

**IN THE FIRST SESSION OF THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE FOURTH REPUBLIC**



**REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON
LANDS AND FORESTRY AND MINES AND ENERGY**

**ON THE ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE
MINISTRY OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 2014**

DECEMBER, 2013

1.0 **INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2014 fiscal year was presented to Parliament by the Hon. Minister for Finance and Economic Planning, Mr. Seth Terkper on Tuesday, 19th November, 2013 in accordance with Article 179 of the 1992 Constitution of Ghana. The Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources were accordingly referred to the Joint Committee on Lands and Forestry, and Mines and Energy for consideration and report pursuant to Orders 140(4), 177 and 188 of the Standing Orders of the House.

1.2 During the consideration of the referral, the Committee met with the Hon. Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, Alhaji Inusah A. B. Fuseini and key Officials of the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources and the Schedule Officers from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning. The Committee lauds the Hon. Minister and the Officials for their assistance during its sitting.

1.3 **AGENCIES UNDER THE MINISTRY**

The Ministry has three Sectors namely, Land, Forestry and Mines. The Land Sector is managed by two agencies, that is, the Lands Commission and the Office of the Administrator of Stool Lands. The Forestry Sector is also managed by the Forestry Commission. The Mines Sector is managed by three agencies and these are the Minerals Commission, the Geological Survey Department and the Precious Mineral Marketing Company.

2.0 **REFERENCES**

2.1 The Committee used the under-listed as reference materials during its deliberations:

- (i) The 1992 Constitution of Ghana
- (ii) The Standing Orders of the House

- (iii) The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of Government for the year ending 31st December, 2014
- (iv) The Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) for 2013-2015 and the draft Annual Estimates for 2014 of the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources
- (v) The Budget Estimates for the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources for 2014.

3.0 **MISSION STATEMENT**

3.1 The Mission Statement of the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources is to ensure sustainable management and utilization of the nation's land, forest, wildlife and mineral resources for the socio-economic development and growth of Ghana. This is to be achieved through:

- (i) Efficient formulation, implementation, co-ordination, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes of the sector agencies.
- (ii) Efficient management of public and stool lands as a means to ensure equitable land delivery.
- (iii) Promoting effective inter-agency and cross-sectoral linkages.
- (iv) Promoting sustainable and efficient forest, wildlife and mineral resource management and utilization.
- (v) Creating an enabling environment for effective private sector participation.
- (vi) Promoting effective community participation in multiple uses of land, forest, wildlife and mineral resources.

4.0 **OBJECTIVES**

- 4.1 The Mission of the Ministry will be realized through the pursuit of the under-listed objectives:
- (i) Develop and manage sustainably, land, forest, wildlife and mineral resources;
 - (ii) Facilitate equitable access, benefit sharing from and security to land, forest and mineral resources;

- (iii) Promote public awareness and local communities' participation in sustainable management and utilization of forest, wildlife, land and mineral resources;
- (iv) Review, update and consolidate existing legislation and policies affecting natural resource management;
- (v) Promote and facilitate effective private sector participation in land service delivery, forest, wildlife and mineral resource management and utilization;
- (vi) Develop and maintain effective institutional capacity and capability at the national, regional, district and community levels for land, forest, wildlife and mineral service delivery;
- (vii) Develop and research into problems of forest, wildlife, mineral resources and land use; and
- (viii) Build regional and global linkages toward the management of natural resources.

5.0 **PERFORMANCE FOR 2013 AND OUTLOOK FOR 2014**

5.1 **LAND ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME**

The Ministry completed comprehensive needs assessment of the Land Sector agencies, Customary Lands Secretariat in consultation with Civil Society coalition on lands aimed at developing a capacity building strategy and a 2-year human resource development plan under the Land Administration Project (LAP).

The Ministry completed a new policy on National Spatial Data Infrastructure aimed at reducing duplication and cost among agencies and improving the quality and generation of geographic information. A National Survey and Mapping policy document which provides the context, direction, guidelines and actions for mapping the entire country was also developed.

A pre-trial manual including the application of written witness Statement and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) with the collaboration of the Judicial Service was developed under the Land Administration Project. In addition, the installation of intelligent scanning

equipment to speed up the scanning of all manual records and a framework action plan for the sorting and consolidating of all land records was completed.

