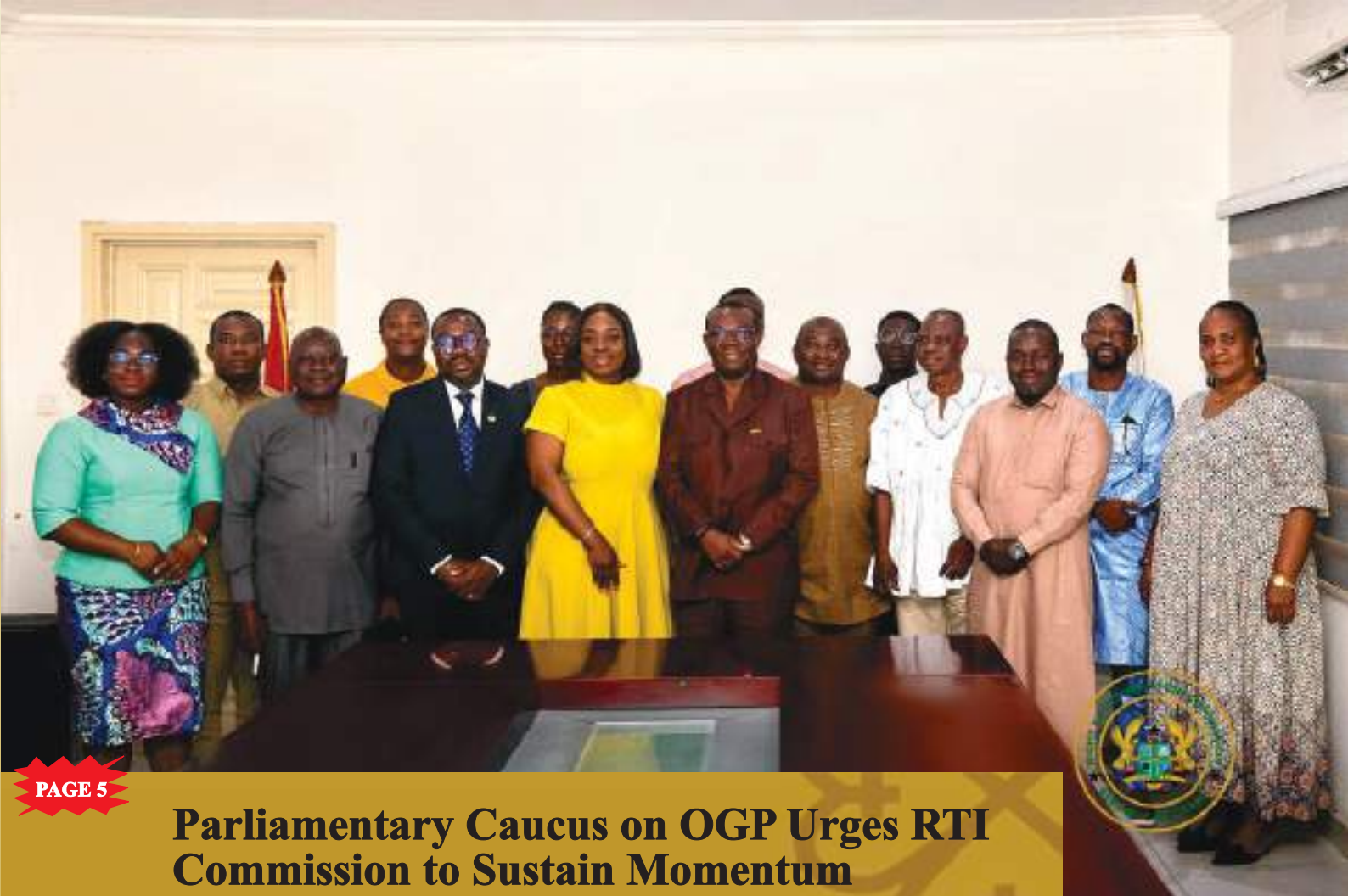


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VISION



“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**

FOREWORD



Ms Genevieve Shirley Lartey Esq.
Executive secretary, RTIC

Welcome to our March edition.

