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SECTION ONE: INTRODUCTION

1. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure and humility that I present to this august House the 2009 Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the National Democratic Congress (NDC) government on behalf of His Excellency, President John Evans Atta Mills.
2. Madam Speaker, in pursuit of its social democratic agenda to promote 'A Better Ghana' in which real opportunities for gainful employment prosperous enterprise and social and economic welfare for all our people, the NDC Government has identified four broad themes by which the challenges confronting the national economy can be addressed.
3. Job creation will require the expansion of infrastructure, investing in Ghana's human capital and providing transparent and accountable governance.

Economic Performance

4. Madam Speaker, in his State of the Nation Address, H.E. the President highlighted the fundamentals of our current economic situation and predicament which include a large fiscal and trade deficits higher than expected rate of inflation, an increase in the national debt stock, and the depreciation in the value of the Cedi.
5. We also have to contend with low levels of productivity in agriculture, industry and manufacturing among others.
6. Externally, the world economy has been experiencing a severe credit crunch alongside the recent global energy and food price hikes.
7. Madam Speaker, the general effects of these developments were that MDAs had expenditure over-commitments.

Government Commitment and 2009 Policy Thrust

8. Madam Speaker, the implication of the domestic and external state of affairs briefly described above is that 2009 will be very challenging for the new NDC administration. The Government is nevertheless committed to its pledge of providing improved social services to uphold the living conditions and dignity of the average Ghanaian.
9. The policy thrust of the 2009 budget is to reduce the current budget deficit to sustainable levels, improve the exchange rate regime, and work towards the attainment of single digit inflation.
10. The main strategies to be used will include enforcement of fiscal discipline, significant reduction in unproductive recurrent expenditure and improvement in revenue generation (including dividends from state owned enterprises). Infrastructure development in the roads, energy and water sectors will be accelerated and expanded whilst providing security and justice for all.
11. These measures will be pursued within a process of monitoring and evaluation of all MDA activities to ensure the effective implementation of government policies and the achievement of objectives and set targets.
12. The savings so achieved will be channeled into projects beneficial to our people.
13. Madam Speaker, we will also focus attention on some key expenditure in our budget in an effort to rationalize them and infuse some level of efficiency and value for money. These will include a critical look at the wage bill administration, the management of statutory funds, and the profitability, financial situation and relevance of state-owned enterprises and subvented organizations.

14. In that regard Madam Speaker, Ghanaians should expect a significant change in the management of the economy. Managers of government institutions, especially state-owned companies, will be held to a high level of accountability.
15. Government will also partner the private sector to provide the necessary enabling policy environment and incentives for both enterprise growth and the efficient and effective delivery of public services.
16. Madam Speaker, we believe that these strategies will lead to the delivery of improved and better social services and generate sustainable employment opportunities within a secure environment for the people of Ghana.

SECTION TWO: WORLD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS AND OUTLOOK

The World Economy

Developments in 2008 and Outlook for 2009

17. Madam Speaker, the world economy witnessed three major shocks between 2007 and 2008: a global financial crisis, and upward spiral in food and fuel prices. These shocks have led to decreases in business investments and in consumer confidence, especially in the developed economies. For these reasons, the world economy turned sharply into a downturn in 2008.
18. The result, according to the World Economic Outlook Update, is that world economic growth is projected to be 3.4 per cent in 2008 down from 5.2 per cent in 2007. This downturn is mostly led by the advanced economies, which have been hit the hardest by the financial and economic crisis. Growth rate in the developed economies is projected to decline from 2.7 per cent in 2007 to 1.0 per cent in 2008.
19. Growth prospects are worse than expected not only in the United States of America and Europe but also in major emerging market economies. In the United States of America and Canada, economic growth rates in 2008 are projected to decrease to 1.1 per cent and 0.6 per cent respectively from their respective 2007 rates of 2.0 per cent and 2.7 per cent. In the Euro area, rate of economic expansion is projected to decrease by more than 50 per cent to 1.0 per cent from its 2007 rate of 2.6 per cent.
20. Madam Speaker, the developing economies also have not been spared the global economic slowdown. Growth in developing economies including emerging economies is projected to be 6.3 per cent in 2008 down from the realized growth rate of 8.3 per cent in 2007.

21. For now, Africa seems to have been hit only mildly by the global financial crisis because of the limited level of integration of most African financial markets into those of the rest of the World. Even then, the rate of growth in economic activities slowed down in 2008 and is estimated to be 5.2 per cent in 2008, down from the 6.2 per cent growth rate in 2007.
22. In developing countries in Asia, the rate of economic expansion declined from 10.6 per cent in 2007 to an estimated rate of 7.8 per cent in 2008. China's economic growth slowed to 9.0 per cent in 2008, its lowest in seven years from the 2007 rate of 13.0 per cent. The story is similar in India. India's growth rate is estimated to decrease by 2.0 percentage points in 2008 from the 2007 rate of 9.3 per cent.
23. A similar pattern of slowdown in economic activities in 2008 characterized countries in Latin America, Eastern Europe and Russia. The only region of the world that was not projected to experience a lower rate of economic expansion in 2008 relative to 2007 rate is the Middle East, because of the large revenues from oil exports following the record high price of oil during the first half of 2008.
24. The general economic downturn has affected world trade. The rate of growth in the volume of world trade in goods and services decreased from 7.2 per cent in 2007 to a projected rate of 4.1 per cent in 2008. The rates of growth in both exports and imports declined in both developing and advanced economies.
25. Madam Speaker, with the global financial crisis still deepening, the prospects for World GDP growth in 2009 are diminishing. World output growth is projected to be just 0.5 per cent in 2009, down from 3.4 per cent in 2008.
26. Emerging and developing economies are projected to grow by 3.3 per cent in 2009, down from 6.3 per cent in 2008. For the developed economies, output is expected to contract in 2009 by 2.0 per cent. This would be the first annual contraction since World War II. This is expected to decrease the volume of world

trade in 2009, leading to a decline in exports from developing economies.

Inflation

27. Madam Speaker, global inflation soared in 2008. This was mostly due to the high food prices, which worsened in 2008, and the record high price of oil during the first half of 2008.
28. In advanced economies, inflation rate increased from 2.1 per cent in 2007 to a projected rate of 3.5 per cent in 2008. In developing economies, inflation rate increased from 6.4 per cent in 2007 to a projected rate of 9.2 per cent in 2008.
29. Madam Speaker, the high rate of inflation of 2008, especially the high food prices put a big burden on consumers in general and the poor in particular. Inflation generally eats away real incomes of consumers, and expenditure on food takes the biggest portion of the poor's budget. The World Bank estimates that the cost of higher food and fuel prices to consumers in developing countries will be equal to about US\$680 billion in 2008.

International Commodity Prices

Oil

30. Starting the year with about US\$90 per barrel as the average price in January 2008, international price of crude oil continued to soar till it hit a record high of US\$147 per barrel in July. This led to increases in costs of production of firms, reinforcing the global economic slowdown of 2008. However, in response to the slowdown, crude oil prices started to ease during the later part of 2008. By December 2008, average monthly price of crude oil had fallen below US\$50.
31. International crude oil price is expected to stay low in 2009 relative to 2008 because of the collapse in world growth, which is expected to lower global demand for crude oil.

Cocoa

32. Madam Speaker, the international price of cocoa was high in 2008. On the London International Futures and Funds Exchange (IFFE), the weekly average price increased from £1,089 for the first week of January 2008 to £1,701 for the last week of June. From this period onwards, the price took a downward trend reaching £1,288 in the second week of November before surging again to reach £1,763 by the end of December 2008.
33. Like most international commodities, the projected decline in the rate of growth of the world economy is expected to have a negative impact on cocoa's world market price, albeit not to the same degree of that projected for crude oil price.

Gold

34. Madam Speaker, the world market for gold was very favourable in 2008. The realized international average weekly price started the year at \$861.96 and reached as high as US\$997.80 in the third week of March. Even though it started to ease a little thereafter, the weekly average price was \$868.98 by the end of December 2008.
35. The nature of the international market for gold in 2008 was caused by demand pressures. The international financial crisis caused the dollar to depreciate and dimmed the prospects for the other major world currencies, causing investors to increase the gold holdings in their investment portfolios.

Implications for Ghana

36. Madam Speaker, like other developing economies, the downturn in the advanced economies in 2009 is expected to have negative effect on Ghana's exports and, thus, our external balance. Weak demand for exports and weak commodity prices imply less export revenue. In addition, expected shortfalls in remittances, a slowdown in donor support and private capital inflows as a result of the global recession are all likely to have negative impact on the Ghanaian economy in general and on public finances in particular. These therefore call for vigilance and

careful monitoring of further developments in the World economy so that corrective actions could be taken quickly when the need arises.

SECTION THREE: DEVELOPMENTS AND OUTLOOK IN THE WEST AFRICA SUB-REGION

Developments in West African Monetary Zone (WAMZ) Countries

37. The macroeconomic performance of the WAMZ countries was generally satisfactory during the first half of the year. Real GDP growth remained strong, on the back of robust performance in the agricultural sectors of member countries. Inflationary pressures, however, surged on account of the global energy and food price shocks. Fiscal outcomes deteriorated partly reflecting the fiscal costs of the measures implemented to mitigate the burden of the external shocks. External sector performance was mixed, to the extent that although most countries recorded marked growth in gross external reserves, the steep rise in import prices led to the decline in reserves in terms of months of imports they could cover.
38. Information available from the half-year data for 2008 compiled by the West African Monetary Institute (WAMI) indicate that the weighted average real growth for the region was 6.7 per cent which was 0.6 percentage points above the 2007 growth. In terms of country performance, Ghana, Nigeria and Guinea sustained their growth performance while the Gambia and Sierra Leone recorded reduced growth rates. At the sector level, Agriculture and Service sectors were the main contributors to growth.

Monetary Developments

39. Broad money (M2+) growth accelerated in the Region as credit to the private sector expanded markedly in all countries with the exception of Guinea that registered a deceleration. Credit to Government, however, fell across the member countries. The Net Foreign Assets (NFA) in the Zone also grew at a slower pace during the review period.
40. In response to the threat of high inflation occasioned by rising food and energy prices, most Central Banks in the Zone

increased policy rates during the review period. However, with the exception of The Gambia, real interest rates in all countries were negative during the period.

External Developments

41. Exchange rates in the Zone remained relatively stable during the first half of 2008, with some countries experiencing real appreciation of their currencies. Ghana's exchange rate depreciation was significant relative to the corresponding half of 2007.

SECTION FOUR: MACROECONOMIC PERFORMANCE FOR 2008

OVERVIEW OF ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

42. Madam Speaker, in the 2008 Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana, the following targets were set:
- a real GDP growth of at least 7.0 per cent;
 - an end period inflation rate of between 6.0 and 8.0 per cent;
 - an average inflation of 7.0 per cent;
 - accumulation of gross international reserves equivalent to at least three months of import cover; and
 - an overall budget deficit including divestiture of 4.0 per cent of GDP and a deficit excluding divestiture of 5.7 per cent of GDP.
43. Madam Speaker, all of these targets were missed. The provisional results for 2008 indicate that:
- real GDP grew by 6.2 per cent;
 - inflation rate as at end December 2008 was 18.1 per cent;
 - average inflation for the year was 16.5 per cent;
 - gross international reserves reduced to the equivalence of 1.8 months of import cover for goods and services; and
 - the overall budget deficit excluding divestiture hit a high of GH¢2,557.6 million, equivalent to 14.9 of GDP. Adding divestiture receipts, however, reduced the deficit to GH¢1,982.9 million, equivalent to 11.5 per cent of GDP.

44. Madam Speaker, in order to quickly stabilise the economy, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning intends to deepen collaboration with the Bank of Ghana to ensure better formulation and implementation of fiscal and monetary policies.

Real Sector Developments

Overall GDP Growth

45. Madam Speaker, the provisional real GDP grew by 6.2 per cent in 2008. The sectoral components of the growth were as follows.

Agriculture Sector Developments

46. The agriculture sector, the largest among the three sectors in the national accounts grew by 4.9 per cent against a target of 5.0 per cent.
47. Within the agriculture sector, value addition from the crop and livestock sub-sectors recorded a 5.5 per cent growth.
48. The cocoa production and marketing sub-sector recorded a growth of 5.0 per cent against a target of 4.0 per cent.
49. Forestry and logging grew by 3.5 per cent, while the fishing subsector grew by 3.0 per cent, against the respective targets of 3.0 per cent and 5.0 per cent.

Table 1: Growth in Agriculture Sector

| Activity | 2006 | 2007* | 2008** | 2008* |
|--------------------------------|------|-------|--------|-------|
| AGRICULTURE | 4.5 | 3.1 | 5.0 | 4.9 |
| Crops and Livestock | 3.5 | 4.0 | 5.5 | 5.5 |
| Cocoa Production and Marketing | 2.0 | 3.5 | 4.0 | 5.0 |
| Forestry and Logging | 2.6 | 2.5 | 3.0 | 3.5 |
| Fishing | 15.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 3.0 |

Source: Ghana Statistical Service

* Provisional Outturn, ** Target

Industrial Sector Developments

50. Madam Speaker, the industrial sector, grew at 8.3 per cent compared to a target of 9.8 per cent. With the exception of construction which exceeded the growth target of 13 per cent, all the industrial sub-sector components registered lower than projected outturns.
51. The mining and quarrying subsector registered a significant decline in growth rate from 20.0 per cent in 2007 to 2.0 per cent in 2008.

Table 2: Percentage Growth in Industry

| Activity | 2006 | 2007* | 2008** | 2008* |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|--------|------------|
| INDUSTRY | 9.5 | 6.6 | 9.8 | 8.3 |
| Mining and Quarrying | 13.3 | 20.0 | 7.9 | 2.0 |
| Manufacturing | 4.2 - | 2.3 | 4.0 | 4.0 |
| Electricity and Water | 24.2 - | 15.0 | 22.1 | 16.3 |
| Construction | 8.2 | 15.0 | 13.0 | 14.0 |

Source: Ghana Statistical Service

** Provisional Outturn*

*** Target*

Services Sector Developments

52. Madam Speaker, the Services Sector grew by 6.9 per cent compared to 10.0 per cent in 2007. This was the result of a less-than-expected growth in wholesale and retail trade and commodity, social and personal service; and producers of private non-profit services.
53. Within the sub-sectors, transport, storage and communication grew by 10.0 per cent, indicating 2.0 percentage point increase over the target of 8.0 per cent.

Table 3: Percentage Growth in services

| Activity | 2006 | 2007* | 2008** | 2008* |
|---|------------|-------------|------------|------------|
| SERVICE | 6.7 | 10.0 | 7.3 | 6.9 |
| Transport, Storage and Communication | 7.2 | 10.0 | 8.0 | 10.0 |
| Wholesale and Retail Trade, Restaurants and Hotels | 7.5 | 10.0 | 10.0 | 7.0 |
| Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Business Services | 9.0 | 16.0 | 13.0 | 13.0 |
| Government Services | 5.7 | 8.6 | 2.7 | 2.7 |
| Community, Social and Personal Services | 4.2 | 5.0 | 6.0 | 4.5 |
| Producers of Private Non-Profit Services | 4.0 | 5.0 | 6.0 | 5.0 |

Source: Ghana Statistical Service

* Provisional Outturn, ** Target

FISCAL DEVELOPMENTS

54. Madam Speaker, the fiscal operations of government in 2008 came under severe stress, resulting in high fiscal deficits. The fiscal deficit excluding divestiture receipts, was GH¢2,557.6 million, equivalent to 14.9 per cent of GDP, while the deficit including divestiture was GH¢1,982.9 million, equivalent to 11.5 per cent of GDP.
55. Madam Speaker, with your permission, I would like to present the details of the fiscal performance for 2008.

Receipts

56. Provisional fiscal outturn for 2008 indicates that **total receipts**, comprising domestic revenue, grants and other receipts amounted to GH¢9,538.2 million, equivalent to 55.4 per cent of GDP. The outturn was 34.2 per cent higher than the budget estimate of GH¢7,107.2 million and 56.8 per cent higher than the outturn for 2007.

57. **Domestic revenue**, made up of tax and non-tax revenue totaled GH¢4,802.4 million. This amount which was equivalent to 27.9 per cent of GDP was also 0.8 per cent higher than the budget estimate of GH¢4,763.2 million and 31.5 per cent increase over the outturn for 2007.
58. Madam Speaker, **tax revenue** amounted to GH¢4,299.5 million, equivalent to 25.0 per cent of GDP, against a budget estimate of GH¢3,973.8 million, equivalent 24.4 per cent of GDP. This outturn was 29.8 per cent higher than that recorded in 2007.
59. **Direct taxes** which comprise personal income, self-employed income, company and other taxes such as airport tax, amounted to GH¢1,253.2 million, exceeding the budget estimate of GH¢1,122.4 million by 11.7 per cent. The outturn indicates a 33.3 per cent increase over the outturn in 2007. The good performance in direct taxes can mainly be attributed to the performance of pay-as-you earn tax type which recorded a 16.8 per cent yield higher than the budget target, and 31.1 per cent increase over the outturn in 2007.
60. **Indirect taxes**, made up of value added, petroleum and excise taxes amounted to GH¢1,532.9 million, marginally below the budget estimate of GH¢1,548.5 million. The outturn was, however, 17.3 per cent higher than the outturn recorded in 2007. The low performance in indirect taxes is mainly explained by the poor performance of petroleum taxes.
61. Madam Speaker, in 2008, **domestic VAT** recorded a total amount of GH¢417.2 million, 12.1 per cent higher than the budget estimate of GH¢372.0 million. The outturn also indicates a 23.7 per cent increase over the outturn for 2007.
62. **Import VAT** for the period under review amounted to GH¢670.8 million, against a budget estimate of GH¢628.1 million. The outturn was 35.0 per cent higher than the outturn in 2007.

63. **Petroleum taxes** recorded an outturn of GH¢386.2 million, 21.2 per cent lower than the budget estimate of GH¢490.0 million and 4.2 per cent lower than the outturn recorded in 2007. The underperformance of petroleum taxes was mainly a result of the downward revision of some petroleum taxes and levies, as well as a decline in the volume of petroleum products consumed.
64. **International Trade Taxes** for the period yielded GH¢719.4 million, 3.6 per cent lower than the budget estimate of GH¢746.3 million. The outturn, however, was 24.8 per cent higher than the corresponding figure in 2007.
65. Madam Speaker, **National Health Insurance Levy (NHIL)** for 2008 amounted to GH¢318.3 million, 33.4 per cent higher than the budget estimate of GH¢235.4 million and 23.5 per cent higher than the outturn recorded in 2007.
66. During the 2008 fiscal year, receipts from **non-tax revenue**, amounted to GH¢433.9 million, equivalent to 2.5 per cent of GDP. Of this amount, GH¢308.1 million was retained by the MDAs while GH¢125.8 million was lodged into the Consolidated Fund. The outturn for total non-tax revenue was 2.3 per cent higher than the budget estimate and a 28.3 per cent increase over the outturn recorded in 2007.
67. **Total** grant disbursements for 2008 amounted to GH¢820.8 million, against a budget estimate of GH¢853.4 million. The outturn was 4.3 per cent lower than that for the same period in 2007, on account of low project grant disbursements. Project **grants** were 22.0 per cent below the budget estimate of GH¢514.8 million, but 15.3 per cent higher than the outturn for 2007. **Programme grants** recorded GH¢257.2 million, 28.0 per cent higher than the budget estimate of GH¢201.0 million. **Multilateral HIPC Assistance** recorded an outturn of GH¢95.2 million.
68. Madam Speaker, during the period under review, **total programme and project loans** amounted to GH¢668.2

million, against a budget estimate of GH¢621.5 million. **Project loan disbursements** were GH¢514.9 million, 6.1 per cent higher than the budget estimate of GH¢485.3 million and 36.2 per cent higher than the outturn in 2007. **Programme loans** amounted to GH¢153.3 million against a budget target of GH¢136.2 million.

69. **Divestiture receipts** for the year amounted to GH¢998.4 million, comprising GH¢983.0 million from the sale of 70 per cent of Ghana Telecom shares and GH¢15.4 million from WESTEL.
70. **Exceptional Financing** of the budget, which is predominantly debt relief from our bilateral partners, amounted to GH¢77.5 million.

Payments

71. Madam Speaker, **total payments** for 2008, comprising discretionary and statutory payments, amounted to GH¢9,538.2 million, significantly higher than the budget estimate of GH¢7,107.2 million. The details are outlined below.

Statutory Payments

72. **Total statutory payments** which include interest payments, amortization, transfers to households, and statutory funds, amounted to GH¢2,356.5 million, equivalent to 13.7 per cent of GDP, against a budget estimate of GH¢1,728.9 million, equivalent to 10.6 per cent of GDP. The outturn indicates a 36.0 per cent increase over the outturn for 2007.
73. **External Debt Service** for the year amounted to GH¢694.7 million, against a budget target of GH¢293.2 million and an outturn of GH¢439.0 million recorded in 2007. Principal and interest payments were GH¢497.4 million and GH¢197.3 million, respectively.

74. **Domestic interest payments**, amounted to GH¢481.9 million, 36.8 per cent higher than the budget target, and a 49.6 per cent increase over the outturn recorded during the same period in 2007. The outturn was equivalent to 2.8 per cent of GDP. The higher than budgeted expenditure on domestic interest payment was due to higher than projected domestic borrowing and increases in the cost of borrowing.
75. **Transfers to households**, in the form of **pensions, gratuities** and **social security** contributions by Government on behalf of public sector workers, collectively amounted to GH¢361.5 million, against a budget estimate of GH¢318.0 million. The outturn represents a 25.5 per cent increase over the 2007 outturn.
76. Madam Speaker, during the year, transfers to the **Road Fund and Petroleum-related Funds** amounted to a total of GH¢105.7 million, against a budget target of GH¢132.7 million. Of this transfer, GH¢102.9 million was disbursed to the Road Fund.
77. In 2008, the **District Assemblies Common Fund (DACF)** received an amount of GH¢252.1 million, 7.6 per cent higher than the budget target. Transfers into the **Ghana Education Trust Fund (GETFund)** amounted to GH¢204.1 million, against a budget target of GH¢163.9 million. The over performance was as a result of the higher than projected outturn for tax revenue and VAT receipts.
78. Transfers into the **National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF)** was GH¢256.5 million, 8.9 per cent higher than the budget target of GH¢235.4 million.

Discretionary Payments

79. Madam Speaker, **total discretionary payments** amounted to GH¢7,181.8 million, equivalent to 41.7 per cent of GDP, against a budget target of GH¢5,378.2 million, equivalent to 33.0 per

cent of GDP and an outturn of GH¢4,348.2 million, equivalent to 31.1 per cent of GDP recorded in 2007.

80. **Personal emoluments (item 1)** for the period amounted to GH¢1,987.6 million, equivalent to 11.5 per cent of GDP. The outturn was 27.4 per cent higher than the budget estimate of GH¢1,559.9 million and 40.1 per cent higher than the outturn for 2007. The wage overrun was mainly the result of higher than anticipated salary increases to public sector workers, as well as higher than programmed number of public sector workers.
81. **Administration expenditure (item 2)** amounted to GH¢412.7 million against a budget estimate of GH¢385.6 million. The outturn was 7.0 per cent higher than the budget estimate and 0.7 per cent higher than the outturn in 2007.
82. **Service expenditure (item 3)** registered an outturn of GH¢235.7 million, against a budget target of 120.6 million. This was mainly due to payments for some expenditures that had not been budgeted for.
83. Madam Speaker, **Total Investment Outlays (Item 4)** for the year amounted to GH¢1,002.9 million (5.8 per cent of GDP), about 34.5 per cent higher than the budget estimate of GH¢745.8 million. Of this amount, expenditures directly tied to the proceeds from the sovereign bond issued on the international capital markets amounted to GH¢581.9 million, (3.4 per cent of GDP).
84. **Foreign-financed capital expenditure** in 2008 amounted to GH¢916.4 million, 8.4 per cent lower than the budget estimate of GH¢1,000.2 million, but 26.2 per cent higher than the outturn in 2007.
85. **Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI) and Highly Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) financed expenditures** totaled GH¢278.9 million, against a budget estimate of GH¢183.2 million. Of this, GH¢185.2 million was expended on HIPC-related projects and programmes.

86. Madam Speaker, an amount of GH¢467.2 million was spent from the **Reserve Fund** for the purchase of crude oil for the Volta River Authority (VRA), and the payment of judgment debts emanating from court orders against the government.
87. **Other transfers**, made up of retention of internally-generated funds, safety net for deregulation, subsidies for lifeline consumers of electricity and tax exemptions, amounted to GH¢831.5 million, against a budget target of GH¢679.2 million.

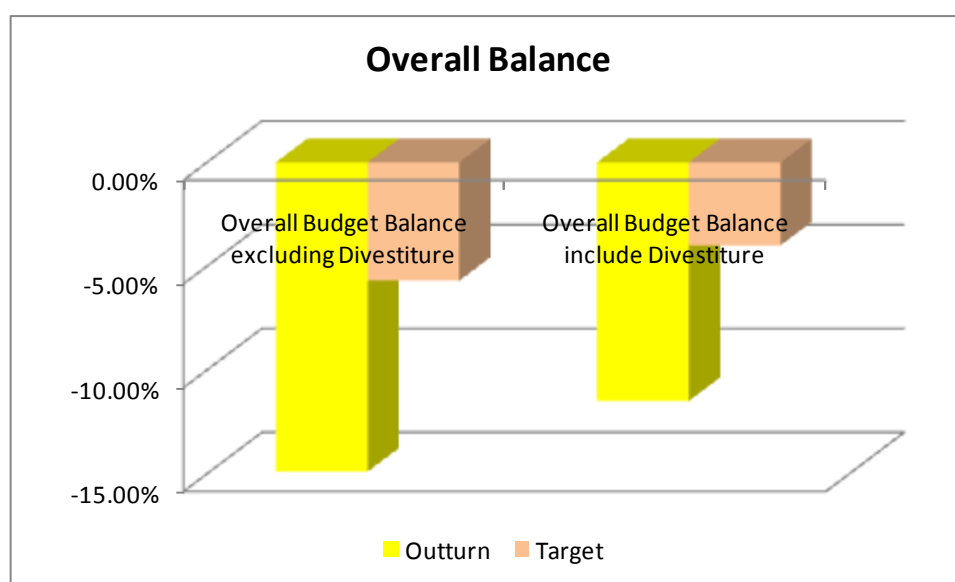
Clearance of Arrears and Liquidation of Commitments

88. During the period under review a total amount of GH¢142.3 million was paid in respect of clearance of arrears and liquidation of commitments carried over from 2007. The outturn for the period was made up of road arrears of GH¢46.9 million and non-road commitments of GH¢95.4 million.

Overall Budget Balance and Financing

89. Madam Speaker, the **overall budget balance** excluding divestiture, amounted to a deficit of GH¢2,557.6 million, equivalent to 14.9 per cent of GDP. This compares with a budget estimate of a deficit of GH¢929.2 million, equivalent to 5.7 per cent of GDP.
90. The **overall budget balance** including divestiture, showed a deficit of GH¢1,982.9 million, equivalent to 11.5 per cent of GDP compared with a budgeted deficit of GH¢653.4 million, equivalent to 4.0 per cent of GDP.
91. The overall budget deficit including divestiture was financed from both domestic and foreign sources. **Net Domestic Financing** of the budget amounted to GH¢1,152.7 million, equivalent to 6.7 per cent of GDP, while financing from foreign sources totaled GH¢830.2 million, equivalent to 4.8 per cent of GDP. Of this amount GH¢581.9 million, equivalent to 3.4 per

cent of GDP was a drawdown on the receipts from the sovereign bond issued in 2007 on the international capital markets.



DEVELOPMENTS IN PUBLIC DEBT AND AID MANAGEMENT

92. The policy of public debt management in Ghana is to source funds at the minimum cost possible within a prudent level of risk, to meet government financing needs while ensuring that public debt is maintained at sustainable levels over the medium to long term.
93. The policy also entails the development of the domestic capital market and access to the international capital markets.

Review of 2008

Public Debt Stock

94. Madam Speaker, in 2008, gross public debt rose by about US\$600 million to an end year position of US\$8,002.5 million, which is about 8.1 per cent increase over the 2007 position of US\$7,405.5 million. The increase in public debt during the year

was mainly driven by about US\$400.0 million and US\$200.0 million increase in external and domestic debts, respectively.

95. By end 2008, public debt consisted of 49 per cent and 51 per cent of external and domestic debts, respectively. Prior to implementation of the MDRI in 2006, external debt, which was mainly made up of multilateral and bilateral debt, accounted for over 75 per cent of the public debt. The percentage share of external debt fell to 41 per cent in 2006 before rising to 48 per cent in 2007, mainly due to the inflow of US\$750.0 million from Ghana's maiden sovereign bond issued on the international capital markets.
96. The ratio of Gross public debt to GDP declined from 142.6 per cent in 2001 to 41.4 per cent in 2006 under the dual impact of the Highly Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI). Unfortunately, the ratio has since 2007 risen to 52.1 per cent (as recorded in December 2008) as result of renewed borrowing on non-concessional terms and mostly for economically unproductive projects.

Developments in External Debt

External Debt Strategy

97. External debt strategy in 2008 focused on seeking grants and highly concessional loans, with minimal funds from commercial sources.

External Debt Stock and Creditor Categorization

98. Ghana's total external debt (including IMF debt) stood at US\$3,982.6 million by end December, 2008, representing 24.7 per cent of GDP. By creditor categorizations, multilateral debt continued to dominate, constituting about 49.2 per cent of total external debt despite the substantial debt relief under the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI). Bilateral and commercial debts constitute 27.5 per cent and 23.3 per cent, respectively. On creditor basis, the World Bank continues to hold

the largest share, contributing about one third of the total external debt.

Currency Composition of External Debt

99. The Special Drawing Rights (SDR) transacted in US Dollars continued to dominate the currency composition of external debt portfolio. By the end of 2008, it accounted for about 41.6 per cent with the US Dollar and the Euro accounting for about 35.4 per cent and 16.5 per cent, respectively. The Chinese Yuan, Japanese Yen, and others constitute about 2.0 per cent, 1.0 per cent and 4.0 per cent, respectively, of the external debt portfolio.

Interest Rate Composition of External debt

100. Interest rate composition of the external debt is distributed in the ratio of 90.1, 8.4 and 1.5 per cent for fixed, variable and interest-free rates, respectively. The high proportion of the fixed interest rate is as a result of the high share of multilateral, bilateral and the Euro bond debt which bear fixed interest rates. The variable interest rates mainly emanate from the export credit facilities and commercial loans while interest free facilities are mainly from the Chinese Government and some bilateral creditors.

Maturity Profile – Loan Term and Repayment

101. The average term to maturity (ATM) of the external portfolio is about 23 years, indicating that, largely, the external debt is of a long term profile. The principal repayment profile shows that about 2.6 per cent of the total outstanding debt falls due within the next 12 months and 19.7 per cent and 77.6 per cent fall due within the 5 years and 20 years and beyond, respectively. Over 75 per cent of the external obligations fall due in the long term, indicating a high concentration of external obligations in the long term. In terms of cost profile, interest and other charges

falling due within the next 12 months represents about 2.1 per cent of the external debt portfolio.

New Commitments

Loans

102. Traditional creditors remained the preferred source of borrowing, with cautious move to tap resources from commercial sources to support growth catalytic sectors. During the year, about 46 loans were contracted totaling about US\$2,630.9 million. About 20 per cent of the total committed amounts were from multilaterals, with 22 per cent and 58 per cent from bilateral and export credits sources, respectively. In terms of sectoral allocation, 37 per cent went to energy and the rest went to health, roads, water, defence, interior and finance.

Grants

103. In 2008, 36 grants amounting to US\$455.9 million were committed as development assistance. In terms of use of funds, General Budget Support under the Multi Donor Budgetary Support (MDBS) constituted 23 per cent with the remaining as project grants.

Developments under Debt Relief Initiatives

HIPC and MDRI Receipt Account

104. In 2008, a total of GH¢236.99 million (US\$241.9 million) was received as debt relief, comprising GH¢170.2 million and GH¢66.87 million for HIPC and MDRI respectively.
105. About 49.7 per cent and 50.3 per cent of the HIPC relief came from multilateral and bilateral sources respectively. Of the MDRI, about 66.3 per cent came from the World Bank (IDA) and 33.7 per cent from the African Development Bank (AfDB).

Domestic Debt

Sale of Treasury Securities

106. In 2008 domestic borrowing supported the execution of the budget, refinancing of maturing government bills, and the development of the financial market.
107. In 2008, the Government's debt strategy was geared primarily at:
- the reduction of debt servicing costs; and
 - extending the maturity profile of the debt stock.
108. A key component of the strategy was to shift from the heavy reliance on short term domestic financing to longer term maturity bonds open to non-resident investors. This was to help diversify the investor base in government securities and to avoid bunching up of maturing debt in the short term.
109. Due to the commodity crisis in 2008, which triggered high inflation, the shift to longer term securities was unsuccessful as there was strong preference for short term instruments by domestic investors. The financial crunch also discouraged the re-opening, and new issuance, of medium term securities to non-resident investors.
110. The total sale of Government of Ghana securities from January to December 2008 amounted to GH¢3,848.27 million, while maturities were GH¢3,012.10 million, resulting in a net borrowing of GH¢836.17 million. For the same period in 2007, a total sale of GH¢3,969.31 million with maturities of GH¢3,107.53 million was done, resulting in a net sale of GH¢861.72 million.

Domestic Debt Stock

111. The stock of marketable debt resulting from the issuance of Government of Ghana securities stood at GH¢3,370.70 million as

at end December 2008. This constitutes an increase of 34.11 per cent over the 2007 stock of GH¢2,513.46 million.

112. The short term debt now constitutes about 52.01 per cent of the marketable debt, whilst the 5-Year Treasury bond and the Golden Jubilee Savings bonds issues represent about 9.95 per cent.

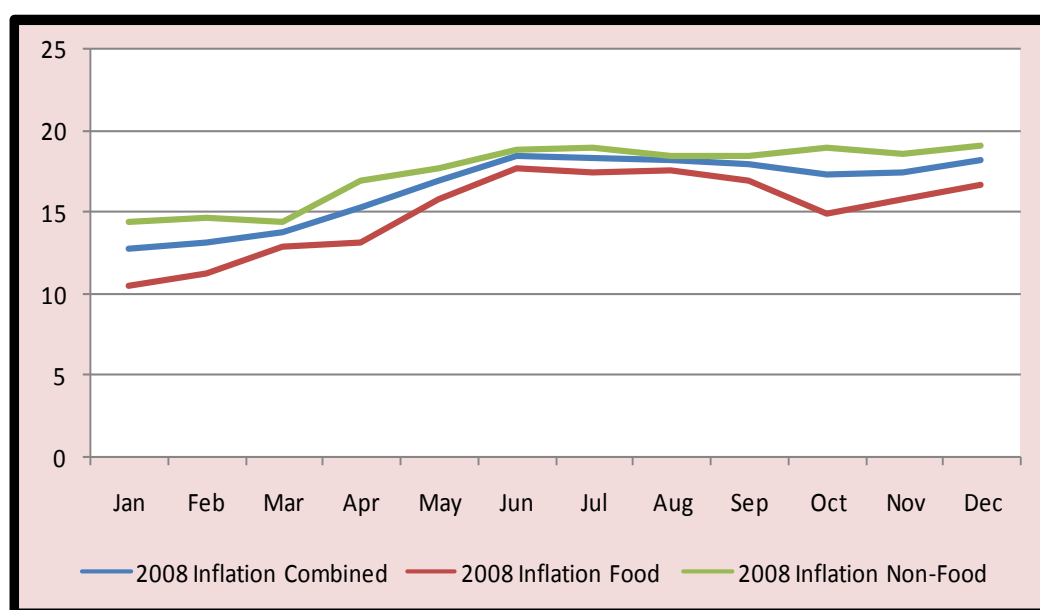
Monetary Developments

Price Developments

Headline Inflation

113. Inflationary pressures built up rapidly in the first half of 2008, reflecting the impact of higher international food and crude oil prices on the domestic market. In the second half, however, inflationary pressures softened on the back of good food harvests and falling crude oil prices, but firmed up slightly in November and December 2008.
114. Headline inflation measured as year-on-year changes in the consumer price index increased from 12.8 per cent in January 2008 to 18.1 per cent in December 2008, after peaking at 18.4 per cent in June 2008. Food inflation increased significantly from 10.6 per cent at the beginning of the year to 16.7 per cent at the end of 2008, peaking at 17.7 per cent in June 2008. Similarly, non-food inflation also increased from 14.4 per cent to 19.1 per cent over the same period.

Figure 1: Combined, Food and Non-food Inflation: 2008



Source: Ghana Statistical Service

Contributions to changes in CPI

115. The national consumer price index for 2008 increased by 38.98 points compared with 23.71 points in the corresponding period in 2007. The food and beverages sub-sector contributed 46.67 per cent towards the upward movements in the national index while the non-food inflation contributed 53.33 per cent. Monthly changes in inflation registered an average increase of 1.41 per cent in 2008, higher than the 1.00 per cent average increase in 2007.

Money and Financial Markets

116. Broad money including foreign currency deposits (M2+) grew by 40.20 per cent in December 2008 to reach GH¢8,061.2 million, compared with 35.9 per cent in December 2007 and 38.8 per cent a year earlier. Currency with the public increased by 27.8

per cent, demand deposits by 31.2 per cent, savings and time deposits by 33.7 per cent, and foreign currency deposits by 83.0 per cent during the year. The change in the composition of money holdings during the year was a reflection of developments in the rate of inflation and depreciation of the domestic currency.

Sources of Change in M2+

117. Net Domestic Assets (NDA) of the banking system was the main source of growth in M2+ during the review period. It increased by 82.5 per cent mainly on account of the banking system's net claims on Government, claims on the private sector, mainly from Commercial banks. The growth in M2+ was, however, moderated by a drop of 13.7 per cent in Net Foreign Assets of the banking system.

Credit Developments

118. Credit to the private sector recorded an annual growth of 48.1 per cent, reflecting a slowdown from the annual growth of 59.6 per cent in 2007. At the end of the year, credit to the private sector amounted to GH¢4,887.1 million.

Distribution of Credit by Sector

119. The top three beneficiaries of banks' outstanding credit to the private sector continued to be the Services (23.18 per cent), Commerce & Finance (26.15 per cent) and Manufacturing (11.88 per cent). By holder, the Indigenous Enterprises and Household sectors also continued to dominate in banks' allocation of credit to the private sector, accounting for 66.8 per cent and 21.6 per cent, of the total respectively.

Exchange Rate Developments

120. Madam Speaker, the Ghana Cedi lost ground against all the major currencies from the second quarter, partly as a result of re-alignments of the major international currencies, a surge in

demand for foreign exchange to meet higher oil bills and food prices, servicing of external debts, and high expenditures on infrastructural development.

121. On the **inter-bank market**, the Ghana Cedi was steady during the first quarter. However in the second quarter, it weakened sharply and by the end of the first half it had depreciated by 6.0, 4.6 and 11.7 per cent against the US Dollar, the Pound Sterling and the Euro, respectively. The Ghana Cedi continued to depreciate against the US Dollar and the Euro but traded strongly against the Pound Sterling in the second half of the year. On an annual basis, the Ghana Cedi depreciated by 20.1 per cent and 16.3 per cent against the US Dollar and the Euro, respectively. Against the Pound Sterling it appreciated by 8.1 per cent.
122. On the **forex bureau market** the movement of the Ghana cedi against the US Dollar and the Euro was similar to the movement on the inter-bank market. It recorded annual depreciations of 20.6 per cent and 16.1 per cent against the US Dollar and the Euro, respectively, but appreciated by 5.2 per cent against the Pound Sterling.

Financial Markets

Money Market Developments

123. Interest rates generally moved upwards in 2008. The Prime Rate was increased on three occasions from 13.5 per cent at the beginning of the year to 14.25 per cent in March, 16.0 per cent in May and to 17 per cent in July. The decision to raise the policy rate upwards was informed by increased risks to price stability.
124. In response to the prime rate trends, average interest rates on government securities and on the interbank market also went up during the year. The average interest rate of the 91-day Treasury bill gained 14.06 percentage points to 24.67 per cent, while the average interest rate on the 1-year and 2-year fixed

rate notes also increased by 7.70 percentage points and 8.20 percentage points to 20.00 percentage points and 21.00 percentage points respectively. The interbank weighted average rate also gained 7.05 percentage points to close the year at 19.03 per cent.

125. Commercial banks' average deposit and lending rates also followed the general trend of increases in rates. Banks' average savings deposit, 3-month time deposit and lending rates increased by 4.45, 7.38 and 3.00 percentage points, respectively, to record 9.00 per cent, 16.38 per cent and 27.25 per cent at the end of 2008.

The Stock Market

126. The stock market performed well in 2008 against the backdrop of tumbling stock prices in major stock exchanges in the world. Ghana's Stock Exchange was considered one of the best performers in the world in 2008.

GSE All-Share Index

127. The year began on a good note with the GSE All-share index recording a 1.8 per cent rise in January and expectations were rife that the index would track the record-breaking performances of 2003 and 2004 which recorded 154.7 and 91.3 per cent growth, respectively.
128. By the end of 2008, the GSE All Share Index closed at 10,431.6 points from the previous year's close of 6,599.8 points, gaining 58.1 per cent.

Sectoral Performance

129. The strong performance of the Finance sector contributed significantly to the upward movement in the GSE-All Share index. The Finance sector index ended the year as the best performing sector on the exchange. From the previous year's

close of 455.2 points, the index moved up to 754.0 points, gaining an increase of 65.7 per cent.

130. The Manufacturing sector followed with an increase of 63 per cent. The Food and Beverage sector index also increased by 50.6 per cent.
131. The Distribution sector index gained 6.7 per cent (42.1 points) from 632.1 points at the beginning of the year to end the year at 674.2 points.
132. The Agriculture sector index ended the year at 200.0 points from 98.0 points.
133. The Mining sector made a gain of GH¢ 0.10 or 3.2 per cent. The index rose marginally from 113.9 points to 114.18 points.

Table 4: Changes in Sector Indices

| | F&B | Man | Finance | Distr |
|--------|----------------|------------|----------------|------------------|
| Dec-07 | 435.1 | 356.0 | 455.2 | 632.1 |
| Dec-08 | 655.4 | 580.3 | 754.0 | 674.2 |
| Abs | 220.3 | 224.3 | 298.8 | 42.1 |
| % | 50.6 | 63.0 | 65.6 | 6.7 |
| | Mining | ICT | Agric | All share |
| Dec-07 | 113.9 | 114.9 | 98.0 | 6599.8 |
| Dec-08 | 114.2 | 107.5 | 200.0 | 10432 |
| Abs | 0.3 | -7.4 | 102.0 | 3831.9 |
| % | 0.3 | -6.4 | 104.1 | 58.1 |

134. Severe turbulence on the world's major financial markets appeared to have affected most African stock exchanges. Out of the 14 exchanges surveyed, Ghana and Malawi were the only exchanges that registered significant growth. South Africa, Tanzania and Tunisia made marginal gains while nine recorded declines.

External Sector Developments

Developments in the Balance of Payments

135. Provisional estimates of the current account balance in 2008 indicated a deficit of US\$3,473.47 million, equivalent to 20.87 per cent of the GDP, compared with a deficit of US\$2,151.48 million, equivalent to 14.7 per cent of the GDP in 2007. The deficit was due primarily to widening of the trade deficit that more than offset an improvement in the invisibles (services, income and current transfers) account.

Trade in Goods

136. Trade in merchandise goods for 2008 showed a significant increase in both exports and imports, compared to the growth rates recorded in 2007. Exports and imports increased by 26.4 per cent and 27.2 per cent year-on-year, respectively in 2008, compared with 11.9 per cent and 19.4 per cent, respectively, in 2007.

Export Performance

137. Export earnings were provisionally estimated at US\$5,275.33 million, up by 26.4 per cent from the 2007 level. With the exception of minerals, all the principal exports performed well. While minerals increased by 5.1 per cent, cocoa products recorded the highest growth of 66.9 per cent followed by gold, cocoa beans, and timber products with 30.2 per cent, 28.9 per cent and 24.1 per cent, respectively.
138. **Cocoa exports** rose from US\$975.7 million in 2007 to US\$1,239.65 million in 2008, up by 66.9 per cent or US\$262.0 million. This was mainly on account of increases in both volumes exported and realized export prices. The volume of cocoa beans exported increased by 4.2 per cent to 568,820 tonnes. Average prices realized from exports of beans increased by 21.9 per cent to US\$2,179.34 per tonne in 2008.

139. **Gold** exports were equally strong in 2008. Export earnings increased by 29.6 per cent from US\$1,733.78 million in 2007 to US\$2,246.25 million in 2008. The growth in value was due to the combined effects of price and volume as average realized prices went up by 25.8 per cent and the volume of exports increased by 4.06 per cent.
140. The value of exports of **timber products** also improved considerably to about US\$309.0 million, from the US\$249.0 million recorded in 2007. While average prices increased by 17.64 per cent to US\$554.09 million per cubic metre, the volume went up to 557,663 cubic metres, an increase of 5.5 per cent.

Import Performance

141. Total import bill for 2008 rose by 27.2 per cent from US\$8,066.11 million in 2007 to US\$10,260.97 million. This was mainly boosted by a significant growth of 32.5 per cent in non-oil imports.

Oil Imports

142. Total **oil imports** for the period under review is provisionally estimated at US\$2,349.22 million up by 12.1 per cent compared with US\$2,095.00 million in 2007. The bill for petroleum products in 2007 was mainly due to increased consumption of oil products following the electricity load shedding that the country experienced during most part of 2007. The 2008 bill on the other hand, was mainly accounted for by the increase in oil prices on the world market, which reached a high of US\$147 per barrel in July 2008.

Non-oil imports

143. There was considerable rise of 32.5 per cent in non-oil imports from US\$5,971.11 in 2007 to US\$7,911.75 in 2008. This was mainly due to increased consumption and continued investment activity within the economy. Imports of capital goods,

intermediate goods and consumption goods grew by 34.3, 35.86 and 19.96 per cent, respectively.

144. The increase in **capital goods** was reflected in the growth of capital goods, except transport equipment and industrial transport equipment, while the increase in **intermediate goods** was mainly on account of growth in food and beverages, primarily for industry, parts and accessories of capital goods, primary industrial supplies, parts and accessories of transport equipment; and foods and beverages processed for industries.
145. The growth in **consumption goods** was underpinned by increases, mostly in food and beverages primarily meant for consumption, non-durable consumer goods and semi-durable consumer goods. However, growth in durable consumer goods, was marginal. **Other goods** increased by 54.54 per cent to US\$769.3 million due to an increase in importation of passenger cars which grew from US\$443.12 million to US\$756.24 million, up by 70.65 per cent.

