

**“33 YEARS OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEMOCRACY: REFLECTING ON OUR JOURNEY,
EMBRACING OUR FUTURE”**

Today, the 28th day of April, 2025, marks exactly 33 years since Ghanaians, through a national referendum held on 28th April 1992, made a bold and defining decision to embrace multiparty constitutional democracy. This momentous event ushered in the Fourth Republic with the promulgation of the 1992 Constitution on 7th January 1993, a document that remains the cornerstone of Ghana’s democratic governance.

The 1992 Constitution is more than just a legal document; it is the embodiment of the collective will, hopes, and aspirations of the people of Ghana. It is considered a fundamental law - a living organism - that must be interpreted with the consciousness of its dynamic nature. The spirit and letter of the Constitution capture the essence of the Ghanaian journey toward freedom, justice, peace, and development.

This principle is eloquently captured in the words of Sowah JSC in the celebrated case of *Tuffour v. Attorney General* [1980] GLR 637, where he stated:

“A written Constitution is not an ordinary Act of Parliament. It embodies the will of the people. It mirrors their history... The Constitution has its spirit... its language... must be considered as if it were a living organism.”

Similarly, in *National Media Commission v. Attorney General* [2000] SCGLR, Acquah JSC (as he then was) emphasized that:

“It is important to remind ourselves that we are dealing with our national Constitution, not an ordinary Act of Parliament. It is a document that expresses our sovereign will and embodies our soul. It creates authorities and vests certain powers in them. It gives certain rights to persons as well as bodies of persons and imposes obligations as much as it confers privileges and powers. All these must be exercised and enforced not only in the spirit of the Constitution. Accordingly, in interpreting the Constitution, care must be taken to ensure that all the provisions work together logically to rational, internally consistent framework.”

In recognition of the importance of civic education in sustaining constitutional democracy, the framers of the 1992 Constitution established the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE). Under Article 233 (a) and (b) of the Constitution and Section 2 of the NCCE Act, 1993 (Act 452), the Commission is mandated:

To create and sustain within the society the awareness of the principles and objectives of this Constitution as the fundamental law of the people of Ghana;




To educate and encourage the public to defend this Constitution at all times against all forms of abuse and violation.

In furtherance of its constitutional and statutory mandate, the NCCE, since 2001, has adopted several strategies, one of which is its flagship annual programme - the Constitution Week Celebration (CWC), held nationwide from 28th April to 4th May each year.

This year, the 2025 Annual Constitution Week is anchored on the Commission's operational theme for 2025: ***"Ghana's Future: Our Collective Responsibility."***

The theme resonates deeply with the current national conversation around the role of citizens in shaping the destiny of the country. It underscores that Ghana's future is a shared responsibility - every action, whether small or large, contributes to national development. If all citizens commit and act together, Ghana can be built into a nation grounded in peace, offering hope, opportunity, and a better life for every Ghanaian.

As part of the activities lined up for the 2025 Constitution Week, the NCCE will engage a wide range of stakeholders, including:

-  The Security Services
-  Organized Groups in both the Formal and Informal Sectors (national and regional levels)
-  Identifiable Groups at the District Level, such as Women's Groups, Youth Organizations, and Faith-Based Organizations.

These engagements are geared toward fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of the Constitution and the shared responsibility of all citizens in ensuring good governance and national prosperity.

OBJECTIVES OF THE 2025 CONSTITUTION WEEK CELEBRATION

The celebration seeks, among other things, to:

1. Educate stakeholders and citizens about Ghanaian values, instilling pride in our collective heritage and moral compass.
2. Sensitize citizens on their critical role in building a prosperous Ghana, emphasizing that national development is the cumulative effect of individual contributions.
3. Encourage active citizen participation in governance processes to accelerate socio-economic development and secure prosperity for all.

The Constitution Week Celebration therefore serves not only as a reminder of Ghana's democratic journey, but also as a clarion call to all Ghanaians to rise to the challenge of nation-building. It is an opportunity to recommit to the ideals of freedom, equality, accountability, and social justice that underpin the 1992 Constitution.

As we commemorate 33 years of constitutional democracy, let us all recognize that Ghana's future is indeed our collective responsibility. By actively participating in governance, defending the Constitution, and upholding Ghanaian values, we can bequeath to future generations a nation even greater and more prosperous than we inherited.

Long live Ghana!

Long live constitutional democracy!

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