



National Communications Authority

- Press Release

NCA Hosts Smart Africa's 9th Council of African Regulators Meeting in Accra

Accra, 11th December, 2019: The 9th meeting of the Council of African Regulators is underway in Accra from the 11th to 13th December, 2019. The meeting is being hosted by the National Communications Authority and organised by the Smart Africa Secretariat. SMART Africa is an innovative commitment from African Heads of State and Government to accelerate sustainable socioeconomic development on the continent, ushering Africa into a knowledge economy through affordable access to Broadband and usage of Information and Communication Technologies. Smart Africa currently consists of 30 African countries.

Opening the meeting, Deputy Communications Minister and Member of Parliament for Awutu Senya West, Honourable George Nenyi Andah said Ghana is geared towards the implementation of the ECOWAS roaming initiative as it will enhance regional integration and economic development and facilitate the hosting of the Secretariat of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). Honourable Andah commended the ECOWAS 'Free Roaming' initiative and said he was hopeful that the initiative which is aimed at reducing roaming rates within the ECOWAS Sub-region, will promote Cross-Border investments and encourage competition among Operators to reduce call charges.



- **Deputy Communications Minister and Member of Parliament for Awutu Senya West, Honourable George Nenyi Andah giving the keynote address**

He added that the creation of a harmonised enabling environment for the international mobile roaming market will ensure affordable access to roaming services for Voice, SMS and Data and called on the African Regulators to work towards the possibility for all the sub-regional sections within Africa to work towards a common roaming project for all Africans.

The Director General of Smart Africa, Mr. Lacina Kone said the Council of African Regulators platform plays and will continue to play a very important role in posing a strong foundation for digital economies through adequate norms and regulations. He expressed his appreciation to member states for their continuous participation and commitment to the Smart Africa Vision, which he says will lead to a win-win partnership.



- **Mr. Lacina Kone, the Director General of Smart Africa delivering his remarks**

Mr. Kone expressed the hope that the 9th CAR meeting will be another opportunity for regulators to provide strong leadership and guidance to important issues such as broadband strategy, the skills development for countries and the free roaming and One Africa Network project.



- **A cross section of participants from CAR**

On his part, Mr. Lin Mombo, the President of the Council of African Regulators, disclosed that the Council of Ministers will now accelerate the implementation by various governments of the initiatives of Smart Africa while protecting the interests of member states. “It would therefore be necessary to interact effectively with this new body to make the most of it. ICT Ministers in our countries accompany and encourage us. That's why we should be attentive to their calls”, he said



- **Mr. Kwaku Sakyi-Addo, Board Chairman of the NCA welcoming participants to the meeting**

Calling on Smart Africa to lead African regulators to learn from each other, the Board Chairman of the NCA, Kwaku Sakyi-Addo took the opportunity to kindly request SMART Africa to put in place measures which will see other countries or states serving as mentors to other states who are yet to be part of this drive. He touted Ghana's strides in Cyber Security, Type Approval,

Broadcast Management and Network Management systems and stressed on the fact that Ghana through the NCA was eagerly showing the way and helping other African states to build capacity in these areas.



A group photograph of the participants at the 9th Council of African Regulators meeting in Accra. In the front row 5th to 8th, are Messrs Lin Mombo, Lacina Kone, George Andah and Kwaku Sakyi-Addo

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Date –December 11, 2019

About NCA

The National Communications Authority, (NCA), was established by an Act of Parliament, Act 524 in December 1996, which has been repealed and replaced by the National Communications Authority Act, 2008 (Act 769). The Authority is the statutory body mandated to license and to regulate electronic communication activities and services in the country.

