

A PRACTICAL REVIEW OF THE ECOWAS PROTOCOL ON FREE MOVEMENT

1.0. Introduction

"High trade barriers with neighboring countries are costing African nations billions of dollars of potential earnings and depriving the continent of new sources of economic growth; as a consequence, Africa has integrated with the rest of the world faster than with itself, stresses a 2012¹ World Bank in a report - "De-Fragmenting Africa: Deepening Regional Trade Integration in Goods and Services."



A cross section of participants from ECOWAS member States.

The Regional Economic Communities (RECs), particularly the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) have been established to streamline transactions within their respective sub-regions. Among other objectives, there are agreements aimed at the free movement of capital and intraregional trade among citizen of the ECOWAS community; and of course putting the ECOWAS economic and social development agenda into practice requires the free movement of people across national boundaries. At one level, people need to be able to easily cross borders to explore opportunities and determine the feasibility of efforts to engage in trade of goods and services. At another level, the free movement of labor allows for the optimal and efficient utilization of human capital as skills go to the various countries in the regions where they command the highest value. This paper tries to explore some of the barriers that prevents the mobility of people across the ECOWAS region.

The ECOWAS was formed in 1975 to among other things encourage, foster and accelerate the economic and social development of its member states in order to improve the living standards of their peoples. It is currently made up of 15 member States including Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea and Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

Etching its development strategy in regionalism, ECOWAS' economic integration agenda aims to liberalize trade among member states: the elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers, and ultimately achieving an economic and monetary union after successfully going through the process of a free trade area, custom union and common market (Article 3, Revised ECOWAS Treaty 1993). The rationale is that the promotion of harmonious economic

development of the member states is required to achieve an effective economic co-operation and integration - largely through a determined and concerted policy of self-reliance.

2.0. The Legal Basis and Features of the Protocol on Free Movement

The Free Movement Protocol is essentially a contraption aimed at the realization of the economic integration agenda of the region as set out in Article 3 of the ECOWAS treaty. The recognition of the need for economic integration including free flow of persons, goods and services resulted in the enactment of the ECOWAS Protocol on free movement of persons, and the right of residence and establishment in 1979². Article 27 of the ECOWAS treaty affirmed the need for economic integration, which includes free flow of persons, goods and services by calling on the member states to ensure graduation removal of all obstacles to free movement of persons, services and capital (Paragraph 1 of Article 27 of the Treaty). ECOWAS member states were as a matter of fact required to stop demanding visa and residence permits, and therefore allow citizens of other member states to work and undertake commercial and industrial activities within their territories (Paragraph 2).

It is worthy of note that the 1979 Free Movement Protocol has undergone some legal transformation which gave rise to the following:

- a. 1985 Supplementary Protocol A/SP.1/7/85 on the Code of Conduct for the Implementation of Protocol on Free Movement of Persons, the Right of Residence and Establishment;
- b. 1986 Supplementary Protocol A/SP.1/7/86 ON the Second Phase (Right of Residence);
- c. 1989 Supplementary Protocol A/SP.1/6/89 amending and complementing the provisions of Article 7 of the Protocol on Free Movement. Right of Residence and Establishment; and
- d. 1990 Supplementary Protocol A/SP.2/5/90 on the implementation of the Third Phase (Right to Establishment).



Encouraging free movement of goods and people by removing impediments

¹A/P.1/5/79 relating to Free Movement of Persons, Residence and Establishment

2.1. The Main Features of the Protocol and the four Supplementary Protocols²

1979 Protocol A/P.1/5/79 relating to Free Movement of Persons. Residence and Establishment

- Sets out right of Community citizens to enter, reside and establish in territory of member states (Art 2(1))
- Establishes three-phased approach over 15 years to implementation of (1) right of entry and abolition of visas, (2) residence and (3) establishment (Article 2).
- Conditions entitlement to enter territory of member state on possession of valid travel document and international health certificate (Article 3(1))
- Reserves right of member states to refuse admission into territory of Community citizens deemed inadmissible under domestic law (Article 4)
- Establishes some requirements for expulsion (Article 11)
- Confirms that Protocol does not operate to the detriment of more favourable provisions in other agreements concluded by member states (Article 12)

1985 Supplementary Protocol A/SP.1/7/85 on the Code of Conduct for the implementation of the Protocol on Free Movement of Persons, the right of Residence and Establishment

- Obliges member states to provide valid travel documents to their citizens (Article 2(1))
- Establishes additional (to Article II of Protocol) requirements for treatment of persons being expelled (Article 4)
- Enumerates protections for illegal immigrants (Articles 5 and 7)

1986 Supplementary Protocol A/SP.1/7/86 ON the Second Phase (Right of Residence)

- Requires States to grant to Community citizens who are nationals of other member states "the right of residence in its territory for the purpose of seeking and carrying out income earning employment" (Article 2).
- Entitles residence to seek and carry out of income earning employment on possession of an ECOWAS Passport.
- Residence Card or Permit (Article 5) and harmonization by member states of rules pertaining to the issuance of such cards/permits (Article 9).
- Prohibits expulsion en masse (Article 13) and limits grounds for individual expulsion to national security, public order or morality, public health, non fulfillment of essential condition of residence (Article 14).
- Stipulates equal treatment with nationals for migrant workers complying with the rules and regulations governing their residence in areas such as security of employment, participation in social and cultural activities, re-employment in certain cases of job loss and training (Article 23).

1989 Supplementary Protocol A/SP.1/6/89 amending and complementing the provisions of Article 7 of the Protocol on Free Movement. Right of Residence and Establishment

- Amends provisions of Article 7 of Protocol to confirm obligation on signatories to resolve amicably disputes regarding the interpretation and application of the Protocol (Article 2).

1990 Supplementary Protocol A/SP.2/5/90 on the implementation of the Third Phase (Right to Establishment)

- Defines the right of establishment emphasizing non discriminatory treatment of nationals and companies of other member states except as justified by exigencies of public order, security or health (Articles 2-4).
- Forbids the confiscation or expropriation of assets or capital on a discriminatory basis and requires fair and equitable compensation where such confiscation or expropriation (Article 7).

2.2. The Rationale for the Protocol

The underlying rationale for the Protocols was that the integration of the member states into a viable REC may demand the partial and gradual pooling of national sovereignties to the Community within the context of a collective political will. It was believed that the existing bilateral and multilateral forms of economic co-operation within the region open up perspectives for more extensive cooperation. It was also based on the view that the sub-region needed to face together the political, economic and socio-cultural challenges of sustainable improvement in the welfare of their populations; and pooling together of their resources, particularly people will ensure the most rapid and optimum expansion of the sub-region's productive capacity. These constitute the main rationale for re-creating free movement of persons in the sub-region.