Services, Current Transfers and Income Account

146. The surplus on the services, current transfers and income account in 2008 amounted to US\$1,512.17 million, a much lower figure than the US\$1,742.5 million recorded in 2007. **Services and investment income** recorded more outflows in 2008 compared to 2007 due to higher freight and insurance charges associated with the higher import growth. Private transfers increased from US\$1,833.8 million to US\$1,921.92 million while official transfers increased from US\$209.4 million to US\$241.11 million.
147. With the deterioration in the balance of trade more than offsetting the surplus on the services, income and current transfers account, the current account recorded a deficit of US\$3,473.47 million, equivalent to 20.87 per cent of the GDP.

The Capital and Financial Account

148. The balance on the capital and financial account recorded a surplus of US\$2,666.05 million, a marginal increase over the 2007 surplus of US\$2,591.42 million.

Private Capital Flows

149. Net private capital inflows during the year were estimated to have increased by US\$1,150.36 million to US\$2,211.84 million. The main contributing factor to the increase in the account was a major improvement in divestiture receipts, mainly from the sale of Ghana Telecom, and a significant upward shift in direct investment, which was estimated at US\$1,220.41 million, compared with an inflow of US\$855.38 million for 2007.

Official Capital Flows

150. Net official capital inflows declined significantly by US\$645.61 million from US\$1,168.64 million to US\$523.03 million in 2008 mainly on account of Government's drawdown on the balance of the sovereign bond.
151. In spite of the above developments, the balance on the financial and capital account was less than enough to finance the deficit on the current account, resulting in an overall balance of payments deficit of US\$940.7 million, equivalent to 6.1 per cent of GDP. In the corresponding period of 2007, the overall balance of payments recorded a surplus of US\$413.1 million, equivalent to 2.8 per cent of GDP.

International Reserves

152. Gross international reserves also fell by US\$800.4 million from a stock of US\$2,836.7 million at the end of 2007 to US\$2,036.2 million, mainly as a result of a drawn down in foreign bond proceeds to finance planned capital investments. The gross international reserves as at end 2008 translates into a cover for 1.8 months of imports for goods and services.

SECTION FIVE: MACROECONOMIC FRAMEWORK

Medium-Term Framework

The NDC Vision

153. Madam Speaker, the vision of the NDC Government is to adopt carefully designed policies and programmes that will stimulate and develop the immense talents and resourcefulness of Ghanaians and make them the main drivers and beneficiaries of the national development agenda, with special emphasis on the rural and urban poor.
154. In pursuit of this vision, the government will:
- make macro-economic stability an important goal;
 - provide the policy and programme framework for enterprises to re-tool, adopt modern technologies, access capital, and overcome historical and structural constraints that impede competitiveness;
 - forge a partnership between the government and the business sector, to enhance and promote national economic growth;
 - devise and implement an urgent national action plan for the modernization of agriculture at the production, harvesting and marketing levels. These will include rationalizing access to agricultural lands; making strategic investments to reduce the risks inherent in agriculture (irrigation and agro-processing); and expanding availability of agriculture-related infrastructure; and
 - apply fair and equitable social distribution mechanisms that enhance the welfare of all citizens, especially the weak and the vulnerable in society.

Economic Objectives

155. Against the backdrop of the current economic situation, our main strategic policy objectives are outlined below.
156. Madam Speaker, the broad policy objective of the NDC government is to lead this economy into middle income status that registers in the lives, livelihoods and incomes of ordinary people by the year 2020. We plan to accomplish this objective through the adoption of prudent policy measures, better policy coordination, and better management of the national economy.

Growth

157. Madam Speaker, growth will be pursued through proper coordination of related policy areas such as:
- improving and sustaining macroeconomic stability;
 - resource mobilization to support accelerated economic development
 - expanded development of production infrastructure in, among others, energy, transport, water and communications;
 - creating employment, through support for micro small and medium enterprises of various categories;
 - modernizing agriculture and the rural economy;
 - resuscitating manufacturing activities;
 - developing the complement of human capital critical for managing the various aspects of national development; and
 - promoting Regional Integration.

Fiscal Policy

- 158. Madam Speaker, the NDC Government believes in funding development and the provision of essential services through efficient, effective, and equitable taxation of all citizens. We will seek to improve tax revenue collections by introducing reforms in tax administration, and enhancing tax incentives.
- 159. Government will reform the National Revenue Authority to ensure integrated tax administration. This will, among others, facilitate the sharing of information among the revenue agencies to achieve more accurate assessments, widen the tax net and avoid duplication of efforts.
- 160. The administrative reforms will include adequate and reliable funding of the revenue agencies, a comprehensive computerization of the direct and indirect tax systems, human resource capacity building, increased tax awareness and publicity programmes to enhance tax consciousness, to increase tax mobilization from the informal sector.
- 161. Tax policy will be used to encourage people to work hard by creating adequate incentives for work and increased productivity, in order to increase disposable incomes of individuals.
- 162. In the medium term, emphasis will be placed on prudent expenditure management with the view to reducing unproductive expenditures to the barest minimum.

Monetary Policy

- 163. Monetary policy will support fiscal policy, focusing on sharply reducing inflationary pressures and stabilising price and exchange rate expectations on the market. The Bank of Ghana (BoG) will direct monetary policy towards reducing the end period inflation, and strengthen its inflation targeting framework.

164. The flexible exchange rate regime will be maintained and foreign exchange interventions will only be used as an instrument to smooth out volatility in the foreign exchange market.
165. Measures will be introduced to encourage further development of the market for bonds and other long-term securities, mobilize savings for investment and restructure the financial system to enhance the flow of credit to the productive sectors.

Medium-term Macroeconomic Targets

166. In line with the medium term policies, the following are the main macroeconomic targets:
- average real GDP growth of about 8 per cent;
 - average consumer price inflation of a single digit;
 - gross international reserves of not less than three months of import cover;
 - overall budget deficit equivalent to 3.0 per cent of GDP;
 - Stabilization of the total public debt at no more than 60 per cent of GDP.

Structural Policies

167. Structural reforms will be pursued and strengthened in the medium term. In anticipation of revenue inflows from oil production, policies will be mapped out to ensure the maintenance of fiscal and debt sustainability.

Tax Administration

168. One of the major challenges facing Ghana is how to broaden the tax net. The fact that the vast majority of Ghanaians are in the informal sector makes revenue generation a daunting task. Tax Administration will be strengthened to realize efficiency gains and broadening of the tax base.

169. Tax exemptions constitute a significant proportion of about 9.0 per cent of total tax revenue. Revenue loss from exemptions granted in duties and taxes continue to rise. Government intends to review the exemptions regime as a whole to reduce the scope and to eliminate abuses in the administration and application of the facility. As a start, all exemptions resulting from the clearance of goods on "permit" will be curtailed. Work on the remaining types of exemptions will continue in order to achieve a comprehensive review in the medium term.
170. Despite the above measures to rationalize and enhance revenue collection, government will look for opportunities to provide tax incentives to the private sector in key sectors of the economy.

Public Sector Reforms

171. Government will review the reforms of the public sector and pursue an action plan to restructure subvented agencies that are no longer relevant to the government's objectives. In this regard, there will be partial or full commercialization of selected subvented agencies.

Public Sector Wages

172. Madam Speaker, the Government recognizes the wage issue as a major challenge and is, hence, committed to the public sector reforms that link wage settlement to increased productivity.
173. These reforms are expected to solve the problems at the labour front, resulting partly from a distorted public sector salary structure which is also poorly administered.
174. Significant progress has been made with the development of a draft framework for a comprehensive salary structure, the Single Spine, for all public sector workers (excluding Article 71 Constitutional Office Holders). The agreed processes will be discussed by all stakeholders, in order to arrive at a consensus on implementation. The Single Spine structure aims to attain

equity and transparency in public sector salaries while minimising leakages associated with the current pay system.

175. Madam Speaker, we are committed to a programme for the distribution of the benefits of growth that will be targeted at providing the basic needs of the people. The programme will focus on the following:

- adequate nutrition and access of every person to potable water;
- access to preventive and curative medicine;
- affordable and adequate housing for low income workers and residents of rural and peri-urban communities;
- employment opportunities for all those who are willing and able to work;
- sustainable pension options for all citizens;
- a fundamental reform and restructuring of the economy through the modernization of agriculture and processing of agricultural and mineral products.

176. We will invest in local communities as part of our rural modernization and urban regeneration strategy to cover the following:

- construction and rehabilitation of rural roads;
- provision of clinics and health posts;
- provision of schools and community libraries;
- extension of electricity to all communities with a population of over 500;

- construction of houses for teachers and health workers in the rural areas; and
- provision of social amenities in urban communities with high levels of poverty.

Short-term Macroeconomic policies

177. Madam Speaker, our policy in 2009, will be reinforced to ensure macroeconomic stability in the context of a deteriorating international environment so as to provide a temporary cushion to the domestic economy. Subsequently, the stable economy will enhance accelerated growth which will ensure the attainment of a middle income status by 2020. This strategy will be accomplished through fiscal discipline hinged on prudent public expenditure management, strict adherence to public procurement rules, efficient and effective domestic revenue mobilization, and encouraging the private sector to participate in our accelerated growth agenda through Public Private Partnerships (PPPs).
178. The fiscal outlook is very critical to Government in achieving its objective of maintaining long-term fiscal and debt sustainability. There will be a decisive policy to improve expenditure management, enhance public financial management, restructure State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) particularly the utility companies and ensure the success of the public sector reforms.
179. Madam Speaker, in spite of the fiscal outturn for 2008, Government is committed to managing the macroeconomic situation to ensure that the macroeconomic targets change in the right direction in the short to medium term.

MACROECONOMIC POLICIES, STRATEGIES AND TARGETS FOR 2009

180. Madam Speaker, in the 2008 Manifesto of the NDC, we pledged that an NDC Government would “establish a lean but effective

and efficient government by cutting out ostentation and profligate expenditure; rationalizing ministries and ministerial appointments; and promoting service, humility and integrity as canons of government”.

181. This is one of the main policy directions that this Budget seeks to achieve. As a first step towards the creation of a lean government, the total number of Ministries has been rationalized, reducing them from 27 to 23.
182. Madam Speaker, based on the 2008 fiscal outturn, and the world economic outlook already outlined in Chapter Two of this Statement, our broad economic and financial objectives for 2009 include:
- real GDP growth of 5.9 per cent;
 - average inflation target of 15.3 per cent;
 - end period inflation of 12.5 per cent;
 - an overall budget deficit equivalent to 9.4 per cent of GDP;
 - gross international reserves of more than two months of import cover of goods and services.
183. Considering the harsh global environment, these macroeconomic targets may look rather ambitious. However, we believe that Ghana’s situation could be more favourable than other sub-Saharan African countries and emerging economies in general. We are, therefore, optimistic that these targets are achievable.

Fiscal Policy Challenges

184. For 2009 in particular, and the medium term in general, the Government will be committed to correcting the large fiscal imbalance experienced since 2006 by focusing on, among others, tackling underlying issues to enhance domestic revenue

mobilisation; rationalizing subsidies to State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs), particularly, in the energy sector; and rationalizing public sector wages and other expenditures.

GDP GROWTH FOR 2009

Outlook for 2009

185. Madam Speaker, GDP growth for 2009 is targeted at 5.9 per cent. This is informed by the global economic meltdown with a resultant forecast of 0.5 per cent growth and 3.5 per cent for emerging economies. Our relatively higher GDP growth target is driven in part by our commitment to the agricultural sector which is relatively more insulated against global developments. The private sector is also expected to contribute significantly to the growth
186. Agriculture Sector growth rate is targeted at 5.7 per cent and will be based on the following measures among others:
- Increases in the area under cultivation of maize, rice and groundnut by about 24 per cent, 9 per cent and 1 per cent respectively;
 - Government intervention in post-harvest handling of agricultural production, storage and processing facilities; and
 - Improvement in the performance of local breeds of livestock.
187. Industry Sector growth is projected at 5.9 per cent and the Services Sector is expected to grow at 6.6 per cent.

RESOURCES MOBILISATION AND ALLOCATION FOR 2009

Resource Mobilisation

188. Madam Speaker, the **total resource envelope** or **total receipts** for the 2009 fiscal year is projected at GH¢9,793.1 million, equivalent to 45.8 per cent of GDP. The projected

receipts for the year represents 2.7 per cent increase over the outturn for 2008.

189. The apparent marginal increase in projected total receipts for 2009 over the outturn for 2008 can be attributed to the exceptionally huge inflows from divestiture receipts and the draw-down on receipts from the sovereign bond in 2008. This led to the large amount of total receipts recorded during the year. In 2009, however, these exceptional receipts will not recur.
190. **Domestic revenue**, consisting of tax and non-tax revenue, is projected at GH¢5,935.1 million, a 23.6 per cent increase over the outturn for 2008.
191. **Total tax revenue** comprising revenues from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Customs Excise and Preventive Service (CEPS) and Value Added Tax Service (VATS) is projected at GH¢5,117.1 million, representing 23.9 per cent of GDP. The 2009 estimate for tax revenue shows an increase of 19.0 per cent over the outturn for 2008.
192. Out of the projected tax revenue, **direct taxes** are estimated at GH¢1,554.5 million, accounting for 30.4 per cent of total tax revenue. This amount indicates a 24.0 per cent increase over the outturn for 2008.
193. **Indirect taxes** are projected to increase by 25.1 per cent from the 2008 level to GH¢1,917.4 million in 2009. The estimate for 2009 is made up of GH¢1,418.5 million for total VAT, with petroleum and excise taxes yielding GH¢436.2 million and GH¢62.7 million, respectively.
194. **International Trade taxes**, comprising import and export duties, are projected at GH¢922.5 million, representing 4.3 per cent of GDP and 17.8 per cent of total tax revenue. The estimate indicates a 28.2 per cent increase over the outturn for 2008. Import duties constitute about 95 per cent of the projected international trade taxes for 2009.

195. Madam Speaker, the **National Health Insurance Levy (NHIL)** is estimated to yield an amount of GH¢375.2 million, representing 1.8 per cent of GDP and an increase of 17.9 per cent over the outturn for 2008. The yield from the NHIL includes an amount of GH¢117.4 million from the Social Security and National Insurance Trust (SSNIT).
196. **Non-Tax Revenue** is projected at GH¢590.9 million, equivalent to 2.8 per cent of GDP. Out of this amount, GH¢386.9 million is to be retained by the MDAs and GH¢204.0 million will be lodged for general government budgetary support.
197. **Grants** from development partners are projected at GH¢1,301.9 million, equivalent to 6.1 per cent of GDP. This is made up of **project** and **programme grants** of GH¢683.1 million and GH¢395.6 million, respectively. **Highly Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) Assistance** from multilateral institutions and, **Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI)**, are expected to yield GH¢130.0 million and GH¢93.3 million, respectively.
198. **Total loans** are estimated at GH¢1,029.2 million, equivalent to 4.8 per cent of GDP. This is made up of **Project** and **Programme Loans** of GH¢792.5 million and GH¢236.7 million, respectively.
199. **Exceptional** financing made up of HIPC relief from our bilateral partners, is projected at GH¢134.7 million.

Resource Allocation

200. Madam Speaker, total payments for 2009 is projected at GH¢9,793.1 million. Of this amount, GH¢3,012.7 million, equivalent to 14.1 per cent of GDP or 30.8 per cent of the total payments, is estimated for statutory payments and GH¢6,780.4 million, equivalent to 31.7 per cent of GDP as discretionary payments.

Statutory Payments

201. **Statutory payments**, comprising all expenditure items which are mandatory, are estimated at GH¢3,012.7 million. The estimate for statutory payments indicates a 27.8 per cent increase over the outturn for 2008.
202. **External Debt Service** is estimated at GH¢855.1 million, out of which GH¢537.9 million is estimated to be used for interest payments and the remaining for amortization.
203. **Domestic interest payments** for the 2009 fiscal year are estimated at GH¢507.7 million.
204. Madam Speaker, Central Government transfers to the **District Assemblies Common Fund** and **Ghana Education Trust Fund** are estimated to be GH¢345.7 million and GH¢275.1 million, respectively, and an amount of GH¢375.2 million will be transferred to the **National Health Insurance Fund**.
205. The **Road Fund** is expected to receive an amount of GH¢123.3 million, while GH¢3.5 million will be transferred into the **Petroleum-related Fund**, for the funding of exploration and other petroleum-related activities.
206. **Transfers to Households**, which is made up of an amount of GH¢211.9 million for **Pensions**, GH¢95.6 million for **Gratuities** and GH¢219.7 million for **Social Security** contributions by Government on behalf of its employees, will amount to GH¢527.2 million, equivalent to 2.5 per cent of GDP.

Discretionary Payments

207. Madam Speaker, **total discretionary payments** is estimated to be GH¢6,780.4 million, equivalent to 68.9 per cent of total payments. The estimate is 5.6 per cent lower than the outturn recorded in 2008. The low projection is mainly explained by the

non-recurring expenditures including the sovereign bond proceeds which occurred in 2008.

208. **Personal emoluments (item 1)** for 2009 is estimated at GH¢2,533.8 million, representing 11.8 per cent of GDP, 42.5 per cent of domestic revenue, and 37.9 per cent of total discretionary payments.
209. In 2009, some salary related allowances which are currently classified as part of administration expenditure (item 2) have been consolidated with the basic salary. This partly explains the increase in the wage bill from 11.5 per cent of GDP in 2008 to 11.8 per cent of GDP in 2009.
210. Of the estimated GH¢2,533.8 million, the allowances are estimated at GH¢324.0 million equivalent to 1.5 per cent of GDP. Thus, in 2009 the estimated wage bill excluding the allowances is equivalent to 10.3 per cent of GDP. This compares with the outturn of 11.5 per cent of GDP for 2008.
211. Madam Speaker, **Administration and Service (Items 2 and 3)** expenses for MDAs are estimated at GH¢266.3 million and GH¢149.0 million, respectively. The two together represent 1.9 per cent of GDP, 7.0 per cent of domestic revenue, and 6.1 per cent of discretionary payments. The estimates for items 2 and 3 are 36.0 per cent lower than the outturn for 2008.
212. The consolidation of category 1 allowances as part of personal emoluments for 2009 explains the reduction in the estimate for items 2.
213. As part of Government's policy to reduce the budget deficit through expenditure rationalization, service activities in the areas of foreign travels, workshops and seminars are to be curtailed. This accounts for the reduction in item 3 expenses.
214. **Domestic-Financed Investment** (excluding those financed from statutory funds) are projected to be GH¢305.8 million,

equivalent to 1.4 per cent of GDP and 4.5 per cent of discretionary payments.

215. An amount of GH¢1,475.6 million, equivalent to 6.9 per cent of GDP and 21.8 per cent of total discretionary expenditures is estimated for **Foreign Financed Investment**.
216. **Other transfers** are estimated at GH¢905.7 million, out of which GH¢35.0 million will be used to **mitigate the impact of petroleum price liberalization**, while an amount of GH¢19.0 million is being projected for reimbursement to ECG in respect of subsidies to lifeline consumers of electricity. An amount of GH¢386.9 million of internally generated funds is expected to be retained by MDAs, while import duty exemptions (classified as tax expenditure) are estimated at GH¢464.8.
217. Madam Speaker, total receipts from the **HIPC debt relief initiative** is estimated at GH¢264.7 million. As has been the practice, 20 per cent of receipts from the HIPC debt relief initiative will be used for the reduction of domestic debt. In 2009, 50 per cent of the HIPC relief totaling GH¢131.8 million will be distributed to MDAs, MMDAs and other institutions for the implementation of activities aimed at reducing poverty and improving the economic and social conditions of Ghanaians. The remaining 30 per cent will be used as general budgetary support.
218. **MDRI-financed expenditure** is projected at GH¢93.3 million.
219. An amount of GH¢344.5 million has been provided in a **reserve fund** for the payment of judgment debts, payment into the Northern Development Fund, and purchase of strategic oil stocks, among others.
220. A total amount of GH¢533.5 million has been set aside for the settlement of payments that were due but not made in 2008.

Overall Budget Balance and Financing

221. Madam Speaker, the 2009 budget envisages an overall budget deficit equivalent to 9.4 per cent of GDP.
222. The overall budget deficit is expected to be financed from both domestic and foreign sources. **Net Domestic Financing** of the budget is estimated at GH¢1,392.2 million, equivalent to 6.5 per cent of GDP. Financing from foreign sources are projected at GH¢626.0 million, equivalent to 2.9 per cent of GDP.

EXTERNAL OUTLOOK FOR 2009

Outlook for 2009

Public Debt and Financing Strategy

223. The core strategy for public debt management is to control the rate of growth of total public debt.
224. Public debt is largely expected to be kept at sustainable levels, and consequently, total public debt to GDP ratio is expected to be below a targeted limit of 60 per cent in the medium term.

External Debt Management Strategy

225. The external debt strategy will be to seek for soft loans for mainly social projects, and access commercial facilities for economically viable, self-financing and strategic projects. There will be significant efforts to attract products that involve liability sharing between government and the private sector in the form of Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) and prudent levels of contingent liabilities and on-lending facilities.
226. The following strategic risk benchmarks will be pursued as a forward looking risk management strategy in the medium term.

Foreign Currency Risk Benchmarks

227. Foreign currency debt obligation will be aligned to the country's foreign exchange receipts in order to minimize exposure to major foreign currencies.

Interest Rate Risk Benchmark

228. The current structure of interest rates does not suggest any eminent interest rate risk. However, the floating rate component which could pose danger in times of crisis would be closely monitored and kept under the internationally accepted range of 25 to 35 per cent.

HIPC AND MDRI – Receipt Account

229. During 2009, it is expected that a total of about GH¢358 million (US\$238.67 million) will be lodged in the debt relief accounts, consisting of GH¢264.73 million and GH¢93.27 million for HIPC and MDRI, respectively.
230. The Government of Spain has committed to deliver additional debt relief in the form of debt-for-development to contribute to the socio-economic development of Ghana. The total amount of debt relief involved is US\$44.36 million. This is to be provided over a seven year period, and will be deposited in a Ghana-Spain Debt for Development Swap Trust Fund. The use of funds and selection of projects will be agreed by a Joint GOG- Spanish Committee to be set up.

Domestic Debt Management Strategy

231. Effective domestic debt management will be one of the critical aspects of the Government's economic programme during this fiscal year and in the medium term.
232. The increasing size of the domestic debt and its debt service burden points to an urgent need for Government to pursue

sound and effective strategies to reduce the domestic debt to sustainable levels. Over the medium term, it is envisaged that debt management strategies will be supported by continuous fall in interest rates, a stable exchange rate environment and a reduction in fiscal deficit.

233. Debt management strategies over the medium term are intended to achieve the following four broad objectives:

- satisfying the government's annual financing requirements;
- minimizing borrowing and debt service costs;
- achieving a balanced maturity structure of debt; and
- deepening a well-functioning Government of Ghana securities market by providing key pricing and hedging tools.

Primary Dealer System and Secondary Market Development

234. The primary dealer system will be reviewed under the current benefits and obligations with probationary Primary Dealers (PDs) in the new system. A feedback system and rules book will be developed during the year.

Improvement of Issue Calendar

235. It has been difficult to pre-commit to a specific issue programme in advance. The goal is to reduce the frequency of government debt issue and to make public, in advance, the specific instruments and size. This would provide the market with a clear indication of when an instrument will be issued and some broad guidance on the likely amount.

Monetary Policy

236. The Bank of Ghana will focus on reducing the rate of inflation to 12.5 per cent by the end of 2009 and further to 10.0 per cent in

2010 and 8 per cent in 2011. Underlying this medium term forecast of inflation is a fiscal consolidation path which will stabilize domestic debt and help anchor inflation expectations.

Price and Monetary Outlook

237. The medium term inflation forecast shows inflation declining to 12.5 per cent in 2009 to 8 per cent in 2011. The key challenges underlying the forecast is the fiscal policy stance and in particular wage policy in 2009 and a resurgence in prices of crude oil currently forecasted to rebound in 2010. The Bank of Ghana will use its inflation targeting framework to guide inflation expectations in line with the forecast.

External Outlook

238. The overall objective for the external sector will be to build up adequate reserves to cushion the economy from external shocks. The reserve build up in 2006-2007 served the economy well and allowed it to withstand the oil and food price shocks in 2008 to a large extent. This objective of shoring up reserves is in a context of a global economic crisis with potential risks to our sources of foreign exchange, exports, remittances and aid flows.
239. The balance of payments projections for 2009 indicate that exports will decrease by 7.6 per cent to US\$ 4874.06 million. Cocoa exports are expected to decline by 2.8 per cent to US\$1459.58 million reflecting a price decline of about 9 per cent. Gold exports receipts are expected to decline by 11.78 per cent due to a significant decline in gold export prices by 16.0 per cent. Private inward transfers are projected to decline by 7.5 per cent to US\$ 1.7 billion.
240. It is anticipated that imports will also slowdown in 2009 by 16 per cent to US\$8605.2 million reflecting a 15 per cent slow down in non oil imports and a 20 per cent slow down in oil imports. The slowdown in oil imports is due to a 41 per cent drop in oil prices to a projected \$60 per barrel for 2009.

- 241. The overall current account balance (including official transfers) is projected to improve by 35 per cent driving the current account deficit GDP ratio from 20.87 per cent in 2008 to about 15 per cent in 2009.
- 242. This sharp improvement in the current account is expected to impact positively on the gross international reserves to cover two months of imports by the end of 2009.

SECTION SIX: SECTORAL PERFORMANCE AND OUTLOOK

243. Madam Speaker, the economic and social objectives that we have set for ourselves will be accomplished through well thought out policies programmes and projects which have already been clearly identified and articulated in our manifesto. These are reflected in the four broad thematic areas namely:
- transparent and accountable governance;
 - a strong economy for real jobs;
 - investing in people; and
 - expanding infrastructure.
244. The agenda to fundamentally reform and restructure the economy is impinged on the philosophy of growth with stability. Emphasis will be placed on accelerated agricultural modernization, improved rural economy, and food security. On the industrial front, the policy is to implement growth enhancing science and technology driven measures to ensure global competitiveness. Government will create the necessary environment for private sector operation with a view to encouraging Public-Private Partnership in service delivery.
245. The programmes and activities of the Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) are designed to achieve these broad goals. The MDAs are thus called upon to ensure speedy, effective, and efficient execution of the programmes as outlined in their budgets.
246. Madam speaker, if you permit, I will now present the broad programme activities under the sector Ministries.

Private Sector Competitiveness

247. Madam Speaker, the focus of private sector competitiveness under the GPRS II is to ensure accelerated growth through modernized agriculture and led by a vibrant private sector.

248. The MDAs whose activities will enhance the capacity of the private sector as a partner for growth are the following:

- Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA)
- Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (MLNR)
- Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI)
- Ministry of Tourism (MT)
- Ministry of Energy (MOE)
- Ministry of Water Resources, Works and Housing (MWRWH)
- Ministry of Transport (MOT)
- Ministry of Roads and Highways (MRH)
- Ministry of Communication (MOC)
- Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology (MEST)

Ministry of Food and Agriculture

249. Madam Speaker, the Ministry exists to develop a progressive, dynamic and viable agricultural economy that will ensure food security, vulnerability and emergency preparedness, income growth and hence poverty reduction.

Performance in 2008

Crops Sub Sector

250. Madam Speaker, the Ministry in its determination to increase Agriculture productivity, produced 50 mt, 16 mt and two mt of maize, rice and sorghum foundation seeds, respectively, for food production. In addition, 16 mt and 40 mt of cowpea and soybean foundation seed were supplied to farmers for the production of certified seeds. It also boosted the production of 100,000 yam setts and 70 ha of cassava planting materials.
251. Madam Speaker, the Ministry procured and tested twenty tractor mounted drill rigs for the promotion of sustainable water harvesting and efficient water management. Furthermore, the Ministry procured 732 tractors, 200 power tillers and 220 manure shellers as part of effort to modernize agriculture.
252. Madam Speaker, to enhance food security and sustainable production of major staples the Ministry produced and released 508,576 actives of typhlodromalus manihoti for the control of Cassava Green Mite and 39,000 actives of Teretrius migrescens against the Larger Grain Borer. It also equipped three insectaries and conducted three pest and disease surveys in three zones of the country.
253. Madam Speaker, under the Small Farm Irrigation Project, construction of irrigation facilities for an area of 492 ha was completed for crop production. Similarly, under the Small Scale Irrigation Development Project, an area of 939 ha was developed and handed over to farmers for cropping.

- 254. Madam Speaker, the Ministry conducted feasibility studies into surface water extraction for irrigation. Documentation on six sites in the Eastern Region were submitted to Millennium Development Authority (MiDA) for implementation.
- 255. Madam Speaker, under the Cashew Development Project four mt of Cashew seed nuts were procured and sold to farmers to add on about 1,913 ha of cashew farms.

Livestock Sub-Sector

- 256. Madam Speaker, the Ministry produced 5.3 million doses of NDI-2 vaccine to help control endemic poultry diseases such as Newcastle in rural poultry. About 122,800 doses of antrax spore vaccine, 62,400 doses of Black vaccine and 47,000 doses of hemorrhagic septicaemia vaccine at Pong-Tamale to enhance the peri-urban dairy cattle production.
- 257. Madam Speaker, to conduct active surveillance, the Ministry participated in the ECOWAS Expert Consultation meeting on Avian Influenza in Abidjan. Avian Influenza (Bird Flu) staff of VSD were also trained and 350 Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) were also equipped to facilitate their work.

Export Marketing and Quality Awareness Project (EMQAP)

- 258. Madam Speaker, the Ministry developed standards for planting materials on mango, pineapple and citrus. Also, as part of the planting materials certification process, three mango farms have been selected and are being maintained as budwood gardens.
- 259. Madam Speaker, the Ministry, procured and distributed 550 pheromone traps for the monitoring of fruit fly (*bactrocera* invadems) populations in selected mango farms in outbreak zones in affected regions.

Sustainable Management of Land and Environment

260. Madam Speaker, the Ministry developed and extended appropriate integrated soil fertility management practices by conducting on-farm testing of new technologies and integrated nutrient management technologies.
261. Madam Speaker, 200 lead irrigation farmers were trained in efficient soil and water management technology and 3,000 seedlings of moringa were also supplied free of charge to farmers to facilitate lakefront protection.

Application of Science and Technology

262. Madam Speaker, the Ministry's technology dissemination support programme, retrained all Agricultural Extension Agents to demonstrate best practices and proven technologies in both crop and livestock production to about 60,000 farmers countrywide.

Fisheries Sector

263. Madam Speaker, a Draft Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy document which will allow for a smooth management of the fisheries sector was approved at a stakeholders' workshop. In addition, a Draft Fisheries Regulation Bill was submitted to Parliament for passage into Law.
264. Madam Speaker, the Ministry registered 5,000 fish farmers and over 30,000 fish ponds and cages throughout the country. The operations of all Tuna Fishing Vessels were regularised resulting in increased Tuna fish production in the country.

Outlook for 2009

265. Madam Speaker, the Government identifies the Agriculture Sector as Ghana's greatest strength and critical for the country's industrial growth. In that regard, the following programmes and activities will be undertaken by the Ministry.

Food Security and Emergency Preparedness

266. Madam Speaker, Government, will increase food production through the intensification of production on existing cropped lands for all food crops by expanding the areas under cultivation. Maize and rice production is expected to increase by 42.2 per cent and 22.8 per cent, respectively. The production of groundnuts, cowpea and soyabean are projected to increase by 25.4 per cent, 37.7 per cent and 11.5 per cent, respectively.
267. Government will encourage farmers to expand the total acreage of cultivation in the areas devoted to maize, rice and groundnuts. The area under maize cultivation is expected to increase by 24 per cent while that under rice and groundnut cultivation are expected to increase by 9 per cent and 1 per cent, respectively.
268. Madam Speaker, in response to the food needs of victims of natural hazards and other calamities, Government will utilize the pro-cocoon technology to store about 900mt of maize as national strategic stock.
269. Furthermore, warehouses, dryers and other facilities including the former Ghana Food Distribution Corporation will be rehabilitated for use in the national buffer stock programme.

Increasing Incomes

270. Madam Speaker, to ensure the growth of incomes in the agricultural sector and reduction in income variability, there is the need to ensure diversification into cash crops, livestock and value addition on commodities. In this regard farmers will be encouraged in addition to their food crop farming activities to diversify into the cultivation of cash crops and livestock for which they have comparative and competitive advantages.

Tree Crop Development

271. Madam speaker, the production of oil palm, citrus, and rubber will be emphasized for the southern ecological zones and effort will be made to increase the production of these crops by at least 200 ha each. In the northern ecological zones, the concentration will be on expanding the areas under cultivation for cashew, mango and cotton by 3,000 ha each.
272. The Ministry will collaborate with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) to find solutions for the development of sheanuts and dawadawa industries.

Livestock Development

273. Madam Speaker, Government will support a pilot project to encourage small scale production of household poultry for a quick turnaround by engaging hatchery operators to hatch two million chicks for distribution to farmers. Guinea fowl farmers in the three Northern regions will also be supported with incubators to produce keets for farmers.
274. Madam Speaker, to improve the performance of our local breeds of livestock, Government will supply improved breeds of sheep, goats, pigs and cattle from its breeding stations.
275. About 16 boreholes and 32 dugouts for livestock watering will be provided under the Livestock Development Project (LDP) in the Northern Region. Another 120 ha of fodder banks will be established to ensure the availability of fodder both in the dry and wet seasons.
276. Furthermore, 1,000 ruminant farmers will be trained on hay silage conservation and utilization of forage, and in the use of urea to treat crop residue. Similarly 500 ha of communal grazing grounds in main livestock producing districts will be over sown to increase fodder production.

277. Madam Speaker, with regards to animal health, farmers will be trained on how to recognize, prevent and control African Swine Fever (ASF); Foot and Mouth Disease; Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP); New Castle Disease (NCD); and Pestes de Petit Ruminants (PPR).
278. Government will institute appropriate measures to control the incidence and spread of Avian Influenza. The Pong-Tamale and Accra veterinary laboratories will be enhanced to increase the manufacture of poultry and livestock vaccines locally. Also, 300 Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) will be trained and equipped to facilitate their work. Mass vaccination against rabbies will be carried out nationwide.

Youth in Agriculture

279. Madam Speaker, under the Youth in Agriculture Development Project 1,200 youth will be trained in agri-business. Another 7,000 youth will be supported with inputs to cultivate 5,600 ha of maize, rice or sorghum in 70 districts. About 4,000 youth will be supported with modern inputs and irrigation facilities to undertake farming in the dry season. Suitable lands will be identified and negotiated with chiefs and land owners for the youth in agriculture development programme. An implementation manual for Junior Farm Field and Life Schools (JFFLS) will be developed.

Sustainable Land and Environment Management

280. Madam Speaker, an Agricultural Land Management Strategy will be implemented as a tool to address the unsustainable use of land for agricultural purposes. Also, effort will be made to get stakeholders in the agriculture sector to use sustainable land management practices. The Ministry will further collaborate with the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology to develop a Country Investment Framework for a sustainable land management.

Increased Competitiveness and Enhanced Integration

281. Madam Speaker, the Ministry intends to ensure the efficient operation and management of the modern fruit/vegetable terminal (Shed 9) at Tema Port, pursue the construction of a Perishable Products Cargo Centre (PPCC) at the Kotoka International Airport and introduce on pilot basis standards (grades and weights) in domestic marketing of agricultural products.
282. Madam Speaker, to meet the standards on the international market, agricultural producers and exporters will be trained to get certification to meet EUROGAP and GLOBAGAP standards. The Government will gazette the standards developed for planting materials for mango, pineapple and citrus.
283. Madam Speaker, Agricultural Extension Agents (AEAs) in main export crop producing areas will be trained in the requisite skills in export crop production. In addition, training will also be given to farmers to meet organic certification standards.

Promoting Quality Planting Material

284. Madam Speaker, Government will supply quality seeds and planting materials to farmers to boost increases in crop production. It will also produce and distribute 50mt of maize, 16mt of rice and 2mt of sorghum foundation seeds for the production of certified seeds

Agricultural Mechanization

285. Madam Speaker, Government will promote sustainable water harvesting and efficient water management technologies by training about 20 technicians in ground water exploration technology and drill 300 boreholes for use in irrigation.
286. Madam Speaker, the Ministry, in collaboration with the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) will start a mechanization training centre for short-term training of

tractor operators, mechanics, and owners. An additional 9 agricultural mechanization centres will be set up to increase mechanization service delivery in the country.

Irrigation Development

287. Madam Speaker, to mitigate the effects of unreliable rainfall and increase employment opportunities in the dry season, the Ministry will develop new irrigation facilities and rehabilitate existing facilities in order to expand the area under irrigation.
288. The Ministry will rehabilitate 41 dams and dugouts that were breached during the 2007 floods for 72 communities in the Northern, Upper East and Upper West Regions. In addition, the Ministry will complete the rehabilitation of the Tono Irrigation Project. The Ministry will continue the development of irrigation facilities under the Small Scale Irrigation Development Project and the Small Farms Irrigation Development Project.
289. Madam Speaker, work on the feasibility study for the Accra Plains Irrigation Project which was initiated in 2008 will be completed. The Ministry will also promote dry season production using portable pumping machines to pump water from perennial sources in the country. The Ministry will further establish about 45 sprinkler irrigation schemes along the main perennial rivers.

Improving Extension Service Delivery

290. Madam Speaker, the Agricultural Extension Agents (AEAs) will be strengthened to conduct crop and livestock demonstrations to show best practices and proven technologies in about 12,500 communities. To reach out to more farmers, the Ministry will employ the use of audio-visual mobile vans, print and electronic mass media for agricultural technology dissemination.

Effective Institutional Coordination

291. Madam speaker, the Ministry has recognized that the private sector and civil society play important roles in the development of the agricultural sector. To promote a private sector led agriculture development, the Ministry will increase the involvement of the private sector and NGOs in the delivery of services such as farmer training, Farmer Based Organization (FBO) development, input procurement and distribution and provision of technical services.

Fisheries Commission

292. Madam Speaker, Government will intensify the promotion of aquaculture developments to manage the capture fisheries on a more sustainable basis. In the year under review Government intends to increase fish production by about 20 per cent.
293. In aquaculture, Government will increase the farmed fish production from 6,500 tons to 10,000 tons through the following interventions:
- Private Public Sector Participation in cage culture operation;
 - Rehabilitation of existing public hatchery at Dormaa Ahenkro and also facilitate the establishment of more private hatcheries;
 - Facilitating the development of fish feed and fingerlings;
 - Establishing structures for the construction of small scale and commercial farms; and
 - Undertake disease management and quality control of farmed fish.
294. Madam Speaker, Government will facilitate the procurement of aquaculture and captured fisheries inputs at affordable prices. In addition, Government will review all existing agreements within

Ghana's territorial waters to ensure that the livelihood and long term interest of our fishermen and residents of our coastal communities are guaranteed.

295. For the implementation of the above activities, an amount of GH ₵202,629,307 has been allocated. Out of this, GoG is GH ₵60,541,825, IGF is GH ₵3,210,940, Donor is GH ₵138,876,542

Cocoa Industry

296. Madam Speaker, Government will give all the required support to the cocoa sub-sector to ensure that it achieves its maximum potential to enable the sub-sector enhance its significant contribution to the growth of GDP, foreign exchange earnings, employment generation and poverty reduction in the country

Performance in 2008

297. Madam Speaker, during the early stages of the 2007/2008 Crop Season, the producer price paid per tonne was GH₵950.00, about 70.97 per cent of the net fob. It was subsequently increased in February, 2008 to GH₵1,200.00, representing about 74.62 per cent of the net fob price.
298. The Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD) purchased 680,780.00 metric tonnes of cocoa in the 2007/2008 Main Crop Season, paid GH₵21,214,468.62 to cocoa farmers as the first tranche of bonus and intensified its Diseases and Pests Control Programme (CODAPEC).
299. Madam Speaker, COCOBOD continued its Hi-Tech programme by encouraging the use of fertilizer application and improved planting materials in the 2007/2008 Crop Season.

Domestic Processing

300. The current installed domestic processing capacity is around 313,000 mt. It is in line with the target of processing 50 per

cent of cocoa beans locally by the year 2010/2011 as a medium term policy of the previous government.

Financing Arrangements for Cocoa Purchases

301. Madam Speaker, in the 2007/08 Crop Season, the COCOBOD secured a pre-export trade finance facility of US\$900.0 million from external and local financial institutions to support cocoa purchases.

Rehabilitation and Tarring of Cocoa Roads

302. Madam Speaker, COCOBOD has embarked on the tarring of selected roads in the remote cocoa growing areas to improve efficiency of cocoa evacuation. Consequently, contracts have been awarded for the tarring of over 600 km of cocoa roads

Special Housing Scheme

303. Madam Speaker, the Cocoa Farmers Housing Scheme seeks to provide affordable houses for cocoa farmers. The department of Rural Housing (DRH), the Implementing Agency, has completed the construction of 10 unit houses in the Western Region. The programme has been extended to the Central, Ashanti and the Brong Ahafo Regions.

Warehousing Complex

304. Madam Speaker, in the 2007/2008 crop year, a 50,000 mt capacity Warehouse Complex (Dzata Bu) was commissioned at Tema. Conveyor belts have been installed at the warehouse complex to facilitate easy loading of cocoa.

Cocoa Scholarship Scheme

305. Madam Speaker, the scholarship scheme which offers financial aid to children and wards of our cocoa farmers was given tremendous support during the 2007/2008 Crop Season. An amount of GH¢ 2,000,000.00 was used to support the scheme. Currently there are about 7,500 wards under the Scheme.

Cocoa Certification/Child Labour Issues

306. Madam Speaker, COCOBOD intensified its sensitization programme on the elimination of the worst forms of child labour in cocoa production and also provided monetary support to the National Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour in Cocoa (NPECLC) in the cocoa sector to enforce the child labour provisions in various legislations and also to respond to international concerns about child labour abuses on cocoa farms in West Africa, as reflected in the Harkin-Engel Protocol.
307. Madam Speaker, the cocoa labour survey and the preparation of the Cocoa Certification Report which is a requirement under the Harkin-Engel Protocol was completed. The International Cocoa Verification Board (ICVB) has accepted the 2008 Ghana Certification Report (GCR).
308. Madam Speaker, COCOBOD has established a Stabilisation Fund of GH¢29.30 per ton to provide guaranteed stable incomes for cocoa farmers in the event of a drastic fall in the world market prices of cocoa beginning from the 2008/2009 Crop Season.

Sheanut Industry

309. Madam Speaker, COCOBOD assisted sheanut farmers with wellington boots, hand gloves and anti snake-serum in order to promote the growth and development of the sheanut industry in the country and to increase the incomes of sheanut farmers. COCOBOD also provided funding for three licensed buying companies to purchase sheanut from farmers.

Outlook for 2009

310. Madam Speaker, COCOBOD will continue to pay the farmer a guaranteed price of not less than 70 per cent of the net fob price. COCOBOD will pay the remaining tranche of bonus of GH¢21,214,468.62 for the 2007/2008 Main Crop Season at the end of June 2009. The COCOBOD will also continue the control of the swollen shoot virus disease and improve the efficiency in the implementation of the programme.

311. Madam Speaker, government will commit itself to the domestic processing of cocoa to provide more incentive packages for local production. Additional incentives will be given to companies engaged in the tertiary processing of cocoa to produce chocolate and confectionery. This will help to achieve the 60 per cent target for local processing of cocoa and increase foreign exchange earnings from the export of cocoa products, as targeted by the NDC.
312. For 2008/09 crop year, COCOBOD has raised funds to the tune of US\$ 1 billion to support the purchase of cocoa for the Crop Season. COCOBOD will also create an enabling field for local banks to participate actively in loan syndication for cocoa purchases. In addition, the COCOBOD will make available the necessary funding for rehabilitation and tarring of roads in the major cocoa growing areas. About 100 houses will also be completed under the Special Housing Scheme for Cocoa Farmers. Furthermore COCOBOD will construct 100,000 metric tons capacity warehouse in Takoradi.
- Coffee Production**
313. Madam Speaker, COCOBOD will continue to provide resources for scientific/agronomic research and extension in coffee production with the view to making the industry viable. COCOBOD will pursue activities towards increasing production levels of the crop. Some of these are the identification of existing farmers and their farms, organising farmers' fora as well as radio programmes in coffee growing districts to disseminate information on good agronomic practices to the farmers, conducting a survey of coffee propagation structures with a view to rehabilitating these facilities and establishing coffee seed gardens to supply elite planting materials to farmers.

Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources

314. Madam Speaker, the Ministry seeks to ensure sustainable growth and accelerated wealth creation within an environment consistent with sound land use and administration, sustainable forest and wildlife management.

Performance in 2008

Lands Sub-Sector

315. Madam Speaker, the Lands Commission Bill was passed with new institutional arrangements for land administration. This established a commission with four functional divisions namely survey and mapping, land registration, land valuation and state and vested lands management. An organization, management and operations study to define the capacities and appropriate skill mix for the new agency is ongoing.
316. Madam Speaker, a total of 28 Customary Land Secretariats were established in 2008 with regional distribution as follows: four in Greater Accra, two in Eastern, one in Volta, two in Western, two in Central, three in Brong Ahafo, three in Northern, two in Upper West, three in Upper East and six in Ashanti. This brings the total number to 38.
317. Madam Speaker, the Ministry concluded the inventory of state acquired/occupied lands and began finalizing policy proposals and implementation of lands already inventorised. Government decided that portions of lands acquired for the Accra Training College, Madina Social Welfare, West Africa Secondary School, Odorgonno Secondary School and the Ghana Atomic Energy Commission be given back to the original owners. Government also directed that the encroachments on sites acquired for the Abeka Sports Complex, Ofankor Police Depot and Training School, Ofankor residential area and others be regularized by the Lands Commission.
318. Madam Speaker, a contract was awarded for the procurement of equipment for the establishment of the five permanent geodetic

reference stations in Accra, Kumasi, Takoradi, Tamale and Bolgatanga. The Ministry also applied to the National Communications Authority for licenses for the frequencies needed to operate the radios on the equipment.

319. Madam Speaker, the Survey Department produced three Sectional Maps. Out of these three, two were approved for use whilst one is undergoing checks for approval. The department also produced a total of 2,884 individual plans made up of 1,241 cadastral plans and 1,643 parcel plans. In addition, a total of 26 applications for composite plans were received, out of which 19 were completed for settlement of disputes.
320. Madam Speaker, the Survey Department embarked on the production of Orthophoto maps of selected areas for land use planning throughout Ghana. Pre-marking of photoblocks were successfully completed. On customary boundary demarcation, the first phase for Ejisu was completed and the second phase is ongoing. Work in the Wassa Amenfi Traditional Council also started.
321. Madam Speaker, to speed up land titling, the Land Title Registry (LTR) has embarked on systematic titling in Kumasi and Accra. Maps covering North Labone and Ringway Estates in Accra involving 1,400 parcels were produced. The registry also re-surveyed two sectional maps using Digital Plane Tabling (DPT). The Land Administration Project has procured 16 additional DPT to encourage its use by professional surveyors in the country. In addition, two satellite offices of LTR are operational in Accra.
322. Madam Speaker, Land Valuation Board (LVB) continued the supervision of private sector participation in inventory of state acquired and occupied lands in 10 pilot districts in Brong Ahafo, Eastern and Ashanti Regions. The others were Yilo Krobo, Manya Krobo, Suhum-Krabo-Coaltar and Birim South in the Eastern Region. The others were Amansie East, Atwima-Nwabiagya and Sekyere West in the Ashanti Region and Sunyani, Techiman and Wenchi in the Brong Ahafo Region.

