THE CULTURAL POLICY



OF GHANA

NATIONAL COMMISSION ON CULTURE

2004

FOREWORD

Our country Ghana was founded on a clear perception that meaningful development must be based on strong cultural foundation. One fascinating attribute of our culture is strength and unity we derive from our diverse cultural background.

I am particularly gratified that the contents of the policy are informative, thought provoking and forward looking. There is something in it for everyone. It is thus my expectation that we shall all, from the national to the community level, acquaint ourselves thoroughly with its contents and be guided by it in our development efforts.

To demonstrate my government's commitment to the National Cultural Policy, I am also pleased to have been able to authorize the establishment of a Culture Trust Fund to give financial backing to the promotion of Ghana's diverse culture.

HIS EXCELLENCY JOHN AGYEKUM KUFUOR
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA.

DEDICATED

TO

THE PEOPLE OF GHANA

For The Promotion Of Unity In Diversity

The National Commission on Culture dedicates this Cultural Policy to the lasting memory of our Ancestors and Forebears whose vision and relentless efforts bequeathed unto us the landmass of Ghana and its priceless heritage.

We also dedicate this Policy to the Good People of this Country and to all our many traditions and institutions for their pivotal role in sustaining and giving meaning to our Culture.

Finally, we pay homage to the distinguished statesmen and women, policymakers, academics and civil society organizations whose collective ideas and ideals continue to nourish our culture.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The National Commission on Culture acknowledges with appreciation, the pioneering effort of Emeritus Prof. J.H. Kwabena Nkekia in fashioning out a Cultural Policy document for Ghana soon after it attained nationhood in 1957. This maiden policy was adopted by UNESCO and since then successive governments have used it as a reference point. In 1983, the first elaborate work on the Policy was made under the political headship of Mr. Asiedu Yirenkyi, the then Secretary for Culture and Tourism in the erstwhile Provisional National Defence Council (PNDC). His successor Dr. Ben Abdalah, ably assisted by Dr. (Mrs.) Esi Sutherland-Addy and Mr. Walter Blege, reviewed the Document when the National Commission on Culture was established by PNDC Law 238 in 1990. Prof Kwame Arhin and his successor Nana Akuaku Sarpong undertook a series of revisions and had the Draft Policy discussed at Cabinet level but it did not receive assent then.

In the year 2001, under the Presidency of His Excellency J. A. Kufuor, George P. Hagan, Chairman, and the Commissioners identified the absence of a policy as a major hindrance to the entire Document culminating in a Stakeholders Workshop in Kumasi. Today, we are happy to note that the efforts of the pioneers have not been in vain. "We Build on the Old", says an adage. The goal of fashioning a Cultural Policy for Ghana has been achieved.

The National Commission on Culture wishes to sincerely acknowledge the invaluable contribution of all statesmen, policy makers, politicians, chiefs and people of Ghana whose combined efforts engineered this Policy and brought it to life. Culture being dynamic, it is an undeniable fact that the Document will from time to time be reviewed to reflect the changing needs of time.

Our special thanks go to the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and the Goethe Institut for sponsoring an International workshop, which brought Stakeholders to Kumasi to share their views on the Policy. To the Members and Staff of the Commision we say *"AYEKOO!"* May God Bless You.

Finally, we wish to thank the President, His Excellency John Agyekum Kufuor for giving his approval to the Policy and for authorising the establishment of a culture Trust fund.

HON. GEORGE P. HAGAN
CHAIRMAN

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THE CULTURAL POLICY OF GHANA

PREAMBLE

This Cultural Policy Document is the result of many years of deliberation and discussion at several workshops and public fora.

It is dedicated to the realisation of the Vision of the people of Ghana to respect, preserve, harness and use their cultural heritage and resources to develop a united, vibrant and prosperous national community with a distinctive African identity and personality and a collective confidence and pride of place among the comity of Nations.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.0.1 Ghana has over 50 ethnic groups whose common values and institutions represent our collective national heritage. Each of these ethnic groups brought together by accident of history, has unique cultural features and traditions that give identity, self-respect and pride to the people. Since independence, the emerging civil society of Ghana has recognised the need to promote unity within this cultural diversity, and Ghana has since enjoyed relative unity, stability and peace.

In the era of globalisation and contemporary technological challenges, the people of Ghana must recognise that their culture is the basis of, and the most important factor in the nation's human and material development. Thus our history, cultural values and institutions must continue to exercise a deep influence on the nation's destiny and play a key role in governance and national life.

The Fourth Republican Constitution (1992) recognizes culture as a necessary tool for national integration and development and, under the Directive Principles of State Policy (Article 39), declares as follows:

"(1) Subject to clause (2) of this article,

the State shall take steps to encourage integration of appropriate customary values into the fabric of national life through formal and informal education and the conscious Introduction of cultural dimensions to relevant Aspect of national planning.

(2) The State shall ensure that appropriate customary and cultural values are adapted and developed as an integral part of the growing needs of the society as a whole; and in particular, that traditional practices which are injurious to the health and well being of the person are abolished.

(3) The State shall foster the development of Ghanaian languages and pride in Ghanaian culture.

(4) The State shall endeavour to preserve and protect places of historical interest and artifacts."

1.1. These principles define the constitutional responsibility of the National Commission on Culture established under PNDC Law 238 (1990). The National

Commission on Culture is headed by a Board with a regulatory, supervisory and collaborative responsibility over a number of institutions to ensure the promotion of culture in the national life of the people.

This policy is proposed to give direction to the promotion of culture in nation building.

2.0 WHAT IS OUR CULTURE?

2.01 Culture is the totality of the way of life evolved by our people through experience and reflection in our attempt to fashion a harmonious co-existence with our environment. This culture is dynamic and gives order and meaning to the social, political, economic, aesthetic and religious practices of our people. Our culture also gives us our distinct identity as a people.

