

**MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY GENERAL'S
DEPARTMENT**

2009 ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GPRS II

The Ministry, its Departments and Agencies were allocated the total amount of GH¢ 15,006,818 out of which GH¢ 13,025,301.26 was spent. The breakdown at item level is as follows:

EXPENDITURE ITEMS	APPROVED BUDGET GH¢	ACTUAL EXPENDITURE GH¢
Personnel Emoluments	8,131,652	7,232,935.28
Administration Expenses	1,384,702	3,308,388.89
Service Activity Expenses	210,737	681,859.31
Investment Activity Expenses	3,896,880	368,440.69
Internally Generated Funds (IGF)	1,374,901	1,433,677.09
Donor	7,946	-
Total	15,006,818	13,025,301.26

Pro Resolve Software Gh. Ltd. has installed a Local Area Network (LAN) at the Main Block with financial support from UNDP.

Additional computers and accessories have been bought to support the e-library software that will help Attorneys with their research.

The Ministry continued its role of ensuring that the rule of law is entrenched in the Ghanaian society. It also continued with its programme of transformation to improve access to justice in the country. Accordingly, the Ministry under the Justice For All program, designed to offer prisoners on remand and others who have found themselves in prison by reason of miscarriage of justice further access to justice at no cost. On the 7th of April, 2009, 11 courts sat at the Nsawam Prisons and reviewed the cases of 553 inmates from the Greater Accra Region whose warrants had expired. The courts also sat on the 22nd and 26th of May to review the expired warrants of inmates from the Eastern and Central regions. The Companies Code is still undergoing a review by a 5-

member Committee of Experts. The Customs and Excise (Petroleum Taxes and Petroleum related levies) (Amendment) Act, 2009 (Act 781) has been enacted. The Airport Tax (Amendment) Act, 2009 (Acts 782) and the Appropriation Act, 2009 (Act 783) have also been enacted. Work on the Law House is also on-going.

THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

The Registrar-General's Department converted 95% of its data in manual business registration files into electronic database, significantly increasing turnaround times for storage and retrieval of information on businesses. The Department has also installed local and wide area networks, linking the Head office to the Regional offices in a bid to facilitate inter-branch and intra-branch work. Registration of business can now be done at the branch offices. The transportation of Tax Identification Number (TIN) Input forms to the TIN centre for the allocation of Tax numbers constituted a major of bottlenecks in the registration process. The Department has been able to forge effective collaboration with the Revenue Agency Governing Board (RAGB) regarding TIN processing. Information for generation of TIN is now electronically sent to the TIN Centre and TIN generated for a business is electronically sent back to the Department. This has resulted in massive improvement in turnaround time for registering businesses. Computerization has also reduced the time spent in conducting business names searches to an average of two (2) minutes. This used to take days. In its drive to decentralize, the Department has set up offices which are in operation in Takoradi and Kumasi. The Northern Regional Administration has allocated a block of office accommodation at Tamale for the Registrar-General's Department to provide Business Registration Services for the Northern Sector of the country. The collaboration with Ghana Post to provide registration services to clients in remote locations of the country is still in force. Business registration has also been significantly reduced to ten (10) days for Limited Liability and five (5) days for Business name and others. Construction work

on the Records block is completed and expected to be commissioned by the middle of 2010.

THE COPYRIGHT OFFICE

The Copyright Office in collaboration with the Ghana Police Service and the Customs, Excise and Preventive Service (CEPS) undertook anti-piracy activities to confiscate pirated pornographic audio and audiovisual works in the Greater Accra, Ashanti, Brong Ahafo, Central and Western Regions. About One hundred offenders were being prosecuted. Under the auspices of the Ministry of Justice the Office also organized an open forum to seek stakeholders' views on the Copyright Regulations. The Office made presentations at two separate seminars organized by the Editors Forum of Ghana, Ghana Journalist Association (GJA) and African Copyright and Access to Knowledge project. The Office registered 152 literary works, 334 musical works, 10 audiovisual works, 7 Software and 45 Artistic works and logos. The Office trained two (2) members of staff in Copyright and Related rights. One is also pursuing an LLM in Intellectual Property in Turin, Italy and the other participated in an advanced training programme in Copyright and Related rights in Stockholm, Sweden. Both programmes were sponsored by the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO). A musician and a producer undertook training in Copyright and Related rights sponsored by Norcode of Norway and WIPO respectively. The Office also received twenty (20) complaints, seven (7) of which were disposed off and thirteen (13) pending. The Office provided technical assistance to stakeholders, publishers, writers, journalists, visual artists etc. to set up a Reprographic Rights Organisation (RRO). The RRO serves to license and regulate the mass photocopying of literary works in the country.

THE COUNCIL FOR LAW REPORTING

The Council for Law Reporting is working to produce the 2003-2005 Vol. 1&2 and 2006-2007 Law Reports.

THE GENERAL LEGAL COUCIL

The General Legal Council (Ghana School of Law) called 152 lawyers to the Bar. The Disciplinary Committee also disposed of fifteen (15) out of thirty three (33) complaints of professional misconduct against lawyers received between January and July, 2009.

THE LEGAL AID SCHEME

The Legal Aid Scheme carried out public education to create awareness nationwide. The Scheme also has Community Mediation Centres in operation in all Regional offices with sixteen (16) out-stations in three (3) regions. The Scheme has also represented numerous clients in court and mediated in, and settled many cases.

THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION

The Law Reform Commission produced a working paper on Criminal Injuries Compensation Law. Consultative document on the review of Law of Contracts and a background paper on review of Mohammedan Law were also produced.

THE SERIOUS FRAUD OFFICE

The Serious Fraud Office investigated at least 40% of all reported cases brought before it with the view of reducing fraud and combating corruption. The Office has also completed works on the first floor of its 3-storey office complex building with staff occupying the offices.