

REPUBLIC OF GHANA

FOURTH ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

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Submitted by:

NATIONAL AFRICAN PEER REVIEW MECHANISM

GOVERNING COUNCIL

PMB 13, Kanda, Accra-Ghana

Tel: +233 21 234563

Fax: +233 21 256167

Web: www.naprm-gc.com

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NOTE VERBALE

With reference to the reporting obligations of the APRM, Ghana hereby submits its National Report on Progress in the Implementation of the National Programme of Action. The National Governing Council agrees to the publication of the entire report on the APRM website

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution
AG	Auditor General
AGD	Attorney General's Department
APR	Annual Progress Report
APRM	African Peer Review Mechanism
ATM	Automated Teller Machine
AU	African Union
BOG	Bank of Ghana
CAGD	Controller and Accountant General's Department
CBO	Community-Based Organization
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CEPS	Customs, Excise and Preventive Service
CET	Common External Tariff
CHRAJ	Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CWSA	Community Water and Sanitation Agency
DAs	District Assemblies
DACF	District Assemblies Common Fund
DOVSSU	Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit
DSW	Department of Social Welfare
ETLS	ECOWAS Trade Liberalization Scheme
FCUBE	Free, Compulsory and Universal Basic Education
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GETFUND	Ghana Education Trust Fund
GIPSS	Ghana Interbank Payment and Settlement System
GIS	Ghana Immigration Service
GOG	Government of Ghana
GPRS II	Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy II
GSB	Ghana Standards Board
HIPC	Heavily Indebted Poor Countries
IAU	Internal Audit Unit
IGF	Internally-Generated Funds
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IRS	Internal Revenue Service
LAP	Land Administration Project
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals

MDRI	Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative
MoC	Ministry of Communication
MoE	Ministry of Energy
MoESS	Ministry of Education Science and Sports
MOFA	Ministry of Food and Agriculture
MOFEP	Ministry of Finance & Economic Planning
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
MoLGRD	Ministry of Local Government & Rural Development
MOTI/PSD	Ministry of Trade, Industry & Private Sector Development
MOWAC	Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
MMDAs	Metropolitan, Municipal & District Assemblies
MTEF	Medium Term Expenditure Framework
NACOB	Narcotics Control Board
NDPC	National Development Planning Commission
NEPAD	New partnership for Africa's Development
PAC	Public Accounts Committee
PETS	Public Expenditure Tracking Survey
PPA	Public Procurement Authority
RGD	Registrar General's Department
RAGB	Revenue Agencies Governing Board
SEC	State Enterprises Commission
SOE	State Owned Enterprise
TUC	Trades Union Congress
T-Bill	Treasury Bill
VAT	Value Added Tax

FOREWORD

This is the Fourth Annual Progress Report submitted by the National African Peer Review Mechanism – Governing Council to the APR Panel as part of the reporting obligations of the APRM. The Report covers the period January – December 2009 and provides an overview of Ghana’s progress in the implementation of the National Programme of Action.

In 2009 the Council piloted the District APRM Governance Project which sought to improve ownership and participation of civil society actors in local governance assessments. The pilot was conducted in twenty districts. It entailed civil society actors administering Citizen Report Cards to residents at the district level, report preparation and validation of results. The district reports were then submitted to the District Assembly for debate and remedial action.

The period under review witnessed a transition from one democratically elected government to another democratically elected government. The electoral process has further strengthened the country’s democratic credentials. Council applauds the decision by the Mills administration to continue the projects and programmes initiated by the Kufuor administration. The decision to continue and indeed deepen programmes such as the National Health Insurance Scheme, the School Feeding Programme, the National Youth Employment Scheme among others is a welcome development.

Council welcomes the mass registration exercise under the National Identification Programme and hope the teething problems would be resolved to ensure that all eligible persons are covered.

Council also acknowledges the approval of the Right to Information Bill by Cabinet. It is the hope of Council that this historic bill will be passed by Parliament before the next APRM progress report.



Rev. Prof. S.K. Adjepong, Chairman, NAPRM-GC during the inauguration of the Builsa, Kassena Nankana and Kassena West District APRM Oversight Committees

Council has also been following with keen interest the current discourse on Constitutional Review. Council points to the APRM Programme of Action and reminds Ghanaians to take advantage of the opportunity to address the following:

- Review the power of the President to establish ministries as and when the President so wishes, by subjecting this law to Parliamentary approval
- Abolish the Constitutional provision which requires the President to select majority of Ministers from within Parliament
- Consider the merits of making all positions in the District Assemblies elective;
- Put a cap on the number of Supreme Court Justices

Council welcomes the abolition of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs as it tended to blur the lines between the Executive and Legislative arms of government.

Council has noted the numerous efforts to improve access to justice to the vulnerable. It notes in particular the deepening of the court-connected Alternative Dispute Resolution and the Justice-for-All program.

Ghana has instituted a broad social network program which assists the most vulnerable with subsidized electricity tariffs, cash transfers to qualifying households, school feeding, free textbooks for pupils in basic schools, school uniforms to children in deprived districts, free maternal health care, grants and subsidies for basic education and a national youth employment program. These interventions are necessary to cushion low-income groups from needed fiscal tightening measures.

Council welcomes the improvements on the fiscal front. It notes with satisfaction the decreases in the inflation, interest and the exchange rates.

Council also applauds the improvement in our gross international reserves from a stock of USD2,036.2 million at the end of 2008 to USD2,317.1 million at the end of September 2009. Council, however, notes with concern the increase in the domestic debt stock from GHC4,893.5 million as at end December 2008 to GHC5,446.4 million by end September 2009.

Council notes with concern the flashes of violence that characterized bye-elections as well as ethnic tensions in some parts of the country. There is the need for all Ghanaians to appreciate the relative peace and tranquility that we all enjoy, and to be mindful of the fact that we cannot take this peace for granted.

Council also noted the unnecessary tensions generated as a result of security personnel arresting and/or inviting individuals for questioning without regard to procedures. Additionally, there is the need to re-orient security personnel in dealing with the public as regards arrests and detentions.

Council looks forward to institutional reforms that would enable government to tackle the menace of corruption that is poised to destroy the moral and economic fabric of this country. Council urges all Ghanaians to join in the fight against this canker.

Rev. Prof. S.K. Adjepong, Chairman, NAPRM-GC

Amb. Alex Ntim Abankwa, Member

Prof. S.K.B. Asante, Member

Bishop Paul Bemile, Member

Prof. Mrs. Miranda Greenstreet, Member

Mr. Nutifafa Kuenyehia, Member

Ms. Gloria Ofori-Boadu, Member

PART A

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

This Report presents the findings of the Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation (PM&E) undertaken during the preparation of the Fourth Annual Progress Report on the implementation of Ghana's National Programme of Action.

This Report is in fulfillment of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) reporting requirements that oblige countries that have successfully undergone the review process to submit bi-annual and annual progress reports to the African Peer Review (APR) Secretariat in Midrand, South Africa.



Members of the Bolga Municipal Assembly deliberate on the Municipal APRM Report

2.0 MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

2.1 Democracy and Good Political Governance

- 2.1.1 A Land Bank Directory has been produced under the Land Administration Project . The Directory identifies potential lands for investments in all types of land use - Agriculture, Estate Development, Industrial and Commercial.
- 2.1.2 The WANEP-Ghana Early Warning Electronic Database became operational in 2009.
- 2.1.3 There has been marked improvement in the fight against armed robbery and violent crime.
- 2.1.4 The mass registration of Ghanaian citizens and foreigners permanently resident in Ghana covered four regions – Central, Western, Eastern and Volta.
- 2.1.5 The Internal Audit Agency facilitated the recruitment of internal auditors to 132 out of the 169 MMDAs. The Agency has also developed an Internal Audit Manual which defines standardized approach to internal audit procedures.
- 2.1.6 There has been remarkable improvement in access to justice for vulnerable groups following the introduction of the Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanism.
- 2.1.7 The Public Accounts Committee of parliament continues to hold government and public officials accountable through its public hearings.
- 2.1.8 Preparation of a Draft National Human Rights Policy by the Commission of Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) and other stakeholders.
- 2.1.9 The Property Rights of Spouses Bill has been passed by Cabinet.

2.2 Economic Governance and Management

- 2.2.1 The macroeconomic environment is gradually showing signs of improvement. Inflation decreased to 16.92 percent in November 2009 from a high of 20.6 percent in April 2009.

Table a: Macroeconomic Indicators for years 2007 - 2009

Macroeconomic Indicators	2007	2008	2009
Real GDP growth (%)	6.2	7.27	4.7
Inflation:			
Annual (%)	10.73	16.5	19.24
End of Period (%)	12.75	18.1	15.97
Stock Reserves (months imports cover)	3.2	1.8	3.0
Budget deficit as % of GDP	6.9	14.9	2.5
Sectoral Growth (%):			
Agriculture	2.46	5.14	6.2
Industry	5.06	8.09	3.8
Services	10.05	9.25	4.6
Ratio of Domestic Revenues (excluding grants) to GDP (%)	26.1	27.26	27.73

Source: GSS, MOFEP, Budget Statements, Bank of Ghana

- 2.2.2 The volatility in the exchange market eased considerable in the third quarter of 2009. The Cedi appreciated relative to the US Dollar for three consecutive months from August to October, 2009
- 2.2.3 Trade deficit (merchandise trade) decreased to USD868.69 million in July 2009 compared to USD2,155.04 million in July 2008.
- 2.2.4 Government continues to adopt a participatory approach in economic policy making by inviting the public to make inputs into the national budget
- 2.2.5 Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) registered during 2009 was GHC339.32 which was close to the Ghana's projected estimates of GHC400 million.
- 2.2.6 The Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) has been established by the Ghana Revenue Authority Act (Act 791) to integrate the management of domestic tax and custom divisions, modernize domestic tax and customs operations, and integrate the three revenue agencies, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Customs Excise and Preventive Service (CEPS) and Value Added tax Service (VATS).
- 2.2.7 The Serious Fraud Office (SFO) is to be given more bite under the proposed Economic and Organized Crime Bill.

- 2.2.8 The Code of Conduct for public officials was elaborated and nationwide consultations with relevant public institutions were held.
- 2.2.8 The Inter-Institutional Committee for multilateral and regional trade negotiations which was revived and strengthened under the PSDS has effectively become the primary vehicle for inter-institutional mechanism dialogue, information exchange and feedback involving key MDAs.
- 2.2.9 Implementation of the Business French Language Training Project, to provide language proficiency training for selected officials of key public institutions and business operators nominated through associations, was extended from Accra to centres in Kumasi and Takoradi in April 2009.
- 2.2.10 Final draft Investment Bill has been submitted to the GIPC Board for review.



Ambassador Alex Ntim Abankwa, Member, NAPRM-GC

2.3 Corporate Governance

- 2.3.1 The modernization of the Registrar-General's Department (RGD) has resulted in a sharp drop in the time taken to register businesses and search for business names in Ghana.

- 2.3.2 The RGD has also intensified its decentralization process. It has opened offices at Kumasi and Sekondi-Takoradi and is also using the post offices to register businesses.
- 2.3.3 The Bank of Ghana has commenced the implementation of the central electronic clearing of cheques.
- 2.3.4 A Draft Consumer Protection Policy has been developed.
- 2.3.5 The Institute of Directors continues to provide customized training for directors of both public and private institutions.
- 2.3.6 The number of days spent on resolving commercial disputes reduced from 80 days in 2007 to 30 days in 2008.

2.4 Socio-Economic Development

- 2.4.1 The Net Enrolment Rate (NER) for primary schools increased from 83.7 percent in 2007/2008 to 88.5 percent in 2008/2009. Survival rates at the Junior High School also increased from 67.7 percent in 2007/2008 to 75.0 percent in 2008/2009.
- 2.4.2 There has been significant decrease in childhood mortality over the past 20 years. As at 2009, 50 children per 1000 live births die before their first birthday compared to 77 per 1000 live births in 1988.
- 2.4.3 The National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) coverage expanded significantly between 2008 and 2009. The proportion of the population registered under the scheme grew from 54.7 percent in 2008 to 62.0 percent in 2009.
- 2.4.4 Guinea worm infestation cases dropped significantly from 4,136 reported cases in 2006 to 242 new cases in 2009. The disease is now limited to a few places in the Northern region.

3.0 CHALLENGES

3.1 Democracy and Good Political Governance

- 3.1.1 Signing and ratifying all international and regional human rights treatise and conventions

- 3.1.2 Full compliance with Ghana's international and regional human rights obligations and commitments, as explicitly set out in the treaties ratified
- 3.1.3 Ensure an end to illegal detentions, and prompt and fair trials in accordance with international human rights treaties.
- 3.1.4 Pass the Freedom of Information Bill

3.2 Economic Governance and Management

- 3.2.1 The lower than budgeted growth in real GDP due to a slow-down in economic activities.
- 3.2.2 Tax revenue fell below the target whilst domestic expenditure exceeded the target resulting in a domestic primary deficit of 2.5 percent of GDP.
- 3.2.3 The domestic debt stock rose from GHC4,893.5 million as at end December 2008 to GHC5,446.4 million by end September 2009.
- 3.2.4 The absence of a Witness Protection law is limiting the application of the Whistleblower Act by the general populace.

3.3 Corporate Governance

- 3.3.1 According to the World Bank's *Doing Business* Report, Ghana's rank in terms of doing business declined 5 positions from 87 out of 181 in 2008 to 92 out of 183 in 2009.
- 3.3.2 The stock market recorded a relatively poor performance in 2009 against the backdrop of significant improvements in 2008. The GSE All-Share index, a measure of the stock market performance, and the private sector access to equity capital, dropped by 46.6% in 2009 compared to an increase of 58.1% in 2008.



Participants at the Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop at Cape Coast Hotel

3.4 Socio-Economic Development

- 3.4.1 Despite the number of interventions in the education sector, the Gender Parity Index (GPI) has stagnated at 0.96 at the primary level and 0.92 at the Junior High School over the past three years.
- 3.4.2 The proportions of trained teachers at the kindergarten level and primary level for 2008/2009 are 31.3 percent and 58.4 percent respectively.
- 3.4.3 In spite of sustained efforts at the prevention and control of malaria to achieve the MDG Target 6, the performance of malaria control indicators achieved only moderate success. ITN coverage for children under five (5) years, increased marginally from 40.5 percent in 2008 to 41.1 percent in 2009, and that of pregnant women from 30.2 percent to 31.5 percent in the same period.

PART B

CHAPTER

1

OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

The Fourth Annual Progress Report provides a comprehensive assessment of the implementation of the recommendations in the National Programme of Action for the period January – December 2009.

2.0 Institutional Arrangements

2.1 To deepen civil society participation and promote ownership of the APRM process, the Governing Council is establishing District Oversight Committees (DOCs) at the local level. To date 145 DOCs have been established in all the 10 regions.

Table 1: Number of DOCs inaugurated per region (2009)

Region	Number of Districts	Number of DOCs inaugurated
Upper East	9	9
Upper West	9	9
Northern	20	20
Brong Ahafo	22	22
Ashanti	27	27
Eastern	21	21
Volta	18	4
Greater Accra	10	10
Central	17	6
Western	17	17
Total	170	145



- 2.2 To make the APRM relevant to the citizens, a pilot project was initiated in 2009 for 20 districts. The objective of the project was to improve ownership and participation of civil society actors in local governance assessments.

Table 2: List of piloted districts for the APRM District Governance Project

Region	District
Upper West	Jirapa, Wa West
Upper East	Bolga Municipal, Kassena Nankana
Northern	Tamale Metro, West Mamprussi
Brong Ahafo	Nkoranza North, Sunyani Municipal
Ashanti	Ashanti Mampong, Ashanti Akim North
Eastern	Akwapim North, Birim Central
Volta	Kadjebi, Krachi North
Greater Accra	Ga West Municipal, Dangme East
Central	Mfantsiman, Cape Coast Metro
Western	Wassa West Municipal, Shama

The project entailed:

- Building the capacities of members of the DOCs in participatory monitoring and evaluation as well as local governance assessments;
- Members of the DOCs conducted surveys using Citizen Report Cards and Focus Group Discussions. The DOCs then analysed the data and prepared and a District APRM Progress Report. The draft reports were validated at the district level.
- The validated reports were presented to members of the District Assembly for debate and remedial action (Due to limited resources only 8 districts undertook this last activity).

3.0 Mainstreaming APRM NPOA into national processes

- 3.1 The APRM's NPOA has been merged with the Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy (GPRS II) to exploit synergies and ensure more targeted use of scarce resources.
- 3.2 The four themes of the APRM – Democracy and Good Political Governance, Economic Governance and Management, Corporate Governance and Socio-Economic Development – were mapped unto the three pillars of the GPRS II – Private Sector Development, Human Resource Development, and Good Governance and Civic Responsibility.
- 3.3 The GPRS II also reports on annual APRM progress made through its Annual Progress Report.

CHAPTER

2

METHODOLOGY

In keeping with the APRM principle of ownership and civil society participation, the NAPRM-GC adopted an open and participatory approach in collecting and collating data and information for the preparation of the Third Annual Progress Report. This approach was to further deepen civil society involvement in the APRM process and thereby improve ownership of the process amongst the Ghanaian community.

As with previous reports, the Governing Council adopted a **four-pronged participatory approach** in collecting and collating data and information for the preparation of this Report.

The **first approach** requested data from public sector actors – Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs). MDAs reported on progress made in implementing specific actions raised in the National Programme of Action (NPOA) that fell under their purview. MDAs were required to indicate for each issue:

1. Progress made in implementing the recommendations
2. Challenges and constraints they face in implementation
3. The way forward/remarks

The **second approach** involved the use of District APRM Oversight Committees to administer Citizen Report Cards at the local level. The Report Cards are standard questionnaires that addressed issues raised under the four thematic areas. The cards dealt with issues such as freedom of expression, access to justice, rights of women and children, security of life and property, access to public finance, access to education, health, water and sanitation, etc. They

excluded issues that normally highly technical and require expert knowledge - inflation, exchange rate regimes, internal and external debt.



Participants at the Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop at Yegoala Hotel, Kumasi

Sample Size

Two hundred questionnaires were administered in 34 out of the 170 districts. The Table below shows the distribution across the country. A total of 6,800 questionnaires were administered by the District APRM Oversight Committees, and 6,650 were fully completed and returned to the Secretariat. This represents a return rate of 97.8 percent.

Table 3: List of districts which participated in citizen surveys

Region	Districts
1. Upper East	Kassena Nankana Talensi Nabdam Builsa Bolga Municipal
2. Upper West	Wa Municipal Wa West Jirapa Lawra

3. Northern	Tamale Metropolis West Mamprusi Gushegu West Gonja
4. Brong Ahafo	Nkoranza South Sunyani Municipal
5. Ashanti	Asutifi Obuasi Amansie East Ashanti Mampong
6. Eastern	Yilo Krobo Akyemansa Birim Central
7. Volta	Nkwanta Kadjebi
8. Greater Accra	Dangme East Adenta Ga West Ga South
9. Central	Mfantsiman Cape Coast Municipal Upper Denkyira East
10. Western	Sekondi-Takoradi Metropolis Shama Wassa Amenfi West Tarkwa-Nsueam

An initial analysis of the questionnaires was undertaken at the district level. This was to enable local actors appreciate and monitor the developmental changes that were occurring at the district level.

Respondents of the questionnaires were drawn from a wide variety of stakeholders including traditional authorities, youth groups, women groups, faith-based organizations, public sector, private sector, civil society organizations, among others.

The **third approach** involved the documentation review and expert group interviews.

The **fourth approach** was to present the draft report to a team of experts to critique the findings.

Report Validation Process

A one-day district validation exercise was conducted in November 2009 in nine out of the 37 participating districts. At each of these validation workshops a minimum of 200 stakeholders were drawn from the public sector, private sector, civil society organizations, persons with disabilities, women groups, youth groups, faith-based organizations the Legislature, and the Judiciary.

CHAPTER

3

DEMOCRACY AND GOOD POLITICAL GOVERNANCE

3.0 INTRODUCTION

The section assessed the progress made in implementing recommendations raised in the National Programme of Action under the theme – Democracy and Good Political Governance. Issues addressed include freedom of expression and the protection of human rights, and protection of vulnerable groups like women and children.

Ghanaians continue to enjoy the basic freedoms of speech and assembly, even though there are reports of police brutalities against civilians. Security along the borders has been strengthened with the procurement of border control equipment for the Ghana Immigration Service. Initiatives to control the proliferation of small arms have included programmes to provide alternative livelihoods for local blacksmiths.

