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Date:..31ST..AUGUST, 2026....

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GUTA CALLS ON GPHA TO ACT SWIFTLY TO END CURRENT PORT CONGESTION

The Ghana Union of Traders' Associations (GUTA) wishes to call on the Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority (GPHA) to liaise with the various shipping lines and act swiftly to bring the current traffic congestion at the Port of Tema to an end.

We wish to state that the ongoing congestion is having a severe negative impact on business and is adding an additional layer of cost to doing business.

This congestion has occurred as a result of unstuffed empty containers not being discharged at the various shipping line depots/yards. As a result, trucks continue to queue from the port entrance to as far as the gates of the Regional Maritime University.

Some drivers have been in the queue for almost one week before they are able to discharge their empty unstuffed containers.

Investigations by GUTA have revealed that this situation is leading to demurrage charges, as some unstuffed containers are still occupying space at the terminals, making it impossible for stuffed containers to be brought in for examination and clearing.

Furthermore, some of the shipping lines do not have the logistics to move the unstuffed containers from the terminals to their yards to make way for the stuffed containers.

GUTA therefore believes these concerns must be addressed as a matter of urgency, as its continuation will lead to the following:

1. It will have a negative impact on the government's 24-hour economy policy at the port.
2. Since we are almost at the end of the year, imports are going to peak and if this issue is not addressed immediately, the situation will worsen in the coming months.

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3. If not addressed, importers will continue to incur demurrage charges which will be added to the cost of doing business, and this will ultimately translate into high prices of goods and services for the final consumer.

We call for immediate stakeholder engagement to resolve this.

SIGNED

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