

# OAG to procure assets management software for transition processes

BY JONATHAN DONKOR

**I**n a bid to avert acrimony and better manage future transition processes, the Office of the Administrator-General (OAG) of the Presidential Estates Unit, is to acquire an assets management software to aid accurate capture of all government procurements.

At a day's workshop for estates managers of Ministries, Department and Agencies (MDAs) in Accra yesterday, the Administrator-General, Mr. David Yaro said the current method of compiling data on state assets was not full proof.

In the meantime, he said the OAG is in consultation with the Controller and Accountant General's Department to get it hooked onto the Ghana Integrated Financial Management Information System (GIFMIS) platform.

"This will enable the automatic capture of all procurement undertaken by all MDAs, regional coordinating councils (RCCs) and metropolitan, municipal and district assemblies (MMDAs) operat-

ing under the platform," he said.

In view of this, Mr. Yaro said letters have been written to all MMDAs, RCCs and MDAs presently not on the GIFMIS platform, to get hooked on by the end of the year to help build a comprehensive database on government assets.

The aforementioned are part of a number of measures the OAG has adopted after a presidential transition review of the transition process following acrimony including alleged missing assets that ensued during the 2017 transition process.

The review which was in reference to the Office of the Head of Civil Service, the Cabinet Secretariat and OAG was to identify gaps, draw lessons and make recommendations to guide further presidential transitions.

The workshop was to equip assets managers of the respective MDAs with the requisite knowledge on how to produce credible database.

Other measures adopted by the OAG, Mr. Yaro said included an appeal to the Ministry of Finance to serve the office with copies of

approvals granted to MDAs, RCCs and MDAs to procure state assets.

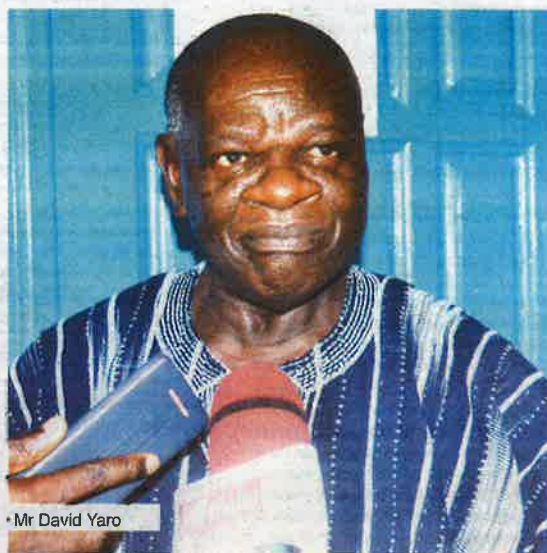
He said a request has also been made to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority (DVLA) to give the OAG quarterly returns on any new registration of government vehicles.

He said a request for staff recruitment for OAG and regional Budget Officers to serve as satellite officers of OAG and help inspect government assets to ensure their maintenance has also been made.

Delving into the review, Mr. Yaro said it was established that the country lacked a comprehensive inventory of state assets and this created an opportunity for the misappropriation of state assets and the subsequent ad hoc seizure of government property.

He said it was also found out that the lack of resources to the Presidential Estate Unit impacted the OAG's effectiveness while the late submission of the hand-over notes, impeded the transition process.

Another gap identified, he said was the contrast awarded, policies introduced and key appointment in-



• Mr David Yaro

the few days of the previous government, which had a potentially significant impact on the incoming administration.

Head of Civil Service, Nana

Kwasi Agyekum Dwamena said the service was committed to the reforms and would, among others, ensure all MDAs were hooked onto the GIFMIS.

# France Alumni Ghana launched in Accra

BY MALIK SULLEMANA

**F**RANCE Alumni Ghana, a social platform that brings together Ghanaians who studied in France has been launched in Accra on Tuesday.

It would strengthen the bond of friendship between Ghanaian alumni and institutions of higher learning in France.

Among other things, the plat-

form creates a networking and job creation opportunities for the alumni.

It was launched by the France Ambassador to Ghana, Mr. Francois Pujolas and Mr. Olivier Chiche-Portiche, the Director of Marketing and Scholarship Department, Campus France to mark the series of activities dubbed, 'Ghana-France Higher Education Conference', scheduled for Octo-

ber 3-6 in Accra and Kumasi.

It brought together representatives of tertiary institutions in Ghana and France.

In a welcome address, Mr. Pujolas described the partnership between the two countries as a global one, touching on political, social, economic and security on one hand and culture, higher education and research on the other hand.

The France envoy said the

opportunities being created by the platform were enormous.

He stated that the alumni serve as a hub for Ghanaian and French corporations to harness the skills of alumni.

For a Ghanaian student, Mr. Pujolas noted that "knowledge of French language combined with a French degree, represents a real asset to get a job in the surrounding French speaking countries, thus contributing to Ghana's regional integration, economic and social development."

He said for the first time, the France Study Fair would be held in Kumasi in the Ashanti Region, a move the Ambassador considered as an innovation.

He noted that students were offered quality tuition, in a serene environment with relatively cheaper fees.

According to him, students who studied the French language had competitive advantage over others in seeking jobs in Ghana and abroad.

For his part, Mr. Chiche-Portiche stated that about 250 alumni had registered onto the platform, hoping that more graduates would join the group.

Globally, he said the platform had more than 120,000 alumni, adding that it keeps a link between the graduates and their institutions.

He encouraged all France alumni to sign up onto the platform at [ghana.francealumni.fr](http://ghana.francealumni.fr) and engage with the alumni association.

Meanwhile, two Ghanaians, a retired medical practitioner Dr. Eric Graham and Mrs. Anita Erskine, a broadcast journalist had expressed satisfaction at the quality of tuition offered to students by French tertiary institutions.

Dr. Graham, also a former head of Alliance Francaise touted France as one of the best countries to pursue higher education.

He advised Ghanaians to take the study of the French language seriously as it would boost their chances of working with global organisations such as the United Nations (UN), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and the African Union (AU) among others.

Mrs. Erskine said she studied French with the intention to work with an international organisation as a translator.

Although that dream did not come to fruition, the senior broadcast journalist and feminist believed that her ability to speak French had brought her closer to many people.

She said the French educational system embraces people from different cultures with varying political, social and religious orientation.



• Representatives of tertiary institutions in Ghana and France