

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CIVIC EDUCATION

1st - 17th

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COMPILED



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0 Introduction

The National Commission for Civic Education, which is created by Chapter 19 of the 1992 Constitution and established by Act 452 of 1993, is enjoined by Section 20 to annually submit to Parliament a report indicating the activities and operations of the Commission in respect of the preceding year.

The Commission had within the last eleven years faithfully presented its report to Parliament in accordance with Section 20 of Act 452.

The Annual Reports indicate the extent to which the Commission has carried out its mandate as spelt out in Section 2 of Act 452.

No other publication chronicles the history of the Commission and provides ready source of information on the operations than the annual reports.

Given the importance of the reports, the Commission deemed it necessary to put together the reports in a format that would make them readily accessible to the general public and also ensure that they are preserved for reference and future research in years to come. Collating, compiling and binding of the annual reports into one single book is thus, in a way, kill two birds with one stone as it would be a way of informing the public about the work of the Commission over the years and using the necessary preservation techniques to enhance the life span of the reports.

This volume of the compiled Annual Reports contains the 1st to 11th Annual Reports of the Commission. The Report is presented sequentially from the first to the eleventh report.

The compilation starts with an Executive Summary which admittedly is rather long but is purposively done so as to provide the reader with a comprehensive overview of the work of the Commission in its first eleven years. The executive summary is presented in a thematic form.

2.0 Establishment of Structures of the Commission

As provided for in Act 452, the Commission is the highest decision-making body of the NCCE; it collectively constitutes the policy-making body of the organization.

The members of the Commission, at its inauguration in August 1993, were Mr. Chris Hesse, Chairman; Ms. Doris Ocansey, Deputy Chairman (Programmes); Dr. J.E. Oppong, Deputy Chairman (Finance and Administration), Mr. E.K.T. Addo, Mama Adokuwa-Asigble IV, Mr. Kwame Opoku-Afriyie, and Mrs. Susanna Adam, all Commission Members.

The Commission at its establishment spent the first three months in recruitment and establishment of structures and offices.

The departments established for the discharge of the mandate of the NCCE are Public Education, Research, Public Affairs, Literature and Materials Development, Finance, and Administration.

There are ten (10) regional offices, one in each of the ten regions of the country. Currently there are 138 district offices, one each in each district capital.

The Commission's external operations are fashioned in such a way as to elicit all shades of opinions, views and sentiments in order to arrive at national consensus in matters that affect the welfare of the entire populace. It was to achieve that goal that the Commission organized a National Consultative Conference on Civic Education which resulted in a National Consultative Body on Civic Education, an advisory body to the NCCE.

3.0 National Consultative Conference/National Consultative Body

The National Consultative Conference on Civic Education was held at the Golden Tulip Hotel in Accra from March 14 to 15, 1995. The two-day Conference brought together representatives from 69 identifiable bodies and the six registered Political Parties to deliberate on civic education in Ghana and then build the functional working relationship between the NCCE and participating organizations.

The outcome of the Conference was the setting up of five-subject matter committees whose work was to dovetail into that of a National Consultative Body that was to serve as an advisory body to the NCCE in its civic education work.

The maiden meeting of the National Consultative Body (NCB) was held in the Conference Room of the NCCE on May 30, 1996. Mr. Justice Kingsley Nyinah, a former Judge of the Court of Appeal, was elected Chairman with Mrs. Justice Ivy Ashong, a High Court Judge, as Vice Chairman.

In 1998, the NCB held two meetings. The February 18, 1998 meeting reviewed NCCE programmes for 1998, whilst the December 16, 1998 meeting focused on the Strategic Plan of the Commission. In 1999 there was no meeting of the NCB but the Law and Order subject matter Committee met on February 9, 1999 at which the main item on the agenda was the growing incidence of lawlessness and indiscipline in the Ghanaian society.

A second meeting of the NCB was held on April 12, 2000 at which a paper *Traditional Values in a Changing Ghanaian Society* was delivered by Mrs. Esi Sutherland-Addy, Senior Research Fellow, Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana, Legon. Another meeting of the NCB was held on June 7, 2000. The meeting focused on *Emerging Political Climate* in the wake of the unacceptable forms of political campaigning by political parties and politicians ahead of the December 2000 Elections. Meetings of the National Consultative Body are now a yearly affair.

4.0 FLAGSHIP PROGRAMMES

Over the years, the Commission had initiated a number of programmes/projects as part of a strategy to accentuate its mission. These projects seen as the flagships of the NCCE, have made the Commission gain greater visibility among the citi-

zenry. They include the Annual National Constitution Week Celebration, Ghana Constitution Games Competition, Civic Education Clubs, Teaching of Constitution in Schools, Social Auditing Project, Voter Education and Education on Political Tolerance.

4.1 Annual National Constitution Week Celebrations

In 2001, the NCCE as part of a strategy to accentuate its mission instituted the Annual National Constitution Week Celebrations. The Week was designed to get all sections of the Ghanaian society, throughout the country engaged in dispassionate discussions and debates on provisions of the constitution. It was expected that through the direct involvement of the mass of people in the exercise democratic political culture in which the Constitution would not only become a living document but part and parcel of the daily life of all citizens of Ghana will be established.

The launch of the Week took place on April 28, 2001. The day was selected to coincide with April 28 (1992) when the nation adopted through a referendum, the 1992 Constitution as the fundamental law of the land. The launch of week took place at the Accra International Conference Centre where the 1,500 capacity auditorium was packed to capacity with people from all walks of life.

The impact of the Annual National Constitution Week celebrations since its inception had been great and remarkable. It has contributed to increasing awareness and understanding of the people of the provisions of the Constitution, enhanced active participation in the democratic process in Ghana and made it possible for the Commission to distribute the Constitution to educational institutions and public libraries. Through the National Organizing Committee (NOC) which was set up during the first Annual National Constitution Week celebrations, the Commission had strengthened its relationship with major Civil Society Organizations.

The theme chosen on year by year basis had made it possible for the society to focus on very important issues of concern. *The Constitution and You* the theme for the first week celebrations made it possible to lay emphasis on the general role of the citizen in the consolidation of cultural democracy. The theme for the second year (2003) *The Constitution, Cultural Values and Good Governance* helped focus attention on the importance of culture in promoting the Constitution. *A Decade of Constitutionalism in Ghana—Strategies for Consolidation* which was the theme for Third Week Celebrations in 2003 provided the opportunity to reflect on achievements and failures under constitutional rule. The theme for the fourth week celebrations in 2004 *National Integration Through Tolerance* helped to galvanize society to contribute to a national dialogue towards building a harmonious relationship among political parties, diverse religious, ethnic and social groups.

The sponsoring organizations of the Week over the years include Ford Foundation and United Nations Development Programme.

4.2 Teaching of the Constitution in Schools

The teaching of the Constitution in the Primary and Junior Secondary Schools is one of the major programmes of the Commission. The Commission attaches great importance to this project because of the recognition of the great benefit to be derived in teaching the young to imbibe the objectives and principles of the Constitution. In the desire to meet these goals, the Commission has collaborated

with the Ghana Education Service to organise a national orientation workshop for selected teachers on a draft *Teachers' Guide*. The Commission also undertook a three-year pilot scheme. Though the pilot scheme has been undertaken and it was expected to be the basis for incorporating the teaching of the Constitution into the curriculum of first and second cycle schools, the project is yet to fully take off.

