

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

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

ON THE

**ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE MINISTRY
OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES FOR THE
2023 FINANCIAL YEAR**

DECEMBER, 2022

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AND NATURAL RESOURCES 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 for Finance, Mr. Ken Ofori-Atta on 24th November, 2022, in accordance with Article 179 of the 1992 Constitution.

Pursuant to Orders 140 (4) and 177 of the Standing Orders of the House, the Annual Budget Estimates for the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources was referred to the Committee on Lands and Forestry for consideration and report.

2.0 DELIBERATIONS

The Committee met with the Hon. Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, Mr. Samuel Abu Jinapor, the Hon. Deputy Minister in charge of Lands and Forestry, Mr Benito Owusu-Bio and Officials of the Ministry to discuss the Referral. Officials of the Ministry of Finance were in attendance at the meeting to assist in the deliberations.

The Committee is grateful to the Hon. Minister, the Hon. Deputy Ministers and the Officials for attending upon the Committee and clarifying issues raised at the meeting.

3.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

The Committee referred to the following documents during the deliberations:

- i. The 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana;
- ii. The Standing Orders of the Parliament of Ghana;
- iii. The Land Act, 2020 (Act 1036);
- iv. The Ghana Integrated Aluminum Development Corporation Act, 2018 (Act 976);
- v. The Ghana Geological Survey Authority Act, 2016 (Act 298);

- vi. The Ghana Boundary Commission Act, 2010 (Act 450);
- vii. The Lands Commission Act, 2008 (Act 767);
- viii. The Minerals Commission Act, 1993 (Act 450);
- ix. The Forestry Commission Act, 1999 (Act 571);
- x. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2022 Financial Year;
- xi. The Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) for 2023-2026; and
- xii. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2023 Financial Year.

4.0 MISSION AND CORE FUNCTIONS OF THE MINISTRY

4.1 Mission of the Ministry

The Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources exists to ensure sustainable management and utilisation of Ghana's lands, forests, wildlife and mineral resources for socio-economic growth and development.

4.2 Core Functions of the Ministry

The Ministry is responsible for the following:

- i. Ensuring the efficient formulation, implementation, co-ordination, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes;
- ii. Ensuring efficient and equitable land delivery services;
- iii. Facilitating the promotion of sustainable forest and wildlife resource management and utilisation;
- iv. Ensuring efficient management of mineral resources to catalyse sustainable development;
- v. Facilitating the promotion of effective inter-agency and cross-sectorial linkages; and
- vi. Protecting the country's boundaries in collaboration with other State agencies.

5.0 POLICY OBJECTIVES OF THE MINISTRY UNDER THE MEDIUM-TERM EXPENDITURE FRAMEWORK (MTEF) FOR 2023-2026

The following are the policy objectives of the Ministry under the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) FOR 2023-2026:

- i. Ensure sustainable extraction of mineral resources;
- ii. Ensure effective linkage of the extractive industry to the rest of the economy;
- iii. Develop efficient land administration and management system;
- iv. Expand forest conservation areas;
- v. Protect forest reserves;
- vi. Conserve marine areas;
- vii. Reduce environmental pollution;
- viii. Promote sustainable use of forest and wildlife resources;
- ix. Reduce coastal erosion;
- x. Combat deforestation, desertification and soil erosion;
- xi. Enhance climate change resilience;
- xii. Reduce greenhouse gases;
- xiii. Promote proactive planning for disaster prevention and mitigation; and
- xiv. Promote sustainable groundwater resources development and management

6.0 AGENCIES UNDER THE MINISTRY

The Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources is segmented into three sub-sectors, namely, the Forestry Sub-Sector, the Land Sub-Sector, and the Mining Sub-Sector.

6.1 The Forestry Sub-Sector

The Forestry Sub-Sector is managed by the Forestry Commission. The Commission has the following Divisions:

- i. Forest Services Commission;
- ii. Wildlife Division;
- iii. Timber Industry Development Division; and
- iv. Plantation Development Fund Board.

6.2 The Land Sub-Sector

The Land Sub-Sector is managed by the Lands Commission, the Ghana Boundary Commission and the Office of the Administrator of Stool Lands.

The Lands Commission has the following Divisions:

- i. Land Title Division;
- ii. Survey and Mapping Division; and
- iii. Public and Vested Lands Division.

6.3 The Mining Sub-Sector

The following agencies are responsible for the Mining Sub-Sector:

- i. The Minerals Commission;
- ii. The Ghana Geological Survey Authority (GGSA);
- iii. The Ghana Integrated Iron and Steel Development Corporation (GIISDEC); and
- iv. The Ghana Integrated Aluminum Development Corporation (GIADEC).

7.0 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OF THE MINISTRY IN 2022

The sum of One Billion, Six Hundred and Seventy-Eight Million, Nine Hundred and Thirty-Eight Thousand Ghana Cedis (**GHC1,678,938,000**) was approved for the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources to implement its programmes for the 2022 Financial Year. The figure was revised downwards to One Billion, Five Hundred and Sixty-Five Million and Twenty Thousand, Two Hundred and Seven Ghana Cedis (**GHC1,565,020,207**).

The total expenditure of the Ministry as at September 2022 was Six Hundred and Ninety-One Million, Six Hundred and Sixty-Six Thousand, Four Hundred and Twenty Ghana Cedis (GHC691,666,420). Out of this, GoG expenditures accounted for Two Hundred and Thirteen Million, and Fifty-Three Thousand, and Ninety-Nine Ghana Cedis (GHC213,053,099), IGF at Four Hundred and Forty-Five Million, Three Hundred and Thirty-Six Thousand, Five Hundred and Eighty-Two Ghana Cedis. (GHC445,336,582), Development Funds of Twenty-Seven Million, Nine Hundred and Twenty Thousand, Nine Hundred and Twenty-Six Ghana Cedis and Seven Pesewas (GHC27,920,926.07) and Annual Budget Funding Amount (ABFA) of Five Million Three Hundred and Fifty-Five Thousand, Eight Hundred and Thirteen Ghana Cedis (GHC5,355,813).

The details of the expenditure of the Ministry for the 2022 Financial Year are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Expenditure of the Ministry as at the end of September 2022

Source of Funds	Approved Budget (GHC) (A)	2022 Revised budget(GH) (B)	Amount Released as at Sept 2022 (GHC) (C)	Actual Expenditure (GHC) (D)	Variance (GHC) (C-D)
GOG	778,065,000	668,847,207	228,739,380.47	213,053,099	15,686,281.47
IGF	859,116,000	859,116,000	469,714,344	445,336,582	24,377,762
DP	19,457,000	19,457,000	27,920,926.07	27,920,926.07	0
ABFA	22,000,000	17,600,000	6,000,002.00	5,355,813.00	644,189
Total	1,678,638,000	1,565,020,207	732,374,653	691,666,420	40,708,232

8.0 OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE OF THE MINISTRY OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES IN 2022

The operational performance of the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources are summarized as follows:

8.1 Headquarters of the Ministry

The Ministry Headquarters achieved the following in 2022:

- i. Organized 2022 Green Ghana Day initiative for its second edition;
- ii. Supported RCCs with funds to fight the Galamsey menace in their jurisdiction;

- iii. Reclaimed 524.6 hectares of degraded lands under the National Alternative Employment and Livelihood Project (NAELP);
- iv. Facilitated NAELP to collaborate with Minerals Commission to launch seventeen (17) Community Mining Schemes; and
- v. Secured Cabinet approval to lay the Wildlife Resource Management Bill in Parliament for passage into law.

8.2 Forestry Sub-Sector

The following are the achievements of the Forestry Sub-sector:

- i. Launched the 2022 Green Ghana Initiative with a total of 26,553,607 seedlings distributed across the country out of a target of 20 million seedlings. Out of the total distributed, 24,445,202 seedlings have been verified as planted as at September 2022;
- ii. Launched successfully a digitised and decentralised Property Mark renewal (Form C) system;
- iii. Launched the Ghana Wood Tracking System (GWTS) with success;
- iv. Developed and published the Ecotourism Handbook with QR codes;
- v. Constructed a summer hut with a hundred-sitting capacity for visitors' reception at the Accra Zoo;
- vi. Trained two hundred and eighty-six (286) wildlife officers in weapon handling and other military and field operation tactics at the 64 Infantry Regiment in Asutsuare;
- vii. Maintained ninety-seven kilometers (97km) of roads in the various Protected Areas out of a target of a Thousand kilometers (1000km);
- viii. Educated two hundred and nineteen (219) communities in the various Protected Areas;
- ix. Trained forty-five (45) staff in law enforcement, field craft, first aid and weapon handling by the Mobile Training Unit at the Mole National Park;
- x. Launched the Ghana Shea Landscape Emission Reductions Project (GSLERP);
- xi. Facilitated the export of a total wood volume of 245,771m³ that yielded a value of €115.97 million; and

- xii. Carried out fifty-two radio sensitisation programmes on wildlife conservation in the various Protected Areas and their localities.

