

PARLIAMENT OF GHANA LIBRARY

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

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

ON THE

**2023 BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION**

DECEMBER 2022

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
ON THE ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION
FOR THE 2023 FISCAL YEAR**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

In accordance with Article 179 of the 1992 Constitution, the Hon Minister for Finance, Mr Ken Ofori-Atta, presented the Budget Statement and Economic Policy of Government for the 2023 Financial Year to the House on Thursday, 24th November, 2022.

The Rt Hon Speaker, pursuant to Standing Orders 140(4) and 183, referred the Annual Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration to the Committee on Foreign Affairs for consideration and report to the House.

The Committee on Foreign Affairs on Monday, 12th December, 2022, met with the Ministry and its agencies to consider the referral. Present at the meeting were the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, Hon Kwaku Ampratwum-Sarpong and other Senior Officials of the Ministry. Also present at the meeting were officials of the Ministry of Finance.

The Committee is appreciative of the presence of the Deputy Minister and the team of officials from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration and Finance for assisting the deliberations on the 2023 Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration.

2.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

The Committee considered the underlisted documents during its deliberations:

- i. The 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana;
- ii. The Standing Orders of the Parliament of Ghana;
- iii. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2022 Financial Year;
- iv. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2023 Financial Year;
- v. The Annual Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration for the 2023 Financial Year;
- vi. The Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) for 2021-2024 for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration and
- vii. The Report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs on the 2022 Annual Budget Estimates

3.0 GOAL OF THE MINISTRY

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration aims at becoming a reformed foreign service, capable of being competitive globally. It also seeks to be effective in enhancing Ghana's economic integration with other regional and sub-regional states to place the country on a path of sustained accelerated growth and poverty reduction.

4.0 CORE FUNCTIONS

The Core functions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration are to:

- i. Initiate, formulate, coordinate and implement Ghana's Foreign Policy Objectives;
- ii. Advance Ghana's economic interest by working with other MDAs for the promotion of 'Made-in-Ghana Brand' and expansion of trade, tourism and inward investments;
- iii. Coordinate Ghana's contribution to regional integration for the promotion and protection of the national interest;
- iv. Develop and coordinate Ghana's position at multilateral fora to ensure that the outcomes serve Ghana's interest to the greatest extent possible;
- v. Develop institutional frameworks, including Joint Commission for Cooperation and bilateral consultation mechanism for the conduct of productive and mutually beneficial relations;
- vi. Collaborate closely with the Attorney-General's Office for the establishment of an integrated level service with the Ministry to maximise Ghana's representation and participation in international legal fora for related bodies;
- vii. Improve the quality of consular services provided by the Ministry and its Diplomatic Missions and Consular Posts and maintain close contacts with Ghanaian communities around the world, including immigrant groups and
- viii. Contribute to greater public awareness of Ghana's international rights and obligations.

5.0 POLICY OBJECTIVES

6.0 The policy objectives of the Medium-Term National Development Policy Framework 2023-2026 with respect to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration is to:

- i. Promote globally competitive foreign service;
- ii. Enhance Ghana's international image and influence;
- iii. Leveraging Ghana's governance and security credentials to promote political economic interests abroad;
- iv. Promote international peace and sustainable development;
- v. Integrate Ghanaian Diaspora into national development and
- vi. Accelerate economic and social integration with Regional and Sub-regional States.

7.0 AGENCIES

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration executes its core functions through 19 Bureaux and Units at the Headquarters.

The agencies include:

- a. Passport Office;
- b. Accra International Conference Centre (AICC);
- c. Fifty-seven (57) Diplomatic Missions;
- d. Nine (9) Consulates-General abroad and
- e. Two (2) Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office in Geneva and New York.

The All-African Students Union (AASU), the Legon Centre for International Affairs and Diplomacy (LECIAD) and the National African Peer Review Mechanism Governing Council (NAPRM-GC) are three subvented Agencies under the Ministry.

8.0 PERFORMANCE FOR YEAR 2022

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration was allocated a total sum of **Five Hundred and Seventy-Four Million, Seven Hundred and Thirty-Seven Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢574,737,000)** to implement its programme and activities for the 2022 Fiscal Year.