3.0. Definition of the Rights Created under the Protocol on Free Movement



Facilitating the right of entry within ECOWAS borders

Article 2 of the Protocol provided for 3 basic rights for the benefit of Community citizens and is effective over a phased period. The Protocol provided that the right of entry, residence and establishment shall be progressively established in the course of a maximum transitional period of fifteen (15) years from the definitive entry into force of this Protocol by abolishing all other obstacles to free movement of persons and the right of residence and establishment.

The Protocol further went on to set the order of the transition of the rights of entry, residence and establishment as follows:

- Phase I - Right of Entry and Abolition of Visa
- Phase II - Right of Residence

²Aderanti Adepoju, Alistair Boulton and Mariah Levin for UNHCR and ECOWAS, 2010

• Phase II - Right of Establishment

It is important to note that the ECOWAS Protocol on Free Movement also aims to liberalise trade in services taking place in all the four GATS-defined modes of delivery, namely: (1) cross-border supply; (2) consumption abroad; (3) commercial presence; and (4) movement of natural persons, and these are in accordance with the provisions of the WTO's General Agreement in Services (GATS) nomenclature.

3.1. The Right of Entry and Abolition of Visa

The first phase of the Protocol essentially sought to guarantee free entry of Community citizens into all member states without undue restrictions. With the coming into force of the Free Movement Protocol upon its ratification by the member states in 1980, visa and other entry requirements for citizens travelling to a sister country were effectively abolished. Article 3 of the Protocol provides that any Community citizen shall have the right to enter into the territory of another member on the possession of a valid travel document and an international health certificate.

A valid travel document is either a national passport or ECOWAS travel certificate. A citizen visiting any member state for a period not exceeding 90 days shall enter the territory of that member state through the official entry point free of visa requirements. This means that a citizen of an ECOWAS member state who possesses a valid travelling documents and international health certificate can spend a period not exceeding 90 days in another state. However, where a longer stay exceeding 90 days is desired, such citizen would have to obtain permission for an extension of stay from the appropriate authority. The Protocol however preserved the right of a member state to deny entry of any immigrant considered to be inadmissible by its laws (Article 4).

3.2. The Right of Residence

The second phase of the protocol, right of residence became effective in July 1986 upon the ratification of a Supplementary Protocol by member states. The Supplementary Protocol defines the "Right of Residence" as the "right of a citizen who is a national of one Member State to reside in a Member State other than his State of origin and which issues him with a residence card or permit that may or may not allow him to hold employment.

Article 3 of the Supplementary Protocol delimits the right of residence to include the right to:

- a. Apply for jobs effectively offered.
- b. To travel for this purpose, freely in the territory of member states.
- c. To reside in any member state in order to take up employment in accordance with national employment laws.
- d. To live in the territory of a member state in accordance with conditions defined by national laws of the host member states, after having held employment there.

- e. Subject to national laws, employment here does not contemplate employment in the civil service of member states.

Notwithstanding, the Protocol subjects this right to the right of a member state to impose restrictions justifiable by reasons of public order, public security and public health.

3.3. The Right of Establishment

A Supplementary Protocol on the implementation of the third phase right (right of establishment), was ratified by member states in 1990. "Right of Establishment" means the right granted to a citizen who is a national of a member State to settle or establish in another member state other than his state of origin, and to have access to economic activities, to carry out these activities as well as to set up and manage enterprises, and in particular companies, under the same conditions as defined by the legislation of the host member state for its own nationals.

Again here, it is important to note that this right is subject to relevant legislations (like the labour laws, company laws, tax laws etc.) of member states and any such citizen must exercise this right within that limit. However, there is an overwhelming burden on the member state to ensure that such legislations are not discriminatory. It should be underscored that Article 2 of the Protocol expressly includes within the definition of "right of establishment" access to non-salaried activities and the exercise of such activities as well as the creation and management of enterprises and companies.

4.0. Conditions for Accessing the Rights

Despite the guarantee of rights under the Protocol, a Community citizen can be denied the right of entry, residence or establishment if he/she is an inadmissible person, i.e. if he/she:

- a. has health-related problems, especially communicable disease/sickness;
- b. is a drug peddler;
- c. is trafficking in human beings;
- d. is having criminal records or multiple convictions; is into money launderer;
- e. is a Fraudster;
- f. is a Prostitute/commercial sex worker; and
- g. belongs to a terrorist organization, etc.



How equal are the rights of ECOWAS citizens?

Notwithstanding the above conditions under which a Community citizen can be denied the enjoyment of these rights, it is inspiring to

note that the framers of the Protocol envisaged full protection to ECOWAS citizens by further preventing any member state from using her weight or political might to abruptly switch off the light of this Protocol.

In doing this, Article 11 of Chapter IV of the Free Movement Protocol therefore, laid what could be described as 'technical barriers' which further prescribes the procedural conditions under which a citizen of ECOWAS can be sent packing or expelled from any member state of abode

Box 1: Expulsion Provision in the Free Movement Protocol

Protocol A/P.1/5/79 Relating to Free Movement of Persons, Residence and Establishment, Chapter IV Article 11

1. A decision to expel any citizen of the Community from the territory of a Member State shall be notified to the citizen concerned as well as the government of which he is a citizen and the Executive Secretary of ECOWAS (now assumed to be the President of the ECOWAS Commission).
2. The expenses incurred in the expulsion of a citizen shall be borne by the Member State which expels him.
3. In case of expulsion, the security of the citizen concerned as well as that of his family shall be guaranteed and his property protected and returned to him without prejudice to his obligations to a third party.
4. In case of repatriation of a citizen of the Community from the territory of a Member State, that Member State shall notify the government of the State of origin of the citizen and the Executive Secretary.
5. The cost of repatriation of a citizen of the Community from the territory of a Member State shall be borne by the citizen himself or in the event that he is unable to do so by the country of which he is a citizen.

5.0. The Benefits of the Free Movement Protocol

The fact that the implementation of the Free Movement Protocol has remained at low ebb particularly from the economic perspective signifies that many, including political leaders are yet to appreciate the numerous benefits of the Protocol within the subject of regional integration. For the purposes of reawakening, below is an outline of some of the benefits.

