



MIGRANT *News*

An authoritative news magazine from the GIS

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Highlights

- Securing Borders
In A Globalized World
- Aflao Immigration
Post
- Passport Processing
- ILO Presentations
- 9th Sessa Games



CONTACTS:

**The Director,
Ghana Immigration Service
Headquarters
(off Ako Adjei overpass)
Independence Avenue, Accra.
Tel: +233 (0)21-224445, 221667, 674125
Fax: +233 (0)21-258249
E-mail: director@myzipnet.com**

Kotoka International Airport:
+233 (0)21 -776171/777401/ 762616

Enforcement:
+233 (0)21- 685007/665874/685004/685000

Tema:
+233 (0)22- 206656/212115/202552

REGIONAL OFFICES

Greater Accra:
+233(0)21-685006

Kumasi:
+233 (0)51-25232/28938

Sunyani:
+233 (0)61-23427/23434

Ho:
+233 (0)91-28139

Koforidua:
+233 (0)81-23255/23428 Ext. 138/139

Cape Coast:
+233 (0)42-32988

Assin Fosu (Training Schools)
+233 (0)372 28842

Sekondi:
+233 (0)31-22084/46941

Tamale:
+233 (0)71 22775

Bolgatanga:
+233 (0)72-23326/23208

Wa:
+233 (0)756-22205

Aflao:
+233 (0)962-30202

Elubo:
+233 (0)345-22004-6

EDITORIAL



Mrs Maud Quainoo
Deputy Supt. Of Immigration
(Editor)

The 'Migrant News' is the official news letter for the Service.

Its objective is mainly to disseminate information on the service to personnel as well as other security services. It is also meant for ministries, departments and agencies which have links with Ghana Immigration Service.

Features and publications may be from staff or even outsiders depending on the subject.

All correspondence, articles and other contributions should be addressed to:

The Editor
Immigration News
Ghana Immigration Service
Headquarters, Accra

Note:

The Editor reserves the right to edit or refuse to publish any contributions submitted for publication.

On behalf of the editorial team, I wish to assure you of the continuous publication of the 'Immigration News'.

GHANA IMMIGRATION SERVICE WE HAVE COME A LONG WAY

The Ghana Immigration Service has come a long way. It started as the Immigration and Passports Division of the Gold Coast colonial Police Force.

On the attainment of independence the rapid expansion of the economy and others led to the influx of foreign businessmen and mostly African aliens. The need to control this influx became increasingly apparent leading to the transfer of the immigration function to the Ministry of the Interior as a department with the view to make it more effective. The issuing of passports was taken over by the Ministry of foreign Affairs.

In 1963, the Aliens Act 1963, Act 160, was enacted to give legal backing to Immigration operations.

In 1989, by PNDC law 226, the Immigration Department was converted to a Para-military Service with a Board and a Director to run it.

We can mention names of past Directors like Mr. Aboah, Nana Owusu Nsiah who were from the Ghana Police Service.

In 2004, in search for a Director of the Immigration Service, after the elevation of Nana Owusu Nsiah to the position of the IGP, the present government chose from within the Service.

For the first time an Immigration Officer was appointed as the Director, Ms Elizabeth Adjei. This had been the dream of the Service for long., Mr. J.G.G. Kartey and Mr. K .O. Ansu Gyeabourh were Deputy Directors in charge of Finance & Administration and Operations respectively.

Now that the Service is being run by its own, it is the duty of each one to support the team to achieve its mission; to build a stronger better Ghana by operating fair but firm immigration controls that regulate and facilitate the movement of people through Ghana's borders efficient, effective residence and work permit systems that meet the social and economic needs of the country.

We have come a long way but the road before us is longer. It is crucial that we all play our individual roles and responsibilities, in the realization of the bigger dream.

Editorial Team:

Maud A. Quainoo

Doreen Dako-Gyeke

Philip Andoh

Amoako Atta

Linda Asare Mante

Edward Baffoe Bonnie

Lawrence Awotwi

(Dept. Supt. of Immigration)

(Dept. Supt. of Immigration)

(Asst. Supt. of Immigration)

(Senior Insp. of Immigration)

(Senior Insp. of Immigration)

(Asst. Insp. of Immigration)

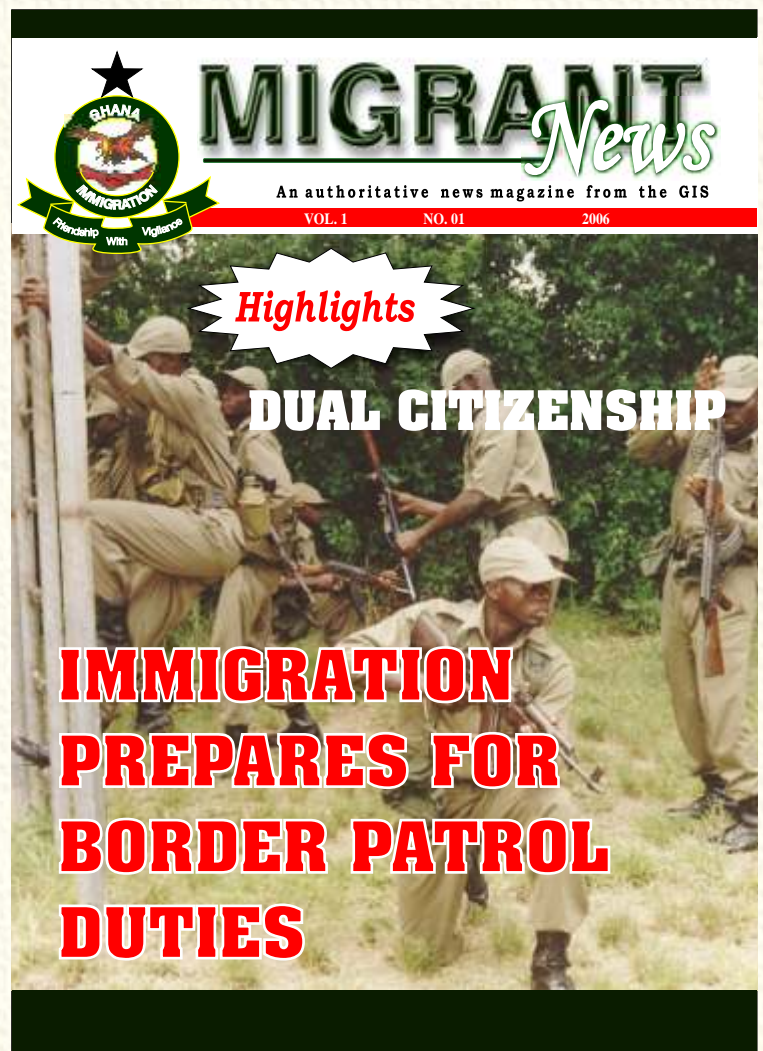
(Asst. Immigration Compt. Officer)

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“Immigration Prepares for Border Patrol Duties”



GHANA IMMIGRATION BOARD

The GIS board is the governing body of the Service. It comprises the chairman, seven other members and the Director of Immigration. Among its numerous functions the Board performs the following;

To advise on and to ensure the effective implementation of all laws and regulations pertaining to immigration and related issues.

