

National Commission for Civic Education

Twelfth Annual Report 2005

COMMISSION MEMBERS



Mr. Farhan Laary Bini
Chairman



Mrs. Augustina Akosua Akumanyi
Deputy Chairman
(Programmes)



Mr. E.K.T Addo
Commission Member



Mr. Kwame Opoku-Afriyie
Commission Member



Mama Adokuwa-Asigble IV
Commission Member

From the Chairman

The National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE), which is provided for in Chapter 19 of the 1992 Constitution and established by Act 452 of 1993, is enjoined by Section 20 of the Act to “annually submit to Parliament, a report indicating the activities and operations of the Commission in respect of the preceding year”. In accordance with this provision, the Commission presents its twelfth (12th) report to Parliament.

The Commission, in 2005, recorded another milestone by practically sending ‘governance’ to the doorsteps of the people through its Social Auditing Programme. Though executed on a pilot basis in 20 districts in the country, the project had singular impact with empowerment of citizens with knowledge, skills and dispositions to demand accountability at the local level. It led to elected and appointed officials at that level becoming more sensitive, responsive and performance-oriented. Citizens asserted their rights and demanded performance from public office holders. The project was also used as an opportunity to provide the citizenry with information on government interventionist policies such as the Social Investment Fund, Capitation Grant, Poverty Reduction Fund, all of which were meant to improve upon the living conditions of the people.

The Commission also continued with its recurrent educational programmes on Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms of the citizens. The year saw the celebration of the Fourth Annual Constitution Week on the theme “National Integration through Tolerance”. The Ghana Constitution Game continued to be a medium for imparting ideas of democracy to the youth in school.

A growing number of organisations collaborate with the Commission in carrying out various programmes. The year saw the beginning of collaboration between the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE) and the National African Peer Review Mechanism-Governing Council (NAPRM- GC) which led to the launch of the APRM Week and the organisation of various fora throughout the country.

In sustaining civic education among the people, there is the need for the provision of the appropriate logistics and motivation for effective discharge of the functions of the Commission. Many district offices lack appropriate space, furniture and equipment. Several district offices get their reports done in the offices of other public agencies or engage private secretarial services; a clear disincentive to commitment to work, effectiveness and efficiency.

The problems of accommodation and equipment in offices extend to the national headquarters as well. The Commission, in the year, made several unsuccessful contacts to either get a plot of land for building its office or a building that could be used for its headquarters.

Staff training and re-orientation remained a challenge. Effective civic education requires continuous on-the-job improvement of skills and knowledge. The paucity of funds makes it almost impossible to give regular training to Staff. Aside of that is the challenge of providing staff with the appropriate educational materials beside the Constitution e.g. Legislative Instruments, Acts and the Commission's own publications.

The issue/problem of under-funding by the Government of Ghana of the Commission remains the main hindrance to its ability to work effectively. The service budget was reduced by 75 per cent from the previous year, and in the area of investment there was a reduction of 69 per cent. The Commission appeals for increased funding to enable it to effectively carry out its mandate.

However, difficult as the situation was, the Commission kept its prospects buoyed by equipping the ordinary citizen with civic knowledge, skills and disposition for effective ownership of the nation's democracy.

The Commission firmly believes that democratic ethics and culture would be greatly enhanced in Ghana if 'Civics for Democracy' was introduced into the formal educational system. In view of our commitment to this, we continue to urge the Ministry of Education, the Ghana Education Service, the Council of State and Parliament to give serious thought to this proposal.

The Commission takes this opportunity to thank the leadership of District Assemblies, Departments, Churches, Mosques, Opinion Leaders, Security Agencies, among others, for their support in the execution of our programmes. The Commission appeals for maximum support in the years ahead.



Farhan Laary Bimi
CHAIRMAN

Executive Summary

The preamble of the Constitution of the Fourth Republic (1992) of Ghana outlines five principles that underlie the Constitution. These are: Freedom, Justice, Probity and Accountability; Sovereignty of the Will of the People; Universal Adult Suffrage; Rule of Law; and the Protection and Preservation of Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms, Unity and Stability of the Nation.

The principles expressed in the preamble have been largely upheld by governments since the coming into force of the 1992 Constitution on January 7, 1993. The country has had three successful elections since 1993, with that of December 7, 2004 recording a turnout of 85.1 per cent; an indication of the growing belief in the democratic process.

The task confronting the nation is how to sustain and deepen the democratic culture for Ghana to remain politically stable as has been witnessed since 1992. The participation of the people in governance remains the key means of doing so. Chapter 20 of the 1992 Constitution provides for a local governance system which shall be decentralised to the local level with the aim of ensuring that the effective and qualitative participation of the people in local governance becomes the surest way of deepening democracy and reducing poverty in communities.

The NCCE, in 2005, began implementing on a pilot basis a social auditing project aimed at enhancing the skills of citizens for effective participation in local governance. Reports from monitoring teams indicate the tremendous impact the project was making in terms of galvanising the people to participate in governance as well as getting citizens to become social auditors.

