

**IN THE THIRD SESSION OF THE FOURTH PARLIAMENT OF THE  
FOURTH REPUBLIC OF GHANA**

**REPORT OF THE SPECIAL BUDGET COMMITTEE ON THE 2008 BUDGET  
ESTIMATES OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CIVIC EDUCATION  
(NCCE)**

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The 2008 Annual Estimates of the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE) was referred to the Special Budget Committee for consideration and report in accordance with the 1992 Constitution and Standing Orders of the House. This was after the presentation of the Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008, on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2007 by the Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, Hon. Kwadwo Baah Wiredu. The Committee met with the Chairman of the NCCE, Mr. Laary Bini, some of his Deputies, and a technical team from the Commission and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MOFEP), and reports as follows:

**2.0 BACKGROUND**

**2.1 Reference Documents**

Pursuant to the discharge of its assigned duties, the Committee availed itself of the following documents:

- The 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana.
- The Standing Orders of the House.
- The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for preceding years, notably 2006 and 2007 Financial Years.
- The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2008 Financial Year.

**2.2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE NCCE**

The NCCE is a constitutionally established institution with a mandate to create, promote and sustain awareness of constitutional democracy for the achievement of political, and social stability for an equitable economic growth and integrated development in the country, by stimulating citizens of Ghana to appreciate their civic rights and responsibilities.

In pursuit of this, the NCCE among other things, undertakes the development and implementation of programs that are aimed at inculcating in the citizenry, their civic rights, duties and responsibilities for their personal well-being and national development.

As part of its responsibility in achieving the aims of the Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy Program, the NCCE aims to continue using and intensifying civic education to encourage all citizens to get involved in national governance and to strategize and fight against the many causes of poverty. As part of this, the NCCE has for the next three years, the following objectives and planned activities among others:

- I. To intensify public awareness on the preamble and Directive Principles of state policy of the 1992 constitution
- II. To ensure and promote peace and stability and prevent as well as manage and resolve conflict;
- III. To collaborate with the Ministry of Local Government on full participation of the citizenry at the lower levels of governance through civic education and also advocate for empowerment of citizens;
- IV. To advocate as an institution and to collaborate with the Ministry of Education for the designing of programmes to achieve civic mindedness and in particular to cooperate for introduction of civics for democracy in first and second cycle schools;
- V. Increasing awareness of good governance principles through civic education programs in collaboration with the relevant Ministries particularly the Ministry of Health and The Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies on issues relating to mental health and AIDS.
- VI. To collaborate with the relevant stakeholders to establish a database and recommend regularly to government customs and practices which inhibit the development of democracy and also to intensify civic education in communities practising customs which are detrimental to children and women's progress.
- VII. To encourage Civic Classes, Civic Clubs and Civic Centers in all districts as well as targeting Civic Education for the vulnerable and socially excluded; and
- VIII. The construction of a headquarters building -- Center for Civic Education (Democracy House) to facilitate better working environment for the Commission.

### **3.0 2007 IN RETROSPECT**

In 2007, the Commission undertook the following activities:

The Commission produced animation programmes on civic responsibility on GTV and “START” programme on TV3; organized Constitution Week to remind Ghanaians of their rights and responsibilities and also intensified the “Project Citizen” in selected schools in Greater Accra Region.

In addition, it developed a composite guide for Civic Education in Ghana; established functional Civic Education Clubs in Senior Secondary Schools; educated the public on the harmful effects of using narcotic substances and collaborated with Bank of Ghana to sensitize and educate public on the redenomination of the cedi among others.

The Commission also organized programmes to increase participation in governance at the local level (Social Auditing), organized peace-building and conflict management programmes in conflict-prone areas and also acquired commencement for the construction of head office building complex

### **4.0 OUTLOOK FOR 2008**

The Committee was informed that as part of the Commission’s responsibility of educating the populace on their civic rights and responsibilities in order to empower them to participate meaningfully in the development process of the country, the following activities have been proposed to be undertaken during the 2008 financial year:

- Create constitutional awareness through annual Constitution Week Celebration, support programmes aimed at promoting civic participation especially the lower structures of governance and collaborate with Ministry of Education/Ghana Education Service to introduce Civic Education in the school curricula
- Educate the citizens on the need to actively participate in the 2008 general elections, sensitize the public against the growing practice of instant mob justice and continue the education on HIV/AIDS and Drug Abuse.
- To intensify civic education on tolerance and peace before, during and after the 2008 general elections
- Effective public awareness creation on laws for the Vulnerable and Excluded.
- To help curb human trafficking, child labour and slavery.