As part of efforts to modernize the chieftaincy institution and make it more relevant to the country's development agenda, the National House of Chiefs is developing Code of Ethics to guide chiefs carry out their traditional responsibilities. The codification of chieftaincy succession has, however, stalled due to funding constraints.

3.1 Standards and Codes

The country has ratified the following:

- Amendments to the Constitutive Act of the AU, 2003
- The AU Non-Aggression and Common Defense Pact, 2005
- The AU Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption, 2003
- UN Convention Against Corruption

The country is yet to ratify the following:

- Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa, 2003

- Protocol on the African Court of Justice, 2003
- Protocol to the OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism, 2004

The Ratification Desk has not been established at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration.

Objective 1: Prevent and reduce intra- and inter-state conflict

3.2 Poorly defined Land Ownership and Land Registration

In December 2008, a new Act was enacted and gazetted to establish a new Lands Commission to integrate the operations of the public service land institutions under the Commission in order to ensure effective and efficient land administration. The new Lands Commission is made up of the following:

- Survey and Mapping Division
- Land Registration Division
- Land Valuation Division
- Public and Vested Lands Management Division



Prof. Mrs. Miranda Greenstreet, Member, NAPRM-GC

Development of the Ghana Land Bank Directory

The Committee set up by the Ministry of Lands, Forestry and Mines, in collaboration with the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, and the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development to identify potential lands for investment has produced a Land Bank Directory. The Directory identifies potential lands for investments in all types of land use - Agriculture, Estate Developments, Industrial and Commercial.

Armed land guards and threat to National Security

The operations of armed land guards (illegal private security personnel) have been highlighted in the media. In the Greater Accra region armed land guards are forcing landowners to abandon the development of their properties. Clashes between land guards resulting in loss of life and property. The situation is even worrying when members of the security services are alleged to assist land guards to undertake their illegal activities.

3.3 Effective and Efficient Early Warning System Mechanism

The West African Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP-Ghana) in collaboration with focal persons and organizations in five regions organized stakeholder workshops at which members of the Community Surveillance Teams (CSTs) were introduced. Stakeholders included: the Ghana Police Service (GPS); the Military, the Customs, Excise and Preventive Service (CEPS), the Prisons Service, the Fire Service, National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE), District Coordinating Council (DCC), Electoral Commission (EC), religious groups, youth groups, Bureau of National Investigation (BNI), opinion leaders and traditional authorities.

The WANEP-Ghana Early Warning Electronic Database became operational in year 2009.

3.4 Sub-Regional Security

3.4.1 Proliferation of small arms in the sub-region

The member states of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) have made significant efforts at the regional and national levels particularly through the conclusion of a number of regional agreements and implementation of technical structures for the coordination of national efforts to fight the proliferation of small arms.

The ECOWAS Moratorium on the Importation, Exportation and Manufacture of Light Weapons was transformed by the member states on June 14, 2006 into a legally binding instrument, namely the Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Ammunition and Other Related Materials. Cabinet has approved the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Ammunitions and Other Related Materials and is awaiting Parliament approval.

The region has made significant progress on the initiatives for concerted action against small arms proliferation, and the strengthening of trust between member states through collective security. Nevertheless, the major challenge in terms of implementation at national level and commitments under the regional agreements remain.

The third Regional Meeting of the National Commissions on Small Arms Control of the ECOWAS region took place in Dakar, Senegal on October 14 – 15, 2009. The objective of the meeting included among others, the reinforcement of the regional efforts at eradicating illicit proliferation of small arms and illegal weapons in West Africa.

ECOWAS SMALL ARMS CONTROL PROGRAMME (ECOSAP)

The new vision for the implementation of ECOSAP will be achieved through:

- The strengthening of institutional capacities for national commissions and of civil society organizations;
- The implementation of practical disarmament activities including projects to raise public awareness, collection of illegal weapons and their destruction, the strengthening of capabilities of security forces, the updating and dissemination of national legislation on small arms to Member States, and the financing of development projects for local communities;
- The improvement of the fluidity in the provision of funds to partners and transparency measures in the in the management of funds by the development of tools for monitoring and financial control;
- The implementation of communication activities.

During the year a number of activities were undertaken to promote small arms control and management. These included:

- Cabinet approval of the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Ammunitions and their related Materials. The Convention is currently awaiting Parliament approval.
- Engagement with local blacksmiths to brainstorm on alternative livelihood measures. This resulted in the commissioning of a study on alternative livelihood programme in the Ashanti and Volta regions.
- Procurement of border control equipment for the Ghana Immigration Service to facilitate effective policing of the country's borders.
- Refurbished and furnished 6 regional Police Firearms Registry and developed proprietary software for arms registration and tracking for the Ghana Police Service.
- Reviewed Ghana Firearms Laws to pave way for the harmonization of domestic laws on firearms such that they are in line with protocols, conventions and agreements that Ghana has acceded to.

3.4.2 Child Trafficking in the sub-region

ECOWAS and Trafficking of Persons

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) at an annual ECOWAS Summit held in Dakar, Senegal in December 2001, adopted a Declaration and Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons (2002 – 2003). The Plan of Action called for specific measures including:

- Criminalization of trafficking in persons;
- Creation of an ECOWAS Coordination Unit to liaise with National Task Forces;
- Protection and support of victims;
- Awareness raising;
- Cooperation between border control agencies; and
- Data collection by ECOWAS countries.

3.5 Safety of life and property

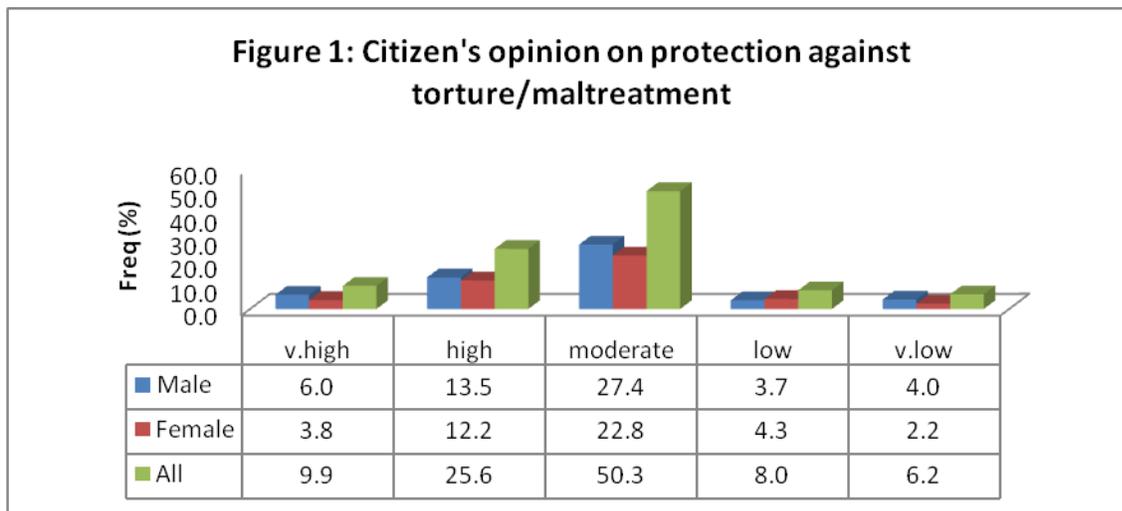
A number of strategic security interventions were undertaken during the year to address the security situation in the country. These included:

- The establishment of an Intelligence Centre at the Ghana Police Service to gather, analyze and apply intelligence strategies;
- Re-activation of the Informant Reward System, where contributions from the public in the form of information are rewarded with cash incentives ranging from GHC2,000.00 to GHC20,000.00;
- The deepening of security presence through massive and intensive day and night patrols;
- Capacity-building of Police Personnel involving programmed training and re-training of personnel to update their knowledge and sharpen their professional skills.

3.5.1 Protection from torture/maltreatment

Though there has been marked improvement in policing in recent times, the media is still rife with reports of police brutalities. Notable is the report of police abuses in mining communities and on journalists covering stories on police brutalities.

Majority of Respondents (50.3 percent) indicated that there has been no change in the manner the state security system protected citizens against torture and/or maltreatment by security forces (Figure 1). They cited beatings and other inhuman treatments meted out to suspected criminals by the security forces. 25.6 percent indicated that there had been improvement in the manner security personnel treated suspects.



Source: DOC Survey Data, 2009

3.5.2 Protection from arbitrary detention

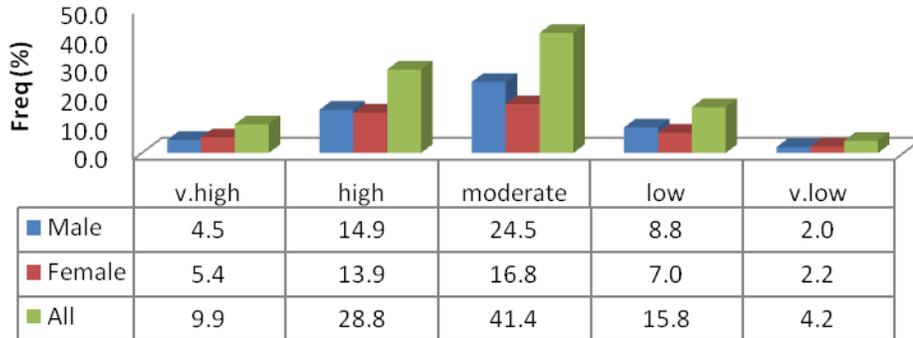
Citizens expressed concern about the rate at which personnel of the security services (notably the Ghana Police Service) arrest citizens and place them in police custody (popularly referred to as “counterback”) without charging them with any offence. Concern was also raised at instances where families of such detained people are made to deposit monies as bail bonds before suspects are released.



Members of the Ga West District Assembly after the discussions on the District APRM Report

Majority of Respondents (41.4 percent) reported that there had been no change in the protection against detention by the security forces. Stakeholders cited recent events in which security personnel prevented legal advisors of suspects to provide counseling to their clients whilst in security premises. The issue of suspects who are on remand in the prisons without any charges proffered against them was in contravention of the 1992 Constitution.

Figure 2: Citizen's opinion on protection against "arbitrary detention"



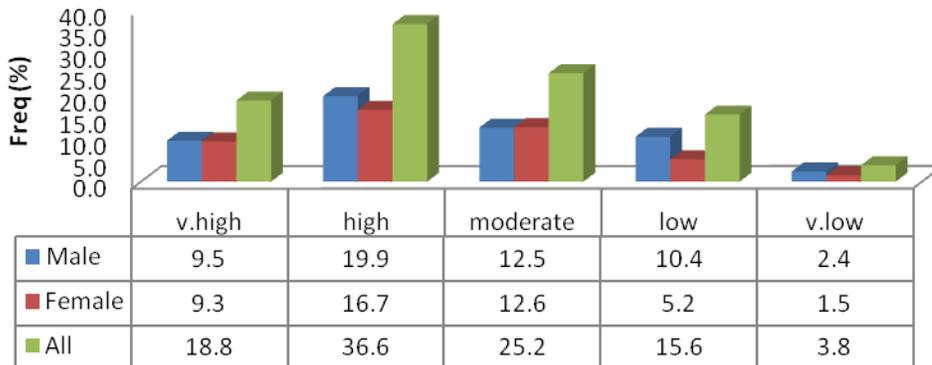
Source: DOC Survey Data, 2009

The Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice in collaboration with other state and non-state institutions has developed a Draft National Human Rights Policy.

3.5.3 Protection from armed robbery

Respondents indicated that there had been a marked improvement in the fight against armed robbery/violent crime (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Citizen's opinion on protection against armed robbery/violent crime

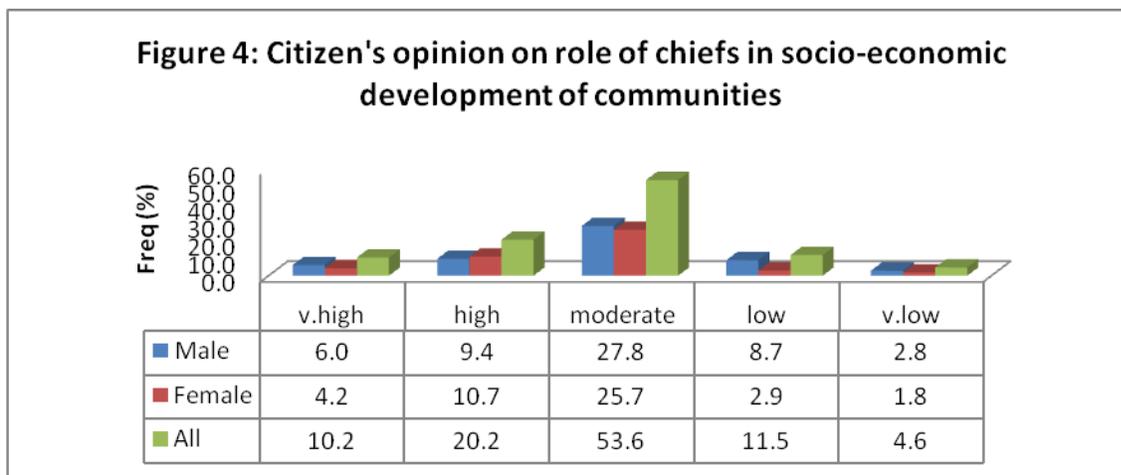


Source: DOC Survey Data, 2009

A number of measures have been taken by government to address the sense of insecurity in the country

3.6 Responsiveness of Chieftaincy to rapidly changing social needs

14.9 percent of Respondents reported that the chieftaincy institution was helping to promote development amongst the populace (Figure 4). Respondents cite the numerous initiatives in education, health and environment being promoted by chiefs in virtually every region. A majority (53.6 percent), however, indicated that there had been no change in the response of chieftaincy to national development. Stakeholders indicated that some chiefs were not using royalties judiciously to develop their communities. Infact, 16.1 percent reported that the institution was slowing down development citing the violence associated with chieftaincy succession and land issues.



Source: DOC Survey Data, 2009

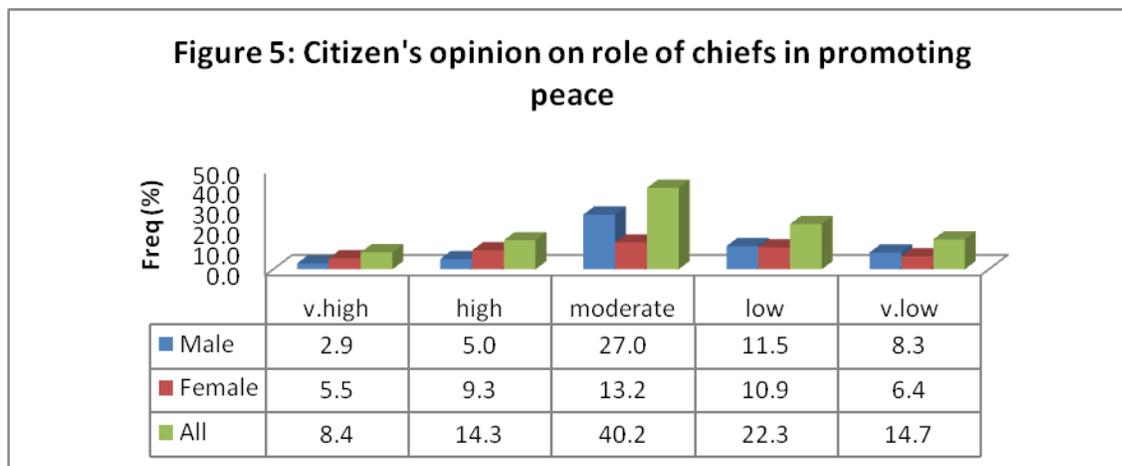
Code of Ethics for Chiefs

The National House of Chiefs is to develop a Code of Ethics to guide chiefs in carrying out their traditional responsibilities. The Code is to ensure transparency, probity and accountability at the traditional, regional and national levels of the institution.

Stakeholders lamented the lack of progress being made in the Codification of Chieftaincy Succession as a result of lack of funding.

The role of chiefs in initiatives such as Alternative Dispute Resolution and Peace Councils were cited by 22.7 percent of Respondents (Figure 5) to support their claim that chiefs were

promoting peace in the country. The 37 percent of Respondents, however, pointed to the conflicts associated with the institution and insisted that chieftaincy is a threat to peace.



Source: DOC Survey Data, 2009

Objective 2: Promote Constitutional Democracy, Political Competition and Rule of Law

3.7 Periodic Voter Registration

3.7.1 Accelerate the establishment of a National Identification System

The mass registration of Ghanaian citizens and foreigners permanently resident in Ghana covered 4 regions – Central, Western, Eastern and Volta. A total of 5,746,242 applicants were covered in the four regions. The registration exercise is currently ongoing in the Greater Accra region

The National Identification Authority (NIA) is also in the process of appointing and training staff to man the National Data Centre.

3.7.2 Regularly revise Voters Register

The proposal for an all year registration of voters is yet to be implemented. The current system where the Electoral Commission re-opens Voter Registration for a limited number of days (11 days in the 2008) before elections is fraught with frustrations which result in some people being denied their Constitutional right to vote.

Biometric Voter Registration

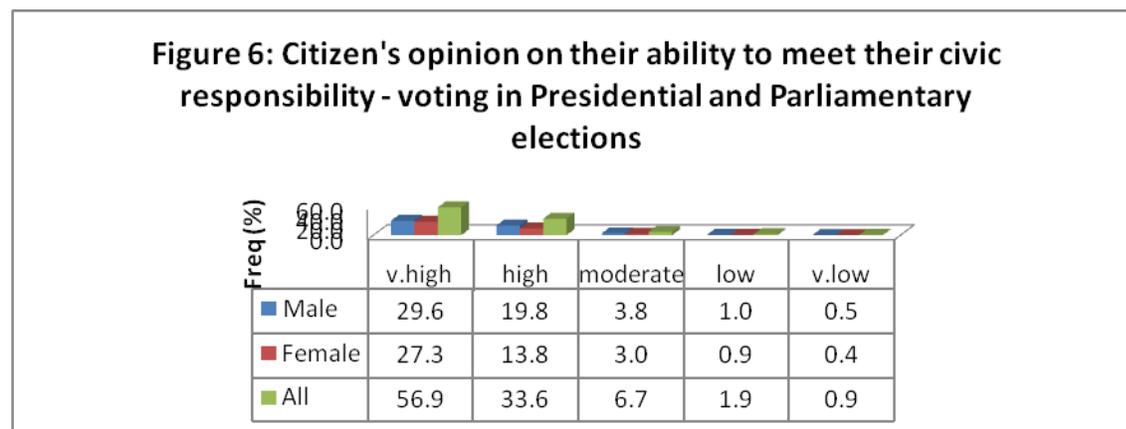
All the major political parties in Ghana through the Inter-Party Advisory Committee (IPAC) have identified the biometric system of voter registration as a key mechanism against multiple registration and impersonation in Ghana’s electoral system. The Electoral Commission was subsequently charged to use the biometric mechanism to capture data in preparation of the next general election in 2012.

3.7.3 Voter Education

Voter education in Ghana remains generally weak. The three independent institutions – the Electoral Commission, the National Commission for Civic Education, and the Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice – are under-resourced and under-staffed. Voter education therefore remains off the screen till during election years.

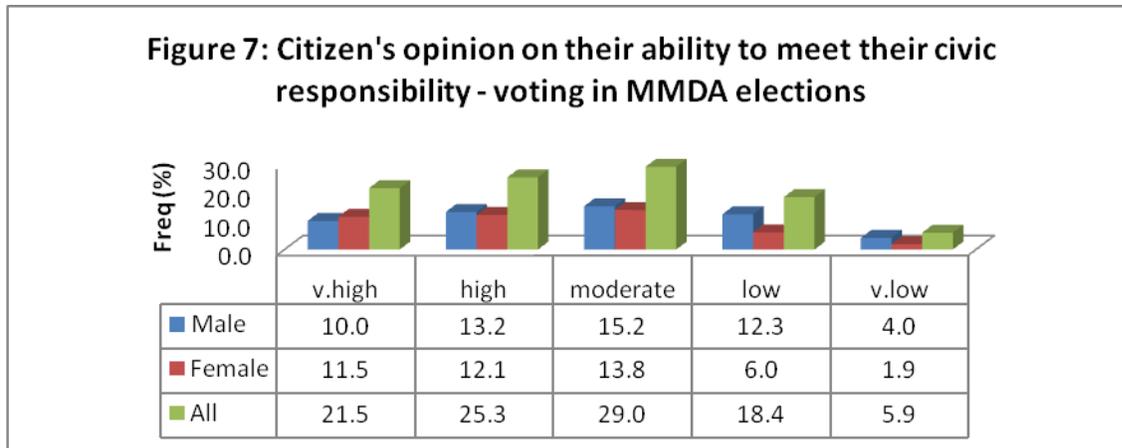
The three public institutions have been supported in their efforts by a number of civil society organizations, but they also tend to be active only in election years.

