



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

**REPORT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY SELECT
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY**

ON THE

**2019 BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE MINISTRY
OF ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY
AND INNOVATION**

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REPORT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY SELECT COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ON THE 2019 ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Minister for Finance, Mr. Ken Ofori-Atta in accordance with Article 179 of the 1992 Constitution of Ghana and Standing Order 138 delivered the Budget Statement and Financial Policy for the year ending 2018 to Parliament on Thursday 15th November, 2018.

Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Article 103 (3) of the 1992 Constitution of Ghana and Standing Orders 140 (4) and 185 referred the budget estimates of the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation to the Committee on Environment, Science and Technology for consideration and report.

2.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Committee on Environment, Science and Technology met with officials of the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation to deliberate on the 2019 budget estimates of the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation.

The Committee is grateful to the following persons who in diverse ways assisted the Committee during the interrogation of the 2019 budget estimates of the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation:

1. The Minister for Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Prof. Kwaku Frimpong-Boateng,

2. The Chief Director, Madam Levina Mensah
3. Directors and officials of the following departments and agencies:
 - a. Ministry Headquarters
 - b. Ghana Atomic Energy Commission
 - c. Environmental Protection Agency
 - d. National Council for Scientific & Industrial Research
 - e. Land Use & Spatial Planning Authority
 - f. National Biosafety Authority
 - g. Nuclear Regulatory Authority
 - I. Ministry of Finance

3.0 **REFERENCE DOCUMENTS**

The following documents were referenced by the Committee during deliberations on the 2019 Annual Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation:

1. The 1992 Constitution of Ghana
2. The Standing Orders of Parliament of Ghana
3. The 2018 Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana
4. The 2018 Annual Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation
4. The 2019 Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana.

6. The 2019 Annual Estimates of the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation.

4.0 **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation seeks to ensure accelerated socio-economic development of the nation through the formulation of sound policies and regulatory framework to promote the use of appropriate environmentally friendly science and technological practices.

4.1 **CORE FUNCTIONS OF THE MINISTRY**

The Ministry performs the following core functions:

- ❖ Provide leadership and guidance for Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation within the broad sector of the economy through sound policy formulation and implementation
- ❖ Ensure the establishment of the regulatory framework and setting of standards to govern the activities of science, and technology and the management of the environment for sustainable development
- ❖ Promote activities needed to underpin the standards and policies required for planning and implementation of sound scientific and technological development activities
- ❖ Ensure the co-ordination, supervision, monitoring and evaluation of activities of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation while fulfilling national benefit-sharing commitments

- ❖ Set out the parameters required for programme as well as budgets in the environment, science, technology and innovation sector of the economy for purposes of achieving a single integrated management system
- ❖ Initiate, simulate and co-ordinate research including the continuous development and review of policies, laws, rules and regulations in the environment, science, technology and innovation sector of the economy and
- ❖ Ensure effective environmental management and governance in line with the functions of Act 490, with the EPA as the main implementing agency and MESTI playing an oversight, co-ordination and facilitating role.

4.2 **STRATEGIC POLICY OBJECTIVES**

The strategic policy objectives of the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation for the 2018 fiscal year are to:

- ❖ Enhance the application of science, technology and innovation
- ❖ Protect existing forest reserves
- ❖ Reduce environmental pollution
- ❖ Combat deforestation, desertification and soil erosion
- ❖ Enhance climate change resilience
- ❖ Reduce Greenhouse gases
- ❖ Mainstream science , technology and innovation in all socio-economic activities

- ❖ Promote a sustainable, spatially integrated balance and orderly development of human settlements
- ❖ Enhance capacity of policy formulation and coordination

5.0 ALLOCATED FUNDS FOR 2018

The Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation was allocated an amount of **Three Hundred and Sixty One Million, Nine Hundred and Seventy Eight Thousand, Three Hundred and Seventy Four (GH¢361,978,374)** Ghana Cedis for activities earmarked for the 2018 fiscal year. Out of the amount allocated **GH¢220,184,968** was to be from GOG, **GH¢80,630,147** from IGF and **GH¢61,163,260** from Development Partners.

