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RE: PARTIAL LOCK DOWN OF GREATER ACCRA FOR COVID-19 PREVENTION – MEASURES FOR PORTS TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE ESSENTIAL CARGO SERVICES

In line with the directives issued by His Excellency President Nana Addo-Dankwah Akufo-Addo on 27th March 2020 for the lock down of key municipalities in the Greater Accra Region including the Tema Municipality where the Port of Tema is located, the Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority (GPHA) hereby notes that the seaports must remain open to business. As gateways to Ghana’s international import and export trade in all types of goods including food and medicines, the Ports in Ghana just like ports in other part of the world, must remain open to ensure the continuous supply of essential commodities.

In this regard, the seaports as the main gateway for the supply of essential goods and services will remain open during the lock down period but with a scaled down scope of operations. Therefore, the following shall continue to provide their services in the Port:

1. GPHA
2. MPS Ltd,
3. GRA-Customs
4. Shipping Lines Agents (duly recognised/authorized by GPHA as having business to do in the port during this period)
5. Freight Forwarders and their appointed Cargo Truck Drivers (to be duly recognised/authorized by GPHA as having business to do in the port during the period)
6. Dock Labour Supply Companies
7. Terminal Operators and ICDs - (to be duly recognised/authorized by GPHA as having business to do in the port during this period)
8. Private Stevedoring and Shore Handling Companies- (to be duly recognised/authorized by GPHA as having business to do in the port during this period)
9. Ship waste collection contractors - (to be duly recognised/authorized by GPHA as having business to do in the port during this period)
10. Ghana Standards Authority - (to be duly recognised/authorized by GPHA as having business to do in the port during this period)
11. Food and Drugs Authority -(to be duly recognised/authorized by GPHA as having business to do in the port during this period)
12. Ghana Maritime Authority (duly recognised/authorized by GPHA as having business to do in the port during this period)
13. Ghana Shippers Authority (duly recognised/authorized by GPHA as having business to do in the port during this period)

14. Ghana Immigration Service

15. Port Health Department

16. Veterinary Services Department

17. Ghana Police Service

18. Operatives of National Security

19. Ghana Navy

20. Any other Port User with special need to access the Port - (to be duly recognised/authorized by GPHA as having business to do in the port during this period)

Under this Lock Down regime, Port of Tema shall operate as follows:

a) **Vessel/Ships handling** – 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to unload and load cargo for ships arriving and departing. Access to the Port by relevant service providers i.e. Shipping Line Agents and truckers shall be authorized by GPHA upon verification of business to do in the Port.

b) Cargo deliveries – Special dispensation is given for full unrestricted import clearance of all cargoes currently already received to storage in Tema Port for Ghana and in Transit, as well as cargoes currently already on board ships on the high seas and coming to be unloaded in Tema Port for local market or in Transit to the Landlocked countries. Access to the Port by relevant service providers i.e. Freight Forwarders shall be authorized by GRA-Customs Sector Commander, and by GPHA upon verification of business to do in the Port.

c) After all cargoes already in port and those on the high seas have arrived and have been cleared from the port, the new rule to allow only essential goods to be cleared shall apply if the lock down is still in force.

d) **Essential Goods** - Clearing Agents that will be clearing during this period must obtain Permits issued by GRA to enable them leave their homes to the Port of Tema. For purposes of cargo clearance, Essential Goods that must be cleared shall include:

   i. **Food items** whether in bulk or containers,
   
   ii. **Medicines**, medical and surgical consumables, medical equipment and pharmaceutical inputs/raw materials

   iii. **Perishable goods**

   iv. **Dangerous Cargoes including ammunitions**

   v. **Direct delivery cargoes** – Fertilizer, Clinker, Steel products, etc


e) Whenever the new rule of restricting import clearance to only essential goods comes into effect, rent and demurrage that may accrue during the lock down new rule period should be waived by Terminal Operators and Shipping Lines respectively.
f) **Exports** – Cargoes meant for export shall be received by the Ports on a 24 hours basis. Shippers and agents who engage in exports shall therefore follow the normal routine for booking and movement of cargo to the port terminals.

To facilitate identification and permission of Persons authorized to access the Ports for a designated work, GPHA shall issue the following:

i. **GPHA COVID-19 HARBOUR PERMIT for Port Users** – This permit shall serve as proof that the bearer is permitted to leave his/her home to work in the Port. The Permit will indicate the valid date(s) during which the bearer has business to do in the port. The Request for Permit shall be addressed online to the following:

   a. Mr. Garvin Amarvie: gamarvie@ghanaports.gov.gh
   
   b. Mr. Richard Acquah: racquah@ghanaports.gov.gh

**In addition to GPHA’s Permit, Freight Forwarders must also acquire a GRA Permit.**

ii. **GPHA COVID-19 HARBOUR PASS to GPHA, MPS and Dock Labour Employees** – This Pass shall serve as proof that the bearer is permitted to leave his/her home to work in the Port during the lock down period.

