

**REPORT OF THE
COMMITTEE ON MINES AND ENERGY**

ON

**THE CONVENTION OF THE AFRICAN ENERGY
COMMISSION (AFREC)**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Convention of the African Energy Commission was laid by the Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Hon. Felix Owusu Adjapong on Friday 11th June 2004 and was subsequently referred to the Committee on Mines and Energy for consideration and approval in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Ghana and Standing Orders of the House.

2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The decision to establish the African Energy Commission emanated from the concerns raised by African Heads of State and government held in Lagos, Nigeria in 1980. The Heads of State expressed their discontent about the slow pace at which Africa is developing its Regional Energy Resources as compared to other regional groupings such as Latin America and the Caribbeans. At the end of its

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deliberations on matters relating to energy, the summit recommended for the establishment of African Energy Commission (AFREC) in an adopted document known as the Lagos Plan of Action.

A recent conference of Energy Ministers of Africa also adopted a resolution for the early implementation of the 1980 Lagos Plan of Action and supported Algeria's bid to host the Secretariat of AFREC owing to its strategic location and experience.

3.0 DELIBERATIONS

The Committee met with officials from the Ministry of Energy and the Energy Commission during its deliberations.

The Committee wishes to express its gratitude to the Executive Secretary of the Energy Commission, Mr. Kofi Asante for taking the Committee through the provisions of the Convention.

4.0 REFERNCE DOCUMENTS

The Committee made reference to the following documents in the course of its deliberation.

- (a) The Constitution of the Republic of Ghana
- (b) The Standing Orders of the House

5.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATION

The Committee observed that the African Energy Commission when established, would design, create and update continental data on energy and facilitate rapid dissemination of information among member states.

The commission would also advise and encourage the development of both human and material resources in the energy sector.

The Commission will further mobilize financial resources to assist member states for the development of their energy resources. The Commission would facilitate trade in energy among member states. The Commission will also provide technical assistance to member states in the area of energy.

Furthermore, the Commission would promote the identification, adoption and implementation of effective measures to prevent environmental pollution particularly in the exploitation, transportation, storage, distribution and utilization of the Continents' Energy Resources.

Finally, the Committee has observed with concern the provisions of paragraph (a) under Chapter (4), which states that the function of the commission would include mapping out energy development policies, strategies and plans based on sub-regional and continental development priorities and recommend their implementation.

The Committee is of the view that formulation of such policies ,strategies and plans based on regional and sub-regional priorities should not be done at the expense of the priorities of member states. The Committee is of the view that different states have different priorities in developing their energy resources.


The Committee therefore wishes to recommend that strategies and plans when designed should be in harmony with national energy programmes of state parties.

6.0 CONCLUSION

In view of the fact that member states stand to gain from the establishment of the African Energy Commission, the Committee wishes to recommend to the House to adopt its report for the ratification of the Convention on the African Energy Commission.

Respectfully submitted


HON. A.B. BOADI-MENSAH
(Chairman, Committee on Mines & Energy)


INUSAH MOHAMMED
(Clerk, Committee on Mines & Energy)

8th July 2004