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

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

**ON THE**

**2020 BUDGET ESTIMATES**

**OF THE**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND  
REGIONAL INTEGRATION**

DECEMBER 2019

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON THE ANNUAL  
BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND  
REGIONAL INTEGRATION FOR THE YEAR 2020**

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Pursuant to Article 179 of the Constitution and Order 140(1) and (2) of the Standing Orders of the House, the Hon. Minister for Finance, Mr. Ken Ofori-Atta on Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2019 presented to Parliament the Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2020 Financial Year. In accordance with Order 140(4) of the Standing Orders of the House, Rt. Hon. Speaker referred the Draft Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration to the Committee on Foreign Affairs for consideration and report.

The Committee met on Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2019 and considered the Annual Estimates of the Ministry. The Committee is grateful to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, Hon. Shirley Ayorkor Botchway, the Deputy Ministers, Hon. Mohammed Habib Tijani and Hon. Charles Owiredu and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration and the Ministry of Finance for their invaluable contributions and inputs during the considerations of the Estimates.

**2.0 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS**

In considering the Estimates, the Committee relied on the following documents;

- i. The 1992 Constitution;
- ii. The Standing Orders of Parliament;
- iii. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2019 Financial Year;
- iv. The Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) for the 2019-2021 – Program Based Budget Estimate for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration;
- v. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2020 Fiscal Year;
- vi. Report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs on the 2019 Annual Estimates of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration.

**3.0 CORE FUNCTIONS**

The core functions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration are to;

- Initiate, formulate, coordinate and implement Ghana's Foreign Policy objectives;
- Advance Ghana's economic interest by working with other MDAs for the promotion of 'Made-in-Ghana Brand' and expansion of trade, tourism and inward investments;
- Coordinate Ghana's contribution to regional integration for the promotion and protection of the national interest;
- Develop and coordinate Ghana's position at multilateral fora to ensure that the outcomes serve Ghana's interest to the greatest extent possible;
- Develop and maintain cordial bilateral relations with friendly countries in all fields of endeavour;
- Develop institutional frameworks, including joint commissions for cooperation and bilateral consultation mechanism for the conduct of productive and mutually beneficial relations;
- Collaborate closely with the Attorney-General's Office for the establishment of an integrated legal service with the Ministry to maximize Ghana's representation and participation in international legal fora for related bodies;
- Improve the quality of consular services provided by the Ministry and its Diplomatic Missions and Consular Posts and maintain close contacts with Ghanaian communities around the world, including immigrant groups;
- Contribute to greater public awareness of Ghana's international rights and obligations.

#### **4.0 POLICY OBJECTIVES**

The policy objectives of the Ministry are as follows:

- Promote globally competitive Foreign Service;
- Enhance Ghana's international image and influence;
- Leverage the governance and security credentials to promote Ghana's political and economic interests abroad;
- Promote international peace and sustainable development;
- Integrate Ghanaian Diaspora into national development;
- Accelerate economic and social integration with Regional and Sub-regional States.

## 5.0 2019 PERFORMANCE

### 5.1 Financial Performance

#### 5.1.1 Total Approved Budget for 2019

In the year under review, an amount of **Four Hundred and Sixty-Five Million, Five Hundred and Seventy-Six Thousand, Eight Hundred and Seventy-Two Ghana Cedis (GHC465,576,872)** was approved for the operations of the Ministry and its Departments and Agencies.

The breakdown of the allocation to the Ministry for the year 2019 in terms of cost centers, programs and sources of funding is provided in Tables 1 and 2.

*Table 1: 2019 Budgetary Allocations*

Item	2019 SOURCES OF FUNDING			
	GoG	IGF	DP FUNDS	TOTAL
	Gh¢	Gh¢	Gh¢	Gh¢
Compensation	364,460,122	-	-	364,460,122
Goods and Services	13,830,115	30,081,761	6,734,000	50,645,876
Capex	2,758,867	20,054,507	27,657,500	50,470,874
Total	381,049,104	50,136,268	34,391,500	465,576,872

*Source: 2019 Budget and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana*

*Table 2: Allocations to the Ministry in terms of Programs*

PROGRAM	ALLOCATION (GHC)
Management and Administration	76,577,679.00
International Cooperation	387,284,405.00
Passport Administration	1,714,789.00
Total	465,576,873.00

*Source: MTEF 2019-2022,*

## 5.1.2 Expenditure for 2019

Out of the approved budget of Gh¢465,576,872.00 for the year 2019, only Gh¢302,139,377 was released as at September 2019 representing 65% of the total allocation, leaving a balance of Gh¢163,437,495 representing 35%. Out of the amount released, the Ministry expended a total of Gh¢299,923,937.35 representing 99% of the amount released. The breakdown is provided in Table 3.