The breakdown of the allocation is as follows:

Table 4: ALLOCATION FOR 2018 – FUNDING SOURCES

	GOG	DP FUND	IGF	TOTAL
WAGES AND SALARIES	211,772,898	-	16,127,951	227,900,849
GOODS & SERVICES	4,412,070	14,403,100	43,726,632	62,541,802
CAPEX	4,000,000	46,760,160	20,775,563	71,535,723
TOTAL	220,184,968	61,163,260	80,630,146	361,978,374

Source: The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of GOG for 2018 fiscal year

Table 5: 2018 BUDGET ALLOCATION BY PROGRAMME & ECONOMIC CLASSIFICATIONS

Budget Programme/ Economic Classification	Wages & Salaries	Good & Services	CAPEX	TOTAL
Management & Administration	1,769,000	10,717,534	33,968,668	46,455,202
Research & Development	189,864,807	17,465,248	20,639,104	227,969,159
Environmental Protection & Management	22,292,416	32,256,003	16,327,951	70,876,370
Spatial Planning	13,887,225	661,810	400,000	14,949,035
Biosafety Development	86,502	1,441,207	200,000	1,727,709
Total	227,900,849	62,541,802	71,535,723	361,978,374

❖ **Source: The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of GOG for 2018 fiscal year**

7.1 BUDGET RELEASES FOR 2018

It was realised that as at October 2018, an amount of **Two Hundred and Eighty Seven Million, Two Hundred and Sixty Six Thousand, Five Hundred and Seventy Five Ghana Cedis Forty Four Pesewas (GH¢287,266,575.44)** representing 79% of the approved budget for 2018 had been released to the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation.

The breakdown is as follows:

Table 3: Funds Released by October 2018

Budget Classification & Funding Source	2018 Approved Budget	2018 Releases	Expenditure	%	Variance
Employee Compensation	211,772,898	165,517,222.23	165,517,222.23	78%	46,255,675.77
Goods and Services	4,412,070	2,480,814.14	2,485,447.57	56%	1,931,255.86
CAPEX	4,000,000	1,050,679.97	1,050,679.97	26%	2,949,320.03
IGF	80,630,146	81,411,409.97	73,493,448.58	101%	-781,262.97
Devt Partners	61,163,259	36,806,449.13	14,147,792.88	60%	24,356,809.87
Grand Total	361,978,374	287,266,575.44	256,694,591.23	79%	74,711,798.56

Source: Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation

6.0 2018 PERFORMANCE AND OUTLOOK FOR 2019

6.1 Ministry Head Quarters

Performance for 2018

In support of SDG Goal 2, target 4 that seeks to promote sustainable agriculture and strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, the Ministry under the Sustainable Land and Water Management Project (SLWMP), provided 8,275 farmers with inputs to implement SLWM technologies on a 3,660.1ha land to improve their farming practices. In addition, six Community Resource Management Areas (CREMAs) covering 88 communities within the Western Wildlife Biological Corridor were developed and farmers are being supported to undertake bee keeping and shea nut processing.

The Ministry conducted feasibility studies for the establishment of Foundries and Machine Tools Centres to improve capacity for the production of machine parts and tools for industries in Ghana and

beyond. A Partnership has also been established with the Ministry of Education to establish two tool centres.

Projection for 2019

In 2019, the Ministry will establish a foundry and Computer Numerical Control (CNC) machine tools centre to kick-start the promotion and production of machine parts in line with SDG goal 9 target 5 which seeks to enhance scientific research and upgrade technological and innovation capacities.

