

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

**REPORT OF THE SPECIAL BUDGET COMMITTEE ON THE 2008 BUDGET
ESTIMATES OF THE COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND
ADMINISTRATIVE JUSTICE (CHRAJ)**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The 2008 Annual Estimates of the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) was referred to the Special Budget Committee for consideration and report in accordance with the 1992 Constitution and Standing Orders of the House. This was after the presentation of the Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government for the year ending 31st December 2008, on 15th November 2007, by the Honorable Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, Kwadwo Baah Wiredu. The Committee met with the Commissioner of CHRAJ, Ms. Anna Bossman, and technical teams from both the Commission and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MOFEP) and reports as follows:

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Reference Documents

In the performance of its assigned duties, the Committee availed itself of the following documents:

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

2.2 Aims and Objectives of the CHRAJ

The Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) is created by the Constitution to achieve the goal of enhancing good governance by protecting, promoting and enforcing fundamental freedoms for all people in Ghana. These aims are to be achieved through:

- I. The effective promotion of a culture of respect for other people's rights by society;

- II. Providing oversight guidance in administrative justice to ensure fairness, transparency, efficiency and the application of best practice.

The prime objectives through which CHRAJ intends to achieve its set goals include the following:

- I. To protect and promote human rights freedoms and administrative justice at all levels of society especially the vulnerable and excluded;
- II. To initiate the development of an effective legal framework for an effective delivery of service.
- III. To combat corruption and promote integrity through an effective public awareness creation
- IV. To investigate complaints of violation of Fundamental Human Rights and Administrative injustice and corruption in whatever form

3.0 2007 IN RETROSPECT

- I. The Committee was informed that during the year in retrospect, CHRAJ with the support of donors, was able to resource its Public Education Department. The Commission, charged with the task of educating the populace on human rights and freedoms, was also able to research and present a report on the State of Human Rights in Ghana. In addition to this the Commission was able to organize a training workshop to integrate child labour monitoring activities into the Commission's operations, organize a symposium in collaboration with other relevant NGOs on International Women's Day, and further organized Sign Language training for CHRAJ staff with the aim of extending the human rights culture to people with hearing and speech difficulties.
- II. The Commission's Anti-Corruption Department was able to organize training on ethics management and conflict of interest guidelines for some senior public servants, Members of Parliament and Civil Society Organizations. This training is on-going. In addition to this a comprehensive national campaign against corruption was embarked on by the Commission with a number of investigations conducted into the affairs of various high-ranking and senior public officials.
- III. Further to the above CHRAJ, in 2007 was able to perform the following investment activities:
 - Put up a new bungalow for the Deputy Commissioner;
 - Renovate Eastern, Greater Accra and Upper West Regional Offices, including those at Lawra, Nadawli, Damango and Bimbilla;

- Purchase 2 cross country vehicles;
- Purchase 85 computers with accessories;
- Purchase 50 motor bikes for Regional and District Offices; and
- Purchase 30 table-top fridges for 30 district offices

The sum of GH¢56,518.89 which stands out as an arrears on the books of the Commission is earmarked for the purchase of 15 photocopiers for the Headquarters and Regional Offices and for 20 air conditioners for Regional and selected offices.

4.0 OUTLOOK FOR 2008

- I. The CHRAJ informed the Committee that it intends to undertake the following underlisted activities during 2008:
- Organize educational workshops, meetings and other fora targeted at religious and faith-based organizations to create awareness of conflict of interest and the evils of corruption. An amount of GH¢6,345.05 has been earmarked for this activity.
 - The Commission also intends to publish a Digest of corruption cases investigated. This activity is intended to sustain the exposure of corrupt activities and to promote a culture of anti-corruption
 - To monitor closely Human Rights situations in the country particularly during the 2008 election year
 - To enhance transparency and accountability in the state and non-state institutions
 - To enhance the ability of state institutions to combat economic crimes

5.0 THE 2008 BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE JUSTICE (CHRAJ)

To enable the Commission to carry out its programmes for 2008, a total amount of GH¢4,126,717.00 has been allocated to the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) to be disbursed as follows:

Personnel Emoluments	GH¢2,757,651.00
Administration Expenses	GH¢1,100,117.00
Service Expenses	GH ¢ 129,600.00
Investment Expenses	GH ¢ 139,349.00
TOTAL	<u>GH ¢4,126,717.00</u>

6.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

I. As has been stated several times already, the Committee re-iterates that like the other constitutionally established bodies, the core functions of the CHRAJ are service-focused and their Service line in the budget is much more multifaceted, more involving and essentially more pivotal than the service activities of Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs). Therefore, if there is a policy to effect an across-the-board decrease in service expenditure, such bodies and institutions as the CHRAJ, the primary functions of which are to provide services to the general public, may have to be reconsidered. In the circumstances therefore, the Committee recommends to the MOFEP to factor this when allocating funds to such institutions in order not to compromise the quality of services that they are constitutionally required to provide.

II. The 2008 allocation to the Commission of GH¢ 4,126,717, juxtaposed with the 2007 figure of GH¢ 3,573,900 represent an upward adjustment of GH¢ 552,817 or an increase of 13.4% over the 2007 allocation but still represent a shortfall of GH¢ 449,927.01 in respect of actual request by the Commission. Whilst the Committee concedes that the total resources in the national basket is insufficient to meet all the needs of all MDAs, it is nonetheless important to stress the need for adequate and timeous funding to CHRAJ commensurate with the scope of their mandate and the level of performance standards required. If this is done it will enable CHRAJ to effectively play its strategic role thus partnering government to robustly advance human rights, administrative Justice, public integrity and good Governance.

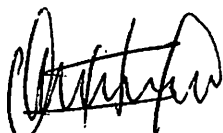
III. An amount of GH¢ 129,600 allocated to the Commission for service activities for year 2008 represents the same amount given in 2007. This is a reduction of the Commission's request of GH¢350,000 by about 70%. The amount constitutes a mere 3.14% of the entire allocation for 2008 and will certainly not position the CHRAJ to be able to fight corruption effectively.

IV The conditions of service of the Commissioners at CHRAJ need to be properly defined, determined and mainstreamed in order to check the rather high attrition of the Staff who are trained at great expense but end up leaving the Commission for greener pastures elsewhere.

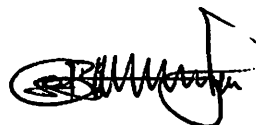
7.0 CONCLUSION

Without prejudice to the observations made above, the Committee recommends to the House, the approval of the sum of **GH ¢4,126,717** for the operations of the CHRAJ for the financial year ending 31st December 2008 and hopes that the recommendations it has made for the institution to be better resourced, would be taken into serious consideration by the Ministry responsible for Finance.

Respectfully submitted



**KOFI MENKAH
ASSISTANT CLERK**



**HON. OSEI KYEE-MENSAH-BONSU
VICE CHAIRMAN**

NOVEMBER, 2007