

The Importance of Hydrographic Surveying in the Development of a Water/Lake Transportation System in Ghana

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Key words: Coastal Zone Management; Hydrography; Land management; Water/Lake Transportation

SUMMARY

Background: Transportation in Ghana over the decades has dominantly depended on land by the road and slightly rail systems which has caused a lot of pressure on our road/rail facilities leading to early damages. In the case where access exists, due to the bad nature of the roads, vehicles are either unable to get to the production sites and vice versa. Ghana is fortunate to have a major water body along the southern boundary of the country, i.e. the Gulf of Guinea and a major river body, the Volta Lake linking the southern section to the northern section which when used judiciously can improve upon the transportation system in Ghana by reducing the pressure on the road networks. Along this lake and the coast are towns, communities, villages that depend on the use of these water bodies for their livelihood and business activities. Moving from one settlement to the other either along the water body or across has always been a huge problem. The use of fishing canoes has been the available mechanism for transporting people and goods which has endangered lives over the past periods due to unavailability of safety measures. Safety in the use of our water bodies depends greatly on the nature of the water bodies, their depths and what is below the surface of the water. Under this condition, the application of hydrographic surveying will provide solutions to determine safety in the use of the water body for transportation. Objective: To apply hydrographic surveying on our water bodies to determine the level of safety in the use of our water bodies for the development of a Water Transportation System. Results: Creation of awareness to the fact that transportation means in Ghana can be improved by the use of water bodies within the country and seek for investors to develop the Water Transportation System. Conclusion: Hydrographic surveying is necessary to develop the Water Transportation System that can be one of the cost effective and safest modes of transportation in Ghana. It can improve upon the transportation system in Ghana by reducing the pressure on the use of the road networks. Significant of Work: This work is of high significant to National Development of a country in the area of transportation. This will reduce the over dependence of road transportation by creating another alternative thereby creating jobs for the people.