2.02 Our Culture manifests in our ideals and ideas, beliefs and values; folklore, environment, science and technology; and in the forms of our political, social, legal and economic institutions. It also manifests in the aesthetic quality and humanistic dimension of our literature, music, drama, architecture, carvings, paintings and other artistic forms.

2.1 CULTURE AS A DYNAMIC FORCE

Culture is a dynamic phenomenon. This is established by our concept of Sankofa, which establishes linkages with the positive aspects of our past and the present. The concept affirms the co-existence of the past and the future in the present. It therefore, embodies the attitude of our people to the interaction between traditional values and the demands of modern technology within the contemporary international cultural milieu.

CHAPTER II

3.0 OBJECTIVES OF THE CULTURAL POLICY

3.1 MAIN OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of Ghana's Cultural Policy are three-fold:

(i). To document and promote Ghana's traditional cultural values, such as those enshrined in;

a. concepts of human dignity,
b. attitudes to nature and the environment,
c. law and order,
d. honesty and truthfulness,
e. unity and peace,
f. self reliance and dignity of labour,
g. family, community and national solidarity.

(ii) To ensure the growth and development of our cultural institutions and make them relevant to human development, democratic governance and national integration.

(iii) To enhance Ghanaian cultural life and develop cultural programmes to contribute to the nation's human development and material progress through heritage preservation, conservation, promotion and the use of traditional modern arts and crafts to create wealth and alleviate poverty.

3.2 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

In the pursuit of these, the specific objectives of the Cultural policy shall be:

1. *To Create awareness of the traditional values and generate pride and respect for the nation's heritage.

2. *To enhance the role of the media as channels for promoting understanding of our cultural values and the potential of the rich diversity of ethnic expressions for nation building.

3. *To foster national unity among the diverse ethnic groups of Ghana by promoting cultural interaction and inter-ethnic understanding through programmes that create an enabling environment for national development.

4. *To make the people of Ghana aware of the contemporary relevance of their traditions and cultural heritage and assist local communities to mobilise their cultural resources for human and material development.

5. *To identify and disseminate local knowledge of the environment and support communities to sustain positive traditional concepts and practices to protect nature and bio-diversity for the benefit of the nation.

6. *To create an institutional framework for the collection, preservation and conservation of tangible and intangible assets.

7. *To eliminate, through public education, and appropriate legislation, cultural practices that lead to the abuse of the rights of the individual on account of ethnic differences, gender, age, religion, physical challenge or economic status.

8. *To promote the arts by;
    i enhancing the status of artists and artistes,

    ii. identifying, developing and rewarding creative talent.

    iii. making artistic products contribute to wealth creation both for creative individuals and the nation as a whole.

9. *To promote the cultural awareness of the youth through formal and non-formal education to ensure that they are prepared to play their role in the cultural life of their communities.

10. *To develop data and resource materials on Ghanaian

    culture for schools, colleges and the general public.

11. *To Undertake and promote research to create a data base on culture for policy makers, academics, administrators, artists and artistes, embassies, foreign visitors and all other interested persons.

12. *To maximise the capacity of the cultural sector to develop and promote the economic aspects of culture in order to enhance Ghana's image as a culture-tourism destination.

13. *To create positive linkages between all cultural institutions thereby ensuring synergy in all cultural activities and maximise the benefits of the limited resources available to the cultural sector.

14. *To mobilise resources from public, private, local and foreign sources to support cultural programmes.

15. *To promote the harmonisation of African cultures in fulfillment of Ghana's objectives of promoting Pan-Africanism.

4.0 IMPLEMENTATION

4.0.1.1 The National Commission on Culture shall recognise all civil society groups, business and corporate organisations as stakeholders in the nation's cultural heritage and seek their participation in the implementation of policies and programmes. Among these are the Houses of Chiefs, District Assemblies, religious bodies, educational institutions, social groups, voluntary associations, artistic groups and associations, non-governmental organisations as well as the media agencies and institutions.

In this regard, the pivotal and leadership role of chiefs in heritage preservation and cultural transformation is worthy of note.

4.1 ROLE OF CHIEFS

4.1.1 The Institution of Chieftaincy is the kingpin of Ghanaian traditional culture, and its contemporary relevance is generally recognised.

4.1.2 Thus the Constitution of Ghana says in Article 270:
(1) The institution of chieftaincy, together with its traditional councils as established by customary law and usage, is hereby guaranteed.

4.1.3 Article 272 of the Constitution also states the functions of the National House of Chiefs thus:

(a) advise any person or authority charged with any responsibility under this Constitution or any other law for any matter relating to or affecting chieftaincy;

(b) undertake the progressive study, interpretation and codification of customary law with a view to evolving, in appropriate cases, and compiling the customary laws and lines of succession applicable to each stool or skin;

(c) undertake an evaluation of traditional customs and usages with a view to eliminating those customs and usages that are outmoded and socially harmful;

(d) perform such other functions, not being inconsistent with any function assigned to the House of Chiefs of a region, as Parliament may refer to it.

4.1.4 The functions of the National House of Chiefs thus clearly affirm that in the diversity of ethnic cultural traditions, Ghanaians recognize overarching cultural values, common historical bonds and similar cultural institutions and practices. The House has thus become a forum for projecting inter-ethnic understanding and national unity.

4.1.5 Over the years, the institution of chieftaincy has maintained its vitality, resilience and relevance; and it remains an important anchor of cultural life in all communities and in the nation as a whole. It has also served as a vehicle for identifying, preserving and promoting Ghanaian cultural expression.

4.1.6 Chiefs display the grandeur of cultural forms in chiefly regalia, and festival pomp and pageantry. They are the patrons of our traditional arts and crafts, language and literature.

4.1.7 Through their continuing importance as reference point of cultural values and traditional rules, chiefs are effective agents for changing negative cultural practices.

4.1.8 The partnership of Chiefs in the prosecution of Ghana's Cultural Policy is thus germane and essential and will be fully recognised by the National Commission on Culture in the planning and implementation of programmes.

