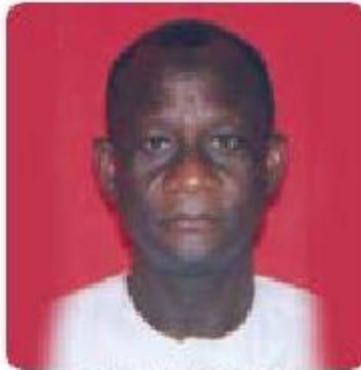


National Commission for Civic Education

Eleventh Annual Report 2004

COMMISSION MEMBERS



MR. LAARY BIMI
Chairman



M.S. DORIS OCANSEY
Deputy Chairman, F&A



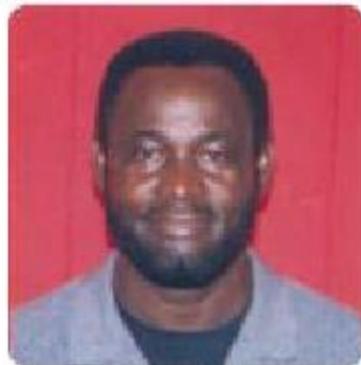
MRS. AUGUSTINA AKOSUA AKUMANYI
Deputy Chairman, Programmes



MR E. K. T. ADDO
Member



MAMA ADOKUWA-ASIGBLE IV
Member



MR. KWAME OPOKU-AFRIYIE
Member

From the Chairman

The National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE), which was invested with sartorial elegance by Chapter 19 of the 1992 Constitution and established by Act 452 of 1993, is enjoined to *annually submit to Parliament, a report indicating the activities and operations of the Commission in respect of the preceding year.* This report is the eleventh (11th) the Commission is presenting to Parliament in accordance with Section 20 of Act 452.

The year 2004 was an exciting one in the country. Ghanaians voted peacefully in the fourth presidential and parliamentary elections since 1992.

In preparing the electorate for the exercise, the Commission's educational programmes focused largely on getting the people to participate massively in the electoral process. The electoral process began with the compilation of the Voters Register, the photo-taking exercise, the mopping-up exercise and the exhibition of the provisional Register.

The Commission's major constitutional responsibility is to excite and inspire the Ghanaians to be informed and responsible democratic citizens. The high turnout of 85.1 per cent recorded during the December 2004 elections is a manifestation of the collective and enormous work done by the NCCE, a leader in civic/voter education in the country, and other agents in the electoral environment.

For purposes of observing the December 7, 2004 elections, the Commission, for the first time, constituted an Election Observation Team to observe the general environment of the Ghanaian political scene particularly before, during and after the elections. This was with the view to producing an output that would inform the Commission to strategically design, develop and execute appropriate programmes for improving the democratic process in Ghana.

The Commission, however, believes that though elections are an important part of the country's nascent democracy, for democracy to gain roots and be truly meaningful, citizens' participation in governance must go beyond casting ballots at elections to being able to participate effectively in the work of various institutions of governance, namely District Assemblies, Parliament, the Executive etc.

Alongside efforts at a securing high turnout in the elections, the Commission continued with its educational programmes on Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms of the citizens. The year also saw the celebration of the fourth Annual Constitution Week with the theme *National Integration Through Tolerance.*

The Ghana Constitution Game, which the Commission adopted as one of its strategies in the study and learning of the 1992 Constitution in a less formal atmosphere, continued to be a medium of imparting democratic education to school age children. The game excited many school children to join Civic Education Clubs in droves.

The Commission firmly believes that democratic ethics and culture would be greatly enhanced in Ghana if *Civics for Democracy* is introduced into the formal educational system. In view of our commitment to this, we continue to urge the Ministry of Education, the Ghana Education Service, the Council of State and Parliament to give serious thought to this proposal.

The NCCE wishes to express its gratitude to all stakeholders, sponsors, allies and friends, especially the various media houses for their support in the year. The realization that we share in our collective responsibility to ensure that citizens are adequately sensitized to be independent, fair-minded and good democratic citizens is worth sustaining.

We have to also, with gratitude, report the significant impact that enhanced budgetary allocations from the Government of Ghana had on our work. While we appreciate this positive development, like Oliver Twist we wish to ask for more. With optimum resource injection, the Commission, will become more active in raising the awareness level of the citizenry in the national war against poverty.



Laary Bimi
CHAIRMAN

Executive Summary

One of the basic principles of the Fourth Republican Constitution is that *all powers of Government spring from the sovereign will of the people*. The other is the principle of *Universal Adult Suffrage*. The two principles and indeed all the others enunciated in the preamble of the 1992 Constitution find expression in the election of Parliamentarians and the Executive.

The year 2004, being an election year, steered the major activities of the Commission to two broad activity areas viz: *the conduct of free, fair and transparent elections* and *the effective participation of citizens in the electoral process*. The Commission, as a result, was engrossed in education on electoral issues such as voter registration exercise, photo-taking exercise, mopping-up exercise, exhibition of the provisional register, and monitoring/observation of the voting. Underpinning all the educational efforts of the Commission was the message of the need for (political) tolerance before, during and after the elections.

The high turnout of 85.1 per cent recorded at the presidential election could be partly attributed to the education carried out by the NCCE and other stakeholders. Alongside educational work on elections, public education programmes continued throughout the year on some recurring issues. The Ghana Constitution Game which adds entertainment to the study of the Constitution was vigorously pursued by all district/regional offices.

In April – May 2004 the Commission successfully celebrated its Fourth Annual Constitution Week on the theme *National Integration Through Tolerance*. The end of the Ford Foundation's financial support for the Annual Constitution Week celebration, however, affected the number and variety of programmes that were organised during the week, consequently reducing the impact of the Constitution Week on the people.

In the area of research, the Commission carried out an *Opinion Poll on Issues of Concern to the Voter*. The Poll underscored the fact that to the mass of Ghanaians their three most important concerns were education, health and employment.

The report on the poll received favourable reviews in the newspapers and the electronic media. The Commission continued to collaborate with the Chieftaincy Secretariat and the National House of Chiefs to codify customary laws relating to enstoolment/en skinment of chiefs in Ghana.

The Commission continued to produce more of the Abridged Versions of the Constitution for distribution to the public, especially students, to help in their understanding of the Constitution. Cartoon Animation on *Tolerance, Duties of the Citizen* continued to be run on television.

In the year under review, funding for the Commission's activities considerably increased with ₵6,035,999,997 provided for service and ₵6,672,996,997 for investment. This enabled the Commission to procure 25 vehicles made up of one 33-seater staff bus, one saloon car, 18 cross-country vehicles and five pick-ups.

The years of under-funding for the Commission had generally affected the logistical situation of the Commission to the extent that the current investments, appreciable as they were, failed to make the expected impact. Plans for a new National Headquarters accommodation still remained on paper whilst several district offices were yet to see the light of day.

The Commissioners and Staff continue to stretch every sinew to bring civic education to the generality of the people.

On the basis of our observations in the course of our field work, the Commission wishes to bring to the notice of Parliament and the Executive the following:

- The NCCE must be supported with enough funds to enable it to perform optimally its role in raising citizens' awareness of Constitutional and civic issues to help bring about attitudinal change which is crucial for rapid national development.
- The Ghana Education Service should be urged to take firm steps towards the introduction of teaching of *Civics for Democracy* as a subject in the first and second cycle schools.
- The NCCE is ready to collaborate with political parties to educate their members to cultivate and adopt tolerance as a way of conducting multi-party politics in a democracy. What it needs are the appropriate logistics and the political parties' co-operation.
- The Electoral Commission and NCCE must collaborate to intensify voter education especially in the area of HOW TO VOTE in order to reduce the high incidence of ballot rejects at elections.
- Political Leaders should uphold the principle of representation of the people and allow the electoral process to determine the real choice of the people.
- The inordinate desire to *win-at-all-cost phenomenon* should be condemned in all terms.
- A polling period of 6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (instead of the 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) be considered to take account of problems created by nightfall in counting and collation of ballots during elections.

Introduction

The National Commission for Civic Education, provided for in Chapter 19 of the Fourth Republican Constitution and established by Act 452 of 1993 pursuant to Article 231 of the Fourth Republican Constitution, has the responsibility to create and sustain within the Ghanaian society awareness of the principles and objectives of the Constitution. The overall goal of the NCCE is to contribute towards the attainment of a democratic culture in Ghana. Consequently the role of the NCCE in the consolidation of good governance and democracy in Ghana cannot be over emphasized. [See Article 233 of the 1992 Constitution and the National Commission for Civic Education Act of 1993, Act 452] (Refer to Appendix A and B).

Given the essence of continuous civic education for the achievement of good governance, the NCCE guided by the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTCF) 2004 – 2006 defined its objectives for the period to include:

- To increase public awareness of constitutional provisions on a sustained basis in all districts particularly the deprived ones.
- To formulate and implement programmes designed to inculcate in the citizens their civic responsibilities and rights and improve on the dearth of civic dispositions of the citizenry in all districts especially the deprived ones.
- To provide an enabling environment (infrastructure and equipment) for efficient delivery of civic education with emphasis on the deprived areas.
- To create a database and report regularly to government limitations to true democracy arising from inequalities in society.
- To strengthen the management and supervision of the Commission.

These objectives were to guide the working structure of the Commission, namely the five-member (supposed to be seven) policy making body at the apex, namely Laary Bimi (Chairman), Mrs. Augustina Akosua Akumanyi (Deputy Chairman, Programmes), E.K.T. Addo, Mama Adokuwa-Asigble IV, and Kwame Opoku-Afriyie all members. Working to the Commission are six directors, each of whom heads a department, namely the Public Education Department (headed by Napoleon Agboada), Research Department (headed by Mrs. Gertrude Zakaria-Ali), Finance and Administration Department (headed by Henry William Tani-Eshon); and Literature and Materials Development Department (headed by Mrs. Fanny Judith Kumah). The Commission is headed at the regional level by directors who are representatives of the Chairman. The Commission also has representation in all the 110 Districts of the country.

The report presented in this booklet outlines activities undertaken by the various departments, regional and district offices all under the guidance of the Commission.

The report itself is presented in three parts: Section A covers work of the departments under the Programmes Division as well as activities carried out by the regions that are co-ordinated by the departments under the Division. Section B covers work of the Finance and Administration Division as well activities undertaken in the regions that are superintended by the Finance or Administration departments.

SECTION A

Programmes

The Programmes Division of the NCCE is made up of Public Education, Research, Literature and Materials Development, and the Public Affairs departments. This section of the report therefore covers activities undertaken by the departments with the guidance of the Commission.

A1 Public Education

The service activities of the NCCE under the MTEF for the year 2004 put three of the objectives under the purview of the Public Education Department. Targeted activities are outlined under the various objectives.

Under Objective One the Commission is to:

- Educate 30 per cent of the Ghanaian citizenry on civic virtues in 110 districts from January 2004 to December 2006;
- Collaborate with opinion leaders, role models and resource persons to give talks in schools on civic responsibilities from January 2004 to December 2006;
- Inculcate the virtues of Good Citizenship in 20 per cent of Civil Society by December 2004.

Under Objective 2, specific activities outlined were:

- Perform 50 community and school theatres to enhance civic virtues and patriotism by December 31, 2004;
- Facilitate community, school drama groups for civic education in selected districts, especially the deprived ones from January 2004 to December 2006;
- Hold seminars with security agencies on their roles in the democratic process by December 2004;
- Hold quarterly discussions with Traditional Leaders, Chiefs, Opinion Leaders in Traditional Council Halls in each district from January 2004 to December 2006.

For the 2004 elections, specific activities outlined included:

- 5, 000 community school and workplace durbars held in all electoral areas on democratic governance;
- 60 per cent of eligible voters educated to participate meaningfully in 2004 general elections;
- Hold consultative meetings with Civil Society Organisations for co-ordination of activities to ensure maximum participation of the citizenry in the general elections by December 2004;
- 50 per cent of Ghanaians educated on Tolerance and Constitutional Stability up to December 31, 2004;
- Develop and implement community theatre themes on tolerance in all districts up to December 31, 2004.

The inability of the Ministry of Finance to make available allocations to the Commission affected the execution of programmes and activities.

At the end of the year, the activities carried out by the Commission were in the broad areas of:

- Voter Education on the 2004 Presidential and Parliamentary Elections
- Celebration of the Fourth Annual Constitution Week
- Strengthening of Civic Education Clubs
- Ghana Constitution Game
- Civic Classes
- Civic Centres
- HIV/AIDS Campaign
- Collaboration with Other Institutions.

A1.1 Voter Education on the 2004 Presidential and Parliamentary Elections

Influenced largely by the electoral programme for the year, the Commission was deeply involved in activities related to the organisation of a successful general election. The Commission, therefore, focused its work on education of the citizens on:

- Voter Registration Exercise.
- Photo-taking Exercise.
- Mopping-up Exercise.
- Exhibition of the Provisional Register.
- Voting – Do's and Don't's of voters, officials, agents and observers.
- Monitoring/Observation of voting.

A1.1.1 Voter Registration Exercise

The Electoral Commission, as part of its preparations towards the 2004 presidential and parliamentary elections, undertook an exercise to replace the old voter register which was considered unreliable from March 16 to 19, 2004.

Recognizing that registration as a voter was crucial to exercising one's right to vote, as stipulated under Article 42 of the 1992 Constitution, the Commission, prior to the start of the registration exercise, launched activities to educate the populace on the exercise.

The major issue of sensitization included the period of the registration, qualification for registration, the importance of registration of voters, offences and the penalties for the offences. The educational activities of the Commission were intensified during the week of the actual registration.

Staff, alongside the educational campaign, also undertook monitoring at registration centres. Problems observed at some centres included: inadequate registration materials, and insufficient allowance paid to registration officers resulting in industrial action by some of them. The inability of the Electoral Commission to provide cameras at all registration centres was another major concern. The Upper East and Upper West Regions, where the registration exercise ran concurrently with picture taking and hence the issuance of ID cards, however provided the contrast. Coupled with effective education, turnout for the registration was well over 90 percent.

A1.1.2 Photo-Taking Exercise

In regions where issuance of cards did not immediately follow the registration exercise, voters were given dates on which to return to their registration centres for photo-taking. Registered voters in the Northern Region went for photo-taking from April 4 to 9, 2004, Brong Ahafo (April 14–19, 2004), Ashanti Region (April 24 – May 1, 2004), Eastern Region (May 6 – 13, 2004) Volta Region (May 18 –23, 2004), Western Region (May 28 – 6 June, 2004), Central Region (June 7 – 12, 2004), and Greater Accra Region (June 17 – 24, 2004).

The NCCE, before the start of the photo-taking exercise, began its educational campaign to urge and encourage all citizens, especially those who registered during the voter registration exercise, to go to their polling stations or designated places with the card that was detached for them at the time of registration, to take their photographs and obtain their photo identity cards; without which they could not exercise their franchise in the December, 2004 elections.

The inability of the Electoral Commission to provide cameras at all the designated photo-taking places greatly affected the smooth execution of the exercise. The situation was made worse when films ran out even at centres with cameras. Indeed there was almost total chaos in the last two days of the photo-taking exercise in Accra. The situation was not helped by the refusal of the Commission to extend the period of the photo-taking. Later on however, the Electoral Commission undertook a mopping-up exercise and this enabled some of those who could not take their pictures earlier to do so.

A1.1.3 Exhibition of Provisional Register

From October 10 to 14, 2004, the Electoral Commission undertook the exhibition of the voters' register. Based on reports received from some members of the public that the register was fraught with irregularities, it became necessary for the Commission to go round polling stations to collate the problems identified and to advise the Electoral Commission Officers. Problems identified on the field included: wrong spelling of names, omitted pictures, missing names and/or addresses, unclear pictures (either too dark or too pale), replicated pictures (that is, some pictures printed against different names in some cases as many as nine times), misplaced pictures, omitted ID numbers, names captured during the mopping-up not included in register, and the loss of slips by some potential voters.

The NCCE endeavoured to draw the attention of the Electoral Commission to these problems and many were either solved or noted for solution by the monitors.

A1.1.4 Educational Materials

The Commission designed and printed posters, flyers and car stickers for distribution throughout the country. The details can be found under the section on Literature and Materials Development.

A1.1.5 Common Platform for Parliamentary Candidates

The Commission organized a common platform for parliamentary candidates to interact with the populace and especially subject their visions and plans to public scrutiny.

In the Ablekuma Central Constituency of Accra, the platform was held at the Local Government Training School, Zongo on October 24, 2004. The Metropolitan Director, Eric Bortey, was the facilitator of the function which was chaired by Naa Adole Ablade, queenmother of Sempe Manhean. In attendance were the four contesting candidates, namely Victor Okuley Nortey (NPP), Stephen Aloma (PNC), Stephen Annor (CPP) and Alhaji Basha Horsey (NDC).

A similar forum was held on November 15, 2004 at the Star Cinema Hall, Nungua, where the four contesting candidates, namely Abraham Laryea (NPP), Dr. Kwei Kumah (NDC), Theophilus Mensah (CPP), Emmanuel Boye-Fio (Independent), were present.

On November 4, 2004, the Dangme West Office organized a forum for the parliamentary candidates at the Presby Primary School Park, Dodowa, at which David Tetteh Asumeng (NDC) and Gloria Akuffo (NPP) addressed the gathering. A similar forum was held on November 11, 2004 at the Ningo Market Square at which the parliamentary candidates, E.T. Mensah (NDC) and Sam Mantey Carboo (NPP) addressed the gathering on their manifestoes.

In the Upper East Region, a common forum was organized for parliamentary candidates in the Navrongo Central Constituency on November 24, 2004 at the COS Park in Navrongo. Another forum was held at Sirigu in the Chiana-Paga Constituency on November 26, 2004 at which all the five contestants, namely Pele Abuga (NDC), Alowe Leo Kaba (NPP), Jerry Anyoka (PNC), Desmond Ayrerire (CPP) and Martin Allchina (Independent), were in attendance. Similar programmes were held in all the other regions.

