaports and airports.

Engagements with Immigration officers at Chache further revealed emerging opportunities, including a bridge over the Black Volta constructed by Côte d'Ivoire, which is expected to



stimulate commercial activity once commissioned.

However, poor mobile network connectivity was identified as a major operational challenge.

The team agreed that GSA's visible and active presence at the border would be critical in safeguarding product quality and consumer safety.

At the Hamile, Tumu, and Paga Border Posts, similar concerns and opportunities were identified. Customs and Immigration officials welcomed GSA's intention to establish permanent offices at these borders, stressing that effective customs operations are incomplete without GSA's conformity assessment and documentation functions.

Agricultural products, particularly shea nuts, dominate trade along the Ghana–Burkina Faso corridor, while illicit drug trafficking through

unapproved routes remains a shared concern among border agencies. Customs officers strongly advocated for adequate resourcing of GSA border offices, noting that coordinated enforcement significantly reduces public health and safety risks.

Regional Office Assessments

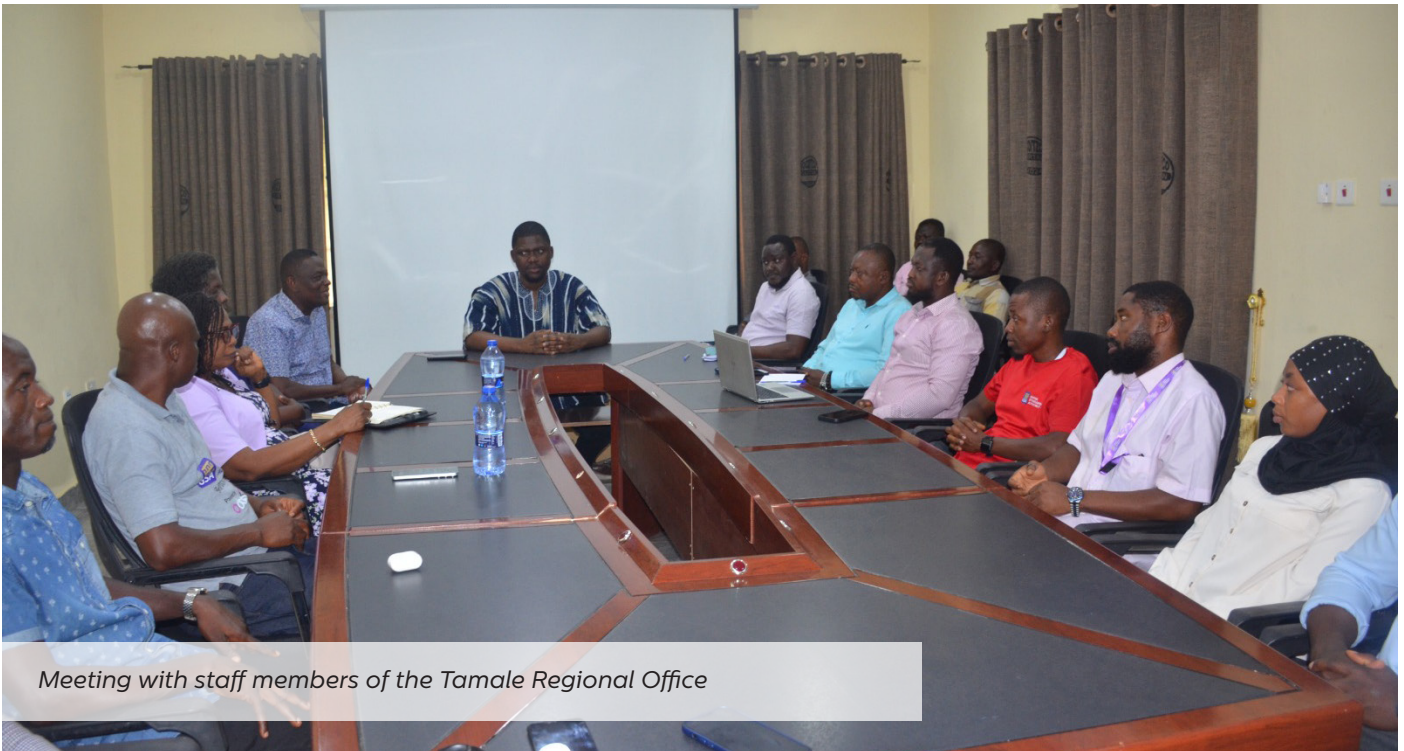
At the Wa Regional Office, Management was briefed on acute staffing and logistical gaps. The office currently operates with only three officers and lacks Verification and Scientific Officers, limiting service delivery across eleven districts.

Poor road conditions, inadequate transport, and insufficient infrastructure, including washroom facilities, further constrain operations. Despite these challenges, the region presents strong revenue potential through

verification, certification, testing services, and increasing commercial import activity.

