

Good news - More Ghanaian to be employed as Seafarers

Ghanaian seafarers will soon be brimming with excitement as the much-awaited Cabotage regulation takes effect. This law will ensure that 50% of officers and 75% of ratings working on ships doing business in the nation's waters are of Ghanaian nationality.

This system provides a viable avenue for the many unemployed Ghanaian seafarers to get some sea time under their belt while promoting skills transfer in areas Ghanaian seafarers have not yet developed expertise in.

The Cabotage law will cover oil tankers, offshore support vessels, passenger vessels, fishing vessels and merchant ships, among others. Naval vessels and government vessels are among the exempted categories.

A Principal Maritime Adminis-

trative Officer at the Ghana Maritime Authority, George Anti-Kwakye (CMILT), who detailed the modalities of this new regulation to Eye on Port's Kennedy Mornah on national television, revealed that full implementation, where shipping companies will be obliged to comply, will begin on August 1 of this year.

Ahead of this, he said a series of consultations with shipping companies, seafarer recruitment agencies, maritime training institutions and other relevant stakeholders have been had in the past couple of years.

He said the GMA has conducted a crew analysis of all the eligible vessels in Ghanaian waters to ensure compliance.

To qualify, companies must fulfil all legal requirements that Ghanaian companies must meet.

An additional highlight of this regime is that Ghanaian seafarers under Cabotage will receive remunerations that are equal to those of their foreign counterparts of the same rank when performing the same responsibilities aboard ships.

He also revealed some cases that trigger the exemption clause of the Cabotage Law.

"When there is a one-time salvage operation, you can apply for an exemption. Again, when it comes to the manning requirements and after a thorough look at the database of the Ghanaian seafarer register, if those ranks you are looking for are not available and you want to bring a foreign national, you have to apply for an exemption."

Indeed, the Principal Maritime Administrative Officer said an enforcement team is in place to ensure

compliance, and their work is empowered by the fines and penalties stated in the law.

Adding his voice to the discourse, Awudu Enusah, who is also a Principal Maritime Administrative Officer, said prior to the coming into force of LI 2438 (Cabotage), the Ghana Shipping Act did not present any restrictions bordering on seafarer employment, putting the Ghanaian at a disadvantage.

He re-emphasised the skill transfer opportunity this Cabotage system presents for Ghanaian sea-

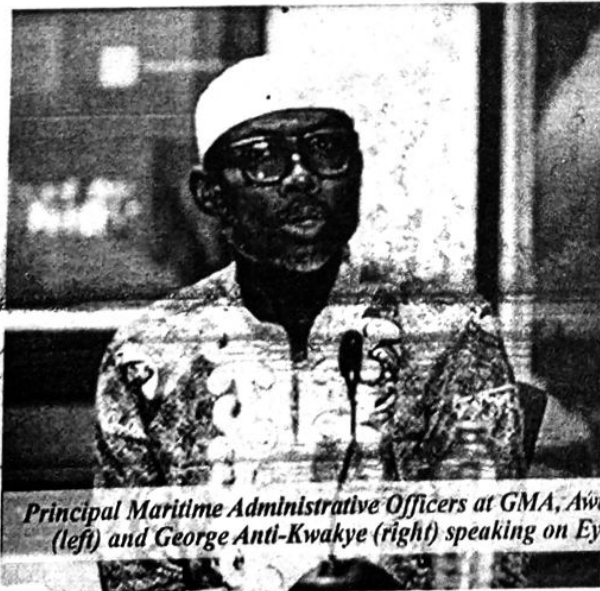
farers.

"Currently, in our fishing industry, you realize that we have a number of foreigners in there. Even at the rating level, we have a lot of Filipinos in there, so what LI 2438 tries to do is ensure that over a period of time, Ghanaians will take over and acquire the necessary expertise and competence, and then we also have to look at it within a certain context. Security-wise it's okay that we have such a law in place to protect our maritime space."

Bank of Ghana Forex Rates

Monday, July 15, 2024

<u>Currency</u>	<u>Pairs Code</u>	<u>Buying</u>	<u>Selling</u>
US Dollar	USDGHS	14.7179	14.7327
Pound Sterling	GBPGHS	19.0906	19.1112
Swiss Franc	CHFGHS	16.4404	16.4567
Australian Dollar	AUDGHS	9.9615	9.9741
Canadian Dollar	CADGHS	10.7650	10.7754
Danish Krone	DKKGHS	2.1508	2.1526
Japanese yen	JPYGHS	0.0932	0.0933
New Zealand Dollar	NZDGHS	8.9573	8.9689
Norwegian Krone	NOKGHS	1.3633	1.3642
Swedish Krona	SEKGHS	1.3906	1.3915
South African Rand	ZARGHS	0.8089	0.8093
Euro	EURGHS	16.0466	16.0625
Yuan Renminbi	CNYGHS	2.0274	2.0277
BCEAO	GHSXOF	40.8378	40.8783
Dalasi	GHSGMD	4.5975	4.6009
Ouguiya	GHSMRO	24.2440	24.3119
Naira	GHSNGN	108.5194	109.205
Leone	GHSSLL	1519.4666	1551.85
Ecowas	WAUGHS	0.0079	0.0079



Principal Maritime Administrative Officers at GMA, Awudu Enusah (left) and George Anti-Kwakye (right) speaking on Eye on Port