The breakdown is as follows:

Table 1: Budgetary Allocation for the Year 2022

Economic Classification	Sources of Funding					
	GoG	ABFA	IGF	DONOR	Total	%
Compensation	480,187,000		-	-	480,187,000	83.5
Goods and Service	8,893,000	-	67,210,000	-	76,103,000	13.2
Capex	3,500,000	-	14,947,000	-	18,447,000	3.2
Total	492,580,000		82,157,000	-	574,737,000	
Percentages	85.7	0.00	14.3	0.00		100

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration's PBB estimates from 2020-2022

Table 2

**BUDGET PERFORMANCE:
JANUARY-SEPTEMBER, 2022 BY ECONOMIC CLASSIFICATION**

EXPENDITURE TYPE	2022 ADVERTISED BUDGET	2022 ACTUAL BUDGET	DIFFERENCE (ADVERTISED BUDGET) 2022	ACTUAL EXERCISE 2022	DIFFERENCE (ACTUAL BUDGET)
	A	B	C	D	E
COMPENSATION					
GOG	480,187,000.00	533,642,620.79	353,119,350.25	351,430,669.39	180,523,270.54
IGF	-	-	-	-	-
GOODS AND SERVICES					
GOG	8,893,000.00	6,362,480.00	842,411.28	177,497.00	5,520,068.72
IGF	67,210,000.00	67,210,000.00	54,933,133.73	54,933,133.73	12,276,866.27
DP FUNDS					
CAPEX					
GOG	3,500,000.00	2,311,000.00	-	-	2,311,000.00
IGF	14,947,000.00	14,947,000.00	12,479,926.58	12,479,926.58	2,467,073.42
DP FUNDS					
TOTAL	574,737,000.00	624,473,100.79	421,374,821.84	419,021,226.70	203,098,278.95

Source: Presentation to the Committee by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

As shown above, the total budget allocated to the Ministry in 2022 was GH¢574.74M. The Budget was subsequently reviewed to GH¢624.47M after the Ministry was granted an upward adjustment of GH¢53.46M in its Compensation vote to assuage the reduction in remittances to Ghana's Foreign Missions as a result of the depreciation of the Ghana Cedi.

The amount allocated for Goods & Services and Capex were however reduced by GH¢2.5M and GH¢1.2M respectively as part of the Budget rationalisation exercise.

Total releases for the year as at September, 2022 stood at GH¢421,374,821.84, representing 68 per cent of the 2022 total allocation. No releases have been made for capital expenditure, but the Ministry is in the process of obtaining approval for an allocation of GH¢0.15M before the end of 2022. The Ministry relied on its IGF to sustain its operations during the year under review.

As indicated in Table 2 above, the actual expenditure to the Ministry amounted to GH¢419.02M in the period under two sources of funding; GoG and IGF.

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Table 3

Trends on Economic Classification from 2020-2023

Item	2020	2021		2022		2023	
	Amt (GH¢)	Amt (GH¢)	% Change	Amt (GH¢)	% Change	Amt (GH¢)	% Change
Compensation	389,211,162	420,348,055	8	480,187,000	14.24	764,658,937.00	59.24
Goods and services	70,457,547	36,616,357	-48.03	76,103,000	107.84	12,033,950.00	-84.19
Capex	114,833,364	40,072,639	-65.1	18,447,000	-53.97	40,061,627.00	117.17
Total	574,502,073	497,037,051	-13.48	574,737,000	15.63	816,754,514.00	42.11

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration's PBB estimates from 2020-2022

9.0 PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR 2022

In the course of 2022, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration executed the following programmes and activities.

10.0 INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

10.1 The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration facilitated Ghana's participation in various high-level meetings during the course of the year. Key activities undertaken by the Ministry include:

- i. Organisation of the African Union Reflection Forum on Unconstitutional Changes in Government in Africa from 14th to 18th March, 2022 in Accra as a precursor to the Extra-Ordinary Summit of the AU held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea;
- ii. Facilitation of the President's participation in the 35th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of African Union held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in February, 2022;

- iii. Facilitation of Ghana's participation in the 15th African Union Extraordinary Humanitarian Summit and Pledging Conference and the 26th Meeting of the Heads of Government of the Commonwealth in Kigali, Rwanda, in June 2022;
- iv. Championing Ghana's agenda on international peace and security in its capacity as a Non-Permanent Member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC);
- v. Participation of the President in the 77th Session of the UN General Assembly from 20th to 23rd September, 2022, in New York
- vi. Participation in the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 8) from 27th – 28th August, 2022 in Tunisia.

