RIGHT TO INFORMATION COMMISSION
REPUBLIC OF GHANA

MONTHLY

AUGUST 2024

NEWSLETTER

PAGE 2

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION COMMISSION PAYS A COURTESY CALL ON THE BONO REGIONAL MINISTER

CONTENTS

PAGE 1

Right to Information Month

PAGE 2

The Executive Secretary of the Right to Information Commission Pays a Courtesy Call on the Bono Regional Minister

PAGE 3

Sensitisation of Public institutions

PAGE 5

Monitoring and Compliance of Public Institutions in the Greater Accra Region

Welcome to the August Edition of Our Newsletter!

As the warmth of August embraces us, we are excited to bring you another edition filled with insightful updates and inspiring stories. This month, we reflect on the strides we have made and the partnerships we have strengthened in our mission to uphold transparency, accountability, and the right to information for all.

In this issue, we highlight key events, including the Executive Secretary's impactful visit to the Bono Region, and share the latest developments in our ongoing efforts to empower communities with the knowledge and tools they need to exercise their fundamental rights.

August also marks a time of renewed energy and focus as we prepare for upcoming events and initiatives that promise to make a lasting impact. We invite you to journey with us through these pages, stay informed, and get inspired by the collective efforts of our team and partners.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to our shared cause. Together, we are making a difference!

Happy reading!

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION COMMISSION PAYS A COURTESY CALL ON THE BONO REGIONAL MINISTER

On August 13, 2024, the Right to Information Commission (RTIC) delegation led by the Executive Secretary, Yaw Sarpong Boateng Esq., paid a courtesy visit to the Bono Regional Minister, Hon. Justina Owusu Banahene, at the Bono Regional Coordinating Council (RCC). The visit aimed to express gratitude for the office space allocated for the RTIC's operations in the Bono Region, Sunyani, signifying the Minister's commitment to promoting the Right to Information (RTI) law in the region.

The RTIC delegation comprising of the Head of the Legal, Governance, Research, and Regulatory Department, Stephen Owusu Esq., the Bono Regional Manager of the RTI Commission, Osborn Adomako Akuoko, and Senior Officer Dorothy Darko were warmly received by the Minister including Mr. Andrew Mensah, Chief Director of the RCC, Mr. Bae-Yeboah Alexander, Deputy Director of Administration, and Mr. Joseph Mensah, Regional Development Planner. During the visit, the Executive Secretary thanked the Minister for her support and highlighted the significance of the newly established RTIC office in Sunyani. The Minister expressed her ongoing commitment to the RTI law and requested further education on the Commission's mandates and objectives.

The meeting concluded with discussions on enhancing collaboration between the RTIC and the RCC, including the Minister's suggestion to organise a sensitisation session for Heads of Departments. The Executive Secretary also requested a vehicle from the RCC for use in distant sensitisation activities, to which the Minister responded positively. The visit reinforced the partnership between the RTIC and the Bono Regional administration, strengthening their mutual commitment to promoting transparency and accountability in the region.

Yaw Sarpong Boateng Esq. (right) with Hon. Justina Owusu Banahene (middle) and her key officials at the RCC, Sunyani

SENSITISATION OF PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

The Right to Information Commission (RTIC) has been actively conducting sensitisation programs across various public institutions to promote awareness and advocacy for the Right to Information Act, 2019 (Act 989). The goal of this exercise was to educate them on the Right to Information (RTI) Act, increase understanding and foster transparency and accountability.

In August 2024, the Right to Information (RTI) Commission undertook various sensitisation sessions with some public institutions in the Greater Accra, Ashanti and Bono regions respectively to enhance their understanding of the Right to Information Act.

Between 6th – 21st August, Officers from the Accra Office initiated a series of engagements in the under-listed public institutions: National Sports Authority, National Communication Authority, National Folklore Board, Ghana Gas Company Ltd, the Land Uses and Spatial Planning Authority, the Ghana Enterprise Agency, Ghana Armed Forces, the State Transport Company, Ministry of Works and Housing, Fair wages and Salary Commission, the Department of Feeder Roads, Ghana Investment Fund for Electronic Communication,National Biosafety Authority, Gratis Foundation, National Commission on Culture and the Ghana Meteorological Agency.

