

# **National Commission for Civic Education**

## **Seventh Annual Report 2000**

# COMMISSION MEMBERS



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*Chairman*



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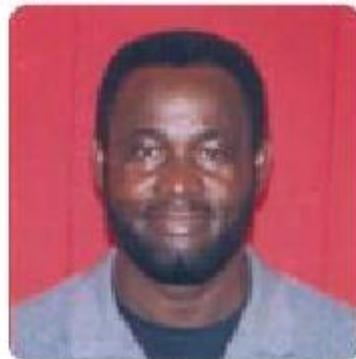
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## **From the Chairman**

It is with pleasure that I forward the 2000 Report of the Commission to Parliament. The year 2000 was very exciting in the politics of Ghana, largely because of the peaceful December 2000 Presidential and Parliamentary elections.

However important elections are, the survival of Ghana's fourth attempt at constitutional rule goes beyond the election of fresh people into government. The extent to which citizens have knowledge of the processes of governance and the avenues provided for citizens' participation in the business of the State are critical to the survival of democratic rule. This is where the relevance of the National Commission for Civic Education comes in.

The framers of the Constitution, in their wisdom, provided for the Commission's establishment as a way of developing an enlightened citizenry, very conscious of their rights and responsibilities. The members and staff of the Commission are determined to work hard and make the necessary personal sacrifices so as to push the country forward. The forward march is, however, not totally dependent on the Commission. Critical actors such as Parliament and the Ministry of Finance have a role to play in ensuring that the Commission gets the required resources.

Resource constraints have been the nightmare of the Commission for the year under review. Only two hundred and nineteen million, six hundred thousand cedis (¢219,600,000) or 13 per cent of the approved investment budget of one billion, six hundred and eighty five million cedis (¢1,685,000,000) was released. This is pathetic viewed against the background that the Commission has logistic constraints and no offices of its own. Definitely, the situation needs to change for the better and the Commission, through this report, is appealing to Parliament to do its utmost to salvage the situation.

I am personally grateful to my colleagues on the board of the Commission as well as the staff for their hard work, and wish to remind the government that there are still two vacancies on the Commission. We would be grateful to have them filled so that the Commission will operate at full strength.



**Laary Bimi**  
**CHAIRMAN**



# Executive Summary

This is the Seventh Annual Report of the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE) to the Parliament of the Republic of Ghana. The report is presented in compliance with Section 20 of the National Commission for Civic Education Act 1993 (Act 452) which stipulates that *The Commission shall annually submit to Parliament a report indicating the activities and operations of the Commission in respect of the preceding year.* The report covers the period January 1 to December 31, 2000.

The conduct of the presidential and parliamentary elections in December, 2000 largely shaped the public education carried out in 2000. The Commission focused on voter awareness and political tolerance as the two priority areas for the year. The Commission also continued with the regular business of promoting constitutional awareness through the activities of the six hundred (600) civic education clubs in the second cycle and tertiary institutions.

The Commission created platforms for dialogue with specific sections of society with the view to determining a consensual approach on the resolution of specific challenges. One of these interactions was with the Parliamentary Committee on Constitutional, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, with the aim of exploring areas of possible cooperation between Parliament and the Commission for the strengthening of democracy. The Commission also organised a workshop for the Dagbon chiefs to brainstorm on the maintenance of peace in the kingdom. Other groups were the security services, the media, political party representatives and the constitutional Commissions.

The Commission also conducted research on the performance of Parliament, especially the Second Parliament of the Fourth Republic. The effort to codify customary laws in relation to enstoolment/enskinment of chiefs is on-going. The Commission continues to collaborate with the National House of Chiefs and the Chieftaincy Secretariat in this research project.

As in previous years, funding of the Commission's activities was problematic. Only 60 per cent and 13 per cent of the approved service (activities) and investment budgets respectively were released. The implication of the investment figure becomes more revealing when viewed against the fact that the Commission started off virtually without the required office/residential accommodation yet there is a constitutional requirement for the Commission to be represented at the national, regional and district levels.

Given the premium of insight gained from our activities and interactions with the public we make a number of recommendations to Parliament and the Executive.

Among these are that:

- The Commission and EC should enhance collaboration in voter/public education during election years to make the management of elections more cost-effective and efficient. Currently the level of collaboration among the constitutional governance bodies such as the National Media Commission (NMC), Electoral Commission (EC), Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) and the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE) is weak.
- The challenge of developing in Ghana the ethos of democratic culture is a very important and critical assignment that the Commission has to undertake faithfully. Central Government should, therefore, provide the Commission with the resources/finance for voter education in election years.

# Introduction

This report, which covers the period January 1 to December 31, 2000, is the National Commission for Civic Education's Seventh Annual Report to Parliament.

The year 2000 witnessed the holding of Presidential and Parliamentary elections, the third successful election in the country since the adoption of the 1992 Constitution. The National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE), taking cognisance of the intolerance and lawlessness that often characterise elections in emerging democracies like ours, devoted the greater part of its educational activities to sensitising citizens to tolerance.

The Commission also designed and executed appropriate programmes, which sought to achieve in tandem good governance and unity for national development.

The Commission's work indeed contributed to the successful conduct of the last elections where for the first time in the political history of Ghana there was a change of civilian government from one political party to another. The impact of the NCCE's work in this respect could even have been greater but for the lack of resources in the form of adequate funding and vehicles to cover all the towns and villages in the country as planned. It is the firm belief of the Commission that the success of constitutional democracy in Ghana depends on the effectiveness of the constitutionally established democracy enhancing institutions. In this respect, the resourcing of the NCCE for effective discharge of its functions cannot be overemphasized.

As its constitutional mandate, the NCCE is to create and sustain awareness of constitutional democracy for the achievement of political, economic and social stability through civic education. (See Article 233 of the 1992 Constitution and the NCCE Establishment Act of 1993, Act 452 (refer Appendices A and B).

For the successful actualization of this mandate, the NCCE needs the right doses of funding and resources, especially from the State. Unfortunately there was not that much of these in the year 2000. The problems of office accommodation and vehicles that have perennially beset the Commission were also unresolved.

Despite these limitations the Commission carried out a number of activities with some degree of success at the national, regional and district levels.

This report is presented in two main parts to cover activities undertaken by the Programmes Division made up of the following Departments: Public Education, Research, Literature and Material Development and Public Affairs, whilst the Finance and Administration Division is made up of Finance and Administration

Departments. Under Conclusion and Recommendations we try to provide a brief appraisal and reflection of the issues that pose challenges to the Commission in its work as well as provide suggestions on how to handle some issues confronting the country.

# SECTION A

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## Programmes

The report under Programmes covers activities undertaken by the Public Education and Research Departments with the support of the Public Affairs Department and the guidance of the Commission.

### A1 Public Education

The year 2000, as indicated elsewhere in this report, posed its own challenges particularly as it was an election year. As a way of deepening and strengthening the democratic principles and practices, the Commission's programmes within the period were tailored to address the critical roles that particular institutions such as the Armed Forces, the Police, Parliament, Political Parties, Religious Bodies and the Youth could play in the sustenance of democracy in Ghana.

During the year the following public/civic education activities were undertaken:

- Civic Education for the Armed Forces.
- Education on Population and Housing Census.
- Outreach Programme with Parliamentary Sub-Committee on Legal and Constitutional Matters.
- Intensification of Civic Education Club Activities.
- Public Education on Political and Religious Tolerance.
- Roundtable Meeting with Leaders of Political Parties.
- Public Education on Revision of Voters Register.
- Public Education on 2000 General Elections.

Other programmes which were planned but could not be undertaken as a result of lack of funds and resources or interest from stakeholders included: Public Education on Traditional Values in a Changing Ghanaian Society, Education on HIV/AIDS pandemic, Seminar on Women Empowerment, Education on Functions of State Institutions, Consultations leading to the introduction of the teaching of the Constitution in Ghana's school system.

## **A1.1 Civic Education for the Ghana Armed Forces**

The NCCE collaborated with the Ghana Armed Forces to carry out a series of workshops/seminars on democracy and constitutionalism. The workshops which were for Officers and Men and their families were held on the general theme: *Military in Ghana's Quest for National Integration, Democracy and Constitutionalism.*

The workshops were organised in two phases. The first took place from February 8 to March 31, 2000 and the second from October 16 to December 1, 2000. They were held in the military Garrisons/Units of Tamale, Sunyani, Kumasi, Takoradi, Ho, Tema, Achiase and Accra.