8.3 Land Sub-Sector

8.3.1 Lands Commission

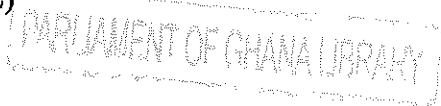
The Lands Commission achieved the following in 2022:

- i. Implemented the Lands Act, 2020 (Act 1036) through ongoing sensitisation programmes and public education through media platforms;
- ii. Developed an operational online platform for the digitisation and automation of Land Administration services. This digitalization has been scaled up with 10% of data in Greater Accra scanned and organized in modernised records management system to promote the ease of doing business;
- iii. Established temporary office accommodations in the six (6) new regions;
- iv. Continued the construction of the Lands Commission Head office Building which is at 80% complete, phase II of the Greater Accra Regional Office is ongoing, the Tema District Office is at 19% work done with the superstructure ongoing and the GARO Complex phase II is at 70% completion with an overall 50% completion of the project; and
- v. Equipped the human resource capital of the Commission by organising retreat for middle-level management staff and trained 150 students out of a target of 130 students.

8.3.2 Office of the Administrator of Stool Lands (OASL)

The OASL achieved the following in 2022:

- i. Mobilised revenue to the tune of GH¢98,938,098.63 as against the target of GH¢142,229,889.90;
- ii. Inaugurated a regional office in Western North that is fully operational;
- iii. Opened one district office in Suame Municipal;
- iv. Opened five revenue collection offices at Busunya (Nkoranza North district), Nsuta (Techiman Municipal), Sagnarigu CLS (Savannah Region), Kpembe CLS (Northern Region) and Bolgatanga CLS (Upper East Region);
- v. Monitored operations of all 104 District Offices;



- vi. Launched the *OASLRevApp* developed in collaboration with GIZ to digitise OASL Operations;
- vii. Facilitated the establishment of two Customary Land Secretariats (CLSs) in Gmatambo in Bimbila in the Northern Region and Aduamoah, in Kwahu in the Eastern Region;
- viii. Undertook monitoring visits to 67 existing CLSs to strengthen them in their operations as against a target of 99 CLSs;
- ix. Recorded 1,101 land rights from CLSs across the country against a target of 4000;
- x. Issued statement on accounts for January and July to beneficiaries;
- xi. Facilitated the demarcation of 349 farm lands for small holder farmers in the Hemang Traditional Area as against the target of 200 farm parcels; and
- xii. Monitored visits to 10 beneficiary MMDAs on the use of stool land revenue.

8.3.3 Ghana Boundary Commission

The Ghana Boundary Commission achieved the following in 2022;

- i. Undertook inventory on land boundary pillars at a distance of 62km against a target of 100km;
- ii. Conducted 18km distance of survey land boundary pillars and orthophoto mapping of 100m Buffer corridor of Boundary line as against a target of 100km to provide coordinates of the pillars on both national and international systems for referencing and future dispute management;
- iii. Re-affirmed the Ghana/Togo Boarder;
- iv. Undertook a sensitisation programme at communities in Afadzato South District;
- v. Resolved disputes over territorial claims in five (5) areas; Kame Tornu, Dollar Power, Pulimakom, Bellitanga, and Bimpela; and
- vi. Held two maritime boundary delimitation negotiations between Ghana and Togo as against a target of 4 towards the signing of the Ghana/Togo Maritime Boundary Delimitation Agreement in November 2021.

