

**IN THE SECOND SESSION OF THE EIGHTH
PARLIAMENT OF THE FOURTH REPUBLIC OF
GHANA**

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE
AND INTERIOR**

ON THE

**2023 ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE
MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY.**

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE AND INTERIOR ON THE
BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY FOR
THE 2023 FINANCIAL YEAR**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2023 financial year was presented to Parliament by the Hon Minister responsible for Finance, Mr Ken Ofori-Atta, on Thursday, 24th November 2022 in accordance with article 179 of the 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana.

The Budget Estimates of the Ministry of National Security was subsequently referred to the Committee on Defence and Interior for consideration and report in accordance with Orders 140(4) and 158 of the Standing Orders of the Parliament of Ghana.

2.0 DELIBERATIONS

The Committee on Defence and Interior met with the Ministry of National Security on Tuesday, 13th December 2022 and considered the Budget Estimates of the Ministry. The Committee was assisted in its deliberations by the Hon Minister for National Security, Mr Albert Kan Dapaah, officials from the Ministry and officers from the Ministry of Finance. The Committee is grateful for their cooperation during the deliberations.

3.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

The Committee in considering the estimates referred to the under listed documents:

- i. The 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana;
- ii. The Standing Orders of the Parliament of Ghana;
- iii. The Annual Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2022 Financial Year;
- iv. The Annual Budget Statements and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2023 Financial Year;
- v. The 2023 Financial Estimates of the Ministry of National Security; and

- vi. The Presentations of the Ministry of National Security.

4.0 BACKGROUND

The Ministry of National Security exists to formulate, coordinate, monitor and evaluate the implementation of security and intelligence policies through the deployment of skilled human resources and modern technology for stakeholders to enhance security, freedom of the citizenry and national development as well as present a report on the intelligence agencies to Parliament.

The Ministry has oversight responsibility of the following:

- a) National Intelligence Bureau (NIB),
- b) National Signals Bureau and
- c) The Research Department.

4.1 VISION AND MISSION OF THE MINISTRY

The vision of the Ministry of National Security is to provide accurate, reliable and timely intelligence information to the Government and other State agencies. To formulate strategic and operational decisions to ensure the security, stability and peace of the Nation.

The mission of the Ministry of National Security is to advise and implement Government policies on the security of the state.

5.0 2022 PERFORMANCE REVIEW

In the year under review, the Ministry undertook a number of programmes to facilitate public safety and intelligence gathering.

5.1 Security and Advisory Service

- Initiated and formulated policies aimed at ensuring effective and efficient management of security issues.
- Presented reports from Intelligence Agencies to Government and Parliament.

- Maintained internal peace and security through pre-emptive intelligence reporting.
- Improved human resources and built capacity in the Intelligence Agencies.

5.2 Security and Safety Management

- Provided 24-hour protection to persons and also provided installations and classified materials.
- Ensured the countering of terrorism, E-crime, violent crimes, organised crime and other related National Security threats.
- Provided security for Oil and Gas Installations, the Cocoa Sector and major mining areas.
- Provided secure and reliable communication nationwide via an established communication network among all the Government Security Agencies.
- Managed emergency call centre operations across the country and provided technical and strategic support to the police to ensure prompt response to critical situations.
- Analysed counter-intelligence reports presented by the National Intelligence Bureau, Intelligence reports from the Research Department and the National Signals Bureau and took appropriate actions.

6.0 2022 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

The Ministry undertook the following programmes in the 2022 financial year:

- Launched the Ministry of National Security Citizen Awareness campaign dubbed “SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING”.
- Countered violent extremism including terrorism, organised crimes and other related National Security threats.
- Processed information forwarded to the National Security Council (NSC) and other agencies daily, which shaped the formulation of policies on security.

