

National Commission for Civic Education

Ninth Annual Report 2002

Vision of the NCCE

The NCCE's Vision is to be an effective independent democratic commission in the delivery of quality civic education.

Mission Statement of the NCCE

The NCCE is a constitutional body mandated to create and sustain awareness of constitutional democracy for the achievement of political, economic and social stability through civic education.

Mandate of the NCCE

The mandate of the NCCE is derived from Chapter 19 of the Constitution (Articles 231-239) and the National Commission for Civic Education Act, 1993, Act 452.

From the Chairman

This is the Ninth Annual Report of the Commission to Parliament. It is now a decade since the return to constitutional rule, and almost the same period of time since the establishment of the Commission.

During the last 10 years, the Commission endeavoured to contribute its quota to the sustenance of our young constitutional democracy. Three successful elections have been held since 1992, and the Commission can confidently assert that its contribution to the last two elections has been immense and invaluable. The Commission has also, in no small measure, contributed to the successful implementation of the decentralised local government system. This we did through our sensitization programmes about the concept and our regular field work on the District Assembly electoral system. The Commission has helped to reorient new Assemblymen and women on their roles within the decentralised system. Indeed, in the year under review, the country witnessed the conduct of the fourth successive elections to District Assemblies since their establishment in 1988/89. The contribution of the Commission, though modest, could have been greater if it had had the necessary resources for its work

Sadly, the Commission, after ten years of operation, still has no offices it can call its own from the Head Office in Accra down to the districts. The office accommodation predicament of the Commission continues to negatively affect the Commission. At the head office its co-existence with the Electoral Commission has its own peculiar difficulties: while in the regions and districts our location in the regional and district administration premises has made some regional/district administrations to demand that the Commission reports to them in violation of Section 20 of Act 452. As a consequence of our refusal to be reporting to the District Chief Executives, some of our district offices have been under siege by the District Chief Executives resulting in a number of ejections from the District administration blocks.

The transportation situation is also very poor. As of December 31, 2001 the Commission had only 17 roadworthy vehicles which include eight Toyota/Nissan pick-ups, six Toyota cross-country Landcruisers, one Ford Explorer, one Toyota Prado, and one Ford Escort all of which are over 10 years old.

In spite of the overwhelming evidence of the need to develop the infrastructure of the Commission, investment budget for the Commission continues to be low. In 2000, investment received only ₵219,600,000 out of an approved budget of ₵1,685,000,000. For 2001 out of the total subvention release of ₵15,314,607,716 only ₵191,920,000, that is 1.0 percent was for investment.

This year, out of a total amount of ₵527,000,000 approved as investment budget, not even a cedi was released to the Commission.

It is our urgent plea to Parliament to get the Executive to resource the Commission. We are confident that our plea for resources is not out of tune with His Excellency President John Agyekum Kufuor's position on good governance as one of the five priority areas of his administration. Indeed, one cannot promote good governance in an atmosphere of mass ignorance. The citizenry's ability to contribute to governance depends largely on their knowledge and understanding of the underlying principles of democracy. Promoting citizens' meaningful participation in policy decision-making and legislation enlarges the space of public discourse. All indicators point to mass illiteracy and ignorance in the society. Thus, 'Poverty of the mind' continues to be one of the country's greatest drawbacks. Indeed, a large number our people perish for lack of knowledge. The Commission believes strongly that we, as a Nation, have to prioritize our concerns within the context of our governance needs and posit civic education appropriately within that context.

The Commission is grateful to the Ford Foundation for their immense financial and material support which has made it possible for a number of activities recounted on in this report to see the light of day.

It is our hope and prayer that the coming year would see a positive improvement in the working environment of our staff. To the hardworking staff, the Commission says 'Ayekoo' for your forbearance and great sacrifice for mother Ghana.



Laary Bimi
CHAIRMAN

Executive Summary

This is the Ninth Annual Report of the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE) presented to Parliament. The report is presented in compliance with section 20 of the National Commission for Civic Education Act, (Act 452) 1993, which provides that *The Commission shall annually submit to Parliament the activities and operation of the Commission in respect of the preceding year.*

Activities of the Commission for the year centred around the promotion of constitutional awareness through the celebration of the constitution week and other programmes.

The year witnessed the celebration of the Second Constitution Week on the theme, *The Constitution, Cultural Values and Good Governance*. The thrust of the Constitution Week was to promote awareness of constitutional provisions among Ghanaians and to engender a sense of ownership and commitment to the Constitution. The Week was celebrated at the national, regional and district levels with durbars, seminars, floats, debates and quiz competitions.

The Commission, in its work, also provided a platform for dialogue by bringing together religious leaders to examine potential contributions of the religions to peace and productivity. We also provided a platform for the Armed Forces and other security services to express their perceptions on the challenges of governance.

The Commission carried out a nationwide survey on civic knowledge among the youth in Ghana. The report points to several worrying phenomena, including a low level of knowledge of the Constitution and its main principles among the youth. There is also a general consensus among the youth that bush burning and deforestation are the two major causes of environmental degradation in the society. It was, however, heart-warming to learn that the majority of the youth (80 per cent) believed Ghana is a democratic country. Reasons adduced for this included the right to freedom of expression (including media freedom), regularity of elections and equality before the law.

On the basis of the various interactions with the public, the Commission makes a number of recommendations to Parliament and the Executive. These include:

- That District Assemblies maintain their non-partisan character. This is because the non-partisan nature continues to be popular among the generality of the Ghanaian public in spite of varied arguments by the media and some individuals in the urban centres that District Assembly elections would be better patronized if they were partisan. The Government is thus encouraged to maintain the status quo.

- Parliament should prevail on the Executive to take up the *deprivation of the Commission* as a special case and help mobilize resources both within and outside for the Commission. An option that may be considered is the convening of a donor conference on the NCCE by the Ministry of Finance.
- The Constitutional Commissions viz NCCE, CHRAJ, NMC and EC should have a common platform to network and discuss joint activities.

Introduction

The National Commission for Civic Education was established by Act 452 of 1993 pursuant to Article 231 of the Fourth Republican Constitution. The Establishment Act mandates the NCCE to create and sustain awareness of constitutional democracy for the achievement of political, economic and social stability through civic education. (See Article 233 of the 1992 Constitution and the NCCE Establishment Act of 1993, Act 452.

Underlining the legal mandate as a framework for its activities is its mission statement which states: *The NCCE is a constitutional body mandated to create and sustain awareness of constitutional democracy for the achievement of political, economic and social stability through civic education.*

The independence of the NCCE has been entrenched in the Constitution which provides vide Article 234 that, *Except as otherwise provided in this Constitution or in any other law which is not inconsistent with this Constitution, the Commission shall not be subject to the direction or control of any person or authority in the performance of its functions.* The Chairman and Deputy Chairmen of the Commission have accordingly been given permanent tenure. The Chairman of the Commission enjoys the same terms and conditions of service as a Justice of the Court of Appeal, whilst, the Deputy Chairmen enjoy the same terms and conditions of service as Justices of the High Court. Thus, it is not easy to remove any of the Commission Members from office. The independent status and entrenched position of the Commission puts it in good stead to pursue civic education.

Other strengths of the Commission include its nationwide presence making it familiar with, and knowledgeable about, the country. It additionally has experienced field staff, who are effective communicators and mobilizers at the decentralized levels, while its open door policy allows for collaboration with other strategic stakeholders such as civil society operators.

The serious under-funding/resourcing of the Commission continues to be its major threat and weakness. This has resulted in the Commission's inability to reach out to the mass of the people with civic education messages. It has also resulted in a difficulty in formulating, implementing and overseeing programmes intended to inculcate in the citizens of Ghana awareness of their civic responsibilities and an appreciation of their rights and obligations as a free people. Other constraints are the high turnover of staff arising from poor working conditions and the inadequacy of logistics to enable the Commission to pursue its mandate adequately.

The Commission, however, continues to explore ways to minimize its weaknesses while enhancing its strengths and opportunities. The structural arrangement of the Commission positions it in a way that it can take advantage of its strengths. The Commission has, at its apex, a board made up of seven members; a Chairman, two Deputy Chairmen and four other members who are appointed by the President of the Republic on the advice of the Council of State. Accountable to the Commission are five main departments, namely: Public Education, Research, Public Affairs, Literature and Materials Development and Finance and Administration. The Commission is also present in all the regions and districts of Ghana.

This report on the Commission's activities for 2002 is presented in two main parts. Part one covers activities undertaken by the Programmes Division made up of the following Departments: Public Education, Research, Literature and Materials Development and Public Affairs, and Part two covers activities of the Finance and Administration Division made up of Finance and Administration Departments. Under Conclusion and Recommendations a brief reflection on the issues that pose challenges to both the Commission in its work and to the consolidation of constitutional democracy in the country is presented for examination.

SECTION A

Programmes

This segment, under Programmes, covers activities undertaken by the Public Education, Research, Literature and Materials Development departments with the support of the Public Affairs Department under the guidance of the Commission.

A1 Public Education Activities

A1.1 Second Annual Constitution Week

The second Annual Constitution Week was celebrated throughout the country from April 28 to May 3, 2002 . The theme for the week-long celebrations was *The Constitution, Cultural Values and Good Governance*. At the national level several activities were held.

A1.1.1 Media Briefing

The chairman of the Commission, Laary Bimi, on April 22, 2002 held a media briefing at the NCCE Conference Room where over 50 media personnel were briefed on a number of issues including an outline of the programme of activities for the Week and the rationale for the choice of the theme, *The Constitution, Cultural Values and Good Governance*.

A1.1.2 The Distribution of Civic Circulars

A civic circular circulated among traditional councils, shrines, mosques, churches and temples on Thursday, April 25, 2002, Friday, April 26, 2002 and Sunday, April 28, 2002 respectively announced to them activities for the Week. The circular also underscored the need for Ghanaians to uphold their cultural values and make them an integral part of constitutional democracy.

A1.1.3 Launch of Week on Radio and Television

The Second Constitution Week was officially launched by Nana Ogyeabour Akompi II, Kadjebihene and Member of the Council of State, on Radio and Television on April 28, 2002 at 7:30 p.m. He emphasised the importance of April 28 in Ghana's history as it is the day Ghanaians at a referendum accepted the 1992 Constitution as a document that embodies the collective vision, hope and aspirations for the governance of the country. He called on all Ghanaians irrespective of their religion, social class or gender to get involved in the activities marking the Second Annual Constitution Week so as to deepen their interest and desire to preserve the 1992 Constitution.

A1.1.3 Main Lecture of the Week

The first major activity to mark the Second Annual Constitution Week was held on Monday, April 29, 2002 at the Committee Room of the Accra International Conference Centre. The Chairman for the occasion was Odeneho Gyapong Ababio, President of the National House of Chiefs and a Member of the Council of State. Hon. Jake Otanka Obetsebi-Lampsey, Minister of Information and Presidential Affairs, was the Guest of Honour. He stressed the importance of making the 1992 Constitution a living legal document, owned by all Ghanaians. The Minister pointed out that the major issue that confronts the country is ensuring the strengthening of the cultural base of the Constitution to make it a document reinforced by our own experience. The Minister ended by urging all Ghanaians to join hands with the NCCE to ensure that never again would the country slide back into the bad days of unconstitutional governance.