4.2 RESPONSIBILITY OF THE COMMISSION

However, the administrative, operational principles and budgetary provision for the implementation of the Cultural Policy of Ghana shall be the responsibility of the National Commission on Culture, operating through a number of pro-cultural institutions and agencies.

4.2.1 The implementing institutions and agencies as presently by law defined, are:

1. Regional and District Centres for National Culture;
2. National Theatre of Ghana;
3. National Dance Company;
4. National Drama Company;
5. National Symphony Orchestra;
6. Ghana Museums and Monuments Board;
7. Bureau of Ghana languages;
8. National Folklore Board;
9. W. E. B. Du Bois Memorial Centre for Pan African Culture;
10. Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park;
11. Office of the Copyright Administrator;
12. Pan African Writers Association (Headquarters).

4.3 MODE OF IMPLEMENTATION

4.3.1 The Cultural Policy shall be implemented in six broad

dimensions:

a. preservation and conservation of culture;
b. development and promotion of culture;
c. presentation of culture;
d. the establishment of appropriate administrative structures;
e. establishment of linkages with various sectors of national development;
f. provision of funds for the implementation of the above.

4.4 PRINCIPLES OF IMPLEMENTATION

The following are crucial guidelines to the proper implementation of Ghana's Cultural Policy:

4.4.1 Ghana's cultural policy shall target the entire population and give scope for all individuals and segments of society to access and participate in cultural events. To this end, not only should citizens benefit from the cultural resources of the country, but positive steps shall also be taken to eliminate all forms of discrimination against people on grounds of ethnicity, gender, religion, economic status, age or any physical disability.

4.4.2 Although Ghana's Cultural Policy is guided by a holistic approach to culture, it recognises that not all aspects of culture and cultural processes can be regulated by policy. It affirms the basic freedoms and fundamental human rights guaranteed by the constitution and which are essential to creativity and artistic self-expression.

4.4.3 Cultural Goods and Services are an integral part of the national economy. However, for creativity and cultural entrepreneurship to thrive and contribute to wealth and employment generation, it is necessary to protect cultural goods and services from the forces and logic of the free market economy through tax relief and other measures.

5.0 APPROACHES

5.1 Preservation And Conservation Of Culture

5.1.1 The State shall encourage the identification and conservation of the nations tangible and intangible heritage through;

i. research, documentation and exhibition.

ii. Establishment of Museums and Galleries

5.1.2 The objective of preservation is not to make our culture static or mysterious, but to consciously prevent the mindless sweeping away of our cultural heritage, a situation which can only result in social instability and cultural disorientation.

5.1.3 In this direction, special attention shall be given to the preservation of traditional sacred groves, monuments, artistic treasures held in chiefly palaces, mausoleums, private homes and all objects of high artistic value.

5.1.4 Further, the National Commission on Culture in collaboration with relevant institutions, agencies and individuals shall initiate research into the various traditional and customary rules and laws of Ghana with a view to their codification and dissemination.

5.1.5 The role of civil society groups, especially, chiefs, queen mothers, women and youth shall be recognised and effectively utilised in the unearthing, preservation and conservation of cultural assets.

5.1.6 Given the rich cultural and historical roles of traditional organisations such as Asafo and similar groups in various communities, the National Commission on Culture shall collaborate with the chiefs, District Assemblies and other relevant institutions to assist them to preserve their positive cultural identity and enhance their capacity to participate in and support community development, through mass education and introduction to new economic ventures, cooperative enterprises, and cultural programmes.

5.1.7 The State shall enact and review legislation;

i. to protect all cultural assets,

ii. to protect the rights of indigenous owners of cultural heritage,

iii. to vest in itself ownership, protection and preservation rights of rare and monumental heritage objects.

5.2 DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION OF CULTURE

5.2.1 Through the relevant agencies, the nation shall:

a. Sustain and encourage positive cultural values in the fabric of national life;

b. promote formal and informal education as vehicles for inculcating cultural values;

c. ensure the existence of a conscious cultural dimension to all aspects of national development.

d. identify, give exposure to and support creative individuals and their activities for the benefit of society.

e. develop, promote and propagate Ghanaian languages through the production and publication of literary works and the use of Ghanaian languages in educational institutions and at official and public functions.

5.3. PRESENTATION OF CULTURE

5.3.1 Traditionally the ethnic groups of Ghana presented culture through festivals, durbars and rites of passage in which various forms of cultural objects and expressions were used. The nation shall recognise this mode of presentation and support it.

5.3.2 In addition, presentation of Ghanaian culture shall involve the active use of the multi-media systems. It shall also involve the use of the theatre, museums and art exhibitions, seminars and workshops.

5.3.3 The physical and cultural environment shall be presented through a culture-sensitive planning of theme parks and the erection of monuments and structures.

5.4 ARCHITECTS, PLANNERS AND DESIGNERS

5.4.1 Architects, Planners and Designers of Civil Works and Engineers shall be encouraged through workshops and seminars to incorporate indigenous ideas and aesthetics in the design of settlements, public facilities and buildings to give Ghanaian cities, towns and villages a distinct character.

5.4.2 Government shall enact laws to ensure that public buildings, parks and monuments embody indigenous aesthetics and culture that express our cultural values and historical experiences.

5.5 ESTABLISHMENT OF LINKAGES WITH VARIOUS SECTORS OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

5.5.1 The National Commission on Culture shall establish appropriate linkages with other sectors of the economy for the attainment of national cultural goals.

5.5.2 In this wise, the National Commission on Culture shall endeavour to provide cultural inputs for the planning of development programmes of all major sectors and shall collaborate and co-ordinate activities with the Chieftaincy Secretariat, the Houses of Chiefs, the Ministries of Education, Tourism, Foreign Affairs, Health, Agriculture; Environment, Science and Technology; Youth and Sports, Trade and Industry; Local Government and Rural Development, Works and Housing, Communication, Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice and the National Commission for Civic Education, and other institutions.

5.5.3 In the effort to promote Ghanaian culture internationally and foster a healthy people-to-people relationship between Ghana and other countries, Ghana shall seek and develop cultural contacts with friendly countries and external institutions through the African Union, ECOWAS, the Diaspora, the Commonwealth, the United Nations and its agencies, such as UNESCO, UNICEF, as well as any Independent Cultural Organisation by means of;

a. Cultural Workshops and Conferences;
b. Exhibition and Festivals;
c. Exchanges of Cultural administrators, artists/artistes and collaborative cultural projects, programmes, research and publications.
d. Any other means likely to promote mutual understanding, growth and development.

5.5.4 To this end, the National Commission on Culture, on behalf of the Government of Ghana, shall:

i. work out and enter into Cultural agreements with all friendly countries,

ii. train Cultural Attaches for Ghana's High Commissions and Embassies abroad,

iii. make inputs into the preparation of curricula for all educational institutions.

5.6 FINANCING OF CULTURE

5.6.1 To secure adequate funding for the implementation of this policy and supplement Government funding for the promotion of Cultural events, the National Commission on Culture shall establish a Cultural Trust Fund.

5.6.2 The Cultural Trust Fund shall be sourced from the following:

a. special Government contribution.
b. earnings from a special cultural lottery.
c. Ten percent (10%) earnings from the National Lottery.
d. Earnings from exhibitions, promotions and commercial activities.
e. Grants from International Agencies and organizations.
f. A percentage from Copyright earnings.
g. Donations.

5.6.3 The National Commission On Culture shall also receive funding for the promotion and development of the arts and culture from other sources such as:

(a) Government subvention
(b) Contributions and/or grants from District/Municipal/Metropolitan Assemblies,

(c) A designated percentage from the District Assemblies Common Fund;

(d) Sponsorship and donations from private individuals, industry, business organizations, commercial houses and other groups.

(e) Any other sources.

5.6.4. The Government shall enact laws to give tax relief to organizations and business concerns that make donations to and sponsor arts and cultural activities.

5.6.5. The National Commission on Culture shall take the necessary

measures to ensure that funds from the Cultural Trust Fund and other Cultural promotion and development resources are judiciously applied and accounted for.

CHAPTER III

6.0 CULTURAL EDUCATION

6.0.1 The impartation of positive national cultural values and the sustenance of cultural institutions and practices shall depend on the education of the youth and the general public.

6.0.2 Cultural education shall be pursued with a three-fold strategy:

i. Through formal education in schools, Colleges and Universities.

ii. By special education for creative and talented individuals to produce artists/artistes, craftsmen/women, administrators and advocates in all areas of arts and culture.

iii. By public education, workshops, public forums, publications and the media for the benefit of the general public; public officials, including policy makers and administrators.

6.1 FORMAL EDUCATION

6.1.1 Steps shall be taken by the National Commission on Culture in collaboration with the Ministry of Education (MOE) and other relevant bodies or agencies to ensure the cultural relevance of education and make it serve as a means of integrating the individual into his/her society and environment.

6.1.2 Ghanaian languages shall be promoted as a medium of instruction in the educational system. Consequently steps shall be taken by the National Commission on Culture, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and other relevant bodies, to ensure the development of Ghanaian languages and Literature as vehicles of expressing modern ideas and thought processes.

6.1.3 The National Commission on Culture in collaboration with the Ghana Education Service shall promote the establishment of Heritage Clubs in schools and institutions.

6.1.4 The Ghana Education Service Shall be encouraged to use cultural education to create active interaction between educational institutions and the society in which they are situated by;

a. Identification and use of knowledgeable persons in the community to teach our values and institutions and pass on traditional skills in handicrafts, music, dance, speaking and the presentation of culture.
b. Use of cultural resources of the society and the environment in cultural activities.
c. Visits to museums, chiefly palaces, monuments, cultural parks and other heritage sites.
d. Participation in and observance of traditional rites and festivals in their communities.
e. Planned excursions to interesting historical and cultural sites in other Regions to ensure a broader appreciation of cultural diversity.

6.2 SPECIAL EDUCATION – CREATIVE ARTIST/ARTISTES

6.2.1 Education of individuals with artistic talents, such as dancers, painters, sculptors, craftsmen, musicians, writers, actors, weavers and others shall be promoted through:

i. Special art schools and conservatories.

iii. The Regional and District Centres for National Culture and private workshops and art schools.

iii. Workshops, seminars, exhibitions and exchange programmes between institutions and other countries to expose artists/artistes and craftsmen to new ideas and skills.

6.2.2 To this end the National Commission on Culture shall give special attention and support to special art programmes in secondary and tertiary institutions.

6.2.3 Adequate support shall be given to artists to develop their skills in order to guarantee the continuity of traditional arts and ensure the development of Ghanaian arts.

6.3 PUBLIC AND INFORMAL EDUCATION

6.3.1 The National Commission on Culture shall collaborate with chiefs and community elders, scholars, artistic groups, and other cultural advocates to engage in dialogue with all Ghanaians to disseminate information and promote understanding of our heritage and cultural practices in order to stimulate public interest in them and assist in the process of conserving and developing them.

6.3.2 To this end, the National Commission on Culture in collaboration with other institutions, like National Commission on Civic Education (NCCE), shall organise workshops, seminars and conferences.

6.3.3 The National Commission on Culture shall promote the teaching and learning of the arts at social centres and in community groups as a leisure activity for all and sundry.

6.3.4 The National Commission on Culture shall also promote interest in the arts and culture through special publications and presentations in the media, especially through T.V. and Radio.

6.3.5 To enhance the role of the media in the cultural education of the citizenry, the National Commission on Culture shall encourage the media houses and agencies to formulate their own cultural guidelines in line with the Cultural Policy.