The Commission continues to pursue its other programmes. The Ghana Constitution Game continues to draw many Citizens to study the Constitution. Regional Competitions were held throughout the country, culminating in the national championship which was for the second time won by Salaga Secondary School.

The Commission, from April to May 2005, successfully celebrated the Fifth Annual Constitutional Week on the theme *Reducing Poverty through Citizens' Participation in Local Governance*.

A number of regional/district offices, with sponsorship from partners, undertook some interesting projects. District offices in the Greater Accra, Upper West and Northern regions were very active in Child Rights promotion.

The Inter-Party Dialogue Committees set up in the Northern and Upper East regions, with the sponsorship of Action Aid International, played tremendous roles in promoting peace in those parts of the country. The resolution of a stand-off at the election of a Presiding Member for the Tolon-Kumbungu District which was facilitated by the Tolon-Kumbungu District office of the Commission deserves special mention.

In the area of research, the Commission continues with its collaborative effort with the Chieftaincy Secretariat and the National House of Chiefs to document customary laws and practices relating to the Enstoolment/Enskinment and Destoolment/Deskinment in Ghana. The Research Department also began a fact finding study on “Worst Forms of Child Labour in Ghana”.

SECTION A

Programmes

The report as presented corresponds with the operations of the Commission. The activities of the Commission come under two Divisions, namely Programmes and Finance and Administration. Accountable to the Deputy Chairman (Programmes) are the heads of the departments of Public Education, Research, Literature and Materials Development and Public Affairs. The Deputy Chairman (Finance and Administration) is responsible for the Finance and Administration departments.

The Programmes Report as presented covers activities of the Public Education, Research, and Literature and Materials Development departments undertaken with the support of the Public Affairs Department under the the guidance of the governing board (the Commission).

A1 Public Education

Public Education is the mainstay of the Commission's activities as delineated by Article 233 of the 1992 Constitution and the National Commission for Civic Education Act, 1993 (Act 452). The Department is guided in its work by the appreciation of the fact that civic education is a shared responsibility.

Towards that goal, the Commission collaborated with all sections of the Ghanaian society and organisations to carry out its activities,

In 2005, the Commission carried out various programmes and activities including

- Annual National Constitution Week Celebrations.
- Formation and Reactivation of Civic Education Clubs.
- Ghana Constitution Game Competitions.

2.1 Annual National Constitution Week Celebrations

The Fifth Annual National Constitution Week (ANCW) was celebrated throughout the country from April 28 to May 4, 2005. The week was celebrated on the theme "Reducing Poverty Through Citizens' Participation in Local Governance".

2.1.1 Headquarters Activities

Activities organised during the week included a main lecture delivered by Prof. Ernest Aryeetey, Director of the Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER). His paper was on the theme of the week, "Reducing Poverty Through Citizens' Participation in Local Governance".

The discussants at the lecture were Mr. Edward Karbo, Director of Town and Country Planning Department (TCPD), and Mrs. Esther Offei-Aboagye, Director of the Institute of Local Government Studies (ILGS), Ogbojo-Madina, Accra.

2.1.2 Regional/District Activities

As part of the week regional and district offices also organised various activities. These included route marches, seminars, lectures, symposia, roundtable discussions, clean-up campaigns and football matches.



Mr Farhan Laary Bimi, Chairman of the NCCE, briefing the Media on the Fifth Annual National Constitution Week Celebrations.



The high table at the main lecture: Seated L-R are: Prof. Ernest Aryeetey, Mrs. Augustina A. Akumanyi, Prof. Nana Araba Apt, Hon. Charles Bintim, and Mrs. Esther Offei-Aboagye.



Mr. Farhan Laary Bimi, Chairman of the NCCE, delivering the welcome address.



A cross-section of the audience at the main launch of the Fifth Annual National Constitution Week Celebrations in Accra.

A1.2 Social Auditing Programme

In April 2005, the NCCE launched a Social Auditing Programme in twenty districts in the country. From each region, two districts, one urban and the other rural, were selected to pilot the programme (Table 2.1).

Table 2.1: Social Auditing Programme-Pilot Districts

Region	Selected Urban District	Selected Rural District
Ashanti	Asante Akim North	Atwima Mponua
Brong Ahafo	Wenchi	Jaman North
Central	Agona West	Abura-Asebu-Kwanmankese
Eastern	Akuapem South	Birim North
Greater Accra	Tema	Ga West
Northern	Nanumba North	Bunkpurugu-Yunyoo
Upper East	Bawku	Talensi-Nabdam
Upper West	Jirapa-Lambussie	Wa East
Volta	Kpando	Nkwanta
Western	Ahanta West	Aowin-Suaman

The eight steps outlined for the implementation of the Social Auditing Programme of the NCCE were as follows:

