HIGHLIGHTS

1. COVID-19 AGA-Africa Update
2. Foreword
3. The 2nd Annual AGA-Africa Conference on Transnational Crimes, Accra, Ghana
4. Spike in covid-19-related transnational crimes

www.AGAfrica.org
On Wednesday March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization (WHO) announced the Coronavirus outbreak (COVID-19) a global pandemic, by sending a message to world leaders that this outbreak is spreading internationally.

As the world continues to deal with the repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic, we at AGA-Africa convey our admiration and solidarity to all the emergency, medical support teams and volunteers all over the globe who through these truly difficult circumstances are continuing to work selflessly to fight the pandemic.


We also wish to congratulate Natalie on her new adventure with Crowell & Moring ,LLP for her re-entry to the private sector law, as the newest member of the State Attorneys General Practice at Crowell & Moring, LLP.

Special appreciation to her as well for being a keen supporter of the AGA-Africa programmes.

Given the current situation, AGA-Africa is addressing the pandemic by taking the following steps:

- Our Country Coordinators will be working with our stakeholders to reschedule trainings, conferences and workshops to alternative dates later in the year.
- Where possible, AGA-Africa workshops will be supported through the use of our online platforms. This includes video conferencing, webinars and livestreaming.
- In specific countries, we may engage additional local and regional subject matter experts due to the travel restrictions.
- We will actively find ways to continue the conversation on important issues via our monthly newsletter, website and social media platforms: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.
- We will endeavor to provide our members with regular updates via our social media platforms.

We sincerely regret having to reschedule our events, but the health and well-being of our facilitators, stakeholders and participants are a top priority for AGA-Africa.

We hope that you and your families remain safe during this crisis and thank you for your patience.

Regards

Karen White
Executive Director
WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK:

COVID-19 is a respiratory disease with severe flu-like symptoms caused by a Coronavirus that was first identified on December 31 in Wuhan, China. It is a new strain that was discovered in 2019 which had not previously been identified in humans.

How is it spread?

Coronaviruses typically spread in droplets through the air when an infected individual coughs or sneezes. The virus can move from person-to-person, either by someone inhaling the droplets, or by touching them on surfaces then touching their face. This is why social distancing is vital to slowing the spread of the virus.

HEALTH AND SAFETY MEASURES

Maintain hand hygiene: This is the first line of self-care. Ensure you wash hands frequently with an alcohol-based hand rub, sanitizer or wash them with soap and water. Avoid touching the eyes, nose and mouth. Wear face masks.

Maintain social distancing and self-quarantine in case of suspected infection: According to the WHO, common symptoms include fever, fatigue and a dry cough. Aches and pains are also common. About 80% of those infected can recover without any special treatment. Maintain at least 1 meter (3 feet) distance between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing and follow advice given by your healthcare provider.

Stay in touch, remain interconnected: Utilize available online resources to continue our daily work, that means continuous use of online platforms such as emails, online remote work and conferencing tools in place of in-person meetings.

Look out for each other, care for community: COVID-19 has been found to affect the elderly populations more adversely. The Centre for Disease Control (CDC) notes that people of any age with chronic conditions such as heart disease, diabetes and lung disease face higher risks. Children face lower risks of severe illness, which is a marked contrast from a typical seasonal flu. As we follow the stipulated health guidelines, let us rally together to support members of our community who may need help.

Sharing is caring; support others with available resources: Many across the world are doing their best to secure enough utilities to curb the infections. Let us all be there for each other by sharing our resources so that we can all beat this pandemic.

Stay informed: Last but not least, keep informed on the latest developments about COVID-19. Follow advice given by your healthcare provider, your national and local public health authority or your employer on how to protect yourself and others from COVID-19. Remember to also watch out for any misinformation and help curb such by verifying before sharing and always getting information from official sources.


For more information on COVID-19, please visit:


CDC guidance and resources for the US healthcare community: https://www.cdc.gov/

NYC Stop the Spread of Coronavirus! https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/health-topics/coronavirus.page

US Department of Labor - OSHA: https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/additional_resources.html


Attorneys General Alliance-Africa
Dear Readers,

It is my pleasure to introduce the twenty-third edition of the AGA-Africa monthly newsletter. We continue to work with our partners to strengthen the rule of law and combat transnational crimes in Africa.

