

IN THE THIRD MEETING OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE SEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF THE FOURTH REPUBLIC OF GHANA

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE ON THE REQUEST
FOR THE WAIVER OF IMPORT DUTIES, IMPORT VAT, IMPORT
NHIL, GETFUND, AU LEVY, ECOWAS LEVY, EXIM LEVY,
INSPECTION FEE, SPECIAL IMPORT LEVY, AMOUNTING TO
SEVEN MILLION, SIX HUNDRED AND EIGHTEEN THOUSAND,
SEVENTY-NINE UNITED STATES DOLLARS (US\$ 7,618,079)
(EQUIVALENT OF GH¢ 35,854,488.81) ON THE PURCHASE OF
MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT UNDER THE CONTRACT
AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC
OF GHANA REPRESENTED BY THE MINISTRY OF ROADS AND
HIGHWAYS/GHANA HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY AND SHIMIZU-DAI
NIPPON JV, JAPAN FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF GHANAIAN
INTERNATIONAL CORRIDORS (GRADE SEPARATION OF TEMA
INTERSECTION IN TEMA)

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The request for the waiver of Import Duties, Import VAT, Import NHIL, GETFund, AU Levy, ECOWAS Levy, Exim Levy, Inspection Fee, Special Import Levy, amounting to Seven Million, Six Hundred and Eighteen Thousand, Seventy-Nine United States Dollars (US\$ 7,618,079) (Equivalent of GH\$ 35,854,488.81) on the Purchase of Materials and Equipment under the Contract Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Ghana represented by the Ministry of Roads

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and Highways/Ghana Highways Authority and Shimizu-Dai Nippon JV, Japan for the Improvement of Ghanaian International Corridors (Grade Separation of Tema Intersection in Tema) was laid in the House on Monday, 26th November, 2018 in accordance with Article 174(2) of the Constitution, and referred to the Finance Committee for consideration and report pursuant to the Standing Orders of the House.

The Committee met with two Deputy Ministers for Finance Hon. Kwaku Kwarteng, and Hon. Abena Osei Asare and technical teams from the Ministries of Finance and Ghana Revenue Authority to consider the request.

1.1 Reference documents

The Committee referred to the following documents in its deliberations:

- The 1992 Constitution of Ghana;
- The Public Financial Management Act, 2016 (Act 921);
- The Standing Orders of the Parliament of Ghana;
- The Grant Agreement between the Government of Ghana and the Government of Japan for an amount of ¥5,388,089,000 (equivalent to US\$47.95 million) (GH¢225,693,463.82) for the improvement of the Tema Motorway Roundabout Project; and
- The Tax Assessment by the Ghana Revenue Authority.

2.0 BACKGROUND

In Ghana, Ninety-five per cent of vehicular activity is dependent on road transport. Remarkable progress has been made recently in improving the road network. However, the existing network needs to be upgraded.

The Government of Ghana (GoG) formulated the National Transport Policy in 2008 and has been expanding and upgrading the international corridors to achieve an integrated, efficient, and sustainable transport system and

strengthen the role of the country as a major transport hub in the West African sub-region.

The Greater Accra Region, with a population of about four million as of 2010, is located at the nodal point of two international transit corridors - Abidjan-Lagos Corridor, which is a part of the Dakar to Lagos Trans Africa Highway (TAH) No.7 of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Eastern Corridor of Ghana, which links the Port of Tema to the landlocked countries of Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger. The development of the Greater Accra road network is important not only in terms of securing smooth flow of international logistics but also to resolve the urban traffic issues of the region.

The Tema Motorway Roundabout is a five-leg roundabout where vehicular traffic from Accra and Tema Port converge causing heavy traffic jam during rush hours. Velocity at these times retard to lower than 10km/h and the roundabout has become an impediment to smooth and safe movement of people and traffic.

In order to address the challenge, the Government of Ghana (GoG) has secured a grant facility from the Government of Japan (GoJ) amounting to ¥5,388,089,000 (equivalent of US\$47.95 million) (GH\$225,693,463.82) for the improvement of the Tema Motorway Roundabout (Project).

