

**IN THE THIRD SESSION OF FIFTH PARLIAMENT OF THE FOURTH
REPUBLIC OF GHANA**

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ROADS AND TRANSPORT ON THE
GHANA MARITIME AUTHORITY (AMENDMENT) BILL 2011**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Ghana Maritime Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2011 was laid before the House by the Honourable Minister for Transport, Alhaji Collins Dauda on Tuesday, 17th May, 2011 and subsequently referred to the Committee on Roads and Transport for consideration and report.

This was in accordance with Article 106(4) and (5) of the 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana and Order 189 of the Standing Orders of the House.

2.0 DELIBERATIONS

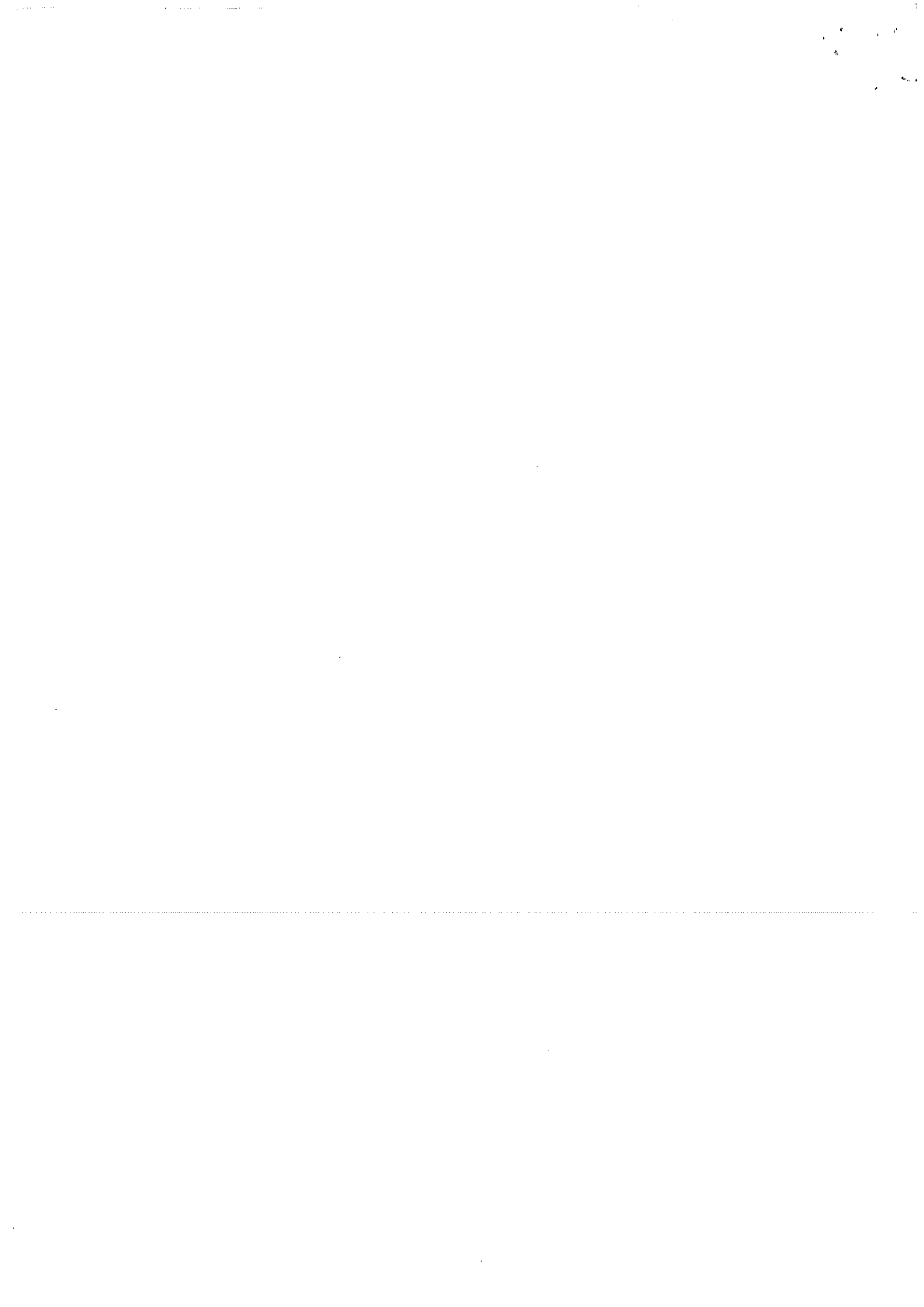
The Committee held meetings with the relevant stakeholders to consider the referral. The Honourable Minister for Transport, Alhaji Collins Dauda and officials from the Ministry, the Director-General of the Ghana Maritime Authority and his technical team attended the Committee's meeting to assist in its deliberations.