Respondents were asked to assess citizens’ willingness and ability to meet their civic responsibilities as regards voting in national and sub-national elections. On presidential and parliamentary elections, Respondents (90.5 percent) indicated that citizens showed a high sense of responsibility (Figure 6).



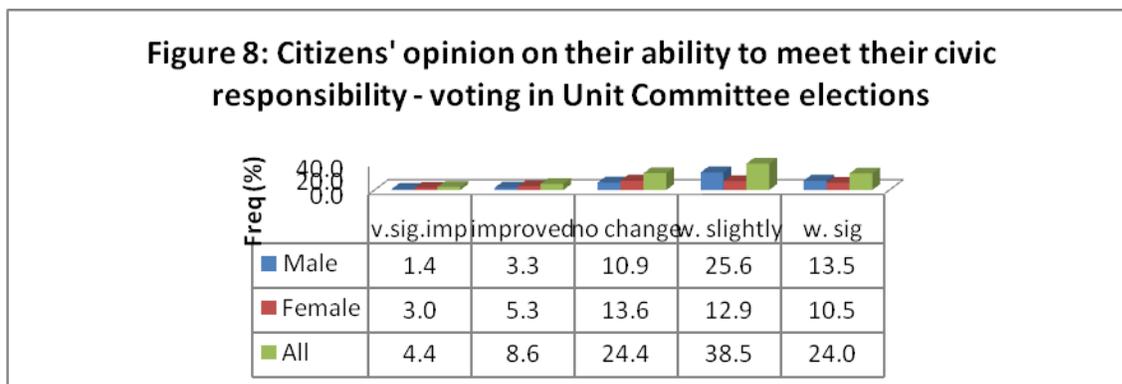
Source: DOC Survey Data, 2009

On District Assembly elections, 46.8 percent of Respondents indicated that the enthusiasm with which citizens participated was high, whilst 24.3 percent reported it was low (Figure 7).



Source: DOC Survey Data, 2009

Respondents lamented the poor response to Unit Committee elections (Figure 8) and attributed it to lack of incentives attached to the job.



Source: DOC Survey Data, 2009

3.8 Decentralize births/deaths registry

The Births and Deaths Registry's Community Population Register Programme was extended to five communities in the Northern Region. This brings to four the number of regions undertaking

the scheme. There are now 26 communities in the country with fully functional population registers in place.

The automation of the Ashanti and Greater Accra Regions' Births and Deaths Registries have been completed for capturing and transferring information into the Central Registry for the production of certificates with enhanced securities.

The Registry was able to achieve a 52 percent Births and 24 percent Deaths registration coverage.



Participants at the Ga West District APRM Validation Workshop

3.9 Decentralization

Stakeholders contend that at the moment it appears that advancing decentralization reforms is rather low.

Ghana's decentralization process is fraught with challenges stemming from ambiguities in the policy framework as well as the conception and implementation of the concept without the intent to fully relinquish power from the centre. The draft Comprehensive Decentralization Policy is under review to revamp the process.

Civil society and Decentralization

Civil society groups in Ghana are repositioning themselves to play a more catalytic role in the

on-going dialogue to shape Ghana's decentralization process. Civil society organizations are calling for a concerted media partnership to help sustain awareness-creation for the citizenry to own the local government concept.

The National House of Chiefs has reiterated their stance that the institution should be actively involved in the decentralization process. They contend that they are in direct contact with their constituents and hence are better placed to champion the concerns of their subjects.

3.9.1 Political Decentralization

The discourse on election of Metropolitan, Municipal and District Chief Executives is still on-going.

Stakeholders contend that there is the need for MMDAs to empower their sub-structures to enable them function more effectively.

Funding responsibilities at the district level

Stakeholders contend that devolution of responsibilities at the district level should be aligned to the requisite financial transfers. They contend that without the necessary resources to undertake the responsibilities the nation would not achieve the objectives of decentralization.

3.9.2 Fiscal Decentralization

The decentralization process being implemented as a component of the Public Financial Management Programme (PUFMAP) requires the transfer of budgetary authority and expenditure to the Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs)). The Internal Audit Act, 2003 (Act 658) established the Internal Audit Agency to ensure efficient and effective internal auditing in public sector institutions.

The Internal Audit Agency facilitated the recruitment of internal auditors to 132 out of the 169 MMDAs in 2009. However, the absence of a guiding manual as well as inadequate training resulted in poor performance and documentation of tasks carried out by the Internal Auditors in the MMDAs. To make the work of the Internal Auditors more effective an Internal Audit Manual has been developed under the Support for Decentralization Reform Programme (SfDR). The manual defines a standardized approach to internal audit procedures in order to meet internationally established standards and principles.

A District Development Fund (DDF) Operational Manual was endorsed and the first disbursement of funds made to MMDAs.

Inter-governmental Fiscal Decentralization Framework

The Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MLGRD) in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MoFEP) has developed an intergovernmental fiscal framework which seeks to address the issue of revenue, expenditure and functional assignments between the national and sub-national levels.

To improve institutional performance and increase discretionary funding to the MMDAs, the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development has introduced a performance based grant system which comprises an assessment tool called the Functional Organizational Assessment Tool (FOAT), a harmonized investment facility known as the District Development Fund (DDF) and Capacity Building Components.

Promoting participation and inclusion at the district level

Stakeholders raised concerns regarding the use of the District Assembly Common Fund (DACF). The DACF, they contend, has a dedicated budget specifying what the funds are to be used for. They therefore wondered how a dedicated budget can be used to achieve social ends such as promoting participation and inclusion at the local level.



Participants at an APRM capacity Building Workshop

3.9.3 Administrative Decentralization

A website (www.lgs.com.gh) was provided for the Local Government Service Secretariat (LGSS) during the year 2009. The secretariat would facilitate capacity building of MMDAs so that the rolling out of services at the local levels could take place, while the internet facility is to ensure wider access to information and e-services that are indispensable not only to the districts and their staff, but also for the central government, ministries, departments and agencies.

Forty-four district assemblies initiated the establishment of district works departments which include a service delivery package such as rural roads development and the provision of water and sanitation amenities.

Objective 3: Promotion and Protection of Civil, Political, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

3.10 Access to Justice

The introduction of the Judicial Service Alternative Disputes Resolution (ADR) Programme is offering faster, cheaper, restoring strained inter personal relationships between parties in

dispute and providing for win-win outcomes after dispute resolution. It is also offering the general public and especially individual disputants who are unable to afford the expensive courts and attorneys' fees and charges, an enhanced access to justice in the various participating communities.

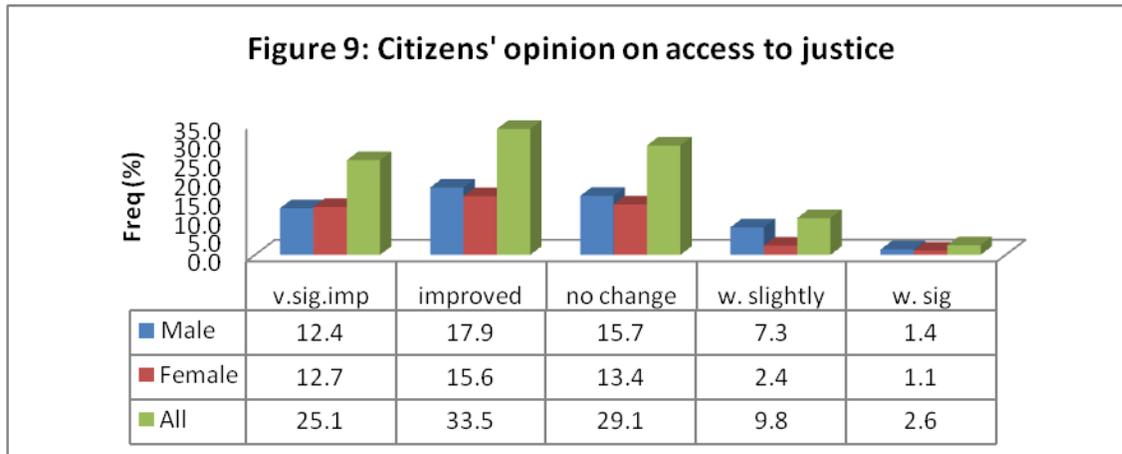
Since about 90 percent of total number of cases filed in courts all over the country are filed through the lower courts (District and Circuit courts), the ADR Programme which focuses on the lower courts is reaching a lot more vulnerable and poor persons in especially low income communities.

A total of 151 mediators had been recruited, trained and assigned to courts across the country as at 2008. A total of 1,272 cases were successfully resolved, representing a success rate of approximately 50 percent of total number of cases mediated over the period.

Electoral Courts in Ghana

The Electoral Courts are yet to be established.

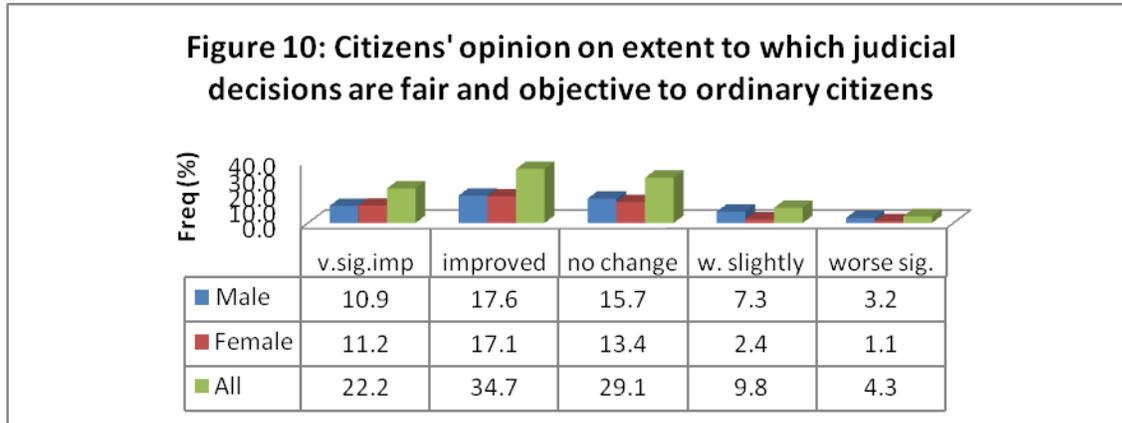
The majority of Respondents (58.6 percent) reported that there had been improvement in access to justice (Figure 9). Institutions cited for the improvement included Alternative Dispute Resolutions, DOVVSU and CHRAJ.



Source: DOC Survey Data, 2009

3.10.1 Low public confidence in the justice system

56.9 percent of Respondents reported an improvement in the fairness and objectiveness of judicial decisions (Figure 10).



Source: DOC Survey Data, 2009

Justice Improvement Interventions

Interventions undertaken during the year to improve justice administration included:

- Continuing implementation of the “Justice for All Programme” which has led to the disposal of a substantial amount of remand cases, leading to the release of some remand prisoners;
- Public education on the Legal Aid Scheme to create nationwide awareness;
- Developed a working paper on Criminal Injuries Compensation Law as well as a consultative document on the review of Law of Contracts and a background paper on the review of Mohammedan Law.

3.11 CHRAJ’s capacity to execute its mandate

The constitutional provision (Article 218 of the 1992 Constitution) which limits CHRAJ to investigating complaints of human rights abuses, administrative justice and alleged corrupt practices of public officials but not to prosecute has not been reviewed.

5-Year Strategic Plan for CHRAJ

The Commission is developing a Five-Year Strategic Plan 2010 – 2014. The Plan is aimed at assisting CHRAJ effectively implement its triple mandate – Human Rights, Administrative Justice

and Ombudsman functions.

Objective 4: Uphold the separation of powers, including the protection and independence of the Judiciary and an effective Legislature

3.12 Parliament Oversight Functions

The Committees of Parliament, notably the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), continue to assert their oversight responsibilities. Parliament is effectively collaborating with all arms of government (Executive and Judiciary) and civil society organizations to root out abuses of public resources. The PAC continues to conduct public hearings into the report of the Auditor General thereby affording Ghanaians the opportunity to appreciate the depth of corruption and mismanagement.

Stakeholders emphasized the fact that Parliamentary Oversight is limited by the Executive-Legislature fusion as stipulated in our Constitution and which requires the President to appoint majority of Ministers from within Parliament.

Stakeholders again argued that Committees of Parliament lack prosecutorial powers and must refer all cases to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General. This they contend limits the oversight powers of Parliament.

3.13 Lack of adequate resources for governance institutions

Though budgetary allocations to governance institutions have increased substantially, actual disbursements have fallen short thus impeding the smooth implementation of activities. Stakeholders also contend that the increases in funding are attributed to increases in Personal Emoluments, but not to increases in Administration, Service and Investment votes.

3.14 Initiation and passage of bills by Parliament

Private Members Bill

The ability to initiate or sponsor private members bills provides legislators with a unique tool to effectively translate the needs of their constituents into legislation and to influence government policy.

Members of Parliament are unable to take advantage of this opportunity because of a Constitutional provision which restricts them from privately laying any bill that has financial obligations.

Objective 5a: Ensure accountable and efficient public officeholders and civil servants

3.15 Bureaucracy and inefficient procedures in the public service

A number of activities were undertaken under the Public Sector Reform programme to reduce bureaucracy and inefficient procedures in the public service. The activities focused on the key areas of reforms and payroll management with the aim of ensuring efficiency and accountability that will ultimately impact the private sector.

Key activities included the following:

- Between July and August 2009 a headcount of employees of 25,000 educational establishments under the Ghana Education Service was conducted.
- Even though progress has been slow, some progress was made on migrating of 54 subvented agencies onto the computerized payroll database of the Controller and Accountant General's Department.
- A stakeholders' workshop was organised on the new performance review and appraisal instrument aimed at monitoring and evaluating performance at all levels in the public service;
- To accurately assess the state of performance of public service institutions, especially with respect to adherence to human resource practices and procedures, an instrument developed to capture and analyse data on performance levels within the public services was finalised;
- To ensure transparency and good governance within ministries and other public sector agencies, ministers of state and government officials and appointees had several discussions on issues relating to the effective handling of human resource management;
- A Culture change training plan and manuals have been developed and training would commence in 2010;

3.15.1 Build capacity of Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs)

A draft Human Resource Policy has been developed. The comprehensive human resource policy is aimed at ensuring a coordinated and more efficient management of the public services with all circulars, policies and regulations on human resources codified to provide public sector human resource practitioners access to a unitary source of reference.

3.15.2 Set up institutional structures to regulate public procurement, internal audit and financial administration as provided for in laws and regulations

a) Public Procurement

A Public Procurement Authority (PPA) has been established following the publication of the Executive Instrument (E.I. 13) on the revised edition of the Laws of Ghana. PPA has also set up a seven-member Appeal and Complaints Committee to receive, investigate and advise the Authority on complaints from individuals and institutions concerning public procurement. The Authority has also established Entity Tender Committees and Review Boards in MDAs and MMDAs.

The Authority undertook an assessment of procurement activities of 750 Procurement Entities to ascertain their compliance level with the provisions of the Public Procurement Act, 2003 (Act 663). In addition, a price database for common user items to provide a basis for value for money analysis was established.

b) Internal Audit

An Internal Audit Agency has been established as per the Internal Audit Agency Act, 2003 (Act 658).

A

c) Financial Administration

The Financial Administration Tribunal has been established as mandated by the Financial Administration Act, 2003 (Act 654).

3.15.3 Build capacity of civil society to monitor public policy

Civil society organizations continue to rely on development partners for funding for their capacity building programmes.

Objective 5b: Promote participation of civil society and media in governance

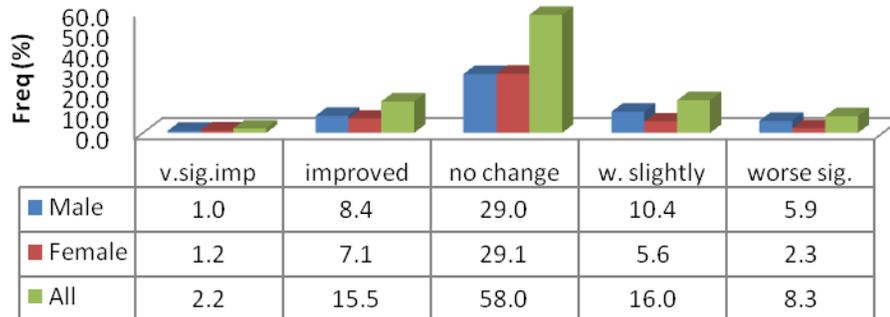
3.17 Civil society engagement in national dialogues and decisions

Government continues to increase institutional space for civil society engagement in national policy discourse. These include:

- MOFEP invitation of inputs from the general public into the annual budget;
- Submission of proposals to Parliament from the public into Bill consideration;
- Consultations of National Development Planning Commission with civil society;
- Parliament's Outreach Programme;
- "Matters Arising" press interaction platform
- Ministerial Meet the Press series;
- Town Hall Meetings;
- APRM Dissemination and Validation workshops.

There is, however, no structured and formalized arrangement that seeks to foster partnership and participation of civil society, traditional institutions, research institutions and private sector in national dialogue and decision making. Stakeholders contend that there exists some mistrust between government and civil society.

Figure 11: Citizens' opinion on improvement in citizens' participation in public discussions



Source: DOC Survey Data, 2009

3.18 Lack of media specialization

The National Media Commission (NMC) organized training and sensitization programmes for media personnel to improve their work, especially in the areas of media ethics and peace building. The Commission also developed guidelines for local language broadcasting.

Free and responsible media

The National Media Commission is monitoring media content to

- identify and address professional deficits,
- identify triggers to conflict as early warning mechanism, and
- tracking of how much of development content was carried by the media as well as the direction of coverage and the general tenor of media content

Objective 6: Fighting corruption in the public sphere

3.19 Coordination of anti-corruption agencies

Government is yet to develop a strategic framework to promote synergy between the various institutions fighting corruption in the country. There are no official channels set up to coordinate the work of anti-corruption institutions (Serious Fraud Office, Commission for

Human Rights and Administrative Justice, Auditor-General's Department, Financial Intelligence Unit of the Ghana Police Service, Attorney-General's Department, Parliament, etc).

SFO Board and substantive head appointed

The Government has appointed persons to serve on the Board of the Serious Fraud Office and has also appointed a substantive head for the anti-corruption institution.

The SFO is to be given more bite under the proposed Economic and Organized Crime Bill. The Bill will also seek to give the institution a new nomenclature designating it as an Agency.

3.19.1 Define and institute an unambiguous definition of bribery and corruption

The Ministry of Justice and Attorney General's Department has to date not come up with a national definition for bribery and corruption.

3.19.2 Asset Declaration regulations

The implementation of the law of the declaration of assets over the past years has indicated that the law in its present form would not achieve the desired results of making public servants accountable. This is due to the process of verification of the contents of declaration. In the absence of public disclosure the process smacks of lack of transparency, which is further complicated by the limited coverage of the law and sanctions in the event of violation. In addition the present form of the law does not fully comply with the minimum standards prescribed in the UN Convention against Corruption and the African Union Convention against Corruption which Ghana has ratified.