Topics treated included:

- Ghana Armed Forces Disciplinary Board
- Drug Abuse/Alcoholism in the Ghana Armed Forces
- Moral Education in Promoting Good Neighbourliness in the Military
- Command Policy on Tertiary Education in the Armed Forces
- Political Tolerance and the Role of the Military in the 2000 General Elections

The NCCE Resource Persons, from the National Headquarters and the Directors from the respective regions, treated the topics on *Political Tolerance and the Role of the Military in the 2000 General Election* whilst officers of the Ghana Armed Forces handled the rest of the topics. The Officers from the military were: Col. J. Anane-Brobby (Army Headquarters), Dr M.K.Y. Agamah (37 Military Hospital), Lt-Col. (Rev.) G.A. Ollenu (Religious Affairs Unit) and Sq. Ldr. N.F.K. Dzokoto (Air Force Headquarters).

On the whole the programme was successful as it helped the members of the Ghana Armed Forces to deepen their appreciation of their role as defined in the 1992 Constitution. The workshop also helped to erase the general perception that only members of the GAF were responsible for political instability in the country. As participants pointed out at various places, the blame should equally be extended to civilian politicians, for almost all coups d'état were financed and supported by them.

## **A1.2 Civic Education for the Police Service**

The role of the Police in the maintenance of law and order in the country's democratic dispensation cannot be overemphasised. Aware of the immense challenges the high Command of the Ghana Police Service collaborated with the NCCE to undertake civic education workshops/seminars for the police throughout the country from October 27 to December 4, 2000. The seminars and workshops held on the theme *Making Democracy Flourish Through Effective Policing* dealt with the following topics:

- Law and order in a Democracy.
- Enhancing Professionalism in the Police Service.
- Police and the 2000 General Election.
- Neighbourhood Watch Committees-Ensuring Security.

The first seminar was held at the Police Headquarters on October 27, 2000 and

was chaired by the IGP, Peter Nanfuri. The Chairman of the NCCE, Laary Bimi, in his address advised the Police Service to be law abiding, non-partisan and to demonstrate a high level of political tolerance during the 2000 Presidential and Parliamentary Elections.

Subsequent seminars were held at the following stations: Accra, Tema, Tarkwa, Sekondi, Cape Coast, Winneba, Ho, Hohoe, Wa, Bolgatanga, Tamale, Sunyani, Techiman, Kumasi, Asanti Mampong, Obuasi, Koforidua, Akuapem-Mampong, Nkawkaw and Akyem Oda.

The NCCE Resource Persons from the National Headquarters and some Regional Directors partnered the following Police Officers: Supt. Daniel Avorga (Legal Directorate at Headquarters), Asst. Commissioner Asiamah (CID Headquarters), Chief Insp. Courage Datsormor (Headquarters), and Insp. Jordan Quaye (Public Relations Directorate) for the exercise.

Participants were very appreciative of the effort of the Police Command and the NCCE in embarking on the educational campaign and expressed the hope that such seminars would be regular and institutionalised.

### **A1.3 Civic Education Clubs (CECs)**

As a strategy to reach out to the mass of the people, especially the youth, with an understanding of the principles and objectives of the 1992 Constitution the idea of Civic Education Clubs was conceived. Since March 1996 when the first CEC was formed at Accra Academy over 1,000 clubs have been formed in schools, workplaces and communities nationwide.

Within the year, CECs in the regions undertook a number of activities, including quizzes and debates in their respective regional and district areas of operation. A good number of them organised visits to the Parliament House in Accra to observe and perhaps learn at first hand the workings of the Legislature.

The visits were usually extended to cover other important and historic places such as the Kwame Nkrumah Mausoleum in Accra, and the Tema Harbour in Tema. The visits normally ended at the NCCE Headquarters where visiting CECs members interacted with officers of the Commission.

During the year under review, the Commission observed that the sustainability of the CECs in schools was becoming a problem. The reasons were, among others:

- Financial and logistical problems facing the Commission itself which made it difficult for staff to pay regular visits to the clubs.
- Unco-operative attitude of some school authorities.
- The notion held by some CECs that the provision of funds for their programmes and activities is the responsibility of the NCCE.
- The fluid membership of school CECs due to their transitory nature.

In spite of these problems, the Commission tried hard to revive Civic Education Clubs particularly in the Eastern, Northern, Ashanti, Central and Volta regions. The University of Ghana Civic Education Club was re-launched and given official recognition by the university authorities on Saturday, May 23, 2000 at the Akuafio Dining Hall. The Guest Speaker, Prof. J.R.A. Aryee, the Head of the Political Science Department of the University of Ghana, Legon, urged students to appreciate Ghana's effort at constitutional rule. The Club within the year collaborated with the NCCE Headquarters to organise a number of activities both in and outside campus.

#### **A1.4 Education on the Population and Housing Census**

The 2000 National Population and Housing Census was conducted from March 26 to April 23, 2000. The Commission, recognising the importance of this exercise, at the beginning of the year made all efforts to seek collaboration with the Statistical Service of Ghana (SSG). The SSG did not respond to the overtures of the NCCE to help provide education for the exercise. Four weeks before the commencement of the census, the Ministry of Finance made available to the Commission some limited funds with which the Commission embarked upon a countrywide public education programme from February 24 to March 25, 2000 in communities, schools, work and market places. Among others the educational teams disabused people's minds of the wrong notion that the Census was meant for tax purposes. The teams also urged citizens to make themselves available to be counted, and to co-operate with and provide accurate information to enumerators.

#### **A1.5 Voter Education for the Year 2000 Elections**

The year under review was an election year. In an effort to have maximum and effective participation of the citizenry in the electoral process a number of election related activities were undertaken by the Commission with a focus on:

- Revision and Exhibition of the Voters Register
- Replacement of Thumbprint Voter ID Cards with photo voter ID cards
- Presidential and Parliamentary elections.

##### **A1.5.1 Revision and Exhibition of the Voters Register**

From May 6 to May 15, 2000 the Electoral Commission undertook an exercise to revise the Voters Register. A month prior to the start of the exercise, the NCCE carried out a vigorous educational programme on the need for citizens who had attained the age of 18 years and those qualified adult voters who did not register during the last registration exercise to register. As part of the exercise Commission members and officers from the Headquarters, with the support of regional and district staff, visited a number of registration centres throughout the country. Mistakes and problems noted were reported to the respective Electoral Offices for prompt action.

The Registration Exercise was followed by Exhibition of the Voters Register that took place from June 6 to July 9, 2000. The Commission once again stepped ahead of the exercise with a vigorous educational campaign to ensure that:

- Voters' names were properly spelt and inserted on the Register
- Ghost names were removed
- Foreigners and those under 18 years had their names removed.
- Names of the deceased were removed.

### **A1.5.2 Replacement of Thumbprint Voter ID Cards With Photo ID Cards**

The Electoral Commission, from July 24 to November 18, 2000, undertook an exercise to replace all Thumbprint ID Cards in the country with Photo ID Cards. In view of the crucial nature of the exercise, the NCCE undertook a massive educational campaign to urge voters to positively respond to the exercise for easy identification during elections.

In spite of the effort of the NCCE in this respect quite a number of citizens did not change their Thumbprint ID Cards. The confusion as to whether people could vote with or without thumbprint ID cards remained a thorny issue until the Supreme Court ruled that people could vote with both ID cards. Even this ruling did not help the situation either since interested parties had taken entrenched positions, which they thought would favour them at the elections. The presence of the NCCE, especially, in the Districts helped to diffuse the tension that was created by the inconsistency that had characterised the exercise.

### **A1.5.3 Presidential and Parliamentary Elections**

As stated earlier, the year 2000 marked a very important landmark in the political history of Ghana. It was the first time that a President had run his full two four year terms and his Vice was seeking to succeed him. It also marked the first time that a ruling party was seeking to renew its mandate for a third term.

Given the great importance of the elections the NCCE in consonance with its constitutional mandate to *create awareness on the principles and objectives of the Constitution* moved into towns, villages and hamlets to educate and urge the electorate to exercise their civic rights and responsibilities during the Presidential and Parliamentary elections.