323. Madam Speaker, the LVB assisted 12 Metropolitan/Municipal/District Assemblies to revalue properties in their jurisdiction for revenue generation purposes. These assemblies were Accra Metropolitan, Twifu – Hemang Lower Denkyira District, Sekyere East District, Techiman Municipal, Assin South District, Ga West Municipal, Amansie East District, Sunyani Municipal, New Juaben Municipal, Cape Coast Municipal, West Akim District and Tema Municipal District. The revaluation of properties also started in three district assemblies namely Dangme East, Manya Krobo and Kpando. A consultant completed a study on the development of a computerized mass appraisal system to develop a national database for land valuation.

Forestry and Wildlife Sub-Sector

324. Madam Speaker, the Forestry Services Division (FSD) harvested a total of 21,849 plantation trees with a volume of 5,466.73m³ from off forest reserve areas while 184,813 trees with a volume of 62,752.81m³ were harvested from on reserve areas during the year. In addition, a total of 1,116,069 seedlings of various species were raised by FSD and private nurseries during the period which exceeded the target of 1,021,680 by 10 per cent.
325. Madam Speaker, to increase the nation's forest cover by 10,000 hectares annually, FSD surveyed and demarcated 1,440 hectares under the Community Forest Management Project (CFMP) and 178 hectares under FSD model plantation programme. The division also prepared 195 hectares under the Modified Taungya System, 152 hectares under the FSD model plantation programme and 891 hectares under the CFMP. About 789,050 seedlings were delivered under the modified taungya system and 104,434 seedlings of various species were raised in FSD nurseries during the period under review.
326. Madam Speaker, under the HIPC Plantation Programme 1,127 hectares were surveyed and demarcated during the period. In addition, 1,405 hectares were prepared and 752,000 seedlings were delivered for planting. The programme still maintained the

12,100 workers engaged previously to continue with this year's target.

327. Madam Speaker, the HIPC Plantation Programme has also accomplished the establishment of 26,600 hectares of plantation forest. It has facilitated the establishment of 15,000 hectares of plantations in off-reserve forests under its CFMP, whilst 3,000 hectares under its Urban Component were planted. The programme also supplied 4,000,000 seedlings to the Greening Ghana Programme.

Wildlife Division (WD)

328. The Division constructed 16km of Asibey Loop and 10 km of Grugbani road, and rehabilitated 30 km of Grugbani-Stup Hill-Lovi as Mole access roads.
329. Madam Speaker, the Accra Zoo took delivery of five camels donated by the Libyan Government. This has improved the number of exhibits in the Mini Zoo at Achimota Forest. In addition, Wildlife Division inaugurated Community Resource and Environmental Management Areas (CREMA) at Mognori near Mole National Park and trained Community Collaborative Unit staff. Under the Institutional Capacity Development Training Plan, 150 Wildlife guards in Bia and Digya National Parks were trained. Revised syllabus for training of Wildlife Rangers was prepared.
330. Madam Speaker, the Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) was signed between the Government of Ghana and the European Union. A Memorandum on Climate Change was submitted to Cabinet.
331. Madam Speaker, Ghana's Readiness Project Idea Note (R-PIN) among other country proposals for reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD) under the World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), was reviewed.

Outlook for 2009

Lands Sub-Sector

332. The Ministry will complete the drafting of a new Lands Bill that will consolidate and update all the laws dealing with land ownership and tenures, land administration, surveying and mapping and land use planning.
333. The new Lands Commission Act 2008 (Act 767) will be implemented to create a new institutional framework for land administration. The construction of a new head office building for the new Lands Commission will begin. Computerization of the business processes of the new Lands Commission will also start. Intelligent scanning will be undertaken of the land registry records in Accra to enable the records to be sorted according to regions for the newly established land registries. The central records of the new Lands Commission will be re-organised to ensure efficient land administration service delivery.
334. Madam Speaker, the establishment of a new Geodetic Reference Network for the entire country will be completed. The allodial boundaries of ten customary land authorities will also be demarcated and surveyed, and the titles registered in the Land Registries. Besides, systematic land titling to register 10,000 properties in Accra and Kumasi will be undertaken using the private sector. In addition, a gender strategy for land administration will be completed and implemented.
335. Madam Speaker, the Valuation Services Division of the Lands Commission, in collaboration with selected district assemblies will carry out the revaluation of properties in order to update values of the properties as well as to bring on board the Valuation List new developed properties. The assemblies are East Akim Municipal, Adenta Municipal, Atiwa District, Nkoranza District, Ho Municipal, Sunyani Municipal, Fanteakwa District, Birim South District, Birim North District, West Akim District, Sefwi Wiawso District, Kwahu West Municipal and Ashiaman Municipal.

- 336. To improve the cost effectiveness of rating valuation services, 12 district assemblies will have their valuation processes computerised. In addition, the Valuation Services Division will also organize sensitization seminars and workshops on improving property rate revenue generation for selected district assemblies' staff in 9 districts.
- 337. Madam Speaker, the Land Title Registration Division will continue with the registration of all transactions relating to land in declared districts, developing, keeping and providing readily accurate information on interests in land to the public. The Division will also provide security of tenure to land.
- 338. Madam Speaker, the Ministry and Office of the Administrator of Stool Land will develop guidelines for the utilization of royalties by District Assemblies to ensure that communities benefit directly from revenue generated from their areas.

Forestry and Wildlife Sub-Sector

- 339. Madam Speaker, a distance of 18,000 km of both internal and external forest reserve boundaries will be maintained during the year. FSD will continue with its routine inspection of both internal and external boundaries. Also, patrol duties will be undertaken in off-reserve and other forest reserves.
- 340. Madam Speaker, to promote the increase of the national forest cover by 20,000 ha annually, the following mainstream activities will be undertaken. About 1,000,000 seedlings of various species will be raised in FSD nurseries. Private and community tree seedling producers will also raise about 25,600,000 seedlings of various species.
- 341. In addition, 20,000 ha will be surveyed and demarcated, and prepared for planting. An estimated 26,600,000 seedlings of various species will be delivered for planting. Additional 22,000,000 pegs will be cut to plant both on and off reserve areas. Companies that have been allocated degraded forest

reserve areas, and contrary to the terms of the allocation failed to develop plantations will have the areas taken back. About 12,600 jobs will be created and an estimated 160,000 mt of food crops will be produced from the plantation areas.

- 342. Madam Speaker, 67 field staff of the Wildlife Division (WD) will be trained by the Mobile Training Unit in weapon handling and wildlife laws for effective enforcement. In furtherance of this, the 6,750 sq km of land under the units will be covered in day and night patrol duties, to arrest and prosecute poachers.
- 343. Madam Speaker, trans-boundary collaboration between Kyabobo and adjoining FAZAO National Park in Togo will continue. Socio-economic studies in and around Ankasa to explore the possibility of establishing more CREMAs around Ankasa Conservation Areas will also be carried out.
- 344. The Timber Industries Development Division (TIDD) will disseminate results of the study on the removal of pungent smell in Dahoma. It will also review and publish prices of wood export. About 1,200 copies of monthly export statistics report will be produced and disseminated.
- 345. Madam Speaker, in collaboration with Ministry of Trade and Industry (MOTI), TIDD will submit proposals for participation in creating a furniture city in the Tema Multi Purpose Industrial Park and also create public awareness of new species for building and construction.

Mines Sub-Sector

- 346. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will continue to explore, exploit and manage the country's mineral resources on sustainable and environmentally friendly ways. To control negative impact on communities bordering mining locations, the Ministry will continuously monitor all mining operations as well as exploration companies to ensure compliance with the requisite mining agreements.

347. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will encourage the diversification of the mineral base to reduce over-dependence on few precious minerals. In this connection, the result of the airborne geophysical survey and the geological maps will be packaged for investors and mapping for base metals and other metals will be carried out
348. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will work to improve the relationship between mining companies and mining communities. Among the activities to be pursued include organising regular meetings with mining NGOs and civil society organizations, radio discussions on FM stations to disseminate information to ensure successful implementation of alternative livelihood projects in mining communities.
349. Government will continue to address social issues in mining communities including equitable distribution of mining revenues. The Ministry will draft guidelines on the use of mineral royalties by District and Municipal Assemblies and undertake surveys to establish baseline data on social conflicts in mining communities.
350. For the implementation of the above activities, an amount of GH ₵80,034,267 has been allocated. Out of this, GoG is GH ₵14,097,316 IGF is GH ₵37,518,900 Donor is GH ₵18,418,052 and HIPC is GH ₵10,000,000

Ministry of Trade and Industry

351. Madam Speaker, the Ministry aims at developing a vibrant technology driven, competitive industrial sector that significantly contributes to economic growth and employment creation, particularly involving mass mobilization of rural communities and other vulnerable groups including women.

Performance in 2008

352. Madam Speaker, a number of legal, regulatory and institutional reform programmes were completed by the Ministry. These included a study on Effective Rate of Protection (ERP), establishment of Trade Tariff Advisory Board, installation of equipment for the electronic tracking of trucks for Transit Trade, offered credit to 100 MSME through the BDS funds and drafted the Competition Bill for submission to Cabinet.
353. The Ministry also developed and operationalised the Technical Barriers to Trade/Sanitary and Phyto Sanitary (TBT/SPS) website, a draft Consumer Protection Policy and designed Model Markets for Municipal and District Assemblies.
354. Madam Speaker, under the Gateway Project the following construction works are nearing completion. These are the construction of Flyover Bridge and Access Road within Tema Port and the Tema Multi-Purpose Industrial Park (TMPIP), the installation of permanent power supply and distribution, construction of roads and side drains, water supply and distribution, power supply and distribution, and the construction of a security fence wall at the Tema multi-purpose industrial park.
355. Madam Speaker, as a result of efforts by Ghana Export Promotion Council (GEPC) to improve market access, orders worth over US\$20.0 million were received for medicinal plants and seeds. The market access programmes undertaken included Rand Show, Johannesburg – South Africa, SIDIM Fair

in Montreal, Canada, Vita Foods International 2008, Geneva – Switzerland, African Fair 2008, Tokyo – Japan, Joint Agric Show held in Tehran -Iran during the Ghana-Iran Permanent Joint Commission for Cooperation meeting and the Royal Agriculture Show 2008, - United Kingdom.

356. Madam Speaker, GEPC has also established four mango nursery centres located at Ho and Nkonya-Kwamekrom in the Volta Region, Kpalo-Salaga in the Northern Region and Ada-Afiadenyingba in Greater Accra Region, involving a total of 120,000 grafted seedlings of export variety exotic mangoes.
357. Madam Speaker, under the Cassava Starch PSI, 65 acres of high-cassava-starch-content planting material for multiplication were cultivated near Kasoa in Central Region. This is to enable the PSI to increase the output of raw material for starch production
358. Madam Speaker, to make available trained workforce for the garment industry, 2,000 sewing machine operators were trained. Apart from this, officers participated in Apparel Shows in the USA which resulted in securing orders to the tune of US\$2.5m for the production of sportswear, ladies' and Men's wear, and overall uniforms.
359. Madam Speaker, the Ministry under the District Industrialization Programme provided financial support to the following companies; Dormaa Hatchery Project, N&C Foods, Northern Star Tomato Company, Pwalugu, Volta Star Textile Company, Juapong.
360. Madam Speaker, the National Board for Small Scale Industries (NBSSI) organized Business Improvement Programmes for 5,600 enterprises and provided Advisory and Extension Services to 10,500 entrepreneurs to enhance their efficiency. Additionally, 80 micro and small enterprises were supported to improve product packaging and quality. Training seminars were organized for over 1,000 students aimed at enhancing their capability to start their own business.

- 361. Madam Speaker, through the GRATIS Foundation over 300 rural women were trained in various employable skills, including in batik/tie and dye production and marketing. Furthermore, 74 final year apprentices graduated and took the Craft Certificate Examination (CCE) of the Ghana Education Service (GES). Sixty-four (64) new technical apprentices were also placed on a three-year apprenticeship training programme in metal machining, welding and fabrication, foundry and woodwork.
- 362. Madam Speaker, the Ghana Standards Board (GSB) intensified its inspection activities at the Ports including critically examining over 120,000 imported high risk goods. Additionally, 1,337 health and export certificates were issued to exporters to enhance export competitiveness. About 837 export consignments, factories, fishing vessels and manufacturing establishments were inspected.
- 363. Madam Speaker, the Ministry successfully hosted the UNCTAD XII Conference to bring to the fore trade and development issues confronting the world.

Outlook for 2009

- 364. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will monitor and improve the quality of trade and industry data in collaboration with the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS). The Ministry expects to issue the Quarterly Trade Statistics Bulletin to promote decision making.
- 365. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will develop an Industrial Sector Policy to complement the Trade Sector Support Programme currently being implemented under the Ghana Trade Policy.
- 366. Madam Speaker, the Ministry is engaged in several parallel international trade negotiations. Consequently, the Ministry will require improved capacity, institutional strengthening and appropriate negotiation skills. This has necessitated the design of a capacity building programme. The Ministry will also re-

establish the Inter-institutional Committees to ensure effective coordination with other stakeholders.

- 367. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will establish a Trade and Tariffs Advisory Board to promote a transparent tariff regime to ensure a level playing field for all economic operators. This will be a front runner to the establishment of the Ghana International Trade Commission.
- 368. In this regard, the Ministry will facilitate the establishment of shea nuts processing factories in the three Northern Regions with the capacity to produce 50,000 metric tons of shea butter per annum.
- 369. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will facilitate an integrated development of a viable petro-chemical industry in order to take full advantage of the exploitation of crude oil to produce fertilizer, PVC granules and other related products. The production of caustic soda, based on local salt production will be promoted.
- 370. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will undertake feasibility studies to ascertain the establishment of basic industries to support Ghana's developmental efforts. In this regard, the focus will be on the development of such industries as iron and steel, brick and tile, as well as, clinker and cement production to create jobs and wealth, especially at the districts. The Ministry will also assess the feasibility of reviving the textiles industry based on an integrated approach to revamp the textile and garment industry.
- 371. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will facilitate the use of appropriate incentive schemes to enhance credit delivery to MSMEs using EDIF, EXIM Guarantee and Development Banks, especially the National Investment Bank (NIB).
- 372. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will pursue efforts to enhance global and regional competitiveness of products from the country. In this regard, an industrial support centre to

coordinate assistance to firms to become internationally competitive will be established in consultation with PEF, AGI and GNCCI.

- 373. Madam Speaker, in order to reduce the volume of sugar importation and other allied products, the Ministry will support the setting up of an integrated sugar manufacturing project to produce sugar and ethanol in the Savelugu-Nanton District of the Northern Region. A by-product of this venture will be electricity.
- 374. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will establish a web-based product gallery to showcase made-in-Ghana goods. Additionally, the National Friday Wear Programme will be expanded to the districts to enhance patronage and create demand for made-in-Ghana garments and textiles to create jobs and wealth.
- 375. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will develop a National Export strategy to provide a strategic direction and road map for refocusing national efforts to achieve a quantum leap in exports. In addition, CEPS Procedures will be simplified and the Remote Controlled Entry System for Customs Declaration strengthened as a means to facilitate Trade in Ghana.
- 376. Madam Speaker, the Destination Inspection Scheme will be reviewed with stakeholder participation to agree on the way forward in the area of customs inspection and valuation. In addition, CEPS procedures will be simplified and the electronic entry system for Customs Declaration, GCNet, strengthened. Preparation will also commence for the formulation of the second phase of the Gateway Programme to sustain the gains made under the first phase which ends in December 2009.
- 377. Madam Speaker, to boost Ghana's Trade relations with the French-speaking countries, particularly in the West African Sub-region, the Ministry will support the training of 360 officers in the Public and Private Sectors in Business French over the next three years.

378. The Ministry will commence reforms aimed at overhauling Ghana's quality infrastructure regarding Standards, Quality Assurance, Accreditation and Metrology (SQAM). This is to ensure consumer safety as well as meet international best practice, and clarify the role of standards setting and enforcing institutions.
379. Madam Speaker, the Ministry, in collaboration with the Ghana Institute of Quality will continue to organize workshops on Quality Management Systems to enable SMEs appreciate and install quality management system at the firm level. This is a strategic objective to enhance their competitiveness in both local and export markets.
380. Madam Speaker, the Ghana Standards Board (GSB) will be supported to offer technical support services to exporters in order for them to overcome technical barriers to trade (TBT) as well as to help them meet Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) requirements. The Ministry will also set up an effective National Alert System to inform exporters about issues regarding sub-standard goods and changes in requirements regarding export products.
381. Madam Speaker, the National Board for Small Scale Industry (NBSSI) is being reconstituted and strengthened to provide technical and financial support for MSEs. In addition, the Ministry will support the decentralized Business Assistance Centres (BACs) in the districts to deliver quality integrated services to target MSEs. About 30,000 MSEs will be equipped with business improvement skills to enhance their production and marketing capabilities.
382. Madam Speaker, the Central Regional Development Commission (CEDECOM) will be strengthened to enable it expand its programmes and projects that contribute to job creation and poverty reduction in the Central Region.
383. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will strengthen the Ghana Export Promotion Council (GEPC) to provide world class export support

services to exporters through market access facilitation, product development, trade information delivery, capacity building and coordination of national export agenda. In addition, Export Trade Houses will be established to address the supply response of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in the export sector.

384. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will support the GRATIS Foundation to train 200 technical apprentices in metal machining, welding and fabrication, wood work and foundry. GRATIS will also be equipped to design and prototype 4 new products namely: oil expeller, mechanical drier, hammer mill and mechanical cassava harvester.
385. For the implementation of the above activities, an amount of GH ₵72,296,148 has been allocated. Out of this, GoG is GH ₵9,740,064 IGF is GH ₵11,844,500 and Donor is GH ₵50,711,584

Ministry of Tourism

386. Madam Speaker, Tourism has economic potential far beyond its current performance. It is estimated that with the strong support by Government, tourism can become a lead foreign exchange earner and an economic engine for wealth creation, employment generation and poverty reduction within a short time.
387. Madam Speaker, the Ministry therefore seeks to use tourism as a tool for poverty reduction. In this regard the Ministry will decentralize tourism development and focus on community-based tourism.
388. Madam Speaker, to achieve this objective, Government will facilitate the improvement in standards of tourism attractions to promote patronage, develop efficient marketing strategies and enhance quality services of the hospitality industry.

Performance in 2008

389. Madam Speaker, the Ministry participated in six international conferences overseas and organized one international Seminar in Accra. These included the High Level Diaspora led investment as sources of financing for enhanced growth and development in Africa,(Cape Town South Africa), the first US Africa Tourism & Sports Seminar – “Making Africa the World’s next premiere travel destination (New York), Diasporan International Conference (Sydney, Australia).
390. Madam Speaker, the Ministry also hosted the UNWTO Regional seminar-workshop on “Tourism and Handcrafts: Two key sectors to contribute to poverty reduction and Economic Development in Africa” in Accra, Ghana. It also organized four Annual Events namely; National Chocolate Day, Para-Gliding, Emancipation/Joseph Project and World Tourism Day Celebrations.

- 391. Madam Speaker, other activities undertaken include: the printing of 30,000 promotional brochures which were distributed to target groups, 2,186 accommodation and catering establishments in both formal and informal sectors inspected and issued with operational licenses as part of ensuring standards and quality service delivery, completed the construction of new building for Ghana Tourist Board Head Office and held on 8th National Tourism Awards for industry practitioners to promote competition and excellence in service delivery.
- 392. Madam Speaker, the Ministry organized training for 106 members of staff in various professional and industry related courses to improve service delivery. It also organised training for 5,386 hospitality service providers to enhance service delivery during CAN 2008.
- 393. Madam Speaker, the Hotel, Catering and Training Institute (HOTCATT), a training wing of the Ministry, offered pre-industry training for 239 school leavers in the following industry related skills: front desk office operations, housekeeping, food and beverage production, tour guiding and ground handling skills.
- 394. Madam Speaker, the Ghana Tourist Board (GTB) collaborated with FAO, CEDECOM and Ghana Maritime Academy to train 164 food service providers, Trade Association Executives and 29 Life-guards/pool attendants on aquatic life saving.
- 395. Madam Speaker, work was started on two Tourist Receptive Facilities at Akwamufie and Saltpond in addition to the 21 located at various districts country-wide to open-up these sites for increased patronage.
- 396. Madam Speaker, GTB organized three meetings to facilitate the Public-Private Partnership Forum and prepared a draft Tourism Policy. In addition, a draft Tourism Bill was prepared to restructure the tourism administration, including the establishment of the National Tourism Authority to regulate the

tourism industry. It also completed the establishment of a Diasporan Unit.

397. Madam Speaker, the Old Accra Redevelopment Agency (OARA) was established and made operational with the following activities undertaken; tree planting around Ababio Square, rehabilitation and commissioning of Brazil House for tourist visitation as well as the acquisition of Land for relocation of residents from Sodom and Gomora to Adjen Kotoku. Work on the 4km link road to Adjen Kotoku and the 1st phase of 259 Room five- Star Ambassador Hotel was started.
398. Madam Speaker, aerial photographs and Ortho-photo maps of Ghana's coastline covering an area of 4,716 kilometer square (from Half Assini to Aflao) was produced to facilitate investment in the tourism sector as well as the creation of the proposed Area Coastal Management Authority.

Outlook for 2009

399. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will participate in three international conferences and four International and domestic fairs and exhibitions. It will also organize four major events namely: National Chocolate Day, Regatta, Carnival, Emancipation/Panafest celebrations. In addition Ghana will host UNWTO International Celebration of the World Tourism Day, which will give Ghana the opportunity to showcase its tourism potentials.
400. The Ministry will also produce and distribute tourism promotional materials in and outside the country through Ghana's Missions abroad. Other measures will include repackaging and marketing Ghana's major festivals will as well as launching Ghana's Tourism Brand.
401. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will develop and upgrade an official tourism website to enhance global access to Ghana's tourism.

402. Madam Speaker, the Ministry in collaboration with the Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) Secretariat will establish national hospitality standards, accreditation and certification for hospitality training institutions.
403. For the implementation of the above activities, an amount of GH ₵3,757,185 has been allocated. Out of this, GoG is GH ₵3,372,185 and IGF is GH ₵385,000

Ministry of Energy

404. Madam Speaker, the Ministry is to develop and sustain an efficient and financially viable energy sector that provides secure, safe and reliable supply of energy to meet Ghana's developmental needs in a competitive manner.

Performance in 2008

405. Madam Speaker, as part of measures to address the power crises in 2006/2007 which lasted over a year, Government supported the expansion of power generating capacity. These are 126MW Emergency Power Plants currently on standby after the power crisis and 80MW Power Plant by consortium of mining companies.
406. Madam Speaker, a number of power projects were also initiated as medium term strategies and fully funded by Government and VRA which created substantial financial burden on the national budget. These were 126 MW Tema Thermal Power Project (TT1PP); 49.5 MW Tema Thermal 2 Power Plant (TT2PP); engineering, procurement and construction of Gas Turbine Generators and balance of plant for the 230 MW Kpone Thermal Project in progress.
407. Madam Speaker, additionally, as part of measures to resolve the power crises the Ministry on behalf of the Government of Ghana signed a power purchase agreement and a lease agreement with Balkan Energy Ghana Limited to refurbish, commission and commercially operate the 125 MW Osagyefo Power Barge. The contract was signed in 2007 and Balkan was to complete the project in 90 working days and further expand the plant by additional 60 MW subsequently. Balkan Energy has not met the deadline for operating the plant as works on the power plant, transmission lines and substations to evacuate power from the power plant are still ongoing.
408. Madam Speaker, work started on the Bui Hydro Project in 2007. Activities undertaken included clearing works on the dam site,

topographic surveys, geological and hydro-geological investigations, relocation and resettlement to Jama in the Brong Ahafo Region of three communities living at dam site. River closure was achieved in December 2008 paving the way for works on the river beds to commence.

Rural Electrification

409. Madam Speaker, rural Electrification in 31 communities in West Akim District was completed and commissioned. Material supply for the extension of power supply to 16 communities in Upper Denkyira district is almost completed. Furthermore, 380 communities were connected to the national grid.

410. Madam Speaker, additionally, 200 communities were connected to the national grid under SHEP-4. Under the extension of power supplies to 5+ communities per district initiative work commenced in communities with Low Voltage (LV) poles. A total of 11 communities in the Greater Accra and Volta Regions were completed.

Regional Capital Street Lighting Project

411. Madam Speaker, regional capitals street lighting projects for Koforidua, Tamale, Cape Coast and Sekondi were completed.

Power Distribution Upgrade Project

412. Madam Speaker, the ECG undertook a number of projects to improve the reliability and quality of power supply as well as reduce system losses. These included the construction of 33 kV primary substations in Ofankor, Accra, Amanfrom, Kumasi and the commissioning of Abuakwa, Kumasi substation.

413. Under the ECG distribution system improvement project, preliminary activities on switching stations and substations were carried out in the following regions; Greater Accra (Dodowa, Tokuse), Eastern (Akuse Junction), Western (Bogoso, Bawdie), Ashanti (Ejisu, Kuntenasi), Volta (Jasikan) and Central (Dunkwa, Winneba, Swedru, Kasoa).

414. Madam Speaker, the Ministry in collaboration with Energy Commission and Energy Foundation procured and distributed 6 million compact florescent lamps (CFLs) as a load reduction measure to reduce the impact of power shortage in 2007.

Petroleum Sub-Sector

415. Madam Speaker, the offshore pipeline of the West African Gas Pipeline (WAGP) Project from Itoki in Nigeria to Takoradi was completed. The gas pipeline from the Regulation and Metering (R&M) Station to VRA plant at Aboadze, the Gas conditioning facility, gas turbine works were also completed. Free flow (non-compressed) gas, which is in the pipeline at Takoradi is yet to be delivered to the power plant at Aboadze.

Secondary Gas Distribution Network Development

416. Madam Speaker, cabinet approved six Legislative Instruments (LI) for regulating the Secondary Gas Market. Out of these, two were approved by Parliament. The remaining four are being reviewed at the Attorney General's Department before submission to Parliament.

Exploration and Development of Hydro Carbon Resources

417. Madam Speaker, the appraisal programme on the Jubilee fields being managed by Messrs KOSMOS Energy and Tullow Oil Ghana Limited was completed. These companies and other Jubilee partners are currently preparing the Development Plans.

Outlook for 2009

418. Madam Speaker, the Energy Sector outlook for this year is to rollout a programme for the Government's Energy For Growth Agenda.

Power Sub Sector

419. Madam Speaker, the key elements of the Government's Energy For Growth Agenda for the Power Sector are (i) increase power

generation capacity to 5,000 megawatts in the medium term, (ii) add capacity at the transmission and distribution levels, (iii) open up the sub sector to independent power producers and private sector participants, (iv) increase access to electricity in all households, (v) pursue regional cooperation projects, (vi) implement power sector reforms, (vii) strengthen the regulatory institutions and (viii) reduce the cost of electricity production to achieve lower tariffs.

Power Generating Capacity Expansion

420. Madam Speaker, VRA's 126 megawatts (MW) Tema Thermal 1 Power Plant (TT1PP) will be completed and commissioned in the first quarter of 2009. The 49.5 megawatt Tema Thermal 2 Power Plant (TT2PP) will be completed and commissioned by mid 2009. The completion of the ongoing 230MW Kpone Thermal 1 Power Plant (KT1PP) at Tema and the Bui Hydro Power Project will be pursued. Additionally, the independent power producer initiatives will be supported to enhance private sector investments in power generation. The expansion of the Takoradi International Company (TICO) power plant at Aboadze into a combine cycle plant will be initiated.
421. The refurbishment of the 125 megawatts Osagyefo Power Barge (OPB) Project will be completed this year. The development of infrastructure for supply of natural gas from the Jubilee Field will be accelerated this year to ensure that gas from the field is utilised for the operation of OPB. The completion of these projects will add substantially to the country's power generating capacity and move us towards our vision of achieving 5,000 megawatts in the medium term.
- Fuel for Power**
422. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will continue to pursue efforts to get sustainable natural gas supply from the West African Gas Pipeline Project (WAGPP) for generation and other industrial uses. The Ministry will ensure that the technical and operational difficulties regarding the delivery and the use of compressed gas are resolved. The use of natural gas will enable Government to

achieve lower power generation cost and therefore lower electricity tariffs.

Transmission projects

423. A number of ongoing critical projects will be continued this year to improve the operation of the transmission system to deliver reliable, safe, and efficient services. These projects include Obuasi-Kumasi 161 kV transmission line, Substation Upgrade Project and SCADA modernisation project. Also to be pursued is the 330 kV Aboadze-Tema coastal transmission line project. A third Bulk Supply Point Project and a second Bulk Supply Point Project in Kumasi will be initiated

Power Distribution System and Capacity Expansion

424. Madam Speaker, the Electricity Company of Ghana (ECG) and Northern Electricity Department (NED) will continue the implementation of projects which are aimed at significantly improving their operations. These include prepayment metering expansion programme, upgrade of medium voltage network including the construction of additional primary substations, construction of call centres to enhance customer service operations and upgrade of the Low Voltage networks.

Increasing Electricity Access Through National Electrification Scheme

425. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will increase the pace of the expansion of access of electricity under the National Electrification Scheme (NES). It will also continue the implementation of the following ongoing electrification projects:

- Grid extension to 130 communities;
- Extension of national electricity grid to 200 communities under the in the Self Help Electrification Programme (SHEP 4)
- Extension of electricity to 600 communities throughout the country also under the 5-Plus Communities per District Programme.
- Complete the extension of the national electricity grid to 16 communities in the Upper Denkyira District

426. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will commence the following electrification projects. The extension of electricity to 106 communities in the Brong Ahafo and Ashanti Regions, the extension of national electricity grid to 80 communities in the Ashanti & Eastern Regions and the Rural Electrification Project for Western, Central, Ashanti region and other identified communities in Ghana.

427. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will commence the Regional Capitals Street Lighting Projects with focus on Kumasi, Accra, Sunyani, Tema, Takoradi, Ho, Wa and Bolgatanga.

Renewable Energy

428. Madam Speaker, renewable energy resources, including small hydro, solar and wind energy will feature in the evolution of a balance energy portfolio that reflects advances in technology and Ghana's natural resource endowment. The following renewable energy projects will be pursued;

- Construction and operation of Tsatsadu mini hydro power plant;
- Training of technicians for solar PV installation and maintenance
- Solar Electrification projects in schools, security outposts, health centres and other public institutions;
- Development of three mini grid systems and one grid connected system;
- Rehabilitation of solar grid system at the Ministry.

Electricity Access Through Intensification

429. Madam Speaker, under the Ghana Energy Development Access Project (GEDAP), materials and equipments for the implementation of the project started arriving for work to commence this year.

430. Under the GEDAP electricity supply is to be extended to 880 rural communities within the next two years. The Ministry also will intensify the electrification in 412 rural and peri-urban towns

in 38 districts in the Eastern, Western, Ashanti, Volta, Central and Greater Accra Regions with connections to about 55,000 new customers. Similar intensification programmes will be undertaken in the Northern, Upper East, Upper West and Brong Ahafo Regions to cover 151 towns and villages with connections of about 20,000 new customers.

Energy Sector Regulations for Power Sector Reforms

431. Madam Speaker, the Energy Commission will facilitate the preparation of the following regulations to govern the operations of the Energy Sector as provided under the Energy Commission Act 541. This will include National Electricity Grid Code; Natural Gas Occupational Health and Safety Regulations; Energy Efficiency Standards and Labeling (Refrigerator, Refrigerator-Freezer and Freezer) Regulations, LI 1947; and Renewable Energy Law.

432. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will support the capacity development efforts of the regulatory institutions namely the Public Utilities Regulatory Commission (PURC) and the Energy Commission (EC) to enhance their regulatory oversight of the energy sector.

Energy Efficiency and Conservation

433. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will also implement measures to improve energy conservation in electricity consumption through energy management and efficiency projects in public institutions and also public education on energy conservation. The Ministry will implement projects to improve energy utilization in large electricity consuming public sector institutions.

IPP Policy Framework Review

434. Madam Speaker, in the wake of the power crisis of 2007, a number of IPPs entered into the electricity supply market. Some of these signed PPAs with the Ministry of Energy (MoE) and others with ECG. The Ministry of Energy had no mandate to sign a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) since it does not have the mandate/license to distribute electricity. Some of the IPPs

do not have the license to operate as generating entities in the electricity market. In the case where the PPA was signed between ECG and the IPP, PURC has the legal mandate to review the agreed upon tariff. ECG is lawfully permitted to off-take power from an IPP only at a price level that PURC agrees (Act 538 Article 17 Clause 2). In the light of the above, a review of all signed IPP contracts and PPAs to ensure compliance with all the laws governing the electricity market is critical.

Restoration of the Finances of the Power Utilities

435. The Power Sector is facing financial challenges. . In lieu of reimbursement of subsidies for electricity supply to VALCO and other residential consumers, GoG had been making significant budgetary allocations to cover the capital investment programs of VRA and ECG. An immense proportion (76 per cent) of the Sovereign Bond proceeds was earmarked under the GoG 2008 Supplementary Budget to cover capital expenditures for VRA, GRIDCO, ECG and Bui Power Authority (BPA). In addition, GoG has been providing direct payments to cover VRA working capital requirements for crude oil purchases for the thermal plants. That notwithstanding, the GoG budgetary transfers have not been adequate to cover revenue shortfalls and/or re-capitalize the three power utilities. Clearly, the current state of affairs is unsustainable and should not be allowed to continue. To arrest this situation, the Ministry of Energy shall develop and implement comprehensive remedial measures, especially re-capitalization, that will ensure the long term financial viability of VRA, GRIDCO and ECG.
436. At the insistence of Power Sector creditors, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MoFEP) agreed, in May 2008, to conduct a Power Sector Financial Restructuring and Recovery Study, the findings of which was to inform the development of a Comprehensive Financial Recovery Plan for the three power utilities. The Ministry of Energy shall launch a study to inform decisions on re-capitalization of the three power utilities. Looking forward, the Plan will, among others, seek to improve upon the financial operating ratios, reduce short term

indebtedness and reduce arrears of each of the power utilities to suppliers and creditors. Moreover, the Plan will clearly mark out VRA's core and non-core assets, effect full transfer of national transmission grid assets from VRA to GRIDCO, and 'ring-fence' assets and liabilities associated with GoG sponsored gas-turbine power projects (Tema Thermal Power Project and Kpone Thermal Power Project).

Petroleum Sub Sector

437. Madam Speaker, for the petroleum sub-sector, efforts will focus on (i) intensifying Tano Gas development and the exploration of the Voltaian Basin, (ii) Expansion of Tema Oil Refinery (iii) enhancement of local content in the development and exploitation of Ghana's oil and gas resources.

Hydrocarbon Development and Extension of Ghana's Continental Shelf

438. Madam Speaker, currently more than ten international oil companies are prospecting for oil and gas in our sedimentary basins. Government will intensify its efforts to attract more companies. The Voltaian Basin which covers forty per cent of the land mass of Ghana is largely unexplored and Government will intensify efforts to promote the exploration and development of the basin.
439. The Ministry will ensure that Ghana benefits, to the greatest extent possible, from discovery and production of oil and gas. We will also ensure that local content provisions in Petroleum Law and Agreement are applied. To improve the human capacity in the petroleum sector, the Ministry will initiate the establishment of a Centre of Excellence for petroleum related studies and training.
440. The Ministry in collaboration with the Ministry of Lands and natural Resources, will also ensure the submission of the report on extension of Ghana's Continental Shelf beyond 200 nautical miles to the United Nations as part of efforts to secure the oil and gas deposits further offshore of Ghana.

441. Madam Speaker, the Development Plan for the Jubilee Field is nearing completion and first oil and gas production is expected by the fourth quarter of 2010. Government is committed to achieving the oil and gas production target.
442. The Ghana National Petroleum Corporation (GNPC) will lead the effort in the commercialization of gas from the Jubilee Field. The plan will involve development of gas infrastructure, on-shore processing of gas and gas supply for power generation. The gas development shall be undertaken in parallel with oil development. The Government will pursue a non-gas flaring policy.
- Petroleum Products Supply, Storage, Transportation and Distribution**
443. The Ministry will pursue the expansion of Tema Oil Refinery's (TOR) capacity with private sector involvement. In addition to expanding the capacity of the Tema Oil Refinery to meet the growing demand, the Ministry will also support private sector initiatives in the establishment of a second Export-oriented Refinery.
444. Madam Speaker, to improve access to petroleum products, the Bulk Oil Storage and Transportation (BOST) Company limited will expand the network of depots, increase strategic stock and also improve transportation of petroleum products across the country. In a similar manner, the Ministry will continue with the implementation of the Rural Kerosene Distribution Improvement Programme.
445. For the implementation of the above activities, an amount of GH ₵317,243,469 has been allocated. Out of this, GoG is GH ₵6,070,589 Donor is GH ₵286,172,880 and MDRI is GH ₵25,000,000

Ministry of Water Resources, Works and Housing

446. Madam Speaker, the Ministry's responsibility is to ensure the provision of safe water and the development of infrastructure in the areas of housing, drainage works, coastal protection, hydrology and water related sanitation facilities throughout the country.

Performance in 2008

Rural Water

447. Madam Speaker, the Ministry acting through the Community Water and Sanitation Agency (CWSA) completed the following rural water projects: 1,300 new boreholes, 29 hand-dug wells, 10 small towns pipe system, 2,747 household latrines, 313 institutional latrines and also rehabilitated 274 boreholes. At the end of 2007, coverage of rural water projects was at 54.86 per cent as against the expected 54.76 per cent.

Urban Water

448. Madam Speaker, the Ghana Water Company Limited (GWCL) completed the Kwanyaku Water Supply Expansion Project (Phase 1) which increased the output of water from three million gallons per day to six million. The East-West water transfer interconnection was completed. This has improved water supply to the eastern parts of Accra in areas like Achimota, Taifa, Dome, Tantra Hill, Ofankor and Amasaman.
449. The Cape Coast Water Supply Expansion Project which draws its raw water from the Pra River at Sekyere Hemang was completed and commissioned. The system supplies potable water to all towns enroute to Cape Coast through Elmina and Komenda
450. The Tamale Water Supply Expansion Project was completed and commissioned. The construction of the 25,000 m³/day plant will serve 250,000 extra people in the project area. The Baifikrom Water Supply Expansion Project was also completed

and commissioned. The Ministry undertook studies on Water and Sanitation in Wa, Yendi and Damongo.

451. Madam Speaker, the Phase II of the Adenta Improvement Project Works which was embarked upon to further improve upon water supply to Adenta, Ashalley Botwe, Adenta Housing Down, Oyibi and Frafraha among others was completed.
452. The Ministry also continued with the following water supply projects: - Koforidua Water Supply, Sunyani Water Supply Expansion, Wa Water Supply, Kpong Water Supply Expansion, Kumasi Water Supply, Kasoa Water Supply, Kwahu Ridge Water Supply Expansion, Konongo Water Supply Rehabilitation and Expansion, Kumawu Water Supply Expansion, Mampong Ridge Water Supply, Damongo Water Supply and Assin Fosu Water Supply Projects

Affordable Housing

453. Madam Speaker, the Ministry continued construction of affordable housing projects, which are at various stages of completion at the following locations: 1,500 flats at Borteyman, Nungua; 1,788 flat at Kpone, Tema; 1,092 flats at Asokore-Mampong, Kumasi; 200 flats Wamale, Tamale; 400 flats at Koforidua; and 160 flats at Wa. Out of these, 63 blocks of flats (21 blocks each at Borteyman, Kpone and Asokore Mampong) were completed for commissioning.

Low Cost Houses

454. Madam Speaker, the Ministry continued with the sale of the 5,565 Low Cost Houses nationwide with the view of using the accrued revenue for the affordable Housing Projects currently on going. In addition, Government acquired 8,787.01 acres of land in Accra and other Regional and District Capitals as land banks for the National Housing Programme.

Flood Control Projects

455. Madam Speaker, the Hydrological Services Department (HSD) completed the following flood control projects; Desilting of storm water drains at Teshie, Teshie/Nungua and Madina;

channel opening of choked drains at Haatso, Agbogba, Madina Ritz Junction, Communities 5 and 20 at Tema, Ashaiman, Mile 7 Junction, Apenkwa, Santa Maria, Gbawe, Mallam, Weija/Dunkonah, Kwabenya, Chemu at Tema, Dansoman, Dodowa, Chantan and La. Further, the construction of storm water primary drains at Asylum Down, Osu, Odorna, Ashaiman, Kwabenya, Madina Social Welfare, Odorkor SDA Area, Dansoman were completed. Culverts were constructed at Achimota Mile 7, Osu, Madina Social Welfare and Santa Maria. As a result of these works, there was a reduction in the incidence of flooding.

456. Madam Speaker, channel improvement works as a flood control measure on the 1000 metre stretch of the Densu River at Nsawam was completed thus reducing flooding within the immediate environs. 100,000 cubic metres have also been dredged and delivered at the Government affordable housing project sites at Kpone and Borteyman respectively.
457. Madam Speaker, interventions at some critical areas undergoing sea erosion along the coast at Dixcove, Shama, Axim, and Ngyiresia in the Western Region, has been ongoing with HIPC support. The Hydrological Survey Department also completed Channel improvement works for flood control and Sanitation systems in the Tamale metropolis with particular attention to the Central Business District.

Keta Sea Defence Resettlement Programme

458. Madam Speaker, in 2008, 66 houses were completed and allocated. In addition, water supply was extended to the resettlement sites at Kedzi, Vodza and Adzido. Work on the sewerage system is also progressing steadily and about 60 houses were connected at Adzido. Extension of electricity to the site was substantially completed.

Integrated Odaw Basin Development Project

459. Madam Speaker, redredging and allied works on the Korle Lagoon including planning, investigation and surveys for the

maintenance of the Odaw, Onyasia and Chemu were completed and the contract awarded. Initial activities comprising access roads and drainage works to facilitate the relocation of people in old Fadama and the bulk market to Adjien Kotoku started as part of the overall redevelopment scheme. This particular activity involves the provision of physical and social infrastructure including roads, electricity and water supply at the new site.

Elmina Benya Lagoon Restoration Project

460. Madam Speaker, work on the project involving the dredging of the 1,200 metre long lagoon and breakwater was completed to ensure safe passage and berthing of 500-700 canoes. The completion of the dredging of the lagoon has also enhanced landing of bigger fishing vessels.

Ada Coastal Protection Works and Volta River Estuary

461. Madam Speaker, a €100.0 million financing proposal for the Ada Coastal Protection Works and Volta Estuary was submitted to the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning for assessment and approval.

Outlook for 2009

Rural Water Programmes

462. Madam Speaker, the Ministry acting through Community Water and Sanitation Agency (CWSA) will increase the provision of safe and potable water in the country through the following projects:
- Sink 1,032 new boreholes, rehabilitate 225 bore holes, dig 25 hand dug wells, rehabilitate 23 hand dug wells, construct 47 small town pipe systems, construct 20 small communities pipe systems, construct two rain catchment systems construct 2,105 household places of convenience, construct 1,425 small towns household places of convenience and construct 404 institutional places of convenience,

- Train the following:-610 WATSAN Committees, 24 District Water and Sanitation Teams (DWSTs), 28 Environmental Health Assistance (EHAs), 99 area mechanics, 1,840 pump caretakers, 135 latrine artisans, 32 small town operators, 473 School Health Committee and 741 School Health Programme Teachers as well as form 554 WATSAN Committees, 10 Water and Sanitation Development Board (WSDBs), 13 DWSTs and contract 32 POs/TAs, 135 Latrine Artisans,

463. Madam Speaker, a water supply scheme is being jointly undertaken by DFID and Government of Ghana which is based on drawing raw water from the Oti River at Damanko to supply potable water to 13 guinea worm endemic communities covering the stretch from Damanko to Kpassa in the Northern part of Volta Region. The project which is earmarked for completion this year is facing a serious challenge due to inadequate Government counterpart funding.

Urban Water Programmes

464. Madam Speaker, access to safe and adequate water to meet basic human needs with emphasis on access by the poor and the vulnerable will be the main focus of the ministry. In this respect the ministry is presently undertaking a pilot study to develop a strategy to sustainably deliver potable water to peri-urban areas in the Brong Ahafo Region. The success of this study will enable the ministry to replicate the program to all peri-urban areas, which are habited by the poor, vulnerable and the excluded, in the country.

465. To address the present water problems in Accra and parts of the Greater Accra Region, the Ministry will conclude plans for a new water treatment plant to be constructed at Akuse. However, to immediately improve upon water supply situation in the Eastern parts of Accra, the Ministry will ensure the repairs and installation of two defective pumps at the Weija Treatment Plant.

466. The Ministry acting through the Ghana Water Company Limited (GWCL) will commence the following water projects; Kumawu, Kwahu Ridge, Damongo, Sunyani, Wa, Kpandu, and Konongo.
467. The rehabilitation of minor and low capacity treatment plants in various parts of the country will also commence at Agona, New Edubiase in Asanti region; Berekum in the Brong Ahafo Region; Breman Asikuma and Dunkwa-on-Offin in the Central Region; Akim Ofoase, Asamankese, Akim Oda, and Suhum in the Eastern Region; Prestea, Bogoso, Elubo, Axim and Aboso in the Western Region; Bawku and Navrongo in the Upper East Region; to ensure the production and delivery of safe water.
468. The Ministry will also complete the rehabilitation and expansion of the following water projects in the course of the year. Accra Tema Metropolitan Area Rural Water supply expansion and Kumasi Water Supply Projects. The Ministry will continue discussions with interested investors to raise the needed funds to support the urban water supply systems in Techiman, Assin Fosu, Bolgatanga, Berekum, Sogakope-Lome and Kibi.
469. The Ministry will continue the rehabilitation and expansion of District Water Supply and Medium Capacity Treatment Plants at Swedru, Ekumfi, Ojobi, Dormaa Ahenkro, Techiman, Mampong, Berekum, Bibiani, Begoro, Sogakofe-Keta, Obuasi, Sunyani, and Juapong.
470. The Ministry will continue the expansion of the distribution networks and systems in Accra including the relocation of the pipelines along the Tetteh Quarshie-Mallam highway, Bortianor, Kokrobite, Amasaman, Santeo, Katamanso, Winneba, Sekondi, Takoradi, Amanfo-Tunko, Butumajabu, Apowa, Kumasi Rural Offinso, Tafo, Nkawie, Pankrono, Sunyani Rural, Chiraa, Nsoatre, Koforidua Rural, Suhyem, Ho Rural, Tamale, Wa, Bolgatanga, Dunkwa, Saltpond, Asikuma-Ajumako, Aflao, Peki, Bogoso, Abakrampa, Asankragua and Anfoega.
471. The Ministry will undertake the payment of compensation for land and crops to arrest the continuing encroachment of areas

acquired for water supply systems at Cape Coast, Owabi, Sunyani, Tamale, Koforidua, Barekese and particularly at Weija. The ministry will continue the fencing of the Weija catchment area.