Constitution Quiz on GTV: The Commission as a way of reaching the youth with civic knowledge in 2001 initiated quiz programme on the Constitution on Television. The target group was pupils in JSS. A total of 27 schools was drawn from the Greater Accra Region. The pre-recording took place at the Teachers Hall in Accra from July 10-13, 2001. The final contesting schools were Accra New Town Experimental JSS, Kaneshie Presbyterian JSS and Ave Maria JSS. They secured 78, 68 and 65 points to emerge first, second and third respectively. The winner received a cash prize of ₵1.5 million. GTV commenced the telecast on Thursday October 4, 2001 and continued once a week on Thursdays 5.00 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. until Thursday, December 27, 2001 when the series ran out.

4.3 Ghana Constitution Game

The Ghana Constitution Game remains one of the flagships of the NCCE. The game which was developed by Benson Educational Limited is played almost in the form of 'Monopoly' with the jigsaws introduces the students to learn the Constitution in a practical way. The game aims at inculcating in the youth, the spirit of patriotism, honesty and love for the nation.

As a way of introducing the game to schools, training sessions were organized for selected members of CECs in October–November 2003. Thereafter the schools were encouraged to play the game among them. Later, competitions were started at district and regional levels.

The first national championship competition was held in Accra on April 27, 2004. The competition was won by Boa-Amponsem Secondary School, Dunkwa-On-Ofin, with Tarkwa Secondary School, Tarkwa and St. Francis Xavier Secondary School, Wa as first and second runners-up respectively.

The Commission has since continued to organize the national championship competitions with the kind sponsorship from various donors including the USA Embassy, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Fredrich Ebert Foundation and Hanns Seidel Foundation.

4.4 Civic Education Clubs

The establishment and operations of Civic Education Clubs (CECs) is yet another flagship of the NCCE. The First CEC was inaugurated in Accra Academy in Accra on March 1, 1996. Thereafter there was so much enthusiasm about the establishment of CECs. In the first year of its introduction, over 1,000 clubs were formed in schools, workplaces and communities. As at December 31, 1999 a total of 2,011 CECs was recorded. Of this 1043 (or 52.0 percent) were within communities with the rest in schools/institutions. The Central and Eastern Region had the highest number of CECs recording 472 (250 in schools), and 426 (121 in schools) respectively. The least number were found in Upper West who had 56 (36 in schools), Upper East with 55 (11 in school) and Greater Accra which had 52 (all in schools).

The CECs became popular because they provided the youth with avenues to shape their views on constitutional provisions and an awareness of the principles and objectives of the 1992 Constitution as the fundamental law of the land. Quiz competitions and debates have become regular fixtures among civic education clubs either at district or regional levels.

The CECs also became popular because of several educational tours they undertook to important places including the Parliament House, and the Castle-Osu.

The euphoria that followed the establishment of the CEC soon died down and by 2001 only 50 percent of the CECs were functioning. Factors accounting for this included the transitory nature of membership of clubs, lack of resources to provide material and financial support to the CECs.

Since 2003, efforts have been made to revitalize the CECs across the country. The introduction of the Ghana Constitution Game to schools has given a fillip to reactivation of CECs in schools. The CECs in many institutions had been re-organized to prepare Clubs for the contest.

4.5 Voter Education

Voter/Electoral Education had been one of other areas of focus of work of the NCCE. The work of the NCCE has been to get the citizens to participate in the scheduled District Assembly and Presidential/Presidential Elections. The concerned involvement of the NCCE has been premised on the need for the citizen to exercise their franchise wisely and effectively, either as candidates or as voters at elections, at local or national levels. Often these elections are preceded by a number of activities often organized by Electoral Commission namely; Voter Registration Exercise, Exhibition of Voters Register, voting and Monitory/Observation of Voting.

1993-1994: The focus in this period was to get the citizens to participate in the District Level Election of 1994. Indeed, the first outreach programme undertaken by Commission Members was an awareness creation programme on the voter registration exercise. After the successful exercise the concern was to get the voters turn out in their numbers for the District Level Election of February 1994.

1995-1996: This period saw the focus of the NCCE shifted to get citizen to participate in the Parliamentary and Presidential Elections of December 2006 elections. Education on Electoral reforms which saw the introduction of Voter ID Card with photo and thumb print was a principal concern. Then also there was the education on the registration and Exhibition of Voters' Register.

From August 1995 to October 1 to 15, 1996 the Commission undertook a public education campaign on Voter Registration Exercise. The educational campaign endeavoured to explain the electoral reforms being introduced by the Electoral Commission, that is the introduction of Voter ID Card with photo and thumb print. The education also focused on the need to register, the right to vote and the power of the voter. The Commission produced a theme song titled *Voters Registration Exercise* which urged every eligible Ghanaian to register so as to exercise their right and power as a voter. The theme song became very popular among the citizens. When later in the year the Voters' Register was exhibited the Commission

again in its educational activities urged the registered voters to check their names to ensure that their names and other biographies were correctly recorded.

In the weeks towards the December 1996 Parliamentary and Presidential Elections, the Commission ran a series of activities to sensitize the people to participate in the elections. Three zonal seminars were organized in Accra, Kumasi and Tamale under the theme “*Towards the 1996 Presidential and Parliamentary Elections- Sensitizing the Citizens on their Civic Rights, Responsibilities and Political Tolerance in Multi-Party Democracy*”. Several programmes were organized on Radio and Television to sensitize the people on the elections.

1998-2000: The focus of the NCCE in this period was firstly, the District Assemblies/Unit Committee Elections of 1998 and secondly, the Parliamentary/Presidential Elections of 2000:

The NCCE moved into action when the Electoral Commission on February 20, 1998 announced a timetable for conduct of District and Unit Committee Elections slated for May 28, 1998.

Since District Level Elections had been held on two previous occasions (1988 and 1994) but the Unit Committee Elections which involved 16,000 units (as the lowest structure of the District Assemblies) were being held for the first time, more attention was paid to the education on the latter. The Commission produced a 17-page handbook on the Unit Committee and this proved useful in the educational work.

The NCCE, in collaboration with the Ghana Television produced a 30-second animation on *The Structure of the New Local Government System*. The portrait telecast helped to enhance general knowledge on the functions and structure of the Unit Committee and relationship with their District Assemblies.

In early May 1998 Commission members led teams to undertake six-day educational tour to the regions. The leaders of the teams were: Chairman (Brong Ahafo and Upper West), Deputy Chairman (Programmes), Greater Accra and Eastern Region; Deputy Chairman (F&A), Northern Region & Upper East; Mr. E.K.T. Addo (Central and Western Region); Mama Adokuwa-Asigble IV (Volta Region); Mr. Kwame Opoku-Afriyie (Ashanti Region).

1999-2000: This period saw preparations towards the Parliamentary/ Presidential Elections of 2000. Among others the Commission undertook public education on the revision of the Voters' Register which took place from May 6 to May 15, 2000. The registration was followed by exhibition of the Voters Register from June 6, 2000 to July 9, 2000. From July 24, 2000 to November 8, 2000 there was the replacement of thumbprint Voters ID cards with Photo ID cards. Prior to all these events the Commission carried out extensive educational campaign.