6.3.6 The National Commission on Culture shall support this effort by;

(i.) Periodic analysis of the programme contents of the media to ensure adequate space for cultural materials and qualitative improvement of cultural presentation by standards determined by public opinion surveys and paradigms of good practice in line with cultural values and national interest.

(ii.) Planned cultural workshops and conferences for press and media practitioners and advocates to enhance their knowledge and understanding of our culture and assist practitioners in the dissemination and discussion of cultural information in the media.

6.3.7 Further the National Commission on Culture shall encourage private individuals and institutions to feature cultural elements in their publications and support special cultural journals.

7.0 CURRICULUM FOR SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

7.0.1 The NCC shall collaborate with the Ghana Education Service and the Ministry of Education to ensure that the content of education shall be made more relevant to the realities of Ghanaian and African society.

7.0.2 The curriculum for all subject areas shall, as far as possible, contain cultural elements that will enhance the students' knowledge and appreciation of their culture and traditional values.

7.0.3 The National Commission on Culture shall collaborate and co-operate with the Ministry of Education, the Ghana Education Service and the GNAT to undertake periodic review of the culture syllabus and school curricula to ensure that they meet the needs of the changing times and the cultural objectives of the nation as a whole.

7.1 EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL AND BOOK DEVELOPMENT

7.1.1 Books and teaching aids used in our educational system shall be products of our society with most of their contents drawn from Ghanaian, African and other relevant experiences.

7.1.2 The National Commission on Culture in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and other relevant bodies and agencies, shall take steps to promote the book industry and local authorship through writers workshops, grants and awards.

7.1.3 The National Commission on Culture shall support the publication of books and the production of relevant materials for cultural education, by organising workshops, seminars and exchange programmes for writers, teachers and academics.

7.1.4 Support shall be given to the training and development of indigenous writers as well as producers and publishers of educational materials to ensure proper teaching of culture in schools.

7.1.5 A reading and writing culture shall be cultivated among the population to promote the acquisition of knowledge of Ghanaian and other cultures.

7.1.6 To promote the writing and publication of books in Ghanaian languages, the State shall provide special incentives through financial, technical and other forms of support to the Ghana Association of Writers, Department of Ghanaian Languages in Tertiary Institutions, Bureau of Ghana Languages, Publishing Houses as well as individual authors, towards the writing and publication of books in Ghanaian languages.

7.1.7 To support the curriculum development and preparation of materials for teaching, the National Commission on Culture shall support research to collect, collate, store and make accessible information and varied data on African cultures.

7.2 LIBRARIES

7.2.1 The crucial role which libraries play in the promotion of our cultural heritage shall be recognised and supported.

7.2.2 To this end, communities and cultural centres in all the districts shall be encouraged to open and operate community libraries.

7.2.3 The Libraries shall be stocked with books, films, records and tapes, CD Rom, Compact disc and other multimedia materials on African arts and culture, and indigenous science and technology.

7.3 ARCHIVES

7.3.1 The nation's archives, as an important source of information for the study of Ghana' historical, political, social, economic and other aspects of life, shall be recognised.

7.3.2 Adequate regulations shall be made for the acquisition, protection and use of all archival items and rare assets.

7.3.3 The facilities for the collection, preservation and circulation of important documents relating to governments, private bodies and individuals shall be provided. Encouragement shall be given for their accessibility to the public.

7.3.4 The houses of Chiefs shall be encouraged to establish archives for the collection, storage and cataloging of the important historical records in their possession in order to preserve and make them accessible to researchers and the general public.

7.3.5 Such archives shall also attract private, personal and family records of general and historical interests.

7.3.6 The State shall, by law, protect the rights of chiefs and individuals in their ownership and use of their records.

7.4 NETWORKING

The National Commission on Culture shall promote networking between Ghanaian Libraries and Archives and their counterparts in other African countries and in African Diaspora communities.

CHAPTER IV

8.0 THE ARTS

8.1 TRADITIONAL ARTS

8.1.1 Ghana is endowed with traditional arts which form the basis of our traditional industry. These art forms thrive very well and account for a significant proportion of employment and revenue generation in the informal sector. This policy shall ensure the growth of the arts to promote creative talent development, and to serve as the means of passing on traditional skills and creativity to the youth.

8.1.2 Adequate support shall be given to artists to develop skills to guarantee the continuity of traditional arts and ensure the development of contemporary Ghanaian arts.

8.2 LITERARY ARTS

8.2.1 Documentation, preservation and presentation of oral and written literature through books, the theatre, film, video, audio tapes, CD Roms and multi-media arts shall be encouraged.

8.2.2 It shall be recognised that the Mother-Tongue is a vital aspect of cultural identity and vehicle for the expression and transmission of cultural values.

8.2.3 Consequently the National Commission on Culture shall encourage Ghanaian Literary Artistes to compose and write in Ghanaian Languages.

8.3 PERFORMING ARTS

8.3.1 The medium of drama, music and dance shall be used to encourage excellence in creativity and the appreciation of Ghanaian dramatic arts and culture.

8.3.2 The National Commission on Culture shall ensure the early identification and nurture of talent by;

(a) supporting educational institutions .to teach the performing arts and culture,

(b) creating opportunities for the youth to participate in dramatic arts and performance at the community levels

8.3.3 To sustain the development of the performing skills and promote general appreciation of the arts, the National Commission On Culture shall encourage private initiatives in the establishment of conservatories and resource centres.

8.3.4 The State shall encourage the formation of Associations and groups not only to develop and promote the Performing Arts but also to seek the welfare of artistes.

8.3.5 The Cultural Foundation, when established, shall encourage creative endeavours through grants and other kinds of resources and support.

8.3.6 DANCE

The State shall support efforts of the relevant institutions, associations and individuals to undertake research, documentation, development and promotion of traditional and contemporary dance forms.

