

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

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL  
DEVELOPMENT

ON THE

**2022 BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE MINISTRY  
OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT,  
DECENTRALISATION AND RURAL  
DEVELOPMENT**

***DECEMBER 2021***

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT ON THE 2022 BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, DECENTRALISATION AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 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, 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021, presented to Parliament, the Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2022 Financial Year. In accordance with Order 140(4) and 181 of the Standing Orders of the House, the Rt. Hon. Speaker referred the 2022 Annual Draft Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development to the Committee on Local Government and Rural Development for consideration and report.
- 1.2 The Committee met for three days with officials of the Ministry of Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development to consider the Referral. Appreciation goes to the Hon. Minister for Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development, Mr. Daniel Botwe, Hon. Deputy Ministers of the Sector, Mr. Augustine Collins Ntim and Mr. Osei Bonsu Amoah and other Officials from the Departments and Agencies of the Ministry for taking part in the Committee's deliberation on the Draft Estimates. Appreciation also goes to

the Officials from the Ministry of Finance for their kind assistance during the deliberations.

## **2.0 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS**

2.1 In considering the Estimates, the Committee relied on the following documents:

- i. The 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana;
- ii. The Standing Orders of Parliament;
- iii. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2021 Fiscal Year;
- iv. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2022 Fiscal Year
- v. The Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) for 2021-2024-Programme Based Budget Estimates for the Ministry of Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development for 2021;
- vi. The Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) for 2022-2025-Programme Based Budget Estimates for the Ministry of Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development for 2022;
- vii. Report of the Committee on Local Government and Rural Development on the 2021 Annual Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development;
- viii. The Local Governance Act, 2016 (Act 936) as amended by Act 940;

### **3.0 VISION OF THE MINISTRY**

- 3.1 The Ministry exists to ensure good governance, equitable and balanced development at the local level through the promotion of good governance of urban and rural communities and the formulation of policies and plans, coordination, monitoring and evaluation of programmes, using highly trained and motivated staff and adoption of appropriate technology for national development.

### **4.0 POLICY OBJECTIVES OF THE MINISTRY**

- 4.1 The policy objectives of the Ministry as contained in the National Medium-Term Development Policy Framework (NMTDPF) are as follows:
- i. Ensure improved public investment
  - ii. Improve population management
  - iii. Promote resilient urban development
  - iv. Enhance quality of life in rural areas
  - v. Deepen political and administrative decentralisation
  - vi. Improve decentralised planning
  - vii. Strengthen fiscal decentralisation
  - viii. Strengthen the coordinating and administrative functions of the Regions
  - ix. Improve popular participation at regional and district levels
  - x. Enhance capacity for policy formulation and coordination

- xi. Ensure responsive governance and citizen's participation in the development dialogue.

## **5.0 CORE FUNCTIONS**

5.1 The following are core functions of the Ministry:

- i. Design, monitor and evaluate policies, programmes and projects to reform local governments;
- ii. Formulate policies for the installation of effective decentralised public administration system at the Regional, District and Sub-District levels
- iii. Promote efficiency in local administration
- iv. Promote participation of civil society in administration and development through community actions;
- v. Facilitate accelerated rural development;
- vi. Facilitate the allocation of resources for local level development;
- vii. Promote orderly development of human settlements in urban and rural areas;
- viii. Facilitate the registration of births and deaths to provide the statistical basis for development planning; and
- ix. Advise government on matters affecting local governance.

## **6.0 2021 PERFORMANCE AND SET TARGETS FOR 2022**

### **Management and Administration Programme**

- 6.1 To improve revenue generation and management at the local level, the Ministry of Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development rolled out the District Level Revenue (dLRev) Software in 114 Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) across the country. In 2022, the Ministry will roll out the software in the remaining MMDAs to improve on their revenue mobilisation. In addition, the Ministry developed and deployed a web-based M&E System, that is, the District Data Development Platform (DDDP) to all 261 MMDAs to address gaps in data collection on all Government interventions at the local level. It is expected that the DDDP will be a game-changer for informed decision-making.
- 6.2 To further deepen decentralisation, the Ministry undertook several initiatives, including the transfer of GH¢331.54 million to qualifying MMDAs as incentive for their performance for the 2018 and the 2019 fiscal years under the District Assemblies Performance Assessment Tool (DPAT). This intervention was to support the implementation of District Assemblies Annual Action Plans for improved service delivery.
- 6.3 In 2022, the Ministry will continue to assess the performance of MMDAs using DPAT for 261 Assemblies based on 2020 and 2021 fiscal years, and transfer appropriate amounts to

qualifying MMDAs to support the implementation of their Annual Action Plans.

- 6.4 In 2022, Government will continue with implementation of strategies to improve IGF mobilisation and implement the National Decentralisation Policy. Additionally, the Office of the Head of Local Government Service (OHLGS) will organise orientation workshops for stakeholders on the Performance Contract at the RCC and MMDA levels and also implement 2022 Performance Contract Agreements with the District Chief Executives (DCEs) and the District Coordinating Directors (DCDs) of the MMDAs.
- 6.5 In 2022, the RCCs will organise training to build human resource capacity to improve on quality service delivery of MMDAs. Regional Coordinating Directors will sign Performance Contract Agreements with Regional Ministers and ensure implementation of policies and strategies for the overall development of the Regions.

### **Local Level Development and Management Programme**

- 6.6 The Ministry, through the Department of Community Development, trained 4,601 artisans in 25 Community Development and Vocational Technical Institutes across the country to sharpen the technical and vocational skills of the youth for employment and job creation opportunities. In

addition, the Department trained 370 community educators at the Rural Development College at Kwaso in the Ashanti Region. Furthermore, 1,107 trainees graduated in various trade skills and competencies at both institutional and community levels. The Department also procured start-up tools and equipment which were distributed to all trainees.

6.7 In 2022, the Department of Community Development will continue to train 5,000 youth in Vocational and Technical skills (CDVTIs) and 2,600 youth in employable skills on income generating activities, trades and craft to support the implementation of the 1D1F agenda within the local communities. The Department will also train 400 core staff and social workers in the use of Child Protection Toolkits and 500 Community Educators in Social Protection and community development at the Rural Development College at Kwaso in the Ashanti Region. During the period under review, the Department of Parks and Gardens maintained a total of 1.53 million m<sup>2</sup> of landscaped sites in major cities and towns across the country. The Department raised and supplied 262,925 seedlings for sale and beautification. In 2022, the Department will continue the landscape beautification of road medians to 10,000 m<sup>2</sup> for urban and peri-urban communities and maintain a total landscaped area of 2 million m<sup>2</sup>.

6.8 In 2021, the Department planted 10,209 trees across the country to commemorate World Environment Day. This was



done in contribution to the President's initiative of greening Ghana. In 2022, the Department will propagate 400,000 seedlings for sale and supply to institutions and plant 100,000 trees across the country as part of horticultural sensitization programmes to combat climate change.

6.9 In 2021, a total of 32,900 tourists visited the Aburi Botanical Gardens. In 2022, the Department will continue with the redevelopment of the Aburi Botanical Gardens into an eco-tourism site to attract more tourists. Under the Ghana Productive Safety Net Project (GPSNP), Government will:

- i. provided jobs for 33,952 extreme poor persons in 80 MMDAs with a total wage payout of GH¢53.43 million;
- ii. disbursed a total of GH¢5.82 million to 9,244 beneficiary households from 128 communities in 41 MMDAs in the five regions of the North to commence businesses or expand their trade;
- iii. Undertake 348 sub-projects made up of 63 feeder roads, 76 small earth dams and 209 climate change mitigation activities (plantations). A total of 53 of these sub- projects have been completed and the remaining projects are at an average of 75 percent completion; and distributed a total of 7.9 million cash crop seedlings to farmers under the Planting for Export and Rural Development (PERD) Programme.

- 6.10 Government under the Ghana Secondary Cities Support Programme, (GSCSP) transferred an amount of GH¢210.19 million to 10 RCCs and 25 MMAs to support the implementation of their Annual Action Plans.
- 6.11 In 2022, Government will complete the 295 ongoing sub-projects under GPSNP I, and commence the implementation of GPSNP II in 80 poor districts across the country. It will also continue the implementation of GSCSP in the 25 MMAs.
- 6.12 The Ministry, through the Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility (LoCAL) Project and Boosting Green Employment and Enterprise Opportunities (GrEEen) Project, undertook a number of activities, including construction of mechanised boreholes in Ada East and Fanteakwa North Districts and coconut tree planting around clusters of schools. It also transferred GH¢1.27 million to six beneficiary MMDAs to create economic and employment opportunities through the Cash for Work (CfW) initiative.
- 6.13 In 2022, Government will continue to support MMDAs in the implementation of their Annual Action Plans and Budget under the GrEEen project.
- 6.14 An amount of GH¢5.11 million was transferred to 100 MMDAs for social and child protection activities to support the

implementation of Integrated Social Services (ISS). Government will continue to support MMDAs in the implementation of Integrated Social Services (ISS) in 2022.

- 6.15 The Modernising Agriculture in Ghana (MAG) programme will continue the implementation of Food Safety Guidelines for MMDAs and ensure the operationalisation of the District Centre for Agriculture, Commerce and Technology (DCACT) concept in 261 MMDAs. The Ministry will also implement the Resilience in Northern Ghana (RING II) Project in 17 MMDAs in four regions to improve nutrition and resilience.
- 6.16 The redevelopment of Kumasi Central Market Phase II and Takoradi Market were commenced and will be continued in 2022.

### **Births and Deaths Registration Programme**

- 6.17 The Births and Deaths Registry registered a total number of 361,268 births, of which 183,690 were males and 177,578 females. In addition, 34,670 deaths were registered of which male deaths stood at 18,929 and female deaths at 15,741.
- 6.18 In 2022, the Department will register 739,133 births out of an expected 923,916 births and 78,698 deaths out of 224,845 expected deaths. The Department will also sensitise the staff and public on the new Births and Deaths Registry (BDR) Act 2020 (Act 1027) and Regulations.

## Regional Reorganization and Development Programme

6.19 The Ministry is pursuing development in the newly created Regions. In all, 30 out of 60 projects, comprising 5 administration blocks and 25 bungalows were completed and commissioned. Works on the remaining projects are progressing steadily and are expected to be completed in 2022.

### 7.0 BUDGETARY ALLOCATION TO THE MINISTRY IN THE YEAR 2021

7.1 For the implementation of its programmes and projects in 2021, the Ministry of Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development together with its agencies, were allocated a total amount of **One Billion, Five Hundred and Ninety-Nine Million, Three Hundred and Twenty-Two Thousand and Five Hundred and Fifty-Seven Ghana Cedis (GH¢1,599,322,557.00)**. The breakdown of the Allocation by sources of funding and expenditure items, programmes and cost centres are provided in Tables 1, 2 and 3 respectively.

*Table 1: 2021 Budget Allocations by Sources of Funding and Expenditure Items*

Source	Compensation	Goods & Services	Capex	Total
GoG	871,065,134.00	52,966,351.00	228,970,000.00	<b>1,153,001,485.00</b>
ABFA	-	-	20,000,000.00	<b>20,000,000.00</b>
DP Funds	-	49,057,564.00	377,263,508.00	<b>426,321,072.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>871,065,134.00</b>	<b>102,023,915.00</b>	<b>626,233,508.00</b>	<b>1,599,322,557.00</b>

Source: 2021 Budget and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana

*Table 2: 2021 Budget Allocations by Programmes*

<b>Programme</b>	<b>Allocation (GH¢)</b>
Management and Administration	150,109,384.00
Decentralisation	782,660,071.00
Local Level Development and Management	317,046,302.00
Environmental Sanitation Management	13,904.00
Births and Deaths Registration Services	14,197,445.00
Regional Services	104,799,827.00
Regional Re-organisation and Development	230,495,614.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,599,322,557.00</b>

*Source: Ministry's presentation, 2021*

*Table 3: 2021 Budget Classification by Cost Centres*

	Compensation	Goods and Services	Capex	Total
Headquarters	9,075,298.75	16,320,689.00	219,160,000.00	<b>244,555,987.75</b>
Community Devt.	25,060,031.74	1,500,000.00	1,200,000.00	<b>27,760,031.74</b>
Parks and Gardens	4,525,820.92	1,500,000.00	2,200,000.00	<b>8,225,820.92</b>
Births & Deaths	12,749,953.59	1,500,000.00	200,000	<b>14,449,953.59</b>
OHLGS/MMDAS	744,443,718.46	24,283,662.00	2,616,000.00	<b>771,343,380.46</b>
RCCs	75,210,310.54	7,862,000.00	3,594,000.00	<b>86,666,310.54</b>
ABFA		20,000,000.00		<b>20,000,000.00</b>
DP		49,057,564.00	377,263,508.00	<b>426,321,072.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>871,065,134.00</b>	<b>102,023,915.00</b>	<b>626,233,508.00</b>	<b>1,599,322,557.00</b>

*Source: Ministry's presentation, 2021*

The breakdown of the Ministry's expenditure returns as at September, 2021 is provided in Table 4.

*Table 4: Expenditure and Releases*

Item	Approved Budget (GH¢)	Actual Expenditure (GH¢)	Variance (GH¢)	% of Actuals over Approved
<b>A. GOG Allocation</b>	<b>1,153,001,485.00</b>	<b>730,809,808.25</b>	<b>(422,191,676.75)</b>	<b>63.38</b>
Compensation	871,065,134.00	645,121,269.55	(225,943,864.45)	74.06
Goods and Services	52,966,351.00	26,568,531.35	(26,397,819.65)	50.16
CAPEX	228,970,000.00	59,120,007.35	(169,849,992.65)	25.82
<b>B. DP Allocation</b>	<b>426,321,072.00</b>	<b>339,815,654.47</b>	<b>(86,505,417.53)</b>	<b>79.71</b>
Goods and Services	49,057,564.00	45,060,191.12	(3,997,372.88)	91.85
CAPEX	377,263,508.00	294,755,463.35	(82,508,044.65)	78.13
<b>C. ABFA</b>	<b>20,000,000.00</b>	<b>20,000,000.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
CAPEX	20,000,000.00	20,000,000.00	0.00	
<b>D. Grand Total (A+B+C)</b>	<b>1,599,322,557.00</b>	<b>1,090,625,462.72</b>	<b>(508,697,094.28)</b>	<b>68.19</b>

*Source: Ministry's presentation, 2021*

## **BUDGETARY ALLOCATION TO THE MINISTRY FOR 2022**

7.2 For the implementation of its programmes and projects, an amount of **GH¢1,861,353,000.00** had been allocated to the Ministry for the 2022 fiscal year. The breakdown of the expenditure in terms of sources of funding, cost centres and programmes are provided in Tables 4 and 5 respectively.

*Table 4: Budget Allocations to the Ministry for 2022 by Cost Centres and Sources of Funding*

MDA	Compensation (GH¢)	Goods and Services(GH¢)	CAPEX(GH¢)	ABFA(GH¢)	Donor(GH¢)	IGF(GH¢)	Total(GH¢)
Headquarters	34,726,000.00	15,951,000.00	1,932,000.00		620,901,000.00	9,752,000.00	683,262,000.00
Regional Reorganisation and Development			100,000,000.00	110,000,000.00			210,000,000.00
Office of the Head of Local Government Service/RCCs/M MDAs	822,163,000.00	38,624,000.00			37,357,000.00		908,091,000.00
RCC			60,000,000.00				60,000,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>856,889,000.00</b>	<b>54,575,000.00</b>		<b>110,000,000.00</b>	<b>658,258,000.00</b>	<b>9,752,000.00</b>	<b>1,861,353,000.00</b>

*Source: 2022 Budget and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana*

*Table 5: 2022 Budget Classification by Cost Centres and Programmes*

	COMPENSATION (GH¢)	GOODS AND SERVICES (GH¢)	CAPEX (GH¢)	TOTAL (GH¢)
Management and Administration	5,064,958.00	11,750,000.00	1,432,000.00	18,246,958.00
Decentralisation	737,261,689.00	69,268,350.00	9,947,000.00	816,477,039.00
Local Level Development and Management	17,165,088.00	115,254,006.00	509,647,000.00	642,066,094.00
Births & Deaths	12,497,455.00	10,251,994.00	200,000.00	22,949,449.00
Regional Services	84,899,810.00	6,713,650.00	60,000,000.00	151,613,460.00
Regional Re-organisation and Development			210,000,000.00	210,000,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>856,889,000.00</b>	<b>213,238,000.00</b>	<b>791,226,000.00</b>	<b>1,861,353,000.00</b>

*Source: Ministry's presentation, 2021*

## **8.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Ministry of Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development – Head Quarters**

- 8.1 The Committee observed a huge funding gap between the allocations under CAPTEX (GOG) and the actual releases. The approved amount under CAPEX in 2021 was **GH¢228,970,000.00**. Out of the allocated amount **GH¢148,403,011.52** has been released. However due to delays in the GIFMIX programme only **GH¢59,120,007.35** has been realised out of the released amount, leaving a variance of **GH80,566,988.48**. The Committee recommends that officials of the Ministry of Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development should liaise with the Ministry of Finance to ensure that the full allocation for CAPEX is released to aid in the completion of their projects.
- 8.2 The Committee also observed that details of the Estimates for the various MMDA's under the Ministry were not provided in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) for 2022-2025 for the Ministry of Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development as always and therefore requests that future budget estimates should capture the details of MMDA allocations to ensure proper scrutiny of their accounts..



## Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies

8.3 The Committee further observed that government has the intention of assisting MMDA's in their effort to mobilise revenues for infrastructural and other developmental needs of the people at the local level. This issue was captured in paragraph 303 on page 80 of the Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2022 Financial Year with the Heading "Review of Property Rates" which states:

**"Property rates have the potential to increase revenue mobilisation for MMDAs and release resources for provision of basic infrastructure as well as the needs of our localities. Property rate assessment and collection poses a challenge to most MMDAs and is fraught with inefficiencies. Government, through the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) will from January 2022, assist the MMDAs to implement a common platform for property rate administration to enhance Property rate collections and its accountability. To ensure cost recovery by Government in providing the infrastructure for the collection of the Property Rate, a sharing ratio will be agreed with the Assemblies."**

8.4 The Committee acknowledges the challenges confronting MMDAs in the collection of property rates and other levies and is of the strong view that something must be done about it.

Members of the Committee on the side of the Minority however, registered their displeasure at the proposed policy arrangement. They argued that if the intention of government is to assist the MMDAs to efficiently and effectively collect the property rates, the collection of the revenue should not be centralised but the capacities of the MMDA's should be strengthened to collect their own revenue. They also argued that there is no guarantee that government after collecting the revenues would truly transfer the MMDAs' shares to them. The Members of the Minority were not convinced with the intended policy arrangement explained to them by the Minister and therefore opposed it.

- 8.5 The Hon. Minister for Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development explained that the sharing ratio was yet to be determined and it will be done in consultation with stakeholders (Assemblies). He added that the policy will rather help to generate more revenue for the Assemblies and explained further that capacity-building was part of the considerations because a common technological platform will be used for the mobilisation of the rates. The position of the Hon. Minister was endorsed by Members of the Committee on the Majority side as they were convinced by his explanation.

## **Office of the Head of the Local Government Service**

- 8.6 The Committee observed that total releases as at September, 2021 amounted to GH¢649,181,145.36 and that constituted 73% of the amount of GH¢895,298,135.30 approved for the Office of the Head Local Government Service (OHLGS) for 2021.
- 8.7 The Committee noted that the Institute of Local Government Studies (ILGS) was purposefully established to train and provide professional education to local government practitioners and for that matter closer collaboration with OHLGS will help the Institute to generate more IGF to support its operations. The Committee urged the Institute of Local Government Studies to collaborate with the Office of the Head of Local Government Service to ensure an increase in the number of Local Government personnel trained at the Institute of Local Government Studies.
- 8.8 The Committee was informed that the Ministry of Finance and other institutions write directly to invite Staff of MMDAs for workshops and other training programmes without routing such letters through the RCC and the Ministry. The Ministry expressed worry about the issue and informed the Committee that from 2022, no staff of any MMDA would be allowed to

attend such training programmes without notifying the Ministry.

### **Department for Community Development**

- 8.9 The Committee observed that only 50% of the amount estimated for Compensation of Employees for the Department under the Ministry had been allocated and for that matter the Department may not be able to pay salaries and allowances of its employees till the end of the year 2022. The Committee urged the Department to liaise with the Ministry of Finance to ensure that the anomaly is rectified.
- 8.10 The Committee was also informed that from 2022, all skills training institutions under the Department would be subsumed under the Technical, Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Institute. In that regard, some Staff of the Department for Community Development will be seconded to TVET and also draw their salaries and allowances from there. The Committee was further informed that the Department will eventually come under the Ministry of Education as part of the implementation of the Pre-Tertiary Education Act, 2020 (Act 1049) and the Education Regulatory Bodies Act 2020 (Act 1023).
- 8.11 The Committee also observed that funds released to the Department for Community Development is encouraging.

Out of the amount of GH¢27,680,031.74 approved for the Department for 2021, an amount of GH¢20,974,821.80 had been released as at September 2021. The Committee noted that the Department will need additional funds to undertake its capital projects in 2020. The Committee recommends that consideration should be given to the Budget proposals submitted by the Department to the Ministry of Finance, and make some funds available in the Supplementary Budget for 2022, to support the Department's capital expenditure for the year 2022.

### **Births and Deaths Registry**

8.12 In the report of the Committee on Local Government and Rural Development on the 2021 Annual Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development, the Committee urged the Birth and Death Registry to commence construction of its new office complex to enable it carry out its mandate effectively under the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 2020 (Act 1027). The Committee was informed that even though an amount of GH¢15 million was submitted to the Ministry of Finance as needed funds for the construction of the new office complex, nothing had been allocated for the Project under CAPEX. The Committee is unhappy about the development and therefore recommends that the Ministry of Finance should endeavour

to make funds available for the Project to commence as soon as practicable.

8.13 The Registry also had a challenge with its operations in some of the districts because it had no office accommodation. Even though the Officials of the Registry explained that they were making some effort on their own to get the offices set up, the Committee recommends that the Ministry gives them the needed assistance to enable them decentralise their operations as required by law.

8.14 The Committee noted that the Registration of Births and Deaths Act 2020 (Act 1027) has been given legal backing to retain 50% of its IGF. In 2020, the Registry projects to mobilise an amount of GH¢11,659,754.00 internally and therefore would be allowed to retain one-half of the projected IGF or any amount that would be realised. The Committee is glad to note that the policy will enhance the revenue generation streams of the Births and Death Registry and help provide funds to support their projects. It however cautions that the funds should be used judiciously to ensure growth in the process of birth and death registration.

### **Institute of Local Government Studies**

8.15 The Committee was informed that the Institute of Local Government Studies (ILGS) was not allocated any funds under

GoG funding for CAPEX even though it submitted a Budget of GH¢5 million to the Ministry of Finance for an expansion project it intends to undertake. The Institute had challenges including lack of funds for core operations and outstanding legacy debt owed to the Social Security and National Insurance Trust (SSNIT).

8.16 The Committee was of the opinion that ILGS was a viable institution with a lot of potentials and for that matter must be supported to enable it train staff of the Local Government Service, Regional Coordinating Councils (RCCs), MMDAs, and sub-district structures, as required under the Institute of Local Governance Studies Act, 2003 (Act 647). The Committee opines that government support was needed to help the Institute expand and improve teaching and learning and also carry out its mandate as expected to strengthen decentralisation and the local governance system in the Country. The Institute was advised to come up with more training courses in addition to the ones on local governance in order to attract more people including Parliamentarians just like the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration. The Committee was also of the view that ILGS could package itself in such a way as to attract even, people from outside Ghana who would want to be trained on local governance issues. The officials of the Institute disclosed to the Committee that some new course models have been developed to help train staff of the Local Government

Service. The Committee recommends that the ILGS should be involved in all aspects of the training of LGS staff in all disciplines and where it has not got the capacity, contract other entities to do the training on its behalf. For instance the ILGS could contract the Public Procurement Authority to train LGS staff on procurement and also contract the Audit Service to train LGS staff on auditing.

### **Department of Parks and Gardens**

8.17 The Committee noted that in 2021, the Department got considerable support from the Ministry of Local government, Decentralisation and Rural Development which enabled it purchase some vehicles and logistics to enhance its work. The Committee entreats the Ministry to provide more support to the Department to enable it rehabilitate its regional and district offices.

8.18 It was also noted that the Department needed about 2,488 staff to augment its Staff strength to enable it perform creditably. The Committee recommends that the Ministry of Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development should assist the Department by recruiting the needed staff on behalf of the Department. Personnel of the Nation Builders' Corps (NABCO), National Service Scheme (NSS) and National Youth Employment (NYEP) could also be posted to the Department to augment its staff until the needed personnel



are engaged. The Committee recommends that the Office of the Common Fund Administrator should invest in the activities of the Department for the benefit of our environment and the community at large.

### **Regional Coordinating Councils**

8.19 The Committee noted that in 2022, an amount of GH¢60 million has been allocated to the ten (10) Regional Coordinating Councils as their CAPEX. The allocation would however be inadequate to cater for their capital expenditure needs, considering the extent of dilapidation of their office and residential accommodation facilities including bungalows owned by the RCCs. In 2021 for instance, an amount of GH¢225,000.00 was allocated to the Greater Accra Regional Coordinating Council to be spent on the renovation of its Bungalows alone. As at September 2021, only an amount of GH¢172,000.00 had been released to the RCC for the renovation of the Regional Minister's residence. The Greater Accra Coordinating Council needed to renovate about 17 Bungalows in the Roman Ridge which is one of the prime areas of the City of Accra but lacked the needed funds to do so.

8.20 The Western Regional Coordinating Council also had a problem with its Budget receipts for 2021. Out of the Budget

allocation of GH¢225,000.00 approved for the RCC for 2021, only an amount of GH¢174,154.37 was released to the RCC and that was even yet to hit the account of the RCC as at the time of the Budget Hearing. According to the officials of the RCC, they projected to spent more than GH¢11 million under CAPEX for 2022 for the installation of security systems, fence wall, renovation, vehicle and equipment purchase but only an amount of GH¢6 million had been allocated.

8.21 Also with the Central Regional Coordinating Council, the approved Budget for the RCC for CAPEX for 2021 was GH¢175,000.00 and out of that, only an amount of GH¢88,109.87 had been released to the RCC as at September, 2021. In 2022, the RCC would need an amount of GH¢25 million for CAPEX for renovation and other capital expenditure projects but again only an amount of GH¢6 million had been allocated.

8.22 The Committee was informed that the Central Regional Coordinating Council collected rent from guests who lodged at the residence of the RCC in order to raise revenue for its operations. The Committee is of the view that all RCCs that have similar facilities with rental values, should be given the legal backing to do so, in order to raise IGF and retain portions of it for the maintenance of those structures.

- 8.23 In the case of the new Regions, like the Savanna, Oti and North East Regions, the decentralised departments did not have offices and for that reason operated from rented apartments. The Savanna Regional Coordinating Council has very serious water problem at Damongo. The Committee is aware of a water project awarded before the end of 2020, to deal with the problem but was informed by the officials of the Savanna Regional Coordinating Council that the contractor has now moved to site and actual work was yet to begin.
- 8.24 The Committee noted that the newly created RCCs also had staffing problems but officials of the Local Government Service informed the Committee that the problem would soon be solved because it has received clearance to recruit about 1,000 Staff. The officials assured the Committee that Staff would be posted to the Savanna and other new Regional Coordinating Councils to beef up their Staff strength and enable them carry out their mandate as expected.
- 8.25 For all the ten (10) old RCCs, Bungalows and other structures or facilities belonging to them have deteriorated and need to be renovated. The Committee recommend that approval should be given for the MMDAs to be allocated funds from the District Assemblies Common Fund (DACF) to renovate their existing structures.

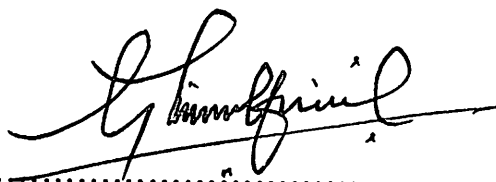
8.26 The Committee requested for details of expenditure in respect of Goods and Services and CAPEX to be captured in future Annual Budget Estimates. This in its opinion will ensure effective scrutiny of particularly, the approved Budgeted amounts. This is because the Committee was not pleased with the manner in which the information was presented to it by some RCCs. The Committee therefore recommends that the Ministry of Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development takes the officials of the RCCs through some training on the Budgeting and budget presentation to enable them prepare adequately and provide the needed information in their future presentations to the Committee.

## **9.0 CONCLUSION**

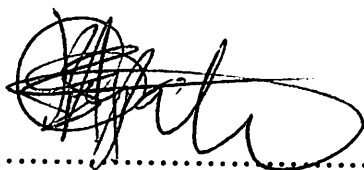
9.1 The Country stands to benefit immensely when it comes to local governance as it is one of the ways by which the people's developmental needs could be met at the local level.

9.2 The Committee therefore recommends to the House to adopt its report and approve the total amount of **One Billion, Eight Hundred and Sixty-One Million, Three Hundred and Fifty-Three Thousand, Ghana Cedis (GH¢1,861,353,000.00)** for the Ministry of Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development as well as its Departments and Agencies for the 2022 Fiscal Year.

Respectfully submitted.



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**HON. EMMANUEL AKWASI GYAMFI**  
CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT AND RURAL



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**ANITA QUARTEY-PAPAFIO**  
HEAD, GOVERNANCE CLUSTER OF COMMITTEES

DECEMBER 2021