All our regional and district offices utilised to the full all collaborative openings made available to them to reach the electorate in view of the limited resources available. The issue of tolerance for diverse opinions and beliefs became crucial in view of the tense moments that were being created as part of the campaign for political power.

On the theme *Towards the 2000 Presidential and Parliamentary Elections: Sensitizing the Electorate to their Civic Rights and Responsibilities*, the Commission zoned the country into five and assigned a team each to a zone. Each team was led by a Commission Member and went round from November 20 to December 5, 2000, with the messages on:

- The Importance of the Vote.
- The need for Political Tolerance in an Election Year.
- What to look for in a Candidate or a political party during electioneering.
- Abiding by the code of conduct of political parties.

The elections held on December 7, 2000 were inconclusive as none of the Presidential

Candidates scored more than 50 per cent of the votes required to be declared as a winner. This called for a run-off. During the interregnum, the Commission drew up a programme to educate the electorate on the need for the run-off and to urge them once again to come out in their numbers to elect a President for the Republic on December 27, 2000.

On the whole the elections passed off successfully. 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.

Even though it is generally acknowledged that the NCCE's contribution to the success of the elections was immeasurable, officers of the Commission would be the first to admit that this was achieved with immense sacrifices: Finances were late in coming and when they did come they were woefully inadequate. With 120 districts and metro-offices, 10 regional Offices and the National Headquarters the Commission was provided with ₵944,000,000. The distribution of the said amount among the district, municipal, metropolitan, and regional offices were ₵600,000, ₵800,000, ₵1,200,000, and ₵1,500,000 respectively. An amount of ₵16,000,000 was located to the Head Office. Other resources like PA systems, vehicles etc were either not available or not in good numbers when they were available at all.

## **A1.6 Education on Political and Religious Tolerance**

Problems related to Political and Religious Intolerance took the centre stage of the public education activities of the Commission. The Commission has over the years identified political and religious intolerance as two of the major causes of social tension and instability. Taking cognizance of the challenges posed by the 2000 elections the NCCE undertook, within the period under review, activities that addressed these challenges through seminars, workshops and conferences. Participants included registered Political Parties, Churches, Youth Organisations, Chiefs etc. The clarion call at the seminar was the need to tolerate and respect the different shades of religious and political opinion in order to ensure national stability.

### **A1.6.1 Roundtable Conference**

In furtherance of the exercise to promote tolerance among citizens, especially members of the various Political Parties, the National Headquarters on April 19, 2000 organised a roundtable discussion with the political parties at the NCCE Conference Room. At the Conference the NCCE encouraged the political party leaders to reach out to one another in a manner devoid of acrimony, hatred and suspicion for their followers to emulate.

### **A1.6.2 Drama Activities**

The Commission, aware that dramatisation of critical messages has a lasting impression on people, adopted drama to illustrate negative effects of political and religious intolerance on a democracy. The NCCE Drama Group performed at Bukom, Korle Gonno, Kwame Nkrumah Circle, all in the Accra Metropolis. Other places where similar drama activities were organised included Agona Swedru in the Central Region and Kpando in the Volta Region.

The drama on the whole made a strong impact on the audience and many said they were fully equipped with the dos and don'ts during elections.

### **A1.6.3 Circular on Tolerance**

A week to the December 7, 2000 elections the NCCE issued a circular that urged people to show tolerance for diverse opinions and eschew violence during the elections. It also urged the electorate to observe all electoral rules and regulations so as to ensure peaceful elections.

### **A1.6.4 NCCE Calendar 2000**

The concept of an NCCE Calendar being used to highlight some of the major programmes and activities of the Commission was mooted in 1994. The first NCCE calendar was published in 1995. Since then subsequent calendars have been used to draw attention to some critical aspects of the Constitution that citizens need to know. They also highlighted some of the major programmes and activities of the Commission within the period under review.

The 2000 calendar carried messages related to the 2000 Presidential and Parliamentary Elections, especially, the need for tolerance. Under the theme "2000 is Election Year – Tolerance" the calendar was used to carry relevant messages like:

- Democracy Thrives on Tolerance.
- Religious Tolerance is a Constitutional Imperative.
- Unity in Diversity for Democracy; Gender Balance in Public Life leads to Balanced Decision making
- Ghanaians, Unite behind your elected leaders for national development
- A healthy competition for votes without violent conflict makes Ghana supreme

The 2000 calendar, was generally hailed as a good source of information and a good educational material. Those who had access to them were of the view that the NCCE's adoption of a calendar as educational material was commendable since users were "forced" to read the messages on the calendar as they referred to the dates on a daily basis.

### **A1.7 National Consultative Body Meeting (NCB)**

The National Commission for Civic Education Act, Section 13 of Act 452 (13) states that: *The Commission may appoint Committees made up of members or non-members or both and may assign to them such functions as the Commission may determine except that a Committee consisting entirely of non-members may only advise the Commission.* On the strength of this section of Act 452, the NCCE in 1995 established a National Consultative Body (NCB) to serve as an effective forum for consultation and harmonization of various approaches and methodologies for enhancing civic education. The Committee, constituted by 69 identifiable groups and bodies, was inaugurated in March 1995 by the late Chris Hesse, then Chairman of the NCCE. The maiden meeting of the National Consultative Body (NCB) was held on May 30, 1996 at the NCCE Conference Hall. Mr. Justice Kingsley-Nyinah,

a retired Justice of the Appeal Court, was elected chairman with Mrs. Justice Ivy Ashong-Yakubu as the Vice chairperson. The NCB in the year under review held three meetings.

The first meeting of the year was held in March 2000 to discuss civic and public education activities of the Commission. At the meeting the executives of the registered Political Parties were urged to find solutions to the rising tensions in the run-up to the 2000 General Election.

At the second meeting of the National Consultative Body held on April 13, 2000 a paper, *Traditional Values in a Changing Ghanaian Society* delivered by Mrs. Sutherland Addy, Senior Research Fellow, Institute of African Studies of the University of Ghana, Legon was discussed. Issues raised in the paper were that

- Africans had their own traditional value systems before the advent of western education.
- It was wrong to devalue African Traditional Values with the introduction of western civilisation and value systems.
- Traditional Values have the potential of forming the basis of civic education in Ghana

The paper stimulated much discussion and brought out ways to get citizens to consider our traditional values. A number of core values in the Ghanaian society were identified. Some of these were respect for elders, upholding truth and honesty at all times and concern for the common good. The NCB in its recommendations urged the NCCE to examine our values system and bring out those that can help strengthen our civic and democratic life.

The third meeting of the National Consultative Body (NCB) was called for June 7, 2000. Aside of Members of the NCB, other participants included:

- Registered Political Parties
- The Media
- Religious leaders
- Security Agencies
- Constitutional Bodies
- CHRAJ, NCCE, NMC

The meeting discussed what was described, as the '*Emerging Political Climate*' in the wake of the unacceptable forms of political campaigning by political parties and politicians ahead of the December 2000 Elections.

Many a Ghanaian had expressed concerns about the blatant flouting of the Code of Conduct drawn and agreed upon by the Political Parties themselves. The meeting therefore addressed the unfortunate development that sought to reintroduce the politics of intimidation, violence, unsavoury language and intolerance in Ghana's political life.

At the end of the meeting the NCB called on key players in the political game to work towards a peaceful election. Specific messages were directed at specific groups and institutions:

- All Political Parties to respect the electorate and other members of the Ghanaian society.
- Party leaders were also asked to respect the rights and freedoms of other Political Parties and their leaders. All political players were asked to desist from trading in inflammatory, defamatory and abusive language.
- The Media were asked to offer fair and equal access to all political parties in the coverage of their activities/programmes.
- Religious bodies were urged not to turn their pulpits into political platforms. The Security Agencies were reminded of their professional role in averting disturbances.
- The NCCE was also asked to remain non-partisan in order to put value on its civic message.

### **A1.8 Meeting With The Constitutional, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Sub Committee**

The NCCE in the year under review, organised a meeting with the Parliamentary Sub-Committee on Constitutional, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs at the Best Western Hotel at Elmina during March 15-17, 2000.

The participants were NCCE Members, NCCE Directors and Regional Directors, members of the Constitutional Affairs Sub-Committee led by its Chairman, Hon. Alban Sumana Bagbin, and the Ranking Member, Hon. Nana Akufo-Addo. The Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAF) and the Centre for Democracy and Development-Ghana (CDD-G) were in attendance.

The aim of the meeting was to find a means by which the NCCE and Parliament could work in partnership to enhance democracy in Ghana. After two days of fruitful discussions, the Commission and the Parliamentary sub-committee were able to forge a common ground for collaboration. At the end of a round-table discussion of the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE), the Parliamentary Select Committee on Constitutional, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, some National and International Democratic Activist groups, held in the Best Western Beach Resort, Elmina, from March 17 to 19, 2000, participants noted and agreed on the following:

- Both the government and the Donor community must recognise civic education as the best means for guaranteeing the survival and sustenance of democratic governance in Ghana.
- Although elections, freedom of expression, most especially press freedom and human rights issues have been accorded a lot of attention in the Constitution there seem to persist generally a low level of knowledge about these provisions and a low level of democratic practices in the country. Serious efforts must therefore be made to address these shortcomings through civic education.

- All agencies funding different aspects of civic education should be encouraged to put their resources into a common fund. Since the Constitution mandates the NCCE to play a pivotal role in civic education in general, the Commission should be placed at the centre for coordinating all civic education activities in the country.
- The independence of the democracy-enhancing institutions such as the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), Electoral Commission (EC), National Media Commission (NMC) and NCCE could be further strengthened if the Standing Orders of Parliament are amended to enable them to appear on the floor of the House to advocate their cause.
- Factors that militate against the sustenance of constitutional democracy and the development of democratic culture include tribal prejudices, ethnicity, and human rights abuses; the NCCE must package educational programmes to deal with these issues.

### **A1.9 Important Conferences, Workshops and Seminars Attended By Commission Members And Staff**

In the year 2000 the NCCE as a governance institution honoured several invitations from organizations, institutions or bodies to share civic knowledge with their members.

#### **A1.9.1 Civitas Zonal Workshop**

The NCCE participated in a CIVITAS-Ghana workshop held at the Kinsby Hotel, New Achimota, Accra, on March 30, 2000. The theme of the workshop was *Consolidating Democracy, Lawfulness and Human Rights in Ghana Through Civic Education*. The workshop considered three papers.

- *Advocating Civic Education: Towards a Culture of Lawfulness and Human Rights* delivered by Ken Attafuaah, Director of Operations, Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice.
- *Role of Civil Society in Building a Culture of Lawfulness, Democracy and Human Rights* delivered by Prof. E. Gyimah-Boadi, Department of Political Science and Centre for Democracy and Development-Ghana.
- *Aspects of Historical Perspectives and Challenges of Civic Education in Ghana* delivered by Kwaku Baa Owusu of the NCCE. Headquarters.

The workshop which attracted Civic Educators and Human Rights Activists within the Greater Accra, Volta, Western and Central regions was opened by Ekwow Spio-Garbrah, Minister for Education. The Workshop in its recommendations endorsed the position paper by the NCCE, which said civic education must have universal appeal, be of practical relevance, have moral value, and promote healthy interaction and popular participation. The workshop also stressed the need for the strengthening of democracy enhancing institutions such as the NCCE, CHRAJ, NMC to ensure a culture of lawfulness, democracy and human rights.

### **A1.9.2 POSSA Week Celebrations Lecture**

The Political Science Students Association of the University of Ghana (POSSA) on March 28, 2000 organised a symposium to mark its 23rd Annual Week Celebrations. The celebrations were held on the theme of the symposium *The 2000 General Election*. The Chairman of the NCCE, Laary Bimi, who was the principal speaker, touched on the relevance of civic education in Ghana's democratic dispensation, particularly in the run up to the 2000 General Elections. He outlined the various educational programmes the NCCE was making towards the 2000 elections.

### **A1.9.3 Parliamentary Memoranda Writing Workshop**

The NCCE participated in a Parliamentary Memoranda writing workshop organized by National Democratic Institute (NDI) on March 20, 2000. The workshop attracted 40 NGOs and other civil society organizations. The Commission was represented by the Director of Public Affairs and the Director of Public Education. Topics discussed at the workshop included the functions of the Legislature and its Constraints, the Constitutional responsibilities of Civil Society in the Legislative Process. The second session of the workshop concentrated on memorandum/ petition writing skills.

### **A1.9.4 National Institutional Renewal Programme (NIRP) Workshop**

The NCCE participated in the NIRP workshop at Chances Hotel, Ho, in the Volta Region from December 14 to 20, 2000 to review progress of the National governance programme and to develop work plans to facilitate the implementation of the 10-year strategic plans of Governance Institutions in the year 2001. The NCCE Work Plan for 2001 was presented by the Chairman, Laary Bimi.

### **A1.9.5 Seminar on Marketing Tolerance**

The Commission participated in a seminar organised by the Chartered Institute of Marketing held on March 29, 2000 at the Osu Ebenezer Church Hall. The Chairman of the Commission, Laary Bimi, in discussing *the Role of the NCCE in Enhancing Democracy in Ghana* also drew attention to the critical role that Minority Parties could play promoting a sustainable political environment for good governance in Ghana, and strengthening human rights for the full development of women in Ghana, organized seven (7) workshops in five regions on the parliamentary and presidential elections.

The main objective of the workshops was to encourage Ghanaian women to participate fully in the 2000 general election. The theme of the workshops was "*The Importance of the Democratisation Process to the Full Development of Women in Ghana.*"

Mrs. Fanny Kumah, Ag. Director, Literature and Material Development, who represented the Commission as a resource person, presented papers on "*The Importance of Civic Education in the Democratisation Process*" and "*Civic Rights and Responsibilities of Women in the Ghanaian Society*".

The workshops were held in the Greater Accra (2), Central (2), Ashanti (1), Upper

East (1) and Western (1) regions between October 10 and November 17, 2000.

## **A1.10 Visits**

The Commission during the year hosted a number of foreign Government delegations.

### **A1.10.1 Delegation from the Republic of Rwanda**

On March 12, 2000, the Commission received and briefed a twelve-member government delegation from the Republic of Rwanda. The delegation, which was in Ghana under the auspices of AfriCare, came to understudy Ghana's Decentralisation System of Government. The delegation was briefed by Ms. Doris Ocansey, Deputy Chairman of the Commission.

### **A1.10.2 Delegation from the Nigerian National War College**

On March 22, 2000 a 19-man delegation from the Nigerian National War College, Course 8, which was in the country for a Geo-strategic tour of Ghana to study Ghana's Democratic Institutions met the Commission and was briefed by Laary Bimi and Ms. Doris Ocansey, Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the Commission respectively.

### **A1.10.3 Delegation From the Yemeni Supreme Election Committee**

The Yemeni Supreme Election Committee members visited the Commission on October 30, 2000 to understudy Ghana's Electoral System and the educational support for the election. The four man-delegation was briefed by the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the Commission.

## **A1.11 Special Regional Programmes**

### **A1.11.1 Introduction**

Apart from the nationally directed programmes, the regions and districts carried out some programmes upon guidelines provided by the head office programme. Among these were:

- Education on HIV/AIDS
- Environment and Sanitation
- Women and Children Rights
- Formation of Regional and District Cosultative Bodies on Civic Education
- Code of conduct of Political Parties

The reasons for the choice of these areas of civic interest were not far fetched. The issue of HIV/AIDS has become a global one and the debilitating effect of the pandemic on the youth particularly and the nation as a whole could not be side-stepped since the youth have become the main victims of the disease.

The Commission, even though not the prime agent for education on HIV/AIDS, found it imperative to address the issue in its civic education campaigns in the regions. This was done in the regions with pamphlets provided by the Ghana AIDS Commission. The NCCE collaborated with chiefs, the Churches, Mosques and Schools to raise peoples' awareness of the existence of the disease, its social, economic and political implications.

Another area of concern in the regions was the issue of the Environment. There is direct correlation between environment and the sustenance of democracy in our nation. Since man's life is dependant on its environment, the NCCE tried to sensitize citizens to what was required of them to sustain the environment. Citizens were also educated on sustainable economic activities and practices that would improve their livelihood. In this respect the issue of land degradation through human activities viz mining, farming and logging which expose the environment to unbridled degradation was viewed as a threat to the sustenance of our democracy. Article 41 (f) of the 1992 Constitution states that *it shall be the duty of every citizen to protect and safeguard the environment.*

While in some regions, the abuse of children's rights was high on the agenda, the rights of women formed the core of the educational exercise in others. This, of course, was the result of direct actions and inactions that violated the rights of these sections of society either through ignorance or wilful exploitation. It was right and proper therefore that the regions identified the crucial violations of rights to deal with in their regions.

