



October 11, 2020

**PRESS RELEASE -
SEIZURE OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION AT THE TEMA PORT**

The attention of the Ghana Revenue Authority has been drawn to information being circulated in the media about a consignment of goods that was seized by the Customs Division at the Tema port on Friday 9th October 2020.

The Customs Division of the GRA wishes to put on record that:

1. The container described on arrival at the Tema port as containing Personal Effects, Household Goods and a Carding Machine was flagged as 'Red Channel'. After examination, eighteen (18) packages identified as restricted items were found in the container. These include 436 Pistols (Side Arms), 26 packs of 50 pieces of Ammunition and 1 (40ml) piece of Pepper Spray.
2. These items had been imported into the country without the necessary permits from Ministry of Interior. The items had also not been declared to Customs on arrival.
3. An inventory of the items was taken in the presence of officers of the Preventive wing of the Customs Division (Intelligence & Examination Officer), Bureau of National Investigations, National Security and the Police. All representatives, including the clearing agent signed against the total number of arms and ammunitions seized.
4. A seizure notice was issued to the clearing agent and the seized consignment was placed in the custody of the Customs Division.
5. The clearing agent is currently assisting the Tema Harbour Police Command with the investigation. Meanwhile, the Customs Division has provided the Police with the necessary information.

The Ghana Revenue Authority finds it worrying, mischievous and premature any information that seeks to imply that the seized ammunition is being kept for onward release to some 'big men'. The outcome of the investigations by the Police on the restricted items will be made public when it is concluded.

The Authority uses this opportunity to caution all importers that the importation of arms and ammunition can be carried out only with a permit by

the Ministry of Interior and these items must be declared on importation. We also assure the general public that the Customs Division will not relent on its regulatory duties at the nation's ports and other points of entry to ensure the safety of all citizens.

For: **COMMISSIONER-GENERAL**

Signed

FLORENCE ASANTE (MRS)
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER
COMMUNICATION & PUBLIC AFFAIRS

