

The Revolutionary Administration of Justice and Public Accountability in Ghana

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The PNDC Government was committed to a major reorganization of the country's system of justice and accountability. Tribunals and investigative committees were established to serve as a new system of revolutionary authority. These new institutions have not only ensured the expeditious disposal of cases at minimum cost but have also brought tax consciousness and civic responsibility to Ghanaians. However, due to the fragility of the Ghanaian political system and its consequent effect on institution-building, the critical issue centers on the acceptability of the new judicial structures to its successor regime.

Brief Perspective on Ghana

Ghana, formerly known as the Gold Coast, became an independent state within the Commonwealth on 6 March 1957 and was the first sub-Saharan African state to be granted independence from colonial rule. Ghana became a republic in 1960. Since independence, the political system of the country oscillated considerably. Ghana has experienced three civilian and five military regimes. It has experimented with virtually every form of government that a developing country can experience—from a Westminster system to a single-party rule in 1964 under the Convention People's Party (CPP) and a military regime, beginning with the first military *coup* on 24 February 1966. The National Liberation Council (NLC) which was then formed, ruled between 1966 and 1969.

Civilian rule with a multiparty system and liberal political institutions was restored in October 1969. Dr. K.A. Busia and the Progress Party took office with 105 seats out of 140. After barely two and a half years of civilian administration, Ghana experienced its second military intervention. On 13 January 1972, the armed forces led by Col. I.K. Acheampong reappeared on the political scene and assumed political power. The National Redemption Council (NRC), which later became the Supreme Military Council in 1975, ruled the country for six years. Acheampong was ousted in a palace coup in July 1978 and replaced by Lt. General Frederick Akuffo who formed the second Supreme Military Council (SMC II).

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