

## **SURVEY ON VICTIMS OF CRIME LAUNCHED**

The 2009 Crime Victimization Survey to facilitate a broader understanding of crime and its burden on the citizenry was launched in Accra yesterday.

The survey was carried out by the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS), in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Launching the survey, a Supreme Court judge, Mr. Justice Benjamin Teiko Aryeetey, said it was very vital because future programmes would depend on it.

He said the GSS had, over the years, disseminated a lot of information to the Ghanaian public, adding that the survey had facilitated a broader understanding of crime.

He said the survey showed that only 15 per cent of crime victims made reports to the police, meaning that many cases were not reported.

Mr. Justice Aryeetey appealed to the government to support the GSS to enable it to carry out more surveys and keep the public informed on issues.

The Government Statistician, Dr. Grace Bediako, said the survey was a pilot study which was carried out in four metropolises in the country, namely, Accra, Sekondi-Takoradi, Kumasi and Tamale.

She said in the past only police and criminal justice data were used to measure crime, saying it was now widely accepted that such information alone was not sufficient and should be completed with victimization survey results.

She said the survey formed part of the UNODC's initiative for Africa, which had the overall objective of improving the knowledge of drugs and crime problems on the continent by strengthening the capacities of African countries to collect and analyse data and trends in drugs, crime and victimization.

Dr. Bediako indicated that crime information was very important but the security services did not have enough statistics on it, adding that the challenges of crime had to do with whether the affected people would like to report it or not when they fall victim.

She stated that the period the courts took to adjudicate crime cases was longer and that hindered data collection on crime.

She said in order to curb the incidence of crime, it was important to understand how the phenomenon could be measured.

Dr. Bediako mentioned robbery, burglary, threats, assault, motor theft, rape, kidnapping and sexual abuse as some of the crime areas covered by the survey.

Source:

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