The Ministry established a total of 25 hectares each of Green Fire Breaks around Kulpawn and Ambalara forest reserves to help improve management of the Forest Reserves. The Ministry also generated climate change projections for the White and Black Volta and the Oti river basins under the Adaptation Fund Project. Theme: “A stronger economy for jobs and prosperity”

In 2019, the Ministry will continue the implementation of the SLWMP and Adaptation Fund Project in the three Northern Regions to address climate change adaptation issues such as changes in rainfall patterns, utilisation of improved seeds and mitigation measures.

The final drafts of the Environmental Policy for Oil and Gas and the National Biodiversity Policy were submitted for Cabinet’s approval. In addition, a draft Plastic Management Policy with its implementation plan was developed.

In 2019, a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan will be developed.

The Ghana Innovation and Research Commercialization (GIRC) Centre is 60 percent complete. Technical and financial support was secured from the Science Granting Council Initiative (SGCI) and Technology Innovation Agency to develop the master framework for the Centre to enhance scientific research and upgrade technological and innovation capacities. The Ministry will continue to support the operationalization of the GIRC Centre.

6.2 Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)

Projection for 2018

The CSIR 2018 proposed to promote climate change, environmental management and green technology by developing adoptive strategies to combat the effect of climate change that foster resilient rural livelihoods for sustainable landscape restoration through climate smart agriculture.

The Council will also improve biomedical and public health through the prevention of animal and plant pests and diseases, control and eliminate air, water and soil borne diseases as well as undertake air and water pollution research.

CSIR will further develop essential materials and industrial products using local raw materials, develop renewable energy systems for both domestic and commercial buildings and also promote and install biogas toilet systems in second cycle schools.

Performance in 2018

The Savannah Agriculture Research Institute of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR-SARI) developed and released three super colourful varieties of sweet potato (Nan, Nyumingre and TU-Diedi) to support the Planting for Food and Jobs Programme.

The Council also distributed about 22,000 germinated oil palm seeds and 15,000 oil palm seedlings to famers. In addition, 2,700 improved coconut seedlings and 3,046 assorted tree crop seedlings were supplied to farmers. About 120,000 seedlings of bamboo were also raised for Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to restore degraded lands around water bodies in Northern Ghana.

The CSIR developed DNA diagnostic tools for detection of *Onchocerca volvulus* infections in blackfly vectors. This is very crucial in the support of the Onchocerciasis elimination plan by 2025. The Sector continued to provide technological solutions for the development of the country and recorded 30 percent adoption

rate of improved locally-packaged technologies by Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). About 90 research findings were adopted by Industry.

Projection for 2019

In 2019, the CSIR will continue to implement programmes aimed at addressing the following:

- Food Security and Poverty Reduction;
- Climate Change, Environmental Management and Green Technology;
- Biomedical and Public Health;
- Material Science and Manufacturing;
- Energy and Petroleum;
- Electronics and ICT;
- Science and People; and
- Commercialization and Transfer of Research Results.

6.3 Ghana Atomic Energy Commission

Projection for 2018

In 2018, GAEC will construct a Nuclear Imaging Centre and a P3 facility. It will complete feasibility studies for the establishment of a Radiotherapy facility in Tamale for the management of cancer in the Northern part of the country.

GAEC will complete site investigation for the construction of Ghana's first nuclear power plant to add 1000 MW of power to the National Grid. It will construct one Gamma Irradiation Facility (GIF) at Kintampo, cotton scale production plant at Manya Krobo and expand facility for mutation breeding.

In addition, GAEC will complete studies and construct the country's first radioactive waste disposal facility to ensure public and environmental safety, establish a National Vocational Training

Institute (NVTI) for welding and Non-Destructive Testing (NDT) to train and certify welders and professionals.

Performance in 2018

The Ministry through the Ghana Atomic Energy Commission (GAEC) monitored 412 base stations for telecommunication masts. The Commission also carried out 260 pre-installation safety assessments on Frequency Modulation (FM) and Radio Frequency (RF) cell sites and issued conditional compliance certificates. In addition, the Commission carried out 44 safety assessments for X-ray and radiation facilities.