8.3.7 MUSIC

The practice, creation and promotion of all forms of Ghanaian Music shall be encouraged by the State. Production of Musical instruments shall be encouraged, so that all schools and communities can own their own instruments.

The State shall encourage private entrepreneurs to establish production plants and support activities to document, preserve, protect, publish and promote Ghanaian Music.

8.3.8 DRAMA

The preservation and promotion of traditional and contemporary dramatic arts shall be encouraged and supported by the state.

The State shall encourage the creation, documentation and extensive production of the dramatic arts through the use of multi media and information technology.

Mobile and theatre productions of music, dance, puppetry, popular drama, traditional story-telling and teaching guides shall be developed and sustained.

8.4 THEATRE INFRASTRUCTURE

8.4.1 The National Commission on Culture shall collaborate with the District Assemblies and communities to establish community theatres to serve as venues for the promotion of the performing arts.

8.4.2 The design of theatres should be based on African indigenous architecture as well as African concepts and traditions of performance.

8.5 VISUAL ARTS

8.5.1 The National Commission on Culture shall take steps to preserve Ghanaian antiquities in wood, fabric, stone, metal, bone, clay, as well as those on rocks, walls and in sacred shrines, and enact appropriate legislation to protect them from theft, illegal commercial exploitation or destruction arising our of ignorance and hostility.

8.5.2 Modern and contemporary visual arts shall be vigorously promoted through the provision of grants and other kinds of support to creative artists.

8.5.3 The National Commission on Culture shall collaborate with the relevant Agencies and Associations to give recognition to the works of contemporary artists and to support and promote art forms and institutions.

8.5.4 The State shall purchase and retain in Ghana works adjudged to be of exceptional aesthetic value and, as such, heritage assets, for future generations.

8.5.5 The State shall establish a National Art Gallery to encourage District Assemblies and private interest groups to establish urban and rural community art galleries to enhance cultural life in the whole country.

8.6 ARTS ASSOCIATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

8.6.1 The National Commission on Culture shall encourage the establishment of strong national Arts Associations and promote conditions conducive to the enhancement of creativity.

8.6.2 Professional Arts Associations and institutions shall be involved in Cultural policy formulation processes at all levels.

8.6.3 The National Commission on Culture and other relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies shall as much as possible, support arts and cultural associations through government subventions, grants and other forms of assistance. Non-governmental organisations shall be encouraged to support these associations.

8.6.4 Encouragement shall be given to creative associations and relevant government institutions to develop international links and promote exchanges for the benefit of the nation.

8.6.5 The State, through the appropriate agencies, shall make provision for the assessment of foreign and local creative works in order to prevent the encroachment of values that are inimical to our own.

8.6.6 Institutions and programmes for the documentation, preservation, conservation, presentation, development and promotion of literature, performing and the visual arts shall be established and the existing ones improved and maintained, through private and public initiative. In this regard, community, district and regional initiatives shall be encouraged.

8.6.7 Copyright and Patent Laws shall be enacted to provide Ghanaian artists, writers and inventors with the necessary protection for their creative intellectual properties.

8.6.8 The State shall guarantee freedom of artistic expression and association in conformity with the provisions of the Constitution. However, artists shall exercise their freedom of expression, conscious of our cultural values and collective sense of decency. It shall be the responsibility of art critics to make critical evaluation of art works and thus promote high artistic standards and protect public morality.

8.6.9 The National Commission on Culture, in collaboration with other relevant Ministries and the Private Sector, shall encourage the establishment of Residency/Fellowships for Artists in appropriate Institutions.

CHAPTER V

9.0 HERITAGE ASSETS.

9.0.1 Through state and private initiative, Ghana shall develop its heritage and cultural assets and promote their use and appreciation.

9.0.2 The State shall endeavour to take measures and enter into accord with other states with a view to retrieving our heritage assets that were either stolen or forcibly evacuated.

9.1 GALLERIES AND CRAFT CENTRES

9.1.1 The state shall recognise that galleries are repositories for the display of works of art and encourage each regional and district capital to have at least one gallery, and each community, a craft centre for the promotion of crafts.

9.1.2 The establishment of design studios and other facilities for training and apprenticeship of artists and craftsmen and women shall be promoted.

9.2 CRAFTS

9.2.1 Recognition shall be given to crafts as valuable material heritage which form a valuable part of our historical and contemporary culture.

9.2.2 Recognition shall be given to the economic and cultural roles of craftsmen and women in national development. Adequate provision shall be made for the identification, documentation, preservation, development and promotion of their works.

9.2.3 The National Commission on Culture, in collaboration with other relevant bodies, institutions and agencies shall:

a. foster the preservation and development of craft skills and the documentation of the indigenous technology employed in their creation;

b. enhance the status of the Ghanaian artist/craftsman and woman by protecting their rights and promoting their works.

9.2.4 Appropriate legislation shall be enacted to ensure the protection of designs and creations of Ghanaian craftsmen.

9.2.5 The establishment and development of craft villages, craft shops and training facilities shall be encouraged and sustained.

9.2.6 The National Commission on Culture shall collaborate with traditional authorities to ensure that taboos and prohibitions that affect the participation of women in aspects of traditional handicrafts are outlawed.

9.3 MUSEUMS

9.3.1 The National Commission on Culture shall recognise all traditional regalia and cultural artifacts, sacred stools, jewellery, religious objects, stool houses, graveyards; mausoleum and sacred groves associated with chieftaincy as national treasures.

9.3.2 The National Commission on Culture shall;

a. establish museums as repositories of our past and contemporary achievements as sources of inspiration to the present generation.

b. Promote the accessibility of museum objects to the populace through the operation of mobile museums.

c. Ensure that museums are promoted as part of community life and as invaluable resource for the teaching of social and cultural history, as well as the arts and sciences.

