

LEGISLATIVE ALERT

Parliament Adopts the Committee Report on the Tree Crops Development Bill, 2019

As part of the procedures in parliament, the Tree Crops Development Bill, 2019 was taken through a *Second Reading* after the Chairman of the Committee on Food, Agriculture and Cocoa Affairs, Mr. Kwame Asafu-Adjei, presented the Committee's Report on Thursday, 14 November, 2019 on the floor of Parliament. This paves way for MPs to begin deliberations on the Bill at plenary.

The presentation of the report follows several engagements and consultations that the Committee had with stakeholders within the tree crops industry including public institutions and private organisations at the time when the Committee was considering the Bill.

Observations and Recommendations of Committee

1. The Committee observed that the tree crops industry in Ghana when developed, has the potential to provide consequential benefits to the economy including development of the value chain and crating employment to most Ghanaians.
2. Again, the Committee noted that the Bill makes provision for the development of the public-private sector collaboration which will lead to expansion and development of the economy as well as the "Planting for export and rural development" flagship programme of government.

3. In respect of the establishment of the Tree Crops Fund, the Committee is of the view that it will promote research and development of the subsector. They recommend therefore that the Fund be used judiciously to ensure maximum growth and development in the tree crops industry.

They went further to recommends effective collaboration between Ghana and other countries like Cote d'Ivoire, Malaysia and Thailand who have well developed their tree crops industry.

Summary of Provisions

The Tree Crop Bill contains twenty-seven clauses that covers diverse issues.

- a. **Clause 1 to 4** seeks to establish the Tree Crops Development Authority as a corporate body; regulate the management, production, processing and trading in tree crops; deals with the Object and Functions of the Authority; and the governing board of the Authority regarding the membership, operations and policy issues.
- b. **Clause 5 to 7** provide for the standard provisions on the tenure of office of the Board, meetings of the Board and disclosure of interests.
- c. **Clause 8 to 11** makes provision for the establishment of Committees, payment of allowances, creation of regional offices of the Authority; and directives to the Board on matters of policy.
- d. **Clause 12 to 14** deals with the administration and appointment of Executive Officer and other staff to the Authority.

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- e. **Clause 15 to 22** captures the financial provisions of the Authority including the establishment of Tree Crops Fund and the appointment of a body to manage the fund.
- f. **Clause 23 to 27** covers miscellaneous matters.

Debate on Report

It was identified that the Bill has limited scope of coverage of tree crops as it does not include mango which is a growing and potential tree crop in the sub sector. Some MPs have recommended that the Bill be amended to include mango in the list of tree crops before the Bill is considered.

The adoption of the Report of the Committee on Food, Agriculture and Cocoa Affairs paves way for the House to proceed to the *Consideration Stage* where each clause in the bill will be discussed.

25th November, 2019

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