During the opening ceremony, the Guest of Honour presented awards to schools which excelled in Constitutional Game competitions. These were Most Holy Heart JSS, Dansoman, Bishop Girls JSS, Accra and Chemunaa JSS, which were first, second and third respectively in the JSS category. In the category of Senior Secondary Schools, Accra High School, Presbyterian Secondary School, Legon, Accra Academy and St. Mary's Secondary School were first, second, third and fourth respectively.

A1.1.4 Keynote Address

The keynote address on *Strengthening the Cultural Base of Ghana's Constitutional Democracy: Challenges and Prospects* was delivered by Rt. Rev. Dr. Sam Prempeh, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Ghana, with Laary Bimi, Chairman of the NCCE, as the discussant.

Rt. Rev. Sam Prempeh provided a definition of culture which he pointed out is an integrated whole which includes facets such as religion, languages, philosophy, cosmology, customs and traditions. It also includes diet, clothing, architecture, kinship system, music, art, economy and technology. The essence of cultural practices, according to Rt. Rev. Sam Prempeh, is to ensure the continuous and harmonious survival and well-being of a community within a given ecosystem. Rt. Rev. Dr. Prempeh dwelt at length on certain positive cultural values in our society and then moved on to some of the negative aspects. He pointed to the need for a critical look at some of our old ways of doing things, for example, using taboos as a way of environmental protection, stressing that the enforcement of such taboos

in the face of modernity may not be possible hence scientific explanations for conservation methods must be offered and laws enacted to protect the environment. Rt. Rev. Dr. Prempeh ended by outlining a number of areas in which our cultural values can be applied to enhance our constitutional democracy.

A1.1.4.1 Discussant on Keynote Address

Mr. Bimi, the discussant, postulated that the philosophical underpinning of the 1992 Constitution could be found in the Preamble to the Constitution. He stressed that our constitutional philosophy is also cherished by our traditional societies. He, however, lamented that many of our people seem to identify with their traditional and cultural values more than the Constitution. He pointed out that almost 80 percent of Ghanaians owe allegiance to chiefs, who are held in high esteem. He called for the institution of structures, like confinement of the President-elect, so that on the day of inauguration they are perceived as transformed personalities representing the total Ghanaian ethos, seen and revered by all as President of all Ghanaians. Laary Bimi concluded his address by calling on Ghanaians to seriously look at the chieftaincy institution, the embodiment of Ghanaian culture, to see what can be borrowed to enrich the constitutional system.

A1.1.5 Fora for Fishermen/Farmers

Two separate seminars were held on the topic, *The Constitution, the Fisherman or Farmer and National Productivity*, the first at VAG Hall, High Street, Accra and the other at VAG Hall, Sunyani. The Accra seminar was attended by over 200 fishermen from Ada, Ningo, Prampram, Tema, Kpone, Teshie, Nungua, Jamestown, Bortianor. It was chaired by Nii Abeo Kyerekwanda, Executive Secretary, National Canoe Fishermen's Council. The keynote address was delivered by Ishmael Ashitey, Minister for Fisheries. He advised the fishermen to make use of the translated version of the Constitution and urged leaders of the fishermen's associations to liaise with the NCCE to educate their members on the Constitution.

The main lecture for the day was delivered by Ms. Emelia Anang, Director, Marine Fisheries Department of the Ministry of Agriculture. She asked fishermen to endeavour to use appropriate net sizes so as not to destroy all breeds of fishes. She also decried the use of explosives in fishing in areas such as Weija and said the practice is a potential source of health hazard to the people.

The Sunyani seminar was attended by over 200 farmers' leaders from various parts of the Brong Ahafo Region. Nana Kwadwo Nyarko III, President of the Brong Ahafo Regional House of Chiefs, chaired the function. The keynote address was delivered by Yaw Adjei Duffour, the Deputy Brong Ahafo Regional Minister. The Minister of Agriculture was represented by Dr. S.M.I. Poku, Regional Director of Agriculture. He told the farmers that the government is very much aware of the contribution of Farmers to the National Economy and said that the Government is doing everything in her power to ensure good living standards for farmers.

Dr. Opoku said as a poverty alleviation strategy the government was embarking on the mass spraying of cocoa farms in the country as a means of ensuring increased productivity for the farmer. He called on the farmers to endeavour to use new farming methods to improve their yields. He pointed out that Extension Officers who have been trained with the taxpayers' money are all over the place and they

should endeavour to call for the needed technical advice to them to increase their yields. He asked farmers to follow advice of extension officers to yield maximum benefit.

Tom Ahimah, the 1987 National Best Farmer who hails from the Brong Ahafo Region, also addressed the farmers. He enumerated a lot of problems facing the Ghanaian Farmer. He appealed to the government to subsidize agricultural inputs, lower interest rates and provide irrigation facilities to help alleviate the plight of the Farmer.

Dr. Joseph Offei Darko, lecturer, Department of Agricultural Engineering, School of Engineering, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, presented a paper on *The Constitution, The Farmer and National Productivity*. He congratulated the farmers and all practitioners of agriculture through whose sweat and sacrifice crops are produced, animals reared to satisfy the needs of people. He listed a number of things which some farmers are doing and hence reducing their productivity. These include using dangerous chemical substances, engaging in unnecessary dispute over ownership of farmlands, degradation of the environment. He concluded by emphasizing that the Constitution is there to improve upon the lives of all but the enjoyment of one's right goes with responsibility. Farmers can realize the benefit of the Constitution if they take advantage of opportunities to increase their productivity.

A1.1.6 The Constitution and the Customary Rights of Women

As part of the Constitution Week, there was a special forum for women at the YWCA, Accra. Over 300 women from various identifiable groups attended the forum, which discussed the topic *The Constitution and the Customary Rights of Women*. The chairman of the function was Rev. Dr. Abraham Akrong, Research Fellow, Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana, Legon. The Guest of Honour was Mrs. Gladys Asmah, Minister of Women and Children's Affairs. Nana Oye Lithur, a Legal Practitioner and Women's Rights Advocate, spoke on the topic *The Constitution and Cultural Rights of Women, Legal Implications*. She pointed out that the 1992 Constitution of Ghana is 'culture-value laden' as a number of provisions recognize the existence of customary law. According to Nana Oye Lithur, though the Constitution and other laws criminalise harmful traditional practices meted out especially to women, there had not been a single conviction since the coming into force of the Constitution on those laws. Many girls are still being held as "Trokosi" and women are in bondage at the Gambaga Witches Camp. She therefore stressed that greater emphasis be given to the enforcement of the laws on our statute books.

Prof. Patrick Twumasi, a consultant of the WHO, in a paper entitled *The Constitution and Cultural Rights of Women, the Socio-Cultural Perspective*, pointed out that in the past many of our traditional practices were shrouded in myths and superstition, but with modernization there is a yearning for explanation to many things. He also called for mass education of society to highlight the harmfulness of such cultural practices.

A1.1.7 Roundtable Discussion with Artistes

A very important part of the Constitution Week was a roundtable discussion with Artistes. Present were songwriters, actors, actresses, scriptwriters, musicians, and producers. Prof. George Hagan, Chairman of the National Commission on Culture, chaired the roundtable discussion. The discussant was Prof. Martin Owusu, School of Performing Arts, University of Ghana, Legon, who spoke on, *The Constitution, the Artistes and Our Cultural Values*. Prof. Owusu itemized elements of our culture to include Protection of Nature and the Environment, Maintenance of law and order, Honesty and Truthfulness, Unity and Peace, Family solidarity, courteous expression. He decried especially films/music which pander to the lower instincts of man and thus degenerate the family as an Institution.

In the discussion that followed some artistes decried the continuous existence of dehumanizing cultural practices on women. They acknowledged that as social critics and conveyors of social messages they must use their talents to promote the national good and not be overtaken by the get-rich-quick desire.

A1.1.8 Fora With Security Agencies

The last in the series of lectures was held on Friday, May 4, 2002. The lectures were held at the headquarters of the various security agencies, namely the Ghana Armed Forces, Ghana Police Service, Ghana Prisons Service, Ghana Fire Service, Immigration Services and the Customs Excise and Preventive Service (CEPS). The forum at the Ghana Police Service Headquarters was chaired by Chief Superintendent D.A. Akrofi-Asiedu, Staff Officer to the Inspector-General of Police.

A paper on *Promoting Discipline and the Rule of Law in the Ghanaian Society, the Role of the Police*, was delivered by S.K.M. Ahiawordor, a lecturer in Political Science at the University of Ghana, Legon. He isolated a number of provisions in the 1992 Constitution that are intended to guarantee and enhance discipline and prevalence of the rule of law. He next took his audience through what he sees as the role of the Police in societies; this included maintenance of law and order and the prevention of crimes. He ended his lecture with some suggestions on how to deal with the problem of indiscipline. Firstly, he said, the government must create an enabling working environment for the police service to perform. Secondly, the police need to undergo institutional reforms in areas of sanctions, promotions, and training. Thirdly, the public must cooperate with the police in various forms and, finally, the media must educate and inform the public to enable them to work in harmony with the police.

The programme for the Ghana Prisons Service took place at the Prisons Canteen at the Prisons Headquarters. The chairman for the function was the Director General of Prisons, Richard Kuurie. The main speaker for the programme was Dr. J.B. Koray, president of the Ghana Blind Association and a legal practitioner at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He spoke on the topic *Promoting Discipline and the Rule of Law in the Ghanaian Society, the Role of Prisons Personnel*. He described the 1992 Constitution as the mother of all laws in Ghana, as stated in chapter one of the Constitution. He said most Ghanaians cherish the rights and freedoms

enshrined in the Constitution but forget that these rights go with responsibilities and duties. He said abiding by these responsibilities and duties shapes one to become disciplined. He called on the prison officers to lead a crusade for discipline in our society.

The forum at the Ghana National Fire Service Headquarters was chaired by Assistant Chief Fire Officer S.K. Yankey. The speaker for the occasion, Miss Patience Opoku of the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs, spoke on the topic *Promoting Discipline and the Rule of Law In the Ghanaian Society, the Role of Firemen and Women*. She said the idea of the annual observance of the National Constitution Week is to help citizens to cultivate the habit of making the Constitution a part of their daily lives. She said officers of the Ghana National Fire Service have a duty to educate and train the public to create and sustain awareness of the hazards of fire and the individual's role in fire prevention.

The forum at the Ghana Immigration Service Headquarters was chaired by Nana Owusu Nsiah, Director of the Ghana Immigration Service. The speaker for the day was Kofi Boni, a student at the Ghana School of Law. He emphasized the importance of the Immigration Service and called the on Immigration personnel to be law-abiding as they try to prevent illegal immigrants from coming into the country. He deplored the way some foreigners treat Ghanaians with disrespect and called on the Immigration Service to educate foreign nationals on Ghanaian norms.

Joe Lartey was the speaker at the programme at the Customs, Excise and Preventive Service (CEPS). His topic was *Promoting Discipline and the Rule of Law in Ghana, the Role of Customs, Excise and Preventive Service Personnel*. He described CEPS as a paramilitary organisation which is one of the islands of discipline in the vast ocean of indiscipline in today's Ghana. He charged CEPS to move to a center stage in deliberations in order to promote discipline and rule of law not only among its rank and file but the entire citizenry. He said as a revenue collecting agency, CEPS personnel are exposed to temptations at the borders, sea and airports, but they are expected to stay above all sorts of temptations and exercise self-discipline and control while at the same time promoting rule of law in their dealing with smugglers, tax evaders and criminals. He ended with a challenge to CEPS personnel to continue to be honest and to live a disciplined life.