A1.1.6 Promotion of Political Tolerance through Community Drama

To ensure that political tolerance was displayed by citizens before, during and after the 2004 elections, and that the atmosphere was not charged or fouled unnecessarily by political party activists, supporters and sympathizers, the NCCE used the strategy of community drama to sensitize the population to the need for tolerance in all spheres of our political and social life. A series of community drama shows were held in various communities around the theme *Non-Violence*. The drama sessions were often followed by open fora when the audience asked questions related to the play as well as the work of the NCCE. The interest generated among the populace after these drama sessions often took the programme from afternoon into late evening. Among places that drama sessions took place were:

- Mepom, near Asamankese in the Eastern Region: The drama session was held at the Lorry Park on October 14, 2004 at about 2.00 pm. The artistes drawn from the community staged a play around the theme *A Violence Free Political Atmosphere During the December 2004 Elections*. It was facilitated by Ms. Mary Nyamekye, Assistant Civic Education Officer at the NCCE Headquarters. Over 2,000 were in attendance. After the play the audience interacted by asking questions and offering suggestions to problems posed in the play. Mrs. Augustina Akosua Akumanyi, Deputy Chairman (Programmes), who was in attendance answered most of the questions. She urged citizens to ignore those politicians who would come to incite them instead of canvassing for votes in a peaceful manner. After the programme 800 copies of the 1992 Abridged Constitution were distributed among the audience.
- Boadua, Eastern Region: On October 28, 2004 at Bodua in the Eastern Region a community drama was organized to sensitize the citizens to be law abiding to ensure a violence free political atmosphere. The play was facilitated by Ms Mary Nyamekye, ACEO. Over 1,500 people attended. After the programme 800 copies of the Abridged Constitution were distributed.
- Tepa, Ashanti Region: A community drama was held on November 2, 2004. The programme was attended by over 1,000 people. Before the drama Mrs. Augustina Akosa Akumanyi, Deputy Chairman (Programmes) of NCCE, addressed the gathering on the theme of the play *Non-Violence Free Election 2004*.
- Bukom Square, Accra : On November 16, 2004 a community drama and public forum was held to sensitize the population to the need for tolerance in all spheres of our political and social life. The drama was facilitated by William Opare, Field Officer at the NCCE Headquarters. After the play the audience, in an interactive response, asked questions and offered suggestions to problems posed in the play. The resource persons at the forum, namely Mrs. Augustina Akosua Akumanyi, Deputy Chairman (Programmes), Jonathan Yakubu, Chief Superintendent of Police in-charge of Operations in the Greater Accra Region, Chireliu Armah, Deputy Director of Electoral Commission in the Ashiedu Keteke District, Gilbert Quartey, Greater Accra Regional Co-ordinator of NFED, and Eric Bortey, Accra Metropolitan Director of NCCE, took turns to answer the questions posed by the audience. They all spoke on the theme of the drama *Political Tolerance for Violence-Free Election 2004*. The function was very successful. Many among the over 1,000 people that attended called for more of such plays.

- Big Ada, Greater Accra Region: On October 4, 2004 a community drama was held at Big Ada followed by a public forum. The drama was facilitated by Ms. Ophelia Nana Yaa Ankrah, Senior Field Officer at the NCCE Headquarters, and performed by the Big Ada Drama Troupe. The focus of the play was the need for peace, tolerance and vigilance for a fair and free election in December 2004. Asafoatse Amugu III chaired the function. In attendance were Nana Lono I, the District Police Commander, DSP Obed Dzikunu, Mr. Henry Tani-Eshon, Director, (Finance and Administration), NCCE Headquarters.

A1.1.7 Election Observation

Though the NCCE had engaged in election observation on previous occasions, namely 1996 and 2000, the Commission, in 2004, decided to formalise and incorporate election observation as a component of its programme for election years. Election observation will thus be a regular feature and an output in NCCE's work schedule. The objective of the NCCE election observation would be to compile a compendium of the acts, events, and cases that occur before, during, and after the elections with the hope that it would serve as reference point and assist the Commission to design appropriate strategies, programmes and activities that can help address the draw-backs to the consolidation of democracy in Ghana. Even though the report does not intend to pronounce on the elections it will be worth studying.

To equip staff for the 2004 Election Observation, the Commission from October 6 to 7, 2004, organised a three-day workshop on *Election Management and Monitoring* for the core Commission Election Observation Team, which comprised Commission Members, Directors and Deputy Directors, and some selected senior officers. Aside of the interactions with officers of the Electoral Commission, the workshop provided a platform for the discussion of action plans for the elections as well as preparing Guidelines for the observation of the general elections.

After the workshop, Election Observation Teams were formed and given accreditation as Observers at the December 7, 2004 general elections by the Electoral Commission. To ensure that the teams were well apprised with developments in the field, the observation work started on November 29, 2004 through the Election Day and a day after.

The reports of the teams showed that the atmosphere during the elections was generally calm and peaceful. It was characterized by free campaigning by all the contesting political parties signifying a level playing field. However close observation showed a marked disparity in capacities (financial, logistical and control of influence) among the contesting parties. The involvement of chiefs in what appeared to be state functions, but clearly were platforms for political influence, was one of the many advantages that have been described in some quarters as incumbency abuse.

The ruling party, in terms of resources, was ahead of all the remaining parties as was evident in its numerous posters, variety of T-shirts, and other party paraphernalia displayed by the party activists and supporters all over the country. Furthermore, for the first time in the country's political history, huge electronic billboards featured in electioneering campaigns. The Presidential candidate of the NPP and incumbent President John Agyekum Kufuor had three of such billboards

in Accra. Despite those incumbency advantages, the general conduct of the elections was peaceful and successful, taking account of circumstances before, during and after the elections.

On the election day proper, it was observed that some polling stations had too many registered voters on the polling list. This consequently delayed voting at some polling stations leading to late close of polls. Also it became obvious by their handling of issues that some polling staff were not adequately trained, this rendered them helpless in the face of problems. The logistics put in place by the Electoral Commission were woefully inadequate at some places, as there were no vehicles to carry the voting materials to the polling stations. Presiding Officers carried ballot boxes unattended by any accredited security officer to the polling stations and back to the collation centres. Where vehicles were available there were disputes as to which agents could join the presiding officers to convey ballots to constituency centres. Counting of ballots stretched well into the night. In some polling stations, lights had to be provided for counting; vehicle headlights were used in some areas. Also observed was a high percentage of rejected ballots at almost all polling stations.

The high turnout of 85.1 per cent recorded at the election could be partly attributed to the effective education carried out by the NCCE and other stakeholders.

On the basis of observation on the field, the Commission wishes to make a number of recommendations to enhance future elections:

- The Electoral Commission and the NCCE must plan to ensure effective collaboration in respect of *voter education on how to vote*.
- Unaccredited party monitoring teams should be discouraged.
- Political Leaders should uphold the principle of representation of the people and allow the electoral process to determine the real choice of the people.
- The inordinate desire to *win-at-all-cost phenomenon* of politicians should be condemned in all terms.
- As a nation, we should learn to manage electoral victories with humility and defeats graciously.
- The Security and Justice Systems should be firm in dealing with persons who try to interfere with the electoral process such as happened in Yapei-Kusawgu, Tolon and Zabzugu-Tatale constituencies where there were attempts to burn ballot boxes, or some presiding officers tried to inflate results of candidates (as happened in Pru Constituency) to serve as deterrent to others.
- There should be clear guidelines/procedures for handling of ballot papers/boxes at constituency level.
- A polling period of 6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (instead of the 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) be considered take account of problems created by nightfall in counting and collation of ballots. In extreme cases of competition and adversarial situations, the condition can be a source of confusion, risk and disaster.

A1.1.8 Workshop for Youth Activists of Political Parties

In the first quarter of the year, the NCCE received financial support from the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) to organize a series of workshops for youth activists of all the registered political parties, namely NPP, NDC, PNC and CPP on the theme *Developing Youth Activists of Political Parties for Violence-Free Elections*. The objective of the workshop was to sensitize youth activists of the political parties to ensure a non-violent political environment before, during and after the general elections of December 7, 2004. Participants in the workshop were mainly student-youth or working or unemployed-youth most of whom were activists of political parties.

The first workshop (national workshop) was held at the Regency Hotel, Ridge-Accra, on February 10, 2004. The main speaker at the forum, attended by the over 300 youth activists as well as persons from all walks of life, was Cardinal Peter Turkson of the Catholic Archdiocese of Cape Coast. The special Guests of Honour who addressed the gathering were Hon. Hackman Owusu-Agyemang, Minister for the Interior, and the German Ambassador. The function was under the chairmanship of Naa Dr. Puobe Chiri, Nandom Na.

The national workshop was followed by six other workshops, the last specially directed at students in the universities.

The workshops followed a common pattern. There was an opening ceremony during which the respective regional directors of the NCCE delivered a welcome address. This was followed by a keynote address by either the Chairman of the NCCE, Laary Bimi, or the Deputy Chairman (Programmes), Mrs. Augustina Akosua Akumanyi. Resource persons then delivered papers on specific issues. Each paper was followed by open forum interactions. Syndicate groups later discussed the papers and presented their reports.

Topics discussed included:

- Tolerance.
- The concept of power.
- General challenges facing Ghanaians.
- Definition, Types and Causes of violence.
- Fundamental Human Rights and Freedom.
- Differences between Violence and Non-Violence.
- Code of Conduct for political parties.
- Case studies of war-torn countries in Africa.

Among the resource persons at the respective seminars were:

- Napoleon Agboada, Director, Public Education, NCCE.
- Samuel Akuamoah, Senior Civic Education Officer, NCCE.
- Edward Briku Boadu, Programme Officer of Frederich Ebert Foundation.
- Dr. Michael Tagoe, Research Fellow, Institute of Adult Education, University of Ghana, Legon.

- Dr. Baffour Agyeman-Dua, Associate Director, Ghana Centre for Democracy and Development.
- Kwame Opoku-Afriyie, Commission Member and Lecturer at KNUST.
- Rev. Father Clement Cornelius B. Termagbre, Peace and Unity Centre, Damango.
- Dr. Samuel Obeng Apori, Principal of Takorardi Polytechnic, Takoradi.
- Mrs. Olivia Kwapong, Research Fellow, Institute of Adult Education, University of Ghana, Legon.

The workshops succeeded in sensitizing the participants to the crucial importance of maintaining peace in the country. The atmosphere created at the workshops and the spirit of belonging and brotherliness generated made participants come to appreciate that though belonging to different political orientations they need not fight each other and that the essence of attaining political power was the development of the country.

A1.2 Fourth Annual National Constitution Week

A1.2.1 Theme for the Week

The Fourth Annual National Constitution Week was held from Wednesday, April 28 to Wednesday, May 4, 2004 under the theme *National Integration Through Tolerance*. The theme and programme for the Week were announced at a pre-launch press conference held at the NCCE Conference Room on April 21, 2004 at which 15 media houses were in attendance. The Week itself was launched after the 7.00 pm GTV News by three physically challenged school children on Tuesday, April 27, 2004.

A1.2.2 Main Lecture of the Week

The main anniversary lecture for the Week was held on Wednesday, April 28, 2004 at the Committee Room of the Accra International Conference Centre. Present at the ceremony were officers and men of various security agencies, students, the Audit Service Choir and finalists of the Ghana Constitution Game, as well as the Inter-University Quiz Competition and Football Gala Competition.

Dignitaries who were on the rostrum for the anniversary lecture included: Justice George K. Acquah, Chief Justice of the Republic of Ghana; Ms. Barbara Kalbs, Co-ordinator, Democracy and Human Rights Foundation (DHRF) of the United States Embassy, Accra, Nii Adotey Obuor, Sempe Mantse, Acting Ga Mantse and President of the Ga Traditional Council.

The Chairman of the NCCE, Laary Bimi, in a short welcome address, stressed that more than 10 years into Constitutional Democracy, the major question confronting all is how to sustain our constitutional democracy to make us a truly democratic society. In his opinion, a crucial element in building democracy was (building) good social capital. It was his hope that the main lecture on *Building Social Capital for Rapid Growth of Ghana's Democracy* would provide more elaboration on this concept and its place in national integration.

Prof. Joseph R.A. Ayee, Dean, Faculty of Social Studies, University of Ghana, Legon, delivered the anniversary lecture on the theme *Building Social Capital for Rapid Growth of Ghana's Democracy*. He identified four features of social life, namely (i) the social networks (ii) systems of reciprocal relations (iii) sets for norms, and (iv) levels of trust that individuals or groups have, or to the resources arising from them. These features enable the individuals or groups to function more effectively in pursuing a common goal. In short, social capital in cultural and moral resources helps to promote social cohesion, stability and prosperity. Social capital is public or collective good that is an attribute of a group.

To Prof. Ayee the history of social interactions in Ghana is old, and this finds manifestation in various voluntary community-based associations. Chapters 5 and 6 of the 1992 Constitution provide the legal framework for several forms of social interactions that should promote social capital and the nurturing of civil society organisations.

Prof. Ayee next offered a number of suggestions on how good social capital can be built for democracy. Among these were that: (i) The NCCE, political parties and civil society groups must undertake sustained pro-active civic education to make people shift to community-orientation rather than promotion of self-interests only; (ii) Political parties should help in building trust and politicians must make pronouncements which promote trust rather than division and rancour; and (iii) There must be the broadening and strengthening of democracy in all spheres of national life including civic groups.

Prof. Ayee concluded by emphasizing that building social capital is not easy but it is the key to making democracy work. Political parties, CBOs and all others must aim at promoting the social good. He stressed that "there must be someone out there to promote and protect the public interest". Social capital cannot be found without the realization that the public interest reflects the common or collective interests of all citizens.

Prof. Ayee's presentation was followed by a critique of his paper by two discussants. The first discussant was Prof. Patrick Twumasi, a consultant of the World Health Organisation, who agreed with several assertions made by Prof. Ayee in respect of the important role of social capital in society. He stressed the dynamic nature of society and pointed out that Ghanaians must begin to think scientifically to address daily concerns. He called for research into various aspects of our life including the role of voluntary associations. Prof. Twumasi concluded by calling on the NCCE to use various fora, especially church platforms, for mass education of the citizenry on ways to promote good social relations and deepen democracy in the country.

Paul Adu-Gyamfi, president of the Ghana Bar Association (GBA), agreed with the factors enumerated by Prof. Ayee as undermining the building of good social capital in Ghana. To that list, he added another, the passion for religiosity. He lamented that the doctrine of prosperity and miracles that is being preached by some Pastors and Christian leaders is gradually nurturing in Ghanaians dependence on the supernatural for almost everything. Adu-Gyamfi agreed with Prof. Ayee that there was need to have someone outside there to promote and protect the public interest. He believes the GBA, for example, could make an input to that by taking up public interest cases, like instituting legal action to protect areas that are being polluted by activities of mining companies, and bringing action against utility service providers for negligence.

An open forum that followed the presentations saw several people contributing on various issues including calling on the government to resource the NCCE to deliver quality civic education to the nation.

A1.2.3 Award of Prizes

As part of the main lecture, three groups of people who took part in the playing of the Ghana Constitution Game, Quiz Competition and Football Gala as part of the Week's activities were given awards. The Ghana Constitution Game Competition was won by Boa-Amponsem Secondary School, Dunkwa-on-Offin, with Tarkwa Secondary School, Tarkwa, and St. Francis Xavier Secondary School, Wa, as first and second runners up respectively. The first school took home a 25-inch Colour TV and two sets of the Ghana Constitution Game and a cash prize of ₵500,000. The first runner-up took a Ghetto Blaster and cash prize of ₵500,000 and a set of Ghana Constitution Game and Abridged Constitution. The second runner up took home ₵450,000, a constitution game and a packet of the Abridged Constitution. Another presentation was for participants in an Inter-University Debate Competition that was held at the Valley View University, Ojobi-Accra as part of the Constitution Week activities. The University of Education, Winneba, who emerged winners received, from the Chairman of the NCCE, a cash prize of ₵800,000, whilst the runner-up, University of Cape Coast, took away ₵600,000. The third competing school, Valley View University, took a consolation prize of a set of Abridged Constitution.

Also presented with awards were Tema Community 8/9 and Accra New Town XI football teams. The former emerged winners in the football gala competition organized as part of the Week and had a cash prize of ₵700,000, whilst the latter took a cash prize of ₵500,000.

A1.2.4 Women's Forum

As part of activities organised to mark the Week, a women's forum was held at the YMCA Conference Room, Adabraka-Accra, on April 24, 2004. In attendance were representatives from 15 organisations. The welcome address was delivered by Mrs. Augustina Akosua Akumanyi, Deputy Chairman (Programmes) of the NCCE. Emmanuel Mensah Quaye, Chief Director of the Ministry of Women and Children, delivered an address on behalf of the Mrs. Gladys Asmah, Minister for Women and Children's Affairs, who was scheduled as Special Guest of Honour. Representatives of Political Parties present, namely NDC, PNC, EGLE, GCPP, NRP, took turns to present short messages.

The main lecture for the day was delivered by Ms. Esther Ofei-Aboagye, acting Director of Institute of Local Government Studies (ILGS), Ogbojo-Accra. She spoke on *The Role of Women in Ensuring a Violence Free Environment in an Election Year*. She lauded the effort of a coalition of NGOs and women's organisations who together have drafted an "agenda of women's concern" to guide political parties and others on how to make a meaningful difference in women's lives. She also called for greater women's participation in decision-making bodies such as political bodies and the like. She urged women to initiate moves from their homes by influencing their children and brothers and husbands to cherish peace and non-violence.

A1.2.5 National Fishermen Forum

As part of the Week, a national forum for fishermen and women was held at Sekondi. It was addressed by Mrs. Elizabeth Abena Nkrumah, Western Regional Officer for the Social Investment Fund (SIF), who spoke on the theme *Enhancing Tolerance Through Poverty Reduction in the Fishing Communities in Ghana*. She told the gathering that the outfit is there to support the fishermen in their finances. She hinted that money has been given to the rural banks for the fisherfolk to access as loans to enable them to buy inpts to make their work easier and comfortable. The National Best Fisherman, Ekow Otu, contributed to discussions at the forum.

A1.2.6 Lectures for Security Agencies

As part of activities for the Week a series of lectures were held on Tuesday, May 4, 2001 at the headquarters of the various security agencies under the general topic *National Integration Through Tolerance: the Role of the Security Services*. The forum for officers and men of the Ghana Fire Service was held at the Conference room at the Headquarters. The speakers were Joe Lartey of Attitudes Ghana and Edward Briku Boadu, Programmes Officer of the Frederich Ebert Foundation. The function was chaired by DCFO Kwame Oppong Frempong, Director of Safety (GNFS).

The forum for the officers and men of the Ghana Prisons Service was held at the Prison Headquarters canteen. In attendance were 78 officers and men of the Ghana Prisons Service. Also present was the Chairman of the NCCE, Laary Bimi. The chairman for the function was Commander Romeo Aggrey of the Prisons Service. The main speaker was Kofi Boni, a law student of the Ghana School of Law.

The forum for officers and men of the Customs Excise and Preventive Service (CEPS) was held at the forecourt of the CEPS Headquarters. Present were 166 males and 62 females. The Chairman for the function was Mr. S.A.L. Hammond, Deputy Commissioner (Finance and Administration).

The forum for the officers and men of the Ghana Immigration Service was held in their new conference room at the headquarters. In attendance were 120 officers and men. The chairman for the function was Ms. Elizabeth Adjei, Director of the Ghana Immigration Service

The programme for the Officers and men of the Ghana Navy of the Naval Base, Tema, which was originally scheduled for May 4, 2004 but postponed eventually took place on May 31, 2004. The venue was the conference room of the Tema Naval Base.

A1.2.7 Festival of Civic/Political Songs

A festival of civic/political songs was held at the National Theatre, Accra, on Friday, April 30, 2004. It was on the theme *Unity, Peace and Strengthened Solidarity Among Ghanaians*. Six choirs participated in the festival: Bethel Methodist Junior Choir, Treasury Choir, Bi-Tonic Choir, Ghana Post Choir, Lotteries Choir, and Salvation Presbyterian Choir.

At the end of it all, the Bethel Methodist Junior Choir was declared winners with 78.5 points. They were followed in that order by: Lotteries Choir (76 points), Salvation Presby Choir (74.5 points), Bi-Tonic Choir (71.5 points), Treasury Choir (52.5 points) and Ghana Post Choir (52 points).