5.1. Stepping Stone to African-wide Integration

Intra-African trade has remained an unresolved issue; currently standing at 12% of total trade, compared to 60% for Europe, 40% for North America, and 30% for ASEAN, according to statistics cited by the World Trade Organization³. While tariffs in general have been lowered within regional communities, many non-tariff and regulatory barriers still raise transaction costs and limit the movement of goods, services, people and capital across borders. For this reason, the African Heads of State recently endorsed a Declaration to set up a Continental Free Trade Area by 2014, and committed to boosting trade within the African region by at least 25-30% in the next decade.

If all the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) like ECOWAS get serious with full implementation of the free movement of goods and services, it makes it easier and faster to couple and harmonize actions from the various RECs towards a more integrated African continental trade. This would require extensive collaboration between countries and regional institutions, and more importantly, it would take a push from African leaders to take action to reduce costs and let Africa trade with Africa. Freeing trade requires eliminating inefficiencies in transport, customs and logistics, complex fiscal arrangements, restrictive rule of origin, lack of effective regulations and standards, and heavy administrative procedures. This goes to justify why ECOWAS and her member states must be more committed to the enforcement of the Protocol on Free Movement.

5.2. Productivity Increase



Creating regional market and food through open market

Effective regional trade anchored on free movement of goods, services and capital has the capacity to fast-track the process of ECOWAS economic integration and support industrialization. Free movement of goods across ECOWAS borders will increase both the competitive pressure on firms in the region, leading to more efficient firms having lower costs and generating higher profits; and create new possibilities for task-based production focused on cross-regional markets. The opportunity of such markets can help export-oriented firms learn how to access more distant foreign markets, find foreign suppliers and customers, and in so doing further experience increase in their production. Similarly, the region can also benefit from transfer of technology and knowledge-based human capital development by facilitating the free movement of trade.

5.3. Redistribution of Wealth

Equitable and wider wealth distribution can be fostered by guaranteed implementation of the free movement protocol. If businesses are allowed to move freely across the borders, their trade and transaction activities ultimately result in improved consumer satisfaction, exchanges and employment generation that further facilitate redistribution among the populace. Freer trade also motivates cross-border investments among businesses from different member states, while foreign investors are further attracted by the rate of returns on investment and the protection or predictability of the business environment within the local markets.

5.4. Social Cohesion and Cultural Integration

One essential benefit of free movement is the exchange of culture. The more freely citizens are allowed to move with their trade, the faster they interchange their culture, religion, language, social lifestyle and other ingredients of peaceful co-existence. In this context, the host communities gradually become a blend of cultures and peoples and eventually begin to even intermarry and pursue secularly acceptable approaches to development rather than remaining potential intolerant and conflict zones. In addition to the above, free movement enhances the visibility of the tourism sector and its impact on the regional economy.

5.5. Trade Enhancement



Trade liberalization: A component key in trade promotion and development.

Many development debates have suggested that participating in global trade is a key ingredient for poor countries to climb the development ladder and address poverty among their citizens. The free movement protocol is one key feature for practicalizing the liberalization of trade sought by contemporary growth policies. An essential benefit of the free movement of

³http://www.observer.ug/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=17135:au-wants-free-trade-area-by-2017-

trade is that countries in the ECOWAS region will sharpen their comparative advantages, open their markets, remove barriers to goods coming in and out, and this would result in improved trade volumes that benefits regional trade.

5.6. Facilitation of Regional Infrastructure

Pursuing the realization of integration objectives and the opportunities created by regional trade through the Protocol leads to commitments to the development of cross-border infrastructure. In cases where the funding for such trade infrastructure is lacking, the quest for freer trade can attract financial commitments from development partners and donor agencies. The Free Movement Protocol is one significant step towards improving the business climate which on its own is an attraction to foreign investors.

6.0. Status and Challenges of Implementation

Despite the ratification of the ambitious ECOWAS Protocol on Free Movement of Persons, and the Right of Residence and Establishment, it is regrettable to note that this key element of the West African integration objective is yet to be fully implemented after 32 years. This is regardless of the fact that the success of the ECOWAS agricultural, trade and other economic development programmes is dependent on the implementation of the Free Movement Protocol. Some member states have continued to hold on to their national laws, deny citizens their rights as guaranteed under the Protocol, using wrong measures like forceful closure of businesses, illegal eviction of citizens, including restraint to the freedom of movement and other discriminatory restrictions on the establishment of businesses. The table below shows the status of the implementation of the Protocol among member states of ECOWAS.

Country date of ratification of 1979 Protocol	ECOWAS Initiatives				
	Abolition of visa and entry requirements for 90-day stay	Introduction of ECOWAS travel Certificate	Harmonized Immigration and emigration forms	National committee for monitoring free movement of person and vehicles	ECOWAS Brown card scheme
Benin 4 Jan 1981	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓
Burkina Faso, 6 April 1982	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
Cape Verde 11 June 1984	✓	✗	✗	✗	N/A (Island State)
Cote d'Ivoire, 19 Jan 1981	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓
The Gambia, 30 Oct 1980	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓
Ghana, 8 April 1980	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓
Guinea, 17 Oct 1979	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓
Guinea Bissau, 20 Aug 1979	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓
Liberia, 1 April 1980	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Mali, 5 June 1980	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓
Niger, 11 Jan 1980	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓
Nigeria, 12 Sept 1979	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
Senegal, 24 May 1980	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓
Sierra Leone, 15 Sept 1982	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓
Togo, 9 Dec 1979	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓

Source: Promoting integration through mobility: Free movement under ECOWAS

6.1. The Challenge of Irregular Fees

It has been observed that under the right of residence, various member states charge different fees and amounts for the acquisition of an ECOWAS residence permit. This irregular collection from ECOWAS citizens has placed a question mark on the meaning of and preparedness towards a harmonized integration process.

