

PARLIAMENT OF GHANA LIBRARY

**THE THIRD SESSION OF THE  
SEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF THE  
FOURTH REPUBLIC OF GHANA**

**REPORT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON YOUTH,  
SPORTS AND CULTURE ON THE 2020  
ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR  
THE MINISTRY OF CHIEFTAINCY AND  
RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS**

*DECEMBER 2019*

# **IN THE THIRD SESSION OF THE SEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF THE FOURTH REPUBLIC OF GHANA**

## **REPORT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY SELECT COMMITTEE ON YOUTH, SPORTS AND CULTURE ON THE 2020 ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE MINISTRY OF CHIEFTAINCY AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS**

### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs for 2020 were referred to the Select Committee on Youth, Sports and Culture for consideration and report pursuant to Order 140 (4) of the Standing Orders of the House. This followed the presentation to Parliament of the 2020 Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government by the Minister of Finance (MoF), Hon. Ken Ofori-Atta in accordance with Article 179 of the 1992 Constitution and Order 140 (2) of the Standing Orders of the House.

The Committee met with the Deputy Minister for Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs, Hon. Paul Essien, The Chief Director and the Heads of Departments and Agencies, as well as officers from the Ministry of Finance to consider the estimates, and reports as follows:

### **2.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS**

- II. The 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana;
- III. The Standing Orders of the House;
- IV. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2020 Financial Year;
- V. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2019 Financial Year;
- VI. Report of the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs' on the actual releases and expenditure of the Ministry for the 2019 financial year

### **3.0 VISION AND MISSION OF THE MINISTRY**

The Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs exists to operate as the primary and apex body in policy formulation, implementation and co-ordination in the Chieftaincy and Religious Sectors. The Ministry pursues the prime object of creating the values that promote and enhance participation in development and in the process enables the spread of development to the citizenry.

The Vision of the Ministry is to preserve, sustain and integrate the regal and traditional values and religious practices to accelerate wealth creation and harmony for total national development.

#### **4.0 CORE FUNCTIONS OF THE MINISTRY**

The Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs exists to undertake the following functions:

- I. Initiate, formulate and ensure the efficient and effective implementation of policies, plans, programmes and projects for the Sector;
- II. Preserve, conserve, develop, promote and present Ghanaian regal, traditional institutions, and values to project the unique Ghanaian Identity and National pride;
- III. Collaborate with the National House of Chiefs to progressively study, interpret and codify customary law as well as to undertake programmes and activities for religious tolerance, peaceful co-existence and deepening of faith for national development;
- IV. Coordinate, monitor and evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of the sector.
- V. Collaborate with the National House of Chiefs to undertake an evaluation of traditional customs and usages with a view to eliminating those customs and usages that are outmoded and socially harmful;
- VI. Undertake activities and support government policies in consultation with the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC); and
- VII. Organize periodic Sectorial Review Conferences for all stakeholders in the Ministry to re-examine direction and focus in line with prevailing Government policies.

To carry out its mandate and ensure that the Chieftaincy and Religious bodies promote and enhance a peaceful, congenial environment that creates the opportunity for government institutions to pursue the prime object of bringing development for all, the Ministry is pursuing two main programs – Management and Administration and Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs.

#### **4.1 MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION**

Under this programme, the Ministry undertakes activities that ensure that it follows directives and meets set targets. These include:

- The drawing up of the annual budget and the related action plan;

- Securing the funding from budgetary allocation to ensure the smooth administration of the Ministry and the entities operating under it;
- Ensuring the effective delivery of services in line with the Ministry;
- In line with ensuring quality human resource, build capacity for efficiency and effectiveness, organize training and development programmes; and
- Undertake implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Ministry's programmes and activities.

#### **4.2 CHIEFTAINCY AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS**

This programme encapsulates Chieftaincy Management and Religion for Development

##### **I. Chieftaincy Management**

This activity is to manage the Chieftaincy Institution so as to uphold its dignity, and make an important ingredient in creating the values and environment for government to implement its development programmes as well as to be drivers in harnessing citizen participation in the development effort. In pursuit of the activity the Ministry

- **Undertakes research** – this includes the collection of data, and the codification of lines of succession and related functions;
- **Inaugurates traditional councils in traditional areas** – This permits traditional authority be a part of the governance process;
- **Supervises the judicial adjudication of Chieftaincy matters** – this is to ensure that the adjudication process is effective;
- **Creates the forum for government officials to engage with traditional authorities on policies and programmes;** and
- **Enables traditional authorities to contribute to the socio-cultural and economic development of the country.**

##### **II. Religion for Development**

The Religion for development programme is to enable religious bodies inculcate values that encourage the citizenry to be patriotic and be a part of the development process. It is also enable religious bodies to intensify and contribute to national development through the provision of infrastructure and the pursuing of health, education and agricultural programmes.

