Sanitizing Electrical Installation Practice in Ghana

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SANITIZING ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION PRACTICE IN GHANA

Members of the Ghana Electrical Contractors Association are optimistic that the re-registration exercise being carried out by the Energy Commission of Ghana will lead to the total elimination of unqualified electrical technicians thereby maintaining high standards for the industry.

The President of GECA, Mr. Joseph B. Walker observed “as a result of the association's advocacy action, the Energy Commission has started licensing all the electrical contractors once again across all the ten regions in Ghana and creating a fair standard for the industry. This move has the potential of curbing the infiltration of the market by uncertified electrical contractors, thereby halting the decline of business opportunities for GECA members.”

Mr. Walker also noted that GECA’s successful advocacy action has given the association enormous exposure and recognition from relevant duty bearers such as the Ministry of works and Housing, Ministry of Local Government, Energy Commission and Electricity Company of Ghana. These relevant duty bearers are currently having fruitful dialogue with the leadership of GECA on ways to improve standards within the electrical installation industry.

The advocacy action of GECA has also impacted significantly on the growth of the association. The Administrator of GECA, Mr. Obiri Yeboah pointed out that as a result of their advocacy action, many previously unregistered electrical contractors have now joined the association. Consequently, total membership of the association has increased by 2,400.
Mr. Yeboah further disclosed that the advocacy capacity of GECA members has been greatly enhanced as the advocacy action provided an opportunity for members to learn new advocacy skills.

For many years the leadership of Ghana Electrical Contractors Association noted that business opportunities for their members have been dwindling as a result of the influx of unlicensed and unqualified electrical contractors into the electrical installation industry in Ghana. To halt this negative trend, members of GECA sought support from the BUSAC Fund to enable them advocate the enforcement of standards for Ghana’s electrical installation industry.

With the support of its Development Partners, DANIDA, USAID and the EU, the BUSAC Fund provided an advocacy grant to the leadership of GECA to enable them press home their demands for the enforcement of standards for electrical installation practice in Ghana. As part of their advocacy action, the leadership of GECA had fruitful dialogue sessions with officials from Ministry of works and Housing, Ministry of Local Government, Energy Commission and Electricity Company of Ghana. During these dialogue sessions, GECA members extensively discussed ways of enforcing standards within the electrical installation industry in Ghana.

*Story: Ebenezer Kpentey, the BUSAC Fund.*

**ENHANCING THE PRODUCTION CAPACITY OF POULTRY FARMERS**

Following GNAPF’s fruitful dialogue with relevant state authorities, Ghana’s Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA) recently launched the Ghana Broiler Revitalization Project (GHABROP) which is a ten-year collaboration between the government of Ghana and GNAPF. The project seeks to develop the poultry industry along the poultry value

*The prospects of doing more lucrative poultry business is beginning to dawn on members of the Ghana National Association of Poultry farmers (GNAPF), as the farmers testify that their advocacy action had contributed significantly to Ghana’s recent revitalization of commercial broiler production.*
chain and will ensure that production farms, input suppliers, hatcheries, feed mills, veterinary service producers, processors, marketers, cold store operators and consumers all play their roles efficiently to ensure Ghana’s self-sufficiency in poultry meat production.

Among other things, the GHABROP project will help develop state of the art poultry processing infrastructure in Ghana, as well as provide a sustainable solution to the rising cost of production for poultry farmers.

The Executive Secretary of GNAPF, Mr. Quame Kokroh pointed out that the introduction of GHABROP is a very encouraging public sector response to the advocacy action of GNAPF, as it is geared towards enhancing the production capacities of local poultry farmers in order to gradually reduce the nation’s massive importation of poultry products.

"Through the GHABROP project, the government is putting structures in place to ensure that within the next five years, at least 40 per cent of all poultry products consumed in Ghana will be produced by local poultry farmers. Currently, as part of requirements for acquiring an import license, all importers of poultry products are required to provide proof that 40 per cent of their total stock comes from local poultry farmers. This policy actually demonstrates a massive public sector support for Ghanaian poultry farmers, as it is about to create a very large market for local poultry farmers,” Mr. Kokroh disclosed in an interview.

Members of GNAPF are also delighted about the fact that the Government is beginning to take steps to protect the local poultry industry against unfair competition from cheap imported poultry products. The farmers say that Government had finally heeded their call for the implementation of the ECOWAS Common External Tariff (CET) which ensures that all consumable goods (including poultry products) imported into ECOWAS member states attract a minimum tariff of 20 per cent. This move has the potential of making the products of local poultry farmers more competitive on the domestic market.