The programme with the Ghana Armed Forces took place on May 8, 2002 at the GHQ Conference Room, Burma Camp, Accra. The chairman for the function was Col. E.K. Danso. The main paper for the day was on *Promoting Discipline and the Rule of Law in Our Ghanaian Society-The Role of the Military*. It was delivered on behalf of Justice G.K. Acquah, a Judge of the Supreme Court, by Justice William Atuguba, also a Judge of the Supreme Court. In his paper, Justice Acquah said some of the greatest problems facing the nation were indiscipline and lawlessness. He decried instances of instant justice meted out to alleged offenders and described it as a mark of indiscipline in the country. He emphasised that one important responsibility of every Ghanaian is the defence of the Constitution. Article 2 of the Constitution, he pointed out, enjoys Ghanaians to take legal action to defend the Constitution and to resist by force of arms attempts to overthrow the Constitution. The learned Judge concluded by urging the military personnel who have monopoly over arms to join in the campaign to sustain and defend the Fourth Republican Constitution of Ghana.

The Commission in July 2002 organised a one-day seminar with officers and men of the Ghana Navy at the Naval Base, Tema. Though originally scheduled as an activity of the Constitution Week, it was not held at that time for good reasons. The main speaker for the day was Justice G.K. Acquah, a Supreme Court Judge. He discussed issues pertaining to discipline and the rule of law in Society. He called on the sailors to help defend the 1992 Ghana Constitution at all times. The Chairman of the NCCE, Laary Bimi, in his contribution called for the need to sustain our constitutional democracy.

Again in December 2002 a civic forum with officers and men of the Ghana Air Force was held at the Air Force Base Accra. Justice G.K. Acquah, a Supreme Court Judge, delivered a paper on 'The Ghana Armed Forces and the Future of Ghana's Democracy'. The speaker urged the airmen to help consolidate Constitutional democracy by being committed to the defence of constitutionalism and democracy in Ghana.

It was evident at the seminars organised for the security services, especially the Ghana Army, Ghana Navy and Ghana Air Force, that the generality of officers/men of the Armed Forces were determined to contribute their quota towards Ghana's political, social and economic progress.

A1.1.9 Activities in the Regions/Districts

Each regional and district office organised one activity or the other as part of the Week. All regional/districts programmes were organised under the national theme *The Constitution, Our Cultural Values and Good Governance*. The Northern Region however derived a regional sub-theme to suit the prevailing circumstances in the region. The regional theme was *Strategies of Social Cohesion in the Northern Region*.

The celebration of the Week in all the regions was successful except the Northern Region where the prevailing State of Emergency in seven districts of the Dagbon Traditional Area of the Northern Region greatly affected activities. A number of activities had to be rescheduled for security reasons. The heavy military presence at functions also put many people off hence attendance was poor.

The activities organised by the Regional and District Offices took varied forms. The common activities were distribution of civic circulars, launching lectures/symposia, route marches and processions, football matches/fun games, radio programmes, visits, clean-up campaigns, bicycle races, tree-planting exercises. The target group for such activities varied, depending on many factors including readiness of the group to take part in the activity, the importance of the group in the district.

The institutions and groups which responded to activities of the Commission included traditional rulers, heads of Ministries, Departments and Agencies, political bodies, NGOs, religious bodies, the physically challenged, women groups, District Assembly/Unit Committee members, prison officers, footballers, youth groups and students.

A1.2 Civic Education Clubs (CECs)

The Commission through the civic education clubs targeted tertiary institutions and the senior secondary schools in the regions for education on civic issues. Methodology adopted included quizzes, debates, the constitutional game and study tours of critical governance institutions such as Parliament.

A1.2.1 Greater Accra Region

A series of fora were organised in selected senior secondary schools in Accra between March and June 2002. The main topic for discussion was “The Constitution and the Student”. Resource persons included parliamentarians, lawyers, judges and university lecturers. The fora at Accra High School and Accra Polytechnic were addressed by Hon. Kwabena Adusa Okerchiri, MP for Nkawkaw and Government Chief Whip, and Dr. William Boakye Akoto, MP for the Birim North Constituency and Vice-Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Education, respectively. Other schools at which fora were held were Accra High School, West Africa Secondary School, Presbyterian Secondary School, Accra Girls Secondary School, Wesley Grammar Secondary School and St. Mary’s Secondary School, all in Accra.

A1.2.2 Northern Region

The CECs in the Northern Region came in for special mention in the peace-building exercise in the region. The Regional Office of the Commission partnered the University of Ghana Civic Education Club (CEC) to organize a series of seminars between May 5, 2002 and June 20, 2002 in a number of educational institutions in the Northern Region. Institutions visited included Tamale Secondary School, Tamale Training College, Bagabaga Training College, Tamale Polytechnic, Northern Business College, Ghana Secondary School, St. Charles Secondary School, Vittin Secondary School, Kalpohin Secondary School, Tamale Nurses Training College and Community Health Nursing School, all located at Tamale

The essence of the fora was to influence students and staff of the institutions which are all located within the Dagbon kingdom to help promote peaceful co-existence among the youth of the feuding parties in the Yendi crisis. The Commission also took the opportunity of the interventions to revive, and/or establish, civic education clubs in all the participating schools.

A1.3 Collaboration With Religious Groups

Religious intolerance continued to be a potential source of conflict in various communities in the country. To help minimize the danger of abuse of religion, the Commission held a series of fora with religious leaders. One such forum was held at the NCCE Conference Room, Accra, on February 28, 2002 with leaders of religious faiths. The theme for the discussion was *Religion and Productivity*. Dr. Elom Dovlo, a Senior Lecturer and Head of the Department of Religions, University of Ghana, Legon, presented a paper on the topic *Productivity for Democracy—The Role of Religion*. The ‘Divine Drummer’ Kofi Ghanaba, chaired the discussions. The view of participants was that the long hours spent in religious activity to the neglect of work was counter-productive. Adherents and followers of various faiths were urged to give equal premium to issues of productivity as they do with spiritual affairs.

The Commission collaborated with the National Catholic Laity Council and the Catholic Secretariat to organize Training of Trainers (TOT) workshops on how best to deepen participation of citizens, especially Catholic faithfuls, in the decentralization process. In all, three (3) workshops were held in Kumasi, Ho and Takoradi between March and April 2002. Resource Persons included Mrs. Esther Offei-Aboagye, Deputy Director of Local Governance Training Institute Accra, Mr. Laary Bimi, Chairman, NCCE, and Ms. Doris Ocansey, Deputy Chairman, NCCE.

A1.4 Ghana Constitution Game

In 2001, the NCCE Commissioned Benson Educational Limited to design a game that could popularise the 1992 Constitution. The Ghana Constitution Game was subsequently produced by the company for the NCCE. In the year under review, the Commission made a conscious effort to popularize the Game.

The Public Education Department of the Commission instituted a programme to train NCCE staff on the playing of the Ghana Constitution Game (GCG). The dates and venues for the workshops were as follows:

The training sessions were undertaken by the Director of Public Education, Napoleon Agboada, with the support of four of his staff, namely Atta Ofose-Mensah (Principal Civic Education Officer), Samuel Akuoamoah (Senior Civic Education Officer), Edward Tetteh (Assistant Civic Education Officer) and Stephen Doe (Senior Field Officer).

On the average 60 officers selected from the district and regional offices participated in each of the training sessions which were held at the regional offices.

A1.4.1 Greater Accra Region

In the greater Accra region a Ghana Constitution Game competition was held for 12 junior and senior secondary schools in the Accra Metropolis on April 26, 2002. The Accra High School and Bishop Bowers Memorial School won at the SSS and JSS levels respectively.

A1.5 Conferences, Workshops and Seminars Attended By Commission Members and Staff

A1.5.1 Forum on District Assemblies and Unit Committees

On November 8, 2002 a joint Regional Public Forum on the Legal and Institutional Framework for District Assembly and Unit Committee Elections was organised jointly by the Electoral Commission, and the Ministry of Local Government with support from USAID/KAB Governance Consult at the Teachers Hall, Accra. The Chairman of the NCCE was the moderator at the function. The forum reviewed the legal and institutional framework for the 1988, 1994, 1998, 2002 district Level elections and made recommendations to make it more responsive to the aspirations of Ghanaians.

A1.5.2 Forum at University of Cape Coast

A joint NUGS/NCCE forum was organised at the University of Cape Coast Auditorium on November 16, 2002. In attendance was the NCCE Chairman and the Local NUGS President. Discussions on general issues on Ghana's democratic development were held. Over 200 students attended the forum.

A1.5.3 Conference on Human Rights in Warsaw, Poland

The US-based Ford Foundation, in December 2002, invited the Commission to participate in a Human Rights Conference in Warsaw, Poland. Kojo Tito Voegborlo, Deputy Director of Research, represented the NCCE. The Conference which was organised by the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights of Poland with financial support from Ford Foundation, New York, was held from December 5 to 11, 2002. It was attended by 14 human rights activists from three African countries, namely Nigeria (8), Uganda (2), South Africa (1), Ghana (1) and Tanzania (1).

The Conference was held on the theme, "Human Rights: Problems and Techniques of Action-Exchanging African and Eastern European Experiences". Topics treated included: Human Rights and Freedom: Theoretical Background, Techniques of Effective Action in Defence of Human Rights, Problems Concerning Civil and Political Rights in Africa, Eastern European and Asian Countries. The participants also took part in the Second International Film Festival of Poland. Films screened included: Soldier Boys (of Uganda), Masters and Slaves (in Chad), Divorce-Iranian Style, Pinochet's Children.

Ghana's representative, Kojo Tito Voegborlo, was the spokesman for the African group during a workshop/ meeting with human rights activists from Poland and other Eastern European Countries.

A1.5.4 Curriculum Writers' Workshop-2002

An American NGO, Street Law Incorporated, in conjunction with Guitas Ghana and supported by the Public Affairs Section of the US Embassy in Ghana, invited the Commission and the GES to participate in the Curriculum Writers' Workshop in Washington DC, USA. The Commission was represented by Mrs. Fanny Judith Kumah, Director of Literature and Materials Development.

The two-week workshop, which was held from March 3 to 14, 2002 was funded by the Education for Development and Democracy Initiative through the bureau of the US State Department Office of Citizens' Exchanges.

Participants were taken through several interactive methodologies in Civics and Democracy. Visitors were taken to some schools for class observation and interaction with the students. A mock trial by students was also observed. The team was also trained in curriculum development in Civics Democracy and Law, which led to the joint authorship of a textbook entitled *Everyday Law* especially for schools and the general public. The topics in the book include What is Democracy, Access to Justice, Accountability in Public Office, the Citizen, Police and Crime and Human Rights

A1.5.5 Conference on Good Governance held in Nigeria

In December 2002, the Commission was invited to participate in an international conference organized by a Nigerian NGO, Centre for Constitutionalism and Militarization (CENCOD). The Director for Research, Mrs. Gertrude Zakariah-Ali, was originally to attend the seminar but could not for a number of reasons, hence Kingsley Agomor represented her. The Conference took place at the Concorde Hotel, Owerri, Imo State of Nigeria from Sunday, December 7 to Friday, December 12, 2002. In attendance were 30 participants from six states of Nigeria's south-south geopolitical zone as well as others from West African Countries. The participants included university lecturers, legal practitioners, the self-employed and political activists. Others were Heads of Departments, Journalists and workers of non-governmental organisations.