To control management on matters of policy, subject to the provision of the Immigration Law.

To examine and advise on all matters concerning the welfare, training, and discipline, (including dismissals of all employees of the Service.

To appoint and promote employees of the Service.

To draw up a scheme of service prescribing the terms and conditions of the Service as well as the remuneration of the employees of the Service, etc.

The Board is chaired by Mr. Ernest Owusu Opoku, a former Director of Immigration, and a former Inspector General of Police.

It is made up of prominent personalities who have a wide range of experience.

Below are their respective profiles.



Mr. Ernest Owusu Poku
(Board Chairman)

Mr. Owusu Poku is a product of the University of Ghana where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts honors in Political Science. He entered the Ghana Police Service and rose through the ranks to be the Inspector General of Police (IGP). He was also the Director of Immigration from 18th Jan 1990-10th March 1992.



Dr Hakeem A. Weimah
(Board Member)

Dr Wemah is presently the Chairman of the Council of the University for Development Studies. He is also the Managing Director of AGROVETS Ltd. and a member of the National Committee on Soyabean Development.

He graduated in Veterinary Medicine in Kenya and has a Masters of Science Degree in Meat Science.

He is the first President of the Ghana/France Chamber of Commerce Industry and Agriculture. (Previously Club Lutece)

Dr Weimah was a member of the Int. Parliament for safety and Peace in Italy.



Prof. Kofi Baffoe Bonnie
(Board Member)

Dr Baffoe Bonnie is a Doctor of Medicine and a Pediatrician. He is a Lecturer at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology. (KNUST). He is also a fellow of West African College of Physicians and Ghana College of Physicians.

Before joining the Medical Science KNUST, he worked in various hospitals in various positions in Germany. He has served in the following capacities:

President, Rotary Club of Kumasi East District, Deputy Vice Dean, School of Medical Sciences, Head, Dept. of Child Health, SMS, Vice Dean, School of Medical Sciences, Secretary General Union of National African Pediatric Societies and Association (UNAPSA), Secretary: Faculty of Pediatrics (Ghana Chapter) West African College of Physicians, Chairman, Faculty of Pediatrics, West African College of Physicians, Chairman, Pediatric Society, Ghana, Examiner, Faculty of Pediatrics of the West African College of Physicians.



Elizabeth Adjei
(Director of Immigration)

As the Director of Immigration, Miss Elizabeth Adjei is an automatic member of the Immigration Service Board.

She is a 1985 graduate of the University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana where she had a Bachelor of Arts Degree in social Sciences. She also has a Masters Degree in Development Policy from Connell University, USA.

A Herbert Humphrey Fellow, she has her internship with the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), Washington DC and the United Nations Development for the Advancement of Women in 1998.

Before her appointment as Director of Immigration in 2002, she was successively Head of ECOWAS Desk, Head of Administration, and Head of Training at the Ghana Immigration Service.

(To be cont.)

ILO DONATES OFFICE EQUIPMENT TO GIS

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) has donated office equipment worth more than \$20,000 to support the establishment of a Migration Information Bureau at the Ghana Immigration Headquarters. The Bureau will provide information on job opportunities abroad and guide prospective travelers as part of government's efforts to check the exploitation and ordeal that Ghanaians travelers experience.

The Bureau will help answer specific questions and globalization. She continued that facilitation of Migration was now a lucrative business in Ghana with Ghanaians being exploited by con-men to obtain passports and visas. She said evidence of trafficking and people smuggling had increased phenomenally as countries tighten their visa controls and thus, made the visa contracting business lucrative. Moreover, she said most people traveled through dangerous territories across deserts and oceans to reach what the travelers term the "promised land" Miss Adjei said most of such travelers, particularly illegal ones, often arrested at border points



Miss Elizabeth Adjei, DIS, receiving the items from Mr Eric A. Okrah National Project Co-ordinator of ILO

counsel potential migrants and returnees as well as give information on immigration policies, procedures and realities in a preferred country of destination. It will therefore serve as a one stop shop to reach out to the public for increasing awareness on migration in general.

The items were presented on behalf of the ILO by Mr. Eric Appiah Okrah, National Project Co-ordinator of ILO's Action Project Against forced Labour and Trafficking in West Africa. Speaking at the ceremony, Miss Elizabeth Adjei, Director of Immigration, conceded that although Migration is an age old problem it had recently increased in momentum since

the process of globalization. She continued that facilitation of Migration was now a lucrative business in Ghana with Ghanaians being exploited by brokers and con-men to obtain passports and visas. She said evidence of trafficking and people smuggling had increased phenomenally as countries tighten their visa controls and thus, made the visa contracting business lucrative. Moreover, she said, most people traveled through dangerous territories across deserts and oceans to reach what the travelers term the "promised land" Miss Adjei said most of such travelers, particularly illegal ones were often arrested at border points or deported by host countries, have had to tell tales. That suggested that they either did not understand the transaction or were duped

and exploited, stressing that in some cases people perish under dangerous conditions. "In some cases people even qualify legally for entry to a foreign country but ignorance makes them resort to visa contractors. This suggests that information delivery plays a critical role whether credible or not" she added.

Miss Adjei said although information was not a solution in itself, the work of the office could portray the government as sensitive and caring to the plight of migrants. She stressed that "determined migrants will always find a way out but we will make it possible for choices to be made, rather than leap in the dark." She said although the office had not been officially launched the ILO had demonstrated practical support by donating the equipment to enable it become functional.

Mr. Okrah expressed his appreciation that the office

when set up would also deal with the emotional needs of deportees in particular. He said most migrants had to go through harsh ordeals because they were ignorant of what awaited them in the world they chose to travel to. He appealed to donor organizations to support the Service.

Mr. Barnes, Chief Director, Ministry of the Interior, on his part said one of the strategic objectives of the bureau was to curb the problem of people trafficking, smuggling and migration brokers and thus protect the persons and the rights of emigrants.

Also present at the handing-over ceremony were the head of the EU, the Ambassador, Netherlands Embassy, Accra, a representative from UNDP, IOM and Mrs Annor Kumi who accompanied the Chief Director from the Ministry of the Interior.

Porno Man Busted

Officials of the Ghana Immigration Service (GIS) have arrested a 39year old Austrian national, Thomas Wild, and his Nigerian accomplice for engaging in homosexual activities. Upon a tip-off, the operations unit of the Service mounted surveillance to monitor his activities. This led to their arrest at their hideout in a hotel in Tantra Hills, Accra.

A search conducted in his room led to the retrieval of several obscene pornographic materials, including, 7 audio-visual discs which contained pornographic pictures and films showing the suspect having unnatural carnal knowledge (homosexuality) with persons of African descent who were mostly black.

Several equipment used in pursuit of his trade were also found and these include a digital camera, video camera, vibrators, over 50 digital video tapes lubricants and undeveloped films.

Thomas Wild admitted in his statement to be involved in the production and marketing of pornographic films. He further indicated that he pays all the



Mr Thomas Wild standing behind some of the seized items

"actors" one hundred euros per person per film. Most of the films were shot in Africa. Some of the titles included "African entertainment media", "African joy", "in the African heat", "gay in Africa",.