An executive member of the association, Mr. John Torto, stated that “after the persistent advocacy action of GNAPF, the government of Ghana finally signed the ECOWAS CET agreement in late 2013, and its implementation is expected to commence in 2015. When properly implemented, this tax policy will increase the prices of imported poultry products and end the unfair competition against locally produced poultry products. This tax policy, coupled with the implementation of GHABROP will go a long way to develop Ghana’s A poultry farmer attending to her birds at the poultry farm
poultry industry.”

Broiler production businesses in Ghana have collapsed as a result of unfair competition from imported cheap poultry products. From a market share of nearly 100 per cent in the early 1980s, local producers currently account for less than 3 per cent. The collapse of broiler production has also adversely affected the related hatchery, feed mill and associated industries. To save the poultry industry from further decline, the Ghana National of Poultry Farmers sought funding from the BUSAC Fund to enable them advocate the enactment of the ECOWAS Common External Tariff on poultry imports as stated in the nation's 2011 budget.

With the support of its Development Partners, DANIDA, USAID and the EU, the BUSAC Fund provided an advocacy grant to the leadership of GNAPF to enable them press home their demands for policies to protect the local poultry industry from unfair competition from imported poultry products. As part of their advocacy action, the leadership of GNAPF had fruitful dialogue sessions with officials from the MOFA, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, the Parliamentary Select Committee on Agric and Cocoa Affairs, during which they extensively discussed the need to protect the local poultry industry from unfair external competition.

By Ebenezer Kpentey, the BUSAC Fund.

PROTECTING GHANA’S MUSIC INDUSTRY

The formation of Ghana's first ever music rights organization is helping musicians in the nation to earn more value for their intellectual works.

There are strong indications that Ghanaian Musicians are earning more income from their works, following the formation of the Ghana Music Rights Organization (GHAMRO) to supervise the collection of rights due music makers in Ghana.

Some of the musicians who are now receiving various payments as rights from entities such as restaurants, radio stations and drinking bars which make use of their work have expressed their gratitude to Metro TV, an Accra based station for the advocacy role played to ensure the establishment of GHAMRO.

The Board Chairman of GHAMRO, Mr. Carlos Sekyi pointed out that Metro TV’s advocacy action paved the way for a better protection of Ghana’s music industry, as it led to the formation of GHAMRO, the first music rights collection body in Ghana.

““This new music rights organization works to ensure that musicians get paid by entities who make use of their works. Media houses, bars, restaurants and other entities who make regular use of music pay a certain amount as rights into the coffers of GHAMRO. These amounts are collated and shared among musicians on an annual basis. This system ensures that musicians earn value for their intellectual property,” Mr. Sekyi stated.

Ghanaian musicians want better protection for their intellectual works. Photocredit: www.viasat1.com.gh

Mr. Sekyi further pointed out that GHAMRO is currently embarking on a nationwide campaign to sensitize all stakeholders and the general public to
support the rights collection programme and desist from piracy, as such illegitimate practices discourage investors from investing in the music industry.

Mr. Sakyi who is also a veteran musician noted that the successful advocacy action of Metro TV also enabled musicians to make inputs into the controversial Copyright Act 690, 2005 for the good of Ghana’s music industry.

“In collaboration with concerned Ghanaian artistes, the Metro TV advocacy action was able to delay Presidential assent to the controversial Copyright Act 690, 2005, until certain amendments were made to the bill in favour of Ghana’s music industry,” Mr. Simons remarked.

Metro TV’s successful advocacy action also played a significant role in attracting government support to address the needs of Ghana’s music industry.

Mr. Sekyi further affirmed that using 14 episodes of TV discussion programmes, the advocacy action highlighted the concerns of Ghana’s music industry, prompting the then government to start paying attention to the industry by making budgetary allocations to the creative sector for the first time in the 2012 fiscal budget.

Mr. Sekyi further observed that as result of the advocacy action, many Ghanaian musicians now have an improved awareness of their rights, as the advocacy action led to the education of artistes on what to expect from entities who use their music.

Beyond the formation of GHAMRO, Metro TV’s successful advocacy action also paved the way to the formation of other intellectual rights collection societies to cater for rights related to book publishers, movie makers, etc in Ghana.