Due to the peculiarities existing from region to region, special emphasis was given by some of the regions and districts to educating citizens on issues peculiar to or of concern in their jurisdiction.

#### **A1.11.2 Ashanti Region**

In the region the issues of Intestate Succession and the Protection of Water Bodies, Bush Fire, Youth and Child Rights Abuse were also addressed.

#### **A1.11.3 Northern Region**

In the region, the issue of peace was paramount while Bush Fire, Environment and Citizens' Rights stood out strongly.

#### **A1.11.4 Upper East Region**

In the region the issue of Bush Fire, Child Labour and Abuse of Women, especially so-called witches in the Upper East, were matters of great concern. At the end of it all, the combined effects of these educational exercises harnessed one common objective: To help develop good citizens for the attainment of good governance in Ghana.

### **A1.12 Radio Programmes**

Radio continued to be one of the most effective means of disseminating civic messages among the citizenry. Most FM stations demanded from the Commission nothing short of commercial sponsorship. There were, however, a few FM stations

that kept faith with their social responsibility component of their operation and provided limited airtime to the NCCE to share civic messages on their stations. .

On those FM stations that provided airtime to the NCCE throughout the country, the issues that were discussed at various times included:

- Population and Housing Census
- Voter Registration
- The right of the child
- Rule of Law
- Fundamental Human Rights and Freedom
- Functions of some organs of state
- The Environment, Sanitation and Conservation
- Duties of a citizen
- Structure and functions of the District Assembly
- Religious and Political Tolerance
- The Three Arms of Government
- The Directive Principles of State Policies
- The Public Order Act
- Some Political Campaign Related Issues
- Rights of Women
- Police and Civilian Relationship.

Despite the potential impact that these programmes continue to have on citizens, it is obvious that the Commission's efforts cannot be maximised in view of the apparent financial and resource constraint.

## **A2 Research Activities**

### **A2.1 Introduction**

The Research Department was able to undertake one major survey in the year 2000. The research project was titled *Survey to Assess the Performance of the Second Parliament of the Fourth Republic*. The Department continued its collaboration with the Chieftaincy Secretariat and National House of Chiefs on codification and succession of customary practices in the country. Another area where the Department carried out Research was on passage of bills by Parliament. In addition, some regions also undertook their own research work.

### **A2.2 Survey to Assess the Performance of the Fourth Republic**

The general aim of the project was to Assess the Performance of Parliament in the Fourth Republic. Specifically, the survey was intended to appraise the Second Parliament of the Fourth Republic in terms of its ability to:

- (a) make new laws and review existing ones;
- (b) monitor and review executive financial programmes to ensure accountability and transparency;
- (c) assess attendance of Members and their general participation in the debates of the House.
- (d) focus on assessing the performance of individual Members of Parliament in terms of the extent to which they have been able to improve the socio-economic conditions of their constituencies and finally;
- (e) determine the quality of relationship between Members of Parliament and Metropolitan/District Chief Executives, Assemblymen and women, and Constituents as a whole.

The survey covered 50 constituencies in the country. A training programme for the research assistants was held on March 20, 2000 at the National Headquarters, Accra. This was followed by training of Research Assistants in the regions. During training sessions the Research Assistants were briefed on the objectives of the study, and taken through the questions on the questionnaire. After the training session each assistant was given 33 questionnaires, which were administered in a week. All administered questionnaires were forwarded to the Research Department at the National Headquarters.

Coding and data analysis were done at the National Headquarters. This was followed by writing of the report. As of the time of writing this report the Department was editing the final report. The findings of the Survey could therefore not be presented in the Annual Report for 2000, but would be presented in the NCCE Annual Report for 2001.

## **A2.3 Monitoring Legislation In The Second Parliament Of The Fourth Republic**

The Department analysed the passage of Bills by Parliament under the Second Parliament of the Fourth Republic, 1997 to 2000. During this period, bills laid before Parliament totalled seventy-five (75). Eighteen (18) bills were laid in 1997, 22 in 1998, 20 in 1999 and 15 in 2000.

Out of the total number of Bills, 25 were amendments. During the period under review one bill was withdrawn i.e. the Vice President Succession Bill presented by the Attorney General.

In 1997, on the average it took four weeks for Parliamentary Committees to work on bills referred to them and report to the whole House. After that Parliament on the average used two weeks to complete work on the bill. Apart from the Appropriation Bill that normally takes a day to go through the processes in Parliament, the shortest period used to pass a bill (Public Utilities) in the year under review was 17 days. The longest period used to pass a bill (Legal Aid) was 26 weeks.

Some of the bills passed in the year were Income Tax (Amendment) Service Tax, Marriage Ordinance (Amendment) and Public Records Administration. Bills which lapsed in the period were Valued Added Tax, Public Office Holders (Declaration of Assets and Disqualification Bill).

In 1998, on the average, Bills presented before the House took about 6 weeks to go through the Parliamentary process. The shortest period used to pass a Bill (Income Tax Amendment) was 38 days whereas the longest period used to pass a bill (Mortuaries and Funeral Facilities) was almost a year.

Some of the bills passed in the year were Value Added Tax, Public Office Holder Bill (Declaration of Assets and disqualification). Bills that lapsed in the period were the Passport and Allied Travel Certificate and Institute of Professional Studies Bill.

Bills presented to Parliament in 1999 took a period of 2 to 10 months to go through the process. The shortest period used to pass a Bill (National Road Safety Commission) was seven weeks whereas the longest was 10 months for the Traditional Medicine Practice Bill.

For the year 2000, Bills presented before the House took a period of 9-14 weeks to go through the Parliamentary process. The shortest period used to pass a Bill (Customs and Excise Petroleum Related Levies (Amendment)) was 5 weeks whereas the longest period used to pass a bill (Ghana Education Trust Fund) was 9 months. Bills passed in the year included Ghana Education Trust Fund and Export and Import (Amendment).

On the whole, Bills which were meant to generate income for the State and State Institutions were worked on very fast whereas others with social implications such as Mortuaries and Funeral Facilities and Children Bills took a long time to be passed.

Ministries which presented Bills before Parliament included Finance (23), Roads

and Transport (4), Interior (1), Lands and Forestry (5), Health (2), and Education (1). The majority of the Bills were presented by the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General.

Apart from Bills with Financial implications only a few bills were presented and worked on in the year 2000 which was an election year.

## **A2.4 Chieftaincy Research Project**

In 1998 the NCCE began collaboration with the National House of Chiefs and the Chieftaincy Secretariat to undertake research into Customary Laws and Practices relating to Enstoolment/Enskinment. The project was begun with sponsorship from the Konrad Adenauer Foundation. In the year 1999, the research problem was clearly defined and its objectives and methodology outlined. Twenty traditional areas were selected for the pilot study.

As part of efforts to train the NCCE Research Officers to effectively administer the questionnaire, two workshops were held in June. The first was held at the Abokobi Women's Training Centre from June 8 to 9, 2000 for those in the Southern sector. The other was held in Tamale from June 19 to 21, 2000 for those from the Northern Sector of the country. The participants at the workshop were mainly the Regional and District Traditional Registrars and the NCCE research staff.

At the end of training sessions, the NCCE Research Officers were paired with the Traditional Council Registrars from the selected areas of study. Thus the NCCE staff served as the researchers for the project with assistance from the Traditional Registrars from the areas. The Regional Traditional Registrars were supervisors for the various areas.

The Steering Committee of the National House of Chiefs convened a meeting in December 2000 at the Conference Room of the NCCE Head Office to examine the research work.

On the whole one could say that much was achieved in relation to the chieftaincy project. due to effective collaboration with the National House of Chiefs. The Commission looks forward to more collaboration with other institutions and organisations.

## **A2.5 Regional Research Activities**

Research activities were also carried out in the regions, and notable among them were those of Volta and Upper West.