10.2 OUTCOMES OF HIGH LEVEL VISITS

Due to Ghana's enviable credentials in politics, democracy and rule of law, H.E. President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo embarked on a number of high-level visits and participated in other international fora.

H.E. President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo participated in the 2022 Dubai Expo while the Vice President participated in the Inaugural Africaribbean Trade and Investment Forum. Ghana benefited immensely from participating in the fora. The following outcomes were achieved from participation in the fora:

- o MoU between the Ghana Investment Promotion Centre (GIPC) and Dubai Consultancy to establish presence in the UAE to promote and attract investment to Ghana;

- MoU between the Ministry of Economy of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the Ministry of Trade and Industry of Ghana to enhance economic and technical cooperation;
- MoU between the UAE International Investors Council and the GIPC to facilitate investment flow from the UAE to Ghana;
- MoU between the Federation of UAE Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Ghana National Chamber of Commerce and Industry to establish the UAE-Ghana Business Council;
- MoU between X-Fusion and the GIPC on technology equipment and information exchange with investment opportunities between the two countries.

MoU was signed between the Ghana Trade Fair Company Limited and the Stellar Holdings Plc Singapore Ltd to establish a joint venture company for the financing and redevelopment of the Trade Fair Site. The agreement is expected to guarantee an estimated investment of US\$1 billion to be sourced by the Singaporean company for the development of 65 acres of 140-acre Trade Fair Site in Accra.

Ghana equally played host to a number of high profile visits in the course of 2022. Notable, among them was the official visit of Hon Beata Habyaimana, Minister for Trade and Industry of Rwanda for the 8th Ministerial Council meeting of African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). The visit resulted in the signing of an MoU in Economic Cooperation between Ghana and Rwanda.

10.3 GHANA'S NON-PERMANENT MEMBERSHIP OF THE UNSC

Ghana's international image as Non-Permanent Member at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) was further enhanced on its appointment to chair two UN Security Council Sanctions Committees, comprising the Committees of the Central African Republic and Sudan.

In addition, Ghana co-sponsored Norway to champion Resolution 2634 for adoption by UNSC. Resolution 2634 called on Member States to criminalise the implementation of sanctions regime on piracy in the Gulf of Guinea. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by the Security Council.

The Non-Permanent Membership position also permitted Ghana to maintain an active presence in ongoing discussions on topical issues at the UNSC. Ghana participated in the discussion on the crises in the Russian-Ukraine conflict and the evolving security situation in the Sahel.

Ghana also convened a number of meetings at the UNSC. These include Presidential Debate on the ongoing counter terrorism mechanisms in Africa, with particular focus on how the Security Council would provide adequate, predictable and sustainable financing to control the menace. The Ministerial meeting also discussed the integration of resilience-building in operations for sustainable peace.

10.4 RENOVATION AND REFURBISHMENT OF PROJECTS

During the year under review, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration undertook renovation and refurbishment of a number of landed properties that belong to its Missions abroad. The beneficiary Missions include, Residency and Chancery Building of the Ghana Embassy in Seoul,

the Chancery Building in Paris, and the Chancery Building of Ghana Embassy in Tel-Aviv. The Projects were undertaken to enhance the image of Ghana at the international level and improve the working environments of our foreign service staff.

10.5 ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY

As part of Ghana's agenda to diversify and increase its export base by actively seeking markets for "Made-in-Ghana" goods and services, the Ministry facilitated and coordinated the participation of Ghana in the US-Africa Business Summit in Marrakech, Morocco. The Summit offered Ghana the opportunity to explore renewed commitment of stakeholders to building stronger US and Africa trade, investment and commercial ties. The occasion was used to attract foreign direct investments needed for Ghana's industrialisation agenda. The potential technical assistance of the Tangier Med Port Authority of Morocco was explored for the development of the Kumasi Industrial City and the Exclusive Economic Zone.

The Ministry also facilitated and coordinated Ghana's participation in the 17th Conference of Indian Industry (CII)-Exim Bank Conclave on the India-Africa Growth Partnership in New Delhi, India. The event focused on some strategic areas of economic and trade activities between India and Africa in the areas of healthcare, agriculture, food processing, power, energy, as well as infrastructure and financial partnership.