Under Article 6, section 4 of schedule 2 and 4 of the Grant Agreement, the burden of taxes on the project-related items is placed on the employer (in this case GoG through the Ministry of Roads and Highways).

To ensure that the project is effectively implemented and in compliance with Article 174 of the 1992 Constitution, this request for tax waiver has been submitted to Parliament for approval.

3.0 THE REQUEST

The request is for the waiver of Import Duties, Import VAT, Import NHIL, GETFund, AU Levy, ECOWAS Levy, Exim Levy, Inspection Fee, Special Import Levy, amounting to Seven Million, Six Hundred and Eighteen Thousand,

Seventy-Nine United States Dollars (US\$ 7,618,079) (Equivalent of GH¢ 35,854,488.81).

3.1 Assessment of Duties, Taxes and Levies

The breakdown of the assessment is provided in Table 1 below.

Table 1 Assessment of taxes and duties

	Tax/ Duty/ Levy	Estimated Amount (GH¢)
1	Import Duty	2,646,390.00
2	Import VAT	2,802,022.50
3	Import NHIL/GETFund	986,690.00
4	ECOWAS/AU LEVY	191,489.00
5	EXIM	287,233.50
6	Inspection fees	382,978.00
7	SIL	321,276.00
	Total	35,854,488.81

The details of the Tax Assessment is given in the Appendix to the report.

4.0 OBSERVATIONS

4.1 Rationale for the Project

The Committee was informed that the Tema Motorway Roundabout has been experiencing heavy traffic congestion causing severe delays and lengthy travel times. Further, the current ongoing expansion works at the Tema Port and the operationalization of the Eastern and Coastal corridor roads are anticipated to significantly increase traffic volumes thereby worsening the already severe delays and lengthy travel times at the roundabout area. The project is to address these difficulties that commuters encounter when using the Tema Motorway Roundabout.

4.2 Benefits of the Project

The Committee observed that the benefits to be derived from the project include:

- Improvement in the capacity of the Tema Motorway Roundabout and its legs,
- · Improvement in the safety and efficiency of transport operations, and
- Provision of uninterrupted traffic flows in order to facilitate trade and transit in the West Africa Sub-Region.

4.3 Scope of the Project

The committee observed that the project involves the construction of a 3-tier partial free flow single point diamond interchange in two phases. Phase 1 began in January 2018 and will last for approximately 28 months ending in 2020. There will also be road improvement of approximately 2.1km with a 730m underpass section including 190m of box culvert along the East-West direction. The number of carriageways will be 3 lanes with a width of 3.65m. There will also be road improvement on approximately 1.9km in the North-South direction.

A one-lane service road of approximately 3.5km of 3.0m width will be constructed. The lane would have ramps approximately 7.0km with a signal controlled at – grade intersection, lighting inside the underpass, drainage, safety measures and disability-friendly footbridges.

5.0 CONCLUSION

Considering the benefits the country stand to gain from undertaking this project and the immense socio-economic benefits to be derived as well, the Committee is of the view that the request is in the right direction.

The Committee therefore recommends to the House the adoption of this report and to approve the request for the waiver of Import Duties, Import Vat, Import NHIL, GETFund, AU Levy, ECOWAS Levy, Exim Levy, Inspection Fee, Special Import Levy, amounting to Seven Million, Six Hundred and Eighteen Thousand,

Seventy-Nine United States Dollars (US\$ 7,618,079) (Equivalent of GH¢ 35,854,488.81) on the Purchase of Materials and Equipment under the Contract Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Ghana represented by the Ministry of Roads and Highways/Ghana Highways Authority and Shimizu-Dai Nippon JV, Japan for the Improvement of Ghanaian International Corridors (Grade Separation of Tema Intersection in Tema) in accordance with Article 174(2) of the Constitution.

Respectfully submitted.

HON. MARK ASSIBEY-YEBOAH (DR)

CHAIRMAN, FINANCE COMMITTEE

EVELYN BREFO-BOATENG (MS) CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

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