Housing

472. Madam Speaker, housing is one of the critical sectors of the economy that the NDC Government will tackle with all the seriousness it deserves in order make it more accessible to the majority of Ghanaians. Despite the past efforts in this area, the housing deficit continues to grow and presently it is expected to be in excess of 500,000 units.

National Housing Policy

473. Madame Speaker, the Ministry will conclude the National Housing Policy to make it more realistic to the needs of the low income group and submit to cabinet for consideration and approval.

Land Banks

474. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will continue to facilitate the acquisition process of the 50,000 acres of land sourced in Accra as well as in the Regional and District Capitals to ensure the availability of land for housing development.

Government Affordable Housing

475. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will continue with the housing programme with the aim of completing the 5,140 safe, decent and affordable housing units at Borteyman, Nungua; Kpone, Tema; Asokore-Mampong, Kumasi, Wamale, Tamale, Koforidua and Wa.
476. To ensure equity and sustainability of the programme, Government will support the Ministry to commence work on the construction of the third phase of the affordable housing units at

Ho, Sekondi/Takoradi, Sunyani, Cape Coast and Bolgatanga in the course of the year.

477. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will continue to create the enabling environment for the private sector to participate in the delivery of decent and low income housing units for the people of Ghana.

Sale of Government Low Cost Houses

478. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will conclude the programme for the sale of Government's Low Cost Houses throughout the country and plough back the revenue into the construction of the Affordable Housing Projects.

Rural Housing

479. Madam Speaker, as part of government commitment to improve social and economic conditions of Ghanaians in the rural areas, the ministry has plans to revive the rural housing rehabilitation schemes started in the early 70s. In this regard, the plans will include wall protection and roof loan scheme and a cooperative rural housing scheme.
480. The ministry will promote the use of appropriate local building materials like compressed earth bricks, micro concrete roofing tiles, bamboo, clay bricks and tiles through technical skills training programs in close collaboration with the District Assemblies in the following areas:-
- Earth Construction Technology,
 - Brick and Tile Technology,
 - Micro-Concrete Roofing Technology,
 - Erosion Control and Drainage Prevention Schemes; and
 - Incinerator Technology

Slum Upgrading and Prevention

481. Madam Speaker, the high rate of rural-urban migration, high cost of land, non-availability of low income houses, high cost of building materials and non enforcement of regulatory frameworks have contributed in the proliferation of slums in our major cities and shanty towns including Zongos. To curb this emerging trend, minimize the destruction of social and economic lives of members of the communities as well as retain community network, the Ministry will initiate programmes to Upgrade physical infrastructure and social facilities.

Flood Control Programmes

482. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will undertake the construction of a number of primary storm water drainage and sanitation systems in all the regional capitals to improve upon sanitation and ensure sustainable environment. The Ministry will also undertake the development of Drainage Master Plans for various communities so as to improve upon sanitation, ensure sustainable environment and orderly development of physical properties.
483. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will continue various flood mitigation programmes (i.e. widening, deepening and regrading of 20km stretch of primary drains in Accra, the other regional capitals and some selected district capitals as well as undertake the construction of culverts and corresponding inlets and outlets of all primary storm water drainage systems to protect life, property and other infrastructural facilities.

Coastal Protection Programme

484. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will pursue the coastal protection programmes with the aim of protecting life and property at Ngyeresia, Dixcove, Prince Akatakyie, Sakumono, Axim, New Amanful Kuma/Funkoe, Osu/Castle, Elmina, Anomabu, Nkontompo, Prampram, Ningo and Senya Breku.

Integrated Odaw Basin Development Project

485. Madam Speaker, the Ministry intends to continue the maintenance of the entire Odaw basin to realise the benefits for

the investment made in the Korle Lagoon Ecological Restoration Project. The project will involve the desilting of the Odaw, re dredging of the Korle Lagoon as well as the three feeding canals.

Keta Sea Defence Resettlement Programme

486. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will complete works on the water supply, sewerage and electricity distribution to the resettlement houses at Kedzi, Vodza and Adzido. The resettlement houses will be connected to the water distribution system to enable occupants use the installed WCs and the septic tanks.

Korle Lagoon Ecological Restoration Project

487. Madam Speaker, to sustain the KLERP the existing commercial activities at Old Fadama in the KLERP area with the bulk market will be relocated to Adjen Kotoku near Amasaman. The Ministry will also ensure the construction of the sewerage treatment plant to fit into the overall Accra sewage improvement programme.

Ada Coastal Protection Works

488. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will vigorously pursue the financing arrangement for the start of construction works on the project. This is to protect the 14 km stretch which is threatening present and future infrastructural developments at Ada, including salt production.

Maintenance of Government Bungalows

489. Madam Speaker, inadequate maintenance of Government properties over the years has led to a huge back log of Government landed properties such as Bungalows (i.e. Ministerial and General), Offices, Schools, Hospitals, sports facilities, etc, to deteriorate beyond repairs. This situation to a large extent has caused Government huge sums of money to salvage these edifices. To this end, the Ministry will revive the culture of maintenance with the present regime of maintenance of government bungalows on a sustainable basis to ensure that, annual routine maintenance will be undertaken with major rehabilitation works every four years on these properties.

490. For the implementation of the above activities, an amount of GH ₵285,929,547 has been allocated. Out of this, GoG is GH ₵46,122,240 IGF is GH ₵1,544,764 Donor is GH ₵218,755,543 and HIPC is GH ₵19,507,000

Ministry of Transport

491. Madam Speaker, the establishment of the Ministry is to ensure the integration and coordination of all transport modes. The Ministry thus has responsibilities for the infrastructure and service delivery for Maritime, Rail and Aviation as well as Road Transport Services.

Performance in 2008

Rail and Maritime

492. Madam Speaker, the Ministry commenced feasibility studies on the Western Corridor (Western Rail Line and Port of Takoradi) and has completed a feasibility study on the multimodal freight transport between Tema – Bupe via Akosombo. It has also completed a pre-feasibility study on the Kumasi-Paga; Tamale-Yendi and a proposed Accra-Tema Railway Line along the coast. Parliament passed the Railway Act 2008, Act 779.
493. Madam Speaker, the Ministry also facilitated increased private sector participation in the Ports. A total of nine Private Stevedoring companies were licensed to handle 75 per cent of the general cargo at the Ports. Other services provided by the private sector at the Ports include clearing and forwarding services, tank firms, commercial warehousing, off-Dock terminals for container storage, bunkering services, port clearing and shore handling.
494. Madam Speaker, the Ministry through the Ghana Maritime Authority (GMA) developed the following draft bills to improve upon its regulatory service; the Maritime Pollution Legislation, Ghana Shipping (Licensing of Ghanaian vessels under 24 meters or 150 tons in weight and vessels operating solely in inland waters of Ghana) Regulations, Miscellaneous Subsidiary Legislation made by virtue of the Ghana Shipping Act 2003 (Act 645) including Port State Control Regulations and Ghana Shipping (Crew Services Licensing) Regulations.

Aviation

- 495. Madam Speaker, the Aviation sector has the overall responsibility for policy formulation with emphasis on institutional restructuring, private sector participation, infrastructure and human resource development.
- 496. In line with its policy of liberalizing the legal and regulatory framework in the Aviation Sector, the Ministry entered into Bilateral Air Services Agreement with China and reviewed agreements with Egypt, Morocco and Belgium.
- 497. The Ministry participated in both international and local workshops especially those related to the ICAO, the Banjul Accord and the Yamoussoukro decision (YD) aimed at improving standards in the industry, such as Aviation and Allied Conference in South Africa.
- 498. The Ministry hosted the African Airports Council International Conference in collaboration with the Ghana Airports Company Limited (GACL). This brought together experts on the continent to exchange ideas. Other conferences included the 4th meeting of Council of Ministers for the Implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision (YD) which was co-hosted with the ECOWAS Commission and the 40th African Airlines Association Annual General Assembly.
- 499. Madam Speaker, Ghana Civil Aviation Authority licensed WASPS, a private micro-light aircraft assembly plant in the Eastern Region to embark on basic Training of Pilots on micro-light aircrafts.
- 500. The Ghana International Airlines Limited (GIAL) operated its Accra-London route during the year. Due to the low capitalization of the airline and the dispute between the shareholders, the airline was faced with a lot of financial and operational challenges
- 501. Antrak Air was designated to operate to Germany, Saudi Arabia, and the United Kingdom. A number of applications were received from proponents for the issuance of Air Carrier's License for the operation of air transport services.

502. With respect to Ghana Airways Limited (in Liquidation) Government released US\$4.5m to support the severance payment of ex-Ghana Airways staff. The Official Liquidator is in the process of finalizing creditor validations and resolving matters in litigation.
503. Madam Speaker, the Ministry continued to encourage the private sector to establish training schools to develop human resource capital to meet the needs of the industry.

Outlook for 2009

Rail and Maritime Sub Sector

504. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will complete the ongoing feasibility study on the Western Corridor (Western Rail Line and Port of Takoradi) which is aimed at determining the operational viability to support the mining sector. The Ministry will then organize a promotional workshop on the Western Corridor for investors and complete the rail extension from Asopochona to the Port of Tema.
505. The Feasibility Study on multimodal freight transport (Road, Rail and Lake Transport) between Tema – Buipe via Akosombo has been completed. The Ministry will source for funding to implement the outcome of the feasibility study on multimodal freight transport between Tema-Buipe via Akosombo.
506. Other programs to be undertaken by the Ministry include:
- completion of the Takoradi Port slipway project
 - rehabilitation and upgrading of 70 per cent of the pavement of the Golden Jubilee Terminal at Tema Port
 - construction of 70 per cent of Western Gate bridge at Tema
 - sensitization of key stakeholders on the establishment of the Ghana Railway Development Authority
 - construction of Reception facilities at three landing stations on the Volta Lake

- development of standards for seafarers
- admission of 1,000 students to the various Maritime courses and sustain the level of enrolment annually
- implementation of staff upgrading programme at the Regional Maritime University
- procurement of Communication Equipment for the Volta Lake Transport Company

Aviation

507. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will continue to liberalize the regulatory framework of the Aviation Sector in line with global standards to increase accessibility to Air Transport Services. The Ministry will continue with the phase III rehabilitation works of KIA in addition to the rehabilitation of the Regional Airports and particularly Tamale Airport as a second international airport to serve as an alternative to KIA.
508. The Ministry will develop adequate human resource capacity and apply new technology by developing key skills and competencies to enhance air transport sector performance. At the same time, the Ministry will ensure high safety and security standards whilst minimizing the negative impact on the environment.
509. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will encourage private sector participation in the investment and management of aviation infrastructure and services through the creation of a favourable business environment.
510. For the implementation of the above activities, an amount of GH ₵4,562,859 has been allocated. Out of this, GoG is GH ₵3,379,289 and IGF is GH ₵1,183,570

Ministry of Roads and Highways

511. Madam Speaker, the Ministry is mandated to ensure the provision of affordable, integrated, safe, responsive and sustainable road transport system that will meet the economic, social and environmental needs as well as national and international standards.

Performance in 2008

512. Madam Speaker, a National Transport Policy document to guide the preparation of future integrated transport development plans and programmes was approved by Cabinet. A Transport Sector Development Programme (TSDP), for all modes of transport based on the National Transport Policy, was also finalised. In addition, preparatory work on the Integrated Transport Plan (ITP) started as a follow up to the National Transport Policy to guide the development of the transport sector programmes in the country.
513. Madam Speaker, the Ministry in collaboration with the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Environment (MLGRDE) as it was then initiated an Urban Transport Project (UTP) with the objective of reducing congestion by modernizing the operation of public transport and traffic management in Accra and Kumasi.

Ghana Highways Authority (GHA)

514. Madam Speaker, a total of 3,867.18 km representing 30 per cent of an approved programme of 13,118km for routine maintenance works was undertaken. Another 106.6km of regravelling/spot improvement, resealing and other periodic maintenance works representing 6.3 per cent were executed out of an approved 1,690km. Also 44.29km of improvement works representing 116.6 per cent, were executed out of an approved programme of 38km. In addition, 62.46km of major construction/reconstruction works representing 31.2 per cent, had been executed out of an approved 200 km.

515. Madam Speaker, the following roads were substantially completed:
- Tinga – Bole (53.0km);
 - Axim Junction – Tarkwa (62.4km);
 - Konongo – Kumasi (44.4 km);
 - Mallam – Kasoa (18.0 km);
 - Sefwi Wiawso – Benkyema Junction (50.0km);
 - Kumasi – Techiman Ph. 1 (40.0 km); and
 - Winneba – Yamoransa (57.0 km).
516. Other **projects** in progress are:
- Sogakope – Akatsi (22.0km);
 - Ho – Fume (25.0 km);
 - Sogakope – Adidome – Ho (30.0km);
 - Bamboi – Tinga (53.0km) and
 - Anyinam – Konongo Ph. II (47.0 km).
517. Madam Speaker, the following upgrading and partial reconstruction works were substantially completed: Kasoa – Nyanyaano Road (km0 – 5), Dormaa Ahenkro – Nkrankwanta Road (km0 – 10), Yendi – Gushiegu Road (km5 – 10.6), Missiga – Kulungugu Road (km1 – 6), Mampong – Nsuta Road (km0 – 8.3), Obogu – Ofoase Road (km1 – 7), Effiduase – Agona Road (km3 – 8.5), Nkoranza – Jema Road (km0 – 5), Atebubu – Kwame Danso Road (km1 – 11), Tamale – Salaga Road (km41 – 51), Navrongo Town Roads (3km) and Chuchiliga – Sandema Road (km5 – 9.5). Others in progress are resurfacing of Ningo Town Roads (2.5km).

Department of Feeder Roads (DFR)

518. Madam Speaker, the Department completed routine maintenance of 4,643km feeder roads and periodic maintenance comprising re-gravelling/spot improvement/resealing rehabilitation works of 906.4 km was executed. Ongoing Surface Dressing Works include Bortianor - Kokrobitey (5.35km) Greater Accra Region, Abrem – Agona - Essiam Effutu PH1 (15.2km) Central Region, Wegbe – Alavanyo - Nkonya(16.2km)

Volta Region, Akropong – Tumfa - Ekosu(12km) Eastern Region, Anyinase Town Roads (5.7km) Western Region, Asokore - Mampong – Parkoso - Aperade(5.1km) Ashanti Region, Odumase – Nkwabeng - Abuatem(6km) Brong Ahafo Region, Karaga Town Roads (3.9km) Northern Region, Sombo - Daffiama(18km) Upper West Region, Navrongo - Pungu(4.7km) Upper East Region.

Department of Urban Roads

519. Madam Speaker, the Department is undertaking the development and maintenance of the Nsawam road (Kwame Nkrumah Circle – Achimota) Phase 2 involving works on the Alajo by-pass and extension at the Achimota transport terminal. The project is 65 per cent completed. On-going works on the Accra Central Business District roads is about 70 per cent complete.
520. Madam Speaker, for the Kumasi Road and Urban Development project, construction works on four Lots for the provision of facilities at the new site earmarked for woodworkers is substantially completed and work started on the Oforikrom-Asokwa bypass (including an interchange at Timber Gardens).
521. Madam Speaker, the Department is currently undertaking the detailed design of the 70km Kumasi Outer Ring roads intended to route traffic flow around the Kumasi metropolis to reduce local traffic within the Central Business District (CBD). Acquisition surveys and property impacts have been completed and compensation payments have begun. A consultant was engaged to undertake feasibility studies and preliminary design of the facility. Further, rehabilitation works at Kejetia Terminal is 85 per cent complete.
522. Madam Speaker, the design review for the Awoshie-Pokuase road project is currently in progress.

523. Construction of the Sunyani Road in Kumasi with interchanges at Sofoline roundabout and Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital is on-going and is 15 per cent completed.
524. The performance achievement of maintenance works is seven per cent resealing, six per cent partial reconstruction, 20 per cent upgrading of roads, 40 per cent traffic light installation and five per cent minor rehabilitation.

Driver Vehicle and Licensing Authority (DVLA)

525. Madam Speaker, the DVLA finalized the regulatory framework and standards for private garages. They have also licensed six private garage operators to begin construction of fully equipped garages for vehicle inspection. The Bekwai, Wa and Tema office buildings have been completed and commissioned. Work on the construction of the Winneba district office is ongoing. The completion and inauguration of these offices will provide decent office accommodation for staff. In addition, staff was trained in human resource management and good governance.

National Road Safety Commission (NRSC)

526. Madam Speaker, a National Road Safety Policy document was prepared for submission to Cabinet. This policy document will be used to develop road safety strategies and action plan for implementation by all stakeholders. The NRSC commissioned and started operation of the NRSC Call Centre, six teachers and 40 school children at Kanda Cluster of Schools were given special road safety training in "safe crossing" over six weeks as part of a Pilot Training Scheme. Also NRSC, trained 28 Police Officers on the use of speed radar guns and alcometers. A six-Day Office Management and IT Training programme was organized for the six new Regional Road Safety Coordinators and their secretaries in Kumasi. A Consultative forum to present Road Safety Code of Practice to Political Parties was organised.
527. Madam Speaker, the NRSC undertook a number of Road Safety Education programmes to promote the safety of road users

across the country. These included, outreach programmes for 148 churches, 75 mosques and 253 lorry stations in the regions and a Media sensitization programme to present NRSC programmes and activities. In addition, a total of 160,000 copies of Posters and Handbills were produced and distributed.

Government Technical Training Centre (GTTC)

528. Madam Speaker, the Centre carried out training for a total of 118 people both in the formal and informal sectors. About 58 trainees were attached to various firms for on-the-job training and another five benefited from workshop and seminars to upgrade their skills. The centre's bungalow and workshop were rehabilitated.

Outlook for 2009

529. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will implement the following projects

- **Transport Sector Development Programme (TSDP)**

530. The TSDP is a 5-year strategic programme for the Ministry and the Ministry of Transport. The two Ministries will start the implementation of the project this year.

- **West African Transport and Transit Facilitation Project (WATTFP)**

531. Madam Speaker, the objective of the ongoing WATTFP is to improve access by Burkina Faso and Mali to Ghanaian ports, as well as improve port operations and facilitate the effective movement of traffic along the Tema-Ouagadougou-Bamako transport corridor. One of the major components of the project is the rehabilitation of the Buipe-Tamale section (about 103 km) of the Kintampo-Tamale-Paga road which forms an integral part of the Central spine (corridor).

- **Urban Transport Project (UTP)**

532. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will continue implementation of UTP. Some of the major activities to be undertaken during the year include the construction of the Bus Rapid Transit Route, regulation of Urban Passenger Transport by the participating MMDAs of the project and design of new Traffic Lighting Systems.

Ghana Highway Authority (GHA)

533. Madam Speaker, about 21 civil works contracts for 770 km of road projects will continue in 2009. It is estimated that about 40 to 50 per cent of works will be undertaken on these projects. Some of these are;

- Achimota - Ofankor Road (5.7km)
- Asankragwa - Enchi Road (56.4km)
- Bamboi - Tinga Road (53.4km)
- Berekum - Sampa Road Phase 2 (56.0km)
- Kumasi -Techiman Road Phase 2 (76.0km)
- Tetteh Quarshie - Madina Road (4.6km)
- Tetteh Quarshie Mallam Road (14.0km)
- Nsawam Bypass (9.3km)
- Techiman-Kintampo Road(60.0km)
- Sogakope-Adidome-Ho Road(30.0km)
- Ho- Fume(25.0km)
- Nsawkaw- Namasa (26.0km)
- Tainso- Badu (23.0km)
- Sefwi Bekwai- Eshiem – Asankragwa
- Bomfa Jnc. Asiwa- Bekwai (36.2)
- Kpando- Worawora- Dambai III(70km)
- Ejisu- Fumesua- Duampompo(4.7km)
- Kwafokrom- Apedwa (31.7km)
- Sawla – Ffulso (147km)

534. Tendering will be finalized for construction works to begin in 2010 on the 50 km Dodopepesu-Nkwanta road which forms part

of the Eastern Corridor. The project is funded by the European Union and the Government of Ghana.

Major Bridge Projects

535. Madam Speaker, the Authority intends to rehabilitate some major bridges throughout the country under the Bridge Development Programme (Phase 4). The bridges are;

- Bridge over River Kulpawn
- Bridge over River Gongonwu (Moori)
- Bridge over River Gongonwu
- Bridge over River Kudage
- Bridge over River Gyanwalli
- Adomi bridge repairs and design of new bridge

Department of Feeder Roads (DFR)

536. Madam Speaker, the Department will undertake the following feeder road projects. The re-shaping and routine maintenance on 26,590 km of engineered and 300 km of un-engineered feeder roads in areas with low roads density. In addition, the Department will carry out periodic maintenance projects including the surfacing of roads which started in 2007 and are at various stages of completion. The Department will also rehabilitate and construct short and medium span steel bridges, box culverts and side drains.

Ongoing Surfacing Projects

537. Madam Speaker, some of the ongoing projects to be undertaken in the regions are:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------|
| • KoluedorJunc. Koluedor (4. 5.km) | Greater Accra |
| • Akropong - Odumase(10.0km) | Central |
| • Juapong-Volo-Adidome (56Km) | Volta |
| • Anyinase Jnc. - Paawudu (20.0km) | Eastern |
| • Juaho Twabidi (9.0km) | Ashanti |
| • Bediako- Kasapin (28.0 km) | Brong Ahafo |

- Sombo-Daffiama (18km) Upper West
- Winkongo-Tongo Zuarungu (16km) Upper East
- Asankragwa - Moseaso (9.5km) Western
- Gushiegu Town Roads (2.0km) Northern

538. Some of the Bridges earmarked for construction on the following roads with the spans are:

- Papase – Domfiase (35m) Greater Accra
- Azua – Kofi Akura – Kpassa (40m) Volta
- Adjumako – Abeamdi – Gomoa Olefeku (35m) Central
- Aboabo Jn. – Adjuom (35m) Western
- Kyekease – Nyamebekyere –Nkontomire (35m) Eastern
- Achiresua – Hweddiem – Asuhyiase (35m) Brong Ahafo
- Chinglinua – Dolgi (25m) Northern
- Binduri – Kaadi – Kugri (40m) Upper East
- Dolibizon – Pina (40m) Upper West
- Kpansenkpe White Volta Bridge (100m) Northern Region
- Ekundipe Bridge over R. Daka (55m) Northern
- Akplaka bridge (35m) and Nyunitor bridge (25m) Volta

Department of Urban Roads (DUR)

539. Madam Speaker, the Department will undertake routine and periodic maintenance works on at least 7,400km (70%) of its 10,600km urban road network and continue the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the following roads:

- Sunyani road in Kumasi (Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital to Abuakwa)
- Oforikrom- Asokwa bypass in Kumasi
- Accra Central Business District roads (CBD Roads)
- Accra CBD roads Phase II (Asafoastse Netey and Korle Lagoon roads)
- Nsawam Road Phase II(New Town Road)
- Extension of La-Teshie road (incl. bypass)
- Achimota terminal

Maintenance of Traffic Signals

540. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will review the contracts for the maintenance of traffic signals in the various urban areas to meet the challenges associated with efficient operation of the signals. This will involve the replacement and upgrading of obsolete controllers and the introduction of Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs) to better cope with fluctuations in power supply. This will ensure the safety of motorists as well as enhance the flow of traffic through these intersections which are the main bottlenecks of urban networks.

Driver Vehicle and Licensing Authority (DVLA)

541. Madam Speaker, DVLA will continue the new numbering system for all vehicles. This system will have separate registration for motor cycles which form about 17 per cent of the total vehicle population. The Authority will also continue the introduction of ICT into its operations to improve efficiency.
542. In addition, DVLA will undertake the following activities:
- Revision of road safety standards for driver testing and training
 - Improvement of service delivery through online transactions
 - Plans to set up a model National Driver Training Institution in Accra for all categories of vehicles especially heavy goods and public Service vehicles (mass transport) in collaboration with Government Technical Training Centre (GTTC) and National Road Safety Commission (NRSC)
 - Setting separate standards for commercial and mass transport drivers to provide a testing ground for drivers
 - Educating driver instructors, driver examiners and other stakeholders
 - Organizing training for commercial drivers and also train auditors of private garages and equip them with vehicles

National Road Safety Commission (NRSC)

543. The Commission will pursue the following:

- Continue to develop methods, produce and distribute road safety education and training manuals for teachers for distribution to school children
- Road User Education (in Electronic and Print Media)
- Facilitate the institutionalisation of road safety in MDAs and MMDAs
- Airing of road safety documentaries and commercials on TV and Radio specifically on speeding, driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs, fatigue, overloading, wrongful overtaking, the use of seatbelts and crash helmets)
- Facilitation of installation and operations of speed cameras and vehicle speed limiters
- Facilitation and promotion of commercial vehicle towing services and the use of retro-reflective tapes to improve conspicuity

Government Technical Training Centre (GTTC)

544. Madam Speaker, the centre will continue to train BECE graduates in the following areas

- Auto mechanics
- Auto electrical
- Auto Body Repairs
- Welding and Fabrications

545. The Centre will admit 80 fresh trainees. Out of the current student population of 240 continuing students, 120 students will pass out this year.

Metro Mass Transit (MMT)

546. Madam Speaker, the operations of Metro Mass Transit Limited will be reviewed to focus its attention on urban transportation to provide reliable and affordable transportation.

547. For the implementation of the above activities, an amount of GH¢386,370,228 has been allocated. Out of this, GoG is GH¢90,114,575 IGF is GH¢1,113,020 Donor is GH¢171,860,226 and Road Fund is GH¢123,282,407

Ministry of Communication

548. Madam Speaker, the Ministry exists to facilitate the development of a reliable and cost-effective world-class Communications infrastructure and services, driven by appropriate technological innovations and accessible by all citizens to enhance the promotion of economic competitiveness in a knowledge-based environment.

Performance in 2008

Telecom Sector

549. Madam Speaker, the creation of an enabling environment and the positive sustenance of competition in the sector brought about an increase in the subscriptions of telephones in the fixed and mobile sectors. From a 2002 fixed line figure of 264,827, the number had increased to 389,483 but reduced to 279,324 due to the removal of dormant subscribers from the GT fixed line network. On the other hand, mobile subscription in 2002 which stood at 383,000 increased to 10,242,916. The current total fixed and mobile subscription stands at 10,522,240. Currently, teledensity is 47.8 per cent of the population of 22 million.

Telecom Privatization

550. Madam Speaker, good telecommunications infrastructure, technology use and innovation help to improve national income. To achieve this goal, government must establish an environment where the private sector, based on market forces can exert its full investment potentials in the sector. In this regard, the Ministry divested 70 per cent of government shares in Ghana Telecom and 75 per cent in WESTEL.

Issuance of Mobile License

551. Madam Speaker, to further liberalise the telecom sector and improve fair competition the National Communications Authority (NCA) auctioned a sixth mobile license on a competitive basis to

Glo Mobile. It is expected that this would provide competition and value added services for the benefit of the ordinary citizens and consumers.

Quality of Service

552. Madam Speaker, the Ministry responded to public complaints regarding poor quality of telecommunication services. In this regard, NCA intensified its monitoring activities and instituted appropriate penalties to defaulting operators to serve as deterrent. The NCA has also set out clear compliance guidelines and inter-connection tariffs between fixed and mobile networks.

Digital Broadcasting Migration

553. Madam Speaker, Ultra High Frequencies (UHF) was issued to existing TV broadcasting stations for the implementation of the digital broadcasting migration.

Third Generation (3G) and WiMAX Licenses

554. Madam Speaker, to enhance extended services to subscribers, the Worldwide Interoperability Microwave Access (WiMAX) and 3G Licenses guidelines to facilitate effective implementation commenced.

National Broadband Programme

555. Madam Speaker, to promote a wider penetration of ICT services, the Ministry facilitated the transformation of Voltacom's Fibre Optic assets into a National Communications Backbone Infrastructure network to provide open access broadband connectivity nationwide.

Common Telecom Facilities

556. Madam Speaker, the Ghana Investment Fund for Telecommunication development (GIFTEL) completed a total of 39 Common Telecom Facilities and this enabled Telecom Operators to extend their services to about 273 communities.

Community Information Centres (CICs)

557. Madam Speaker, the Ministry in pursuance of the promotion of an all-inclusive information and knowledge society to benefit the

underserved and rural areas, constructed 90 CICs nationwide. About 38 of these were provided with connectivity and equipment. Another 35 are at various stages of construction.

Computer Assembly

558. Madam Speaker, the Ministry in collaboration with Intel Corporation is implementing the Government Assisted PC Programme (GAPP). The objective of the programme is to increase the use and acquisition of personal computers at affordable prices in Ghana and also grow the local PC Assembling industry. About 11,000 units of computers were sold to the public, private, educational institutions and individuals.

Enabling Environment

559. Madam Speaker, to create an effective ICT enabling environment four bills; e-Transactions, the e-Communications, National Communications Authority (NCA) and National Information Technology Agency (NITA) Bills were passed into law by Parliament. Also, to further improve the postal services sector, a National Postal Policy is being developed to enable the Ministry and PSCRC provide policy and regulatory guidelines for the sector.

E-Governance

560. Madam Speaker, the Ministry continued to facilitate and monitor the full integration of ICT as an enabler and driver of the entire socio-economic-politico sectors of the nation to help promote efficiency and effectiveness in institutions and enhanced service delivery.

The ICT Business Incubator

561. Madam Speaker, the Incubator supported the establishment of business start-ups to support and nurture entrepreneurial development in ICT. So far four out of 10 local start-ups have grown to maturity. In addition 10 Business Process Outsourcing Companies were established. Data entry clerks were also trained to capture accurate data.

Outlook for 2009

562. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will pursue the following programmes to enhance messaging and collaboration among MDAs; the GovNet and the Data Centre Development and Community Information Centres.
563. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will facilitate the development of a business and performance-based framework to support cross-agency collaboration to enhance a vibrant e-government service delivery. This will be done through the validation of the Enterprise Architecture developed for Ghana as well as the e-Government Interoperability Framework with the active participation of stakeholders.
564. Madam Speaker, the Ministry in collaboration with the Office of the Head of the Civil Service (OHCS) will pursue the development of a scheme of service for IT/IM class. This will enable qualified IT/IM personnel to be attracted into the public service. In addition, the scheme of service will also be a good framework document for ICT training institutions.
565. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will set up structures to monitor the Ghana-India Kofi Annan Centre of Excellence for ICT. This is to ensure that the Centre remains focussed on capacity development in the area of open source platform.

Development of Standards and Accreditation

566. Madam Speaker, the Ministry is committed to pursuing the development of policy guidelines and skills standards for the IT Industry geared towards attaining the following:
- a uniform set of ITES Skill Set Standards;
 - a blueprint of ITES/BPO curriculum based on the skills set defined in the skill set dictionary;
 - the development of a procedure for matching grants to support private and public institutions in ICT/ITES

- training for at least 12,000 workers, professionals, and ITES trainers within 2 years; and
- the development of niche areas for the training to cover; data entry and data processing, electronic payment processing and data conversion medical transcription and customer services in email/chat.

567. Madam Speaker, the development of the Technology Park under the MSME project will be pursued to complement effort to create the environment for jobs in the area of ICT/ITES business initiatives.

ICT Infrastructure for Growth

568. Madam Speaker, the Ministry's programme for the development of e-Government Points of Presence through the development of broadband connectivity to link all district capitals to the national high speed broadband will be pursued. The extension of access to every corner of the country with the private sector concentrating on the last mile solution will lead to a breakthrough in promoting e-governance application.

e-Government

569. Madam Speaker, the implementation of the e-Government Strategy and Action Plan will be pursued and coordinated by GICTeD under the Ministry. The programmed steps to be taken including architectural and institutional arrangements are as follows:

- e-government road map;
- change management process;
- setting up of e-government programme management office;
- development of document management systems; and
- security systems.

570. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will also establish a public Internet Governance Registry and develop policy guidelines to guide the migration from IPV4 to IPV6.

Growth in the Telecom sector

571. Madam Speaker, the sustenance of competition in the sector through proactive ICT policy development and innovative regulatory initiatives will be carried out to improve telephone subscription in both the fixed and mobile telephone sectors to reach the rural and underserved areas. This will enhance the current penetration rate to rural areas.
572. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will monitor the enlarged GT and Zain Communications to ensure efficiency in service delivery and also improvement in GDP contribution. The National Communication Authority (NCA) will also be monitored to create a healthy and competitive platform for all players in the industry.
573. The NCA will also be monitored to ensure that its impact on the quality of service from the various agencies is improved. The issuance of the new numbering plan for all telecom operators to cater for future expansion of the sector will be monitored. Additionally, policy directives will be given to guide the orderly migration from the analogue to digital broadcasting in line with international convergence standards.
574. The NCA will pursue the development of consolidated integrated gateway monitoring system to serve as a telephone traffic clearing house for Ghana. This would promote transparency in the management of the gateway, protect license holders from fraudulent unlicensed gateways, and increase the flow of revenue from international call termination to both operators and the Government.
575. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will facilitate the completion of the 2nd Phase of the National Communication Backbone from Tamale to the rest of the northern parts of the country and connectivity

to the neighboring countries. This will further facilitate the reduction of bandwidth cost to the ordinary citizens and corporate organizations. The Ministry will also provide an open-access broadband infrastructure and GT/Vodafone will be monitored to complete the extension of the fibre optic backbone infrastructure to the northern parts of the country.

576. The Ministry will monitor the implementation of the four Communications Sector Acts recently passed. In addition, the Ministry will facilitate the development of the following additional bills: data protection/privacy legislation, intellectual property legislation, national digital content management, and electronic regulation on dumping of electronic waste to foster investor confidence in the Ghanaian economy and also address issues relating to the increasing number of cyber crimes.

Universal Access

577. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will continue with the development of common telecom facilities to extend the services to many more telecom operators in addition to the 273 communities. Additionally, GIFTEL will embark upon a schools connectivity project to provide connectivity to enhance accessibility to ICT equipment and facilities in more communities to promote distance learning.

Community Information Centres (CICs)

578. Madam Speaker, the Ministry in pursuance of its commitment to promote an all-inclusive information and knowledge based society to benefit the underserved will sustain the programme to build and provide infrastructure and equipment support for the CICs.

Business Process Outsourcing (BPO)

579. The Ministry will promote the development of an incubation policy to help in the design, development, support and monitoring of business incubators in Ghana around private sector incubation projects in the ITES sector. The facilitation of

the nurturing and growth of the private sector industry association GASSCOM will also be pursued.

580. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will in collaboration with the Ghana Standard Board work towards the development of a comprehensive industry and quality assurance standards for IT/ITES industry of Ghana. This will ensure the development and production of quality information, knowledge and innovative technology products and services.
581. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will establish a technology park at the free zone enclave to promote ICT in Ghana. The Park will house ICT/IT enabled companies to enhance research and development to attract foreign direct investments.
582. The Ministry will also develop a postal and courier sector policy to enable the transformation of the industry to meet the challenges associated with technology application in postal service delivery.
583. Madam Speaker, the Ghana Meteorological Agency (GMA) will be supported to continue with its provision of seasonal forecast and reliable information for weather sensitive sectors of the economy. The agency will be supported to get the needed equipment to enhance its service delivery.
- The Pan-Africa E-Network Project**
584. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will continue to promote e-education, e-health as well as help provide secured network for member states of the African Union (AU) through the Pan-African e-Network Project initiative.
585. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will facilitate the implementation of ICT for Accelerated Development Plans to enhance government services delivery. The Ministry will also monitor the implementation process to foster proper evaluation and impact on the socio-economic development of the country.

Additionally, the Action Plans for the ICT segments will be reviewed.

ICT and Disability

586. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will combat social exclusion of the disabled and physically challenged persons and promote the deployment of ICT to enhance their social, educational and employment opportunities. It will also increase the pleasure and quality of life of the physically challenged in society. The special needs of the disabled people will be specifically taken care of including the offering of facilities to promote the acquisition of computer and internet skills. The development of Braille facilities for the visually impaired will be supported.

The e-Ghana Project

587. The e-Ghana project will be implemented by the Ministry to attain outputs through the delivery of the following outcomes;
- Increased employment and income generation in the ICT/ITES sector
 - Increased competitiveness in the ICT/ITES industry in Ghana and opportunities for local businesses
 - Increased engagement of the private sector with the government
 - Strengthening of policy and regulatory frameworks
588. For the implementation of the above activities, an amount of GH ₵18,720,755 has been allocated. Out of this, GoG is GH ₵4,779,827 IGF is GH ₵650,000 and Donor is GH ₵13,290,928

Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology

589. The Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology (MEST) exists to establish a strong and vibrant scientific and technological base for accelerated and sustainable development, to enhance the quality of life for all through the development and promotion of appropriate technologies, safe and sound environmental practices and regulated human settlements.

Performance in 2008

Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)

590. Madam Speaker, CSIR developed 20 new crop varieties. These included maize, rice, sorghum, groundnuts, Soya beans, cowpea, cassava, yam and plantain. CSIR also developed pozzolana cement from local clay as a substitute for clinker which is used for the production of portland cement.
591. Madam Speaker, the Food Research Institute (FRI) received accreditation from International Standards Organization ISO 17025 for competence in food quality testing. In addition, FRI adapted and fine-tuned a technology for the production of glucose syrup from High Quality Cassava Flour for use in food, beverage and pharmaceutical industries.
592. Madam Speaker, the Institute of Industrial Research (IIR) developed Activated Charcoal from local materials for use in reducing and eliminating pollutants in foods, beverages, mining and pharmaceutical industries while the Water Research Institute (WRI) developed a biological control technique for the control of mosquito larvae.
- ### **Ghana Atomic Energy Commission (GAEC)**
593. Madam Speaker, GAEC commenced the upgrading of the Gamma Irradiation Facility (GIF) for the treatment of food and medical items for export and domestic use. It also started the construction of the National Accelerator building project to house the accelerator facility for research and training and in addition, completed about 90 per cent of the construction works

on the lecture halls and hostel for the Graduate School of Nuclear and Allied Sciences.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

594. Madam Speaker, EPA continued air and noise quality monitoring in Accra and the other major cities and also issued over 800 environmental permits and certificates countrywide for operators in various sectors of the economy
595. Madam Speaker, EPA organized training programmes for pesticide inspectors and finalized guidelines for the safe transport of hazardous chemicals and shortlisted PR/Advertising firms for the production of TV documentaries on national environmental issues. The Agency continued monitoring programme for mining companies.

Town and Country Planning Department (TCPD)

596. Madam Speaker, the Department provided support for the Land Use Planning and Management Projects on pilot basis in Kasoa in the Central Region, Asankragwa in the Western Region and Ejisu in Ashanti Region. Mobile planning teams provided technical services to district assemblies in need.

Outlook for 2009

Science and Technology

597. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will provide the needed focus and coordination to promote and popularize science and technology for accelerated national development. Towards this end, the Ministry will work towards embracing science and technology efforts in other sectors to synergize the implementation of programmes and activities.
598. Specific activities will include:
- Development of a National Action Plan for the promotion and popularization of science and technology.

- Creating general awareness of the value of science and technology in everyday social, cultural and economic activities.
- Promotion of research and development as an integral part of industry.
- Strengthening the capacity of science and technology policy management at the national level and the re-launch of the science and technology fund within the framework of the Lagos Plan of Action.
- Facilitation of the passage of the Biosafety, Weapons of Mass Destruction and other Bills, some of which are far advanced in Parliament.
- Strengthening Ghana's participation and involvement in regional and sub-regional science and technology activities, including the on-going African Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators Initiative.
- Collaborate with relevant Ministries and Agencies towards the revamping of the Science and Technology Museum.
- Establishment of an 'Annual Science Congress' to focus attention on Science and Technology to impact on all sectors of the economy.
- Collaborate with the Ministry of Education to facilitate the revamping of Science Learning Centres in the districts.
- Stimulate the interest of women in science and technology and ensure their quantitative growth and the quality of their participation in science and technology application particularly in agriculture, manufacturing, agro-based and service enterprises.

Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)

599. Madam Speaker, CSIR will continue to undertake research and development activities to assist government provide services for

national development. CSIR is also committed to enter into Private-Public Partnership arrangements to make its developed technologies available to the general public to generate additional income to supplement government funding.

Water & Sanitation Community-Based Initiatives

- 600. CSIR will make its research findings available to Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) to reduce pollution and improve sanitation levels. These findings are aimed at enhancing the health status of the communities within MMDAs. The CSIR also has capabilities for groundwater exploration, watershed management and protection of water bodies. These would be imparted to the communities.
- 601. In pursuance of creating a better life for the communities, CSIR will encourage rain water harvesting technology for schools and small communities, drilling of boreholes for rural communities, bio-sanitation toilets for schools and communities and biological control of mosquitoes.

Ghana Atomic Energy Commission (GAEC)

- 602. GAEC will develop a comprehensive national ground water resource assessment programme using isotope hydrology with an initial focus on the Central Region.
- 603. Micro propagation of economic plants (such as pineapple, banana, plantain, coconut etc) through the use of tissue culture techniques will be undertaken. Scientists will continue to use nuclear and biotechnological techniques for the development of mutants that are resistant to plant diseases. This will increase the yield of these products for export earnings.
- 604. GAEC will also continue studies on the application of sterile insect techniques for the suppression of tsetseflies and mosquitoes against trypanosomiasis and malaria respectively.

605. Madam Speaker, in order to build the human capacity to support the nuclear industry in Ghana and within the sub-region, GAEC will complete the construction of the National Accelerator building project to house the accelerator facility.
606. The GAEC will undertake inspection and auditing of radioactive facilities and carry out studies to determine the level of inhalation of radon gas in mining areas. GAEC will also certify the radiation levels in Food items (both imported and exported).
607. The upgrading of the Gamma Irradiation Facility (GIF) will
- reduce post harvest losses and help in the treatment of food and medical items for export; and
 - support the diagnosis and management of the treatment of food and medical items for export and domestic use.
608. The GAEC will also develop nuclear imaging medical techniques to support the diagnosis, management and treatment of communicable diseases.

Environment

609. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will review the implementation status of environmental legislation and facilitate the enactment of a legislation to ensure the implementation of legislation on the environment.
610. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will seek to integrate environmental issues into policies, programmes, plans, and projects at all levels. It will also establish an Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) to resolve all environmental conflicts.
611. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will intensify collaboration with the following Ministries: Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Ministry of Employment and Social Welfare, Ministry of Roads and Highways, to improve environmental management practices.

612. Madam Speaker, a National Sustainable Development Strategy which aims to balance the economic, social and environmental practices would be developed. In pursuance of this, MEST will collaborate with relevant MDAs to improve environmental management practices.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

613. Madam Speaker, EPA will continue to monitor the quality of air and vehicular emissions including noise in various parts of the country. The public education and awareness creation on noise will also be intensified. In addition, EPA will train Pesticide Inspectors, chemical dealers and users especially in the 10 hotspots on enhanced Chemical Control and Management and develop manuals on best environmental practices for schools, churches and environmental clubs.
614. The EPA will undertake a nationwide inventory of electronic waste as part of the effort to ensure sound environmental assessment and management. EPA will also continue to undertake natural resource management and reduction of water weed infestation in the Volta and Tano Rivers. EPA will also organise a workshop on Environmental Statistics to assist policy making.

Natural Resources and Environmental Governance (NREG)

615. Under the NREG, EPA will prepare a sustainable development action plan to reduce the effects of climate change by reducing carbon emissions and strengthening MMDAs in environmental management.
616. The EPA will develop environmental assessment guidelines for the emerging oil industry.

Town and Country Planning Department (TCPD)

617. Madam Speaker, the Department will consolidate the modest gains made in 2008. In this regard, it will pursue the following activities aimed at supporting the initiative of the Government as captured in the NDC manifesto to pay priority attention to land use planning and enforcement.

Slum upgrading and Prevention

618. There are currently numerous slum areas in our towns and cities, fuelled by rural-urban migration, limited supply of land. TCPD will collaborate with MMDAs and Ministry of Water Resources, Works and Housing to develop a regulatory framework that will address the needs of the urban poor.
619. TCPD will prepare slum upgrading plans that will facilitate the provision of critical infrastructure for adequate water supply, sewerage management, waste management, road access development and promotion of community-based economic activities.

Mobile Planning Services

620. To complement efforts being made to improve the planning and management of towns and cities in Ghana, the Mobile Planning Scheme will be upscaled to ensure that all Districts are served with professional town planning services. This will be done alongside efforts to recruit more town planning officers to boost the staffing capacity of the Town and Country Planning Department

Land Use Planning and Enforcement

621. As a way of curtailing the increasing rate of unplanned urban development, TCPD in collaboration with the MLGRD will ensure that Regional capitals are covered by structure plans, out of which detailed planning schemes will be prepared to guide urban expansion.

622. TCPD will collaborate with MMDAs to name streets and number houses which is crucial for emergency and security operations, postal and taxi services, revenue collection and business operations.

Public Education and Awareness Creation

623. The success of land use planning and urban management depends to a large extent on the cooperation of the citizenry. To this end, extensive public education and awareness creation will be carried out for people to appreciate the need to secure permit before building. This will lead to orderliness in the development of our towns and cities. Such orderliness in spatial structure is expected to promote business and other social and economic pursuits.
624. For the implementation of the above activities, an amount of GH ₵113,045,554 has been allocated. Out of this, GoG is GH ₵41,320,001 IGF is GH ₵2,994,455 and Donor is GH ₵68,731,097

Human Resource Development

625. Madam Speaker, Government is committed to providing adequate social investment to make life better for all Ghanaians. In this regard, Government will place social policy at the foundation of its developmental effort. The aim is to guarantee a critical mass of skilled labour, knowledgeable, well trained, disciplined and healthy to drive and sustain private sector-led growth.
626. The MDAs who contribute to the realization of the above objective are:
- Ministry of Education (MOE)
 - Ministry of Employment and Social Welfare (MESW)
 - Ministry of Health (MOH)
 - Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs (MOWAC)
 - Ministry of Youth and Sports (MOYS)

Ministry of Education

627. Madam Speaker, the focus of the Ministry in 2008 was on the achievement of targets set under Education Strategic Plan, and the implementation of the Education Reforms Programme.

Performance in 2008

Basic Education

628. Madam Speaker, the Ministry continued to collaborate with District Assemblies, religious bodies and non-governmental organisations to provide classrooms for pre-schools as a way of mainstreaming pre-schools into the basic education system. The Capitation Grant Scheme continued to impact positively on access to Basic Education. Government released a total amount of GH¢15 million during the year as payment of Capitation Grant to pupils in all public basic schools.
629. Efforts were made in the course of the year towards the achievement of Universal Primary Completion by 2015 and Gender Parity. The Ministry continued its public education activities in churches, durbars, communities and market places on the need to send children to school.
630. Madam Speaker, to help alleviate the burden on parents, Government subsidised the conduct of Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE) in 2008 to the tune of GH¢4,044,631.50.
631. In addition, Government initiated the School Feeding Programme on pilot basis in some selected basic schools in 2005. In 2008, the Programme was expanded to cover 596,089 pupils nationwide as against 408,989 in 2007.
632. Madam Speaker, as a result of the above interventions, the Ministry recorded the following achievements in key enrolment targets as shown below:

Table 5: Key Enrollment Targets

| Level of Education | 2006/2007 |
|---|------------------|
| | 2007/2008 |
| GER (Pre-School Level) | 83.6% |
| | 89.0 % |
| GER (Primary Level) | 93.7% |
| | 95.2% |
| Gender Parity Index- (Primary Level) | 0.96 |
| | 0.99 |

Source: Ministry of Education

633. This large enrolment necessitated the construction of more classrooms. To accommodate the increasing number of pupils, Government undertook a number of classroom construction projects. For example, 230 classroom blocks and 147 three-Unit classroom blocks in the School Under Trees Project have been completed and furnished at a total cost of GH¢10 million.
634. Madam Speaker, under the Northern Floods Programme, the three Northern Regions benefited from 67 classroom blocks with sanitation facilities and furniture for KGs, primary and Junior High Schools at a total cost of GH¢6,491,800.