A month to the elections, the Commission zoned the country into five and sent a team to each zone. Each team was led by a Commission Member who went round from November 20 to December 5, 2000 with the message on the power of the vote, the right of citizens to exercise their franchise, and the responsibility on political parties to respect their code of conduct.

When the December 7, 2000 elections was inconclusive, and there was the need for run-off, the Commission once again went round to urge the electorate to come out in their numbers to elect a President for the Republic on December 27, 2000. The elections passed off peacefully. For the first time in Ghana's political history there was a change of government from one political party to another through the ballot box.

2000-2004: In this period the focus was on getting citizens to participate in the Parliamentary/Presidential Elections of 2004. The Commission's first outreach programmes sensitized the population on the Voter Registration Exercise which took place on March 16 to 19, 2004, then the photo-taking/mopping-up exercise of April-June 2004 and Exhibition of Provisional Voters Register from October 10-14 2004.

In the days to the Election Day, December 7, 2004, the Commission went round educating the population on the *Dos and Don'ts* of elections, urging people to exercise their franchise. The Commission, for the first time formalized and incorporated election observers as a component of its preparation for the election year. In response to the concerns that politicians focus on issues rather than personalities during the electioneering campaign the Commission undertook a *Survey On Issues of Concern to the Voter* in June 2004.

Education on Political Tolerance: In Election years, the Commission alongside its educational campaign aimed at getting people to exercise their franchise also focused on bringing the citizens to understand and appreciate the need for political tolerance within a multi-party environment. Thus voter education and education on Political Tolerance had always gone hand-in-hand.

The education on Political Tolerance had been through several forms. Aside from seminars/talks held on the topic in various places, Drama/Sketches were used to convey the message. Another method used was the organization of quiz and essay competitions. Thus in 1996, the Commission in conjunction with the Ghana Education Service (GES) organized a nationwide essay competition for JSS and SSS students. The topic for the essay was *Political Tolerance is the Key to Stability in Ghana*. Winners of the essay competition were awarded prizes by Flt. Lt. J.J. Rawlings, President of the Republic of Ghana, during the 39th Anniversary Celebrations of Ghana Independence on March 6, 1996 in Accra.

The Commission, on April 19, 2000, organized a roundtable discussion among Political Party leaders to encourage them to reach out to one another in a manner devoid of acrimony, hatred and suspicion.

A week to the December 7, 2000 elections the NCCE issued a circular urging people to show tolerance for diverse opinions and eschew violence during the elections.

Throughout 2004, various workshops were organized for the youth activists of Political Parties and students and youths towards maintaining a non-violent political environment before, during and after the December 7, 2004.

The workshops succeeded in sensitizing the participants on the crucial importance of maintaining peace in the country. Participants also came to appreciate that though belonging to different political orientations they need not fight each other and that attaining political power was for the development of the country.

5.0 WORK WITH IDENTIFIABLE BODIES

The Commission has over the years focused attention on reaching identifiable bodies with civic messages. Four of these bodies had been the Ghana Armed Forces, Ghana Police Service, Chiefs and Queenmothers, and Political Parties.

5.1 Work With the Ghana Armed Forces

The 1995 Annual Report documents the effort of the NCCE in organizing seminars for Ghana Armed Forces. The programme, which started with garrisons in the Southern Sector, was extended to the garrisons in the Northern Sector in 1996. The Commission has on yearly basis continued to organize lectures at military institutions. The theme around which the seminars were organised was *The Role of the Armed Forces in a Democracy*.

In 2000, the NCCE collaborated with the Ghana Armed Forces to carry out a series of workshops. The workshop was held in phases and took place in almost all the military garrisons/units of the country. The resource persons were drawn from the NCCE and Ghana Armed Forces. The seminars were organised under the general theme *The Role of the Security Services in Consolidating Democracy in Ghana*.

Since 2000 the Commission had become a permanent feature on the calendar of the Military Academy and Training School (MATS). Officers of the Commission lecture cadets/intakes on specific topics in the field of civic education.

Similar lecture arrangements had been made with Regional Directorates of the Commission in regions with Ghana Armed Forces Training Institutions.

Aside of all these, lectures with the security services have become an integral part of the Annual National Constitution Week Celebrations.

5.2 Work With the Ghana Police Force

The Commission has also worked with personnel of the Ghana Police Service. The interaction with the police had combined meeting officers at their stations and organizing seminars for selected personnel. On a seminar was held at Kingsby Hotel, Achimota–Accra for 130 Senior Police Officers drawn from the 10 regions of the country. The objective of the seminar was to raise the level of understanding of Constitutional Provisions on the Fundamental Human Rights and to make them more efficient in the enforcement of law and order in the country.

In 2004, the NCCE collaborated with the Police Administration to undertake civic education workshops/seminars for the police throughout the country. The first of the seminars took place at Police Headquarters on October 27, 2004 and the last at Akyem Oda on December 4, 2004. The seminars were held under the theme *Making Democracy Flourish Through Effective Policing*.

For the 33rd Cadet Corps the three lectures were delivered by various personnel under the theme *The Police and the Protection of Human Rights*. The Commission's inputs have also become a regular feature in courses at the Ghana Police College

5.3 Work with Chiefs and Queen mothers

The NCCE, recognizing that every Ghanaian belongs to one traditional setting or the other, and that every traditional organization revolves around a chief who is not only the socio-religious leader, but also the hub around whom development takes place in that traditional area, decided on having close working relation with chiefs.

From April 28 to 29, 1998, the Commission in collaboration with the National House of Chiefs and with the sponsorship of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAF), a German NGO, organized a two-day workshop for chiefs, queen mothers and some women opinion leaders on civic education was held at Kumasi.

At the end of the workshop it was agreed that the National House of Chiefs and NCCE collaborate in two main areas (i) The establishment of institutional linkage between the NCCE and joint organizing of more workshops and (ii) Mapping out a common action plan for the harmonization of customary laws.

Research Into Customary Laws and Practices Relating to Enstoolment/Enskinment: As a follow-up to the workshop a roundtable meeting was held at NCCE Conference Room from August 20 to 21, 1998 where a joint team made up of NCCE, National House of Chiefs and Chieftaincy Secretariat was set up to conduct research into customary laws and practices relating to Enstoolment/Enskinment.

At a follow-up meeting held in May 1999, 19 traditional councils were selected as pilot traditional areas. A workshop was subsequently organized for 21 Regional officers of the NCCE from the selected traditional areas and traditional council registrars as well as some research officers of the National/Regional House of Chiefs and the Chieftaincy Secretariat.

Data collected from the field was edited, vetted and compiled into reports by a team of small researchers in August 2001. The reports were sent to various traditional areas for verification and on return sent to Attorney-General's Department for codification.

While awaiting the codification of the work from the 21 traditional areas, in 2001 additional 10 traditional areas were added. Later with sponsorship from the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, focus was put on the Brong Ahafo Region where data was collected on paramountcies in the region. The report produced by the team of researchers was also sent back to various traditional areas for vetting and subsequently forwarded to the Attorney-Generals Department for codification.

5.4 Work With Political Parties

The NCCE, recognizing that Political parties are the bedrock of Ghana's democratic multi-party system has developed a collaborative relationship with the political parties over the last 13 years.