BOX 2: Fees Charged for residence entitlement under ECOWAS

Country	Annual fees for ECOWAS residence permit
Benin	20,000 FCFA (USD \$40)
Burkina Faso	Proof of payment of applicable residence tax plus 500 FCFA (USD \$1) stamp
Cape Verde	30,000 Cape Verdean Escudos (USD \$314)
Cote d'Ivoire	Although a 5-year ECOWAS residence permit could technically be obtained until recently at the cost of CFA 35,000 (USD \$73), such permits were not issued in practice and will soon be officially abolished. Instead, renewable temporary stay documents allow all foreigners to remain in Cote d'Ivoire for 6 months and cost FCFA 2000 (USD \$4).
The Gambia	A residence permit B, granting the right of employment, costs 1300 Gambian Dalasi (USD \$532) for ECOWAS citizens. The residence permit is valid from the date of issue until January 31 of the following year.
Ghana	1,850,000 Cedi (about USD \$200), The fee is waived for refugees (referred by UNHCR).
Guinea	FCFA 5,000 (USD \$10)
Guinea Bissau	FCFA 5,500 (USD \$11)
Liberia	5500 Liberian Dollars (USD \$95). The ECOWAS Residence Card is no longer in use. Instead, all non-nationals must obtain a Liberian residence permit booklet (USD \$75) and registration form (USD \$20).
Mali	No legislation or regulations governing the acquisition of residence permits in Mali has been put in place. In the interim, citizens of ECOWAS countries need only ID to enter and stay in Mali. There is no charge. Other foreigners require long or short-stay visas.
Niger	No legislation or regulations governing the acquisition of residence permits in Niger has been put in place. In the interim, citizens of ECOWAS countries need only ID to enter and stay in Mali. There is no charge. Other foreigners require long or short-stay visas.
Nigeria	25,000 Naira (USD \$197) for Togolese citizens, 6,580 Naira (USD \$52) for Ivorian citizens, 5,500 Naira (USD \$43) for other ECOWAS citizens.
Senegal	The National Identity Card for Foreigners entitles residence and is valid for one year, renewable. Its cost varies according
Burkina Faso	Proof of payment of applicable residence tax plus 500 FCFA (USD \$1) stamp
Cape Verde	30,000 Cape Verdean Escudos (USD \$314)

Source: Promoting integration through mobility: Free movement under ECOWAS

6.2. Poorly Harmonized Laws

Despite the provisions of expressed freedom by ECOWAS leaders, Article 4 of the Protocol⁴ conversely states that "Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 3 [granting community citizens the right of entry and stay provided they have valid travel documents and health certificates] above, Member States shall reserve the right to refuse admission into their territory any Community citizen who comes within the category of inadmissible immigrant under its laws".

What this truly means is an outright taking back with the left hand what was given with the right hand. It further means that if any member state wakes up from the wrong side and does not like an ECOWAS citizen's face any longer, he can be sent packing the next hour; citing or hiding under national laws. This is a serious challenge to integration and specifically, the implementation of the Free Movement Protocol in West Africa. Below is a catalogue of some of the inadmissibility provisions operational within the member States.

⁴A/P.1/5/79 Relating to Free Movement of Persons, Residence and Establishment, Chapter IV

Box 3: Inadmissibility provisions in ECOWAS member states' laws

Country	Law (s) and Provisions
Benin	<p>Law n° 86- 012 related to Foreigners in the Republic of Benin, 31 January 1986</p> <p>15. Foreigners must present a passport, medical certificate, entry visa (or other travel documents).</p> <p>16. People younger than 15 must be accompanied by a guardian.</p> <p>Order n° 218 instituting a residence card in Benin and specifying the conditions of its issuance. 3 November 1992</p> <p>16. Individuals can be refused residence permits if their presence constitutes a threat to public order.</p>
Burkina Faso	<p>Ordinance n° 84-049/CNR/PRES establishing the conditions of entry, stay and exit for foreigners in Burkina Faso, 4 August. 1984</p> <p>3. Foreigners must have recognized and valid travel documents and visas, up-to- date international health certification, return ticket (or other proof of ability to leave) and have completed. Appropriate application procedures</p> <p>13. The minister of Public Health and Rural Development may impose special preventative conditions on travellers of all nationalities and origins.</p>
Cape Verde	No information presently available
Cote d'Ivoire	<p>Decision n° 2005- 05/PR relating to the identification of persons and the stay of foreigners in Cote d'Ivoire</p> <p>8. ECOWAS citizens have the right to freely circulate within the country for up to 3 months with a passport. Stays of longer than 3 months require a residence card.</p>
The Gambia	<p>Immigration Act 1965</p> <p>12. It is unlawful for prohibited immigrants to enter or reside in The Gambia</p> <p>13. (l) Prohibited immigrants include:</p> <p>(a) persons without Visible means of support (or who in the opinion of the Principal Immigration Officer are likely to become a pauper or public charge);</p> <p>(h) idiots and insane persons and those suffering from communicable diseases. (as may be prescribed);</p> <p>(c) Undesirable persons;</p> <p>(d) persons who on arrival lack a valid passport (or if underage. corresponding details in the accompanying valid passport);</p> <p>(e) Prostitutes or other persons who (in the opinion of the Principal Immigration Officer) derive their livelihood in whole or part from prostitution or other immoral occupations (whether such prostitute or person is male or female);</p> <p>(f) persons subject to deportation order (from The Gambia)</p>
Ghana	<p>Immigration Act. 202 February 2000 (Act 573)</p> <p>4.1. Foreigners must have a valid passport or other valid travel document, or be exempt from needing a visa;</p> <p>8.1. Individuals prohibited entry include those: facing a deportation order; destitute; refusing to have a medical exam; sentenced with an extraditable crime In a foreign country; medically unfit; not conducive to the public good; procuring or attempting to procure persons into Ghana for immoral purposes; carrying out activities that contradict the laws of Ghana; dependent on a prohibited person.</p>
Guinea	<p>Law l/9/9194/019/CTRN relating to the conditions of entry and stay of foreigners in Republic of Guinea, 1994</p> <p>3. Foreigners must have a valid passport.</p> <p>6.2. Citizens from countries with whom Guinea has reciprocal agreements do not need visas.</p> <p>7. Even where reciprocal agreements exist, the Guinean government can forbid a foreigner's entry for public security reasons.</p> <p>14. Foreigners must be in possession of an appropriate health certificate</p>