Speakers at the workshop included:

- Dr. J.G. Nkem Onyekpe, a Senior Lecturer at the History Department of the University of Lagos, who delivered a paper on *Globalization and the Less Developed Countries*.
- Mr. Sylvester Odion-Akhaine, the Executive Director of CENCOD, who delivered a paper on *Political Economy of Good Governance*
- Professor Adebayo Williams, Amy Freeman Lee Distinguished Chair of Humanity and Fine Art, University of the Incarnate Word, San Antonio, USA, who delivered a paper on *Remapping the Nation: National Boundaries and Normative Bounds*, and
- Mr Kingsley Agomor, Principal Civic Education Officer of the NCCE, who presented a paper on *The Role of Women in Politics in Africa*.

A session was also devoted to participants to present their own essays on topics of their choice. Apart from paper presenters, each participant presented an interesting short essay.

The conference offered Kingsley Agomor, the Ghanaian representative, the opportunity to share with others the Ghanaian democratic experience. He, in turn, learnt about developments in other African countries. It was the general opinion among participants that, given the uncertainties in the new wave of democratic dispensation, the challenge is for civic educators to empower the people with vital information or well-packaged educational materials to guarantee confidence and trust in our new democracy. To that end, there was a call for capacity building and networking to enhance civic education delivery among African States.

A1.5.5 Visit to the Centre for Civic Education, USA

A two-member delegation from the Commission undertook a study tour of the Center for Civic Education in USA from June 7 to 13, 2002. The visit was in response to an invitation from the Center for Civic Education to the NCCE. The visit was wholly funded by the NCCE. The Chairman, Laary Bimi, who was originally to lead the delegation, could not make the trip. The delegation thus was reduced to two, Mrs. Gertrude Zakariah-Ali, Director of Research, and Emmanuel Kojo Stephens, Assistant Civic Education Officer (Research).

The delegation met staff of the Centre on June 10, 2002. At the working session, the delegation was briefed by Charles Quigley, Executive Director of the Centre, on the *History, Mission and Goals of the Centre*. Jaul Hoar, Director of International Programmes at the Center, took his turn and talked on *Guiding Principles and Preparation for Democratic Citizenship*. The co-ordinator of Internal Programmes, Neha Rastogi, spoke on CIVITAS.

Mrs. Gertrude Zakariah-Ali in turn briefed the meeting on *Overview of Civic Education in Ghana* in which she underscored the critical role of Civic Education for Ghana's Development. At another session with staff of the Centre, the delegation was briefed by Michael G. Ficher, Director, Project Citizen Programme of the CCE, on *We the People- Project Citizen*. The Director of Research and Evaluation of the CCE, Suzanne Soule, also took her turn and briefed the delegation on *Research and Evaluation Work of the CCE*.

Other staff of the CCE who briefed the delegation on various issues included: Sharon Moran, Co-ordinator of Internal Programmes; Charles Bahmuller, Director of Special Programmes at the Centre; Janet Lee, Programme Co-ordinator of CIVNET; Ron Morris, Co-ordinator, Internal Programmes; Theresa Richard, Editor, and Jessica Sutter, Assistant Director, School Violence Prevention Demonstration Programme of the CCE.

The delegation also had opportunity to visit the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum. The delegation found the Center's programme to be very educative and informative.

As a result of the delegation's visit, the "Project Citizen" programme, was adopted by the NCCE for implementation. The NCCE also continues to maintain good relationships with the Centre for Civic Education in the USA.

A1.5.6 Conference of Centre for Civic Education (CCE) Leaders in Moscow

The Chairman of the NCCE, Laary Bimi, attended a Centre for Civic Education Leaders' Conference in Moscow from September 4 to 11, 2002. The meeting brought together representatives of civic education organisations from Eastern Europe and some African countries.

In a presentation at the conference on Civic Education in Ghana, the Chairman gave an overview of the democratization process taking place in the West African Sub-region with special emphasis on Ghana. He drew attention to some of the threats to democracy namely ethnicity, tribalism, corruption, intolerance, political patronage, clientelism (pork barrel politics) and above all ignorance. He called for funding of civic education institutions like the National Commission for Civic Education so that they could intensify education on democratic practices, civic liberties and responsibilities and empower the citizenry to be part of the democratization process.

The numerous questions asked after the chairman's presentation indicated that the speech was well received.

The conference also served as an opportunity for the chairman of the NCCE to make contacts with various leaders of civic education organisations throughout the world.

A1.5.7 Conference of Centre for Civic Education (CCE) Leaders in Mexico

From September 20 to 30, 2003, the Chairman of the NCCE, Laary Bimi, attended a Centre for Civic Education Leaders Conference in Mexico. The Chairman was one of four representatives of four African countries who joined leaders of 42 other countries at the Conference. The other three African countries represented were Nigeria, Senegal and South Africa. At the conference, Laary Bimi made a short presentation on the *Status of Civic Education in Ghana*.

At the conference it was disclosed that the Centre for Civic Education of USA has, through the assistance of the State Department and the Department of Education, made available \$20,000,000 for civic education activities in emerging democracies of the world.

The four African countries represented at the conference were earmarked for funding. With the exception of South Africa, which was to receive \$90,000, the three other countries were to receive \$85,000 each for civic education activities. The amount to be given NCCE as its share was to be determined later.

To assist in the acquisition of needs, the four African countries were each given a management site. The management site for Ghana was the California Country Ministry of Education

To qualify for disbursement of funds, Ghana was expected to adopt the project-citizen programme that has been running in the United States for the past 10 years. It is believed that the project-citizen programme would help develop civic awareness, civic values and civic skills in recipient countries as it has done in the USA.

As part of an agreement reached at the conference, it was decided that a four-member delegation from Ghana would visit the USA for a 14-day study tour of some civic education centres to learn at first hand the workings of the project-citizen programme. The center would in turn send a three-member team to Ghana for a study tour during which they would help in the production of a curriculum on Ghana's political history that could be adopted into the curriculum of project-citizen of the USA.

A1.6 Regional Programmes

Aside of the programmes directed from head office in which all the regional and district offices featured, there were some peculiar programmes handled by some regions.

A1.6.1 Eastern Region

During the year, 232 programmes, based on 41 topics, were successfully executed in the districts through durbars, seminars and fora with the adult population being the special target.

Issues discussed included:

- The District Assembly Concept,
- The District Assembly Election,

- The campaign Against Indiscipline
- Health Insurance Scheme,
- Police and Civilian Relationship,
- Advantages/Benefits of Democracy,
- Significance of the National Constitution Week

In general these were issues that bordered on our everyday life ranging from good health practices, protection of human dignity, maintenance of law and order for a peaceful co-existence to the exercise of constitutional/democratic rights of the citizen.

A1.6.2 Volta Region

The programme of activities planned and executed by the regional office within the limited resources included a People's Assembly organized in five districts of the region, namely Jasikan, Kadjebi, Nkwanta, Kete-Krachi, Akatsi and Ho. It was aimed at getting State Ministers to interact with the general public. The Volta Regional Minister and the Deputy Minister of Local Government and Rural Development were present in answering questions from the floor.

The district offices also sensitized people in their communities to the negative effects which indiscriminate disposal of garbage, poor drainage system and the construction of buildings on water ways have on development.

In the Kete Krachi District, a drama troupe, under the directorship of Togbe Ayitey Duame II, the district director, put up plays depicting the hazards of ethnic conflicts.

The Region also organized fora to sensitize the citizens on the District Assembly and Unit Committee Elections. The Regional Director, Frank Adoba, together with the Ho District Director, Teikpo Kofi Tenu, held various radio programmes in Ewe and English on the elections on the Volta Star Radio at Ho.

A1.6. 3 Ashanti Region

The region organised a number of programmes to discuss topics relating to the Rights of women, children and spouses. Notable among them were Women Empowerment, the Intestate Succession Law, the Wills Act and the Rights of the Child. There were about 27 of such programmes involving six districts and the Regional office

A1.6.4 Upper West

The Region utilised the Radio Upper West to educate the public on issues such as the role of Traditional Rulers in our present democratic dispensation; rights and responsibilities of the citizen under the 1992 Constitution, HIV/AIDS among others.

A1.6.5 Northern Region

A common trend running through all the district programmes, except in a few cases, were issues and related challenges peculiar in areas of operation, hence the need to fashion out suitable programmes. Topics treated during these outreach exercises included.

- a. The local government system and the citizen.
- b. Principles of the 1992 Constitution and other related issues.
- c. Causes of Indiscipline in schools.
- d. HIV/AIDS Education.
- e. Environmental Sanitation.

In Yendi District , a peace programme aimed at discouraging the youth from violent behaviour, was organised for students of the educational institutions. There was also a workshop at Yendi on conflict identification, avoidance, management and resolution.

A1.6.6 Greater Accra Region

The NCCE regional and district offices organised programmes to deepen citizens' knowledge of the principles and practice of the local government system. They also effectively sensitized the citizenry to the district level elections. The Accra Metropolitan Office of the Commission was on *Obonu FM*, a local station, once a week to educate the public on civic issues in Ga.

A2 Research Activities

A2.1 Introduction

In 2002, the Research Department undertook a national survey on *Civic Knowledge Among the Youth in Ghana*. Like all previous surveys, this project was embarked upon in pursuit 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 consideration of government programmes aimed at realising the objectives of the Constitution. It is the expectation that issues identified in the field would inform the Commission's Public Education activities. The Commission also continued collaborative work with the Chieftaincy Secretariat and the National House of Chiefs on research into customary practices relating to enstoolment/enskinment of chiefs in Ghana.

A2.2 The Survey on Civic Knowledge Among the Youth In Ghana

The study on civic knowledge among the youth in Ghana was undertaken in April 2002. The study was influenced by the desire to consolidate our young democracy through civic education and the perception that civic knowledge among the populace is low since civics is no longer a subject included in our school curriculum.

The objectives of the study were:

1. To assess the youth's knowledge and level of interest in governance and the various arms of government.
2. To assess what the youth know about the principles of the Constitution.
3. To assess what the youth know about environmental preservation.
4. To find out the level of cultural awareness among the youth, and
5. To determine their sources of information on "civics".

The study which was designed as a representative nationwide sample survey was undertaken in 40 districts which were systematically selected.

Among the major findings were:

Knowledge of the Constitution

The survey shows that there is a low level of knowledge of the Constitution and its main principles among the youth. The majority of the youth (52.0 per cent) did not know what Constitution is. Of those who knew about the Constitution, knowledge level seemed to increase with age. For those within the age groups of 12-14, 15-17, 18-20 and 21-25 knowledge level was 31.9 per cent, 50.6 per cent, 54.6 per cent and 57.6 per cent respectively.

The Sovereignty of the People

The survey's results indicates that the principle of sovereignty of the people seems to have been internalised by many Ghanaians. Eighty per cent of respondents emphasized that it is the people who have the power to change the government, with only 3.3 per cent saying it is the military that has that power whilst 14.3 per cent mentioned the President, the judiciary and Parliament with 2.7 per cent either having no idea or not responding to the question at all. .

Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms

Knowledge of the Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms is widespread, according to the survey's results. Among the rights and freedoms that are well known is the right to vote. As many as 22 per cent of 3,297 respondents who mentioned one or the other right did not fail to mention the right to vote as well. Other rights mentioned are: Freedom of speech and the press (19 per cent), Right to education (18 per cent), Freedom of association and worship (16 per cent), right to life (9 per cent), right to employment (5 per cent) and right to own property (3 per cent).