On August 8th, officers from the Kumasi office conducted a comprehensive sensitisation session with the Oforikrom Municipal Assembly, followed by a virtual presentation on August 13th at the Ahafo Ano South-West District

RTIC Officers sensitising Staff of the Oforikrom Municipal Assembly, Kumasi

Assembly. These initiatives were designed to deepen the institutions' understanding of the RTI Law and to support them in fulfilling their obligations under Act 989.

On the 15th and 19th of August, officers from the Sunyani office of the Commission engaged the management and staff of the Registrar General's Department and the Ministry of Health in an interactive session respectively.

The various sessions were highly impactful. The presentation covered critical aspects of the RTI Act, including its overview and historical context, the application process, offenses under the Act, exemptions, the Commission's functions and powers, and the compilation and publication of information manuals. They also covered internal reviews and appeals, among other important provisions. During these sessions, the officers addressed critical questions related to the Act's application, exemptions, and the preservation of personal information integrity.

Feedback from the Q&A segment at the various sensitisation sessions revealed that staff from the various public institutions mentioned above are now well-versed in the Right to Information law. These institutions are now expected to take the necessary steps to ensure full compliance with the law.

With this phase of our sensitisation efforts, it is evident that our outreach has not only strengthened our relationships with these institutions but also significantly advanced the cause of transparency and accountability in the public sector. The positive reception and enthusiastic participation we encountered reaffirm the importance of our mission.

Together, with our partners, we are paving the way for a more informed and empowered citizenry, committed to upholding the rights that are fundamental to our democracy.

Officers of the Commission during the sensitisation with Staff of Ghana National Gas Company, Accra

Staff of Ghana Meteorological Authority being sensitised by Officers of the Commission, Accra

Officers of RTIC senstising Staff of Ministry of Health, Sunyani

RTIC Officers sensitising Staff of Registrar General's Department , Sunyani

MONITORING AND COMPLIANCE OF PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN THE GREATER ACCRA REGION

As part of the Commission's mandate to ensure compliance with the Right to Information Act, 2019 (Act 989), it has been actively conducting monitoring exercises at various public and private institutions. The purpose of this exercise was to ensure compliance with the RTIC's mandate of monitoring all public institutions and relevant private bodies regarding their adherence to the Right to Information framework.

To ensure regulatory compliance and promote transparency, our team conducted a comprehensive exercise across several public institutions in the Greater Accra region from 1st-16th August 2024.

This exercise involved the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, the Ministry of Local Government, Decentralization and Rural Government, the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, the Volta River Authority, National Theatre of Ghana, the Ministry of Transport, the National Labour Commission, the Office of the Administrator of Stool lands, the Accra Psychiatric Hospital, the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs, the University of Media, Arts and Communication, the Parliament House of Ghana,and the Office of the President. These engagements were not merely routine checks but were opportunities to foster dialogue, address compliance challenges, and provide support as needed.

This comprehensive effort demonstrates our unwavering commitment to ensuring that public institutions are not only compliant but are also equipped to fulfill their mandates effectively, ultimately contributing to societal progress.

RTIC Officers conducting series of monitoring and compliance exercises at various institutions

RIGHT TO INFORMATION COMMISSION

REPUBLIC OF GHANA

FREEDOM AND JUSTICE

HEAD OFFICE - ACCRA :

Right to Information Commission
No. 4 Osu Badu Link, Airport West
Residential Area, Accra
GA-156-1702

CONTACTS

+233 302 788353
+233 302 788410
+233 302 788412
+233 202 466411

KUMASI BRANCH :

No. 140 Lesley Opoku Ware Drive
AK-095-5895

CONTACT

+233 204 786086

SUNYANI BRANCH :

Regional Coordinating Council
BS-0016-9971

CONTACT

+233 201 511579

E-mail: rticommission@rtic.gov.gh

READ MORE ABOUT RTI COMMISSION, GHANA

https://rtic.gov.gh/

rticgh | Rticgh Ghana | righttoinformationcommission