8.4 Mining Sub-Sector

8.4.1 Minerals Commission

The Minerals Commission achieved the following in year 2022:

- i. Created 80,071 permanent and temporary Jobs under the NAELP in five operational regions for illegal miners;
- ii. Digitized all its operations from application submissions to payment for services. Mining Companies make payments using the Ghana.gov payment platform;
- iii. Acquired 5 marine vessels to effectively deal with the menace of illegal mining on water bodies (Rivers Ankobra, Birim, Pra, Tano and Black Volta);
- iv. Commenced the construction of new Regional (Tamale and Kumasi) and District Offices (Bibiani and Akim Oda);
- v. Procured 100 Mercury-Free Gold Processing Plant for Small-scale Mining to eliminate the use of mercury in processing gold and recover more gold;
- vi. Started the renovation of Office Block and Laboratories at Takoradi;
- vii. Reclaimed 343.85 hectares of degraded mine site against a target of 500.25 hectares from illegal mining in Central, Ashanti and Western North Regions;
- viii. Launched and operationalised 8 Community Mining Schemes with 65 Concessions; and
- ix. Procured and distributed 4,016,000 hybrid oil-palm seedlings to farmers in Central, Eastern and Ashanti Regions.

8.4.2 Ghana Geological Survey Authority

GGSA achieved the following in year 2022:

- i. Conducted a public education and sensitisation programme on what to do during an earthquake at Madina Cluster of Schools;
- ii. Renovated offices and bungalows at Saltpond;

- iii. Procurement of Atomic Absorption Spectrometer (AAS) for elementary analysis; and
- iv. Conducted Clay Investigation in Assin area.

8.4.3 Ghana Integrated Iron and Steel Development Corporation (GIISDEC)

GIISDEC achieved the following in year 2022:

- i. Procured a drill rig to assist GGSA to undertake Mineral Resource estimation at a cheaper cost;
- ii. Developed an Integrated Iron and Steel Master plan;
- iii. Undertook in 7 Community Engagement Activities;
- iv. Facilitated the development of one Integrated Iron and Steel Master Plan; and
- v. Secured a number of Investment partners for Iron Ore Exploration.

8.4.4 Ghana Integrated Aluminum Development Corporation (GIADEC)

GIADEC achieved the following in year 2022:

- i. Commenced biodiversity and hydrology study in Nyinahin to guide mining in that area;
- ii. Conducted sensitization programmes in 88 communities on bauxite mining;
- iii. Completed all drilling works on three hills with Strategic partners, Rocksure International who were assigned to Project 2;
- iv. Assayed 75% of samples collected under Project 2; and
- v. Presented Ghana's Integrated Aluminium industry to global industry players at the Bauxite-Alumina conference. This was the first time the industry was showcased on an international platform.

9.0 OUTLOOK FOR 2023 FINANCIAL YEAR

9.1 The Headquarters of the Ministry

The Headquarters of the Ministry has planned to undertake the following activities in 2023 in furtherance of its mandate:

- i. Organise the 2023 Green Ghana Day Project for the third time;
- ii. Implement the Wildlife Resources Management Act upon its passage by Parliament;
- iii. Continue to assist RCCs with funding to fight the Galamsey menace in their jurisdiction;
- iv. Continue to implement the National Alternate Employment Livelihood Projects to create alternate jobs for illegal small-scale miners;
- v. Disburse Forest Plantation loan scheme to small-medium/private sector investors in forest plantation establishment; and
- vi. Continue to implement the Ghana Landscape Restoration and small-scale Mining Project.

9.2 The Lands Commission

In 2023, the Lands Commission shall undertake the following prioritised activities:

- i. Scale-up digitisation and automation of land records and service delivery;
- ii. Continue the construction of Phase II of GARO;
- iii. Develop and implement a framework for divesting Vested Lands;
- iv. Continue the construction of the Tema District Office;
- v. Rehabilitate and renovate Regional offices;
- vi. Construct the Damango and the Sekondi/Takoradi Regional Office; and
- vii. Continue implementation of the Lands Act 2020 (Act 1036) through public sensitisation programmes.

9.3 Ghana School of Survey and Mapping (GSSM)

GSSM plans to:

- i. Procure consultancy services for re-accreditation processes;
- ii. Train 125 students;
- iii. Procure office furniture and five computers with accessories;
- iv. Build a dome;
- v. Procure survey and mapping instruments; and
- vi. Provide internet connectivity and infrastructure for research.

9.4 Ghana Boundary Commission

In 2023, the Ghana Boundary Commission shall undertake a number of projects including the following:

- i. Plant boundary pillars along regional and international borders;
- ii. Undertake community sensitisation programmes and forums;
- iii. Conduct field research on border security risk, vulnerability assessment, and other border-related issues; and
- iv. Organise workshops and team building programmes for staff on policies, reporting systems, performance appraisals and GhBC HR Manual/Code of Conduct.

