

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

**REPORT OF THE SPECIAL BUDGET
COMMITTEE ON THE 2020 BUDGET
ESTIMATES OF THE PARLIAMENT OF
GHANA**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Minister for Finance, Hon. Ken Ofori-Atta presented the Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government for the 2020 financial year to Parliament on Wednesday, 13th November, 2019 in accordance with Article 179 of the 1992 Constitution and Section 21(3) of the Public Financial Management Act, 2016 (Act 921).

The Estimates of Parliament of Ghana were subsequently laid before the House in accordance with article 178 (1) (a) and 179 (2) (b) of the 1992 Constitution, section 15 of the Parliamentary Service Act, 1993 (Act 460) and section 15(a) of the Parliamentary Service (Amendment) Act, 2008, (Act 763).

Pursuant to Order 140(4) of the Standing Orders of the House, the Rt. Hon. Speaker referred the Annual Estimates of Parliament to the Special Budget Committee for consideration and report.

The Committee was assisted by the Ag. Clerk to Parliament, Mr. Cyril O. Nsiah and officials of the Parliamentary Service and Ministry of

Finance and deliberated on the Estimates. The Committee expresses its gratitude to the Ag. Clerk and his officials for the assistance.

2.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

The Committee made reference to the following documents during its deliberations:

- i. The 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana.
- ii. Public Financial Management Act 2016 (Act 921)
- iii. The Standing Orders of the Parliament of Ghana.
- iv. The Parliamentary Service Act, 1993 (Act 460).
- v. The Parliamentary Service (Amendment) Act, 2008, (Act 763).
- vi. The Report of the Special Budget Committee on the 2019 Budget Estimates of the Parliament of Ghana.
- vii. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2020 Financial Year.
- viii. National Medium Term Development Policy Framework (NMTDPF) for 2020 – 2023; and
- ix. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- x. Letter from the President on the Recommendation of Government on the Proposed Estimates of Expenditure for Parliament.

3.0 MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of Parliament of Ghana is to legislate, represent and protect the interest of the people of Ghana within the framework of the Constitution, supported by a non-partisan, innovative and professional Parliamentary Service, structured uphold the dignity of Parliament.

In pursuit of this mission, Parliament intends to implement a number of strategic goals aimed at improving service delivery, promote accountability and responsive governance. To achieve these objectives, the following strategic goals will be pursued in 2020:

- Strengthen the capacity of Members of Parliament and the Parliamentary Service to enable Members introduce Private Member's Bills and effectively scrutinize Bills, Regulations, Treaties and other Agreements;
- Enhance Parliament-citizen engagement;
- Strengthen mechanism for evidence-based decision-making;
- Strengthen the role of Parliament in the budget cycle, oversight over the management of economy and international financial agreements;
- Reform and restructure the Parliamentary administration for efficient resource utilization and service delivery;
- Ensure that Parliament has adequate modern infrastructure to sustain excellence in service delivery;
- Institutionalize reforms for, Parliament to be more responsive and efficient of Parliament;
- Strengthen the role of Parliament in regional and continental integration through strategic partnerships with other Parliaments.

4.0 2019 BUDGET PERFORMANCE REVIEW

For the performance of its function an amount of **Three Hundred and Sixty-Five Million, Six Hundred and Sixty-Seven Thousand, Five Hundred and Seven Ghana Cedis (GH¢365,667,507)** was allocated to Parliament of Ghana in 2019 financial year. This is made up of **Two Hundred and Sixty-Eight Million, Two Hundred and Sixty-Seven Thousand, Five Hundred and Seven Ghana Cedis (GH¢268,267,507)** allocated in the 2019 appropriation, and additional **GH¢97,400,000** allocated to Parliament during the mid-year Budget Review to enable it meet its expenditure requirements. The 2019 appropriation is made up of:

Government of Ghana	-	GH¢262,692,717
Development Partners Fund	-	GH¢5,574,790
Total	-	GH¢268,267,507

The allocation is made up of GH¢**360,092,717** from GoG sources and **GH¢5,574,790** from Development Partners Fund. The GoG allocation was disbursed among the three cost centers of Parliament as follows:

Compensation of Employees	-	GH¢147,384,382
Goods and Services	-	GH¢140,618,610
Capital Expenditure	-	GH¢72,089,725
Total	-	GH¢360,092,717

The 2019 GoG appropriation and Supplementary allocation to Parliament is presented in table 1.

2019 Appropriation and Supplementary Allocation to Parliament

SN	Expenditure Item	2019 Appropriation (GH¢)	Supplementary Allocation (GH¢)	Total Allocation (GH¢)
1	Compensation of Employees	120,484,382	26,900,000	147,384,382
2	Goods and Services	70,118,610	70,500,000	140,618,610
3	Assets	72,089,725	0	72,089,725
	TOTAL	262,692,717	97,400,000	360,092,717

The Donor allocation of GH¢5,574,790 was to be expended on Goods and Services bringing the total allocation for Goods and Services for the 2019 financial year to GH¢146,193,400.

The total allocation for 2019 was therefore disbursed among the three main cost centers of Parliament as follow:

Compensation of Employees	-	GH¢
147,384,382		
Goods and Services	-	GH¢ 146,193,400
Capital Expenditure	-	GH¢ 72,089,725
Total Allocation	-	GH¢365,667,507

Out of this allocation, the sum of **Two Hundred and Sixty-Seven Million, Four Hundred and Thirty-Seven Thousand, Four Hundred and Sixty-Two Ghana Cedis (GH¢267,437,462)** representing 73.14% of the total allocation was released as at 30th September, 2019. The actual expenditure of Parliament as at 30th September, 2019 stood at **Two Hundred and Fifty-six Million, Eight Hundred and Eighty-Eight Thousand, and Forty-Three Ghana Cedis (GH¢256,888,043)**

representing 70.25 percent of budget allocation and 96.06% of the releases.

The unreleased balance therefore stands at **Ten Million, Five hundred and Forty nine thousand, Four hundred and Nineteen Cedis (Gh¢10,549,419)** representing 29.75% of the 2019 allocation.

The 2019 Budget Allocation and actual release as at 30th September, 2019 is presented in Table 2.

Table 2: 2019 Allocation and Actual Releases as at 30/09/2019

Item of Expenditure	2019 Budget Allocation (GH¢)	Releases as at 30/09/2019 (GH¢)	Actual Exp. as at 30/09/2019 (GH¢)	Variance (GH¢)	% Released (GH¢)
Compensation	147,384,382	96,068,606	96,068,606	0	65.18
Goods and Services	140,618,610	97,624,908	87,075,489	10,549,419	69.43
Capex	72,089,725	73,743,948	73,743,948	0	102.29
Total	365,667,507	267,437,462	256,888,043	10,549,419	70.25

5.0 ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2019

Out of these releases, Parliament undertook key activities related to its core mandate namely; legislation, oversight and representation as follows.

5.1 **Legislative Business**

In accordance with Article 93(2) of the constitution Parliament continued to discharge its mandate through Plenary and Committee Sittings to consider and approve legislative proposals brought before it. In this regard, the House held a total of eighty-seven (87) Plenary Sittings and one hundred and seventy (170) Committee Sittings.

Additionally, thirteen (13) Bills were passed into law, fourteen (14) Legislative Instruments (L.I.s) approved, forty-three (43) International Agreements and one hundred and nine (109) Committee Reports were also presented to the House.

5.2 Parliamentary Oversight

In accordance with Articles 174, 178, 181, 179, 184 and 187 of the Constitution, Parliament continued to exercise oversight over the use of state resources. In this direction, the Public Accounts Committee held nineteen sittings (19) to consider the following reports of the Auditor-General pursuant to Article 187 and the Public Financial Management Act 2016 (Act 921):

- i. Report of the Auditor-General on the Public Accounts of Ghana, Ministries, Departments and other Agencies for the Financial year ended 31st December, 2016;
- ii. Report of the Auditor-General on the Public Accounts of Ghana – Public Boards and Other Statutory Institutions for the Financial year ended 31st December, 2016;

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker admitted a total of one hundred and seventy-five (175) Parliamentary Questions and Ninety-two (92) Statements on matters of national importance from Members.

Committees of Parliament also undertook a total of five (5) monitoring visits to track the progress of implementation of selected projects for which funds were appropriated under sector budgets.

In line with the National Anti-Corruption Action Plan (NACAAP), recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee was implemented resulting in the recovery of an amount of GH¢862,696.52.

5.3 State of the Nation Address (SONA) 2018

Pursuant to Article 67 of the Constitution, H.E. the president, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo delivered to the House, a message on the State of the Nation on 21st February, 2019. The address covered progress made in key sectors of the economy and national issues including social, infrastructure, education, agriculture, governance, energy and environmental management. Parliament also debated and adopted a motion to thank H.E. the President for his message on the State of the Nation as delivered to the House.

5.4 Parliamentary Infrastructure Project

The Parliamentary infrastructure project which seeks to provide additional office space to accommodate 23 Members of Parliament, officers of Parliament, Press gallery, MP's drivers, a holding area and visitors center in the precincts of Parliament is progressing steadily. The project which was awarded in 2017 is about 80% complete and is expected to be completed by December, 2019.

5.5 e-Parliament Project

During the 2019 financial year, Parliament continued the implementation of the e-Parliament Project. The project is to provide ICT backbone support to the ICT architecture of Parliament to facilitate the automation of Parliamentary Business and administrative processes. During the year under review, Parliament

completed work on the digitisation of the production of the daily Hansard.

Under the E-Parliament, work is currently ongoing on the extension of the Table Office Information Management System (TOIMS) to all the Parliamentary premises. Parliament is also working with the Centre for Geographic Information Systems to extend the web-based GIS Database to fifty (50) districts.

5.6 Introduction of Parliamentary Reforms-

During the period under review, the Rt. Hon. Speaker and the Parliamentary Service Board initiated a number of reforms aimed at strengthening capacity of Parliament to execute its mandate including legislative reforms, introduction of private members bill, record and archival systems. To this end, Parliament officially launched the Budget and Fiscal Analysis Office to support the work of Parliament with expert analysis of policy proposal presented to the House. The Legal Services and Drafting Department were also established to assist Members introduce Private Members' Bills in the House.

6.0 OUTLOOK FOR 2020

For the 2020 financial year, Parliament will continue to implement ongoing program aimed at improving the legislative, oversight and representational functions of the House and also promote improved service delivery to citizenry. To this end, the following activities among others will be pursued:

6.1 Legislative function

In 2020, Parliament will continue with its legislative functions and complete review of the Standing Orders of Parliament to meet the changing need of the House. To improve its legislative and oversight functions, Parliament will establish a Legislation Processing Unit and develop guidelines for the introduction of Private Members' Bill and assist Members to introduce the Bill. Guidelines for the use of evidence at Committees will also be developed and evidence sessions introduced. Parliament will also develop a framework for analyzing in-year budget performance reports.

To improve the legislative function of the House, Parliament intends to undertake the following activities in 2020:

- i. Complete work on the revision of the Standing Orders of Parliament to meet the changing needs of the House. The review will make provision to open Committee meetings to the public and empower Committee to undertake independent investigations.
- ii. Operationalize the Legislation Drafting Unit
- iii. Introduce Drafting as a curricular in the Parliamentary Training Institute.
- iv. Conduct pre and post-legislative scrutiny of Bills and conduct analysis of Treaties, Conventions and other Agreements presented to the House.
- v. Deployment of robust IT infrastructure to enable use of innovation in works of Parliament.

6.2 Oversight and Budget Monitoring

Parliament will continue its partnership with Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) for oversight activities in Communities to monitor and track progress and effectiveness of service delivery, identify issues of critical concern and bring same to the attention of Parliament. Parliament will also hold public hearings of the Public Accounts Committee and the Government Assurance Committee and pursue the implementation of the recommendations in the Committees reports. In addition, mechanism will be implemented to track MDA budgets in line with the Public Financial Management Act 2016, Act 921.

Other activities to be implemented in the year include:

- i. Improve MP-constituents engagement through the use of community score card for tracking service delivery at the local level;
- ii. Strengthen the oversight role of Parliament in the provision of public goods and services.
- iii. Open up more committees to the public and
- iv. Set up committee to monitor SDG implementation

6.3 Representation and Policy Advocacy

To enhance Parliament-Citizen interface and engagement, the following strategic initiatives will be undertaken in 2020:

- a. Develop and implement a public participation model.
- b. Mainstream gender and social inclusion in the work of Parliament.

- c. Strengthen youth engagement in the work of Parliament.
- d. Improve the capacity of MPs to carry out outreach programs at the constituency level.
- e. Enhance material determination on the functions, duties and responsibilities of a Member of Parliament.
- f. Open Parliamentary Committee meetings to the public.
- g. Improve on the concept of Regional Parliamentary Resource Centers.
- h. Develop systems and structures to ensure Parliament's visibility through the media.
- i. Establish systems and structures for the implementation of the Right to information Act, 2019.

6.4 Continuous Training and Capacity Building for MPs and Staff

In 2020 Parliament will implement a continuous learning program for MPs through continuous seminar sessions and duty visit to other Parliament. Capacity of Parliamentary Service staff will also be enhanced. Procedural services will also be automated and ICT options improved to support the business of the House.

6.5 Enhanced Physical Infrastructure and Security

To provide Members, Staff and visitors a safe and secure working environment, whilst ensuring accessibility of Parliament by the public, the security system in Parliament will be upgraded through the installation of additional security equipment in line with the security committee report of Parliament.

7.0 BUDGETARY ALLOCATION FOR 2020

For the implementation of the above programmes and activities, Parliament of Ghana has been allocated the sum of **Three Hundred and Forty-five Million, Five Hundred and Fourteen Thousand, Seven Hundred and Seventy Ghana Cedis (GH¢345,514,770)** for the execution of its 2020 programmes. The allocation will be expended on the various expenditure items of Parliament as follow:

GoG

Compensation of Employees	-	GH¢140,484,382
Goods and Services	-	GH¢155,030,388
Capital Expenditure	-	GH¢50,000,000
Total	-	GH¢345,514,770

The allocation to Parliament will be expended on the various programmes as follow:

Management & Administration	-	GH¢163,679,021
Parliamentary Business	-	GH¢177,308,862
Information Support Services	-	GH¢4,526,887
Total	-	GH¢345,514,770

The allocation will further be disbursed among the sub-program component of Parliament as shown in table 2.

Table 2: 2019 Appropriation by sub-program

Program	Sub-program	2020 Appropriation (GH¢)
Management & Administration	General Administration	158,505,346
	Finance	1,856,774
	Human Resource	1,396,892
	Corporate Planning and Strategy	1,034,735

	Internal Audit	885,273
Sub Total		163,679,021
Parliamentary Business	Legislative Services	111,005,466
	Financial Oversight	31,347,144
	Representation and Constituency Services	10,129,686
	Parliamentary Caucuses	4,409,064
	Inter-Parliamentary association	20,417,502
Sub Total		177,308,862
Information Support Services	Library and Research Services	2,064,261
	ICY Support Services	645,081
	Parliamentary Relations and Public Affairs	1,046,164
Sub Total		4,526,887
GRAND TOTAL		345,514,770

8.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee having carefully scrutinized the estimates of Parliament made the following observations:

8.1 Shortfall in Budgetary Allocation

The Committee noted that out of a budgetary requirement of GH¢416,404,752.52 for the 2020 financial year, a total amount of GH¢**345,514,770** representing 82.98% was allocated to Parliament leaving a funding gap of GH¢70,889,982.52.

The Committee further noted that the shortfall in budgetary allocation only affected the capital expenditure requirements of Parliament.

The Ag. Clerk and his officials explained to the Committee that the reduction in the capital expenditure requirement will adversely affect

ongoing infrastructure projects including the early completion of the construction of the additional office accommodation for the remaining 23 Members of Parliament and key Departments of the Parliamentary Service. It will also derail the construction of a holding facility for visitors and drivers of MPs.

Detail financial requirement and actual allocation to the Parliament for 2020 financial year is presented in table 3 below:

Table 3: Requirements and allocation to Parliament for 2020

Cost Item	2020 Allocation (GH¢)	Actual Requirement (GH¢)	Variance (GH¢)	% Allocation
Compensation	140,484,382	140,484,382	NIL	100
Goods and Services	155,030,388	155,030,388	NIL	100
CAPEX	50,000,000	120,889,983	70,889,983	41.36
TOTAL	345,514,770	416,404,753	70,889,983	82.98

The Committee noted that the shortfall will affect the completion of critical infrastructure projects aimed at meeting the physical infrastructural needs of Parliament. This will adversely impact Parliaments objective of strengthening the operational efficiency and independence of the House.

The Committee therefore recommends to the Minister of Finance to ensure that the remaining capital expenditure requirement of

Parliament is met during the mid-year review to enable Parliament meet its commitments under ongoing infrastructure projects in 2020.

8.2 Security in Parliament

The Committee noted that, efforts to improve security of Members and Staff in Parliament has not yielded much result. The increasing incidence of insecurity within the precincts of Parliament identified during the consideration of the 2019 estimates of Parliament largely remain unresolved. Though the indiscriminate movement of hawkers in the Parliamentary enclave has declined, the problem of gallivanting strangers and poor lightening among others remain unresolved.

The Parliamentary Service explained that, the ongoing construction of visitors holding center is part of efforts to guarantee safety and security of Members and staff. The Centre when completed will serve as screening grounds of all strangers and visitors before they are given clearance and access to restricted areas within Parliament including the Chamber block and Job 600 building.

The Ag. Clerk of Parliament further stated that plans are advanced for the fencing of the State House enclave currently occupied by Parliament and that some structural adjustments currently ongoing within Parliament are some of the efforts being put in place to guarantee the safety of Members.

He further assured the Committee that the Parliamentary Police Unit and the Marshal's Department are in the process of developing comprehensive security program for Parliament. He assured Members

of enhanced security and safety within the precincts of Parliament when these programs are completed in 2020.

8.3 Poor of IT Infrastructure in Parliament

The Committee noted that Parliament has put in place a number of interventions to improve information flow and management systems in the House. Prominent amongst these is the deployment of African Development Bank funded geographic information System for project monitoring in some 30 selected districts, the Table Office Information Management System and the deployment of management information system as well as the ongoing e-Parliament project.

The service will also deploy advanced ICT systems and improved Hansard coverage

The Committee was informed that, there is an elaborate plan to improve internet connectivity and broadband speed in Parliament through the laying of fiber optic cables among others.

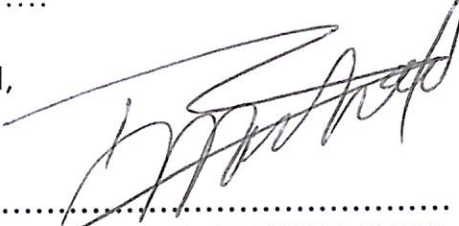
The Committee urges Parliament to improve internet connectivity to enable Members derive the full benefits of the IT.

9.0 CONCLUSION

In view of the need to strengthen Parliament as the key pillar of Ghana's democracy, the Committee recommends to the House to adopt its report and approve the sum of **Three Hundred and Forty-five Million, Five Hundred and Fourteen Thousand, Seven Hundred and Seventy Ghana Cedis (GH¢345,514,770)** for the implementation of some of the programs of the Parliament of Ghana for the 2020 financial year.

Respectfully submitted.


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HON. OSEI KYEI-MENSAH-BONSU
(MAJORITY LEADER & CHAIRMAN,
SPECIAL BUDGET COMMITTEE)



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INUSAH MOHAMMED (MR.)
(CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE)

December, 2019