Declaration of Assets

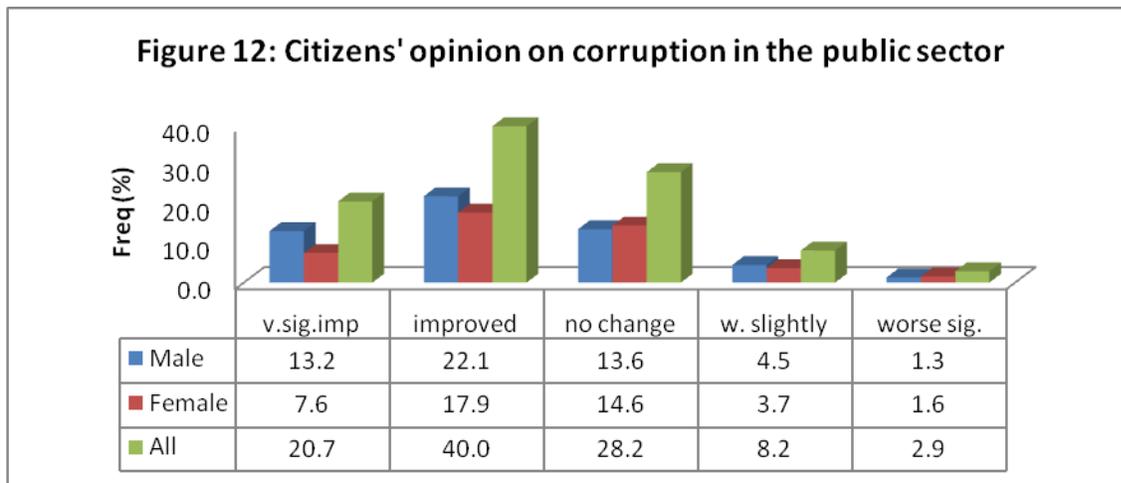
Despite the Constitutional requirement of such an act, and the President's ultimatum given to members of the current administration to do so, some public officials have to date not declared their assets.

3.19.3 Public education on preventing corruption

Civil Society organizations (GII, GACC, ISODEC, IDEG, CHRI) have been at the forefront of public education in collaborating with some public institutions such as the District Assemblies, National Commission for Civic Education, Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice, Electoral Commission and the media. Some of the activities are;

- Education on the Whistleblowers Act
- Monitoring of the School Feeding Program in the Districts
- Judicial corruption monitoring
- Awareness on Conflict of Interest Guidelines
- Regional workshops to promote democracy and good government
- Distribution of Anti-corruption posters, calendars, car stickers in local languages
- Advocacy leading to the development of a Presidential Transition Bill – in its initial stages

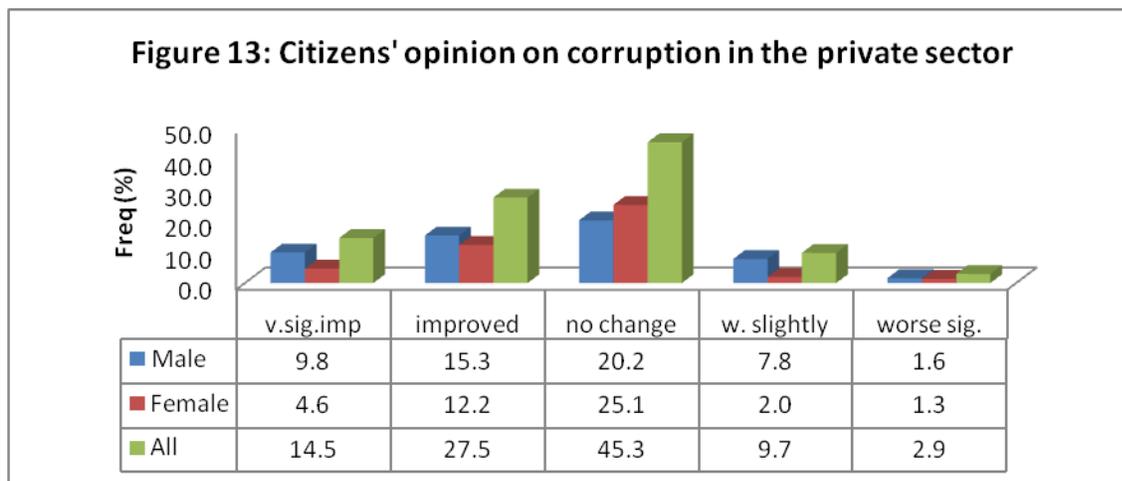
Respondents (60.7 percent) reported that there has been an improvement in the fight against corruption (Figure 12). Stakeholders indicated that the successive changes in government, and prosecution of public officials as well as the public hearings of the Public Accounts Committee have instilled some discipline in public sector workers. Stakeholders expressed concern over the politicization of corruption cases especially when it involves politicians.



Source: DOC Survey Data, 2009

Respondents named the Ghana Police Service, the Judiciary, revenue collection agencies (CEPS and IRS) as well as the DVLA as the most corrupt public institutions.

Respondents (45.3 percent) report that there has been no change in the incidence of corruption in the private sector (Figure 13).



Source: DOC Survey Data, 2009

3.19.4 Applying public procurement procedures

To ensure effective implementation of the Act 663, the Public Procurement Authority has initiated a process of monitoring and evaluation by developing an assessment tool termed the Public Procurement Mode of Excellence (PPME) software which allows for the qualitative and quantitative measurement of public procurement systems. The PPME tool is an evidence based instrument which uses documentary evidence of contract details collected from entities as inputs to generate reports.

Objective 7: Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women

3.20 Legislation to protect women's rights

Ghana has enacted a number of laws and ratified various conventions aimed at protecting women's rights. These include:

- Ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW);

- Adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action
- Adoption of the African Charter on Human and People's Rights
- Adoption of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as part of Ghana's Development Policy Framework (GPRS II)
- Adoption of African Union Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

The country also ratified a number of protocols and conventions to ensure compliance to international protocols and treatise. These include:

- Amendment to Article 20 (1) of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- Protocols to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons especially women and children
- Optional protocol to the CEDAW
- Amendment to Article 43 (2) on Convention on the Right of the Child (CRC)
- Optional Protocol to the CRC, on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict

3.20.1 Passage of the Domestic Violence Bill and Property Rights Bill

The Domestic Violence Act (DVA), 2007 has been passed. The Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs (MOWAC) and the Attorney General's Department have been able to push the Property Rights of Spouses Bill through Cabinet.

3.20.2 Adopt programmes to domesticate CEDAW and endow it with force of law

Even though CEDAW is yet to be domesticated, a number of laws have been amended to further strengthen the legal framework protecting the rights of women. These include:

- Amendment of the Criminal Code to criminalize female genital mutilation (FGM), customary or ritual enslavement of any kind, harmful widowhood practices, and defilement to cover both girls and boys;

- Amendments to the Intestate Succession, and Marriage and Divorce Registration Laws
- Enactment of a Labour Law with provisions for granting women the needed period during and after child birth, equal pay for equal work done.

Prosecution of FGM perpetrators

Ghana has begun to prosecute and convict women who performed female genital mutilation (FGM) on girls. It is instructive to note that even the women who participate in the circumcision ceremony by shouting to drown out the screaming of the girl are also subject to prosecution.

3.21 Protocol on the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights on the Rights of Women

Parliament has ratified the Protocol on the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights on the Rights of Women.

3.22 Affirmative Action setting 40% quota for women representation

Respondents lamented the inability of governments to implement the national 40 percent quota for women (Table 1). Stakeholders, however, lauded the appointment of a woman to the office of Speaker. This they contend place women at the head of two arms of Government (Parliament and Judiciary)

Table 1: Statistics of Women in Political Office

Category	2004			2009		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Ministers	28	5	33	30	8	38
Deputy Ministers	19	14	33	28	7	35
Ambassadors	37	4	41	25	7	32
Council of State	17	3	20	22	3	25
Parliamentarians	205	25	230	211	19	230
District Chief Executives	133	5	138	152	12	164

Source: Department of Women, MOWAC, 2009

The situation at the lower levels of government is no different. The majority of Respondents (69.8 percent) cited very low representation of women on the Unit Committees (Figure 14).

Figure 14: Citizens' opinion on improvement in representation of women in Unit Committees



Source: DOC Survey Data, 2009

There appears to be a slight improvement of women representation at the district assembly level (Figure 15) compared to the unit committee level.

Figure 15: Citizens' opinion on improvement in representation of women in District Assemblies



Source: DOC Survey Data, 2009

Women's Access to Economic Resources

The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MOWAC) in collaboration with the Association of Rural Banks (ARB) Apex facilitated the recovery of loans granted to beneficiaries under the Micro Finance and Small Loans Centre (MASLOC).

The Ministry also got government approval for the following gender policy directives:

- MDAs/MMDAs to prepare gender policies and ensure gender mainstreaming and

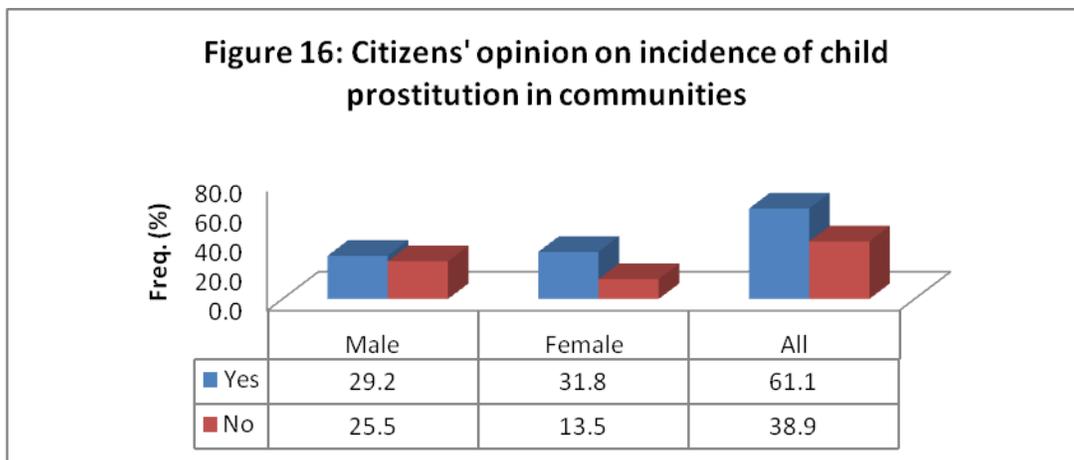
gender responsive budgeting;

- MDAs/MMDAs to set aside a percentage of their budget to support gender programmes/projects;
- MDAs/MMDAs to access their sectoral funds on condition that they have submitted their Gender Certification Implementation

Objective 8: Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Children and Young Persons

3.22 Child Prostitution and Child Pornography

Ghana is yet to develop a comprehensive plan on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC). Stakeholders and television footages report an increase in the number of girls aged between 12 and 16 engaged in prostitution. 61.1 percent of Respondents reported incidence of child prostitution in their communities (Figure 16).



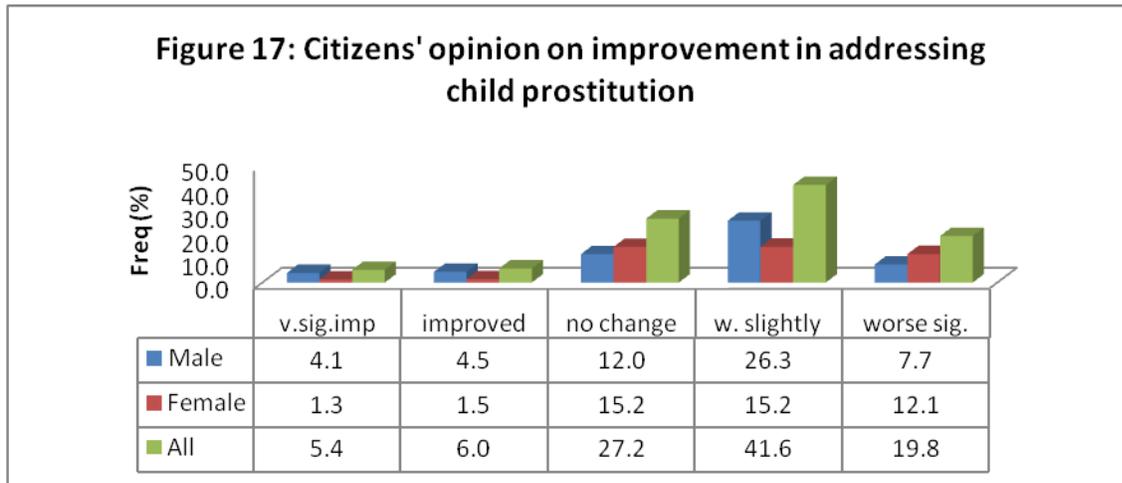
Source: DOC Survey Data, 2009

CHRAJ on Child Prostitution

The Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) has condemned the spate of child prostitution and the alarming situation where Ghana's children are increasingly being

exploited for commercial sex, posing a great threat to the nation. The Commission views prostitution as illegal and undignifying even when practiced among adults and sees the practice as extremely injurious when it involves children. It also abhors the extent of child prostitution since this type of exploitation and abuse is usually hidden, taking place behind closed doors and most children feel too much guilt, shame and fear to seek help.

Respondents (41.6 percent) indicated they were not pleased with government’s commitment to fighting child prostitution (Figure 17).



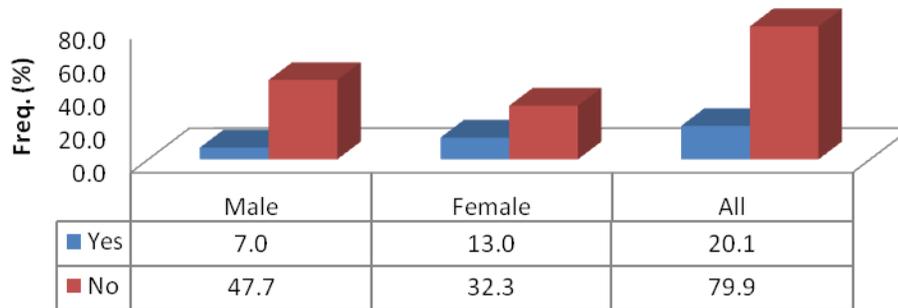
Source: DOC Survey Data, 2009

3.23 Child Trafficking

In spite of the passage of the Human Trafficking Act, 2005 some parents continue to “sell off” their children into bondage. Stakeholders indicated that children (aged between 8 and 15) were under bondage laboring for fishermen, farmers, etc. Corporal punishment and sexual abuse were some of the hazards some of the children went through at the hands of their “slave masters”.

79.9 percent of Respondents indicated that child trafficking was not being practiced in their communities, whilst 20.1 percent replied in the affirmative (Figure 18).

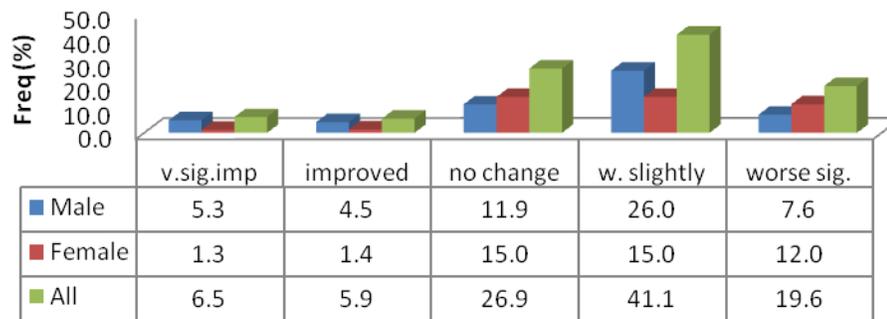
Figure 18: Citizens' opinion on incidence of child trafficking in communities



Source: DOC Survey Data, 2009

Respondents were not pleased with the efforts by government to combat the issue of child trafficking. Only 6.5 percent indicated there was significant improvement in the way government was addressing the issue, whilst 41.1 percent reported that government response had worsened slightly (Figure 19) citing under-resourced public institutions as the cause.

Figure 19: Citizens' opinion on improvement in addressing child trafficking



Source: DOC Survey Data, 2009

In its effort to eliminate child trafficking, the government joined the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) sub-regional programme 'Combating the Trafficking of Children for Labour Exploitation in West and Central Africa.' The Government has since then been dealing with child labour in cocoa growing areas.

3.24 Protection of the Rights of Domestic Workers

The Rights of Domestic Workers Bill is still in draft form.

Objective 9: Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Vulnerable Groups including internally displaced persons and refugees

3.24 Pass the Disability Bill

The Disability Act (Act 715) has been passed and the Disability Council established.

Row on District Assembly support to PWDs

The Disability Act stipulates that each District Assembly should allocate 2.0 percent of its share of the Common Fund to support activities of PWDs. During the year a number of institutions charged with the administration of the allocation were up in arms against the Disability Council, when the latter attempted to directly administer the funds.

Stakeholders contend that the Disability Council should concentrate on policy development and oversight of the institutions rather than directly involve itself in administrative matters.

The Disability Council initiated a number activities in the year under review:

- Development of a Strategic Plan;
- Development of a Legislative Instrument (LI) to operationalise the Persons with Disability Act, 2006;
- Development of guidelines to disburse the 2 percent District Assembly Common Fund for Disabled Persons.

3.25 Access to public facilities by Persons with Disabilities

The ten year moratorium granted by Act 715 for public buildings is yet to expire, but of concern are new buildings that are being constructed without recourse to ensuring access by PWDs.

3.26 Inadequate and insecure pensions

The President of the Republic of Ghana launched the new Pension Scheme on 16 September, 2009 but implementation is scheduled from 1 January 2010. Under the scheme, Government as an employer will contribute 13 percent (an increase over the previous 12.5 percent) for the employees under the mandatory first and second tier scheme. This will significantly enhance the employees' benefits.

CHAPTER

4

ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

4.0 Introduction

Available data for 2009 showed that the macroeconomic situation is beginning to improve, albeit slowly. The fiscal and external imbalances are beginning to improve. Inflation which increased from 18.1 percent in December 2008 to 20.6 percent in April 2009 had decreased to around 17 percent by December 2009. Trade deficit (merchandise trade) decreased to USD868.69 million by July 2009, compared to USD2,155.04 million for the same period in 2008.

4.1 Standards and Codes

Ghana is adhering to the following standards, codes and conventions:

- International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)
- Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (GAAP)
- International Standards in Auditing
- Good Practices on Fiscal Transparency
- Guidelines on Public Debt management
- Best Practices for Budget Transparency

Ghana is yet to develop a unified Corporate Governance Framework.

Objective 1: Promote sound macro-economic policies that support sustainable development

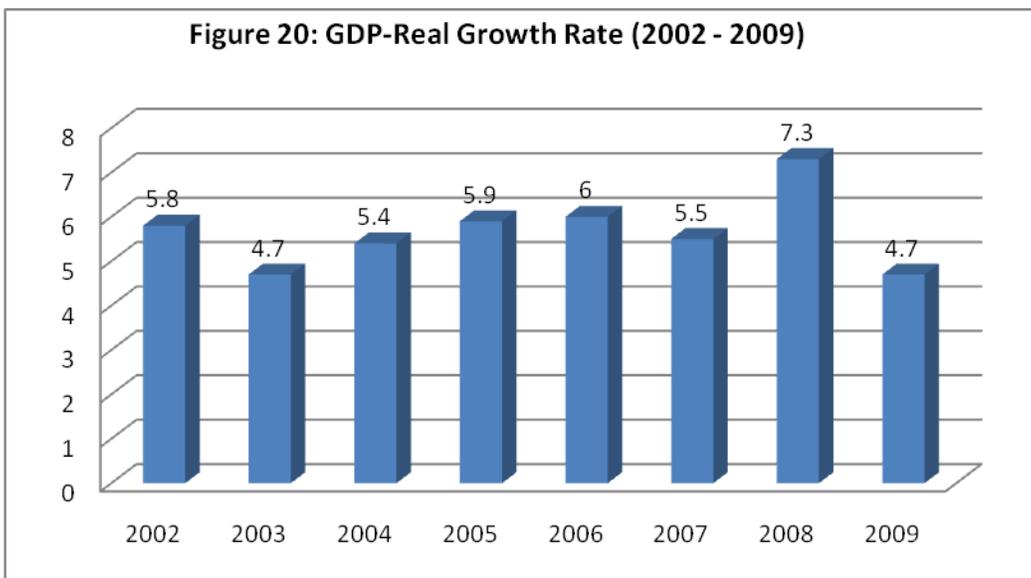
4.2 Macroeconomic Framework

4.2.1 GDP Growth

The year 2009 began with a budget deficit of almost 15 percent of GDP and trade deficit of about 20 percent of GDP.

Real GDP growth dipped from a high of 7.3 percent in 2008 to 4.7 percent in 2009. The agricultural sector grew by 6.2 percent, a growth that has been attributed to improvements in the Crops and Livestock sub-sector largely on account of expansion in areas of cultivation and good rainfall patterns.