In March, the Attorney General Alliance-Africa in collaboration with the Food and Drugs Authority Ghana (FDA) and the Ghana Police Service held the AGA-Africa 2nd Annual Conference themed “Tackling the Reality of Transnational Crimes in Africa - Cross Border Solutions and International Cooperation,” in Accra, Ghana.

This global conversation on transnational crimes coincided with a powerful historic moment as Ghana celebrated “Beyond The Return”, the succeeding initiative to the Year of Return by the Government of Ghana not only to promote tourism and home coming of Africans and Ghanaians in the diasporas but to foster economic relations and investments from the diaspora in Africa and Ghana.

Among the conference activities were visits to cultural sites in Ghana, courtesy calls to the Parliament of Ghana and the King of Asante Kingdom and participation in Ghana’s 63rd Independence Day Celebrations.

On behalf of AGA and AGA-Africa, I wish to thank the Food and Drugs Authority-Ghana (FDA), the Ghana Police Service and the American Chamber of Commerce - Ghana for partnering with AGA-Africa during the AGA-Africa 2nd Annual conference.

We are also grateful to the Government of Ghana for extending their invitation to AGA-Africa during the Ghana’s 63rd Independence day celebrations, the African American Association of Ghana (AAAG) & Ghana Tourism Authority (GTA) for the warm hospitality they provided to our guests, with the active participation of Jessica Ayivor, the President of AAAG and Akwasi Agyeman, the Chief Executive Officer of Ghana Tourism Authority.


Special appreciation to Hagan Law Company, AGA-Africa Country coordinator for Ghana and the entire AGA-Africa team who took part in organizing and ensuring the success of the conference.

Regards,
Markus Green ESQ.
The AGA-Africa in collaboration with Food and Drugs Authority - Ghana (FDA) and the Ghana Police Service held a 2-day conference themed "Tackling the Reality of Transnational Crimes in Africa - Cross Border Solutions and International Cooperation," on 3rd - 4th March, 2020 in Accra, Ghana.


The conference was moderated by Nozipho Mbanjwa, Conference Moderator.

The objective of the annual conference was to leverage collaborations between Attorneys General in the United States and their African counterparts to find new approaches to combat transnational crimes in Africa with a focus on regional and international collaboration.

The conference also provided a platform for the six US Attorneys General to meet stakeholders from Ghana and the rest of Africa and immerse themselves in Ghana’s culture as well as take part in several activities to mark the “Year of Return” while supporting AGA-Africa’s work in the continent.

Karen White, Executive Director, AGA-Africa in her opening remarks, emphasized that the conference was a unique opportunity for AGA-Africa to share the vision of vibrant international collaborations contributing to the prevention of transnational crimes, the protection of its victims, and the effective prosecution of those who commit and profit from such crimes.

She also highlighted that the conference would enhance everyone’s capacity to learn from past transnational crimes atrocities to ensure that such injustices are not carried forth into the future.

“As AGA-Africa, we look forward to fostering and leveraging collaborations between the delegates from the U.S. and Africa to address cross-border crimes and strengthen the rule of law in Africa.”

His Lordship Nene A.O. Amegatcher, Justice of the Supreme Court of Ghana, in his keynote address on behalf of His Lordship Justice Kwasi Anin-Yeboah, Chief Justice of the Republic of Ghana, noted that the introduction of e-technology into the trial process has eased prosecution of transnational crime cases in Ghana with access to audio files and videos footage.

He noted that Ghana’s legislative arsenal is adapting to deal with transnational crimes, with the latest effort being the Anti-Money Laundering Bill that seeks to improve on the current Anti Money Laundering Act 2008 (Act 749).

“The adoption of a unified vision and approach are some of the practical initiatives that are to be taken by African states in dealing with transnational crimes in the continent.”
Godfred Yeboah Odame, Deputy Attorney-General, Ghana expressed his gratitude to AGA-Africa for its collaboration with the Ministry of Justice since 2017 that has enabled profound reforms in the justice and law sector in Ghana.

He acknowledged that Ghana is making substantial steps in the fight against transnational crimes in Africa noting that contemporary transnational criminals in Africa have taken advantage of globalization to exploit new technologies for the purpose of committing various transnational crimes.