National Symbols

The survey sought to find out what the youth knew about our national symbols. From the survey it appears the youth know a lot about our national symbols. A total of 3,586 or 62.7 per cent of respondents chose coat of arms as a national symbol, whilst 83.8 per cent chose the national flag and 65.7 per cent chose the national anthem.

Ghana as a Democratic Country

The survey indicates an overwhelming belief of Ghanaians that the country is charting the democratic path. A whopping 4,503 or 80.0 per cent of respondents said Ghana is a democratic country, whereas 7.2 per cent said no, with 13.8 uncertain, and therefore said 'don't know'. Reasons given for the claim that Ghana is a democratic country vary from; that there is freedom of expression and media (28.7 per cent), there are frequent elections (26.5 per cent), there is a parliamentary system in place (3.1 per cent) and there is equality before the law in Ghana (3.0 per cent). A significantly large 27.4 per cent however were unable to express an opinion on the issue. There is a significant relationship between education and the view concerning democracy.

Functions of Parliament

The survey sought to find out what respondents see as the major role of Parliament. From the data the most important functions of Parliament are making laws, Parliamentarians articulating constituency needs in Parliament, and bringing about development. These three functions recorded 41.5 per cent, 19.2 per cent and 18.5 per cent as first choice of responses respectively.

The role of Parliament in law making and serving as a body to articulate constituency needs seems to attract many a youth into wishing to become MPs. As many as 3,030 or 53.0 per cent of respondents mentioned Parliament as a public body

they wish to be elected on to. The rest is shared among District Assemblies (22.5 per cent) and Unit Committees (16.1 per cent). As many as 456 or 8.0 per cent of respondents stated categorically they would not like to serve on any public body whilst 23 or 0.4 per cent of respondents were not too sure on which body they would serve or did not care to answer the question.

Institutions/Agencies that Should Inculcate Democratic Values

The survey reveals that the most important institutions/agencies that should play the key role in inculcating democratic values into the youth of the country are the schools, NCCE and Government. In identifying agencies that should inculcate democratic culture, 1,709 or 26.9 per cent of respondents chose the schools as their first choice, 25.6 percent said the NCCE and 22.7 mentioned the Government.

Environmental Degradation and its Solution

The survey reveals that there is a general consensus among the youth that bush burning and deforestation are the two major causes of environmental degradation in the society. The most effective way of dealing with environmental degradation, according to the survey, is through public education. A total of 57.4 per cent of respondents chose that method. Another set of 12.4 per cent and 12.2 per cent mentioned District Assemblies, passing bye-laws and offenders being prosecuted, respectively.

Cherished Values in Our Society

The survey sought to find out the cherished values among Ghanaians. Respect for elders seems to be the most cherished value, followed by hard work, and honesty. Of the total respondents, 2,133 represents 37.8 per cent, 24.1 per cent and 22.6 per cent respectively chose those values as first choice. Because of the high regard in which elders are held, many a youth (72.7 per cent) believe that when you have a problem with an elder you need to apologize /beg/seek for forgiveness. An interesting observation, however, is the use of formal structures like the Unit Committee/Pastor.

A2.3 Chieftaincy Research Project

The Commission, in the year under review, collaborated with the National House of Chiefs and the Chieftaincy Secretariat to undertake research into Customary Laws and Practices relating to Enstoolment/Enskinment with focus on the Brong Ahafo Region. With sponsorship from the Konrad Adenauer Foundation 15 research officers were taken through a one-day training in data collection in the field at the Regional House of Chiefs, Kumasi. Data collection subsequently followed. It is expected that officers who went to the field would present their reports at a de-briefing seminar later. Meanwhile work on 30 pilot paramountcies collected in 2001 is progressing. A Report Writing workshop was held in the year and the reports produced by the team are expected to be sent back to the various traditional areas for vetting.

A3 Literature and Materials Development

The Commission collaborated with the *GILLBT Foundation* to translate and print the Abridged Constitution in some Ghanaian languages. Those translated Abridged Constitutions in Ghanaian languages were launched at Nkwanta in the Volta Region at a durbar of Chiefs and people on May 17, 2002. It was attended by officials from the NCCE Headquarters and GILLBT foundation from Tamale in the Northern Region. Over 2000 people from surrounding towns and villages attended the durbar which witnessed the launching of the Abridged Version of the 1992 Constitution in seven (7) Ghanaian languages spoken in the northern part of the Volta Region, namely Nkonya, Lelemi, Guan, Adele, Gikpode, Ntrobo and Tawali-Selee.

The Commission also printed for distribution to the public 6,500 copies of the Abridged and Simplified Version of the 1992 Constitution. The printing was made possible through funding by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

A4 Public Affairs

A4.1 NCCE Calendar

The Commission published its 2002 Calendar based on the theme of the Second Constitution Week, *The Constitution and You*. For purposes of the calendar, it was paraphrased into Ghana's Constitution and You. The calendar, depicting a plethora of cuttings over the year, captured headlines, messages/banners put out in the media through our civic education platforms. These include the following:

- Judiciary urged to ensure dispensation of justice.
- Study the 1992 Constitution
- Police urged to respect human rights
- No room for coup plotters
- Knowledge of Constitution by the citizenry is essential
- NCCE to translate Constitution into Ghanaian languages
- Constitution should be accessible and affordable
- NCCE, Churches must co-operate

It could be said that the 2002 calendar was a source of information and a reflection of regional activities.

A4.2 Radio/TV Programmes

The Commission sought the support of a number of radio stations in Accra and other regional capitals to run weekly radio programmes on topical issues and constitutional provisions.

In the national capital, Accra, the Ghana Broadcasting Corporation (GBC) ran a current affairs programme in Ga on *Obonu FM* for a period of six months to target the indigenous Ga folk. This programme offered the indigenous people the opportunity to seek clarification on major government policies. Two other Accra-based radio stations that the Commission engaged were *Choice FM* and *Top Radio*. The Choice FM programme provided an opportunity to educate Ghanaians on the Directive Principles of State Policy and Fundamental Human Rights.

Between September and October 2002, the NCCE collaborated with *Top Radio* to organise live programmes in Korley Klottey, Ablekuma and Odododiodio constituencies all in Accra. The programme created a platform for assembly members, MPs to interact with their constituents.

SECTION B

Finance and Administration

The Finance and Administration Division of the NCCE covers the Personnel Unit, Transport Unit, Finance Department, Stores Section, Administration Section. The Division in the year under review continued with efforts to infuse efficiency and discipline into all levels of the Commission.

B1 Administration

B1.1 The Commission

During the year under review, the Commission held 12 regular and three emergency meetings. Section 11 (2) of Act 452 provides that the quorum for Commission meetings shall be four, including the Chairman or a Deputy Chairman. Given the fact that two Commission members, Mrs. Susanna Adam had resigned in 1996, and Dr. J.E. Oppong's appointment had been revoked by his Excellency the President of the Republic, whenever any of the members were absent it was impossible to meet and take decisions.

B1.2 Creation of New Units Under Finance and Administration Department

Two new Units, Estates and Archives, were established as integral parts of the Administration Department. The Estates Unit is charged with the management of Transport and all the assets of the Commission (i.e. Office Equipment, Machines, Furniture and Fittings). It is responsible for keeping inventory register of all Commission assets, their movement and location at any particular time. The Archival Unit on the other hand is charged with the development and maintenance of operational records of all the departments and units of the Commission and also to be responsible for the yet-to-be established library for the Commission. The two new units are headed by Deputy Directors.

B1.3 Personnel Matters

B1.3.1 Staff Strength and Turnover

The staff strength as of January 2001 was 1457 but fell to 1436 by December 2002. The Commission continues to experience high turnovers, especially of university graduates, largely because of low income and poor working conditions especially in the districts. In 2002 56 persons left the Commission through resignations, retirements, vacation of posts and dismissals. At the same time 66 new appointments of both senior and junior staff were made.

B1.5 Transport

The Commission, under the supervision of the Office of the Chief of Staff, auctioned 35 of its old NIVA vehicles. An amount of ₵72,100,000 was realised from the sales. In the year, four new Toyota Pick-ups were purchased by the Commission. As of December 31, 2002 the Commission had 22 vehicles.

B1.6 Capacity Building

B1.6.1 Study Leave

In conformity with the Commission's policy of building the capacity of all staff, the Commission approved a number of training programmes for the staff at various levels. Twenty-one members of staff were awarded study leave to undertake various courses in tertiary institutions.

B1.6.2 Training for Research Department Staff

The Commission also sponsored five research staff of the national headquarters to pursue two short courses at ISSER, Legon. The five officers who attended the course were: Kojo Tito Voegborlo, K.S. Agomor, Sanda Fuseini, Ato Afful and Kojo Stephens. The first course lasted from July 25 to August 2, 2002, whilst the second was from August 6 to 16, 2002. Topics treated included: proposal development, research design and survey instruments, observational methods, interview technique/questionnaire, data collection and analysis, and report writing. Participants also learnt how to use the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) to capture data and do analysis including Descriptive Statistics and Correlation and Regression analysis. Well-prepared handouts were given out to participants after the lectures.

B1.6.3 Training for Civic Education Officers

A capacity training workshop for 50 civic education officers from Northern, Upper East, Upper West and Central regions was held in Kumasi at the PSUC (TUC) from December 16 to 18, 2002. The course was sponsored by the UNDP. The workshop improved the effectiveness of civic education delivery in the country. Prof. Andam, Vice Chancellor of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, opened the workshop. The following resource persons delivered talks/papers:

- Outlining workshop objectives by N.K. Agboada, Director, Public Education, NCCE.
- The nature and scope of civic education in contemporary Ghana and civic Education guidelines for the civic educator by Laary Bimi, NCCE Chairman.
- Communication Skills which involve (i) elements of communication (ii) methods of communication (iii) barriers to effective communication (iv) overcoming barriers and inter personal communication by Roger Oppong Koranteng, Senior Consultant, GIMPA Accra.
- Technical Skills and presentation skills including Report-writing, Minutes Writing, speech writing, public speaking, proposals writing skills and Project Presentation by Peter Arthur, Lecturer, Languages Department, KNUST, Kumasi.
- Presentation Skills, Adult Learning Principles, Methods of Civic Education Delivery, Team presentation, teaching aids etc. by H.B.K. Kwasi, Resident Tutor, Institute of Adult Education, University of Ghana.
- Analysis or critique of the 1992 Constitution by Justice George Lamptey, a retired Supreme Court Judge.

B1.6.4 Participation in the 53rd Annual New Year School

The 53rd Annual New Year School was held at the Commonwealth Hall, University of Ghana, Legon, from December 28, 2001 to January 3, 2002. A total of 208 participants took part in the school, including 25 from the NCCE, made up of Commission Members, Directors from the national headquarters and the ten regions.

The formal opening ceremony came off on Saturday, December 29, 2001 and was addressed by Hon. J. H. Mensah, Senior Minister, on behalf of His Excellency President John Agyekum Kufuor. The chairman for the opening ceremony was Oyeeman Wereko Ampem II, the Chancellor of University of Ghana, Legon.

The keynote address was delivered by Nana Dr. S. K. B. Asante, the Chairman of the Public Utilities Regulatory Commission, on the topic *Good Governance and Sustainable Development* which incidentally was the theme for the school.