His modus operandi includes

approaching young men who are unemployed with the promise of assisting them to obtain visas to Europe and in the process succeed in taking advantage of the victims.

Ghana Passports

Travel documents can be traced to the 15-century when some European Lords gave authorization and also sought permission for their subjects to pass through other kingdoms. Passport is therefore for the purpose of traveling and for national identity and to come under the protection and recognition due nationals of the state concerned.

Ghanaian passports and travel documents are governed by NLCD 155 of 1969 and as amendment, PNDCL 310 of 1993. The issuing authority being the Director of Passports (Ministry of Foreign Affairs). The Ghana Immigration Service facilitates the processing of the Ghanaian passports through its regional and District offices.

FEATURE

Section 11 of the Act makes a passport the property of the state. Any holder of a Ghanaian passport by sec 13 of NLCD 155 is required by law to surrender the Passport to the authorized representative of the state whenever it is demanded. In this case the Ghana Immigration Service. That is, anytime an Immigration Officer demands a Passport from the holder in the performance of his official duty it must be tendered in.

Section 15 of NLCD 155 makes it clear that it is an offence to change or alter any information on the Passport. Photo substitution or changing particulars in the passport is a crime. The holder's duty is only to append signature at the signature column of the Passport. (it must be noted that this is very important because it is one way of tracking impersonation). The sole issuing authority of Passport and other travel documents is the passport office branch of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Signatories are the Director of Passports and his two deputies.

TYPES OF TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

1. Ordinary Passport
2. Service or Special Passport
3. Diplomatic Passport
4. Emergency Travel certificate
5. Certificate of Identity
6. Collective Travel document
7. ECOWAS Travel certificate
8. Hajj Passports

ORDINARY PASSPORT

This is sometimes called Black Passport. It is issued to any ordinary Ghanaian. Any Ghanaian who is qualified for a Passport can apply to acquire one. It currently has 32 pages. It is valid for 10 years and it actually remains with holder unless otherwise withdrawn by the State.

SERVICE PASSPORT

This is green in colour and is known as a functional passport. It is issued to Ghanaians traveling on official state assignment other than holders of diplomatic passports. This passport is returned to the organization after the purpose for which it is issued expires that is why it is known as functional Passport. The same passport is used by the holder in case another trip is to be undertaken within the validity of the passport.

DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT

This is issued to:

- a. Ghanaians proceeding on official government business.
- b. Leader of a government delegation.
- c. Diplomatic representatives of Ghana to any country.
- d. Any Diplomatic staff or consular officer of Ghana and their dependants.
- e. By the Passport law amendment, PNDCL 310 of 1993, a Diplomatic Passport may be issued to a prominent Ghanaian when so directed by the government. A diplomatic passport is also functional Passports. They must be returned after the holder's duty tour. As much as diplomatic passport holders enjoy some immunities, their passports are endorsed by the Immigration Service before departure or arrival.

EMERGENCY TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

This is issued to Ghanaians outside Ghana who have had to travel to Ghana on an emergency and for that matter could not be issued with a Ghanaian Passport. The Emergency Travel Document is issued for a single journey only and only to Ghana. This means such a Travel Certificate is not issued to Ghanaians to travel to anywhere else other than to Ghana and applicants are expected to acquire a passport when they get to Ghana. This is not issued in Ghana

ECOWAS TRAVEL CERTIFICATE

This is issued to Ghanaians for the purpose of traveling within the ECOWAS sub-Region-. All ECOWAS nationals are expected to have a similar form of a booklet but the issuing state has the name written on it. The holder does not require visas in T/C because it does not go beyond Ecowas, and by the Ecowas Protocol Ecowas Nationals do not need visa's to enter member states.

CERTIFICATE OF IDENTITY

This is issued to both Ghanaians and non-Ghanaians in Ghana to travel in a situation where a passport cannot be issued. For instance when the machines to issue Passport's are broken down. Certificate of Identity could be issued to Ghanaians who will have to travel on an emergency. Again Certificate of Identity could be issued to foreigners in the country who have to be repatriated or deported and have no national mission in Ghana or a near by country.

COLLECTIVE TRAVEL DOCUMENT

This is issued to a group of people who are embarking on a trip together. It is normally a Passport size photograph

of each participant pasted on a file cover which is endorsed by the Director of Passports. A covering letter which introduces and identifies the group as being Ghanaians who should be allowed through the borders and accorded the necessary assistance is also attached.

HAJJ PASSPORT

This document is meant for a single return journey to Jedda only for Hajj purpose and it is only for the Hajj season. Any time one wants to travel to Jedda on a personal mission one must travel on a personal passport. The colours sometimes differ. This is a security measure by the Saudi Immigration to control illegal Immigrants. This application is made through the Hajj Board to the Greater Accra Regional Immigration Office.

ACQUISITION OF GHANAIAN TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

ORDINARY PASSPORT

To acquire an ordinary passport one must purchase a passport application form (¢5000) from the post office. The form must be duly completed with the various attachments and submitted to the nearest Immigration Office in any of the Regional or District Offices.

One of the major requirements is the prove of nationality which is normally a birth certificate. In some cases a proof of occupation is required.

A fee of one hundred thousand cedis (¢100,000) is required. When the form and processing fee is deposited with the Immigration Service a retention slip is issued to the applicant, which must be tendered in when coming for the passport.

The requirements for the application for ECOWAS travel certificate is not much different except the form. In the case of the certificate of identity, an application is made to the ministry of Foreign Affairs requesting for the certificate of identity and stating the reason why passport cannot be acquired. It is a sheet of paper with the photograph of the bearer embossed on it.

COLLECTIVE TRAVEL DOCUMENT

A formal application is written to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This is channeled through the Ghana Immigration Service, where a processing fee is paid. The Director of Passports endorses it and a covering letter is written to introduce the participants. This document is also channeled through the Immigration Service. File cover with their names written by each photograph. A formal application is written to the ministry of foreign affairs. This is channeled through the Ghana Immigration Service where a processing fee is paid. The Director of Passports endorses it and a covering letter is written to introduce the participants. This document is also channeled through the Immigration Service.

EMERGENCY TRAVEL CERTIFICATE

The cost depends on the country. Some emergency Travel certificates are issued to Ghanaians in Ghana to

travel on an emergency. This is issued at the legal directorate of the Foreign Affairs

MODE OF ACQUISITION OF SERVICE AND DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT

In the case of service passport the institution that is sponsoring the trip makes an official application with the nature of mission attached.

In the same way if Diplomats are appointed by the government a letter is issued from the Office of the President directing the Ministry to issued diplomatic passports.

The application form is the same but different from that of the ordinary passport. It is titled "Official Passport". The Ministry will then indicate with a red ball pen whether it is Diplomatic or Service Passport. There are no attachments to it apart from the contract letter.

The form is only issued by the Legal directorate of Foreign Affairs Ministry. It is not for sale and the applicant pays no money for a Service or Diplomatic passport. The processing of official passports are done solely by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration Service plays no part in the processing. The form is also issued by the legal directorate of Foreign Affairs Ministry. It is not for sale and the applicant pays no money for a Service or a Diplomatic passport. The processing of official passports are done solely by the Ministry of foreign Affairs and Immigration Service plays no part in the processing.

