

PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA
11th November 2007

**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 ELECTORAL COMMISSION**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The 2008 Annual Estimates of the Electoral Commission was referred to the Special Budget Committee for consideration and report in accordance with the 1992 Constitution and Standing Orders of the House following 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 Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, Hon. Kwadwo Baah Wiredu. The Committee met with the Commissioner, Dr. Kwadwo Afari Djan, the Deputy Chairman, Mr. David A. Kangah and a technical team from the Commission and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MOFEP), and reports as follows:

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Reference Documents

In discharging its assigned duties, the Committee consulted 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 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 EC

The Electoral Commission is the constitutionally established body, the mandate of which is to deliver free, fair and transparent elections as a means of advancing the cause of democracy and good governance in Ghana. Through a professionally competent workforce that exhibits a high sense of individual and collective integrity, it hopes to continue executing this mandate, basically by, among other initiatives

- building trust and confidence in the electoral system
- treating all stakeholders in elections fairly, transparently and equitably
- establishing transparent and verifiable electoral processes
- educating the electorate about their rights and responsibilities as voters
- Compiling and maintaining a credible Voters Register.

- Conduction and supervision of all public Elections and Referenda
- Education of the people on the electoral process and its purpose

3.0 2007 IN RETROSPECT

During the year 2007, the Electoral Commission undertook the following projects:

I. Human Resource Capacity Building

The Committee was informed that, in fulfillment of the Commission's ten year strategic plan, and in pursuit of its mission, there was the need to develop competences for staff to enable them perform current and future jobs. To this end, the Commission undertook or facilitated the following human resource development programmes:

- ❖ Training of Managerial Staff in Post Graduate Diploma in Administration at GIMPA
- ❖ ICT training for all professional staff in the Electoral grade.
- ❖ Training in basics of electoral administration for two hundred Electoral Staff
- ❖ Upgrading of Twenty-two Typists to Stenographer grade.
- ❖ Training of Twenty-two Auto mechanics in basics of vehicle maintenance

II. Infrastructural Capacity Building

In an effort to fulfill the Commission's constitutional obligation of ensuring its presence in all Districts, and ensuring proper storage of election materials, the Commission completed the construction of twelve new District Offices. Construction of a Regional Office at Wa is also ongoing. In addition, works on the Greater Accra Regional Offices and a National Warehouse are ongoing.

III Representation of the Peoples Amendment Act (ROPAA)

The Committee was informed that studies on the Representation of the Peoples Amendment Act (ROPAA) were carried out and consultation process that took the Commissioners to some parts of the World where External Voting is practiced were also conducted.

IV. By-Elections

Two constituency by-elections at Nkoranza South in the Brong-Ahafo Region and Fomena in the Ashanti Region were also conducted during that same financial year.

4.0 OUTLOOK FOR 2008

The Committee noted that 2008 would be a very busy year for the Commission. It is the year in which programmes towards the conduct of Presidential and Parliamentary Elections will be executed. In this regard, a road map of activities have been constructed by the Commission to ensure violence free and fair elections. Among activities to be carried out, are the following:

I. Review of Polling Stations

A review of polling stations in the Country will be carried out to respond to the effect of population dynamics on polling stations.

II. Revision of Voters Register

A review of the existing voters registers will be conducted to include those who have attained the age of eighteen years as well as those who have never registered. The Committee was informed that this exercise will be limited to the Electoral area level.

III. Exhibition of Voters Register

The Voters Registers will be exhibited throughout the country at the polling station level to enable all registered Ghanaians to verify for their names in the Register. This will also help the Commission to clean the register notably by deleting names of the dead from the Register to make the Register more credible.

IV. By-Elections

The Committee gathered that provisions have been made for any possible by-elections, at least two of such, be it Presidential or Parliamentary.

V. Representation of the Peoples Amendment Act (ROPAA)

The Committee was informed that consultations with some identifiable local bodies on the ROPAA will be continued. The objective is to enable the Commission to identify key issues in the implementation of the law with the view to instituting measures that will address them.

VI. Civic Advocacy

The Commission has programmed to deepen and increase public participation in governance by fostering civic advocacy to nurture the culture of democracy.

VII Standards for Parties

Recognizing that 2008 is a year of elections the stakes of which are very high for all players, the Commission has programmed to enforce legal, operational and financial standards for party organization.

VIII. Mainstreaming the Vulnerable and Excluded

Cognisant of the Persons with Disability Act the Commission has scheduled programmes which will facilitate the mainstreaming of concerns on issues of disability, gender, HIV/AIDs and the environment.

IX Creating the Environment to Attract Investors

A strategic imperative for the Electoral Commission is to undertake programmes that would improve the democratic culture to create an enabling environment to attract strategic investors. The Electoral Commission aims to pursue such programmes this year.

X. Infrastructural Development

Programmes earmarked for the 2008 financial year include the following key ones among others:

- Completion of the construction of Regional Office at Wa as well as the Complex to house the national stores and the Greater Accra Regional Office have been targeted for this 2008 financial year.
- The Construction of the Upper East Regional Office at Bolgatanga
- The Commission also intends expanding its ICT Infrastructure and procure vehicles and new Communication equipment made up of Radios and VPN Infrastructure for installation in all Regional and District Offices. The objective is to support the Commission's efforts at improving its efficiency in election delivery.

5.0 THE 2008 BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

To enable Electoral Commission to discharge its Constitutional mandate effectively as well as execute its election year programmes without let or hindrance a total amount of **GH ₵36,803,056.00** has been allocated to the electoral Commission to be disbursed as follows:

Personnel Emoluments	GH ₵ 4,468,014.00
Administration Expenses	GH ₵ 5,948,204.00
Service Expenses	GH₵ 18,893,917.00
Investment Expenses	GH ₵7,492,920.00
TOTAL	<u>GH ₵36,803,056.00</u>

6.0 OBSERVATIONS

The Committee observed that this year the EC's budget comprised two main components. The general budget to be expended on P.E, Administration, Services and Investment within the institution itself, and the '*Special Budget*' which is to cater strictly for election activities. For the combined programmes, the EC requested GH₵51,744,000.00, an amount which includes 15% contingency for a possible election

Run-off. The allocation to the EC totals GH ₵36,803,056.00 leaving a shortfall on the face of it as GH₵ 14,940,944. This figure is inclusive of the 15% contingency that the Commission has projected as the requirement for Presidential run-off. The MOFEP has assured the Electoral Commission and the Committee upon further discussion that the funds needed by the EC will be allocated to them during the year from the Contingency Fund to cover this need. The Committee is therefore satisfied that the Electoral Commission will be well-resourced for all its programmed activities for the year.

7.0 CONCLUSION

The Committee has considered the budget of the Electoral Commission noting the distinction between the normal operations and the "Special Budget" activities for this election year and is convinced and persuaded that adequate arrangements have been made by the MOFEP to ensure full resourcing of the Commission. The Committee therefore recommends to the House, the approval of the sum of GH ₵36,803,056.00 for the operations of the EC for the financial year ending 31st December 2008.

Respectfully submitted



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Osei Kyei Mensah Bonsu".

**HON. OSEI KYEI MENSAH BONSU
VICE CHAIRMAN**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kofi Menkah".

**KOFI MENKAH
ASSISTANT CLERK**

NOVEMBER 2007