There were five symposia sessions. The first was on *Strategies for Poverty Reduction* with the discussants Mrs. Frema Osei-Opare, Country Director, Action Aid Ghana, and Mr. Kofi Asante-Frempong, Programme Director, National Poverty Reduction

Programme. The second was on *Majority and Minority Relations in Parliament: Prescriptions for Good Governance* with the panelists as Hon. Osei Kyei Mensah-Bonsu, Deputy Majority Chief Whip, and Hon. E. K. Doe Adjaho, Minority Chief Whip. The third was on *Ensuring Good Governance: The Role of Religious Bodies* with the panelists as Rev. Dr. Aboagye-Mensah, Secretary-General, Christian Council of Ghana; Ms. Katumi Mahama, President, Federation of Moslem Women Association of Ghana; and Osofo Komfo Ameve, Leader, Afrikania Mission of Ghana. The fourth symposium was on *Realistic Wage Policy and Good Governance*, with the panelists as Smart Y. A. Chigabatia, Executive Secretary, Civil Servants Association of Ghana; Kofi Asamoah, Deputy Secretary-General (Ops), TUC; and Mrs. Rose Karikari Annan, Executive Director, Ghana Employers' Association of Ghana. The last symposium was on *Zero Tolerance for Corruption – Myth or Reality* and the speakers were K. Buaben-Asamoah, Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition, and Dr. Ken Agyeman-Attafuah, CHRAJ.

In addition there were eight syndicate groups which considered various topics:

1. Civil Society and the Promotion of Good Governance
2. Ethnic, Political and Religious Tolerance in a Democratic Society
3. Strategies for Poverty Reduction in Ghana
4. Enhancing the Viability of District Assemblies
5. Ensuring Zero Tolerance for Corruption
6. Agricultural Productivity and Sustainable Development
7. Education and Good Governance
8. Realistic Wage Policy and Good Governance

Two specialist workshops were held on training of trainers on HIV/AIDS Prevention (journey of hope) and the other on project proposal writing (skills training). Both workshops were well patronised with as many as forty-two (42) participants in the Project Proposal Workshop alone.

On the whole the school was successful and officers of the Commission made great impact during discussions and in their syndicate groups.

B1.6.5 Participation in the Northern Easter School

The 2002 Northern Easter School was held from April 1 to 6, 2002 at the Navrongo Campus of the University For Development Studies. The theme of the school was *Good Governance and Sustainable Development – Focus on Northern Ghana*

Activities held as part of the school included a keynote address, lectures, symposia, panel discussions and an open forum on various aspects of the main theme for the school. The topical issues that were addressed by most speakers were strategies for poverty reduction in northern Ghana, protecting and managing the environment, promoting tourism in northern Ghana, development of appropriate infrastructure for agricultural development in northern Ghana.

Study Groups also dealt with such issues as Promoting Social Cohesion in Northern Ghana, Strengthening District Assemblies for Sustainable Development, Strategies for Increasing Agricultural Productivity in Northern Ghana, Civil Society/NGOs and the Promotion of Good Governance, Enhancing Tourism in Northern Ghana, Specialist seminars on “Research project on Communities’ Perception of What Constitutes Poverty”, and a workshop on HIV/AIDS Prevention (Journey of Hope) were also held. The 10 NCCE participants at the school made sustaintial contributions both at the plenary and in their seminar groups. The school helped the Commission to ehance its visibility among the elite of the society in the three northern regions of the country.

B2 Finance

B2.1 Opening Bank Balances

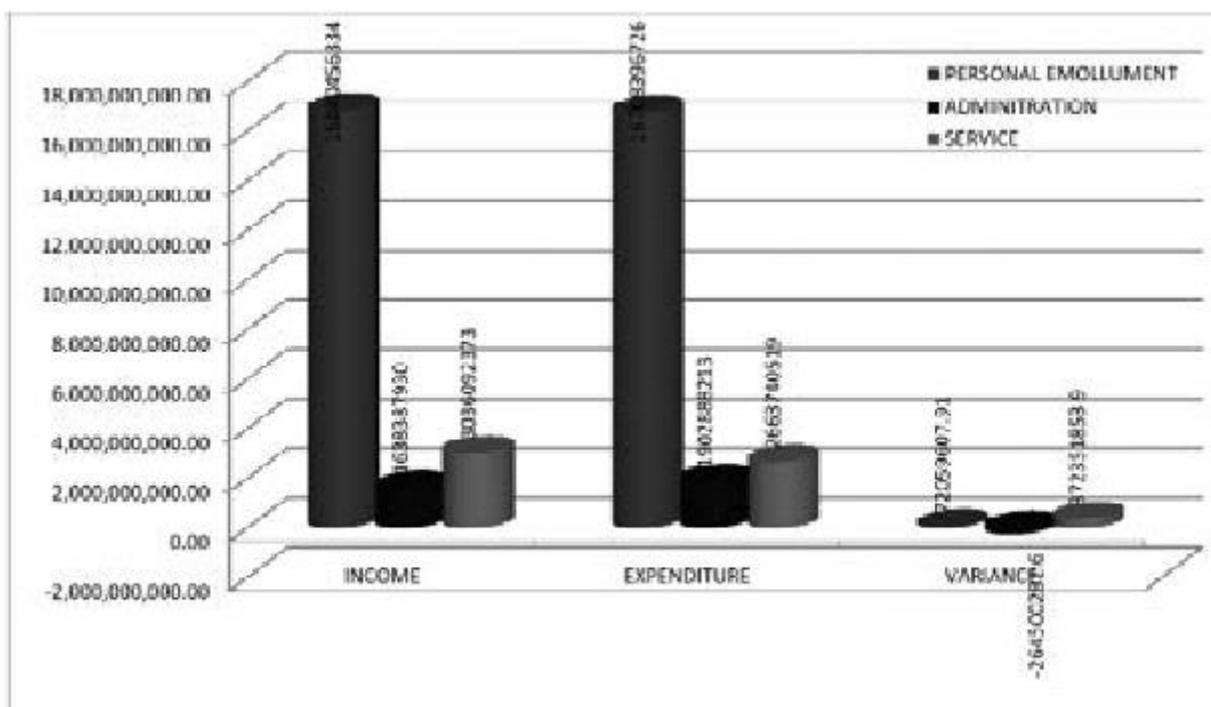
The Commission, at the beginning of the year, had four accounts at the Bank of Ghana and the balances in these accounts were as follows:

Main Account	¢563,860,229.03
Service Account (Programmes)	¢12,442,477.46
Car Loan Account	¢1,726,266.40
Dollar Account	¢112,942,785.34
	¢690,971,718.23

B2.2 Approved Budget and Releases

In the year under review, a budget of ¢16,964,729,737 was approved for the Commission. At the end of the year, however the Ministry of Finance's actual release came up to ¢18,847,337,739 which represented a 11.1 percent increase. Though there was an increase in the quantum of money to the Commission, it belies the fact that there were drastic cuts in items like administration, service and investment that were in the approved budget. Out of the total subvention release of ¢18,847,337,739, a total of ¢16,840,456,334 representing 89.4 percent went into personal emoluments, while administration took only ¢1,476,928,405 representing 7.8 percent), and service had only ¢529,953,000, representing, 2.8 percent. It is sad to note that investment was zero. These figures were against approved budgetary figures of ¢14,210,729,737, 1,516,000,000, ¢711,000,000 and ¢527,000,000 respectively. The details of the approved budget and releases are presented in Graph B.1:

Note: The net excess amount release of ¢1,882,608,002 covered salary increases for the year 2002 by the Government.



B2.3 Income and Expenditure

Total income to the Commission, in the year, was ₵21,503,935,164.47 out of which ₵2,493,561,490.32 was from donors and the rest, ₵18, 847,337,739 from GoG.

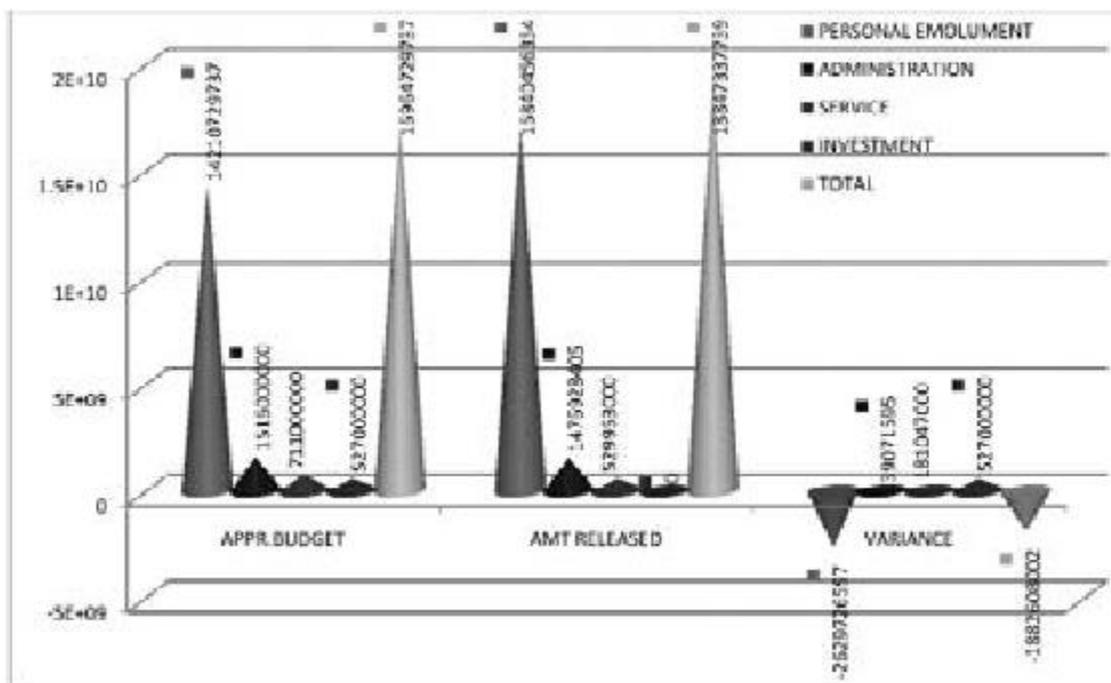
Total detailed income for the year was as follows:

Programmes Account (Service & Dollar)	2002 ₵
Subvention (Service) (GoG)	529,953,000
Donor Funds	2,495,138,170
Ford Foundation (\$300,000x₵8,005.84)	2,401,752,000
GARFUND (Ghana AIDS Commission)	38,400,000
NGP (National Governance Programme)	53,986,170
Other Donations	1,000,000
Administration	1539,928,406
Car Loan	98,459,254
Investment	-
Personal Emolument	16,840,935,164
	21,503,935,164

Total detailed expenditure for the year was as follows:

Personal Emoluments	₵16,768,396,726
Administration	₵1,890,731,713
Service	1,969,858,795
Dollar Account (\$77064.72 x ₵8,005.84)	₵39,892,554
Governance	₵53,986,170.00
Car Loan Account	₵11,850,500.00
Total Expenditure	₵21,334,722,458
Less Depreciation for Year 2002	₵215,972,482.78
Net Expenditure	₵21,335,732,100.10

Quoted below are details of various incomes summing up to the last quoted figure:



Note:

- During the year under review the variance between the total revenue of the Commission and net expenditure was ₵169,211,1266.37 (positive). This high expenditure is however exclusive of Investments requirements of the Commission. The expected three pickups approved in the budget for the year could not be procured due to non-release of funds under investment.
- Though donor support was ₵2,487,391,361.00 , which is only 11.6 percent of total income of the Commission, it nevertheless significantly contributed to the improved service delivery of the Commission.
- Administration expenditure is less depreciation of ₵215,974,482.78

B2.4 Closing Bank Balances

The Commission, at the end of the year, had six Accounts with the Bank of Ghana. The total Bank Balance at the close of the year was ₵861,926,928.64 with the details as follows:

Main Account	₵17,862,347.69
Service Account (Programmes)	₵299,342.54
Car Loan	₵88,328,980.46
GAR Fund	₵38,400,000.00
Personal Emolument	₵257,887,881.09
Dollar Account (\$55,296.43 x ₵8,303.04)	₵861,926,928.64

Note:

- The Car Loan Account included the ₵72,100,000 proceeds from the auction sales of the Commission’s vehicles during the year.
- The Programmes Account includes GOG and Donor Funds.