REASONS WHY A GHANAIAN MAY BE REFUSED A GHANAIAN PASSPORT (SEC 5 (2))

1. If the applicant is declared insane. (When the person is traveling on medical grounds the situation is different).
3. If the person is a habitual criminal.
4. If the person is a security risk he may be refused a passport to Ghana or refused a passport to travel.
5. If the person is known to be fleeing justice or avoiding prosecution.
6. When the applicant cannot appear in person obtaining a passport by proxy is not allowed. That is a person applying for a Ghanaian passport must appear personally to the Immigration Service to submit the application. If the person is abroad and wants a Ghanaian passport he or she must apply to the Ghana mission abroad.

AFLAO IMMIGRATION POST



New Immigration Arrival lounge, Aflao

The Aflao Border Post is one of the busiest entry points in Ghana. It is located along the south eastern frontier of the country and it is one of the major entry points which is frequented by thousands of people every day. These include Ghanaians, foreign nationals, and border residents. (Who is a "border resident"? According to the Immigration Act, 2000, Act 573 a border-resident is "a national of a neighboring country who ordinarily resides within five kilometers radius of either side of Ghana's territorial frontiers with the Republics of Togo, Burkina Faso and Cote d'Ivoire").

There are several agencies operating at the border. This includes the Ghana Immigration Service, the Customs Excise and Preventive Service etc. The Ghana Immigration Service regulates the movement of people into and out of the country. It also issues Visa-on arrival to foreign nationals among others.

To enhance the flow of work the Aflao Immigration Post is undergoing a facelift with the renovations of the office structures. It can presently boast of a VIP Lounge which has a "restroom", a new Arrival and Departure lounge, two cells- one for males the other for females - and other office facilities.

Presently, a Server room has been set up with computers in place at the Aflao border Post. This is in line with plans of the Service to computerize its

System. When it is completed it will facilitate the clearing of passengers at the entry and exit points since all documents will be scanned into the computer instead of being keyed in by officers. This will reduce the time spent on travelers when they are arriving or departing from the country.

According to Mr. Felix Sarpong, (Comptroller of Immigration) and 2nd -in- Command at Aflao, the Command needed modern scanners for effectiveness and efficiency. He assured the traveling public that very soon there will be constant power supply to the Aflao Border Post as the National Security Council has provided the Border with a generator which is yet to be installed.



The Arrival Lounge before the renovations

Four Senior Officers Attend Training In The Netherlands



The leader of the delegation Mr. F. L. Aikins (Asst Director of Immigration) receiving a plaque from - on behalf of the team

Four Senior Immigration officers have undergone training in Document Fraud in the Netherlands. The programme was organized and sponsored by the Netherlands Embassy in Accra and the National Bureau of Documents.

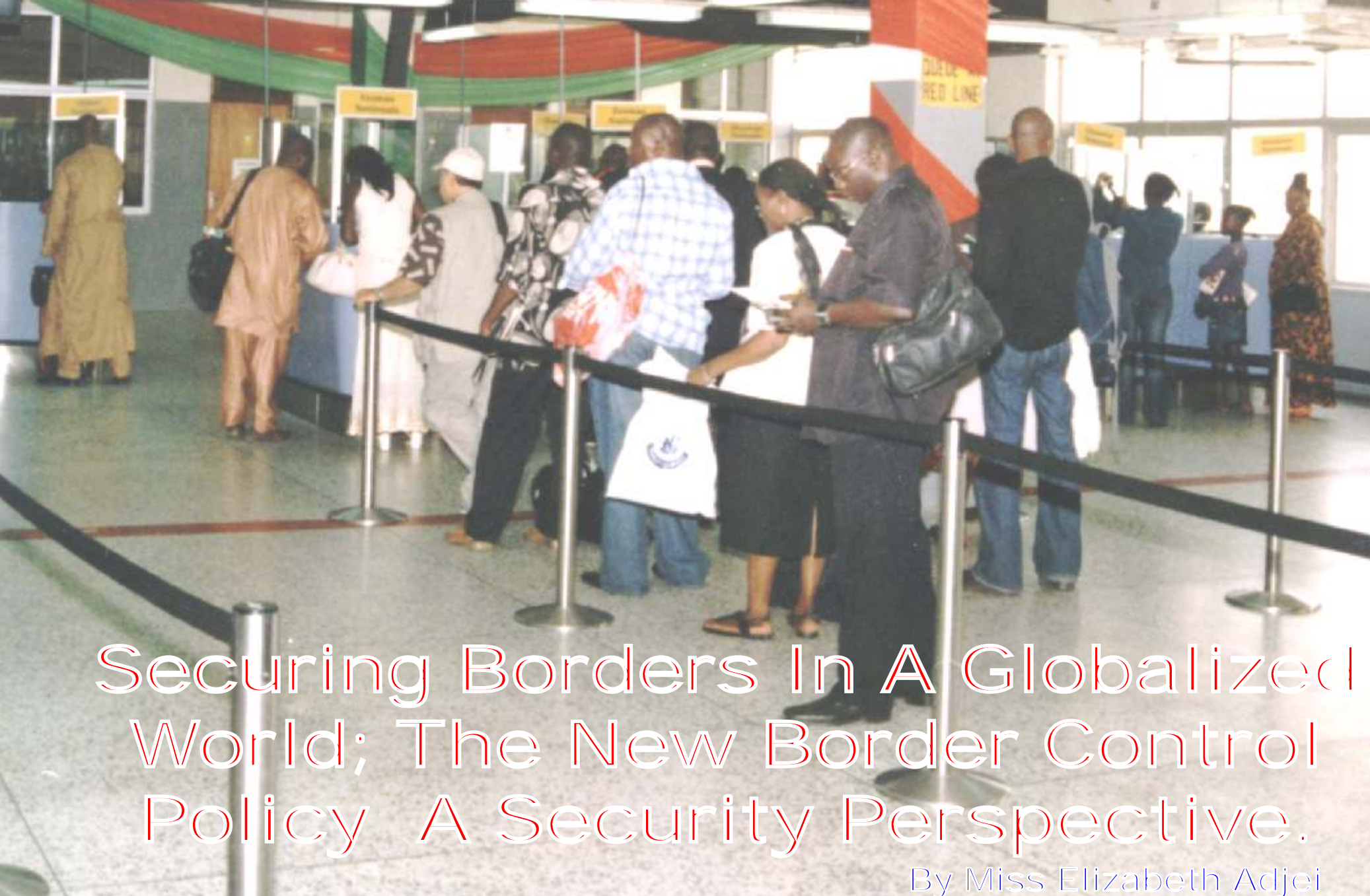
The team was taken through a well defined and detailed document training programme specifically tailored towards equipping them with advanced knowledge in document fraud. The content of the programme included Manufacturing of Document, Security Paper & Document, Travel & Identity Document, Travel Document Fraud, Security

Documents, Currencies and Travelers', Cheque etc. The rest are Identity Abuse, Advance Passenger Profiling), Gates check, The Operation of the Edison Software, Impersonation (detection of imposters).

The team was also exposed to various types of advanced and sophisticated machines and technologies used in detecting and differentiating between genuine and fraudulently altered/fake security documents with special emphasis on passports and identity cards.

Talking to the Leader of the Delegation, Mr. F. L. Aikins (Assistant Director of Immigration/MIS), said the programme had been very successful and would go a long way to enhance operations at the Document Fraud Unit at Kotoka International Airport, Accra.

Other officers in the team included COI Nolasco Nyidu, ASI Daniel Tagoe and ASI Noah Ahomka Yeboah.



Securing Borders In A Globalized World; The New Border Control Policy A Security Perspective.

By Miss Elizabeth Adjei

The need for managed migratory flows has been widely acknowledged in recent years and this starts with efficient border control. Borders are a concrete representation of a nation's statehood. They are important for territorial security as well for the flow of people, trade and cross fertilization of ideas. Borders are therefore critical to national security as well as to national prosperity. Borders are said to be at once a line that links versus one that separates. It must be noted that all over the world, the responsibility for border policy lies with immigration for persons, and with customs for goods. The military remains fully responsible for territorial security, even though symbolically not in the first line of defense at the borders.

In recent years Ghana has made significant strides in its economic, social and civil development. As a member of ECOWAS, it has become an attractive territory to surrounding countries. In many ways this was anticipated and intended as a development goal. But ironically this new status poses the greatest threat to the country's security because Ghana has also become an attractive local to persons who are less likely to contribute to its development or who wish disrupt the peace and stability that it enjoys. This should make us rethink our border security strategy and strengthen our capability to counter illegal entries and other cross border violations.

All over the world, border management (i.e. passport control, border patrol and border security)

has gone through various policy and legislative changes, from reforms in strategy to the improvements in technological and infrastructural resources. This is because from terrorism to global diseases to identity fraud, the challenges to security have become transnational rather than national, bringing immigration and border control operations into sharp focus in the national security strategy.

This piece provides an overview of border enforcement and how it has changed the last three decades, evolving from a low-tech physical exercise to a more encompassing concept involving multiple agencies and extensive use of technology.

Evolution of Border Control.

In post independence Africa, borders were symbols of territorial protection. The OAU adopted the

principle of 1844, which demarcated landmasses into sovereign countries. Consequently, after independence, borders were heavily militarized, to protect territories and prevent ethnic and political conflict. Ironically, in many of the lingering conflicts in Africa today, the borders which are designed to protect the citizenry have themselves become sources of conflict. Lack of proper governance over large unprotected spaces have created safe havens for organized crime, rebel activity and other violations.

In the 1980s and 90s, there was a paradigm shift in border enforcement as the world embraced globalization and economic integration. There was pressure to demilitarize borders in favor of the full competency of civilian control. The new thinking was that, even if

borders are necessary to enhance state sovereignty, they should not be barriers against trade. There was pressure on border officials to minimize the disruption to legitimate flow of people and business while doing more at the same time to protect border integrity. The emergence of an Europe without internal border set the stage for a new border policy that sought to blur the physical line of demarcation and enhance free movement.

While the benefits of open borders were obvious, it was important for border officials to strike the appropriate balance between facilitation and security as the way forward. But in most cases, security was compromised in favor of a seamless movement. More emphasis was focused on expediting the flow of people and goods and the move towards full integration. In most of Africa, regime security became the order of the day, and investment in border protection suffered.

At the turn of the century, a sea change in world demographics, economic, political and social trends necessitated yet adopt measures to improved border integrity became a priority for governments. Furthermore, the attacks of September 11, attacks that were carried out by foreigners in a sovereign county, radically affected the manner in which governments approached border control and border security. The scope of border enforcement was widened and expanded to include Passport Control, Border Security as well as overseas missions.

Governments unanimously agreed that to safeguard the security well-being of their citizens, effective border control must address the objective of facilitation and security simultaneously and measures were adopted worldwide to improve the integrity of borders. A new holistic and border definition for border control became accepted as a new paradigm for serious border policy and countries were urged to re-equip their border

Immigration and National Security.

Since the September 11 attacks, securing borders has become a national priority of the international

community. In view of the cross-border dimensions of international migration and the fact that immigration authorities have direct encounter with all persons crossing borders and airports, immigration policies and enforcement have become critical to national security and vice-versa. The concern is that weak immigration/border control of one country has the potential of endangering the safety of countries and populations and destabilizing entire regions. Calls for tighter border control and improvement in detection and deterrence capability of Immigration systems and officers have become unanimous among nations.

Prior to this, National Security used to be considered in the context of military capability of states. Threats emerged more visibly, often with conventional weapons, and border security, encompassing travel, entry and immigration was not seen as a national security matter. Borders were relevant in the context of criminal traffic, and the war on drugs carried more weight in the eyes of policy makers and not people. Immigration operations and laws were routine, and were not even capable of delivering basic commitments of securing borders against violations, let alone contribute to effective defence or counter intelligence.

Today, threats to security are of a more subtle and sophisticated nature, using more of tactical intelligence. Travel documents and passports are their most important tools and they are as good as weapons.

International travel presents the greatest danger to security because criminals pass through border control, present themselves to border security officials and attempt to circumvent inspection. They use evasive methods such as altered and counterfeit passports and visas and identity fraud to get through and exploit weakness in the border

security system.

The rise of biometrics technology in identity documents was designed to counter this threat, and this has achieved impressive results, but as we all know, no defences can achieve perfect safety. The primary mission of border enforcement is to prevent illegal entry and restrict territorial access to the perceived undesirables

This includes identity fraud, human trafficking, refugee flows illegal migration, 419, proliferation of small arms. etc. It is elemental to border control to know who is entering the country and determine who has the right to enter or be granted territorial access.

Consequently, border strategy must be redefined and border officials appropriately equipped to respond directly to or detect vulnerabilities and intercept threats more accurately. Our immigration system must be able to determine whether individuals are who they claim to be. It must have good deterrence capability and information systems to be able to authenticate travel documents at border inspection points and communicate this information swiftly.

All over the world, reinforcement of border security has become an integral part of national security and significant efforts are being made to make borders and border officials more efficient with better technology and training for officers as immediate steps to reduce the vulnerability of countries. Many states have reviewed and restructured their borders at the strategic and operational levels to respond to the new and sophisticated security related issues.

The New Border Policy.

Ghana is not immune to the new threat to the environment. Indeed, the prospect of a Ghana located in a politically turbulent region with

similar ethnic groups straddling the borders presents particular security challenges to our borders.

Recent events, including the clandestine entry of Sudanese asylum seekers into the country as well as violations in north-eastern part of our international borders are clear evidence of the vulnerability of our borders.

These and other factors justify a review of our border policy and strategy i.e. to improve the deterrence and interdiction capability of border officials and equip them with human, technological and infrastructure resources to enable them face up to the new challenges in a more professional and competent way. It is in this context that the decision was taken by governments to improve the capacity and capability of the GIS to carry out better enforcement at the borders.