The Committee also received written memoranda on the bill from an individual who was granted hearing.

3.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Committee is grateful to the Hon. Minister of Transport and the Director-General of the Ghana Maritime Authority for providing technical assistance during the consideration of the Bill.





4.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

The Committee made reference to the following documents during its deliberation;

- i) The 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana
- ii) The Standing Orders of the House
- iii) The Ghana Maritime Authority Act, 2002 (Act 630)

5.0 BACKGROUND

The Ghana Maritime Authority Act 2002 (Act 630) has been established with the responsibility to monitor, regulate and co-ordinate the activities in the Maritime industry. For the purposes of achieving its objectives the Authority was mandated to perform a number of functions including;

- Maritime Safety
- Maritime Security
- Marine Pollution
- Ratification and implementation of International Maritime Conventions, codes and instruments.
- Maritime transport Planning, Research and development.

The discovery of offshore oil and gas and its production has imposed many new challenges for the Ghana Maritime Authority in particular in developing the necessary policy, administrative, legislative and human capacity to support the oil and gas development. This had also become necessary because, historically the Ghana Maritime Authority had focused on traditional shipping and navigation matters.

Today the Authority has expanded roles and responsibilities which are specific and crucial to play in contributing toward the effective management of the complex processes involved in offshore oil and gas production.

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There is the need to avoid sea use conflicts, loss of life and property at sea, maritime distress incidents and possible damage to the marine environment and loss of marine biological diversity.

There is also the need to effectively superintend on maritime security in order to curb the increasing trend of piracy and armed robbery against ships in the country's maritime domain.

Additionally having recently, been made the focal point on international maritime matters, the Authority is saddled with the contributions in significant amounts to the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), the Maritime Organisation of West and Central Africa (MOWCA), office of the Abuja Port State Control for west Union of Maritime Administrations for West and Central Africa (UMAWCA).

