

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

**REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL
HEALTH INSURANCE (AMENDMENT) BILL**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The National Health Insurance (Amendment) Bill was laid in the House on Friday 14th March 2008 and referred to the Finance Committee for consideration and report in accordance with the 1992 Constitution and the Standing Orders of the House.

To consider the Bill, the Committee met with the Minister of State at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, Hon. Dr. A. Akoto-Osei and officials from his Ministry reports as follows:

2.0 RATIONALE OF THE BILL

The object of this Bill is to exempt telephone handsets, including mobile or cellular phones and satellite phones from the imposition of the National Health Insurance Levy (NHIL).

3.0 CONTENT OF THE BILL

The Bill has only one Clause which seeks to amend the First Schedule by inserting after item 22 the following – telephone sets including mobile or cellular phones and satellite phones.

4.0 OBSERVATION

The Committee was informed that the Bill seeks to amend Part 1 of the National Health Insurance Act 2003 so as to exempt telephone handsets including mobile and satellite phones from the imposition of the NHIL.


The Committee was also informed that the decision to remove this tax on the telephone handsets is to make phones more accessible and affordable to the general public. It is also to provide the public greater access to the possession and use of telephones.

The Committee observed the exemption is to give impetus to the systematic programme of Government to improve telecommunication in the country.

5.0 CONCLUSION

After carefully considering the Bill, the Committee believes that the Bill is in the right direction and hence recommends that the House to adopt its report and pass the National Health Insurance (Amendment) Bill.

Respectfully submitted.



HON. NII ADU DAKU MANTE
CHAIRMAN



LOUIS YIADOM BOAKYE
FOR CLERK, FINANCE COMMITTEE

17th March 2008