Hon. Jabanyite underscored the importance of inter-agency collaboration and intensified public education to address resistance to certification caused by misconceptions about regulatory requirements.

A courtesy call on the Upper West Regional Coordinating Director reinforced the need for stronger border oversight and expanded GSA presence, including plans to establish an office at Hamile. The Chief Director pledged support, particularly in facilitating land acquisition for a permanent GSA office, and raised concerns about drug abuse linked to unapproved trade routes. In the Upper East Region, the delegation undertook a familiarisation visit to the Bolgatanga Regional Office,



Meeting with staff members of the Tamale Regional Office

where the Regional Manager outlined high trade volumes in products such as shea butter, groundnuts, oils, and powdered cereals. While verification and cement block testing are ongoing, the office faces challenges including limited vehicles, infrastructure gaps, and slow uptake of calibration services by hospitals due to cost concerns.

Management encouraged stronger stakeholder engagement, improved logistics planning, and proactive pursuit of accommodation and infrastructure support through the Regional Coordinating Council.

Meetings with the Upper East Regional Minister and Coordinating Council highlighted government support for GSA's mandate, with strong calls for increased staffing, deeper rural outreach, and closer collaboration with the Food and Drugs Authority to

address the proliferation of counterfeit and illicit drugs.

North East and Northern Regions

At the North East Regional Office in Gambaga, Management observed severe logistical and staffing constraints, including the absence of a vehicle, lack of technical officers, and limited mobility. Despite this, the region shows strong revenue potential, particularly among shea butter and water-producing companies, as well as at the active Yumburi border route with Togo. Hon. Jabanyite assured staff of Management's commitment to providing vehicles, expanding staffing, and establishing a border office to enhance trade regulation.

A courtesy call on the North East Regional Minister reaffirmed government support for GSA infrastructure development,

including encouragement to commence construction on allocated lands and support for a proposed border office at Pusiga.

In the Northern Region, the delegation held extensive engagements with the Tamale Regional Office. Key opportunities identified included collaboration with Tamale Technical University for concrete product testing, promotion of the Ghana Building Code, expansion of calibration services, and certification of agricultural products such as rice and shea butter. Management acknowledged coordination challenges and assured better communication between Head Office and Regions. Staff engagements focused on performance, discipline, teamwork, revenue mobilisation, and welfare concerns, including the regularisation of Technical



GSA officials with the Upper East Regional Minister

Service Inspectors (TSIs), capacity building, and logistics.

Oti Region

The visit to the Oti Regional Office in Dambai revealed a predominantly agrarian economy with significant untapped revenue potential. While current activities are minimal, opportunities exist in certification for sachet water producers, cassava processing, gari production, and agricultural exports.

The office, staffed by only five officers, faces major logistical challenges, including the absence of a vehicle and inadequate petty cash.

Hon. Jabanyite commended the Regional Manager for maintaining operations under difficult conditions

and emphasized the importance of targeted public sensitisation, particularly through local radio platforms.

Overall, the familiarisation visits underscored the critical role of the Ghana Standards Authority in protecting consumers, facilitating trade, and supporting national development.

Across all regions and border posts, common challenges emerged, including staffing shortages, inadequate logistics, infrastructure gaps, and the growing threat of substandard and illicit goods. Management reaffirmed its commitment to addressing these challenges through improved resourcing, strengthened inter-agency collaboration, enhanced public education, and strategic expansion of GSA's presence at key border points.

The visits also provided valuable first-hand insights to guide policy decisions, operational planning, and future investments in regional capacity building.





Mr. Prentice Macmillan making a presentation during the meeting

GSA Receives Delegation from DC Mechanica SDN BHD – Malaysia and Omanbapa Ghana Ltd.

The GSA, on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, received a delegation from DC Mechanica SDN BHD – Malaysia and Omanbapa Ghana Ltd.

The visit was primarily aimed at presenting a proposal for the introduction and implementation of Pre-Export Verification of Conformity (PVoC) programme for all cars imported into the country. This forms part of broader efforts to strengthen regulatory compliance while safeguarding the safety and quality of imported vehicles entering the country.

The Director-General (DG), Prof. George Agyei, who welcomed the delegation, expressed the Authority's resolve to partner private institutions to enhance the work of government and stated that the Authority's doors were open for collaboration.

Dr. Awal Mohammed, Deputy Director-General in charge of Operations (DDG-OPS), in his remarks, expressed appreciation to the team for the presentation and indicated that management would review the proposal for further consideration.





Mr. Lartey inspecting a procedure at a water company

Eastern Regional Office

GSA Conducts Inspections at Water Manufacturing Companies

The Eastern Regional Manager of the GSA, Mr. Andrew Lartey, led a delegation from the Authority to pay a courtesy call on the Eastern Regional Police Commander, DCOP Joseph Owusu Bempah to congratulate him on his recent appointment and to reaffirm the cooperative relationship between the two institutions.