- Provided intelligence gathering leading to the protection of the general public.
- Maintained internal peace and security through pre-emptive intelligence gathering and reporting.
- Improved and expanded human resource capacity and capabilities.
- Established a new National Intelligence Bureau (NIB) operational office at Agbogba, Accra.
- Expanded the scope of liaison operations and participated in regional security meetings to obtain first-hand knowledge of emerging threats.
- Leveraged the capabilities of the Integrated National Security Communications Enhancement Project.
- Supported Security and Intelligence Agencies to deploy CCTV monitoring stations for the relevant Security and Intelligence agencies.
- Enhanced consular services at various missions abroad.
- Provided information which informed the Government's decision on foreign companies and appointees regarding developmental projects and businesses in the country.
- Conducted special operations such as Operation "Calm Life", "Cow Leg", and "Vanguard," among others.

6.1 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR THE 2022 FISCAL YEAR

A revised total allocation of GH¢870,505,444.00 was appropriated to the Ministry for its programmes and activities for the 2022 financial year. A total of GH¢796,688,233.44, representing 91.5% of the total allocation had been released and expended on programmes and activities of the Ministry as of the end of November 2022.

The revised GoG budgetary allocation and expenditure for the year 2022 are indicated in Table 1.

Table 1: GoG Budgetary Allocation and Expenditure for the Ministry of National Security as of November 2022

Economic Classification	2022 Appropriation GH¢ (a)	2022 Revised Budget GH¢ (b)	Amount released as of the end of November 22 GH¢ (c)	(Variance) GH¢ (b-c)	% of Budget Released as of the end of Nov. 22 (%)(c/b) *100
Compensation of Employees	602,781,000.00	602,781,000.00	631,138,768.72	(28,357,768.72)	104.7%
Goods and Services	100,122,000.00	168,977,939.00	164,150,000.00	4,827,939.00	97.1%
Capital Expenditure	16,600,000.00	1,462,505.00	1,399,454.72	63,050.28	95.7%
Donor	97,284,000.00	97,284,000.00	0.00	97,284,000.00	0%
Total	816,787,000.00	870,505,444.00	796,688,223.44	73,817,220.56	91.5%

Source: Ministry of National Security Presentation on the 2022 Budget Estimates

7.0 2023 PROGRAMMES AND OUTLOOK

The Ministry in line with its aim of maintaining peace and security in Ghana will undertake the following programmes in the year 2023:

7.1 Security Advisory Services

- Provide security intelligence to Government to assist policymakers to formulate strategic and operational decisions.
- Provide timely intelligence for the protection, promotion and enhancement of national security, national sovereignty, the Constitution and the rights of citizens.
- Facilitate communication and information sharing among intelligence agencies.
- Maintained and upgrade works on communication installations.
- Undertake special operations (Internal and External security).

7.2 National Security & Safety Management

Under National Security and Safety Management, the Ministry will:

- Continuously embark on activities (overt and covert) to ensure the well-being of the country.
- Train and build the capacity of staff in the year.
- Retool the intelligence agencies with modern tools and software for enhancing intelligence gathering and analysis.
- Enhance information assurance in securing communication concerning possible intrusion by hostile foreign parties.

7.3 SUMMARY ALLOCATIONS FOR 2023

A total amount of GH¢1,093,121,513.00 has been allocated to the Ministry to run its programmes and activities for the year 2023.

Table 2 indicates the budgetary allocation by economic classification and sources of funding:

Table 2: 2023 Budgetary Allocations by Economic Classification and Sources of funding

Economic Classification	GoG GH¢	Donor Partners GH¢	Total GH¢
Compensation	774,482,243.00	-	774,482,243.00
Goods and Services	181,191,175.00	-	181,191,175.00
CAPEX	26,848,095.00	110,600,000.00	137,448,095
Total	982,521,513.00	110,600,000.00	1,093,121,513.00

Source: 2023 Budget Statement and Economic Policy

Table 3 shows the 2023 budget Ceilings as against the 2023 Budget Expectations of the Ministry.