## 5.0 IMPLEMENTING DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

The Ministry has a Headquarters with six (6) Directorates. These are:

- I. Finance and Administration
- II. Policy Planning Monitoring and Evaluation
- III. Human Resources Management
- IV. Research
- V. Internal Audit
- VI. Chieftaincy & Religious Affairs

In addition to the above, the Ministry oversees the operations of

- I. The National House of Chiefs
- II. Ten (10) Regional Houses of Chiefs
- III. Two hundred and eight (208) Traditional Councils
- IV. Four Divisional Councils
- V. Oversees the management of Christian, Islamic and other Religious bodies.

## 6.0 THE YEAR 2019 IN RETROSPECT

The Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs, in its 2019 budget, requested an amount of seventy-six million, thirteen thousand, three hundred and eighteen Cedis (GH¢76,013,318.00) for its activities but was only allocated a total budget of forty-two Million, five hundred and two thousand, sixty-five Cedis and eight pesewas (GH¢ 42,502,065.08).

**TABLE 1: BUDGETARY ALLOCATIONS FOR 2019**

ECONOMIC CLASSIFICATION	(A) PROPOSED BUDGET (2019)	(B) BUDGET ALLOCATION (2019)	(A-B) VARIANCE
COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES	GH¢ 57,987,364.00	GH¢ 38,921,130.00	GH¢ 19,066,234.00
GOODS AND SERVICES	GH¢ 7,579,406.00	GH¢ 2,630,936.00	GH¢ 4,948,470.00
CAPEX	GH¢ 10,446,548.00	GH¢ 950,000.00	GH¢ 9,496,548.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>GH¢ 76,013,318.00</b>	<b>GH¢ 42,502,065.08</b>	<b>GH¢ 33,511,252.92</b>

**TABLE 2: ALLOCATIONS AND EXPENDITURE FOR JANUARY - SEPTEMBER 2019**

Category	Approved Budget GHC (A)	Amount Released GHC (B)	Actual Expenditure GHC (C)	Variance (A-B)	% variance
Compensation of Employees	38,921,130.00	24,744,290.30	24,744,290.30	14,176,839.70	57.3
Use of Goods and Services	2,630,936.00	1,924,241.00	1,739,374.50	184,866.50	36.7
Capital Expenditure (Capex)	950,000.00	1,464,352.08	1,464,352.08	(514,352.08)	54.0
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>42,502,065.08</b>	<b>28,132,883.38</b>	<b>27,948,016.88</b>	<b>14,369,182.62</b>	<b>40.0</b>

**TABLE 3: BREAKDOWN OF CAPITAL EXPENDITURE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHIEFTAINCY AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS**

	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	CONTRACT SUM GH¢	2019 PAYMENTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS TO DATE	% PAYMENT TO DATE
1.	Renovation of No. 31, 6 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Ridge Bungalow into offices for the Ministry (M/S Win-Meg Venture )	500,060.71	205,472.13	398,788.83	79.75
2.	Procurement of Furniture and Fittings (M/S Rainmaker Construction Limited)	141,100.00	141,100.00	141,100.00	100
3.	Procurement of Furniture and Fittings (Luz Bethel Ventures)	280,563.00	280,563.00	280,563.00	100

4.	Renovation of Western Regional House of Chiefs' Offices (Messrs Ato Ocran Construction Limited )	49,937.00	49,937.00	49,937.00	100
5.	Construction of offices of Upper West Regional House of Chiefs (Messrs Dagati Kofi Adams Limited/ I. Suleman Enterprise)	1,329,910.46	70,115.32	705,115.32	53
6.	M/S PWD Prestige (Supervision and Consultancy)	16,385.04	16,385.04	16,385.04	100
7.	Construction of a two (2) storey office building of National House of Chiefs in Kumasi (M/S Pedro Co. Ltd )	2,054,200.62	185,821.06	1,018,567.71	49.58
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,372,156.83</b>	<b>950,000.00</b>	<b>2,610,456.90</b>	

a. *The total CapEx released for 2019 was Gh¢1,464,352.08 which surpassed the Gh¢950,000.00 allocation to the Ministry. The difference of GH¢ 514,352.08 was payment of an outstanding debt to Messrs Pedro Co. Ltd from 2018 for the work done on the National House of Chiefs Office Building in Kumasi.*

b. *The two consignments of furniture are to be shares amongst the ten Regional Houses of Chiefs that existed before the creation of the six new Regions.*

## 6.1 ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2019

### I. Management and Administration

- **Asset Register Up-dated** – During the period, the Ministry updated its Assets Register. This included the identification of its assets and taking of inventory and.
- **Revised Handbook on Chieftaincy** – The Ministry revised the first edition of its Handbook on Chieftaincy. This is a collection of legal instruments on Chieftaincy.

- **Reference Material on Chieftaincy** – The Ministry has completed a draft Book of Reference on aspects of chieftaincy. The materials include:
  - # The instruments on the creation of the six regions;
  - # Notes on aspects of chieftaincy; and
  - # Stool property, chieftaincy regulation and position of chiefs in some Akan areas as well as Paramountcies and Traditional Areas of the Regions.
- **Revised Legislative Instrument on Membership of Regional Houses of Chiefs** – The Ministry is currently working on the legislative instrument on the Membership of Regional Houses of Chiefs. The creation of the additional six regions has necessitated this as per law, each region must have a Regional House of Chiefs.
- **Development of guidelines for Christian Pilgrimage** – The Ministry completed draft guidelines for Christian Pilgrimage. This sets out the protocols for organizing Christian Pilgrimage in jurisdictions outside the country. It also outlines the processes for organizing local Christian pilgrimage.

## **II. CHIEFTAINCY AFFAIRS**

### ➤ **Chieftaincy Declaration (C.D) Forms Recommended and Approved by the National House of Chiefs**

The National House of Chiefs had recommended and approved Forty Eight (448) Chieftaincy Declaration (CD) Forms for entry into the National Register of Chiefs as at June 2019. The objective of the exercise is to report the current status of persons as chiefs in Ghana.

### ➤ **Digitization of Records**

The Ministry in collaboration with the National House of Chiefs have begun the process of digitizing records of the National House of Chiefs particularly records in the National Register of Chiefs.

### ➤ **Printing of the Chieftaincy Bulletin**

The Ministry has published and printed the new volume of the Chieftaincy Bulletin for distribution. This is in fulfilment of section 60 of the Chieftaincy Act, 2008 (Act 759).

### ➤ **Adjudication of Chieftaincy Disputes**

By October 2019, a total number of Fifty (50) cases pending before the Judicial Committees of Houses of Chiefs, had been disposed of. The breakdown is as follows:



⚔ **National House of Chiefs – sixteen (16)**

- Akwamufie Stool Appeal
- Sampa Stool Appeal
- Nsawkaw Stool Appeal
- Ankaasi Stool Appeal
- Ēembele Stool Appeal
- Manyera Okuleman Stool Appeal
- Bepong Kwahu Stool Appeal
- Atibie Stool Appeal
- Akwatia Stool Appeal
- Pulima Stool Appeal
- Wamfie Stool Appeal
- Suma Stool Appeal (2 cases)
- Sampa Stool Appeal
- Bolgatanga Paramount Stool Appeal
- Saboba Paramount Stool Appeal

⚔ **Brong Ahafo Region House of Chiefs – three (3)**

- Nsawkaw Stool Petition (2 cases)
- Droso Stool Petition

⚔ **Central Regional House of Chiefs – fourteen (14)**

- Edina Stool Petition (2 cases)
- Edina Stool Appeal
- Gomoa Ajumako Stool Appeal
- Ewutu Stool Appeal
- Ekumfi Eyisam Stool Petition
- Gomoa Akyempim Stool Petition
- Moree Stool Petition
- Senya Bereku Stool Petition
- Enyan Maim Stool Petition
- Nkusukum Stool Petition
- Assin Manso Appeal
- Mankessim Divisional Stool Appeal
- Elmina Paramount Stool Petition

⚔ **Eastern Regional House of Chiefs – five (5)**

- Kade Stool Appeal
- Kwahu Stool Appeal
- Osiem Stool Appeal

- Kwabeng Stool Appeal
- Kwahu- Nkwatia Divisional Stool Appeal

⚔ **Greater Accra Regional House of Chiefs – three (3)**

- Ga Dzasetse Stool Appeal
- Djinajoor Stool Appeal
- Lomobiawe divisional stool Appeal

⚔ **Northern Region – one (1)**

- Bunkpurugu Paramount Stool Petition

⚔ **Upper West Regional House of Chiefs – two (2)**

- Tambie Stool Petition
- Nadowli Stool Petition

⚔ **Volta Regional House of Chiefs – six (6)**

- Dodi Papase Stool Petition
- Botoku Stool Petition
- Likpe Stool Petition
- Deh Stool Petition
- Adaklu Boso Stool petition
- Lolobi Paramount Stool Petition

### **III. RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS**

➤ **Pilgrimage programme**

The Ministry facilitated 220 persons to undertake pilgrimage to the State of Israel. This was done in five batches.

➤ **Guidelines on Christian Pilgrimage**

The Ministry has completed guidelines on Christian pilgrimage. This would be published and printed. The guidelines set out the steps to be followed in organizing Christian pilgrimage, both outside the jurisdiction and internally.

➤ **National Policy on Religion**

The Ministry has completed the draft National Policy on religion and is in the process of seeking stakeholder opinion and views to enable the finalization of the policy and the necessary steps to be taken. This includes the submission of the policy to cabinet for approval.

**7.0 CHALLENGES DURING THE YEAR UNDER REVIEW**

- I. Inadequate funds.
- II. Challenges with the provisions of L.I 798 and C.I 27 which specify the procedures for adjudication of disputes by the Judicial Committees of Traditional Councils and various Houses of Chiefs.
- III. Recruitment of Counsel for the Houses of Chiefs.
- IV. Composition of the membership of Judicial Committees.
- V. Inadequate grants to Houses of Chiefs.
- VI. Inadequate knowledge of Traditional Authorities in Judicial proceedings.
- VII. Inadequate staff and logistics

**8.0 BUDGETARY ALLOCATION FOR 2020**

Even though the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs had budgeted an amount of **One hundred and seventy-nine million, six hundred and ninety-nine thousand, five hundred and thirty-one Cedis and eighty-three pesewas (GH¢179,699,531.83)** for 2020, only an amount of **Thirty-four million, five hundred and twelve thousand, one hundred and fifty Cedis (GH¢ 34,512,155.00)** was allocated by the Ministry of Finance, as shown below.

**TABLE 4: BREAKDOWN OF BUDGETARY REQUEST WITH VARIANCE**

<b>ECONOMIC CLASSIFICATION</b>	<b>(A) PROPOSED FOR BUDGET (2020)</b>	<b>(B) BUDGET ALLOCATION BY MoF FOR (2020)</b>	<b>(A-B) VARIANCE</b>
COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES	GH¢ 69,388,019.35	GH¢ 30,965,808.00	GH¢ 38,422,211.35
GOODS AND SERVICES	GH¢ 73,000,000.00	GH¢ 3,546,347.00	GH¢ 69,453,653.00
CAPEX	GH¢ 37,311,512.48	NIL	GH¢ 37,311,512.48
<b>Total</b>	<b>GH¢ 179,699,531.83</b>	<b>GH¢ 34,512,155.00</b>	<b>GH¢ 145,187,376.83</b>

**TABLE 5: THE MINISTRY'S PRIORITY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS FOR 2020**

<b>PROGRAMMES</b>	<b>PRIORITY PROJECT/OPERATIONS</b>	<b>GOODS AND SERVICES</b>	<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</b>
<b>MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION</b>			
<i>ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE</i>	Renovation and conversion of bungalow no. 31, 6 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Ridge, Accra into offices for the headquarters.		101,272.88
	Renovation of Old Office building		2,000,000.00
	Erection & Completion of Upper West Regional House of Chiefs, Wa		624,795.1
	Computer & Accessories		200,000.00
	Purchase of 1 pick-up, 1 Cross Country		1,000,000.00
	Construction of National House of Chiefs Office Building, Kumasi		500,000.00

	Construction of Ashanti Regional House of Chiefs Building, Kumasi		33,000.00
	Construction of Ashanti Regional House of Chiefs Building (Electrical Installation)		256,361.15
	Construction Of Brong- Ahafo Regional House Of Chiefs		1,576,394.69
	Rehabilitation and Completion of Volta Regional House Of Chiefs		197,961.50
	Procurement of Steel Cabinet		23,000.00
	CAPEX for six newly created regions		9,000,000.00
<b>DISPUTE RESOLUTION</b>	Reduced chieftaincy dispute by providing funds for Judicial Committees to adjudicate cases, building capacity of traditional authorities in Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanism, and organizing peace building activities for traditional authorities.	6,820,502.00	
	Passage of Legislative Instrument on Membership of Regional House of Chiefs	200,000.00	
	Codification of lines of succession to stools and skins	200,000.00	
<b>RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS</b>	Christian Pilgrimage	7,000,000.00	
<b>TOTAL</b>		9,220,502.00	15,512,785.32

## 9.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee made the following observations and recommendations during the consideration of the 2020 budget estimates of the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs.

### **I. Inadequate funds for the Ministry**

The Committee was informed that due to the lack of adequate funds, the Ministry was unable to undertake a number of their planned activities. The Committee would like to press home the fact that this Ministry's activities and investments create intangible values like a peaceful

environment and mutual respect, which inure to the benefit of the whole country. This is because its activities help avert conflict and abate disputes through education and the neutral adjudication of chieftaincy matters. It is therefore vital that the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs be well resourced to carry out its mandate. It is unfortunate to see that even the budget for Compensation requested for in 2020 has been reduced drastically even in comparison to that of 2019. In 2019 for example, the Ministry requested an amount of **fifty-seven million, nine hundred and eight-seven thousand, three hundred and sixty-four Cedis (GH¢ 57,987,364.00)** to cover its remuneration but was allocated 67.1% of the amount being **thirty-eight million, nine hundred and twenty-one thousand, one hundred and thirty Cedis only (GH¢ 38,921,130.00)**, even though the staff strength did not decrease. In 2020 also, even in the face of the creation of six new regions, which demands that the Ministry expand and create six additional Houses of Chiefs, the allocation of **thirty million, nine hundred and sixty-five thousand, eight hundred and eight hundred Cedis (GH¢ 30,965,808.00)** for Compensation, is 20.4% lower than that of 2019 and 44.6 lower than the amount requested for 2020.

In addition to this, the Committee would like the Minister of Finance to note that the creation of the new Regions mean new administrative set-ups, new Houses of Chiefs, ergo the employment of more staff and the provision of logistics. This requires more Capital Expenditure. Unfortunately no provision has been made for CapEx in 2020 to cover this.

## **II. Amendment of L.I 798 and C.I 27 which specify the procedures for adjudication of disputes by Judicial Committees of Traditional Councils and various Houses of Chiefs**

The Committee observed that the above-mentioned laws, which spell out the processes to resolve disputes have still not been reviewed. The Committee was informed that the Regional Houses of Chiefs are yet to submit their input, especially on the composition of a quorum for the Judicial Committee. It was agreed that the leadership of the Committee will engage the Ministry, the Houses of Chiefs representatives and other stakeholder to ensure that work on these amendments is expedited.

## **III. Pending Policies**

The Committee noted that the Ministry has almost completed its Policy on Christian Pilgrimage, and would begin implementation in 2020. The National Policy on Religion is also at cabinet, and when approved, would be adopted and implemented.

## **IV. Human Resources Development**

The Committee commended the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs for its efforts to put in place a Performance Management System which would enable the monitoring and evaluation of the output of staff.

## **V. Inadequate Staff Strength**

The Committee noted that, year after year, the Ministry cites inadequate staff, especially to support the Regional House of Chiefs. This, according to the Ministry is having a negative impact on its operations across the country. The Committee acknowledges the important role of the

Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs in promoting peace, particularly through its conflict resolution functions and data management and is therefore recommending the engagement of National Building Corps (NABCO) employees and National Service Personnel who are already on the state's payroll to be posted to man departments that require their services.

The Committee urges the Ministry of Finance to give financial clearance to enable the Ministry recruit a legal counsel to help fast track its objective of settling more Chieftaincy disputes.

**VI. Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)**

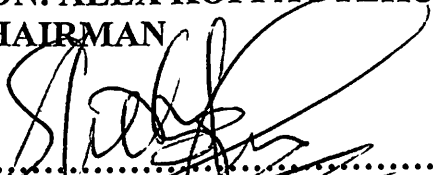
The Committee noted that the Ministry has started encouraging the use of Alternative Dispute Resolution in chieftaincy matters. This is commendable because it will go a long way to decrease the protracted legal battles before the Houses of Chiefs. Members were also informed that there would also be engagements between the judicial service and the judicial committees so as to close the knowledge and skills gaps of the latter. The Committee deems this a vital activity and would like to encourage the Ministry to make it one of their priorities because it will help create a peaceful environment for national development.

**8.0 CONCLUSION**

The Committee acknowledges that the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs has a vital role to play in engendering cohesion and maintaining peace in the country, which are prerequisites for national growth and development. In conclusion therefore, the Committee recommends that this House approve the total sum of **Thirty-four million, five hundred and and twelve thousand, one hundred and fifty Cedis (GH¢ 34,512,155.00)** for the operations of the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs for the 2020 Financial Year and advises the Ministry of Finance to, as a matter of urgency, take a second look as the adjustments it made to the Ministry's budget and ensure it is well resourced to carry out its mandate.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED**

  
.....  
**HON. ALEX KOFI AGYEKUM**  
**CHAIRMAN**

  
.....  
**SHEBA NANA AFRITYE OSEI**  
**CLERK**