“It is therefore imperative for Ghana and its neighboring countries to find new ways of collaborating across borders to not only improve the chances of catching the perpetrators but also, stem the growth of organized crimes that threatens the institutions of Justice while wrecking the lives and dignity of millions across the world.”

Prosper Kwame Agblor, Director Legal and Prosecutions of the Ghana Police Service on behalf of the Inspector General Of Police (IGP), expressed his gratitude to AGA-Africa for its continued collaboration with the Ghana Police Service in the fight against transnational crimes.

He noted that under the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit, the Ghana Police Service conducted over 550 investigation into suspected human trafficking cases between 2015-2018 adding that they are also improving the capacity of the cybercrime unit to confront and neutralize the cyber criminal activities.

“As the nature of crimes becomes more regional and global, the Ghana Police Service will continue to seek more cross borders partnership like this one and liaise with like minded people across the continent to be able to build and maintain a modern and responsive police service in Ghana.”

Markus Green ESQ, AGA-Africa Board Member in his “call to action” implored the conference participants to do more to extend justice to victims of transnational crimes like human trafficking and other transnational crimes all over the globe.

He also encouraged the participants to collaborate and spread the word about the work of AGA-Africa in Africa.
Mohammed Dargar, Researcher – Institute for Security Studies (ISS) facilitated an insightful and data driven presentation on Transnational Crime - The African Reality and a Global Perspective examining countries where organised crimes are concentrated.

“To improve responses to organised crimes in Africa, we need to build knowledge on such crimes, enhancing the prosecution of such crimes and the judicial capacity, prevent and reverse corruption and criminal activity as well as provide sustainable economic alternatives to such crimes.”

Mohammed Dargar, Researcher – Institute for Security Studies (ISS)

Bright Simons, President and Founder, mpedigree discussed The Menace of Counterfeit Food and Drugs in Africa exploring Solutions of such crimes for the future.

He noted that in 2007, mpedigree developed a solution to help consumers fight counterfeit drugs using a unique ID sent to a tollfree number. He explained that this solution enabled consumers to learn more on originality of drugs, track their production and get to know whether they are legit or not.

“If local innovators in Africa are involved in the search for solutions, we can solve all our problems in Africa as well as the rest of the world.”

Bright Simons, President and Founder, mpedigree

Vigil Prah-Ashun, Head of the Drugs Marketing Surveillance Department, FDA led a session on The Menace of Counterfeit Food and Drugs in Africa delving into The African reality.

He delved into the factors that encourage trade in substandard/falsified products in Africa which include the Trade Liberalization Policy – no limit to the number of brands or dealers, cross border trade/smuggling, consignments for personal use, existence of illicit market for medicines breaching supply chain among others.

He implored the African states to set up measures to combat trade substandard/falsified medicines like capacity building for investigation, intelligence gathering, collation of evidence, prosecutions and setting up cutting-edge technology for on-the-spot-checks.

Vigil Prah-Ashun, the Head of the Drugs Marketing Surveillance Department, FDA

Tuinese Amuzu, Key Expert on Rule of Law for the Accountability, Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption (ARAP) spoke on Human Trafficking and Modern-Day Slavery-Realities and Solutions for the Future.

He emphasized that the inadequate data about the trafficking in persons and the routes used greatly hinder the development of appropriate responses to this vice.

“It is essential that African countries open up discussions on how to fight trafficking in each country while taking a more holistic view in order to combat this menace.”

Tuinese Amuzu, Key Expert on Rule of Law for the Accountability, Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption (ARAP)
In a panel discussion led by Karl Racine, Attorney General for the District of Columbia, Kwame Raoul, Attorney General of Illinois, Letitia James, Attorney General of New York and Denise George, Attorney General of Virgin Islands the panelists examined A reflection on Human Trafficking/Modern-day Slavery, highlighting international cooperation approaches to combat the problem.

The panelists also explored the 1525-1826 slavery in Africa noting that while the slavery was abolished in the mid-nineteenth century, the scars from this long period of enslavement, trafficking and forced labor have not healed, and hinder the growth and development of modern democracy to this day.