Specifically, the objectives of the new policy directive seeks to achieve the following:

- To secure all land borders, entry and exit points against illegal entry through the effective use of personnel and technological resources.
- To prevent people from entering Ghana through any location other than an authorized port of entry.
To place resources directly at the borders in order to deter or intercept illegal entry rather than arrest them after they have entered.
- To safeguard potential entry point again criminals.
- To maintain, control and increase the level of operational effectiveness with regard to illegal crossing.
- To disrupt activities of intruders.
- To facilitate lawful traffic.
- To create effective intelligence and risk indicators to support border

operations and national security.

▪ To equip officers with the requisite training and tools to detect and disrupt. A modern Immigration system must combine a biometric entry/exit system with accessible information on entries and intelligence on suspects. It is proposed, under the new policy, that each border checkpoint will have screening process and capability to establish identity of, and to intercept identifiable suspects. It is further envisaged that all ports of entry are to be automated to expedite identification, apprehension and detention.

The system has already been installed at the three major entry point with impressive results. It also incorporates an electronic data-base of suspects and a data base of all genuine passports on the world. By the end of 2006, it is expected that immigration will have access to advanced biographical information on international passengers before they arrive in the country.

The border restructuring policy simply seeks to take adequate measures to contain threat perception which are of cross border nature. It provides an opportunity to dramatically improve internal security while at the same time facilitating genuine trade and business. Having more people, students, businessmen, tourists, expatriates, etc. fuels our economy and cultural diversity. Our border system must be tight but at the same time, send a message of welcome and tolerance. It is possible to increase our sense of national security without making Ghana a 'fortress'

INFORMATION ON THE GHANA IMMIGRATION SERVICE

● INTRODUCTION

The Ghana Immigration Service (GIS) was established by the Immigration Service Law PNDCL226, in 1989. It is the government agency responsible for the regulation of entry into and exit from Ghana and also regulating and monitoring the visit, residence and employment of foreigners.

● MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to build a stronger better Ghana by operating fair but firm immigration controls that regulate and facilitate the movement of people through Ghana's borders, and efficient Residence and Work Permit systems that meet the social and economic needs of the country.

● FUNCTIONS

Regulate the movement of people into and out of the country

Regulate and monitor the activities of foreigners.

Enforce and ensure compliance with immigration laws

Issue requisite permits to foreigners

arrest and prosecute breaches of Immigration laws

Remove illegal immigrants

Process Ghana Passport applications.

Facilitate the implementation of Dual Citizenship Act 2000 Act 591 of 2000

Cooperate with other security agencies for the benefit of national security

Patrol the country's borders

Facilitate trade and tourism

● ENTRY VISA REQUIREMENTS

Every visitor to Ghana requires a Visa/Entry permit except ECOWAS citizens and nationals from Kenya and Zimbabwe.

Nationals of the under listed countries are entitled to Gratis visas issued at Ghana Foreign Mission;

Lesotho

Egypt - Holders of Service Passports only

Germany - Holders of Service Passport only

Holders of UN Travel certificate/Laissez passer.

Visas/Entry Permits may be obtained from Ghana Missions abroad. Visitors from countries which do not have Ghana Missions may obtain Visa on Arrival **upon prior application to the Director of Immigration.**

All visitors are given up to sixty (60) days Visitor's Permit on arrival. Extensions may be granted on application. The GIS may extend such permits up to a minimum period of three (3) months initially and a maximum of six (6) months.

● WORK AND RESIDENCE PERMIT

Foreign nationals wishing to live and work in Ghana require Work and Residence Permit. A work permit can be obtained on application to the Director of Immigration. Corporate bodies and other institutions that wish to employ foreigners may obtain Immigrant Quota from the Ministry of the Interior, the Ghana Investment Promotion Centre (GIPC) or the Ghana Free Zones Board (GFZB), as the case may be.

● PERMITS ISSUED

- Visa on arrival
- Extension of Visitor's Permit
- Re-entry Permit
- Residence Permit
- Indefinite Residence Permit
- Right of Abode, etc.

● REQUIREMENTS FOR PERMITS

Visa-On-Arrival:

Application for Visa on Arrival may be submitted by visitor's host, business partner, representative or directly by fax or email (see reverse side).

The letter should indicate the following;

- Purpose of visit
- Expected date of Arrival
- Duration of stay
- Lodging/Hotel reservation
- Place of embarkation
- Contact address in Ghana
(Passport particulars of the visitor to be attached)

Extension of Visitors Permit:

- Fill Application for Extension Form
- Attach one (1) recent passport picture
- Photocopy of return ticket
- Letter of support from local institution/establishment
(Where applicable).

Re-entry Permit:

- Fill Application for Re-entry Permit Form
- Attach one (1) recent passport picture
- Attach an application letter from affiliated company(s).
(Tourists need not attach any letter for a single Re-entry to Ghana).

Residence Permit:

- Four (4) recent passport pictures
- Photocopy of approval of Immigrant Quota
- Company Tax Clearance Certificate
- Copies of Biodata pages of two guarantors' Ghanaian
- Passports (where applicable)
- Bonds to be executed (where applicable)
- Copies of Marriage/Birth Certificate
(where applicable)
- Sworn affidavit (where applicable)
- Letter of support from GIPC, GFZB
(where applicable)
- Police clearance report from home country
- Medical report
- Company Registration Documents
- Work contract document or appointment letter.

**All applications should be addressed to:
The Director, Ghana Immigration Service
PMB. Ministries, Accra, Ghana**

FOREIGN NEWS



Thousands in US Protest Immigration Reform Plans

COSTA MESA, California (AFP)

Thousands of demonstrators rallied in this conservative California town and in New York protest plans for a US legislative crackdown on illegal immigrants. Organisers of the protest in the town of Costa Mesa, which is planning to become the first US city to allow its police to act as immigration officers by arresting and helping to deport undocumented workers, said 2,500 people took part, but police and reporters estimated the crowd to be around 1,500. Protest organiser Nativio Lopez, president of the Mexican American Political Association, said the group was outraged by a plan which would allow police to screen suspected criminals for US citizenship.

"We are here to make a tough statement right in the bedrock of the anti-immigrant movement," said Lopez at the protest that was rowdy but peaceful. Costa Mesa Police Lieutenant Dale Birney said the plan was still being debated by city and law enforcement officials. It would

only affect people being investigated for violent crimes like murder or rape, he said. The protest against the proposed immigration reform bill was billed as the first major rally in California since a massive demonstration a week ago in Los Angeles that drew around 500,000 people, one of the biggest demonstrations in recent US history.

A group of around 50 Minutemen-conservative border citizen militiamen who have taken it upon themselves to begin patrolling the porous US border with Mexico in a bid to keep illegal immigrants out-protested in support of a tough immigration law reform that would criminalise illegal immigrants.