From July 7 to 9, 1994 a Workshop with the Allied Commissions, namely the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE), Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), National Media Commission (NMC), Electoral Commission (EC) held under at the Volta Hotel, Akosombo. The theme for the workshop was *Institutional Linkages for Enhanced Democracy*. Present at the workshop were identifiable bodies including political parties. This was the first major attempt at establishing networking among the key players in the process of democracy consolidation.

In 2003, as part of its strategy of strengthening collaboration with KEY partners and the promotion of culture of political tolerance, the Commission paid a number of visits to meet with six (6) of the registered political parties (CPP, GCPP, NPP, NDC, PNC, DPP) at their offices. The discussions centered on rising political tension in the country and the need to co-exist and tolerate each other as citizens of the same country with one destiny. On their part, the political parties urged the NCCE to take steps to remain non-partisan in their educational programmes. It is instructive to note that only one of the political parties found it necessary to reciprocate the NCCE gesture.

In 2004, a series of an Inter-Party Dialogue fora/seminars were organized with stakeholders. The outcome was the recommendation that Inter-Party Dialogue Committees be established. The Inter-Party Dialogue Committees (IPDCs) were set up in various districts in the Northern, Upper East and Upper West Regions. The IPDC brought together leaders of political parties, religious bodies, security agencies, opinion leaders and civil society organizations to regularly discuss issues and undertake conflict prevention and management tasks. Occasionally, IPDC meetings took time off to listen to lectures and discuss topical issues.

6.0 OTHER EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

6.1 National Forum on Repentance, Forgiveness and Reconciliation

In early 1999, the Commission, in a position paper, proposed the organization of National Forum on Repentance, Forgiveness and Reconciliation. The paper was circulated to five major organizations, namely the Christian Council of Ghana, National House of Chiefs, Ghana Moslem Council, Federal of Ghana Muslims, Ahmadiyya Muslim Mission, Ghana Pentecostal Council, National Catholic Secretariat and National Council for Women and Development.

On March 4, 1999 the NCCE and other five organizations met for the first time at the NCCE Conference room to discuss the proposal prepared by the NCCE. Thereafter the meetings were held almost every other week to discuss the proposal in detail. Among others it was agreed that there would be a four-day conference which would be the platform to kick start the process of thorough introspection, and soul-searching in the country. The conference was expected to be launched by the UN Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan with the President and the leaders of all the registered political parties in attendance.

Later, the NCCE and the co-organizers met the leaders of the main political parties in the country. The political parties, when contacted individually agreed to the idea but at public meetings opposed the idea with all forms of arguments.

Given the lukewarm attitude of the key stakeholders, the NCCE and co-organizer were compelled to put the forum on hold.

6.2 Civic Education on Directive Principles of State Policy

When it became apparent that the programme for reconciliation could not be organized as planned, the NCCE shifted focus to organize a programme on the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP). The exercise was designed to enable Ghanaians to understand the importance of the DPSP and set in motion the process of regular civic education and respect for the principles. Regions and District Offices organized seminars, meetings and other fora to educate various publics on the DPSP.

7.0 IMPORTANT CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS ATTENDED BY COMMISSION MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

7.1 Meeting with the Constitutional, Legal and Parliamentary Sub-Committee

The NCCE from March 15 to 17, 2000 organized a meeting with the parliamentary sub-committee on Constitutional, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs at the Beach Western Hotel, Elmina. The participants were Commission Members, Headquarters and Regional Directors and members of the Constitutional Affairs sub-committee led by its chairman, Hon. Alban S. Bagbin and the Ranking Member, Hon. Akufo-Addo. The Konrad Adanur Foundation (KAF) and the Centre for Democracy and Development–Ghana. (CDD-G) were in attendance.

The objective of the meeting was to find means by which NCCE and Parliament could work in partnership to enhance democracy in Ghana.

Among others, the meeting agreed that since the Constitution mandated the NCCE to play a pivotal role in civic education in general, the Commission should be placed at the centre for co-ordinating all civic education activities in the country.

7.2 Speaker Breakfast Forum

The Chairman of the NCCE, Mr. Laary Bimi, on November 2, 1993 addressed the Sixth Speaker's Breakfast Forum. His topic for discussion was *The Role of NCCE in National Development*.

The Chairman, in his paper, gave an overview of the work of the Commission over the year and the challenges facing the Commission. Participants urged the NCCE to prioritize the work and asked the State to consider resourcing the Commission especially providing the office accommodation for effective discharge of its mandate.

7.3 Conference of Regional Ministers

The Chairman of the NCCE, Mr. Laary Bimi addressed the 13th Conference of Regional Ministers which took place at the Residency at Kumasi from November 22 to 26, 1998.

The Chairman spoke on the topic *Public Education Programmes, Relationship Between NCCE Staff and Regional Ministers and District Chief Executives*. The Chairman stressed the need for cordial and functional relationship between authorities and civic educators for effective civic education work in the regions. The Regional Ministers expressed sympathy with the Commission and appealed to the Executive to deal with the issue.

7.4 Meet the Press

The NCCE on April 13, 1999 took its turn on Meet-the-Press series of regular session organized by the Ministry of Communication for State and public institutions to throw light on their activities. The Chairman used the occasion to call on all stakeholders to show more interest in the activities of the NCCE.

8.0 Collaborative Programmes

Public Education Campaign on Ghana Vision 2020: The Commission in 1996 assisted the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC) to undertake Public education campaign on Ghana Vision 2020.

Free, Compulsory and Universal Basic Education (FCUBE) Programme: In 1997 the Commission collaborated with the Ministry of Education to undertake educational campaign among the citizenry on the Free, Compulsory and Universal Basic Education (FCUBE) programme of the government. The campaign stressed on the importance and the need for children, irrespective of their social background, to have access to education. Parents were asked to pay particular attention to the education of the girl-child.

Value Added Tax (VAT): Towards the re-introduction of VAT by the government in 1997, the NCCE was contracted by the government to undertake public education campaign on the new form of taxation. Prior to going into the field, series of seminar of trainer-of-trainers were organized first for regional directors and District Director of the Commission.

The massive educational campaign undertaken by the Commission enabled the take off of the new tax regime without the mass protests and confusion that characterized the initial attempt to introduce the tax.

The VAT Secretariat, recognising the dynamism of the NCCE and the important role that it played in the success of the new tax regime, organized a Trainer-of-Trainers seminar for 150 senior officers of the Commission at Cocoa Research Institute at Bunso, Tafo in March 1998 and briefed them on the challenges of the new tax regime and gave them various materials to explain to the public. The NCCE creditably discharged its duties.

9.0 Special Regional Programmes

Aside of Headquarters directed programmes, which are implemented across the country by all district offices, various regions and districts also occasionally carry out specific activities to address peculiar needs of their regions and districts.

Northern Region: The Northern Regional Office played an active role in conflict resolution, transformation and peace building in the region. In March 1996, various ethnic groups in the Northern Region especially the Dagomba, Konkomba, Basare, Nawuri, Nanumba, Gonja and Nchumuru signed the *Kumasi Accord on Peace and Reconciliation between the various Ethnic Groups*.

The Northern Region Office and District Offices incorporated the document in their educational programme and ensured that the mass of the people knew about the content of the Peace Pact.