GAEC processed 25 tonnes of products (food, herbal, medical items, peat) using Gamma Irradiation Facility for the management of post-harvest losses and enhancing healthcare delivery. It also mapped all locations in the Greater Accra and characterized most areas for scientific assessment of environmental and human health impact of e-waste management in the country.

Projection for 2019

In 2019, GAEC will continue to monitor occupational exposures for the mine, industrial, medical and educational research institution workers.

The scientific assessment of environmental and human health impact of e-waste management in the country will be done in 2019.

GAEC will use radiation and nuclear medicine technologies to diagnose and manage diseases as well as monitor and evaluate health conditions like tuberculosis and other communicable and non-communicable diseases in 2019.

The establishment of welding and Non-Destructive Testing (NDT) technique training facility will be continued. The first radioactive waste disposal facility will be constructed in the country to ensure public and environmental safety. In addition, stakeholder and public sensitization meetings will be organised on adoption of nuclear power in 2019.

6.4 Environmental Protection and Management Programme (EPA)

Projection for 2018

In 2018, the Agency planned to develop and operationalise regulations on pesticides and industrial chemicals, including handling of used containers as well as develop and operationalize (Ghana) a standard for use of oxo-biodegradable additives in production of flexible plastics nationwide.

The EPA was to develop and implement awareness creation programmes for Hazardous and Electronic Waste Control and Management Act, 2016 (ACT 917), facilitate and co-ordinate the establishment of collection and processing centres for electronic waste as per the mandate of the Act.

The Agency was further to ensure the mainstreaming of the environmental component of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into District Development Plans and monitor its implementation and collaborate with the Non-Formal Education Directorate to intensify hands-on awareness raising and capacity building programmes on environmental management.

Performance in 2018

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) monitored air quality at 14 sites. The results indicated that PM10 levels were above the EPA 24 hour level of 70µg/m³.

An EPA assessment conducted in 2018 showed that 14 industries used Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) concepts, based on research to assess carbon stocks. The EPA monitored 1,140 undertakings of which 400 were compliant and 740 were non-compliant.

The EPA also issued 1,560 Environmental Assessment permits for projects as well as 11,700 chemical licenses.

In addition, the Agency monitored 52 industries in the Accra/Tema region for effluent quality and the results were higher than the EPA recommended guideline levels 50mg/l, 75 Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) and 1500 μ S/Cm.

The scoping report on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the opening up of the Voltaian and Keta Basins for Onshore Oil and Gas Exploration and Production was finalized and disseminated. In addition, a draft Composite Onshore Oil and Gas Regulation was developed.

The EPA enrolled 14 schools to practice source waste segregation in Greater Accra.

Training was organised for 150 staff, farmers and pesticide dealers on pesticide regulation and safe/judicious use of pesticides. In addition, 280 pesticide dealers were trained on pesticide regulation and safe/judicious use of pesticides.

Projection for 2019

In 2019 the Agency expects to upscale source waste segregation, regulate plastic waste, and implement the Hazardous and Electronic Waste Control and Management Act, 2016 (Act 917). This is geared towards substantially reducing waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.

In 2019, EPA will continue to ensure environmental compliance and enforcement, through environmental quality monitoring.

The Agency will further update the pesticide register and increase the number of training beneficiaries.

6.5 The Nuclear Regulatory Authority (NRA)

Performance in 2018

The Nuclear Regulatory Authority (NRA) monitored 250 users of radiation who are applying the regulations and guidance documents. Reports showed a 20 percent reduction in authorized facilities with non-compliance issues.

Projection for 2019

The Nuclear Regulatory Authority will acquire equipment for its regulatory activities in 2019.

Spatial Planning and Human Settlement Programme

Projection for 2018

In 2018, the Regional Spatial Development Framework (RSDF) for Central, Brong Ahafo, Eastern and Volta Regions was to be prepared.