Guinea Bissau	<p>Decree Law No.1/92</p> <p>3. Preconditions for entry include valid travel document, visa (if necessary), proof of means to support self, not subject to a prohibition of entry</p> <p>17.1 Must be age of majority, must not be subject to a deportation or expulsion order, must not be involved in activities which could result in deportation.</p>
Liberia	<p>The Alien and Nationality Law of the Republic of Liberia. Amended 9 May 1974</p> <p>5.1. Grounds for exclusion include: aliens who are feeble-minded, insane, mentally defective or epileptic, drug or alcohol addicts; those suffering from tuberculosis or leprosy; paupers, criminals, or prostitutes; persons without employment papers but seeking employment and likely to become a public charge (conditional entry permissible in some circumstances); persons previously deported; stowaways, drug traffickers or those engaging in activities endangering the security of the country; those accused of being anarchists, communists, dissidents or spies.</p> <p>5.10 Foreigners must have a valid passport and medical certificate.</p>
Mali	<p>Law n° 04- 058 relating to the Conditions of Entry. Stay and Employment of Foreigners in the Republic of Mali, 25 November 2004</p> <p>2. Foreigners must hold a valid passport or travel document, entry visa (if needed), return or continuation ticket (or other proof of ability to repatriate, see article 43), and an continuation ticket certificate.</p>
Niger	<p>Ministry of Interior Decree n° 87 -076/PCMS/MI/MAE/A of the conditions of entry and stay of foreigners in Niger. 18 July 1987</p> <p>2. Foreigners must show a national passport or travel document with Niger visa (if necessary), international vaccination certificate, return ticket (or proof of resources to cover departure).</p> <p>3. notwithstanding the above, foreigners can still be expelled or refused authorization to continue their stay in Niger</p>
Nigeria	<p>Immigration Act, Amended 1972</p> <p>17. Prohibited migrants include those likely to become a public charge; idiots and insane persons; those convicted of crimes; whose presence is deemed contrary to the interest of national security; persons against whom an order of deportation is in force; and individuals without a valid passport.</p>
Senegal	<p>Decree n° 71-860 relating to the conditions of admission, Stay, and establishment of foreigners [tin Senegal], 28 July 1972</p> <p>1. Foreigners must have a valid passport, entry visa, proof of sufficient funds to repatriate, and international health vaccination certificates,</p>
Sierra Leone	<p>The Non-citizens (registration, immigration, and expulsion) Act, 1965</p> <p>19.2. Prohibited persons include those likely to become paupers; idiots and insane persons; those deemed undesirable or dangerous to peace; persons with an expulsion order against them; persons not in possession of valid travel documents; prostitutes, brothel keepers, or persons who allow the defilement of young girls.</p> <p>20. The Governor General may prohibit entry of any non-citizen with absolute discretion.</p>
Togo	<p>Law n° 87-12 relating to policy on foreigner</p> <p>11. Residence permits can be refused at the discretion of the authorities.</p> <p>12. Residence permits are revoked in the cases of individuals convicted of crimes.</p>

Source: Promoting integration through mobility: Free movement under ECOWAS

6.3. Court Pronouncements and Weak Legal System



Result of injustice and delay of justice

In the case of *Femi Falana & Anor. vs Republic of Benin & 2 Ors.*, where the plaintiffs who had encountered many road blocks by border officials during the former's official trip across member states borders, challenged such obstructions at the ECOWAS Court of Justice, the Court held that the right to free movement as contemplated under the Free Movement Protocol is "...subject to the laws, national security, public health and morality" of a member state. This further strengthens the disposition of member states to restrict/violate Community citizens' rights under the Free Movement Protocol on the slightest pretext of such nebulous concept like the preservation of morality or on the basis of unpredictable national legal regimes.

More importantly, the decision of the Court in *Femi Falana vs Republic of Benin* waters down the decision of the Court in *Hadijatou Mani Koraou v The Republic of Niger* and *SERAP v. the Federal Government of Nigeria*, which underscores that where a Community citizen is of the opinion that a member state has failed to protect his right which is derived from an ECOWAS legislation, such a Community citizen may seek recourse in the ECOWAS Court. To a business man in particular, "seeking recourse" would mean more than just wanting declarative reliefs to include monetary and/or material compensation or other remedies known to law.

The long drawn case between the Ghanaian authorities and Nigerian traders resident in Ghana is another case in point. In flagrant disregard to the Protocol, the Ghanaian authorities sought to apply to the Nigerian traders a discriminatory minimum paid up capital for establishing a business by a foreigner. As ECOWAS citizens, the Nigerian traders could not lawfully be classed as foreigners. The dispute arising from this situation has seen the Ghanaian authorities forcefully shut down the businesses of Nigerian traders and their harassment in total disregard of the Free Movement Protocol and ECOWAS treaty. Nigeria on the other hand has also been seen refusing entry of Ghanaian goods (although this also applies to goods emanating/originating from other ECOWAS countries)

even under the ECOWAS Trade Liberalization Scheme - ETLS classification. These actions have created ugly reciprocal treatments which negate the spirit and letter of the Free Movement Protocol and hinder effective implementation thereof. Although this case has not been tested by either parties at the ECOWAS Court of Justice (as efforts have always remained or geared at a diplomatic settlement), it is submitted that the ECOWAS Court would most likely rule the discriminatory Ghanaian Investment and Promotion Council Act as inconsistent with the ECOWAS Treaty and the Free Movement Protocol.

The absence of a credible legal redress system for the violations of rights guaranteed under the protocol is another huge problem to an effective implementation of the Protocol. The ECOWAS Court of Justice which is the ready redress mechanism in the region is very limited as its jurisdiction is much curtailed in this regard. Most economic issues like those falling under the Protocol on Free Movement are outside the jurisdiction of the Court and as such, rights violators cannot be brought before the Court and several breaches are not redressed. Although it may appear that the combined effect of Articles 9 and 10 of the 2005 Supplementary Protocol Establishing the ECOWAS Court of Justice seem to have provided much desired access to individual Community citizens to approach the ECOWAS Court and challenge violations of their rights under the Free Movement Protocol, it is submitted that such access is limited to breaches that would qualify as "human rights violations". (See *Femi Falana vs Republic of Benin*). It is further submitted that these provisions of the Supplementary Protocol do not avail a community citizen the right to approach the Court to make claims for purely economic losses incurred as a result of the illegal delay of his perishable goods at the border point occasioned by agents of member states.

In cases like the Ghanaian Investment Promotion Act cited above, an associated issue would be the enforceability of a decision of the ECOWAS Court in Ghana in an event that the case comes before the Court and the Act is pronounced illegal. Would a Nigerian trader, for instance, be able to rely on the decision of the Court to seek redress for violations of his right by the Ghanaian authorities? Even where a citizen obtains a judgment against a member state at the ECOWAS court, the challenge would however be the enforcement of such judgment within the territory of the said member state. This is against the backdrop that national courts which are tasked with the enforcement of foreign judgments are not bound to enforce such judgement⁵.

