

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

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON
CONSTITUTIONAL, LEGAL &
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

ON THE

ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE
MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
FOR THE 2019 FINANCIAL YEAR

DECEMBER 2018

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL, LEGAL
AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS ON THE ANNUAL BUDGET
ESTIMATES OF THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY
AFFAIRS FOR THE 2019 FINANCIAL YEAR**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 On Wednesday, 15th November, 2018, the Hon. Minister for Finance, Mr. Ken Ofori-Atta presented the Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government for the 2019 Financial Year to Parliament in accordance with Article 179 of the Constitution.
- 1.2 Pursuant to Orders 140(4) and 179 of the Standing Orders of the House, the Annual Budget Estimates for the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs were referred to the Committee on Constitutional, Legal & Parliamentary Affairs for consideration and report.

2.0 DELIBERATIONS

The Committee met with the Hon. Majority Leader and Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Mr. Osei Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu and Officials of the Ministry to consider the Annual Estimates. In attendance also were Schedule Officers of the Ministry of Finance to assist the Committee in its deliberations.

The Committee is grateful to the Officials for their attendance and assisting in the deliberations.

3.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

The Committee referred to the following documents during deliberations:

- i. The 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana;
- ii. The Standing Orders of the Parliament of Ghana;

- iii. The Approved Budget of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for the 2018 Financial Year; and
- iv. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government for the 2019 Financial Year.

4.0 VISION OF THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

The vision of the Ministry is to promote consensus among the citizenry to enhance participatory and representative democracy.

5.0 SPECIFIC FUNCTIONS OF THE MINISTRY

The specific functions of the Ministry are to:

- i. Facilitate the review or promulgation of legislations for equitable national development;
- ii. Aggregate and articulate the concerns of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs);
- iii. Coordinate, monitor and evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of the performance of Parliament;
- iv. Undertake such research as may be necessary to enhance the collaboration between Parliament, the Executive and Civil Society Organizations; and
- v. Collect, collate and review answers to questions raised in Parliament through the Ministry to enhance good governance.

6.0 2018 BUDGET PERFORMANCE OF THE MINISTRY

6.1 The sum of **Two Million, Seven Hundred and Forty-Seven Thousand, Six Hundred and Sixty-Five Ghana Cedis (GH¢2,747,665.00)** was allocated to the Ministry for its activities for the 2018 Financial Year. Out of the approved sum, the total of **One Million, Eight Hundred and Forty-Three Thousand, Six Hundred and Fifty-Three Ghana Cedis (GH¢1,843,653.00)** had been released for the activities of the Ministry as at the end of October 2018. The details are shown in Table 1 below:

Table 1: Analysis of the 2018 Approved Budget of the Ministry and Releases as at October 2018

ITEM	2018 Approved Budget (GH¢)	Releases (GH¢)	Variance	Percentage of Releases
Compensation of Employees	554,535.00	187,868.80	366,666.20	34%
Goods & Services	1,646,660.00	1,492,500.00	154,160.00	91%
Capital expenditure	546,470.00	163,285.00	383,185.00	30%
TOTAL	2,747,665.00	1,843,653.80	904,011.20	67%

6.2 The Ministry received additional Three Million Ghana Cedis (GH¢3,000,000.00) from the Ministry of Finance in October 2018 outside its approved Budget for the year. This amount was paid by the Ministry of Finance out of the Other Government Obligations Vote to meet specific request submitted by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.

7.0 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE MINISTRY FOR THE YEAR 2018

The Ministry achieved the following through the implementation of its 2018 Budget:

- i. Organised two (2) meetings with the Leadership of Parliament to enhance the effectiveness of Parliament in Ghana's democracy;
- ii. Organized one (1) meeting with Expanded Leadership of Parliament to enhance the oversight role of Parliament for accountable governance;
- iii. Organised three (3) Good Governance and Leadership seminars for Members of Parliament (MPs) and Metropolitan, Municipal and District Chief Executives (MMDCEs). The first was held in the Middle Belt (Ashanti, Western and Brong-Ahafo Regions), the second was held in the Coastal Belt (Volta, Greater Accra, Central and Eastern Regions) and the third was held in the Northern Belt (Northern, Upper East and Upper West Regions).