The Industrial sector grew by 3.8 percent. This lower than expected growth was attributed to a contraction in the construction sub-sector. The Services Sector grew by 4.6 percent.



Source: Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning; Bank of Ghana, 2009

4.2.2 Inflation

Curbing inflation has been a major challenge for the country. End-period-consumer price inflation, however, declined from a peak of 20.6 percent in April 2009 to 16.92 percent in November 2009.

Ghana's Inflation Targeting Framework

The Bank of Ghana (BoG) launched its Inflation Targeting (IT) regime in 2007. The framework

targets the 12-month change in headline CPI, and the BoG also monitors a number of indicators.

The key institutional arrangements for an IT framework are in place, including central bank policy independence, instrument independence, bi-monthly meetings of a Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), and generally good transparency.

BoG staff produce a range of inflation forecasts for the MPC, using a range of macro models (from simple autoregression to relatively up-to-date multiple-equation time series models); they also track surveys of inflation expectations. Efforts continue to strengthen the models – for example, to identify a robust link between the fiscal stance and inflation. Real sector data are limited (no monthly production or quarterly GDP data), but the BoG has developed a quarterly composite indicator that tracks GDP trends moderately well.

The BoG has operational tools to influence inflationary pressures through credit market conditions. The commercial bank lending rate has closely tracked the BoG prime rate and, more recently, has responded to conditions in the interbank and T-Bill markets, which the BoG influences through open market operations

4.2.3 Trade Deficit

The trade deficit (merchandise trade) decreased to USD868.69 million in July 2009 compared to USD2,155.04 million in July 2008. The improvement in trade deficit has been achieved mainly on account of increases in the external price of Ghana's export commodities particularly cocoa (whose price increased from USD2,662.42 per tonne in March 2009 to USD2,940.02 per tone in June 2009) and a significant slowdown in the oil import bill as a result of a fall in crude oil prices from their 2008 levels.

4.2.4 Financial Sector Reforms

The highlights of some of the key financial sector development activities undertaken in 2009 are as follows:

- The use of the Automated Trading System and remote trading on the trading floor through the Wide Area Network (WAN) and the internet in Ghana Stock Exchange was commenced
- Feasibility studies towards the establishment of a Commodities Market and a market for unlisted securities (OTC) are near completion

- The draft Insurance Regulations, the Code of Practice and the Market Conduct Rules Report was submitted to National Insurance Commission by the Consultant
- The draft Accounting Manual and the Guide for completing Returns and the Final Conversion Specification Paper with principles determined for transitional arrangements for existing SSNIT contributors and inclusion of members of other schemes have also been submitted to NIC
- The Bank of Ghana made progress in the implementation of the capital flows project and published the 1st phase report on the- 2008 Survey Report on Monitoring Cross Border Capital Flows in Ghana.
- In the area of credit referencing, Xpart Decision Systems Data (XDS data), the first licensed credit bureau referencing company, became operational in March 2009 whilst a second company CBR - Hudsonprice Ghana Ltd was granted a provisional license to commence operations
- A local research firm has been successfully procured to conduct research into the use and demand for financial services with the ultimate aim of formulating measures to improve the reach and depth of financial services in Ghana
- The second annual Financial Literacy Week was held in September 2009 to create public awareness of financial services, products and opportunities available to households, MSMEs and the private sector.

4.2.5 Investments

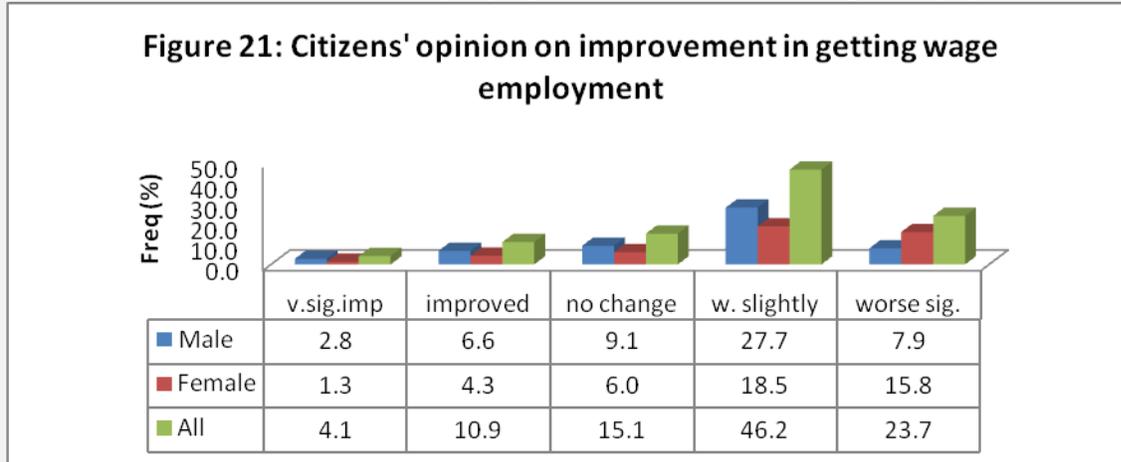
Chinese companies topped the list of firms registered in terms of Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs) in the country. However, though Chinese companies recorded the highest number of companies, South African firms topped the list for countries with the largest value of investments in Ghana in 2009.

The FDI component of estimated value of the companies registered during the period was GHC339.32 million (90.69 percent) while the local component amounted to GHC24.88 million (9.31 percent). The FDI component thus inched closer to Ghana's annual projected estimates of GHC400 million a year.

4.2.6 Establish a Tariff Advisory Board

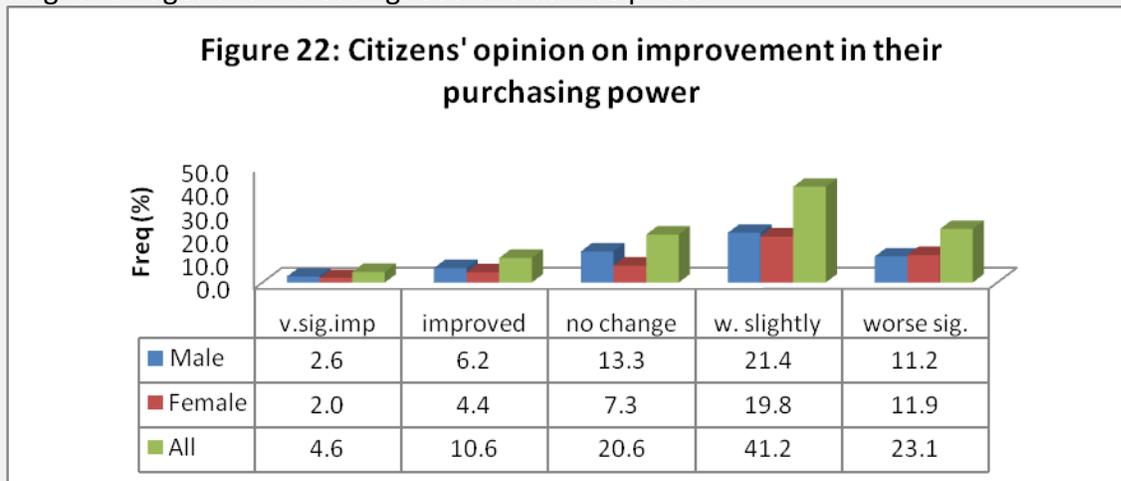
A Tariff Advisory Board was set up as part of measures to promote a transparent tariff regime and ensure a level playing field for all economic operators.

Respondents indicated that there has been a worsening on the job market. As many as 46.2 percent reported it was difficult finding wage employment, whilst 23.7 percent report the situation had worsened significantly. Of those who reported a significant worsening of the situation, women constituted the majority (Figure 21) citing their inability to be recruited for some activities such as the mass spraying exercise as exacerbating their plight.



Source: DOC Survey Data, 2009

41.2 percent of Respondents reported a worsening in their purchasing power (Figure 22) citing stagnant wages and increasing food and service prices.



Source: DOC Survey Data, 2009

Objective 2: Implement sound, transparent and predictable government economic policies

The Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning in collaboration with other stakeholders negotiated and developed a medium term financial programme with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

During the year, staff capacity in macroeconomic modeling was deepened. A simulation study on the Impact of the Global Financial Crises on Households in Ghana has been conducted by the

Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning in collaboration with UNICEF and the University of Ghana.

4.3 Develop and implement a programme to extend pre- and post budget consultations with industry.

4.3.1 Pre-Budget Preparation consultations

Ghana has adopted a participatory approach in economic policy-making by inviting the public to make inputs into the national budget.

Public Inputs into National Budgets

Stakeholders expressed appreciation for the participatory approach adopted by both the previous administration and the current administration in economic policy-making by inviting the public to make inputs into the national budgets. Stakeholders however prayed that this approach be adopted at the district level in order to solicit information from the populace and to engage various stakeholders on all social and economic issues. This, stakeholders agreed is an important step towards total country ownership of our national development.

The TUC urged government to deepen the process:

- By giving enough notices for interested stakeholders to make their submissions but equally important by facilitating citizens access to quality information on the economy so enable them make informed contributions to the budget process;
- The participatory approach to budgeting can and must be used to generate home-grown solutions or prescriptions to national problems and towards a situation where we regain sovereign control over domestic policymaking. To this end, regional forums on the budget may be an effective means by which Government could solicit inputs from the general public into the budget.

4.3.2 Post-Budget consultations

Stakeholders contend that there is very little consultations following the approval of national budgets by Parliament. Civil society organizations (ISODEC, Send Foundation) and private sector institutions (Private Enterprise Foundation, CEPA, ISSER) as well as the Trades Union Congress undertake individual post-budget analyses and consultations with constituents.

Objective 3: Promote sound public finance management

4.4 Weak administration of tax system

The Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) has been established to replace the Revenue Agencies Governing Board (RAGB) and merge the three Revenue Agencies; Customs Excise and Preventive Service (CEPS), Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the Value Added Tax Service (VATS). An integrated revenue administration will ensure lower administrative cost, higher productivity and customer-centred service delivery.

The strategy for achieving the integration and modernization involves five main programmes:

1. Revenue Integration programme
2. Customer Service delivery
3. Physical Infrastructure
4. Human resource and organizational development
5. Unified Information Technology and Management Information System

A Draft Ghana National Revenue Authority (GNRA) had been submitted to Cabinet for consideration. A Project Implementation Unit has been established to manage, plan, develop and coordinate all reforms and modernization initiatives.

4.4.1 Weak expenditure tracking, accounting and reporting

The External Resource Mobilization Division of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning developed a programme coordination and management system to monitor project/programme implementation, while tracking the disbursement and utilization of donor resources to the country.

The Ministry also prepared and published the first annual external financing performance report which provides detailed external finance disbursement by MDA.

4.4.2 Develop guidelines for tracking expenditure

More frequent and up-to-date monitoring of revenues, expenditures, and cash balances has enhanced expenditure management. The National Expenditure Tracking System (NETS) coupled with the Budget Management System (BMS) used by the Controller and Accountant General's Department (Chief Cashier's Office) in processing releases ensure non occurrence of budget over run.

To ensure prudent and efficient cash management and the operationalization of the Treasury Single Account a lot of dormant accounts of MDAs were closed in 2009. Also, the Controller and Accountant General's Department (CAGD) is in the process of linking all government accounts to avoid ideal cash and reduce domestic cost of borrowing.

The upgrading and expansion of the Budget and Public Expenditure Management System (BPEMS) under a user driven Ghana Integrated Financial Management Information System (GIFMIS) began in 2009. The first phase of the Implementation of the new integrated system focused on installing the hardware and software.

4.4.3 Improve revenue mobilization

To improve fiscal resource mobilization, the policy direction was aimed at:

- Minimize Revenue Leakages in all Collecting Agencies:
- Review and Revise Existing Taxes, Fees and User Charges:
- Strengthen Revenue Collection Institutions
- Strengthen MDAs for Improved Tax Collection

In 2009, the IRS introduced free PAYE software for employers and expanded field operations to identify new tax payers. It also set up a Rent Tax Unit to coordinate the collection of Rent tax at all levels. The construction of a data centre located at the IRS Head Office began in 2009 and is about 50 per cent complete. Government also upgraded and introduced an enhanced and web based user friendly software GCMS II to improve customs administration. It also expanded the CEPS Valuation Unit.

Government also piloted the Electronic Cash Register System for VAT Retailers, and opened new offices for the VAT Service to ensure improved efficiency in their operations. It also

commenced the integration of the revenue agencies with the passage of the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) Act 2009 (Act 791) to enhance their operations. The GRA conducted special audits on the telephony sector and selected medium and small scale enterprises for tax collection, in addition to those carried out by the agencies themselves.

4.4.4 Ineffective oversight of Parliament

The Audit Service provided independent assurance to Parliament that public funds are not only fully received and accounted for, but also used judiciously towards the attainment of planned and approved developmental goals and objectives outlined in the national and other sectoral budgets of institutions covered by Article 187 (2) of the 1992 Constitution.

The Public Accounts Committee of Parliament continued its public hearings on the audited accounts of Central Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), District Assemblies, Public Boards and Corporations.

4.5 Improve debt management

As part of efforts to improve the comprehensiveness of public debt information, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning finalized its initial programme to capture domestic debt into the Commonwealth-Secretariat Debt Recording and Management System (CS-DRMS) 2000+.

4.5.1 External Dependency

The Government has been unable to access the USD300 Million Loan Facility from the IMF and World Bank due to its inability to satisfy all the conditionalities attached to the agreement. These include among others:

- Placing the Freedom of Information Bill before Parliament for passage
- Laying the supplementary budget estimates before Parliament latest by August 2009

Donor support to the country has also been erratic due to the general economic meltdown.

The TUC and the Bretton Wood Institutions

Stakeholders contend that poverty reduction strategies in Ghana have been characterized by significant donor influence. Even though the NPP announced an end to its programmes with the

IMF in 2006, the administration continued to pursue the institution's market-driven policies. The new administration contends that there is the need for a massive injection of foreign financial assistance to correct the macroeconomic imbalances.

The government has therefore returned to the international financial institutions of the IMF and the World Bank. The implication is that the institutions have regained control over Ghana's development policy making.

The World Bank advised the new administration to adopt a number of measures notable among them was the recommendation to freeze real wages. To achieve the projected fiscal deficit of 9.4 percent of GDP, government must make additional savings elsewhere equivalent to one percent of GDP (or GHC209 million). Key sources of savings include:

- Savings from the wage bill as a result of deferred implementation of the Single Spine Pay Policy;
- Reduced rate of wage increases for health sector workers (lower than was budgeted for);
- Reduction in government investment spending;
- The passage into law of the National Stabilization Levy of 5 percent additional profit tax which will be effective by end 2010 in some selected sectors.

Subsequently the government has implemented a net hiring freeze in the public sector. The number of workers on the government payroll will be kept at the end 2008 ceiling of 455,000.

Objective 4: Fight corruption and money laundering

4.6 Public sector reforms

Government continued to implement activities to reform the public service. These included:

- Seven Client Service Units (CSUs) was established and three are ongoing;
- The Rapid Response Unit office was established, and to facilitate the implementation of rapid response interventions, a public services user group was inaugurated and first meeting held; and
- 72 Charters for MDAs was developed, printed and launched.

4.7 Pass the Anti-Money Laundering Law

The Bank of Ghana (BoG) has charged all banks and financial institutions to adhere strictly to the Anti-Money Laundering Act 2008, in order to deter people and organisations from attempts to transform illegally acquired wealth into clean resources.

The Act gives banks the legal authority to question and report large and suspicious lodgment of funds and suspicious transactions to a money laundering authority to be investigated.

With the passage of the law in response to the current threat of money laundering and terrorist financing across the world, a Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC) has been established by the BoG as provided for by the law to receive and analyze financial information and suspicious transactions for further investigations by law enforcement authorities.

CHAPTER

5

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

5.0 Introduction

This section provides an assessment of the progress made in implementing the recommendations under the Corporate Governance portion of the National Programme of Action.

5.1 Standards and Codes

5.1.1 Ratify ILO Convention No. 184

The ILO Convention No. 184 has not been ratified. The convention deals with health and safety in the agriculture sector.

5.1.2 Prepare National Policy on Agricultural Health and Safety

The Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA) notes that although the country does not have a national policy on agriculture health and safety.

The General Agriculture Workers Union (GAWU) believes that the non ratification of Convention 184 which deals with safety in agriculture has resulted in some farmers using agro-chemicals indiscriminately causing environmental damage and endangering their own lives.

Business Law Reforms

Under this initiative the following interventions were implemented in 2009:

- An interim report of the committee of experts on the revision of the Companies Code, 1963 (Act 179) has been presented to the Attorney General. An external consultant was engaged to advise on the draft Companies Bill 2009 and the draft Securities Industry Bill, 2009

conducted stakeholder consultations on the interim report;

- The Ghana Association of Restructuring and Insolvency Advisors (GARIA) completed work on the draft Corporate Insolvency Bill, which was subjected to stakeholder review before it is finalized;
- Work effectively commenced in August 2009 on the implementation the 3-year Intellectual Property Rights project signed with Swiss Government for Swiss Intellectual Property to provide technical assistance in the areas IPR policy, awareness creation, capacity building and modernization of intellectual property offices and laws. The collaborative project is being implemented jointly by MOTI and MOJAG;
- A consultative document on the review of Law of Contracts and a background paper on the review of Mohammedan Law were also developed;
- Facilitated the setting up of a Reprographic Rights Organization (RRO) to license and regulate the mass photocopying of literary works in the country; and
- Anti-piracy campaign activities and awareness creation and training on Copyright Regulations (L.I).

Objective 1: Promoting an enabling environment and efficient regulatory framework for economic activities

5.2. Business Registration and Approval

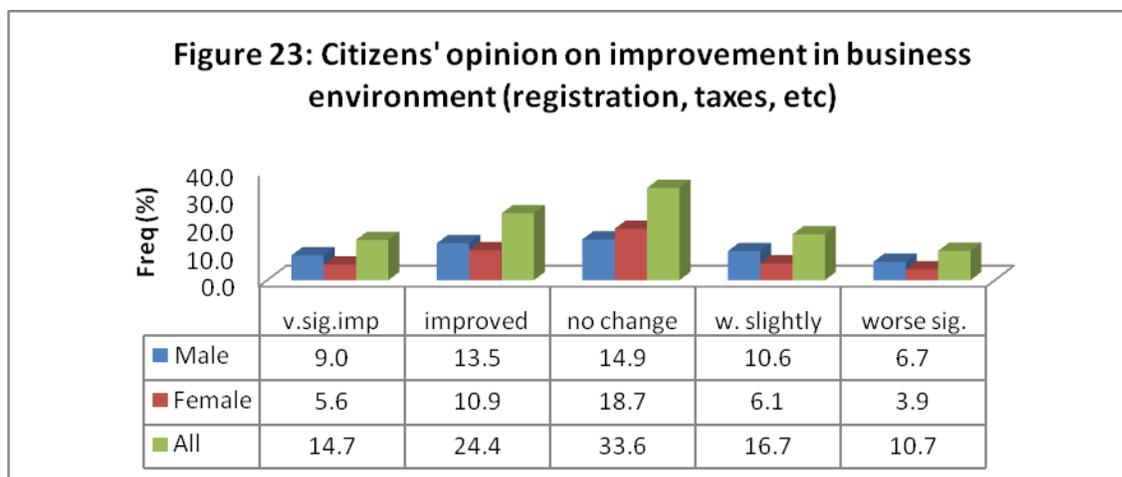
5.2.1 Business registration Reforms

The highlights of activities implemented in 2009 under these reforms include the following:

- The completion of the automated and customer-friendly front office at the Registrar-General's Department has resulted in increased registration and revenues. As part of the processes to bring business registration to the doorsteps of businesses, offices have been opened in Takoradi, Kumasi and Tamale. The operations have been boosted by collaboration with Ghana Post to use their facilities as collection points. It is reported that since the customer-friendly front office was launched, over 10,000 companies have registered.

- AESL is currently working on the drawings for the front offices of the regional offices in Kumasi, Takoradi and Tamale;
- Wide Area Network linking 3 regional offices and the RGD head office was installed and made operational in 2009. This has improved time taken to conduct company name searches considerably. A sensitization of the business community on the benefits of business registration and other reforms at RGD was undertaken using radio and TV jingles in English and some Ghanaian languages; and
- The electronic tax administration programme has taken off with the acquisition of the software Development Tools License

Respondents (39.1 percent) indicated that following the reorganization of RGD, corrupt practices associated with business registration have been significantly reduced (Figure 22).