- Training of the NCCE regional supervisors and district facilitators to update their knowledge on the District Assembly system and to understand the Social Auditing Programme concept.
- A meeting to plan the initial community entry. This meeting identified stakeholders, selected the community to hold the initial forum, and selected facilitators, assessed resources, planned community mobilisation and entry
- Holding an initial community forum. Community members were reminded of their role in the effective functioning of the District Assemblies, the roles of assembly members and public officials.
- Through a problem-tree approach using cards, there was the collation of issues of concern to the community. The problems were ranked or prioritised in order of significance.
- An action plan was drawn up. A key feature was that the action specified what the community members could contribute towards addressing the problems prioritised. The roles of the District Assembly and other authorities were also identified. The Action Plan was meant to highlight the fact that the civic participatory skills of community members were important for a holistic development.
- Putting in place a mechanism to oversee the implementation of the Action Plan.
- NCCE District facilitators monitored the implementation of the Action Plan through monitoring visits.
- Reviewing the implementation of the Action Plan will lead to a revision and another round of implementation.

The Social Auditing Programme made broad sections of the people in the beneficiary communities aware of what was required of an assembly member, unit committee members and the general public to promote local governance.

The exercise also led to the re-awakening of the communal spirit in people and the desire to pool resources to undertake needed projects. It also came out that the unit committees needed to be reactivated to enable them to mobilise the people to undertake the action plan drawn by the communities.

The issues that featured prominently in discussions were: Poor sanitation, low levels of education and environmental degradation in the communities.

The programme afforded community members the opportunity to learn and contribute to building their communities.

A1.3 Civic Education Clubs

Civic Education Clubs continue to play very instrumental roles in the nurturing of democratic principles among the citizenry. In communities and schools where the clubs have been established, they are avenues for deepening the civic skills and knowledge of members.

The main pre-occupation of the regional and district offices of the Commission in 2005 was the formation and re-activation of Civic Education Clubs. A total of 100 clubs were established across the country. The major activities undertaken by clubs included the studying of the 1992 Constitution, playing of the 1992 Ghana Constitution Game, quiz competitions and excursions to places of interest.

The highlights of activities of the clubs in some of the regions were as follows:

A1.3.1 Ashanti Region

The excursion of CEC members of three secondary schools, namely Toase Secondary School, Toase; Nkawie Secondary School, Nkawie; and Osei Tutu Secondary School, Akropong, to the Castle-Osu and Parliament House on November 24, 2005.

A1.3.2 Brong Ahafo Region

The inauguration of clubs at the College of Renewable Natural Resources, Sunyani, and at the International Business College, Goaso, on April 7, 2005 and July 12, 2005 respectively.

A1.3.3 Central Region

The mass inauguration of CECs from Winneba Secondary School, Winneba School of Business, Zion Girls and Father John Vocational School at the Winneba Secondary School Assembly Hall on April 2, 2005.

A1.3.4 Eastern Region

The inauguration of the Klo-Agogo Secondary School Club, Akuse International School Club, Modern Secondary Commercial School Club and Koforidua Polytechnic Club on April 5, 2005, November 18, 2005, November 19, 2005 and August 12, 2005 respectively.

A1.3.5 Greater Accra Region

The CEC of Presbyterian Boys Senior High School (PRESEC), Legon-Accra, under the leadership of Master Mark Bekui was adjudged by the school authorities as the best organised club among the 36 clubs in the school, and consequently given a prize during the PRESEC Excellence Awards Night held on February 26, 2005. The visit of Methodist Day Secondary School, Tema; Tema Secondary School, Tema Vocational Technical Institute, Chemu Secondary School, Tema; Ada Secondary School to Parliament House and NCCE Headquarters, on June 3, 2005, June 10, 2005, June 16, 2005, June 22, 2005, October 28, 2005 respectively.

A1.3.6 Northern Region

In the Savelugu-Nanton District, the NCCE collaborated with the World Vision International and GNCC to organize members of CECs from twenty schools in the district to stage a mock parliament in the Savelugu/Nanton District Assembly Hall, Savelugu, on June 28, 2005. The programme was very successful.

A1.3.7 Upper East Region

As part of efforts to ensure that students do not destroy school property during demonstrations, some district offices organized talks on the protection of state property. The second cycle institutions visited included Bawku Secondary, Bawku Technical, Bawku Secondary/Technical, Garu-Tempene Secondary School, Sandema Secondary Technical School, Sandema Secondary School.

A1.3.8 Upper West Region

A series of talks were organised on HIV/AIDS and Indiscipline in the society for CECs in the schools.

A1.3.9 Volta Region

A quiz competition was organised among the CECs in basic schools in Afiadenyigba, Tegbe and Keta. The MP for Keta Constituency, Hon. Kofi Humado, who was the guest speaker at the awards ceremony donated 18 copies of the Ghana Constitution Game boards for distribution to competing schools. A local NGO, Awareness Culture Association, also donated ₵300,000 and 240 exercise books to the competing schools.

A1.3. 10 Western Region

A joint handing over ceremony for new CECs executives in the SAEMA area took place at the Auditorium of the St. John's School on February 12, 2005. Ten schools took part in the ceremony.