9.5 Office of the Administrator of Stool Lands (OASL)

OASL plans to undertake the following activities in 2023:

- i. Open one regional office and three district revenue collection offices in Upper East Region to expand operational areas and improve service delivery;
- ii. Establish three Customary Land Secretariats;
- iii. Continue to improve the use of the App to optimise revenue collection and expand its geographical coverage through automated field operations;
- iv. Recruit 414 new staff to help with its operations in administration and management of stool lands;

- v. Train 300 staff in various disciplines to build capacity; and
- vi. Undertake internal audit of 9 regional offices and 105 District Offices.

9.6 Forestry Commission

The Forestry Commission plans to undertake the following activities in 2023:

- i. Implement a robust afforestation and reforestation programme;
- ii. Plant 20 million seedlings as part of Green Ghana Day;
- iii. Undertake plantation development and landscape restoration;
- iv. Enforce the law with regards to Governance and Trade/Voluntary Partnership Agreement);
- v. Coordinate and facilitate forest and wildlife management; and
- vi. Reduce emission from forest degradation and deforestation (REDD+) in line with climate change actions.

9.7 Minerals Commission

The Minerals Commission has committed to undertake the following activities in 2023:

- i. Maintain the necessary ICT infrastructure to ensure smooth operation of the Cadastral System;
- ii. Undertake MCAS mineral rights holders engagements for exploration companies;
- iii. Continue follow-ups on passage of proposed Amendment to Act 703 by Parliament;
- iv. Increase the list of locally procured items on procurement list from 41 to 50;
- v. Conduct 2,000 inspection visits to 18 mining companies & 87 active Quarry companies;
- vi. Organize workshops and stakeholder engagements in Regions and Districts across the country;
- vii. Examine 2000 mine officials on Minerals and Mining Laws and Regulations;

- viii. Monitor CSR implementation plan by 14 operating mines to ensure compliance with CSR guidelines by mining companies;
- ix. Distribute 6 Million hybrid oil palm seedlings to develop sustainable livelihood projects in mining communities; and
- x. Train 20 district officers on forced labour indicators for the mining sector as part of eliminating child labour and mainstream gender in mining.

9.8 Ghana Geological Survey Authority

The Authority shall undertake the following activities in 2023:

- i. Continue to explore for additional minerals other than gold to assist in the mineral diversification of the mining industry;
- ii. Continue to monitor seismicity/earthquake to mitigate the impact of natural disasters;
- iii. Carry out geo-hazard mapping and public education on geo-hazards of the country; and
- iv. Continue to prepare mineral resource map for each District in the country to highlight its mineral potential for investors.

9.9 Ghana Integrated Iron and Steel Development Corporation

In 2023, GIIISDEC shall undertake the following activities:

- i. Complete the development of an Integrated Iron and Steel master plan;
- ii. Procure Drill Rig for Ghana geological survey department for iron ore evaluation and analysis;
- iii. Continue to undertake community engagement activities;
- iv. Undertake a number of investment promotion activities; and
- v. Undertake Mineral Resource Estimation (MRE) through the private sector.

9.10 Ghana Integrated Aluminum Development Corporation

GIADEC intends to undertake the following activities in 2023:

- i. Develop Baseline Biodiversity Study reports for Tano Offin;

- ii. Deliver Project 3 (Drilling & MRE);
- iii. Develop and conclude Project Agreements for Project 2;
- iv. Establish working group and implementation of Roadmap for the Aluminum Downstream industry;
- v. Sign MOU for project 1 and identify partner for Project 1;
- vi. Support the selection of strategic partner for Project 4; and
- vii. Develop action plans for Kyebi to guide mining/refinery operations.

10.0 2023 ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE MINISTRY

The sum of **One Billion, Three Hundred and Fifty Million, Nine Hundred and Sixty-Four Thousand, Five Hundred and Eighty-One Ghana Cedis (GH¢1,350,964,581)** has been allocated to the Ministry for its activities in the 2023 Financial year. This figure comprises the amount of **Four Hundred and Ninety-Two Million, Four Hundred and Sixty-Four Thousand and Seven Hundred and Fifty-Nine Ghana Cedis (GH¢492,464,759)** for Compensation of Employees, Goods and Services has a Vote of **Five Hundred and Sixty Million, Nine Hundred and Thirty-Seven Thousand, Five Hundred and Thirty-One Ghana Cedis (GH¢560,937,531)**, and CAPEX of **Two Hundred and Ninety-Seven Million, Five Hundred and Sixty-Two Thousand, Two Hundred and Ninety-One Ghana Cedis (GH¢297,562,291)**. The details are illustrated in Table 2.