9.4 MONUMENTS

9.4.1 The National Commission on Culture shall preserve as monuments, all forts and castles, designated shrines, mosques, church buildings, old city walls and gates; cultural sites, palaces, public and private buildings of historical significance and monumental sculptures. These shall be protected from neglect, desecration and/or destruction.

9.4.2 The National Commission on Culture shall ensure that monuments shall be preserved through;

a. Enactment of Legislative Instruments or Executive Instruments;

b. acquisition of monuments under legislative or executive Instruments;

c. legislation to enable the National Commission on Culture exercise planning control in matters threatening structures and sites of historical importance;

d. legislation to enable the National Commission on Culture protect private buildings of historical importance by preventing:

i. alteration to their structures or facades,

ii. encroachment or other actions, which may endanger them;

e. legislation empowering the National Commission On Culture to protect contemporary public buildings of exceptional design and excellence;

f. appropriate maintenance;

g. photographic and other means of documentation.

9.5 FOREST RESERVES, NATIONAL PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

9.5.1 The National Commission on Culture in collaboration with the Environmental Protection Agency, Forestry Commission and other related agencies, shall identify sacred forests and other heritage sites of Ghana and collect, collate and store indigenous beliefs and practices associated with them with the aim of conserving the nation's biodiversity and eco-systems and exploring their use as tourist attractions and sustainable sources of rare medicinal plants, animals and minerals.

9.5.2 The National Commission on Culture shall recognise parks beaches, zoos, and game reserves, forge collaboration with the appropriate agencies and help to develop them for recreation, education and leisure.

9.5.3 The National Commission on Culture shall encourage all communities to develop monuments and parks in commemoration of individuals, groups and events. Towards this end, communities would be encouraged to designate guard and preserve needed land in town planning.

9.5.4 The National Commission on Culture in collaboration with local administration shall propose names of distinguished personalities, objects and national icons for streets, parks and edifices.

9.6. FESTIVALS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

9.6.1 The state shall recognise festivals as significant events in the life of a community for the transmission of culture. It shall also recognise them, as significant events in the cultural life of the nation as a whole.

The National Commission on Culture shall, therefore, encourage the study, documentation and interpretation of festivals through the universities and other research and educational institutions.

9.6.2 The National Commission on Culture shall:

a. promote traditional festivals in order to preserve them so that they may continue to be factors of public education and information, communal interaction and cohesion in their localities;

b. promote arts festivals at the national, regional and district levels for the purpose of discovering talent, developing skills and promoting creativity in the arts.

c. develop and promote indigenous forms of the arts, crafts and traditional games for local and international appreciation through live performances as well as through the media.

9.6.3 The State shall recognise individuals and groups in the areas of culture through appropriate acknowledgments and rewards.

9.6.4 The State shall encourage the participation of Cultural Institutions in international festivals and build linkages with similar institutions globally.

9.7 RELIGION

9.7.1 The Constitution of Ghana defines Ghana as a secular state and thus guarantees the right of every individual to freedom of association and worship. Individual religions or sects shall be obliged to recognise and respect the rights of others to worship.

9.7.2 In pursuit of the above, all citizens shall promote such positive religious values as;

a. respect for the laws of Ghana,

b. respect for the religious beliefs and sacred objects of others,

c. regard for high moral values,

d. the spirit of openness, tolerance, hospitality, self-sacrifice and honour,

e. mutual love and respect.

9.8 TRADITIONAL MEDICINE

9.8.1 Traditional medicine continues to be a vital component of the health delivery system in Ghana.

9.8.2 The State shall provide resources to support the study of the practice, efficacy and value of traditional medicine and encourage their development and integration into the health-care delivery system.

9.8.3 To facilitate such integration the curricula for the training of health practitioners – doctors, pharmacists, nurses, and others - shall include aspects of traditional medicine.

9.8.4 The State shall promote the enactment of legislation to patent and protect the plants, knowledge of cure and techniques of traditional medicine of Ghana.

9.8.5 Recognising the immense actual and potential medical value of plants and animal resources, the state, communities, District Assemblies and traditional authorities shall enact laws to protect the environment, forests and sacred groves throughout Ghana.

9.8.6 The State shall commission the compilation of a directory of traditional pharmacopoeia and register all competent traditional health practitioners.

9.8.7 The State shall establish funds and incentives for promoting co-operation between traditional medical practitioners and related research institutions.

CHAPTER VI

10.0 THE CULTURE INDUSTRY

10.1 Economic Development, Crafts And Rural Industry

10.1.1 The state shall recognise that economic development is human centred. Hence, culture should occupy the centre stage in every national development planning.

The State shall:

a. recognise the economic viability of the arts and promote and sustain them through grants, loans and other forms of assistance;

b. support indigenous technology research to promote local self-sufficiency in the production and manufacturing of basic necessities of life.

10.1.2 The state shall recognise the contributions of rural communities to the entire development process, especially agricultural development, and ensure that industrialisation is introduced in a manner compatible with the development needs of rural dwellers with a view to preserving their dignity and heritage.

10.1.3 In this regard employment opportunities shall be created for creative artists, musicians, dancers and other performing artistes.

10.2 Tourism

10.2.1 Tourism in Ghana is recognised as a major industry that depends on the buoyancy and attractiveness of the unique expressions of our culture. Ghana shall therefore

recognise Tourism as a means by which the wealth of cultural products and values are shared with the rest of the world towards the promotion of our common humanity and global understanding.

10.2.2 The National Commission on Culture, in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism and all communities and agencies involved in tourism development and promotion shall take a vigilant stance to neutralize the negative impact of tourism.

10.2.3 The National Commission on Culture shall at all times collaborate with the Ministry of Tourism and its agencies in developing cultural events as tourism attractions.

10.3 Mobility Of People Within Ghana

10.3.1 The mobility of people, as a major factor of cultural growth and development, shall be recognised. In this connection the State and traditional leaders shall make it possible for any Ghanaian to move into, and settle in any community in the country. This should promote the desired peace, reconciliation, social cohesion, mutual tolerance and respect needed for national growth and development.

