

National Commission for Civic Education

Fourth Annual Report 1997

COMMISSION MEMBERS



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Preface

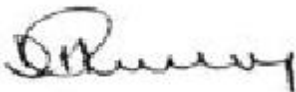
Modern day societies, especially those with the new and refreshing perspectives of the concept and practice of democracy, are increasingly being prompted by the question “What role can civic education play in building and strengthening their democratic systems?” One only needs to examine the trends in Ghana’s past political history to conclude that one kind of sensitisation or awareness creation process or other did take place along the period to enhance programmes aimed at deepening the culture of democracy within the society.

However, Civic Education as an instrument for the systematic sensitisation of, and awareness creation among the citizenry, was given a boost when it became a critical issue of the democracy of the Fourth Republic of Ghana.

The establishment of the NCCE as a constitutional body to carry out civic education on a permanent basis in Ghana is not only to develop critical thinking among the citizenry but also to sensitise them to learn how to live a culture of democracy with all its challenges and benefits.

In the past couple of years, the NCCE has striven to establish proactive civic education framework to provide opportunities for all Ghanaians to meaningfully appreciate society and contribute effectively to nation building.

This we shall continue to do in the years ahead.



**Doris Ocansey (Ms.)
Acting Chairman**

Introduction

The NCCE is a constitutional body set up by the 1992 Constitution with the mandate to produce a population imbued with the democratic ethos. The Commission also has the mandate to assess, for the information of government, the limitations to the achievement of true democracy arising from existing inequalities between different strata of the population and to make recommendations for redressing these inequalities.

Following this mandate, this Fourth Annual Report of the NCCE is presented to focus on the programmes and projects that were undertaken to help advance those objectives. The report follows the format in which Section A sums up the activities of the Programmes Division while Section B deals with Finance and Administration, while Section C deals with conclusions and observations.

SECTION A

Programmes

The Programmes report covers Public Education and Research activities.

A1 Public Education Activities

The Public Education Department of the Commission undertook a number of Civic Education activities in the year 1997.

The approved activities for the Department for the year under review covered, civic education in the following areas:

1. Civic Education on Free and Compulsory Basic Education (FCUBE).
2. Civic Education Decentralisation District Assembly and Lower Local Government Structures especially Unit Committees.
3. Civic Education Revision of Voters' Register/Exhibition Exercise.
4. Activities of Civic Education Clubs.
5. Development of Community Theatre in Village/Towns, Workplaces and Schools
6. Video and Drama Productions.
7. Seminar with the Police.
8. Meetings of National Consultative Body and Subject Matter Committees.
9. Civic Education on Functions of State Institutions.
10. Civic Education on Youth and Students Participation in National Affairs.
11. Civic Education on Maintenance of State Property.
12. Civic Education on Integrated and Sustainable Economic Growth in Relation to *Ghana: Vision 2020*.
13. Civic Education on Directive Principles of State Policy.
14. Civic Education on Protection of Nature, the Environment and How the individual Family can Protect it.
15. Civic Education on the Empowerment of Women and the Disabled, the Sick and Children in the Society.
16. Civic Education on Restructuring of the Civil Service and how it affects the Civil Service and the Society in General.

Out of the 16 activities only seven were undertaken, due largely to lack of finance.

The seven activities that were undertaken were:

- (i) Civic Education on Free and Compulsory Basic Education (FCUBE).
- (ii) Civic Education Decentralisation District Assembly and Lower Local Government Structures, especially Unit Committees.
- (iii) Civic Education Revision of Voters' Register/Exhibition Exercise.
- (iv) Activities of Civic Education Clubs.
- (v) Development of Community Theatre in Village/Towns, Workplaces and Schools.
- (vi) Video and Drama Productions.
- (vii) Seminar with the Police.

The NCCE's civic education outreach activities were carried out in the communities, workplaces, churches and among other civil society organisations. The outreach programmes took the form of fora, durbars, seminars, rallies, symposia, house-to-house education, and focus group discussions. The target groups, among others, included: Religious groups, students associations, social clubs, chiefs, opinion leaders, farmers, politicians from all political parties, NGOs, the Police, Fire Service, Revenue Collection Institutions etc.

A1.1 Free and Compulsory Universal Basic Education (FCUBE)

The Fourth Republican Constitution provides in Article 38 that: *The Government shall within two years after Parliament first meets after the coming into force of the Constitution, draw up a programme for implementation within the following ten years for the provision of Free, Compulsory and Universal Basic Education.*

The government, in fulfillment of this constitutional provision, within the year under review came out with a Blue Print on FCUBE, which was to be implemented between 1996 and 2005.

The NCCE collaborated with the Ministry of Education to undertake the appropriate educational exercise among the citizenry on the new policy. The Commission's main goal in embarking on civic education on this policy was three fold:

- i. provide the citizenry with the background information that led to the formulation of the Policy;
- ii. explain to citizens the content, value and benefits provided by the policy document; and
- iii. educate the public on their role in ensuring the success of the programme.

Officers of the Commission in their educational campaigns stressed the importance and the need for children irrespective of their social background to have access to girl-child education. Parents were asked to pay particular attention to the education of the girl-child.

A1.2 District Assembly and Unit Committee Elections

In August 1997, the Electoral Commission announced programmes for the conduct of District Assembly and Unit Committee elections for November 1997. The NCCE responded to the needs of the programme and went into action to educate the citizenry on the elections. The focus of the educational activities was to explain to the electorate:

- (i) the modalities governing the elections;
- (ii) eligibility of candidates;
- iii) proper conduct of prospective candidates before, during and after elections; and
- (iv) the functions of the Unit Committee/Urban and Town Council as spelt out in the Local Government Act 462 of the 1993 and Local Government (DistrictAssemblies)(Establishment)(Amendment)instrument1994L.I.1589.

A few weeks before the day for the elections, a concerned citizen brought an action in court to challenge the legality of some procedures adopted by the Electoral Commission for holding the elections. The High Court upheld the plaintiff's case and placed an interim injunction on the Electoral Commission for holding the Unit Committee elections. As a result of the Court's action our educational activities were prolonged.

A1.3 Revision of Voters' Register and Exhibition Exercise

From October 31 to November 9, 1997, the Electoral Commission undertook an exercise to revise the Voters' Register. The Exhibition of the Voters Register took place from December 17 to 21, 1997.

The revision exercise was to allow those who had turned 18 years after the last registration exercise to register as voters while the exhibition exercise was to allow eligible voters who registered during the registration exercises which took place in 1995, October 1996 and October 1997 to check on their names.

The NCCE in its civic education activities adopted the following strategies:

- a) Encouraging eligible members of the Civic Education Clubs to register.
- b) Interacting with political, religious, economic, social and cultural groups to urge eligible members to register.
- c) Encouraging young females who had attained 18 years to register.