In addition, the Spatial Development Framework (SDF), Structure Plans (SP) and Local Plans (LP) for the Kumasi Metropolitan Assembly and the Sekondi-Takoradi Metropolitan Assembly was to be prepared.

Performance for 2018

In addressing human settlement issues, the Ministry submitted final draft Legal Instruments (LIs) of Land Use and Spatial Planning Act, 2016 (Act 925) to the Attorney-General for comments and inputs and further submission to Parliament.

The Land Use and Spatial Planning Authority (LUSPA) published the Greater Accra and Ashanti Regional Spatial Development Frameworks (GARSDF) on its website to guide spatial development in these regions. In addition, LUSPA in collaboration with Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MLGRD) organised sensitization on street naming and property addressing in all 10 regions.

Projection for 2019

LUSPA will facilitate the preparation of the Central Regional Spatial Development Framework as well as prepare the structure and local plans for 15 MMDAs in 2019.

6.6 National Biosafety Authority

Projection for 2018

The Authority planned to undertake nationwide biosafety public education, recruit and train biosafety personnel; strengthen the operations of the Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) detection laboratory and review the Biosafety Act and strengthen the Biosafety administrative system.

Performance in 2018

The Ministry through the National Biosafety Authority (NBA) submitted the Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) Regulation to Parliament for approval. About 80 percent works is completed on the GMO detection laboratory. The NBA also conducted five public awareness programmes on biosafety to ensure sustainable food production systems and strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change.

Projection for 2019

In 2019, the NBA will undertake biosafety capacity building, public education and awareness, monitoring and evaluation on biotechnology and biosafety issues and complete the GMO Detection Laboratory.

6.7 Illegal Mining (Galamsey)

Projections for 2018

To address issues relating to small scale mining, District Committees were to be formed to fight illegal mining in all mining communities. In addition, a code of practice for small scale mining operations was to be outdoored whilst the Inter-ministerial Committee against illegal mining was to interact with small scale mining associations to discuss all outstanding issues.

Performance in 2018

As part of government's commitment to curb and sanitise the illegal activities, the Inter Ministerial Committee on Illegal Mining (IMCIM) provided oversight for the following activities:

1. Public education for traditional and religious leaders as well as other stakeholders;
2. Suspension of small scale mining operations to allow polluted water bodies to recover;
3. Trained small-scale miners in sustainable mining and mineral processing practices at the University of Mines and Technology, Tarkwa;
4. Trained 144 drone pilots for the DCIMs, 10 for the IMCIM, 18 for Operation Vanguard and 15 for Minerals Commission;
5. Established "Operation Vanguard" made up of 400 security personnel drawn from the various security agencies to maintain security in mining districts and enforce the ban;
6. Formed 75 District Committees on Illegal Mining (DCIMs) to fight the menace in all mining communities across the country;
7. An electronic reporting system dubbed 'GalamSTOP' was developed and installed to integrate data from the various stakeholder agencies;
8. Set up a monitoring and compliance unit;
9. Procured relevant logistics such as drones and vehicles, among others, for the Minerals Commission, Operation Vanguard and other agencies.

Projection for 2019

In 2019, the NABCo drone pilots and GalamSTOP operators will be commissioned to start monitoring exercises. To create jobs in the Artisanal and Small-scale Mining (ASM) Sector, a community mining model scheme will be designed mainly for illegal miners who have been trained at the University of Mines and Technology. To

promote transparency and strengthen the rule of law within the sector, a team will be commissioned by the IMCIM to ascertain, investigate and document all possible infringements in the small-scale mining sector, prescribe punishment and remedial measures that will be enforced.

