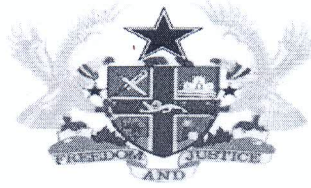


# GHANA NATIONAL COMMISSION ON SMALL ARMS & LIGHT WEAPONS

*In case of reply, the*

*Number and date of this  
Letter should be quoted.*



Ministry of the Interior

P.O. Box M. 42  
Accra

Tel: 0302-669-071

Our Ref. No:

22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2017

Your Ref. No: .....

REPUBLIC OF GHANA

**2017 END-OF-YEAR MESSAGE BY REV. DR. PAUL FIMPONG-MANSO, BOARD  
CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL COMMISSION ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**TO ALL MEDIA HOUSES**

On behalf of the Board and Staff of the National Commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons and on my own behalf, I would like to extend to all Peace-loving Ghanaians a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Christmas is a season of peace, love, and thanksgiving. It is also the time for us to take stock of how far we have come and how we have performed during the year.

While we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, let us not lose sight of the humanitarian and socio-economic consequences of illicit small arms and light weapons and the serious threat they pose to the peace, safety, security, stability and sustainable development of Ghana and beyond.

In particular, I wish to remind Ghanaians of the Baseline Report on small arms availability in Ghana which found that there are over a million illicit small arms in circulation in Ghana. The Report is an indication that the instruments of violence are indeed in our midst.

For Ghana to develop meaningfully, it needs peace, and for Ghana to have peace, the instruments of conflicts and armed violence, particularly small arms proliferation, must be combated and eliminated in our country.

While the Security Agencies and the Commission are taking the necessary steps to address the illicit proliferation of small arms in the country, we wish to urge Ghanaians to tolerate each other's views, and avoid the use of small arms to settle disagreements and volunteer timely information on illicit small arms activities to the security agencies.

I wish to thank you for your support and we pledge to work even more strenuously in the year ahead to minimize the incidence of gun abuse in Ghana.

I wish you a safe, armed violence free Christmas and a New Year filled with peace, joy, productivity and prosperity.

  
**REV. DR. PAUL FRIMPONG-MANSO  
BOARD CHAIRMAN**