Officers in their education activities stressed on the importance of the participation of the youth in such issues of national significance. Officers stressed that taking advantage to register will guarantee their future stake in the decision making process within their Communities and the nation as a whole.

The NCCE used educational materials made available to it by the Electoral Commission for the Revision and Exhibition Exercises. It is important to explain that in many places the NCCE and the EC mounted joint platforms to educate the people. While the NCCE stressed on the Why of the Exercise, the Electoral Commission officers stressed on the How of the Exercise.

The NCCE mounted vigorous educational exercises before and during the registration and exhibition programmes. In Accra and other regional capitals, the Commission mounted public address systems on the Commission's available vehicles for street dawn and dusk announcements in the communities. Staff of the Commission went to almost every part of the country to encourage eligible voters to register and to check their names in the register to enable them to exercise their franchise.

A1.4 Civic Education Clubs

The focus this year was the strengthening of existing Civic Education Clubs (CECs). New CECs were however inaugurated in some districts.

The CECs became the NCCE's vehicle for the spreading of civic messages as well as for the study of the Constitution of Ghana among students and pupils. Below are some of the specific activities organised by the National Headquarters and Regional Offices with CECs.

A1.4.1 Headquarters Activities

The Public Education Department at the Headquarters collaborated with the National Union of Ghana Students (NUGS) to establish an annual debate to highlight national issues such as National Integration, Human Rights, Rule of Law, Accountability, Political Tolerance, Duties of Citizens etc. so as to raise the level of students' general civic awareness.

On October 2, 1997, CECs of the four universities, in conjunction with the NCCE, initiated a programme of debates: The first inter-University Civic Education Clubs debate was held on the theme *Consolidating Democracy through Civic Education*. The debates started on October 18, 1997 at the NCCE Conference Room. The competing institutions were: the University of Cape Coast; Cape Coast; University College of Education, Winneba; Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, and the University of Ghana, Legon. The preliminaries and the semi-finals of the debate were held on October 16 and 18, 1997 at the NCCE Conference room.

The finals of the debate were held at the Auditorium of the School of Administration, University of Ghana on October 25, 1997. The competing institutions were University of Ghana, Legon, and University College of Education, Winneba. The topic was *The 1992 Constitution Has Already Showed Signs of Durability*. Before the debates, Ms. Doris Ocansey, NCCE Deputy Chairman in Charge of Programmes, addressed the audience. Ms. Brooks Robinson, Director of United States Information Services in Ghana (USIS), the sponsors of the debates, spoke at the function. The University of Ghana Civic Education Club won the competition.

Prizes including a plaque and cash were given to participating clubs and winners. It is planned that the debates would be conducted annually and the plaque, which was donated by USIS, competed for by the CECs of the universities.

A1.4.2 Greater Accra Region

The region intensified its work on CECs and more Clubs were formed in schools. Civic Education Clubs of some second cycle institutions namely Accra Academy, Accra High. Presbyterian Boys' School, Achimota School, Accra Girls' School among others, engaged in activities such as quizzes, visits to Parliament, clean-ups etc. in the Accra Metropolis.

As part of the 40th Independence Anniversary Celebrations of Ghana, the NCCE organized a quiz competition for CECs in the Senior Secondary Schools in Accra. The schools were: Achimota School, Accra Academy, Presbyterian Boys' Secondary School, Legon; Accra Girls' Secondary, Wesley Grammar School and Accra High School.

The competition was held at the Assembly Hall of the Achimota School on March 14, 1997 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Two contestants from each of the schools participated. At the end, Achimota School emerged winners and they were presented with a certificate and cash prize.

A series of debates were organised from April 15 to 19, 1997 on the topic *The Factors That Are Responsible for Conflict in Africa are Political More Than Economic*. The competing schools were: St. Mary's Secondary School, St. Thomas Aquinas Secondary School, Osu Presbyterian Secondary School, and Accra Academy. St. Thomas Aquinas Secondary turned out as winners of the contest.

In November, 1997 another set of debates was organised for CECS in the Accra Metropolis. The first was between Achimota School and Accra Girls' School on the topic: *That Multi-Party System of Government in Africa is Alien*. The other debate was between Presbyterian Boys' Secondary School, Legon, and Accra High School on the topic *that Democracy in Africa is a Mirage*. Even though these debates were originally meant for the CECs of the two schools, they ended up being school competitions with the heads of the said school, showing great interest in the debates and their outcomes. Achimota School won the debate.

A1.4.3 Volta Region

All the District Offices continued to establish CECs within various institutions, workplaces and communities. The intensive membership drive resulted in increased membership of CECs from 147 at the beginning of the year to 194 at the end of the year with a corresponding increase in numerical strength of members from 5,307 to 7,417 within the same period.

The region witnessed the first mass inauguration of Civic Education Clubs in the Keta District on July 17, 1997 at the Keta Secondary School. A total of ten CECs from basic schools was inaugurated. The NCCE Chairman, Chris Hesse, who performed the inauguration, hoped the CECS would provide grassroots channels for civic education in Ghana. The other mass inaugurations took place at Mawuli School at Ho in September of the same year. The effects of these inaugurations obviously sensitised other schools in the region to also embrace the concept. Most of the newly formed CECs became involved in the organisation of quizzes, debates and essay competitions. The competitions helped to increase the knowledge level of all Civic Education Club members on the 1992 Constitution as well or increase their knowledge on other topical issues.

In the month of June 1997, some members of Civic Education Clubs in the Ho District Schools made an education tour to Accra to observe Parliament in session and visit NCCE Headquarters where they were addressed by the Deputy Chairman (Programmes), Ms. Doris Ocansey.

A1.4.4 Upper West Region

In the Upper West Region the most prominent of Civic Education Clubs were those in the communities. The clubs, especially among groups like Fian Sheanut Women's Group, Nanvilli Baptist Women's Group and Kaleo Fire Fighters all of Nadowli District, helped tremendously in expanding civic education coverage within the region.

A1.4.5 Eastern Region

The total number of CECS formed and inaugurated in the Eastern Region within the year was two hundred and seventeen (217) with a numerical strength of 7,923 within the various communities, workplaces and institutions. Activities undertaken by the CECs included quiz competitions, public debates, mock parliamentary sessions, drama and poetry and group discussions on the Constitution.

A1.4.6 Western Region

Emphasis was on interaction with clubs to know how best they were functioning. Among active CECs in the region were the Asankragwa SSS, Bradon JSS, Daboase JSS. In Ahanta West District 10 Community CECs were formed. The CEC members complained about not having seen a copy of the Constitution. They therefore requested copies. The Wassa West Office initiated a quiz programme for SSSs in the district. The programme was however discontinued because of lack of funds to sustain the awarding of prizes to winning CECs and individuals.

The regional office organised debate and quiz competitions among 21 CECs within the Sekondi-Takoradi Metropolis. The finals of the quiz competition were won by Ghana Secondary Technical School (GSTS) who beat Sekondi-Takoradi College. In the debate Holy Child Training College defeated Nurses Training College to emerge winner. The Commission awarded plaques and certificates to participating schools.