A1.2.8 Regional Activities

Activities were organised by the Regional and District Offices as part of the Week. The common activities were distribution of civic circulars, launching lectures/symposia, route marches and processions, football matches/fun games, radio programmes, visitations, clean-up campaign, bicycle races, tree-planting exercises.

The target groups that 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, prisoners, footballers, youth groups and students.

A1.2.8.1 Ashanti Region

The regional launch of the week took place at the Bonsra Park, Fomena, in the Adansi West District on April 29, 2004. It was under the chairmanship of the Adansihene, Nana Ofori Agyeman II. The official launch was performed by the Regional Minister, Sampson Kwaku Boafo, whilst the Catholic Bishop of Obuasi Diocese, Most Rev. Thomas Mensah, delivered the keynote address on the theme of the Week *National Integration Through Tolerance*. Other dignitaries at the ceremony included Joseph Boampong, Obuasi Municipal DCE, and Kwame Opoku-Afryie, Commission Member. After the launch ceremony various districts held programmes to mark the Week.

The Kumasi Metropolitan Office on April 29, 2004 organised a forum for 250 women and youth at the Wesley Methodist Cathedral, Adum-Kumasi, on the *Enhancing an All-Inclusive Democracy – The Place of Women*. Speakers at the forum included the Very Rev. Asare Bediako Superintendent Minister and Edward Nti Bertha, Metro Director of NCCE. In Ejisu-Juaben a clean-up campaign was organized at Kwamo on May 1, 2004 in which school children, social clubs, market women, District assembly and unit committee members joined NCCE Staff to clean the market place and the community centre. In the Afigya Sekyere District a quiz competition was organized at Agona, in which six JSS participated. The winner and the runner-up Boamang JSS and Asamang Amoakohene JSS took away cash prizes of ₵400,000 and ₵200,000 respectively.

A1.2.8.2 Brong Ahafo Region

The regional launch of the Week took place at Nkoranza on April 29, 2004. The launch was preceded by a brass band procession through the principal street of the town by students, artisans, youth groups and a section of the public. The launch was performed by Kwame Amporfo-Twumasi, the DCE of Nkoranza. The guest speaker was Most Rev. Matthew Kwasi Gyamfi, Catholic Bishop of Sunyani. He spoke on the theme for the Week. The function was chaired by the paramount

chief of Nkoranza Traditional Area, Okatakyie Agyeman Kodom IV. Activities were also organized by various district offices to commemorate the week. In the Asutifi District a public forum was held at Kenyasi on April 28, 2004 and was attended by the MP for Asutifi South Paul Okoh and the Catholic Priest of Kenyasi Parish, Rev. Fr. Theophilus Peprah Acheampong. They both spoke on the theme of the Week. In Asutifi District a choral night was held at Mim Pentecost Central Church to commemorate the week. In all 18 singing groups from five selected churches participated in the exercise.

A1.2.8.3 Central Region

The regional launch took place at the GBC Club House in Cape Coast on Thursday, April 29, 2004. The programme was launched by the Regional Director of GBC, Kwabena Sarpong Anane. The function was chaired by Very Rev. Isaac Kweku Sam, Superintendent Minister of the Methodist Church, Cape Coast. Activities were also organised by District Offices to commemorate the Week. The Upper Denkyira District Directorate of the Commission organized a Ghana Constitution Game for five basic schools in Dunkwa-On-Offin. In the Assin District, a durbar of chief and people was organized at the Omanhene's Palace on May 4, 2004. The durbar was addressed by the NCCE Civic Education Officer, J.K. Arhin and Kwaku Boamah, the District Environment Officer. The function was chaired by Nana Kwaku Korankye, Krontihene of Assin Manso. The Abura/Asebu/Kwamankese District Office on May 2, 2004 organised a football match between NPP and NDC at Abura Dunkwa. The kick off was taken by Nana Kwesi Osam II, the Odikro of Abura Dunkwa. The match ended in a goalless draw.

A1.2.8.4 Eastern Region

The launching ceremony took place at the Municipal Assembly Hall, Koforidua, on April 28, 2004. An array of people drawn from religious bodies, security services, political parties, students and the physically challenged were present at the ceremony. The launching was performed by the Municipal Chief Executive, Nana Adjei Boateng. Papers were delivered by Fred Asante, Member of the Council of State, who spoke on *Cultivating Tolerance for the Development of Constitutional Democracy in Ghana* and ACP Vincent K. Dzakupata, Regional Police Commander, who spoke on *Maintaining Law and Order for the Development of Constitutional Democracy in Ghana*. The function was chaired by Nii Teiko Quaye, Deputy Director General of Ghana Education Service. In the Yilo Krobo District, a durbar was held for hairdressers, dressmakers, market women, chiefs, and queenmothers at Klo Agogo on April 30, 2004. The speakers were Daniel Terkpetey, MP for Yilo Krobo Constituency and Rev. F.E.K. Djangmah, Clerk of Dangme-Tongu Presbytery.

A1.2.8.5 Greater Accra Region

The Regional launch of the week took place at the Tema Municipal Assembly Hall, Tema, on April 28, 2004. The special guest of honour was Ms. Joyce Aryee who spoke on the theme for the week, *National Integration Through Tolerance*. Mrs. Doris Archampong, the Greater Accra Regional Director of NCCE, spoke on the sub-theme for the week, *The Role of Stakeholders in Ensuring Peaceful and Fair Election in December 2004*. Radio talk shows on Obonu FM (96.5 MHz) were also organized as part of the week. In the Ga District, a public education forum was held at the Ga District Assembly Hall at Amasaman. The resource person for the

programme was Tei Adumoah, a retired educationist and chief of Appolonia. Other speakers at the function were George Amoo, Ga District Director of CHRAJ, Mrs. Dora Hammond and R.D. Anas-Okoe, both officers in the Ga District Office of the NCCE. The chairman for the function was Nii Tetteh Okpe II, Chief of Ammamoley.

A1.2.8.6 Northern Region

Activities for the week took the form of radio discussion programmes, musical concert and drama. As part of the week, a concert for peaceful campaigns in the run-up to the 2004 elections was held at the Tamale Police Park on May 8, 2004 from 8:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Twelve local musicians took turns to entertain the gathering. In the West Mamprusi District, a public forum was organized at District Assembly Hall on April 28, 2004. The District Co-ordinating Director, Musah Isaah spoke on the theme of the week. Other speakers at the forum which was attended by over 200 people were A.T. Mahamua, District Director of CHRAJ and Issahaku Bandim, the acting District Director. In the Bole District, a public forum was held at Bole District Assembly at which 147 persons were in attendance. The main speaker was Rev. Fr. Cornelius B. Termaghre of the Peace and Unity Centre, Damango. The guest speaker was the DCE, Alhaji Adam Achansa.

A1.2.8.7 Upper East Region

The Regional launch of the week took place at the Market Square, Tongu in the Talensi-Nabdam District. Participants at the forum were political party executives, religious leaders, women groups, opinion leaders and Assembly members. The keynote address was delivered by John Apoyame who spoke on *Multi-party Democracy and National Integration: The Role of a Traditional Ruler*. The function was chaired by H.S. Haruna, the Regional Director of the NCCE. As part of the week a forum was organized for persons with disabilities at the PWD Resource Centre at Bolgatanga on May 1, 2004. The regional director of the Department of Social Welfare, Ben Bandzie, addressed the gathering on *The Place of Persons with Disabilities in an all-Inclusive Democracy*. The Municipal Director of the NCCE, Emmanuel Abesoke also addressed the gathering. In the Kassena-Nankana District, a roundtable discussion was held with heads of department, political party, education and religious leaders on the theme of the week at the GES Conference Hall, Navrongo on May 7, 2004. Participants discussed broad issues such as: The Importance of National Integration and How to Foster the Spirit of National Integration.

A1.2.8.8 Upper West Region

The Regional launch of the week was preceded in the morning by a Constitution Week walk which took participants, namely NCCE staff, Police Wives Association, Prison Officers Wives Associations, NCWD staff, police officers and men through the principal streets of Wa. The launch ceremony took place at Wa Municipal Assembly Hall. The launching was performed by Municipal Chief Executive Bayon Godfrey Tangu. The Regional Director of CHRAJ, Elias Bruttoh delivered a paper at the ceremony whilst the Regional Director of NCCE, Dominic Donnir, spoke on the theme of the Week *National Integration Through Tolerance*. The function was chaired by Naa Bob-Logah, Executive Director of Sunta Nuntaa, a local NGO. The

Jirapa-Lambussie District Office organized a symposium on the *Role of Chief in the Democratic Dispensation* at the JAYDA Hall, Jirapa on May 9, 2004. Speakers at the forum included the District Director of NCCE. The Sissala District Office organized a clean-up on May 1, 2004 around the District Administration and other nearby offices. The exercise was organized in collaboration with the Sissala District Assembly. All heads of departments and their staff, various women organization and assembly members came out to take part in the exercise which was later addressed by the DCE, Salifu Waah.

A1.2.8.9 Volta Region

The Regional launch of the week took place at the Ghana Government Pensioners Hall, Ho, on April 28, 2004. Over 150 people from civil society organizations, security services, political parties, traditional authorities, among others were in attendance. The keynote address was delivered by the Catholic Bishop of the Ho Diocese, Most Rev. Francis A.K. Lodonu. District offices also held activities to mark the week. In the Akatsi District, a massive clean-up exercise was organized at Ave-Dakpa, Ave-Hevi and Ave-Dzadzepo and rounded off with a mini durbar of chiefs and people at Ave-Dakpa. The durbar was addressed by the NCCE District Director, the Zonal Health Environmental Officer and the District Chief Executive, Nicholas Negble.

A1.2.8.10 Western Region

The regional launch of the week took place at Lineso in the Bibiani-Anhwiaso-Bekwai District (BAB). A cross-section of the society in attendance included educationists, members of the security services and leaders of socio-economic groups. The launch was performed by the DCE for BAB, Christopher Addae. Other speakers at the ceremony included Kwaku Baa Owusu, Western Regional Director of the NCCE, who spoke on the theme of the week. At Tarkwa in the Wassa West District, a one-day seminar was organized for persons with disabilities at the Tarkwa Community Centre on May 4, 2004. Over 80 people attended the function which was addressed by Orpheus Mensah, the District Director of NCCE and F.B.K. Donkor, Civic Education Officer of the NCCE. At Enchi in the Aowin-Suaman District, a durbar was held with the Police to sensitize them to perform their duties devoid of any party affiliation before, during and after the December 2004 election. Speakers at the function included F.S. Adika, DSP in-charge of the District and Robert Essandoh, Principal Field Officer, Aowin-Suaman District Director of the NCCE.

A1.3 Civic Education Clubs

At the start of the year under review, the Headquarters directed the regional offices to provide information on the state of Civic Education Clubs (CECs) in their respective regions. At the end of the exercise, it became clear that the number of Clubs were dwindling with several others being dormant partly due to the lack of frequent visits by officers of the Commission to existing CECs. Resource limitations also affected the capacity of the NCCE to provide material and financial support to the CECs. There were also difficulties/hinderances or the lack of co-operation from some school authorities.

Based on the data collected, the Commission embarked on the revitalization of clubs throughout the country. Strategies adopted included organising series of workshops for patrons of the clubs with the objective of strengthening relationship between patrons and the Commission. These workshops also dealt with guidelines for the formation and functioning of Civic Education Clubs. To overcome problems of lack of continuity in leadership occasioned by the fact that most executives left at the end of the year, CECs were asked to hold elections for new executives from the second year class, and fresh elections and handing over to take place during the second term of every year. Several clubs were also encouraged to include, in their activities, out-door programmes, such as excursions to places of interest and clean-up campaigns, to sustain interest of members.

It is important to state that even though CECs were limited to schools, a few of them can be found in some communities, especially in the Northern and Volta regions. Reports from the districts indicate that a reasonable number of the clubs have already been revived. The introduction of the Ghana Constitution Game for second cycle institutions added fillip to CECs throughout the country. CECs in many institutions had been re-organised to prepare clubs for the contest.

We provide below a region by region account of some activities carried out by some CECs.

A1.3.1 Ashanti Region

A mass inauguration of CECs in second cycle schools in the Sekyere West District took place on July 30, 2004 at the Presbyterian Church, Mampong. The inaugural address was delivered by Madam Beatrice Bio, Assistant Director of the GES in the Sekyere North District, and P.H. Mensah, Deputy Regional Director of the NCCE. The executives of the Club were sworn in by His Lordship Justice Addo, the District High Court Judge.

The Agona SDA CEC was inaugurated at Agona on May 20, 2004 by the Deputy Chairperson, Mrs. Augustina Akosua Akumanyi. The Ashanti Regional Director of the NCCE, Kusi Aboraah, later swore in a 10-member executive. The inaugural ceremony was chaired by F.K. Pra, the Afigya Sekyere District Director of Education. The Tapa JSS CEC was also inaugurated on June 4, 2004.

A1.3.2 Brong Ahafo Region

A number of Civic Education Clubs were reactivated, nine of which were in the Kintampo District. Several CECs held symposia and lectures on various issues. Topics treated included indiscipline in our society, political tolerance and the Intestate Succession Law, PNDCL 111.

A1.3.3 Central Region

New CECs were formed at Ochiso Methodist, Ochiso Catholic JSS at Ajumako, Methodsit and Catholic JSS both at Abakrampa, and Enyan Denkyira Secondary and Technical School. In a bid to encourage members of the Club, especially those in the JSS, excursions were organised for the newly registered Club members to Parliament House, Kwame Nkrumah Mausoleum and other places of interest.

A1.3.4 Eastern Region

At the end of the year, 78 CECs were recorded to be functioning throughout the region. The break down per district was as follows: Suhum–Kraboa-Coaltar (10), Kwahu South (6), New Juaben (6), Akuapem South (6), Asuogyaman (5), West Akyem (4), Fanteakwa (5), East Akyem (5), Yilo Krobo (5), Manya Krobo (6), Kwaebibrim (2), and Akuapem South (6). institutions/organizations like Police Wives Association and Prison Officers' Wives Association as in the Western Region.

Activities organized to boost the morale of CECs, included competitions, radio talk shows and indoor/outdoor games.

A1.3.5 Greater Accra Region

The CEC of Tema Technical Institute together with the Tema Municipal Office of the NCCE on February 20, 2004 undertook a massive cleaning exercise at the Tema Main Market. The exercise was repeated at Tema General Hospital after which the staff of the Commission donated blood to the Blood bank of the hospital.

In February 2004, the regional office paid visits to Weija Presbyterian Primary/JSS. The visit subsequently led to the formation of a CEC which was inaugurated on June 31, 2004 at the school premises.

In the Dangme West District, some CECs were formed in second cycle schools. One of the new clubs, Osudoku Secondary/Teacher School on October 21, 2004, organized a visit to the Castle–Osu where they were given a guided tour of important areas in the Castle, such as the Castle Garden, where the President sometimes hosts his visitors. From the Castle the CEC later visited the National headquarters of the NCCE to interact with some senior officials of the Commission.

A1.3.6 Upper West Region

Members of CEC in St. Francis Xavier Secondary School/Seminary undertook an excursion to Mole National Park at Damango. A CEC with a membership of 60 was formed at Lassia Tuolo SSS.

A1.3.7 Western Region

In the Western Region, while the regional office was reorganising the clubs in second cycle schools, the districts took charge of JSSs. By close of the year 183 CECs had been established/re-activated. The Wassa West District took the initiative of going beyond students. In collaboration with the District Directorate of the GES, teachers in the 12 different circuits were mobilised to form Civic Clubs.

The region also organised a forum for patrons of CECs in second cycle schools. It was held at the NCCE Conference Room in Sekondi on November 10, 2004. Participants were taken through an overview of the concept of Ghana Civic Education Clubs and the Ghana Constitution Game, Rules for the CEC and the Ghana Constitution Game, Outlines of the GCG Competition at Zonal, Regional and National Level and the Role of Patrons in the Sustenance of CECs. The workshops ended with patrons being presented with copies of the Ghana Constitution Game and the 1992 Constitution Abridged and other materials to facilitate their work.

A1.4 Ghana Constitution Game

In 2003 the Commission introduced the Ghana Constitution Game to schools. With sponsorship from the Democracy and Human Rights Fund of the United States Embassy in Ghana and the Public Affairs Section (PAS) of the United States Embassy, patrons of Civic Education Clubs (CECs) and some selected students were trained on playing the Game. Thereafter competitions were organised among second cycle schools. In the year under review, the competitions were expanded to include more schools. To get a national champion, a national competition was held at Presbyterian Boys' Secondary School, Legon-Accra, on April 27, 2004, as part of activities marking the Fourth Annual National Constitution Week. The competition was won by Boa-Amponsem Secondary School, Dunkwa-on-Offin, with Tarkwa Secondary School, Tarkwa, and St. Francis Xavier Secondary School, Wa, as first and second runners up respectively.

For the rest of the year, the Commission continued with programmes to introduce the Ghana Constitution Game (GCG) to as many schools as possible. Training workshops were thus held in some schools. Regional and District offices also endeavoured to teach groups how to play the game.

A1.4.1 Ashanti Region

Several schools were visited during the year to introduce the Ghana Constitution Game. The breakdown of schools per district was as follows: Amansie East (15 JSS), Asante Akim South (10 JSS), Sekyere West (12 JSS).

The regional Ghana Constitution Game competition was at the Kumasi Technical Institute on November 23, 2004. The senior escondary schools which were represented were:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Ejisuman Secondary School | Ejisu-Juaben District. |
| 2. Prince of Peace Secondary School | Kumasi Metropolis |
| 3. St. Joseph's Secondary/Seminary | Sekyere West District |
| 4. T.I. Ahmadiyya Secondary School | Sekyere East District |
| 5. Jacobu Secondary/Technical School | Amansie East District |
| 6. Agogo State Seondary School | Asante Akim North District |
| 7. Maabang Secondary/Technical School | Ahafo Ano North District. |
| 8. Mansoman Secondary School | Amansie West District |
| 9. Afua Kobi Ampem Secondary School | Bosontwe-Atwima-
Kwanwoma District |
| 10. Obuasi Secondary/Technical | Adansi West District |
| 11. Adventist Secondary School | Kwabre District |
| 12. Namang Secondary School | Obuasi District |
| 13. Mankranso Secondary School | Ahafo Ano South District |
| 14. Nkawie Secondary School | Atwima District |
| 15. Juaso Seondary School | Asante Akim North District |

The competition was won by St. Joseph's Secondary/Seminary with Agogo State Secondary School and Mansoman Secondary School coming as first and second runners-up respectively.

A1.4.2 Brong Ahafo Region

The Brong Ahafo Inter-District Constitution Game among the champions from second cycle schools in the various districts took place at Sunyani Secondary School on November 27, 2004. The competing schools were:

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| 1. Busunga Secondary School | Nkoranza District |
| 2. Ahafomaa Secondary School | Asunafo District |
| 3. Gyamfi Kumanini Secondary School | Asutifi District |
| 4. Jema Secondary School | Kintampo District |
| 5. Berekum Secondary School | Berekum District |
| 6. Our Lady of Providence Girls Secondary School | Jaman District |
| 7. Mansen Secondary School | Dormaa District |
| 8. Presbyterian Secondary School | Tano District |
| 9. Sunyani Secondary School | Sunyani District |
| 10. Asuogyaman Secondary School | Techiman District |

At the end of the competition, the defending champion, Mansen Secondary School, retained their position by emerging winners.

A1.4.3 Central Region

The GCG competition in the region took place on November 18, 2004 at Mfantshipim Secondary School Assembly Hall. The Guest of Honour was Mrs. Augustina Akosua Akumanyi, Deputy Chairman (Programmes). Competing schools were:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Apam Secondary School | Gomoa District |
| 2. Dunkwa Secondary/Technical School | Upper Denkyira District |
| 3. Effutu Secondary/Technical School, | Cape Coast Cape
Coast Municipality |
| 4. Assin North Secondary School | Assin District |
| 5. Swedru School of Business | Agona District |
| 6. Methodist High School | Mfantsiman District |
| 7. Twifo Praso Secondary School | Twifo-Herman-Lower
Denkyira District |
| 8. Breman Asikuma Secondary School | Asikuma-Odobeng
Brakwa District |

The competition was won by Effutu Secondary/Technical School, Cape Coast, with Swedru School of Business and Methodist High School coming as first and second runners up respectively.

In the Assin District, officers introduced the game to hairdressers and beauticians, Radio and T.V. repairers, mechanics and students. They were later engaged in a constitution game competition. At Ajumako, the Non-formal Education Division, National Disaster Management Organisation, (NADMO) and Ghana National Fire Service were taught how to play the game. Similarly, in Cape Coast, the Municipal Office were involved in teaching the GPRTU, Ghana National Fire Service, A.T.L. FM and PSWU how to play the Ghana Constitution Game

A1.4.4 Eastern Region

The second regional inter-school contest was held at Pope John Secondary School, Koforidua on October 30, 2004. The schools which participated were:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. Nkawkaw Secondary School | Kwahu South District |
| 2. Okuapeman Secondary School | Akuapem North District |
| 3. Oda Secondary School | Birim South District |
| 4. Pope John Secondary School, Koforidua | New Juaben Municipality |
| 5. Manya Krobo Secondary School | Manya Krobo District |
| 6. New Nsutem Secondary School | Fanteakwa District |
| 7. Asamankese Secondary School | West Akyem District |
| 8. Suhum Secondary/Technical School | Suhum-Kraboia-Coaltar District |
| 9. Abuakwa State College, Kibi | East Akim District |
| 10. St. Martins Secondary School, Nsawam | Akuapem South District |
| 11. Akosombo International School | Asuogyaman District |

At the end of the competition, Abuakwa State College emerged winners, and they were followed by Nkawkaw Secondary School and Asamankese Secondary School as first and second runners up respectively.

A trainer of trainers workshop was held for 35 teachers drawn from JSS within the Koforidua Municipality in the first week of November 2004.

A1.4.5 Greater Accra Region

The second Ghana Constitution Game for selected second cycle schools was held at the Presbyterian Boys' Secondary School, Legon-Accra. In all seven schools competed among themselves. They were:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Ada Secondary School | Ada in Dangme East. |
| 2. Accra High Secondary School. | North Ridge in Accra |
| 3. St. Mary's Secondary School | Korle-Bu in Accra |
| 4. Osudoku Secondary School | Osudoku in Dangme West. |
| 5. Accra Girls Secondary School | Mamobi in Accra. |
| 6. Presbyterian Boys' Secondary | Legon in Accra. |
| 7. Accra Academy | Bubiashie in Accra. |

The competition was won by Ada Secondary School with Presbyterian Boys' Secondary School coming second and Accra Academy third.

A1.4.6 Northern Region

The regional competition took place at the Assembly Hall Complex of Tamale Secondary School on November 29, 2004. The competing schools were:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Salaga Secondary School | Salaga District |
| 2. E.P. Secondary School | Saboba-Chereponi District |
| 3. Vittin Secondary/Technical School | Tamale Municipality |

4.	Damongo Secondary School	West Gonja District
5.	Nankpanduri Secondary School	East Mamprusi District
6.	Tamale Secondary School	Tamale Municipality
7.	Northern Business College	Tamale Municipality
8.	Tamale Business Secondary School	Tamale Municipality
9.	Saboba Secondary School	Saboba-Chereponi District
10.	Zabzugu Seondary school	Zabzugu-Tatale District
11.	Kumbungu Secondary School	Tolon-Kumbungu District

The contest was won by Vittin Secondary/Technical School, Tamale, with Northern Business College as the first runner up.

A1.4.7 Upper East Region

The regional competition was held on November 25, 2004 at the Bolgatanga Technical Institute (BOTECH). The competing schools were:

1.	Zebilla Secondary School	Bawku District
2.	Notre Dame Secondary School, Navrongo	Kassena-Nankana District
3.	Bawku Secondary School	Bawku East District
4.	Zamse Secondary School , Bolga	Bolgatanga Municipality
5.	Navrongo Secondary School	Kassena- Nankana District
6.	Sandema Secondary School	Builsa District
7.	Bolgatanga Girls' Secondary School	Bolgatanga Municipality
8.	Bongo Secondary School	Bongo District
9.	Zuarungu Secondary School	Bolgatanga Municipality
10.	Bawku Technical Institute	Bawku East Municipality

At the end of the competition Zebilla Secondary School emerged the overall winner, followed by Notre Dame Secondary in the Kassena-Nankana District.

A1.4.8 Upper West Region

The GCG competition in the region took place on February 5, 2004 at the Wa Secondary School, Wa. The Guest of Honour was Mrs. Augustina Akosua Akumanyi, Deputy Chairman (Programmes), whilst the Regional Co-ordinating Director, David Yakubu, was the special guest.

1.	St. Francis Xavier Seminary/Secondary, Wa	Wa District
2.	Tumu Secondary/Technical School	Tumu District
3.	Lawra Secondary School	Lawra District
4.	Nandom Secondary School	Lawra District
5.	Jirapa Secondary School	Jirapa District
6.	Lassia Tuola Secondary School, Lassio Tuola	Wa District
7.	Kanton Secondary School, Tumu	Tumu District
8.	Kaleo Secondary/Technical School	Nadowli District
9.	St Francis Girls' Secondary School, Jirapa	Jirapa District
10.	Queen of Peace Secondary School, Nadowli	Nadowli District

The competition was won by Nandom Secondary School, with Lassia Tuola Secondary School as the first runner-up and St. Francis Xavier Seminary/Secondary, Wa as the second runners up.

A1.4.9 Volta Region

The inter-schools competition of the Ghana Constitution Game was held in various districts between January and March 2004. The schools that emerged victorious at the various districts were brought to Ho in April for a regional contest: The contesting schools were:

- | | | |
|-----|---|----------------------|
| 1. | Nkwanta Secondary School | Nkwanta District |
| 2. | Keta Secondary School | Keta District |
| 3. | Kpando Secondary School | Kpando District |
| 4. | Three Town Secondary School | Ketu District |
| 5. | Awudome Secondary School | Ho District |
| 6. | Kete Krachi Secondary School | Krachi District |
| 7. | Adidome Secondary School | North Tongu District |
| 8. | Women Institute for Development
Studies, Hohoe | Hohoe District |
| 9. | Okajokrom Secondary School | Jasikan District |
| 10. | Akatsi Secondary/Technical School | Akatsi District |
| 11. | Sogakope Secondary School | South Tongu District |
| 12. | St. Prospers College, Ho | Ho District |

The Kpando Secondary School emerged winners and subsequently represented the region at the national competition.

A1.4.10 Western Region

In the Western region nine secondary schools with very active CECs were selected across the region for the contest. The contest was held at Fijai Secondary School, Sekondi, on February 12, 2004. Mrs. Augustina Akosua Akumanyi was the Guest of Honour. The function was chaired by Osabarima Kow Entsie III, Omanhene of Mpohor Traditional Area. The schools which took part in the competition were:

- | | | |
|----|--|--|
| 1. | Juabeso Secondary School | Juabeso Bia District |
| 2. | Asankrangwa Secondary School | Wassa Amenfi District |
| 3. | Tarkwa Secondary School | Wassa West District |
| 4. | Nkroful Agriculture Secondary School | Nzema East District |
| 5. | St. Mary's Boys Secondary School | Ahanta West District |
| 6. | Methodist Secondary School | Shama-Ahanta East
Metropolitan Area (SAEMA) |
| 7. | Ghana Secondary-Technical School | SAEMA |
| 8. | Sekondi Secondary College | SAEMA |
| 9. | Annor Adjei Secondary School, Ezinlibo | Nzema East District |

Tarkwa Secondary School won the contest with Nkroful Agriculture Secondary School placing second. Tarkwa Secondary School was therefore selected to represent the region on the national contest for the second time running.

A1.5 Civic Classes

To reach pupils in Junior Secondary Schools with civic messages and also to educate them on sections of the Constitution, two regions, namely Ashanti and Brong Ahafo, put into operation the Civic Classes concept. Under this arrangement NCCCE officials collaborate with school authorities who give them between 30

minutes and 40 minutes a period, weekly or fortnightly, to talk to the pupils on civic issues. The key objective of these classes has been to educate the pupils on portions of the constitution as well as topical issues.

A1.5.1 Ashanti Region

Schools that the NCCE collaborated with include Adum Presby JSS, Good Shepherd JSS 1 & 2, Gynase MA/JSS 1 & 2, Bantama Methodist, Kaase M/A JSS, St Anthony RC JSS, Bantama, all in Kumasi. Topics discussed included: Functions of NCCE, Why Citizens should know the Constitution, Citizenship, Arms of Government, Decentralisation and Local Government and Ensuring Clean and Healthy Environment.

Interviews with some pupils and teachers revealed that they were particularly happy with the topics treated as they broadened their horizon on civic issues.

The resource persons for the programmes were Michael Armpong, Nancy Thompson, A.K. Asamoah Badu, K.O, Agyepong, Joseph Antwi-Adjei, Catherine Bonnah, Lawrence Nyame, Marian Kusi Aboraah, Solomon Amoako, all officers of the NCCE either in the Regional or Kumasi Metropolitan Office.

Districts in the Asante Region which also utilized civic classes included: Ahafo North (six schools), Bosomtwe–Atwima–Kwanwoma (8 schools), Afigya Sekyere (4 schools), Offinso (3 schools).

A1.5.2 Brong Ahafo Region

The region continued to work hard on the civic class concept which it initiated in 2002. From 10 JSSs that served as pilot in 2002, the number increased to 100 throughout the region in 2004. The civic classes continue to be one of the most effective means of educating the youth.

A1.6 Civic Centres

The Civic Centres are envisaged by the Commission to be places in communities where reading materials such as the Constitution of Ghana, newspapers and other information materials would be made available to citizens. The centre would also have games such as ludo, oware, Ghana Constitution Game, Monopoly, Draft where citizens can go and play games whilst relaxing. It is envisioned that the centre would become a fulcrum for the dissemination of civic messages as officers of the Commission will regularly visit the centres and interact with the people to discuss topical issues.

The Western, Volta and Central regions were the first three regions to pilot the establishment of the centres. The centres have however become dormant in the Central and Volta regions.

In the Western Region, however, the pilot centres continue to expand and by last year the Jomoro and Aowin-Suaman districts had nine and five centres respectively. The number of centres in 2004 increased with the establishment of 19 centres in the Mpohor Wassa East District.

It has been noted that a major hindrance to the rapid development of the centres

is lack of library materials, difficulty in renting suitable places and providing sustainable support for resource persons to maintain the centres for educational purposes. The dearth of logistics, especially vehicles at the disposal of the Commission (with districts having not even bicycles) makes it difficult for staff in charge of the centres to regularly visit the centres so as to interact with the people.

A1.7 Inter-Party Dialogue Committees

The year 2004, being an election year, challenged the Commission with one of its major tasks: how to help maintain the peace in the country and especially in the three northern regions of the country, which had soft spots for conflicts. A series of fora/seminars organized with stakeholders ended with the recommendation that inter-party dialogue committees be established. Action Aid Ghana, a British NGO, subsequently came to support the programme.

The Inter-Party Dialogue Committees (IPDCs) were set up in various districts in the Northern, Upper East and Upper West Regions. The IPDC brought together leaders of political parties, religious bodies, security agencies, opinion leaders and civil society organizations to regularly discuss issues and undertake conflict prevention and management tasks.

Occasionally, IPDC meetings took time off to listen to lectures and discuss topical issues. Among issues discussed were:

- Tolerance as a vital tool for peaceful and violence-free elections.
- The Code of Conduct for Political Parties.
- Empowerment of women in Decision-making levels.
- The electoral process – registration, exhibition and voting.
- The Fundamental Human Rights of Women and Children.
- Women’s participation in politics.
- How political tolerance can be promoted and achieved.
- The Imperatives of Political Tolerance.

The IPDCs were a major player in the 2004 election and they contributed tremendously to ensuring peaceful co-existence among the political parties and consequently maintaining the peace before, during, and after the December 2004 elections.

A1.7.1 Upper East Region

The IPDCs in the various districts were inaugurated between July 22, 2004 and July 29, 2004 with the Regional Committee taking place on July 30, 2004 at SSNIT Conference Hall in Bolgatanga.

Under the auspices of the IPDC, peace marches were organized in various districts. In the Builsa District the march was organized at Sandema on November 6, 2004, whilst those at Bongo and Bawku East District were organized on November 10, 2004 and November 30, 2004 respectively. The marches often culminated in a rally at which prominent members of political parties as well as other opinion leaders addressed the gathering often made up of supporters of political parties, school children and workers.

In the Bawku District, a capacity building workshop on Mediation Skills on Alternative Dispute Resolutions (ADR) was organized for members of the IPDC

at the District Treasury Conference Hall, Zebilla. On May 7, 2004 a round table discussion was held for members of IPDC and the media at the Regional Office of the NCCE in Bolgatanga.

A1.7.2 Northern Region

IPDCs were active in almost all the districts of the region. On the average each district held three IPDC meetings in the year. In the Nanumba District, the meetings were held on August 30, 2004, September 14, 2004, November 11, 2004). In the Tamale Municipality series of IPDC meetings were held on August 28, 2004, September 30, 2004, October 7, 2004, November 5 and 12, 2004. In the West Gonja district four meetings of IPDC were held in the year at Damongo. In the Saboba–Chereponi District IPDCs were formed at Saboba, Wapuli, Demon, Chereponi, Wenchiki and Tombo.

In the Tolon-Kumbungu District, IPDC meetings were held in 11 Area/Town Councils of the District. The meeting in Kumbungu was held on August 29, 2004, whilst that of Tolon was held on September 17, 2004 and Yoggu on October 1, 2004.

In the Yendi District, the IPDC which had a membership of 25 held its first meeting on August 5, 2004 and the second on September 23, 2004. The IPDC in the East Mamprusi District was inaugurated on September 2, 2004. The IPDC in the Tolon-Kumbungu District held meetings on August 11, 2004, September 3, 2004, September 10, 2004, September 17, 2004 and September 24, 2004.

A1.8 HIV/AIDS Education

In 2003, the Ghana AIDS Commission drew the NCCE into its nation-wide education drive on awareness creation on the HIV/AIDS. Consequently a series of trainers-of- trainers workshops were organised for staff to equip them with the basic knowledge and update on HIV/AIDS and sexual transmitted diseases. In addition a workshop for 50 selected officers from the Headquarters and all the districts in Greater Accra was held on August 13, 2004. The workshop, sponsored by the Ghana AIDS Commission enabled participants to discuss topics such as:

- Basic facts about STI's/STD's
- Overview of HIV/AIDS – the situation report on Greater Accra
- Mother to child Transmission of HIV/AIDS
- Basic information on voluntary counselling and testing (VCT)

The resource person at the workshop was Mrs. Edith Asare-Mensah, Officer in-charge of Greater Accra Regional HIV/AIDS/STD/STI Clinic.

A1.8.1 Volta Region

The Ghana AIDS Commission in July 2004 sponsored the Kpandu District Office to organize a series of activities in the Wusuta Traditional Area. These activities were climaxed with a two day workshop which took place on July 2, 2004. The Volta Regional Director of the Commission, Ferdinand Anku, was the guest speaker at the ceremony which was also addressed by an official from the Ghana AIDS Commission.

A1.8.2 Northern Region

Two workshops were organized by the Nanumba District Office to sensitize the people to the harmful effects of the disease. The first workshop was on February 20, 2004 at the Ministry of Health Conference Hall. Thirty-five people drawn from all walks of life were in attendance. Emmanuel Apawuza, the District Focal Person on HIV/AIDS, and Isaah Salifu, Nanumba District Director of the NCCE, were the resource persons.

A1.9 NCCE Collaborative Programmes

Aside of its own planned and budgetted-for programmes, the Commission collaborated with a number of organizations, institutions and departments in its programmes. These included: Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII), Ministry of Regional Integration and NEPAD, ABANTU for Women, Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF), Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) Ghana Education Service (GES), Ministry of Health (MOH), National Youth Council (NYC), Non-Formal Education Division of Ministry of Education (NFED), District Assemblies, Electoral Commission (EC), National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO), Department of Social Welfare, and National Population Council. Below are some of the activities carried out in collaboration with some of those bodies:

A1.9.1 Collaboration with ABANTU for Development to Launch the Women's Manifesto for Ghana

On September 2, 2004 the *Women's Manifesto for Ghana* was launched at the International Conference Centre, Accra. The Manifesto is an initiative of ABANTU for Development, a gender and policy advocacy organization and a coalition of other NGOs. The Manifesto sets out critical issues of concern to Women in Ghana and makes demands for addressing them. The Manifesto makes demands that should be addressed for the achievement of gender equality and equity and sustainable national development.

The Manifesto covers 10 themes: Women's Economic Empowerment; Women and Land; Women with special need; Institutions with a mandate to promote Women's Rights; Women and Media; Women, social policy and social Development; Women in Politics, Decision-Making and Public Life; Women, Human Rights and the Law; Discriminatory Cultural Practices; and Women, Conflicts and Peace.

The NCCE collaborated with the Coalition on the Women's Manifestos for Ghana to launch the women's manifesto in the various regional capitals. The objective of the launching ceremony was to sensitize and educate women to critical issues affecting women in Ghana. The NCCE provided resource persons who spoke at these ceremonies. Listed are the days of the launch of the event in the regions:

Region	Venue	Date
Western	Regional Youth Centre	Sept. 28, 2004
Brong Ahafo	Eusbett Hotel	Sept. 28, 2004
Ashanti	SSNIT Conference Hall	Sept. 29, 2004
Eastern	SSNIT Conference Hall	October 15, 2004

In the Volta Region, aside the launching ceremony a consultative meeting on Women Manifesto was held by Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF) on May 14, 2004. Issues dealt with included Women's Participation in Governance and Access to resource critical for making a living.

In the Nanumba District of the Northern Region, the NCCE collaborated with Action Aid Ghana to organize a one-day workshop on the draft Manifesto for Women, on June 5, 2004, at the District Assembly Hall, Bimbilla. The workshop was attended by over 60 participants mainly Assemblymembers and representatives of women organizations.