Mr. Lartey conveyed the Authority's warm congratulations and used the occasion to outline the mandate of the GSA in the region. He explained the GSA's work in standards enforcement, market surveillance, testing, and public education. He noted the increasing need for close collaboration, especially in the ongoing effort to clear the

market of substandard and unsafe products.

Mr. Lartey stressed the Authority's continued commitment to working side-by-side with the Police Service to ensure that enforcement activities are carried out smoothly and in accordance with the law.

In response, DCOP Bempah expressed his appreciation for the visit and acknowledged the importance of the long-standing partnership between the two agencies.

He emphasised the need to strengthen collaborative efforts so that operations targeting substandard goods can be undertaken with greater efficiency.

He assured the GSA team that police officers would remain available for all joint activities whenever their presence is required.

DCOP Bempah further noted that standards are essential to everyday living and form part of the foundation of public safety. He affirmed the Command's full support for the Authority in the discharge of its duties.





A GSA official educating the students

Ashanti Regional Office

GSA Educates Bekwai SDA, Adonai Technical Institute Students, Staff

The Ashanti Regional Office of the Ghana Standards Authority (GSA), in the past week, organised a sensitisation programme for students and staff of Adonai Technical Institute (ATI), and Bekwai SDA Senior High School, all located in the Ashanti Region.

This forms part of the office's ongoing outreach agenda to educate the public on standards and quality and raise awareness among students about standards, product safety, and responsible consumer practices.

The session was facilitated by staff of the regional office who explained vividly GSA's role in

public health and consumer protection.

The interactive session covered GSA's role in promoting quality products, consumer protection, and the importance of standardisation in industry. Students learned about the Authority's efforts to ensure compliance with national and international standards and the impact of quality products on Ghana's economic development. "As consumers, you have the power to demand quality products," said an officer. "Always look out for the GSA Conformity Mark, which shows that a product meets Ghana's standards."

The officers explained that the Conformity Mark gives

consumers confidence in the products they buy and promotes fair competition among manufacturers. "Products with the Conformity Mark have been inspected, tested, and certified by GSA, ensuring they are safe for use," an officer noted. Students were encouraged to be vigilant and report products without the mark.

The facilitators encouraged the students to become "Quality Ambassadors" by sharing the knowledge they had gained with their families, checking product labels whenever they shop, and reporting suspicious or unsafe products to their teachers or directly to the GSA. This call to action was

well received, as the students expressed enthusiasm about playing a role in promoting consumer safety within their communities.

A lively question-and-answer session followed the presentations. Students asked how they could identify counterfeit products that may carry fake certification marks, what steps to take if they suspect a product is unsafe, and whether imported goods are subjected to the same standards as locally produced items. The facilitators

provided clear and reassuring responses, explaining that the GSA has mechanisms to detect counterfeit marks and encouraging students to report any suspicious products immediately. They also clarified that both imported and locally manufactured goods are required to meet the same safety and quality standards before being allowed onto the market.

The school authorities expressed their deep appreciation to the GSA for organising the sensitisation programme.

They noted that the session provided students with practical knowledge that would help them make safer choices, protect their health, and contribute to consumer safety in their communities. The programme was described as timely and impactful, equipping young people with the awareness and confidence needed to navigate the marketplace responsibly and to serve as advocates for quality and safety in society.







GS 187:2016: Cereals and Pulses – Specification for Hard Wheat Flour

Scope:

This Ghana standard specifies the requirements, methods of sampling and test for strong wheat flour prepared from hard wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L) intended as ingredient for further processing.

Why Do You Need This Standard?

Application of this standard by producers ensures the production of safe and quality products, consistency in production output, protection of consumers' health and safety, enhanced competitiveness and reduction in losses.

Summary of Content:

This Ghana Standards provides producers of Cereals and Pulses with the specification for Hard Wheat Flour by providing information on normative references, definitions, requirements, food additives, contaminants, hygiene, packaging and labelling, sampling, testing and criteria for conformity. This standard has been amended with reference GS 187:2016 AMENDMENT 1:2025 in Table 1, under sub-clause 4.3, change the requirement for sedimentation value from 30 ml to 26 ml.

Technical assistance is provided to enhance understanding of the standard content.

This standard is available for **REFERENCE** and **SALE** at the Documentation and Information Centre,
The Head Office, Ghana Standards Authority.

For further enquiries, kindly contact us at: **0302-500065/6; 506987**

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MERRY
Christmas
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

FROM THE GOVERNING BOARD,
MANAGEMENT AND STAFF,
GHANA STANDARDS AUTHORITY

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