11.0 MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

11.1 Training Programmes

In order to equip its officers with the requisite skills, the Ministry organised training programmes in negotiation, diplomacy, administrative writing, effective inventory and cyber security for its staff. The training programme was in line with the Ministry's vision to have a transformed foreign service of globally competitive nature for sustainable economic growth.

11.2 Recruitment of New Officers

Having obtained financial clearance, the Ministry recruited forty-seven (47) Officers comprising Twenty-two (22) Branch A Officers, Twelve (12) Branch B Officers, Seven (7) Branch C Officers and six (6) IT/IM officers.

11.3 Passport Administration

In order to improve service delivery, the Ministry through the Passport Office undertook several initiatives at the Passport Office and some Missions abroad. Fourteen (14) Missions abroad benefited from the initiatives which equipped them to independently print biometric passports.

The Missions were Washington DC, Abuja, Berlin, Pretoria, Addis Ababa, London, Toronto, New York, Dubai, Beijing, the Hague, Rome, Madrid and Tokyo.

To further enhance service delivery, the Passport Office secured land at Takoradi, Sunyani, and Ho respectively, for the Construction of new Passport Application Centres; purchased six (6) generator sets for the Passport Application Centres (PAC) and bought three(3) vehicles for the Passport Head Office in Accra and PACs in Sunyani and Tamale.

Visa Stations and Server Equipment have been installed in some Missions abroad to ensure efficient service delivery. The equipment were synchronised with that of the Ghana Immigration Service (GIS) servers, to enable the GIS to also process biometric data of all visitors before their arrival in the Country.

The Ministry has commenced piloting the issue of E-Visa in five (5) Missions abroad; namely London, Berlin, New York, Prague and Washington DC.

12.0 BUDGETARY ALLOCATION FOR YEAR 2023

To ensure the effective implementation of its programmes and activities for 2023, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration has been allocated a total amount of ***Eight Hundred and Sixteen Million, Seven Hundred and Fifty-Four Thousand, Five Hundred and Fourteen Ghana Cedis (GH¢816,754,514.000)***.

Table 4: 2023 Budgetary Allocation by Sources of Funding and Economic Classification.

Economic Classification	Sources of Funding			
	GoG	IGF	Total	Percentages
Compensation	655,515,809		655,515,809	80.2
Goods and Service	12,033,950	109,143,128	121,177,078	14.8
Capex	420,000	39,641,627	40,061,627	5
Total	667,969,759	148,784,755	816,754,514	100
Percentages	81.8	18.2		100

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration's PBB Estimates for 2023

Table 4 shows the total budgetary allocation to the Ministry by sources of funding and economic classification for the year 2023. Out of the total amount of Eight Hundred and Sixteen Million, Seven Hundred and Fifty-Four Thousand, Five Hundred and Fourteen Ghana Cedis (GH¢816,754,514.000), Six Hundred and Sixty-Seven Million, Nine Hundred and Sixty-Nine Thousand, Seven Hundred and Fifty-Nine Ghana Cedis (GH¢667,969,759) representing 81.8 per cent would be funded from GoG sources while the remaining 18.2 per cent would be funded from IGF sources.

The table also indicates that more than 80 per cent of the total allocation has been earmarked for compensation, leaving just a meagre five (5) per cent in support of non-financial assets of the Ministry for 2023.

13.0 OUTLOOK FOR 2023

The Ministry projects to apply its Budget allocation to support the following activities earmarked for execution in the 2023 Fiscal Year.

13.1 Revenue Enhancement Measures for 2023

In 2023, the Ministry will put in place measures to enhance its revenue collection by extending the issuance of Biometric Passports to more Regions and Missions abroad. The purpose is to make passport processing more accessible.

In addition, the charges for passport services required by applicants within the 24hrs, 48hrs and 72hrs would be increased. The Ministry will also review and tighten oversight mechanisms in order to reduce revenue losses and leakages to middlemen.

13.2 Foreign Participation

With the view to enhance Ghana's international image and influence abroad, the Ministry will participate in all statutory meetings of the United Nations, African Union, ECOWAS, the Commonwealth, as well as other international organisations.

13.3 Chip-Embedded Biometric Passports

In line with its objective to keep abreast with technological advancements and comply with International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) recommendations, the Ministry would continue with the process of upgrading Biometric Passports to Chip-embedded Passports and would work assiduously to achieve success.

The Ministry projects to enhance its service delivery by providing timely and efficient services to the public while establishing Passport Application Centres (PACs) in all regional capitals as well as Ghana Mission's abroad. It also projects to extend online application services to all PACs within the country.

13.4 E-Visa Sticker Roll-out

During the year under review, the Ministry will continue with the issuance of the improved E-Visa Stickers (E-Visa) in some selected missions.

The issuance of E-visa would help phase out the situation where visas are issued in writing and embedded with a stamp on the passports. Under the new process, the issuer would be required to obtain security clearance from the Ghana Immigration Service before the visa would be issued.

14.0 Economic Diplomacy

The agenda of the Ministry in Economic Diplomacy will continue to focus on diversifying and increasing Ghana's export base by actively seeking markets for Ghanaian products abroad, diversifying and expanding the tourism industry. Preferential arrangements and multilateral agreements, will also be taken advantage of.

14.1 Projects Earmarked for Execution in 2023

In 2023, the Ministry would execute the projects listed below:

- Furnish of Foreign Service Institute;
- Upgrade the Hamburg Consulate to Consulate-General,
- Commence the Construction of the Ministry's Annex Building;
- Open a diplomatic mission in Jamaica or Trinidad & Tobago
- Open a Diplomatic Mission in Mexico
- Establish three (3) Regional Passport Application Centres in three of the six (6) newly created regions;
- Redevelopment of the Accra International Conference Centre (AICC)

15.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following observations were made by the Committee during the deliberations.

15.1 REPAYMENT OF THE SOCIETE GENERALE LOAN FACILITY

The Committee was updated on the status of the US\$50M loan facility granted by Societe Generale to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, for the renovation of selected missions abroad and the acquisition of new properties in 2016.

The loan facility was granted to enable the Ministry upgrade the Ghana consulate in Houston, reconstruct the Chancery Building in Paris, construct Chancery Building in Bamako and Windhoek, and renovate the Head of Chancery's residence in London, among others.

It was envisaged that the loan would be repaid from the Ministry's Internally Generated Funds (IGF). The Committee, however, observed a delay in the repayment of the loan and an expansion of the facility by an amount of US\$11,446,749.63 during the COVID-19 Pandemic in the 2020 Fiscal Year. The Ministry explained that the over expenditure is as a result of the high cost of building materials in Geneva, Switzerland and an additional project undertaken by the Ministry in Addis Abba which was originally not envisaged under the loan facility.

The Committee was however, assured of the renewed commitment by the Ministry to pay the outstanding amount within the next three (3) years.

The Committee expresses its disappointment in the turn of events especially because approval was not sought for the over expenditure. The Committee however recommends that the Ministry endeavours to meet its commitment under the loan facility as assured.

15.2 REDEVELOPMENT OF AICC

In 2019, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration engaged Cornerstone Engineering Company to provide the initial structural integrity report on the Accra International Conference Centre (AICC) due to some structural defects in the building. The Committee was informed of the Ministry's plan to commence the redevelopment of the AICC in 2023.

According to the Ministry, negotiations for the redevelopment were far advanced and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration and Finance together with Price Waterhouse Coopers are in the process of conducting a value for money audit.

The Committee was informed that funding for the reconstruction of the AICC is being arranged by Summa Turizm Yatirimciligi A.S. a Turkish Consortium in collaboration with Standard Chartered Bank and MUFG Bank of Tokyo, Japan under a PPP arrangement. The contract sum is €116M. The contract is however, yet to be signed.

The Committee recommends that the Ministry endeavours to produce the report on the feasibility studies and the structural integrity on the AICC to inform future decisions on the project.

15.3 ADU LODGE

The Committee noted with delight the completion of the renovation and refurbishment of the Adu Lodge which has been designed to host high level VVIPs visiting Ghana. The Committee expressed concern about the plans to engage a facility manager to manage the property having regard to the fact that the Ministry has an Estate Department.

The Committee was however informed that in order to achieve the purpose for which the Lodge was built, there is the need to engage a facility manager with experience in the hospitality business to ensure the quality of services required for high level VVIPs who use the facility.