A1.9.2 NCCE Collaboration with Ghana Integrity Initiative

The Commission collaborated with the Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII), an NGO, to organize a series of workshops on the theme, *Fighting Corruption-An Agenda for Democracy and Good Governance*. Workshops were held in a number of regions.

In the Ashanti Region, a workshop was held at Konongo in the Asante Akim North District on August 19 and 20, 2004 for over 70 participants comprising Assembly members, Religious Bodies, Women Groups, Traditional Rulers, Civil Society Organizations. Mrs. Augustina Akosua Akumanyi, Deputy Chairman (Programmes) of the NCCE spoke on *Effects of Corruption on Development*, whilst Daniel Batidam, Executive Secretary of GII, expounded on *Forms of Corruption*.

The workshop for the Volta Region was held on June 9 –10, 2004 at the VAG Hall, Ho, and in attendance were over 100 people from several organisations. Speakers at the forum included Mrs. Augustina Akosua Akumanyi, Deputy Chairman (Programmes); Napoleon Agboada, Director of Public Education; and Kofi Tenu, Ho District Director of the NCCE. The Chairman for the forum was Mrs. Okyere Darko, Chief State Attorney at Ho.

The Western Region had its turn of the workshop on July 14, 2004 at the GPHA Senior Staff Club House, Takoradi. The theme for the workshop was *Fighting Corruption – And Agenda for Democracy and Good Governance*. Speakers included: Kwaku Baa Owuu, Regional Director; Mrs. Augustina Akosua Akumanyi, Deputy Chairman (Programmes) of the NCCE, Kwame Gyasi, Senior Lecturer, School of Administration, Legon, and Daniel Batidam, Executive Secretary of the GII. The keynote address was delivered by Joseph Boahen Aidoo, the Western Regional Minister. The function was chaired by the Most Rev. Martin John Darko, Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Sekondi-Takoradi .

A1.9.3 Sensitisation Programme on West African Common Currency

A common currency for West Africa (the Eco) is expected to be introduced in the not too distant future. The Ministry of Regional Cooperation and NEPAD (MRCN), recognizing that the success of this exercise largely depends on the knowledge and awareness among the mass of the people, collaborated with the NCCE to design educational programmes for the populace on the scheme.

A thematic workshop for over 80 participants drawn from the NCCE, 1SD, NFED and representatives from Political Parties and Civic Society Organizations was held at the Eusbett Hotel, Sunyani, from August 12 to 14, 2004.

Resource persons at the workshop were:

- J.E. Quarshie, Chief Director, Ministry of Regional Co-operation and NEPAD.
- Dr. Lento Harding, Director of Policy Co-ordination and Implementation of MRCN and Co-ordinator of the National Sensitisation Committee on the introduction of the Second Common Currency in West Africa.
- Napoleon Agboada, Director of Public Education of the NCCE.
- Mrs. Augustina Akosua Akumanyi, Deputy Chairman (Programmes) of NCCE.
- Paul Adu Gyamfi, President of the Ghana Bar Association.

The workshop was very successful as it equipped participants with information on the benefits that could come to countries that opt to join the Eco Zone as well as the aims and objectives of NEPAD and Eco. The training programme was subsequently followed by fora at various levels.

In the Upper West Region, a workshop was held on December 18, 2004 at Upland Hotel, Wa at which all NCCE staff were in attendance.

In the Eastern Region, two workshops were held. The first workshop took place at Two Streams Hotel, Koforidua (in the New Juaben District), on October 6 and 7, 2004. The second workshop which took place at ECOWAS Hotel, Nkawkaw (in the Kwah Soth District), was held on October 7 and 8, 2004. Each workshop had 15 participants drawn from the nearby districts. The resource persons at the workshop came from MRCN.

On April 3, 2004 at the CEPS Hall at Aflao (in the Ketu District of the Volta Region) a public forum was organised on the Eco by the Ketu District Office. The main speakers at the function were Dr. Lento Harding, Director of Policy Co-ordination and Implementation of MRCN and Co-ordinator of the National Sensitisation Committee on the introduction of the Second Common Currency in West Africa, and Ferdinand Anku, Volta Regional Director of the NCCE. The function was chaired by Togbe Pasaku II of Hasukope.

A1.9.4 African Peer Review Mechanism

In 2004, the government of Ghana volunteered to implement the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM). The APRM is an open participatory and transparent process that fosters national dialogue and builds trust in pursuit of national development goals. A Secretariat to oversee the implementation of the APRM, namely the National African Peer Review Mechanism Governing Council (NAPRM-GC), was subsequently set up.

In the latter part of the year, the NAPRM-GC began collaboration with the NCCE to educate Ghanaians on the importance and objectives of the APRM.

To equip staff of the NCCE with knowledge of the concept, a trainer of trainers workshop was held for NCCE directors and others at the Crystal Rose Hotel, Kumasi, on September 18, 2004. The resource persons at the workshop were

Dr. Francis Appiah, Executive Secretary of the NAPRM-GC, Alex N. Abankwa and Prof. S.K.B. Asante, both members of the Governing Council of the NARM.

After this workshop NCCE officers helped in organising various workshops and fora on the APRM throughout the country.

The Upper East Regional office of the NCCE with sponsorship from the Ministry of Regional Co-operation and NEPAD (MRCN) on December 21, 2004 organized a workshop for staff of NCCE and other organizations from the six districts of the region. The principal speaker at the workshop, the Minister of MRCN, Dr. K.K. Apraku, was represented at the workshop by his personal assistant, Mr. Awuku.

A1.9.5 The Child's Right Project in the Greater Accra Region

The Greater Accra Regional Office of the NCCE collaborated with UNICEF to carry out a series of educational programmes in communities and schools on the Rights of the Child. The programme was carried out in five districts of the region, namely Accra Metropolitan Area, Tema Municipality, Ga, Dangme East and Dangme West districts from February 2004 to December 2004. A total of 20 programmes were organized with 3,400 participants in schools and communities being reached with the message.

The project was executed through the organization of symposium, radio discussions and drama in communities and schools. In the Dangme East and West districts the focus was on child sexual abuse, child trafficking, child labour and dipo puberty rites and their effect on girls. In the Tema Municipality the focus was on streetism, child prostitution and teenage pregnancy. In the Ga District the focus was on child labour in stone quarries, parental neglect of children and protection of children rights.

The programme was most effective as it threw light on some of the important issues concerning the girl-child, their rights and responsibilities.

A1.9.6 Gender Parity in Girls Education Project

The Greater Accra Regional Directorate, in the year under review, took the initiative to team up with UNICEF in the global campaign to achieve gender parity in education for the girl-child. The project is in consonance with the Millennium Development Goals of attainment of "gender parity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005 and at all levels by 2015".

The project entailed officially notifying all the paramount chiefs in the 10 regions of the country of the global agenda to eliminate gender disparity in education and to seek the support of the chiefs, who are custodians of culture and tradition, to remove inimical cultural perception and other barriers and practices that inhibit progress in girl-child education and also their active involvement in the campaign to promote gender parity in education. The project involved the organisation of durbars of chiefs and queenmothers.

The activities undertaken are presented in the tabular form on the next page:

GENDER PARTY IN GIRLS EDUCATION PROJECT

REGION	DATE	TYPE OF ACTIVITY	VENUE	PARTICIPANTS	RESOURCE PERSONS
Greater Accra	April 20, 2004	Durbar of chiefs and traditional rulers.	Sempe-Mantse palace	14 chiefs of the Ga Traditional Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nii Adote Obuor II, Sempe-Mantse • Miss Dorothy Rozga, UNICEF Country Rep. • Mrs. Beatrice Duncan (Child Protection Officer of UNICEF).
Volta	May 10, 2004	Durbar	Roman Catholic School Park, Shia	Chiefs and queen mothers of Shia, Avee, Klave, Hoe and Nyive Traditional Area, Norvisi Development Union (NORDU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bobhi Dadzawa II, Paramount Chief of Shia and Norvisi Traditional Area • Justus Avudzivie, Chairman of Board of Directors of Shia Senior Secondary School.
Brong Ahafo	April 29, 2004	Durbar of chiefs and queen mothers and a cross-section of the people.	Duayaw-Nkwanta Station Park	Chiefs and queen mothers and a cross-section of the people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nana Nyarko Duffie, the Paramount queen mother of the Duayaw-Nkwanta Traditional Area.
Brong Ahafo	April 30, 2004	Durbar of chiefs and queen mothers of Dormaa Traditional Area.	Palace of the Paramount Chief.	Chiefs and queen mothers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Beatrice Dnrcan, Child Right Protection Officer of UNICEF. • Oseadeyor Agyeman Badu II.
Eastern	May 7, 2004	Durbar of chiefs and traditional rulers	Ofori Panin Palace, Kyebi	Chiefs and traditional rulers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Osabarima Kyeretwie Boakye Danquah, Kyebihene. • Nana Adutwumwaa Dokua, Obaahemaa of Okyemaa. • Miss Dorothy Rozga. • Dr. Agnes Akosua Aidoo • Mrs. Beatrice Duncan • Mrs. Ofori, Assistant Director of GES in charge of Girls' Education in Abuakwa District.

Western	May 12, 2004	Durbar at Essipon in the Sekondi-Takoradi Metropolis.	Essipon Primary/JSS Park	Paramount Chief and all the divisional chiefs and queen mothers of Essipon Traditional Area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nana Kofi Abuna Y. Paramount Chief of Essipon Traditional Area. • Miss Soari Ohkubo, Educational Officer, UNICEF. • Okhiro Fushimi, Educational Officer of UNICEF. • Miss Sophia Honner-Sam, Deputy Minister for Western Region. • Miss Adomaa Opoku, Presiding Member of the Sekondi-Takoradi Metropolitan Assembly.
Central	May 13, 2004	Durbar	Palace of Paramount Chiefs of Effutu Traditional Area, Neevi Gharthey VII.	Divisional Chiefs and queen mothers and representatives of Ghana Educational Service.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Akthiri Fushimi, Educational Officer, UNICEF. • Miss Soari Ohkubo, Educational Officer, UNICEF.
Upper East	September 15, 2004	Durbar of Chiefs and Magajias	Sherigu Social Centre, Bolgatanga.	Sherigu Naa and other sub-chiefs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thomas Apasinaba II, Sherigu Naa. • Miss Frances Atere, Assistant Director of Education, in charge of Girls Education.
Upper West	September 16, 2004	Durbar	In front of the palace of the Paramount Chief, Gwollu.	The paramount chief, divisional Chiefs, the Magajias, the elders and the people of Gwollu.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Naa Liman Gwollu, Kuolu Kuoro, paramount chief of Gwollu Traditional Area • Salifu Jawia, officer-in-charge of Girl-child Education, Sissala Officer of the GFS. • Chief Superintendent of Police.
Northern	September 17, 2004	Durbar	Durbar grounds, Savelugu in the Northern Region.	Paramount chief representatives from the Savelugu Youth Association.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abudulai Chinsi, Wulara, Paramount Chief. • D.D. Dery, Assistant Director in charge of Girl Child Education in the Savelugu-Nanton District.

A1.10 Regional Programmes

Programmes drawn up by the National Headquarters were often replicated or executed at the regional and district levels. In addition to those programmes some regional and district offices planned and executed programmes in response to local demands.

A1.10.1 Ashanti Region

Most districts in the region undertook education on fundamental human rights and freedoms with the aim of sensitizing the people to their rights and freedoms and the need to guard against their violation in any form. The education on environmental degradation was aimed at drawing citizens' attention to the need to avoid and prevent bush fires, indiscriminate littering, and all human activities that pollute water sources.

The Ahafo Ano North District Office collaborated with the GES and ISODEC, an Accra-based local NGO, to organize public fora on *Rights of Girl-Child and Parental Responsibilities* in 20 communities in the region. The programme which started on May 24, 2004 went through to September 2004. Resource persons featured on the programme included the District Director of NCCE, District Director of Ghana Education Service and Programme Officer of ISODEC.

The Ejura Sekyeredumase Office with the support of World Vision International, organized a two-day (June 25 and 26, 2004) residential workshop for 50 women and a selected number of men on Intestate Succession Law PNDC Law 111 and the Right of the Child. The workshop was held at the Baptist Retreat Centre at Ejura. Among the participants were queenmothers, assembly women and representatives from the local council of churches, and GNAT. The resource person for the programme was P.H. Mensah, Deputy Regional Director of NCCE. Topics discussed under the broad theme were: Rights of the Child, Intestate Succession Law PNDC III, and Child Exploitation and Child Labour.

A1.10.2 Brong Ahafo Region

In the Brong Ahafo Region, district offices of the Commission undertook vigorous awareness creation on the control and prevention of bush fires. The objective was to create awareness of the devastating effects of bush fires on the socio-economic development of the region.

The Regional Office was invited on three occasions during the year under review by the military command of the Liberation Barracks to lecture Young Soldiers on *The Role of the Military in Consolidating Constitutional Rule in Ghana*, and *Improving Military/ Civilian Relations*. The resource persons were Kofi Adomah, Regional Director, and Kwadwo Mensah, CEO, respectively.

The Deputy Regional Director, Michael Amponsah, also addressed soldiers who underwent Basic Armour Course during the year under review on the topic *The Role of the Military in Constitutional Democracy*.

A1.10.3 Central Region

The Cape Coast Municipal Office on February 24, 2004 organised a clean-up exercise in conjunction with relevant stakeholders such as the Ghana Prisons Service and the Municipal Fire Service. The four hour exercise was held in and around the Kotokuraba market with focus on the Mankessim, Twifo Praso and Takoradi Lorry Stations. The exercise was carried live on Radio Atlantic.

In the Assin District, the Commission on February 27, 2004 collaborated with the Assin District Assembly to clean up the District capital, Assin Fosu. About 700 people from the various identifiable groups, organised labour, school children and the general public participated in the exercise. Similar clean up exercises were led by the Commission in the Asikuma-Odoben-Brakwa, Mfantseman and Abura Asebu-Kwamankese districts.

A1.10.4 Eastern Region

A total of 1,345 programmes were executed by the Commission in the region. The breakdown of programmes per district were as follows: Regional Office (8), New Juaben District (99), Akuapem South (150), Birim South (70), Yilo Krobo (63), Asuogyaman (83), West Akem (87), Birim South (75), Suhum-Krabo-Coaltar, (8), East Akim (109), Kwaebibrem (82), Akuapem North (60), Fanteakwa (81), Kwahu South (108), Manya Krobo (78), and Afram Plains (51). The activities were mainly through public lectures, seminars, fora, radio discussion, and focus group discussion.

The focus of work included issues related to elections, Indiscipline, Environmental Cleanliness, Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms and Duties of the Citizen. The issue of HIV/AIDS featured more prominently on educational work of districts noted to have high HIV/AIDS prevalence rate, namely New Juaben, Manya Krobo, and Yilo Krobo districts.

A1.10.5 Greater Accra Region

The region carried out about 500 programmes, a large portion of which centred on the December 2004 elections. Topics treated included Political Tolerance in Ghana and Women in Politics.

The Accra Metro Office on March 4, 2004 held a one-day seminar at Accra Metropolitan Hall to sensitize assemblymembers on the Voters' Registration Exercise. Speakers at the function included Mrs. Augustina Akosua Akumanyi, Deputy Chairman of the NCCE and Eric Bortey, Accra Metro Director of the NCCE. The function was attended by the Presiding Member of the Accra Metropolitan Assembly, Ben Annan.

The Tema Office on June 24 and 25 2004, organized a two-day workshop on the theme *Enhancing the Capacity of Youth in Community Development*. The 300 youth gathered for the workshop had Tetteh-Wayo, Tema Municipal Director, and K. Adona, Deputy National Co-ordinator of the National Youth, as resource persons.

On November 26, 2004, a forum was organized at Novotel Hotel in Accra for a cross-section of children to interact with leaders of political parties. The theme for the forum was *What is our Future*. Speakers at the forum included: Laary Bimi,

the NCCE Chairman, and Mrs. Doris Archampong, the Greater Accra Regional Director of the NCCE. The Chairman appealed to Youth Leaders of all political parties throughout the country to conduct themselves in a manner that will protect the lives of children.

A1.10.6 Northern Region

One notable development in the region was the sponsorship offered the Commission by Action Aid Ghana which tremendously boosted the work of the Commission in the region.

In the Nanumba District, a number of Advocacy Workshops were organized for Action Aid Reflect Facilitators on Right-Based Awareness and Advocacy. The workshops in Nanumba District took place in May, July, August, 2004 and they were held in over 50 communities. Each workshop was attended by over 30 persons from the communities. The workshops greatly helped to equip NCCE Staff and others on right-based issues.

The Nanumba District Office also organized four workshops for four Area Councils, namely Bakpaba, Veribiegu, Dachamba and Darikum. The workshop for Bakpaba Area Council was held at Bakpaba on March 22, 2004, whilst those for Veribiegu, Dachamba and Darikum Area Councils were held at Nakpaa, Nakpayili and Bincheratanga on March 25, 2004, March 30, 2004, and March 27, 2004 respectively. An average of 40 persons attended each workshop. The workshops deliberated extensively on ways to reduce tension in a district known for its ethnic and chieftaincy conflicts.

The sponsorship of Action Aid Ghana enabled Saboba-Chereponi office to organize talks on peace in schools in the district towards the 47th Independence anniversary celebration of Ghana. A forum on peace was held at Tamale Polytechnic on October 13, 2004

A number of activities including drama performances were organized in various communities and schools in the regions, with the sponsorship from organisations such as Ibis, Oxfam, Send Foundation. The East Gonja District Office for instance organized activities to mark the 2004 International Women's Day at Kpandai. Ibis Ghana, supported the NCCE to organized workshops for five Unit Committee members on grassroots participation and governance at Salaga and a training course for unit committee members in the East Gonja District. In all 818 Unit Committee members from 13 Town/Area Councils and one sub area council benefited.

A1.10.7 Upper East Region

The region carried out 200 programmes during the year. Issues discussed at the fora included tolerance, parliamentary debates, Ghana Constitution Game competitions and Inter-Party Dialogue Committees.

One area of focus by the region was empowering Persons With Disabilities (PWDs). A number of workshops/lectures were organized for them. The Bolgatanga Municipal Office organized a lecture at the District Assembly Hall, Bawku, on May 18, 2004. Participants were drawn from heads of department, political parties,

religious bodies, security agencies and some identifiable groups. A total of 98 people attended. The resource person for the function was M.A. Tiamigu who addressed the gathering on the theme *The Place of the Physically Challenged in an All-Inclusive Democracy*. The function was addressed by the NCCE District Municipal Director, Roland Azumah.

A1.10.8 Upper West Region

The regional office, with the support of Action Aid Ghana, undertook civic education in various communities and schools. Ten (10) communities and 10 JSSs were visited but the programme could not be sustained for lack of funds.

Action Aid supported a workshop on Drama and Jingles production. The aim of the workshop was to improve on the skills and knowledge in drama and jingle production to deliver civic education much more effectively. A total of 20 staff participated in the three-day workshop which took place at Regional Office Conference Room from June 23 to 26, 2004. The course facilitator was Samuel Akuamoah, SCEO at the Public Education Department at the National Headquarters. Topics treated at the workshop included: Introduction to Theatre arts, Humor/Comedy in Drama, Data Collection and Analysis for use in drama, Role-plays, Best Practices in Drama Production, Drama as a Means for Sending Civic Education Message to the People.

