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REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

ON THE

2020 ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE
MINISTRY OF HEALTH

DECEMBER, 2019

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH ON THE ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES OF
THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 2020**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 On Wednesday, 13th November, 2019, the Minister for Finance, Mr. Ken Ofori-Atta, presented the Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2020 Financial Year to Parliament, in accordance with Article 179 of the Constitution.
- 1.2 Pursuant to Article 103 of the Constitution and Standing Orders 140 and 178 of the House, Mr. Speaker referred the Annual Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Health for the 2020 Financial Year to the Committee on Health for consideration and report.
- 1.3 The Committee, in pursuance of the Referral, invited the Honourable Minister for Health, Mr. Kwaku Agyeman-Manu, Deputy Minister for Health, Mr. Alexander Kodwo Kom Abban, Chief Director of the Ministry of Health, Nana Kwabena Adjei-Mensah and other Officials of the Ministry of Health and its allied Agencies to join in its deliberations.

2.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

- 2.1 During the deliberations, references were made to the following:
- a) The 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana
 - b) The Standing Orders of Parliament
 - c) The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2019 Financial Year
 - d) The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2020 Financial Year
 - e) The Annual Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Health for the 2019 Financial Year
 - f) Report of the Committee on Health on the Annual Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Health for the year ended 31st December, 2019

3.0 MISSION STATEMENT OF THE MINISTRY

- 3.1 The Mission Statement of the Ministry is "to continue to improve the health status of all people living in Ghana, through the development and promotion of proactive policies for good health and longevity as well as the provision of universal access to basic health services. It is in line with the health related aspects of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)" (Ministry of Health).

4.0 AGENCIES OF THE MINISTRY

4.1 Main Ministry

- a. Headquarters
- b. Ghana Health Service (Health Facilities other than teaching hospitals)
- c. Biomedical Engineering Unit

4.2 Teaching Hospitals

- a. Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital-Main
 - i. *Blood Bank*
 - ii. *Ghana Radiotherapy*
 - iii. *National Cardiothoracic Centre*
- b. Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital
- c. Cape Coast Teaching Hospital
- d. Tamale Teaching Hospital
- e. Ho Teaching Hospital

4.3 Regulatory Bodies

- a. Food and Drugs Authority
- b. Medical and Dental Council
- c. Pharmacy Council
- d. Nursing and Midwifery Council for Ghana
- e. Allied Health Professionals Council

- f. Traditional Medicine Practice Council
- g. Health Facilities Regulatory Agency
- h. Ghana Psychology Council

4.4 Subvented Agencies

- a. Centre for Scientific Research into Plant Medicine
- b. Ghana College of Pharmacists
- c. Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons
- d. Ghana Institute of Clinical Genetics
- e. College of Nurses and Midwives
- f. National Ambulance Service
- g. St. Johns Ambulance

4.5 Psychiatric Hospitals

- a. Pantang Hospital
- b. Accra Psychiatric Hospital
- c. Ankaful Hospital

4.6 Other Establishments under the Ministry

- a. Health Training Institutions
- b. Christian Health Association of Ghana (CHAG)

5.0 **CORE FUNCTIONS OF THE MINISTRY**

5.1 The Ministry is mandated to:

- i. **“Formulate, coordinate and monitor the implementation of sector policies and programmes.**
- ii. **Provide public health and clinical services at primary, secondary and tertiary levels.**

- iii. **Regulate registration and accreditation of health service delivery facilities as well as the training and practice of various health professions regarding standards and professional conduct.**
- iv. **Regulate the manufacture, implementation, exportation, distribution, use and advertisement of all food, medicines, cosmetics, medical devices and household chemical substances as well as the marketing and utilisation of traditional medicinal products in the Country.**
- v. **Conduct and promote scientific research into plant/herbal medicine.**
- vi. **Provide pre-hospital care during accidents, emergencies and disasters”. (Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) for 2020-2023)**

6.0 OVERALL GOAL OF THE HEALTH SECTOR

- 6.1 **“To have a healthy and productive population that reproduces itself safely” (Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) for 2020-2023).**

7.0 PERFORMANCE FOR 2019 AND OUTLOOK FOR 2020

- 7.1 The 2019 performance of the Ministry and its outlook for 2020 are categorised into the following four (4) headings:
- i. Management and Administration of the health sector
 - ii. Health Service Delivery
 - iii. Human Resource for Health Development and Management
 - iv. Health Sector Regulation

Management and Administration Programme

- 7.2 It is undisputable that health information remains central to the Ministry's agenda of improving health care delivery to achieve the Universal Health Coverage goal of

ensuring that all people in Ghana have timely access to high quality health services, irrespective of ability to pay at the point of use. To help achieve Universal Health Coverage, the health sector E-health strategy document was finalized for implementation and also the electronic medical records programme was extended to Komfo-Anokye and Korle-Bu Teaching Hospitals, following the successful pilot in twenty-four (24) hospitals in the Central Region. Staff of the Records and Stores Units of the facilities were trained in electronic management and profiling of documents as part of the activities carried out in 2019.

- 7.3 In pursuit of the Universal Health Coverage, "Leaving no one behind", the Ministry developed a draft comprehensive roadmap for the realignment of health service delivery and strengthening primary health care and health systems. In addition, the Ministry reviewed its human resource policy to help address the human resource challenges in the sector. The policy is currently before Cabinet.
- 7.4 To help achieve the President's vision of making Ghana a Medical Tourism hub in West Africa, a medical tourism policy was developed and a scoping of eleven (11) facilities was conducted to assess the potentials and basic requirements for the development of medical tourism.
- 7.5 In 2020, the Ministry will continue to roll out the E-health programme to all Teaching, Regional, District and Psychiatric Hospitals as well as Polyclinics to improve health care delivery to ensure paperless transactions in all public health facilities. The Ministry will also pursue the health sector decentralisation agenda and review the Ghana Health Service Act 1996, Act 525. It will also continue to develop Legislative Instruments (L.Is) for the Health Acts that are without L.Is to strengthen their functionality and operations.

Health Service Delivery Programme

- 7.6 In fulfilment of government's promise of bringing specialist services closer to the people, the Ho Regional Hospital was upgraded to a Teaching Hospital and because of this, in 2020, the Hohoe Municipal Hospital will be upgraded to a Regional Hospital.
- 7.7 To improve upon emergency preparedness and service delivery at all levels, all Regions developed Emergency Preparedness Plans and established functional Rapid Response Teams (RRT). A total of sixty (60) districts were trained to respond appropriately to emergencies.
- 7.8 As the health of Ghanaians improves and life expectancy increases, the need for specialized services for the aged becomes paramount. To help address this, the Ministry, in consultation with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, will develop a geriatric policy and also engage relevant stakeholders on the development of appropriate protocols for implementation.
- 7.9 The Ministry is implementing the Last Mile Distribution (LMD) Plan in ten (10) regions to ensure ready access to both drug and non-drug consumables. All public health facilities including those at the sub-district levels are currently covered and the roll out of the Logistic Management Information System (LMIS) to support efficient management of health commodities is also on going. The LMIS is currently deployed to all Regional Medical Stores, Teaching and Regional Hospitals.
- 7.10 In 2020, the Ministry will launch and implement the National Action Plan for Health Security and put in place the institutional framework for the Ghana Centre for Disease Control to address public health emergencies.

7.11 To improve essential services at deprived areas, the government launched the drone service in April 2019 at Omenako, in the Eastern Region and in October, 2019, the 2nd drone distribution centre was also launched at Asante Mampong in the Ashanti Region. As at 10th October, over 1000 flights and 5000 products had been delivered from the first site in Omenako. The 3rd and 4th centres are to be established at Wulongo near Walewale and Sefwi Wiawso respectively and they were expected to be completed by the end of 2019. In 2020, the Drone project will be rolled out nationwide to ensure that the essential service delivery of blood and medical products are extended to deprived areas of the Country.

7.12 As part of government quest to reduce regional disparities and bring service closer to the people, the upgrade of Tamale Teaching Hospital Works was completed and commissioned for use in February. The construction of a district hospital at Kwabenya was completed and handed over in September, five (5) Polyclinics at Sege, Obojo, Ashaiman, Bortianor and Oduman were also completed and commissioned.

7.13 The Ministry will complete the following projects in 2020:

- a. Regional Hospital in Kumasi and 4 District Hospitals with Staff Housing at Twifo-Praso, Konongo-Odumasi, Tepa and Nkawkaw;
- b. Bekwai District Hospital;
- c. Upper East (Bolgatanga) Regional Hospital; and
- d. Greater Accra Regional Hospital, Ridge (Phase II).

7.14 Also, the construction of the following facilities will continue:

- a. Five (5) District Hospitals in Sawla, Tolon, Somanya, Buipe and Wheta and a Polyclinic in Bamboi;
- b. Maternity and Children's Block at Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital in the Ashanti Region;

- c. One District Hospital and Five Polyclinics in Western Region at Akontombra, Bogoso, Wassa Dunkwa, Mpoho, Elubo and Nsuaem;
- d. The expansion and equipping of four selected facilities at Aburi, Kibi, Atibie and Mampong.

7.15 The Ministry will commence the following projects in 2020:

- a. Construction of Koforidua Regional Hospital and achieve 30 percent completion;
- b. Construction of University of Ghana Teaching Hospital (Phase II);
- c. Construction of Maternity Block at Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital;
- d. Reconstruction of Tema Regional Hospital;
- e. Reconstruction of the Central Medical Store;
- f. Rehabilitation and expansion of Shama and La General Polyclinics and achieve thirty (30) percent completion;
- g. Refurbishment of Surgical Block at Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital;
- h. Construction of Urology and Nephrology Centre at Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital;
- i. Construction of Western Regional Hospital at Sekondi-Takoradi;
- j. Construction of 4 No. 60 bed District Hospital at Atebubu, Sampa and Sandema;
- k. Construction of 10 No. 40-Bed Hospitals in Ashanti and Eastern Regions; and Construction of New District Hospitals at Obuasi and Trauma Hospital at Anyinam.

Human Resources for Health Programme

7.16 In order to improve health training admissions, the Ministry developed an online application and admissions portal and used it for the 2019/2020 admissions. As part of the commitment to improve the health sector middle level human resource base, a total of 22,368 students were admitted to the various Health Training Institutions. As part of efforts to improve health service delivery, a total of 54,892 Health professionals were recruited between the period of 2017 to 2019. A total of 24,261 health workers were

recruited from January, 2017 to August, 2018 and 30,631 Health workers were recruited between the period of September, 2018 to July, 2019.

Health Sector Regulation Programme

- 7.17 In the area of regulation of Medical and Food Products, the number of products granted market authorisation by the Food and Drugs Authority (FDA) increased by 112 percent by June 2019. The number of unwholesome products removed from the market increased by 960 percent due to intensified market surveillance activities. The FDA transitioned its ISO/IEC 17025:2005 accreditation to the ISO/IEC 17025:2017 for its Laboratory and maintained its accreditation for 40 tests, the highest scope in Africa. It successfully maintained its ISO 9001:2015 certification for technical and administrative functions at its Head Office and initiated expansion of scope to include its regional offices.
- 7.18 The Health Facilities Regulatory Agency registered 426, inspected 696 and licensed 676 health facilities across the country. The Agency is expected to register 120, inspect 130 and license 184 additional facilities by the end of 2019. In 2020, a total of 13,562 validated health facilities will be available for registration.

8.0 ECONOMIC CLASSIFICATION OF 2019 ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES AND ACTUAL RELEASES FOR 2019

Approved Budget Allocation for 2019

- 8.1 For the Financial Year 2019, the Ministry was allocated **Six Billion, Thirty-Seven Million, Five Hundred and Six Thousand, Seven Hundred and Nineteen Ghana Cedis (GH¢6,037,506,719.00)**. Some comparative analysis have been made between the Approved Budgetary Allocation for 2019 and the Budgetary Allocation for 2020 and it

can be found in the observations. The breakdown of the Approved Total Budgetary Allocation for 2019 according to economic classification is shown on the Table 1 below:

Table 1: Economic Classification of Approved Budgetary Allocation for 2019

ITEM	GOG	IGF	ABFA	DONOR	Total	%
Compensation	3,400,000,000.00	247,481,767.00	0.00	0.00	3,647,481,767.00	60.41
Goods and Services	21,276,474.00	1,351,986,482.00	0.00	171,014,524.00	1,544,277,480.00	25.58
Capex (Assets)	0.00	173,441,280.00	47,500,000.00	624,806,192.00	845,747,472.00	14.01
Total	3,421,276,474.00	1,772,909,529.00	47,500,000.00	795,820,716.00	6,037,506,719.00	100.00

Source: Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2019 Financial Year

8.2 As of September 2019, a total amount of **Four Trillion, Three Hundred and Thirty-Three Million, Six Hundred and Fifty-Seven Thousand, Ghana Cedis (GH¢4,333,657,000.00)** had been released to the Ministry, constituting 72% of the total Budget Approved for the Ministry in 2019 shown in the Table 1 afore. The Table 2 below shows the breakdown of the releases for 2019 as of September.

Table 2: Breakdown of fund releases to the Ministry of Health as of September 2019

ITEM	GOG	IGF	ABFA	DONOR	Total
Compensation	2,706,520,000.00	129,870,000.00	0.00	0.00	2,836,390,000.00
Goods and Services	16,460,000.00	700,200,000.00	0.00	171,007,000.00	887,667,000.00
Capex (Assets)	0.00	37,260,000.00	44,930,000.00	527,410,000.00	609,600,000.00
Total	2,722,980,000.00	867,330,000.00	44,930,000.00	698,417,000.00	4,333,657,000.00

Source: Ministry of Health Budget Office

9.0 ECONOMIC CLASSIFICATION AND DEPARTMENTAL ALLOCATIONS FOR 2020 ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES

Budget Allocation for 2020

9.1 For the implementation of its activities in 2020, the Ministry has been allocated a total amount of **Six Billion, Five Hundred Eighty-Seven Million, Ninety-Two Thousand, Four Hundred and Seventy-Eight Ghana Cedis (GH¢6,587,092,478.00)** (refer to the Table 3 below for details).

Table 3: Economic Classification of 2020 Annual Budget Estimates

ITEM	GOG	IGF	ABFA	DONOR	Total	%
Employee Compensation	4,149,294,816.00	338,646,914.00	0.00	0.00	4,487,941,730.00	68.13
Goods and Services	36,346,443.00	1,406,103,826.00	0.00	0.00	1,442,450,269.00	21.90
Capex (Assets)	0.00	186,333,116.00	57,396,929.00	412,970,434.00	656,700,479.00	9.97
Total	4,185,641,259.00	1,931,083,856.00	57,396,929.00	412,970,434.00	6,587,092,478.00	100.00

Source: Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2020 Financial Year

10.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Fund Releases

10.1 The Committee observed that as of September 2019, an amount of **Four Billion, Three Hundred and Thirty-Three Million, Six Hundred and Fifty-Seven Ghana Cedis (GH¢4,333,657,000.00)** had been released to the Ministry of Health. The total of the releases made to the Ministry constituted 72% of its Total Approved Budget for 2019.

10.2 Whilst the Committee commends the Ministry of Finance for the laudable effort, it urges the Outfit to put in more effort to release about 90% or a greater proportion of the Total Budget Allocations to the Ministry by the end of Third Quarter of each year. This will enable the Ministry of Health and its agencies carry out their mandate effectively, particularly the releases in respect of Goods and Services and Capital Expenditure.

Budget Allocations/Approved Budget

10.3 The Committee observed that the total amount of **Six Billion, Five Hundred Eighty-Seven Million, Ninety-Two Thousand, Four Hundred and Seventy-Eight Ghana Cedis (GH¢6,587,092,478.00)** allocated to the Ministry for 2020 is **Five Hundred and Forty-Nine Million, Five Hundred and Eighty-Five Thousand, Seven Hundred and Fifty-Eight Ghana Cedis (GH¢549,585,758.00)** more than the sum of **Six Billion, Thirty-Seven Million, Five Hundred and Six Thousand, Seven Hundred and Nineteen Ghana Cedis (GH¢6,037,506,719.00)** approved for the Ministry for the implementation of its activities in 2019. The difference translates into a percentage increase of 9.1.

10.4 The Committee observed that GoG Goods and Services for the Ministry of Health for 2020 is **Thirty-Six Million Ghana Cedis (GH¢36,000,000.00)** of which an amount of **Fifteen Million Ghana Cedis (GH¢15,000,000.00)** had been allocated to the Mental Health Authority and **Five Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢5,000,000.00)** to the Ghana Health Service. The Committee commends the Government for increasing the GoG Goods and Services allocation to the Mental Health Authority.

10.5 Even though the amount allocated to the Ghana Health Service in respect of GoG Goods and Services is higher than the 2019 figure of **Four Million, Two Hundred Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢4,200,000.00)**, the Committee is of the opinion that the amount is inadequate and will adversely affect the operations of the various departments under the Ghana Health Service, particularly those that do not generate any funds internally (IGF).

The Ghana Health Service is the largest of all the agencies under the Ministry of Health and therefore must not be made to contend with financial difficulties to the extent that it cannot carry out effective supervision, monitoring and evaluation of health facilities.

- 10.6 The Committee therefore recommends to the Minister for Finance to increase the GoG Goods and Services for the Ghana Health Service from the contingency fund.

The Capping Policy

- 10.7 The Committee further observed that Capping has still not been scrapped entirely from the health sector, contrary to the stands the Committee had taken since the policy was introduced in 2017. For 2020, all the regulatory bodies have been Capped with the exception of the Ghana Psychology Council. The Committee noted that the Capping is adversely affecting the Regulatory Bodies and makes it extremely difficult for them to carry out their Constitutional mandate of ensuring quality health care and public safety.
- 10.8 The Committee is once again recommending to the Ministry of Finance to exclude the Regulatory Bodies too from the Capping just like it has done to the agencies under the Ministry of Health responsible for service delivery.

Issues Relating to the Centres of Excellence at Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital

- 10.9 It may be recalled that during the consideration of the 2019 Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Health, the Committee observed that the Centres of Excellence at Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital were not included in the Budget of the Hospital and hence were not scrutinized by Parliament.
- 10.10 The Committee recommended the inclusion of their Budget in that of the Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital. The Committee observed that in the 2020 Budget Estimates, the

Budget of these Centres of Excellence have still not been included in the Budget of the Hospital. The Committee therefore urges the Ministry of Health to expedite action in the process so that the operations of these Centres of Excellence can be subjected to Parliamentary scrutiny.

Uneven Distribution of Doctors and Fake Doctors in the System

10.11 The Committee observed that about 70% of the doctors in Ghana are stationed in Accra and Kumasi and it finds the situation very appalling. The Committee therefore strongly recommends to the Ministry of Health to, as a matter of urgency devise a policy that will provide incentive package to encourage doctors to accept postings to deprived areas where their services are most needed. The Committee further recommends to the Ministry of Health to collaborate with the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development.

11.0 CONCLUSION

11.1 The Committee recommends to the House to adopt its Report and approve the sum of **Six Billion, Five Hundred Eighty-Seven Million, Ninety-Two Thousand, Four Hundred and Seventy-Eight Ghana Cedis (GH¢6,587,092,478.00)** for the activities of the Ministry of Health for the 2020 Fiscal Year.

Respectfully submitted.



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MICHAEL AMOATENG
 ASSIST. CLERK, COMMITTEE ON HEALTH



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HON. DR. KWABENA TWUM-NUAMAH
 CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

DECEMBER, 2019