### **A2.5.1 Volta Region**

The Ho District Office conducted research into the performance of the Unit Committees. Five electoral areas were selected for administration of questionnaire at random. The findings indicated that the majority of the respondents accepted the concept as laudable but indicated that the concept was yet to make a meaningful impact on the socio-economic, cultural and political lives of the people.

### **A2.5.2 Upper West Region**

The Lawra District Office in collaboration with the Ghana National Commission on Children (GNCC), conducted a baseline Data Collection Survey on the general living conditions of children in three selected communities namely, Zambo, Baseble and Nandom West. The target groups for the survey were children aged 8 to 17 years. Findings from the field revealed that most children were undernourished and underweight, with a significant number out of school.

## SECTION B

### Finance and Administration

The Finance and Administration Division of the NCCE covers the Personnel and Transport units, Finance, Stores, and Administration sections. The Division in the year under review continued with efforts to infuse efficiency and discipline into all levels of the Commission.

#### B1 Administration

##### B1.1 Commission Meetings

During the year under review the Commission continued to have a membership of five (5) instead of the seven (7) members. Two members, namely Mrs. Susana Adam who had resigned in 1996 and Dr. J.E. Oppong whose appointment had been revoked by his Excellency the President of the Republic, had not been replaced. The absence of the two members left the Commission with five members. The NCCE establishment Act fixes the quorum for meetings at four. Given this fact, the indisposition of any of the remaining members led to lack of quorum and consequently affected decision making at Commission level.

The Commission held twelve (12) regular and one emergency meetings.

##### B1.2 Mid-Year Review Meeting

The Commission's Mid – Year Review Meeting was held in Takoradi in the Western Region from July 30,2000 to August 4, 2000. In attendance were Commission Members, the Commission Secretary, Headquarters directors and their deputies, senior staff members and the ten regional directors.

The meeting reviewed methods of work in the Commission and mapped out new approaches. Each of the ten regional directors presented a paper on *Managing Civic Education in the Regions*. A number of directors at the National Headquarters also presented papers:

Napoleon Agboada, Director of Public Education, presented a paper on *Concept of Civic Education Clubs and Their Importance to the New Ghanaian Political Orientation*.

Mrs. Gertrude Zakariah-Ali, Director of Research, presented a paper on *Stimulating a Research Environment to Enrich and Enhance the Capacity of the Civic Educator*

Paapa Nketsia, Director of Public Affairs, presented a paper on *The Role, Impact and Challenges of the Media in the Nurturing and Consolidation of Democracy in Ghana.*

Mrs. Fanny Kumah, Acting Director of Literature and Material Development, presented a paper on *A Curriculum of Civic Education for National Development.*

Henry W. Tani-Eshon, Director of Finance and Administration, presented a paper on *Thoughts on Funding Civic Education in Ghana.*

Wisdom Amedzo, Deputy Director (Finance), presented a paper on *Budget Preparation; Its Goals, Controls and Objectives.*

Kojo Tito Voegborlo, Deputy Director (Research), presented a paper on *The Structure and Contents of Quarterly Reports to the National Headquarters.*

In addition to discussion, on the above papers presented by the Directors, Mr. Seth Anipa, Consultant, MTEF Secretariat, Ministry of Finance, took the officers through the new MTEF Method of Budgeting.

At the end of the Review Meeting a number of decisions were taken:

- The Commission should de-emphasise the use of durbars, seminars and lectures as a mode of dissemination of information and focus attention on new methods of work such as: establishing Civic Centres, spreading the playing of the Ghana Constitution Game and using more of the Mass Media.
- The Commission should take up the task of producing books, pamphlets and fliers on various civic issues as a means of reaching the literate section of the society. This was as a result of an appeal from the Ghana Heart Foundation to all Ghanaians to assist the Cardio-Thoracic Centre at the Korle-bu Teaching Hospital in Accra financially. An amount of ₵ 10,000 was to be deducted from the salary of staff and donated to the Ghana Heart Foundation.
- In the face of inadequate financial support from the Central Government for carrying out our programmes, the Commission should explore ways to raise funds from other sources, especially through NGOs and groups with civic education bias.
- The proceedings of the Mid-Year Review Meeting have been documented in a book titled, *Managing Civic Education in Ghana.*

## **B1.3 Personnel Matters**

### **B1.3.1 Staff Position**

Staff strength at the beginning of the year under review stood at 1414 as against 1272 at the close of the year. The details are as follows:

A major problem that bedevilled the Commission, as evidenced by the table is the rate of resignations. The high staff turnover is due to a number of factors including:

- Lack of both office and residential accommodation that serves as a disincentive to any serious, organized work.
- Lack of means of transport which in itself is a source of frustration
- Low levels of remuneration
- Absence of any programmed training opportunity for growth and promotion, and
- High expectations among freshly appointed staff.

### **B1.3.2 Study Leave**

Twenty-two members of staff were granted study leave during the year 2000. Two members of staff (a Clerical Officer and a Field Assistant both from the Eastern Region) were granted a three-year study leave to pursue courses in Political Science at the University of Ghana, Legon.

### **B1.3.3 Annual Leave**

During the year, almost all members of staff proceeded on their respective leave. The few ones who could not proceed on leave as a result of exigencies had theirs rescheduled. All the 81 at the National Headquarters at one point proceeded on leave. The regions also administered their own leave regime at the regional level.

### **B1.3.4 Promotions and Re-designations**

In the year under review 363 promotions from various positions to higher sets of positions were made, twenty-six in the Head Office, the rest from the regions. Those promotions ranged from Resources Assistant III, the lowest rank, to Civic Education Officer.

As part of the restructuring programme begun in 1999, code named SORRIP, all Public Education Officers were re-designated Civic Education Officers (Public Education). All Research Officers were re-designated Civic Education Officers (Research)

In all 31 positions in the Public Education and Research Departments were re-designated as either Civic Education Officers (Public Education) or Civic Education Officers (Research).

## **B1.4 Transport**

The Transport Unit of the Commission has virtually collapsed. For many years the bulk of the Administration Budget went into the maintenance of the commission's vehicles countrywide, due to the deteriorating nature of most of the vehicles. The Commission never succeeded in replacing the old stock of vehicles due to budgetary constraints.

A petition to the Chief of Staff the previous year resulted in a directive to have all the Commission's old vehicles boarded for disposal. Unfortunately these vehicles remain grounded and are deteriorating very fast, despite completion of the Valuation Exercise by May 31, 2001.

On the average each region had grounded three vehicles with the exception of Ashanti and Eastern regions that had four. In addition 130 bicycles at the districts were also grounded. At the Headquarters only five (5) vehicles remained serviceable. The total effect of this state of affairs has been shattering, making work difficult at all levels.

Between 1999 and 2000 however, the Commission was able to secure four (4) Toyota Pick-ups and two (2) Datsun Pick-ups for the regions. Four regions, Greater Accra, Central, Upper West and Ashanti however did not benefit from the new supplies. Twenty new Honda Motorbikes received from the Ministry of Finance were sent to the deprived areas of the country.

## **B1.5 Capacity Building**

### **B1.5.1 Three Months Residential, Adult Education Certificate Course For District Directors**

The Commission in the year sponsored some officers for a certificate course in Adult Education at the Tsito Residential Adult College of the Institute of Adult Education, University of Ghana, Legon. The four-month (March 14 to June 20, 2000) residential course was part of the capacity building programme of the Commission for its staff. The course was attended by 20 District Directors (two from each of the 10 regions of the country). The course was seen to have had a great impact on the performance of staff who attended, both in terms of their work in their offices and on the field.

### **B1.5.2 Participation in the 51st New Year School**

The 51st Annual New Year School was held from December 27, 1999 to January 3, 2000 at the South Campus of the University College of Education, Winneba.

The theme for the School was *Consolidating Democracy in Ghana: The Year 2000 Elections and Beyond*. A total of 300 persons participated in the school. The NCCE sponsored 22 persons. This was made up of the Chairman, two Commission Members, Directors/Deputy Directors from the national headquarters and nine Regional Directors. Other organizations that sponsored persons to the school were the Ghana National Association of Teachers (GNAT), District Assemblies, and Trade Unions.

The official opening ceremony of the school was held at the auditorium of the University College of Education, Winneba. It was performed by the Vice President, Prof. J. E. A. Mills. The Chairman for the opening ceremony was Nana Wereko Ampem II, Gyasehene of Akuapem and Chancellor of the University of Ghana.

