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Minister Calls For Regional Shipping Lines

The Minister for Transport, Mr. Mike Hammah, has called on maritime authorities in Africa to collaborate and co-operate among themselves to benefit effectively from international trade.

He said they can pool resources from the establishment of Regional Shipping Lines as proposed by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to cement their collaboration.

A statement issued by the Ministry in Accra said Mr. Hammah made the call when he addressed the Crans Montana Forum 21 on Africa held in Brussels, Belgium.

It was on the theme: "Reshaping the Africa Commercial Maritime Network". Mr. Hammah advocated the streamlining of the shipping industry to allow for Public-Private Partnership and a review of the current regulatory system in most African countries which has led to multiple and cumbersome inspections by different security agencies, delayed processing and high cost of doing business.

He called for infrastructure and human capacity development, as well as an up-to-date technology in the maritime sector to place Africa in a better position for world trade, about 90 per cent of which is by sea.

Mr. Nusah Abdulai B. Fuseini, Deputy Minister for Energy, speaking on the topic "The Africa and Energy –The Key Challenge", said Ghana is on course to provide electricity for all communities under the Self-Help Electrification Project embarked upon by the government.

He said the government is considering developing other sources of energy for industry and domestic purposes.

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