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Circular Letter No.4257
7 April 2020

To: All IMO Members
Intergovernmental organizations
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status

Subject: **Communication from the Government of the Republic of Ghana**

The Government of the Republic of Ghana has sent the attached communication, dated 6 April 2020, with the request that it is circulated by the Organization.

6th April 2020

Dear Sir,

**COMMUNICATION OF INFORMATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH CIRCULAR
LETTER NO. 4190 ON REGISTRIES OF SHIPS.**

The Ghana Maritime Authority presents its compliments to the Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization and is pleased to forward, herewith attached, communication by Ghana in accordance with Circular Letter No. 4204/Add.5 of 17th March 2020 on Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Guidance relating to the certification of seafarers.

2. The Ghana Maritime Authority avails itself of this opportunity to renew to you, assurances of its highest consideration.

**THOMAS K. ALONSI
DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

**THE SECRETARY GENERAL
INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION
4 ALBERT EMBANKMENT
LONDON
U.K.**



MARITIME CIRCULAR

GUIDANCE NOTE: 006

EXTENSION OF THE VALIDITY OF SEAFARER CERTIFICATES ISSUED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE STANDARDS OF TRAINING, CERTIFICATION AND WATCHKEEPING 1978 AS AMENDED (STCW)/MARITIME LABOUR CONVENTION 2006 AS AMENDED - CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19)

1. The Ghana Maritime Authority (GMA) recognizes that in view of the continuing COVID-19 situation, seafarers and shipowners are facing challenges in meeting various statutory requirements provided under Ghana's maritime legislations.
2. In compliance with Government of Ghana's directives on COVID – 19, and to ensure that the flow of commerce by sea is not unnecessarily disrupted which will affect the ability of shipping services and seafarers to continue to deliver vital goods, including medical supplies and foodstuff during this difficult period, and ultimately overcoming this pandemic, there is need to undertake emergency provisions to address the situation.
3. Consequently, the Authority wishes to inform ship owners and seafarers that the under-mentioned statutory certificates issued by the Authority to seafarers already aboard vessels which might expire soon have been extended **until 30th June 2020**.
 - i. **Certificates of Competency,**
 - ii. **Certificates of Proficiency**
 - iii. **Medical Certificates**
4. Please be reminded that the safety of life at sea, maritime security and protection of the marine environment must also be considered paramount during this period.

Signed

**THOMAS K. ALONSI
DIRECTOR GENERAL**

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