10.0 RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

The Commission undertakes researches in pursuit of its constitutional mandate

of assessing for the government the limitations to the achievement of true democracy and formulating for consideration by government, programmes that will lead to the realization of objectives of the Constitution.

Researches are also recognized as an important component of Civic Education as it informs the Commission on how to package its civic education messages. Nationwide surveys and public opinion polls have been conducted on almost yearly basis. From 1993 to 2004 seven major national surveys and two public opinion polls were undertaken under the direction of the Research Department of the National Headquarters in Accra.

The surveys were: Perception of the Public on the Performance of the Fourth Republic (1995); Public Attitude Towards the Voters Registration Exercise (1996); Assessment of the Performance of District Assemblies (1997); Assessment of the Performance of the Second Parliament of the Fourth Republic (2000); Civic Knowledge among the Youth in Ghana (2002) and Customary Practices and Women's Rights in Ghana (2003); and Opinion Poll on Issues of Concern to The Voter (2004). The Public Opinion Polls undertaken were: The Impact of NCCE Durbars and Seminars on Some Provisions of the Constitution (April 1995); Public Opinion on the Impact of NCCE Educational Work Towards Registration Exercise (September 1995), Opinion Poll on Functioning of Political Parties (October 1996).

10.1 Survey on Perceptions of the Public on Performance of the Fourth Republic

The very first nationwide survey conducted by the Commission was to determine *Perceptions of the Public on Performance of the Fourth Republic*. This was undertaken in July 1995.

The objective of the survey was to scientifically determine the level of citizens' knowledge about the constitution and attitude to various provisions and to assess public understanding of what constitutional rule entails and their expectations from the government. It was also to help determine their appreciation of the new constitutional democracy and the level of growth of democratic culture in the country.

Among the major findings were the low level of knowledge and appreciation of the functions of the allied Commissions (CHRAJ, NCCE, NMC, and Electoral Commission). Many Ghanaians endorsed the Constitutional provision which said District Assemblies should remain non-partisan bodies. It was also the desire of many Ghanaians that the ruling NDC party dialogues with the opposition parties as a way of ensuring a stable democracy in the country.

Between June and July 1996, the Commission undertook an opinion poll to determine *Public Attitudes Towards the Voters Registration Exercise*. The major objective of the study was to collate opinions and identify various problems/concerns that people had with the Voters Register.

The report concluded that considering the high confidence people had in the registration procedure and the role of the voters register, the country can anticipate

peaceful as well as free and fair elections in December 1996. The findings turned out to be right.

10.2 Survey to Assess the Performance of District Assemblies

A survey on *An Assessment of the Performance of District Assemblies* was undertaken by the Commission in April 1997. The objective was to scientifically find out the types of problems and issues confronting the District Assemblies that hinder them from becoming agents for development and tools for popular participation in decision-making and nurturing of democratic culture in the country.

The findings revealed that District Assemblies were popular among the people. The level of interaction between the general public and assembly members was considerably high. Many people were satisfied with the performance of their assembly members.

There were however concerns about the use of District Assemblies Common Fund (DACF) with many people including assembly members lamenting the lack of transparency in its use. As a way of improving the management of the DACF, many people called for publicity on the allocation and disbursement procedure. Regular Auditing of use of DACF was also requested by many people.

On March 17, 1998 at the Conference Room of GNAT Hall in Accra, the Commission held a Roundtable Conference to discuss the Report on the Performance of the District Assemblies. The 50 participants who participated were drawn from 15 identified bodies and organizations and District Assemblies, National Accounts of Local Government Authorities of Ghana (NALAG). The participants praised the NCCE for the thorough work done on the District Assemblies.

On Tuesday October 9, 1999 the District Assemblies Common Fund Secretariat organized a workshop for selected District Chief Executives at the Institute of Local Government Studies, Ogbojo-Madina in Accra, to discuss documents on various aspects of the DACF. The Deputy Director of Research, Mr. Kojo Tito Voegborlo, presented to the DCEs, the NCCE report on *An Assessment of the Performance of District Assemblies* with emphasis on the funding of DACF. The presentation was followed by a lengthy discussion. The Commission was commended for good work done.

10.3 A Survey to Assess the Performance of Parliament of the Fourth Republic

Another survey, *An Assessment of the Performance of Parliament of the Fourth Republic*, was conducted by the commission in March 2000. It was to critically appraise the performance of Parliament with a view to building consensus on good governance and thereby entrenching constitutional democracy in the country.

The survey indicated that MPs' attendance to District Assembly meetings was gradually improving. A large number of people approach their MPs for help with concern for development programming, as top issue. Thus for many of our people, especially those in the rural areas, their principal concern was development manifested in the construction of bore holes and water projects and the provision of other social amenities. Political issues, which bother on areas such as conduct of elections; political campaigning, etc., are of little concern to the citizenry.

The findings also revealed that about 40 percent of respondents felt their MPs had performed well and they deserved to be re-elected. The observation on the MPs was largely confirmed by the result of the December 2004 elections.

A workshop on the report was organized at the Bay View Hotel, East Legon, Accra on May 28, 2001 and was attended by about 120 people including MPs and Assembly Members. An overview of the Survey Report was presented by Mr. Gertrude Zakariah-Ali, Director of Research. The discussant was by Dr. Essuman-Johnson, Department of Political Science of the University of Ghana, Legon.

10.4 Study on Civic Knowledge

The study on *Civic Knowledge Among the Youth in Ghana* was undertaken in April and May 2002. The objective was to assess the youth's knowledge about the principles of the constitution, and the level of interest in governance and the work of various areas of government. It solicited information on youth knowledge about the environmental and cultural issues and determined sources of information for the youth.

The findings revealed a low level of knowledge of the constitution and its key principles among the youth. The principle of sovereignty of the people seems however to have been internalized by many Ghanaians. There was widespread knowledge of Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms. Many Ghanaians including the youth believe that the country is charting a democratic path. The NCCE was identified as a key institution that needs to inculcate democratic values among the citizenry.

10.5 Cultural Practices Affecting Women's Rights in Ghana

In August–October 2003, the Commission embarked on a *Survey on Cultural Practices Affecting Women's Rights in Ghana*. The survey identified and documented cultural practices in the country and how it affected the constitutional rights of women. The study which was envisaged as pilot, also looked at the nature and development of specified cultural practices and pointed out the way to eradicate their harmful effects on women.

The pilot survey focused cultural practices such as Betrothal among the Konkomba, Lapomi among the Krobo, Fostering among Dagomba, Kyiribra among Asante, Initiation into Traditional Priesthood among the Ga, Okuoku cult among the Adele, Challa and Ntrubo in the Nkwanta District of the Volta Region

From the findings several cultural practices were identified as affecting women either positively or negatively. Among these are widowhood rites, puberty rites, marriage, okuoku, fostering, exchange of sisters and many others.

Top on the list of the rites considered harmful were widowhood rites, exchange of sisters, Betrothal, Elopement, and Kyiribra.

Marriage on the whole was seen as a cultural practice that positively affects women. It was generally seen as honouring women, providing women with companionship. In spite of criticism of funeral rites as being too costly, it was also generally acknowledged as good. In the same vein, though there were complaints about aspects of puberty rites especially the exposure of breasts and parading of girls in partial nudity, it was generally seen as a good practice.