A1.4.7 Activities in the Central Region

During the year under review new CECs were formed in some of the districts. A number of existing clubs organised activities such as quiz competitions, lectures and educational tours. Members of the CEC of the Saltpond Methodist High School in the Mfantseman District made an educational excursion to Accra where they observed proceedings in Parliament and visited the Accra Zoo.

The Cape Coast District Office of the Commission started debate competitions for members of CECs in some 32 first cycle schools. Topics selected for the debates centred on the Constitution, environmental issues and other relevant socio-economic issues. Shields and books were awarded as prizes.

The Assin District Office organised quiz competitions for second cycle schools in the district. Questions were based on provisions of the first eight chapters of the Constitution. Prizes made up of books and shields were given to winners.

A1.5 Development of Community Theatre in Villages/ Towns, Workplaces and Schools

The NCCE started a programme for the development of community theatre to help address community school and workplace civic issues. A Pilot Environmental/Sanitation Programme was organised by the Commission in collaboration with the six sub-metropolitan assemblies within the Accra Metropolitan Assembly. There were performances at Korle Gonno and Kaneshie as well as Ablekuma, Achimota and Christian Village in Okaiwei, Osu and Adabraka in Osu-Klottey, Nima in Ayawaso and James Town in Ga Mashie.

The performances which were on sanitation attracted large crowds in the catchment area. Facilitators from the public education department at the headquarters led in the animation process with the actors selected from the locality. The drama sketches were often followed by discussions of the civic issues identified in the sketches and suggestions sought as to how to address them. This was in line with one of the objectives of the programme, ie. participatory approach and this, it was expected, will leave indelible imprints on citizens who would continue with the education of the people.

The Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Chris Hesse, and Deputy Chairman (Programmes), Ms. Doris Ocansey, were present at most of these performances and addressed the gathering.

Though no formal survey was conducted to assess the extent of success of the programmes, the sizes of audiences, the animated discussions that followed the performances and the reinvigorated clean-up exercises that took place in some of the areas were clear indicators of the acceptance of the programmes by the populace. Indeed, in all speeches from the leaders of the communities, appeals were made for more of them.

Unfortunately the programme had to be suspended due to lack of funding which affected the morale of both facilitators and local actors who demanded to be paid for their contribution.

A1.6 Video and Drama Productions

During the year under review the drama section of the Public Education Department with financial support from Konrad Adenauer Foundation started the production of video documentaries based on short drama sketches on the following theme (i) The Constitution (ii) Separation of Powers (functions of the Executive, Parliament, the Judiciary, (iii) Political life in a democracy (role of government and the opposition), (iv) Police/Civil Relations (v) The Decentralisation Concept (vi) Women in Politics (vii) The Media (Freedom of Speech), (viii) The Environment.

At the end of April 1997 the 30-minute video documentary on Women in Politics *Akos* was completed. The second on Police and Civil Relations could not be completed for lack of funds.

The Video on *Akos* was shot at a public forum addressed by Mr. Chris Hesse. The audiences were very receptive to it and many called for its showing at other places.

A1.7 Seminar with the Police

The NCCE, recognising the role of the Police in ensuring law and order in a democracy organised a seminar for the Police at the Kingsby Hotel, Achimota, in Accra. It was attended by one hundred and thirty (130) Senior Police officers drawn from the 10 regions of the country. The objective of this seminar was to raise their level of understanding of Constitutional provisions of Fundamental Human Rights, among others, and to make them more efficient in the enforcement of law and order in the country.

Topics treated were:

- i. The Role of the Police in the Protection of Human Rights* was delivered by Mr. Emile. Short, Commissioner, Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ),

- ii. *The Role of the Citizen in Policing-Neighbourhood and Watch Committees* delivered by Deputy Superintendent of Police, Mr. F. Adu-Poku, Director/Legal, Police Headquarters;
- iii. *The Role of the Police in Constitutional Democracy* delivered by Ms. Doris Ocansey, NCCE Deputy Chairman (Programmes);
- iv. *The Police and the Citizen in the Promotion of Law and Order* delivered by Superintendent of Police, Mr. D. Akrofi Asiedu, Commanding Officer, National Police Academy and Training School, Accra

Three syndicated groups formed out of the participants at the seminar and members of the Law and Order Committee of the NCCE's National Consultative Body, deliberated extensively on the papers delivered. Each group presented a report, which embodied recommendations on ways of promoting Law and Order in the country. At the end of it all, a communiqué was issued. (Refer to Appendix A). The Konrad Adenauer Foundation sponsored the seminar.

A1.8 Seminars, Conferences/Workshops Attended by Members and Staff of the Commission

A1.8.1 Graduation Day of Ghana Institute of Journalism

On April 12, 1997, the Ghana Institute of Journalism held a graduation day on the theme: *The Media, Civil Society and Sustainable Democracy*. The Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Chris Hesse, was the Guest of Honour. In his address to the graduates and the audience, Mr. Chris Hesse spoke on the roles the new democratic institutions, established by the 1992 Constitutions, are to play in sustaining democracy in the country. He noted that NCCE's ultimate aim is to let people, especially at the grassroots level, appreciate the linkages between democracy and its day to day socio-economic underpinnings and the effect these have on their lives.

A1.8.2 World Press Freedom Day

On May 3, 1997 the Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Chris Hesse, attended a Flag-raising ceremony at the International Press Centre, Accra, to mark World Press Freedom Day. The event was held on the theme *Press Freedom and the Legal Regime in Ghana*. Mr. Chris Hesse in his address as guest of honour called on journalist's to reflect soberly on the positive and negative influences the press wielded in our new democratic society and urged them to use the media to mobilize the people for national reconstruction and development.

A1.8.3 CIVITAS

CIVITAS International invited the NCCE through the United States Information Service to attend a Workshop in Pretoria, South Africa, as part of the Preparations to establish a Civitas branch in Ghana. The workshop which was held from May 11 to 14 1997 on the theme *Making Democracy Flourish Through Effective Civic Education* was attended on behalf of the Commission by Mr. Kwame Bosompem, the Greater Accra Deputy Director for Programmes.

The CIVITAS concept is meant to bring together a cross section of leaders from Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOS), the Ministry of Education, the Press, Civic Education Institutions and other allied bodies to form a network of civic educators. It is also to give civil society organisations the opportunity to share information, skills, strategies and experiences through this network in order to strengthen democratic culture and promote tolerance in our political life.

A1.8.4 PACENET Conference

The Pan-African Civic Education Network (PACENET) in conjunction with Konrad Adenauer Foundation extended an invitation to the Commission to participate in an international conference on civic education in Lilongwe, Malawi. The conference was held from September 22 to 25, 1997 on the *theme: Strengthening Political Participation*. The conference examined issues such as:

- i. Steps and Pitfalls- a presentation on how to conduct successful workshops on civic education.
- ii. The use of theatre in civic education.
- iii. Problems and possibilities in implementing new ideas in civic education.
- iv. Networking — concrete political steps to sharing information and resources.

