

IN THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE THIRD PARLIAMENT OF THE FOURTH
REPUBLIC OF GHANA

**REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE ON THE 2004
BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
PLANNING COMMISSION (NDPC)**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The 2004 Annual Estimates of the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC) was laid in the House and referred to the Finance Committee for consideration and report in accordance with the Constitution and Standing Orders of the House. This followed the presentation of the 2004 Financial Policy of the Government by the Minister for Finance & Economic Planning, Hon. Yaw Osafo Maafo for the year ending 31st December 2004. The Committee met with the Director-General of the Commission, Prof. Gyan-Baffour, technical team from the Commission and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning and reports as follows:

2.0 BACKGROUND

The National Development Planning Commission exists to ensure the effective formulation, implementation and monitoring of policies that makes for the Economic growth and development of the nation.

3.0 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Commission are as follows:

- to formulate appropriate National Development Policies and strategies (Medium Term Development Policy Framework, embodying Poverty Reduction Strategies);
- to ensure adequate information dissemination on policy and plans to all stakeholders
- to coordinate and facilitate implementation of specific national programmes and projects;
- to harmonize national development plan and facilitate effective;

- to monitor and evaluate the implementation of Medium Term Development Policy (MTDP) at national, regional and district levels;
- to establish national database to enhance effective policy decision making.

4.0 2004 BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING COMMISSION

For the pursuance of the above stated objectives, the sum of **¢51,249,000,000** has been allocated to the Commission for the 2004 financial year. The breakdown is presented below:

Personnel Emoluments	-	¢2,091,000,000
Administration	-	¢1,118,000,000
Service	-	¢8,000,000,000
Investment	-	¢12,860,000,000
Donor	-	27,180,000,000
TOTAL	-	¢51,249,000,000

5.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee observed that in 2003, the National Development Planning Commission monitored the implementation of the Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy (GPRS) with special emphasis on Medium Term Priorities of Government and the Utilization of HIPC funds.

The technical team informed the Committee that the NDPC collaborated with the Ministry of Local Government and rural Development, the Wealth Creation and Social Development Programme and UNICEF and prepared guidelines for operationalising and streamlining effective and efficient functioning of the District Planning Coordinating Units (DPCUs) and Regional Planning Coordinating Units (RPCUs). This document, the Committee was told would be launched in the first quarter of 2004.

The Committee noted that some of the achievements made so far by the NDPC include:

- review of Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy;
- handbook on Sustainability Appraisal for District Assemblies;
- 110 district Assembly Reports describing outcome of their Sustainability Appraisals;
- training of 20 Regional Officers from Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Regional Planning Coordinating Units (RPCUs);
- training of 428 District Officers.

The Committee further observed that major activities to be undertaken by the NDPC for the 2004 financial year include:

- review and update the GPRS in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning;
- continue coordination of the implementation of the GPRS ;
- harmonization of Sector Plans and Regionally Harmonized District Development Plans into a Medium Term Development Plan (2005-2008);
- implementation of the GPRS Communication Strategy

Other programmes to be continued by NDPC are:

- development of National Spatial Policy Framework
- Ghana Macroeconomics and Health Initiative;
- Strategic Environment Assessment focusing on specific programmes;
- Poverty and Social Impact Assessment (PSIA);
- Participatory Monitoring & Evaluation Training for District Planning Coordinating Units (DPCUs);

- Coordinate the implementation of the Community-Based Poverty Reduction Project (CPRP)

The Committee also observed that HIPC programmes and poverty reduction activities to be undertaken in 2004 by the Commission would include the monitoring of the utilization of the HIPC funds as well as monitor the triggers for the PRSC and HIPC Completion Point.

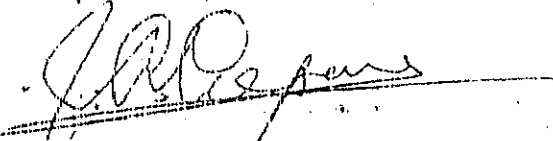
On the Social Investment Fund (SIF), the Committee observed that the Government of Ghana's matching fund component was in arrears to the tune of **¢106 billion**.

The Committee therefore recommends that the said arrears be cleared immediately by the Government of Ghana so as to ensure that the donor components are received on time to avoid the termination of the programme.

5.0 CONCLUSION

The Committee examined the budget estimates of the National Development Planning Committee and recommends that the House adopts and approves the amount of **¢51,249,000,000** being the Commission's allocation for the 2004 financial year.

Respectfully submitted.



**HON. EUGENE ATTA AGYEPONG
(CHAIRMAN)**



**ALHAJI IBRAHIM GOMBILLA
CLERK**

9TH MARCH 2004