



ASSOCIATION OF OIL MARKETING COMPANIES OF GHANA

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PRESS RELEASE

UNAUTHORISED INSPECTION/AUDIT OF FUEL STATIONS

We have monitored on the media landscape the enthusiastic aggression of some group(s) in taking over the functions of legally mandated bodies charged with the responsibility of inspecting or auditing petroleum products retail outlets aimed at ensuring compliance with industry regulations and national laws as well as protecting the interest of the consumer.

We find this very unfortunate and unacceptable and must not be allowed to continue.

We must state unequivocally that, the Association of Oil Marketing Companies (AOMC) and its members have over the years cooperated with and will continue to cooperate with all the regulatory agencies and duly mandated groups to enhance compliance and improvement of industry standards. For instance, we have cooperated with the Ghana Standards Authority (GSA) as it currently inspects our fuel dispensing pumps every six months. Additionally, we have cooperated with the inspectors of the National Petroleum Authority as they regularly inspect our stations for general compliance including fuel dispensing pumps delivery levels.

Further, our members have provided 10-litre measuring cans at their stations to enable our cherished consumers who may want to confirm the fuel dispensers delivery levels to do so and where they are dissatisfied they are expected to report the matter to the GSA or NPA to check if indeed they are right so the appropriate action can be taken by the GSA or NPA against the operator involved. Where a member is found to have fallen foul of the law the AOMC has at all times supported these regulatory agencies to make them face the full rigors of the law.

For the avoidance of doubt, it is important to remind the general public about the existing legal regime governing the entities mandated to perform such tasks.

Per NPA Act 2005, 691 Section 2(2), the National Petroleum Authority (NPA) is to;

1. Protect the interest of consumers and Petroleum Service Providers.

2. Monitor standards of performance and quality of the provision of petroleum service.
3. Initiate and conduct investigation into standards of quantity of petroleum products offered to consumer.
4. Investigate on a regular basis the operation of Petroleum Service Providers to ensure conformity with best practices and protocols in the petroleum downstream industry.

Per NRCDD 326 of 1975, the Ghana Standards Authority (GSA) is also mandated to handle all issues related to weights and measures. These issues include checking the accurate measurement of fuel dispensing pumps.

Based on the foregoing, and as a demonstration of our commitment to consumer protection, the AOMC has agreed with the GSA to begin a quarterly verification of fuel and gas dispensing pumps and accessories from January 2021, instead of the current half-yearly inspection.

We would therefore like to reiterate that any group or entity wanting to assure itself of the pump delivery accuracy at any fuel station should properly engage the relevant regulators to collaborate in a meaningful manner and also to ensure that the requisite Health, Environment, Safety, Security and Quality (HESSQ) protocols are appropriately complied with.

We must caution that the retail outlets are confined spaces for safety reasons, therefore besides quickly buying fuel or patronizing any of the other related services, one should not trespass unless one has been legally mandated to perform certain functions at the stations.

We would like to assure the general public that OMCs/LPGMCs will continue to pursue and uphold consumers' interests and will always be at their service.

Thank you.



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Kwaku Agyemang-Duah
CEO/Industry Coordinator