"We will not be asking people for their driver's licenses and bringing them in if they don't have one," Birney said. "That's not what this is about." Lopez said the activists would not hold an economic boycott of the traditionally conservative Orange County, in which Costa ion to the contrary. Another major

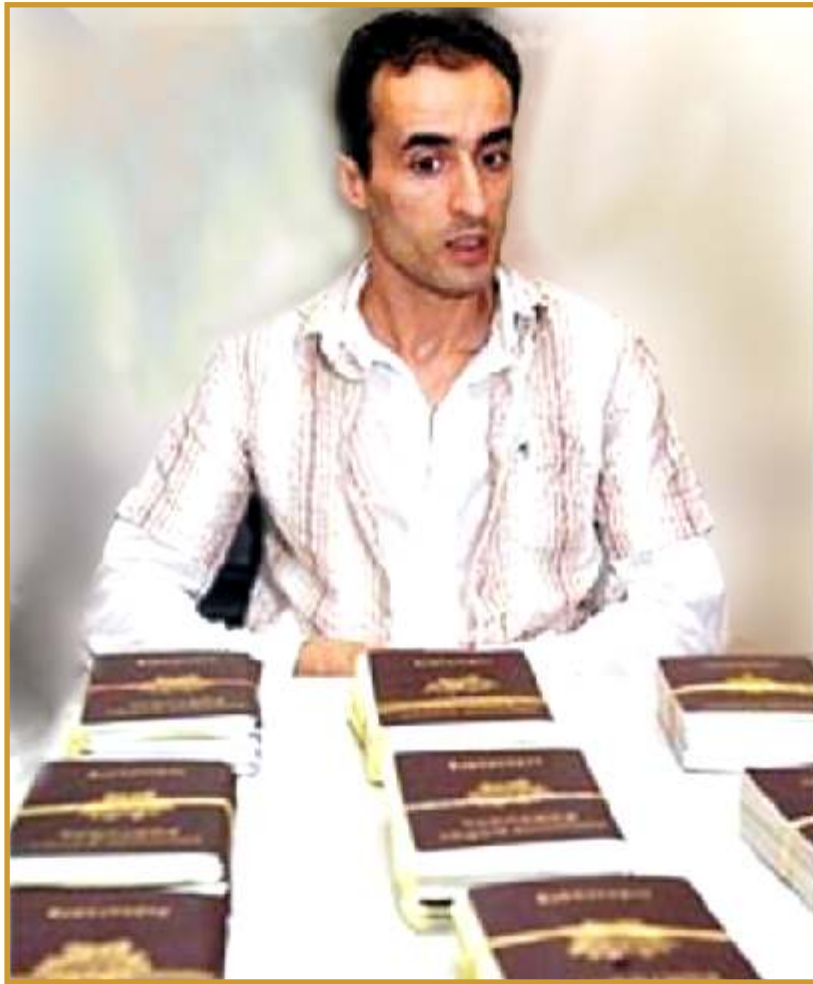
Mesa lies, despite speculation to the contrary. Another major protest march in Los Angeles is scheduled for April 10, and on May 1, Hispanic groups are calling for a nationwide "withdrawal from the economy" boycott called "a day without Latinos or a day without immigrants." More than 10,000 protesters waving flags of different Latin American countries also marched across the Brooklyn Bridge in New York Saturday.

The US House of Representatives in December passed a bill that would make illegal entry into the United States a crime and heavily penalise employers of undocumented workers, opening the floodwaters of protest in the Hispanic community, now the largest US minority group.

President George W. Bush wants a guest worker program but the more conservative wing of his Republican Party sees that as akin to an amnesty and rewarding those who have entered the country illegally.

Last week a key US Senate panel endorsed a different bill that would allow illegal workers to obtain visas, and sent the legislation to the full Senate.

An opinion poll conducted by Time magazine showed Americans are largely split on the issue. Seventy-nine percent said they favor a guest worker program that would allow illegal immigrants to remain in the United States for a fixed period of time. But 71 percent also spoke in favor major penalties for people who hire illegal immigrants, 62 percent wanted the US government to take "whatever steps are necessary" to secure the border with Mexico, including posting military forces, and 56 percent favored a 2,000-mile-long fence along the border.



Man is held with false passports for UK sale

A BRITON carrying hundreds of fake passports has been arrested in Thailand, the Foreign Office has confirmed. Algerian-born Mahieddine Daikh, who says he was naturalised as a British citizen about two years ago, was stopped at Bangkok's international airport with 452 forged documents, immigration officials said.

Security stopped the 35-year-old early on Tuesday and found him in possession of bogus documents in his hand luggage and suitcase, which were to be sold in London. He said he was due to fly on to Glasgow and then take a train to London, where he was to be paid for the documents. They included French, Spanish, Portuguese and Belgian passports, said police Maj Gen Suwat Thamrongsisakul, acting

commissioner of the immigration bureau. A spokesman from the British Embassy in Bangkok said: "I can confirm he was held at Don Muang Airport in possession of fake travel documents. We are providing normal consular assistance."

Daikh, who was born in Algiers but had been living in London for about seven years, said he was to be paid £15,000 to act as a courier. He said he was hired by someone in London but did not elaborate. "They pay for everything," he said. The passports were bought from an unidentified Pakistani man for £3,000 on Samui island, a resort south of Bangkok, he told police. The arrest has not been linked to terrorism, but police said they were investigating.

GHANAIAN INDICTED ON PASSPORT FRAUD CHARGES

CONCORD, N.H.

A citizen of Ghana was indicted in federal court in Concord (New Hampshire) on two charges related to passport fraud..

The U-S Attorney's office says 44-year-old Joseph Harry Amegah tried to obtain an American passport by stating on his application that he was born in Massachusetts. He also is accused of submitting a fake birth certificate with his application to support his claim.

Amegah lives in North Grafton, Massachusetts. He was indicted in New Hampshire because the passport application was sent to the National Passport Center in Portsmouth.

The charges carry a three to ten year prison term.



YOU AND YOUR HEALTH



After reading this, you will never look at a banana in the same way again.

Bananas containing three natural sugars sucrose, fructose and glucose combined with fiber, a banana gives an instant, sustained and sustained and substantial boost of energy.

Research has proven that just two bananas provide enough energy for a strenuous 90 minute workout. No wonder the banana is the number one fruit with the world's leading athletes. But energy isn't the only way a banana can help us keep fit. It can also help overcome or prevent a substantial number of illnesses and conditions, making it a must to add to our daily diet.

According to a recent survey undertaken by mind amongst people suffering from depression, many feel much better after eating a banana. This is because bananas contain tryptophan, a type of protein that a body converts into serotonin, known to make you relax, improved your mood and generally make you feel happier. PMS: forget the pills-eat a banana. The vitamin B6 it contains regulates blood glucose levels which can affect your mood.

Anemia: High in Iron, bananas can stimulate the production of haemoglobin in the blood and so helps in cases of anemia.

Blood pressure: this unique tropical fruit is extremely high in potassium yet low in salt, making it the perfect to beat blood pressure. So much so, the U.S Food and Drug Administration has just

allowed the banana industry to make official claims for the fruit's ability to reduce the risk of blood pressure and stroke.

Brain power: two hundred students at Twickenham (Middlesex) school were helped through their exams this year by eating bananas at breakfast, break and lunch and in a bid to boost their brain power. Research has shown that the potassium-packed fruit can assist learning by making people more alert.

Constipation: High in fiber, including bananas in the diet can help restore the normal bowel action, helping to overcome the problem without resorting to laxatives.

Hangover: One of the quickest way of curing hangover is to make a banana milkshake, sweetened with honey. The banana calms the stomach and, with the help of the honey, builds up depleted blood sugar level, while the milk soothes and re-hydrates your system.

