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## **National Communications Authority**

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### **PARLIAMENTARY SELECT COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS (PSCC) PAYS WORKING VISIT TO THE NCA**

**Accra, 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2018:** Members of the Parliamentary Select Committee on Communications (PSCC) on Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2018, paid a working visit to the National Communications Authority (NCA) in Accra. The PSCC, whose mandate is to oversee and examine matters relating to communications and the sustainability of its allied industries as a whole, called on the Authority to familiarise itself with its operations and further acquaint itself of developments in the communications industry.

Mr. Joe Anokye, Director General of NCA, who welcomed the delegation said he was pleased with the committee's decision of apprising itself with the operations of the NCA and cited that the Authority is adhering to its mandate and putting in place various facilities to ensure the enforcement of regulations.

The committee was taken through a tour of some facilities the Authority has operationalised in 2018. These include the Conformance and Type Approval Laboratories, the NCA Computer Emergency Response Team (NCA-CERT), the Common Platform, the Communications Monitoring Centre and the Broadcast Monitoring Centre.



- ***Mr. Joe Anokye, welcoming members of PSCC to the Conformance Lab***

Led by its chairperson, Hon. Kennedy Ohene Adjapong, the committee also included Vice Chairman Hon. Bintin Charles Binipom, ranking member Hon. A.B.A. Fuseini. Other members present were Hon. George Samuel Nartey, Kwaku Kwarteng, Ras Mubarak, Ibrahim Ahmed, Kyei Baffour Eyiah. Also present was the Board Chairman of the NCA, Kwaku Sakyi-Addo.

At the NCA's Conformance and Type Approval Laboratories, which consists of the Electromagnetic Field Strength (EMF), Digital Terrestrial Television Testing (DTT), the Specific Absorption Rate (SAR) and the Radio Frequency and Signalling (RF) Laboratories, the delegation was taken through the functions of each of them. The state-of-the-art facility tests Electronic Communication Equipment (ECE) such as mobile phones, tablets, laptops, imported into the country to ensure that the equipment conforms to international standards. The laboratory also addresses public health and safety concerns regarding emissions especially from telecommunication masts, strengthen the post-market surveillance activities of the NCA on unapproved devices and facilitate the availability of quality devices to the public.

Touring the NCA-CERT, members of the committee were enlightened on the need for an industry CERT. They were informed that the NCA-CERT operates under the National CERT, also called CERT-GH and is obliged to protect the NCA and its stakeholders, including licensees or entities and infrastructure within the Telecommunications Sector from computer and cyber related incidences. They were told how the NCA-CERT responds to computer security incidents, reports on vulnerabilities and promotes effective IT security practices within the NCA and the industry as a whole.

Again, members of PSCC were taken through some other monitoring installations at the Communications Monitoring Centre which helps the NCA perform its regulatory functions. These include the Network Monitoring System which monitors mobile network operators' Quality of Service and the Broadcast Monitoring which checks for the compliance of TV and FM Radio operators per their Authorisation conditions on spectrum and quality of broadcast. At the Common Platform, the delegation were shown how the operations of the facility have gone so far and the strides made in analysing data for verification among others.



- **Members of PSCC at the tour of NCA's facilities**

Members of the Committee encouraged the Director General and Management of the NCA to tell its story, as members of the public are largely unaware of the enormous work the NCA is doing behind the scenes.

Chairperson of the committee, Hon. Kennedy Ohene Adjapong, on behalf of his colleagues said he was impressed with the implementations that the NCA has put in place in executing its regulatory mandate. He said the committee will help the Authority execute its oversight and regulatory responsibilities in safeguarding the communications space in the country.



- **Hon. Ken Ohene Adjapong, addressing Management of NCA**

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*Date – Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2018*

## **Editor's Note**

### **About NCA**

The National Communications Authority, (NCA), was established by an Act of Parliament, Act 524 in December 1996, which has been repealed and replaced by the National Communications Authority Act, 2008 (Act 769). The Authority is the statutory body mandated to license and to regulate electronic communication activities and services in the country.