

**IN THE THIRD SESSION OF THE FIFTH PARLIAMENT OF THE FOURTH  
REPUBLIC OF GHANA**

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ROADS AND TRANSPORT ON THE  
GHANA MARITIME SECURITY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2011**

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The Ghana Maritime Security (Amendment) Bill, 2011 was laid before the House by the Honourable Minister for Transport, Alhaji Collins Dauda on Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2011 and subsequently referred to the Committee on Roads and Transport for consideration and report.

This was in accordance with Article 106 (4) and (5) of the 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana and Order 189 of the Standing Orders of the House.

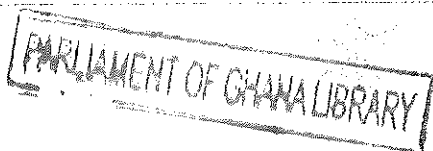
**2.0 DELIBERATIONS**

The Committee held meetings with the relevant stakeholders to consider the referral. The Honourable Minister for Transport, Alhaji Collins Dauda and officials from the Ministry and the Director-General and their technical teams who attended the Committee's meeting to assist in its deliberations.

The Committee also received a written memorandum on the bill from an individual who was granted hearing.

**3.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The Committee is grateful to the Hon. Minister of Transport and the Director-General of the Ghana Maritime Authority for providing technical assistance during the consideration of the Bill.



#### **4.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS**

The Committee made reference to the following documents during its deliberations:

- i) The 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana
- ii) The Standing Orders of the House
- iii) The Ghana Maritime Security Act, 2004 (Act 675)
- iv) The Ghana Shipping Act 2003 (Act 645)
- v) The Ghana Maritime Authority Act (Act 630)

#### **5.0 BACKGROUND**

The Ghana Maritime Security Act 2004 (Act 675) was enacted to provide the legal framework required to enhance maritime safety and security required for the Republic's compliance with Chapter XI-2 of the International Convention for the safety of Life at Sea, 1974 (SOLAS) as amended which the Republic of Ghana has ratified and specifically with International Ship and Port Facility Code (ISPC).

The requirements of SOLAS Chapter XI-2 apply to passenger ships, cargo ships of 500 gross tonnage and above, including high speed craft, mobile off-shore drilling units and port facilities serving the aforementioned ships engaged in International voyages.

In the light of the recent discovery of oil in commercial quantities off the coast of Ghana and other developments in the Marine environment like the presence of the West African Gas Pipeline, floating storage units and other marine installations, it has become imperative that the scope of application of Act 675 be extended to installations that are within the maritime jurisdiction of Ghana beyond the Territorial Sea.

## **6.0 OBJECT OF THE BILL**

The object of the Bill is to extend the application of the Ghana Maritime Security Act 2004 (Act 675) to cover fixed and mobile offshore drilling units and other marine installations in an area within Ghana's maritime jurisdiction.

The Bill also takes the opportunity to include in the Act new International Maritime Organisation (IMO) requirements in the area of maritime security under SOLAS.

## **7.0 OBSERVATIONS**

The Committee observed that there is an introduction of a provision in the Bill for a Ghanaian vessel to be fitted with a ship security alert system, a continuous synopsis record and an operational automatic identification system.

The Committee further noted that the Bill also introduced a provision to enable the Ghana Maritime Authority conduct inspection and audit on both Ghanaian and foreign registered ships within Ghana's maritime jurisdiction.

Again, the Committee observed that the Ghana Maritime Security Act has been extended to cover the whole of Ghana's maritime jurisdiction in accordance with the provisions specified in the Maritime Zones Delimitation Act, 1986 (PNDCL 159) and the jurisdiction exercisable by Ghana as a coastal state under international law.

## **8.0 CONCLUSION**

The Committee, having thoroughly considered the referral, is satisfied with the provisions of the Bill. It is the opinion of the Committee that the enactment of the above legislation will enable the Ministry of Transport and

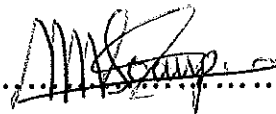
the Ghana Maritime Authority to effectively play its role in collaboration with other relevant Ministries for the enhancement of Maritime Security in Ghana.

Accordingly, the Committee recommends to the House for passage, the Ghana Maritime Security (Amendment) Bill.

Respectfully submitted.



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**MR. SAMUEL ADDEI**  
**CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE**



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**HON. MICHAEL COFFIE BOAMPONG**  
**CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON ROADS**  
**AND TRANSPORT**

**JULY 2011**

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