Markus Green, AGA-Africa Board Member presented on AGA-Africa and the Fight against Transnational Crimes in Africa taking a futuristic look into the changing trends of cross-border crime in Africa and the role AGA-Africa and its African stakeholders have to play.

He noted that the Africa Centre for Strategic Studies has reported that human trafficking is a US$13.1 billion annual enterprise in Africa.

"More focus must be put on the victims and the survivors of trafficking in persons to make an impact in their lives noting that abuse and love cannot coexist."

Aleszea Blanche Germann, Human Trafficking Activist facilitated an intriguing session on The face of transnational crimes sharing seven lessons she learnt as an advocate against human trafficking and other cross border crimes.

Aleszea gave a personal reflection on how she experienced trafficking in person from a close person.

She noted that human trafficking is an under publicized, all too present reality in contemporary America adding that it is not a problem exclusive to distant nations or distant minorities as it occurs to a wide range of young people in the US right under their noses from runaways, immigrants, children from underprivileged families, foster care homes and just unlucky ones that happened to be at the wrong place at the wrong time.
Dorcas A. Oduor, Principal Deputy to the Director of Public Prosecutions – Kenya delivered a presentation on **The Challenges faced in Countering Corruption in Africa - Turning Intelligence into Evidence.**

Ms. Oduor started her presentation by noting that corruption is a blight to the economy in Africa as it is felt in many areas of governance through abuse of power.

She emphasized that because of the nature of corruption, intelligence-led investigation and prosecution has become a popular tool in the fight against this crime.

“States must be alive to the benefits of collaboration and cooperation relationships between law enforcement agencies and intelligence agencies in order to fight corruption in Africa.”

In a panel discussion comprising **Chief Anthony Idigbe**, Senior Partner at Punuka Attorneys & Solicitors, **Keith Ellison**, Attorney General of Minnesota and **Aaron Ford**, Attorney General of Nevada, the panellists reviewed questions on emerging issues on **Critical Questions on Cross border and Interagency Cooperation - Managing and Prosecuting Transnational Crime**.

The panelists gave reviews on the questions raised from Chief Anthony’s presentation including lack of knowledge in terms of local prosecutors, lack of legal frameworks in Africa, fugitives’ right to question as well as the tension between prosecution and protection while focusing on the legal systems in their respective states.

Chief Anthony Idigbe, Senior Partner at Punuka Attorneys & Solicitors discussed **Critical Questions on Cross border and Interagency Cooperation - Managing and Prosecuting Transnational Crime** delving into the extradition process and how inter-agency collaboration can help in timely prosecution of cross border crimes.

He also delved into the factors that impede the effectiveness of the extradition process which include Attorney General’s discretion if more than one country makes requests for fugitives to be extradited for different crimes, among others.

“One of the issues that we need to consider is double criminality. In other words, the offense must be a criminal offense in the country that is making the request and also in the country where the fugitive is located.”

He noted that cyber threats are constantly evolving, getting smarter and more sophisticated as cybersecurity becomes more a complex and multi-faceted issue.

"Adopting risk management practices that are scalable and comprehensible to improve cybersecurity is the way.”

In a panel discussion with Ozwald Boateng, British Fashion Designer and Kojo Annan, Chairman and Co-founder of Made in Africa (MIA) questions on talent trafficking in Africa were reviewed.

The panelists examined narratives on African history recounting their stories about African leadership and the influence key persons in their lives have had in making them the people they are today.

They noted that Africans need to inculcate integrity in every single aspect of their lives as it becomes the bedrock of everything that we engage in.

Markus Green, AGA-Africa Board Member, John Edozie, AGA-Africa International Advisor and Kim Robinson, AGA-Africa Country Coordinator for South Africa led a panel discussion on the subject The “AGA-Africa way”: Global Cooperation, Cross border solutions.

The panelists examined the importance of global cooperation in the fight against transnational crime highlighting some of the successes registered through partnerships between AGA-Africa and African stakeholders.

They highlighted the need to increase global corporation on fight against transnational crimes and suggested cross border solutions that would provide jobs for the youth.

Anthony Forson, Jr., President of the Ghana Bar Association, moderated a Side-line Interaction with the New Generation Legal Practitioners.