**5.0 THE 2008 BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CIVIC EDUCATION (NCCE)**

To enable the NCCE perform its planned programmes for 2008, a total amount of GH¢4,296,526.00 has been allocated to the Commission to be disbursed as follows:

<b>Personnel Emoluments</b>	<b>GH¢ 2,346,415.00</b>
<b>Administration Expenses</b>	<b>GH¢ 1,426,230.00</b>
<b>Service Expenses</b>	<b>GH ¢ 272,315.00</b>
<b>Investment Expenses</b>	<b>GH ¢ 251,566.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>GH ¢4,296,526.00</u></b>

**6.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

**I. Headquarters Building**

The NCCE lamented the fact that over the past several years, it has continuously budgeted for a Headquarters building and had hoped to finally get the building underway during 2006 as they were allocated an amount of ¢25 Billion of HIPC funds for the 2006 financial year. These funds have as of yet not been released so the only physical work the NCCE has been able to do is to build a wall around the land to keep trespassers out. The NCCE has set out all the blueprints for the project and is in the process of contracting it out subject to the release of funds for this project. The Committee was also informed that the Electoral Commission, which has hitherto been housing the NCCE in a few office rooms in its premises has issued the NCCE with a quit notice to enable the EC have sole use of the building because, primarily, of security concerns leaving the latter in a quandary as to its fate during the impending election year, when a massive public education campaign is most necessary. It is imperative that funds be available to the Commission to construct its headquarters structure immediately.

## II. Service-Rendering Institution

- a. The Committee also observed that like the other Constitutional bodies the core functions of the NCCE are service-based so that their Service line in the budget must not be construed as services in the other Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs). The Committee would therefore like to re-iterate that the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MOFEP) must take this issue into consideration when allocating monies to such bodies, institutions and organs. Indeed, under its Service Line, the NCCE presented an election budget of GH¢1,103,890, which included GH¢831,575 earmarked for its Election Sensitization Programme. It has however been allocated only GH¢272,315, which is about 24% of what is really needed and 6% of the budget figure allocated to it for the year 2008. According to the Commissioner, and as observed by the Committee, this situation will negatively affect the Commission's activities for the 2008 financial year, as the NCCE is the main educator of the masses when it comes to the election processes. Indeed it is the NCCE that sensitizes the public about the need to vote. With the current shortfall in the allocation requested, the NCCE fears that it will be unable to carry out all the necessary activities to attract all potential voters to the voting centers.
- b. With the passage of the ROPA Act, the need has arisen for Ghanaians in the Diaspora to be sensitized on the opportunities the Act present to and for them and the NCCE should be positioned to play its constitutional mandate in this respect.
- c. It is worth noting that the budget allocation to the NCCE for public education for election related purposes is about 10% allocation to the Electoral Commission. The NCCE's programmes is supposed to run all-year round.

## III. Employment of New Staff

Finally, the NCCE also informed the Committee that as part of its preparations for the election year, a request was made to the MOFEP earlier this year on the need to employ sixty-two (62) drivers for its newly procured vehicles and two hundred and forty-one (241) staff to fill the newly created district offices. The MOFEP advised that these requests be included in the 2008 Budget when it was realized that this request was within the NCCE's approved manpower ceiling. Unfortunately, the allocation to the Commission this year does not factor this in. The Committee admits that this state of affairs does not augur well at all for the smooth operations of the NCCE during this crucial time and strongly urges that as a matter of urgency the MOFEP allocate the NCCE some HIPC funds as soon as possible to ensure that the latter is well resourced for its impending herculean task.

#### IV. Presentation of yearly Report to Parliament

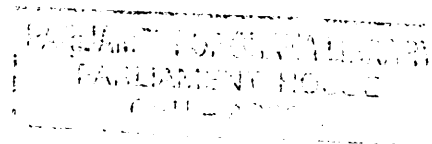
The Committee observed with disquiet that even though the Commission dutifully submit their yearly reports to Parliament, the House has not been able to critically debate their report and thereafter make their recommendations to the appropriate place to help resolve the many challenges facing the Commission.

The Committee accordingly recommends to Parliament to set appropriate dates for the debate of subsequent reports from the Commission and also consider establishing a relevant Committee which will not merely handle the budget of the Commission as a matter of ritual but properly oversight the Commission and champion its cause on the floor of the House

#### 6.0 CONCLUSION

The Committee subject to the observations stated above recommends to the House, the approval of the sum of GH ₵4,296,526 for the NCCE's operations for the 2008 financial year and hopes that the MOFEP would make more funds available to the institution during 2008, taking into consideration the nature of the NCCE's work, considering the fact that 2008 is not an ordinary year but a year for elections which all the political parties in the country consider very crucial because the stakes are extremely high.

Respectfully submitted



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Osei Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu".

HON. OSEI KYEI-MENSAH-BONSU  
VICE CHAIRMAN

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kofi Menkah".

KOFI MENKAH  
ASSISTANT CLERK

NOVEMBER, 2007