

THE CHALLENGES OF IMPORTED SUB-STANDARD ELECTRICAL CABLES
& GADGETS

STATEMENT BY HON. ATO PANFORD (MP, SHAMA) AND
VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE TRADE, INDUSTRY & TOURISM COMMITTEE.

Right Honourable Speaker, I rise to make this statement as a clarion call to this august house and the nation as a whole to highlight the challenges faced with this nation in respect of the importation of sub-standard electrical cables, gadgets and accessories.

Mr. Speaker, The Ghana Standards Authority's (GSA's) core mandate is to maintain the National Quality Infrastructure to ensure trade facilities and consumer protection. The Authority derives mandate from the Standards Act 1973, NRCD 1973 as well as subsequent legislations including the Weights and Measures Act 1975, NRCD 326, the Ghana Standards Certification Mark Rules 1970, L.I 662 as amended by L.I 664, the Ghana Standards Authority (Food, Drugs and other Goods) General Labelling Rules, 1992, L.I 1541, Prosecution of offences under the Weights and Measures Act 1991, L.I 1513; Custodians of Weights and Measures (Duties and Power) Regulation 1986, L.I 1325 and Weight and Measures (Permissible Errors) 1992, L.I 1550.

The Aims of GSA include the promotion of Standardisation in industry and commerce as well as the promotion of standards in public and industrial welfare, health and safety (NRCD 197; Section 3). The functions of the Authority include the preparation and promulgation of standards and the Authority is mandated by section 3 (2) (c) of the Standards Act of 1973 "to prohibit the sale or manufacture of goods in the national interest".

In order to enforce its mandate, Mr Speaker, the GSA undertakes periodic market surveillance to identify and remove from circulation substandard products. Mr Speaker, in November 2017, in response to the identification and detention of two (2) containers of cables at the Tema Port, the GSA carried out a nationwide sampling of electrical cables on the Ghanaian