

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH, SPORTS AND CULTURE ON**  
**THE SPORTS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2011**

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The Sports (Amendment) Bill, 2011 was laid before the House by the Minister for Youth and Sports, Hon. Clement Kofi Humado on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2011 and was subsequently referred to the Committee on Youth, Sports and Culture for consideration and report in accordance with Article 103(2) of the 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana and standing order No. 186 of the House.

**2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The two main laws currently regulating the management and organization of sports in Ghana are the Sports Act 1976 (S.M.C.D 54) and the Sports Regulation 1976 (L.I 1088).

Section 42 (a) and (b) of Sports Act 1976 (S.M.C.D 54) provide for the Minister of Sports to, by legislative instruments, make Regulations relating to the establishment, composition and functions of sports associations, whether national, international, regional or district, amateur or professional.

It also provides for the Minister to temporarily take-over the management of a sports association for the purpose of ensuring

proper and efficient management of the affairs of sports associations.

The above mentioned provisions are not consistent with Rule 28.9 of the International Olympic Committee Charter which seeks to secure and safeguard the autonomy of sports associations of member countries.

The conflicting nature of the IOC regulation and provisions of section 42 of Sports Act 1976 (S.M.C.D 54) contributed immensely to the conflicts within the Local Olympic Committee (LOC) which eventually led to the suspension of Ghana by the IOC on 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2011.

### **3.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS**

In considering the bill, the Committee made reference to the following documents:

1. The 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana
2. Standing Orders of the House
3. The Sports Act 1976 (S.M.C.D 54)
4. Sports Regulation 1976 (L.I 1088)

### **4.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee observed that the 2012 Olympic games is very close and Ghana's participation in the game is of high significance to government and sports loving Ghanaians.

The Committee therefore is of the view that amending section Section 42 (a) and (b) will be a practical demonstration of political will to free the administration of sports from perceived political interference.

It is also hoped that the amendments will serve as incentive for the lifting of the sanction imposed on Ghana by the IOC, whilst providing room for government to carefully speed-up the process of fine-tuning the proposed draft Sports Bill which is expected to bring our sports legal regime in line with the IOC Charter and other international sports legislations.

The Committee further observed that the allegations of political interference by the IOC leading to the suspension of Ghana was a big blow to the pride, dignity and honour won for Ghanaians by the Ghana Black Stars at the 2010 World Cup in South Africa as the announcement came not long after the sterling display of gallantry by our Stars in South Africa.

The Committee is therefore of the view that the passage of the bill would help Ghana to regain its enviable records and dignity in the world sports arena.

The Committee wishes to recommend to the Ministry of Youth and Sports to step-up its dialogue with the IOC in order to ensure that the efforts being made by government through these amendments would be adequate to guarantee the lifting of the suspension by the IOC.

## 5.0 CONCLUSION

Considering the importance of the passage of this bill to the smooth administration of sports in Ghana, couple with the need for local legislations to conform to existing Charters of international sports associations and the need to participate in the 2012 Olympic games, the Committee wishes to recommend to the House to adopt its report and pass the Sport (Amendment) Bill.

Respectfully submitted



**HON. S.M.E.K. ACKAH**  
**CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE**



**INUSAH MOHAMMED**  
**CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE**