
IN THE FIRST MEETING OF THE FOURTH
SESSION

OF THE THIRD PARLIAMENT

OF

THE FOURTH REPUBLIC OF GHANA

REPORT

OF

THE COMMITTEE ON SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION ON THE
PASSPORT AND TRAVEL CERTIFICATE
(FEES) (AMENDMENT) INSTRUMENT, 2003, LI 1736

FEBRUARY 2004

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Passport and Travel Certificate (Fees) (Amendment) Instrument, LI 17 2003 was laid before Parliament on 27th January 2004 and subsequently referred to the Committee on Subsidiary Legislation for consideration and Report pursuant to Article 11 (7) of the Constitution and Standing Order 166 (2) and (3) of the House.

2.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

In considering the referral the following documents were made available:

- The Passport and Travel Certificate (Fees) (Amendment) Instrument, 2003;
- The Passport and Travel Certificate Decree, 1967;
- The 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana; and
- The Standing Orders of Parliament

3.0 DELIBERATIONS

The Committee met on Tuesday, 3rd February 2004 to discuss the referral. Mr. Emmanuel Addy, Director of Passports and Mr. Francis Tsegah, Supervising Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs were in attendance at the invitation of the Committee.

The Committee is grateful to the officials of the Ministry for their attendance and input in its deliberations.

4.0 BACKGROUND

By virtue of section 17 of the Passport and Travel Certificates Decree, 1967, N.L.C.D. 155, the Minister responsible for Foreign Affairs may, by legislative instrument, make regulations prescribing --

- a) any matter or thing which is referred to in this Decree as prescribed;
- b) the form of any passport issued under this decree and the particulars to be contained therein;
- c) the conditions of the renewal of any such passport in addition to the payment of the fee required to be paid for such renewal;
- d) the form of the application for a travel certificate, the particulars to be contained therein, and the documents to accompany the application;
- e) the refusal in the absolute discretion of the Minister responsible of an application for a travel certificate;
- f) the conditions subject to which, in addition to the fees required to be paid by the applicant, a travel certificate is issued or renewed;
- g) the period of the validity of a travel certificate;
- h) the issue of a collective certificate in lieu of a separate passport or travel certificate in respect of parties of children under 18 years of age proceeding abroad;
- i) the conditions subject to which a collective certificate is issued; and
- j) any other matter or thing which the Minister responsible considers necessary of expedient for carrying into effect the provisions of this Decree.

5.0 OBSERVATIONS

5.1 Revision of Passport Processing and Issuing Fees.

5.1.1 The Committee observes that the L.I. 1736 seeks to repeal LI 1632, by revising the passport processing and issuing fees from Fifty Thousand Cedis (¢50,000) to One Hundred Thousand Cedis (¢100,000).

5.1.2 It Committee noted during its deliberations that it costs the nation Two Pounds, Forty-Five Pence (£2.45), which is approximately Forty Two Thousand Cedis (¢42,000) to procure the booklet for the issue of passports. This does not include administration and labour and cost of processing each passport.

5.1.3 The Committee also took note of the fact that, the current system of laminating the relevant pages of the passport, particularly the page containing the photographs, has to be replaced with a superior system, to accord with international standards and also prevent the possibility of forgery.

5.1.4 The Committee therefore considered the upward revision of the fees from ¢50,000 to ¢100,000 necessary and appropriate to enable the Passport Office meet the procurement and administrative expenses for producing and issuing of passports in an effective and more efficient manner.

5.2 Payment for the Replacement of lost Passports

5.2.1. The Committee also observed that the L.I.1736 makes provision for the replacement of lost passport at the cost of Five Hundred Thousand Cedis (¢500,000) to be borne by complainants.

5.2.2. The Committee was of the considered view that this would deter significantly a large number of citizens who fraudulently make applications for replacement of alleged missing passports.

6.0 RECOMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

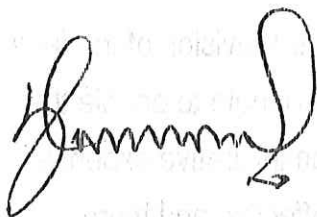
6.1 The Committee is of the view that the Passport Office needs to be able to recoup the administrative and operational costs incurred in processing and issuing the passports from the fees charged and therefore considers the above increases in the processing and replacement fees both reasonable and legitimate.

Accordingly, the Committee recommends that in accordance with the provisions of Article 11(7) of the 1992 Constitution, this House allows the Passport And Travel Certificate (Fees) (Amendment) Instrument 2003, L.I. 1736 to pass with the effluxion of time

Respectfully submitted.



**Hon. Francis Agbotse
Chairman, Committee on
Subsidiary Legislation**



**Mr. Ebenezer Ahumah Djietror
Clerk, Committee on
Subsidiary Legislation**