Table 3: 2023 Budget Ceilings as against 2023 Budget Expectation (GOG)

Item	2023 Budget Ceilings GH¢ (A)	2023 Budget Expectations GH¢ (B)	Variance GH¢ (A) - (B)	% Variance (b-a)%
Compensation of Employees	774,482,243.00	965,725,174.68	191,242,931.68	80.20
Goods and Services	81,591,175.00	487,980,680.00	406,389,505.00	16.72
Mons-HQ-Special Operations	99,600,000.00	99,600,000.00	0.00	100
CAPEX	26,848,095.00	504,474,034.52	477,625,939.52	5.32
Donor	110,600,000.00	110,600,000.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	1,093,121,513.00	2,168,379,889.20	1,075,258,376.20	50.4

Source: Ministry of National Security Presentation on the 2023 Budget Estimates

9.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 Budgetary Allocation

The Ministry of National Security was allocated an amount of One Billion and Ninety-Three Million, One Hundred and Twenty-One Thousand, Five Hundred and Thirteen Ghana Cedis (GH¢1,093,121,513.00). This amount was less than the Ministry's required budget by a variance of One Billion and Seventy-Five Million, Two Hundred and Fifty-Eight Thousand, Three Hundred and Seventy-Five Cedis and Forty Pesewas (1,075,258,375.40) representing 50.4 per cent of its required budget.

For CAPEX, the Ministry requested an amount of **GH¢229,000,000.00** but was allocated a paltry sum of **GH¢9,000,000.00** representing **3.9%** to address and combat the security challenges facing the country. The

Committee finds this inadequate and therefore requests the Ministry of Finance to increase the vaults to ensure adequate provision is made for the country's security needs.

The Committee noted that the Ministry could not utilise the total amount allocated under Donor Partners due to the non-availability of counterpart funding and therefore urged the Ministry of Finance to release the needed matching funds to remedy the shortfall in Government's budgetary allocation. The Committee is of the view that the amount allocated to the Ministry of National Security is woefully inadequate considering the role the Ministry plays in maintaining peace and order in the country.

It is therefore imperative to ensure that the Ministry is adequately resourced to enable it to function optimally to protect Ghana from domestic and external threats.

Thus, the Committee urges the Ministry of Finance to ensure that the needed funds are allocated and released timeously to the Ministry of National Security.

9.2 The Alpha Project

The Committee was informed that the Ministry installed 10,000 Closed-Circuit Televisions (CCTVs) nationwide to fight crime under the nationwide surveillance program dubbed, the "Alpha Project". The project which seeks to fight crime by increasing surveillance nationwide through the use of CCTV-mounted cameras at vantage points.

The Ministry has made a substantial investment of about \$400 million into this project. The project under the third phase would require cameras to be installed to expand its coverage and usage. To this end, the Committee recommends that approval be given and funds provided for the commencement of the third phase of the project.

9.4 Terrorist Threat in Northern Ghana

The Committee expressed concern about the recent happenings in the northern part of Ghana, especially in the neighbouring country, Burkina Faso, which has a number of unmonitored crossing routes into Ghana. Benin, Cote d'Ivoire and Togo have experienced extremist attacks originating from the Sahelian countries.

The Committee was informed that Burkina Faso that serves as a buffer zone between Ghana and the Sahel region has over six (6) out of its thirteen (13) regions under complete terrorists control. This poses an immense threat to Ghana's security for which reason the security agencies are on high alert along the border towns.

Ghana, being a border country to Burkina Faso, stands a greater risk of being attacked.

Intelligence gathered by the Ministry indicated that the terrorists are interested in the southern countries along the West African Coast. It was noted that the mode of operation by these extremists is to set up cells upon entering a country and to radicalise the people. The Ministry, in its efforts to adopt a non-kinetic approach to curb terrorist attacks, took proactive steps to provide improved road networks, schools, water and other social amenities to prevent the radicalisation of the communities, especially along the border areas.

Therefore, the Committee requests that the Ministry of National Security should be adequately resourced to continue to roll out more proactive counter-terrorism measures.