Mr. Kwaku Baa Owusu, the Deputy Director for Public Affairs, NCCE National Headquarters, attended the workshop on behalf of the Commission

A1.8.5 Independence Anniversary

As part of the 40th Anniversary of Ghana's Independence, the Greater Accra Regional Co-ordinating Council organised a series of lectures at the National Theatre from February 25 to 26, 1997. The Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Chris Hesse, delivered a lecture on the topic Ghana: Political development Under Kwame Nkrumah. The Chairman traced the political history of Ghana from 1957 to date and argued that Dr. Kwame Nkrumah's vision is still relevant for Africa today.

A1.8.6 Seminar for Chiefs

The National House of Chiefs in collaboration with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation organised a seminar for chiefs at the Northern Regional House of Chiefs in April 1997 in Tamale. The seminar was held on the theme *The Role of the Chieftaincy Institution in the Emerging Democracy in Ghana*. In his keynote address, Mr. Chris Hesse, NCCE Chairman, explained why the framers of the 1992 Constitution found it necessary to preserve and guarantee the Chieftaincy Institution and called on Chiefs, as the custodians of our culture and traditions, to continue to serve as the rallying point for political, social and economic development in their communities.

A1.9 Regional and District Programmes

Within the framework of the Commission's mandate and the national headquarters defined civic education programme for the year, the regions were encouraged to use their initiative to plan and organise activities taking cognisance of pressing issues within their locality. A summary of the activities the regions undertook is presented below:

A1.9.1 Greater-Accra Region

The region intensified its education on Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms, Intestate Succession Law (PNDC Law 111) and the Rights of Women and Children.

In June 1997, the Electoral Commission organised bye-elections in some districts namely; Dangme West, Ga, Accra Metropolitan and Tema Municipality. The

Commission organised Civic Education activities to urge voters to turn out to vote as their civic duty and right.

A1.9.2 Volta Region

The public/civic education embarked on in the region centred around creation of public awareness and consciousness about the various aspects of the Constitution such as Fundamental Human Rights and Responsibilities. The main theme of the education was the need to abolish such obsolete cultural practices as Trokosi and female circumcision.

A1.9.3 Eastern Region

The Regional and District offices concentrated their educational activities on the need for political tolerance, national unity and reconciliation. The functions of State Institutions, namely the Executive, Legislative, Judiciary and the Council of State were explained.

A1.9.4 Ashanti Region

The Ghana Police Service from May to -December 1997 organized a refresher course for Chief Inspectors of Police drawn from the northern sector of the country with the aim of updating their general knowledge and enhancing their efficiency and effectiveness in the discharge of their duties.

The course, which was attended by six batches of Chief Inspectors, took place at the Police Academy and Training School in Kumasi. The Police Administration invited our Ashanti Regional Directorate of the NCCE to participate in the training programme as a resource organisation.

Topics treated by senior officers of the Regional Directorate who took up the task were:

- i) The Contents of the 1992 Constitution
- ii) Protecting the Constitution — The Role of the Police
- iii) The Directive Principles of State Policy.
- iv) Code of Conduct for Public Officers.

The contributions and questions asked at the end of each lecture and during the open discussions that followed indicated that the lectures were well received.

The regional office worked closely with press houses. At the end of the year the Regional office organised a press soiree for the various press houses (both electronic and print) in the region to deepen the NCCE— Press collaboration for civic education.

The main focus of civic education activities in the region was Directive Principles of State Policy from which these topics were developed. Some of the topics treated by some districts were:

- The Role of the Opposition Party and the Ruling Party in Multi-Party Governance.
- Maintenance of State Property.
- Ghana: Vision 2020.
- Role of the Citizen in Ensuring the Rule of Law.
- The Family and Environmental Protection.
- Family Planning — Role of the men.

Apart from the NCCE, resource persons came from the Regional Consultative Committee on Civic Education and other organisations and institutions such as Federation of Ghanaian Lawyers, Planned Parenthood of Ghana and Institute of Adult Education. Reports from the districts indicate that the various platforms or fora organised by the district offices to treat these topics were well attended. Contributions on the fora were lively and active. Many citizens used the platform to express views without any fear of victimisation or intimidation.

A1.9.5 Brong Ahafo Region

The Regional and District Offices intensified public education on bush fires after identifying its common causes as crude methods of trapping animals, irresponsible means of disposing of cigarette stubs by smokers and burning of new lands to commence cultivation.

A1.9.6 Central Region

The region focused attention on Constitutional issues such as Fundamental Human Rights, Intestate Succession Law and Rights and Obligations of citizens.

A1.9.7 Upper West Region

The educational activity in the region focused on CSM and how to combat it. The district offices had to make this a major issue of education because of the outbreak of the epidemic at the beginning of the year.

A1.9.8 Upper East Region

Public education activities in the region and districts focused on the dangers of environmental degradation, especially in the face of uncontrolled deforestation and indiscriminate mining.

Target groups for these educational activities were Youth leaders, Community opinion leaders, Political Party activists, and Women's groups, Farmers, Local Chiefs, Tendamba, Village Development Committees and Cattle Owners.

Resource persons were often selected from the related organisations such as the Environmental Protection Agency, Ministry of Health, Fire Service, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Forestry.

A1.9.9 Western Region

The districts continued with public education activities on environmental problems which it had started in the last quarter of 1996.

In Wassa West, the District Office started a programme to educate the mining companies and galamsey operators on the effect of surface mining. Officers visited Ghana Australia Goldfields, Tebrebie Gold fields, Billiton Bogoso Gold fields, Barnes Goldfields and Aboso Goldfields. In the educational activities there was the need for the companies to comply with mining regulations in order to better the living conditions of the people.

A1.9.10 Northern Region

The region continued to focus its attention on promoting peace and reconciliation that had been the focus of the Commission since 1994.

A1.10 Radio Programmes

With the emergence of FM radio stations in the country the Commission took advantage of the avenue provided by the Radio to reach a large section of the society. Aside spots on GBC Radio 2, the Commission succeeded in getting spots on Regional FM Stations. The greatest limitation to the ambition of the Commission to get spots on regional and local FM stations is the demand by the radio stations for sponsorship of NCCE civic education programmes.

A1.10.1 National Headquarters

The Research Department of the Commission undertook a survey to assess the performance of District Assemblies. The key areas were citizens' knowledge about functions of District Assemblies, Performance of Assembly members, Revenue Generation, the Districts Common Fund, Women's Participation, knowledge about Unit Committees, problems of District Assemblies both in concept and practice etc. *Civic Agenda*, a radio programme on Radio 2, highlighted the issues that formed the basis of the seminar with the Police.