A1.4 Ghana Constitution Game Competition

In 2005, the Commission intensified efforts to expand interest in the playing of the Ghana Constitution Game. A training workshop was organised for 25 members of the Christian Mothers Association of Ghana drawn from various dioceses of the Catholic Church in the country in Accra on August 10, 2005. Other groups which benefitted from training programmes were the Ghana Armed Forces, Ghana Prisons Service and Ghana Fire Service.

A1.4.1 Regional Competitions

The Commission also continued to generate interest in students through the organisation of competitions at zonal/district regional and national levels. A summary of the results of the competition at the regional level is presented below.

Table 2.2: Results of Regional Competition of the Ghana Constitution Game.

Region	No of Competing Schools	Winner
Ashanti	18	Agogo State College
Brong Ahafo	11	Sunyani Secondary School
Central	11	Swedru Secondary School
Eastern		Aburi Girls Secondary School
Greater Accra	10	Ada Secondary School
Northern	10	Tolon Secondary School
Upper East	10	Notre Dame Minor Seminary/ Secondary, Navrongo
Upper West	10	St. Francis Xavier Minor Seminary/Secondary School, Wa

A1.4.2 National Championship

All the winning schools converged in Accra for the national championship on April 26, 2005. Salaga Secondary School emerged winners for the second time running. All the participants agreed that the game was a major source of encouragement for the studying of the 1992 Constitution of Ghana.



The 2005 national championship in session at Achimota Secondary School, Accra.



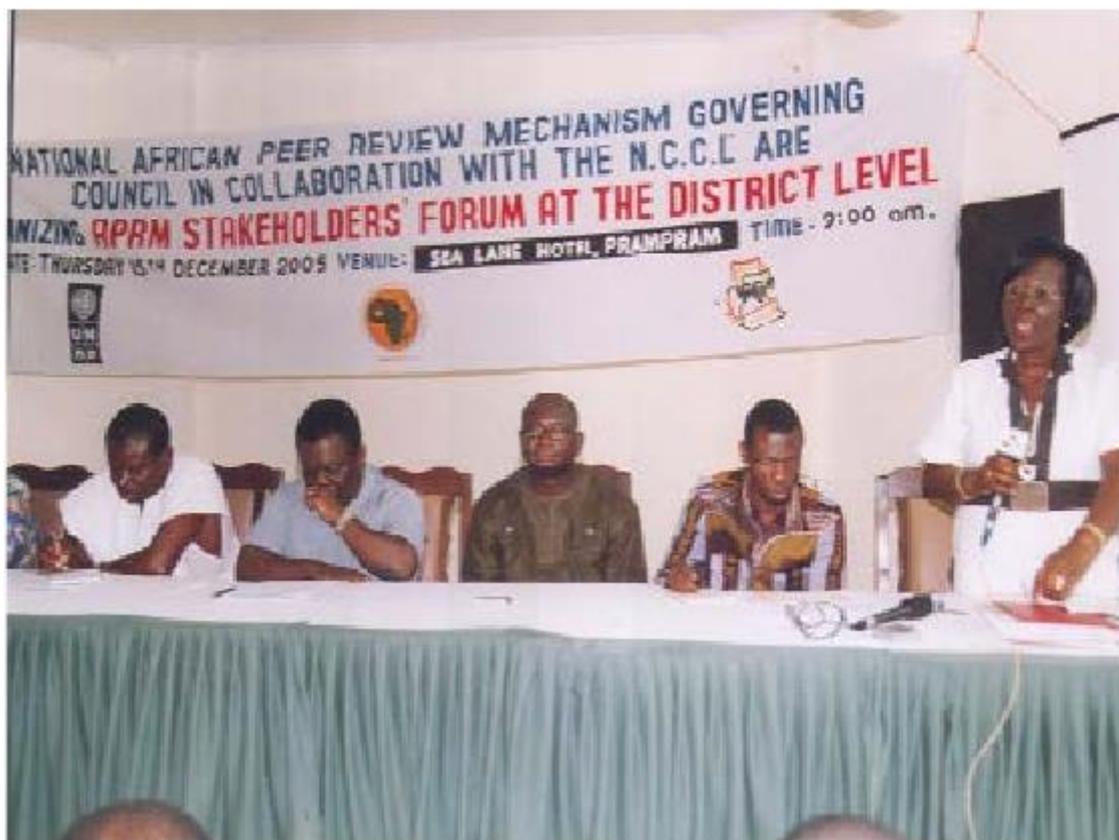
Mrs. Augustina Akosua Akumanyi, Deputy Chairman (Programmes) of the NCCE, presenting some items to students of Salaga Secondary School, winners of the second inter-regional GCG competition.

A1.5 Collaborative Programmes

In consonance with the philosophy of seeing civic education as a shared responsibility, the NCCE collaborated with a number of bodies/institutions and agencies to undertake educational activities so as to reach all segments of society. Among the institutions the Commission collaborated with were the National African Peer Review Mechanism-Governing Council (NAPRM-GC), Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), IBIS, Ghana AIDS Commission (GAC) and District AIDS Committee (DAC).

