

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

PARLIAMENT OF GHANA LIBRARY

**REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON
ROADS AND TRANSPORT FOR THE
RATIFICATION OF THE STATUTES OF THE
TRANS-AFRICAN HIGHWAY BUREAU (TAHB)**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The statutes of the Trans-African Highway Bureau (TAHB) were laid in the House on Tuesday, 4th July, 2000 in accordance with Article 75(2) of the 1992 Constitution and was referred to the Select Committee on Roads and Transport for consideration and report pursuant to Order 181 of the Standing Orders of the House.

2.0 REFERENCES

- 2.1** (i) The 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana; and
(ii) The Standing Orders of the House

2.2 The Committee met with the Minister of Roads and Transport, Hon. Edward Salia along with the two Deputy Ministers and officials of the Ministry. The Committee expresses its gratitude to them for their co-operation.

Acc No : 3111

Class No : CR/TAHB/00

3.0 BACKGROUND

On the strength of Article 75(I) of the 1992 Constitution, the statutes were signed by the Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications (**who was authorised by a letter of accreditation**) on behalf of the Republic of Ghana during the Conference of African Ministers on Maritime Transport held in December, 1993 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The statutes were signed against the background of the efforts by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) to facilitate inter-country travel and trade in Africa as well as the benefits that Ghana stands to enjoy.

4.0 OBJECT OF THE STATUTES

The statutes seek to establish a single bureau in Addis Ababa that would fully co-ordinate plans and programmes formulated at the sub-regional levels into a current continental network.

There are currently in operation seven Trans African Highway Bureaux which often work across purpose and also require member states to pay double membership dues. These are:

- (i) Algiers-Lagos Trans-African Highway
- (ii) Tripoli-Windhock Trans-Central African Highway
- (iii) Dakar-N'djamena Trans-Sahelian Highway

- (iv) Beira-Lobito South African Highway
- (v) Rabat-Cairo Trans-African Highway
- (vi) N'djamena-Massawa-Djibouti Trans-African Highway; and
- (vii) Lagos-Nouakchott-Tangiers Axis.

The statutes also aim at providing effective and dynamic servicing of the activities of Trans-African Highway Authorities and Co-ordinating Committees as well as help reduce operational cost borne by member states.

5.0 OBSERVATIONS

5.1 Functions of the Bureau

Among others, the Bureau shall be responsible for the following:

- ◆ establishment of unified standards for research, programming, construction and maintenance of highway infrastructure.
- ◆ promotion of national manpower training in road transport including the development and strengthening of sub-regional and regional highway training institutes;
- ◆ harmonisation of traffic rules, regulations and procedures;
- and

- ◆ establishment of information systems including the African Road Data Bank.

5.2 Organs responsible for the development of the Trans-African Highways

The statutes provide for the following in Articles 6-12 as principal organs of the Bureau:

- ◆ Conference of Ministers: This organ would consist of Ministers responsible for the Trans-African Highways of member states of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Executive Secretary of the ECA and the Secretary-General of the OAU. It would be the supreme organ of the Bureau and shall have the overall responsibility for the formulation of policies for the Bureau and adoption of such measures as it deems appropriate to fulfil the aims and objectives of the Bureau.
- ◆ Support Council: This is an organ of the Conference of Ministers, responsible for ensuring financial support to the Bureau and would be composed as follows:

Ambassadors of member states accredited to Addis Ababa or duly mandated representatives of member states which

have ratified the statutes; the Executive Secretary of ECA and the Secretary-General of the OAU or their representatives; and representatives of donor and specialised international organisations.

- ◆ **Technical Committee**: This Committee will be empowered to recommend a three-year policy programme and budget for the Bureau. It will also review and recommend progress report of the Bureau for each programme period as well as perform any other task that may be entrusted to it by the Conference of Ministers. The Technical Committee shall consist of representatives of member states that have ratified the statutes; a co-ordinator to be appointed by the Conference of Ministers; and representatives of the Trans-African Highway Authorities.
- ◆ The statutes also provide that the co-ordinating office of the TAHB, which will be headed by the Co-ordinator, shall be the principal secretariat and the executive organ of the Conference of Ministers and the Trans-African Highway Authorities.

5.3 Resources of the Bureau

Articles 16 and 17 provide that funding of the Bureau's programme of work as shall be determined by the Conference of Ministers shall be the responsibility of member states. Grants and legacy from bilateral and multilateral donors would also be a source of funding.

5.4 Settlement of Disputes

It is also provided in Article 22 that in the event of any dispute resulting from the application or interpretation of any provision of these statutes, diplomatic means of settlement shall be adopted. Failing that, it shall be submitted to an arbitration tribunal comprising two judges, each of whom shall represent a state party to the dispute and a representative appointed by the Executive Secretary of the ECA with the consent of both parties.

5.5 Amendments and Dissolution

The statutes provide in Article 23 that a decision to amend the statutes shall be taken by two-thirds of the members of the Conference of Ministers. Dissolution of the Bureau on the other hand requires three-quarters of members of the Conference of Ministers,

which shall establish a Committee for the orderly liquidation of assets and liabilities of the Bureau.

5.6 Benefits

The Committee finally observed that Ghana's portions of the Trans-African Highway consist of the Aflao-Elubo Highway which connects the Trans-West African Highway and the Accra-Paga Highway which inter-connects the Sahelian Highway. Ghana stands to benefit from the Trans-African Highways in terms of the development of her economic potentials and trade relations with African countries as well as the physical integration of the sub-region which is the dream of our leaders. But these benefits can be fully reaped when our portions of the highway is put in good condition. In this regard, the Committee noted that the Government is pursuing a programme to uplift the country's portions of the highway to the required standards. The Tema-Sogakope road is scheduled for reconstruction with funding from KFW whilst funding is still being sourced for the Sogakope-Aflao road. Reconstruction of the Accra-Yamoransa Junction road is to commence by the end of this year with funding from JBIC; Takoradi-Agona Junction is to be reconstructed

into a dual-carriage way with the support of DANIDA whilst funding is being sourced for the Agona Junction-Elubo portion.

The Committee also noted that reconstruction of some portions of the Accra-Paga road have been completed. Portions for which funding have been secured are: Kwame Nkrumah Circle-Achimota; Achimota-Anyinam; Anyinam-Kumasi. Funding is being sourced for Kumasi-Techiman; Techiman-Kintampo and Navrongo-Tumu-Kupulima. Major portions of the Kintampo-Tamale road have been reconstructed with Government of Ghana funds.

6.0 CONCLUSION

The Committee noted that the statutes constitute a framework for the integration of the road transport infrastructure and services of African countries. Furthermore, when ratified by member states, the statutes would enhance the physical integration of the continent, the development of better relations and economic co-operation among African countries.

Above all, the Committee observed that the Statutes are consistent with the spirit and letter of the 1992 Constitution and therefore recommends that the Statutes of the Trans-African Highway

Bureau (TAHB) be ratified by the House in accordance with Article 75(2)(b) of the Constitution.

Respectfully submitted.



**HON. DOMINIC A. AZUMAH
CHAIRMAN**



**EMMANUEL K. ANYIMADU
CLERK**

25TH JULY, 2000