10.3.2 The State and traditional authorities, together with Civil Society as a whole shall promote national unity and equality of all ethnic groups through public education and encouragement of inter-ethnic programmes, activities and events.

10.4 Foods

10.4.1 Ghana has a rich diversity of foods and culinary cultures from its diverse ethnic cultures. The state shall:

a. actively support research into production and preservation of local foods; and the compilation of traditional recipes and methods of preservation.

b. Encourage the consumption of Ghanaian cuisine from all parts of the country and discourage the over dependence on imported foods.

c. Explore the nutritional values of our local foodstuff and promote them.

d. Encourage the introduction of cuisine from other African Cultures.

10.4.2 Ghanaian dishes shall be a predominant feature of menus at State functions and in public catering institutions.

10.4.3 Ghanaians shall be encouraged to develop a culture of producing what they eat and eating what they produce.

10.5 Clothing

10.5.1 The National Commission on Culture shall encourage the preservation and development of indigenous designs, original creations in clothing and hairstyle on the contemporary Ghanaian and international fashion scenes.

10.5.2 The National Commission on Culture shall encourage collaborative research between the industrial sector and fashion design institutions, to promote Ghanaian fashion products as a vital contribution to the national economy and identity.

10.5.3 To promote national identity, institutions like the University, the Judiciary and legislature shall be encouraged to adapt local design and patterns in their regalia, uniforms and paraphernalia.

10.5.4 The State shall assist the small and medium scale indigenous clothing industries to develop and improve their marketing strategies and their presence on the world market.

10.5.5. The wearing of Ghanaian clothes at state functions shall be encouraged.

10.6 Gift Shops

10.6.1 The state, through appropriate agencies shall support and encourage entrepreneurs to operate gift shops and markets in and outside Ghana for artistic and cultural products.

10.6.2 Ghanaians shall also be encouraged to develop the culture of exchanging gifts of locally produced cultural objects.

CHAPTER VII

11.0 THE MASS MEDIA

11.0.1 The mass media shall be encouraged to promote national consciousness, national self-sufficiency and a strong sense of national identity.

11.0.2 The National Commission on Culture shall collaborate with the relevant institutions to ensure the effective use of the press, radio, television, film and other audio visual aid to promote Ghana's heritage, cultural values and aspirations within the context of our national development and the challenges of globalisaion.

11.1 CINEMA, FILM AND VIDEO FOR CULTURAL EDUCATION

11.1.1 Recognising the audio-visual media as an important means of education, information dissemination and entertainment, the National Commission on Culture shall collaborate with all media agencies to promote the social, political, economic and cultural integration of the nation and thus achieve national stability and peace.

11.1.2 Recognising that a virile film industry is an indispensabletool for cultural promotion, the state shall;

a. encourage the establishment of institutions and agencies for film production and development;
b. encourage banks and other lending institutions to promote investment in the film industry by offering special financial terms to film makers.
c. promote the indigenisation of film distribution, assist in the marketing of Ghanaian films and establish standards in exhibition facilities compatible with acceptable theatre usage;

d. enact appropriate regulations to guide both public and private broadcasting stations as well as importers of films to safeguard Ghanaian values and the national interest.

11.1.3 The State shall:

a.. encourage private entrepreneurs to establish laboratories and invest in equipment to ensure self-reliance, productivity and viability of the film industry;

c. Support the establishment of institutions for archival documentation of films and for the training of film personnel.

11.2 Television

11.2.1 Television shall be used to;

a. project Ghanaian arts, culture and value systems;

b. enhance national consciousness and self-reliance by;

i. making its programme content from indigenous resource,

ii. making its programme content relevant to Ghanaian realities, history and aspirations;

iii. giving adequate attention and coverage to programmes featuring children, traditional intellectuals, custodians of culture and public service.

c. making its programmes 70% Ghanaian and 30% foreign.

11.2.2 The state shall ensure that television establishments produce high quality cultural materials for the nation and for distribution abroad.

11.2.3 The public broadcasting and television network shall be adequately resourced to play a leading role in making cultural programming attractive.

11.3 RADIO

11.3.1 To enhance national consciousness, identity and self-reliance;

a. the programme content of radio shall be made relevant to the realities of contemporary Ghana, its history and achievements;

b. adequate attention and coverage shall be given to programmes featuring children, traditional intellectuals; custodians of traditional culture;

c. relevant Ghanaian broadcast materials shall have pre-eminence over foreign ones;

d. radio shall be used effectively as a vehicle for projecting Ghanaian arts, culture and value systems;

e. production of programmes in Ghanaian languages shall be increased;

f. programmes for the teaching of Ghanaian languages on radio shall be emphasised and sustained.

11.4 NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES

11.4.1 Encouragement shall be given to Ghanaian newspapers to provide adequate coverage on arts and culture.

11.4.2 The production of newspapers in Ghanaian Languages shall be encouraged.

CHAPTER VIII

12.0 CULTURE, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

12.0.1 Indigenous knowledge calls for multidisciplinary research in such areas as Botany, Zoology, Pharmacy, and Biochemistry - to discover and systematize indigenous knowledge and explore their contemporary relevance.

12.0.2 Indigenous knowledge and technology shall be used as the basis for developing appropriate science-based insights and solutions to contemporary problems and challenges:

12.0.3 There shall be promoted on the basis of the application of modern science and technology, the exploration and exploitation of traditional knowledge, science and technology, to create a popular culture that utilises scientific and empirical orientation to solve challenges of human society.

13.0 CONCLUSION

13.0.1 This Cultural Policy shall be reviewed periodically to ensure that its continued relevance.

13.0.2 To put it into effect the National Commission on Culture shall develop a strategic plan that would define the priorities of the cultural sector and detail the actions and program of activities that will enable all major stakeholders to participate in the effort to use culture to promote relevant and sustainable national development.