The keynote address was delivered by Mr. Justice F. K. Apaloo. He spoke on *The Year 2000 Elections: Issues Before the Nation*. The Chairman for the function was The Most Rev. Peter Appiah Turkson, Catholic Archbishop of Cape Coast.

A total of six open lectures and panel discussions were held. In addition there were two specialist seminars. The first was on HIV/AIDS/ and STDs and the second on Values in a Changing Ghanaian Society. The NCCE sponsored the second specialist seminar at a cost of four million five hundred thousand cedis (¢4,500,000.00).

The Chairman of the NCCE, Laary Bimi, was one of the contributors in a panel discussion on *Education for Participatory Governance*. The other panellists were: Prof. J. R. A. Ayee, Head of the Department of Political Science of the University of Ghana, Legon. The moderator for the programme was Prof. E. Ofori-Sarpong, Dean of the Faculty of Social Studies, University of Ghana, Legon.

There were 11 seminar groups that considered various issues raised by lecturers and panellists. The groups were: i. Political Parties and National Integration, ii. Education for Participatory Democracy, iii The National Economy and Democratic Sustenance, iv. Enhancing Women's Participation in Politics, v. Organised Labour in a Changing Environment, vi. The Mass Media and the Year 2000 Elections, vii Ensuring Free and Fair Elections viii. District Assemblies and Revenue Generation, ix NGOs and Grassroots Development.

The Commission was represented in all the seminar groups and our staff were rapporteurs for four of the groups. During the Study Group discussions, officers of the Commission took the opportunity to correct the wrong perception that participants had about the NCCE. The pro-active stance made the participants and to a great extent the general public to review their attitude towards the Commission. This was reflected in the school's recommendation to Government, which reads in part *the general public and all stakeholders who have genuine desire to help consolidate and promote democracy and good governance in Ghana should help the NCCE in its task.*

### **B1.5.3 Computer Literacy Training**

As part of its capacity building to catch up with information technology the Commission organized computer literacy workshop classes at Blue Chip, Osu, Accra, for Headquarters Directors and Deputy Directors, Regional Directors and Senior Staff members from January 10 to 30, 2000.

After the training, a number of computers were procured and distributed to the 10 Regional Directors, Headquarters Directors and Deputy Directors of Personnel and Research and some officers at the Headquarters.

### **B1.5.4 Three Day Workshop On Proposal Writing**

A three-day workshop on proposal writing for Directors, Deputy Directors and Senior staff members of the NCCE was organised by the Institute of Adult Education from March 1 to 3, 2000. The aim was to train and get the Executive and the staff of the NCCE to be conversant with proposal writing.

## B2 Finance

The Commission continued to depend mainly on Government of Ghana (GOG) for the funding of its activities. Personal Emoluments, Administration, Services and Investments were all charged on the Consolidated Fund.

Below is the financial position of the Commission for the year 2000.

### B2.1 Summary of Cashflow of the Commission

Opening Bank Balances (1st January 2000)  
The Approved Budget Estimates for Year 2000  
Actual Amount released during the year 2000  
Actual Expenditure for the year 2000  
Closing Bank Balances (31st December 2000)

### B2.2 Opening Balances

During the year under review five accounts were maintained by the Commission at the Bank of Ghana. The balances in the Accounts at the beginning of the year, January 1, 2000, were as follows:

NCCE Main Account	-	¢	259,253,736.61
NCCE Car Loan Account	-		10,000,015.00
NCCE Programmes Account I	-		160,170,412.08
NCCE Programmes Account II	-		<u>1,149,902.00</u>
Total	=	¢	<u>430,574,065.69</u>
NCCE US Dollar Account	-	\$	22,554,248.19

It is pertinent to state that the NCCE Programme Accounts II was originally transferred from Ghana Commercial Bank (GCB) High Street Branch on the orders of the Controller & Accountant-General's Department, as part of the controlling measures to monitor the finances of Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs). It was the view of the Commission that the two accounts be merged into one. However the Bank of Ghana did not approve it.

### B2.3 Approved Budget by Parliament for Year 2000

A sum of Eleven Billion, Six Hundred and Eighty-One Million, Seven Hundred Thousand Cedis was approved for the year under review as per details below:

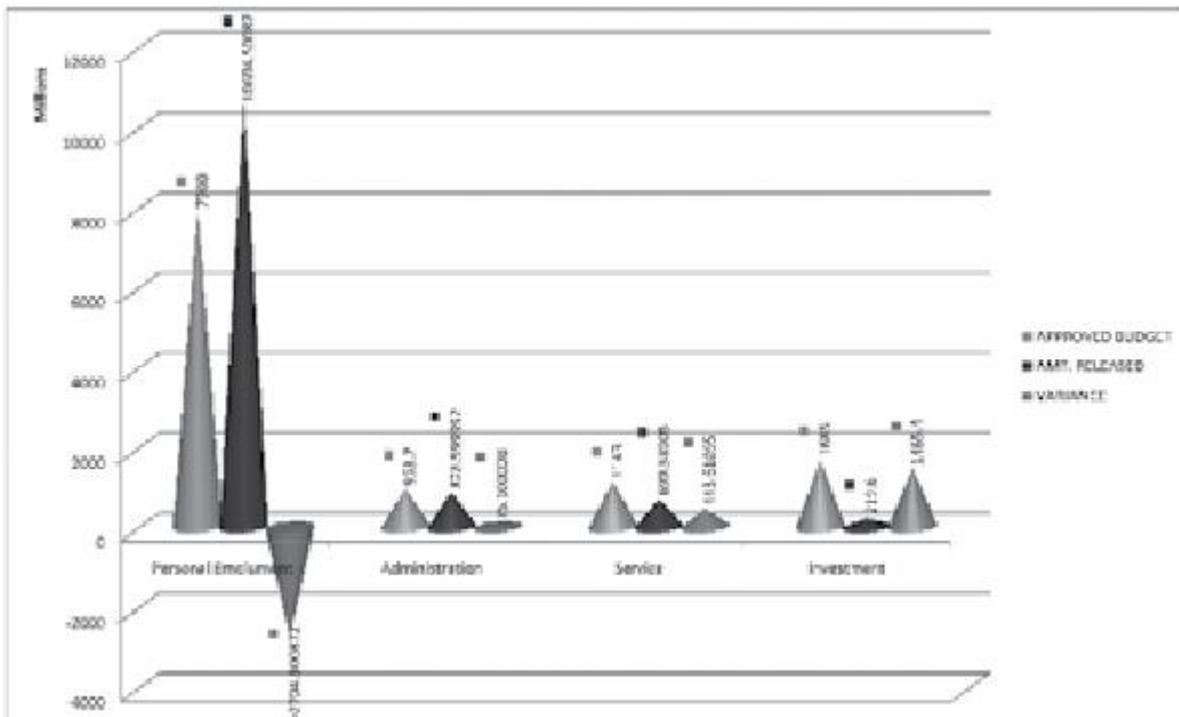
Personnel Emoluments	-	¢	7,900,000,000
Administration	-		953,700,000
Service Expense	-		1,143,000,000
Investment	-		<u>1,685,000,000</u>
Total	-	¢	<u>11,681,700,000</u>

The above budget was used on Personnel Emoluments, Administration Expenses, Service Expenses and Investment for the year.

