

STATEMENT: THE ACCOMMODATION PROBLEMS OF THE GHANA
POLICE SERVICE AND ITS EFFECT ON POLICING

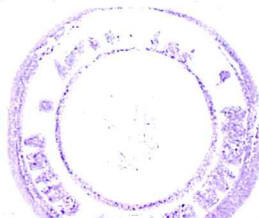
Mr Speaker, I rise to make this statement to shed light on the inadequacy of accommodation for personnel of the police service and to raise matters that ensue from the lack of adequate accommodation.

The Ghana police is mandated under article 200 of the 1992 Constitution of Ghana and the police service Act 350/1970, to perform the following:

- Protect the life and property
- Prevent and detect crime
- Apprehension and prosecution of offenders
- Preservation of peace and good order
- And Enforcement of all laws, acts, decrees with which it is directly charged.

To achieve these objectives, members of the service have to be well trained and highly motivated for this onerous job. However, a visit to most of our police barracks in the country leaves much to be desired. Accommodation for the officers is woefully inadequate and most of what exists are in bad shape. Some of them have never seen any serious renovation for a long time.

Mr. Speaker, this has come about as a result of low and inadequate budget allocation to the service over a very long period, indeed many decades. Ghana is endeavouring to meet the UN standard of five hundred (500) civilians per one (1) policeman. This has unfortunately



exacerbated the housing deficit in the service. Consequently many of its personnel are given the option to rent their own accommodation for which rent allowances are paid.

This situation has led to:

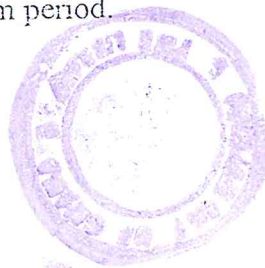
- Personnel mobilization problems
- Delay in their response time
- Ineffective supervision leading to indiscipline
- Extortion on the part of some police officers because of exorbitant rent deposits required of them.
- Increase in crime.

Personnel Mobilization – It always becomes difficult mobilizing personnel to undertake an assignment, as officers live in different locations, sometimes far between.

Delay in Response Time – Flowing out of difficult personnel mobilization also comes the delay in response time of the police to attend to emergency situations.

Mr Speaker, imagine the police calling out officers from Ablekuma, Adenta, Amamole to deal with an emergency situation in Accra, this would require considerable amount of time which would hamper their response time.

Ineffective Supervision: Mr. Speaker, renting of private accommodation after training has tempered with post depot training. Personnel fraternize with old civilian friends. Instead of the officer changing society with his new experience, the society rather unfortunately, often succeed in changing them. There is therefore the need to erect and renovate more barracks to at least groom these young officers to instil police culture and discipline in them for a specified minimum period.



One important aspect of the police services internal checks and balance is the role of Barrack Sergeant. The barrack sergeant is responsible to the officer in charge of the district for the cleanliness and sanitation of the barracks as well as all disciplinary roles enshrined in the Service instructions No. 114 of the service (Barracks Rules). The Effect of this role is lost on officers when they are allowed to rent their own places and are out of barracks.

Extortion by Officers: The initial deposit required to rent a room in the big cities alone can put strain on the finances of a young officer leading some of them to resort, rather unfortunately, to the extortion of monies from the general public.

Conclusion:

Mr. speaker I am of the view that private participation in the housing sector of the police will help alleviate this situation the police is a friend mandated to protect our lives and properties, let us join hands to ensure that they have a better living condition.

Thank you.