8.0 OUTLOOK FOR 2019

In 2019, the Ministry will pursue its mandate as set out under the following Programmes:

8.1 Under Management and Administration Programme, the Ministry will:

- i. ensure timely availability of financial and material support and resources to facilitate the technical and operational activities of the Ministry;
- ii. facilitate the recruitment, development, motivation and management of manpower for effective and efficient service delivery towards the realization of the Ministry's vision and mission;

- iii. facilitate the preparation of strategic and corporate plans for the Ministry; and
- iv. evaluate the implementation of all the Ministry's programmes and projects for the achievements of its goals.

8.2 Under Executive and Legislative Coordination and Dialogue Programme, the Ministry will:

- i. organize six (6) Meetings with the Leadership of Parliament. This will also include pre-legislative consultative meetings with the Extended Leadership of Parliament;
- ii. organise four (4) Orientation Workshops for MPs, MMDCEs and the media on the role and functions of the Ministry;
- iii. organise two (2) Regional engagements with MMDCEs and representatives of the Political Parties to enhance synergies of roles and responsibilities as well as ensure peace and stability for economic development; and
- iv. organise the "Good Governance and Leadership Seminar" in the Middle and Northern Belts of the Country.

9.0 2019 ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

The sum of **Two Million, One Hundred and Twenty-Seven Thousand, Four Hundred and Ninety-Eight Ghana Cedis (GH¢2,127,498.00)** has been allocated for the activities of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for the 2019 Financial Year. The breakdown is as shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Breakdown of the 2019 Annual Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs

ITEM	2019 ALLOCATION (GH¢)
Compensation of Employees	618,902.00
Goods & Services	1,508,596.00
Capital Expenditure	NIL
Total	2,747,665.00

10.0 OBSERVATIONS

The following were the observations made by the Committee during its deliberations:

10.1 Persistent Decrease in the Budgetary Allocations to the Ministry

The Committee observed with grave concern the persistent decrease in the allocations to the Ministry since its establishment three years ago. An analysis of the allocations over the period shows a decreasing trend. For instance, the 2018 Budget of the Ministry was reduced by 17.5% of the 2017 Budget. The 2019 allocation also represents 51.72% of the 2017 Budget and 29% of the 2018 Budget. The following Table shows details of the analysis.

Table 2: Comparative Allocations to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs from 2017 to 2019

ITEM	2017 (GH¢)	2018 (GH¢)	2019 (GH¢)
Compensation of Employees	498,230.00	558,535.00	618,902.00
Goods & Services	2,229,625.00	1,646,660.00	1,508,596.00
Capital expenditure	500,000.00	546,660.00	NIL
Total	3,227,855.00	2,747,855.00	2,127,499.00

The Committee deems this development as quite disturbing in the light of the fact that the Ministry has now taken off fully and is poised to deliver on its mandate subject to commensurate funding.

10.2 Performance of 2018 Compensation of Employees Budget

The Committee observed that the 2018 Compensation Vote approved for the Ministry was substantially under-utilized. Out of the approved amount of Five Hundred and Fifty-Four Thousand, Five Hundred and Thirty-Five Ghana Cedis (GH¢554,535.00), the amount of One Hundred and Eighty-Seven Thousand, Eight Hundred and Sixty-Eight Ghana Cedis (GH¢187,868.00) had been utilized for that purpose as at September 2018, representing 34% of the approved budget.

Officials of the Ministry explained that most of the current Staff of the Ministry are still on secondment from other institutions and continue to draw salaries from their mother institutions. They however informed the Committee that those Officials would be ceded to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and would be paid by the Ministry in the year 2019.