10.6 Survey On Issues of Concern to the Voter

In June 2004, the Commission in response to the request that politicians focus on issues rather than personalities during the electioneering campaign undertook a *Survey On Issues of Concern to the Voter*.

The objective of the survey was to provide political parties with a list of issues of concern to the voter, and outline expectations from civil society and individuals during the forthcoming elections. The outlook was that the success of the election based on issues would greatly go to deepen the country's constitutional democracy.

The report presented a number of issues that policy makers, politicians, civil society, and individuals are supposed to address in the country's political dispensation

The desire to ensure that the right people are elected to manage the affairs of the nation seemed to be commonly expressed among the voter population.

Out of the twelve variables provided for ranking, education was ranked first as the most important concern of the voter. The first major interest of the voter was for enhancement of the conditions of service of teachers. Health ranked as the second important issue. The specific concern was for more health facilities, provision of incentives to health personnel and reduction in the premium on the health insurance. Employment ranked third among the first rank variables. The specific demand on government was for it to encourage the establishment of small-scale industries and provide skill training. Agriculture was the fourth rank variable. The specific issues respondents wanted government to address included government providing subsidies on agricultural inputs, government giving credit facilities and mechanization.

Other ranked issues in order of importance were Women and Children, corruption, protection of internal security, foreign relations, and youth and sports.

The survey indicated that a large segment of the respondents were ready to vote. The voter turn-out of 85.1 percent recorded at the December 7, 2004 election validated the findings in the survey.

10.7 Opinion Poll on Educational Programmes of the NCCE

In March 1995, the Commission undertook Public Opinion Polls to assess the impact of its educational campaign organized throughout the country.

The poll revealed that many of the respondents were attending a forum organized by the NCCE for the first time. Many of those who attended the forum felt it was well organized and topics/issues on Fundamental Human Rights and Code of Conduct for public offices were the most popular.

Among suggestions on ways to enhance future fora, were that more effort be made to get women to attend, and public address system be used to enhance audibility of speakers.

10.8 Opinion Poll on the Functioning of Political Parties

In September 1996, the Commission administered questionnaires at delegates' congresses of three political parties namely, National Democratic Congress (NDC), People's National Convention (PNC), and the Ghana Consolidated Popular Party (GCPP) held in Sunyani, Accra and Cape Coast respectively.

The opinion poll sought to find out more about internal democratic operation of the parties. Among major findings of the poll was that all the parties saw the method

of election of their parliamentary and presidential candidates as democratically done. Female participation in various structures of the party was noted to be low and it was the general opinion that gender considerations needed to feature more in the work of the political parties.

10.9 Collection of Baseline Data on Villages and Towns

The Commission in 1995 began a process of collection of data on important sections such as education, agriculture, finance, culture, health, local government, work and housing, youth and sports at the district level. The aim was to ensure that offices had accurate information of the areas they operate to help them better appreciate the needs of the communities. On yearly basis the baseline data had been updated.

In 2004 the Research Department at the Headquarters devised a new format for collection of data and subsequent process to ensure that data was well packaged and made easily accessible at the district and regional offices.

10.10 Regional/District Research Projects

Aside of the Headquarters directed research some regions and district undertook researches on issues peculiar to their jurisdiction.

10.10.1 Ashanti Region

The Ashanti Regional Office in 1996 undertook a survey on Voters' Perception on the Voting Procedure in all the 18 districts of the region.

The main objective of the study was to gather information from voters on views on voting procedure put in place by Electoral Commission in 1996 in terms of effectiveness and efficiency as well as contribution to free, fair and peaceful elections. The findings indicated that majority of voters were satisfied with the procedure. There were however complaints about delays in supply of voting materials at some polling stations as well as long queues.

In 1997, the Kumasi Metropolitan Office undertook a survey on *Women's Perception of the Intestate Succession Law, PNDCL 111*. The objective was to determine the level of knowledge of the law and obstacles to smooth administration of the law.

The survey indicated that though many have heard about the law they did not know about its workings. A high number of respondents did not know they could have custody and maintenance of their children through the family tribunal without the services of a lawyer. There was a call for compulsory registration of marriage by male government employees.

In November 1997, the Ashanti Regional Office undertook a study on *Child Neglect-Causes and Effects*. The objective was to unearth the major causes and effects of the problem of child neglect and to elicit suggestion for its solution.

Among the major cause identified as causes of Child Neglect were separation/divorce, financial problems and absence/death of parents. Almost all the respondents were unanimous in asserting that the most significant effect of child neglect

was that victims became social deviants and got involved in prostitution, drug abuse and armed robbery. To curb child neglect respondents called for Family Life Education, couples were urged to endeavour to sustain their marriages and parents must live up to their responsibilities.

The Ejura-Sekyedumasi Office of the NCCE in the first quarter of 1998 undertook research activities on *Sanitation status of Ejura Township* and whilst the Bosomtwe-Atwima-Kwanwoma District Office in July 1992 undertook a study of *Causes and Effects of Low Revenue Mobilization in the Bosomtwe-Atwima-Kwanwoma District*.

10.10.2 **Eastern Region**

In 1998, the Fanteakwa District Office conducted a study in Bosuso and Dadesewirako Electoral Area in Begoro to ascertain *The Impact and benefits of District Assemblies Common Fund*. The study revealed that DACF made no impact on the communities.

The Kwahu South District office in 1998 undertook a survey on *Effectiveness of the Ban on Atidja Method of Fishing in Dadeso Electoral Area*. The report indicated that the ban had made no impact and deforestation was the result. There was a call for seizure of fishing gears of defaulters.

10.10.3 **Western Region**

The Western Regional Office of the NCCE in October 1998 undertook a survey on *An Assessment of the Impact of VAT Public Education and the Unit Committee and District Assembly Elections in the Shama-Ahanta East Metropolis*.

11.0 **PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

11.1 **Press Releases**

The Commission on regular basis came out with press release on issues of national concern. The Commission on July 17, 1995 issued a press release on the Unit Committee Election scheduled for August 1, 1995, in which it urged citizens to participate in the elections.

On July 22, 1996, the NCCE and the National Consultative Body issued a statement calling on all Ghanaians especially Political Parties to ensure, free, fair and peaceful election in December 1996.

The Commission on November 4, 1996, issued a statement on the *Reported Incidence of Violence in Our Political Campaigns* and called on all to ensure that peace prevails in the country today, tomorrow and forever.

11.2 **NCCE Calendars**

On yearly basis the Commission has produced calendars that focused on selected articles/provisions in the 1992 Constitution. The calendars have become useful tools for educational purposes among many people. Teachers have found it useful whilst students especially those offering Social Sciences have found it important reference material in their studies.

The 2001 Calendar focused on national symbols and structures. Under the general caption “Yen Ara Asase Ni – Ghana, Our Motherland” the calendar captured the essence of national unity. Among symbols and scenes depicted were the Independence Arch, Parliament House, University of Ghana, Akosombo Dam, and Cape Coast Castle. The use of Adinkra symbol, whose meanings are unique in Ghanaian society added significantly to the educational value of the calendar.