As the month unfolds, we are delighted to join the nation in celebrating Ghana Month—a time dedicated to honouring the rich culture, history, and heritage of one of Africa's most vibrant and resilient nations. This period offers a meaningful opportunity for reflection on our collective identity, values, and the enduring principles that continue to shape Ghana's democratic journey.

At the Right to Information Commission, Ghana Month resonates deeply with our mandate. Access to information is not only a fundamental human right but also a cornerstone of participatory governance, transparency, and accountability—values that are essential to preserving the legacy of our forebears and strengthening the future of our nation. As we celebrate our cultural pride, we are equally reminded of the importance of empowering citizens with the information they need to actively engage in national

development.

In this edition, we highlight key activities, initiatives, and engagements undertaken by the Commission over the month. From continued public education and stakeholder collaborations to efforts aimed at enhancing compliance with the Right to Information Act, we remain committed to deepening awareness and promoting a culture of openness across all public institutions.

We also take this opportunity to encourage citizens, institutions, and partners to reaffirm their commitment to transparency and the effective implementation of the Right to Information law. Together, we can build a more informed society where access to information drives innovation, strengthens accountability, and supports inclusive development.

As we celebrate Ghana Month, let us embrace both our heritage and our responsibility to uphold the principles of openness and good governance.

Happy Ghana Month.

EDITORIAL TEAM





RTIC CELEBRATES GHANA MONTH

Strengthening Democracy Through Access to Information

March is a time of reflection, pride, and renewed national consciousness. As we celebrate Ghana Month 2026, we are reminded not only of our rich history and cultural heritage, but also of the democratic values that define us as a nation.

On 6th March 1957, under the visionary leadership of Osagyefo Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, Ghana became the first sub-Saharan African country to gain independence. His declaration that “the independence of Ghana is meaningless unless it is linked up with the total liberation of Africa” was more than a political statement — it was a call to responsibility, accountability, and collective progress. Today, that responsibility continues.

At the Right to Information Commission, we recognize that true independence goes beyond political freedom. It includes the power of citizens to seek, receive, and use information to make informed decisions. Access to information is not just a legal right — it is a civic tool that strengthens transparency, promotes accountability, and deepens participatory governance.

This year's Ghana month celebration included a cultural storytelling series video production showcasing staff speaking various Ghanaian

languages promoting RTI awareness and cultural pride, a cultural week where staff rocked traditional outfits and shared words on the importance of information and a cultural food fair where departments represented regions with local dishes, drinks, and attire, all boosting RTI awareness, unity, and cultural appreciation.

As we commemorate Ghana Month 2026, we reflect on how far we have come as a democracy and how essential information access remains in shaping our national development. An informed citizenry is an empowered citizenry. When individuals understand their rights and have access to public information, they are better positioned to contribute meaningfully to national discourse and hold institutions accountable.



RTI Commission Staff savouring culture - sharing food and drinks during the Ghana Month celebration

As we commemorate Ghana Month 2026, we reflect on how far we have come as a democracy and how essential information access remains in shaping our national development. An informed citizenry is an empowered citizenry. When individuals understand their rights and have access to public information, they are better positioned to contribute meaningfully to national discourse and hold institutions accountable.

This month, we encourage all citizens, public institutions, civil society actors, and the media fraternity to recommit to the principles of openness and good governance. Let us celebrate not only our heritage of resilience and

unity, but also our shared responsibility to uphold the rule of law and protect the public's right to know.

As we proudly wear our Ghanaian colours and celebrate our traditions, may we also renew our dedication to building a nation where information flows freely, institutions serve with integrity, and citizens participate confidently in governance. Ghana's vibrant democracy thrives when transparency becomes a culture, not an exception.