Teacher Deployment

635. Madam Speaker, teacher deployment continues to be a challenge. In addressing this, the Ministry put in place measures to correct the existing regional disparities in teacher supply. Postings continue to be made to areas that lack teachers especially the remote rural areas with emphasis on the three regions in the north where pupil/teacher ratio is significantly higher than average. Incentive packages including bicycles were distributed free to teachers in deprived schools. The quota system of postings was enforced and postings were made with

greater consideration to deprived districts in the country. All these measures were geared towards improving the quality of education delivery.

National Service Scheme

636. Madam Speaker, the National Service Scheme remains an important source of teacher supply. The education sector alone received 16,941 National Service Personnel in 2008. In addition, 14,956 volunteers were recruited as teachers under the National Volunteer Programme to make up for the shortfall in teacher supply within the sector.

Upgrading of Teacher Training Colleges

637. Madam Speaker, the 38 Teacher Training colleges in the country have been upgraded to Diploma Awarding Institutions and have been classified as tertiary institutions. As part of improving their infrastructure, work continued on the construction of classrooms, libraries and science laboratories.

Senior High Education

638. The new 4-year Senior High School (SHS) under the Education Reform offers General Education with electives in General Arts, Business, Technical/Vocational and Agriculture options, for entry into a tertiary institution or the job market.
639. A number of SHS have been renovated and expanded to cater for the fourth year of the senior high school education.
640. As part of the programme of upgrading facilities in at least one Senior High School in each district, 23 schools out of the 31 senior high schools have been completed as at end 2008. The other 8 schools are at various stages of completion.
641. Work also commenced on the second phase of upgrading of physical facilities in 25 Senior High Schools, out of which 2 have been completed. The others are on-going.

Computerized School Selection and Placement System (CSSPS)

642. After thoroughly addressing the problems faced in the first two years of implementation of the Computerised School Selection and Placement System (CSSPS), CSSPS was used successfully to place students into the various Senior High Schools and Technical Institutes in the country in 2008.

Ghana Library Board

643. The Ghana Library Board installed internet facilities at the Kumasi and Cape Coast Libraries as well as George Padmore Research Library on African Studies. The National Mobile Library services were re-launched in Accra.

Non-Formal Education

644. The Programme continued to support the promotion of non-formal literacy educational programmes with the recruitment of 1,822 facilitators to help sustain the programme.

Tertiary Education

645. Madam Speaker, the rapid increase in enrolment at tertiary level continued to engage the attention of policy makers. In order not to compromise the quality of education due to expansion in enrolment, the following measures were continued in the tertiary education institutions:
- Strengthening and developing the capacity of the regulatory bodies through sponsoring of staff from these bodies for further studies; and
 - Improving upon the quality of teaching at the tertiary level, the Teaching and Learning Innovation Fund (TALIF) has been provided to the tertiary education institutions to promote change and innovation

Distance Education

646. The Ministry encouraged teachers to enroll in the Distance Learning Programmes offered at the University of Ghana, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, University of Education, Winneba and University of Cape Coast as an alternative way of acquiring tertiary education. This among other things helped to ease the pressure on the study leave scheme whilst ensuring the availability of teachers in the classrooms. A total amount of GH¢1,368,000 was provided by government as financial assistance to teachers who enrolled on the distance education programme

Promotion of Science, Technology and Research

647. Madam Speaker, funds were made available to expand and equip science laboratories in the tertiary educational institutions to make teaching and learning of science and technology more interesting and attractive. Government's policy of ensuring an enrolment ratio of 60:40 in favour of science and technology guided the admission process in the tertiary educational institutions.

Infrastructure Development

648. In 2008, government provided GH¢20,358,000.00 for improvement of infrastructural facilities in the tertiary education institutions. This included lecture theatres, classroom blocks, staff accommodation, library blocks, halls of residence, sports stadia, computer laboratories, auditoriums and agricultural engineering workshops. These projects are at various stages of completion.

Polytechnics

649. The polytechnics in collaboration with the NABPTEX continued to offer bridging programmes to enable students from technical institutes to upgrade themselves in Mathematics, English and

Science to enable them to pursue higher courses. Government continued to equip and strengthen the Polytechnics to enable them efficiently offer technical and practical oriented programmes in order to meet the needs of industry and national economy.

Education Reforms

650. The Education Reforms designed to make education more responsive to the current challenges in the country took off smoothly in September, 2007. Curricula and syllabi for all the core subjects from basic to senior high school level have been developed and distributed to all schools in the country.

Outlook for 2009

651. Madam Speaker, the Education sector has experienced a cycle of reforms whenever there is a change in government. To halt this unpredictability, Government will convene an all-party conference on education reform. The various technical options available will be reviewed and a consensus reached.
652. The content of education, management and structural challenges will continue to be addressed. The emphasis during the 2009 budget will be focused on improved provision of facilities for Science, Technology (ICT) and Technical/Vocational Education. In addition, training in line with achieving Educational Reforms goals and realization of benchmarks enshrined in the Education Strategic Plan (ESP) to accelerate the growth and development of education will also be pursued.
653. The broad areas are improving facilities, increasing teacher motivation and improving management.

Access to and Participation in Education and Training

654. Madam Speaker, programmes will be implemented to facilitate equitable access to and participation in Quality Education and Training. An intensified enrolment drive will be pursued to

increase access to basic education and expedite progress towards the attainment of Universal Primary Completion by 2012.

655. In keeping with Government's intention to provide school uniforms for children in basic schools, immediate action will be taken to make this available by the beginning of the next academic year, 2009/2010.

Pre-School Education

656. The Ministry will continue with its activities geared towards providing infrastructural facilities for pre-school education. There will be collaboration with District Assemblies and other non-state actors towards the construction of classrooms for this level of education.

657. The Ministry will provide special training for pre-school and kindergarten teachers

Primary and Junior High School Education

658. Madam Speaker, to further expand and improve upon educational infrastructure, the Ministry will continue with the programme of upgrading basic school infrastructure throughout the country. Rehabilitation works on existing classrooms and provision of needed furniture will also be undertaken.

659. Government will ensure that all extra fees are abolished and school uniforms provided to one million pupils in basic schools in deprived communities and the shift systems in JHS abolished.

660. Madam Speaker, for effective utilization of the capitation grant, Regional Directorates will be made to monitor its implementation and assist weaker districts through capacity building.

661. Free exercise books will be provided for every pupil in all public basic schools.

Senior High School Education

662. Madam Speaker, Science Resource Centres will be revamped in selected SHS throughout the country during the year. Science teachers will be trained and funds provided to improve the running of these centres. Programmes to increase the enthusiasm of students in the study of Science will be relentlessly pursued.
663. On-going construction works on the first and second phases of the programme for upgrading SHS will continue in 2009.
664. Achieving gender parity is a priority of Government. Support will be given to gender parity related activities to achieve the MDG Gender Parity Index of 1:1 through the provision of financial /material support to needy girls as well as engaging in enrolment drive activities in collaboration with District Assemblies.

Improvement of Quality of Teaching and Learning for Enhanced Pupil/Student Achievement

665. Madam Speaker, to improve on the quality of teaching and learning for enhanced pupil/student achievement, the Ministry will strengthen School monitoring, supervision and inspection will be strengthened to enhance accountability. The National Inspection Board will be in operation this year.
666. Madam Speaker, teacher preparation, upgrading and deployment through appraisal, in-service training and incentives to motivate them to give their best will be improved. In addition, measures will be put in place to further reduce geographical disparities in teacher allocation especially in deprived districts.
667. Madam Speaker, the School Education Assessment (SEA) and the National Education Assessment (NEA) will be conducted to enhance proper assessment of pupil learning outcomes. The Computerised School Selection and Placement System (CSSPS) will receive adequate resources to deliver improved service.

Improving Quality and Efficiency in Delivery of Education (Educational Planning and Management)

668. Madam Speaker, in 2009 the Ministry will decentralize resource planning, development and management to the District and School level. In addition, school governance and community engagement through effective functioning of School Management Committees at the basic level and Board of Governance at the second cycle level will be strengthened.

Promote Science and Technical Education

669. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will prioritize the modernization and expansion of technical schools and provide for alternative, well-developed streams of technical education. To this end, the Ministry will provide funds for the expansion of infrastructure in the technical and vocational institutes. It will also liaise with industries to provide places for teachers and students of technical institutes for industrial attachment.
670. Madam Speaker, the Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (COTVET) will be strengthened to handle issues relating to skills development in both the formal and informal sectors.

Tertiary Education

671. Madam Speaker, infrastructural development at the tertiary level to promote access and quality of teaching and learning is critical priority given to on-going projects. In view of this, Government will support, strengthen and develop the capacity of regulatory bodies in order to ensure quality delivery of education at this level.
672. Madam Speaker, support will also be provided to the supervisory bodies to build their capacity. Postgraduate studies will be strengthened whilst scholarships for postgraduate training streamlined and research promoted within the tertiary education institutions.

673. Madam Speaker, Teacher Training Colleges (38) have been accredited and are being upgraded to tertiary status. A roadmap for full integration of these colleges into tertiary system has been developed and will be pursued in 2009.

Teacher Motivation and Retention

674. Madam Speaker, Competency-based Training and attachment programmes will continue to receive attention to make polytechnic education relevant to industry and national development.
675. Madam Speaker, as a matter of priority, the issue of grading and placement of HND graduates will be looked at to ensure the advancement of such personnel as a critical middle-level cadre for national progress. Support will also be given to three public Universities running distance learning programmes to enable them expand on their intake.
676. Madam Speaker, Government will revamp the National Accreditation Board to enable it perform its functions effectively.
677. Madam Speaker, government will start the process of establishing two more public universities in the Volta Region Brong-Ahafo Regions and also encourage the use of distance education for off campus qualification.

Non-Formal Education

678. Madam Speaker, Government will broaden the scope of the non-formal approach to education by re-invigorating the division to contribute effectively to reducing adult illiteracy.

Ghana Library Board

679. Madam Speaker, the board will be supported to improve on its mobile library services especially to distance learning students and also continue the Youth Essay Competition.

National Service

680. Madam Speaker, 40,000 National Service Personnel (NSP) and National Volunteer Service Personnel (NVSP) will be posted to critical areas of the economy in 2009. Income generation activities including implementing the endowment fund policy towards self-financing the Scheme will be supported.

Special Education

681. Madam Speaker, Government will provide adequate funds to train competent personnel to support special education in the special schools for persons with disabilities and special needs. In addition, collaboration between GES and UEW to organize courses to upgrade the skills of teachers in this field will be promoted. Furthermore, Government will also continue to equip existing special schools with logistics and other essential stores.

Teacher incentives and motivation

682. Madam Speaker, Government is committed to improving the incentive packages and motivation for teachers. In pursuit of this, measures will be taken to initiate action to implement the allowances proposed in the NDC Manifesto for teachers. Of special concern is the allowance for teachers in rural and deprived areas as well as technical and vocational education teachers. As a start, the Ghana Education Service will apply immediately the three incremental credits on their respective ranks for Science and Mathematics teachers entering the service as well as those who are already in active service.
683. For the implementation of the above activities, an amount of GH¢ 1,693,735,829 has been allocated. Out of this, GoG is GH¢107,132,235 IGF is GH¢180,477,430 Donor is GH¢69,418,281 and HIPC is GH¢37,930,000 GETFUND is GH¢275,077,883 and MDRI is GH¢23,700,000

Ministry of Employment and Social Welfare

684. Madam Speaker, the Ministry is responsible for human resource development, creation of employment opportunities, sustaining harmonious labour relations, ensuring safe and healthy working environment, integration of people with disabilities (PWDs), the vulnerable, extreme poor and the excluded into the mainstream of society to enable them contribute towards national development and growth.

Performance in 2008

Employment

685. Madam Speaker, a draft National Employment Policy document and Implementation Action Plan were completed and are expected to be subjected to national validation prior to submission to Cabinet. The policy seeks to ensure a cross-sectoral approach to employment issues, labour-based employment and linkages between institutional training and industry. The Ministry will play a lead role in operationalising the employment policy when completed and will co-ordinate and strategise on sectoral issues that will occur in the course of implementation.

Labour Market

686. Madam Speaker, the Tripartite Committee is at various stages in the implementation of the five sub-components of the Labour Market Segment of the Business Sector Programme Support. In addition, the Ministry organized a diagnostic study and submitted a report for discussion and implementation. Furthermore, initial contracting for the implementation of the Labour Market Information System was carried out and a consultant contracted to undertake the design and web hosting of the system.
687. The Ministry undertook various steps to facilitate tripartite dialogue by supporting the Tripartite Committee to function as

an advisory body. The Ministry in collaboration with the Trades Union Congress (TUC) and Ghana Employers Association (GEA) also sensitised the informal sector operators on the compliance with labour laws and the positive impact of social protection issues on their operations. The GEA held three sensitisation workshops in Takoradi, Cape Coast and Koforidua attended by representatives from various indigenous business associations in these areas.

688. Madam Speaker, the TUC has prepared a manual to educate participants in the informal sector on their rights, specifically, with regard to legal and social protection.

Fair Wages and Salaries Commission (FWSC)

689. The board of the Fair Wages and Salaries Commission was set up. Technical staff of the Commission have been recruited and the Commission has since started operations.

Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP)

690. Madam Speaker, LEAP is a component of the National Social Protection Strategy. The LEAP targets Orphans, Vulnerable Children through their care givers, the aged (above 65 years and without subsistence or support) and persons with severe disabilities without productive capacities. LEAP provides cost-effective conditional and unconditional subsistence grants on a graduated payment scale of approximately GH¢8.00 – GH¢15.00 per month to extremely poor households that have been targeted.
691. Madam Speaker, in addition to its planned roll-out activities, LEAP also responded to Food Crisis with an emergency programme (LEAP FEFOC) and increasing food prices in the floods affected areas in the north.
692. Madam Speaker, by the end of 2008, LEAP had reached out to over 8,000 households across 54 districts on regular LEAP, while

15,000 households under the Emergency Programme were also supported.

National Programme for the Elimination of Worst Forms of Child Labour

693. Madam Speaker, in pursuance of the National Programme for the Elimination of Worst Forms of Child Labour in Cocoa growing areas, a framework and a survey covering 60 per cent of cocoa production land area were undertaken. Remediation interventions in 46 administrative districts and training of 120 media personnel to increase the level of awareness about worst forms of child labour in the cocoa sector were also carried out. As a result about 1,246 children were re-integrated into basic schools, formal/informal and vocational institutions.

Ageing Policy

694. Madam Speaker, the draft ageing policy has been finalised awaiting final stakeholder validation. The policy seeks to address critical issues such as the rights and independence of older persons, the quality of life before and during old age, gender variation and the cultural perspectives on ageing.

Disability Council

695. Madam Speaker, the Disability Council has been formed and is operational as envisaged under the Act 755 (2006). The Ministry has completed the construction of a suspended ramp to improve access of People With Disabilities (PWDs) to the Ministry.

Micro-Credit for PWDs

696. Madam Speaker, as part of social protection measures, Government instituted support for PWDs by providing micro-credit through MASLOC.

Outlook for 2009

697. Madam Speaker, Government intends to honour its promise to cater for the needs of the poor, the vulnerable, the aged and the disabled. In pursuance of this, the Ministry will create an enabling environment for job creation to enable people lead dignified lives. By so doing, the greatest asset of this country- i.e. human resource – will be developed to accelerate our socio-economic development towards a middle income status by 2020.

National Plan of Action (NPA) for the Elimination of Worst Forms of Child Labour

698. Madam Speaker, Government recognizes the negative consequences of child labour. To minimize the impact of the menace and also fulfil Ghana's obligations relating to international instruments to which Ghana is a signatory, the Ministry this year will review and implement the National Plan of Action to protect children from abuse, exploitation, illiteracy and chronic poverty in a coordinated and holistic way.

National Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour in Cocoa (NPECLC)

699. Madam Speaker, in support of the global efforts towards the welfare of children, Ghana has established the National Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour in Cocoa (NPECLC) to handle child labour issues in cocoa communities.
700. Government will vigorously implement policies and programmes that will protect children and give them equal opportunities to develop their potentials to the maximum. It is within this context that the Ministry in collaboration with other stakeholders will undertake sensitization and awareness creation to eliminate worst forms of child labour in all sectors including cocoa and fishing.

Disability Issues

701. Madam Speaker, the Disability Council has been constituted and will be inaugurated into office to enable it steer the affairs of the disabled. Funds will also be provided for recruitment of requisite staff and provision of logistics and office accommodation to enable the Secretariat initiate effective implementation of the legislation on Persons with Disability, Act 715 (2006).
702. In addition, the Department of Social Welfare will source funds from the Micro Finance and Small Loans Centres (MASLOC) to continue and expand its micro-credit scheme for the disabled.

Ageing Policy

703. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will by the end of the year, finalise the Ageing Policy and seek new approaches to meet the specific demand of the aging as well the aged.

Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP)

704. Madam Speaker, in line with the NDC's stated objectives to "enhance poor people's security by helping them manage risk and shocks" and as a component of the National Social Protection Strategy (NSPS), the LEAP in 2009 target at least 35,000 extremely poor households with social cash transfers to assist them to meet basic needs and reduce their vulnerability to risk and shocks. Experts analysis confirm that the LEAP will cost less than one per cent of GDP to implement and is therefore a sustainable pro-poor intervention.

Employment Creation

705. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will focus on mainstreaming employment creation into all national development agenda. The National Employment Policy (NEP) and its Implementation Action Plan (IAP) will be the main vehicle for achieving this objective.

- 706. The Ministry will coordinate activities of all MDAs to promote the creation of productive and gainful employment. It will enforce measures that will safeguard the health and safety of workers in the economic sectors and subsectors such as Agriculture and Agro processing, Tourism, Information and Communications Technology (ICT), Construction, Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs), the Cooperative Sectors especially Agricultural producers and Trade.
- 707. The public employment centres of the Labour Department will be upgraded to provide employment services to potential job seekers. Private employment agencies will be regulated in accordance with LI 1833 to facilitate employment creation especially for the external/overseas market to complement Government employment creation agenda.
- 708. Public investment programmes aimed at developing and improving public infrastructure in areas such as roads, housing, railways, ports and harbours, afforestation, cocoa etc will be used to create more job opportunities. To this end, job creation will be used as major criteria for selecting and implementing public investment programmes.
- 709. Labour intensive methods will be another avenue for job creation in developing and improving public infrastructure especially for the youth, women, the vulnerable and the excluded in deprived areas and rural communities to stem the tide of rural-urban drift.
- 710. The Ministry will collaborate with internationally recognized institutions such as the Youth Employment Network of the United Nations, and the International Labour Organisation's Decent Work Programmes to secure decent employment for Ghanaians.

Human Resource Development

711. Madam Speaker, the Ministry places premium on Human Resource Development (HRD) as in the theme "Investing in People, Jobs and the Economy for a better Ghana".
712. The objective of Government to modernize and expand Technical and Vocational Education and Training is in line with the Ministry's efforts at providing employable skills to the youth through its skills training institutions, namely, NVTI, ICCES, OIC Ghana. It is envisaged that this year, these institutions will train about 12,500 young persons in technical and vocational skills for self employment and the labour market.
713. The NVTI will start implementing the National Apprenticeship Programme under the continuing education programme for those who completed JSS but were unable to access secondary education. Government will therefore provide resources, logistics and personnel to equip the NVTI and master craftsmen to implement an accelerated apprenticeship programme. Furthermore, a programme for On-the-Job Training for graduates from the Tertiary and TVET Institutions especially in Science, Technology, ICT and Entrepreneurship will be pursued to give graduates work experience to enhance their employability.
714. The Ministry will continue work on developing a National HRD Policy which will mainstream training and re-training in the national agenda to produce knowledgeable, well trained and disciplined, productive work force with the capacity to drive and sustain all sectors of the economy.

Labour Infrastructure

715. Madam Speaker, sustained and gainful employment, peaceful industrial relations and a harmonious labour scene are prerequisites for foreign investments and ensuring economic growth.

716. The National Tripartite Committee which was established under the Labour Act 651, (2003) to advise Government on employment and labour market issues and determination of the national daily minimum wage will be resourced and strengthened to operate optimally without undue political interference.
717. Madam Speaker, in the same vein, attention will also be paid to the National Labour Commission to enable it operate to the satisfaction of the social partners.
718. The problems associated with public service pay are not new. Various Government initiatives have not yielded the desired result. These constraints are often the root cause of several worker agitations. The new Fair Wages and Salaries Commission will be fully established with requisite experts, adequate funds and appropriate logistics to perform its mandate.
719. Madam Speaker, more importantly the Ministry in 2009 will initiate action to engage the Commission, Organized Labour and Employers to advice on the Single-Spine which is to take off this year.
720. For the implementation of the above activities, an amount of GH¢32,896,982 has been allocated. Out of this, GoG is GH¢11,037,461 IGF is GH¢3,035,224 Donor is GH¢1,324,297 and MDRI is GH¢17,500,000

Ministry of Health

721. Madam Speaker, in line with the set objectives of the GPRS II, the broad objectives of the Ministry in 2008 focused on (i) bridging of equity gaps in delivering quality health care and nutrition services; (ii) ensuring sustainable financing arrangements that protected the poor; and (iii) enhancing efficiency in service delivery. Health sector programmes were therefore designed to address the Key Challenges facing the Sector.
722. Madam Speaker, the foregoing priorities will be complemented by targeting of safe food and water, improving quality of clinical care, including, referrals and emergency services, rationalizing facility and service availability and re-positioning Community Based Health Planning and Services (CHPS) to enable the provision of maternal health services.

Performance in 2008

Regenerative Health & Nutrition

723. Madam Speaker, surveys to establish Ghana baseline information on lifestyles and behaviours were conducted with the Statistical Service under the Ghana Standard Survey in the Greater Accra, Volta, Eastern and Central Regions. A National Behaviour Change Communication Strategy was also developed and implemented.
724. Madam Speaker, a training manual was also developed to facilitate scaling up of the Regenerative Health Nutrition Programme (RHNP) throughout the country. Additionally, the Ministry conducted orientation and training for 2000 health professionals including School Health Educational Programme (SHEP) coordinators and traditional medicine practitioners. The Ministry further collaborated with MOESS in incorporating the regenerative health and nutrition programme into the School Feeding Programme of the Ghana Education Service.

Communicable Disease Control

725. Madam Speaker, the Ministry during the course of the year under review strengthened its management of communicable diseases especially cholera, meningitis, yellow fever, buruli ulcer and filariasis by continuing to sustain the High Impact Rapid Delivery Programme in all the ten regions of the country.
726. With regard to management of guinea worm cases, ten case containment centres were constructed at Kintampo, Tolon Kumbugu, Tamale, West Mamprussi, Savelugu Nanton and East Gonja districts. As a result of this and other interventions, guinea worm cases have been reduced from 3,021 in June 2007 to 501 at the end of 2008.
727. Madam Speaker, in pursuance of Government's policy of eliminating malaria from this country, the Ministry prepared a seven-year draft national strategic plan (2008-2015) for consideration of Government.

Non-communicable Diseases

728. Madam Speaker, a National Cancer Control steering committee has been formed to manage cancer issues. In addition, a National Coordinator has been appointed to implement the nationwide Sickle Cell Screening Programme.

Traditional and Alternative Health Service

729. Madam Speaker, to improve traditional and alternative health service delivery, 15 Scientific and Medical Herbalists were trained at KNUST and will be deployed in 2009 to selected health facilities throughout the country. A list of recommended herbal medicines and scientific monographs have also been developed for traditional practitioners in at least 15 accredited private herbal medicine centers and 2 public health facilities.
730. Madam Speaker, homeopathy, acupuncture, and chiropractic are being promoted. Frameworks for legal, regulatory, training and

administration have been introduced to officially institutionalize traditional and complementary alternative medicine practice as an accepted profession for private and public service. Guidelines for registration of Practitioners are ready for implementation in 2009.

National Health Insurance Scheme

731. Madam Speaker, the National Health Insurance Authority introduced a new Diagnostic-Related Groupings (DRGs) and tariffs in April 2008 throughout the country. The new universal ID cards which was to replace the expiring scheme-specific DMHIS cards begun in September 2008.
732. Madam Speaker, in 2008, the National Health Insurance Scheme expanded coverage with almost 12,269,503 registered members by the end of the year, representing 54 per cent of the population. Regional Monitoring and Evaluation officers have been appointed and systems continue to be strengthened.

Human Resource Development and Management

733. Madam Speaker, in 2008, the Ministry established five new health assistants training institutions at Tepa, Asankragua, Nalerigu, Kpembu and Dunkwa-on Offin to increase the number of public sector training institutions to 67 nationwide. In addition, enrolment into the health institutions increased from 6,500 to 7,200 representing 11 per cent increase. The Ministry also started the accreditation of two Midwifery training schools at Tarkwa and Tamale.
734. Madam Speaker, 530 midwives and 105 medical assistants graduated from the training institutions in 2008 and were integrated into the system. During the year, the human resource policy for the sector was disseminated for implementation. Furthermore, the regulatory agencies under the Ministry were integrated into the Health Sector Salary Structure thereby eliminating salary discrepancies.

Mental Health

735. A draft mental health legislation has been prepared for finalization in 2009.

Emergency Preparedness and Response

736. Madam Speaker, ambulance services have been scaled-up from 19 to 24 stations in 2008. The additional stations are located in Tamale, Bolgatanga, Wa, Sunyani and Sekondi-Takoradi. From January to December 2008, the Service responded to a total of 7,678 emergency calls.

Enhancement of the Quality and Coverage of Clinical Care

737. Madam Speaker, the Ministry implemented a number of programmes aimed at improving access of the population to quality health care, safety and treatment outcomes. Achievements to date include completion of the following; Gushiegu District Hospital, National Accident and Emergency Centre at Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital, Health Centres at Buipe, Amasaman and Duffor, hostel and classroom facilities at nurses, midwifery and health assistants training institutions at Agogo, Korle Bu, Jirapa, Teshie, Sunyani, Atibie, Ashanti Mampong. Besides 30 selected hospitals also benefited from the supply of new equipment. Twenty-one dental facilities were also completed.

Outlook for 2009

Maternal and Neonatal Health

738. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will improve maternal and neonatal health by increasing access to obstetric care in all health facilities to reduce maternal death. Key strategies include expansion of midwifery and nursing training institutions, deployment of qualified nurses and midwives, improvement in

comprehensive abortion care services and monitoring the implementation of existing policy on free maternal deliveries.

Malaria

739. Madam Speaker, as part of current strategy to control and eradicate malaria, education and advocacy will be intensified to increase utilization of insecticide treated nets (ITNs) nationwide, indoor residual spraying and scale up the bio-larviciding projects to Central, Western and other Regions. Additionally, the Ministry will initiate a Mass Treatment pilot project in Greater Accra Region with the aim of eliminating malaria parasite from the defined population and establish the safety and efficacy of the method used. In furtherance to the sector's policy of eliminating malaria, the seven-year draft national strategic plan (2008-2015) currently under preparation will be completed for consideration by Government in 2009.
740. Furthermore, the Ministry will undertake collaborative programmes with its counterparts in Togo, Cote d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso to tackle the control and elimination of malaria.

Other Communicable Diseases

741. Madam Speaker, in the light of resurgence of some communicable diseases, the Ministry will, as a matter of urgency review the management of these diseases especially cholera, meningitis and yellow fever.
742. Madam Speaker, as part of the current strategy to control and eradicate malaria, education and advocacy will be intensified to increase utilisation of insecticide treated materials (ITMs) nationwide. Additionally, the Ministry will initiate a pilot project in Greater Accra Region with the aim of eradicating malaria parasites from the population. Furthermore, the Ministry will undertake collaborative programmes with its counterpart in Togo, Cote d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso to tackle the control and elimination of malaria.

Non-communicable Diseases

743. Madam Speaker, the Ministry's focus will be to strengthen the prevention, control and management of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, cardio-vascular conditions and cancers so as to reduce their burden by improving data on risk factors and incidence of specific diseases, developing cancer registry and promote increased use of health education materials. In addition, general screening of the population for breast, cervical and prostate cancers to facilitate early detection and prompt treatment will be conducted and clinical services for non communicable diseases improved.

Community-Based Health Planning & Services (CHPS)

744. Madam Speaker, under this strategy, the Ministry will equip and staff the CHPS compounds to cater for maternal health services. In addition, the Ministry will review training of Community Health Officers (CHOs) to include midwifery services. It will also simplify the referral system with the object of providing guidance to CHOs. Other strategies will include improving communication at CHPS level through increased use of mobile telephones and strengthen district and regional level supervision of CHPS.

Quality and Coverage of Clinical Care

745. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will place emphasis on introducing improvements in clinical care and strengthen emergency services through provision of Diagnostic and/or Scientific Equipment, promotion of rational use of medicines, development and adoption of protocol for referrals.

Emergency Preparedness and Response

746. Madam Speaker, to improve outcomes of medical, surgical and obstetric emergencies, a national emergency response policy and plan to guide the implementation of epidemic disease management preparedness within the sector will be prepared.

747. The Ministry will expand coverage of national ambulance services to 20 additional districts by procuring 20 specialized vehicles, train 200 personnel and also orientate health staff in emergency care.

Human Resource Development and Management

748. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will improve and strengthen human resource productivity within the sector by implementing performance management contracts and conducting a study on human resource productivity including development of an online human resource update. It will endeavour to match intake into training institutions with availability of practical training sites. It will also expand training programmes for middle level health cadres especially the reintroduction of community psychiatric and dental nursing training programmes. Furthermore, the Ministry will train additional 670 midwives and 190 medical assistants. It will also institutionalize Continuous Professional Development programmes for critical staff.

National Health Insurance Scheme

749. Madam Speaker, the National Health Insurance Scheme will be restructured to respond to the needs of the population and improve upon the issue of claims management. The latter will involve networking all DHMIS to service providers and the National Health Insurance Authority. This, among others, will help to resolve the problem of portability to make it national in coverage. It will also pursue the policy on de-linking children from their parents' registration and the provision of free maternal care. Furthermore Government will commence work on the implementation of the one time payment of insurance premium under the National Health Insurance Scheme. In this regard the actuarial analysis relating thereto will start in earnest.

Inter-sector Collaboration and Advocacy

750. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will embark upon major multi-sector collaboration with the view to improving sanitation and targeting safe food and water. Specifically, it will collaborate with the Ministries of Local Government & Rural Development, Education, Women & Children, Water Resources, Works & Housing and Food & Agriculture to develop relevant regulations and guidelines to ensure safety of food, water and sanitation.

Harmonization of Health Legislation

751. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will complete work on the Mental Health, Tobacco, National Health Service and National Ambulance bills for consideration of Cabinet and subsequent passage by Parliament.

Gender Mainstreaming

752. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will finalise and disseminate guidelines on gender mainstreaming in all health facilities. Gender sensitive case management protocols will also be developed. In this regard, management teams will be trained to handle gender dimensions of health service delivery. In addition, Police medical reports forms will be reviewed and standardised to facilitate data capture on domestic violence

Infrastructure Development for Effective Health Delivery

753. Madam Speaker, to further strengthen the programme for modernizing health care and also improve access to quality health care, the Ministry will rehabilitate all Health facilities destroyed by floods in the Northern Region. In addition, 21 Health Centres will be constructed and four existing health centres equipped and upgraded to District Hospital status. The health centres are at Essiam, Ajumako, Zabzugu and Galo-Sota. Again, Phase 1 of the Bolgatanga Regional Hospital will be completed, feasibility studies for the development of a specialized Maternity and Children's Hospital at Ridge will be

undertaken. Similarly, offices for the Food and Drugs Board, Nurses and Midwives Council will be completed and the expansion works on training schools at Keta, Bolgatanga, Berekum, Oda, Tamale, Teshie, Sefwi Wiawso and Agogo will also be carried out.

754. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will further staff and equip CHPS compounds nationwide, and re-equip selected Regional and Districts Hospital with emphasis on Emergency and essential Obstetric care. In addition, ongoing works in selected hospitals, DHMT and RHMT Offices with high sunk cost will be completed while twenty (20) specialized ambulance vehicles will be procured for the National Ambulance service.
755. Madam Speaker, new projects to be initiated include redevelopment and upgrading of Tamale Teaching Hospital, Phase 2 of the rehabilitation of the Bolgatanga Hospital: the construction of five polyclinics/health centers in Northern Region at Kpandai, Tatale, Janga, Chereponi, and Karaga and the Winneba District Hospital will be completed.
756. A 100-bed General Hospital with Malaria Research Centre at Teshie, Accra will commence. Similarly, two Regional Hospitals with staff housing at Wa and Kumasi will also be funded. Six District Hospitals with staff housing at Adenta/Madina, Twifo-Praso, Konongo-Odumase, Wenchi, Tepa, and Salaga will be funded.
757. Madam Speaker, furthermore, two District Hospitals at Bekwai and Tarkwa and Blood Transfusion Centres at Accra, Kumasi and Tamale will be funded.
758. Besides the projects mentioned above, preparatory works involving site selection, feasibility studies, needs assessment, appraisal, surveys and fund mobilisation for other projects in the health sector will be undertaken. Medical Assistants Training Schools in the Northern, Western and Volta Regions will be covered under this programme.

759. Madam Speaker, the upgrading of the regional hospital in Cape Coast into a teaching hospital, the development of a new Urology Centre of Excellence at Korle-Bu and the establishment of schools of Allied Health sciences with emphasis on the training of Health Care Assistants in all ten regions and further expansion of existing training schools and the development of new Nursing and Midwifery Training Colleges will also be carried out under this programme.
760. Madam Speaker, expansion works on Radiotherapy and Nuclear Medicines Services in Accra and Kumasi into centres of excellence will be pursued.
761. For the implementation of the above activities, an amount of GH¢921,929,472 has been allocated. Out of this, GoG is GH¢344,398,438 IGF is GH¢108,312,030 Donor is GH¢82,582,842, HIPC is GH¢11,427,000 and NHIF is GH¢375,209,162

Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs (MOWAC)

762. Madam Speaker, the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs (MOWAC) is charged with the over-all responsibility of formulating and coordinating policies to promote Gender equality and equity, the empowerment of women, particularly the vulnerable, rural and urban poor as well as facilitating the survival, protection and development of the Ghanaian child. It therefore needs both public and private sector collaborative efforts to achieve its goals.

Performance in 2008

763. Madam Speaker, to mainstream gender in all MDAs programmes and budget implementation, the Ministry trained 16 Core Gender Expert Groups, drawn from nine MDAs. A ten member Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) Technical Committee comprising staff of MOWAC, MOF and NDPC was also formed in April 2008 with responsibility to ensure the implementation of Government's policy directive on GRB in 2008 and beyond.
764. In addition, a 3-Year National GRB road map was finalised to provide strategic direction on GRB implementation across MDAs and MMDAs. Three Customized GRB Training Manuals were also developed and distributed to key stakeholder institutions to facilitate a "Step by Step Approach" to conducting GRB across sectors. In the same vein 300 copies of the Gender Budgeting Manuals/ Tool kits were printed and disseminated.
765. Madam Speaker, as part of child protection programmes, a National Plan of Action on Human Trafficking was drawn up and Human Trafficking Management Board was established. A simplified comic version of the Human Trafficking Act was developed, launched and disseminated. In addition, some parents in Central and Brong Ahafo Regions were given Micro-credit in "sending", and "receiving" areas of human trafficking.
766. In addition 16,500 women throughout the country benefited from Micro-credit and small loans to expand their businesses.

Training programmes in financial and business management skills were also organized for 30,829 women in the informal sector in the ten Regions.

767. Madam Speaker, 10 regional ECCD Committees were established and trained. Capacities of 392 coordinating committees at the National and District levels were also upgraded and Assembly members of 10 District Assemblies, NGOs, and CBOs were trained on Child Protection Laws.
768. Madam Speaker, the Ministry collaborated with the Ministry of Health to sensitize policy makers on the need to reduce maternal mortality culminating into the formulation and implementation of free maternal delivery policy.
769. Madam Speaker, Government demonstrated its commitment to International Protocols, Conventions, and Treaties by Printing and disseminating 500 copies of Ghana's 3rd, 4th and 5th periodic report of UN Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Furthermore the Ministry organised International Women's Day through campaigns aimed at reducing maternal and child mortality.
770. The Ministry sensitized District Chief Executives, Queen-mothers and Traditional Authorities on women and children's rights and a Child Help Line launched. It also printed and distributed 1,000 copies of directory on women decision makers and initiated a web portal of the directory. In addition, a National Breast Cancer Fund was re-launched and a Board of Trustees of the Fund inaugurated.
771. Madam Speaker, during the year under review, 43 pieces of agro processing equipment, namely, groundnut, cassava, palm nut, shea butter, palm kernel and fruit extractor equipment were distributed to 43 women's groups countrywide benefiting almost 7,000 households.
772. Madam Speaker, to enhance the smooth implementation of the Domestic Violence Act, a Management Board with oversight

responsibility was established. Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials including 30 billboards were also distributed throughout the country. The Domestic Violence Act was also translated into 4 Ghanaian languages.

Outlook for 2009

- 773. Madam Speaker, to address women and children's issues, in 2009 the Ministry's gender mainstreaming programmes will emphasize gender sensitive budgeting in all sector programmes.
- 774. Madam Speaker, in line with this all staff of various MDAs will be provided with gender responsive skills in gender budget planning and implementation. In addition to the three MDAs trained in 2008, this year 12 more will be covered.
- 775. The Gender statistical management unit will be supported to provide sex-disaggregated data to facilitate gender responsive budgeting in the public sector.
- 776. Madam Speaker, the Ministry in collaboration with other stakeholders will provide financial assistance, skills training in business management, and access to information to enable women and children benefit from various Government policy interventions designed to improve mother and child welfare.
- 777. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will implement the National Plan of Action formulated to address issues of domestic violence, trafficking in persons and the worst forms of child labour.
- 778. Undertake advocacy to create public awareness on the rights of women and children, sensitize women to take advantage of Government's interventions intended to promote their welfare and that of children.
- 779. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will collaborate with the Ministry of Health and the Ghana Health Service to advocate on maternal and child health issues and sensitize women on life threatening diseases of women such as breast and cervical cancer.

780. Additionally, the Ministry will collaborate with stake holders to strengthen the Early Childhood and Child Protection Committees in the Districts to implement the Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) Policy.
781. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will provide skills training to women's groups in the non-traditional income generating areas and also support Ghana Education Service (GES) in its drive to promote parity in boys and girls enrolment in schools.
782. For the implementation of the above activities, an amount of GH¢9,570,786 has been allocated. Out of this, GoG is GH¢2,752,775 IGF is GH¢6,768,571 Donor is GH¢768,571

Ministry of Youth and Sports (MOYS)

783. Madam Speaker, Government is committed to the effective mobilization of the youth, the productive engagement of their talents and energies and the creation of an environment which will enable the youth to realize their full potentials.
784. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will therefore reintegrate youth and sports into the development process and refocus efforts on youth training and employment. In addition, it will formalize, regulate and invest in vocational and technical training and apprenticeships.

Performance in 2008

National Youth Policy

785. Madam Speaker, a draft National Youth Policy Implementation Action Plan was finalized and expected to be submitted to Cabinet in 2009 for consideration. The draft policy reflects the growing needs of the youth as well as their contributions to national development. Consequently, all youth programmes and activities are to be guided by the new Youth Policy.

National Youth Employment Programme (NYEP)

786. Madam Speaker, the National Youth and Employment Programme (NYEP) created job opportunities for 108,403 persons across the country.

Sports

787. Madam Speaker, Government provided resources for the development and management of sports in the country. The construction of Sekondi and Tamale Sports stadia as well as the rehabilitation of the Ohene Djan Stadium, and El Wak Stadium both in Accra and Baba Yara Stadium, Kumasi were completed in time for the hosting of African Cup of Nations (CAN) Tournament, 2008.

788. Madam Speaker, Ghana successfully hosted the CAN 2008 Tournament in February 2008. Government also provided funds for the national teams' participation in international tournaments including Olympic Games, Beijing, the FIFA Under-17 Women's World Cup, New Zealand, the Senior CAF Women African Cup Tournament in Guinea, the Under 20 Men Ecowas Tournament in Nigeria and the under 17 Men Four Nations Tournament in Cote'Dvoire.
789. Madam Speaker, the lesser-known sports were also supported to develop and the programme of building the national teams through the organisation of Schools Sports Festivals and Security Services Sports Association (SESSA) Games also received the necessary attention.

Outlook for 2009

National Youth Policy

790. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will initiate action to review the national youth policy to make it dynamic, pro-youth, and multi-partisan in line with the youth manifesto prepared during the 2004 general election.
791. The Ministry will also facilitate the formalization of vocational and apprenticeship training and establish a National Training and Placement board to facilitate and regulate vocational and apprenticeship training and placement scheme.
792. Madam Speaker, a 3-year strategic plan which will detail out the policies, strategies and activities for youth and sports development in the country will be prepared in collaboration with stakeholders.

Youth Employment

793. Madam Speaker, unemployment is very high across the globe due to the recession currently being experienced and the youth

are the hardest hit. Government will therefore place greater emphasis on employment for the youth.

794. In line with this, the National Youth Employment Programme will be evaluated with the view to making it effective and efficient for youth employment.
795. Madam Speaker, as part of the general evaluation of the programme in 2009 the Ministry will take steps to re-organize and re-vitalize the Youth in Agri-Business Module of the NYEP, as agriculture, the mainstay of our economy, has the greatest potential for job creation.
796. Furthermore, modules such as ICT, Trades and Vocations which have the greatest potential for employment creation and building an entrepreneurial spirit in the youth towards sustainable job creation will be made operational.
797. Madam Speaker, the Trades and Vocations module will train young persons with the master craftsmen and women within their communities after which they will be supported to set up micro and small businesses.
798. Graduate unemployment has been identified as a disincentive for pursuing higher education and investment in education. The Ministry in collaboration with other stakeholders will initiate action this year to find a lasting solution to the problem. The Paid Internship and Industrial Attachment Module of the NYEP will be reorganized to provide avenue for gaining some experience for graduates after National Service.
799. Madam Speaker, the private sector and other stakeholders will be encouraged to absorb unemployed graduates after national service in fields such as accountancy, ICT, banking, marketing, hotel management, teaching and procurement. Incentives schemes to motivate graduates to take up employment in district assemblies and in education where vacancies exist will also be supported.

Sports

800. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will develop, promote and organise a mass of amateur and professional sports in the country to put Ghana high on the world map of sports. In this regard, the Ministry will initiate the process of developing a comprehensive sports policy and related legislation to regularize and guide sports administration and development in Ghana.
801. The Ministry will partner the Ghana Football Association and other stakeholders to ensure a second appearance at 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa of the Black Star. In the same vein the Black Satellites will be supported to participate in the FIFA World Cup in Egypt this year. Similarly, the Ghana Hockey Association will also be supported to host 2009 Africa Hockey Cup of Nations which will be staged in Ghana.
802. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will continue constructional works on the Cape Coast Sports Stadium and the process of acquiring land for the construction of regional stadia will also be pursued.
803. As a matter of urgency the Ministry will revamp school sports to identify and nurture sports talents in the schools to support the national teams. In addition, programmes on various sports academies will be reviewed to combat the exploitation of youth in sports.
804. For the implementation of the above activities, an amount of GH ₵91,232,823 has been allocated. Out of this, GoG is GH ₵89,912,823 and IGF is GH ₵1,320,000.

Good Governance and Civic Responsibility

805. Madam Speaker, transparent and responsible governance with service, humility and integrity are the core pillars of government's good governance agenda. In achieving our national development goals, therefore, Government will use its power to significantly improve the lives of citizen.
806. In that regard we will implement measures in several critical areas of governance to provide a safe and secure country where every Ghanaian is equal before the law and has access to justice. We will seek to equitably develop the country through effective decentralisation.
807. Madam Speaker, Government will also pay particular attention to the institutions that maintain law and order and strengthen the capacities of anti corruption institutions to effectively undertake their constitutional mandate to ensure that corruption in public service is significantly reduced and make it a high risk activity for political and public office holders.
808. The MDAs whose activities will promote the achievement of the key governance objectives are the following:
- Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development
 - Office of Parliament
 - Ministry of The Interior
 - Judicial Service
 - Public Services Commission
 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation
 - Audit Service
 - Ministry of Justice and Attorney General's Department
 - Ministry of Defence
 - The Electoral Commission
 - Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice
 - Ministry of Chieftaincy and Culture
 - Ministry of Information
 - National Commission for Civic Education
 - National Development Planning Commission

- National Labour Commission
- National Media Commission
- Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning
- Office of Government Machinery
- District Assembly Common Fund

Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MLGRD)

809. Madam Speaker, the Ministry has the mandate to ensure good governance and balanced development of Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) through the formulation of policies on governance, decentralisation and rural development.

Performance in 2008

810. Madam Speaker, Government implemented policies and programmes geared towards the achievement of its set objectives as outlined earlier.
811. The new Draft Comprehensive Decentralization Policy which seeks to deepen political, administrative and fiscal decentralization in Ghana was subjected to wider stakeholder consultation with the aim to build consensus on the country's decentralization agenda.
812. Madam Speaker, an Inter-Governmental Fiscal Framework (IGFF) which seeks to address the issue of revenue and expenditure alignment between the national and the sub-national levels was prepared by the Ministry in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning. As part of the implementation of the IGFF, the District Development Fund (DDF) was established as a performance transfer system to enhance the financial capacities of District Assemblies.
813. Madam Speaker, to accomplish this objective, the DDF-Functional Organization Assessment Tool (FOAT) has been instituted for assessing MMDA's compliance with national policies and the legal and regulatory framework in the fulfilment of their mandate; Identify functional capacity gaps and needs in the MMDAs; and promote good practice in administration at the MMDA level by linking resource transfers to performance.

814. Madam Speaker, MMDAs have for the first time been assessed on their 2006 operations using the FOAT and future allocations and transfer of funds to the MMDAs will be based on the assessment. Following the assessment, capacity building manuals have also been prepared.

Local Government Service

815. Madam Speaker, the Local Government Service Secretariat implemented measures to enhance the performance of its mandate. These included the laying before Parliament, a Legislative Instrument to transfer functions, resources and personnel from MDAs to MMDAs, the preparation of a roadmap to decouple the Civil Service from the Local Government Service, and the preparation of modalities for the establishment of the Departments of the MMDAs.