The Ministry will facilitate the passage of the land and land use planning Bills, refurbish and automate selected courts in Sekondi-Takoradi, Tamale and Kumasi and promote the review of policies on land related fees and taxes.

In addition, the Land Title Registry will be assisted to clear backlog of application for land registration in Accra and improve customary land administration through the establishment of ten (10) customary land secretariat.

5.2 **FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME**

5.3 The Ministry will continue the implementation of the National Plantations Development Programme in order to develop a sustainable resource base that will satisfy the future demand for industrial timber and enhance environment quality. To this end 49,639 hectares of existing plantations will be maintained.

The Forestry Commission is implementing the Accra Eco-Park Development Project as a major ecotourism destination to provide Accra with a nature based recreational facility and also improve the protection and ecological integrity of the forest.

The forest and wildlife resources of Ghana have come under intense encroachment and destruction especially in forest reserves and wildlife protected areas. Illegal settlements, farming, mining and Chainsaw operations are the key threats to these reserves.

The Ministry will therefore resource five (5) additional forestry protection teams to cover other forest reserves in the country.

It will also continue to promote the development of eco-tourism by implementing concession agreement for the construction of ecolodges in Mole and Kakum National Parks.

5.3 **LAND AND MARITIME BOUNDARY MANAGEMENT PROGRAMM**

The Ghana Boundary Commission met the deadline for the submission to the United Nations Commission for the extension of the country's continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles and initiated engagements with Ghana's coastal neighbours towards eventual delimitation of her maritime boundaries.

The Ministry will conclude the continental shelf extension project with the United Nations and facilitate the delimitation of our maritime boundaries with our coastal neighbours through negotiations.

5.4 **MINERAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME**

Following the establishment of the Inter-Ministerial Task Force under the directive of H.E, the President to flush out illegal mining activities, about 5,000 foreigners engaged in illegal small scale mining were deported. To ensure effective policing by the District Security Committees, a new reporting format was developed by the Minerals Commission for illegal mining activities.

In support of small scale mining, the Ministry is currently undertaking geological exploration of 394sq.km in 7 different geographical areas of the country to identify mineralized areas for small scale miners. Exploration at Japa in the Western Region proved viable and mineral concessions are being acquired by small scale miners.

In compliance with the Minerals and Mining Act, 2006, (Act 703), District Mining Committees were formed and inaugurated in some mining areas to assist in the management of small scale mining.

The Ministry will continue to provide the necessary platform for transparent engagement of all stakeholders in order to promote harmony in the mining sector. To this end, it will facilitate the establishment of a small scale mining competency training centre at University of Mines and Technology, Tarkwa to offer training to small-scale miners in proper mining practices.

To promote Alternative Livelihood Projects in mining communities based on the success of the Prestea-Huni Valley Pilot Oil Palm Plantation Project, another 23,000 acres of oil palm plantation is being established in the Dunkwa-Ayanfuri area of the Central Region. To this end, a 300,000 oil palm nursery was established.

Fiscal mine models on both macro and micro levels to improve mining sector revenue collection, management and transparency was developed and a multi-agency revenue task force established to enhance cooperation and collaboration among revenue agencies and the Minerals Commission.

6.0 THE APPROVED BUDGET ESTIMATES AND RELEASES FOR 2013 AS SHOWN IN TABLE 1

ITEM	GOG			
	Approved Budget for 2013	Actual Release for 2013	Differences	Differences as a Percentage of the Approved Budget Estimates for the year 2013
COMPENSATION	28,690,741	47,591,403	- 18,900,662	-66
GOODS AND SERVICES	21,494,492	902,303	-20,592,189	96
ASSETS	2,313,630	0	-2,313,630	100
TOTAL	52,498,863	48,493,706	-4,005,157	8

6.1 OUTLOOK FOR 2014

THE BUDGETARY ALLOCATION FOR THE MINISTRY OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES

TABLE 2

ITEM	Budget Allocation for 2014	
COMPENSATION		78,498,215
	Sub-Total	78,498,216
GOODS AND SERVICES	GOG	8,643,695
	IGF	97,663,175
	DONOR	15,786,409
	SUB-TOTAL	122,093,279
ASSETS	GOG	1,255,872
	IGF	47,226,283
	DONOR	30,582,385
	SUB-TOTAL	79,064,540
TOTAL		279,656,034

7.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

MAIN MINISTRY

The Committee observed that there had been no releases of budgetary allocation to the Ministry for most part of the year except for compensation of employees. The situation has affected programmes earmarked for the sector such as the National Plantation Development, Land and Maritime Boundary Programme and the operations of the services of the Ministry.