For many years, the music industry in Ghana was plagued by several challenges which discouraged potential investors from investing within the industry. Notable among these challenges was the lack of effective laws and regulations to protect the industry and low level of awareness on intellectual property rights among musicians. In order to address these challenges, Metro TV Ltd. sought support from the Business Sector Advocacy Challenge (BUSAC) Fund to enable musicians to advocate the enactment and enforcement of effective regulations to protect the intellectual works of musicians within the country.
Being a pro-private sector programme, the BUSAC Fund, with the support of its Development Partners, DANIDA, USAID and the EU, provided an advocacy grant to the leadership of Metro TV Ltd to enable them advocate the enactment and enforcement of laws and regulations to protect the Ghana’s music industry. As part of the advocacy action, Metro TV, in collaboration with musicians and key stakeholders produced and telecast 14 episodes of TV discussion programmes which educated relevant duty bearers and musicians about the needs and concerns of Ghana’s music industry.

By Ebenezer Kpentey
BUSAC FUND SENSITIZES NEWS EDITORS ON CLIMATE CHANGE

The BUSAC Fund organized an evening “Business Forum” on October 4, 2014 for 15 news editors from selected media organizations with the aim of sensitizing the media on issues of climate change.

The forum is the first in a series of media interactions aimed at enhancing media appreciation of climate change issues and their impact on national development.

In his address to the participants, the Guest Speaker for the occasion, Professor Chris Gordon, an Environmental Scientist and Director at Institute for Environment and Sanitation (IES), University of Ghana, pointed out that climate change issues significantly impact every facet of national development, which explains why the government of Ghana launched the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) and the National Environment Policy (NEP) in July 2014.

Prof. Gordon stated that Ghana the policy documents, formulated by the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI), form part of the pragmatic and systematic efforts by government to ensure a climate-resilient and climate-compatible economy.

He further emphasized that both policies have been designed to provide strategic directions and also coordinate issues of climate change in Ghana as well as help the country achieve sustainable development through equitable low carbon economic growth.

Prof. Gordon mentioned that his outfit, the Institute for Environment and Sanitation (IES), University of Ghana, is currently focusing on ten key areas of the NCCP. These areas include agriculture and food security, disaster preparedness and response, natural resource management, equitable social development and energy, and industrial and infrastructural development.

A veteran Environmental Journalist, Ms. Ama

Kudom Agyemang noted that the media constitutes a very important force in the drive to tackle the climate change challenge, which explains why every action point in the NCCP lists the media as a key stakeholder.

Prof. Gordon further stressed the readiness of IES to collaborate with the media to sensitize the general public about the impact of climate change on various aspects of national development. He then discussed with participants the impact of climate change on various facets of national development as follows:

**Climate Change and the weather**

Human activities are fast depleting the ozone layer, thus exposing the world to the harmful ultra-violet rays of the sun, leading to climate change. This climate change is significantly affecting air temperature, such that many areas in Northern Ghana now experience air temperatures above 420°C at various times of the year. This rise in air temperature has dire implications for food production, health, energy consumption, etc.

**Climate Change and Food Security**

Crop production is highly sensitive to changes in
climate in terms of hours of sunshine, rainfall volume, application of water, soil condition and particularly to temperature changes. With the nation's agricultural sector being heavily dependent on natural rainfall patterns, extreme weather conditions like droughts and floods adversely affect food production in the country. Moreover, the rise in sea temperature is also affecting the breeding and availability of fish, which explains why the annual bumper harvest of fish in June and July is becoming rare these days.

Climate change and health

Studies have shown that weather temperatures affect the spread of certain tropical diseases. For instance, it has been established that there is a positive correlation between air temperature and mosquito bites, whereas the deadly Cerebral Spinal Meningitis (CSM) disease often thrives in the northern parts of Ghana because of the region's high temperatures.

Climate change and energy

The rise in air temperature induced by climate change is compelling many homes, offices and car owners to start using air conditioners. This ultimately leads to the consumption of more electrical energy, much of which is generated by thermal plants that burn fossil fuels. The burning of these fossil fuels eventually increases the emission of Carbon dioxide (CO2) which adversely affects climate change.