6.8 Plastic Waste

Projections for 2019

Plastic waste continues to be a major challenge in the area of sanitation. To address this, the Ministry of Environment, Science Technology and Innovation (MESTI) is in the process of finalizing a new National Plastic Waste Policy, which will focus on strategies to promote reduction, reuse and recycling. The Ministry would lease with the industrial sector to come up with alternative eco-friendly products from our natural resources.

The Plastic Management Policy and its accompanying implementation plan will be finalized in 2019.

6.9 E-waste Management

Performance in 2018

The Integrated E-waste Management program was launched in 2018. It is expected to ensure the management of E-waste in an environmentally sound manner and turn the challenges of e-waste management in Ghana into green business opportunities.

The Ministry also engaged an external service provider to collect an Advance Eco Fee on electronic and electrical equipment imported from 185 countries.

Projection for 2019

The construction of a recycling plant at Old Fadama (Agbogbloshie) will begin in 2019 under the National e-Waste Project. This will help the management of electrical and electronic waste and reduce the adverse impact of e-waste on human health and the environment. The Ministry will also construct two Handover Centres (HOC) as part of the implementation of the Hazardous and Electronic Waste Control and Management Act, Act 917 of 2016.

The program will lead to the creation of over 20,000 direct jobs through the establishment of a national e-waste recycling facility, associated holding centres in each regional capital and collection centres in each of the 216 districts.

8.0 ALLOCATED FUNDS FOR 2019

The Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation has been allocated an amount of Four Hundred and Seventeen Million, Nine Hundred and Fifty Four Thousand, Three Hundred and Forty Two **(GH¢417,954,342.00)** Ghana Cedis for activities earmarked for the 2019 fiscal year.

Out of the amount allocated Two Hundred and Forty Million, Seven Hundred and Twenty Three Thousand, One Hundred and Thirty Ghana Cedis **(GH¢240,723,130.00)** would be from **GOG**, One Hundred and Forty Seven Million, One Hundred and Nineteen Thousand Six Hundred and Fifty Ghana Cedis **(GH¢147,119,650.00)** from **IGF** and Thirty Million, One Hundred and Eleven Thousand, Five Hundred and Sixty two Ghana Cedis **(GH¢30,111,562.00)** from **Development Partners**.

The breakdown of the allocation is as follows:

Table 4: ALLOCATION FOR 2019 – FUNDING SOURCES

	GOG	DP FUND	IGF	TOTAL
WAGES AND SALARIES	233,933,250.00		43,720,653.00	277,653,903.00
GOODS & SERVICES	2,989,880.00	14,307,276.00	64,930,746.00	82,227,902.00
CAPEX	3,800,000.00	15,804,286.00	38,468,251.00	58,072,537.00
TOTAL	240,723,130.00	30,111,562.00	147,119,650.00	417,954,342.00

Source: The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of GOG for 2019 fiscal year

Table 5: 2019 BUDGET ALLOCATION BY PROGRAMME & ECONOMIC CLASSIFICATIONS

Budget Programme/ Economic Classification	Wages Salaries &	Good Services &	CAPEX	TOTAL
Management & Administration	1,995,106.00	15,353,734.00	17,704,286.00	35,053,126.00
Centre for Scientific & Industrial Research	147,562,163.00	15,038,202.00	12,238,324.00	174,838,689.00
Environmental Protection & Management	43,041,798.00	46,307,848.00	24,000,000.00	113,349,646.00
Spatial Planning	16,903,456.00	448,482.00	380,000.00	17,731,938.00
Biosafety Development	95,554.00	298,988.00	190,000.00	584,542.00
Atomic Energy Commission	61,246,299.00	4,481,660.00	3,369,927.00	69,097,886.00
Nuclear Regulatory Authority	6,809,527.00	298,988.00	190,000.00	7,298,515.00
Total	277,653,903.00	82,227,902.00	58,072,537.00	417,954,342.00

Source: The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of GOG for 2019 fiscal year

8.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)

The Committee was informed that most research done by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) are shelved and so efforts would be made in the 2019 fiscal year to promote research findings. In that regard a research transfer centre has been created at the CSIR that would encourage industry to adopt the research findings of the CSIR.