15.4 DELAYED PAYMENT OF SALARIES

The Committee observed that employee compensation allocation to the Ministry in 2022 was revised from the approved amount of GH¢480,187,000.00 to GH¢533,642,620.79, whilst the 2023 allocation for compensation shot up by GH¢257,521,907.98 indicating a forty-three point two nine percentage (43.29%) increase over the previous year.

The Ministry informed the Committee that between June and July, 2022, the depreciation of the cedi necessitated a review of the compensation vote to make up for the short fall for salaries of officers abroad. The depreciation according to the Ministry, further exacerbated the Ministry's position in the last quarter, a situation which resulted in a delay in the payment of salaries for three (3) months to some officers in the missions abroad. An estimated amount of Fifty-Three Million Ghana Cedis (GH¢53M) is required to pay for the compensation of staff from October to December, 2022.

The Committee was surprised to note that some staff abroad had not been paid for three (3) months due to the shortage in the compensation vote. It again noted that the salaries of some officers have not been reviewed for more than ten (10) years.

The Committee recommends that an immediate step should be taken to dialogue with the Ministry of Finance for the timely release of the salary arrears to the staff abroad. The Committee also urges the Ministry of Finance to consider an upward review of the salaries of the officers abroad to bring them at par with current economic trends.

15.5 CHIP-EMBEDDED PASSPORTS

The Committee was informed that the processes leading to the rollout of the Chip-Embedded passports are far advanced. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration is at the final stages of signing a PPP arrangement with Biometric Solution Company Limited, subject to fulfilling certain requirements including opening of an escrow account.

The Committee recommends that the Ministry endeavours to brief the Committee on the progress made in fulfilment of the requirement, before signing of the contract. The aforementioned requirements are without prejudice to any other approval that may be required in future.

15.6 CREATION OF CONSULAR FUND

The Committee noted with concern that the Ministry has over the past four years, repeated this Budget line in respect of consular fund but had made no conscious effort at establishing it. The Committee was however informed that the Ministry of Finance is yet to agree to the terms for establishing the Fund.

The Committee recommends to the Ministry of Finance to create the Fund on behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to enable the Ministry provide funds for emergency situations that may call for evacuation of Ghanaians from abroad and other urgent consular support.

15.7 ACCESS TO MORTGAGE FACILITIES

The Committee was informed that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration pays huge sums of money for rent in respect of its missions and other properties abroad.

The Committee noted that the Ministry as a diplomatic entity is precluded from engaging with entities abroad to create mortgage arrangements without a sovereign guarantee by the Republic. Such arrangements would have enabled the Ministry to benefit by repaying the cost of the facility through its IGF sources and eventually own the property.

The Ministry proposes that in order to alleviate the burden of its rent obligations, the Ministry of Finance should consider providing sovereign guarantee to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration to create mortgage facilities locally.

The Committee is of the view of that this initiative would help reduce the expenditure burden on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration in the near future.

15.8 EARMARK PROJECTS FOR EXECUTION IN 2023

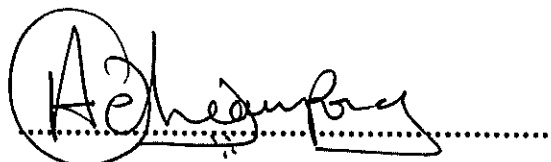
The Committee was informed that the Ministry would furnish the Foreign Service Institute, upgrade the Hamburg Consulate to Consulate-General, commence construction of the Ministry's Annex building, open diplomatic missions in Mexico, Jamaica or Trinidad and Tobago as well as build three (3) regional Passport Application Centres. The Committee is of the view that

the Ministry should reconsider the projects when the economic situation improves.

16.0 CONCLUSION

In recognition of the important role played by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration to transform the image of Ghana abroad, and place the country on the path of sustainable and accelerated growth, the Committee of Foreign Affairs recommends for approval, the sum of **Eight Hundred and Sixteen Million, Seven Hundred and Fifty-Four Thousand, Five Hundred and Fourteen Ghana Cedis (GH¢816,754,514.000)** for the implementation of the Ministry's programmes and activities for the 2023 Fiscal Year.

Respectfully submitted.



**HON BRYAN ACHEAMPONG
(CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS)**



**ANITA QUARTEY PAPAPIO
(HEAD, GOVERNANCE CLUSTER OF COMMITTEES)**

PARLIAMENT OF GHANA LIBRARY

December 2022