Table 2.3 presents a summary of the activities jointly organised by the NCCE and the organisations:

Organization	Focus of activity	Number of activities	Remarks
NAPRM-GC	Dissemination of information on the concept of APRM. Regional launch of APRM Week.	22 workshops organized (an average of two per region).	Many citizens got to know about APRM and NEPAD. The APRM Week was very well patronized.
GII	Educational fora to fight against corruption.	12 workshops (an average of one per region).	The workshops were assessed by participants to have deepened their understanding of the problem of corruption in the country and how to deal with it.
UNICEF	Sensitize citizens to child-right issues.	All five districts of GAR undertook programme. An average of three activities were organised in each district.	A general call on the law enforcement agencies to be proactive in the enforcement of the Children's Act, Act 670.
IBIS	Promoting children's rights in three districts (Bole, East Gonja and Saboba-Chereponi).	Two workshops were held in each district.	The pledge by chiefs, elders and opinion leaders to take seriously the education of the girl-child.
GAC/DAC	Sensitization campaign on HIV/AIDS.	The Accra Metropolitan office of the NCCE organized Community Drama in Agblogbloshie.	Participants equipped with knowledge and survival skills in relation to HIV/AIDS.



Mrs Doris Acheampong Greater Accra Regional Director of NCCE, Delivering a welcome address at NAPRM forum held at Prampram



NCCE forum on child rights held in Accra

A1.6 Special Regional Programmes

In addition to programmes directed and supervised by the National Headquarters, some regional and district offices of the NCCE, with local sponsorship, planned and carried out activities in response to local demands.

A number of these programmes are captured below:

A1.6.1 Ashanti Region

The Asante Akim North, Ahafo-Ano South, Sekyere West, Offinso, Ejura-Sekyedumase and Kwabre district offices of the NCCE collaborated with their District Assemblies to undertake educational campaigns on environmental degradation.

A1.6.2 Brong Ahafo Region

The Asutifi, Wenchi, Sene, Kintampo and Nkoranza district offices undertook anti bush fire campaigns. The campaign helped to reduce to a minimum the outbreak of bush fires in the project districts.

A1.6.3 Central Region

With sponsorship of the World Vision International, the Assin North District Office of the NCCE organised workshops in six communities on “Promoting Democracy and Good Governance in Ghana”.

A1.6.4 Eastern Region

A total of seven hundred and fifty four (754) civic education activities based on different topical issues were planned and executed. Out of that 300 were activities organised in response to local demands. Of special note is the inauguration of the executives of the Koforidua Polytechnic Civic Education Club on August 12, 2005 by the Chairman of the NCCE, Mr. Laary Bimi. The club has a membership of sixty-five (65).

A1.6.5 Greater Accra Region

The Dangme West District Office organised workshops in the three traditional areas of the district, namely Shai, Osudoku and Ningo-Prampram on July 6, July 7, and on July 8, 2005 respectively, Funding was provided by the World Vision International.

A1.6.6 Northern Region

With sponsorship from Action Aid International, a workshop on Peace Building and Conflict Management was organised for members of the Tolon-Kumbungu District Assembly from April 27 to 28, 2005. The immediate outcome of the workshop was the resolution of a five-month stand off on election of the Presiding Member for the Tolon-Kumbungu District Assembly.

A1.6.7 Upper East Region

The Regional Office of the NCCE carried out 22 different civic education activities to sensitise the citizenry to ensure women's participation in local governance.

A1.6.8 Upper West Region

With sponsorship from Action Aid International four district offices undertook educational campaigns on Human Rights in five selected communities each.

A1.6.9 Volta Region

The effort of the Kadjebi District Office was largely boosted by a 6.2 million support from Action Aid and African Centre for Human Resource Development under its Sankofa programme. Among communities that educational activities were organized were Avornyokofe, Akum, Kasamaba, Okanta, Kordibenum, Nyarku, Dapaa, Wawaso. The Regional Office collaborated with the Ghana National Commission on Small Arms (GNACSD) to organize an awareness campaign on small arms and light weapons in the region

A1.6.10 Western Region

In a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Western Regional Office of the NCCE and the Netherlands Development Organization (SNV), Ghana, on September 1, 2005, the two agreed to formalize the partnership between the NCCE and SNV Ghana in order that they could jointly design a framework for intervention to achieve the goals and objectives of the two organizations. Issues considered in the MoU included: objectives of both organizations, principles of shaping and maintaining the relationship, potential activities, roles and responsibilities of parties and monitoring and evaluation. The MoU was valid for one year and subject to extension or abrogation based on a mutual assessment of a continued need for the collaboration by both the NCCE and SNV Ghana.

A2 Research

The Research Department undertook a number of surveys and other activities to actualise the fifth function of the NCCE, which is “to assess for the information of government, limitations to the achievement of true democracy arising from the existing inequalities between different strata of the population and make recommendations for redressing these inequalities”.

Among the activities undertaken by the department were:

- i. A Fact-Finding Study on Worst Forms of Child Labour in Ghana.
- ii. Research into Customary Laws and Practices Relating to Enstoolment/Enskinment in Ghana.
- iii. Regional/District Researches.