These included the role of the police in a constitutional democracy, the role of the citizen in policing — the case of neighbourhood watch committees, role of the police in the pursuance of law and order in society, the police and the citizen in the promotion of law and over.

Some more constitutional provisions were isolated for discussion. These included the citizen- his duties, responsibilities, rights, privileges, freedoms and limitations.

Other areas for education and information were the political, economic, social, educational, cultural, and international relations objectives under the Directive Principles of State Policy.

A1.10.2 Ashanti Region

Within the year under review, *Omanba Pa* and *Civic Forum*, the two programmes run by the Commission on *Garden City Radio*, were used to discuss the following topics:

- i) The role of the Opposition and Government Party in a multi-party democracy.
- ii) Protecting the Constitution.
- iii) The three Arms of Government: The Legislature, The Executive, The Judiciary
- iv) Participatory Democracy
- v) Good Citizenship
- vi) National Integration
- vii) The local Government Structure.
- viii) Civic Responsibilities,
- ix) Maintenance of Public Property
- x) Freedom of Speech and Expression.

Resource persons on the two programmes were drawn from the NCCE, Electoral Commission, Legal field and the Judiciary.

A1.10.3 Central Region

The region was given airtime on *Central Region FM* station. The programme comes on *Radio Central* on Wednesday between 8.00 a.m. and 8.30 a.m. in Fante. The office used the debate to educate citizens on Constitutional issues including Fundamental Human Rights, Intestate Succession Law and Rights of Children.

The Winneba District Office also took advantage of airtime provided it by the University College of Winneba FM Station to educate the public on their constitutional rights and obligation and good citizenship.

A2 Research Activities

A2.1 Introduction

The Research Department of the NCCE during the year under review planned to undertake three projects to support the public education work of the Commission. The surveys planned to be undertaken included:

- (i) The State of the Political Parties in Ghana;
- (ii) Women's Participation in Political Decision Making; and
- (iii) Assessment of the Performance of District Assemblies.

Due to financial problems, the Commission was only able to carry out the survey on *An Assessment of the Performance of District Assemblies*. It was conducted in April 1997. It was the third major research activity undertaken by the Department since the establishment of the Commission in 1993. The two previous ones were: Public Perception of the performance of the Fourth Republic and Public Attitudes towards the Voters Register.

A.2.2 A Survey to Assess the Performance of District Assemblies

The study carried out in 57 selected districts covered the 10 administrative regions of the country. A total of 5,700 questionnaires were administered in 57 sampled districts. This gave an average of 100 questionnaires per district.

This project was embarked upon in pursuance of the Constitutional duty of the Commission to assess, for the information of government, limitations to the achievement of true democracy and to formulate for the consideration of government programmes aimed at realising the objectives of the Constitution. The Commission expected that the survey would make it possible to isolate the types of problems and issues that confront the Assemblies and thus hinder their effective performance. In seeking to get to the root cause of problems that hinder participation in the work of the assemblies, the NCCE believed that the assemblies can become tools for popular participation in decision making and thus become the building blocks of democratic society and help nurture a democratic culture in the country.

The survey thus sought to find out:

- Public knowledge and awareness of the existence and functions of the District Assemblies.
- Problems facing the District Assemblies.
- Some of the causes and sources of the problems.
- How the Assemblies can be made more useful to the citizens.
- How assembly members can be made more effective.
- How people can be made to participate more effectively in the work of the District Assemblies.
- Public perception of the role and impact of the District Assemblies.
- The constraints on effective performance of the District Assemblies.
- The scope of resources generated by the District Assemblies.
- The utilisation of the District Assemblies Common Fund.
- The forms and levels of resource mobilization for development within the districts.

How best the Assemblies as non partisan political bodies can be used to further the educational activities of the NCCE.

Findings:

Knowledge of functions of District Assemblies

Many Ghanaians know about the functions of District Assemblies. Of the 5,680 respondents only 300 did not answer this question, implying that they did not know any function of the district assemblies. Among the functions mentioned by respondents was that: assemblies are agents of development, agents of decentralisation, organs for revenue generation and mobilisation, bodies for control of the environment, organs for the maintenance of law and order, peace and security, and organs for public education.

Knowledge of Assembly Members

The level of interaction between the general public and the appointed or elected representatives in assemblies is considerably high. Data from the field suggested that for every 10 persons in an electoral area in the country, nine have personally met their assembly member. Out of the 4,692 non-assembly members who answered this question in 57 districts, 4,391 or 93.6 per cent said they knew their Assembly Members, only 279 or 5.9 per cent of respondents said they did not know their assembly members.

Performance of Assembly Members

On individual basis many people are satisfied with the performance of their assembly members. Indeed, 2,220 or 47.3 per cent of the 4,692 respondents said they were satisfied with the performance of their assembly members. On the other hand one thousand, six hundred and thirty five or 34.8 per cent of respondents said they were dissatisfied with the performance of their assembly members. Two thousand and seventy-two or 93.3 per cent of the 2,220 respondents who expressed satisfaction with the performance of their assembly members said they had permanent residences in the district where they were interviewed. One hundred and eleven or 5 per cent of the respondents are often in the district whilst 32 said they sometimes live in the district. Of those who expressed dissatisfaction quite a number of them permanently live outside the district.

Revenue Generation by Districts

A very important aspect of the survey was to elicit from the general public the types of taxes paid by respondents. The data reveal a long list of taxes paid. Among them are: Basic rate, income tax, license/store fees, kiosk rent, property rate, market tolls, hawkers license, toilet fees, bar operation license, lorry park tolls, street/light/water levy, special levy, birth and death registration fees. Of these taxes the most popular is the basic rate: 4,699 non-assembly members said they paid basic rate. In Sene District, 96 out of the 100 respondents paid while in Kintampo 95 out of the 100 respondents paid. The district with the least number of basic rate paying respondents was Jirapa-Lambussie where only 41 per cent of respondents paid this type of tax.

Respondents in Ashanti Region also topped the list of those who pay property rate; 541 or 27.8 per cent of them said they paid property tax.

Basic Rates

The survey revealed that the majority of respondents paid basic rate. Out of 5,680 respondents 4,936 or 86.9 per cent said they paid with only 744: or 13.1 per cent not paying. Respondents in urban areas were in the majority among those who claimed they paid their basic rate. In Kumasi out of the 200 respondents, 165 said they paid their basic rate. In Shama Ahanta East 68 per cent of the respondents said 200 cedis is too small and must be increased. Out of 5,620 respondents 3,037 or 53.5 per cent expressed the view that the amount must be increased. On the other hand, 2,572 or 45.3 per cent were not in favour of increasing the amount.