⁵Please see ECOWAS Vanguard Vol 2, Issue 4 – "Sovereignty, Supra-nationality and Trade: The Case of ECOWAS Laws (www.nants.org)

views on infrastructure maintenance. Poor infrastructure exacerbates the problem of trade facilitation, making trading along the border lengthy and costly. Crossing formal borders can take days at times and costs of clearance, processing fees, tariffs and taxes are generally above the value of goods being traded informally due to poor infrastructure.



Good infrastructure builds up a region.

Inadequate border infrastructure including proper warehousing facilities, community markets, transport networks and especially functional and adequately staffed border institutions and agencies makes it unattractive, inefficient and sometimes downright dangerous to trade via formal routes. Lack of adequate public and private transportation systems causes delays, forcing traders to miss community market days and their consumable goods especially agricultural produce to perish. Border infrastructure issues should be addressed in order to enhance the movement and security of traders and their goods.

6.8. Informality of Cross Border Trade

It is observed that the large chunk of trading activities takes place in the informal sector, i.e. unregistered business activities. One of the main characteristics of this trade is that it circumvents the stipulations of the international trade procedures and it is not mandatory to submit tax returns at the end of each financial year hence not entered in national accounts or trade statistics. Generally cross border trade is conducted by small-scale quasi-professional traders including women, who use various means to move small quantities of goods across national frontiers transacting trade.

Cross border trade characteristically involves bypassing border posts, concealment of goods, under-reporting, false classification, under-invoicing and other similar tricks. In addition to seeking to evade taxes or fees imposed by governments, traders also try to avoid administrative formalities in areas such as health, agriculture, security and immigration, which are perceived as costly, complex and time consuming.

Informal cross-border trade deprives authorities of much needed statistics, as well as revenues. It has also been

argued that the practice gives an unfair competitive advantage to informal sector traders over formal businesses as the former do not fulfil their regulatory obligations or pay taxes and other fees. This affects the state's ability to provide public goods such as roads and investments in capacity-building for small businesses.

7.0. Conclusion and Recommendations

The ECOWAS Protocol on Free Movement is central to the attainment of the regional integration objectives of the region and the success of other regional policies rest on its successful implementation. Some concrete actions are thus required from all stakeholders in the ECOWAS project to work together to ensure a higher level of implementation of the Protocol. Against the background of the huge socio-economic and political gains that could result from an effective implementation of the Free Movement Protocol, the following recommendations are made for the benefit of Member States in particular and other relevant actors

7.1. Need for Political Will on the Part of Government:

Member States should increase effort to ensure effective implementation of the regional free movement protocol by reducing and ultimately eliminating harassment, corruption and extortion by border agents. This will involve commitment on the part of the government and the law enforcement Agencies to the implementation of the stipulations of the protocol. A Nigerian trader in Ghana should not be seen or viewed as a foreigner and should have the same right that an indigenous citizen has.

Box 5: How Checkpoints, Delays & Bribes Fuel Informal Cross Border Traders

Transporting goods from Lomé to Ouagadougou

In 2006, UEMOA with financial, technical and administrative support from USAID started observing and documenting the number of checkpoints on major West African transport corridors and the bribes and delays truck drivers incurred at these checkpoints. It was observed that a truck carrying imported goods from Lomé to Ouagadougou would get stopped an average of 23 times along the road, 14 times in Togo (746 km) and 9 times in Burkina Faso (276 km). An export truck would be harassed somewhat less having to stop a total of 17 times.

Bribes paid at roadblocks amounted to an average of USD 36 for imports and USD 24 for exports. Yet, when compared to other countries in the region, both countries have relatively low levels of bribes at road blocks suggesting that average bribes could be much high in other parts of the region. The study estimated that the delays caused by checkpoints amounted to about 2 hours per trip. The number of checkpoints in West Africa is of great nuisance to traders and transporters and significantly adds to the cost of doing business. Since transactional values in ICBT average 50 to 1000 USD, unnecessary checkpoints and bribes provide a great incentive for traders to join the informaleconomy.

Source: USAID, West Africa Trade Hub Technical Report #47.

It is a fact that once government loses firm hold on cross border trade and free movement of goods across the region, what is quickly noticeable could be a boom in trade; however, such boom usually turns to a quick curse because many losers are created because of inequity

resulting from lack of regulation. While the laws may be available, the effectiveness of enforcement thereof or the implementation of policies remains the most critical part for development.

7.2. Galvanizing Trade Facilitation

Flowing from the foregoing is that corrupt law-enforcement agencies often take advantage of the local traders' lack of knowledge on Customs procedures and regional protocols to take bribes. Conducting border community sensitization campaigns and empowering local traders with basic knowledge on management and customs procedures could go a long way in addressing these challenges.

Poor trade facilitation capacity makes trading along the border lengthy and costly. Crossing formal borders can take days at times and costs of clearance, processing fees, tariffs and taxes are generally above the value of goods being traded informally, and this is ultimately turned to the final consumers who bear the brunt even out of their already poor conditions. Documentary requirements should be reduced and existing tax regimes should be reviewed to factor in informal traders. They could provide an excellent medium for intensification of regional cross border trade policy dialogue.

7.3. Need for Security Gadgets and Information Desk



The region needs security network and gadgets

In view of the fact that the dividends of civilization is the order of the day as can be seen in use of advanced technology in many countries to solve many human problems; criminality at borders which is one of the problems of free movement of goods and persons can be reduced through the use of security cameras. Member States should install security cameras at border posts to check the extortion of monies from travellers as well as the illegal trade or security challenges which impede free movement of goods and persons. Similarly, information and complaints desks should be created at entry points to address issues of violations and abuse of community citizens' rights.

It is important to note that GIZ is currently collaborating with relevant partners in setting up a Trade Route Incident Mapping System (TRIMS) which seeks to establish and maintain an SMS-based complaints/reporting system to

combat trade-route corruption using the Ogun State link of the Nigeria-Benin Republic border as a pilot, with a view to extending to other states and scaling up to the Federal level. Essentially, the feasibility study of the project has been finalized regarding the technical, political and social capacities for implementation; and in practical terms, reporting system would feed a web-based crowd-sourcing platform with features such as real-time updates and monitoring, location awareness and geographical mapping trade barrier incidents.

Specifically, the foregoing would further fast track trade facilitation underpinned by the principle of free movement. It would also reduce the cost of trading, increase productivity and competitiveness among the private sector, thereby creating more jobs and income opportunities for the citizens. In the end, the entire activities would result in improvement of export performance which is a plus for the government with the ultimate goal of enhancing economic growth and poverty reduction.