The Committee lauded the CSIR for the initiative but urged them to value the research that would be transferred to ensure proper negotiations with industry and financial gain to the institution.

It was again realised that although CSIR has 400 researchers, only Six Hundred Thousand Cedis has been provided in the budget for research. The Committee considers the research alliance inadequate and recommends that it should be increased next year to ensure research is carried out as expected.

Cost incurred by CSIR on electricity was also considered very high. It was explained that most equipment cannot be shut down because research materials have to be preserved. The Committee recommends that the Council should if possible be exempted from the payment of electricity tariffs to ensure that the country does not lose valuable research materials that can benefit the country.

The Committee also noted the encroachment on CSIR lands by the Ga West Municipal Assembly. Members were informed that a petition on the matter has been presented to the Office of the President for redress through the Minister for Environment, Science, technology and Innovation, Professor Kwaku Frimpong Boateng. The Committee considers the actions of the Ga West Municipal Assembly unacceptable and urges the Office of the President to expedite action on the petition to ensure that the CSIR lands are secured.

8.2 Sustainable Land and Water Management Project

The Sustainable Land and Water Management Programme is a Global Environment Facility Grant of \$29.66 million. It is under the auspices of the World Bank. It is implemented by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Ghana Wildlife, Forestry Services of the Forestry Commission and the Environment Protection Agency of the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation.

The programme is to benefit over 26,000 farmers in 210 communities.

The Environmental Protection Agency serves as the hub for collection, collation of primary data, storage, data manipulation and retrieval.

The Committee realised that the project has components similar to the government flagship programme of Planting for Food and Jobs. This is because as part of the programme, registered farmers are given inputs to produce soya beans, cassava and sweet potatoes. The Committee was also not impressed by the current performance of the programme. The Committee therefore recommends that institutions under programme should ensure that the two programmes are not duplicated. They should also upscale their performance to ensure that the project achieves its aim.

8.3 Institute of Scientific and Technological Information

The Committee noted with concern that the Presidential Advisory Council for Science and Technology Information is yet to be established. This is greatly affecting the effective function of the institute. The Committee was informed that all necessary information have been forwarded to the Office of the President for action. The Committee urges the Office of the President to kindly expedite action on the establishment of the Council to ensure that the Institute effectively plays its role of integrating science, technology and innovation into national policies.

8.4 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

The Committee was informed that an E-permitting system would be developed by the EPA to ensure a more transparent and efficient system for application for permits. The Committee lauds EPA for the initiative since it would reduce the human interface of the process and ensure a speedy approval system.

It was noted that the amount of money allocated the EPA for Employee Compensation for the 2018 fiscal year was lower than what was provided for 2017. This culminated in the over expenditure regarding Employee Compensation in 2018.

Secondly EPA does not have adequate staff in the regions to ensure effective performance of its mandate. Currently the regional offices

have three programme staff including the regional Director. The Zonal offices have one programme officer each. 150 staff are required in 2019 to be engaged in the Regional and Zonal offices to enable EPA cover a wider area for compliance monitoring and environmental education.

The Committee recommends that approval should be given by the Ministry of Finance for the engagement of the 150 staff in the face of the Galamsey menace to ensure that effective monitoring is done.

The Committee further recommends a 13% increase in salary of the staff of the EPA in line with government percentage increase.

In line with the implementation of the provisions of the Hazardous and Electronic Waste Control and Management Act, 2016, (Act 917). EPA has developed a monitoring platform to ensure transparency in the collection of revenue on e-waste. The platform would give all stakeholders including the Ministry of Finance the opportunity to know the quantum of funds generated at every given time. The Committee was satisfied with the establishment of the platform and urged EPA to ensure that funds realised from the collection are used judiciously.