Heartburn: Bananas have a natural antacid effect on the body, so if you suffer from heartburn try eating a banana for soothing relief.

Morning Sickness: Snacking on banana between meals help to keep blood sugar levels up and avoid morning sickness.

Mosquito bites: Before reaching for the insect bite cream, try rubbing the affected area with the inside of a banana skin. Many people find it amazingly successful at reducing swellings and irritation.

Nerves: Bananas are high in B vitamins that help calm the nerves system. **Overweight and at work?** Studies at the Institute of Psychology in Austria found pressure at work leads to gorging on comfort foods like chocolate and crisps.

Looking at 5,000 hospital patients, researchers found the most obese were more likely to be in high-pressure jobs. The report concluded that, to avoid panic-induced food cravings, we need to control our blood sugar levels by snacking on high carbohydrate foods every two hours to keep levels steady. **Ulcers:** the banana is used as the dietary food against intestinal disorders because of its soft texture and smoothness. It is the only raw fruit that can be eaten without distress in over-chronic cases. It also neutralizes over-acidity and reduces irritation by the lining the stomach.

Temperature control: many other cultures see bananas as a "cooling" fruit that can lower both the physical and emotional temperature of expectant mothers. In Thailand, for example, pregnant women eat bananas to ensure their baby is born with cool temperature.

Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD): Bananas can help SAD sufferers because they contain the natural mood enhance tryptophan.

Smoking: Bananas can also help people trying to give up smoking. The B6, B12 they contain, as well as the potassium and magnesium found in them, help the body recover from effects of nicotine withdrawal.

Stress: Potassium is a vital mineral, which helps normalize the heartbeat, sends oxygen to the brain and regulates your body's water balance. When we are stressed, our metabolic rate rises, thereby reducing our potassium levels. These can be rebalanced with the help of a high-potassium banana snack.

Strokes: According to research in "The New England Journal of Medicine" eating bananas as part of a regular diet can the risk of death by strokes by as much as 40%!

Warts: Those keen on natural alternatives swear that if you want to kill off a wart, take a piece of banana skin in place with a plaster or surgical tape!

So, a banana really is a natural remedy for many ills. When you compare it to an apple, it has four times the protein, twice the carbohydrate, three times the phosphorus, five times the vitamin A and iron, and twice the other vitamins and minerals. It is also rich in potassium and one of the best value foods around.

So maybe its time to change that well-know phrase so that we say, "A banana a day keeps the doctor away!"



Dep. Minister of Youth and Sports and service commanders during the launching of 9th SESSA Games 2005

GIS successfully hosted the 9th SESSA games

The Ghana Immigration Service (GIS) successfully hosted the 9th Security Services Sports Association Games (SESSA Games) and performed remarkably well despite its short entry to the scene. According to the medals table GIS placed 4th with 8 gold medals, 5 silver and 4 bronze.

The Opening Ceremony for the games was performed by H.E. Alhaji Aliu Mahama, Vice President of the Republic of Ghana, while the Closing was by the Hon. Minister for the Interior, Papa Owusu Ankomah.

Among the numerous programs organized to usher in the games were the Launching/Media Briefing which was used to sensitise the media on the importance of such collaboration

between the Security Services, a Flag Hoisting Ceremony to signify the participation of the Security Services whose flags were hoisted alongside the national Flag.

During the Closing Ceremony there was much excitement and jubilation as the awards were being given out. For the first time the whole ceremony was telecast live on T.V thanks to Metro TV.

DIS Commends GIS Sessa Team

The Director of Immigration, Miss Elizabeth Adjei has commended the sports team of the Ghana Immigration Service for their excellent performance during the 9th SESSA Games which was hosted by GIS.

In a short ceremony at the GIS HQ, Miss Adjei presented gifts ranging from television sets, to wax prints to clocks, on behalf of the Service to the Sportsmen.

Among the sports persons who got the gifts were Mr. Richard Adjapong who won a gold in javelin, Miss Gifty Addy who won gold medals for 100m, 200m, 400m; David Zigah and Sugri Inusah.

In her address the Director congratulated the team for their dedication and commitment to the Service and encouraged them not to relent in their efforts but to always strive hard to achieve the best.

She said that it is no mean achievement for the Ghana Immigration Service considering the fact that it joined the Association only 3 years ago, and had never got much in terms of awards.

She conceded that a lot of sacrifice had gone into it and assured them of her support. She hoped that next SESSA games would register more surprises for the Ghana Immigration Service.



Miss Elizabeth Adjei, DIS

9TH SESSA GAMES IN PICTURES



Veep addressing the crowd during the opening of the 9th SESSA games



Hon. Papa Owusu Ankomah, kicking the start off of the Soccer match during the closing ceremony



Ministers, Service Commanders and special guest during the flag hoisting ceremony



Presentation of Awards by CDS



Presentation of Awards by IGP



Hoisting of Ghana flag alongside the Services flags



Presentation of Awards by Chief Fire Officer



Presentation of Awards by the Deputy Director of Immigration / F&A



Presentation of Awards by the Assistant Director of Prisons



Presentation of Awards by the Deputy Director of Immigration /OPS



Presentation of Awards by the Managing Director of SG-SSB



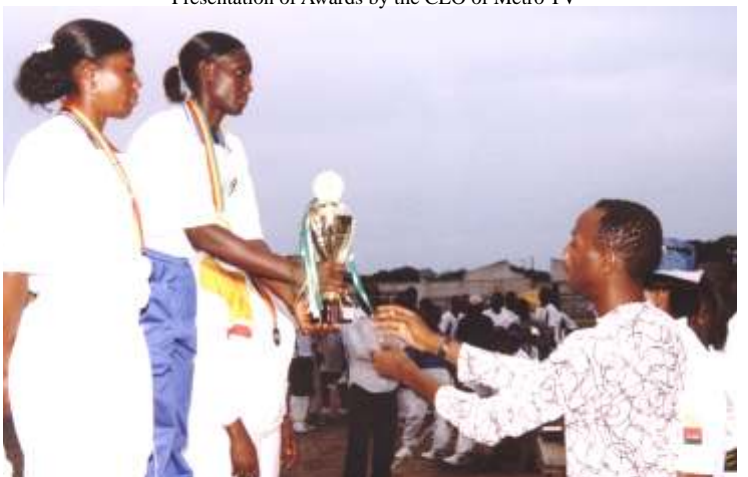
Presentation of Awards by the Assistant Director of Immigration /Enforcement



Presentation of Awards by the CEO of Metro TV



Presentation of Awards by the Assistant Commissioner of CEPS



Presentation of Awards by Mr Ali Jarah (Former National Goalie)

RANKS IN THE GHANA IMMIGRATION SERVICE

Senior Ranks



Director of Immigration (DIS)



Deputy Director of Immigration (DD)



Assistant Director of Immigration (ADI)



Comptroller of Immigration (COI)



Asst. Comptroller Of Immigration (ACOI)



Deputy Supt. Of Immigration (DSI)



Asst. Supt. Of Immigration (ASI)

Other Ranks



Senior Inspector



Inspector



Assistant Inspector



Immigration Control Officer



Asst. Immigration Control Officer I/II

