

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

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL, LEGAL &
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

ON THE

ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE MINISTRY OF
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS FOR THE 2022 FINANCIAL YEAR

PARLIAMENT OF GHANA LIBRARY

DECEMBER 2021

**IN THE THIRD MEETING OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE EIGHTH
PARLIAMENT OF THE FOURTH REPUBLIC**

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL, LEGAL AND
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS ON THE 2022 ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES OF
THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the year ending 31st December, 2022 was presented to Parliament, by the Hon. Minister for Finance, Mr. Ken Ofori-Atta on 17th November, 2022 in accordance with Article 179 of the 1992 Constitution.

Pursuant to Orders 140(4) and 179 of the Standing Orders of Parliament, the Rt. Hon Speaker referred the Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs to the Committee on Constitutional, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs for consideration and report to the House.

2.0 DELIBERATIONS

The Committee met on 16th December, 2021 and considered the 2022 Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. Present at the meeting were the Hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Mr. Osei Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu, the Chief Director, Dr. Evans Aggrey-Darkoh and other technical Officers, as well as Schedule Officers from the Ministry of Finance.

The Committee is grateful to them for their useful clarifications.

3.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

3.1 In considering the Estimates, the Committee made reference to the under-listed documents:

- i. The 1992 Constitution;
- ii. The Standing Orders of Parliament;
- iii. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of the Republic of Ghana for the 2021 Financial Year;
- iv. The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs Medium Term Expenditure Framework for 2021 -2024; and

- v. The Report of the Committee on Constitutional, Legal and parliamentary Affairs on the 2021 Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.

4.0 VISION OF THE MINISTRY

To be an accountable client sensitive institution within an enhanced participatory and representative democracy.

5.0 MISSION OF THE MINISTRY

The Ministry exists to facilitate, coordinate, monitor and evaluate strategies for the execution of government business in Parliament and guarantee good governance through dialogue and consensus building, with the deployment of skilled human resources and modern technology for national development.

6.0 CORE FUNCTIONS OF THE MINISTRY

- i. Initiate and formulate policies, considering the needs and aspirations of the people.
- ii. Undertake development planning in consultation with the National Development Planning Commission.
- iii. Co-ordinate, monitor and evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of the performance of the Sector.
- iv. Facilitates the conduct of Government business on the floor of Parliament.
- v. Serve as the interface between the Executive and Parliament.
- vi. Provide an effective linkage between Parliament, the Executive, the Judiciary, and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs).
- vii. Assists in the development and implementation of citizens'-centered collaborative interface with state and non-state actors (private businesses, CSOs etc.) on matters relating to the Legislature.
- viii. Assesses policy papers, credit agreements and Legislative proposals and other matters intended for deliberations by Parliament and provide appropriate recommendations.

7.0 POLICY/STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES OF THE MINISTRY

- i. Deepen democratic governance.
- ii. Deepen political and administrative decentralization.

- iii. Improve participation of Civil Society to national development.
- iv. Promote the fight against corruption and economic crimes.

8.0 2021 PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW OF THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

8.1 Operational performance

The Ministry recorded the following key achievements during the year under-review:

- i. Held a dialogue with Civil Society Organizations on the theme: *“Economic Revitalization amid the COVID19 Pandemic: The CSOs’ Perspective”*, and came out with a number of useful recommendations.
- ii. Engaged the Core Leadership of Parliament on the theme: *“Building Consensus and Trust in Parliament to enhance both Procedural and Substantive Democracy”*. Measures needed to build and deepen consensus and trust in Parliament were examined, mechanisms to sustain public trust, confidence and interest in the work of Parliament were also identified and discussed, as well as the relationship between the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Parliament.
- iii. Engaged political parties under the theme *“Monetization of Politics in Ghana- A focus on Solutions”* as part of the Ministry’s governance objective.
- iv. Engaged the Expanded Leadership of Parliament on how to rejuvenate National Media Commission (NMC) and strengthen the relationship between NMC and Parliament.

8.2 Financial Performance

In 2021, the sum of **Fifteen Million, One Hundred and Forty-Four Thousand, Five Hundred and Fifty-Two Ghana Cedis (GHC 15,144,552.00)** was allocated as a total resource envelop for the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. The breakdown of the expenditure returns of the Ministry is provided in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Financial Performance of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs as at September, 2021

Source	Approved Budget(A)	Releases (B)	Actual Exp.	Variance (A-B)	Percentage Utilized (B/A)*100
	GHC	GHC	GHC	GHC	(%)
Compensation of Employees	2,932,635.00	747,363.32	747,363.32	2,185,271.68	25.48
Good and Services	2,611,917.00	1,828,341.90	1,828,341.90	785,575.10	70.00
CAPEX (GOG)	9,600,000.00	4,000,000	4,000,000	5,600,000.00	41.67
Total	15,144,552.00	6,575,705.22	6,575,705.22	8,568,846.78	43.42

Source: Programme Based Budget Estimates of the Ministry for 2022

9.0 OUTLOOK FOR 2022

9.1 Operational Outlook

In 2022, the Ministry will build on the progress made in 2021 by undertaking the following activities:

- Organize a Constitutional Review Conference;
- Organize Good Governance and Leadership workshops for MPs and MMDCEs;
- Support the strengthening of the capacity of Parliament and Parliamentarians as well as the Leader of Government Business;
- Building a Sustainable Entrepreneurial Nation: Fiscal Consolidation and Job Creation;
- Engage CSOs, including the media and political parties, on the formulation and implementation of public policies for national development; and
- Review the performance of First Session of the 8th Parliament

9.2 Budgetary Allocation for the 2022 Fiscal Year

The total sum of **Eight Million, One Hundred and Eleven Thousand Ghana Cedis (GHC 8, 111,000.00)** has been allocated for the services of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for 2022 financial year. The breakdown in terms of economic classification and sources of funding are provided in Tables 2 below.

Table 2: Budgetary Allocation by Economic Classifications for 2022

Expenditure Item	Sources of funding			Total(GH¢)	Percent Alloc. (%)
	GOG(GH¢)	IGF(GH¢)	Donors (GH¢)		
Compensation	3,363,000	-	-	3,363,000	41.46
Goods and Services	1,028,000.00	-	-	1,028,000.00	12.67
Capital Expenditure	3,720,000	-	-	3,720,000	45.64
Grand Total	8,111,000	-	-	8,111,000.00	100

Source: Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government for 2022 financial year

10.0 OBSERVATIONS

10.1 The Effect of High Attrition rate on the Conduct of Government Business

The Committee noted that the facilitation role of the conduct of Government business on the floor of Parliament by the Ministry has been seriously hampered by the high attrition rate plaguing Parliament. The Minister explained that the recurrent situation where MPs have to go for primaries every four years in accordance with political parties' constitution had caused Parliament to lose most of the experienced Members which has undoubtedly affected the conduct of government business in terms of constructive criticisms and offer of viable alternative policy directions. Additionally, the growing monetization of politics is impacting negatively on Parliament and good governance.

The Committee recommends to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs to intensify the consultation process with political parties and other key stakeholders, whiles creating awareness on the negative ramifications of the high attrition rate of MPs exacerbated by growing monetization of politics in the country.



10.2 **Affirmative Action Law**

The Committee bemoaned the low representation of women in Parliament and the absence of the deliberate policy interventions either by the political parties or the country to support more women to gain access to Parliament. The Committee is of the view the surest way to address the gender imbalance and increase women's representation in Parliament and other high national positions is to have Affirmative Action Policy. The Committee accordingly recommends to the Ministry to facilitate the passage of the Affirmative Action Bill in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal 5 target of a minimum of 25.6% representation of women in Parliament, 36.35 in Local Governance, and 28.2% in other high national positions.

10.3 **Engagement of Experts**

It was noted that as part of the programme of activities for 2022, the Ministry has planned to support the capacity building efforts of Parliament to deliver its mandate more effectively. The Committee was informed that the Ministry is in the process of establishing a 'think-tank' unit within the Ministry to provide an opportunity to engage the services of some of the experienced former Members of Parliament. The experts are expected to assist the work of Parliament by assisting to build the capacity of MPs and offering technical advice on government proposals presented to Parliament for consideration.

The Committee lauds the initiative of the Ministry and urge the Ministry of Finance to issue financial clearance to facilitate the establishment of such research and technical hub to assist the work of parliament.

10.4 **Constitutional Review**

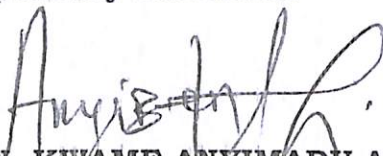
The Committee further noted that the Ministry has planned to rejuvenate the discussions on the need to review the Constitution of Ghana which has operated for almost 30 years without any major review. The program is in line with the Ministry's mandate of serving as the interface between the Executive and Parliament, and providing an effective linkage between Parliament, the Executive, the Judiciary, and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs). The Committee welcome the initiative and recommends to the Ministry to endeavour to sustain the discussions until a national consensus is reached.

11.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

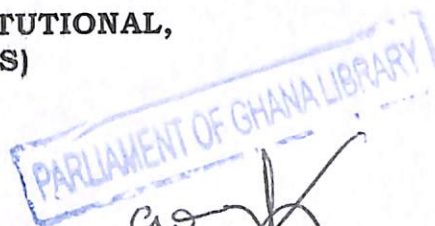
The Committee, having thoroughly examined the Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for the 2022 fiscal year, is of the view that the policies and programmes outlined for the year would go a long way to support the achievement of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs policy goals.

The Committee accordingly recommends to the House to adopt its Report and approve the ***Eight Million, One Hundred and Eleven Thousand Ghana Cedis (GHC 8,111,000.00)*** for the services of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for the year ending 31st December 2022.

Respectfully submitted.



**HON. KWAME ANYIMADU ANTWI
(CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL,
LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS)**



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**AKUA DUROWAA OWUSU AGYEKUM (MRS)
(PAC & HEAD, LEGAL COMMITTEES CLUSTER)**

17TH DECEMBER, 2022