The 2002 Calendar depicted newspaper headlines on activities of the Commission over the years which centered around the theme of the Second Constitution Week, *The Constitution and You*. Among the headlines captured were “Constitution Should be Accessible and Affordable”, “Knowledge of the Constitution by Citizenry is Essential”, “Police Urged to Respect Human Rights” and “No Room for Coup Plotters”.

The 2003 calendar was a portrait of two children, a boy and a girl, both dressed in traditional attire. Below them were bold prints of Article 41 of the 1992 Constitution on Duties of Citizens.

The 2004 calendar which was on a card showed people from different walks of life, men and women alike, carrying aloft Ghana. Some of the personalities carried in their hands the flag of Ghana. The calendar had a bold caption *Tolerance for Peaceful Elections*, which meant with tolerance the nation, could rise high among the comity of nations.

11.3 Working Lunch

As part of efforts to interact with the media, the Commission on January 19, 1999 organized a working lunch for senior media practitioners at the Grand Restaurant, Osu Accra.

In collaboration with the Attitudes Ghana, an NGO, the NCCE organized a working lunch for top media executives from all the media houses at the La Palm Beach Hotel, La-Accra in 2001. The function was chaired by Osagyefo Amoatia Ofori Panin II, Okyehene.

11.4 Radio Programmes

The Commission recognizing the importance of the mass media in the dissemination of information has endeavoured from its inception to get spots on Local FM Stations for the dissemination of its civic educational messages. The greatest limitation to the efforts of the Commission to get spots on regional and local FM stations had been the demand by radio stations for sponsorship of NCCE Civic Education radio programmes.

11.4.1 Headquarters

In 1995, the Public Affairs Department got a 30-minutes spot titled *Civic Agenda* on Radio 2. The spot was used for extensive public education on such questions on Fundamental Human Rights, Civic Education Clubs and Surveys of the Commission.

The emergence of Frequency Modulation (FM) transmission service shifted public interest from Short Wave Frequency which itself was suffering persistent break down. Radio 2 finally went off the system and by September 1998 the programme went off the air.

11.4.2 Ashanti Region

Kumasi Metropolis: In 1997 the Ashanti Regional Office got two programmes running on Garden City Radio (93.1 MHz) *Omanba Pa* and *Civic Forum* run from 9.30 am to 10.00 am on Thursdays respectively. Topics/issues discussed included Good Citizenship, National Integration, and Fundamental Human Rights.

The Regional Office also runs a programme on Invisible FM (104.5 MHz).

11.4.3 Eastern Region

The Eastern Regional Office initiated a civic educational programme dubbed “*Time with NCCE*” on the Local FM Station, Radio Z in Koforidua on December 16, 1998. Topics treated in the year included Role and Functions of NCCE, and Why Do We Have the Constitution.

11.4.4 Upper West Region

The Upper West Regional Office on September 12, 1998 initiated a civic educational programme on the Local FM Station, Radio Progress stationed at Wa in 1997. The programme dubbed *Civic Agenda* dealt with such issues as Women Empowerment, Special Rights of Women and Children.

The Shama-Ahanta East Metropolitan Office in 1999 initiated a regular civic education programme on Twin-City Radio. The programme dubbed *Yeshieshia* was aired on Tuesdays between 7.30 am and 8.30 am. Topics treated included the Constitution, Fundamental Human Rights and Direct Principles of State Policy.

The Regional Office has a 15-minute programme dubbed *Constitutional Matters* on Good News FM (96.3 MHz). In 2004 the Western Regional Office also started a twice weekly programme dubbed *Laws of Ghana* on Maxx FM (105.1 MHz).

In 1997, the Central Regional Office was given a spot on Radio Central (MHz) in the performance of a programme to run 8.00 am to 8.30 am on Wednesday. Topics discussed included: Interstate Succession Law and the Rights of Children, and Fundamental Human Rights.

11.5 Television Programmes

Officers of the Commission have been used as resource persons on GTV programmes *Talking Point* and *Adult Education*, with the latter often in all the local languages.

In 1998, the NCCE in conjunction with GTV, produced a 30-second TV animation on the *Structure of New Local Government System*. This was shown regularly on GTV.

12.0 ADMINISTRATION

12.1 Personnel Matters

The details of the recruitment of staff for the National Headquarters in Accra, Regional Offices, and District Offices are documented in the first (1993) Annual Report of the Commission.

The Commission at its inception had staff strength of 1,437. The number had tended to fluctuate in the years because of the high turn out due mainly to lack of job satisfaction, poor remuneration, logistics for work, resignations and deaths.

The first high profile death recorded by the Commission was in August 23, 1997 when Mr. Chris Hesse, the first Chairman of NCCE died after two weeks of hospitalization. He was buried at the Osu Cemetery in Accra on September 26, 1997. Exactly three months after the death of Mr. Chris Hesse, on November 23, 1997, the Commission lost Mr. Kpakpo Addo, Director of Education. The Commission has also lost several officers over the years.

In the area of resignation, the first high profile resignation was that of Mrs. Susanna Adam which occurred resigned in 1996. It was to enable her to contest and become the Member of Parliament for Walewale Constituency on the ticket of the National Democratic Congress.

In 1999, Dr. J.E. Oppong was removed from Office as Deputy Chairman of the NCCE after Flt.-Lt. J.J. Rawlings, President of the Republic of Ghana, in accordance with Article 236 of the Constitution revoked his appointment. Thereof, Dr. Jacob Emmanuel Oppong commenced proceeding in the Supreme Court challenging the act of the President. The action has been in court to date.

In February 1998, a new Chairman of the NCCE was appointed by the President of the Republic, Flt Lt. J.J. Rawlings. Mr. Laary Bimi. He has remained chairman to date.

12.2 Staff Development

The Commission had focused considerable attention on staff development through the organization of various courses to ensure that staff increasingly enhanced their capacity to work in dealing with the arduous constitutional assigned functions.

After the recruitment of staff which took place from August 1 to 6, 1994 the first staff orientation took place at the Republic Hall of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology from August 1 to 6, 1994. This was subsequently followed by Regional Orientation Course, all of which took place in September 1994. The development skills of staff were one of the principal events of the first year of the Commission. Thereafter various courses had been organized for staff across the country.

Certificate Course in Civic Education: The Commission in 2000 sponsored 20 district directors (two from each of the regions) for a certificate course in Adult Education at the Tsito Residential Adult College of the Institute of Adult Education, University of Ghana, Legon. The course which lasted from March 14 to June 20, 2000 provided participants with skills in communication and public speaking. The course had had great impact on the performance of staff both in terms of their work in their offices and on the field. Four of the 20 who performed very well at the end of the certificate course on passing the entrance examination were offered admission to pursue a diploma course at the University of Ghana, Legon.

Course in Research Methodology: From December 12 to 15, 1995, the Commission organized a training course on Research Methodology for 35 research officers from the national, regional and district offices at the University of Ghana, Legon.

In August 2002 the Commission sponsored five research officers of the national headquarters to pursue two courses at the Institute of Social Statistical and Economic Research, University of Ghana, Legon.

MTEF Training Courses: The year 1998 saw the introduction of Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) by the Government of Ghana as part of restructuring policies of managerial, financial and administrative machinery of the public service. As part of efforts to introduce the new budgetary system, a workshop was organized for senior officers of public institutions including NCCE at Shangri-La Hotel, at Accra from July 7 to 9, 1998. From August 31, 1998 to October 1, 1998 a series of workshops were held for senior personnel of NCCE.