Environmental Health and Sanitation Unit

816. Madam Speaker, efforts were made to improve environmental sanitation and waste management in almost all the districts. A draft National Environmental Sanitation Strategy and Action Plan (NESSAP) was prepared and baseline data on Environmental Sanitation in all the 138 old MMDAs were collected.
817. Training in Supervisory Management was provided for District Environmental Health officers and waste management staff from 30 Districts and to review waste management monitoring tools. Logistics including vehicles were provided for Western, Eastern, Volta and Brong Ahafo Regional Environmental Offices to enhance their monitoring and supervisory responsibilities.

Births and Deaths Registry

818. Madam Speaker, efforts to register all births and deaths within the country yielded some results with increased registration coverage of 53 per cent of all infant births and 22 per cent of all deaths as against annual targets of 70 per cent for births and 35 per cent for deaths.

819. The Registry also completed the computerization of the Head Office system and initiated action to introduce security paper in the issue of new Birth and Death Certificates under the AENEAS programme which is a collaborative programme between the Births and Deaths Registry, Ghana Immigration Service and the National Security Agencies to counter documentation fraud.
820. The registry also piloted the Community Population Register Programme in 21 communities selected from the Central, Eastern and Upper West regions.

Community Based Rural Development Project (CBRDP)

821. Madam Speaker, a number of activities were undertaken throughout the country under the various sub-components of the Project. These include:
- Rehabilitation of 87.14 km of feeder roads, construction of four market structures and a slaughter house; and
 - Construction of 101 Boreholes, 80 Basic School structures, a Nutritional Centre, 15 Public Sanitation Facilities and 14 Rural Health Infrastructure.

Urban Poverty Reduction Project (UPRP)

822. Madam Speaker, most of the achievements during the year focused on the procurement of consultancy services to enhance monitoring and evaluation capacities and provides technical backstopping to the Social Investment Fund at the project and local levels. Other activities undertaken include the following:
- Completed the procurement process for revenue collection equipment and motor bikes for the MMDAs revenue mobilization unit;

- Recruited Fund Manager for the management of the revolving funds for medium term loans to Small Scale Enterprises (SSEs); and
- Commenced Community socio-economic infrastructure sub-projects in Agogo, Swedru and Wenchi.

Ghana School Feeding Programme

823. Madam Speaker, the Ghana School Feeding Programme (GSFP) seeks to improve school enrolment and ensure attendance and retention school children, especially those in deprived schools as a strategy to promote domestic food production, increase the income of the poor rural households and improve their health and nutritional status, thus contributing to poverty reduction. A total of 593,083 pupils benefited from the programme nationwide.

Outlook for 2009

824. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will continue to implement initiatives within existing policies in local governance and rural development. The Ministry will therefore seek to deepen local level democracy, accelerate the decentralization process and facilitate balanced local level development and empowerment. In this regard the Ministry will implement the following programmes:
825. Madam Speaker, as part of the implementation of the National Decentralization Action Plan (NDAP), a second assessment will be conducted on the performance of MMDAs for the year 2007 using the Functional and Organizational Assessment Tool (FOAT).
826. Madam Speaker, staff of the District Planning Coordinating Units (DPCU) in all MMDAs will continue to receive training in District Composite Budgeting to equip them with the ability to prepare their budgets using the MTEF format.

827. Madam Speaker, the Ministry and its collaborators will commence the implementation of the Inter-Governmental Fiscal Framework (IGFF) which among other things curtails multiple funding, planning, budgeting, accounting, reporting and auditing systems at the district level.

Local Government Service

828. Madam Speaker, the Local Government Service will undertake the following key activities during the year:

- Operationalize the Local Government Service Secretariat, including staffing of the various directorates and provision of office accommodation. The Ministry will also review the Local Government Services Act, 2003 (Act 656) and its provisions reconciled with the Local Government Act, 1993 (Act 462);
- Complete the integration of the 17 decentralized departments into MMDAs as outlined in the Local Government Legislative Instrument which includes the establishment of District Works and Human Resource Department in selected MMDAs;
- Continue the sensitization and awareness creation programme of the LGS for effective and successful change management for all stakeholders;
- Implement capacity building of MMDAs as contained under the DDF and FOAT; and
- Intensify skills development of staff of the LGS.

Environmental Health and Sanitation Unit

829. Madam Speaker, the Unit will develop comprehensive measures to improve the Waste Management System and practices. The Unit will also pursue the following activities in the year:

- Develop National Environmental Sanitation Strategy and Action Plan and facilitate the preparation of District Environmental Sanitation Strategy and Action Plans;
- Organize the annual review meeting on Sanitation for key sector players and stakeholders and undertake Public awareness and sensitization programme on the revised policy; and
- Celebrate Annual Sanitation Week in September.

Births and Deaths Registry

830. Madam Speaker, the Registry will scale up the registration of births and deaths country wide in a bid to move the registration coverage to 75 per cent for births and 35 per cent for deaths. Some of the Regional Offices will be automated to facilitate the capture and transfer of information for the production of certificates with enhanced security features.
831. Madam Speaker, the registry will collaborate with the Ghana Health Service by participating in the annual Child Health Promotion Week and Integrated Maternal and Child Health campaigns in the bid to raise the coverage of infant birth registration and expand the Community Population Register programme to 20 new communities in 2 additional Regions

Department of Community Development (DCD)

832. Madam Speaker, in pursuit of its mandate to facilitate the mobilization and use of available local and external resources for improved living standards among communities in Ghana, the Department will provide training in entrepreneurial skills and business development plans for 1,000 final year students all over the country, train 6,000 youth in vocational and technical skill, organize HIV/AIDS seminars for 600 core staff and peer educators and sensitize 4000 students on gender and early childhood development

Department of Parks and Gardens

833. Madam Speaker, the Department of Parks and Gardens will undertake the following programmes:
- Concentrate on the conservation of threatened plants and restoration of plant diversity as well as communicating the importance of plant diversity under the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation Programme;
 - Initiate programmes to identify threatened economic and ornamental plants for multiplication and conservation and promote public education on their conservation and importance of plants for survival;
 - Pursue actions to combat the effects of global warming by promoting a National Tree Planting Campaign involving all stakeholders;
 - Collaborate with the Botany Department of the University of Ghana and other stakeholders to document our flora and fauna and further develop and maintain a national information facility for sharing digital biodiversity data; and
 - Promote landscape beautification of the built and natural environment and collaborate with MMDAs to develop programmes for floral beautification of cities and towns and acquire lands to establish public parks to promote eco-tourism to generate revenue for Assemblies and jobs for the youth.

Ghana School Feeding Programme (GSFP)

834. Madam Speaker, the Programme will continue in 2009 with the aim of attaining the key objectives of contributing to poverty reduction and improving food security in deprived communities in the country. The current strategies will however be reviewed to provide better targeting, efficiency and effectiveness to ensure a better delivery of the programme and also to reduce

the irregularities in the distribution of beneficiary pupils and schools.

835. For the implementation of the above activities, an amount of GH ₵179,102,552 has been allocated. Out of this, GoG is GH ₵46,620,153 Donor is GH ₵81,055,400 HIPC is GH ₵41,427,000 and MDRI is GH ₵10,000,000.

Office of Parliament

836. Madam Speaker, the noble mandate of Parliament is to perform legislative, oversight, deliberative, financial and regulatory functions in deepening of democracy, good governance and sound economic development.

Performance in 2008

837. Madam Speaker, the following major achievements were recorded during the year under review.

Sittings of Parliament

838. Parliament had a total of 149 Sittings and 320 Committee Sittings including Sittings of the Appointment Committee to consider Government nominees for Ministerial Appointments and Judges of Superior Court of Judicature. There were also a number of Town Hall meetings within Ghana and outside the country.
839. Four Parliamentary Resource Centres were also established as part of the program to bring Parliament closer to the public. Parliament was also represented at the highest level in a number of international fora.
840. Madam Speaker, as part of the business of the house during the year 146 Papers were laid and considered. These include 12 Bills, 43 Legislative Instruments, 63 Reports and 28 International and National Agreements.

Infrastructural Developments

841. Madam Speaker, a number of Infrastructural Developments were undertaken to improve the working conditions of Parliament. These included:
- Completion of the first phase of the conversion of the GNTC Block of flats into Committee rooms to provide among others

useable spaces and Committee rooms for use by Parliament;
and

- Construction of 3-storey office complex and renovation work on the Chamber Block is almost complete.

Training Development

842. Functional Training was provided to upgrade the knowledge and skills of Parliamentary Service Staff in a number of key areas including Good Governance and Development, Information, Communication Technology, Effective communication, Modernising of the Human Resource Function, Financial Management and Budgeting. A number of MPs also undertook internship and benchmarking programmes outside the country.

Outlook for 2009

843. Madam Speaker, Parliament will continue to perform its Legislative and Oversight responsibilities by undertaking the following activities:
- Continue to hold Plenary and Committee Sitzings to deliver on its Legislative functions;
 - Participate in Overseas Conferences and Seminars (i.e. CPA Inter, CPA Africa, ACPEU, NNCSL, IPU, APU, AU, ECOWAS) as well as pay Subscriptions to International Affiliated Bodies;
 - Rehabilitate and refurbish the Speaker's Block and complete the construction of the 3-storey Office complex as well as commence the second phase of the renovation works on the GNTC Block of Flats;
 - Procure Vehicles and Office Equipment for Committee activities and the Parliamentary Service;

- Continue rehabilitation work on the conversion of the Tower Block (Job 600) into offices for MPs;
- Rehabilitate the Chamber Block and computerize the Chamber to digitise the production of the daily Hansard;
- Initiate the process for the establishment of 230 constituency and six Parliamentary resource centers; and
- Host the CWP/CPA sub regional conference during the year.

844. For the implementation of the above activities, an amount of GH¢29,726,273 has been allocated.

Ministry of the Interior

845. Madam Speaker, the Ministry of the Interior seeks to ensure the maintenance of peace, security and stability for accelerated socio-economic development.

Performance in 2008

846. Madam Speaker, within the year under review, the ministry strengthened the effective monitoring of the activities of the Private Security Organizations (PSOs) by firmly establishing a Supervisory Board for PSOs. A draft Strategic Plan for 2009-2011 on Policies for Migration and Work Permit was formulated and consolidated the roles and operations of the Peace Building Support Unit and National Peace Council.

National Peace Council

847. The Council organised a forum with the stakeholders (TUC, GJA, NCCE, NUGS, the Judiciary and the Legislature) on the Council's vision and mission of creating a peaceful atmosphere for the development of the country. In addition, the Council further organized Workshops on Conflict Transformation for Political Parties and undertook various conflict mediation activities

Ghana National Commission on Small Arms (GNACSA)

848. The Commission actively participated in the ECOWAS Sub-Regional Small Arms and Light Weapons Survey Methodology Harmonisation Training Workshop, as well as the UN Conference on the Ban of Cluster Munitions in Dublin

Ghana Police Service

849. Madam Speaker, the Ghana Police Service undertook the following activities:
- Increased recruitment of University Graduates and the enlistment of senior high school graduates;

- Trained 300 Ghanaian Youth and equipped them with skills under the National Youth Employment Programme (NYEP);
- Provided adequate logistics to aid the police to effectively patrol most of the crime prone areas within the country and supplied personnel with new set of uniforms and boots;
- Provided adequate security for both foreign and local dignitaries who attended the UNCTAD and CAN 2008 African Cup of Nations tournament;
- Procured 269 new vehicles to enhance the activities of the Service; and
- Created new Divisions and Districts Police Stations in various parts of the country following the creation of new Districts by the Government.

Ghana Prisons Service

850. Madam Speaker, as part of efforts to improve living conditions of Prisoners' the daily feeding rate was increased from 40Gp to 60Gp. In addition, work on the Ankaful Maximum Security Prison is almost completed. This is to add to the program to ease congestion in walled prisons. Other activities undertaken include the following:

- The Introduction of Information Communication Technology (ICT) and formal educational programmes in some selected prisons and the Justice for All Programme to address the problem of untried prisoners;
- The Registration of inmates, officers and their dependants under the National Health Insurance Scheme; and
- The Acquisition of industrial equipment to enrich the quality of training of the affected inmates.

Ghana National Fire Service

851. Madam Speaker, the Ghana National Fire Service undertook the following activities:
- Attended to 3,012 fire outbreaks and effectively saved a number of properties;
 - Established a Road Traffic Collision Unit as an integral part of the Service's Core duties;
 - Acquired fire fighting Jackets, extinguishers and other fire fighting accessories to enhance operational efficiency and effectiveness;
 - Organized Radio and TV programmes on community and market place fire safety education and fire safety talks for organization and institutions on how to handle victims during emergency situations; and
 - Issued 437 and 152 Fire Safety Certificates and Renewals respectively and trained 647 recruits, 5,870 Fire Fighting Volunteers and 120 Servicing Officers in ICT

Ghana Immigration Service

852. Madam Speaker, the Service employed 750 persons to enhance the country's border control and security system Highlights of some of the programs are:
- arrested and repatriated 63 foreign nationals and 24 foreign nationals working without work permit and GIS authorization through increased surveillance, intensive monitoring and investigation activities and company inspections;
 - the Refusal of entry to 88 foreign nationals into the country ;

- the Interception of the trafficking of 17 persons across the territorial boundaries of the country; and
- the processing at various entry points 464 Ghanaians deported from various countries.

National Disaster Management Organisation [NADMO]

853. Madam Speaker, NADMO undertook the following activities during the year under review:

- Trained 233 personnel including 20 Regional Co-coordinators and Operations Officers in disaster management and conflict resolution;
- Undertook countrywide public education on flooding and windstorms in six major Ghanaian and English languages through radio and television. As part of the celebrations of the International Civil Defence Day, NADMO organised press conferences, floats and durbars to create awareness for workers about reducing risk at their workplaces;
- Collaborated with other stakeholders to mitigate the effect of flood disaster in the three Northern Regions and other parts of the country and conducted constant surveillance on conflict situations, floods and landslides, mining hazards and slums;
- Promoted the establishment of woodlots in 10 communities in the three northern regions to reduce the occurrence of disasters and continued the promotion of iodated salt in 10 salt producing Districts; and
- Supported the national effort at minimising workplace discriminations and stigmatization of HIV/AIDS patients in the Western Region with support from the Ghana Aids Commission.

Narcotics Control Board (NACOB)

854. Madam Speaker, the Board undertook the following activities during the year:

- Established two Inter Agency Committees for Demand Reduction and Enforcement and Control to share experiences and intelligence to map out strategies to fight against the drug menace;
- Intensified surveillance at the Kotoka International Airport and other entry points of the country to reduce drug trafficking, resulting in 63 arrests and seizures of narcotic drugs;
- Carried out educational and sensitization programmes in basic and second cycle institutions and churches, in the Greater Accra Region to bring the awareness of the dangers of drug abuse to the youth;
- Held Radio and Television talk show programmes in Greater Accra and Northern Regions to increase awareness of the dangers of drug abuse; and
- Visited a number of rehabilitation centres to counsel the inmates on the effects of drug abuse.

Outlook for 2009

855. Madam Speaker, the Ghana Police Service will implement measures to ensure adequate protection of life and property. Adequate logistics will be provided to facilitate effective and efficient crime prevention and detection. ICT will be introduced as a key instrument to improve on our data collection and management systems. Serious efforts will be made in scaling up inner city, town and highway patrols. Rapid Response Units will be engineered and equipped to deliver better services.

856. Madam Speaker, a review of the current recruitment processes and procedures, will be undertaken. Training will also be provided to our service personnel focusing on strength, integrity and general improvements in our service.

857. We will ensure the safety and security of every Ghanaian so that they can undertake their business activity and live in a safe and secure community. More personnel will be trained in Community policing and we will revive and support the neighborhood watch dog committees. New Divisional and District Offices will be established to ensure better policing of our communities.
858. Madam Speaker, in addition efforts will be made to strengthen disaster prevention, regulate and monitor the entry, stay and exit of nationals of all countries as well as the development of a highly efficient and humane custodial and reformatory system
859. Madam Speaker, to ensure the peaceful coexistence, the National Peace Council will scale up capacity building programmes on conflict management, resolution, prevention and transformation through the organization of conflict sensitive reporting workshops for journalists.
860. Madam Speaker, Government will collaborate with our neighboring countries in the ECOWAS member countries in addressing proliferation of small arms in West Africa and establish a national computerized database on small arms. Programmes will be implemented to provide alternative livelihood for local arms manufacturers thereby fulfilling the objectives of the National Programme of Action on Small Arms.
861. Madam Speaker, Ghana National Fire Service will begin the construction of 100 housing units for officers of the Ghana Prison Service at Ankafu and continue the extension work to Prisons Headquarters building as well as link all Prison establishments to Prisons Headquarters through ICT . The Nsawam Medium Security prison will be rehabilitated and training will be conducted for different categories of officers to improve the prison service.
862. Madam Speaker, Government will improve fire fighting capabilities of the Fire Service by having constant in-service

training, simulation exercises and replenish fire combat stock and procure other fire fighting equipments and materials.

863. Madam Speaker, the Ghana Immigration Service will continue to strengthen the management system and modernize infrastructural and Technological capacities at the country's border controls. Intelligence operations will also be expanded and fraud detection facilities will be improved.
864. Madam Speaker we will undertake regular performance evaluation of the enhanced border security system and create awareness to curb the menace of human trafficking and Strengthen Disaster Prevention and Response Mechanisms.
865. Madam Speaker, NACOB will be restructured to respond to the challenging demand of the current drug problems in the country. The Board will intensify its preventive and educational programmes through educational tours and sensitization programmes targeting the general public especially schools, churches, mosques and transport associations.
866. This will be undertaken through the formation of Drug-Free Clubs in second cycle schools and organisation trainer of trainer's workshop for School Health Educational Programme coordinators of the Ghana Education Service. There will be efforts to strengthen the sharing of intelligence within the West Africa sub-region under the Global Container Project at the Tema Harbour. Arrangements have been made to decentralize three regional offices namely; Kumasi, Takoradi and Tamale as well as open offices at the two hotspots areas (Aflao and Elubo) and equip the offices with personnel, computers, vehicles and other equipment
867. For the implementation of the above activities, an amount of GH¢157,223,942 has been allocated. Out of this, GoG is GH¢153,971,312 and IGF is GH¢3,252,630.l

Judicial Service

868. Madam Speaker, the Judicial Service seeks among others to promote the Rule of Law, Transparency, Efficiency and Speedy Administration of justice. This is to qualitatively improve access to Justice especially to the vulnerable and the excluded and in the improvement of the public image and confidence in the Service.

Performance in 2008

869. Madam Speaker, the main issues addressed were the implementation of the infrastructural development programmes as a means of improving access to justice. To this end the following projects were completed and commissioned:

- The New Administration Block in Accra;
- The Financial Tribunal Investment Related and Land Courts in Accra;
- The Kumasi Court of Appeal Complex;
- Construction of fence wall around the Tamale High Court;
- Rehabilitation of the Circuit Court Judge's Bungalow at Techiman;
- Construction of the Wa Courts Complex; and
- Procurement of equipment including computers for the newly completed Financial Tribunal and Investment Related land Court in Accra.

870. Madam Speaker, in addition to the infrastructural development, the Service also embarked upon human capacity building to enhance the legal service delivery and extension of the application of information and communication technology in the Service.

Outlook for 2009

871. Madam Speaker, the Government is committed to providing speedy and equitable justice to all. In connection with that, the strategies identified by the legal sector improvement

programme, namely, human capacity building, enhanced legal service delivery and extension of the application of technology in the Service will be provided to all personnel of the different levels of the justice system. A significant number of Magistrate Courts will be automated while the construction of the Wa Courts Complex procurement of equipment for Courts in Accra, Tema and Kumasi would be completed.

872. Seminars will be organized for Judges and Magistrates on Sentencing, Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) and Civil procedure rules for Registrars. The construction of the complex of Courts to take care of the Financial Administration Tribunal and other economic related Courts and Land Courts in Accra will be expedited.
873. For the implementation of the above activities, an amount of GH ₵32,720,762 has been allocated. Out of this, GoG is GH ₵31,837,118 and IGF is GH ₵883,644

Public Services Commission

874. Madam Speaker, the Government through the Public Service Commission (PSC) will implement measures to safeguard and promote integrity, accountability and competence in public service organisations in Ghana, through advisory, consultative, regulatory and supervisory services.

Performance in 2008

875. Madam Speaker, databank on human resources in the Public Services was initiated. Guidelines on specific human resource management issues for effective management of Public Service Institutions were completed.

Outlook for 2009

876. Madam Speaker, the Commission will focus on its statutory functions to enhance service delivery to client organisations and the general public. In that regard briefing and orientation workshop for New Government Ministers and Presidential Aides on Public Services processes, procedures and practices will be organized. Also, seminars on corporate governance for governing boards of client organizations of the Commission will be organized.
877. The Commission will develop and implement a performance management system for public institutions and selected agencies as well as establish public sector human resource performance improvement benchmarking and assessment procedures. A Workshop to introduce more efficient personnel performance appraisal system in the public service and develop new institutional performance management instrument will also be organized.
878. For the implementation of the above activities, an amount of GH¢1,895,727 has been allocated.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation

879. Madam Speaker, the Ministry is the principal organ of state responsible for the management of Ghana's foreign policy.

Performance in 2008

880. Madam Speaker, the Ministry coordinated efforts by Ghana to successfully host the following major international conferences:

- UNCTAD XII Conference;
- The 6th ACP Summit of the ACP Heads of State and Government;
- Second Session of the AU Conference of Ministers in Charge of Sports; and
- Third Session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long Term Cooperative Action under the Convention and the Sixth Session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol.

New Missions Abroad

881. Madam Speaker, to strengthen and enhance Ghana's presence in, and promote stronger economic cooperation with East Africa, the Gulf Region and elsewhere, the Ministry has re-opened our diplomatic missions in Lusaka (Zambia), Nairobi (Kenya), Tehran (Iran), and opened a new one in Dublin (Ireland). In order to enhance bilateral relations with Switzerland effectively, the Mission's outpost in Bern (Switzerland) has been upgraded to its former status as a full diplomatic mission with a resident Ambassador. Our Consulate in Lagos, Nigeria has also been upgraded to the status of a Consulate-General.

African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)

882. Madam Speaker, the National APRM Governing Council engaged in capacity building for the National Commission on Civic

Education (NCCE) and Civil Leaders in all the ten regions of Ghana to provide the outcome objectives for the nation.

883. During the year, there was an official inauguration of 100 additional District APRM Oversight Committee to assist in the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Programme of Action (PoA) of the APRM.

Outlook for 2009

884. Madam Speaker, the Government will pursue policies and programmes aimed at optimizing the benefits that will accrue to the country as we engage with the international community, while promoting and protecting the interest of Ghana.
885. In this regard, the Ministry will seek to establish a just and equitable international economic and social order, through a robust pursuit of economic diplomacy, respect for international law, treaty obligations and the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means in collaboration with other countries and the appropriate international organizations.
886. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will also work towards enhancing the image of Ghana at home and abroad, including sponsoring Ghana/Ghanaians as candidate(s) in international organizations. The Ministry will further initiate programmes to make ICT a functional tool, with the relevant training for all officers to perform administrative functions on-line (e-Administration project), as well as allow the Ministry to communicate with all its Missions abroad via the internet and make it possible for visas and other consular functions to be done on-line (e-Consul).

Biometric Passports and Electronic Visas

887. Madam Speaker, to avoid the high incidence of fraud in the acquisition of passports and visas and also to improve efficiency in the delivery of services and meet International Civil Aviation Organization standards, the Ministry will introduce biometric passports and electronic visas during the year.

888. Madam Speaker, the NAPRM-GC also translated the Ghana country Review Report into easy to read English version and six major Ghanaian languages namely, Akan, Ga, Ewe, Huasa, Dagbani and Dagari.

African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)

889. Madam Speaker, to increase broad-based participation of civil society in the APRM, the Governing council will inaugurate and build the capacity of the District APRM Oversight Committees nationwide to educate and sensitize the people in the APRM and monitor and evaluate the implementation of the National Programme of Action (NPoA) to foster good governance in Ghana.
890. Madam Speaker, the NAPRM-GC will enhance independent monitoring of the implementation of the NPoA by four Technical institutions namely Private Enterprise Foundation (PEF), Centre for Policy Analysis (CEPA), Centre for Democratic Development (CDD) and the Institute for Social Statistical and Economic Research (ISSER).
891. For the implementation of the above activities, an amount of GH ₵73,108,536 has been allocated. Out of this, GoG is GH ₵67,426, 526 and IGF is GH ₵5,682,010.

Audit Service

892. Madam Speaker, the Ghana Audit Service is an independent organisation constitutionally mandated to promote good governance through its audits to ensure transparency, probity and accountability, in the utilisation of public funds.

Performance in 2008

893. Madam Speaker, the Audit Service completed 3,602 audits representing 53.3 per cent of 6,780 earmarked for 2008. These consisted accounts of Central Government Ministries, Department and Agencies (MDAs), District Assemblies, Pre-University Educational Institutions, Public Boards and Corporations. Five Auditor-General's Annual Reports have also been submitted to Parliament.
894. Madam Speaker, the Service also completed and submitted eight performance audit reports to Parliament, Reviewed Government payroll and vetted salary arrears of subvented organizations

Outlook for 2009

895. Madam Speaker, the Service will continue to audit the Central Government Accounts, Ministries, Department and Agencies (MDAs), District Assemblies, Pre-University Educational Institutions, Public Boards and Corporations in the country and issue the Auditor-General's Annual Reports to Parliament.
896. Madam Speaker, the Service's activities during the year will include the conduct of procurement audit in accordance with the Public Procurement Act, 2003, Act 664, conduct the audit of the National Health Insurance Scheme Fund, the District Assemblies Common Fund and the Millennium Development Authority (MiDA).
897. For the implementation of the above activities, an amount of GH ₵24,904,054 has been allocated.

Ministry of Justice and Attorney General's Department

898. Madam Speaker, the Ministry of Justice and Attorney-General's Department is responsible generally for legal matters in relation to the exercise of the Executive and Legislative Powers of the State and rendering legal advice in relation to legislation and the drafting of legislation to give effect to policy decisions taken by Government.

Performance in 2008

899. Madam Speaker, the Ministry and its Departments and Agencies made some progress aimed at achieving some of the targets set for the year 2008. These include, the development of an Annual Work Plan (AWP) to engender change in five key areas namely Attitudinal, Infrastructural, Technological, Personnel and Institutional aimed at improving the image of the Attorney-General's Department and access to Justice and undertook a Justice For All programme which has so far offered prisoners on remand as well as those who may have found themselves there by reason of miscarriage of justice further access to justice at no cost
900. Madam Speaker, the Registrar General's Department has captured information on 95 per cent of all registered businesses in the Departments database thereby reducing the search of business information to just about 30 seconds. The Department has also built an ultra modern front office where all forms of business registration are undertaken.
901. Madam Speaker, the Department as part of its decentralization programme has finished the refurbishment of an office block in Tamale to start business registration in the northern sector of the country. This brings to three the total number of regional offices so far opened by the Department, including the Kumasi and Sekondi regional offices.
902. Madam Speaker, the General Legal Council enrolled and called to the Ghana Bar 136 Lawyers. The Council's Disciplinary

Committee disposed off 15 out of 32 complaints of professional misconduct against Lawyers.

903. Madam Speaker, the Office of the Legal Aid Scheme resolved 60 per cent of 7,500 approved cases nation-wide and established twenty-three Community Mediation Centers (CMCs). The Scheme also trained forty community mediators and continued with the public education and awareness creation.
904. Madam Speaker, the Law Reform Commission in pursuit of the Mineral's and Mining Law, conducted a research in mining areas in the Western, Brong-Ahafo and Ashanti Regions. In addition the Final reports on recommendations for the review of the Rent Act, 1963 (Act 220) is before the Rent Review Committee. The Restorative Justice & Alternatives to Custodial Sentencing is also before the Research and Policy Committee.
905. Madam Speaker, the Serious Fraud Office investigated 44 reported fraud cases during the year. The Office as part of its capacity building programme trained ten officers locally while one staff attended overseas workshop. In addition two zonal office buildings were completed and furnished.
906. Madam Speaker, the Copyright Office through the established Monitoring Team carried out a number of anti piracy exercises throughout the country. The Office also disposed of five piracy cases out of the eight brought before it.

Outlook for 2009

907. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will focus on actions aimed at further strengthening the promotion of the Rule of Law and also respect for human rights and good governance. To this end the Ministry will complete the computerization of Attorney General's Department and its Regional offices and provide adequate infrastructure and logistics as well as train legal and non legal staff in specialized fields such as oil and gas law in anticipation of issues in the country's oil industry. The Ministry as part of the business law reform project will complete the review of the

Companies Act, 1963 (Act 179) to help improve the ease of doing business in Ghana. The Ministry will also examine the way forward for the separation of the functions between the Minister of Justice and the Attorney –General.

908. Madam Speaker, the Serious Fraud Office will investigate at least 70 per cent of all reported cases, complete the construction of head office building and train key staff to enhance service delivery.
909. Madam Speaker, the Registrar Generals Department will complete the records computerization programme and establish network facilities to ensure constant inter connectivity between head office and the regional offices and operationalise the Tamale office. The Department will also embark on inspection of businesses aimed at improving the business environment in the country and also raise Ghana's global classification of doing business. The Department will also reduce further the time for registering a Limited Liability Company from 7 working days to 5 days and business name from 5 days to 3 days.
910. For the implementation of the above activities, an amount of GH¢15,006,817 has been allocated. Out of this, GoG is GH¢13,623,971 IGF is GH ¢1,374,900 and Donor is GH ¢7,946.

Ministry of Defence (MOD)

911. Madam Speaker, the Ministry continued to develop a highly professional, effective, efficient and politically neutral Armed Forces which is subject to democratic control and capable of protecting by land, sea and air, the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ghana against external aggression.

Performance in 2008

912. The MOD was able to carry out most of its planned activities which include the following:

National Defence

913. Madam Speaker, the Ministry through the Ghana Army, Navy and Air Force conducted planned and emergency land, sea and air exercises to enhance its combat readiness to deter any external aggression. In addition, the Navy and Air Force conducted sea and air patrols in Ghana's territorial waters which led to arrest of some fishing vessels engaged in illegal pair trawling in the country's territorial waters.

Re-equipping the Ghana Armed Forces

914. Madam Speaker, the Government of Ghana secured a loan to procure two Naval Ships and one Helicopter to improve the combat readiness of the military. To improve upon the capacity of the communication squadron of the Ghana Air Force, Parliamentary approval was secured for the procurement of 1 FALCON, 1 Air Bus and 2 MA60 Transport.

Human Resource Development

915. Madam Speaker, the Ghana Armed Forces continued to develop its human resource capacity by conducting middle level management training in its own local military institutions and civil tertiary institutions. About 88 Officer Cadets were commissioned whilst 1,000 young men and women were recruited into the GAF.

MOD New Office Complex

916. Madam Speaker, a new ultra-modern office complex was completed. The complex was funded partly with a grant and matching fund provided by the Government of Ghana from peacekeeping earnings.

Ghana Armed Forces Housing Projects

917. Work is far advanced on the construction of eighteen four-storey blocks of sixteen flats each for 288 families utilizing the US\$20 million SSNIT loan. Satisfactory progress was made on the rehabilitation of 43 housing units and office accommodation from budgetary resources. These are aimed at easing the accommodation difficulties facing the personnel of the GAF.

External Peacekeeping Operations

918. The GAF provided about 5,000 troops for UN and AU Peacekeeping Operations in Liberia, DR Congo, Lebanon, La Cote d'Ivoire and Sudan. A US\$60 million loan facility was sourced to procure equipment for GAF troops. This is aimed at enhancing the operational effectiveness of the troops and the earnings from the UN peacekeeping operations to service the loan facility.

Outlook for 2009

919. Madam Speaker, with the view to combating armed robbery, smuggling of cocaine and petroleum products across the borders, internal peacekeeping operations in the northern parts of Ghana, environmental abuses such as illegal felling of timber and flushing out of alien herdsmen, the Ministry will continue to assist Civil Authorities in their internal operations. Other major activities earmarked for the year include the following:
- Conduct intensive sea and air patrols in the country's territorial waters especially the fishery grounds and oil prospecting fields;

- Repair and maintain Infantry Fighting Vehicles (IFVs) procure soft-skin vehicles and combat equipment;
- Repair, dock and maintain naval ships as well as refurbish and maintain Ghana Air Force aircraft;
- Improve human resource capacity of GAF personnel to improve their effectiveness in national security matters;
- Fully equip and deploy personnel of all Ranks in Internal and External peacekeeping operations; and
- Continue with GAF Housing and office accommodation projects.

920. For the implementation of the above activities, an amount of GH ₵159,015,198 has been allocated. Out of this, GoG is GH ₵156,568,605 and IGF is GH ₵2,446,593 .

The Electoral Commission

921. Madam Speaker, the Commission has the mission of advancing the course of Democracy and Good Governance for enhanced development of Ghana by institutionalizing free, fair and transparent elections to the acceptance of all stake holders.

Performance in 2008

922. Madam Speaker, the Commission's main focus area for 2008 was the conduct of the Presidential and Parliamentary Elections held in December 2008. The main activities undertaken include the following:
- Revised the Voters' Register to include all eligible Voters who for one reason or the other did not have their names in the voters register;
 - Exhibited the voters' register;
 - Successfully conducted the Presidential and Parliamentary Elections with the Presidential election stretching into a run-off on December 28th 2008; and
 - Continued with the construction of its Greater Accra Regional Offices and National stores complex.

Outlook for 2009

923. Madam Speaker, the Commission will undertake the following activities in the year:
- Conduct all by-elections that may come up in the course of the year;
 - Sensitize stakeholders on the electoral process in general and the need for them to participate in the 2010 District Assembly elections;
 - Complete the recruitment of Electoral officers and other staff for the newly created Districts;
 - Continue training of staff at GIMPA and also at the Intermediate level of the AAEA's Professional Election Administrators programme; and

- Complete the construction of the Greater Accra Regional Offices and National Stores Complex and four District Offices.

924. For the implementation of the above activities, an amount of GH ₵7,091,990 has been allocated.

Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ)

925. Madam Speaker, the mandate of the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice includes investigating complaints of violations of fundamental human rights and freedoms, administrative injustice, all instances of alleged or suspected corruption, misappropriation of public monies by officials, breaches of Code of conduct for public officials and educating the public on their fundamental human rights and freedoms, in order to create a free, just and equitable society.

Performance in 2008

Anti-Corruption

926. Madam Speaker, the Commission organized capacity building workshop on Conflict of Interest for public officials in the Greater Accra Region. Thirty-three participants including 28 District Directors of the Commission benefited from the training. It also trained selected staff from the Registry, Accounts and Audit Sections. Lawyers, Directors and Tender Committee Members also benefited from the training.
927. The Commission also held a roundtable discussion on Whistleblowers Act 720 (2006) on challenges of its implementation for 45 representatives drawn from the Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition, Internal Audit Agency Board, Public Procurement Board, National Security, Serious Fraud Office, and other investigative bodies. Capacity building on investigating corruption was also organized for 40 Anti-Corruption Officers, Regional Directors and focal persons.

Legal and Investigations

928. Madam Speaker, the Commission organized a workshop on sexual harassment, Gender Mainstreaming and Conflict Resolution for Investigators and Legal Officers. A draft Case Handling manual was also prepared to facilitate complaint

procedure for effective service delivery. In addition, some members of Staff benefited from training in Investigative Skills, Investigative Report Writing, Adjudication, Decision writing and Gender Audit. Furthermore, uniform indicators were established and used to monitor the State of Human Rights nationwide.

Outlook for 2009

929. Madam Speaker, the Commission will implement the following programmes to achieve its objectives for the year:

Anti-Corruption

930. Madam Speaker, the anticorruption units of the Commission will be strengthened through training programme on corruption investigation and prevention of corruption for officers of the Unit. In addition, awareness creation on conflict of Interest and the consequences of corruption in District Assemblies and MDA's will be undertaken.
931. Madam Speaker, the Commission will in 2009 publish a Code of Conduct for public officers and also facilitate action intended to enable public officers declare their assets. This policy is to enable the general public to hold public office holders accountable.

Human Rights

932. Madam Speaker, the Commission will draw up a programme to improve the state of human rights in the country, empower the public to respect, defend and promote human rights values. It will also report on the state of Human Rights situation in Ghana.
933. For the implementation of the above activities, an amount of GH ₵4,206,832 has been allocated.

Ministry of Chieftaincy and Culture

934. Madam Speaker, the Ministry is charged with the responsibility to preserve, sustain and integrate the legal, traditional and cultural values and practices to accelerate wealth creation and harmony towards overall national development objectives.

Performance in 2008

Public Education

935. Madam Speaker, to educate the public about chieftaincy and culture issues the Ministry has established a website: www.ghanaculture.gov.gh. A Database on National cultural assets for 10 districts has also been completed.
936. The Ministry also prepared a review of language guides in the production of books. In this regard language guides for 11 Ghanaian languages have been typeset and are ready for printing.

Codification of customary laws

937. Madam Speaker, 20 traditional areas in the 10 regions of Ghana have been selected as pilots for the codification of customary law relating to land and family. Enumerators are currently in the field collecting data for analysis.

Harmonization of Various Religious Bodies to Co-Exist In Peace

938. Madam Speaker, the Ministry organized a meeting for 150 participants from various religious bodies (Christians, Moslems, Traditional Religions, Eckankar, etc.) with the aim of promoting peace and harmony in the country especially during the coming elections. Each of the groups presented a peace message.

Implementation of national and international obligations

939. The Ministry participated in these events:
- CUBADISCO Musical Festival in Havana, Cuba under cultural programme;
 - A Kente Exhibition at the Wemilere Festival in Havana Cuba;
 - African Cultural Music and Dance Festival in South Africa;
 - Conference of African Ministers of Culture in Algeria;
 - Round Table Conference in Cultural Policy and Implementation of Cultural Exchange Programmes between African countries in Beijing, China; and
 - A durbar of Chiefs attended by 23 paramount Chiefs and 10 Queen mothers to showcase our rich cultural heritage as part of the ACP conference organized in Accra in October 2008.
940. Madam Speaker, as part of its coordination responsibility, the Ministry toured all the regions and interacted with the chiefs, regional and district centres of culture.

Outlook for 2009

941. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will initiate appropriate action to provide legal and regulatory framework for promoting the creative art and protecting intellectual property rights. In addition, awareness creation, laws and regulations pertaining to these rights will be effectively enforced and supervised. Furthermore, opportunities for the development of the relevant human resources will be provided.
942. Madam Speaker, in view of the dual allegiance that our indigenous society owe to Government and our traditional authorities, the Ministry in collaboration with the Assemblies will organize capacity building workshops to disseminate Government policies in governance for traditional rulers to enable them appreciate their role in patterning Government to realize its objective in conflict resolution, agriculture, public

security, infrastructure development, health, sanitation and education.

943. For the implementation of the above activities, an amount of GH ₵13,190,099 has been allocated. Out of this, GoG is GH ₵11,584,106 IGF is GH ₵1,414,340 and Donor is GH ₵191,652 .

Ministry of Information

944. Madam Speaker, the Ministry seeks to ensure a free, united, informed and prosperous society with good governance through Development Communication (DevCom).

Performance in 2008

945. Madam Speaker, the Ministry undertook the following activities:
- Organised the National Peoples' Assembly at Takoradi and followed it up with Regional and District Peoples' Assemblies throughout the Country;
 - Organised 30 weekly "Meet the Press series for MDAs;
 - Opened 17 new District Offices for Information Services Department (ISD);
 - Published feature articles on Government Policies and Programmes – "Now and Then" depicting Government achievements throughout the country;
 - Produced docu-dramas depicting achievements of the government's periodic media interactions with media houses known as "Media walk about"; and
 - Continued the rehabilitation of GBC radio and TV studios.

Outlook for 2009

946. Madam Speaker, Government will ensure free flow of relevant information in pursuance of open Government policy. To achieve this set objective the Ministry will undertake the following activities:
- Embark on information and education campaign to avert any tension and post election violence;
 - Educate the public on the policies and programmes of the new government;
 - Cover adequately all public events including Parliamentary Public hearing;
 - Embark on vigorous Regional tours, media interaction, radio and foreign assignments with politicians; and

- Set up three foreign desks to market Ghana and a DevCom Centre in the Ministry.

947. For the implementation of the above activities, an amount of GH ₵41,255,208 has been allocated. Out of this, GoG is GH ₵15,027,100 IGF is GH ₵15,435,086 and Donor is GH ₵10,793,022.

National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE)

948. Madam Speaker, NCCE the main responsibility of the Commission is to educate the populace on their civic rights and responsibilities in order to empower them to participate meaningfully in the democratic process.

Performance in 2008

949. Madam Speaker, in the year under review the Commission successfully undertook the following activities:

- Celebrated 15 years of the life of the 1992 Constitution by organising the Annual Constitution Week under the theme "The Sovereign Will of the People";
- Intensified Civic Education Club activities in Senior High Schools on Project Citizen Strategy nationwide and sensitised the Public on child labour in selected districts; and
- Conducted research on the concerns of the voter as a tool to inform political parties' policy direction, for the 2008 Parliamentary and Presidential Elections as well as intensified and expanded sensitization of the citizenry for a peaceful and violence free elections.

Outlook for 2009

950. Madam Speaker, the Commission will continue to pursue its mandate by undertaking the following activities:-

- Increase advocacy for the introduction of "Civics for Democracy" in the educational curriculum and strengthen civic classes, clubs and centres in all districts as well as targeting civic education for the vulnerable and socially excluded;
- Create constitutional awareness through annual Constitution Week Celebration;
- Deepen the Social Audit Programme, aimed at educating the Public on its rights, responsibilities and powers to hold both

- elected and non-elected public office holders and providers accountable, particularly at the district level of governance;
- Strengthen partnership with the Public and Private Media and Religious bodies to promote civic responsibility, accountability and national unity nationwide; and
- Develop programmes aimed at educating citizenry on harmful customary practices and discrimination against women.

951. For the implementation of the above activities, an amount of GH ₵5,044,605 has been allocated.

National Development Planning Commission

952. Madam Speaker, the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC) is to advise the President on national development planning policy and strategy, to prepare and ensure the effective implementation of approved national development plans and to co-ordinate the decentralised planning system.

Performance in 2008

953. Madam Speaker, major activities undertaken during the year include the following:

National Long-Term Development Plan

954. Extensive nationwide public consultations and dialogue on the zero draft National Long Term Development Plan was held in Tamale, Accra, Kumasi, Takoradi, Elmina, Ho and Ada for 1,040 participants. The consultations covered the following: Modernising Agriculture, Human Capital for Socio-Economic Transformation, Human Settlements, Industrial Development and Financing.

Conducting GPRS II Citizens Assessment

955. Madam Speaker, the NDPC, in collaboration with Ghana Statistical Service is conducting GPRS II Citizens Assessment on the National Health Insurance Scheme. To this end data was collected and is being analysed.

Monitoring and Evaluation

956. Madam Speaker, the District M&E Guidelines as well as Sector M&E Guidelines were peer reviewed. This was followed by technical orientation programmes for both district and sector plan preparation teams. In addition, draft M&E manuals were reviewed to facilitate M&E at the district and sector levels.

Annual Progress Report

957. Madam Speaker, as the main tool for tracking progress of implementing GPRS II, the 2007 Annual Progress Report (APR) was prepared and distributed to MDAs, MMDAs, the private sector and the general public at large.

Co-ordination of Sector Policies and Programmes

958. Madam Speaker, an exercise to harmonise District Medium-Term Development Plans under the GPRS II 2006-2009 took place in the 10 Regional capitals. Participants were drawn from District Planning Coordinating Units of the District Assemblies and the Regional Planning Coordinating Units of the Regional Coordinating Councils.
959. Madam Speaker, the harmonisation exercise was used to determine how district issues and strategies reflected national issues and strategies, spatial distribution of district programmes, projects and activities, the cost per programmes and the overall priorities of the districts in the respective regions.

Technical Support for the Preparation of Sector Medium-Term Development Plans

960. Madam Speaker, as part of its on-going priorities, the Commission supported 33 selected Ministries, Departments and Agencies with technical assistance to prepare their respective Sector Medium-Term Development Plans (SMTDPs) under the Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy 2006-2009. The draft SMTDPs submitted by some Sectors were reviewed and feedback was sent to them to revise them accordingly.

Outlook for 2009

961. Madam Speaker, the Commission within the framework of its planning and co-ordination roles will complete the preparation and costing of the National Long-Term Development Plan (NLTD), initiate the preparation of the National Medium-Term

Development Plan (NMTDP) and co-ordinate programme of social and economic development and National Spatial Development Policy Framework.

962. Madam Speaker, the Commission will co-ordinate and support Sectors and Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) to prepare and monitor Medium Term Development Plans based on the NLTDP. It will also prepare the 2008 Annual Progress Report on the implementation of GPRS II and support MMDAs to produce 2008 District Annual Progress Reports. In addition, the 2008 Ghana Millennium Development Goals Report will be prepared.
963. Madam Speaker, the Commission will also institutionalize the Ghana Information database; prepare policy briefs and reports on urgent national issues.
964. For the implementation of the above activities, an amount of GH ₵3,083,056 has been allocated. Out of this, GoG is GH ₵2,016,997 and Donor is GH ₵1,066,059.

National Labour Commission

965. Madam Speaker, the Commission has the responsibility to develop and sustain a peaceful and harmonious industrial relations environment through the use of effective dispute resolution practices within the context of the law, promotion of co-operation among the Labour market players and mutual respect for their rights and responsibilities.

Performance in 2008

966. Madam Speaker, to enhance worker-management relationships, the Commission settled about 300 outstanding cases from 2005-2007. It also received 373 cases out of which 215 were settled with 158 undergoing the processes of settlement.
967. Madam Speaker, in the same vein, 7 collective bargaining disputes involving over 5,000 unionized workers were settled through mediation and voluntary arbitration. These disputes involved trade unions and management/employers mainly in the private sector and Free Zones companies.
968. Madam Speaker, with technical and financial support from Trade and Investment Programme for Competitive Export Economy (TIPCEE), the Commission developed a computerized management system to assist in ensuring efficiency in dealing with labour issues.

Outlook for 2009

969. Madam Speaker, in the year 2009, the Commission intends to open three regional offices in flash areas such as Tema, Western and Ashanti regions on account of their industrial setting. Western Region is especially important because of the economic activities that will crop up with the oil find.
970. Madam Speaker, the Commission intends to undertake vigorous campaign on "effective Labour co-operation between Labour and management", "education of public sector employers and employees on the legal processes of formation of trade unions"

and also “education of stakeholders in the free zones enclave on the provisions of Act 651.”

971. Madam Speaker, the Commission will intensify its efforts to clear all 2005 outstanding cases and ensure the settlement of 80 per cent of new cases by the end of 2009.
972. For the implementation of the above activities, an amount of GH ₵416,401 has been allocated.

National Media Commission

973. Madam Speaker, the National Media Commission as a governance institution with responsibility for creating a balance between free expression and the need for a democratic regulation of the media in order to promote free, independent and responsible media in Ghana.