All other previously circulated protocols remain in force. These include the prohibition of ships crew and passengers from disembarking in port, and requirement for all ships arriving to wait at Quarantine Anchorage to be screened by Port Health Service and cleared before the ship will be brought into Port.

In view of the limited time for the Special Permits and Passes to be produced for the purpose of this Lock Down, GPHA requires special dispensation exemption for Monday 30th March where all workers expected to be at post shall come to work and be appropriately identified and issued with the needed passes.

Thank you for your understanding as we assure you of our cooperation at all times.

Yours faithfully,

GHANA PORTS AND HARBOURS AUTHORITY

MICHAEL A. LUGUJE
DIRECTOR-GENERAL

cc: Directors of Port- Tema/Takoradi/Keta
GMs-Admin/MCA-CP/Legal/Fin/Audit/Estate/RM/SD/HMS
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Meridian Port Services, Ltd
Ghana Maritime Authority
Ghana Shippers Authority
Ship Owners and Agents Association of Ghana
Ghana Institute of Freight Forwarders
Ghana Union of Traders’ Associations
Joint Association of Port Transport Unions
Private Port Operators Association
Police Commander – Tema Region
Sector Commander – GRA – Tema
All Port Operators
The General Manager, ATLAS, Tema
The General Manager, Global Cargo Container Terminal, Tema
The Managing Director, WILMAR Ghana, Tema
The Managing Director, Alship Logistics Limited, Tema
The Managing Director, Beedeg Shipping (GH) Limited, Tema
The Managing Director, Consolidated Shipping Agencies Ltd., Tema
The Managing Director, DAMCO Logistics Ghana Ltd, Tema
The Managing Director, DHL Ghana Limited, Tema
The Managing Director, OMA Logistics Ghana Limited, Tema
The Managing Director, Crown Container Services, Tema
The Chief Executive Officer, Modedees Company Limited, Tema
The Chief Executive Officer, All Intermodal, Tema
The Managing Director, Ocean Nile Limited, Tema
The Managing Director, GHACEM , Tema
The Managing Director, DANGOTE, Tema
The Executive Secretary, Importers & Exporters Association, Tema
The Head, Food and Drugs Authority, Tema
The Head, Ghana Standards Authority, Tema
The Head of Joint Port Control Unit, Tema
The Head, Environmental Protection Agency, Tema
The General Manager, GCNet, Accra
The Managing Director, West Blue
The Representative, Burkina Faso Chamber Of Commerce, Tema
The Representative, Burkina Faso Shippers Council (CBC), Tema
The Representative, Niger Shippers Council (CNUIT), Tema
The Director, Malian Warehouses In Ghana (EMAGHA), Tema
The President, Ghana Institute of Freight Forwarders (GIFF), Tema
The President, Customs House Brokers Association of Ghana (CUBAG), Tema
The President, Association of Customs House Agents, Ghana (ACHAG), Tema
The General Manager, APM Terminals, Tema
The General Manager, Amaris Export Terminal, Tema
The General Manager, Overseas Commerce, Tema
The Managing Director, Yafking Logistics Limited, Tema
The Managing Director, Brand Choice and Sourcing, Tema
The Managing Director, Action Marine Services Limited, Tema
The Managing Director, Sizwe Logistics International, Tema
The Managing Director, Kwafric Consult Ghana Ltd., Tema
The Managing Director, Botiaye Ventures Company Ltd, Tema
The Managing Director, Fountain View Company Limited, Tema
The Managing Director, Khosen Services Limited, Tema
The Managing Director, Koaich Port Services, Tema
The Managing Director, Beach Front Stevedoring Ltd., Tema
The Managing Director, Dabakko Company Limited, Tema
The Managing Director, Oceanlink Maritime Services, Tema
The Managing Director, Reliance Stevedoring Company, Tema
The Managing Director, Golden Gate Services Limited, Tema
The Managing Director, Advanced Stevedoring Company, Tema
The Managing Director, Gemini Maritime Services, Tema
The Managing Director, Speedline Stevedoring, Tema
The Managing Director, Key Port Maritime Services, Tema
The Managing Director, Atlantic Port Services, Tema
The Managing Director, Ocean Nile Limited, Tema
The Managing Director, Barryfauson Limited, Tema
The Managing Director, Kathoros Limited, Tema
The Managing Director, Dsm Limited, Tema
The Managing Director, Stache’ Limited, Tema
The Managing Director, Agilent, Tema
The Managing Director, Tema Bonded Terminal, Tema
National Security Coordinator, National Security
Bureau of National Investigation