Reasons provided for not being in favour of the increment included ineffectiveness of many district assemblies in collecting the basic rate and the lack of information on the use of the current basic rate collected. Of the districts that were not in favour of the increment, Amansie East had the highest number of respondents; there 64 per cent of the respondents said no. They were followed by Keta and Kwabre Districts where 63 out of the 100 respondents were against the increment. In contrast, however, in Asuogyaman 90 out of the 100 respondents were in favour of the increment and in Juabeso-Bia and Suhum 78 per cent of the respondents said yes.

District Assemblies Common Fund

The survey elicited from the general public information on knowledge of projects funded from their District Assemblies' share of the common fund. Out of 5,680 or 58.2 per cent of the respondents said they knew of projects whilst 1,375 or 24.45 indicated that they did not know of any projects whilst 1,000 or 17.6 per cent were unable to provide any answer.

Whilst expressing knowledge of common fund projects quite a number of respondents were unhappy about the way the common fund was being used. Among complaints made by assembly members was the lack of transparency in the use of the common fund. In fact, almost 40.5 per cent of respondents said there were no fair deliberations on the use of their assembly's share of the common fund.

As a way of improving the management of the District Assemblies Common Fund, respondents called for regular publicity on the size of every assembly's common fund and disbursement procedure. It was also suggested that special meetings be held between assembly members and the electorate to solicit views on the most effective use of the fund; sub-committees to be formed in each electoral area to handle all issues on the Common Fund. Other suggestions were that there should be regular auditing of the District Assembly Common Fund, and that the Ministry of Local Government and District Assemblies Common Fund Secretariat take more interest in the application of the Common Fund in order to nip in the bud or quickly detect any misappropriations likely to take place.

Women's Participation in the Work of Assemblies

Information on the participation of women in the work of assemblies indicates that the majority of respondents believe that women's participation and interest were low. Out of 5,680 respondents, 2,373 or 41.8 per cent said women's participation was low. This opinion is shared not only by men but women themselves. Out of 2,117 women respondents 868 or 41 per cent who answered the question said the enthusiasm and involvement of their kind in the work of the assembly were low. Of those who said women's participation was high, the majority were from urban districts. Out of the 473 respondents in this category 35 came from Accra and 33 from Shama Ahanta East.

Unit Committees

The survey reveals that a lot of people know about Unit Committees. Out of the 4,692 respondents 3,746 or 79 per cent said they were aware of the constitutional legislative provisions on the establishment of Unit Committees as part of the decentralisation programme. Many more respondents in the urban areas seem to know more than those in the rural areas. Of those who know about the provisions, the majority believes that its institutionalisation would increase the level of participation in decision-making at the local level. Others saw it as a positive addition to the decentralisation effort of government.

Achievements of District Assemblies

Respondents were asked to mention at most four areas in which in their opinion their assembly had made the greatest strides. According to the data, the provision of social amenities by district assemblies stood out as the most remarkable achievement. Out of the 5,568 people interviewed, 4,997 or 87.9 per cent expressed the view that the provision of social amenities, which in turn improve the general living standards of ordinary people in deprived communities, is most laudable. It must be noted that it is the ordinary people in the deprived communities who were the majority in the category that said the assemblies achievements were most laudable. It must be noted that it is possible some of the 4,997 respondents also chose some other one, two or three areas they believed assemblies had made tremendous achievement in.

Out of the 4,997 persons who mentioned social amenities, 2,493 or 50 per cent said social amenities are the most outstanding of all. In other words 2,493 people chose social amenities as their number one, 1,873 or 37.4 per cent chose social amenities as their second most important achievement while 123 or 23 per cent consigned the same to the fourth ranking.

Problems of the Assemblies

Respondents were made to select a number of problems ranging from finance to the controversy surrounding the siting of development projects in the districts. From the data the majority of the assembly members believe that the thorniest problem that faces district assemblies is that of finance. A total of 753 assembly members selected finance as their top-most problem as their second or third most important problem. The next problem was inadequate infrastructural development in the districts and it was followed by chieftaincy/land disputes.

Performance of District Assemblies

Out of the 5,680 respondents nationwide 480 or 8.5 per cent of respondents said districts assemblies had performed excellently so far. Another 2,799 or 49.3 per cent said that their District Assembly's performance had been good. From these figures it was observed that more than half of the total number of respondents acknowledges the credible performance of district assemblies. To some 1,634 respondents who constituted 28.8 per cent of all respondents, the district assemblies have only performed fairly. To 698 or 12.3 per cent of respondents the assemblies had performed poorly. More men than women thought the assemblies performed poorly.

A2.3 Research Projects Undertaken in Regions/Districts

During the period under review a number of regions and district offices of the Commission undertook various research projects alongside the research directed from the National Headquarters. A regional breakdown of some of the projects undertaken is presented below:

A2.3.1 Ashanti Region

The Kumasi Metropolitan Office of the Ashanti Region organised a *Survey on Women's Perception of the Intestate Succession Law PNDC Law 111 that Affects them*. The objective of the survey was to ascertain —

- Women's understanding of laws that affect them;
- Knowledge of such laws;
- Effectiveness of such laws; and to
- Identify obstacles that hinder the smooth administration of such laws.

The questionnaire was the main instrument used. A total of 106 questionnaires were administered by selected staff of the Kumasi Metropolitan Office of the NCCE between August 12, 1996 and September 13, 1996. A random sampling of respondents was done in Adum Shopping Centre, Edge of Roman Hill, Central Market, Adum Ministries, Central Market, Adum Shopping Area, Adum Shopping Centre and the Post Office Area in the Kumasi Metropolis.

Interviewees who came fell within the age groups of 18 to 44 years and 45 and above. Respondents came from various categories of women: Unmarried, Single, Married, Divorced and Widowed. The respondents came from various occupational groups including office workers, security personnel, businesswomen, traders and hawkers. In the same vein their educational background varied from university, through polytechnic to the middle/primary schools. Most of the hawkers interviewed and the elderly had no formal education. The questionnaire was used to collate information on eligible women identified in the various social classes.

Findings:

The following were some of the observations and findings made—

- (i) Most of the interviewees have had knowledge of the law but did not know of its workings or arrangements.
- (ii) A high number of educated interviewees (the middle school bracket) did not know that they could seek custody and maintenance of their children at the family tribunal without the service of a lawyer.
- iii) Fifty-three per cent of the interviewees did not know that a will could be prepared

without the services of a lawyer. Of this percentage, 53.3 per cent were married women whilst 60 per cent were divorced women.

(iv) Whilst women who many under the Ordinance have their marriages registered. Only 30 per cent of women married under customary law have had their marriages registered.

(v) Out of the total number of divorcees interviewed (which amounted to 18 per cent), 89 per cent did not register their marriages. Of those in the divorce group 84 per cent of them were married under customary law whilst other forms of marriages constituted 16 per cent.

(vi) A frightening 79 per cent of the divorce group were in the age bracket of 18 — 44 years.

(vii) A very handsome percentage of women interviewed suggested that parents of deceased persons should be considered in the main devolution of property but not to benefit from the residual.