Performance in 2008

974. Madam Speaker, the Commission stepped up its efforts in democratic regulation of the media for peace building in accordance with its constitutional functions as follows:
- Ensured high journalistic standards through continued emphasis on media monitoring and drew attention to specific ethical infractions including pornography in the media;
 - Organised two seminars with a broad theme Media and Elections to serve as a platform for editors, politicians, governance representatives and policy makers aimed at critically examining issues in the media and democracy with the view to improving professional and intellectual insight into media ethics in Ghana;
 - Issued Guidelines for Fair and Equitable Coverage of Political Parties by the State owned media, for political journalism and Local Language Broadcast; and
 - Organised forum for media practitioners in the Ashanti Region to discuss media reportage and its implications on the Presidential and Parliamentary elections.

Outlook for 2009

975. Madam Speaker the Commission will be strengthened and expanded to track the performance of the Media to ensure good governance for national Development. In this regard, the Commission will pursue the underlisted activities:

- Develop intervention mechanisms to ensure media provide fair and proper reportage of post elections related activities;
- Provide a forum for the mediation of post election related media disputes;
- Develop a comprehensive framework for broadcasting legislation for Ghana; and
- Enhance efficiency and effectiveness of the Commission through improved working environment and job satisfaction.

976. For the implementation of the above activities, an amount of GH ₵503,741 has been allocated.

Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning

977. Madam Speaker, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning continued with the implementation of policies and programmes that foster economic growth and macroeconomic stability for the promotion of sustainable development of Ghana.

Performance in 2008

978. Madam Speaker, the production and dissemination of official statistics are keys to effective planning, monitoring and evaluation of development programmes and projects. To this end, the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) prepared and launched the Ghana Statistics Development Plan (GSDP), a five-year strategic framework, and a complementary GSS Corporate Plan for building statistical capacity of the National Statistics System to meet current and future data needs. The GSS Corporate Plan will help strengthen the leadership and coordinating role of the Service.
979. Madam Speaker, the GSS started the Enumeration Area Delineation for the 2010 Population and Housing Census. The Service continued the production of Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Producer Price Index (PPI) on monthly basis. The Main Report of the Ghana Living Standards Survey (GLSS-5) has been completed. The follow-up field work for the Ghana Living Standards Survey 5+ (GLSS-5+) and the Ghana Demographic and Health Survey is also completed.

Domestic Resource Mobilisation

980. Madam Speaker, to improve revenue forecasting, the Tax Policy Unit of the Ministry and Revenue Agencies initiated work on the development of a macroeconomic model on revenue forecasting.
981. Madam Speaker, the Ministry implemented a number of measures in 2008 to enhance the mobilization of domestic revenue.

Revenue Agencies Governing Board (RAGB)

982. Madam Speaker, the Revenue Agencies Governing Board expanded the special tax audit of Companies to cover 13 medium and small scale businesses in the informal sector. The reports on the audits have been published.

Customs Excise and Preventive Service (CEPS)

983. Madam Speaker, Transit Monitoring Units were set up to prevent diversion of goods. The Ministry provided additional resources to the Preventive Department to build up their capacity to combat smuggling activities and prevent revenue leakages.
984. Madam Speaker, the programme to re-equip the Communications Department and Laboratory offices at Kotoka International Airport and other stations to improve communication and monitoring activities started in 2008. Evaluation of tenders for supply of equipment was completed and approved by the Entity Tender Committee.

Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

985. Madam Speaker, the programme to fully automate the business processes of IRS was initiated with the engagement of a contractor to build a data centre at the head office. The programme will begin with the automation of all Accra districts on a pilot basis. The Kinbu and Osu districts centres have been completed.
986. Madam Speaker, to expand access to the GCNet to increase the data analysis and information sharing capabilities, a GCNet Unit was established at IRS. IRS head office is now able to provide information to its district offices to aid tax audit and follow-up actions.

Value Added Tax Service (VAT)

987. Madam Speaker, the VAT Service continued the registration of retailers and also intensified public education on the VAT Flat Rate Scheme (VFRS). In all, 14,800 VFRS Traders were registered. The Service also organized VFRS seminars for members of the Ghana National Chamber of Commerce and distributed public notices on VFRS to traders. Radio discussions were also held on the scheme.
988. Madam Speaker, the Service commenced a project to promote the use of Cash Registers by VAT-registered businesses to enhance VAT collection. A contract was awarded for the supply of the cash registers to the traders.
989. Madam Speaker, to broaden the tax base and improve revenue generation, the Communication Service Tax (CST) 2008 (Act 754) was passed by Parliament effective 1 June 2008. Special CST Units were set up by VATS to enhance administration of the tax. To date, 63 CST traders have been identified and notified to charge the tax. Implementation guidelines and return forms have been developed and distributed to CST traders.

Non Tax Revenue

990. Madam Speaker, 22 MDAs presented proposals to use retained IGFs to leverage funding to improve their logistics and infrastructure base to enhance revenue generation. Work is currently on-going with the affected MDAs to ensure that the projects selected are viable and provide value addition to revenue enhancement policy of Government.
991. Madam Speaker, the on-site banking programme involving 15 MDAs and 7 banks commenced in March 2008. The guidelines on accounting and reporting under the On-Site Banking and Daily Cash Collection Arrangements were issued to help reduce revenue leakages, resulting in improved revenue lodgments and management in these MDAs.

Administrative Control on Exemptions

992. Madam Speaker, separate reports were produced on exemptions regime and diplomatic exemptions. As a result, the Ministry is reviewing several aspects of the schedule of reliefs, waivers and exemptions, including diplomatic exemptions.

External Resource Mobilisation

993. Madam Speaker, the Ministry continued to intensify its dealings with its Development Partners (DP) with the aim of increasing the total aid portfolio earmarked for Ghana.
994. Madam Speaker, consistent with Ghana's standing as one of the original countries that endorsed the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (2005), the Ministry facilitated the successful hosting in Accra of the 3rd High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness. A preliminary draft Aid Policy document was developed in consultation with key stakeholders.

Human Resources and Institutional Management Capacity

995. Madam Speaker, the increasing complexity and growth of the economy, places additional demands on the Ministry both in its fiscal management and oversight responsibilities. The Ministry therefore continued its capacity building programme both in its human and physical resources. The Ministry commenced the construction of a 4 storey office block to provide adequate office space for staff

Public Expenditure Management

996. The Ministry in conjunction with the Bank of Ghana and the CAGD has initiated the process of developing a Treasury Single Account with the objective of ensuring prudent and efficient cash management and reducing domestic borrowing.

997. Madam Speaker, to improve budget implementation and monitoring, the Ministry in collaboration with the Office of the President and NDPC developed a harmonized budget implementation monitoring template. This was complemented with training of MDAs in monitoring and cash management planning. Policy review meetings were also organized for all Chief Directors and their Policy Planning Directors.
998. Madam Speaker, 513 Procurement Entities (PEs) were assessed by the Public Procurement Authority to ascertain their compliance level with provisions in the Public Procurement Act, (Act 663) and 2000 public officials trained on the various aspects of public procurement. A contract for the development of a price database for common user items was awarded.

Fiscal Decentralization

999. Madam Speaker, to ensure effective and efficient Public Financial Management at all levels, the Ministry organized training programmes for Metropolitan, Municipal and District Budget Analyst to enable them prepare Composite Budgets for 2009.
1000. In addition the Ministry commenced the implementation of its responsibilities under the Inter Governmental Fiscal Framework by initiating two studies. These are the effectiveness and efficiency of the current mechanisms for the transfer of resources to District Assemblies; and a review of the existing budget and planning systems at the District Assemblies with the objective of harmonizing them with the national system.

Debt Management

1001. Madam Speaker, the Ministry undertook a Debt Management Performance Assessment (DeMPA) of Ghana's debt management operations. The Ministry also conducted a medium term debt sustainability analysis to assess the relative costs and risks of various debt management strategies. The analysis identified

desirable debt compositions and corresponding financing strategies consistent with maintaining debt at sustainable levels.

Financial Sector Development

1002. Madam Speaker, to establish benchmarks to measure access to finance and formulate measures to improve the reach and depth of financial services in Ghana, a local firm was contracted to conduct research into the use of and demand for financial services in Ghana.
1003. Madam Speaker, to improve the legal and regulatory environment for the financial sector, the following Bills were passed in 2008.
- National Pension Act, 2008 (Act 766)
 - Non-Banking Financial Institutions Act, 2008 (Act 774)
 - Home Mortgage Finance Act, 2008 (Act 770)
 - Borrowers and Lenders Act, 2008 (Act 773)
1004. Madam Speaker, we made progress in the implementation of the Government's Financial Sector Reform Project through the EMCBS-FSR Project. Key amongst the achievements were:
- Completion of the automation of trading on the Ghana Stock Exchange and operationalization of the new Central Securities Depository for equities as well as review of the new Rules Book to include automation and insider trading;
 - Establishment of four Joint Venture Financing Companies under the Venture Capital Trust Fund namely; Bedrock Activity, Fidelity Equity Fund II, Ghana Growth Fund and Activity venture;
 - Introduction of the E-Zwich payment system and the licensing of the first Credit Reference Bureau Company; and
 - Preparation of the Agriculture Finance Strategy and Action Plan (AFSAP) to address the challenges that confront the Agric sector.

Outlook for 2009

1005. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will continue to implement policies, programmes and projects to promote economic growth and development. In this regard, the Ministry will pursue the following policy objectives during the year:
- Formulate and Implement Sound Macroeconomic Policies;
 - Improve Fiscal Resource Mobilisation;
 - Improve the Human Resource and Institutional Management Capacity;
 - Improve Public Expenditure Management;
 - Promote Effective Debt Management; and
 - Strengthen the Financial Sector.

Formulate and Implement Sound Macroeconomic Policies

1006. Madam Speaker, to enhance policy analysis and ensure evidence-based policy making, the Ministry will deepen its capacity development effort in macroeconomic modeling.
1007. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will develop a four-year strategic plan within the context of the Long Term Development Plan to facilitate effective and efficient planning and execution of its core functions. In addition, the Ministry will ensure that MDAs annual budgets are linked to the long-term national development plan of the country.
1008. Madam Speaker, the Ghana Statistical Service will continue to strengthen its capacity to produce policy oriented statistics and indicators by conducting two new surveys, the Time Use Survey (with gender dimension) and the Integrated Business Establishment Survey. The Service will commence automation of data production and management and the National Statistical System. The Service will also undertake a review of the policy,

regulatory and institutional framework to enhance statistical development in the country as well as conduct a trial census and complete the ongoing Enumeration Area Delineation exercise.

Fiscal Resource Mobilisation

Domestic Resource Mobilisation

1009. As part of domestic revenue mobilisation strategy, we will continue to improve revenue collections through reforms in tax administration, broaden the tax base, reduce tax leakages and reform the regime of tax reliefs, waivers and exemptions.
1010. Government intends to review in 2009 our tax administration with the view to enhance co-ordination and facilitate information sharing. There are also plans to review our entire tax structures and the institutions of tax policy making.
1011. Madam Speaker, we shall intensify our effort at generating enough domestic resources through tax and non-tax revenue. The goal is not to impose an excessive burden on incomes but to explore secure ways of financing development expenditures and reducing our dependence on loans and grants. This is even more urgent in the economic climate described in this document. In this regard, the priority is to expand the tax base in an efficient and equitable manner to all citizens.
1012. Madam Speaker, to achieve these goals, we shall:
- Take appropriate steps to extend the personal income tax to all eligible private and public sector employees, self-employed persons' and companies;
 - Ensure that there is a judicious balance among the use of customs duties and tariffs to raise revenue and protect local firms.
 - Take appropriate formula to make the VAT regime cover a broad range of goods and services, with exemptions granted

for only a limited a number of basic supplies and those that are difficult to tax;

- In consultation with appropriate stakeholders, the VAT flat rate and IRS presumptive tax regimes with a view to minimizing compliance for SMSs;
- Make the excise duties cover all imports and domestic supplies of eligible goods such as tobacco, vehicular and alcoholic products; and
- limit the number of direct and indirect exemptions and incentives to those that serve targeted and, if necessary, time-bound economic and social objectives.

1013. Madam Speaker, to achieve these tax policy goals, the NDC administration will start implementing the following specific revenue administration policies.

- As announced by the President, establish the Ghana National Revenue Authority (GNRA) under a Chief Executive Officer with more executive powers to replace the Revenue Agencies Governing Board (RAGB) Secretariat;
- Streamline the domestic tax and customs administrations along functional lines under the National Revenue Authority (NRA); and
- Establish integrated operational support units, computer systems and procedures to support the organizational measures

1014. Madam Speaker, in seeking to achieve these administrative measures, the Government will:

- Implement a unique taxpayer identification number (TIN) – in conjunction with the goal of setting up a national identification number to serve our social security, health, electoral, education and other social needs.

- Implement appropriate SME tax procedures to minimize the cost of compliance, expand and tax net to cover self-employed taxpayers, and complement the large taxpayer measures being implemented jointly by the VAT Service and IRS;
- Establish integrated tax and customs computer system to improve collection through the exchange of information and risk management;
- Further strengthen compliance through improved customs valuation and tax examination measures; and
- Vigorously pursue tax arrears to ensure that all those who collect, or are eligible to pay taxes meet their obligations.

1015. Madam Speaker, to reiterate, these measures will be designed to improve and expand the tax base,

Non Tax Revenue

1016. Madam Speaker, in line with the policy of increasing revenue for development, the Ministry will undertake the following activities:

- Assist selected MDAs to prepare viable revenue enhancement projects and facilitate the leveraging of funds from commercial Banks using IGFs to be retained by these MDAs. Funds acquired will be utilized to improve MDAs equipment holding and logistics, as well as infrastructural base to facilitate revenue generation;
- Facilitate Cabinet and Parliament approvals for review of obsolete rates, fees and charges collected by MDAs;
- Extend on-site and daily banking programme currently being implemented to cover other MDAs, evaluate the performance of the programme as well as implement Information Technology (IT) interface with banks to facilitate monitoring daily collections and transfers to Bank of Ghana;

- Establish an administering authority to manage all Government equity investments in accordance with section 141 of the FAR, 2004; and
- Facilitate the approval by Parliament for 27 MDAs to retain portions of their IGFs.

1017. Madam Speaker, the programme to extend working hours for selected revenue generating MDAs including Lands commission, DVLA, Registrar General Department (RGD), Land Title Registry and Immigration Service will be fully implemented in 2009. This will enable more members of the public and especially workers to access the services of these MDAs and improve revenue collection.

Revenue Agencies Governing Board

1018. Madam Speaker, the RAGB will continue the ongoing Special Tax Audits to cover medium and small scale businesses in the informal sector, including high worth individuals. The Board will also deepen and enhance its tax education programs for the public.

Customs Excise and Preventive Service

1019. Madam Speaker, CEPS will resource the newly established transit Monitoring Units to prevent diversion of goods and the Preventive Department to combat smuggling activities. The Service will complete the rehabilitation of offices, duty posts and other residential units as well as complete the re-equipment of the communication department and the various laboratory offices at KIA and other stations. Further monitoring by the use of statistics by GSS and BoG will enhance revenue mobilizations.

Internal Revenue Service

1020. Madam Speaker, the Service in a bid to improve on its services as well as increase its revenue collection will continue with the automation of its offices and thereby reduce tax evasion and avoidance.

Valued Added Tax Service

1021. Madam Speaker, the VAT Service will enhance the implementation of the Communications Service Tax, expand points of presence throughout the country and fully implement the Cash Register Initiative. The Service will continue to streamline the VAT Flat Rate Scheme and ensure that only retailers take advantage of this scheme.

External Resource Mobilisation

1022. Madam Speaker, for the 2009 fiscal year, the Ministry will continue to focus on its resource mobilization mandate by deepening its quest to secure additional grants and concessional loans to support Government's development. The Ministry will also continue with the development of an Aid Policy for Ghana by concluding the ongoing internal reviews and conducting stakeholder consultations and technical discussions with DPs.

Public Expenditure Management

1023. Madam Speaker, the Ministry will improve the budget preparation and implementation process to ensure that Government priorities are captured, funded and executed. The Ministry will also put in place measures to reduce the deviation index of budget outturn as against budget projection as well as manage and coordinate the implementation of Public Financial Management Reforms.
1024. In addition, the Ministry will institute effective Cash Management System to ensure availability and timely release of funds to MDAs for the implementation of their programmed activities and reduce Government borrowing. The capacity of all budget officers in MDAs and MMDAs will be enhanced to improve the management of the budget.
1025. Madam Speaker, under the Budget and Public Expenditure Management Systems, the Ministry will complete the

configuration of Oracle application in the newly connected Ministries.

1026. Madam Speaker, the treasury process will be deepened with the introduction of computerized bank transfer system for treasuries to enhance the payment system and also facilitate effective bank reconciliation.
1027. Madam Speaker, the assessment of procurement activities of Procurement Entities by the Public Procurement Authority to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Public Procurement Act, 2003 (Act 663) will continue in the year. It is estimated that 750 entities will be assessed during the period. The Authority will also continue to build procurement capacity within the Public and the Private Sector. The price database for common user items to provide a basis for value for money analysis will be completed.
1028. Madam Speaker, the Ministry in collaboration with the Public Procurement Authority will formulate policies to remove various bottlenecks identified in the implementation of the Public Procurement Act, 2003 (Act 663). These include very low value procurement, appeals and complaints mechanisms, human resource needs and contract management. The establishment of zonal offices to ensure closer contact with entities will also be pursued.
1029. Madam Speaker, the Controller and Accountant General's Department will undertake a nationwide head count and data collection of pensioners to enable it update records in the national pension payroll. The Department will also put in place measures to migrate the Pensions Administration System to the national payment platform.
1030. Madam Speaker, to further improve Pensions Payment System, the Department will finalize manuals on pension and distribute to all MDAs and MMDAs to guide the processing of pensions and reduce delays in pension payments.

Debt Management

1031. Madam Speaker, changes in the international economic environment and the requirements for effective and efficient debt management pose a new challenge in current debt management operations. The Ministry will therefore institute various measures, aimed at building on results and recommendations from the DeMPA report in line with sound international debt management practices. Government facilitate the amendment of the Loans Act of 1970 to streamline and simplify procedures in the handling of the public debt and to reflect changes in current debt management operations and technological environment

Financial Sector Development

1032. Madam Speaker, to strengthen the Financial Sector a number of measures will be implemented under the ongoing Economic Management and Capacity Building -Financial Sector Reform Project. These measures are geared towards improving financial services delivery in the Country. In pursuit of these the Sector will undertake the following activities during the year:
1033. Madam Speaker, to improve the operating environment for the financial sector the following bills have been slated for passage into law during the year:
- Bills and Cheques Bill
 - Review of the Securities Industries Law 1993 (PNDC L 333)
 - Review of the Companies Code
 - LI on Second Tier Pension Regulatory Authority
 - Public Private Partnership Bill
 - Financial Services Bill
1034. For the implementation of the above activities, an amount of GH ₵146,681,167 has been allocated. Out of this, GoG is GH ₵63,960,956 IGF is GH ₵2,378,854 Donor is GH ₵61,101,357 and HIPC is GH ₵6,500,000 and MDRI is GH ₵12,740,000.

Office of Government Machinery

1035. Madam Speaker, the Office of Government Machinery exists to provide administrative, managerial and technical services to the Presidency of Ghana leading to improvement in social, economic and political direction of the nation in the best interest of Ghanaians. The agencies include the following:
- Public Utilities regulatory Commission;
 - National Identification Authority;
 - National Population Council;
 - Ghana Aids Commission;
 - Internal Audit Agency;
 - Pension Reform Implementation Commission;
 - Public Records and Administration Department ; and
 - Ghana Investment Promotion Council.

Performance in 2008

Public Utilities Regulatory Commission (PURC)

1036. Madam Speaker, the Public Utilities Regulatory Commission is committed to building a credible regulatory regime that will respond adequately to stakeholder concerns and also ensure fairness, transparency, reliability and equity in the provision of utility services in the country, especially for the poor and vulnerable groups.
1037. Madam Speaker, the PURC undertook the following key activities during the year:
- Reviewed Electricity Tariff as a result of the increases in crude oil price;
 - Reviewed water rate setting guidelines;
 - Organized public education campaigns to create public awareness in both electronic and print media as well as in some selected senior high schools;

- Inaugurated Consumer Service Committee in Sekondi/Takoradi to fulfill statutory duty of establishing watchdog committees to assist PURC in service delivery; and
- Reviewed termination of service regulations (LI 1651) to improve consumer protection mechanisms to deal effectively with wrongful termination.

National Identification Authority (NIA)

1038. Madam Speaker, the mandate of the NIA is to establish a National Identification System (NIS) by creating a national database on Ghanaians and foreigners lawfully resident in Ghana, issuing national ID cards and promoting the use of the cards.
1039. Madam Speaker, key activities undertaken by the Authority during the year include the following:
- Produced the NIA's Trainer's Guide and manual for Registration Officials;
 - Trained Mobile Registration Workstation operators;
 - Conducted the testing, selection and training of registration officials in the Central, Western, Eastern and Volta Regions;
 - Conducted mass registration in the Central, Western and Eastern Regions; and
 - Procured registration materials and equipment including generators, cartridges, backdrops, and extension cords among other supplies.

National Population Council

1040. Madam Speaker, The National Population Council is mandated to co-ordinate all population programmes in the country and to advise Government on all population issues.
1041. Madam Speaker, major activities undertaken by the Council during the year include the following:

- Implemented the project on the Integration of Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) and HIV/AIDS and established a National Taskforce to facilitate the integration of HIV/AIDS and SRH at all levels;
- Supported the GSS to prepare the 2008 Ghana Demographic and Health Survey (GDHS); and
- Undertook an in-depth assessment of ten years of implementation of the National Population Policy (Revised Edition, 1994) to establish whether targets set have been achieved.

Internal Audit Agency

1042. Madam Speaker, the Agency exists to coordinate, facilitate and provide quality assurance for internal audit activities in MDAs and MMDAs with a view to enhancing efficiency, accountability and transparency in the management of public resources.
1043. Madam Speaker, the following activities were undertaken:
- Reviewed and provided feedback on quarterly internal audit reports;
 - Undertook human resource capacity development programmes for the IAUs in the MDAs and MMDAs ;
 - Trained internal audit staff in procurement and assets management; and
 - Developed manuals for the support of hands-on training, dubbed 'on-site support' programme for internal auditors.

Millennium Development Authority (MiDA)

1044. Madam Speaker, the Authority seeks to implement the integrated programme under Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) compact.
1045. Madam Speaker, the MiDA completed the setting up of offices and recruitment key staff. Consultative seminars and workshops were also organized for stakeholders. MiDA also developed a

multi-year financial plan and rolling quarterly budgets. In addition, 14 work plans covering project activities and Implementing Entity Agreements (IEA) with various MDAs were also prepared.

Outlook for 2009

Public Utilities Regulatory Commission (PURC)

1046. Madam Speaker, the PURC will undertake the following activities:

- Conduct technical and operational audit of the utility companies;
- Conduct tariff and cost of service studies to enable the Commission determine tariffs more efficiently and effectively;
- Develop a comprehensive programme to monitor the operations of the regulated utilities;
- Establish regulatory framework for developing secondary market in natural gas; and
- Promote ICT application in complaint handling to streamline, speed up and enhance information management.

National Identification Authority (NIA)

1047. Madam Speaker, the NIA will undertake the following activities during the year:

- Conduct mopping-up exercise on the mass registration in the Central and Western Regions and commence mass registration exercises in the Volta and Greater Accra Regions;
- Distribute National Identity Cards in the Central, Western, Eastern, Volta and Greater Accra Regions;
- Recruit and train Data Centre staff as well as Regional and District Staff; and
- Organise public education and awareness creation campaigns.

National Population Council

1048. Madam Speaker, the Council will focus on the integration of population variables into planning and fertility management. The key activities for 2009 will therefore include the following:

- Hold a seminar for the newly constituted Parliamentary Caucus on Population and Development;
- Develop a Population Sector Strategic Plan to facilitate stronger linkages among stakeholders in population;
- Launch and print the 3rd State of Ghana Population report on population, distribution, urbanization and development; and
- Provide technical support to the Ghana Statistical Service in preparatory activities towards the conduct of the 2010 Round of the Population and Housing Census.

Ghana Aids Commission

1049. Madam Speaker the Ghana Aids Commission will undertake the following activities:

- Monitor programme activities at Regional and Metropolitan, Municipal and District levels;
- Organise pre-proposal, financial management and technical capacity building training workshops;
- Support Lagos-Abidjan Corridor Project;
- Support PLWHA and Sensitisation activities; and
- Organise 2009 World AIDS Day.

Internal Audit Agency

1050. Madam Speaker, the Agency will perform the following activities during the year:

- Formulate, implement, co-ordinate, monitor and evaluate Government policies and programmes;

- Provide institutional capacity and enabling environment for effective, efficient and sustainable audit service delivery;
- Build the capacity of Internal Auditors in the MDAs and MMDAs to assist management fulfill their responsibilities;
- Operationalise its inspectorate function under IAA Act, 2003 (Act 658) to move the monitoring programme from a support to an inspection focus; and
- Promote public sector accountability.

Millennium Development Authority (MiDA)

1051. Madam Speaker, the Authority will undertake the following activities during the year under review:

- Facilitate the preparation of 3 Strategic Environmental Assessments in connection with Feeder Roads, the N1 Highway from Tetteh Quarshie to Mallam Junction, Trunk Roads and Ferry Activities;
- Collaborate with sector Ministry to undertake design studies in connection with N1 Highway, Trunk and Feeder Roads;
- Fund the rehabilitation sections of Feeder Roads in 8 Districts of the Intervention Zones;
- Assist in the improvement of the Volta Lake Ferry Services to facilitate marketing of Agric produce in the Afram Plains Zone;
- Support community services to complement Agric projects and rural financial services;
- Facilitate the provision pre-coolers and Perishable Cargo Centre at KIA to help exporters;
- Grant credit to farmers and other operators in the agriculture value chain; and
- Fund the rehabilitation of 35 schools in eight Districts.

Ghana Investment Promotion Centre

1052. Madam Speaker, GIPC will continue to adopt a more businesslike approach to contribute pro-actively to retaining and attracting investment. Within the current global and national

context and Ghana's economic and private sector development priorities, GIPC will implement good practices for investment promotion.

1053. Madam Speaker, GIPC's geographic focus for Foreign Direct Investment will continue to be on these 10 countries namely: China, UK, USA, Germany, Netherlands, India, Korea, Lebanon, Canada and Nigeria. Our new policy drive will focus on domestic investment mobilisation and advisory work.
1054. For the implementation of the above activities, an amount of GH ₵289,610,596 has been allocated. Out of this, GoG is GH ₵102,731,631 IGF is GH ₵373,980 and Donor is GH ₵186,504,985.

District Assembly Common Fund (DACF)

Performance in 2008

1055. Madam Speaker, the office of the Administrator of the fund undertook the following activities during the year:
- Collected, collated, analysed and submitted 2007 expenditure data to Parliament and submitted 2008 formula for Parliamentary approval;
 - Monitored the impact of the fund and subsequently submitted report to the Minister of Local Government and Rural Development and Parliament;
 - Organised workshops for DCEs and key assembly staff to accelerate growth and infrastructural development.

Outlook for 2009

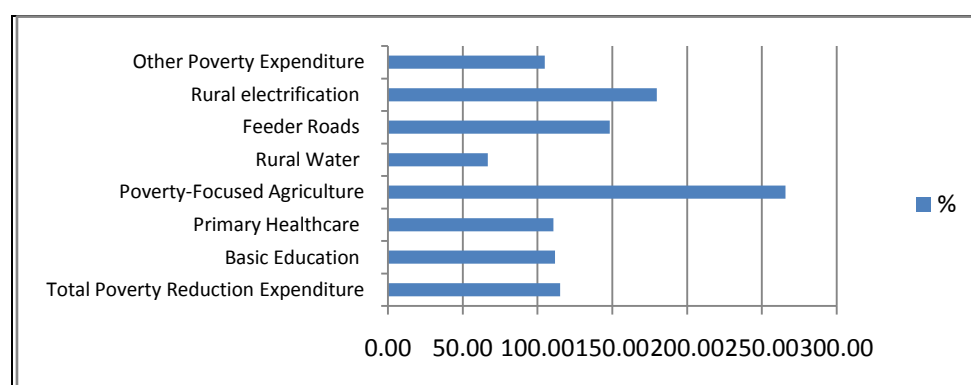
1056. Madam Speaker, the DACF will undertake the following activities during the year:
- Continue campaign on accelerated growth and infrastructural development in the districts;
 - Monitor development projects financed by the Fund in the Districts; and
 - Establish a computerized programme to capture expenditure returns and supplementary Budgets from the Districts.
1057. For the implementation of the above activities, an amount of GH ₵348,269,833 has been allocated. Out of this, GoG is GH ₵182,350 and Statutory Fund is GH ₵348,087,483.

SECTION SEVEN: POVERTY REDUCTION EXPENDITURES AND PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Government Spending On Poverty Reduction In 2008

1058. Madam Speaker, poverty reduction expenditures in 2008 was about 9 per cent of GDP, down from the 2007 share of 10.45 per cent. Planned Government Expenditures for 2008 was GH¢5.46 billion. Out of this amount, GH¢ 1.37 billion was planned for poverty-related expenditure, constituting about one-quarter of total Government spending.
1059. By the end of December 2008, a total of GH¢1.58 billion had been spent on poverty-related expenditures as against total Government Expenditure of GH¢7.01 billion. This represented 22 per cent of total Government expenditure. (see Appendix .. for details of spending).

Figure 2: Budget Execution of Poverty Reduction Expenditures – Total and by broad Expenditure Categories -January to December 2008 (In per cent of Planned Budget)



1060. Madam Speaker, with the exception of rural water, all other expenditures on poverty, by broad expenditure categorization, were above planned levels, as indicated in the chart above. Below is the sectoral breakdown of poverty-related spending for 2008.
1061. Expenditure on basic education amounted to GH¢748.45 million representing 48.4 per cent of total education sector expenditure of GH¢1.55 billion. Budget execution for basic education was almost 112 per cent of the planned amount.
1062. In the area of health, Government spent GH¢286.05 million on primary health care which represents approximately 49 per cent of the health sector expenditure of GH¢584 million. Budget execution of primary healthcare expenditures was over 110 per cent.
1063. Madam Speaker, for the agriculture sector, Government spent GH¢80.94 million, out of which GH¢73.36 million was used for agricultural programmes which benefited the poor. This represents over 90 per cent of the expenditure for the sector. Budget execution for the poverty-focused agriculture programme was an unprecedented 266 per cent.
1064. Expenditure on rural water was GH¢21.5 million out of a total amount of GH¢63.32 million spent in the works and housing sector. This constituted 33.97 per cent of the total for the sector. This was the only broad sector which did not appear to benefit from the expansion in the total Government expenditures, as only two-thirds of the budgeted amount was spent.
1065. Madam Speaker, a total of GH¢332.3 million was spent on the roads and transport sector. Out of this amount, almost GH¢80 million was spent on feeder roads which represents 24 per cent of the total sector expenditure. Budget execution for feeder roads was 148 per cent of the planned amount.

1066. Energy expenditures rose by a significant proportion in 2008. For rural electrification, Government incurred GH¢60.87 million of expenditures for the period under review out of a total sector expenditure of GH¢240.4 million. Expenditure for providing electricity to rural dwellers was thus about 25 per cent of the total expenditure on energy. Budget execution for this category of expenditures was over 180 per cent of the planned amount.
1067. Finally, Madam Speaker, an amount of GH¢314.25 million was spent on "Other Poverty" related activities which represents about 4.5 per cent of total Government expenditure as at the end of December 2008. The "Other Poverty" expenditures include social welfare, public safety, drainage, human rights, environmental protection, rural housing, legal aid, decentralization among others. The budget execution of Other Poverty expenditures was about 105 per cent of the planned amount.

Utilisation of Highly Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) Funds

1068. Madam Speaker, spending on poverty reduction and poverty-related activities from the Consolidated Fund by MDAs is complemented by spending from the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative. In 2008, a total amount of GH¢167.55 million was spent on Human Development Services, Private Sector Development, Good Governance and on domestic interest payments from the HIPC account.

Table 6: Utilisation of HIPC* – Planned Expenditure and Releases January – December 2008

| | Planned GH¢m | Share % | Releases GH¢m | Share % |
|----------------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|
| Human Development | 75.41 | 47.30 | 87.43 | 52.18 |
| Private Sector Devt. | 40.70 | 25.53 | 35.88 | 21.42 |
| Good Governance | 11.44 | 7.18 | 35.96 | 21.46 |
| Domestic Debt | 31.88 | 20.00 | 8.27 | 4.94 |
| Total | 159.43 | 100.00 | 167.54 | 100.00 |

* By Broad Expenditure categories and thematic areas of GPRS II

1069. Madam Speaker, Human Development Services received the highest share at over 52 per cent. Almost 40 per cent of Human Development spending was used on sanitation in general. Sanitation management in the big cities received about 27 per cent of the total.
1070. Education received about 32 per cent comprising spending on upgrading of Senior High Schools, Capitation Grants for Public Basic Schools, School Feeding for basic schools as well as on procurement of documents for the Ghana Library Board.
1071. Approximately GH¢1.6 million was also spent on basic education infrastructure from the MPs share of HIPC. Water received about

18 per cent, while health received about 7 per cent and the residual of 3 per cent was used for the development of sports.

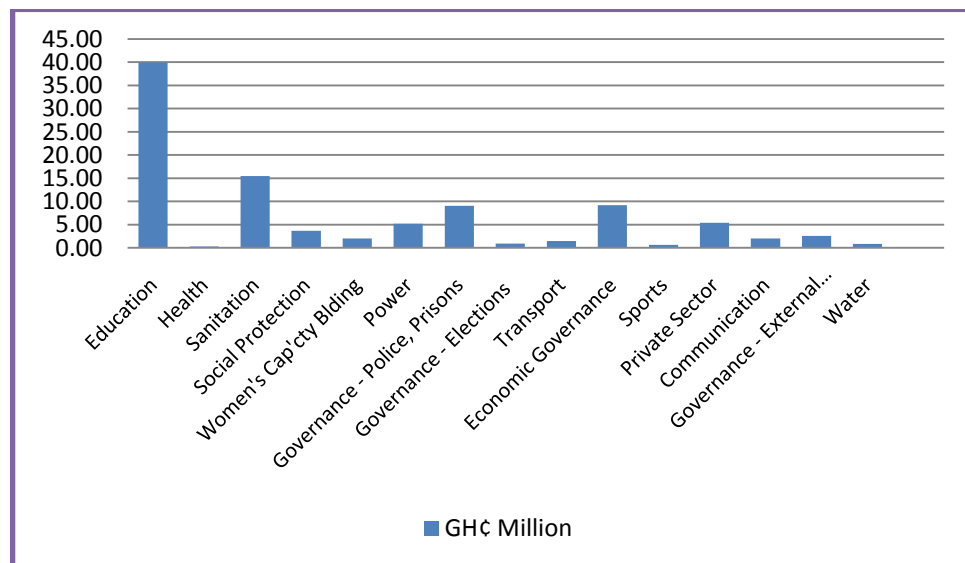
1072. Madam Speaker, about 21 per cent of HIPC spending was used for private sector development against a planned 25 per cent. Government continued the National Forest Plantation Development programme and spent about 28 per cent of private sector development funds on this programme.
1073. Affordable housing received about 20 per cent. Other expenditures in this thematic area were for the District Industrialisation Programme, the hosting of UNCTAD XII and the World Investment Forum 2008 which together received about 13.5 per cent. Funding for agricultural development constituted about 11 per cent of funding for this thematic area and was used to procure tractors and Grain Pro-Cocoons.
1074. Funding also went to support the establishment of markets. The construction and rehabilitation of community information centres and community post offices, town roads and energy received funding. An amount of GH¢1.74 million was used to support science and research.
1075. Madam Speaker, Government continued its programme of equipping the security agencies in 2008, in recognition of the demands on the services of these agencies in an election year. Expenditures for the security agencies came to a total of 42 per cent of the spending on Good Governance from HIPC.
1076. Strengthening economic governance received about 35 per cent of these funds. Activities undertaken in this area included initiating the computerization of the operations of the Internal Revenue Service, the Secure Documents project of the Revenue Agencies Governing Board, and support for payroll management to the Controller and Accountant-General's Department.
1077. The residual expenditure was used for information dissemination, peace-keeping, support to Commission for

Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) and National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE).

Utilisation of Multi-Lateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI) Funds

1078. Madam Speaker, the intention of providing debt relief through the Multi-Lateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI) to Ghana in 2006 was to accelerate the country's progress towards the MDGs. Ghana continues to use these resources with a split between poverty reducing and growth enhancing activities.
1079. In 2007, the bulk of expenditures from the MDRI had been used almost exclusively for energy, with only a minimal amount going for other activities. In 2008 spending went to support a much broader range of activities as shown in the chart below.

Figure 3: 2008 MDRI shares



1080. Madam Speaker, for 2008, a total of GH¢98.50 million of MDRI funds was spent. Education spending was about 40 per cent and sanitation about 15 per cent. Good Governance initiatives including spending on equipping the Police, Fire and Prisons Services, construction of the modern 1000-inmate capacity prison, the 2008 elections and strengthening of revenue agencies in total had about 22 per cent.
1081. Capacity building for women and private sector development both received a little over 5 per cent each. About 4 per cent of the total funding from the MDRI was also used to support the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) programme. Transport, communications, water, health and sports also received some support.

PROGRESS TOWARDS THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

1082. Madam Speaker, Ghana's progress towards the achievement of the MDGs is mixed. For some indicators, the country appears to be on track to achieving the targets set, while for others, unless remedial policy actions are taken, the country is likely to miss attainment of the goals. Information on the status of all the targets is provided below:

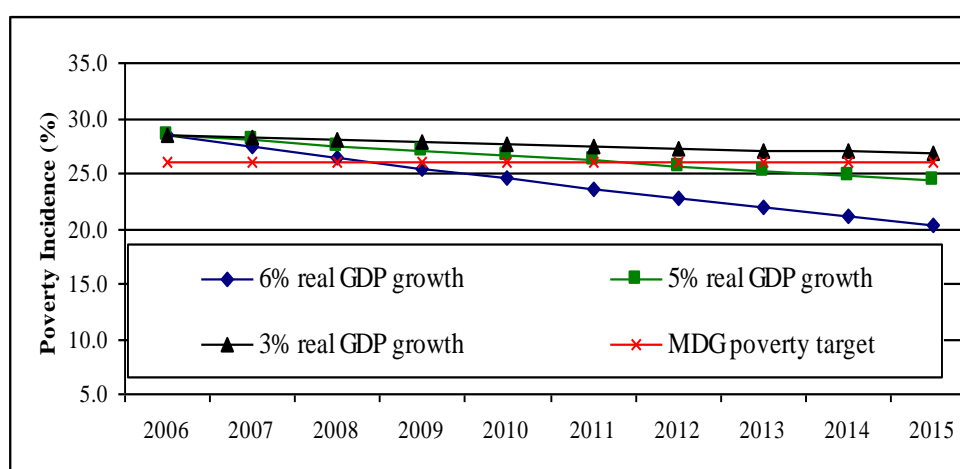
MDG 1 – Target 1 – Halving Poverty

1083. Madam Speaker, according to GLSS 5¹, national poverty incidence was 28.5 per cent in 2005/2006, down from 39.5 per cent in 1998/99 indicating a decline of 11 percentage points. Every year the share of the population living in poverty fell on average by about 1.5 percentage point.
1084. In terms of absolute numbers, the total number of poor decreased from 7.2 million in 1999 to 6.2 million in 2006.
1085. The level of extreme poverty for 2005/06 was 18.2 per cent having also declined from 36.5 per cent over the same period. The survey also indicated that poverty in Ghana fell significantly between 1998/99 and 2005/06 in all localities, except Accra, which recorded a poverty incidence of 11 per cent, up from 4 per cent in 1998/99. The decline in poverty incidence was also not equal across ecological zones.
1086. Madam Speaker, Ghana appears to be on track with this first MDG, having managed to halve extreme poverty since 1990. With the good track record of growth and poverty reduction over the period, the projections below suggest that real GDP growth rates equivalent to or higher than 5 per cent should be sufficient to allow the country to meet the MDG goal of halving

¹ Information on some indicators such as incidence of poverty is measured only periodically and thus yearly updates are not possible. Some however are monitored using routine data.

the 1990 rate of poverty incidence well before the 2015 target date.

Figure 4: Poverty Incidence Projections and the MDG Target, 2005-15 (Projections under different assumptions for the annual real GDP growth rate)



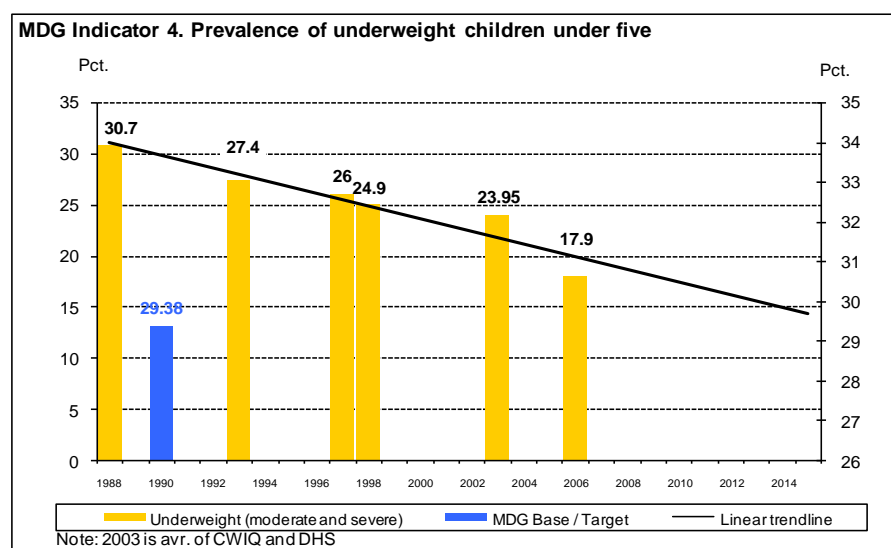
Source: World Bank staff estimates.

MDG 1 – Target 2 – Reducing hunger

1087. About one in five children (18 per cent) in Ghana is underweight, while those stunted comprise a little over 22 per cent, and wasting among under-fives is about 5 per cent.² This is a worrying situation as it indicates that nutrition may not be improving in line with the reductions in aggregate poverty.

² Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey (MICS) 2006

Figure 5: MDG Indicator 4. Prevalence of underweight Children Under Five



1088. Current high global food prices and those of domestic key staples will likely impact the nutrition status of vulnerable populations and puts achievement of this MDG target at risk. To counteract this situation, Government is implementing a number of measures including prioritizing implementation of a community-based health and nutrition services package for children under the age of two and for pregnant and lactating women.
1089. Supplementary feeding programmes have been introduced as add-ons to ensure that adequate nutrition and growth rates do not suffer as a consequence of the food and oil price shocks experienced last year. A Government subsidy on fertilizers for small-holder farmers is being implemented which is expected to provide a boost to agriculture.

MDG 2 – Target – Achieving Universal Access to Primary Education by 2015

1090. The second MDG, that of Achieving Universal Access to Primary Education, targets enrolment ratios, admission and completion rates. The table below provides an indication of the trend for these indicators from 2003/04 to the 2007/08 academic years:

Table 7: Progress in Primary Access Indicators

| Indicator | 2003/04 | 2004/05 | 2005/06 | 2006/07 | 2007/08 |
|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Total Enrolment | 2,957,491 | 3,077,489 | 3,111,753 | 3,473,229 | 3,622,724 |
| Gross Enrolment Ratio | 86.50% | 87.50% | 92.10% | 93.70% | 95.20% |
| Net Enrolment Ratio | | 59.10% | 69.20% | 81.10% | 83.40% |
| P1 Gross Admission Rate | 88.20% | 89.40% | 92.30% | 103.20% | 107.30% |
| P1 Net Admission Rate | | 26.20% | 61.70% | 69.10% | 74.30% |
| Completion Rate | 77.90% | 78.70% | 75.60% | 85.40% | 88.00% |

1091. Gross Enrolment Ratios at the primary level have improved from 86.5 per cent in 2003/04 to a little over 95 per cent in 2007/08 academic year. Net enrolment rates at primary level have also increased from just over 59 per cent in 2004/05 to 83.4 per cent in the 2007/08 academic year. Primary Completion Rates have improved from 78 per cent in 2003/04 to 88 per cent in 2007/08. These improvements may be attributed in part to a number of initiatives undertaken including the Capitation Grant Scheme and the School Feeding Programme.

1092. In terms of literacy rates, to date over 2.7 million learners have been recruited under the Functional Literacy Programme. About

1.8 million learners have graduated, while almost 396,000 dropped out. Currently, 534,857 learners are enrolled and are being taken through the modules of the programme.

Table 8: Adult Literacy

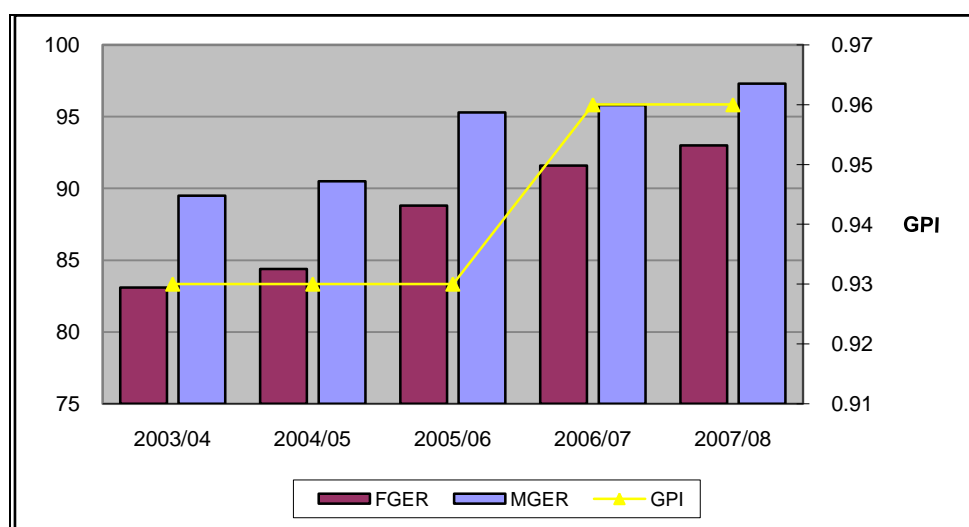
| Indicator | 2003/04 | 2004/05 | 2005/06 | 2006/07 |
|---------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Literacy Rate | 53.4 | 53.7 | 60.3 | 61.7 |

1093. The challenge to attaining the MDG 2 targets remain that of guaranteeing retention to ensure that the gains made to date in improving Gross Enrolment Rates and Primary 1 Gross Admission are translated to completion at the end points. Additional resources definitely are required to keep pace with the infrastructural needs such as classrooms, replacement of dilapidated ones, teaching and learning materials, etc.

