

PROJECT DETAILS

Country/ies: Ghana
Duration: May 2007 – Nov 2009
Budget: UK £ 332,412
Funder: UK Department for International Development (DFID)
Partner(s): Parliament of Ghana
Status: Closed

About the Parliamentary Centre

The Parliamentary Centre is a Canadian not-for-profit, non-partisan organization that supports parliaments around the world. Our assessment, strategic planning and training programs, combined with research products and networking channels, help legislatures measure their performance, build capacity, tackle key issues and promote mutual learning.

In short - we help legislatures better serve their people.

About the Project

The Financial Scrutiny Project funded by DFID was designed to strengthen the capacity of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of Ghana's Parliament and thereby enhance the Parliament's role as the "keeper of the public purse."

The goal of the project was to improve governance in public financial management and effective parliamentary oversight of the budget by the Parliament of Ghana. Specific objectives included:

- improved functional and managerial capacity of Parliament and MPs to undertake effective budget and financial oversight;

- improved knowledge of the public financial management and scrutiny of the evidence produced by the Auditor General; and
- improved public support for the work of the Public Accounts Committee and Parliament.

Accomplishments

The main achievement of the Financial Scrutiny Project in Ghana was to open the proceedings of the Public Accounts Committee, which has now been institutionalized. This has boosted Parliament's efforts to increase accountability and transparency, combat corruption and to improve budget oversight and resource allocation. This in turn has renewed the confidence of the public in the ability of Parliament to oversee the Executive, as well as made public financial management procedures and financial officials of the public service more transparent and accountable.

Other accomplishments include:

- The liaisons between the Audit Service and the Public Accounts Committee has been strengthened as a result of the project;
- Ministries Departments and Agencies of Government decided to form Audit Report Implementation of Committees to help strengthen public financial management by, as a result of the probing questions of the PAC; and
- The project also saw the Attorney General resume the prosecution of dormant cases that occasioned the loss public resources.

Testimonials

“The Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana) joins Ghanaians in congratulating the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of Parliament for the important initiative it has taken recently to demand accountability from officials in our Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) entrusted with the use and management of public funds and other resources. We commend the Committee’s members for the spirit of non-partisanship and professionalism with which they approached this very important task. We hope that the decision of the Committee to hold public hearings into findings contained in the Auditor-General’s Report would become institutionalized as part of the tradition of the Parliament of the Fourth Republic. We strongly implore Parliament’s other Committees, especially the sector-specific committees, to emulate the PAC’s example.”

CDD statement on PAC hearings, November 6, 2007

Daily Graphic, Thursday, November 8, 2007.

MDAs set up internal audit units

Story: **Lucy Adoma Yeboah**

A NUMBER of ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) which have hitherto been found wanting, are hurrying to put in place internal auditing mechanisms in an apparent move to avoid queries from the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) at future public hearings.

For more information about the project contact:
Parliamentary Centre
255 Albert St., Suite 802, Ottawa, K1P 6A9
Tel: + 1 613 237 0143, E-mail: Africa@parlcent.org