



MONTHLY

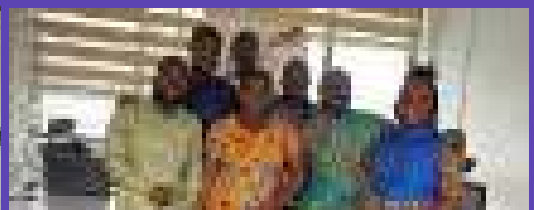
MARCH 2025

NEWSLETTER



Congratulations
on your appointment
as the Acting
Executive Secretary of
Right to Information
Commission

MS GENEVIEVE SHIRLEY LARTEY ESQ.
Acting Executive Secretary
Right to Information Commission



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VISION



“To facilitate the right of access to information: promote, and sustain awareness of the citizenry in their right of access to information and of institutions in their obligation to disclose information.”

MISSION



“To build an informed citizenry, to promote transparency in public discourse, protect, monitor and enforce the right of access to information and to hold public institutions accountable.”

CORE VALUES



- **Transparency**
- **Accountability**
- **Fairness**
- **Professionalism and**
- **Independence**



Welcome to our March newsletter! As March begins, we are thrilled to celebrate **Ghana Month**, a time to honor the rich culture, history, and heritage of one of Africa's most dynamic nations. This month is all about recognizing Ghana's global contributions, from its influential music and arts to its story of resilience and progress. Let us come together to celebrate the heart of West Africa!

At the **Right to Information Commission**, we are especially proud to observe **Ghana Month**. It is an opportunity to reflect on our nation's rich history, cultural heritage, and the remarkable strides we have made. As we mark this occasion, we also emphasize the importance of transparency, accountability, and access to information - principles at the core of our work.

Throughout this month, we will highlight how access to information fosters democracy and empowers citizens. We will also delve into how transparency and openness continue to play an essential role in Ghana's growth and governance.

RIGHT TO INFORMATION COMMISSION
REPUBLIC OF GHANA

Congratulations

The Commission is delighted to extend its heartfelt congratulations to you on your well-deserved appointment as the Acting Executive Secretary of the Right to Information Commission. We wish you success and excellence in this new role.

MS. GENEVIEVE SHIRLEY LARREY ESQ.
Acting Executive Secretary
Right to Information Commission



MARCH – A MONTH OF PRIDE, CULTURE, AND TRADITION

March is Ghana's heritage month, a time to celebrate our rich culture and traditions. At the Right to Information Commission, we embraced the spirit of the month by dedicating the last week of March to showcasing Ghana's vibrant culture through clothing and food, in all its pomp and pageantry.

As part of our team bonding activities, we immersed ourselves in the beauty of our heritage. Here's a glimpse of our week in pictures:





We celebrated in style! Adorned in vibrant African prints, we showcased the beauty of our culture with broad smiles and a sense of pride.

A feast fit for the occasion! From rich Ghanaian dishes to refreshing local drinks, we indulged in the best of our traditional cuisine. And oh, our roots were displayed in grand style! The week was truly a colorful and memorable experience.



#GhanaMonth #RTIBonding #CultureMeetsFun



THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION COMMISSION OF GHANA SHARES EXPERTISE AT SUNSHINE FEST IN USA

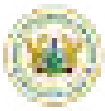
On March 20, 2025, the Right to Information Commission of Ghana was represented at the Sunshine Fest, a celebration of the 20th Anniversary of Sunshine Week, held at Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg Center in Washington, D.C. The event brought together experts from around the world to discuss pressing issues and practical solutions in access to government information.

The Executive Secretary of the Right to Information Commission (RTIC) of Ghana, Yaw Sarpong Boateng Esq. who represented the Commission, delivered a

keynote address on the topic of “Enforcement” of the right to information. He shared Ghana’s experiences in implementing its Right to Information Act, 2019 (Act 989), which aims to promote Transparency, Accountability, and Good governance.

Yaw Sarpong Boateng Esq. highlighted the importance of effective enforcement mechanisms in ensuring that citizens can exercise their right to information. He outlined Ghana’s approach to enforcement, which includes establishing an





independent Commission (RTIC), Developing Regulations and Guidelines, Providing Trainings and Capacity Building, Receiving and Investigating Complaints.