Table 2: 2023 Annual Budget Estimates of Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources

Item	GOG (GH¢)	IGF (GH¢)	ABFA (GH¢)	DP FUNDS (GH¢)	Sub-Total
Compensation of Employees	353,549,586	138,915,173			492,464,759
Goods and Services	135,049,522	324,043,331	7,044,678	94,800,000	560,937,531
Capital Expenditure	10,004,294	232,348,863	7,809,134	47,400,000	297,562,291
Total	498,603,402	695,307,367	14,853,812	142,200,000	1,350,964,581

11.0 OBSERVATIONS

The Committee made the following observations during the deliberations:

11.1 Funding of the Youth in Afforestation Programme

Officials of the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources told the Committee that, due to inadequate funding, The Youth in Afforestation Programme continued to face challenges. They explained that the amount of GH¢100million that was approved for the implementation of the Programme proved to be woefully inadequate. They also disclosed that the Ministry spends GH¢20million per month to implement the programme. They further disclosed that the allowances payable to beneficiaries of the Programme has run into nine (9) months arrears.

11.2 Extant Permits

As part of the measures to ensure that only legal wood is exported to the EU and other international markets, the Ministry took steps towards the issuance of extant permits. The Ministry has completed the process to introduce in Parliament a number of existing leases to convert them to Timber Utilisation Contracts (TUCs). The Committee was of the view that the Forestry Commission does not have the authority to convert leases to TUCs. The Committee took note of the list of leases earlier sent to Parliament for their approval but directed the Ministry to submit individual leases for ratification by the House.

11.3 Staffing Needs of OASL

The Officials of OASL intimated that the office lacked adequate manpower to deliver its Constitutional mandate. They disclosed that, though the Office targeted to recruit four hundred and forty-five (445) new staff in 2022, the Office could recruit only thirty-one (31). In view of this, the Office requested to recruit four hundred and fourteen (414) new staff in 2023 but only Nineteen Million, Three Hundred and Sixty-Four Thousand, Nine Hundred and Forty-Seven Ghana Cedis (GH¢19,364,947) was allocated by the Ministry of Finance as Compensation of Employees Vote.

11.4 2022 Green Ghana Initiative

The Committee noted the successful implementation of 2022 Green Ghana Initiative. The Initiative achieved its target of 20 million trees by planting a total of 24 million trees as at September, 2022. This represented a 120% success rate. In 2023, the Ministry plans to plant 20 million seedlings. While commending the Ministry and the populace for contributing to the success of this year's project, the Committee urges the Ministry to pay

particular attention to achieving high survival rate of the trees planted so far across the Regions.

Regarding funding, Officials of the Ministry informed the Committee that an amount of Six Million, Two Hundred and Sixty-One Thousand, Six Hundred and Eighty-Three Ghana Cedis, Fifteen Pesewas (GH¢6,261,683.15) was utilised to implement the 2022 Green Ghana Initiative. In view of this, the Committee finds it unacceptable that a meagre amount of Two Million, Five Hundred and Four Thousand, Six Hundred and Seventy-Three Ghana Cedis (GH¢2,504,673) has been approved by the Ministry of Finance to fund the 2023 Green Ghana Initiative. The Committee therefore urges the Ministry of Finance to revise the budget and allocate more funds for the project to sustain the gains already made.

11.5 Progress in Digitization of Land Administration

The Committee noted the digital platform developed by the Lands Commission in pursuit of digitalising and automating its services to the public. Applications for deed registration, from submission to collection, is carried out through an electronic system. As at September 2022, digitalisation has been scaled up with 10% of data in Greater Accra organised in modernised records management. The Committee noted that the Lands Commission plans to scale up this automaton with a total of Seven Million, Eight Hundred Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢7,800,000) out of the Goods and Services Vote of Eighty-Five Million, Nine Hundred and Twenty-One Thousand, Eight Hundred and Seven Ghana Cedis (GH¢85,921,807) in 2023. As at October 2022, the Commission was given a Goods and Services Vote of Thirty-Three Million, Five Hundred and Thirty-Three Thousand, Seven Hundred and Ten Ghana Cedis, Sixty-One Pesewas (GH¢33,533,710.61) against an approved amount of Fifty-Five Thousand Eight Hundred and Seven Thousand, Eight Hundred and Ninety-Four Ghana Cedis (GH¢55,807,894). This represents a 60% of the budget approved. To ensure the Commission meets this objective of digitised land administration, the Committee urges the Ministry of Finance to release the needed funds for this key programme of the Commission. The Committee further urges the Commission to expedite work in all regions to ensure a more convenient and faster turn-around in service delivery to citizens.

11.6 Opportunities Presented to the Youth in the NAELP

The Committee noted the job created by the Ministry in the mining communities through the National Alternative Employment Livelihood Project (NAELP). Some of the seedlings for Green Ghana Day were sourced from the NAELP. The Ministry reclaimed 526 hectares of lands under the project. The project has offered employment alternatives by providing skills training, apprenticeships, entrepreneurship and community enhancement programs in the mining communities to reduce the illegal mining and its associated menace. The Ministry will need an allocation of GH¢21,760,000 to continue the programmes of NAELP

in 2023. The Ministry received GH¢10,352,195.51 in 2022 against a revised allocation of GH¢54,400,000 for the project. This represented 19% of the funds needed to implement the 2022 programmes. The Committee encourages the Minerals Commission to support the NAELP. The further Committee urges the Ministry of Finance to release funding towards the implementation of the NAELP programmes in 2023.

11.7 Funding Challenges of OASL.

The Committee noted the inability of the OASL to achieve most of its targets in 2022. The OASL recorded 875 land rights through the CLSs as at the end of September 2022 against a target of 4000 land rights. This represents a 22% success rate. The Committee recognises the potential that the OASL has in addressing the challenges of land administration in the country and notes the challenge of human resources that the OASL faces due to funds. The OASL facilitated the demarcation of 349 farm lands in the Hemang Traditional Area against a target of 200. The Committee urges the Ministry of Finance to release funds in time for the OASL to implement its programmes in 2023. The Committee noted the OASL intends to establish three CLSs, train 300 Staff in various disciplines and recruit 414 new staff pending clearance from the Ministry of Finance to ensure success with its operations in administration and management of stool lands.

11.8 Establishment of CLS

Pursuant to the Land Act, 2020, the OASL facilitated the establishment of two Customary Land Stools. This was achieved by sensitizing Traditional Authorities on the necessity to establish the Secretariats. The OASL plans to facilitate the establishment of 3 self-initiated customary land secretariats in 2023.

11.9 Funding of the activities of Ghana Boundary Commission

The Committee noted the continued inadequate funding of the activities of the Ghana Boundary Commission. Despite the precarious funding challenges facing the Commission, it continued to implement existing legislations and Regional Conventions to determining the land boundaries of Ghana, as well as delimiting Ghana's maritime boundaries in accordance with international law. It was also refreshing to note that the Commission resolved territorial disputes in five (5) communities and was working towards completing the maritime boundary delineation negotiations between Ghana and Togo.

In view of the critical programmes planned to consolidate the gains made, the Committee considers that the Goods and Services Vote of GH¢2,070,000 earmarked for the operations of the Commission is woefully inadequate. Officials of the Commission would require GH¢23,612,299.96 to procure field equipment, fast patrol boats and Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs) for patrols along the Maritime Boundaries but the Ministry of Finance only

provided for GHC2,070,000. Accordingly, the Committee urges the Ministry of Finance to consider revising the budgetary allocation as well as timely releases of the budget towards effective execution of the activities of the Commission.

11.10 Funding challenges facing GGSA

The Committee noted that the funding challenges facing the Ghana Geological Survey Authority (GGSA) still persists. This is against the expectation of the Committee that the Authority would be adequately funded upon the passing of the Ghana Geological Survey Authority Act which transformed the Department into an Authority. For instance, only the meagre sum of GHC30,587,821.09 was approved for the activities of the Authority for 2022 but only GHC20,011,152.49 was released to the Authority as at October 2022. The situation is feared to worsen in 2023 as the total allocation to the Authority has been reduced to GHC27,683,372.29. The Committee recommends that the Authority is funded directly to procure its needed equipment instead of doing so through GISDEC. The Committee urges the Ministries of Finance and Energy to give particular attention to budgetary provisions for the GGSA.

11.11 Upgrading of the National Seismic Observatory

Officials of GGSA informed the Committee that the Satellite Data Transmission components of the National Seismic Observatory is obsolete and need to be replaced with Cell Modem Transmission System to provide valuable real time data on occurrences of earth movements. They made a passionate appeal to the Committee for an additional amount of \$200,000USD to procure the Cell Modem transmission system in 2023. In view of the utmost significance of the equipment, the Committee urges the Ministry of Finance to, as a matter of urgency, provide the funds for this purpose.

11.12 Gross under-funding of Ghana Integrated Aluminium Development Corporation (GIADEC)

The Committee noted that, despite the significance of GIADEC to transform the economy of the nation, the Corporation is grossly underfunded. The Committee noted that the Corporation's revised budget for 2022 was 54% lower than the original budget requested. Again, it was noted that out of the revised budget of Thirty-Nine Million, Five Hundred and Thirty-Three Thousand, Four Hundred and Seventy Ghana Cedis (GHC39,533,470), only Twelve Million, One Hundred and Ninety-Five Thousand, Eight Hundred and Forty-Seven Ghana Cedis (GHC12,195,847) has been released to the Corporation as at the end of October 2022. This represents 31% of the revised budget. Officials of GIADEC intimated that critical activities of the Corporation got stalled due to the funding challenges.

11.13 Funding challenges facing Ghana Integrated Iron and Steel Development Corporation (GIISDEC)

The Committee further noted that GIISDEC equally faces acute funding challenges. Officials of GIISDEC raised grave concern about the funding challenges facing the Corporation as a result of insufficient budgetary allocation to the Corporation in 2022. This is coupled with delayed releases of the approved budget. As a result, critical engagements with stakeholders have suffered setbacks. In view of the significance of both GIISDEC and GIADEC, to turn the economic fortunes of the country, the Committee recommends that a dedicated revenue source be established to provide sustainable funding of these two important entities.

11.14 Employment generation through NAELP

The Committee noted that the National Alternative Employment and Livelihood Program (NAELP) has achieved significant success since its implementation especially in the area of employment generation. Officials of the Minerals Commission informed the Committee that eighty thousand and seventy-one (80,071) permanent and temporary jobs have been created under the NAELP in five (5) operational Regions for the benefit of persons who were previously engaged in illegal mining. The Committee considers NAELP as a very important program that would help address the illegal mining menace and must be sustained.

11.15 Community mining schemes

The Committee noted the successful implementation of the community mining scheme. In 2022, the Minerals Commission launched and operationalised eight (8) community mining schemes with sixty-five (65) concessions. This is expected to create about 39,500 direct and indirect jobs for people in mining communities.

11.16 Annual reports of Lands Commission and OASL

The Committee noted the long gap in presentation of annual reports by Lands Commission and the Office of Administrator of Lands and Stools (OASL). The Lands Commission has not laid its report for five years to the House for consideration by the Select Committee on Lands and Forestry.

12.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

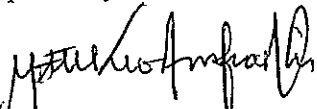
The Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources continues to play its critical role to execute its critical mandate in ensuring sustainable management and utilisation of Ghana's lands, forests, wildlife and mineral resources towards the socio-economic development of the country. While the Committee is satisfied with the general expenditure performance of the

Ministry and its Agencies for 2022, it is concerned about the funding challenges facing the GGSA, GIADEC and GIISDEC. The Committee takes the considered view that a dedicated revenue source should be established for GIADEC and GIISDEC to support their operations in 2023 and beyond in this regard.

The Committee has examined the 2023 Annual Budget Estimates for the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources and takes the view that the Estimates are justified for the critical programmes that the Ministry has committed to implement in 2023. The Committee also acknowledges the acute financial challenges faced by the Ministry and appeals to the Ministry of Finance to make additional funds available for them to perform their statutory functions in 2023 and beyond.

In that regard, the Committee recommends to the House to adopt this report and approve the sum of **One Billion, Three Hundred and Fifty Million, Nine Hundred and Sixty-Four Thousand, Five Hundred and Eighty-One Ghana Cedis (GH¢1,350,964,581)** for the implementation of programmes of the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources for the 2023 Financial Year.

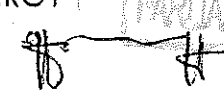
Respectfully submitted.



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.....
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