The Committee recommends that allocations of budget for the Ministry be made available to enable the Ministry carry out its programmes.

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR OF STOOL LANDS (OASL)

The Committee also expressed worry about the non-payment of royalties by the Office of the Administrator of Stool Lands (OASL). It came to the fore that payment of royalties have been outstanding since the second quarter of 2012 due to non-releases from the Ministry of Finance.

The Committee would like to appeal to the Ministry to engage the Ministry of Finance to find ways of addressing this problem.

LANDS COMMISSION

The Committee took note of some difficulties facing the Lands Commission such as the lack of manpower and logistical support to carry out its operations.

The Committee further observed that the development of an integrated land information system is a vital component of the Commission's plan to ensure efficient land service delivery.

It is therefore important that the Commission be resourced to carry out its responsibilities. The Commission currently does not benefit from the revenue generated from stamp duty.

Having regard to the enormous task facing the Commission to execute its mandate, the Committee recommends that the Lands Commission retain 40% of monies received as levies, charges or fees and 6% of the revenue generated from stamp duty.

The Committee urges the Ministry to liaise with cabinet to expedite action on the retention of its internally generated funds as proposed.

FORESTRY COMMISSION

The Committee was not happy with the fact that there was no releases for the National Plantation Development Programme which is aimed at increasing the forest cover. The failed releases also affected the private sector investors who had put in so much to grow seedlings for the plantation programme.

The Committee noted that there was ongoing negotiations for the importation of logs from Cameroun as a measure to address the dwindling timber resource that is creating unemployment in the timber industry.

The Committee recommends speedy action for the importation of the logs as that could earn foreign exchange for the country when processed timber is exported.

It is also important to indicate that the current situation in the wild life sub-sector is not creating a conducive environment to attract private investors into the sector.

Places earmarked for national parks are yet to be developed to tap their economic potentials. The lack of activity in these parks have resulted in encroachment, illegal settlements, farming, poaching, among others.

It is the expectation of the Committee that funds would be provided to the Forestry Commission to enable the Commission continue with the National Plantation Development Programme, the development of Ecotourism, and propel initiatives in the timber sector.

MINERALS COMMISSION

The Committee observed that in view of the substantial amounts of funds collected by the Minerals Commission from charges on the issuance of licences and other sources of revenue as Internally Generated Funds, the Committee is proposing that the Commission could wean itself from government subvention, even though in the case of special projects such as the implementation of alternative livelihood programmes that could be taken up by government.

It was also noted that no provision had been made in the budget of the Mineral's Commission to establish a refinery which will process raw materials, diversify the economy and create employment for the people of this country.

The Committee is therefore recommending the development of a comprehensive national policy on value addition to raw materials.

The Committee further observed that the illegal small scale mining operation have greatly reduced following the successful clamp down on illegal mining operations.

The Committee was informed that adequate measures have been put in place to avert the return of the illegal operators. The Committee is urging the Ministry to sustain the achievements so far made.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY DEPARTMENT

The Committee also observed that there were insufficient releases of the budgetary allocation to the Geological Survey Department which has affected their operations. The poor conditions of service of staff of the department has also led to the high attrition of critical staff to other institutions.

It is the expectation of the Committee that the Ministry would take up the concerns raised to enable prompt releases to be made to the department; and also resources allocated to improve the conditions of service of staff of the department.

8.0 **CONCLUSION**

The Committee having carefully examined the estimates recommends to the House to approve the sum of **Two Hundred and Seventy Nine Million, Six Hundred and Fifty Six Thousand and Thirty Four Ghana Cedis (GH¢ 279,656,034 .00)** for the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources for the 2014 financial year.

Respectfully Submitted.



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HON. ALBERT ABONGO
CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON
LANDS AND FORESTRY



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HON. DR. KWABENA DONKOR
CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE
ON MINES AND ENERGY



.....
MR. SAMUEL ADDEI
CLERK, COMMITTEE ON
LANDS AND FORESTRY



.....
MS. PEACE FIAWOYIFE
CLERK, COMMITTEE ON
MINES & ENERGY

DECEMBER, 2013
