

Ghana's Economy To Grow By 3%



Tuesday, 27 May 2008

Due to the cashless system of banking being introduced into the country, by the Bank of Ghana (BoG), the economy of Ghana is likely to grow by 3%, within the shortest time. This is because, all licensed banks and non-banking financial institutions, would have the opportunity to transact business on a common platform.

Besides, it would reduce reliance on cash, and enhance security and personal safety, in the payment system of doing business in the country. This was disclosed by the General Manager In-Charge of Projects and Business Development at the Bank of Ghana, Mr. Archie Hesse, at a media interaction in Takoradi, on the work of the Ghana Interbank Payment and Settlement Systems Limited. The forum was intended to brief the media, on the importance of the newly-introduced cashless banking system, the E-zwich, being introduced by the Bank of Ghana, to aid business transactions among Ghanaians.

According to him, the major target of the system was to draw the un-banked and under-banked, who are the majority in the Ghanaian society, close to the banking system. Mr. Hesse noted that the introduction of the E-zwich, as a cashless banking method, would not only create a common banking platform, but would improve efficiency, enhance security, ensure fast settlement of money in transactions, among others. It would also improve on the collection of bills by service operators.

The Bank of Ghana, on the 29th of April this year, launched the E-zwich product, as the first step towards introducing the country, to a cashless banking system. Consequently, five banks were tasked to begin the whole exercise. They included Zenith, Fidelity, The Trust, Merchant and GT banks. The banks were given two weeks to begin the exercise on a pilot basis. In an optimistic mood, Mr. Hesse told journalists in Takoradi, that by June this year, all rural banks in the country, would have been hooked onto to the E-zwich system of banking, because of their connection with Apex Bank, which is the central bank of all the rural banks in the country. All other banks would also be hooked to the system, to serve all Ghanaians.

The manager also projected that by September this year, the Bank of Ghana would introduce mobile banking into the system, giving an opportunity to all mobile phone users, to transact business with their phones, with the financial institutions, particularly the banks, to complement the effort of making Ghana's cashless banking a reality. As a result, the bank has started meeting with all the Mobile Communication Networks in the country, on how to collaborate, to ensure that cashless banking succeeds in Ghana.

http://www.peacefmonline.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=14416&Itemid=30