7.4. Data Collection

Cross border trade characteristically involves bypassing border posts, concealment of goods, under-reporting, false classification, under-invoicing and other similar tricks. In addition to seeking to evade taxes or fees imposed by governments, traders also try to avoid administrative formalities in areas such as health, agriculture, security and immigration, which are perceived as costly, complex and time consuming.

Informal cross-border trade deprives authorities of much needed statistics, as well as revenues. It has also been argued that the practice gives an unfair competitive advantage to informal sector traders over formal businesses as the former do not fulfil their regulatory obligations or pay taxes and other fees. This affects the state's ability to provide public goods such as roads and investments in capacity-building for small businesses.

ECOWAS and member States must establish and or strengthen data collection and analytical capacities especially among the informal sector in order to effectively measure the contribution of this prominent sector and the protocol on free movement to their respective economies and design appropriate policy responses. It is obvious that one reason why the Free Movement Protocol is not working as it should in the West African region is attributable the absence of data which is necessary to persuade and convince public officers of the need to beam searchlight on cross border trade, where essentially, the informal sector dominates.

7.5. Addressing Women Issues

Women make up the majority of cross border traders (particularly, the informal traders) in the ECOWAS region. Many of these women (especially members of NANTS) have severally complained of significant corrupt practices by officials seeking to extort monies from them in the course of their businesses across the border. Similarly, some have also lamented over physical and sometimes sexual harassments by border officials.



Crime against humanity.

There is therefore need to prioritize a gender-based approach to informal trade within the context of the ECOWAS Free Movement Protocol, in order to address some of the pervasive constraints that affect women at the regional level of trade and transactions. This would reinforce the need for national governments and ECOWAS Commission to awaken the consciousness of border officials towards respecting women while implementing the Protocol and other policies to support women traders. In practical terms, border facilities must be made to be gender-friendly and must for instance be ready to assist women traders who cross the border with their babies.

7.6. Sensitization of Traders

Non-State actors should take the initiative of ensuring that trans-border traders are educated on various community protocols. Non state actors include the NGOs, CSOs and private sector/Business Membership Organizations (BMOs). Their sensitization activities should involve integration of the values of ECOWAS targeted at ordinary citizens. Similarly, the ECOWAS Commission needs to adopt a bottom-up approach with greater involvement of ordinary citizens in the formulation and implementation of its programmes, but more so, increase access to market information at key border points.

The active participation of BMOs at the regional and national levels in building their members capacities to understand the extant laws and regimes is imperative. It is also important to aim at simplifying and creating awareness through broadcasting or popularizing these instruments to the benefit of community citizens, especially the business community.



Traders need education.

In this regard, the Media within the region comes in handy as effective tool. The ECOWAS Commission could institute Award Schemes for journalists reporting on ECOWAS issues, including border point reports and the implementation of the Free Movement Protocol by Member States.

More so, given that information on policies, regulations, agreements and protocols for the facilitation of cross-border or free movement of trade is equally difficult to obtain, ECOWAS and BMOs must seek to publish these in reader friendly language, distribute and conspicuously display same at border points in order to enhance communication and expedite implementation. An example of this is the series of publications by NANTS on ECOWAS Vanguard which is being supported by GIZ.

7.7. Harmonization of Laws

Member States should pursue greater harmonization of their national laws and policies on migration in conformity with ECOWAS protocols and decisions to facilitate compliance and implementation. Where required by national constitutions, member states should be encouraged to initiate and undertake necessary procedures for the incorporation of ECOWAS laws into national laws as this would go a long way to facilitate enforceability and applicability at member state level.

The private sector on its part could play a very important role here by embarking on massive advocacy campaigns to national legislators on the need to have these ECOWAS instruments ratified and duly incorporated into local laws.

Specifically, ECOWAS and BMOs such as NANTS could partner to conduct collaborative studies of the texts of relevant ECOWAS legislations with a view to identifying gaps requiring clarification, including the possibility of supplementary legislation with regard to the following:

- i. Establishing a standard duration for residence entitlements and presumption of renewability.
- ii. Harmonizing passport and residence entitlement issuance procedures and applicable fees.
- iii. Carrying out joint awareness training and capacity building for officials of Member States responsible for implementing the protocols. This requires the further collaboration of Member States.
- iv. Promote awareness of linkages between the residence and establishment provisions in the ECOWAS protocols and national legislation on naturalization (for example, a period of lawful residence under the ECOWAS residence entitlement counting towards the requirement for a minimum period of residence in the country, or the possible satisfaction of requirements of "substantial contribution" through work performed pursuant to an ECOWAS entitlement).

7.8. Dealing with Trade Infrastructure

If ECOWAS truly intends to actualize the Free Movement Protocol and improve the direction of intra-regional trade volumes, the challenge of infrastructure must be seen as a collective priority. In this regard, regional infrastructure must be the target. The absence of connecting regional railways, poor management of shipping lines, the absence of Cabotage laws at the regional level, as well as the epileptic nature of airlines operating within the regional airspace are not good signs that trade can wake from its present comatose position. In remedying these, while considering new ones, the maintenance of already existing infrastructure such as regional link roads is necessary. The construction of border markets as an essential cross border trade infrastructure should also be given impetus. In terms of policy, it is needful that ECOWAS intensifies efforts at concluding development strategies that target establishing and revolutionizing regional infrastructure. One of these strategies is the ongoing efforts at formulating the Community Development Programme – CDP.

In addition, programme supports from Development partners and Donor Agencies could be directed at infrastructure since the gap requires huge funding that could not be effectively handled or provided by ECOWAS and the Member States.

7.9. Intensification of Bilingual Education

The French and English language should be introduced into the educational curricula of institutions of learning across the region. This would reduce the problems of poor understanding between business operators and border officials. It would also encourage understanding of regulations written in any of the two major official languages.

7.10. Strengthening the ECOWAS Parliament

Unlike other regions in Africa, the impediments to securing residence and work entitlement permits are not due to the absence of appropriate laws, but the relatively lesser challenges of harmonizing domestic laws with the norms established in the regional protocols and the slow implementation of the second and third phases of those protocols, and this is purely a mandate that could be easily performed by the Parliament.



ECOWAS Parliament: Achievement of community aims and objectives - how far?