9.5 “See Something, Say Something” Campaign

The Committee was informed that the “See something, Say something” Campaign launch was a success with the campaign averaging about 13,000 calls daily. The campaign is aimed at educating the public to be vigilant against the potential threats and also raise awareness of signs of terrorism and terrorist-related crimes. Also, to encourage citizens to report suspicious activities to the security agencies.

The Committee, however noted that the campaign did not receive the expected response and impact.

The Committee again observed that the Ministry could not sustain the running of the campaign jingles on the various media stations due to financial constraints. The Ministry would repackage and re-launch the campaign to ensure it achieves the expected outcomes.

9.6 Recovery of Small Arms and Light Weapons

The Committee was informed of the Ministry's recovery strategy for small arms and light weapons from conflict zones in the country.

The Committee raised concerns about the proliferation of light weapons in communities in the north, especially Bawku.

The Committee was assured that it would collaborate with intelligence experts to undertake the needed swoops.

9.7 Benefits from the Accra Initiative

The Ministry indicated that the Accra Initiative was aimed at preventing the spill over of terrorism from the Sahelian countries. The Initiative is aimed at fostering collaboration among Member States in intelligence sharing to combat terrorism and violent extremism and also address the issue of transnational organised crime.

The Committee noted that the Accra Initiative recently created a platform for countries suspended and sanctioned by ECOWAS such as Mali, Burkina Faso and Guinea to continue to participate in its deliberations and work. This approach in the view of the Accra Initiative will enhance collaboration among Member States.

9.8 Placement of National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC)

The Committee was informed that cyber security has been a major problem in Ghana since 2018.

The Cyber Security Authority and National Communications Authority collaborate to tackle cyber security challenges facing the country. The

Ministry indicated that there are reports of banks being defrauded, identity theft and also terrorists recruiting new members through online platforms. Thus, it is imperative for strong collaboration and coordinated efforts to curb cyber threats to Ghana's security.

Currently, the National Signals Bureau (NSB), under the Ministry is building the needed capacity and expertise to manage the demands of cyber security in the country. It is worth noting that by best practice, the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), which was set up to clamp down on threats to cyber security, should be an implementing agency under the Ministry of National Security.

The Committee recommends that the NCSC is brought under the Ministry of National Security to enable it to tackle cyber security threats properly and prevent the duplication of roles.

9.9 Youth Unemployment as a Security Threat

The Committee was concerned about the high rate of unemployment in the country. Tertiary institutions continuously churn out large numbers of graduates despite the non-availability of employment opportunities. The youth often turn to cyber fraud as an alternative when they are not gainfully engaged. The statistics indicate that cyber fraud in the country was on the ascendency.

The Committee noted that until the unemployment situation is addressed, the crime rate would continue to rise to pose a security threat.

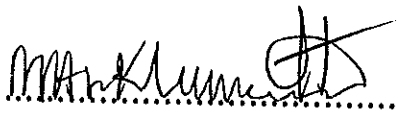
The Committee concluded that the recent policy on the freeze on employment in the public sector will further exacerbate the unemployment situation in the country.

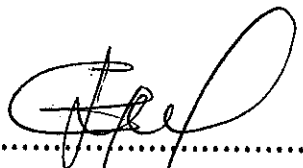
10.0 CONCLUSION

Ghana is noted to be a peaceful oasis in the West Africa region and to maintain this security, the Ministry must be adequately resourced.

The Committee, having carefully examined the 2023 Annual Budget Estimates of the Ministry of National Security, therefore, recommends to the House to adopt its report and approve the sum of **One Billion and Ninety-Three Million, One Hundred and Twenty-One Thousand, Five Hundred and Thirteen Ghana Cedis (GH¢1,093,121,513.00)** for the Ministry of National Security for the year ending 31st December 2023.

Respectfully submitted.


.....
HON. KEN OHENE AGYAPONG
CHAIRMAN, & INTERIOR
COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE


.....
MRS GIFTY JIAGGE-GOBAH
FOR CLERK, COMMITTEE ON
DEFENCE & INTERIOR