(viii) Many women were of the opinion, that marriage that principally does not produce children should ensure that the percentage for parents in the devolution of properties are high.

Suggestions:

From the findings made, the Commission reports the following recommendations to the Kumasi Metropolitan Assembly and the Government of Ghana.

a. A detailed survey should be organised with a women's group (preferably FIDA) to further study the situation of women in the region.

b. The NCCE should as a matter of urgency embark on civic education to increase women's knowledge, understanding and appreciation of issues and provide them with civic skills to help them take advantage of the law as provided in the 1992 Constitution.

c. The Churches should as a matter of policy entreat their male members to solemnise their marriages or at the least register their marriages.

d. Married male employees in Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies must be compelled to register their marriages or face sanction.

A2.3.2 Greater Accra Region

During the period under consideration the Dangme West office of the Commission assisted the Ghana National Commission on Children (GNCC) to conduct a survey on *Puberty Rites in the District*. The office collected information on Osudoku area, one of the four traditional areas of the district. The data collected have since been submitted to the GNCC.

SECTION B

Finance and Administration

B1 Administration

B1.1 Introduction

The main task of the Department during the year under review was to consolidate the previous year's efforts to infuse efficiency into the administrative fibre of the Commission and provide adequate internal controls. It was identified in the year that to attain the object of infusing efficiency and effectiveness in resource application and management there was the need to carry out regular evaluation and monitoring of activities not only at the Head Office but also more importantly at the district and regional levels.

B1.2 The Commission

B1.2.1 Meetings

During the year under review the Commission held 12 regular and one emergency meeting.

B1.2.2 Death of Commission Chairman and Director of Public Education

Mr. Chris Hesse, the first Chairman of the Commission, died in the early hours of the morning of August 23, 1997 after two weeks of hospitalisation. The Commission constituted a funeral committee that worked closely with the late Chairman's family and the State Protocol. He was buried at the Osu Cemetery on Friday, September 26, 1997.

Just as the staff were recovering from the shock of the Chairman's demise another tragedy struck. The Director of Public Education, Mr. Kpakpo Addo, also died suddenly on November 23, 1997 at the Military Hospital in Accra.

B1.3 Personnel Matters

B1.3.1 Staff Position

The staff strength at the beginning of the year 1997 stood at 1437. Through employment of new staff by the end of June 1997, the number came to 1484.

By December 31, 1997 however through resignations and deaths the number dropped to 1469. The resignations were mainly due to lack of job satisfaction due to poor logistics for work. The distribution of staff by Region is presented below:

REGION	JANUARY 1997	DECEMBER 1997
Western	143	138
Central	151	157
Eastern	188	193
Volta	150	154
Ashanti	213	212
Brong Ahafo	157	162
Northern	122	135
Upper East	82	89
Upper West	73	72
National Headquarters	79	78
Greater Accra	77	79
Total	1,435	1,469

B1.4 Training

B1.4.1 Staff on Study Leave

In the year under review 10 officers of the Commission went on study leave. The breakdown was as follows: University of Ghana, Legon 5; University of Cape Coast 1; University College of Education, Winneba 1; Ghana Institute of Journalism 1; Polytechnics 2.

B1.4.2 Refresher Course for Senior Civic Educators

The Commission approved a capacity building course for its staff. The Management Development and Productivity Institute (MDP1) provided the resource base for 130 staff selected from all the regions of the country from May 7 to 9, 1997 at the Bunsu Agricultural Station in the Eastern Region. The seminar was held on the *theme Education for the Educator*. Topics treated included:

- (i) Effective Techniques for Public Speaking;
- (ii) The Letter and Spirit of the 1992 Constitution;
- (iii) Human Relations and Communications;
- (iv) Maximising Resource use for Higher Productivity; and
- (v) Records Keeping and Report writing.

Staff who participated in the course were very happy for the opportunity offered them by the Commission to update and improve their knowledge. They called for more of such training courses.

B1.5 VAT Seminar

A two-day seminar on VAT was held for officers of the NCCE namely Regional\ District Directors, Regional/District Public Education Officers throughout the country on the re-introduction of VAT at Bunso Cocoa Research College, Bunso in the Eastern Region from August 21 to 22, 1997. Four lectures were delivered:

- i) *The Shift from Sales and Service Tax to VAT and its Policy Implication* by George Blankson of the VAT office.
- ii) *The Design and Implementation of VAT in Ghana: A Progress Report* by Ezekiel Asamoah, Director of VAT Project.
- iii) *The Value Added Tax* by Seth Tekper, Member ,VAT Management Board and *a Strategy for Public Education* by Victor Ampah, Public Affairs Officer VAT Office.

Participants found the seminar very useful, as it equipped them with ideas for effective public/civic education on the VAT. The VAT seminar was replicated in all the other regions with resource persons being officers, who attended the Bunso seminar. In the Ashanti and Volta regions senior officers of the Regional offices constituted monitoring teams and monitored seminars in the Districts.

B2 Finance

B2.1 Opening Balance

The Commission continued to maintain four (4) Accounts. The balance in these accounts as of the beginning of the year was ₵630,179,071.99. The breakdown is as follows:

Bank of Ghana

1. Main Subvention Account	₵592,473,027.22
2. Staff Car Loan Account	₵6,940,157.40.
3. Programmes Account	₵1,149,902.00

Ghana Commercial Bank

4. Miscellaneous Account	₵29,615,985.37
Total	₵630179,07199

The breakdown of the Main Subvention Account was as follows:

Balance as at January 1,1997	₵592,473,027.22
Less unrepresented cheques for salaries (Dec.1996) etc.	₵287,455,366.00
Adjusted Balance	₵305,017,660.22
Add	
Staff Car Loan Account	₵6,940,157.40
Programme Account	₵1,149,902.00
	₵8,090,059.40
Add GCB Misc. Account	₵29,615,985.37
Total Adjusted Bank Account	₵37,706,044.77
Balance as at January 1, 1997 was	₵342,723,704.99

B2.2 Subventions

The Commission continued to depend mainly on the Consolidated Fund of the State for its operations. The approved budget Estimates of the Commission during the 1997 fiscal year was ₦5, 41 7,725,000. Made up of:

Personnel Emoluments	₦4,060,025,000
Recurrent Exp. (Items 2-5)	800,000,000
Capital Exp.	557,700,000
Total	₦5,417,725,00

While items, 1 to 5 were mainly met by the Government releases for capital funds covering construction of Head Office, purchase of vehicles and equipment etc. amounting to ₦506,024,930 were not honoured.