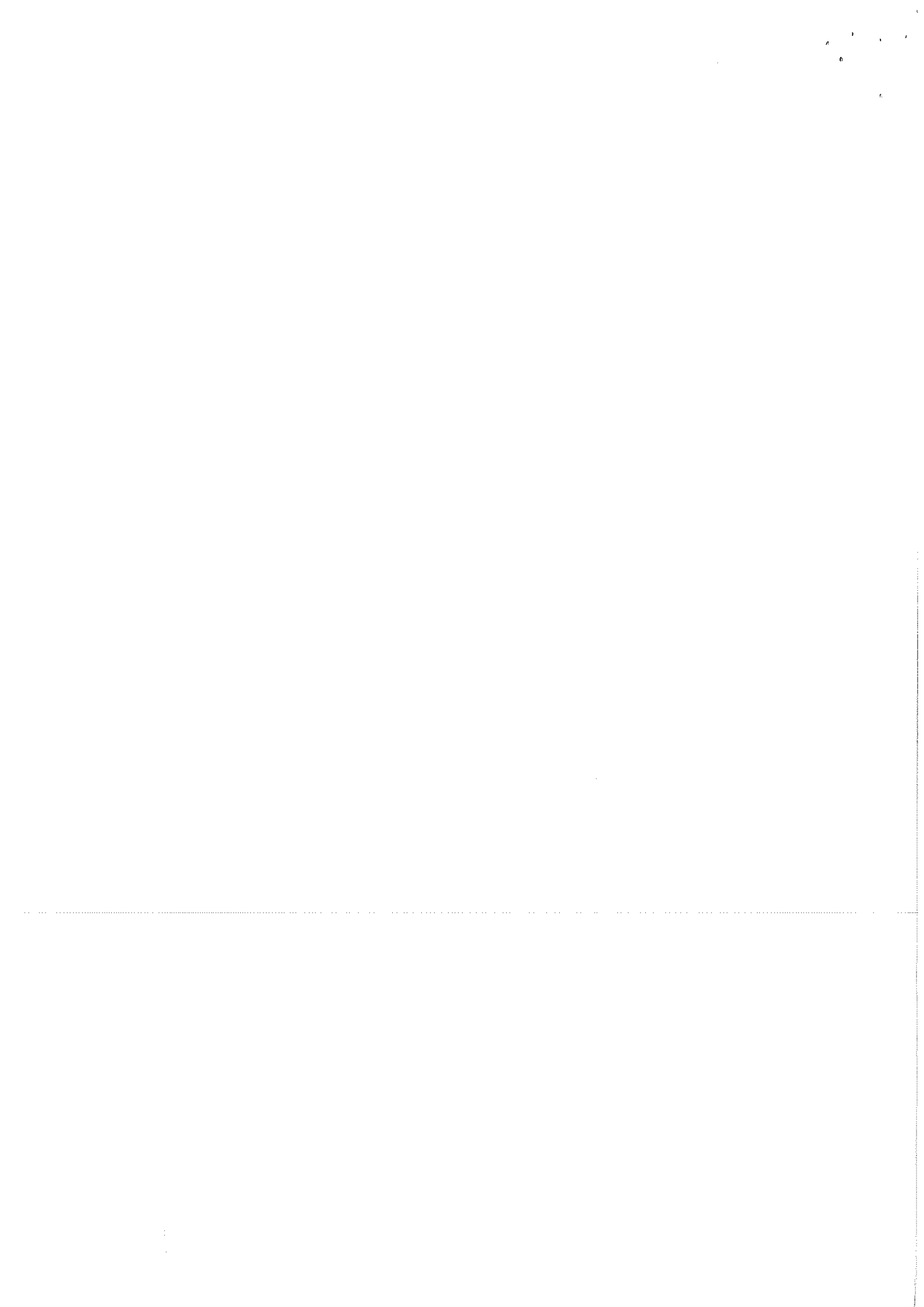
In addition the Authority is responsible for hundred percent payment of the cost of maintaining the office of the Ghana Permanent Representative to the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) in London.

6.0 PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of the Bill is to amend the Ghana Maritime Authority Act, 2002 (Act 630) to fix specific levies, fees and charges to cover administrative cost of the Authority.

7.0 OBSERVATIONS

The Committee observed that there is the need for Ghana Maritime Authority to introduce levies, fees and charges as sources of funding for the Authority to meet its enhanced responsibilities.



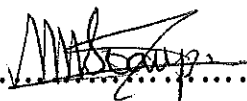
The Bill in the Committee's opinion seeks to empower the Minister power to make regulations, the imposition of levies, fees and charges and the authority to make Regulations to effectively discharge the functions provided for under the Act.


8.0 CONCLUSION

The Committee after carefully examining the amendments to the principal enactment is of the view that the legislation will provide the needed financial base to support the Authority to effectively fulfill its increasing mandate in order to properly position Ghana as a maritime hub in the sub region as well as provide safe, secure and efficient maritime environment in support of the country's off-shore oil and gas development.

The Committee therefore recommends to the House, the passage of the Ghana Maritime Authority (Amendment) Bill.

Respectfully Submitted.

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HON. MICHAEL COFFIE BOAMPONG
CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON
ROADSAND TRANSPORT

.....

MR. SAMUEL ADDEI
CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

JULY 2011

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