SECTION C

Conclusion and Recommendations

C1 Conclusion

The Commission, by its Establishment Act, Act 452 of 1993, is mandated to create and sustain awareness of constitutional democracy. It also has the responsibility to assess, for the information of government, the limitations to the achievement of true democracy arising from the existing inequalities between different strata of the population and make recommendations for re-dressing these inequalities.

The Commission recognizes that the mandate to provide adequate and relevant education on the constitutional provisions is an important one since they provide the basis for the respect for the principles, objectives, rules and procedures for organizing the affairs of the State, Government and the wider society.

It is to meet these goals that the Commission, within the year carried out the varied programmes with greater or lesser success as determined by a combination of factors. Top of the list of activities was the celebration of the Second Constitution Week. The Week was celebrated at the national, regional and district levels with durbars, seminars, floats, debates and quiz competitions. The Commission, in its work, also collaborated with numerous organisations.

The Commission would have wished to do more but it is seriously constrained by limited resources. Total dependence on government subvention is sadly but obviously a check on the Commission's potential and capacity to deliver. The occasional donor support is however most welcome as it helps in service delivery. It is our hope that coming years would see greater improvement in the resource base of the Commission.

C2 Recommendations

The recommendations from the Commission are based on feedback from the interactions with the public, recommendations from workshops, analysis of media reports, memoranda received and studies/research conducted.

The proposed recommendations are divided into three sections based on the district level elections, matters of a generic nature and institutional or NCCE-specific matters.

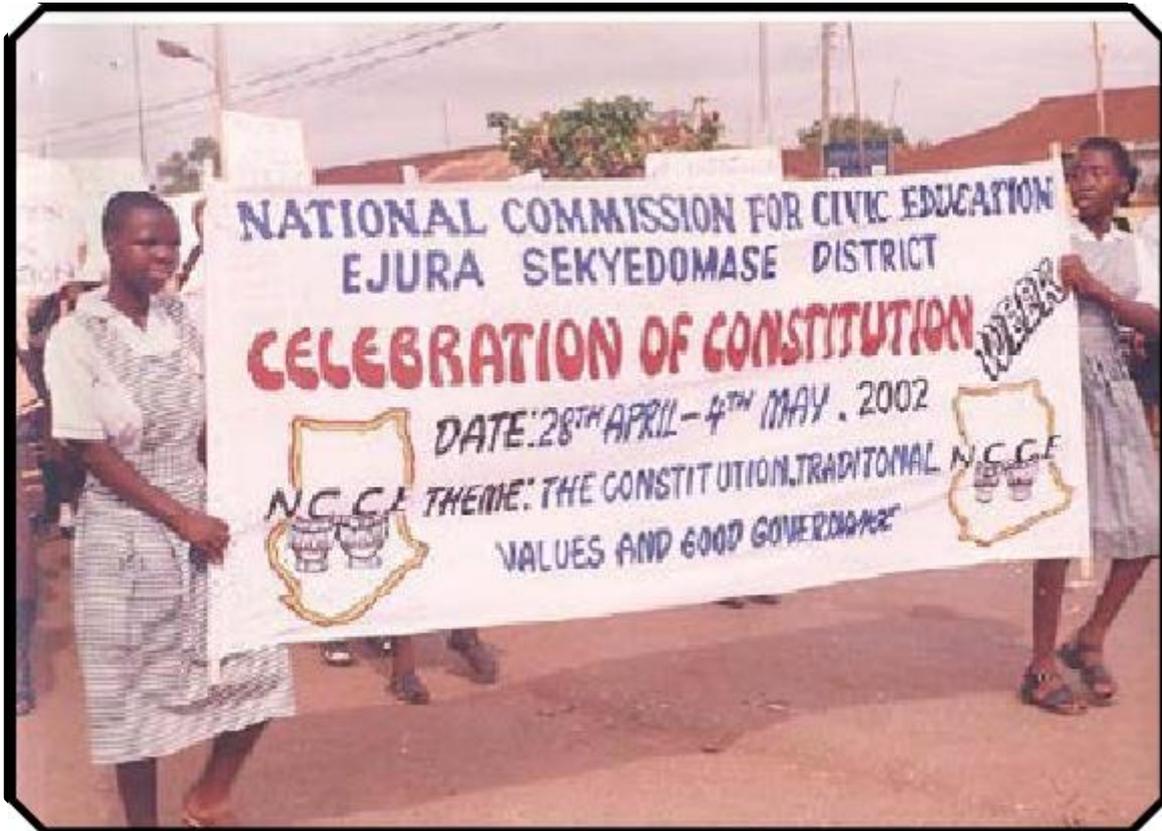
The Commission monitored the debate on the future of the District Assembly system and wishes to state that the non-partisanship of District Assemblies continues to be popular among the generality of the Ghanaian public. This was in spite of varied arguments raised and discussions engendered by the media and by some activists that District Assembly elections would be better patronized if they were partisan. The Government is encouraged to maintain the *status quo*.

The Ghana Education Service (GES), Ministry of Education should take firm steps towards introducing **Civics for Democracy** as examinable subject in first and second cycle schools as part of a wider strategy for improved political socialization of the Ghanaian youth.

Parliament should prevail on the Executive to take up the deprivation of the Commission (NCCE) as a special case and help mobilize resources both within and outside for it. An option that may be considered is the convening of a donor conference on the NCCE by the Ministry of Finance.

The Constitutional Commissions viz National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE), Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), National Media Commission (NMC) and Electoral Commission (EC) should have a common platform to network and discuss joint activities.

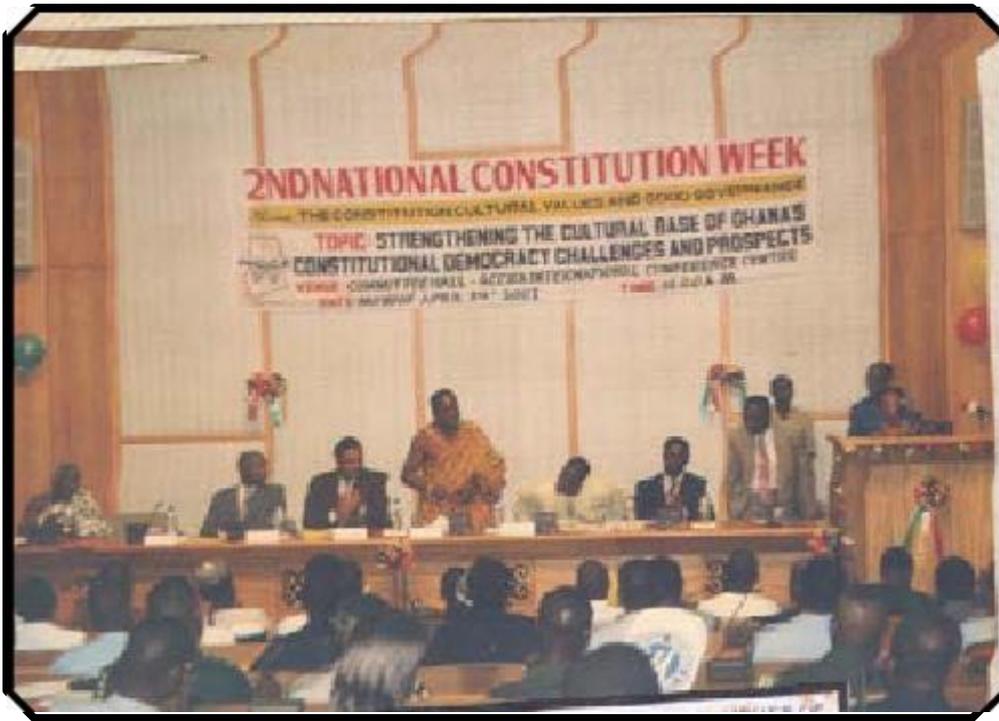
The Executive (arm of government) should take appropriate steps to fill the vacancy in the Commission so as to give the Commission its full complement.



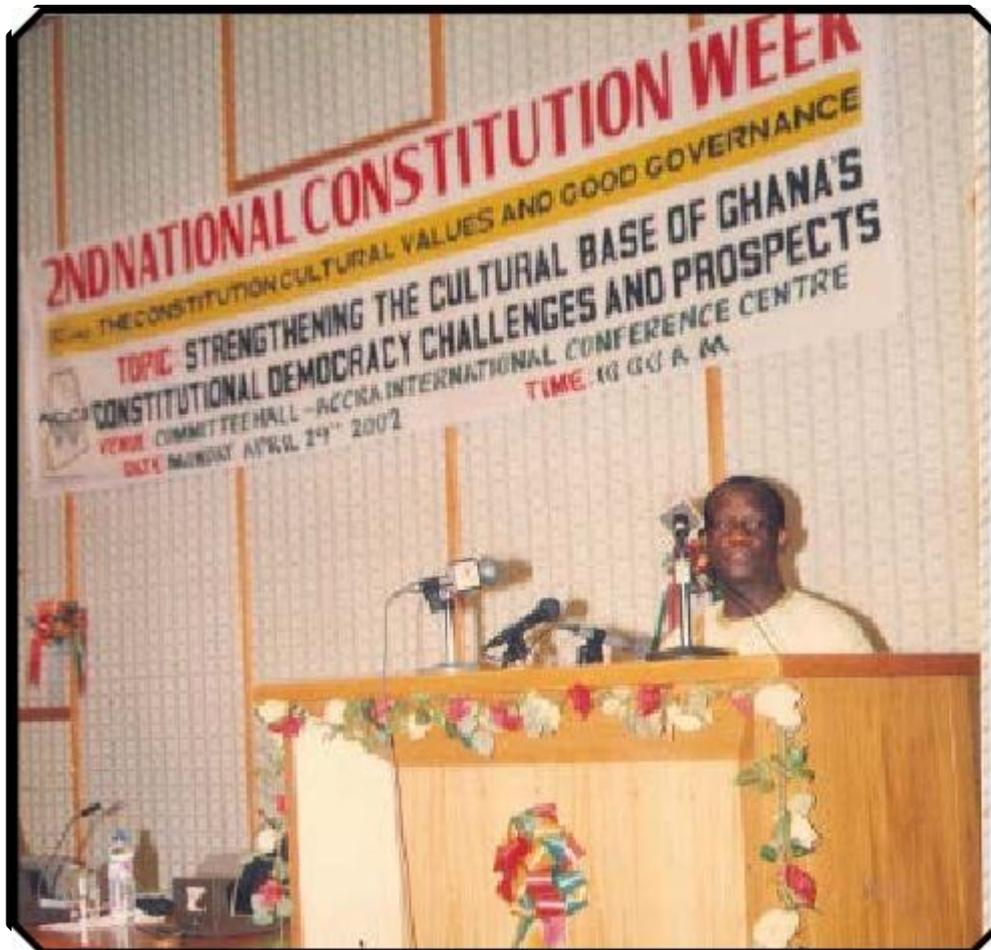
Heralding the Second Annual National Constitution Week Celebrations at Ejura.



