

## CHANDLING & TRANSPORTATION

### TEMA FISHING HARBOUR



Image above:  
Mr. Emmanuel Obulu,  
owner of 'By the  
grace of God Ltd.'

Image to left:  
Tema fishing harbour.

Image to right:  
The team of 'By the  
grace of God Ltd.'  
Mr. Derrick Acquah is  
at left front.

We meet Mr. Obulu in the Tema fishing harbour, in the workshop and storage area of his outboard motors under a plastic canopy. Mr. Derrick Acquah is one of his employees, who helps with translating our questions.

#### What do you do for a living?

I am a seaman, and owner of a fishing and chandler business called *By the Grace of God Ltd.*, We bring supplies to the ships that are anchored in the bay, waiting for entrance in Tema Port. We take the goods out to them and transport their crew members ashore. I have speedboats to do this, canoes with a large outboard motor.

#### Does the port expansion affect your business?

No, it does not affect my work right now. It is no problem. It will bring more business to me, because I can go with the speedboat to the new and bigger vessels and that will make an even better business flow.

#### In what way could the expansion of the port be made even better for you?

Well, I would like many more vessels to come, but preferably these should be smaller tankers and fishing ships, because that is better business for me. The very large (container) ships are not good for me, because I cannot get alongside and pick up people or deliver goods. Also the big container ships won't allow us near when they are anchored, and we cannot get to them once there are berthed in the port, because we are not allowed in there by the port authorities.

#### What do you expect for the situation in the fishing harbour in 20 years time?

I think we need change, in 20 years it will be

different with the younger generation. They will have better things, more ships, and the business will grow. The fishing ships that are here now, will still be here, but there will be more tankers and larger trawlers as well. But I am sure the smaller vessels will also still be around.

#### What do you hope the situation to be in 20 years time?

I hope there will be an improvement in the lifestyle of the people around here. This means better premises, better modes of transport and not living hand to mouth as we are living now. Better working places would mean brick and zinc instead of the wood and canvas we erect our places from today; and more services to us seamen, like water and electricity.