The Executive Secretary also acknowledged the challenges faced by the Commission,

including limited resources, resistance from Public Institutions and limited awareness among citizens. Despite these challenges, Yaw Sarpong Boateng Esq. emphasized the progress made in promoting Transparency and Accountability in Ghana.

The presentation by the Executive Secretary was well-received by the audience, which included experts from various countries, civil society organizations and government agencies. The Commission's contribution to the Sunshine Fest highlighted the importance of international cooperation and knowledge-sharing in promoting the right to information globally.



The Sunshine Fest was coordinated by the Brechner Freedom of Information Project, a nonprofit university-based research center at the University of Florida. The event celebrated the 20th Anniversary of Sunshine Week, which promotes transparency and openness in government.





RTIC PARTICIPATES IN A WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM ON WORLD WOMEN'S DAY IN THE BONO REGION, SUNYANI

On March 10, 2025, the Bono Regional Office of the Right to Information Commission participated in a one-day Women Empowerment programme as part of a week-long celebration to mark International Women's Day.

The event was graced by distinguished guests, including the Head of the Judicial Service, a representative from the National Pensions Authority (NPA), and the Queen Mother of the Dormaa Traditional Area.

The Commission educated attendees on its role and the rights

of individuals to access information held by public institutions. The presentation covered key topics such as the Commission's objectives, the responsibilities of public institutions, the application process for accessing information, exemptions under the law, and the penalties associated with disclosing exempt information or impersonating individuals to obtain information.

The interactive session that followed provided an opportunity for participants to seek clarifications, and feedback indicated that the information shared was well-received and effectively understood by the audience.



A Section of the audience during the sensitization exercise



SENSITIZATION EXERCISE IN THE ASHANTI REGION

As part of the commission's efforts to sensitize all public institutions and focal groups on the right to information law, the commission's office sensitized Nhyiaeso International School on the 14th of March 2025.

The exercise was aimed at ensuring a deeper understanding of the law (Act 989) and assisting pupils understand and fulfill their obligations under the law (Act 989). Participants were taken through the Overview of the law, the procedure for access as well as exemptions. Participants asked questions on the relevance of the exemptions,

the powers of the commission to enforce the law as well as the support of other institutions in pushing the successful implementation of the law.



Pupils of Nhyiaeso International School in the Ashanti Region, participating in sensitization exercise



RIGHT TO INFORMATION COMMISSION EDUCATES THE PUBLIC AT A COMMUNITY LEGAL CLINIC SERIES

Kekeli Consult-Keta successfully hosted the inaugural Community Legal Clinic Series Programme on March 28, 2025, at the Presbyterian Boys' Senior High School in Legon, Accra. This program facilitated a forum for key stakeholders within Ghana's justice system to educate the public on their core responsibilities, encompassing procedures for handling public petitions and ensuring efficient justice delivery.

Participating stakeholders included, but were not limited to, the Judiciary, the Office of the Attorney-General, the Economic and Organised Crimes Office, the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice, the Right to Information Commission, the Legal Aid Commission, the Ghana Bar Association, and the Office of the Special Prosecutor.

The Right to Information Commission (RTIC) participated in the program, with its Legal Director, Stephen Owusu, Esq., guiding participants through the commission's core mandates. This encompassed the process of receiving and addressing public complaints regarding information denials by public

institutions, as detailed in Article 21(1)(f) of Ghana's 1992 Constitution and the Right to Information Act, 2019 (Act 989). Other stakeholders, including the Judiciary, the Economic and Organized Crime Office (EOCO), and the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), also participated, offering insights into their respective roles and responsibilities.

The program was well-received, with participant requests for expanded Community Legal Clinic Series programs throughout Ghana. Gilbert Korbla Keklie, CEO of Kekeli Consult-Keta, favorably received these proposals and announced plans for regional program expansion.





HEAD OFFICE - ACCRA :

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

CONTACTS

+233 30 2788 353
+233 30 2788 410
+233 30 2788 412
+233 20 2466 411

KUMASI BRANCH :

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

CONTACT

+233 20 4786 086

SUNYANI BRANCH :

Regional Coordinating Council
BS-0016-9971

CONTACT

+233 20 1511 579

BOLGATANGA BRANCH :

Information Services Department
building, behind Library Junction
UB-0014-9179

READ MORE ABOUT RTI COMMISSION, GHANA

<https://rtic.gov.gh/>

E-mail: rticommission@rtic.gov.gh