He gave young student lawyers an opportunity to interact with the visiting Attorneys General advising them on the importance of working with integrity in their areas of focus.

He also added that if every Ghanaian would treat the legal profession with integrity and reduce their level of corruption by 25% and do everything with integrity, he believes the country would move forward.
Entertainment session during the opening ceremony of the Transnational Crimes Conference

A cross-section of the Transnational Crimes Conference participants

A group photo of the six members of the black caucus of Attorneys General from the US together with AGA-Africa team and other conference delegates during the first day of the Transnational Crimes Conference in Accra Ghana


Kingsley Ejiofor, Director, Inspectorate & Enforcement Directorate, NAFDAC and Chairman of the Federal Taskforce on Counterfeit and Fake Drugs and Unwholesome Processed Food speaking in a panel discussion during the conference.

Kimathi Kuanyehia, Award winning Harvard educated transactional lawyer moderating a panel discussion on Illicit Financial flows and Cybersecurity during the second day of the conference.

Lettitia A. James, Attorney General of New York giving her closing remarks on behalf of the Black Caucus of Attorneys General.

Nozipho Mbanjwa, Conference Moderator speaking at the conference.

Fulata Lillian Shawa Silumyi, Director of Public Prosecutions, Zambia during a panel discussion at the conference.

(L-R) Kojo Annan Chairman and Co-founder of Made in Africa (MIA), Ozwald Boateng, Fashion Designer, Nozipho Mbanjwa, Conference Moderator Karl A. Racine, Attorney General for the District of Columbia and Markus Green, AGA-Africa Board Member.
All the conference guests were treated to a welcome cocktail hosted by the Ghana Tourism Authority (GTA) on the 2nd of March 2020 at the Kempinski Hotel Gold Coast City Accra, Ghana. The Attorneys General and invited guests were warmly welcomed to Ghana and briefed on what to expect during the week.

PHOTO GALLERY


Karen White, AGA-Africa Executive Director, receiving a token of appreciation from Hon. Dr. Ziblim Barri Iddi, Deputy Minister for Tourism Arts and Culture during the welcome Cocktail.

Karl A. Racine, Attorney General for the District of Columbia speaking during the welcome reception cocktail.

Mrkus Green, AGA-Africa Board Member receiving a token of appreciation from Hon. Dr. Ziblim Barri Iddi, Deputy Minister for Tourism Arts and Culture during the welcome Cocktail.
At the end of the first day of the conference, American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) hosted a welcome reception at the Labadi Beach Hotel in Accra, Ghana. The guests enjoyed an excellent opportunity to network with the US Ambassador to Ghana and members of the American Chamber of Commerce Ghana, while sharing and exchanging ideas.

PHOTO GALLERY

Karl A. Racine the Attorney General of the District of Columbia (CENTRE) speaking during the cocktail reception with Kwame Raoul the Attorney General of Illinois, Keith Ellison, Attorney General of Minnesota, Denise N. George the Attorney General of Virgin Islands and Karen White

Denise N. George the Attorney General of Virgin Islands with Stephanie S. Sullivan, Ambassador of the United States to Ghana

Karen White, AGA Africa Executive Director speaking during the welcome cocktail flanked by Denise George Attorney General of the US Virgin Islands and Natalie Ludaway Chief Deputy Attorney General Washington DC

Keith Ellison, Attorney General of Minnesota speaking during the Welcome Reception as Aaron Ford, Attorney General of Nevada looks on

A City tour arranged for the Attorneys General visited the University of Ghana, Old Accra, W.E.B. Du Bois Centre for Pan-Africanism, Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park and Arts Centre.

PHOTO GALLERY

A group photo of the six members of the black caucus of Attorneys General from the US together with AGA-Africa team, Fulata Lillian Shawa-Siyunyi, DPP Zambia, Dorcas Agik Owuor, Deputy DPP-Kenya Kwaku Ampratwum-Sarpong, Member of parliament for Mampong Constituency, Osei Kyei-Mensah Bonsu, MP for Suame Constituency, Majority Leader and Minister for Parliamentary affairs with Prof. Aaron Mike Oquaye, Speaker of the Parliament of Ghana.