Table 3: Expenditure and Releases as at September 2019

Item	2019 BUDGET (A)	RELEASE (B)	% Released	Actual Expenditure (D)	Variance (A-D)
Compensation	364,460,122.00	264,946,035.47	73	264,946,035.47	99,514,086.53
Goods and Services	50,645,876.00	30,599,941.70	60	28,384,501.88	22,261,374.12
Capex	50,470,874.00	6,593,400.00	13	6,593,400.00	43,877,474.00
Total	465,576,872.00	302,139,377.17	65	299,923,937.35	165,652,934.65

Source: MTEF 2020-2023

Table 3 shows that 73% of the budget for compensation was released as at September 2019 while 60% of the budget for goods and services was released. On the other hand, only 13% of the budget for capex was released for the same period. The total amount released for the Ministry was 65% of the approved budget for 2019.

## 5.2 Program performance for 2019

### 5.2.1 Performance Management Exercise for Heads of Missions and A1 Officers

The Ministry in conjunction with the Office of the Head of Civil Service organized performance management training program for all Heads of Ghana's Diplomatic Missions as well as all A1 Officers both home and abroad. The exercise was aimed at training Ambassadors and Directors of the Ministry to contribute to the attainment of Ghana's foreign policy objectives, the Ministry's medium term development plan and the President's coordinated programme of economic and social development

### **5.2.2 Recruitment of Additional Staff**

The Ministry obtained financial clearance from the Ministry of Finance and recruited forty-eight (48) officers. It is expected that this recruitment will go a long way to ease staff inadequacy in the Ministry and enhance the execution of Ghana's foreign policy goals and objectives

### **5.2.3 Implementation of the Foreign Service Regulations**

Pursuant of Section 93 of the Civil Service Act 1993 (PNDCL 327), the Ministry started the implementation of its Foreign Service Regulations which updated the conditions of service for officers of the Ministry, modernized human resource practices and brought the Foreign Service Regulations in line with international best practices.

### **5.2.4 Hosting of the Secretariat of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area**

The Ministry in conjunction with the Office of the President and the Ministry of Trade and Industry spearheaded the campaign for Ghana's candidature to host the Secretariat of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area. Ghana mounted a vigorous bid campaign, including visits by the President's Special Envoys to several African countries. Consequently, the African Union Heads of State and Governments on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2019 in Niamey, Niger approved the candidature of Ghana to host the Secretariat.

### **5.2.5 Trade and Investment Promotions**

Ghana Embassies abroad also facilitated inward investment into Ghana, promoted Ghana's export trade and marketed Ghana's tourism potentials. The Ministry and its Missions engaged a number of friendly governments for cooperation arrangements including facilitating concessionary financing for programmes and projects in Ghana. The Ministry in collaboration with partner MDAs organized trade and investment activities to aggressively promote "Made-In-Ghana" goods and services as well as attract the needed Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs) for Ghana's industrialization agenda. Among these were:

- Facilitation of the Ghanaian private sector in the Offshore Technology Conference (OTC) in Texas, USA, 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2019. The Economic and Trade

Investment Bureau is currently assisting private sector operatives to actualize the contacts they made at the Conference;

- Facilitation of the participation of the Ghanaian private sector in the United Arab Emirates Annual Investment Meeting held in Dubai from 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2019. Business contacts have been established towards joint ventures;
- The fact-finding mission to Ghana by Thai officials who paid working visits to GIPC, GFZA, GPHA, MOTI, NIB, AGI etc. from 5<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2019. The delegation showed keen interest in investing in the Government's flagship programmes such as One-District-One-Factory;
- Organization of inter-sectoral preparatory meetings, which was the result of the official visit of President Akufo-Addo to Malta in June 2019. The outcome of the meetings included Malta becoming an EU-gateway logistics hub for Made-In-Ghana products and the recruitment of regularized labour from Ghana for the Maltese market.

#### **5.2.6 Joint Commission for Cooperation and Political Dialogue**

The Ministry as at July 2019 had coordinated, organized and led the following Cooperation and Dialogue arrangements;

- a. Ghana – Namibia PJCC held in Windhoek, Namibia from 27<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> February, 2019;
- b. 3<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Ghana – Russia PJCC held from 20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2019 in St. Petersburg, Russia;
- c. Ghana-EU Migration dialogue held on 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2019 in Accra;
- d. 4<sup>th</sup> Round of consultations between Ghana and Switzerland held in Switzerland on 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2019
- e. 6<sup>th</sup> Session of the Ghana – France Political Dialogue held on 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2019 in Accra; and
- f. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ghana – China Consular Consultations held from 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> July in Beijing, China.