8.5 Nuclear Regulatory Authority

The Committee noted that the Board for the Authority is yet to be established. This is affecting decision making and effective running of the Authority. If the National programme is to be effectively implemented then the necessary systems must be put in place to ensure its success.

The Authority has also not been given clearance to engage the required number of staff for its operations although most of its senior staff have retired. The Authority needs 57 additional staff to function effectively. The Committee recommends that for the 2019 fiscal year the Authority should be given clearance for at least 15 staff to augment its current staff strength of 52.

8.6 Ghana Atomic Energy Commission

The Committee realised the Atomic Energy Commission uses almost all of its Internally Generated Funds (IGF) to pay for electricity charges. On the average the Commission pays GH¢200,000.00 on electricity per month. Currently it owes the Electricity Company of Ghana an amount GH¢350,000.00. The Committee urges government to negotiate a reduction in the electricity tariffs on behalf of the Commission to ensure that the radioactive materials used in its operations are properly stored.

Secondly all the vehicles used by the Commission are over 15 years old and they are used in the transport of radioactive materials throughout the country. The Committee recommends that approval should be given in the 2019 fiscal year for the purchase of 3 new vehicles to augment the existing fleet.

The Committee further realised that although the Commission was allocated GH¢5,000.00 to pay for audit fee in 2018, it was charged an amount of GH¢132,000.00 by the audit firm recommended by the Auditor General to audit its accounts. The Committee considers the charges unacceptable and urges the Auditor General to ensure that audit firms selected to audit government agencies charge reasonable fees.

The government of Ghana has entered into several treaties that require the payment of annual fees. However there is no establishment of a budget line for the payment of these fees. The Commission is therefore challenged anytime it attends most international conferences on behalf of the government of Ghana. The Committee recommends that the Ministry of Finances should establish a budget line for these fees to ensure that Ghana is not denied right at these international conferences.

8.7 Land Use and Spatial Planning Authority

It was realised that although the Authority was established two years ago, it is yet to finalise its scheme of service. The Ministry of Finance is also yet to provide it with seed fund for the establishment of the Land Use Development Fund.

If the use of the Ghana PostGPs can be effectively used, then, there is the need for the development of National and Regional Spatial Frameworks. Revenue collection would also increase if the frameworks are developed. Currently only Greater Accra has a Spatial Framework.

The Committee urges the Ministry of Finance to provide the Authority with the seed fund to enable it commence work on its policies and procure the needed equipment for its work.

8.8 Ghana Biosafety Authority

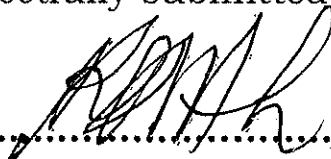
The illegal importation of genetically modified foods is gradually becoming a source of worry. The Biosafety Authority is therefore in the process of establishing a lab to test foods that come into the country. This is to ensure that laws on genetically modified foods are not flouted. The Committee commends the Authority for initiative and urges it to complete the laboratory within the year.

9.0 CONCLUSION

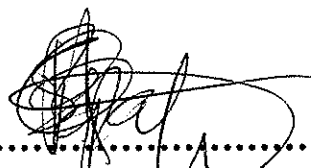
Environmental management has become very important due to the constant degradation of our lands and water bodies. To ensure that proper care is taken of the environment, there is the need for proper funding of programmes related to the preservation of the environment and prevention of activities that may lead to the total degradation of our lands and total depletion of our biodiversity.

In this regard, the Committee recommends the adoption of its report and approval of an amount of Four Hundred and Seventeen Million, Nine Hundred and Fifty Four Thousand, Three Hundred and Forty Two **(GH¢417,954,342.00)** Ghana Cedis for activities earmarked for the 2019 fiscal year by the Ministry of Environment, Science, technology and Innovations.

Respectfully submitted



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HON. ROBERT AMOAH
VICE CHAIRMAN



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ANITA QUARTEY-PAPAFIO
CLERK