John Edozie, AGA-Africa International Advisor with Prof. Aaron Mike Oquaye, Speaker of the Parliament of Ghana during the courtesy call to Parliament House.


A group photo of the six members of the black caucus of Attorneys General from the US and the DPPS of Kenya and Zambia together with the Deputy Attorney General Ghana and the DPP Ghana and the AGA-Africa team at the Office of the Attorney General of Ghana.
On the 6th of March 2020, the 6 Attorneys Generals and the AGA Africa Team attended the Ghana's 63rd Independence Day Parade and Festivities at Baba Yara Sports Stadium in Kumasi.

This year’s celebration was under the theme: “Consolidating Our Gains” and was attended by His Excellency Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana, and Keith Rowley, Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago. The Attorneys General had the opportunity to meet with His Excellency Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo during the luncheon after the Independence day parade.

The delegates were later granted audience by Otumfuo Nana Osei Tutu II, King of the Asante Kingdom.

PHOTO GALLERY

Karen White, AGA Africa Executive Director, waving the Ghanaian flag during independence day celebration

A group photo of the six members of the black caucus of Attorneys General from the US, the AGA-Africa team with Otumfuo Nana Osei Tutu II, Asantehene of the Asante Kingdom

The six US Attorneys General and the AGA-Africa team outside Otumfuo Osei Tutu II’s palace in Kumasi
On the 7th of March 2020, the Attorneys General and AGA Team visited the Cape Coast, one of the oldest castles along the coast of Ghana where the Slave Trade was organized from.

The Heritage tour gave the Attorneys General an excellent opportunity to experience the beauty, historical monuments, great Ghanaian cultural heritage and hospitality, and learn more about the history of the Slave Trade in Ghana.

PHOTO GALLERY
The AGA-Africa Conference website attracted nearly 3000 visitors. The large traffic experienced during the two conference days was an indication of the interest in AGA-Africa’s programmes as visitors sought more information about the 2nd Annual Conference.

The table below shows the website traffic.

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* Not viewed traffic includes traffic generated by robots, worms, or replies with special HTTP status codes.

A statement from the organisers and copied to the GNA said the AGA-Africa Conference, part of the Attorney General Alliance (AGA) Africa Alliance Partnership, will uniquely bring together six African American U.S. State Attorneys General, several of their African counterparts and other individuals working on transnational crime to discuss, collaborate, and coordinate on new strategies and solutions to combat these serious issues.
The two-day international conference, organised by the Attorney General Alliance (AGA)-Africa, a US-based organisation, is on the theme: "Tackling the reality of transnational crime in Africa — Cross-border solutions and international cooperation".

It is being attended by six attorneys-general, law enforcement officers and lawyers from the United States of America and some African countries.

Africa must work together to deal with crimes — Speakers
Speakers at a conference on fighting transnational crimes have...

ARAP Ghana @ARAPghana - Mar 3
(1/2) ☝️ #ARAP, in its line to strengthen international networks, engaged the 2nd Annual AGA-Africa Conference today in Accra.

We are #UnitedAgainstCorruption #AGAAfricaInGhana

ANA Sanchez and 4 others
SPEAKERS OF THE MONTH, GHANA

Keith Ellison
Minnesota Attorney General

Aaron D. Ford
Nevada Attorney General

Denise N. George
Virgin Islands Attorney General

Letitia A. James
New York Attorney General

Karl A. Racine
District of Columbia Attorney General

Kwame Raoul
Illinois Attorney General
SPEAKERS OF THE MONTH, GHANA

Natalie O. Ludaway ESQ
District of Columbia Chief Deputy Attorney General

Godfred Yeboah Dame
Deputy Attorney-General and Deputy Minister for Justice of Ghana

James Oppong Boanuh
Inspector General of Police

Dorcas A. Oduor
Secretary, Public Prosecutions and the Principal Deputy to the Director of Public Prosecutions – Kenya.

Fulata Lillian Shawa-Siyunyi (SC)
Director of Public Prosecutions, Zambia

Yvonne Atakora Obuobisa
Director of Public Prosecutions, Ghana

MS. Karen White
Attorney General Alliance, Executive Director

Markus Green ESQ
Attorney General Alliance- Africa, Board Member
SPEAKERS OF THE MONTH, GHANA

Justice Sir Dennis Adjei
Justice of the Court of Appeal, Ghana.