A1.10.9 Volta Region

During the year, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), an NGO with office located in South and North Tongu districts, collaborated with the North Tongu District Office to carry out a survey on the *Incidence of Child Trafficking* in the district. The result indicated that the practice was increasing rapidly and could well become a social canker. A total of 14 villages in South Tongu and 12 villages in North Tongu District were noted to be seriously involved in the practice. The NCCE subsequently organized meetings with Opinion Leaders at Mafi-Dove, Mafi-Devime and Mafi-Atitekpo to discuss issues and find ways out. The meeting turned into a general durbar with the communities in which dangers of the practice were openly discussed and some solutions identified.

The Jasikan District collaborated with the District Assembly to carry out anti-bush fire and tax education on payment of basic rates and other levies to the District Assembly.

A1.10.10 Western Region

The region carried out over 1,000 programmes. Most of these activities were organized in collaboration with other institutions. The office also used the platform provided by institutions to address their members on specific issues.

In the Ahanta West District six separate workshops for chiefs, queenmothers, religious and community leaders drawn from six area councils, namely, Apowa, Esusiejoe, Agona, Busua, Abura and Dixcove were held in January and February 2004. Topics treated included Identification of Lines of Succession – antidote to chieftaincy disputes, and Enhancing the culture of Peace through social accommodation and implications for National Development. In all 516 participants took part in the six workshops.

The SAEMA Office collaborated with the Alcoholic Drug Addicts/Destitute

Rehabilitation Centre, an NGO, to organize a day's seminar for inmates of the Sekondi Central Prison on September 8, 2004. The programme was resourced by NCCE personnel who spoke on such topics as: The effects of Drug Abuse on inmates, Civil Rights of Inmates, and the need to check the spread of HIV/AIDS in prisons.

The Commission participated in the first Western Regional Homecoming Summit/Exhibition that took place at the Akroma Plaza, Takoradi from August 9 to 15, 2004. The NCCE mounted a photo/publication exhibition which attracted a large number of visitors. The occasion was also used to educate the public on activities of the Commission. Visitors to the NCCE stand included students, members of the Regional Co-ordinating Council, staff of the Metropolitan Assembly, Judicial Service, Ghana Bar Association, Security Agencies, Churches, benevolent societies and NGOs.

A2 Research Activities

A2.1 Introduction

In the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) 2004-2006 of the Commission, the Research Department is tasked to create a database and recommend regularly to government, limitations to true democracy arising from inequalities in the society. The MTEF's objective very much falls in line with the fourth function of the NCCE, which is "to formulate, implement and oversee programmes intended to inculcate in the citizens of Ghana awareness of their civic responsibilities and an appreciation of their rights and obligations as free people".

In line with the above function, the Commission, in the year, carried out four major activities, namely:

1. An Opinion Poll on Issues of Concern to the Voter.
2. Roundtable Discussion on the Report on Opinion Poll on issues of Concern to the Voter at M-Plaza Hotel.
3. Collaboration with National House of Chiefs on Research Project into Customary Laws and Practices Relating to Enstoolment/Enskinment in Ghana.
4. Collection of Baseline Data.

A2.2 An Opinion Poll on Issues of Concern to the Voter

This survey was undertaken by the Research Department of the NCCE in June 2004. The objectives of the poll were: to provide political parties with a list of issues of concern to the voter, outline expectations from civil society and individuals during the elections, and inform the educational activities of the Commission towards the 2004 Presidential and Parliamentary Elections.

The study was designed as a representative nationwide sample survey. All the existing 200 constituencies in the country were covered with 30 questionnaires administered in each constituency. The questionnaires were administered at the constituency headquarters as well as five electoral areas. Respondents were voters from all segments of society. At least 40 per cent of the questionnaire were administered on females. Indeed 40.9 per cent of the respondents were females.

The study sought respondents' views on issues they wished government and policy makers to address. Twelve variables were provided for respondents to rank from first to last.

The rankings depicted education as the most important concern of the voter. This buttresses the fact that many citizens see education as the most important asset of the nation. For both sexes education ranked first. A total of 42.9 male respondents ranked education first whereas 41.7 per cent of females ranked education first. In terms of specifics of what respondents expected from the government, the first major interest was conditions of service of teachers. Working conditions,

according to respondents, referred to better salaries and other incentives. The demand for more schools, etc., basic, secondary or tertiary, featured prominently as the second education issue government should address. Other concerns were that FCUBE should be fully implemented. From civil society and individuals, respondents demanded that parents should be responsible for education of their children and wards (29.7 per cent), Civil Society should assist government by way of helping provide infrastructure and the logistics for work (22.6 per cent). Other demands on civil society are that PTA/Community should assist teachers (9.0 per cent).

Health ranked as the second important issue. By sex, (16.3 per cent) and (16.2 per cent) males and females respectively chose health as the second issue. The specific issues respondents wanted government to address concerning the health sector were that government should build more health facilities (39.5 per cent), incentives should be provided for health personnel (22.3 per cent) and reduction in the premium on the health insurance (20.0 per cent). The three important demands on civil society and individuals were that individuals must promote their personal hygiene (34.7 per cent), put up clinics (17.4 per cent) and NGOs should provide health facilities (21.1 per cent).

Employment with 10.3 per cent was the third among the first ranked variables. Almost 11.9 per cent of respondents ranked it as second with 15.2 per cent ranking it as third. Greater Accra topped the list of employment with 14.7 per cent. Indeed the region registered a high influx of people from rural areas to the region, particularly Accra, the national capital, in search of employment. The expectations from the government in this area are to encourage the establishment of small-scale industries (37.7 per cent) and provide skills training (17.7 per cent).

Agriculture ranked as the fourth area of concern to respondents. As many as 8.7 per cent of respondents ranked it as first, whilst 9.4 ranked it as second and 17.5 per cent as third. The specifics of issues under agriculture that respondents wanted government to address include government providing subsidies on agricultural inputs (37.1 per cent), providing farmers with credit facilities (22.9 per cent), and supporting mechanization (14.9 per cent).

There is a public attitude which favours a strong role for government in dealing with food and agricultural issues. This found expression in the calls for government subsidies, government making credit facilities available and mechanization of agriculture. The demand on civil society and individuals in the agriculture sector was that individuals should go into farming (27.2 per cent), form co-operatives (25.0 per cent) and that NGOs support the agricultural sector (19.2 per cent).

Women and Children featured prominently in concerns of respondents. The empowerment of women in terms of their involvement in politics and occupying public office (45.4 per cent) was seen as a major task of government. Violence against women came up for mention by a number of respondents. It featured as a major issue to deal with in relation to improving the welfare of women and children. A count of 324 out of 4,583 (that is 22.7 per cent) went for enforcement of laws to protect women against violence; field reports indicated a high appreciation of the role of the Women and Juvenile Unit of the Ghana Police Service (Waju), and there was a call for expansion of its activities to cover the whole country. Another 12.4 per cent asked for the protection and education of society on the

rights of women and children. It appeared that a lot of existing laws needed to be reinforced. These include devolution of property, Intestate Succession Law, and laws that criminalize such acts as child marriage and betrothal, child labour, child prostitution and obnoxious practices like female genital mutilation and trokosi. For 7.2 per cent there was the need for provision of skills to street children, another 6.0 per cent was for giving free medical care to women and children. Finally 5.9 per cent also asked the government to support widows and intensify education on family planning in the rural areas.

The survey respondents gave the ninth ranking of issues government should deal with to corruption. A large count of 49.2 per cent called on government to severely punish those who engage in acts of corruption. The call for punishment was indicative that people saw corruption as a moral issue hence punishment of corrupt officials by way of imprisonment could be a major disincentive to corruption. Government is being called on by 8.8 per cent of the people to intensify public education on harmful effects of corruption to the society. There was a fairly large number of 19.6 per cent who however perceived the problem as relating to the current socio-economic situation. To this group therefore there was the need for better wages for workers. There were those who also saw corruption as more to do with public office holders. To this group (14.9 per cent) government must enforce laws relating to declaration of assets by public office holders as required by Chapter 24 of the 1992 Constitution which relates to Code of Conduct for Public Officers. Individuals and civil society were urged to be patriotic by reporting those who are corrupt to the appropriate constitutional agencies. While it was necessary to make corruption unattractive by the legal arrangements, education was considered very critical towards changing attitudes towards corruption as a social evil.

A2.3 A Report on the Round-Table Discussion on the Report on An Opinion Poll on Issues of Concern to the Voter

The Commission, in order to present the report of the Opinion Poll on Issues of Concern to the Voter, held a Roundtable Discussion at the M-Plaza Hotel on August 26, 2004. Eighty-three participants from political parties, non-governmental organisations, civil society organisations and the media were in attendance. The chairperson for the function was Dr. Grace Bediako, Government Statistician.

The Chairman of NCCE, Laary Bimi, in his welcome address pointed out that the Opinion Poll was conducted to elicit from the citizenry the issues of concern that political parties had to address in their campaign towards the forthcoming elections. He stressed that politicians should focus their campaign on issues which would help in sharpening and deepening our democratic culture and consolidate the peace the country is enjoying.

The Director of Research, Mrs. Zakaria-Ali, said the NCCE had the mandate to create civic awareness based on information, hence the Commission approval for the Department to undertake the Opinion Poll. She took participants through the background to the research, the objectives of the research and the methodology. She stressed that the department had tried to be as professional in the collection and data analysis as possible and that whatever limitations may be observed were due to such constraints as time and inadequacy of funds.

The discussant of the Report was Kwesi Jonah, a senior lecturer at the Political Science Department of the University of Ghana, Legon-Accra. He took participants through the general objectives of the survey and followed it up with the six key issue areas of the findings. According to him, the poll established that education, followed by health, employment, agric, women and children and corruption were the most important concerns of the people. He went on to give the specifics of critical issues the public felt should be addressed by the government, civil society organisations in relation to the ranked issues.

He praised the research for a number of reasons:

- In terms of methodology the sample of 6,000 is more than adequate to draw valid conclusions
- The study had national coverage with all 200 constituencies being covered.
- There was a hundred percent response rate with all 6,000 questionnaires being covered.
- Questionnaires were also administered in the local languages.
- There was also the advantage of decentralization of training, the field assistants having been trained at the ten regional capitals.
- There is also the exciting aspect of 97.4 percent of respondents saying they will turn out to vote in the December 7, 2004 elections.
- The survey would serve as a valuable guide to political parties and politicians in their quest to win political power.
- The findings of the survey would benefit political parties, parliamentary candidates, voters, civil society organizations, NGOs and District Assemblies.

The discussant, however lamented that the report came late, especially as the major parties had already published and launched their manifestoes. The NDC launched its manifesto in Kumasi in July 2004, whilst the NPP launched its manifesto in Kumasi in September 2004. He commended the NCCE for a good work done.

The presentation by the discussant was followed by an open forum. Later, participants went into four syndicate group discussions where the findings in relation to the government, civil society and the general public were critically examined.

Group One (Working Towards Successful Elections) was tasked to examine, among others, what can be done to achieve higher voter turnout and how to educate the voter on voting procedure to reduce conflict during election period. On reasons for low voter turnout, the groups identified Non-performance of governments – past and present; Intimidation from political opponents; Difficulty in transfer of votes; control and ownership of party in the hands of a few. As a solution to these problems the group suggested collaboration between EC and NCCE towards increased voter education and that the character of political parties must change to reflect the interest of the people in order to attract party supporters.

Group Two (Expectations from the Government) examined how to motivate teachers, how to create more employment, and how to retain health workers. On

the motivation of teachers it called for more organised in-service and provision of tertiary training for teachers to improve upon their skills. Stakeholders should improve academic facilities, housing and salaries of teachers; Government should provide incentives to motivate teachers to teach in the rural areas.; and District Assemblies should be involved in the construction of accommodation and other incentives for teachers. Schools should be well stocked with educational materials at all levels of education. To retain health workers, Government was asked to provide the right medical equipment to all health centers, it should also improve the service condition of health workers, while District Assemblies were urged to support needy students to the Medical School. To create more jobs, there was the call for greater encouragement to be given to on-the-job training (apprenticeship training); small-scale industries must be encouraged.

Group Three (Expectations from the Civil Society) which focused on issues such as: How to ensure higher standard in the educational sector, How the Community can help improve on the school system, and How NGOs can help improve the health system, contribute to environmental cleanliness. The group recommended improvement in the school system; Communities should be partners in infrastructure development; community labour should be used to help in building schools; and communities should be encouraged to set up schools i.e. community ownership concept. NGOs on their part, can help improve the health system by the provision of health materials, water, sanitation and infrastructure, teaching communities preventive health practices rather than curative measures. NGOs should undertake cleaning exercises, and they should assist in resolving environmental sanitation issues in communities.

Finally, Group Four (Expectations from Individuals) which dealt with how parents can ensure that children of school going age are in school and how to maintain good environmental hygiene and personal cleanliness. The group recommended among others that individuals should contribute towards the provision of school infrastructure in their communities; parents should show interest in the education of their wards (monitoring homework and visiting at schools), make funds available to pay their fees and that PTAs should set up funds for needy students.

A2.4 Collaboration With National House of Chiefs on Research Project into Customary Laws and Practices Relating to Enstoolment/Enskinment in Ghana

The NCCE continued with its collaborative work with the Chieftaincy Secretariat and National House of Chiefs on research into Customary Laws and Practices Relating to Enstoolment/Enskinment in Ghana. The phase three of the chieftaincy research project started in the second half of the year.

A de-briefing workshop was at the Nurses' Hostel, Accra from August 3 to 5, 2004 at which Research Officers of the Commission who were trained the previous year and sent to the field to collect data presented their reports. Paramountcies covered were Likpe, Awudome, Peki, Avatime and Asogli in the Volta Region; Akuapem, Akyem Kotoku/Bosome, and Anum in the Eastern Region; Sefwi Wiawso in the Western Region; and Prampram, Ada and Shai in the Greater Accra Region.. The Research Officers were commended for a good work done.

A report writing workshop was held in December, 2004 to edit the reports presented.

Kojo Tito Voegborlo, Deputy Director for Research (who co-ordinates work of the Research Officers of the NCCE on the Chieftaincy Research project) was part of the team. Other members of the Report Writing Team were: Edward Marfo, Director of the Chieftaincy Secretariat; Dr. H.S. Dannah, Director of Research of the Chieftaincy Secretariat, Prof. Abayie Boateng, a retired fellow of the Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana, Legon-Accra, and a Consultant; and Prof. John S. Nabilla, Chairman of the Research Committee of the National House of Chiefs.

A2.5 Collection of Baseline Data

The Research Department decided to revisit the idea of building a database from which individuals and institutions can access basic information on the various districts in the country. The Department designed an initial questionnaire to collect some baseline data, from all the districts in the country.

The questionnaires were sent to the various regional centres for distribution to the districts when training was being carried out by headquarters staff on the Opinion Poll on issues of concern to the voter.

The Department is in the process of designing a format to capture and store the data in a unique manner to provide the Commission with a reliable data base.

A2.6 Report On Survey on Cultural Practices Affecting Women's Rights in Ghana

In the 2003 Annual Report of the NCCE to Parliament we reported on the study which was still on-going as of the end of the 2003 and stated that the full report would be carried in the 2004 Annual Report.

The study, *Cultural Practices Affecting Women's Rights in Ghana*, which was undertaken in August – October, 2003 to identify and document cultural practices in the country and how they affect the constitutional rights of women. The study which was envisaged as a pilot researched into practices like Trokosi, Female Genital Mutilation and Isolation of Witches into witch camps.

Cultural Practices Affecting Women

Several cultural practices were identified as affecting women either positively or negatively. Top on the list of the rites considered harmful are widowhood rites, exchange of sisters, Betrothal, Elopement, and *Kyiribra*.

Marriage on the whole was seen as a cultural practice that positively affects women. It was generally seen as honouring women, providing women with companionship, and providing them capital for trading and other activities. Outdoorings/naming ceremonies were also considered on the whole as good. Its good aspects accounted for 92.7 per cent as against 7.3 per cent for harmful.

In spite of criticism of funeral rites as being too costly it was also generally acknowledged as good. In the same vein, though there were complaints about aspects of puberty rites, especially the exposure of breasts and parading girls in partial nudity, it was generally seen as a good practice. Among principal reasons for people cherishing the practice is that it promotes sexual abstinence, prevents

unwanted pregnancy, honours women, provides opportunity for suitors to marry and gives opportunity for young ladies to get donation which sometimes can be used as capital for trading and others.

Betrothal/ Infant Marriage

The practice of Betrothal was found to persist among the Konkomba. The system is said to build a good and cordial relationship between two families as it helps to perpetually cement relationships between families. It also provides farm labour for in-laws thus improving their economic well being.

The practice is seen as having several drawbacks as it violates the right of a girl to the free choice of a life partner. Several stories of suicides by betrothed girls were recounted, as some girls choose to die rather than marry people most of who are often not in the age group of their partners. Many betrothed girls on coming of age are forced to stop schooling, thus negatively affecting their education.

Modification of Lapomi System to Ensure Promotion of Best Interest of the Child

The Krobo were seen to be one ethnic group that have stages towards full marriage – *Yabami*, *Nyasinam* and *Fia*. It is only after the performance of the third and final stage of rites that children born out of the relationship are deemed to be those of the man. A child born outside the *Fia* stage during outdooing/naming ceremony has the *La* tied around his wrist; he also bears the family name of the mother. It is only after performance of *Lapomi* that the ‘*Yobi*’ becomes the ‘child’ of the father with all rights over him/her.

Yobi are subject to various forms of discrimination, including inability to inherit the father. The welfare of the child is thus undermined by the *Lapomi* practice and there was a call to deal with high brideswealth. There was a general call by respondents for the Traditional Council to facilitate the change of customs where high brideswealth makes it impossible for men to perform full marriage rites and hence some run away on impregnating girls.

Initiation into Traditional Priesthood Violating Rights of Women

Initiation into traditional priesthood remains one of the areas shrouded in great mystery. Available information points to gross violation of human rights, in the initiation process.

Among others, deep incisions are made on the body of trainees. Trainee priestesses are also prohibited from wearing of a dress or blouse and walk barefooted during the period and keep their hair in dreadlocks. They also as highlights of the initiation and outdooing sessions dance naked before the public. All these are done in spite of 26 (2) of the Constitution which states “All customary practices which dehumanizes or are injurious to the physical and mental well-being of a person are prohibited”.

Cults No More Appealing in Nkwanta

The *Okuoku* Cult among the Adele, Challa and Ntrubo in the Nkwanta District of the Volta Region was years gone-by a very popular cult among the people and it was prestigious to be a cult member. Indeed, at a point *Okuoko* was one sure way of getting married as members were always in high demand. The particular great attraction of the cult was its abhorrence of infidelity and adultery. Any cult member who violated this sacred code had to confess or die. Members of the cult are also said to be strengthened spiritually and hence could stand against evil forces. But there are side effects of the practice: the V shaped incision made at the back of cult members, and scars become sources of embarrassment for cult members. Some victims also become emotionally troubled for life, especially those who do not become active within the cult.