## B2.4 Subvention Releases

The following amounts were released in the year for each cost centre

Personnel Emoluments	-	¢	10,604,500,871.70
Administration	-		878,599,992.00
Service	-		699,389,050.00
Investment	-		<u>219,600,000.00</u>
Total	=	¢	<u>12,402,089,913.70</u>

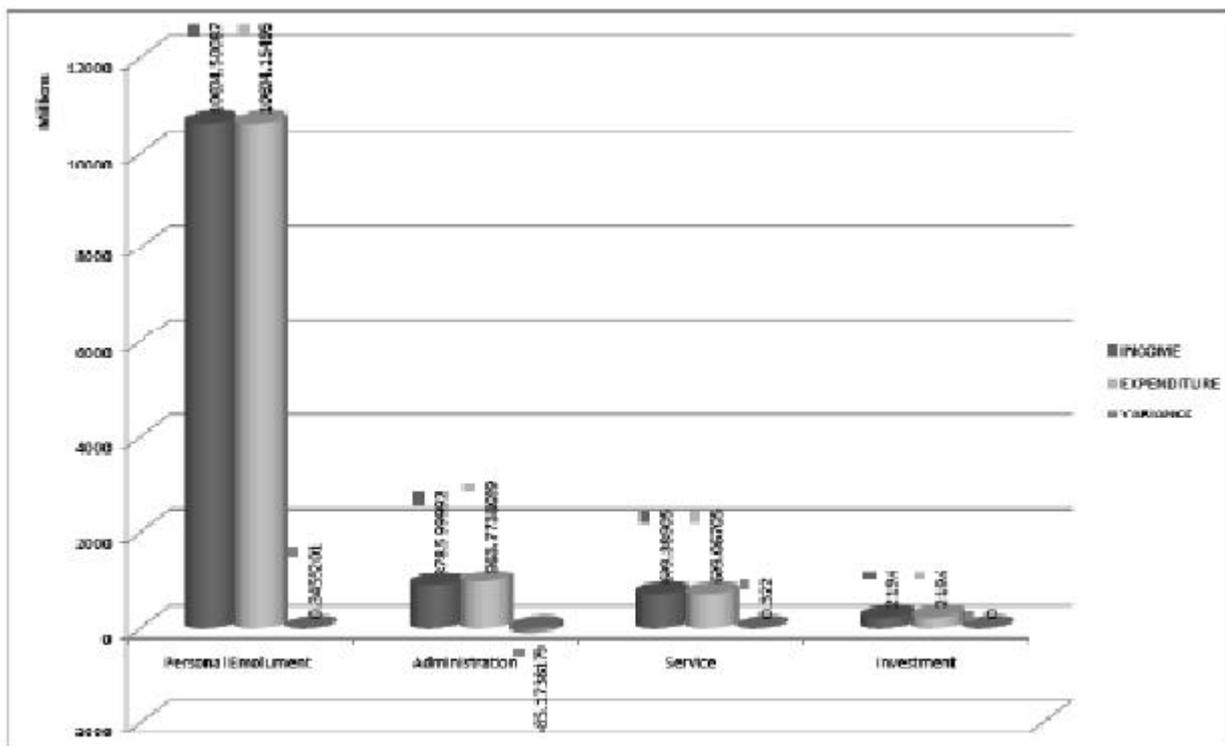


The above releases indicated that Personnel Emoluments exceeded the budgeted figure by about ¢2.7billion during the year. This excess figure was the result of 20 per cent salary increment the Commission, like other MDAs, received during the year from Government.

In the area of Investment only ¢219,600,000 out of an approved budgeted figure of ¢1.685 billion was released. This catered for the rehabilitation of the NCCE Chairman's bungalow and procurement of a number of Office Equipment. Naturally a deficit release of ¢1.465billion for Investment meant the Commission was totally crippled. The proposed construction of Headquarters and some District Offices, procurement of vehicles for various Offices, to mention a few, could not be realised.

## B2.5 Income & Expenditure

The overall picture of Income and Expenditure for the Year 2000 is presented in a graphical form on the next page. Note that excess Administration Expenditure of ₦85,173,807.90 as of the end of the year was made good with December 2000 releases which were received in January 2001.



## B2.6 Closing Bank Balances

The total bank balances of the Commission, after adjusting for Unpresented cheques, stood at ₦409,572,611.44. The details are as follows:-

NCCE Main Account	-	135,712,047.66
NCCE Car Loan Account	-	11,070,763.17
NCCE Programme Account I	-	192,517,762.00
NCCE Programme Account II	-	<u>1,149,902.00</u>
Total	₦	<u>340,450,474.83</u>
NCCE US Dollar Account	-	\$ 15,369.01

## B2.7 Assets Register

The Assets Register of the Commission was updated within the period. What was left undone was the embossment of a few of them with the appropriate identification marks.

## SECTION C

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# Conclusion and Recommendations

## C1 Conclusion

The National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE), by Article 233 of 1992 Constitution and the NCCE Establishment Act of 1993, Act 452, is charged to create and sustain awareness of constitutional democracy for the achievement of political, economic and social stability through civic education. In the discharge of its mandate, the Commission in the year under review contributed to the successful conduct of the last elections where for the first time in the political history of Ghana there was a change of civilian government from one political party to another.

There are many other areas of society which require the intervention of the NCCE. Indeed, over the years the Commission had planned to undertake civic education on issues like: need for citizens to respect and maintain state property; need for citizens to pay their taxes and participation of people in the District Assemblies and other lower local government structures, especially the Unit Committees. The Commission has been unable to undertake civic education on these issues because of lack of resources in the form of adequate funding and vehicles to cover all the towns and villages in the country as planned.

We believe that adequate funding of the Commission would help enable it to carry out its programmes much more effectively, and the nation would be the better for it. We once again wish to appeal to the Government of Ghana, the Donor Community, friendly countries and indeed all citizens of Ghana to come and support the NCCE to discharge its functions.

## C2 Recommendations

Given the premium of insight gained from our activities and interactions with the public we make a number of recommendations to Parliament and the Executive.

- The NCCE and EC should enhance collaboration in voter/ public education election years to make the management of elections more cost effective and efficient. Currently the level of collaboration among the constitutional governance bodies such as the National Media Commission

(NMC), Electoral Commission (EC), Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) and the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE) is weak. The Commission should help establish a clearing house for collaboration among governance institutions.

- The Christian Council, Catholic Secretariat, the Muslim Council and other religious institutions should be prevailed upon to prevent pulpits and mosques from being turned into partisan political platforms.
- The challenge of getting voters adequately sensitized to make informed, independent choices in an election year is an important assignment the Commission has to undertake faithfully. Central Government should therefore provide resource/finance to the Commission for voter education in election years.
- Relevant stakeholders should give consideration to the debate for specific campaign periods to avoid situations where members of the Executive and Legislatures spend long periods campaigning at the expense of their normal duties.
- Parliament should team up with the NCCE in its effort at educating the public on the criteria for assessment of the performance of MPs. This is because a lot of Ghanaians assess sitting Members of Parliament on the basis of their contribution to the physical development of their communities. Even though it is an election challenge it is not their main function as Parliamentarians. MPs can therefore contribute immensely to the efforts of the NCCE by refraining from making unattainable promises during campaigns.



September 5, 2000: Members of the Ahafo Ano District Consultative Committee on Civic Education after their inauguration.



August 22, 2000: Mr. Nyavor, Community Tribunal Chairman, swearing in members of the Adansi South District Consultative Committee on Civic Education at the Ahafo Ano South District Assembly Hall , New Edubiase.



March 2000: Mr. Alex Bempong-Marfo, Ashanti Regional Director of the NCCE, addressing a forum on the 2000 Population and Housing Census at Ejura Lorry Park.



November 19, 2000: A group picture of opinion leaders of various religious groups after a forum on political and religious tolerance held at Ejura Hall



July 21, 2000: Ms Doris Ocansey, Deputy Chairman (Programmes) of the NCCE, presenting the first prize to a student after the final of the Inter-School CEC Debate in the Asante Akim North District.



March 2000: Members of Bekwai SDA Secondary School Civic Education Club after their visit to Parliament House.



Mr. Johnson Opoku, Ashanti Regional Research Officer (Inset), swearing-in patrons and executives of the Offinso Training College and Dwemena Akanten Secondary School at the Offinso Training College Assembly Hall.



Mr. P.H. Mensah, Deputy Ashanti Regional Director of the NCCE, congratulating members of the Afigya Sekyere District Consultative Committee on Civic Education moments after their swearing-in.



June 8, 2000: Mr. Laary Bimi, Chairman of the NCCE, and Research Officers of the NCCE in a group picture with the Naa Chiir VII, Vice President of the National House of Chiefs and Naa Prof. Nabilla, Chairman of the Research Committee, after a seminar on *Chieftaincy Research Project-Southern Sector* held at Abokobi .



June 20, 2000: Mr. Laary Bimi, Chairman of the NCCE, and Research Officers of the NCCE in a group picture with the Vice President of the National House of Chiefs and the Chairman of the Research Committee, Naa Prof. Nabilla, after a seminar on *Chieftaincy Research Project-Northern Sector* held in Tamale.