B2.3 Actual Sum Released to the Commission

The actual sum released to the Commission was as follows:

Capital	.
(1) Renovation of Sunyani Office ₦ 3,000,000	
(ii) payment of Architectural Work for HQ Building ₦48,675,070.21	₦51,675,070.21
Personnel Emoluments	4,692,423,088.84
Items 2-5	
(i) T&T 219,999,000	
(ii) General Exp. 128,001.000	799,999,000.00
(iii) Maintenance and Renewals 20,000,250	
(iv) Other Recurrent Expenses 160,000.000	
Sub Total	5,544,097,159.05
Add Other Incomes (Sale of Calendars)	3,938,063.90
Donor Funds (Japanese Grant)	132.3474.3 1
Total income	5.680.3S2321,20

Notes:

- (i) The excess of ₦632,398,088.84 on Personnel Emoluments releases is accounted for by the salary increment during the year.
- (ii) The net deficit of ₦506,024,930.08 capital releases cover funds for purchase of vehicles, office equipment, Head Office Building Project etc, as explained in an earlier paragraph,
- (iii) The Donor funding of ₦32,247,498.31 came from Japan Embassy (\$59,391) for printing of the following brochures:
 - (a) Why Do We Have a Constitution?
 - (b) Principles and Objectives of the Constitution.
 - (c) Directive Principles of State Policy.
 - (d) Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms Under the 1992 Fourth Republican Constitution, and
 - (e) Code of Conduct for Public Officers.

B2.4 Income and Expenditure for 1997

The Overall Income and Expenditure for 1997 stood as follows:

Item	Release\Income (¢)	Expenditure (¢)	Over\Under Expenditure (¢)
Personnel Emoluments	4,692,423,082.00	4,492,423,088.00	
Items 2-5 Travel &Transport	275,000,000.00	483,593,798.13	(208,593,798.00)
General Admin. Expenses	160,000,000.00	342,627,238.43	(188,627,238.00)
Maintenance & Repairs	25,000,000.00	53,099,565.89	(28,009,566.00)
Other Expenses	340,000,000.00	189,178,066.55	150,821,935.00
Total	5,492,423,088.00	5,766,921,758.00	274,498,669.00

The above statement reveals that there was an excess expenditure of ¢274,498,669.00. This indicated the inadequacy of the Commission's annual subvention approved for Items 2-5. With very old vehicles, for example, the incidence of high repair bills could not be discounted.

B2.5 Closing Balance

The total closing balance of the Commission's Bank Account after adjustments for unrepresented cheques etc. stood at ¢177,486,405.03.

The details are as follows:

Main Subvention Account	¢96,114,519.44
Car Loans Account	¢10,597,484.81
Programmes Account	¢30,770,471.08
US Dollar Account (\$ 7.408,15)	¢40,003,928,75
Total	¢177,486,405.03

SECTION C

Conclusion

While it is true that there are cost implications to the provision of civic education for citizens it can also be argued that the cost of not providing civic education may be more expensive and damaging.

It is therefore important that the state realises the utmost need to support civic education efforts in the country.

It is our hope that the catalogue of problems standing in the way of the NCCE in the attainment of its goals shall be seriously addressed and solutions provided to enable the institution to perform its defined role in this constitutional era.

We therefore:

- urge the Government of Ghana to provide the Commission with the necessary funds for the construction of office accommodation, purchase of vehicles and other logistics.
- appeal to the Donor Community and friendly countries to sponsor programmes of the Commission.
- Call on all relevant institutions and the citizenry as a whole to provide support for the adequate resourcing of the NCCE.

APPENDIX A

Communiqué Issued at the End of the Two-Day National Seminar for the Police Held at the Kingsby Hotel, New Achimota-Accra, from June 26 to 27, 1997.

We, the participants of the two-day National Seminar for the police held at the Kingsby Hotel, New Achimota, Accra from June 26 to 27, 1997 on the theme *The Police in the New Democratic Dispensation in Ghana*;

Having gone through lectures and discussions on the following topics:

- The Role of the Police in a Constitutional Democracy.
- The Role of the Citizen in Policing: Neighbourhood and Watch Committees.
- The Police and Citizens in the Promotion of Law and Order.
- The Police in the Protection of Human Rights.

Having critically examined the following pertinent issues at our syndicated groups discussions:

The Police as an instrument of Law and Order in Society: Challenges in a Constitutional Order;

- Human Rights Concerns, problems and implications in a Liberal Political System;
- Building and Sustaining Ghana's Democracy- Role of Civil Society.

Having considered the socio-economic and political relevance of the issues raised and having considered their germane nature to the development and sustenance of democracy and good governance in our country;

Do hereby present views in this communiqué for the consideration of the relevant authority and society in general.

1. The Constitutional democratic system embarked upon by the country since 1992 must be nurtured and every effort made to sustain it.
2. That the rule of law and order is a prerequisite to national development and all stakeholders need to ensure that it is sustained and protected.
3. We vehemently condemn the incidents of attacks on the Police by some citizens in certain parts of the country. We call for immediate cessation to these attacks since they undermine the integrity and dignity of the Police.
4. We call for the provision of adequate equipment and logistics for the police to enable it to function effectively and efficiently.
5. That peace and order in the society depends largely on the relations between the Police and the public. We therefore call on the citizenry to give the police the required respect while the Police also show the much-needed courtesy, respect for human rights, etc. of the citizen.

We also call on the NCCE to sustain such seminars with the Police at all levels and do suggest that subsequent seminars should include representatives of the other ranks and also many more members of the public.

6. We also call on the NCCE to intensify public educational programmes for the generality of the citizenry since widespread ignorance is at the base of most of the problems in our society. In furtherance of this, we call on NGOs, funding agencies and the government to resource the NCCE adequately to pursue its functions efficiently and effectively.

7. The Police must commit itself to the respect of human rights of the citizens and dignity of suspects by adopting democratic attitudes as we proceed on the constitutional path as a nation.

8. We recommend the institutionalisation of police-citizens solidarity week during which Police and public interactions will be highlighted. It is suggested that this is promoted through:

- Sports.
- Entertainment.
- Lectures, symposia, durbars.
- Open day, etc. etc.

9. That the Neighbourhood Watch Committee concept be pursued fully and citizens encouraged and assisted to put them in place in their communities as a way to assisting the Police in keeping the peace, order and security.

10. We finally promise to be proactive in the defence of the Constitution.



September 12, 1997: Mr. Chris Hesse, Chairman of the NCCE, exchanging greetings with Nana Wiafe Akenten II, Omanhene of Offinso Traditional Area, on arrival at the durbar grounds to address an educational campaign for Registration of Voters in the Ashanti Region launched at Offinso.



Mr. Chris Hesse, Chairman of the NCCE, addressing the durbar at Offinso.



A cross-section of chiefs seated at the durbar.



A cross-section of the audience listening attentively to the Chairman of the NCCE.



December 9, 1997: Dr. Christine Amoako-Nuamah, Minister for Education, delivering her address at a programme on FCUBE organized by the NCCE.



December 9, 1997: A cross-section of participants at the workshop on FCUBE organized by the NCCE.



Syndicate group at the workshop on FCUBE organized by the NCCE.



Syndicate group at the workshop on FCUBE organized by the NCCE.