Source: DOC Survey Data, 2009

5.3. Duplication of Information requirements with company registration procedure

5.3.1 Establish Guidelines for Inter-agency Information Sharing

An Electronic Data Interface to load Tax Identification Numbers (TIN) from TIN centre to RGD has been completed. The Department is now electronically linked to the TIN generating system of Revenue Agencies Governing Board (RAGB).

5.3.2 RGD Should Collaborate with IRS to Establish a Single Identification Number

The RGD, Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and other revenue agencies now use Tax Identification Numbers (TIN) generated by the RAGB. The Department now forwards electronic copies of information on newly registered business to the IRS on monthly basis. Elimination of duplicate registration requirements is yet to be addressed since the programme is on-going.

5.4. Commercial Dispute Resolution

5.4.1 Delays in Commercial Disputes Leading to Increased Costs for Parties in Dispute

Under the Judicial Sector Reform Programme (JSRP), the Commercial Court was set up to handle disputes among businesses. The Commercial Court was established on March 4th, 2005 with the aim of offering speedy, efficient and effective delivery of justice in commercial disputes. Before the court was established, disputes among businesses had to be taken to the traditional courts and they sometimes took 10 – 15 years to resolve. The Commercial Court since its inception has been able to minimize the time and costs of commercial disputes. The Judicial Service has constructed a Court of Appeals in Kumasi which has been officially opened. The Judiciary Service intends to use one of the courts as a Commercial Court. This means there will be two (2) Commercial Courts in the country.

5.4.2 Undertake Study on Access to Justice for Businesses, esp. MSMEs, and Development of Cost Effective (Non – Court) Solutions

Through the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism, MSMEs have a procedure to solve disputes cost effectively. The Labour Act, 2003 (Act 651) advocates this method of negotiation. In mediation procedures, the parties voluntarily select and invite a neutral third party, to help them in exploring viable options to conclusively resolve disputes amicably.

Judicial Service Reforms

Reforming the judicial system in order to make it more responsive to the business community and ensure overall confidence in the judicial system remains paramount. The highlights of interventions implemented in 2009 towards this objective include:

- Forty Attorneys received training in commercial investment Law in 2008. Three more batches have been trained in 2009. Three Attorneys went on internship programme with an international law firm to acquaint themselves with Energy, Telecommunication and consumer protection laws;
- An ICT consultant was contracted to establish the e-library for the Ministry of Justice and Attorney-General;
- 2,000 copies of ADR manuals and guidelines have been printed to boost the application of pre-trial procedures within the commercial courts in particular and the Judicial Service in general;
- Four circuit courts in Takoradi, Cape Coast, Koforidua and Kumasi have been refurbished and automated for use as commercial courts; and
- Contracts for the refurbishment of 6 selected high courts in Kumasi, Tamale, Sunyani, Koforidua, Cape Coast and Takoradi and the circuit court in Sunyani was awarded;
- Continued with the review of the Companies Code by a 5- member Committee of Experts. Enactment of the Customs and Excise (Petroleum Taxes and Petroleum related levies) (Amendment) Act, 2009 (Act 781), the Airport Tax (Amendment) Act, 2009 (Acts 782) and the Appropriation Act, 2009(Act 783);
- Trained 40 mediators in ADR, resolved 4,000 disputes countrywide and represented 5,000 persons in courts around the country;
- Completed the Anti-corruption and Treaty Manual;
- Twelve Attorneys successfully completed oil and gas Masters programmes in Universities outside Ghana;
- Under the auspices of the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Ministry of Justice, twenty-five (25) lawyers for Commonwealth African Countries trained in Legislative Drafting;
- Constitutional Review process was initiated and completed the plan of action
- A working paper on Criminal Injuries Compensation Law was developed.
- 152 students were enrolled and called to the Bar; and
- Public education on the Legal Aid Scheme to create nationwide awareness
- Rationalization and improvement of the business registration process in Ghana

5.5. Taxes

5.5.1 High Withholding Tax

Withholding Tax imposed on industries has been reduced from 7.5% to 5%. It could not be reduced to 2.5% because of the expected huge revenue loss of about 35% which Withholding Tax contributes to the total direct tax revenue. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) mentions that no research work was carried out to find out the impact on direct tax revenue if the Withholding Tax was reduced to 2.5% and thus they cannot be expected to reduce the tax to that level.



Assemblywoman commenting on the Birim Central Municipal APRM Report

The Legislative Instrument (L.I.) has been passed and an intense tax education and compliance campaign is being carried out by the IRS. This is expected to increase the compliance rate of Withholding Tax Payers and thereby the tax revenue. Also, the reduction will bring about an increase in operational income to individuals and enterprises thus allowing for more investments.

5.5.2 High Corporate Tax

The corporate tax has been reduced to 25% and this was addressed in the 2006 budget. The L.I. 1830 was passed which saw the Corporate Tax reduced from 28% to 25%. The corporate tax is now the same for both listed and unlisted companies. The IRS undertook tax awareness and tax compliance campaigns to educate the business community on the new corporate tax rate.

5.5.3 VAT on imported inputs for manufacturing

The Value Added Tax (VAT) Secretariat and the MoFEP note that pharmaceuticals enjoy a favourable tax policy as tax on their manufactured products is zero rated. However, a review has been conducted and has been discussed by the Finance Committee in Parliament with no objections.

Customs Reforms

To enhance customs clearance procedures, the following initiatives were undertaken in 2009:

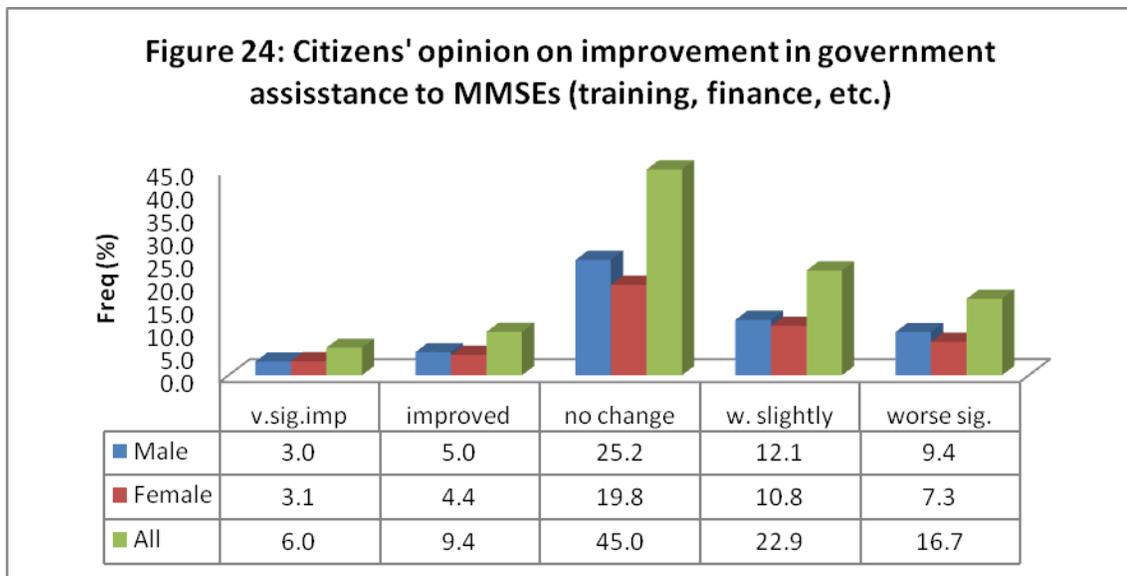
- To improve efficiency and accuracy, CEPS was supported to provide training to its officers on document verification and compliance procedures as well as commodity classification;
- To enhance dialogue and improve stakeholder sensitization, fora were organised at Tema, KIA, Aflao, and Takoradi on custom procedures for importers and exporters, associations and other private sector stakeholders; and
- The Ghana Customs Network (GCNet) system was also strengthened through the upgrading of the Ghana Customs Management System (GCMS) of GCNet in the second quarter of 2009 to further simplify the Customs Clearance system and facilitate trade;
- To improve efficiency and effectiveness in CEPS operations, the Service embarked on enhancement of the automation system through the roll out of the GCMS II along with sensitization and training of officers;
- Measures to enhance officer welfare and moral through promotion, transfer, work and living environment and training as well as improving the integrity and the image of the service in general were instituted;
- Valuation and classification activities through training and procured and installed communication equipments at various stations were improved; and
- CEPS also strengthened preventive activities and enhanced the automation process by rolling out a higher and more user friendly version of GCMS II to improve revenue collection.

5.6 Credit

5.6.1 Support for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

Domestic Money Banks credit to the private sector and public institutions showed a general slowdown (both in nominal and in real terms). As at September 2009 total DMBs credit to the private sector and public institutions increased by GHC1,389.5 million (28.1 percent) compared with GHC1,740 million (48.6 percent) recorded for the same period in 2008.

Respondents (45.0 percent) indicated that there has been no change in the provision of credit to business entities by government financial assistance programmes (Figure 24).



Source: DOC Survey Data, 2009

5.7 Central Registry System

5.7.1 Complete the Development of the Central Depository System to Include Equities

The Central Securities Depository (CSD) System commenced operations on November 29, 2004 to provide a registry for securities in electronic form. It operates as a unit under Bank of Ghana (BoG). It has a depository that is capable of handling equities, government debt and corporate debt instruments and transactions on these securities.

The Central Securities Depository Act, 2007 (Act 733), was given presidential assent on May 16, 2007. The law creates the legal framework for the establishment of a CSD, outlines the functions of the CSD, the admittance of Securities (including Equities) into the CSD among others, and some consequential amendments.

5.7.2 Expand the Depository System into a Registry System

The GSE depository will serve as a registry for companies and shares until the BoG depository is operational.

5.8 Delays in clearance of cheques and payment system

5.8.1 Promote the 2 Hours Transmissions of Payments under BoG's NPDS

The Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MoFEP) and the Bank of Ghana (BoG) are working on reducing settlement time to T+1. In order to accomplish this, a national electronic payment switch has been developed.

5.8.2 Introduce Central Electronic Clearing of Cheques

The Bank of Ghana has started the implementation of the central electronic clearing of cheques.

Objective 2: Ensure that corporations act as good corporate citizens with regard to human rights, social responsibility and environmental sustainability

5.9 Resource Labour Department to Employ Adequate Staff

The Labour Department bemoans that the cumbersome nature of the public service system derail its effort in employing adequate staff. However, with the existing staff strength, they have been able to ensure peaceful labour environment in the country.

5.10 Damage to the environment by corporate bodies

Ghana Chamber of Mines maintains that all the mining firms in the country comply with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) environmental performance rating where different codes are assigned to denote compliance level.

Mining communities demand accountability from the implementation agencies as sometimes, when there is an issue or a complaint to the EPA, no feedback is given on the findings to the community. The EPA seems to be passive recipients of community complaints. When issues are raised by communities and supported by NGOs, the EPA feels undermined and attacked. Although the EPA and NGOs should be working together, this is not the case. The Minerals Commission on the other hand has shown some positive response to the cries of NGOs.

Issues of human rights abuses are a great challenge for NGOs, as they claim some mining companies use law enforcement agencies (i.e. police and army) to intimidate and abuse some members of the community.

Objective 3: Promoting the adoption of Codes of Good Business Ethics in achieving the objectives of the corporation

5.11 Good Business Ethics

5.11.1 Absence of Consumer Watch Dogs for quality service/service

The Ministry of Trade, Industry, Private Sector Development and President's Special Initiatives (MOTI/PSD/PSI) has tasked PricewaterhouseCoopers to develop a consumer protection policy. This policy has been drafted and based on the policy of a consumer protection law which will be enacted.

5.11.2 Enact and Enforce a Consumer Protection Framework Law

As the drafted policy has not been approved, there is no Consumer Protection Law in Ghana. Consumer associations would like the courts to be involved in the developing of a Consumer Protection Law.

5.11.3 Enact/Amend Subsidiary Legislation to Ensure Protection of Consumer Rights

There is no clear and broad legislation that prevents the sale of unsafe and poor quality goods on the local market except the Sales of Goods Act and the Food and Drugs Board Act which are not really applicable to the broad range of consumer related items.

5.11.4 Conduct Consumer Awareness Campaigns

Consumer associations in the country are conducting consumer awareness campaigns but there is the need for more campaigns as the average Ghanaian citizen needs more education on consumer rights.

5.12 Investigative Journalism

5.12.1 Resourcing and Training of Journalists in Financial Journalism

The Institute of Financial and Economic Journalists (IFEJ) notes that there is not a single educational institution primarily setup to train students in financial and economic journalism and also serve as the hub of financial research. The IFEJ itself lacks the resources to undertake the training.

Objective 4: Ensure that Corporations treat all their stakeholders (Shareholders, Employees, Communities, Suppliers and Consumers) in a fair and just manner

5.13 Limited access to basic corporate information

5.13.1 Enforce Obligation under the Companies Code for Companies to file Annual Returns

The RGD has recruited 12 additional company inspectors to augment the existing personnel of the Inspectorate Section and has also taken delivery of seven (7) vehicles to help with company inspection in order to enforce obligations under the Companies' Code for companies to file annual returns.

5.13.2 Post Such Information on RGD Website

A website is under development where such information will be posted and accessed for a fee.

5.13.3 Seek Legal Backing for Electronic Display of Company Information

Three (3) Acts are to be promulgated, namely: the Rights to Information Act, Data Protection Act and the Law for the Acceptability of Electronic-based Documents and Forms (on-line registration). These are to give legal backing to electronic display of company information but are currently at the drafting stage at the Ministry of Justice and Attorney-General's Department.

5.13.4 Promote the Creation of easily Accessible Credit Rating for Organisations and Individuals

A credit reference bureau (XDX Data) was licensed by the Bank of Ghana in 2008 in response to the Credit Bureau Act (Act 726) and became operational in 2009.

Objective 5: Provide for accountability of corporations, directors and officers

5.14 Non-compliance with requirements on companies to submit timely and accurate disclosure of corporate information

5.14.1 Reorganise and Resource RGD to Ensure Compliance with the Companies Code

The company inspectors employed will visit the premises of businesses to ensure compliance with the Companies Code.

5.15 Training of Directors of Companies

5.15.1 Institute Orientation and Systematic Annual Training Programmes for Board Members

The IoD organizes customized training programmes for directors of all companies to underscore the importance of good corporate governance. The training programmes offered are based on practical experience of corporate governance issues.

The Institute believes that training of directors should be mandatory as directors are in charge of legal entities that if mismanaged can affect the well-being of several people. For the benefit of stakeholders, corporate directors need training to ensure that they are equipped to successfully run companies.



Dr. Francis Appiah, Executive Secretary, NAPRM-GC

CHAPTER

6

SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

6.0 INTRODUCTION

There has been progress made in terms of key aspects of socio-economic development in Ghana. School enrolment rates, gender parity index and the pupil-teacher ratios have all improved due to supportive policies such as the capitation grant and upgrading of teacher training colleges among others. The NHIS has contributed to improvement in access to health and quality of health services in the nation's health delivery system. In addition, development programmes are becoming more participatory with civil society contributing to national development programmes, the annual budget and monitoring of development programmes.

However, some aspects of the socio-economic development of Ghanaians remain to be addressed. For instance, citizens lack the capacity to participate in debating on issues affecting their lives at the local level. Though civil societies make inputs into national development issues such as the annual budget, information on these issues from government can be more timely. Also, although school enrolment and pupil-teacher ratios have improved, the proportion of untrained teachers has also increased, though marginally. A related issue is that the capitation grant and the school feeding programmes have increased enrolment without a corresponding increase in educational infrastructure. Access to sanitation facilities remains a problem especially for the rural dwellers.

6.1 STANDARDS AND CODES

6.1.1 Ratification of the African Charter for Popular Participation

The ratification of global, continental, regional and sub-regional treaties on development and poverty reduction is a mark of a country's commitment to development and fighting poverty. Despite this, the following codes and standards remain un-ratified by Ghana:

- African Charter for Popular Participation in Development
- The World's Summit on Social Development
- The United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development

Electronic records of ratified Standards and Codes by government have not yet also been established by 2007 and hence cannot be regularly updated.

6.1.2 Awareness of Standards and Codes

Civil society's awareness of the treaties to which the government has committed itself is crucial to holding governments responsible to its own actions and intentions. Some stakeholder groupings are aware of the various conventions and treaties that the Ghana government has endorsed. For example, women groups are well informed about the ratification of the CEDAW.

6.1.3 Poor Data Storage by MDAs

Data storage in the MDAs and in the public sector in general has not been satisfactory. Poor data storage in the public sector has been partially attributed to the delay in the passage of the Freedom to Information Bill. Government is addressing the problem through the public sector reform strategy and the Ghana ICT for Accelerated Development (ICT4AD) Policy to improve data storage, sharing and online communication.

Objective 1: Promote Self Reliance in Development and Build Capacity for Self Sustaining Development

6.1 Consultations with Stakeholders to Ensure Effective Participation in Development

A Parliamentary Resource Centre was established in Sekondi-Takoradi to improve public participation in all parliamentary processes. An integrated Public Participation Model that integrates public participation into the core functioning of Parliament and programmes such as Taking Parliament to the People, Women’s Parliament and Youth Parliament are being developed.

The Ministry Of Information initiated a new press interaction platform “Matters Arising” to respond to topical issues.

The engagement by MDAs with stakeholders for inputs into policies and programmes were mixed.

Stakeholders’ input into the Petroleum Revenue Management Bill

Civil societies in the oil sector have protested about the lack of transparency in the on-going consultations on the draft Ghana petroleum revenue management bill. Even though the civil society fraternity praised the move by government to ensure public participation they contend that the draft bill, had neither been published nor circulated for public scrutiny to facilitate informed contributions from Ghanaians.



A participant at the Nkoranza South District APRM Validation Workshop

6.2 Stakeholder Participation in District Budgeting and Planning Processes

At the lower level of governance, civil society participation in development programmes and issues affecting the grassroots is rather low. Government assessment of the national decentralisation action plan noted that, there is no structured and formalised arrangement that seeks to foster partnership and participation of civil society, traditional institutions and the private sector in local governance. For instance, participation of the local people in district budgeting and planning is very limited. Citizens and their elected assemblymen and women have very little capacity, knowledge and skills to engage effectively with budget proposals presented by the district budget planning committee.

6.3 Transparent Budget Process

Though civil society has some access to budget information, civil society remains in need of budget information that is of better quality, more comprehensive, timely and useful. It is worthy of note that, no pre-budget statement or report is published in Ghana. Information about the upcoming budget only becomes publicly available when it is tabled in parliament for discussion. There is therefore little time to analyse and debate the information before the budget approval.

Objective 2: Accelerate Socio-Economic Development to Achieve Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction

6.4 Lack of Adequate Progress on Monitoring of National Planning Documents

The Annual Progress Report of the NDPC which details out the extent to which government is achieving its stated objectives and targets in the GPRS II was cited. The Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) also reports on achievement of macro-economic targets and releases data on the outcome of government employment initiatives.

6.5 Undertake Impact Surveys of Key National Programmes

The GSS established a Poverty Indicators Unit and a Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Desk as well as a Gender Statistics Desk to track poverty reduction programmes under the GPRS II as well as attaining the MDGs in Ghana.

The Committees of Parliament embarked on a number of monitoring visits to project sites and institutions across the country to assess effective use of resources and efficiency of project implementation.

However an urgent call was made on government to undertake an assessment of the various micro-credit schemes initiated by the various MDAs and the Poverty Alleviation Fund.

**Objective 3: Strengthen Policies, Delivery Mechanisms and Outcomes in Key Social Areas
Including Education and Combating HIV/AIDs and other communicable Diseases**

6.6 Education

Government expenditure on Basic Education continued to increase both as a percentage of overall poverty related expenditure and expenditure on Education as a whole. Total expenditure in 2009 amounted to GH¢1, 020.33 million which represented 53.58 percent of actual education spending.

6.6.1 Enrolment Rates

Access to education has shown positive trends since 2003 due to appropriate policy actions and increased resource allocation to the educational sector. The Ministry of Education Performance Report 2009 reports a net enrolment of 60 percent in 2004 to 88.5 percent in 2008/09 academic year. Gross admission rates (GAR) has been over the 100 percent mark (Table 6.1).

