

**IN THE SECOND SESSION OF THE EIGHTH
PARLIAMENT OF THE FOURTH REPUBLIC OF
GHANA**



**REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON TRADE,
INDUSTRY AND TOURISM ON THE
DETERMINATION OF THE URGENCY OF GHANA
STANDARDS AUTHORITY BILL, 2022**

PARLIAMENT OF GHANA LIBRARY

TUESDAY, 14TH JUNE, 2022

REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TOURISM ON THE DETERMINATION OF THE URGENCY OF THE GHANA STANDARD AUTHORITY BILL, 2022

1.0. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Ghana Standard Authority Bill, 2021 (GSA Bill, 2022) was re-presented and read the first time in Parliament on Thursday, 8TH June, 2022 by the Hon. Minister responsible for Health, Mr. Kweku Agyeman-Manu, on behalf of the Minister for Trade and Industry, pursuant to Article 106 (1) of the 1992 Constitution.
- 1.2 The Hon. Second Deputy Speaker referred the Bill to the Select Committee on Trade, Industry and Tourism for consideration and report to the House, pursuant to Article 106 (4) of the 1992 Constitution and Order 159 of the Standing Orders of Parliament.

2.0. DELIBERATIONS

The Committee met on Tuesday, 14 June, 2022 at 11:20am and considered the referral. In attendance at the invitation of the Committee to assist in the deliberations was the Hon. Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Mr. Michael Okyere-Baafi.

3.0. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Committee acknowledges with gratitude, the attendance and invaluable inputs of the Deputy Minister.

4.0. REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

The Committee referred to the following documents during its deliberations:

- i. The 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana;
- ii. The Standing Orders of Parliament;
- iii. Standards Authority Act, 1973 (N.R.C.D. 173)
- iv. Ghana (Revised Edition) Act, 1998 (Act 562)
- v. Weight and Measurement Act, 1975 (N.R.C.D.326)
- vi. Ghana Standards (Certification Mark) Rules, 1970 (L.I. 662 of 1970)
- vii. Ghana Standards Board (Food, Drugs and other Goods) General Labelling Rules, 1992 (L.I. No. 1541); and
- viii. Ghana Standards (Certification Mark) (Amendment) Rules, 1970 (L.I. 664 of 1970).

4.0. OBSERVATIONS

Urgency of the Bill.

The Committee examined the background and object of the Bill as contained in the Memorandum to the Bill and the oral presentation by the Minister, supported by the Director-General of the Authority and determined that the Bill is of urgent nature. The Committee accordingly, resolved unanimously to recommend to the House, pursuant to Standing Order 119 that the Bill be treated as urgent Bill based on the following observations; that:

- 4.1.0. the Ghana Standards Authority Bill, 2022 is one of the deliverables for the Ghana Standards Authority (GSA) under the Ghana Economic Transformation Project (GETP), a USD 200 million Project approved by Parliament to transform the economy and unlock the potential for job creation through industrialisation.

- 4.1.1. the current laws under which GSA operate i.e., the Standards Authority Act, 1973 (NRCD 173) and the Weights and Measures Act, 1975 (NRCD 326) and associated legislation are outdated for the current global economy in both trading as well as manufacturing and quality assurance. Attempts were made in the previous 2 Parliaments to pass new legislation as well as in Cabinet to adopt Ghana's first ever National Quality Policy, but both did not materialise.
- 4.1.2. the GETP therefore sought to provide the GSA the technical and related support to ensure that this critical legislative framework is in place to provide the country the needed Quality Infrastructure for a modern economy.
- 4.1.3. Cabinet, at its meeting on 28th April 2022 approved the National Quality Policy leaving the GSA Act as the major outstanding activity. The Financial Year for the World Bank ends in June each year and the expeditious passage of the GSA Bill, 2022 will afford the GSA the needed time to draw on time-sensitive technical and associated reliefs that are tied to a new Standards Authority Act and the National Quality Policy.
- 4.1.4. In addition to the above, an unrelated but strategically important opportunity is the election of the Director-General of the GSA, Prof Alex Dodoo as the President of the African Organisation for Standardisation (ARSO), an African Union member state organisation representing Heads of all the National Standards Bodies in Africa. ARSO is responsible for the implementation of Annex 6: "Technical Barriers to Trade" of the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement (AfCFTA) Treaty.
- 4.1.5. the Presidency of the Director General of the GSA of ARSO commences on 30th June, 2022 and since Ghana hosts the Secretariat of the AfCFTA and for the next 3 years also leads the continental body for standardisation, it is imperative

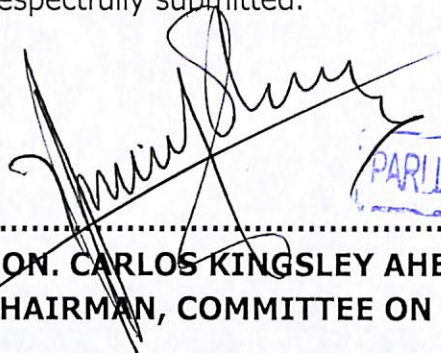
that our laws relating to standards are modern and in line with best practice to enable Ghana derive the maximum benefit from the AfCFTA.

4.1.6. The passing of the GSA Bill, 2022, into Law subsequently provides several prospects that will inure to the benefit of the people of Ghana.

5.0. RECOMMENDATION AND CONCLUSION


The Committee therefore, in accordance with article 106 (13) of the 1992 Constitution and Order 119 and 124 of the Standing Orders of Parliament, recommends to the House to adopt this Report for the subsequent expeditious consideration and passage of the Ghana Standard Authority Bill, 2022 into Law.

Respectfully submitted.



PARLIAMENT OF GHANA LIBRARY

.....
HON. CARLOS KINGSLEY AHENKORAH
CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TOURISM



.....
MRS. JOANA ABENA SAKYI ADJEI
CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

DATE: TUESDAY, 14TH JUNE, 2022