Modernization, Economic Hardships and Fostering

In the past fostering, where a man/woman gives his child to his sibling to bring up into adulthood, was a most cherished institution among Ghanaian ethnic groups, especially the Dagomba. Children who stay with relations are often brought up under strict conditions which invariably imbued them with the values characteristic of respect, abundance and diligence. The institution of fostering provides childless couples happiness and keeps the marriage intact, for barrenness can cause serious problems in marriage and for the *family as a whole*.

This much cherished institution is no longer appealing because many foster parents are not economically resourceful. The extended family system seems to be gradually giving way to the nuclear family. Where fostering is practiced foster children are often over-worked and denied formal education thus losing the basic essence of the trust, the welfare and interest of the child. The denial of formal education to fostered children and their use as child labour violate Section 6 (3) and 8 of the Children's Act, Act 560.

Constitutional Rights of Women Being Inhibited by Some Cultural Practices

The right to education is the top on the list of rights inhibited by cultural practices. A total of 28.9 per cent of respondents mentioned that. Cultural practices such as betrothal and fostering, parents relinquishing the upbringing of their children to others due to poverty, giving children out as house helps, all go a long way in contributing to the low enrollment rate among girls in schools and the equally high drop out rate and consequently the low literacy rate among women in the country. Other rights that are inhibited are: Right to practice any religion, Right to belong to society of choice, Right to engage in Economic activity, Right to own Property, Right to vote and be voted for and Right to be protected from sexual abuse.

Knowledge of Laws Protecting Women

Out of the total respondents, 43.6 per cent said no, whilst 56.4 per cent said yes to knowing any laws or bye-laws passed to protect women against harmful cultural practices. More males (51 per cent) than females (39.6 per cent) know about the existence of laws.

A3 Literature and Materials Development

A3.0 Overview of Work of the Department

The Literature and Materials Development Department is mandated to produce Literature and other materials to support the Programmes Division of the Commission to carry out its civic education activities. The major focus of the Department, in the year under review, was producing materials that would help ensure peaceful, free and fair elections. Other activities included the production of revised editions of the Abridged Constitution.

A3.1 Materials for 2004 Elections

The Department produced various materials all geared towards getting the mass of the people to co-operate and contribute positively to the sustenance of our young democracy; this included the exercise of citizens' franchise as electorate. Materials produced ranged from large size posters to car stickers.

Posters: Five different posters were printed with a print run of 100,000. The posters carried messages such as:

- Be a good citizen
- Tolerance for Peaceful Elections
- Tolerance strengthens our Democracy – Be Tolerant
- Respect Different Political Views – This Promotes True Democracy

Flyers: Four different flyers were produced. The total print run of the flyers was 100,000. The themes addressed by the flyers were:

- o On Election Day Vote Early, Wisely, Peacefully; Your Vote is Your Power
- o Think of Ghana's Future. Vote Wisely
- o Your Vote is Your Right. Exercise it
- o Vote Peacefully

Brochures: Eighty thousand (80,000) brochures on *Tolerance for Peaceful Elections* were produced and distributed to the regions and districts to enhance the Commission's Public Education campaign for peaceful, free and fair elections .

Car stickers: A total of 20,000 car stickers were produced with the following messages:

- o Violence-free elections strengthens our democracy;
- o Free + Fair Elections = Peace & Development
- o Free, Fair and Peaceful Elections for national unity
- o The electorate's vote give them the power to choose their leaders.

Pens: In addition to the foregoing, the department also produced 12,000 pens with education messages on:

- Vote Peacefully
- Be Tolerant
- Respect each other's views

Animation Series: With the sponsorship from UNDP, Ghana Government/NCCE and TV3 Air Cartoon Animation series on the theme *Tolerance* was produced in English and six Ghanaian languages, namely Hausa, Dagbani, Twi, Ewe, Ga and Nzema.

Audio CDs and Audio Cassettes: The Commission also produced messages on *Tolerance*, on forty (40) audio CDs and audio cassettes for broadcast on radio in English and the Ghanaian languages.

A3.2 Printing of Revised Edition of the Abridged Constitution and Car Stickers

Abridged Constitution of Ghana: The Protestant Development Services of Germany and the Presbyterian Church of Ghana assisted the Commission financially to produce ten thousand (10,000) copies of the revised edition of the Abridged Constitution. Another 150,000 copies of the same booklet were printed with the financial assistance from the Royal Netherlands Embassy, and with funds from Government of Ghana (GOG) source another 30,000 copies of the Abridged Constitution of Ghana were printed.

Car Stickers on Duties of a Citizen: The Commission also highlighted on the Duties of a Citizen as enshrined in the 1992 Republican Constitution in the form of car stickers. Five different types of car stickers each carrying a specific message on the Duties of a Citizen were printed. The posters are:

- It is the duty of every citizen: to respect the rights, freedoms and legitimate interest of others.
- It is the duty of every citizen: to work conscientiously in his lawfully chosen occupation.
- It is the duty of every citizen: to promote the prestige and good name of Ghana.
- It is the duty of every citizen: to contribute to the well being of the community in which that citizen lives.
- Our Constitution protects our freedom and justice.

A total print run of 30,000 car stickers were produced in April 2004 with financial assistance from United Nation's Development Programme (UNDP) through the National Governance Programme (NGP).

A4 Public Affairs

The Public Affairs Department exists to provide a vital link between the Commission and its various publics. By ensuring deliberately planned and systematic communication from the Commission to its various publics, it seeks to encourage every single member of staff to make a conscious effort to help in building a good corporate image for the Commission. The Department enhances the corporate image of the Commission and its relations between the commission's internal and external publics. Among the principal tools used by the Commission in the year were the Calendar and Radio/TV programmes

A4.1 NCCE Calendar

The one-leaf calendar on a 30cm x 60cm art card was captioned *Tolerance for Peaceful Election*. It showed people from different walks of life, men and women alike carrying aloft Ghana. Some of the personalities carried in his hands the flag of Ghana. At the background is the Independence Arch with the rising Sun. The Calendar carried the message that with tolerance among citizens the nation can be raised high among the comity of nations. The rising sun in the background signified the dawn of a new era for the country.

A4.2 Radio/TV Programmes

The use of the electronic media for disseminating civic education messages remains one of the most effective and efficient means of conducting civic education in terms of coverage. This method was utilized extensively by all regions.

A4.2.1 Ashanti Region

The regional office and Kumasi Metropolitan Office continued to utilize the 30-minutes slot (9:30 am – 10:00 a.m.) provided by *Garden City Radio FM* (92.1 MHz). Officers who featured on the programme included Edward Nti Berko, Kumasi Metropolitan Director and P.H. Mensah, Deputy Regional Director. Among topics discussed were National Integration and Tolerance, Child Labour and Child Care and Protection.

The Office also utilized a public address system of the KMA located at Kejetia Bus Terminal in Kumasi for the purpose of civic/public education. Wednesdays and Fridays were the time to educate traders and travelers at the Kumasi Business Area. A snowball sampling revealed that many people (traders/travelers) got to know about the NCCE and topical issues like Duties of the Citizen and Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms through this medium of PAS located at Kejetia, courtesy KMA.

In Asante Akim North District, the Commission has a 30-minutes airtime on Fridays on *Virgin City Radio* (105.3). Topics that were treated on the programme included Citizenship, Directive Principles of State Policy, and the Concept of Democracy.

A4.2.2 Brong Ahafo Region

During the year under review, sixteen (16) radio programmes were undertaken on three (3) radio stations: *Radio BAR* (93.5), *Sky FM* (96.7) and *Space FM* (87.7), all in Sunyani. Topics treated included: Duties of a Citizen; Replacement of Voters

Register; and the Role of NCCE in Promoting Constitutional Democracy. Resource persons for the above-mentioned programme were the staff of Public Education Department at the Regional Office.

Three (3) radio programmes were executed in the second quarter to highlight activities earmarked for the celebration of the constitution week. Five (5) radio programmes were undertaken during the third quarter and were jointly executed by the Regional Office of the NCCE and the Brong Ahafo Regional Co-ordinating Council with sponsorship from Action Aid Ghana. The two new radio stations that offered their airwaves in this respect were *Classic FM* and *Nananoom FM* of Techiman and Goaso respectively. Resource persons for the programme were Messrs Kofi Adomah and Kwadwo Mensah both NCCE staff and Nat Dzade of the Regional Co-ordinating Council.

The Berekum office continued to benefit from the generosity of the two radio stations in the district, namely *Shalom FM* and *Chris FM*. The office runs a 30-minutes programme on Shalom FM on every Thursday. In Asunafo District, the office has a 30-minutes programme dubbed “NCCE Corner” on the two local FM stations, *Success FM* (90.9 MHz) and *Nananom FM* (92.5 MHz).

In the Jaman District, the Commission runs a one-hour programme dubbed ‘Omanba Pa’ on two of the local FM stations. The programme on *Omega FM* is aired on Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m., whilst that of *KISS FM* is on Friday, 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. In the Kintampo District, though the office does not have a spot on the *ADARS FM*, it however regularly featured on the station. A total of 79 programmes were carried out on the network.

A4.2.3 Central Region

There are two districts in the region where the FM facility are available, Cape Coast Municipality and Effutu-Awutu-Senya district. The Winneba Office features on *Windy Bay FM* and *Radio Peace*. These stations were most helpful during national exercises such as the Voter Registration. It is regrettable that lack of sponsorship makes it impossible for the Commission to have spots of the station.

The Cape Coast Municipal Office had 14 programmes on the four radio stations in the municipality, namely, *Radio Central*, *ATL*, *Valco* and *YES FM* Stations. From March 2004 the management of *YES FM*, a new radio station in the municipality, offered a 45-minutes spot (Mondays and Thursdays between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m) for the discussion of topical issues and the 1992 Fourth Republican Constitution. Listeners are most of the time encouraged to make phone-in calls either to ask questions or contribute to the discussions.

A4.2.3 Eastern Region

Out of the 15 districts, FM Stations are found in 10. The office however had access to the use of radio in only three districts namely *Eastern FM* (105.1 MHz), *Sunrise FM* (106.1 MHz) in New Juaben District, and *Life FM* (98.7 MHz) in Kwahu South. The office does not have a spot on any of the stations but officers serve as resource persons for programmes organized by the stations. The office continues to explore ways to get the stations to give the office spots for running planned programmes.

A4.2.4 Greater Accra Region

The Regional Director, Mrs Doris Archampong, featured a number of times on talk shows on *Happy FM (98.9 MHz)*, *Unique FM (97.5 MHz)*, *Radio Gold (90.5MHz)*, *Peace (104.3 MHz)*, and *TV Africa*. The Commission has been given a one hour spot on *Obonu FM (96.5 MHz)*. The programme is aired on Wednesdays from 11:00 a.m. to 12: p.m. Eric Bortey, the Accra Metropolitan Area Director, is the regular resource person on the talk-show during which he educates listeners in the metropolis on the 1992 Republican Constitution and other topical issues. Among issues dealt with in the period were: Environmental Cleanliness, Sovereignty of the People, and Fundamental Rights and Freedoms of the Citizen..

A4.2.5 Northern Region

In the last quarter of the year, the regional office bought a 45-minutes airtime on *Diamond FM*. The interactive discussions dubbed “Youth in Politics” were held in English with its Dagbani version “Maligu Saha” under the theme *The Role of Various Stakeholders in Attaining Peaceful, Free and Fair Elections in December 2004 in the Northern Region*. Staff of the NCCE, including Abass Bawa, Yakubu Alhassan, Alhassan Mohammed, Salifu Fuseini, Iddrisu Samawilu and Callistus Zaabaar, served as resource persons for the series.

The region continued to run a one hour programme (8.30 a.m. – 9.30 a.m.) dubbed ‘Ti Gbib Taba’ on *Simili Radio*, a community radio station run by the Ghanaian–Danish Community Project (GDGP) at Dalun in the Tolon-Kumbungu District. The programme is often hooked to Savanna Radio in Tamale, whose coverage covers districts in the eastern corridor of the Northern Region, namely Saboba-Chereponi, Zabzugu-Tatale, Nanumba, Yendi, and East Gonja districts. The regional director, Issah Nasagri, appeared on a regular 30-minute programme on which discussions are held on constitutional issues as well as topical issues of the day.

A4.2.6 Upper West Region

The regional office continued to carry out its 30-minute programme “Time with NCCE” on *Radio Progress* on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 4:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The programme runs in English, Dagaare, and Sisiali. Topical issues discussed on the programme included: Elopement, Domestic Violence, Child Diligence, Drug Abuse, Voting and Electioneering Campaigns, HIV/AIDS, Duties of the Police and Public Order Act.

A4.2.7 Volta Region

The Regional/Ho District Offices of the Commission continued to run a 30-minutes spot (9:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.) on *Volta Premier FM (98.1 MHz)*. The programme focused on topical issues of the day as well as other vital constitutional issues.

A4.2.8 Western Region

The Regional Office had regular presentations on *Goodnews FM*, *Radio Maxx* and other radio stations. With the sponsorship of Rising Enterprise, the sole agent of Nsawam Foam Products in the Western Region, the office ran a daily one hour “Constitution Matters” on *Goodnews FM (96.3 MHz)*. A 30-minutes “Time with NCCE” ran on *Radio Maxx FM (105.1 MHz)* on Wednesdays and Fridays from 8:30 a.m.– 9:00 a.m. A 30-minutes programme *Obi Nyinm a, Obi Kyere* ran on *Spice Radio (91.9 MHz)* on Thursdays. On *ROK FM (98.9 MHz)*, the Commission does a

programme “Moving Ghana Forward” which runs for one hour (2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.) on Wednesdays and Fridays. A one-hour programme (4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.) titled “Suomu Yie” runs on the *Twin City Radio* (94.7 FM). The Commission has also featured on *KYZZ FM* (89.7 MHz) and *SKYY Power FM* (93.5 MHz) and TV.

The programmes extensively dealt with various aspects of the 1992 Constitution. Other civic issues dealt with included Maintaining a Clean Environment, Enhancing the Culture of Peace through Social Accommodation, Socio-Economic development system, National Integration through Tolerance, Environmental Protection, Proper Documentation Procedure for line of Succession, Conflicts and Disputes, out of court settlement of cases and using dialogue.

Efforts by the Commission to extend coverage have not been successful in view of demands for payment.

SECTION B

Finance and Administration

The Finance and Administration Division of the NCCE covers the Administration and Finance Department of the Commission. The Administration Section is made up of Personnel, Administration and Archival and Library Services units, while the Finance Section is made up of the Accounts and Budget Unit, Stores and Estates units. 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

On December 1, 2003 His Excellency, President John Agyekum Kufuor, appointed Mrs. Augustina Akosua Akumanyi as Deputy Chairman for the Commission to fill one of two positions that had remained vacant since the resignation in 1997 of Mrs Sussana Adams to take up a seat in Parliament and the revocation of the appointment of Dr. J.E. Opong following the recommendations of a Committee of Enquiry chaired by Mr. Justice George Acquah. Mrs. Augustina Akosua Akumanyi was inducted into office on Monday, January 19, 2004.

At the end of the year, the Deputy Chairman in charge of Finance and Administration, Ms. Doris Ocansey, retired from the Commission having attained the Government compulsory retiring age of 65.

With Ms. Ocansey's retirement, the statutory number of seven for the Commission had once more been reduced to five. Section 11 of Act 452 provides for a quorum of four for meetings of the Commission. With only five members the chances of the Commission not being able to discharge its business are so high with the absence of two of its members at any time. The strain that such situations exert on remaining members is so immense. The Commission therefore once again takes this opportunity to humbly urge the Executive to initiate moves to fill the two vacancies so as to give the Commission its full complement of members.

B1.2 Personnel Matters

B1.2.1 Staff Strength and Turnover

The staff strength of the Commission at the end of the year stood at 1,377. The breakdown was as follows:

Head Office	99
Greater Accra	92
Eastern	173
Volta	140
Central	139
Western	125
Ashanti	170
Brong Ahafo	141
Northern	142
Upper West	72
Upper East	84

During the year a total of 58 appointments were made consisting of 14 senior officers and 44 junior officers.

B1.3 Staff Welfare

B1.3.1 Staff Provident Fund

The Staff Provident Fund initiated by the Commission in January 2004 with 1,229 members became firmly instituted during the year. Staff members who had earlier withdrawn from the scheme began to rejoin the scheme. Membership at the end of December 2004 had risen to 1,289. On Tuesday, October 12, 2004, Donewell Insurance, administrators of the NCCE Provident Fund, made its first payment to beneficiaries of the Fund at the Boardroom of the NCCE. This was to the Estate of four deceased staff and two retirees. The Estate of the four deceased persons got a total of ₵10.654 million, whilst the two retirees received a total of ₵1.630 million. The cheque for ₵12.284 million for the six staff was presented through the IMC Chairman of the Provident Fund, Kwame Opoku-Afriyie, Commission Member, by Mrs. Dowuona-Hammond, General Manager-Life, Donewell Insurance Company Limited (DICL).

B1.4 Capacity Building

B1.4.1 Workshop on NCCE Image Management

The workshop on NCCE Image Enhancement took place at Chances Hotel, Ho, from January 4 to 7, 2004. The workshop was a sequel to the NCCE Strategic Planning Workshop on Image Management held at Greenland Hotel, Agona Swedru, from November 6 to 7, 2003. At the Agona Swedru meeting, it was agreed that one of three major actions to be carried out after the workshop was for the NCCE to draw up an image chart of its internal and external publics to enable the

Commission to determine the varied perceptions of its image by its publics. The National Governance Programme (NGP) undertook to sponsor a meeting of regional directors, headquarters directors and the Executive to finalise the analysis on the publics.

The meeting at Ho was attended by the NCCE Chairman and Deputy Chairman (F&A), five departmental directors, and 10 regional directors, with Kojo Tito Voegborlo (Deputy Director for Research) as rapporteur. The workshop was opened by the Chairman of the NCCE, Laary Bimi, while Yaw Buaben Asamoah Deputy Co-ordinator of the NGP who represented the Co-ordinator of NGP Mrs. Leonora Kyeremanteng, was the guest of honour. There were two resource persons at the workshop: Prof. Kwasi Ansu-Kyeremeh, Director of School of Communication Studies who spoke on *Design of Appropriate Information Gathering Techniques for Assessing the Image of NCCE Among Stakeholders*, and Kafui Asem, former Public Affairs Manager, Ghana Commercial Bank, Head Office, Accra who spoke on *Strategies for Different Publics Towards NCCEs Image Enhancement*. Participants were divided into two groups to deliberate on various aspects of the presentation by resource persons.

Out of the working groups came the “Image Chart for the NCCE”. This addressed issues such as: Publics of the NCCE; Perceive image of Publics and reasons for that perception and strategies and programmes to address the image problem with time lie; the most cost-effective method of gathering information from the various publics on the Image of the NCCE; and the most important publics to be addressed immediately.

Another output of the discussion groups was the identification of the methods of communication within the Commission. Issues addressed included: the most suitable method for reaching the specified publics; classification of methods of communication; Rank and priority of NCCEs prioritize target population; Method of communication that the NCCE should use more frequently for efficient service delivery; and how working with the prioritize population can improve the Commission’s Image.

At the end of the workshop an Action Plan was drawn to implement the decisions.