A2.1 Fact-Finding Study on Worst Forms of Child Labour in Ghana

This study was undertaken in December 2005 in collaboration with Research International Organisation.

The main objectives of the study were: (i) To collect and disseminate baseline information on public opinion and attitudes regarding worst forms of child labour in Ghana. (ii) Establish an inventory of the main target groups and potential partners for social mobilisation and determine the appropriate mix of social mobilisation tools for awareness raising campaigns.

The details of the field work and the findings of the study would be reported on in the Thirteenth (2006) *Annual Report of the NCCE to Parliament*.

A2.2 Research Project into Customary Laws and Practices Relating to Enstoolment/Enskinment in Ghana

The NCCE continued its collaborative work with the Chieftaincy Secretariat and the National House of Chiefs to document Customary Laws and Practices Relating to Enstoolment/Enskinment and Destoolment/Deskinment in Ghana with the objective to curtail the unending litigation in chieftaincy affairs.

In 2005, the fourth phase of the research was undertaken. It covered 18 paramountcies namely Wulugu, Bamboi, Kumbungu, Kpembe (Northern Region), Bawku(Kusasi), Bolgatanga, Kayoro, Nangodi (Upper East Region), Dorimon, Wechiau, Gwollu, Lambussie (Upper West Region), Mampong, Bekwai, Obogu (Ashanti Region), Dormaa, Banda (Brong Ahafo Region).

Training of Research Officers of the NCCE took place at the PWTC, Abokobi, from May 22 to 24, 2005. Field work lasted from June to July 2005. A debriefing workshop for Research Officers from the NCCE, officers of the National House of Chiefs and the Chieftaincy Secretariat as well as Registrars of Traditional Areas took place at the Christian Village, Kumasi, from July 29, 2005 to August 1, 2005.

Field officers went back to cross-check questions against which issues were raised at the debriefing workshop. By December 2005 all the reports on the 18 traditional areas were duly analysed, evaluated and documented. As a result of the work done, the National House of Chiefs and the Chieftaincy Secretariat succeeded in increasing its stock of completed research reports to 102.

A2.3 Regional/District Researches

Some regional and district offices of the NCCE, with local sponsorship, undertook some research work. Among these were:

A2.3.1 Akuapem South

The Akuapem South District Office of the NCCE teamed up with the Lancing City-Akuapem South Sister City Co-operation Programme to undertake health and educational surveys in seven zones within the district.

A2.3.2 Fanteakwa

The Fanteakwa District Office of the NCCE was assisted by the District Assembly to conduct research into factors that impede development in the area.

A2.3.3 Afram Plains

The Afram Plains District Office collaborated with the Afram Plains Development Organisation (APDO), an NGO, to conduct research into the level of understanding of HIV/AIDS and its effects on the youth in the future development of the district.

A3 Literature and Materials Development

The Literature and Materials Development Department produced a number of literature and materials to support the civic education programmes and activities of the Commission. The department also began plans to start the “Project Citizen” programme of the Commission.

A3.1 Brochure on 2005 (Fifth) Annual National Constitution Week

A five-page brochure produced by the department gave a historical account of the celebrations of the week over the years and dilated on the theme for the Fifth Week “Reducing Poverty through Citizens’ Participation in Local Governance”. A total of 1,000 brochures were produced and distributed.

A3.2 Study Tour of USA and Funding for Project Citizen

Mr. Kwame Opoku-Afriyie, Commission Member, and Mrs. Fanny Judith Kumah, Director of the Literature and Materials Development Department, went on a study tour to California and Washington DC, United State of America, under the auspices of the Centre for Civic Education, USA. They were part of a four-member Ghanaian delegation which joined a fourteen-member African delegation invited to the USA by the Centre for Civic Education of the USA.

During the visit, partnership meetings were held with Mr. Michelle Herzog of the Center for Civic Education and Mr. David Morehouse of the Los Angeles Country Office on the proposals and budget for the implementation of “*We the People — Project Citizen*” in Ghana. A budget of U\$53,446 was approved for the pilot project in Ghana.

The tour lasted from April 20 to May 4, 2005.

A4 Public Affairs

The Public Affairs Department, which provides the link between the Commission and both its internal and external publics, undertook a number of activities aimed at enhancing the image of the Commission. The activities were: (i) Monitoring the Media Landscape, (ii) Design, production and distribution of the 2005 NCCE calendar and (iii) Organising Television and Radio Programmes.

A4.1 Monitoring the Media Landscape

A total of 149 NCCE related stories were published in the national newspapers. *The Daily Graphic, Ghanaian Times, The Mirror, The Weekly Spectator, and Daily Guide.* GTV, TV3, TV Africa and Metro TV were the electronic media organisations that gave much space to the NCCE's activities.

A4.2 The 2005 NCCE Calendar

The four-page calendar carried a group photograph of CEC club members from St. Mary's Secondary School, Korle-Gonno; pictures of Security Services at a workshop organised by the NCCE, a community discussion programme in the Northern Region and a public durbar of chiefs and group picture of some female staff at the NCCE Headquarters in Accra.