Among the issues discussed were:

- Migration matters and Police Cooperation

- Trade and Investment Cooperation
- Fisheries and Aquaculture;
- Health;
- Tourism and Culture;
- Education and Youth Unemployment;
- Multilateral matters; and
- Visa waiver for official passports.

### **5.2.7 Opening of New Consulates General**

The Government of Ghana opened two Consulates General in Guangzhou, China and Port Louis, Mauritius with the view to better provide Ghanaian compatriots with timely consular services as well as enhance the economic cooperation between Ghana and Mauritius on one hand and Ghana and the City of Guangzhou on the other.

### **5.2.8 Visa Waiver Agreement**

The Ministry in the course of the year signed Visa Waiver Agreements with Malta, Jamaica, Angola, Guyana and Suriname. When ratified by Parliament, officials from both countries carrying Diplomatic, Service and Official passports will be exempted from applying for visas when entering each other's countries. In addition, South Africa's Department of Home Affairs announced in July 2019 that it intends to exempt Ghanaian ordinary passport holders from applying for entry visas to South Africa.

### **5.2.9 Economic Diplomacy**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration organized its 2<sup>nd</sup> Made-In-Ghana Bazar Extravaganza from 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> July 2019, which brought together over a two hundred and thirty-one (231) Ghanaian small-to-medium businesses to exhibit their products. The overarching objective of the Bazaar was to use the network of Ghana's Diplomatic Missions abroad and diplomatic missions accredited to Ghana to facilitate the internationalization of Ghanaian products and services. The expected outcome was for increased exports, job creation and to secure the needed foreign exchange for the economic growth of Ghana. To give effect to this expectation, the Ministry devoted a



special edition of its magazine, “The Envoy” to the promotion of exhibitors of the maiden Bazaar Extravaganza in all its Missions and Diplomatic Missions accredited to Ghana.

## 6.0 OUTLOOK FOR 2020

In 2020, the Ministry plans to carry out a number of programmes and activities. Some selected programs, output indicators and targets for 2019 are shown in Table 4.

*Table 4: Program outlook for 2020*

Output Indicator Description	Unit of Measurement	2020 Target
Augmenting Staff Strength	Number of officers recruited/replaced	40
Assets Refurbished	Number of properties refurbished	11
Assets Purchased/Acquired	Number of properties acquired	10
Trade, Tourism and Investment Promotion	Number of trade missions undertaken	30
Ghana's Diplomatic Representation Enhanced	Number of diplomatic missions maintained	66
Passport Application Centers Established in all Regional Capitals	Number of biometric passport application centers established	6
Passports Issued Globally	Number of passports issued globally	400,000

*Source: 2020 MTEF of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration.*

## 7.0 2020 BUDGETARY ALLOCATION

For the implementation of the above programmes and projects, a total sum of **Five Hundred and Seventy-Four Million, Five Hundred and Two Thousand and Seventy-Three Ghana Cedis (GHC574,502,073)** was allocated to the Ministry for the 2020 fiscal year. The breakdown of the allocations in terms of cost centres, programmes and sources of funding are provided in Tables 5 and 6.

Table 5: 2020 Budgetary Allocations

Item	2020 SOURCES OF FUNDING			
	GoG	IGF	DP FUNDS	TOTAL
	Gh¢	Gh¢	Gh¢	Gh¢
Compensation	389,211,162	-	-	389,211,162
Goods and Services	16,513,818	53,943,728	-	70,457,546
Capex	9,246,720	42,680,944	62,905,700	114,833,364
<b>Total</b>	<b>414,971,700</b>	<b>96,624,672</b>	<b>62,905,700</b>	<b>574,502,073</b>

Source: 2020 Budget and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana

Table 6: Allocations to the Ministry in terms of Programs

<i>PROGRAM</i>	<i>ALLOCATION</i>
Management and Administration	127,990,428
International Cooperation	398,405,126
Passport Administration	48,106,519
<b>Total</b>	<b>574,502,073</b>

Source: MTEF 2020-2023,

## 8.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 8.1 Establishment of Distress Fund

The Committee in its Report to the House on the Draft Estimates for the Ministry for 2019 recommended the establishment of a distress fund to support Ghanaians abroad in distress. This recommendation was re-echoed by the Public Accounts Committee. The recommendation was based on instances where Missions abroad were unable to come to the aid of Ghanaians in desperate situations. It was noted that Foreign Service Officers (FSO) had to occasionally use their personal resources to support Ghanaian compatriots in such conditions.

The Committee observed that the fund was yet to be established. The Committee however took note that the Ministry, as part of its programmes and activities for 2020, planned to develop proposals for the creation of a US\$2million Consular Emergency

Fund for destitute Ghanaians abroad. The Committee urges the Ministry to expedite action on the establishment of the Fund in order to bring relief to our unfortunate compatriots abroad.

### **8.2 Disbursement of US\$50 Million Loan Facility**

The Government in year 2016 secured a US\$50 Million loan facility from SG SSB for the rehabilitation of some of Ghana's Missions abroad and for the acquisition of new properties for other Missions. The Committee was informed that as at November 2019 only about US\$30 Million of the facility had been disbursed. The Committee expressed concern about the low rate of utilization of the facility given that the properties in most of the Missions are in bad state and require urgent facelift and the fact that Government was paying interest on the facility, including the undisbursed amount.

The Ministry explained that the low rate of utilization of the facility was attributable to procurement challenges in relation to compliance with Ghana's procurement laws and regulations and the laws of the countries in which the Missions are situated. The Ministry however indicated that the processes have reached advanced stages and assured that the entire amount will be utilized by the close of next year.

The Committee urges the Ministry to act expeditiously and ensure that the entire amount is disbursed for the intended purposes in order to avoid Government's continuous payment of interest on an undisbursed facility.

### **8.3 Provision of Chip Embedded Passports**

The Committee noted that the Ministry proposed the issuance of chip embedded passports in the 2017 Budget Statement. The Committee however observed that as at November 2019 the Ministry was yet to commence the issuance of the said passports and there is also no provision in the 2020 budget for that purpose. The Ministry explained that it had commenced the processes leading to the issuance of the passports. According to the Ministry, a transaction advisor had been appointed to advise the Ministry and a Technical Team has also been constituted and had commenced scoping surveys of some of the Missions that will be issuing the said passports when they are eventually rolled-out. The

Ministry was awaiting reports from the Technical Team and the Transaction Advisor to guide its subsequent actions.

#### **8.4 Passport Processing**

The Committee observed that the processing time for biometric passports has improved markedly from fifteen (15) days to ten (10) days. This was attributable to some initiatives introduced by the Ministry. They include processing of online applications; establishment of additional Passport Application Centres (PACs) bringing the total number of Centres to eight (8); the establishment of a Premium Passport Application Centre; and the extension of the validity period of passports from five (5) years to ten (10) years. The Committee was informed that the new initiatives have contributed to reducing the activities of “middlemen” (*Goro Boys*) at the Passport Office. The Ministry indicated that it would continue to work to further reduce the lead-time for the processing of biometric passports to five (5) days. The Ministry is seeking to phase-out all manual applications and migrate to a wholly online application processing by January 2020. The Ministry is also proposing to introduce 48-page passports to satisfy frequent travellers before end of 2019.

The Committee commends the Ministry for the strides made in passport processing. The simplified processes would bring relieve to prospective applicants and also save them from the extortionist activities of “*Goro Boys*”.

#### **8.5 Relocation of the Passport Office**

The Committee, in its Report on the Annual Budget Estimates for the Ministry for the 2019 Financial Year, expressed concern about the relocation of the Passport Office to make way for the construction of the national cathedral. The Committee was informed that the Office would be provided a suitable location but unfortunately, as at the time of reporting, the Government was yet to provide the Ministry a suitable accommodation to house the Passport Office.

The Committee noted that the Office had worked tirelessly to clear the backlog in processing and printing of passports and to reduce the lead-time between the application and issuance of passports to an average of 10 days. It is the view of the Committee that

any disruption in its operations may revert to the status quo anti. The Committee therefore recommends to the Government to as a matter of urgency provide the required office space to accommodate the Passport Office so as to ensure that services provided by the Office are not disrupted.

### 8.6 Conditions of Service for Foreign Service Officers

The Committee was informed that with the implementation of the new Foreign Service Regulations there has been some marked improvement in the conditions of service for FSOs. It was noted that notwithstanding the improvements made by the Regulations they still fall short of expectation. The Committee was informed that the conditions of service for some of the Officers were lower than the minimum wage in the jurisdictions of some of the Missions. The Committee recommends that the Ministry should ensure that the Regulations are periodically reviewed to respond to prevailing conditions.

### 9.0 CONCLUSION

The Committee recognizing the efforts of the Ministry in representing the good image of the country abroad and improving on service delivery recommends to the House to adopt its Report and approve the total sum of **Five Hundred and Seventy-Four Million, Five Hundred and Two Thousand and Seventy-Three Ghana Cedis (GHC574,502,073)** to the Ministry and its Departments and Agencies for the implementation of their planned activities for the 2020 fiscal year.

Respectfully Submitted.

.....  
Hon. Frank Annoh-Dompreh  
CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

.....  
Camille Pwamang  
CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

9<sup>th</sup> December 2019

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