B1.4.1 Website Management and Power Point Presentations

A five-day (June 21-25, 2004) training workshop on Website Management and Power Point Presentations was organised for Commission members, Directors, Deputy Directors, Regional Directors and some selected senior officers at the Headquarters. The workshop which took place at the Ghana-India Kofi Annan Centre of Excellence in ICT, Accra was funded by the National Governance Programme (NGP) and the United Nations Programme for Development (UNDP).

B1.4.3 Participation in 55th Annual New Year School

The 56th Annual New Year School was held at the Jubilee Hall, University of Ghana, Legon, from December 29, 2003 to January 4, 2004. The school was held on the theme *A Decade of Constitutional Rule in Ghana: Critical Issues Facing the Nation*. In all there were 204 registered participants out of whom 28 were from the NCCE.

The main activities of the School included a formal opening ceremony , a keynote address, three symposia, three lectures, a dialogue, eight study group sessions and three plenary sessions.

The School was formally opened by Justice George K. Acquah, the Chief Justice of Ghana, on December 30, 2003. The keynote address which centred on the theme of the school was delivered by Dr. Robert Aboagye-Mensah, Presiding Bishop, Methodist Church of Ghana. Topics treated under the lecture session included:

- The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPA): Prospects and Challenges by Francis Appiah.
- President's Special Initiatives (PSI) Catalysts for Growth, by Alan Kyerematen. Speakers at the two separate symposia held were:
- Parliament in the Fourth Republic: Lessons Learnt, by Malik-Alhassan Yakubu.
- Parliament in the Fourth Republic: Lessons Learnt, by Rex Owusu-Ansah.
- Elections 2004: Expectations - Preparations and Resources for 2004 Elections by Kwadwo Sarfo-Kantanka.
- Elections 2004: Expectations, by Kweku Sintim-Misa.

The topics for the dialogue were:

- National Health Insurance Programme, by S. A. Akor
- Viability of the National Health Insurance Scheme, by Yaw Oppong
- Press Freedom: What Limits, by Yaw Boadu-Ayeboafoh

Participants also joined one of the following study groups for extensive analysis and submitted reports reflective of the sub-themes:

- Wage and Salary Structure in Ghana - Setting the Pace for a National Debate
- Financing Education in Ghana
- 3. Ensuring Food Security in Ghana
- 4. Elections 2004: Expectations
- 5. National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS)
- 6. HIV/AIDS Counseling and Prevention Strategies
- 7. Community Driven Development (CDD) - Strategies for District Assemblies and NGOs
- 8. Youth and Entrepreneurial Skills Development for Employment Generation

The NCCE participants played active roles in the respective seminar groups with a number of them serving as rapporteurs.

Among the recommendations of the School which were of concern to the Commission are that "The government through its agencies like the NCCE and Information Services Department should conduct education and sensitization

programmes on the high cost of education and the need for cost-sharing”, and “ All stakeholders, particularly the NCCE, the Electoral Commission and political parties should educate the electorate to desist from all acts that have the potential to undermine the integrity of the electoral process.”

B1.4. 4 Participation in the Northern Easter School

The 2004 Northern Easter School was held at Tamale Training College, Tamale from April 2 to 6, 2004. The theme of the school was *A Decade of Constitutional Rule: Focus on Northern Ghana*. Topics discussed under the theme included:

- A decade of constitutional rule, promoting peace and development in Northern Ghana.
- Presidential Special Initiative (PSI).
- Strategy for ensuring food security and poverty reduction.
- National Health Insurance Scheme – Issues.

The NCCE was represented at the School by 10 officers drawn from the Northern, Upper East and Upper West Regions.

B1.5 Transport

The Transport Unit of the Commission is under the direct control of the Deputy Estate Director. During the year under discussion twenty-five (25) vehicles including one 33-Seater Staff Bus, were procured from Toyota (Gh) Ltd. by the Commission to augment her stock of vehicles most of which were over ten years old and were subsequently auctioned by a government agency on the strength of official directives.

On receipt of the new fleet of vehicles, some of the over-used road worthy vehicles were sent for general maintenance and in some cases for overhauling. This exercise was intended to increase the Commission’s vehicular stock. The distribution of the new vehicles was as follows:

1.	GT 3688 V - Prado	-	Headquarters
2.	GT 3684 V - Prado	-	Headquarters
3.	GT 6548 V - Corolla	-	Headquarters
4.	GT 6557 V - Condor	-	Headquarters
5.	GT 6561 V - Condor	-	Headquarters
6.	GT 6555 V - Condor	-	Headquarters
7.	GT 6568 V - Condor	-	Headquarters
8.	GT 6922 V - Condor	-	Headquarters
9.	GT 6550 V - Pick-Up	-	Headquarters
10.	GT 6560 V - Condor	-	Headquarters
11.	GW 3656 V Coaster Bus	-	Headquarters
12.	GT 6558 V - Condor	-	Ashanti Region
13.	GT 6552 V - Hilux	-	Ashanti Region

14.	GT 6327 V - Condor	-	Western Region
15.	GT 6554 V - Hilux	-	Western Region
16.	GT 6567 V - Condor	-	Volta Region
17.	GT 6566 V - Condor	-	Eastern Region
18.	GT 6559 V - Condor	-	Central Region
19.	GT 8889 V - Condor	-	Upper East Region
20.	GT 6562 V - Condor	-	Greater Accra Region
21.	GT 6549 V - Hilux	-	Greater Accra Region
22.	GT 9805 V - Condor	-	Upper West Region
23.	GT 8890 V - Condor	-	Brong Ahafo Region
24.	GT 6564 V - Condor	-	Northern Region
25.	GT 6551 V - Hilux	-	Northern Region

B1.6 Accommodation

The Commission continued to experience difficulties with office accommodation at all levels – national, regional and district. At the Commission’s head office, for example, the ability of Commissioners to hold a meeting is dependent on the goodwill of the Electoral Commission, which controls all the meeting rooms. In the regions and districts most NCCE offices continued to be located within the blocks of the Regional/District Administration, a situation which gives people the impression that the NCCE is part of the political administration. A few of these offices are however located in rented premises with their own peculiar problem.

The classical case of staff of the Tolon-Kumbungu NCCE District Office who were evicted from their rooms by the District Assembly on December 17, 2004 and the rooms renovated for use by a proposed rural bank gives an indication of the poor appreciation of civic education by our leaders generally. The District Office now operates from a dilapidated room in the District Assembly block without electricity.

B2 Finance

B2.0 Introduction

The Bank Balance as at January 1, 2004 were as follows:

Main Account (Admin)	18,509,134.51
Service Account (Prog)	35,637,306.11
Personnel Emoluments	372,440,919.00
Car Loan Account	74,288,978.97
GAR Fund	5,315,983.00
Dollar Account (\$38,837.15 @ ¢9,100)	345,173,326.00
NGP Account	42,514,036.00
	<u>893, 879, 684.11</u>

The bank balance includes the GAR, which is donor support from the Ghana AIDS Commission for special education on HIV/AIDS. The balance on the Dollar Account is a donation from the Netherlands Embassy towards the printing of the Abridged Constitution. The NGP balance on Account represents support toward the NCCE image building activities.

B2.1 Budget Estimates for Year 2004

The Ghana Government (GoG) approved budget for the Commission for the financial Year 2004 totaling ¢40,976,000,000 was made up as follows:

Personnel Emoluments	21,760,000,000
Administration	4,059,000,000
Service	8,273,000,000
Investment	6,884,000,000
Total	40,976,000,000

It is important to state that the tremendous increase in the 2004 budget estimates from ¢25,162,804,259 of 2003 to ¢40,976,000,000 of 2004 was mainly due to the fact that the year was an election year. The Government responded to public outcry for the Commission to be adequately resourced. Hence the more than 300 per cent increase in the service estimates. In the area of investments the Commission was given over 600 per cent increase over the previous year's to procure vehicles to replenish the old stock which was sold in 2001.

B2.2 Approved Budget and Releases

In the year under review, a budget of ¢40,976,000,000 was approved for the Commission. At the end of the year, however the Ministry of Finance's actual release came up to ¢36,872,679,255.68 which gives a shortfall of ¢4, 103,320,744. 32. The approved budget for year 2004 and amount released by GOG for same period is reflected below in a tabular form:

Item	Approved	Amount	Variance
	Budget	Released	
Personnel Emoluments	21,760,000,000	21,236,075,867.68	-523,924,132. 32
Administration	4,059,000,000	2,927,606,577.00	-1,131,393,423. 00
Service	8,273,000,000	6,035,999,997.00	-2,237,000,003.00
Investment	6,884,000,000	6,672,999,997.00	-211,000,003.00
Total	40,976,000,000	36,872,679,233.68	-4,103,317,561. 32

It could be inferred from the above that there was a shortfall of about ₵4.103billion (mainly from Administration and Service Funds) of the amount released, as against the approved budget.

The shortfall in Personnel Emolument created problems in respect of salary payments in the Commission during the year. The directive from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MOFEP) to pay allowances from Administration fund also caused a lot of dislocation in meeting the administration expenses.

Following a directive from the MOFEP to all MDAs that all utility bills be submitted to the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning the Commission complied, but the Commission in the cause of the year suffered from disconnection of utility services like electricity, water, and telephone because the agencies claimed no such settlements were being made by MOFEP. We do hope proper arrangements would be made with the utility providers on these issues to remove the embarrassing situations MDAs, like NCCE, had to face.

B2.3 Income and Expenditure for 2004

The Income and Expenditure during the year is based on only Government of Ghana (GoG) Funds. The figures as presented in a tabular form show that there was an excess expenditure of One Billion, One Hundred and Twenty-Nine Million, Five Hundred and Six Thousand, Eight Hundred and Thirty Cedis, Ninety-Two Pesewas (₵1,129,506,830.92).

Part of the excess Personnel Emolument Expenditure was funded by opening balances and transfer from Administration and Service Accounts. An amount of Five Hundred and Ninety-Six Million, Nine Hundred and Fifty-Seven Thousand, Nine Hundred and Eighty-Three Cedis, Nineteen Pesewas (₵596,957,983.19) being statutory deductions is still outstanding due to the non-release of funds.

Item	Total Income	Total Expenditure	Variance
Personnel Emoluments	21, 509,059,792.95	22,638,566,623.87	-1,129,506,830.92
Admin	2,929,150,500.84	2,921,962,880.92	-7,187,619.92
Service	6,035,999,997.00	5,779,325,931.08	256,674,065.92
Investment	6,672,996,814.00	6,672,996,814.00	—
<u>Donors/ Others</u>			
NGP Accounts	395,854,036.00	395,854,036.00	—
GAR Fund	37,315,983.00	32,000,000.00	5,315,983.00
Dollar Accounts	345,173,326.42	341,288,064.00	3,885,262.20
Car Loan Accounts	98,589,941.27	75,743,500.00	22,846,441.20
USAID	56,175,000.00	56,175,000.00	—
Total	<u>38,074,999,408.48</u>	<u>38,913,912,850.07</u>	<u>-847,972,698.50</u>

The above figures indicate the various donor supports totalling One Billion, One Hundred and Fifty-Four Million, Six Hundred and Thirty-Seven Thousand, Five Hundred Cedis (¢1,154,637,500) during the year under consideration towards the Commission's programmes and activities which enhanced its core business.

B2.4 Donor Funding

The Commission, in the year under review, benefited from a number of Donor support for various programmes.

Donor	Programme	Value (¢)
GAR Fund	Ghana AIDS Commission	77,537,500
National Governance Programme (NGP-UNDP)	Supply of Office Equipment	43,000,000
Netherlands Embassy	Printing of Abridged Constitution	340,100,00
Total		1,154,637,500

B2.5 Closing Bank Balances

The total Bank Balance at the close of the year on December 31, 2004 stood at Seven Hundred and Seventy-Nine Million, Eight Hundred and Thirty- Nine Thousand, Nine Hundred and Sixteen Cedis, Seventy-Seven Pesewas (¢779,839,916.77) with the details as follows:

Item	¢
Personnel Emoluments	589,892,031.41
Administration	25,696,754.43
Service	132,203,443.24
Dollar Accounts	3,885,262.42
Car Loan Account	22,846,441.27
GAR Fund	5,315,983.00
Total	<u>779,839,916.77</u>

The above balances of the Commission are kept at Bank of Ghana.

Note: The income on Personnel Emolument was part of Service funds transferred to PE accounts as a precautionary measure for further non-release of funds. However, the balance was used for Service activities on receipts of part of PE funds.

SECTION C

Conclusion and Recommendations

C1 Conclusion

The year under review was eventful not only for the Commission but the country as a whole. The country witnessed a very successful election. Indeed the third since 1992, thus indicating a gradual consolidation of our constitutional democracy. The elections witnessed a high turnout of 85.1 per cent one of the highest ever recorded in the country's political history. The NCCE prides itself on contributing to attaining that feat, albeit in the face of great constraints in respect of logistical and financial resources.

The Commission, with offices throughout the country and with a group of dedicated staff, remains the best institution to effectively carry out an all- embracing civic education of the population. The Commission also creates awareness of the principles of constitutional rule for participation in the governance of the country and helping to achieve attitudinal change which is most crucial in raising the country from its current low income status to that of a middle-income country by the year 2015.

The Commission, therefore, renews its call for increased funding from the Central Government to enable it to carry out its mandate and vision.

C2 Recommendations

- The President is urged to fill the two vacancies created by the resignation of a member and the removal from office of a Deputy Chairman.
- The NCCE should be supported with enough funds to enable it to optimally perform its role in raising citizens' awareness of Constitutional and civic issues to help bring about attitudinal change which is crucial for rapid national development.
- The Ghana Education Service should take firm steps towards the re-introduction of teaching of *Civics for Democracy* as a subject in the first and second cycle schools.

- The Electoral Commission and NCCE must collaborate to intensify voter education, especially in the area of HOW TO VOTE in order to reduce the high incidence of ballot rejection at elections.
- Political leaders should uphold the principle of representation of the people and allow the electoral process to determine the real choice of the people.
- The inordinate desire *to win-at-all-cost phenomenon* should be condemned in no uncertain terms.
- A polling period of 6.00 a.m.-4.00 p.m. (instead of the 7.00 a.m.-5.00 p.m.) should be considered to take account of threats to peace and problems created by nightfall in counting and collation of ballots during elections.
- Parliament should prevail upon the Ministry of Finance to attach greater importance to the investment budget of the Commission with the view to addressing the serious accommodation and vehicular problems confronting the Commission.
- The Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning should be urged to provide enough funding for the Commission to enable it to continue with the Annual National Constitution Week Celebrations which is facing funding problems after the end of the Ford Foundation sponsorship in this year.
- The political parties should be prevailed upon to educate their members to cultivate and adopt tolerance as a way of conducting multi-party politics in a democracy.
- District Assemblies and Civil Society Organizations which invite NCCE personnel to assist them in their work as facilitators, resource persons and committee members should be made to acknowledge the roles played by the NCCE staff.



April 28, 2004: Mr. Larry Bimi, Chairman of the NCCE, addressing the launch of the Fourth Annual National Constitution Week at the Accra International Conference Centre, Accra.



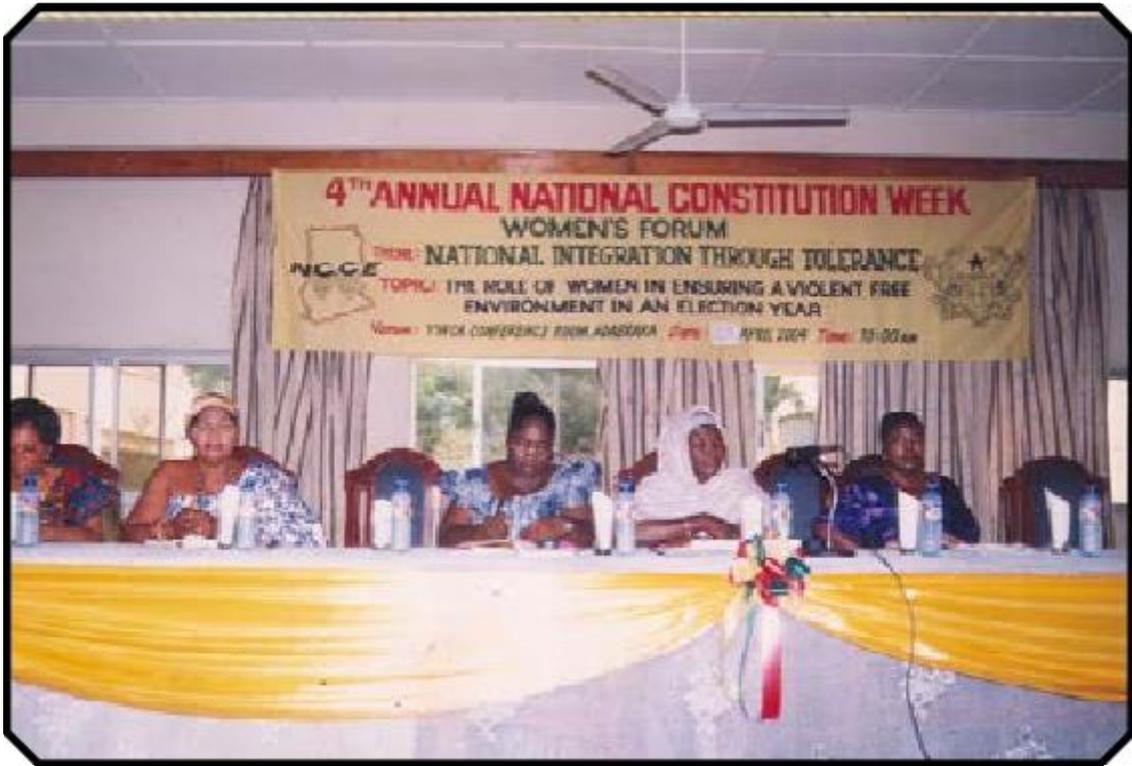
A cross-section of dignitaries seated at the launch of the Fourth Annual National Constitution Week at the Accra International Conference Centre, Accra.



A cross-section of dignitaries seated during the launch of the Fourth Annual National Constitution Week at the Accra International Conference Centre, Accra.



Mr. Justice George K. Acquah, Chief Justice of Ghana, making his presentation to one of the competing schools in the Ghana Constitution Game competition.



The high table at the Women's Forum held at the YMCA Conference Room, Adabraka-Accra, on April 24, 2004.



A section of women who were at the Women's Forum held at the YMCA Conference Room, Adabraka-Accra, on April 24, 2004.



The 2004 National Championship of the Ghana Constitution Game in session.



Some participants in the 2004 National Championship of the Ghana Constitution Game on tour of the NCCE HQ.



Some participants in the 2004 National Championship of the Ghana Constitution Game on tour of the Eastern Naval Command in Tema.



Some participants in the 2004 National Championship of the Ghana Constitution Game on tour of the Eastern Naval Command in Tema.



The panel of Judges at the 2004 Inter-University Debate.



A debater making her presentation at the 2004 Inter-University Debate.



Teaching of the Ghana Constitution Game at the Liberation Barracks in Sunyani.



A group picture of NCCE officials and soldiers who took part in the training in the playing of the Ghana Constitution Game.