The general import of the calendar was to encourage the citizenry to get involved in the activities of civic education clubs in schools, workplaces and communities.

A4.3 Television and Radio Programme

Mr. Farhan Laary Bimi, Chairman of the NCCE, and Mrs. Augustina Akosua Akumanyi, Deputy Chairman (Programmes) of the NCCE, took turns to appear on television to discuss general issues of concern to the nation. Officers of the Commission also appeared on Ghana Television's Adult Education Programmes in Ga, Ewe, Akan, Nzema, Dagbani and Hausa.

The Commission, throughout the country, used radio to reach Ghanaians with civic education. Notable among radio stations that gave airtime for NCCE programmes were: *Spirit FM* (in Kumasi), *Radio BAR* (93.5 MHz) in Sunyani, *Obonu FM* (96.3 MHz) in Accra, *Radio Savannah* (92.3 MHz) in Tamale, *Radio Maxx* (105.1 MHz), *ROK FM* (98.0 MHz) and *KYZZ FM* (89.7 MHz) all in Takoradi.

SECTION B

Finance and Administration

The Finance and Administration Division of the NCCE covers the Administration and Finance Departments. The Division is also responsible for the finances of the Commission. In the year under review, the division continued with efforts to infuse efficiency and discipline into all levels of the Commission.

B1 Administration

This section of the *Annual Report* covers activities of the Department of Administration. The Department is charged with the responsibility of handling administrative and personnel issues of the Commission. It has five units under it, namely Personnel, Estates, Transport, Stores and Registry.

B1.1 The Secretariat of the Commission

The Commission in 2005 held 17 meetings. On June 1, 2005, Lt.-Col. Joseph Komla Agbotse (rtd.) proceeded on leave prior to retirement. In his absence, Mr. Kojo Tito Voegborlo, Deputy Director of Research, began serving with the Commission. He was on August 9, 2005 officially confirmed the acting Commission Secretary.

On September 6, 2005, Lt.-Col. Joseph Komla Agbotse (rtd.) passed away. He was buried at his hometown, Kpedze, on December 9, 2005.

B1.2 Human Resource Development (Staff Position, Annual Leave, Capacity Building-Study Leave and Other Courses)

The staff position as of December 31, 2005 stood at 1,377. The major problem was the high turnover of staff due to resignations by officers to take up appointments in organisations which offered better conditions of service.

A total of 131 members of staff were upgraded during the year as a result of having acquired higher qualifications. A total of 124 members of staff were promoted.

B1.3 Estates (Accommodation, Equipment and Transport)

B1.3.1 Accommodation

The problems of accommodation for officers at the headquarters persisted through the year. The Commission made several contacts to either get a plot of land for building its headquarters building or a building that could be used for that purpose. Places contacted included the divested GNTC Bottling Company, the disused Ghana National Trading Corporation (GNTC) flat located at Cantonments-Accra. After several trips to the DIC Office the Commission was told the building had been sold. Two empty plots located near the Ghana AIDS Commission were later earmarked but once again upon contact, the Commission was told the DIC had earmarked it for sale.

At a point in 2005, proposals were made to rent other offices, which would be used as headquarters annex. The financial implications did not allow the Commission to do that.

In the regions and districts, most NCCE offices continued to be located within the blocks of the Regional/District Administration. The creation in 2005 of new districts brought some challenges to the Commission in respect of opening new offices. The Commission is yet to open offices in most of the districts.

B1.3.2 Transport

The Commission at the end of 2005 had a total fleet of 25 vehicles, including one 33-Seater Staff Bus, which were procured from Toyota (Ghana) Limited in 2004.

1.4 Welfare Issues (Conditions of Service, Provident Fund and Staff Welfare Schemes)

The Commission continues to operate a National Welfare Fund towards which all staff, except the Commission Members, contribute One Thousand Cedis (¢1,000) per person per month through a check-off system. A total of 80 per cent of the amount is remitted to the District Offices of contributors and 20 per cent kept at the Headquarters.

Operating alongside this is a staff Provident Fund which was instituted in August 2002 with Donewell Insurance Company Limited as fund managers. Staff contribute 10 per cent of their salary towards the fund.

B2 Finance

B2.1 Opening Balance

The bank balances as of January 1, 2005 were:

Personnel Emoluments	¢589,893,031.41
Administration	¢5,696,754.43
Service	¢2,132,203,443.24
Dollar Accounts	¢3,885,262.42
Car Loan Account	¢22,846,262.42
GAR Fund	¢5,315,983.00
Total	¢779,839,916.77

B2.2 Budget Estimates for 2005

The Government of Ghana (GoG) approved budget for the Commission for the 2004 Financial Year totalled ¢30,701,000,000. This was made up of:

Personnel Emoluments	¢16,681,000,000
Administration	¢9,741,000,000
Service	¢2,086,000,000
Investment	¢2,193,000,000
Total	¢30,701,000,000

It is important to state that the reduction in the 2005 budget estimate from ¢40,976,000,000 to ¢30,701,000,000 was mainly due to a reduction in Investment and Service budgets.