The mandate of the ECOWAS Parliament should therefore be reviewed to enhance its contribution to the free movement process. Transforming the ECOWAS Parliament into a legislative (lawmaking) body is an important step towards enabling the Parliament to assume the legal role of integrating and harmonizing the various member States laws and perhaps ratifying them for effectiveness and recognition by law. It is one essential step that would give the Community citizens a sense of ownership in terms of the Protocols and other laws in the region.

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World travel and tourism Competiveness Report 2013

The second Joint report on road harassment: West African Trade Hub: Promoting the free movement of transport, goods and persons.

AU wants African integration by 2017- http://www.observer.ug/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=17135:au-wants-free-trade-area-by-2017-

WTO Goods Council Approves List of Subsidiary Bodies' Chairs for 2013

The list of chairs of committees and working parties reporting to the Goods Council was approved by the Goods Council on 25 March 2013. The chairs will take office when they have been formally elected by the subsidiary bodies

Committee	Name of Chair
Market Access Committee	Mr Krzysztof TREPCZYNSKI (Poland)
Agriculture Committee	Mr Guilherme MARQUARDT BAYER (Brazil)
Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures Committee	Ms Maria Araceli ALBARECE (Philippines)
Technical Barriers to Trade Committee	Mr Jingo KIKUKAWA (Japan)
Trade-related Investment Measures Committee	Mr Tsotetsi MAKONG (Lesotho)
Anti-Dumping Practices Committee	Ms Parima DAMRITHAMANIJ (Thailand)
Subsidies and Countervailing Measures Committee	Mr Marcus BARTLEY JOHNS (Australia)
Safeguards Committee	Mr Alex Yun-hsing NI (Chinese Taipei)
Import Licensing Committee	Mr Xiankun LU (China)
Rules of Origin Committee	Mr Marhijn VISSER (Netherlands)
Customs Valuation Committee	Mr Pierre-Emmanuel BRUSSELMANS (Belgium)
State Trading Enterprises Working Party	Mr Humberto JIMENEZ TORRES (Ecuador)
Trade in Information Technology Products (ITA) Committee	Mr Aaron FOWLER (Canada)

RECENT KEY TRADE NEWS

WTO Public Forum in October 2013 to discuss trade and innovation: The 2013 Public Forum, the WTO's largest annual outreach event for civil society, academia, business, the media, governments, parliamentarians and inter-governmental organizations, will be on 1-3 October in Geneva, with the theme "Expanding Trade through Innovation and the Digital Economy".

For more, please contact:
http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news13_e/pfor_26mar13_e.htm

Nigerian Export Import Bank (NEXIM) has reaffirmed the commitment of Nigeria's trade policy to removing trade barriers and promoting commercial exchanges among ECOWAS member states.
<http://peoplesdailyng.com/nexim-to-remove-trade-barriers-in-west-africa/>

The WTO Reference Center Training holds from the 12th - 13th March, in Addis Ababa - Ethiopia. For more information, please contact: WTO Reference Center Training, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 12-13 March 2013

ECOWAS Ministers of Finance have approved/adopted the ECOWAS Common External Tariff - CET. The adoption took place in Praia - Cape Verde, on 20th March 2013 during the Ministerial Monitoring Committee. For more information, contact:
<http://news.ecowas.int/presseshow.php?nb=077&lang=en&annee=2013>

The AU Commission for Agriculture organized the 9th Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development (CAADP) Partnership Platform Meeting on 25th - 27 March 2013, at the Headquarters of the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. NANTS was invited and participated. For more, contact: 9thCAADP-PP@africa-union.org

 International Energy and Environment Fair
Event Date: 24-26, Apr-2013
Venue: Istanbul Expo Center, Ästanbul, Turkey
Industry: Energy Products, Environment
Website: <http://www.icci.com.tr/>

UPCOMING TRADE FAIRS AND EXHIBITIONS

West Africa International Trade Exhibition Dakar
Sectors: building materials, cars, computers, craft goods, garments, health products, household appliances, labels, machinery, packaging, plastic products, printers, stationery, telephones, televisions, textiles, toys, etc.
Venue: Centre International du Commerce Extérieur du Sénégal, Route de l'aéroport, Dakar, Senegal.
Fair organizer: Expogroup, One Sheikh Zayed Road Dubai, UAE. Contact: www.expogr.com

The 7th ECOWAS TRADE FAIR shall be held in Ghana in October 2013 • The Regional Committee has agreed on the Parameters.
For more info: Visit ECOWAS PRESS RELEASES @ www.ecowas.int

 Sima Media GmbH
97422 Schweinfurt, Germany: Industry sectors: Marketing agencies Product Marketing Online marketing

 Njegovan Design und Messebau e.K.
52070 Aachen, Germany: Planned organization of unique exhibition stands worldwide. Industry sectors: Booth Builders Exhibition Booth Builders Fair design

 eXponat GmbH & Co. KG 90518 Altdorf bei Nürnberg, Germany: Trade show and event marketing, eXponat offers a wide range of "turn-key" Booth Builders Exhibition Architecture

 Hansa-Messe-Speed GmbH
42109 Wuppertal, Germany. Globally, Hansa-Messe-Speed GmbH carries out 400 events for its customers annually. Trade fairs, functions and events, etc.
Logistics Event Logistics Exhibition Freight Forwarding Companies



Over 200 stakeholders met in Accra-Ghana (Feb 21 - 23, 2013) for the second annual conference of the Borderless Alliance towards improving West Africa's business environment.



Presidents of Nigeria and Egypt in a bilateral trade discussion



ECOWAS Vanguard is published by the National Association of Nigerian Traders as a policy advocacy tool to sensitize and bring about the desired change in the current attitude to regional Integration in the ECOWAS sub region be raising awareness, stimulating discussions and debate on the multiple issues that relate to the Regional integration process.

Views and comments are welcome and should be directed to:

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ABOUT NANTS

The National Association of Nigerian Traders (NANTS) is the umbrella organization of traders in raw materials, industrial and finished goods (locally made and imported) in Nigeria. However, to encourage the interlink between market access and production of goods, NANTS' membership has recently been expanded to include local manufacturers of consumer goods, local raw materials providers as well as local farmers' networks. Women constitute about 65% of NANTS membership.

The vision of NANTS is to *“advance trade beyond buying and selling to a vehicle for social justice, human rights, sustainable development and poverty reduction”*.

The mission of NANTS is *“promoting trade and economic advancement, uniting and championing the rights of and cause of the Entrepreneur through strategic programmes and policy interventions.”*



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