Together, let us strengthen democracy through transparency.

Happy Ghana Month!

Photo Gallery of Ghana Month





MS. GENEVIEVE SHIRLEY LARREY, ESQ.
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, RTIC

International Women's Day

Give to Gain: Empowering Women, Strengthening Society

March is a month of celebration, reflection, and action. As we join the global community in commemorating **International Women's Day, 8th March 2026**, we honor the resilience, talent, and leadership of women across Ghana and the world.

This year's theme, **“Give to Gain,”** reminds us that empowerment is both a gift and a responsibility. When we invest in women — through mentorship, knowledge-sharing, opportunities, and access to resources — the benefits ripple across families, communities, and society at large. True progress is never one-sided; it grows when we give to others and, in turn, gain collective strength and prosperity.

At the Right to Information Commission, we recognize that access to information is a vital tool for women's empowerment. An informed woman is better equipped to make decisions, participate in governance, advocate for her rights, and contribute meaningfully to national development.

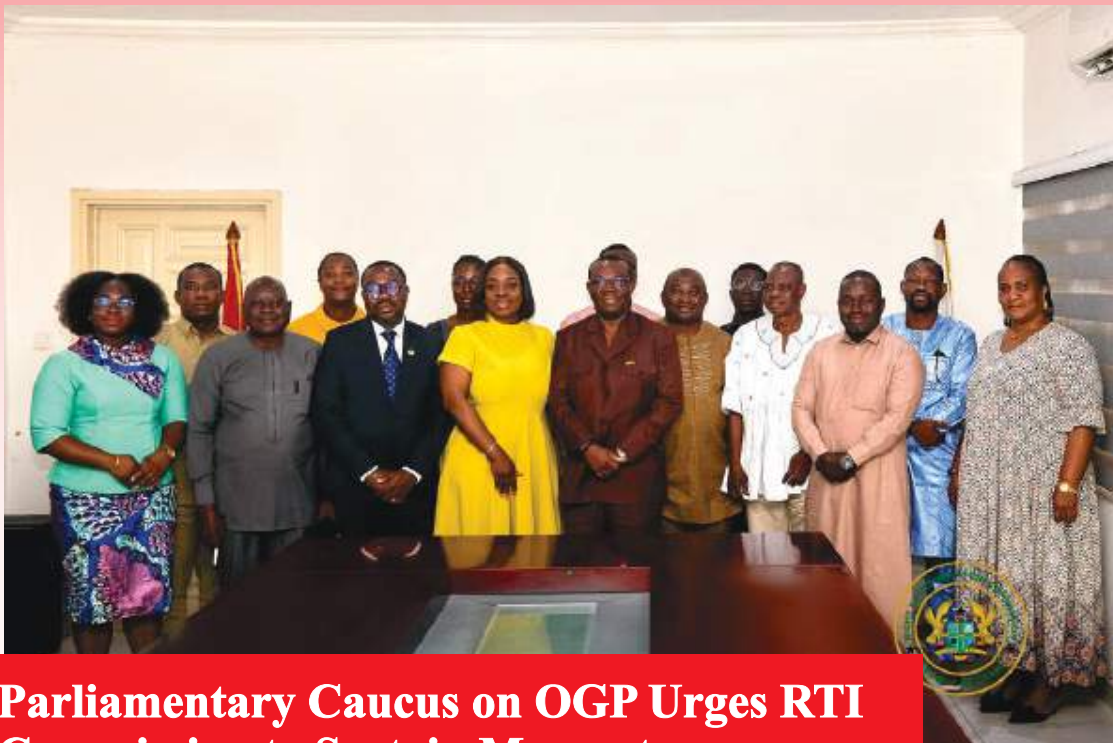
This International Women's Day, we celebrate the achievements of women while committing to provide knowledge, support, and opportunities that help them thrive. By giving access, guidance, and encouragement, we gain

stronger communities, more accountable institutions, and a Ghana that progresses inclusively.