The media’s role in tackling the climate change challenge in Ghana

- The media ought to act as a link that facilitates the flow of information (on climate change) from scientists to policy makers and the general public. This will help simplify and convey technical information on climate change to the masses.
- The media has a major role to play in sensitizing the general public about the impact of certain human activities on climate change. For instance, the media ought to educate the public to abstain from creating bush fires as it has the tendency to destroy our forest cover, deplete our stocks of medicinal herbs and biodiversity, increase emission of Carbon dioxide (CO2), increase global warming and alter rainfall patterns. The media must also create more awareness on the impact of using CFC fridges on climate change.
- As a powerful medium of communication in rural Ghana, radio can be used by the media to educate our farmers on the need to adopt better methods of managing soil fertility rather than resorting to bush burning which decreases soil fertility and food production in the long run.
• Within the NCCP, there are numerous proposals and ideas that are aimed at making Ghana resilient to climate change. The media has a role to play in challenging policy makers to implement these ideas to the benefit of the nation.

• There are quite a number of funds (such as The Green Climate Fund) that have been set up to support projects, programmes, policies and other activities in developing countries aimed at enhancing adaptation and mitigation practices to counter climate change. Unlike Ghana, certain African countries like Senegal, South Africa and Rwanda are making prudent use of these funds. The media has a role to play in creating awareness on how Ghanaian policy makers and business organizations can also access these funds to finance massive public education on climate change issues.

A participant, Mrs. Loretta Vanderpuye (GTV news editor) expressed her sincere gratitude to the BUSAC Fund for whipping up the interest of media practitioners in climate change issues. “I recommend that the BUSAC Fund should organize a full training session on climate change reporting for News Editors as well,” she added.

By Ebenezer Kpenty, the BUSAC Fund

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**NOTICE OF RELOCATION**

The Management of the BUSAC Fund wishes to inform all its stakeholders and the general public that with effect from Thursday, 9th October 2014, the Fund’s Accra office has moved to the following new location:

47 Nii Noi Kwame Street, Dzorwulu, Accra, Ghana; adjacent Relax Court Hotel.

However, our contact phone number and email address remain the same. Please find below a diagram of the directions to our new office:
For the fourth time in a row, the BUSAC Fund has been awarded the prestigious CIMG Hall of Fame accolade for being the “Not-for-Profit-Making Organization of the Year-2013”.

The award is in recognition of the Fund’s excellence in supporting private sector business advocacy to help create a more enabling business environment for the Ghanaian private sector.

A citation presented to the Fund stated that the Fund won the award for the fourth consecutive time “for endeavouring to take the business advocacy challenge to every nook and cranny of the nation with its sensitization schemes aimed at spreading the importance of private sector advocacy in promoting local economic development.”

The BUSAC Fund was accordingly inducted into the CIMG Hall of Fame for the second consecutive time at the colourful 25th Annual CIMG awards ceremony held at the Banquet Hall of the State House on Saturday, 18th October, 2014. A presentation of testimonials from selected BUSAC Fund beneficiary grantees was also screened at the function to the delight of the invitees.

The BUSAC Fund was represented at the occasion by Mrs. Elizabeth J. Villars, Chairperson of the BUSAC Fund Steering Committee and selected members of the BUSAC Fund team.

The BUSAC Fund’s fourth success at the annual CIMG event demonstrates its contribution towards the improvement of the Ghanaian business environment within the nine years of its existence. In the year 2013 alone, the BUSAC Fund disbursed an amount...
of GH¢ 5,411,098.35 to 208 grantees to enable them implement various advocacy actions. The Fund also empowered 30 business associations with GH¢ 3.14 million to enable them engage in evidence-based policy dialogue with public officials and other duty bearers during the year. This support cuts across all legal business associations of all sizes ranging from Progressive Traders in Tamale to Association Ghana Industries in Accra, thereby enhancing public-private dialogue at all levels across the country.

A number of BUSAC Fund-sponsored grantees also achieved some remarkable results in the year 2013. Notable among them are the Empretec Business Women Forum, whose successful advocacy action led to increased exposure and access to new local and international markets for many of their members and the Progressive Traders Association whose advocacy action triggered major rehabilitation works at the Tamale Central Market.

The management and the entire BUSAC Fund team shares this noble achievement with its Funding Partners - DANIDA, USAID, and the EU - who provide the support needed to finance the services provided to the Fund’s grantees. Again, the Fund shares this achievement and recognition with all stakeholders, particularly grantees and short term consultants whose collective efforts have brought the Fund this honour.

Story: Ebenezer Kpentey, the BUSAC Fund
Watch video documentaries on the remarkable success story of six BUSAC Fund-sponsored grantees. Click the link below to watch the grantee documentaries online:

http://vimeo.com/channels/720677