

IN THE THIRD SESSION OF THE SEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF THE
FOURTH REPUBLIC OF GHANA



REPORT

of the

COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE AND INTERIOR

on the

DETERMINATION OF URGENCY OR OTHERWISE OF THE SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES BILL, 2020

JUNE, 2020

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**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE AND INTERIOR ON THE
DETERMINATION OF URGENCY OR OTHERWISE OF THE SECURITY
AND INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES BILL, 2020**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Security and Intelligence Agencies Bill, 2020 was laid in Parliament by the Hon. Majority Leader and Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Mr. Osei-Kyei-Mensah Bonsu on behalf of the Hon. Minister responsible for National Security on Tuesday, 7th July, 2020 in accordance with Article 106 of the 1992 Constitution.

The Hon. First Deputy Speaker referred the Bill to the Committee on Defence and Interior for consideration and report pursuant to Article 106 of the Constitution and Order 158 of the Standing Orders of the House.

Following the debate as to whether the Bill should be treated under a certificate of urgency, the Hon. First Deputy Speaker directed the Committee to determine the urgency or otherwise of the Bill in accordance with Article 106(13) of the Constitution and Order 119 of the Standing Orders of the House.

2.0 DELIBERATIONS

The Committee met with the Hon. Minister responsible for National Security, Mr. Kan Dapaah, the Chief Director, Lt. Col Ababio Serebour and some officials of the Ministry of National Security to discuss the urgency or otherwise of the Bill.

The Committee is grateful to the Hon. Minister and the officials of the Ministry of National Security for their attendance and for assisting the Committee.

3.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

The Committee referred to the following documents during the deliberations of the Committee:

- i. The 1992 Constitution of the Republic;
- ii. The Standing Orders of Parliament; and

iii. Security and Intelligence Agencies Bill, 2020.

4.0 OBSERVATIONS

The Committee made the following observations during its deliberations:

4.1 Urgency of the Bill

The Committee observed that the sub-region is under serious security threat. Ghana's contiguous countries have demonstrated enough evidence of terrorist threat within the sub-region. Consequently, Ghana has to strengthen and secure its borders and fashion out an appropriate legal architecture to deal with threat of terrorism and other security related matters in the sub-region. Besides, the Parliamentary calendar and other exigencies will not permit a timely passage of the Bill which is so critical to the security of the country.

The Committee has duly considered the urgency or otherwise of the Bill and determines, by unanimous decision, that the Bill is of an urgent nature and may be taken through all the stages of passage in one day in accordance with Article 106(13) of the Constitution and Order 119 of the Standing Orders of the House.

However, given the merit of the Bill and the need to engage as many stakeholders as possible, the Committee does not intend to have the Bill taken through all the stages of the passage in one day except to allow for the waiver of the 14-day gazette period before it is presented to the House for first reading

The Committee further took note of concerns raised by the Hon. Members of the Committee and has decided to deliberate on those issues during the consideration of the Bill.

4.2 Treatment of Bills as urgent

In accordance with Article 106(13) of the 1992 Constitution, and Orders 119 and 124 of the Standing Orders of Parliament, the Committee has determined and hereby certifies that the Bill is of an urgent nature and may be taken through all stages of passage in one day.

5.0 RECOMMENDATION AND CONCLUSION

The Committee recommends to the Ministry of National Security to take steps to Gazette the Bill in accordance with Order 124 of the Standing Orders of the House.

The Committee therefore, by consensus, recommends to the House to adopt this Report and to pass the Security and Intelligence Agencies Bill, 2020, in accordance with Article 106(13) of the 1992 Constitution and Order 119 of the Standing Orders of the House.

Respectfully submitted.



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HON. SETH KWAME ACHEAMPONG
(CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE)



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EDITH EDILYN ADJEI (MS)
(CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE)