

# IN THE FIRST SESSION OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF THE FOURTH REPUBLIC OF GHANA

## REPORT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY SELECT COMMITTEE ON YOUTH, SPORTS AND CULTURE ON THE 2021 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 2021 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 2021 Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government 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 Minister for Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs, Hon. Ebenezer Kojo Kum, 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**

- I. The 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana;
- II. The Standing Orders of the House;
- III. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2021 Financial Year;
- IV. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2020 Financial Year;
- V. Report of the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs on the actual releases and expenditure of the Ministry for the 2020 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 objective of safeguarding the values that promote and enhance a stable, united and safe society, thereby creating opportunities for all Ghanaians to build a prosperous nation. The prime objective is that the Ministry sets the framework and the necessary mechanism to ensure that the Chieftaincy and Religious bodies promote and enhance peace and the environment that create the space for government and government institutions to bring and spread 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 FUNCTIONS OF THE MINISTRY**

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

- I. Initiate and formulate policies as well as programs geared towards the promotion of the Chieftaincy Institution, religious tolerance and good governance, taking into account the needs and aspirations of the people;
- II. Undertake development planning in consultation with the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC);
- III. Co-ordinate, monitor and evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of the sector;
- IV. Co-ordinate the activities and programs of the National and Regional Houses of Chiefs and religious bodies towards the development of the Chieftaincy and Religious Sectors; and
- V. To undertake the progressive study, interpretation and codification of customary law with the view of evolving in appropriate cases, a unified system of rules of customary law and compilation of lines of succession applicable to each stool and skin.

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 to the citizenry;
- In line with ensuring quality human resource, build capacity of the staff for efficient delivery and performance; and
- Undertake initiation, development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Ministry's policies, programmes and activities.

## **4.2 CHIEFTAINCY AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS**

This programme encapsulates Chieftaincy Management and Religion for Development

### **I. Chieftaincy Management**

This programme 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 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.

Activities pursued under this programme include;

- promoting dialogue in, and between faith to enable and appreciate peace and cohesion;
- enable the pursuit of pilgrimage locally and abroad to deepen faith, values and beliefs for human and national development;
- create and enable appreciation of religious sites and their influence in development; and
- enable religious bodies deepen involvement in the social, cultural and economic development of the country.

## 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. Sixteen (16) 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 2020 IN RETROSPECT

The Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs' approved budget for 2020 was in the amount of thirty-four million, five hundred and twelve thousand, one hundred fifty-five Cedis (¢34,512,155.00) for its activities. An amount of forty-two million, five hundred and sixty-six thousand, ninety Cedis and eighty-seven pesewas (¢42,566,090.87) was released and forty-two million, eight hundred and eight thousand, one hundred and eighty-two Cedis and sixty-nine pesewas (¢42,808,182.69) was utilized, leaving a surplus of eight million, two hundred and ninety-six thousand, twenty-seven Cedis and sixty-nine pesewas (¢8,296,027.69).

**TABLE 1: BUDGETARY ALLOCATIONS FOR 2020**

	Approved Budget GHC (A) GH¢	Amount Released GHC (B)	Actual Expenditure GHC (C)	Variance (A-B)
Compensation of Employees	30,965,808.00	38,391,564.00	38,391,564.00	(7,425,756.00)
Use of Goods and Services	3,546,347.00	3,213,270.87	2,559,877.77	333,076.13
Capital Expenditure (Capex)	NIL	961,256.00	961,256.00	(961,256.00)
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>34,512,155.00</b>	<b>42,566,090.87</b>	<b>41,912,697.77</b>	<b>(8,053,935.87)</b>

The Ministry expended an additional amount of ₵8,053,935.87 without parliamentary approval during the year under review. Of this amount, the ₵7,425,756.00 released for Employee Compensation is made up of outstanding allowances for Chiefs and an increase in staff in 2019, which was paid in 2020. The amount of ₵961,256.00 constitutes a Capital Expenditure (CaPEX) allocation.

## **6.1 ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2020**

### **I. Management and Administration**

#### **➤ Reconstitution of the Membership of the Houses of Chiefs**

In the year in review, 2020 the Ministry in line with the legal requirement reconstituted the membership of the Regional House of Chiefs, with the passage of the Chieftaincy (membership of the Regional House of Chiefs) Instrument, 2020 L.I 2409. This was significant, particularly in view of the creation of six (6) new regions, and which by necessary implication meant that each Regional House of Chiefs shall have its membership in compliance with constitutional provision.

#### **➤ Inauguration of Regional Houses of Chiefs**

To enable the functioning of the six (6) new Regions created, which are Bono East, Savannah, Oti, Ahafo, Western North and North East, Six Regional House of Chiefs were inaugurated. The necessary enabling administrative structures to support the Six (6) Regional House of Chiefs have been put in place.

### **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 four hundred and ninety-one (491) Chieftaincy Declaration (CD) Forms for entry into the National Register of Chiefs. These will soon be gazetted. The objective of the exercise is to report the current status of persons as chiefs in Ghana.

#### **➤ Digitization of Records**

The digitization programme of record in the National House of Chiefs were continued. The programme would be replicated in the other Houses of Chiefs. The essence is the preservation of the records of the House of Chiefs.

#### **➤ Meetings of the Regional and National House of Chiefs**

The COVID-19 pandemic affected programmes and quarterly meetings of the Houses of Chiefs. However, since the easing of restrictions, it has been possible to hold other meetings of the various Houses of Chiefs and the National House of Chiefs. The meetings are critical in the management of the chieftaincy institution. It permits the discussion of very critical issues and creates opportunities for government official and policy makers to engage with them on a wide range of issues.

➤ **Adjudication of Chieftaincy Disputes**

The Judicial Committee of the House of Chiefs were able to adjudicate and dispose of One Hundred and Four (104) of the Chieftaincy disputes that were pending before the various Judicial Committees.

✓ National House of Chiefs	- Twenty-Six (26)
✓ Ashanti Regional House of Chiefs	- Sixteen (16)
✓ Brong Ahafo Regional House of Chiefs	- Twelve (12)
✓ Central Regional House of Chiefs	- Twelve (12)
✓ Eastern Regional House of Chiefs	- Eleven (11)
✓ Greater Accra Regional House of Chiefs	- Five (5)
✓ Northern Regional House of Chiefs	- One (1)
✓ Upper East Regional House of Chiefs	- Eight (8)
✓ Upper West Regional House of Chiefs	- Two (2)
✓ Volta Regional House of Chiefs	- Three (3)
✓ Western Regional House of Chiefs	- Eight (8)

Below are the lists of cases disposed of at the National and Regional Houses of Chiefs, as mentioned above.

✓ **National House of Chiefs**

1. Mafi Paramount Stool Petition
2. Srafa Divisional Stool Appeal
3. Ekumfi Otum Divisional Stool Appeal
4. Diaso Divisional Stool Appeal
5. Wenchi Paramount Stool Appeal
6. Seikwa Atomfourso Divisional Stool Appeal
7. Besease Divisional Stool Appeal
8. New Juaben Divisional Stool Appeal
9. Suhyen Divisional Stool Appeal
10. Nkoranza Paramount Stool Appeal
11. Nkyeraa Divisional Stool Appeal
12. Yeji Kadue Divisional Stool Appeal
13. Asaam Divisional Stool Appeal
14. Kundungu Divisional Stool Appeal
15. Jenjemeraja Divisional Stool Appeal
16. Ada Divisional Stool Appeal
17. Sirigu Paramount Stool Appeal
18. Wassa Fiase Paramount Stool Appeal
19. Himakrom Divisional Stool Appeal
20. Abadwum Divisional Stool Appeal
21. Baama Divisional Stool Appeal
22. Yilo Krobo Paramount Stool Appeal
23. Abene Paramount Stool Appeal
24. Larkpleku Old Ningo Divisional Stool Appeal
25. Ningo Paramount Stool Appeal
26. Prampram Paramount Stool Appeal

✓ **Ashanti Regional House of Chiefs**

1. Bomfa Divisional Stool Appeal
2. Mampong Twafo Divisional Stool Appeal
3. Funso Divisional Stool Appeal
4. Jamasi Akwamu Stool Appeal
5. Dwomo Divisional Stool Appeal
6. Akwasise Divisional Stool Appeal
7. Edubiase Twafo Stool Appeal
8. Behease Divisional Stool Appeal
9. Seniagya Divisional Stool Appeal
10. Akrofonso Divisional Stool Appeal
11. Amoaman Divisional Stool Appeal
12. Anaminako Divisional Stool Appeal
13. Bomfa Divisional Stool Appeal
14. Ejisu Traditional Council (A case between Adusua Panin Adu Boahene and Mrs. Joana Appiah and others)
15. Kumasi Traditional Council (A case between Nana Yaw Adubofour vrs Nana Boaten Pong)
16. Adansi Traditional Council (A case between Opanin Kwame Bronya & othrs vrs Nana Akuoamoa Boateng)

✓ **Brong Ahafo Region House of Chiefs**

1. Asasewura Atebubu Divisional Stool Petition
2. Odomasi No. 1 Adonten Divisional Stool Appeal
3. Nkoranza Paramount Stool Petition
4. Jenjemireja Divisional Stool Motion
5. Nsuhunu Divisional Stool Petition
6. Berekum Paramount Stool Petition
7. Nsawkaw Paramount Stool Petition
8. Bomaa Nifa Divisional Stool Appeal
9. Muntukwa Odikro Divisional Stool Appeal
10. Nkoranza Paramount Stool Petition
11. Dwan Paramount Stool Petition
12. Akroso Paramount Stool Petition

✓ **Central Regional House of Chiefs**

1. Moree Divisional Stool Petition
2. Ebubonkor Divisional Stool Appeal
3. Gomoa Odina Divisional Stool Petition
4. Twifo Hemang Paramount Stool Petition
5. Diaso Divisional Stool Petition
6. Bawjiase Divisional Stool Appeal
7. Ekumfi Abaka Divisional Stool Appeal
8. Bando Divisional Stool Appeal
9. Senya Beraku Paramount Stool Petition
10. Assin Besease Divisional Stool Appeal
11. Gomoa Abaasa Divisional Stool Appeal
12. Gomoa Achiase Divisional Stool Appeal

✓ **Eastern Regional House of Chiefs**

1. Achiase Divisional Stool Appeal
2. Asamankese Divisional Stool Petition
3. Asokore Divisional Stool Appeal
4. Akuapem Paramount Stool Petition (2)
5. Bukuruwa Divisional Stool Petition
6. Adjena Divisional Stool Motion (Appeal)
7. Pitiko Divisional Stool Appeal
8. Awenare Divisional Stool Appeal
9. Abesim Divisional Stool Appeal
10. Konkondru Divisional Stool Appeal

✓ **Greater Accra Regional House of Chiefs**

1. Ga Paramount Stool Petition
2. Wokumagbe Divisional Stool Appeal
3. Kpone Bawaleshie Divisional Stool Petition
4. Darkuman Divisional Stool Appeal
5. Dome Faase Divisional Stool Appeal

✓ **Northern Regional House of Chiefs**

1. Bole Paramount Stool Petition

✓ **Volta Regional House of Chiefs**

1. Bodada Divisional Stool Petition
2. Dzolo (Gbogame) Paramount Stool Petition
3. Somey Paramount Stool Petition

✓ **Upper East Regional House of Chiefs**

1. Natugnia Divisional Skin Petition
2. Nangode Paramount Skin Petition
3. Paga Navio Divisional Skin Petition
4. Kpatia Divisional Skin Petition
5. Teago Sub Divisional Skin Petition
6. Dulugu Divisional Skin Petition
7. Kaadi Divisional Skin Appeal
8. Denugu Divisional Skin Appeal

✓ **Upper West Regional House of Chiefs**

1. Kaleo Paramount Skin Petition
2. Sakai Divisional Stool Petition

✓ **Western Regional House of Chiefs**

1. Assakae Divisional Stool Petition
2. Nsuaem Divisional Stool Appeal
3. Awiaso Divisional Stool Petition
4. Nyankomam Divisional Stool Appeal
5. Aowin Paramount Stool Petition (3 cases)
6. Akyem Divisional Stool Appeal



### III. RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS

The facilitation of Christian Pilgrimage, which is a major programme of the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs, was truncated as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak. The Ministry however completed the framework to regulate and enhance the Pilgrimage both locally and abroad.

#### 7.0 CHALLENGES DURING THE YEAR UNDER REVIEW

- I. **Inadequate funds** – whilst elaborate programmes were designed for implementation, resources which were already inadequate, were also not released in time. It was therefore difficult, in most cases, to achieve set goals.
- II. **Inadequate logistics** – the various Houses of Chiefs and traditional councils do not have the full compliment of logistics, necessary for effective and efficient functioning.
- III. **Adjudication of Cases** – the adjudication of chieftaincy matters before the judicial committees is always delayed for two main reasons. First because the various Houses of Chiefs do not have adequate legal counsel. It has been difficult recruiting lawyers because of unattractive remuneration. Secondly, the inability of some panel members to attend scheduled meetings made it difficult to dispose of cases in an early or speedy manner.

#### 8.0 BUDGETARY ALLOCATION FOR 2021

Even though the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs budgeted for an amount of One hundred and ninety-seven million, seventy-three thousand, five hundred and ninety-nine Cedis and nine pesewas (GH¢ 197,073,599.09), only an amount of Thirty-five million, seven hundred and thirty-nine thousand, two hundred and eighty-eight Cedis (GH¢ 35,739,288.00) has been allocated for its activities in 2021.

**TABLE 2: 2021 BUDGETARY REQUEST WITH VARIANCE**

<b>ECONOMIC CLASSIFICATION</b>	<b>(A) PROPOSED BUDGET (2021) by MCRA</b>	<b>(B) BUDGET ALLOCATION (2021) by MoF</b>	<b>(A-B) VARIANCE</b>
<b>COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES</b>	GH¢ 39,572,819.27	GH¢ 30,965,808.00	<b>GH¢ 8,607,011.27</b>
<b>GOODS AND SERVICES</b>	GH¢ 16,150,000.00	GH¢ 3,623,480.00	<b>GH¢ 12,526,520.00</b>
<b>CAPEX</b>	GH¢ 141,350,779.82	GH¢ 1,150,000.00	<b>GH¢ 140,223,779.82</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>GH¢ 197,073,599.09</b>	<b>GH¢ 35,739,288.00</b>	<b>GH¢ 161,357,311.09</b>

## 8.1 GOALS FOR 2021

Some of the Ministry's goals for 2021 are as follows:

- I. **Automation in the Adjudication of Chieftaincy Cases at the Houses of Chiefs**  
The Ministry would automate the various Houses of Chiefs to ensure speedy, effective and efficient adjudication of Chieftaincy disputes at the judicial committees of the National and Regional Houses of Chiefs.
- II. **Stakeholder engagement to build a DNA Genealogy Database**  
The Ministry would have stakeholder engagement on building a DNA genealogy database for lines of succession to stools and skins at the various traditional areas.
- III. **Production of compendium on aspects of chieftaincy** – The Ministry would set the framework to enable the compilation of materials on aspects of Chieftaincy and traditional authority for the production of compendia. This when completed would provide the necessary information and knowledge to impact on the Chieftaincy Institution.
- IV. **Mapping of sites for local Christian pilgrimage**  
The Ministry would map out sites relevant for local Christian pilgrimage. This will enhance faith, understanding and appreciation of Christian history and its impact on education, health, agriculture and various aspect of life in the country. It will also enhance local tourism, appreciation of Christian architecture, historical sites and literature.
- V. **Improvement in the implementation of Christian pilgrimage**  
The Ministry would improve on the participation of Christian pilgrimage, both locally and internationally, by implementing the directives on Christian pilgrimage.
- VI. **Inter faith dialogues strengthened**  
The Ministry would pursue inter faith dialogues, broaden the scope of discussions and collaboration within the overall context of how religion may enhance national development and cohesion.
- VII. **Conduct of 2021 Annual Audit**  
Conduct a full audit at all the Regional Houses of Chiefs and Traditional Councils.
- VIII. **Lines of succession to stools and skins**  
The Ministry would undertake research and administer instruments in the codification of lines of succession to stools and skins in the traditional areas.
- IX. **Compilation of customary laws on Traditional Areas**  
The Ministry would set the framework to enable the identification and compilation of customary laws in selected traditional areas, in particular customary laws applicable to each stool or skin.
- X. **Enhance and strengthen adjudicatory mechanisms**  
The Ministry would continue with its programme of resolving chieftaincy matters through Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). There would also be capacity building of the judicial committee members and the production of relevant documents to facilitate dispute resolution.

XI. **Traditional Authorities in governance**

Traditional councils would be inaugurated to enhance the contribution of traditional authorities in the governance process. There would also be increased engagement with traditional authorities so they may play more critical roles in the spread of development.

**TABLE 3: BREAK DOWN OF PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2021**

<b>COMPENSATION</b>	<b>AMOUNT GHC</b>
Annual Established Post (Head Office and 16 Regional Houses of Chiefs)	17,152,019.27
Allowances for 840 Paramount Chiefs, Paramount Queenmothers, Grants to the Regional Houses of Chiefs and Traditional Councils.	22,420,800.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>39,572,819.27</b>
<b>MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION</b>	
<b>ACTIVITIES FOR 2021 UNDER GOODS &amp; SERVICES</b>	
1. Production of Compendium	250,000.00
2. Mapping of sites for local Christian Pilgrimage	300,000.00
3. Strengthening the Administration of Chieftaincy and Religion	500,000.00
4. Improvement in the implementation of Christian Pilgrimage.	300,000.00
5. Inter-faith dialogues strengthened	150,000.00
6. Conduct 2021 Annual Audit	100,000.00
7. Improve Human Resource Development	400,000.00
8. Research and publications	350,000.00
9. Improve Monitoring and Evaluation of Programmes, Projects and preparation of 2022- 2025 SMTDP	250,000.00
10. Improve Accounting Reporting Standards	50,000.00
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>2,650,000.00</b>

<b>GOODS AND SERVICES</b>	
1. Materials and Consumables	700,000.00
2. Utilities	950,000.00
3. General Cleaning	400,000.00
4. Travel and Transport (domestic)	450,000.00
5. Foreign Travels	600,000.00
6. Repairs and Maintenance	700,000.00
7. Training, Seminars and Conferences	600,000.00
8. Rent of office building for the six (6) newly created Regional Houses of Chiefs.	1,800,000.00
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>6,200,000.00</b>
<b>CHIEFTAINCY AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS</b>	
1. Codification of lines of succession to stools and skins.	200,000.00
2. Enhance and strengthen adjudicatory mechanisms	250,000.00
3. Digitization of records at the National House of Chiefs	250,000.00
4. Traditional Authorities in governance	800,000.00
5. Passage of Legislative Instrument on Membership of Regional House of Chiefs (Amendment)	200,000.00
6. Dialogue with Traditional Authorities to promote and coordinate their festivals	1,000,000.00
7. Dispute Resolution	4,600,000.00
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>7,300,000.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16,150,000.00</b>

**TABLE 4: THE MINISTRY'S PRIORITY OPERATIONS AND PROJECTS FOR 2021**

Programmes	Priority Project/Operations	Goods and Services	Capital Expenditure
Management and Administration			
Administration and Finance	Renovation and Construction of Bungalow no. 31, 6 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Ridge, Accra into offices for the headquarters.		1,101,272.88
	Computer & Accessories		2,000,000.00
	Purchase of two (2) pick-ups, 1 Cross Country vehicle for each of the six (6) newly created Regional Houses of Chiefs and two (2) pick-ups and one (1) Cross Country vehicle for the Head Office.		7,077,000.00
	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
	New office complex, 3-bedroom bungalow and 2-bedroom semi-detached bungalow for Oti Regional House of Chiefs – <b>Dambai</b>		17,611,813.07
	New office complex, 3-bedroom bungalow and 2-bedroom semi-detached bungalow for Savannah Regional House of Chiefs - <b>Damango</b>		21,282,904.55

	New office complex, 3-bedroom bungalow and 2-bedroom semi-detached bungalow for Bono East Regional House of Chiefs - <b>Techiman</b>		<b>16,864,513.11</b>
	New office complex, 3-bedroom bungalow and 2-bedroom semi-detached bungalow for Ahafo Regional House of Chiefs - <b>Goaso</b>		<b>20,850,112.93</b>
	New Office complex, 3-bedroom bungalow and 2-bedroom semi-detached bungalow for North East Regional House of Chiefs - <b>Nalerigu</b>		<b>20,414,187.94</b>
	New Office complex, 3-bedroom bungalow and 2-bedroom semi-detached bungalow for Western North Regional House of Chiefs – <b>Sefwi Wiaso</b>		<b>19,044,138.01</b>
	Furnishing of New Office complex, 3-bedroom bungalow and 2-bedroom semi-detached bungalow of the six (6) newly created Regional Houses of Chiefs		<b>5,000,000.00</b>
	Rehabilitation of Northern Regional House of Chiefs offices and Auditorium - <b>Tamale</b>		<b>541,119.89</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>141,350,779.82</b>

## **9.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee made the following observations and recommendations during the consideration of the 2021 budget estimates of the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs:

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

The Committee was informed that the Ministry was unable to undertake a number of its planned activities due to inadequate funding. Indeed, for 2021, the Ministry requested a total of **one hundred and ninety-seven million, seventy-three thousand, five hundred and ninety-nine Cedis and nine Pesewas (¢197,073,599.09)** but has been allocated only 18.13% thereof, in the amount of **thirty-five million, seven hundred and thirty-nine thousand, two hundred and eighty-eight Cedis (¢35,739,288.00)**. For CapEx, 0.8% of the proposed budget for 2021 has been allocated, while for 2020, there was no allocation whatsoever for Capex, even in the face of catering for six new Regions.

The Committee considers this most unfortunate because it is the activities of the ministry, which help to 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.

In addition to this, the Committee would like the Minister of Finance to note that the creation of the new Regions means new administrative set-ups and new Houses of Chiefs. This translates into the employment of more staff and the provision of logistics, and, this requires more Capital Expenditure.

### **II. Budgetary Over-run**

The Committee also observed, with worry, that the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs utilized more funds than were approved in the 2020 budget, without having these funds approved by Parliament, as law demands. This keeps recurring because the Ministry of Finance always allocates much less than the Ministry budgets for, and ends up increasing the funds during the year.

This budgetary over-run however, is in respect of Compensation because when it comes to Goods Services, there is either delayed releases or none at all, whilst for CapEx, there was no allocation whatsoever. This has made it almost impossible to carry out any meaningful infrastructural work, or purchase the necessary vehicles and office equipment.

The Committee hereby advises the Ministry of Finance to ensure that all extra funds allocated to the various ministries during the year, are fully catered for under the Budget presented during the Mid-Year Review.

### **III. Need for legal counsel**

The Committee was informed that currently, each House of Chiefs is assigned one lawyer to help in handling cases but there is the need to have at least two in some regions due to the number of cases to be dealt with. Also, there is the need to get legal counsel for the six new regions. The Ministry therefore needs about twenty-two lawyers in total, and a bare minimum of six, if each region is to have one. The Committee recommends that the Ministry engage the Attorney-General's office with a request for lawyers to be posted to the various Houses of Chiefs.

**IV. 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 in the matter of increasing the Judiciary Committee membership from three to five. This is in order to ensure that there is always quorum for the Judicial Committee to adjudicate in an expeditious matter. This issue of quorum, the Committee was informed is one of the main causes for the delays in adjudicating cases.

The committee has advised the Ministry to increase its efforts in encouraging the stakeholders to quickly present their input, and complete the processes for the passage of these enactments as their completion will go a long way in assuaging various pockets of conflict.

Coupled with the issue of inadequate funding, the Committee also observed that even though the Ministry has disposed of many chieftaincy disputes, those pending far outnumber those disposed of, as shown in the table below:

**TABLE 5: CASES BEFORE THE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE OF HOUSES OF CHIEFS**


	HOUSE OF CHIEFS	CASES B/F FROM 2019	CASES RECEIVED IN 2020	TOTAL CASES	NO. OF SITTINGS	CASES DISPOSED OFF	CASES PENDING
1.	National House	128	21	149	36	26	123
2.	Ashanti Region	45	1	46	36	15	31
3.	Brong Ahafo Region	43	15	58	130	12	46
4.	Central Region	42	7	49	119	12	37
5.	Eastern Region	20	7	27	24	11	16
6.	Greater Accra Region	22	10	32	80	5	27
7.	Northern Region	4	-	4	9	1	3
8.	Upper East Region	8	3	11	10	8	3
9.	Upper West Region	7	2	9	34	2	7
10.	Volta Region	23	6	29	49	3	26
11.	Western Region	62	7	69	86	8	61
<b>Total</b>		<b>404</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>380</b>



## 8.0 CONCLUSION

The Committee wishes to reiterate that the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs has a vital role to play in engendering national cohesion and maintaining peace, which are vital prerequisites for national growth and development. It is therefore imperative that the Ministry be well resourced. Therefore, while recommending that this House approve the total sum of **Thirty-five million, seven hundred and thirty-nine thousand, two hundred and eighty-eight Cedis (GH¢ 35,739,288.00)** for the operations of the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs during the 2021 Financial Year, the Committee hereby 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. JOHNSON KWAKU ADU**  
**CHAIRMAN**

  
.....  
**SHEBA NANA AFRIYIE OSEI**  
**CLERK**

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