The Service budget was reduced by 75 per cent from the previous year and in the area of investment there was a reduction of 69 per cent.

The result of these huge reductions impacted negatively on service delivery of the Commission in 2005.

B2.3 Approved Budget and Releases

In the year under review a budget of ¢30,701,000,000 was approved for the Commission. At the end of the year, however, the actual release from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning came to ¢31,773,613,758.46 which gives an increase of ¢1,072,613,758.46.

The approved budget for the year and amount released by the GoG for the same period is as reflected below:

Item	Approved Budget	Amount Released	Variance
Personnel Emoluments	16,681,700,000	19,019,113,292.46	+2,337,413,29
Administration	9,741,000,000	9,629,265,266	111,734,737
Service	2,086,000,000	2,086,000,000	-
Investment	2,193,000,000	1,039,235,200	1,153,764,800

The above table shows an excess release of ₵2.3billion in Personnel Emoluments. The balance was in respect of Salary Arrears for 2005.

B2.4 Income and Expenditure for 2005

The table below shows the income and expenditure of the Commission in 2005. The table is based on Government of Ghana funds and other donor funds.

Item	Income	Expenditure	Variance
Personnel Emoluments	19,019,113,292.46	18,994,016,986.17	25,096,306.29
Administration	9,629,265,266.00	9,682,181,217.44	52,915,951.44
Service	2,086,000,000.00	2,303,857,221.77	217,857,221.77
Investment	1,039,235,200.00	1,039,235,000.00	-
Donor/Others	-	-	-
NGP (National Governance Programme)	145,000,000.00	-	-
Total	31,918,613,758.46	32,164,290,625.38	(245,676,866.92)

The figures as presented show an excess expenditure of ₵245,676,866.92. The excess expenditure was funded by opening balances.

The total income includes a donor support of ₵145,000,000 from the National Governance Programme.

B2.5 Closing Balance

The total Bank Balance as of the close of December 31, 2005 stood at ₵109,491,063.82 with details as follows:

Personnel Emoluments	55,146,380.51
Administration	17,093,870.44
Service	2,472,259.10
GAR Fund	5,315,983.00
Car Loan	25,577,308.35
Total	₵109,491,063.82

The above balances of the Commission are kept at the Bank of Ghana.

SECTION C

Conclusion and Recommendations

C1 Conclusion

In December, 2004 the country successfully conducted its fourth election under the 1992 Fourth Republican Constitution. The success of the elections pointed to the growing acceptance of constitutional democracy. But the success of constitutional democracy rests on the participation of all citizens in governance. For participatory democracy to be worthy of its name, there should be a conscious attempt to educate citizens to take active and informed decisions. It is with this in mind that the Commission, in April 2005, piloted the social auditing project in 20 districts.

It must be noted that at present the government is very concerned with socio-economic problems, because society's welfare hinges, first of all, on their solution. It is important to note that to tackle the grave economic problems of the country, efforts must be made to put civic education at the center of our priorities. Poverty reduction packages become meaningful only when the citizens know about them and are encouraged to take advantage of them as well as take their own initiatives to reduce poverty.

It is in this respect that the role of the NCCE becomes very crucial. Indeed, Section 2 of Act 452 charges the NCCE to create and sustain within the society an awareness of the principles and objectives of the Constitution as the fundamental law of the people of Ghana. The Commission is also to educate and encourage the public to defend the Constitution at all times against all forms of abuse and violations.

In spite of the enormous responsibilities thrust on the Commission, it remains under-resourced in terms of equipment for work. Logistical constraints continue to be the major problem confronting the Commission in the regions. Since some portions in many districts are inaccessible because of deplorable roads, staff in the districts find it extremely difficult if not impossible to reach out to these areas, in the absence of the required logistics and equipment.

Even more worrisome is the continuous depletion of the human resource capacity of the NCCE. Indeed, the high turnover of staff is negatively affecting the Commission. Very often officers who show much zeal and drive soon find themselves out of the Commission, some after pursuing further education.

Against this background, it is important for the state to take a look at the conditions of service of staff to give hope to staff in the performance of their crucial role as civic educators.

C2 Recommendations

At the December 2004 elections, officers of the Commission undertook observation of the whole electioneering process. Some of the observations made are with respect to:

- Undemocratic conduct of political party primaries.
- The imposition of candidates on the people.
- Vote buying.
- The use of traditional mats/coffins to symbolise the death and burial of losing candidates.
- Ethnic politics as a result of identifying some tribes with some political parties.
- The use of offensive language during campaigns.
- Unequal access to the media by some political parties.
- Interference of some party activists in the rallies of opposing parties.
- Abuse of incumbency.

The Commission calls upon Parliament to lead the way to pass appropriate legislation to deal with the issues raised above.

The Commission also calls on the government to take the necessary steps to make copies of the 1992 Constitution readily available and affordable to the reading public.