MDG 3 – Target 9 – Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education by 2005 and in all levels no later than 2015

1094. Gender parity is highest at the lowest levels of education. The Gender Parity Index (GPI) at the primary level improved from 0.93 in 2003/04 to 0.96 for 2007/08. Parity stayed at the same level, 0.93 for three years from 2003/04 to 2005/06. The GPI then jumped to 0.96 and stayed at that level over the next two years. Though the MDG target for 2005 was missed, gender parity is currently increasing and efforts are being made to ensure achievement of this target.

Figure 6: Female & Male Gross Enrolments & Gender Parity Index at Primary Level

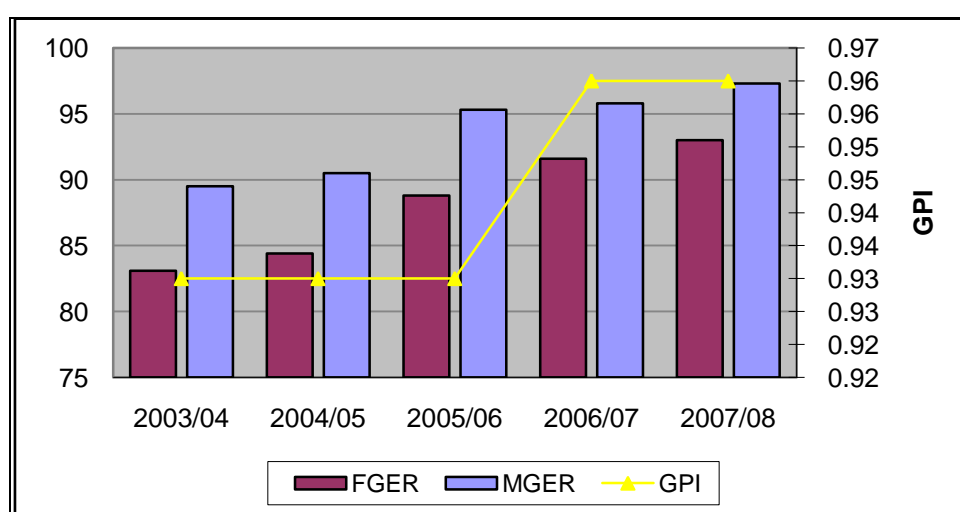


1095. This, however, is proving more of a challenge than envisaged as the primary GPI appears to have stagnated over the past two years. In areas of low girls enrolment, actions being taken include construction of gender-friendly toilet facilities in schools, provision of take-home ration for girls in Northern, Upper East and Upper West Regions. In addition, District Assemblies and local and international development partners, continued to provide school uniforms, school bags, shoes for school, exercise books and other school supplies for girls.

Junior High School Level

1096. At the Junior High School level, gender parity has been increasing steadily except between 2005/06 and 2006/07 when it dipped from 0.93 to 0.91. On the whole, geographical imbalances in the GPI means additional resources are required to undertake targeted interventions in difficult areas and to roll out packages for other less difficult but still vulnerable areas to attract and retain girls in school.

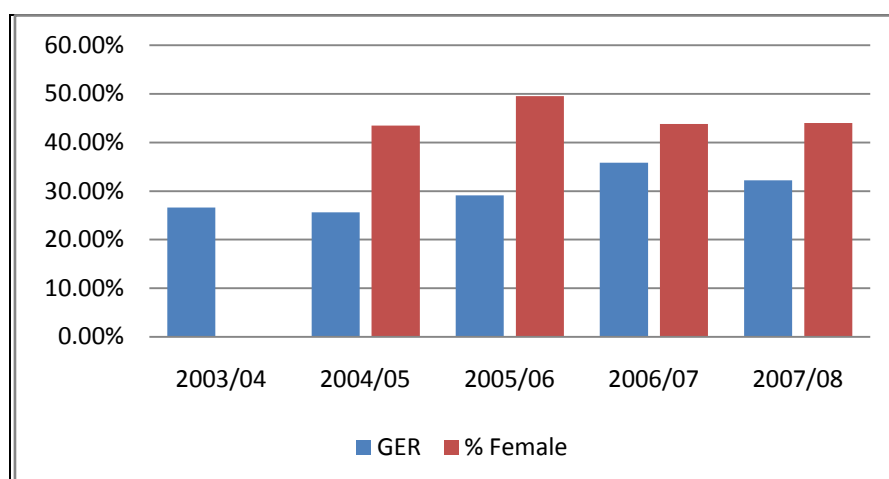
Figure 7: JHS Female And Male Gross Enrolments And Gender Parity



Female Participation at Senior High School level

1097. Enrolments at Senior High School level have increased from 328,426 in 2003/04 to 454,681 in the 2007/08 academic year. The participation of girls has hovered between 43 and 44 per cent between 2004 and 2008 with significant increase in 2005/06 academic year to just under 50 per cent. This increase has however not been sustained. Female participation at SHS level in 2008 was back to 44 per cent.

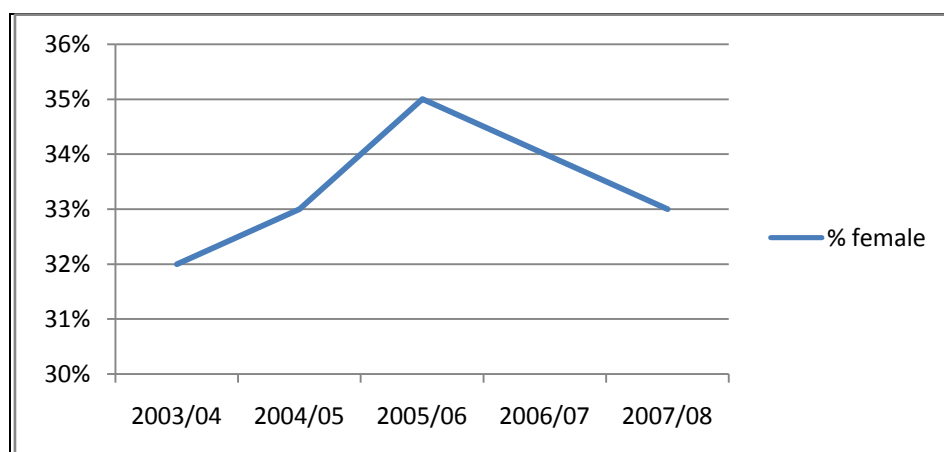
Figure 8: Female Participation At SHS Level



Female Participation at Tertiary Level

1098. Female participation at tertiary level was recorded at about 32 per cent in 2003/04 and rose to 35 per cent in 2005/06 academic year. Data for 2007/08 academic year shows a 2 percentage point drop to 33 per cent.

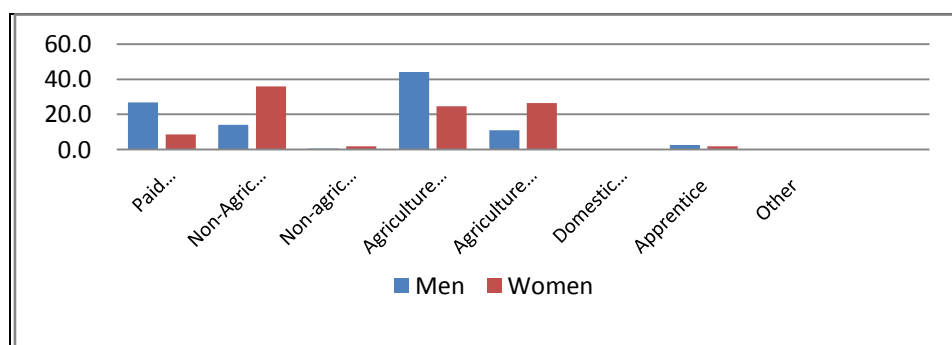
Figure 9: Female Participation At Tertiary Level



MDG3 – Target - Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector

1099. Madam Speaker, in 2005/06 the labour force participation rate amongst women aged 15 years and above was estimated at 69.2 per cent. This is lower than the participation rate amongst men of 72.9 per cent. The participation rate amongst rural women in 2005/06 of 75.2 per cent was significantly higher compared to that of urban women which is estimated at 60.6 per cent. There has been an increase in the proportion of the population 15-24 years that is in school over time.
1100. In 1998/99, Madam Speaker, 28 per cent of women aged 15-24 years were in school. The proportion rose to 42 per cent in 2003 and was estimated at 43 per cent in 2005/06. Thus late entry into school and/or an increase in years of schooling lengthened the period it takes for both men and women to enter the labour market. Lower rural enrolment rates compared to urban enrolment rates is one reason for the higher labour force participation rates amongst rural women. A lower proportion of women, that is. 8.6 per cent are estimated to be in paid employment compared to men in 2005/06. There was a slight increase in the proportion of women in paid employment between 1998/09 and 2005/06.

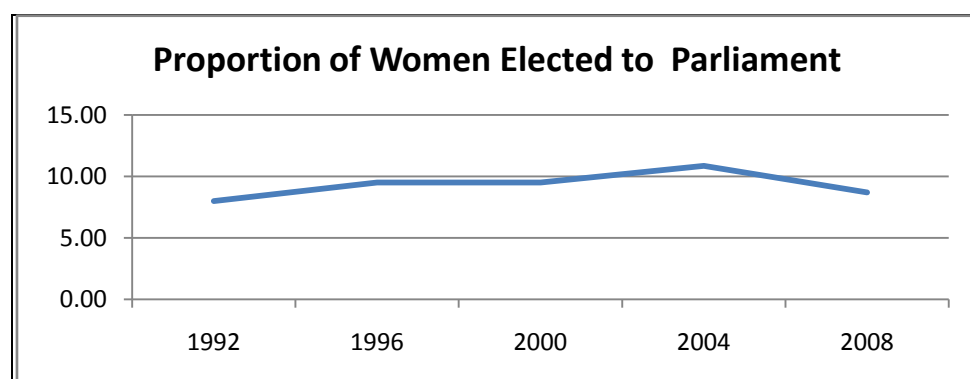
Figure 10: Status of Employment of Persons Aged 15 years & above



Source: Ghana Statistical Service Ghana Living Standards Survey 1998/99 and Ghana Living Standards Survey 2005/06, Preliminary Results.

1101. The proportion of women who are unpaid family workers increased from 24.5 per cent in 1998/09 to 28.5 per cent in 2005/06. The proportion of women aged 15 years and above who are unpaid family workers in agriculture is estimated to have increased by more than 4 percentage points. The large, significant and rising proportion of women who are unpaid family workers suggests that rather limited progress has been made in improving the economic empowerment of women.
1102. Madam Speaker, in terms of the MDG target of proportion of seats held by women in Parliament, Ghana has experienced a decline. In 1992, Ghana had 16 women elected to Parliament out of a 200-member legislature comprising 8 per cent of the total. This improved to 19 women out of 200 in 1996, indicating an increasing proportion at 9.5 per cent. The 2000 elections had the same proportion of women in Parliament as in the previous election.
1103. In 2004, the number of Parliamentary seats was increased to 230, and female representation increased to 25, representing 10.86 per cent of the total. The current Parliament has only 20 women representing 8.7 per cent of the total number of seats. This is a rather disappointing outturn considering the strong advocacy and intensive campaign by women activists undertaken in support of the 103 women who contested as Parliamentarians.

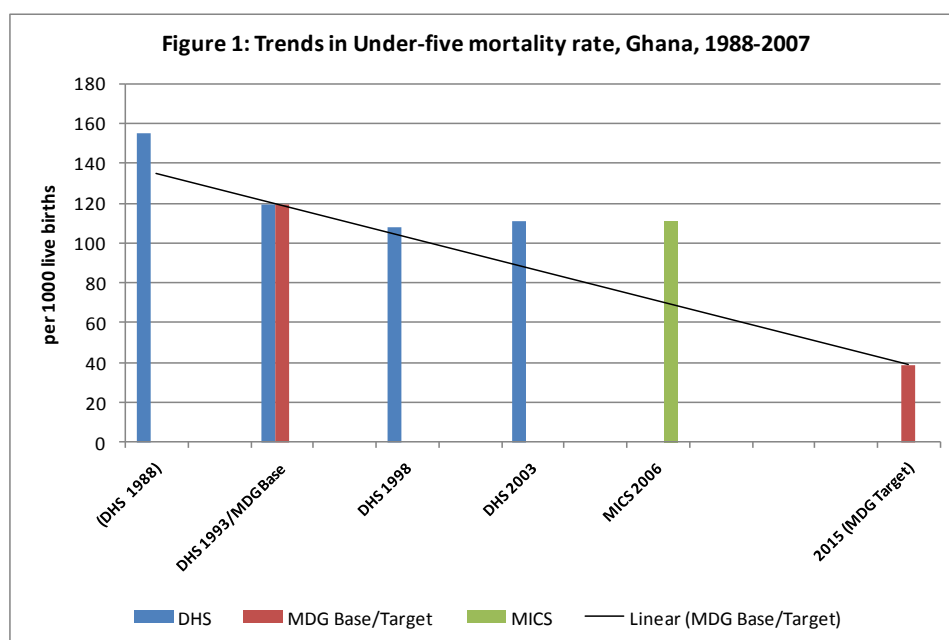
Figure 11: Proportion of Women Elected to Parliament



MDG 4 – Target – Reduce Under-Five Mortality by two-thirds by 2015

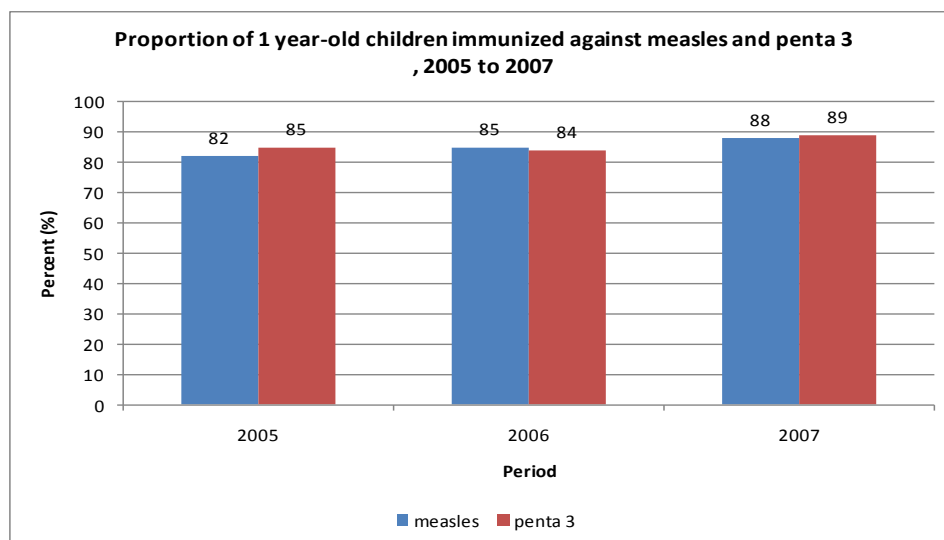
1104. Madam Speaker, given the trends with this indicator, Ghana appears unlikely to meet this MDG target. Under-five mortality in Ghana increased from 109 per 1,000 in 1998 to 111 per 1,000 in 2003³ and appears to have stagnated by 2006 as estimated in the Ghana Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey. However, other important indicators on child survival have improved. For example, under-five malaria case fatality has declined steadily over the years, reducing from 3.7 to 2.1 between 2002 and 2007. Immunization coverage in all antigens in 2007 was between 88 and 90 per cent up from 71.9 per cent in 2005.

Figure 12: Trends in Under-Five Mortality Rate, Ghana, 1988-2007



³ The Ghana Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) specifically measures under-five mortality. The most recent DHS was in 2003. The DHS 2008 report is yet to be published.

Figure 13: Proportion of 1 year old children immunised against measles and penta 3, 2005 to 2007

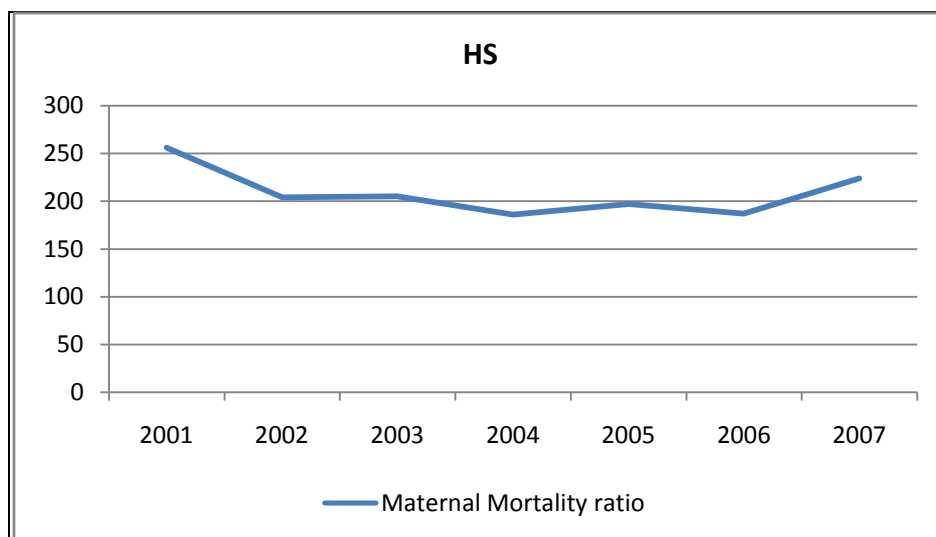


MDG 5 – Targets – Reduce by three-quarters the Maternal Mortality Ratio⁴

1105. Madam Speaker, institutional maternal mortality ratio, which measures maternal deaths occurring in health facilities only, has shown a disturbing trend. From 197 per 100,000 live births in 2005 it dropped to 187 per 100,000 live births in 2006 and rose again in 2007 to 224 per 100,000 live births.

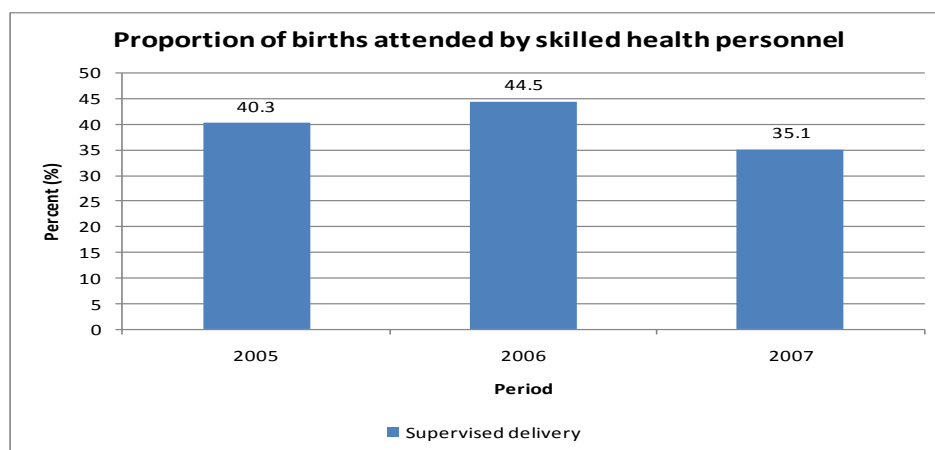
⁴ Estimates of the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) range between 214 and 540 per 100,000 live births.

Figure 14: Maternal Mortality Ratio (Institutional) Per 100,000 Live Birth



1106. Coverage of supervised deliveries increased from 40.3 to 44.5 per cent in 2006, but dropped significantly to 35 per cent in 2007. Ante-natal coverage of four or more visits, on the other hand, improved, at 89.5 per cent during 2007.

Figure 15: Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel



1107. Madam Speaker, maternal mortality has been declared a national emergency. Implementation of a programme of free health care for pregnant women, including deliveries, has been started in July 1, 2008. This is expected to remove one of the main obstacles to reducing maternal mortality rates – that of supervised delivery. This policy is being implemented through the National Health Insurance Scheme.
1108. Districts are using a range of approaches to increase supervised delivery, including targeting pregnant women for NHIS registration, raising community awareness through CHPS zones, Community Health Officers outreach education and mobilisation of community leaders among others.
1109. Madam Speaker, for Ghana to meet the targets of MDG 5, a number of challenges have been identified. The first is that of funding – more innovation is required in the use of existing resources, in addition to sustained resource mobilization.
1110. The second challenge area, that of health systems includes addressing manpower constraints and poor quality of care. The third area of attention are the socio-economic and socio-cultural factors such as low female literacy rate; low level of women's empowerment (in some parts of the country men make decisions about household healthcare choices and practices, including decisions about the healthcare practices of their wives or female partners).
1111. Other factors such as poverty and problematic traditional practices such as poor health-seeking behaviours all pose challenges to be contended with.

MDG 6 – Halt and reverse the Spread of HIV/AIDS

1112. Madam Speaker, the 2007 Ghana HIV/AIDS Sentinel survey indicates a decrease in HIV sero prevalence to 2.6 in 2007, with a higher prevalence in urban areas compared to rural. Among

the younger age groups, the data indicates a high female to male ratio.

1113. Interventions being undertaken to reduce the spread of the disease include programmes for safer sex particularly among the most vulnerable, reducing mother-to-child transmission and promoting voluntary counseling and testing and increasing Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART) for Persons Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHAs). The number of HIV clients receiving ART increased from 6,000 in 2006 to 13,429 by end 2007. By September 2008, HIV clients on ART numbered 20,680.

MDG 6 – Halt and reverse the incidence of Tuberculosis

1114. Madam Speaker, the incidence of Tuberculosis was 57 per 100,000 in 2008. The proportion of cases detected and cured under directly observed treatment short course was 70 per cent in 2007. This is a significant improvement from the level of 48 per cent in 2001. The death rate from TB is 9 per cent.

MDG 6 – Halt and Reverse the incidence of Malaria

1115. Madam Speaker, the national under-five case malaria fatality rate has improved from 3.7 per cent in 2002 to 2.1 per cent in 2006 and also in 2007. Contributing is the increased use of Insecticide Treated Bednets (ITNs)
1116. The proportion of under-fives sleeping under an ITN more than doubled between 2006 and 2007. The proportion of children suffering from malaria in the last month before the annual NMCP survey was conducted who received appropriate and timely treatment improved from 54 per cent in 2006 to 61 per cent in 2007.
1117. By end 2008, the proportion of children sleeping under insecticide-treated bednets was 40.5 per cent. For the same period, the proportion of children under-five with fever treated

with an anti-malaria drug within 24 hours was 24.8 per cent; while those treated within 48 hours, was 32 per cent.

MDG 7 – Halve by 2015, the proportion of persons without access to safe drinking water

1118. Madam Speaker, in year 2000, safe water coverage for the urban population was 70 per cent while that for rural was 41 per cent. Coverage for rural water has been increasing steadily for the past five years; from a base of 41 per cent in 2000, to almost 55 per cent by end 2007. Coverage as at end September 2008 was 56.4 per cent.
1119. For urban water, progress has been steady but slow. The 2007 coverage level is 57 per cent despite significant injection of resources since 2000. Ghana is therefore not on course to meet the target for urban water without a significant increase in resources. The major reason is the inability to match the increased demand due to rapidly increasing urban population and closing the gap of low investment in the sector.
1120. Madam Speaker, Ghana's Guineaworm Eradication Programme (GWEP) now owns the record for the greatest reduction in cases for an entire moderately endemic country in one year, having reduced its reported cases from 3,358 in 2007 to 501 in 2008; an 85 per cent reduction in one year. This follows containment of 2,836 of Ghana's 3,358 dracunculiasis cases (84%) in 2007.
1121. Ghana's case containment rate for 2008 is again 84%, and 35 per cent of Ghana's cases in 2008 were contained in a Case Containment Center. Only 46 villages reported indigenous cases. The long-awaited Tamale Water Expansion Project, which also serves the town of Savelugu, was inaugurated on November 28, 2008. The areas now being served with potable water, Greater Tamale and Savelugu Town, (not all of Tamale and Savelugu Districts) reported 94 cases of Guineaworm disease in 2008.

OUTLOOK FOR 2009

SPENDING ON POVERTY REDUCTION

1122. Madam Speaker, spending by MDAs on poverty-related activities from the Consolidated Fund in 2009 is estimated at GH¢ 1.86 billion representing 25 per cent of total Government Expenditure. The funds allocated will support basic education, primary health care, poverty-focused agriculture, provision of rural water, feeder roads and rural electrification.
1123. An amount of GH¢ 19 million has also been provided to support consumers of electricity by poor households, known as the Electricity Lifeline payments. For the Safety Net programmes, including the Self Help Electrification Programme (SHEP 4) GH¢ 35 million will be spent.
1124. Madam Speaker, planned HIPC Funds for 2009 comes to a total of GH¢264.74 million, comprising GH¢52.95 million for domestic interest payments and an amount of GH¢80 million will be set aside as general budget support and GH¢92.08 million for sectoral programmes for all three broad pillars of GPRS II.
1125. Of the GH¢92.08 million for sectoral programmes, Human Development Services gets the largest share at GH¢61 million representing about 66.25 per cent. Private Sector Development follows with GH¢24.6 million representing about 27 per cent and Good Governance programmes with GH¢6.5 million representing about 7 per cent.
1126. District Assemblies share of HIPC including Members of Parliament's share comes to a total of about GH¢26.47 million. This amount is intended for use at the district level and is normally spent on activities in education, health, water and sanitation and disaster management. A contingency of about GH¢13.2 million has also been provided for.

1127. Programmes to be supported in the Human Development Pillar include the Capitation Grant Scheme, School Feeding and subsidies for BECE and Senior High Schools. Waste management, water and clinical trials for malaria will be supported. An amount of GH¢2 million will be used for equipment for the University of Cape Coast Medical School.
1128. For Private Sector development, programmes to be supported include support to plantation development and provide community information. Under Good Governance, support will be provided for strengthening public financial management. An amount of GH¢6 million will be provided for the registration exercise of the National Identification Authority.
1129. Madam Speaker, total MDRI spending has been projected to be GH¢93.27 million. The Education sector will be supported with GH¢23.7 million for subsidies for BECE and Senior High schools. The Youth Employment and LEAP programmes will be supported with a total of GH¢17.5 million while sanitation services under the Local Government sector will receive GH¢10 million.
1130. Madam Speaker, as further support to public financial management, and amount of GH¢7.74 million has been programmed. For the population census, an amount of GH¢5.0 million has been earmarked. Counterpart funding of GH¢25 million will be provided to support implementation of the Self Help Electrification Programme (SHEP). A total of GH¢4.33 million has been reserved as contingency.

SECTION EIGHT: POLICY INITIATIVES

1131. Madam Speaker, whereas we have outlined a number of sectoral interventions, there are certain key policy measures which we believe would, fundamentally, change the current state of the economy as part of this Government's efforts towards providing 'a Better Ghana' for Ghanaians. While some of these measures will directly impact people's lives in the short term, Government in its quest to provide Ghanaians a better life, will implement more measures which will provide a solid foundation for a Better Ghana.

Investing in People

Education

1132. Madam Speaker, quality education leads to quality life. This Government believes that it is the right of every child and young person to have access to quality education for personal development and also contribute to building a prosperous Ghana for a better life for all.
1133. In this regard, Government will, from the coming academic year, provide three specific interventions intended to improve the access to and quality of education at the basic level:
- Firstly, we will provide school uniforms for about 1.6 million pupils in public basic schools in deprived communities throughout the country. The uniform would be the standard type prescribed for public schools;
 - Secondly, the current Capitation Grant will be increased by 50 per cent from GH ₵3.00 to GH ₵4.50; and
 - Thirdly, free exercise books will be provided for every pupil in all public basic schools. The details will be provided by the Ministry of Education in due course.

Health

1134. Madam Speaker, this year, a major intervention will be in the area of malaria prevention and control.

Malaria

1135. Madam Speaker, malaria is a leading cause of morbidity in Ghana, accounting for about 40 per cent of outpatient attendance, and a leading cause of death, especially, among children under five years of age and pregnant women. Malaria affects productivity throughout the economy.

1136. Currently, research activities into the *Cryptolepis* plant, which is indigenous to Ghana and used for malaria treatment is being undertaken. Preliminary results show that the crude extract of the plant completely eliminates malaria parasites in an average of 3.5 days, with no adverse side effects, and also had anti-pyretic or temperature reducing effects.

1137. The success of this initiative will reduce imports of malaria drugs and stimulate the agricultural side of our economy and possibly exports, at the same time.

1138. Clinical trials will be undertaken by the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research, in collaboration with a strategic investor, Phytica Ltd under a Public-Private Partnership agreement.

1139. Government will also intensify the distribution of insecticide treated nets (ITNs), indoor residual spraying and scale up bio-larviciding projects to the Central, Western and other regions.

Review of National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) Law

1140. Madam Speaker, the NHIS Law will be reviewed to address the challenges that have emerged after 4 years of implementation.

1141. Government will commence work on the implementation of the one-time payment of insurance premium. In this regard, actuarial analysis relating thereto will start in earnest.

1142. The Scheme will be restructured to reduce the wastage and inefficiencies which currently exist, address the challenge of effective claims management, and expand access for the poorest. In addition, all District Mutual Health Insurance Schemes (DHMIS) will be networked to the service providers and the National Health Insurance Authority to resolve the problem of portability. This will enable registered Ghanaians access to health insurance throughout the country.
1143. Government will also pursue the policy on de-linking children from their parents' registration.

Water and Sanitation

1144. Madam Speaker, water is a priority of Government, for, water is life. Within the medium term, Government will ensure that all communities, especially, those in guinea worm endemic areas have access to potable water. The sub-sector's Medium Term Investment Plan for 2009 – 2013 aims at having at least 76 per cent of Ghana's rural and small town inhabitants to have access to potable water by 2013. This year, Government will review all water projects, especially those funded from external resources to ensure their speedy completion.
1145. The five per cent contribution to the cost of water projects funded by donors and Government by District Assemblies and communities will be abolished. The requirement has over the years been a constraint to a number of communities in their access to safe water.
1146. Madam Speaker, there is no reliable national data on sanitation. However, we are all very much aware of the challenges we face in this country with regard to sanitation. One of the interventions Government highlighted as part of its agenda for the first 100-days in office was to significantly reduce the filth which has engulfed our cities and communities. In this regard, Government will collaborate with District Assemblies nationwide to use a proportion of their District Assemblies Common Fund

(DACF) to effectively tackle the sanitation situation across the country.

Agricultural Financing

1147. Madam Speaker, agriculture, the biggest sector of the economy has been targeted by the Government for accelerated development.
1148. Funding for large scale commercial agriculture has always been the bane of the accelerated development in this sector. Credit from the banking sector to the agriculture sector continues to be woefully inadequate.
1149. In order to address this issue, Government will review the Export Development and Investment Fund (EDIF) Law to include the use of the Fund for agricultural investment and infrastructure. Disbursements will be made direct to beneficiaries in the agricultural sector. Additional resources will be directed into EDIF to support commercial agriculture.

Promotion of Commercial Agriculture

1150. Madam Speaker, to ensure food security and agriculture growth, the Accra and Afram Plains irrigation projects will be pursued vigorously. Government will also re-activate commercial agriculture – in rice, mango and cotton farming in the three Northern regions.
1151. Government will review the current Land Administration Programme (LAP) to include the use of the relevant institutions of Government to facilitate the survey, demarcation and registration of agricultural lands free of charge to promote large scale commercial agriculture.

Rehabilitation of Aveyime Rice Project

1152. Madam Speaker, Government will reactivate the Aveyime rice project under a public private partnership arrangement.

MPs Development Fund

1153. Madam Speaker, Government will establish the MPs Development fund which will be financed from the District Assembly Common Fund and other funds.

Fisheries Sub-sector

1154. Madam Speaker, under the fishing sub-sector, Government has indentified numerous challenges inhibiting the growth of the fishing sector in the country. In this regard, the 2009 budget will address the following issues:

- Government will review all existing agreements on fishing within Ghana's territorial waters to ensure that the livelihood and long term interest of our fishermen and residents of our coastal communities are guaranteed. To this end, Government has contracted a loan of US\$ 39 million to purchase patrol boats;
- Government will ensure that no foreign and local fishing trawlers use any unorthodox fishing methods to deplete the marine resources in our territorial waters. This will be done through the combined efforts of the Ghana Navy and Air force. Government will contribute a cedi equivalent of GH¢ 8 million. This policy is intended to increased incomes of our fisher folk who are extremely poor.

Construction of Fishing Harbours and Landing Sites

1155. The agreement covering the construction of two fishing harbours and twelve landing sites along the coastal strip will be signed later in the year for full scale implementation to begin.

1156. The Harbours would be constructed at James Town and Elmina while the landing sites would be constructed at:

- Teshie and Ada in the Greater Accra region;
- Axim and Dixcove in the Western region;
- Winneba, Mumford, Senya-Beraku, Gomoa Fetteh and Moree in the Central region;
- Keta in the Volta Region; and
- Dzemeni and Tapa Abotoase on the volta lake.

1157. In addition, ice blocks and crushed making plants for the manufacture of ice blocks or crushed blocks would be established in some of the fishing communities. Other aspects of the project include the construction of blast freezers and day care centres.

Aquaculture

1158. Madam Speaker, construction of an aquaculture facility at Asamasa in the Western Region would be completed in the course of the year.

1159. The project will produce fingerlings and set up a feed mill for the productions of scientifically formulated fish feed for out-growers. The project is expected to propel the full scale development of aquaculture in Ghana. Along the Central and Western communities, feasibility studies would be conducted into shrimp and lobster farming for implementation.

1160. The project will be replicated in the other regions to make fingerlings and fish feed available to fish farmers in the other parts of the country.

Bridging the Development Gap and Addressing Extreme Poverty

1161. Madam Speaker, Government will expand the programme of bridging the development gap between northern and southern

Ghana to encompass all the northern savannah areas including northern Brong-Ahafo and northern Volta Region) and establish the Savannah Accelerated Development Authority (SADA). The Northern Development Fund Act will, therefore, be revised to accommodate this new concept which will be incorporated into Ghana's medium to long term development programme in 2009.

- 1162. Government intends to harness the resources of the Savannah areas with value-added processing, improved technology coupled with strategic investments in people and social services.
- 1163. In addition, Madam Speaker, CEDECOM will be re-activated as a regional development institution which will be supported to design and establish a job creation strategy including the integrated development of the fishing belt and food security measures for the hinterland.

Government Cash Management System – Introduction of Treasury Single Account (TSA)

- 1164. Madam Speaker, in 2009, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning will introduce an effective cash management system through the use of the Treasury Single Account (TSA). The proposed TSA framework will be a single Government account structure where all other accounts (including MDAs and statutory funds i.e. DACF, GETFund, NHIF) are considered as sub-accounts. The sum of the balances of all the sub-accounts at any given time will represent Government's overall cash position.
- 1165. The TSA framework will improve Government's fiscal position and allow Government to identify and properly utilize idle cash in Government accounts at the Bank of Ghana and other deposit money banks. The Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning will review its Service Level Agreement with the Bank of Ghana to ensure its full implementation and monitoring.

Fiscal Discipline

1166. Madam Speaker, our major focus for the year will be a return to tight fiscal discipline to ensure macroeconomic stability and pro-poor growth. As has been indicated earlier, the 2008 deficit and the current economic challenges we face were caused by two broad factors.
1167. The first was fiscal indiscipline related to over commitment and over expenditure by Ministries, Departments and Agencies over and above the ceilings provided them, leading to huge slippages in Government expenditure.
1168. The second issue relates to the huge wage overruns due to higher than anticipated wage increases and an inefficient wage administration. As part of efforts to reduce the country's budget deficit, it is critical that the causative factors are addressed to ensure that we deal with these perennial issues and enforce discipline in the management of the economy.
1169. Madam Speaker, Government intends to set up an effective monitoring system both within the Presidency and the Ministry of Finance to ensure full compliance with financial regulations and make these agencies more accountable.
1170. Indeed, a rewards and sanctions regime will be implemented to ensure that good performance and excellence are rewarded and bad performance and mediocrity are punished and discouraged.

Wages

1171. Madam Speaker, between 2002 and 2008 the country spent an average of 65 per cent of its total tax revenue on wages. In 2009, it is expected that 69.4 per cent of tax revenue will be spent on salaries of the around 470,000 employees on Government payroll. This leaves only 30 per cent of total tax revenue for all other activities, including the provision of essential social services like health delivery and education.

1172. Clearly, Madam Speaker, this trend of expenditure is not only unsustainable, but it creates a huge dependency on external financing for our development agenda, and increases our debt burden and our vulnerability to external shocks.
1173. Madam Speaker, in 2009, Government will review the current wage administration to increase efficiency and rationalize the current expenditure on wages and salaries. A thorough audit of IPPD2 will be conducted to determine its efficiency and viability as a mechanism for wage and human resource management.
1174. The review will also focus on developing appropriate timing of wage negotiations between Government and employee associations to ensure that yearly growth in the wage bill can be adequately accommodated in the national budget.

Restoration of Duty on Food Import

1175. Madam Speaker, Government will restore the import duties on rice, wheat and cooking oil which were removed following the height of the food crises last year.

Management of Statutory Funds

1176. Madam Speaker, a review of our fiscal framework indicates a number of statutory payments, besides the interest payments and commitments by legislation to one fund or the other, such as the DACF, GETFund, Road Fund, NHIF and now the communication service tax for the National Youth employment programme.
1177. Madam Speaker, while acknowledging that the earmarking of tax revenues provides a sound reason for imposing new taxes, the effects of this is a rigidity in our budget management. This has resulted in very limited funds for discretionary expenditure and, therefore, in challenging times like these, there is very limited flexibility for economic management.

1178. Madam Speaker, to address this rigidity in the management of our budget, Government will review the management of these statutory funds to introduce some flexibility in the use of these funds for better fiscal management.
1179. Additionally, we will ensure better alignment of expenditure by these statutory funds and the relevant sector ministry's own expenditures within the sector to ensure policy coherence and consistency in strategies and expenditure.

Airport Tax

1180. Madam Speaker, airport tax is needed to support improvement in basic amenities which travelers demand and deserve to have. Comfortable and secured resting places, better environment for those in transit and accessible and decent places of convenience are essential airport facilities, especially as Ghana seeks to become the hub of the sub-region.
1181. Moreover, much has changed in airport security since the last increase in 2001. In the post 9/11, era, increased airport security requires additional security personnel and technology are needed to ensure the safety of the traveling public. Around the globe, Governments are paying for these additional security resources through additional airport charges.
1182. Madam Speaker, it is for these reasons and for our general revenue needs to support, for example, mass transit, that the airport tax for international travel (outside of West Africa) will be increased from US\$ 50.00 to US\$ 75.00.

National Revenue Authority

1183. Madam Speaker, revenue administration in Ghana faces serious challenges as a result of the fact that tax administration is still by "tax type" with the three tax agencies operating independently. There are no shared activities (e.g. joint audits, integrated ICT systems etc). There is very little exchange of information at the operational level on taxpayers and no attempt

is made to look at tax compliance in a comprehensive manner. The results are high compliance costs for taxpayers, high administrative costs for Government and most importantly, opportunities for taxpayers to evade taxes.

1184. Government will initiate the process to consolidate existing tax laws. Tax administration will be organized on a functional basis to maximize revenue collection. Government will also initiate the process of merging the three revenue agencies under an Office of Commissioner-General of Revenues.

Establishment of a Sinking Fund to retire Sovereign and Jubilee Bonds

1185. In 2007, Government of Ghana obtained and utilised a US\$750 million sovereign bond from the International Capital Markets. The Bond is redeemable by a one-time payment in 2017. In addition, Government issued the Golden Jubilee Bond of GH¢20 million in 2008, redeemable in 2013. Government will initiate the process for the creation of a Sinking Fund account to ensure availability of funds for repayment at the maturity dates.

Mitigating the Effects of the Global Financial Crisis and Credit Crunch

1186. Madam Speaker, the Global Financial Crisis (GFC) and the Credit Crunch (CC) are expected to impact on the Ghanaian economy in a number of ways. These include a reduction in external financing, remittances and export earnings, with adverse implications for the country's external reserves.
1187. As part of measures to enable Ghana deal with the GFC and CC, Government will:
- Enforce the Foreign Exchange Act in terms of monitoring and reporting;
 - Review mining, oil and forestry firms' agreements to require them to repatriate part of their retentions in Ghana;
 - Renegotiate the Stability Agreement of the Mining Act; and

- Re-activate the initiative of undertaking gold audits.

Youth Employment

1188. Madam Speaker, Government's long term objective is to promote and create productive employment opportunities in all sectors of the economy.
1189. In support of this objective, Government will, in the course of the year, review current employment strategies and concurrently transform the National Youth Employment Programme (NYEP) into a permanent, better funded employment agency, the Youth Employment Service.
1190. The Service will engage in capacity-building in order to facilitate access to sustainable employment. In addition, the Ministry of Employment and Social Welfare will facilitate the establishment of private employment agencies, to complement Government's efforts.
1191. Government will, through the use of tax concessions, encourage private companies, especially, financial institutions to recruit school leavers into apprenticeship and gainful employment.
1192. Madam Speaker, to advance this policy, Government will also surcharge companies, that bring in staff that could be available locally.

Public Security

1193. Madam Speaker, the current security situation in Ghana which is characterized by frequent occurrences of drug trafficking, highway and armed robberies and audacious burglaries are completely unacceptable. Law and order, human safety and protecting the people remain the corner stone of our internal security policy. Government will improve the capacity of the security agencies to ensure personal safety and security of the citizenry.

1194. Madam Speaker, our commitment to stamp out drug trafficking through and within the country remains firm. In line with this, Government will review the Narcotic Drugs Control and Sanctions Law of 1990 (PNDC Law 236).
1195. Government will create a more effective and efficient drug enforcement agency that will collaborate with international drug enforcement agencies, to arrest and prosecute offenders. In addition, investigations into the numerous high profile drug trafficking cases will be conducted.
1196. Madam Speaker, adequate provision has been made in the budget to cater for these security concerns.

Local content in construction contracts

1197. Madam Speaker, Government is concerned about the current situation where major construction works are being undertaken solely by foreign contractors. To build capacity of our local contractors, Government will pursue programmes and policies to ensure that our local contractors are given a reservation of about 30 per cent for contracts being executed by foreigners.
1198. To facilitate this measure, Government will review the Public Procurement Act to enable implementation of this policy measure.

Allowance to Queen Mothers

1199. Madam Speaker, the allowance for Chiefs will continue. However, We are going to increase the coverage of the allowances to registered Queen-Mothers.

Reafforestation

1200. Government will encourage private sector entrepreneurs and the public sector to plant teak trees in degraded forest areas on a large scale, by facilitating the provision of soft loans to interested participants in the scheme. Teak has a ready market

as well as a high market value. The scheme also represents an opportunity to earn carbon credits.

SECTION NINE: IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES

1201. Madam speaker, we recognise that the implementation of the 2009 Budget may face some risks or challenges, both domestic and external, which will have to be managed properly to ensure effective and efficient execution of the programmes and activities in the budget.

External Shocks

1202. Madam speaker, it is expected that 2009 may witness carry through of the global food and fuel crises and the credit crunch which began in 2008. These shocks could result in reduced external inflows, lower remittances, and reduced demand for our exports. Government will monitor the situation and put in place measures to minimize the possible impact of these shocks.

Salary Administration

1203. Madam speaker, we are committed to ensuring that the wage settlement process of the public sector is efficient and effective with the view to linking pay with productivity. Currently, there are systemic and technical difficulties, especially, those relating to the current IPPD2 software which are posing substantial challenges to the efficient administration of public sector wages.

1204. Madam speaker, expectations of public sector workers on the implementation of the Single Spine Pay Structure also pose a risk to the smooth implementation of the 2009 Budget. Government will increase consultations with all relevant stakeholders to ensure that such risks are minimized.

Fiscal Management

1205. Madam speaker, the high fiscal deficit registered in 2008 continues to pose a challenge to a stable economy in 2009. Our

effort to restore macroeconomic stability implies a tighter fiscal stance which may constrain our ability to embark on major development projects.

Contingent Liabilities

1206. The huge contingent liabilities from state-owned enterprises, including Tema Oil Refinery, Volta River Authority and the Ghana Highways Authority pose a tremendous challenge to fiscal management. We will increase our monitoring of such contingent liabilities to ensure preparedness in the event of crystallisation of any such liabilities.

SECTION TEN: CONCLUSION

1207. Madam Speaker, the NDC Government promised Ghanaians a better life. Based on a good, caring and accountable Government implementing mutually beneficial programmes that will generate pro-poor and sustainable growth.
1208. We will invest in people through the provision of better quality social services and create job opportunities and provide justice for all. We will build capacities and energize the public sector to meet emerging challenges.
1209. Madam Speaker, we will do things differently and it will not be business as usual. Mediocrity, waste and profligate expenditures will not be countenanced. We will ensure good value for every Ghana Pesewa of the taxes we collect from the people of Ghana and utilize it to deliver better services. To this end, unnecessary expenditures which do not inure to the benefit of Ghanaians will be curtailed. Delays in service delivery and payments will be reduced and quality of social services will improve. This is the change that we promised Ghanaians and we will deliver it.
1210. Madam Speaker, the theme for this year's budget demonstrates our resolve to enforce financial rules and regulations to ensure accountable governance. Madam Speaker, effectiveness and efficiency is what we demand from everyone. In that regard, we will monitor Government institutions to ensure that they deliver on their mandate. Special efforts will be made to refocus institutions to make them more results oriented and collectively, we will provide a better Ghana for Ghanaians.
1211. Madam Speaker, I wish to assure Ghanaians that, a year from now this country will be better than it is today, and their lives will be better. The priority measures, strategies and programmes that we have outlined in this budget are geared towards restoring security, discipline, opportunity, confidence and pride in the economic governance of our country.

1212. I reach out to both sides of the house in a non-partisan manner to support the implementation of the policies and measures outlined in this budget to ensure a better Ghana for all Ghanaians.
1213. Madam Speaker, let me quickly add, that we are fully capable and committed to deliver on our promise. These challenges are not insurmountable. Some are external and others are domestic. We do not have full control over the external ones but we will implement measures to mitigate them. On the domestic front we will do what is right, responsible and good for this country.
1214. Madam speaker on that note, I beg to move.

THEME: “Investing In A BETTER GHANA”

ADDENDUM

Excise Duties

1. **Madam Speaker,** Customs and Excise (Duties and other taxes) (Amendment) Act 2007, Act 739 provided for specific excise duty rates on locally produced alcoholic, non-alcoholic and tobacco products.
2. Excise duty rates on locally produced or manufactured goods apply equally to similar goods when imported. However, in the case of wines and spirits this cannot be easily achieved.
3. In view of this we will present proposals to the House to make appropriate changes in the Act.

Petroleum Taxes

4. In the manifesto of the NDC, we signaled our intention to reduce the price of petroleum products and alleviate the hardships that the people have faced in recent times.
5. In fulfillment of this promise, government has decided to reduce taxes on petroleum products. The National Petroleum Authority (NPA) will make the necessary announcement as soon as this House endorses the proposals.
6. **Madam Speaker,** when this is done we expect transport agencies to show good faith and reciprocate government's gesture by passing on the reductions on to the traveling public.