10.3 Performance of 2018 Investment Vote for the Ministry

The Committee again noted the Ministry's approved 2018 Capital Expenditure Vote recorded low performance in the year. While the amount of Five Hundred and Forty-Six Thousand, Four Hundred and Seventy (GH¢546,470.00) was approved for that purpose, a meagre amount of One Hundred and Sixty-Three Thousand, Two Hundred and Eighty-Five Ghana Cedis (GH¢163,285.00) had been released to the Ministry as at the end of September, 2018. This represents 30% of the approved Vote.

In view of the difficulties occasioned by the poor release of the approved amount for planned investment activities for the year, Officials of the Ministry informed the Committee that the Ministry had already committed the shortfall of the vote amounting to GH¢383,185.00 to the purchase of vehicles to ameliorate the mobility challenges facing the Ministry. To this end, the Committee urges the Ministry of Finance to release the outstanding amount by the end of the December 2018 for that purpose.

10.4 The Good Governance and Leadership Seminar Series

The Committee noted the successful holding of the Ministry's flagship programmes dubbed "Good Governance to deepen democracy in the country. Among the topics discussed at the seminar were leadership and good governance, overview of Ghana's decentralization policy, examination of performance of MPs and MMDCEs and tools for conflict resolution. The Committee recognises the impact of the implementation of this project and urges the Ministry of Finance to make more funds available to the Ministry, in a timely manner, to continue this laudable programme.

10.5 Limited Office Accommodation

Officials of the Ministry informed the Committee that the Ministry continues to face serious challenges regarding the use of its head office building. They disclosed that three other Ministries continue to occupy portions of the Ministry's head office building despite persistent calls on them to move out. According to the Officials, the

situation continues to impact negatively on the operations of the Ministry as key meetings are sometimes held outside the Ministry.

Under the circumstances, the Committee wishes to reiterate its call on the Government to relocate the concerned ministries to free the facility for the final resolution of the problem.

11.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

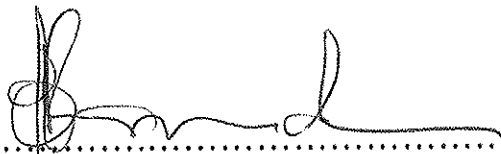
The Committee recognizes the important role played by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs in deepening good governance and democratic practices. In particular, the Committee, acknowledges the successful holding of the Ministry's Good Governance and Leadership Seminar Series in the two years of its re-establishment.

Despite the significance of the Ministry in deepening democracy in the country, the Committee is particularly concerned about the persistent decrease in the annual budgetary allocations to the Ministry. The Committee is particularly concerned that, even after the Ministry of Finance had acknowledged the funding challenges of the Ministry by providing additional funds to the Ministry, the 2019 budgetary allocation to the Ministry has again been reduced.

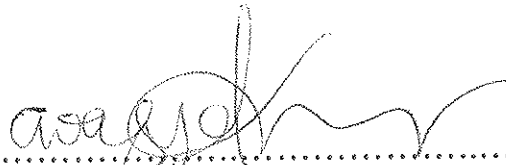
Having taken steps to revamp the Ministry, the Ministry has now become fully operational and will require adequate funding to perform its statutory functions. In 2019, the Ministry plans to beef up its staff strength, refurbish its head office building and procure vehicles among other logistics. To accomplish these measures, the Ministry will require the additional GH¢3,000,000.00 as earlier recommended to be provided by the Ministry of Finance in a Supplementary Budget to be submitted in 2019.

On the basis of the above, the Committee recommends to the House to adopt its Report and to approve the sum of **Two Million, One Hundred and Twenty-Seven Thousand, Four Hundred and Ninety-Nine Ghana Cedis (GH¢2,127,499.00)** for the activities of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for the 2019 Financial Year.

Respectfully submitted.



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HON. BEN ABDALLAH BANDA
(CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL,
LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS)



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AKUA DUROWAA OWUSU AGYEKUM (MRS.)
(CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE)

DECEMBER 2018