Table 6.1: Progress in Primary Access Indicators

Indicator	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Total enrolment	2,957,491	3,077,489	3,111,753	3,473,229	3,622,724	3,710,647
Gross enrolment Ratio (GER) %	86.50	87.50	92.10	93.70	95.20	94.90
Net Enrolment Ratio (NER)%	n/a	59.10	69.20	81.10	83.40	88.50
P1 Gross Admission Rate (GAR) %	88.20	89.40	92.30	103.20	107.30	102.90
P1 Net Admission Rate (NAR) %	n/a	26.20	61.70	69.10	74.30	72.1
Completion Rate (%)	77.90	78.70	75.60	85.40	88.00	88.7

Source: Budget Statement, 2010

Disaggregating the data for the different levels shows that Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in Kindergarten increased from 89.9 percent in 2007/2008 to 92.9 percent in 2008/2009 (Table

6.2). GER in Primary schools however, decreased marginally from 95.2 percent in 2007/2008 to 94.9 percent in 2008/2009.

Table 6.2 Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) for basic Schools, 2008 – 2009

GER	2007/2008	2008/2009
Kindergarten	82.9%	92.9%
Primary	95.2%	94.9%
Junior High School	78.8%	80.6%

Source: Ministry of Education and Sports, Education Sector Performance Report, 2009

Survival rate, an indicator which indicates the proportion of pupils who remain and complete school after enrolment, showed mixed results. Survival rate at the primary level declined from 88.0 percent in 2007/2008 to 86.3 percent in 2008/2009 (Table 6.3). Survival rate at the Junior High level however, increased from 67.7 percent in 2007/2008 to 75.0 percent in 2008/2009.

Table 6.3 Survival Rates for basic Schools, 2008 – 2009

Survival Rate	2007/2008	2008/2009
Primary		
National	88.0%	86.3%
Males	88.9%	89.3%
Females	82.4%	83.2%
Junior High School		
National	67.7%	75.0%
Males	72.4%	79.7%
Females	62.9%	70.7%

Source: Ministry of Education and Sports, Education Sector Performance Report, 2009

Gender Parity Index at the primary level has been stagnating in recent years. The current kindergarten, primary and junior high gender parity is 0.99, 0.96 and 0.92 respectively (Table 6.4).

Table 6.4 Gender Parity Index (GPI) for basic Schools, 2008 – 2009

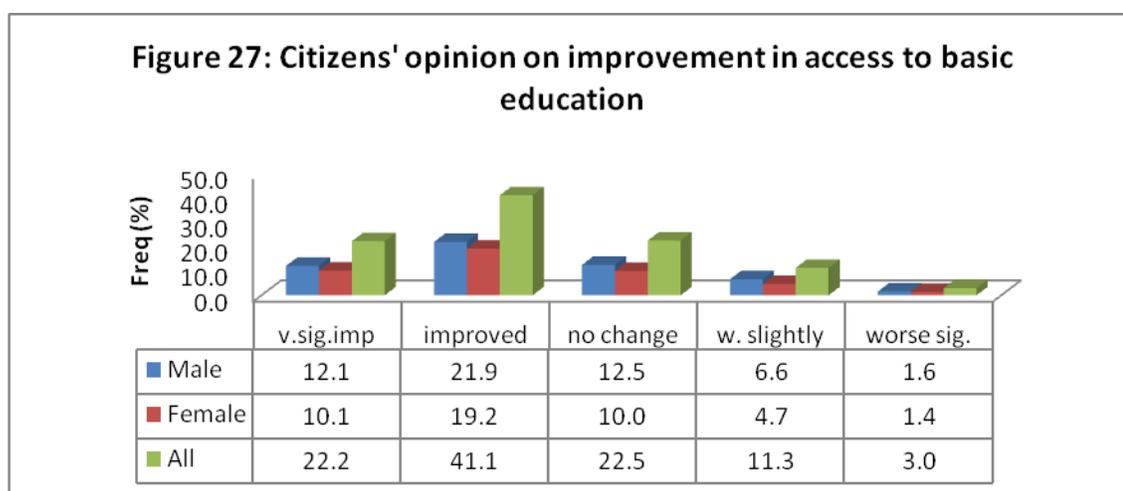
GER	2007/2008	2008/2009
Kindergarten	0.98	0.99
Primary	0.96	0.96
Junior High School	0.92	0.92

Source: Ministry of Education and Sports, Education Sector Performance Report, 2009

Ghana School Feeding Programme (GSFP)

The national average enrolment under the programme increased by 20 percent in beneficiary schools.

The majority of Respondents (50.6 percent) reported that there has been an improvement in access to educational facilities (Figure 27).



Source: DOC Survey Data, 2009

Stakeholders point to a number of ongoing programmes as contributing to the improvement in school enrolment

- i) The Capitation Grant, School Bussing and NEPAD School Feeding Programme
- ii) Free school uniforms and textbooks for basic schools.
- iii) The on-going up-grading of teacher training colleges (TTC) under the New Education Reforms including the construction of classrooms and libraries in 38 TTCs as well as the

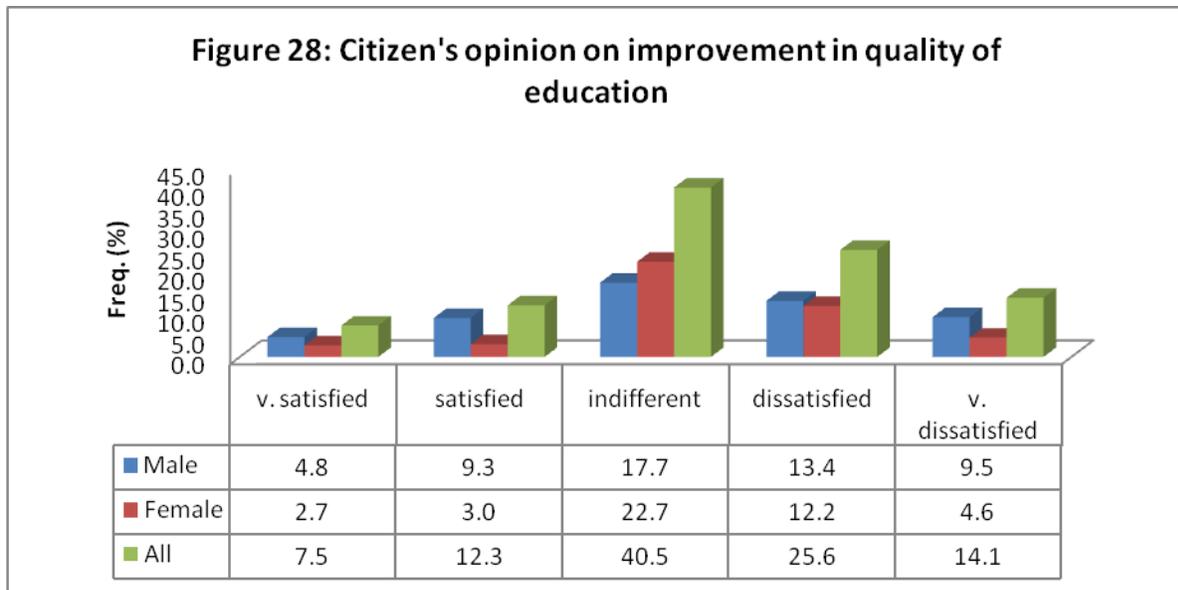
construction of science laboratories in 15 selected science, mathematics and technology focused TTCs.

iv) The Distance Learning Education programme affords teachers the opportunity to upgrade themselves without physically leaving the classrooms and also ease pressure on the study leave scheme.

v) The Untrained Teachers Diploma in Basic Education (UTDBE) programme and

vi) Community Teacher Assistance Modules of the National Youth Employment programme are also commendable.

Respondents (40.5 percent) indicated they were indifferent to the quality of education, whilst 19.8 percent reported they were satisfied (Figure 28). This is a far cry from the 57.3 percent who reported they were satisfied in the 2008 APRM survey.



Source: DOC Survey Data, 2009

Stakeholders pointed to a number of indicators to buttress the poor quality of education.

- The proportion of students passing the Basic Education Certificate Examinations (BECE) has been stagnating around 61.0 percent.
- Poor progress in resolving the trained teacher challenge at all levels

Other reasons cited for the low confidence include:

- i) Over-crowded schools, especially in schools where the School Feeding Programme is functional.
- ii) Poor school infrastructure.
- iii) Unmotivated teachers as well as poor teacher:pupil ratio.
- iv) Lack of textbooks and other learning materials

The pupil: teacher ratio (i.e the number of pupils per teacher) is an important indicator of quality of education as the indicator is directly related to the quality of teaching and learning. PTR of 35:1 at the primary level and 25:1 at the JHS level are considered to be optimal for teaching and learning. Data in Table 4.8 show that the PTRs remained unchanged at **34.1** at both the kindergarten and primary levels from 2007/08 and 2008/09. Similarly, junior high school PTR remained at 17:1 during the same period under review.

6.7 Health

Expenditure on Primary Health Care (PHC) represented almost 51 percent of all Health Sector expenditure in 2009. But this expenditure of GHC312.65 Million was less than 17 percent of all poverty related spending. This compared to over 18 percent in 2008 and 19.5 percent in 2007. As a percentage of health sector expenditure, poverty related expenditure on PHC has been on a continuous decline.

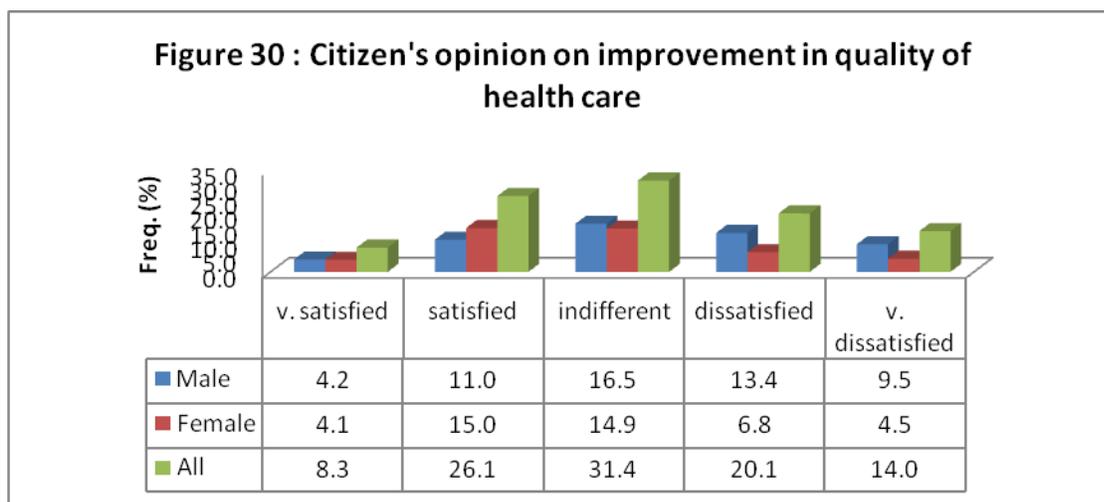
6.7.1 Motivation for Health Professionals

Government continues to provide both monetary and non-monetary incentives to motivate health professionals to stay in the country. These include improvement in the salary structures and car incentive packages for health workers. Government has had cause to review the car incentive package to health personnel because of reported abuses in the scheme. Government has also reviewed the extra duty allowance paid to health personnel.

The government has also introduced and maintained the deprived area incentive of an additional 30% of a health workers salary.

The improvement in access to and quality of health services was attributed to the NHIS and expansion of existing health facilities.

Respondents (60.1 percent) reported satisfaction in the quality of health care (Figure 41).



Source: DOC Survey Data, 2009

Other health related indicators:

- **Immunization coverage:** There was an increase in vaccination coverage for infants receiving Penta 3 from 86.6 percent in 2008 to 89.0 percent in 2009. The proportion of children aged 9 months who were vaccinated against measles also increased from 86.0 percent to 89.0 percent in 2009.
- **Anti-natal care (ANC) coverage:** The proportion of pregnant women receiving antenatal care decreased by 5 percentage points in 2009 from 97.4 percent in 2008 to 92.1 in 2009.
- **Supervised deliveries:** There has been an improvement in the rate of supervised deliveries from 35.1 percent in 2007 to 45.6 percent in 2009. Despite this improvement,

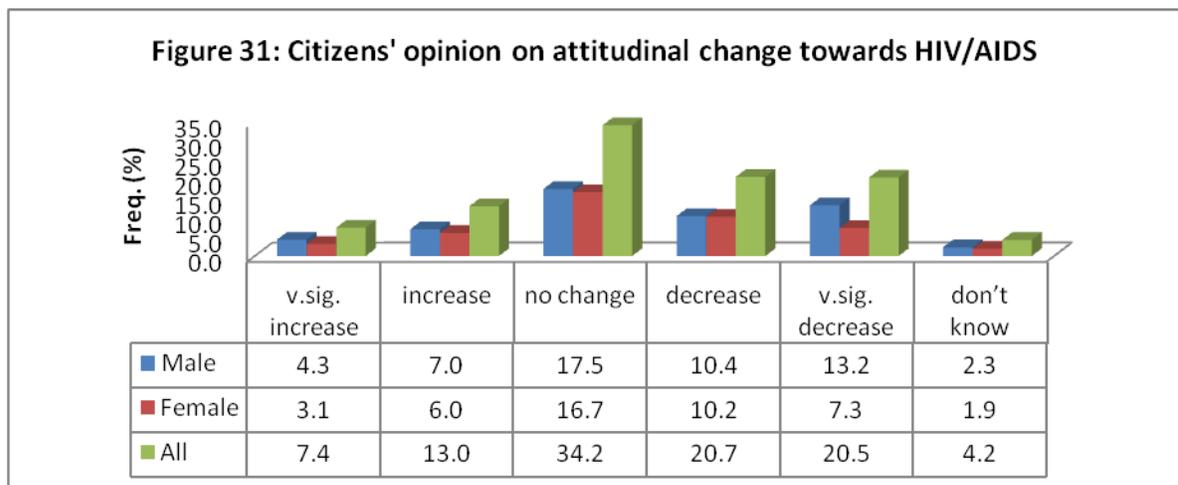
supervised delivery service is still very low in the country. At the regional level, marked differences exist in the proportion of supervised deliveries. Five (5) out of the 10 regions (Northern, Western, Ashanti, Volta and Upper East) have levels of supervised deliveries below the national average of 45.6 percent.

- **Guinea worm infestation:** The Guinea Worm Eradication Programme continued in 2009. Interventions under the programme have resulted in dramatic drop of guinea worm cases from a high of 4,136 reported cases in 2006 to 242 in 2009. The disease is now limited to a few places in the Northern region.
-

6.8 Reversing the Spread of HIV/AIDS

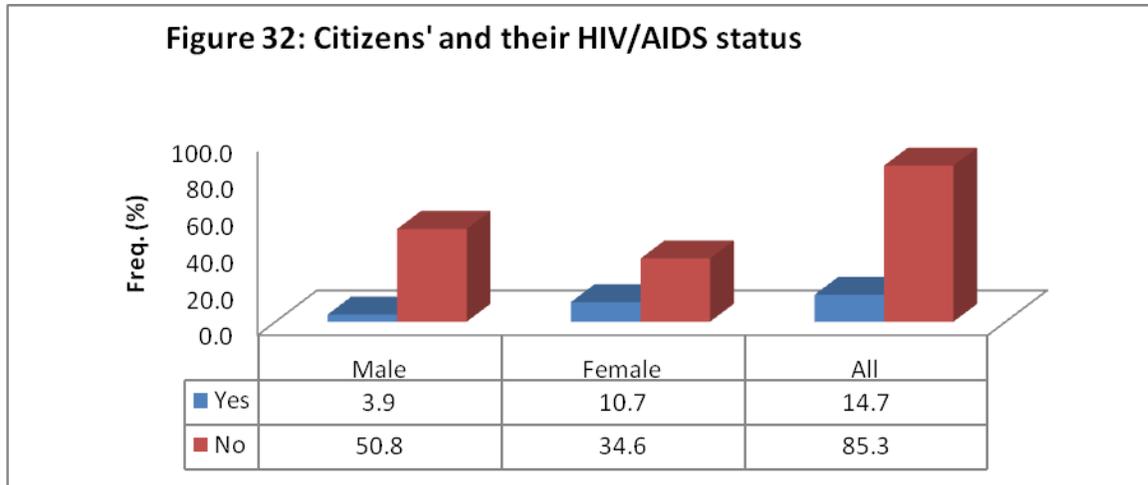
The HIV epidemic in Ghana is slowly signs of stabilizing. The HIV/AIDS prevalence rate declined marginally from 1.9 percent in 2008 to of 1.7 percent in 2009. The current national antenatal adult prevalence rate is 2.2. The Ghana AIDS Commission, however, reports of large regional differences and increasing signs of unprotected sex among the youth.

Respondents (34.2 percent) indicated that there has not been any change in people’s attitude towards HIV/AIDS. Respondents cited reports of increased teenage pregnancies as evidence that the youth were not adhering to the HIV/AIDS warnings.



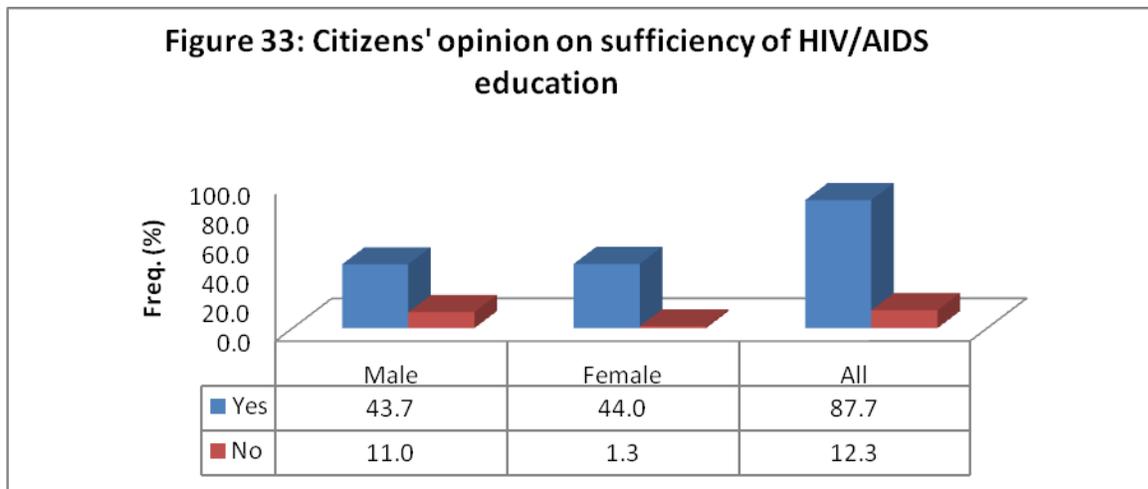
Source: DOC Survey data, 2009

When Respondents were asked if they knew their HIV/AIDS status, only 14.7 percent responded in the affirmative. Relative more females (10.7 percent) knew of their status than men (3.9 percent). This was attributed to the fact that pregnant women were tested for the virus.



Source: DOC Survey Data, 2009

When Respondents were asked if in their opinion the HIV/AIDS education has been sufficient to adequately equip them with the knowledge to ensure a healthy lifestyle, 87.7 percent responded in the affirmative (Figure 33).



Source: DOC Survey Data, 2009

6.9 Combating Malaria and other Communicable Diseases

Interventions implemented by the National Malaria Control Programme of Ghana Health Service in 2009 to manage the disease included:

- promotion of the availability and use of insecticide treated nets (ITN), with focus on children under five years and pregnant women.
- scaling up the Intermittent Preventive Treatment (IPT) to provide chemoprophylaxis for pregnant women
- Improving malaria case management in all health facilities
- Intensifying community education on the synergy between malaria and environmental sanitation.

In spite of sustained efforts at the prevention and control of malaria to achieve MDG target 6, the performance of malaria control indicators achieved only moderate success during the year. ITN coverage for children under five (5) years, for example, increased marginally from 40.5% in 2008 to 41.1% in 2009; and that of pregnant women from 30.2% to 31.5% in the same period.

