



PERMANENT MISSION OF GHANA

GENEVA

SC/GE/UN.7

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Ghana to the United Nations Offices and other International Organisations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Special Procedures Branch of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and with reference to the latter's Note referenced OL GHA 1/2016 dated 27 October, 2016 has the honour to forward the attached response from the Government of Ghana.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Ghana to the United Nations Offices and other International Organisations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Special Procedures Branch of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.



SPECIAL PROCEDURES BRANCH

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

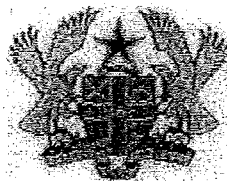
GENEVA

Email: registry@ohchr.org

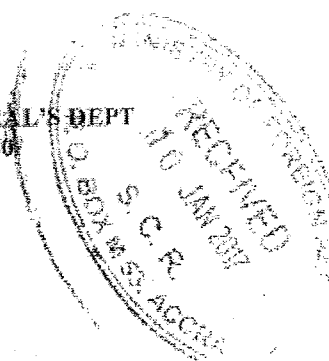
Fax: 022-917-9008

In case of reply the
number and date of this
letter should be quoted

Our Ref. ILD/SCR/64/SF. 4
Your Ref.



ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPT
P. O. BOX M60
ACCRA



REPUBLIC OF GHANA

Fax No: 667609
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5TH JANUARY, 2017

THE HON. MINISTER
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION
ACCRA

ATTN: EVELYN K. OFOSU-AMABLE (MRS.)
DEPUTY DIR. MULTILATERAL RELATIONS BUREAU

RE: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION BY THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL SPECIAL
RAPPORTEUR ON THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHT TO
FREEDOM OF OPINION AND EXPRESSION

We write with reference to your letter numbered UN/HRC dated 21st December, 2016, concerning the above-mentioned subject.

In that letter you indicated that, the Special Rapporteur to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights seeks to be informed within sixty days, of the responses to the following queries:

- (a) The current status of the Right to Information Bill and the estimated time for its passage.
- (b) Any responses for the delayed passage.
- (c) How Government provides public access to information in the absence of the Right to Information Bill.
- (d) Any other information regarding the Bill.

We wish to respond serially to the queries as follows:

- (a) The Right to Information Bill, 2016 is at the consideration stage in Parliament. The Bill is made up of 85 clauses. From the Votes and Proceedings of Parliament dated 1st November, 2016, Parliament considered the Bill up to clause 52 before going on recess on 3rd November, 2016. It is expected that the Bill will be considered within the time at the disposal of Parliament before the dissolution of Parliament early next year.
- (b) The Right to information Bill, 2013 was withdrawn from Parliament and laid on 18th October, 2016 as the Right to information Bill, 2016. This allowed for the Bill to be revised to reflect the views of the Coalition on the Right to Information and to resonate some of the provisions in the African Union Model Law.
- (c) Government provides access to information through the establishment of client service units at the Ministries and at fora like Meet the Press Conferences organized by the Ministry of Information for the various Ministries.
- (d) the Right to information Bill, 2016 requires public institutions to compile and publish up to date official information in the form of a manual. The form of record keeping is intended to facilitate the administrative process to access information held by public institutions.

The Bill further seeks to protect a person who discloses information or authorizes the disclosure of information for the protection of the public interest.

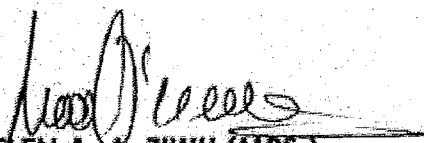
The Bill defines the manner in which public institutions are to disclose information and assigns significant and delineated roles to information officers for the purpose of disclosure.

The Bill establishes the Right to Information Commission to promote, monitor, protect and enforce the right information.

Finally, the decision in the recent High Court case of **LOLAN SAGOE-MOSES vs The ATTORNEY-GENERAL** will lead the way in ensuring more transparency in government and especially enable journalists and anti-corruption activists to seek information and expose nefarious activities of public officials. The decision

is also another major victory for human rights and especially the right to information in Ghana. It presents an important avenue for the enjoyment of the right to information, especially access to official government information

Please accept the compliments of the Attorney-General.



HELEN A. A. ZIWU (MRS.)
AG. SOLICITOR-GENERAL
FOR: ATTORNEY-GENERAL
AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE