

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



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REPORT

of the

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH, SPORTS AND CULTURE

on the

2023 ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES

of the

MINISTRY OF CHIEFTAINCY

for the

2023 FINANCIAL YEAR

DECEMBER, 2022

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH, SPORTS AND CULTURE
ON THE 2023 ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE
MINISTRY OF CHIEFTAINCY AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Following the presentation of the 2023 Budget Statement and Economic Policy of Government to Parliament by the Hon. Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Ken Ofori-Atta in accordance with Article 179 of the 1992 Constitution and Order 140 (2) of the Standing Orders, the Rt. Hon Speaker, Mr. Alban Sumana Kingsford Bagbin referred the Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs (MCRA) for 2023 fiscal year to the Committee on Youth, Sports and Culture for consideration and report pursuant to Order 140 (4) of the Standing Orders of Parliament.

2.0 DELIBERATIONS

The Committee met on Monday, 12th December, 2022 with the Minister for Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs, Hon. Ebenezer Kojo Kum, the Chief Director and the Heads of Departments and Agencies, as well as Officials from the Ministry of Finance, and considered the 2023 Annual Budget Estimates for the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs.

The Committee is grateful to the Hon. Minister, officials of the Ministry and Ministry of Finance for their inputs and assistance during the deliberation.

3.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

- i. The 1992 Constitution
- ii. The Standing Orders of Parliament
- 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 Programme Based Budget Estimates for 2022 of the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs
- vi. The Programme Based Budget Estimates for 2023 of the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs
- vii. The Public Financial Management Act, 2016 (Act 921)

4.0 MANDATE, VISION AND MISSION OF THE MINISTRY

The Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs (MCRA) is established by Executive Instrument (E.I) 28 Civil Service (Ministries) Instrument 2017. The Ministry forms part of the Civil Service of Ghana established by PNDCL 327, 1993 with specific functions and roles as provided by law. The Ministry's objective in line with the legal provisions, its mission and vision, is to have oversight responsibility for the Chieftaincy and Religious sector for peaceful co-existence and national development.

The vision of the Ministry is to preserve, sustain and integrate the regal and traditional values and practices to accelerate wealth creation and harmony for total national development.

The Ministry exists to develop effective interface between Government, Religious and Civil Society on matters relating to Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs for the promotion of peace and good governance.

5.0 FUNCTIONS OF THE MINISTRY

The core functions of the Ministry are as follows:

- i. Initiate and formulate policies, taking into account the needs and aspirations of the people.
- ii. Undertake development planning in consultation with the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC).

- iii. Co-ordinate, monitor and evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of the Sector.
- iv. Coordinate the activities and programs of the National and Regional Houses of Chiefs and religious bodies towards the development of Chieftaincy and Religious Sectors.
- v. Undertake the progressive study, interpretation and codification of customary law with the view to evolving in appropriate cases, a unified system of rules of customary law and compilation of lines of succession applicable to each stool and skin.

To carry out the Ministry's mandate and ensure that the Chieftaincy and Religious bodies promote and enhance a peaceful, congenial environment that creates the opportunity for government institutions to pursue the prime object of bringing development for all, the Ministry is pursuing two main programmes as follows:

- Management and Administration
- Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs

5.1 MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

In order for the Ministry to achieve its targets, the Ministry would undertake the following management and administrative activities:

- ❖ Drawing up of the annual budget and the related action plan;
- ❖ Securing the funding from budgetary allocation to ensure the smooth administration of the Ministry and the entities operating under it;
- ❖ Ensuring the effective delivery of services to the citizenry;
- ❖ Ensuring quality human resource, build capacity of the staff for efficient delivery and performance; and
- ❖ Initiation, development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Ministry

5.2 CHIEFTAINCY AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS

This programme encapsulates Chieftaincy Management and Religion for Development:

5.2.1 Chieftaincy Management

In pursuit of this activity, this programme is to manage the Chieftaincy Institution in order uphold its dignity and make an important ingredient in creating the values and environment for government to implement its development programmes as well as to be drivers in harnessing citizen participation in the development effort. In pursuit of the activity the Ministry:

- a. Undertakes research: this includes the collection of data, and the codification of lines of succession and related functions;
- b. Inaugurates traditional councils in traditional areas: this permits traditional authority to be a part of the governance process;
- c. Supervises the adjudication of Chieftaincy matters: this is to ensure that the adjudication process is effective;
- d. Creates the forum for government officials to engage with traditional authorities on policies and programmes; and
- e. Enables traditional authorities to contribute to the socio-cultural and economic development of the country.

5.2.2 Religion for Development

The religion for development programme is to enable religious bodies inculcate values that encourage the citizenry to be patriotic and be a part of the development process. It is also to enable religious bodies to intensify and contribute to national development through the provision of infrastructure and the pursuing of health, education and agricultural programmes. Activities pursued under this programme include:

- a. promoting dialogue in and between faith to enable and appreciate peace and cohesion;

- b. pursuit of pilgrimage locally and abroad to deepen faith, values and beliefs for human and national development;
- c. create and enable appreciation of religious sites and their influence in development; and
- d. enable religious bodies deepen involvement in the social, cultural and economic development of the country.

6.0 PROGRAMMES AND IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES

NO	PROGRAMME	SUB-PROGRAMMES	IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES
1	Management and Administration	General Administration and Finance	MCRA
		Human Resource	MCRA
		Policy, Planning, Budgeting, Monitoring and Evaluation	MCRA
		Research, Statistic and Information Management	MCRA
		Internal Audit	MCRA
2	Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs	Customary Law	MCRA/ Houses of Chiefs
		Traditional Authority Management	MCRA/ Houses of Chiefs
		Dispute Resolution	MCRA/ Houses of Chiefs
		Religious Affairs	MCRA

In addition to the above, the Ministry oversees the operations of the following Agencies:

- a. The National House of Chiefs
- b. Sixteen (16) Regional Houses of Chiefs
- c. Two hundred and eight (208) Traditional Councils
- d. Four Divisional Councils
- e. Oversees the management of Christian, Islamic and other Religious bodies.

7.0 2022 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

The approved budget for the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs for the 2022 fiscal year was a total amount of ***Eighty-Three Million, Two Hundred and Fifty-Nine Thousand Cedis*** (GH¢83,259,000.00) for the implementation of its programmes and activities. An amount of ***Five Million, Five hundred and Thirty-Six Thousand Cedis*** (GH¢5,536,000.00) was allocated for Goods and Services whilst Capital Expenditure was ***Forty-Two Million, Eight Hundred and Five Thousand Cedis*** (GH¢42,805,000.00).

After the Budget review, the Ministry received an amount of ***Sixty-Nine Million, Four Hundred and Sixty-Nine Thousand, Eight Hundred and Twelve Cedis*** (GH¢69,469,812.00) made up of Employees Compensation of ***Thirty-Four Million, Nine Hundred and Eighteen Thousand Cedis*** (GH¢34,918,000.00), ***Three Million, Seven Hundred and Thirty-Two Thousand, Two Hundred and Twelve Cedis*** (GH¢3,732,212.00) for Goods and Services and ***Thirty Million, Eight Hundred and Nineteen Thousand, Six Hundred Ghana Cedis*** (GH¢30,819,600.00) for Capital Expenditure.

Funds released at the end of August, 2022 amounted to ***Twelve Million, Six Hundred and Fifty Thousand, Nine Hundred and Sixty-Five Cedis Thirty-Five Pesewas*** (GH¢12,650,965.35) representing 18.21 per cent of the total budgetary allocation of the Ministry.

Breakdown of the expenditure as at August 2022 is shown in the Table 1 below.

TABLE 1: BUDGETARY ALLOCATION

EXPENDITURE ITEM	2022 APPROVED (GHC)	2022 REVISED BUDGET (GHC)	RELEASES (AUG. 2022) (GHC) A	ACTUALS (GHC) B	VARIANCE (GHC) = B - D	% UTILISED (GHC) = D/B * 100
COMPENSATION (GOG)	34,918,000.00	34,918,000.00	12,301,436.05	12,301,436.05	22,616,563.95	35.22%
GOODS & SERVICES (GOG)	5,536,000.00	3,732,212.00	150,903.00	150,903.00	3,581,309.00	4.04%
CAPEX (GOG)	42,805,000.00	30,819,600.00	198,626.30	198,626.30	30,620,973.70	0.64%
TOTAL	83,259,000.00	69,469,812.00	12,650,965.35	12,650,965.35	56,818,846.65	18.21%

The Government of Ghana was the main source of funding for the Ministry's 2022 budgetary allocations.

7.0 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE MINISTRY IN 2022

The key performance of the Ministry for the 2022 financial year include the following:

a. Provision of infrastructure

The Concept Note for the construction of offices for Regional Houses of Chiefs in the six new regions has been approved and Feasibility studies on the project is ongoing.

- ❖ Landscaping of the Ministry's office at Ridge is ongoing
- ❖ Northern Region House of Chiefs project is about 65 per cent complete.

b. Meetings of the Houses of Chiefs

The various Houses of Chiefs created platforms to discuss pertinent issues affecting the country with the executive, legislature and other arms of government on national issues including education, illegal mining, health, law and order, etc.

c. Inauguration of Traditional Councils

Six (6) Traditional Councils were inspected and inaugurated in the Volta and Oti Regions. The Councils inaugurated were in Klikor, Somey, Penyi, Fievie and Mafi in Volta and Nkonya Wuropong in Oti Region.

d. Scheme of Service and Competency based Training

Three hundred and Twenty-nine (329) officers benefited from Scheme of Service and Competency based Training during the period under review.

e. Recruitment of Counsel

Five (5) Counsel were recruited to help with the adjudication of Chieftaincy cases within the regions. Beneficiary Houses were the Upper West, Oti, Savannah, North East and Western.

f. Draft Legislative Instruments (L.Is) on Codification of Lines of Succession to Stools/Skins

The Ministry processed and submitted Twenty (20) draft Legislative Instruments (LI) on codification of lines of succession to stools and skins to the Office of the Attorney-General. Five (5) of the LIs in respect of Mim, Adjaade, Techiman, Avatime and Bulsa validated by the respective Regional Houses of Chiefs, have subsequently been submitted to Parliament.

g. Creation of Database for Chiefs and Compilation of Judgements

Preparatory meetings were held with the Ministry of Communications and Digitalisation on the Exercise. Proposal for the project was also developed. Engagement were held with Regional Registrars to discuss the modalities for the collection of data.

h. Adjudication of Chieftaincy Disputes

Judicial Committees of the Houses of Chiefs settled thirty-six (36) Chieftaincy cases.

i. Religious Heritage

The Ministry identified twenty-three (23) sites within the Central, Eastern and Western regions for Christian Heritage aimed at deepening values,

understanding and appreciation of Christian History, Art and Culture for national development.

8.0 OUTLOOK FOR 2023

For the 2023 financial year, the Ministry has outlined a number of programmes and activities. These include:

- ❖ Mobilise financial support to fund the Ministry's engagement with traditional authorities (including queen mothers) on national issues.
- ❖ Areas to generate funds internally identified – Registration of Religious bodies, local pilgrimage (long term), review court charges, review graduation fees (Chieftaincy Declaration forms), review foreign pilgrimage package.
- ❖ Initiate the processes for the registration of religious bodies
- ❖ Finalise Policy on Religion.
- ❖ Appeal for inclusion in the sharing ratio of the stool land revenue and royalties.
- ❖ Enter Public Private Partnership (PPP) to facilitate the completion of the Ministry's office complex and other projects.
- ❖ Stakeholder consultations with related governmental and nongovernmental organizations (Peace Council, Regional Coordinating Councils, Ministry of Gender and Social protection, Registrar General's Department, Management Services Department, Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, etc.)
- ❖ Continue the reviewing of the laws on chieftaincy.
- ❖ Creation of bio-data on Chiefs and Queen mothers. (National Chieftaincy Database)
- ❖ Automation and digitalisation of the Judicial processes of the Houses of Chiefs.

9. OUTLOOK FOR 2023

The Ministry has been allocated an amount of **Forty-Four Million, Nine Hundred and Eighty Thousand, Eighty Ghana Cedis (GH¢ 44,980,080.00)** for the 2023 Financial Year. **Two Million, Eight Hundred and Thirty Thousand, Four Hundred Ghana Cedis (GH¢ 2,830,400.00)** is allocated for the Ministry's Goods and Services, **Thirty-Seven Million, Thirteen Thousand and Eighty Ghana Cedis (GH¢ 37,013,080.00)** for Compensation and **Five Million, One Hundred Thirty-Six Thousand, Six Hundred Ghana Cedis (GH¢ 5,136,600.00)** for Capital Expenditure (Capex). The breakdown for the above allocations are as follows:

TABLE 4: BUDGETARY ALLOCATION FOR 2023

ECONOMIC CLASSIFICATION	2023 CEILING (GH¢)
COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES	37,013,080.00
GOODS AND SERVICES	2,830,400.00
CAPEX	5,136,600.00
TOTAL	44,980,080.00

TABLE 5: 2023 BUDGET APPROPRIATION (GOODS AND SERVICES) BY PROGRAMME AND SUB-PROGRAMME

PROGRAMME	SUB-PROGRAMMES	AMOUNT (GH¢)
MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION	General Administration and Finance	777,220.00
	Human Resource	249,821.00
	Policy, Planning, Budgeting, Monitoring and Evaluation	194,305.00
	Research, Statistic and Information Management	111,030.00
	Internal Audit	55,516.00
CHIEFTAINCY AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS	Customary Law	201,952.00
	Traditional Authority Management	995,330.00
	Dispute Resolution	129,826.00
	Religious Affairs	115,400.00
TOTAL		2,830,400.00

TABLE 6: 2023 BUDGET ALLOCATION (COMPENSATION)

COMPENSATION	AMOUNT (GH¢)
Annual Established Post	15,739,702.00
Promotion for 2022	500,000.00
P.E Related Allowances	1,320,378.00
Traditional Authority Allowance (4,863,250.00 * 4)	19,453,000.00
TOTAL	37,013,080.00

TABLE 7: BREAKDOWN OF THE 2023 BUDGETARY ALLOCATION FOR CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

SUB-PROGRAMME	PROJECT	TOTAL (GH¢)
Management and Administration	Construct 6 Houses of Chiefs Building (Oti, Savannah, North East, Western North, Ahafo and Bono East)	2,448,488.57
	Outstanding projects	2,088,111.43
	Procurement of Computers and accessories	600,000.00
TOTAL		5,136,600.00

10. OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee made the following observations and recommendations:

i. Inadequate Office Accommodation

The Committee observed that the Ministry is faced with numerous issues in respect of accommodation. Firstly, the six (6) newly created Regional Houses of Chiefs i.e. Oti, North East, Savannah, Ahafo, Bono East and Western North Houses do not have permanent offices. This has a toll on effective service delivery within these regions. The Ministry informed the Committee that it has completed the concept note and feasibility studies in respect of the Project and same has been submitted to the Ministry of

Finance for approval and further issuance of commencement certificate for the projects.

Secondly, lack of adequate office accommodation at the new location at Ridge makes it difficult for staff to work effectively. The building was put up as a residential accommodation, but later converted into an office. An extension was done, but it is still not sufficient to accommodate all the staff of the Ministry.

There are only thirteen (13) rooms available for the different directorates and Units including that of the Minister and Chief Director.

There is also the issue of overcrowding as six (6) officers share a room in a 10 x 6 feet dimension. The Office space cannot accommodate more than two (2) Directors though the Ministry needs five (5) Directors.

The conference room of the Ministry can only seat twenty (20) people and this is inadequate to contain all Members of staff during durbars. The Ministry therefore urgently needs additional office space to augment the existing building.

Lastly, majority of the Traditional Councils under the Houses of Chiefs are located within the palaces of Chiefs. These tend to expose staff of the Ministry to various risks especially in areas where chieftaincy conflicts exist. The Councils are sometimes locked up and staff denied access to their offices.

The Committee considers these issues very unfortunate and is of the view that the activities of the Ministry aids in averting conflict and abate disputes through education and the neutral adjudication of chieftaincy matters.

The Committee wishes to urge the Ministry of finance to support the Ministry of Chieftaincy with the needed resources to enable it construct independent offices for Traditional Councils outside the palaces of Chiefs so as to guarantee their neutrality and ensure the safety of Staff.

This translates into the employment of more staff and the provision of logistics, which requires allocation for Capital Expenditure.

The Committee urges the Ministry of Finance to release the needed funds for the completion of the various projects timeously especially in the newly created regions for the establishment of administrative offices and new Houses of Chiefs.

ii. Outmoded Legal Provisions on Adjudication of Chieftaincy Disputes

The Committee took note of the legal regime governing the Chieftaincy Institution which includes the Chieftaincy Act 2008, (Act 759), the Chieftaincy (Proceedings and Functions) (Traditional Councils) Regulations 1972 (L.I. 798) and article 273 1992 Constitution are outmoded. Some of the procedures prescribed for adjudication are untenable and requires immediate review, especially court fees and charges, number of Chiefs that can sit and adjudicate on a conflict among others.

The Committee was of the view that although the Ministry has resolved several chieftaincy disputes, the Ministry should increase their efforts to complete the processes for the review of these enactments since it will go a long way in assuaging various pockets of conflicts and operational challenges.

iii. Inadequate personnel

The Committee noted that the Ministry lacks some requisite personnel like bailiff and court clerks to manage the judicial section of the Houses of Chiefs. Other categories of staff such as Traditional Council Registrars and Registrars are also limited. This has occasioned a situation where Registrars are made to handle more than one Traditional Council and this impedes effective administration.

The Ministry has only one (1) Director at post handling five (5) Directorates whilst other core staff are not available. The religious role of the Ministry is also

handled at the Head office because the Ministry does not have the complement of religious officers at the Regional and local levels.

The Committee is of the view that considering the importance of Chieftaincy and Religion to the social and spiritual harmony of the good people of Ghana, the Ministry of Finance should endeavour to create space to accommodate the human resource needs of the Ministry.

iv. Inadequate Data on Traditional Authorities and Religious Bodies.

The Committee noted that the Ministry is faced with the challenge of disintegrated data on traditional and religious leaders to inform decision making. The Ministry is therefore expected to institute measures in year 2023 to ensure that data on religious bodies and chieftaincy cases as well as symbolisms are collected. Other areas the Ministry hopes to explore is to have a biodata on all chiefs and queen-mothers in the country. Funding for the exercise remains a challenge and it is the hope of the Ministry that the Ministry of Finance would consider this a very important exercise.

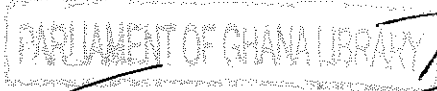
The Committee recommends to the Minister of Finance to assist in providing resources to meet the data needs of the Chieftaincy Ministry as the absence of historical data to guide the future is partly to be blamed for some of the Chieftaincy conflicts the nation has experienced in recent years.


11.0 CONCLUSION


The Committee reiterates that the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs has a vital role to play in engendering national cohesion and maintaining peace and spiritual development which are vital prerequisites for national growth and development. It is therefore imperative that the Ministry be well resourced. Therefore, while recommending that this House approve the total sum of **Forty-Four Million, Nine Hundred Eighty Thousand, Eighty Cedis (GHC 44,980,080.00)** for the operations of the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious

Affairs, the Committee hereby urges the Ministry of Finance to, as a matter of urgency, reconsider the adjustments it made to the Ministry's budget in the event of a Mid-Year review and ensure that it is well resourced to carry out its mandate for the 2023 Financial year.

Respectfully Submitted.




.....
HON. KWAKU AGYENIM-BOATENG
CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEE ON YOUTH, SPORTS
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.....
MR. INUSAH MOHAMMED
CLERK TO COMMITTEE ON
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