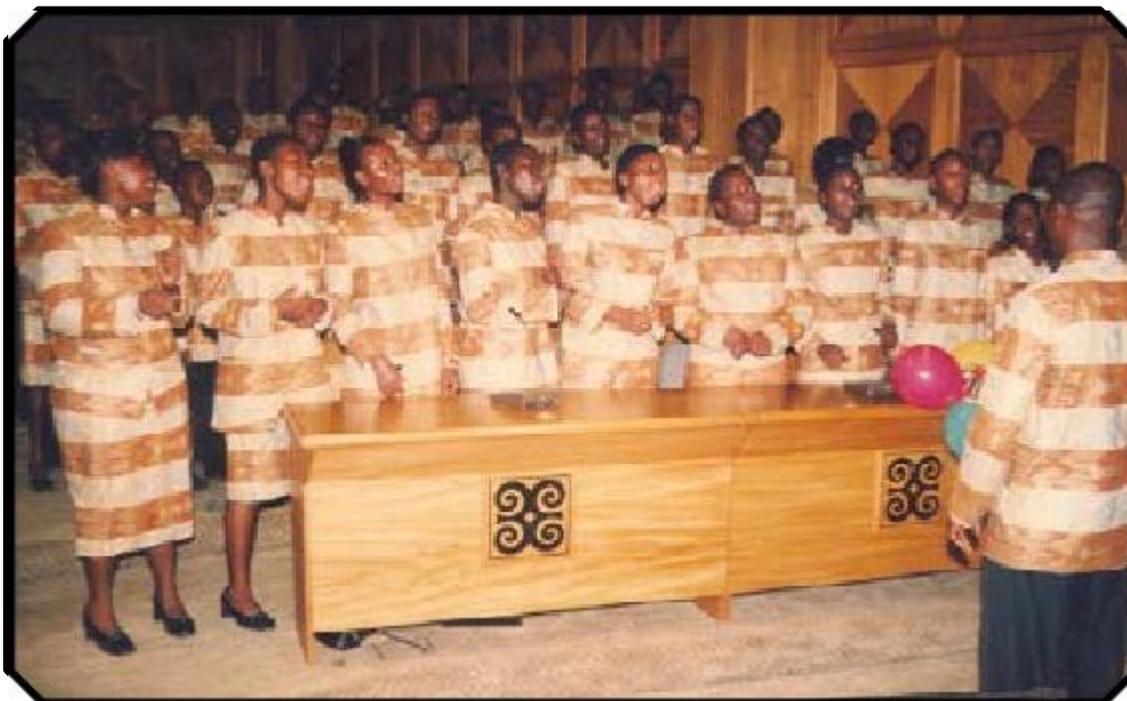
A route march to herald the Second Annual National Constitution Week Celebrations at Agona Swedru.



Odenho Gyapong Ababio, President of the National House of Chiefs, making his opening remarks as chairman for the main lecture held as part of the Second Annual National Constitution Week Celebrations.



Mr. Laary Bimi, Chairman of the NCCE, delivering his welcome address at the main lecture held as part of the Second Annual National Constitution Week Celebrations.



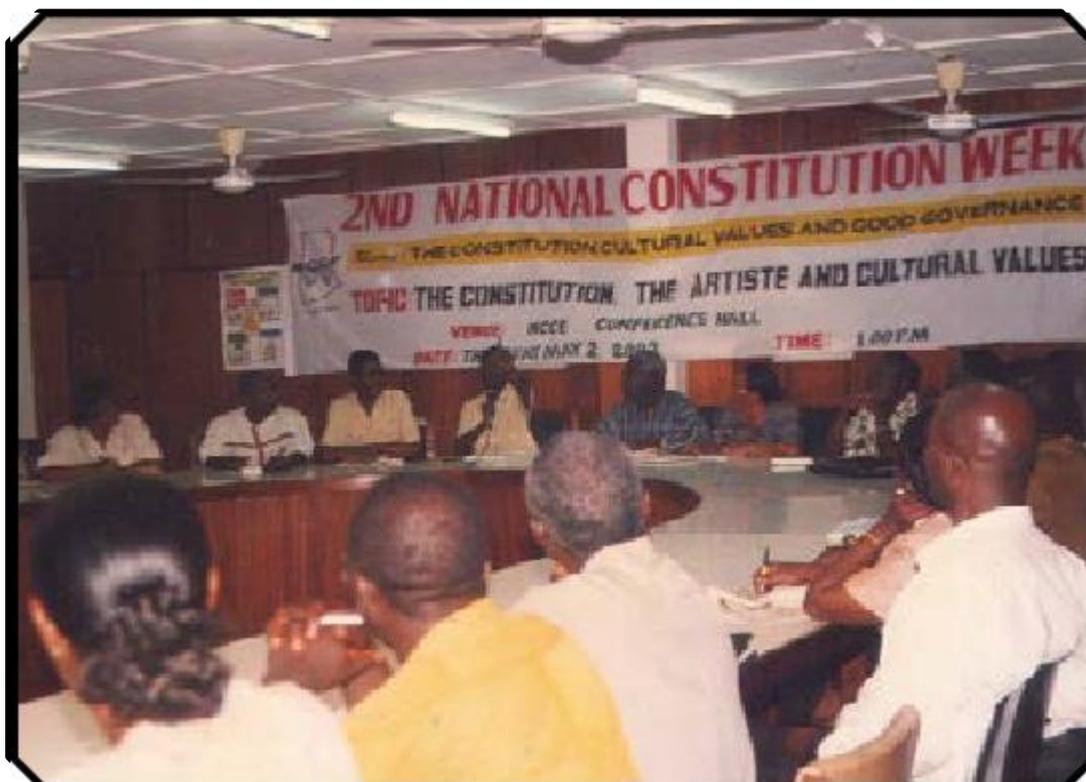
The Bethel Methodist Junior Choir of Tema singing patriotic songs to enliven the function as part of the held second Annual Constitution Week celebrations.



Mr. Laary Bimi, Chairman of the NCCE, in a group picture with members of the Accra High School Civic Education Club, winners of the Ghana Constitution Game Competition.



Members of the Boundary Girls School, Adabraka-Accra, who were winners of the Ghana Constitution Game in the Basic School category.



Prof. Martin Owusu, Director of the School of Performing Arts, speaking on the topic, "The Constitution, the Artistes and Our Cultural Values" at a forum with a cross-section of artistes held at the NCCE Headquarters as part of the Second Annual National Constitution Week Celebrations.



Hon. Sheikh I.C. Quaye, Greater Accra Regional Minister, speaking at the Greater Accra Regional launch of the Week of the Second Annual National Constitution Week Celebrations held at the Guggisberg Memorial Hall at Dodowa in the Dangme West District on April 29, 2002.



A cross-section of Chiefs and Queens seated at the Greater Accra Regional launch of the Week of the Second Annual National Constitution Week Celebrations held at the Guggisberg Memorial Hall at Dodowa in the Dangme West District on April 29, 2002.



A cross-section of Chiefs and Queens seated at the Greater Accra Regional launch of the Week of the Second Annual National Constitution Week Celebrations held at the Guggisberg Memorial Hall at Dodowa in the Dangme West District on April 29, 2002.



A group picture of dignitaries and chiefs who were at the Greater Accra Regional launch of the Week of the Second Annual National Constitution Week Celebrations held at the Guggisberg Memorial Hall at Dodowa in the Dangme West District on April 29, 2002.



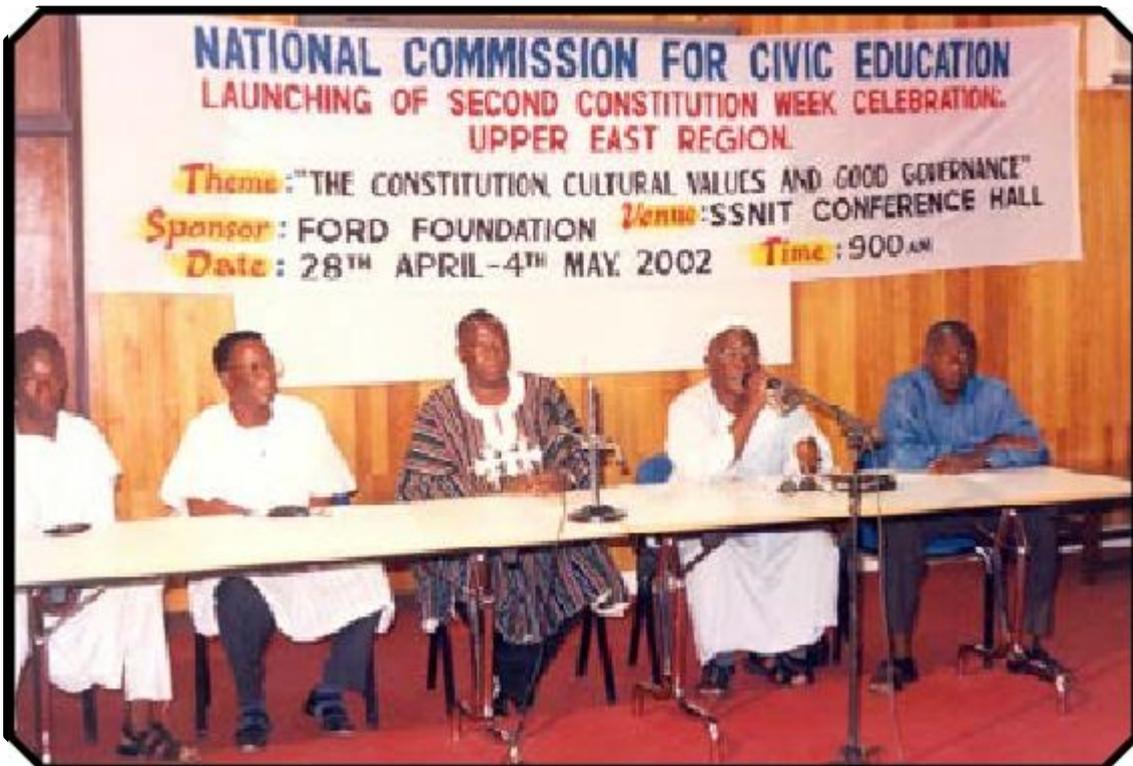
A group picture of NCCE officials and participants at the forum of Women's Group held at the Assembly Hall of Ghanatta Secondary School, Dodowa, on April 30, 2002 to mark the second Annual National Constitution Week.



A group picture of NCCE officials and participants at the forum on "Promoting Military-Civilian Relationship for National Development" held at the Armed Forces Recruit Training School, Shai Hills, on Thursday, May 2, 2002 as part of the Second Annual National Constitution Week Celebrations.



Supporters cheering their teams at the Ghana Constitution Game Competition held between the Madina Fire Service and Amasaman Fire Service as part of the Second Annual National Constitution Week Celebration.



The launch of the Second Annual National Constitution Week celebrations at Bolgatanga.



A Group Picture of NCCE officials, DCE, and chiefs who attended the launch of the Second Annual National Constitution Week celebrations at Asankrangwa.



Five Research Officers of the National Headquarters of NCCE in a group picture with other participants at the short course held at ISSER, University of Ghana, Legon.