Another series of training course on MTEF was organized in August 1999 for Regional Director and Deputy Regional Directors, District Directors and Regional Accountants and Regional Accounts Officers. The training took place in four zones with Takoradi, Tamale, Kumasi, Accra as training centres.

Computer Training Courses: From July 20 to July 31, 1998 the Commission organized an eleven-day intensive training in Computer Literacy for its Regional Research Officers at the Electoral Commission in Accra. The Resource person for the course was the Data Processing (Information Technology) Director of the Electoral Commission in Accra.

As part of capacity building exercise the Commission from January 10 to January 30, 2000 organized computer literacy course for Headquarters and Regional Director and Deputy Director at Headquarters and other Senior Officers staff at Blue Chip, Osu Accra. The training enhanced the capacity of the officers in handling computers.

From June 21 to 25, 2004 a training workshop on website management and power point presentation was organized for the Commission Members, Headquarters/Regional Directors and some selected Senior Staff at the Headquarters. The workshop took place at the Ghana-India Kofi Annan Training Centre of Excellence in ICT, Accra.

Training Courses for Civic Educators: The Commission from May 7 to 9, 1997 organized capacity building course for 130 selected civic education officers from all the regions. The programme which was run by Management Development and Productivity Institute (MDPI) dealt with such topics as Effective Techniques for Public Speaking, Human Relation and Communication and Record Keeping and Report Writing. The training course helped to update and improve knowledge of approaches to civic education work.

A capacity building workshop was held for 50 Civic Education Officers from the Northern, Upper East, Upper West and Central Region from December 16 to 18, 2002. The workshop improved the effectiveness of civic education delivery in the country. Another workshop was held for the rest of the officers from the region in July 2002. Therefore in September 2003 the Field Officers of the Commission also had their turn in capacity building.

12.3 Participation in Annual New Year/Easter Schools

The Commission has on yearly basis participated in the Annual New Year and Easter Schools. The first appearance of the Commission at the 46th Annual New Year School held at the University of Cape Coast from December 27, 1994 to January 3, 1995. A total of 20 officers participated in the school.

The Commission again sent 14 officers to the 47th Annual New Year School. The Commission was also represented by 22 persons at the 51st New Year School held at the South Campus of the University of Education, Winneba, from December 27, 1999 to January 3, 2000. The Chairman of the NCCE, Mr. Laary Bimi, was one of the contributors in a panel discussion on “Education for Participating Governance”.

The Commission also sent 15 selected directors and senior officers as well as Commission Members to the 52nd Annual New Year School held at the Commonwealth Hall, University of Ghana from December 28, 2000 to January 3, 2001. The school was organized under the theme *Globalization and the Socio-Economic Development of Ghana*. The Chairman of the NCCE, Mr. Laary Bimi served as resource person for a Seminar Group, which discussed “Civic Education and National Integration”.

At the 53rd Annual New Year School 25 Officers of the Commission were among 208 participants in the schools. The School was held at the Commonwealth Hall, University of Ghana, Legon from December 28, 2001 to January 3, 2002 under the theme *Good Governance and Sustainable Development*.

The Commission also sponsored 10 officers to the Northern Easter School held at the Navrongo Campus of the University for Development Studies from April 1 to 6 2002. The theme for the school was *Good Governance and Sustainable Development- Focus on Northern Ghana*.

In 2002, the Commission sponsored 15 headquarters Directors and other senior officers to attend the 54th Annual New Year School held at the University of Ghana, from December 29, 2002 to January 4, 2003. The theme for the School was *Peace, Stability and National Development*. The Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Laary Bimi served as a resource person for the Seminar Group which examined Promoting Culture of Discipline in Ghana.

The 56th Annual New Year School was held at the Jubilee Hall, University of Ghana, Legon from December 29, 2003 to January 4, 2004. The school was held under the theme *A Decade of Constitutional Rule in Ghana: Critical Issues Facing the Nation*. There were 204 registered participants out of whom 28 were from the NCCE.

Ten officers of the Commission from offices in the Northern, Upper East and Upper West Regions also participated in the 2004 Easter School held at Tamale Training College from April 2 to 6, 2004. The theme of the school was a *Decade of Constitutional Rule-Focus on Northern Ghana*.

At most of the Annual New Year and Easter Schools at which the Commission was represented, officers played active role in deliberations at plenary. In seminar groups many were rapporteurs for the groups. The competencies displayed by the

officers made the Annual New Year/ Easter Schools the avenue to showcase the kind of personnel that work within the Commission.

At some period the school became the venue where hostile attitudes towards the NCCE were abated. The schools also provided very useful platform from which officers of the Commission have gained a lot of information on current issues. On the whole the New Year School had been a very informative place.

12.4 Strategic Plan Development

10-Year Strategic Plan: In the third quarter of 1998 the Harley Reeds Consultancy Limited, management consultants with sponsorship of the UNDP organized a series of workshops for management of the NCCE with the view to drawing up a 10-Year Strategic Plan for the Commission.

At the end of the series of workshops a 10-Year Strategic Plan 1999-2009 was drawn for the NCCE. The mission statement of the Commission as stipulated was “The NCCE is a Constitutional Body mandated to create and sustain awareness of Constitutional Democracy for the achievement of political, economic and social stability through civic education”.

The Chairman in a preface to the Plan stated “To implement the Commission’s Strategic Plan, we must assume the continued support of the State, the Private Sector, the Public and the total involvement of all employees of the Commission in our offices of realizing the noble objectives of the 1992 Constitution and the consolidation of democracy and good governance”.

Transformation Plan for the NCCE: As part of a process of developing a transformation plan for the NCCE, a team of Consultants from GIMPA held a series of meetings with the Management Team of the NCCE. The workshop offered the opportunity to the Consultants together with management to undertake a SWOT analysis of the Commission as well as mark critical analysis of the operation of the Commission vis-à-vis the mandated functions and structures.

Follow up meetings were later held with the Consultants under the sponsorship of the UNDP. The Commission held two workshops specifically aimed at enhancing the image of the Commission. The first workshop took place at Greenland Hotel, Agona Swedru from November 6 to 7, 2007 and the second took place at Chances Hotel, Ho from January 4 to 7, 2004.

The output of the workshop was drawing up of an Image Chart of the Internal and External Publics of the NCCE to determine their varied perceptions. The meeting also has helped to identify the most suitable method for reaching the identified publics of the Commission. An action plan was drawn to implement the decision.

13.0 Conclusion

The NCCE, by its mandate has over the years mounted educational programmes not only to inculcate into the citizens the ideals of patriotism and good citizenship but also to stimulate the citizens to appreciate the supremacy of the Constitution as the basic law of the land.

The Commission in the pursuit of its constitutional obligation has carried out numerous activities to educate the general public. Some of these activities are captured in the annual reports. The annual reports clearly indicate that in spite of limited resources, the Commission has done fairly well in the discharge of its mandate.

The Commission has over the years developed a corps of committed, selfless, dedicated staff who can deliver based on constant and regular orientation and capacity building. What is lacking is adequate funding for service delivery programmes, investment for office accommodation, equipment and vehicles.

Kojo Tito Voegborlo
January 1, 2008

NCCE Annual Report Introduction

