

10 000 CCTV cameras to be installed in regional district capitals – Minister

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The government is to install 10,000 more CCTV cameras and cellular technologies at vantage areas in all regional and district capitals across the country to enhance the operational efficiencies of the security and intelligence agencies, the Minister of National Security, Mr Albert Kan-Dapaah, has told Parliament.

The project followed a contract agreement the government, through the Ministry of National Security, signed with Huawei Technologies and the China Machinery Engineering Corporation in 2018 to implement the second phase of the Integrated National Security Communications Enhancement Project (Alpha Project - Phase1).

He said while the project commenced in January 2020 and was initially scheduled to be completed in 18 months, logistical challenges sparked by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic had pushed the project completion to December 2021.

Responding to a question on the floor of Parliament yesterday, Mr Kan-Dapaah said: "To date, the installation of about 6,500 cameras has been completed, with a little over 4,000 cameras powered and online, mainly in Accra, Kumasi and other regional capitals.

"Even as brisk efforts are made to complete the existing phase, the relevant planning works are also being carried out to pursue additional phased deployments of cameras to cover the outstanding areas that cannot be served under this phase," he assured Parliament.

The National Security Minister was responding to a question by the National Democratic Congress (NDC) Member of Parliament for Wa West, Mr Peter Lanchene Toobu, who had asked about the project in which CCTV cameras were to be fixed in all police stations across the country.

Responding, the minister told the House that the Ministry of Communications and Digitalisation, on behalf of the government, had signed a contract with Huawei Technologies in 2012 for the commencement of the first phase of the Alpha Project - phase1.

That phase of the project, he said, delivered about 800 CCTV cameras in Accra, Kumasi, Takoradi and some critical border areas such as Aflao, Elubo and Paga, as well as other critical national installations and some major towns across the country.

It also delivered a National Command Centre and other operations centres for emergency response and command and control for law enforcement, security and intelligence, as well as emergency response agencies, he said.

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"That project was largely successful, enhancing the communications of the various agencies and assisting to detect crime, road infractions, supporting major public events and providing evidence to support investigations and the prosecution of many cases where some details were captured by the CCTV network," he added.

Mr Kan-Dapaah further told the House that an assessment of CCTV deployments across the world indicated that countries with enhanced security had a greater saturation of cameras per citizen for security and surveillance purposes.

He said per research carried out in 2020, the city of London had 73.31 cameras per 1,000 citizens; Beijing had 55.03 cameras per 1,000 citizens, while New Delhi had 33.73 cameras per 1,000 people.

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