To every woman shaping Ghana's present and future — we celebrate you. And to every citizen, institution, and partner — let us give to gain, together.

Happy International Women's Day!





Parliamentary Caucus on OGP Urges RTI Commission to Sustain Momentum

The Parliamentary Caucus on the Open Government Partnership (OGP), led by Hon. Emmanuel Kwasi Bedzrah, has reaffirmed the critical role of the Right to Information (RTI) in strengthening democracy, transparency, and accountability in Ghana.

This was underscored during a fact-finding visit to the offices of the Right to Information Commission (RTIC) in Dzorwulu, Accra, where members of the Caucus commended the Commission for its efforts and encouraged it to remain resolute in executing its mandate.

Hon. Bedzrah emphasized that access to information is not merely a governance tool but a fundamental human right that must be protected and promoted at all levels. He urged the Commission to intensify its work and visibility to ensure that citizens and institutions fully understand and benefit from the RTI Act.

The Executive Secretary of the RTIC, Ms. Genevieve Shirley Lartey, Esq., highlighted key achievements under the National Action Plan (NAP-4), including the establishment of administrative frameworks following the passage of the RTI Act in 2019. She further outlined ongoing commitments under NAP-5, which include the development of Information, Education and Communication (IEC)

materials, public capacity-building initiatives, and continued efforts towards the passage of the Legislative Instrument (LI).

The Executive Secretary further explained that the draft Legislative Instrument lapsed with the dissolution of the previous Parliament and that steps are therefore being taken to restart the process towards its passage. Mr. Christopher Belami Doughan, a member of the Governing Board, added that the newly constituted Board is desirous of re-engaging relevant stakeholders before the process is advanced.

Notwithstanding these efforts, the Executive Secretary noted that funding constraints and inadequate office accommodation remain significant challenges affecting the Commission's operations.



Hon. Emmanuel Kwasi Bedzrah making a point the house on Open Governance Partnership related issues at the meeting.

On public education efforts, Mr. Kweku Sersah-Johnson, Technical Advisor to the Executive Secretary, disclosed that the RTIC has developed a comprehensive communication strategy aimed at enhancing nationwide awareness and understanding of the RTI law.

Members of the Parliamentary Caucus present at the meeting included Mr. Alexander Akwasi Acquah, Vice Chairman of the Caucus, Dominic Napare, Shaibu Mahama, Adelaide Ntim, and Kaakyire Asira Gyasi, Assistant

Secretary to the OGP Caucus. Staff of the RTI Commission in attendance were Mr. Kofi Sarpong, Ms. Kate Swanzy, Mr. Stephen Owusu, Mr. Michael Duodo-Sakyiama, Ms. Audrey Korlekuor Odjeawo, and Mr. Eugene Baffour Berko.

The visit underscores the shared commitment between Parliament and the Right to Information Commission to deepen transparency, promote accountability, and empower citizens through access to information.



RTI COMMISSION INTENSIFIES SENSITIZATION AND MONITORING ON ACT 989

In March 2026, the Right to Information Commission reinforced its mandate of promoting transparency, accountability, and compliance with Act 989 through a series of sensitization and monitoring activities across public institutions in Ghana. These activities formed part of the Commission's broader strategy to deepen awareness of regulatory frameworks while ensuring the institutions adhere to established operational and governance standards with respect to the Right to Information Act, 2019 (Act 989).

The Commission engaged management and staff of institutions such as the Bui Dam Authority and the Ghana Education Trust Fund (GETFund) as part of its sensitization drive. These sessions focused on educating

stakeholders on the history of the passage of Act 989, procedures for accessing information, powers of the Commission, exemptions and offences under the law and the importance of transparency in public administration.

Participants were taken through key provisions of the Right to Information Act, 2019 (Act 989), with emphasis on strengthening internal systems to align with national standards. The interactive sessions encouraged questions, clarifications, and the sharing of practical experiences to enhance implementation.

The objective was to ensure that these institutions operated within the stipulated legal and regulatory frameworks of Act 989, while also identifying areas that require improvement.

Regional Sensitization

At the Regional level, the Ashanti and Bolgatanga offices of the RTI Commission sustained its sensitization and public activities in March 2026, deepening awareness and understanding of Act 989 among institutions, students and community stakeholders.

The Ashanti Regional Office engaged students and faculty at the Garden City University College in Kumasi. The session highlighted the objectives of Act 989, procedures for accessing information, and the exemptions and offences under the law. The interactive discussions revealed strong interest among participants, who sought clarity on exemptions under the RTI Law, the enforcement powers of the Commission, and the role of other institutions in supporting successful implementation.



Students of the Garden City University being sensitized by RTI Officers on the Act 989 in the Ashanti Region

Similarly, in the Upper East Region, the Bolgatanga Office carried out a series of sensitization and public education activities of Act 989 with some institutions led by the Manager, Richard Antwi – Boasiako, and other officers, namely Joshua Effah Osei, Abigail Bima Acheampong, Price Adofo and Edmund Agyemang – Duah. Institutions sensitized included the Department of Gender, Department of Children, New Life International Church, Ghana Statistical Service and the National Lottery Authority. Participants actively engaged the facilitators and demonstrated a stronger understanding of their rights and obligations under the law.



Joshua Effah Osei, RTI Officer educating Ghana statistical Service staff on the Act 989 during sensitization exercise in Bolgatanga

Monitoring Exercises

As part of the Commission's continuous oversight role, the Commission conducted monitoring engagements with the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Ministry of Finance.

These exercises involved reviewing institutional practices, evaluating documentation, and engaging officials on areas requiring improvement in their RTI related activities. The purpose was not only to ensure adherence to Act 989 but also to support institutions in strengthening their compliance frameworks and enhancing transparency in their operations.

The sensitization and monitoring activities underscore the Commission's commitment to fostering a culture of accountability and compliance within public institutions. Through continuous sensitization and monitoring, the Commission not only enforces standards but also builds the capacity of institutions to operate more effectively and transparently in service to the Ghanaian public

Together, the activities in the Ashanti and Upper East Regions underscore the Commission's sustained Regional presence and its role in promoting compliance and strengthening public awareness of Act 989. By continuing these sensitization programs, the RTI Commission builds institutional capacity and empowers citizens to fully exercise their right to Information.



Right to Information Commission Engages International Stakeholders at Sunshine Fest 2026

The Right to Information Commission (RTIC) participated in the 2026 Freedom of Information Conference, popularly known as Sunshine Fest, a leading global forum on access to information and government transparency. The conference, convened by the Brechner Freedom of Information Project and co-hosted this year by MuckRock, was held from 15th to 17th March 2026 at Johns Hopkins University in Washington, D.C., United States.

The event brought together key international stakeholders in transparency and access to information and also marked the 60th anniversary of the passage of the Freedom of Information Act in the United States. The Commission was represented by its Executive Secretary, Ms. Genevieve Shirley Lartey, Esq.

The conference commenced with a networking mixer and the Sunshine Science Fair, providing an informal platform for participants to connect and exchange ideas ahead of the main sessions. Over the course of the conference,

more than twenty plenary and breakout sessions explored critical issues including transparency and accountability, the use of Technology and Artificial Intelligence in records access, emerging challenges in freedom of information regimes globally, and strategies for strengthening collaboration between information requesters and public institutions.

Sessions attended by the Commission focused on practical and policy-oriented themes aligned with its mandate. These included transparency promotion, lessons from leading Freedom of information jurisdictions, judicial transparency, agency best practices, funding of Freedom Of Information (FOI) systems, commercial partnerships, effective access strategies, and the management of vexatious applications. The Executive Secretary actively participated in discussions on agency best practices, funding of FOI, commercial partnerships, and vexatious applications, contributing Ghana's perspective and drawing insights to inform the Commission's ongoing work.