Isaac ken Yeboah
Director General CID

Anthony Forson jnr.
President of the Ghana Bar Association

Akwasi Agyeman
CEO of the Ghana Tourism Authority

Kingsley Ejiofor
Director, Inspectorate & Enforcement Directorate, NAFDAC and Chairman of the Federal Taskforce on Counterfeit and Fake Drugs and Unwholesome Processed Food.

Ayesha Bedwei
President, American Chamber of Commerce, Ghana

Akwasi Awua Ababio
Director of Diaspora Affairs, Office of the President, Ghana

Yofi Grant
CEO Ghana Investment Promotion Centre
Chief Anthony Idigbe
Senior Partner at Punuka Attorneys & Solicitors

Dr Herbert Gustav Yankson
Director Cybercrime Unit of the Ghana Police

Tuineese Edward Amuzu
Key Expert on Rule of Law for the Accountability, Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption (ARAP)

John Edozie
AGA-Africa International Advisor

Mr. William Nyarko
Executive Director of the Africa Center for International Law and Accountability.

Kimathi Kuenyehia
Award winning Harvard-educated transactional lawyer
SPEAKERS OF THE MONTH, GHANA

Mohamed Daghar
Researcher - Institute for Security Studies

Kojo Annan
Chairman and Co-founder of Made in Africa (MIA)

Ozwald Boateng
Fashion Designer

Bright Simons
President of mPedigree

Kim Robinson
AGA Africa Country Coordinator for South Africa

Aleszea Blanche Germann
Human Trafficking Activist
SPIKE IN COVID-19-RELATED TRANSNATIONAL CRIMES

As the World braces itself in the wake of the devastating Covid-19 pandemic that has ground activities to a halt, criminal groups are taking advantage of the situation. INTERPOL, law enforcement agencies and crime-watch organizations have sounded alerts of increasing reports of Covid-19-linked financial fraud and other transnational crimes.

Although transnational crimes like human trafficking across state borders may have declined because of stiffer border controls, Covid-19-related cyber scams have spiked in the past few weeks. There has also been a rise in reported cases of sexual offences and especially defilement.

Taking advantage of the panic created by the pandemic, and an increased demand for sanitizing gel and test kits, criminal groups have taken to production and sale of counterfeit and uncertified sanitizer gels, fake rapid Covid-19 test kits and purported ‘cures’.

• As you take the necessary precautions: washing hands, not touching your face, reducing movements and maintaining social distancing, remember to be on the lookout for the following:
  • Fake online shops purporting to sell protective masks, sanitizing gel, Covid-19 ‘cures’ and medical supplies
  • Counterfeit products e.g. sanitizing gel
  • Texts and emails from distressed ‘relatives’ in need of money to purchase supplies or seek hospital care
  • Fake Covid-19 relief charities
  • Email phishing attempts from ‘health authorities’, which may come attached with dangerous malware.

How to be safe

✓ VERIFY! VERIFY: Get in touch (remotely) with your local health and law enforcement officials to verify any claims.
✓ When in doubt about a product, seek guidance from your local government agencies.
✓ Do not open emails or click on links from unfamiliar sources or addresses.
✓ Keep abreast with Covid-19 related updates from legitimate and trusted sources.
Partnering with us means, your organization will help build public awareness and increase both organizational and individual capacity to combat the cross-border crimes in Africa.

You can partner with us in any of the following ways:

**Financial Support**
This is a great way for organizations and individuals to quickly and easily get involved in our mission.

**In-Kind Donation**
By making an in-kind donation, you’ll help us to do more.
- Venue Hire
- Workshop / Conference beverages
- Team travel expense
- Team accommodation
- Participant giveaways

**Event Sponsorship**
Showcase your commitment to the fight against transnational crimes. Choose the theme for workshops, symposiums and conferences your organization would like to partner with us on.

**Collaboration**
Through co-hosted workshops, and conferences and programmes.

If you’d like to find out more about contributing to our work as a foundation, trust or company, and the impact your partnership will have towards the global effort in combating transnational crimes, we’d love to hear from you. Please contact us today for more details.

Email: slustig@agalliance.org or info@AGAafrica.org