

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MINES AND ENERGY**  
**ON THE**  
**ECOWAS ENERGY PROTOCOL.**

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The Ecowas Energy Protocol was laid before the House by the Hon. Minister of Energy on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2004 and was subsequently referred to the Committee on Mines and Energy for consideration and report in accordance with the Standing Orders of the House and the Constitution of the Republic of Ghana.

## **2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Realizing that the energy sector is one of the most important but least developed in West Africa, Ecowas Energy Ministers met in 1999 to deliberate on the integration of the unevenly distributed energy resources of the sub region.

The meeting approved an indicative plan for additional generation plants and interconnected high voltage transmission lines within the region as well as the formation of the West Africa Power Pool (WAPP).

Although the sub region has an estimated hydroelectric potential of 23,900 MW only about 3,897 MW is being utilized.

It is further estimated that Nigeria and La Cote d'Ivoire could generate about 9,000 MW of electricity from their Natural Gas Reserves.

## **2.0 PURPOSE OF THE PROTOCOL**

The Protocol seeks the ratification of the House to enable it establish the legal frame work in order to harness the energy resources of the

ACC NO : 3578 C2

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Class NO : CR/EEP/04

2004

sub region and to promote long-term cooperation in the energy field, based on complementarities and mutual benefits with a view to achieving increased investment and cross border trade in the energy sector.

### **3.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS**

In considering the protocol the Committee made reference to the **Constitution** of the Republic of Ghana and **Standing Orders** of the House.

### **4.0 DELIBERATIONS**

The Committee met from Friday 11<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2004 at Dodowa to consider the protocol. The Committee was briefed by technical officers from the Ministry of Energy under the leadership of the Deputy Minister, Hon. E. K. T. Hammond. Members of the select Committee on Constitutional, Legal and Parliamentary affairs participated in the deliberations.

### **5.0 OBSERVATIONS**

The Committee observed that Fifteen (15) Ecowas Head of States, including His Excellency, President John Agyekum Kufuor of Ghana, at an extra ordinary summit held in Abuja on 28 May 2003, signed the protocol.

The Committee further observed that the West African Power Pool would reduce the additional cost incurred by electricity suppliers on standby reserves due to shortages and power cuts.

The power pool will also reduce over dependence on imported fuel with its attendant escalating prices thereby reducing the cost of energy for investments.

The power pool would reduce the overhead capital needed by individual West African States to provide Energy, as the burden would be spread over participating countries.

The Committee finally observed that the power pool will not only improve reliability and service quality in electricity supply, but will also establish the basis for commercial, industrial and economic development of the sub region.


## **6.0 CONCLUSION**

In conclusion the Committee wishes to state that considering the significance of the protocol to the socio-economic and industrial development of the member states, the Committee recommends to the House to adopt its report for the ratification of the protocol.

Respectfully submitted



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**CHAIRMAN**  
**(COMMITTEE ON MINES & ENERGY)**



**INUSAH MOHAMMED**  
**CLERK**  
**(COMMITTEE ON MINES & ENERGY)**