The engagements provided valuable insights into addressing implementation challenges such as managing complex requests, enhancing non-litigation dispute resolution mechanisms, expanding public awareness of information rights, and securing sustainable support for transparency systems.

During the breakout sessions, the Executive Secretary contributed to discussions on global trends in access to information and shared Ghana's experience in implementing the Right to Information Act, 2019 (Act 989). She held strategic engagements with Mr. David Cuillier, Director of the Freedom of Information Project at the Brechner Center for the Advancement of the First Amendment; Ms. Alina Semo, a leading authority on the United States' records and archives administration framework; and Mr. John Edwards, Information

Commissioner, to exchange perspectives on strengthening access to information systems, enhancing institutional collaboration, and advancing global transparency practices.

Participation in Sunshine Fest provided the Commission with an important platform to learn from countries with well-established freedom of information systems, strengthen international networks, and position Ghana's Right to Information implementation within the global transparency agenda. The engagement further enhanced the Commission's international visibility and generated practical insights to support ongoing efforts to deepen access to information, promote accountability, and strengthen democratic governance in Ghana.



Panelist discussion ongoing at the Conference



Delegates present at the Freedom of Information Conference (Sunshine Fest 2026)



ANIC Executives meet in Sierra Leone ahead of ICIC 2026 and IDUAI

The Executive Committee of the African Network of Information Commissioners (ANIC) convened a three-day meeting in Freetown, Sierra Leone, from 17–19 March 2026 to review preparations for the upcoming International Conference of Information Commissioners (ICIC) 2026 and the International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI), both of which will be hosted by Sierra Leone.

The meeting brought together key figures, including Mr. Ibrahim Seaga Shaw, Chairman of the Right to Access Information Commission of Sierra Leone, and Ms. Pansy Tlakula, Chairperson from South Africa, alongside members of the ANIC Secretariat. Ghana was represented by Mr. Stephen Owusu, Esq., Head of Legal at the Right to Information Commission (RTIC), on behalf of the Executive Secretary, Ms. Genevieve Shirley Lartey, Esq.

Deliberations centred on critical institutional and operational matters, including progress toward the establishment of the ANIC bank account, implementation of the proposed US\$500 membership fee, and the final review of the draft Records Management Policy Manual for adoption across African countries. The Committee also discussed the completion

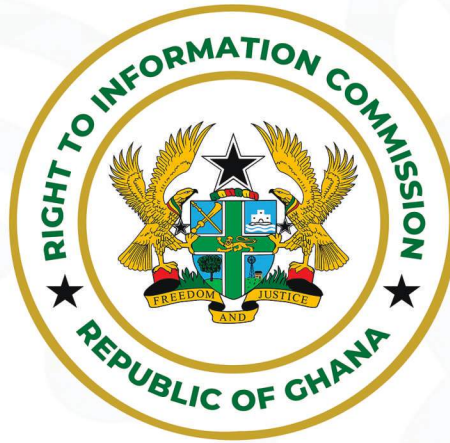
of the ANIC website and strategies aimed at expanding membership across the continent.

As part of its broader engagement, the Committee interacted with media and civil society organisations and paid courtesy calls on key institutions and dignitaries, including the Chief Justice and the Minister of Information of Sierra Leone. The team further inspected designated venues for ICIC 2026 and IDUAI. To enhance coordination and efficiency, a detailed Gantt chart was introduced to guide planning for the international events.

The meeting reaffirmed ANIC's commitment to strengthening access to information systems across Africa and promoting transparency, accountability, and good governance.



Participants discussing matters of concern at ANIC Executives meeting ahead of ICIC 2026 and IDUAI



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