Objective 4: Ensuring Affordable Access to Water, Sanitation, Energy, Finance, Market, ICT Shelter and Land to All Citizens Especially the Rural Poor

6.10 Access to Treated Water and Good Sanitation

Expenditure on Poverty related Rural Water in 2009 fell short of the budgeted amount was also almost one-third of the spending in 2008. As a percentage of Works and Housing Expenditure, Rural Water expenditure continues to decline significantly. It accounted for only 19.00 percent in 2009 even though it represented almost 34 percent of total sector expenditure in 2008. Rural water expenditure is however an insignificant proportion of total poverty spending, accounting for only 0.45 percent in 2008.

A number of water projects were undertaken in 2009 to facilitate the provision of safe water in rural and urban communities.

The Community Water and Sanitation Agency (CWSA) completed the following water systems:

- 588 new boreholes completed
- 40 boreholes rehabilitated
- 17 hand-dug wells constructed
- 2 small communities new pipe systems completed
- 9 small towns new pipe systems completed

The cumulative numbers of various types of rural water systems across the country are shown in Table 6.5 below.

Table 6.5: Cumulative Achievements in Water Systems Provision, 1994-2009

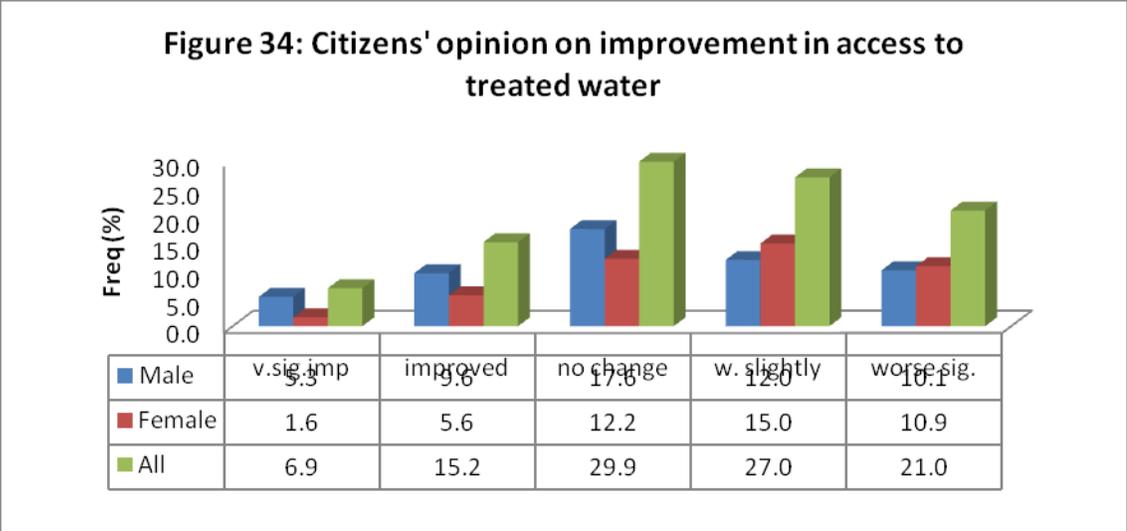
Type of Water System	2008 Performance	Cumulative 1994-2008	2009 performance	Cumulative 1994-2009
Boreholes-new	1784	12366	588	12,954
Hand-dug wells-new	54	1467	17	1,484
Total-new water points	1838	13,833	605	14,438
Small communities pipes-new	1	46	1	47
Small town pipes-new	14	327	18	345
Total-new pipe systems	15	373	19	392
Hand dug wells-rehab	0	100	0	100
Boreholes-rehab	302	3,928	40	3,968
Conversions	0	4,230	0	4230
Total-rehabilitation	302	8,258	40	8,298

Source: CWSA Annual Report, 2009

To improve access to water in urban communities, the Ghana Water Company implemented a number of water supply projects countrywide in 2009. These include:

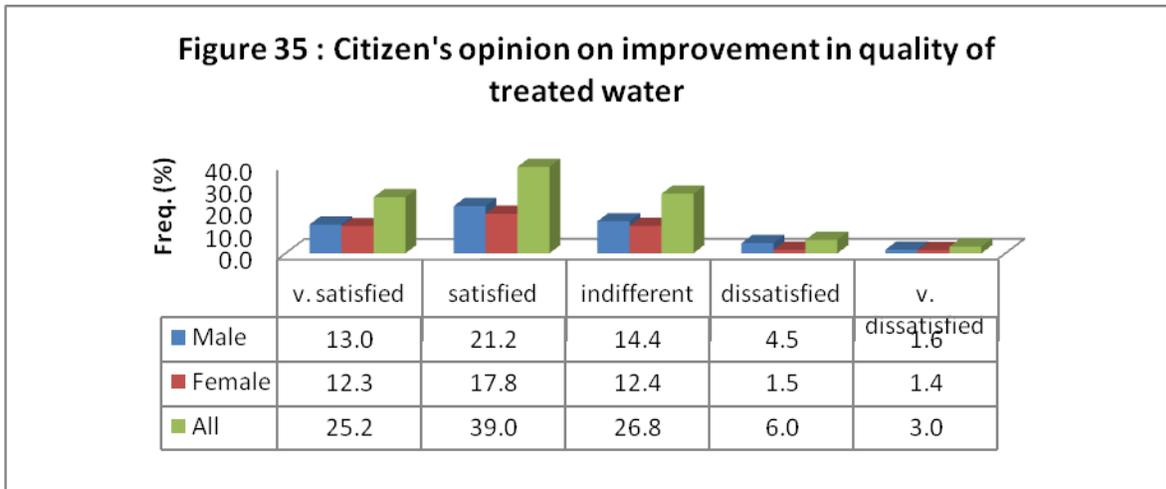
- Building and rehabilitation of water treatment plants in Kumasi, Tamale, East and West Accra pipeline interconnection, Kpong, Koforidua, and Bolgatanga.
- Rehabilitation of and expansion of medium capacity water treatment plants in district capitals.
- Rehabilitation and expansion of low capacity (minor) water treatment plants at Axim, Breman Asikuma, and Kpando.

Respondents (22.1 percent) reported an improvement in their access to treated water (Figure 34).



Source: DOC Survey Data, 2009

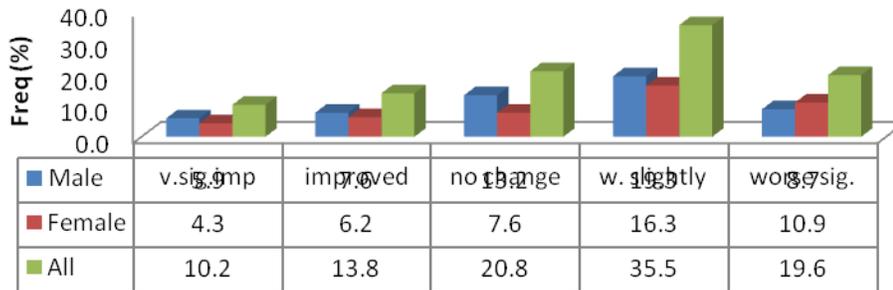
64.2 percent of Respondents indicated an improvement in the quality of treated water (Figure 35).



Source: DOC Survey Data, 2009

Respondents (24.0 percent) reported an improvement in their access to sanitation facilities, that is, toilets and dumping sites for rubbish (Figure 36).

Figure 36: Citizens' opinion on improvement in access to sanitation



Source: DOC Survey Data, 2009

Only 22.7 percent of Respondents indicated an improvement in the quality of water and sanitation services (Figure 37).

Figure 37 : Citizen's opinion on improvement in quality sanitation



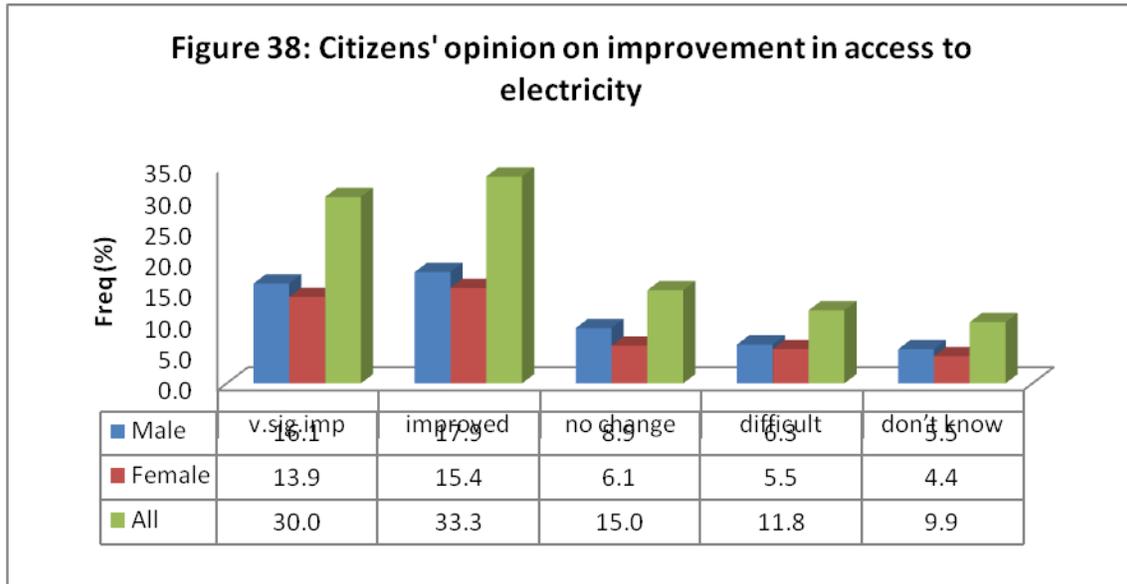
Source: DOC Survey Data, 2009

6.25 Access to Energy Supply

The huge reduction on total energy sector spending in 2009 meant that Rural Electrification expenditure as a percent of total energy sector saw a significant improvement between 2008

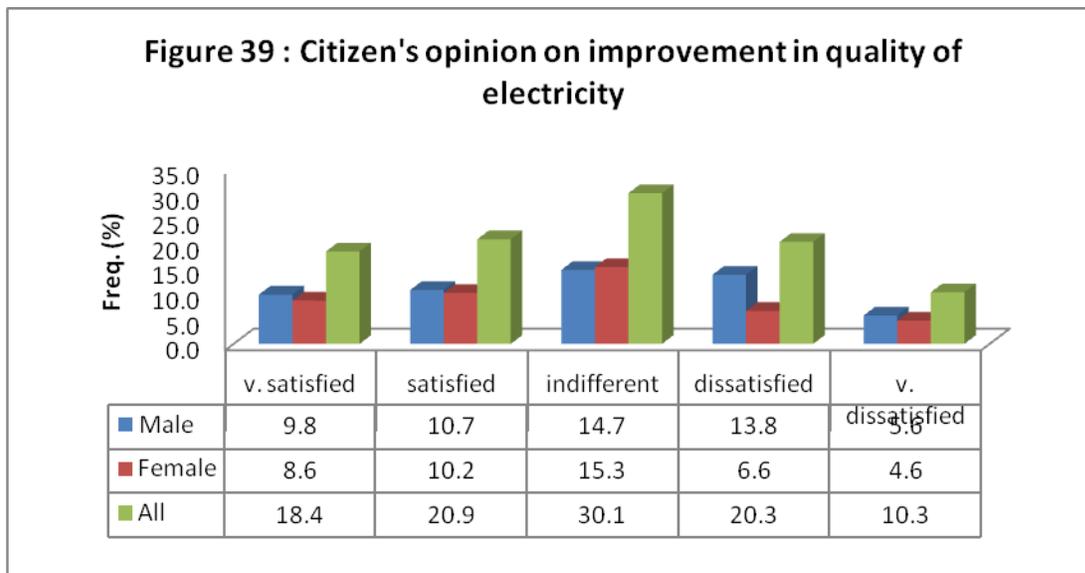
and 2009 even though it represents a decreasing proportion of total poverty spending. The GH¢42.68 spent on rural electrification in 2009 represents 51.42 per cent of total Energy sector spending and 2.30 per cent of total poverty spending.

Respondents (63.3 percent) reported of improvement in their access to electricity (Figure 38).



Source: DOC Survey Data, 2009

On the quality of electricity, 30.1 percent indicated indifference (Figure 39).



6.26 Affordable Housing

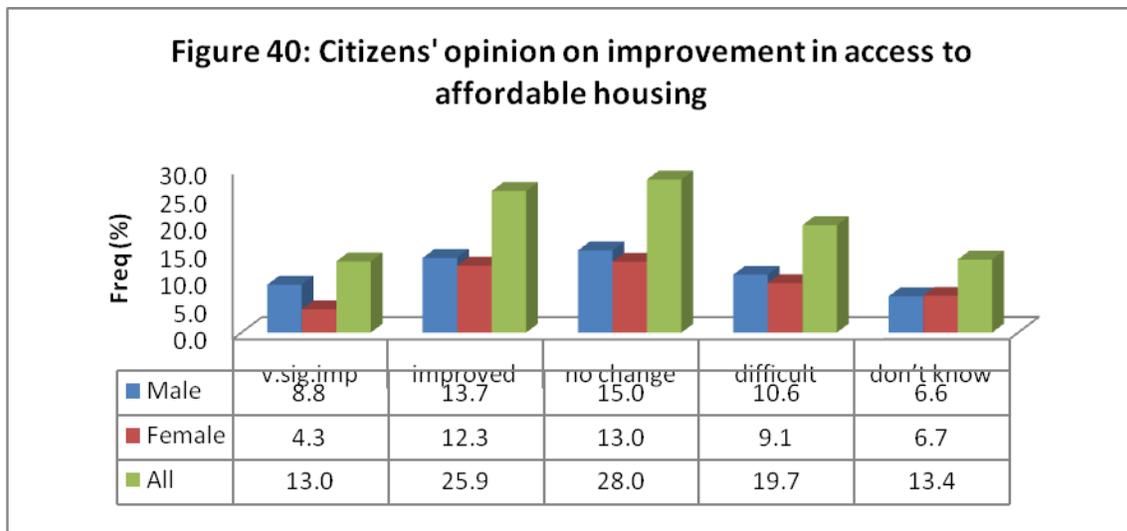
The Government's initiative to make housing accessible to the low and middle income groups in the country through the Affordable Housing programme continued in 2009.

After in an initial slowdown, work started to pick up again at the six sites, namely Borteyman and Kpone in the Greater Accra Region, Asokore-Mampong in the Ashanti Region, Koforidua in the Eastern Region, Tamale in the Northern Region, and Wa in the Upper West Region.

Quite a number of the house types at Borteyman, Kpone and Asokore-Mampong have reached advanced stages of completion requiring the installation of electrical and plumbing fixtures and fittings and connection to the mains.

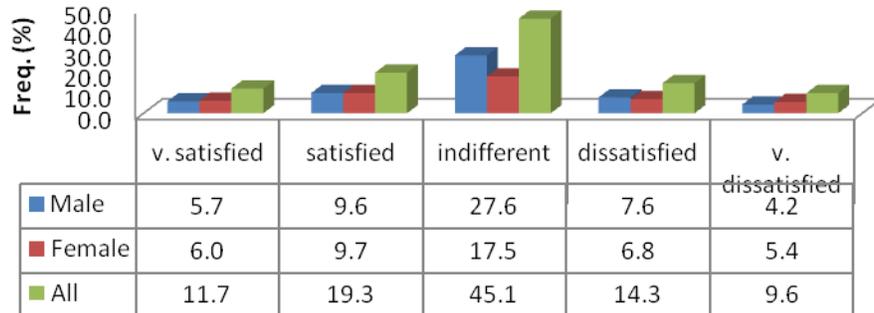
There are also plans to continue with the programme in the other five (5) Regional Capitals and in some one hundred deprived District capitals.

Respondents, especially those in metropolitan cities, noted a no change in their access to affordable housing (Figure 40). Respondents (paid employees) in the rural districts indicated an improvement in their access to affordable housing. This was attributed to urban dwellers putting up houses in their hometowns and renting them out to public and civil servants.



Respondents (45.1 percent) were, however, indifferent to the quality of houses (Figure 42).

Figure 41 : Citizen's opinion on improvement in quality of affordable housing



Slum Upgrading

In 2008 the government in collaboration with UN-Habitat initiated the Slum Upgrading Facility (SUF) in collaboration with the UN-habitat in 2008. The SUF operates under the premise that slums can be upgraded successfully when slum dwellers are involved in the planning and design of upgrading projects and able to work collaboratively with a range of other key stakeholders.

In 2009, SUF established two Local Finance Facilities (LFF's) managed under a joint secretariat called the Ghana Slum Upgrading Facility Secretariat located at the Institute of Local Government Studies. The two facilities have a series of projects that are being evaluated to ascertain their financial viability prior to approval for implementation.

The following slum upgrading projects were successfully implemented during the year.

- Under the Sekondi-Takoradi SFU (STMA-CSUF), two market sheds were constructed at Kojokrom by the Kojokrom Market Women's Association. The allocation of the market stalls has been done and the stalls are in use with no default in monthly repayment. The next project under review by STMA-CSUF is the Effiakuma Zongo 20-seater toilet project. However, there are a few outstanding problems such as and once all ownership issues are cleared the project would start.
- Under the Tema-Ashiaman CFU (TAMSUF), a mixed use residential facility has been constructed at Amui-Djor, an electoral area in the Ashiaman Municipality to accommodate 31 families with 15 stores and some toilet and bathing facilities to generate extra income to cross-subsidized. The project will be handed over to the Amui-Djor Housing Co-operative Society. This is a Four Hundred and twenty-six thousand Cedis (GH¢ 426,000.00) project which was supported by the Ministry of Water Resources, Works and Housing to the tune of GH¢29,714.00.

CHAPTER

7

CONCLUSIONS

7.0 Introduction

The concluding session reports on the progress made in addressing the overarching issues.

7.1 Capacity Constraints

As part of efforts to address the country's capacity challenges, a Draft Human Resource Policy and an Implementation Action Plan (IAP) are being developed. Both documents are to be validated in 2010.

The Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) has prepared a framework and Action Plan for capacity building to meet the current and future needs of the country.

7.2 Gender disparity

Following the introduction of a number of policy initiatives, such as the capitation grant scheme, gender disparities in primary and secondary schools have improved considerably. Despite the early progress, the Gender Parity Index (GPI) at primary level has stagnated at 0.96. There are also wide geographical differences in progress. GPI at the JHS level increased steadily except between 2005/06 and 2006/07 academic years and has since stabilized at 0.96. Increasing participation of girls at the senior high school level remains a challenge. Currently the rate of female participation at the senior high school level is about 44 percent.

7.3 Corruption

Government facilitated the elaboration of a Code of Conduct for public officials. The Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) also held nationwide consultations with relevant public institutions on the Code.

Various workshops were organized on the review of the Whistleblower Amendment Bill; Public Officers Liability Bill; and Assets Declaration Regulations.

7.4 Decentralization

A process to establish District Works Department in 44 District Assemblies as part of integrating the 17 decentralized departments was initiated.

Regional Sensitization Workshops were organized for all departmental heads on the Local Government Service system for effective and successful change management.

The District Development Fund (DDF) Operational Manual was endorsed and the first disbursement of funds made to MMDAs.

7.5 Land Issues

The first phase of the farmland demarcation exercise involving some 2,500 acres in the Brong Ahafo Region was completed under the Sankore Lands Project.

7.6 Chieftaincy

The country is currently implementing the 3rd Operational Programme Estimate (PE 3) of the Cultural Initiatives Support Programme (CISP) to stimulate the development of arts and cultural expressions in all their diversity, as an engine for economic development and poverty reduction at the national, local and individual level.

A draft Legislative Instrument on the codification of lines of succession based on reports from 11 Traditional Areas was submitted to the Attorney General's Department.

In addition, data was collected from 20 Traditional Areas related to family and land law as part of the ascertainment of customary laws.

7.7 Unemployment

A Special Employment Task Force was instituted to review the existing policy and bring it in line with the National Development Policy Framework's job creating objectives.

7.8 North-South Disparity

A number of medium and long term measures have been instituted to bridge the development gap between northern and southern Ghana and to reduce poverty. These included the Savannah Accelerated Development Authority for a more holistic approach to development in the three northern regions and districts in the Brong Ahafo and Volta Regions, contiguous to the Northern Region.

7.9 Aid Dependency

Ghana's dependency of external aid has dropped steadily from a high of 39.7 percent in 2005 to below 20