

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOOD, AGRICULTURE  
AND COCOA AFFAIRS ON THE 2014 ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE  
MINISTRY OF FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT**

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The 2014 Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the period ending 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2014 was presented to Parliament, by the Minister for Finance, Hon. Seth Terkper, on 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2013 in accordance with Article 179 of the 1992 Constitution.

Pursuant to Orders 140(4) and 176 of the Standing Orders of Parliament, the Speaker referred the Draft Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development to the Committee on Food, Agriculture and Cocoa Affairs for consideration and report to the House.

**1.1 Deliberations**

The Committee met on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2014, and scrutinised the Draft Estimates of the Ministry. Present at the meeting were the Deputy Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, Hon. Aquinas Tawiah Quansah, the Chief Director of the Ministry, Mrs Rebecca Amoah Aboagye and the technical staff of the Ministry. The Committee is grateful to Hon. Deputy Minister and his team for their inputs and clarifications.

**1.2 Reference Materials**

The Committee was guided by the following documents during its consideration of the Estimates:

- I. The 1992 Constitution of Ghana.
- II. The Standing Orders of Parliament.
- III. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of the Republic of Ghana for year 2013.
- IV. The Approved Estimates of the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development for 2013.

- V. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of the Republic of Ghana for the 2014 Financial Year.
- VI. The Medium Term Expenditure Framework of the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development for 2014-2016.

### **1.3 Mission Statement**

The Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development exist to promote sustainable fisheries and aquaculture development through research, technical support services, regulations, institutional building for co-management and stakeholder's participation, provision of statistical and economic intelligence information, monitoring, control and surveillance services (MCS), regional cooperation and the active promotion of livelihood improvement in fishing communities.

## **2.0 REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE FOR 2013 AND OUTLOOK FOR 2014**

### **2.1 Management and Administration**

The Ministry, in 2013, recruited 40 personnel to augment the existing staff strength; trained 10 staff in ICT and other areas, established intranet to connect five directorates of the Ministry, and translated the Fisheries Regulations, 2010, LI, 1968 into local languages for fishing communities.

For year 2014, the Ministry intends to conduct in-service training for 20 staff and also train five staff abroad. The Ministry further intends to link five more Directorates to its intranet.

### **2.2 Fisheries Resource Management**

The objective under the Fisheries Resource Management Programme is to ensure sustainable exploitation of the fisheries resources, both marine and inland, to guarantee production of fish for food security and nutrition of the populace as well as safeguard employment along the fisheries value chain.

To achieve these objectives, the Ministry in 2013 implemented some critical interventions. Some of them are clearing of the proposed site for the Fisheries College at Anomabo for work to commence, commissioning of the construction of the Turnkey Fish Processing

Factory at Elmina and completed the construction of cold stores in Prampram, Half Assini, Shama, Kormantsi and Nyanyano.

The Ministry, in year 2014, plans to facilitate the implementation of Fishermen Life Insurance Scheme for fisher folks. The Scheme aims to transfer the risk of liability resulting from the payment of compensation in the event of accidents in the coastal and lake fishing communities to the private sector. It is envisaged that 200,000 fishermen will be covered under the scheme.

The Ministry intends to commence the construction of phase-1 of the proposed Anomabo College which consists of hostels, administration block, laboratories and lecture halls in 2014.

### **2.3 Aquaculture Development Programme**

The Ministry in 2013 prepared and launched the Ghana National Aquaculture Development Plan (GNADP). The Plan which cost 85million US Dollars aimed at increasing aquaculture production to a total of 100,000 mt by 2016 in order to meet the national fish requirement and to also reduce the overreliance on marine and inland capture fisheries.

For year 2014, the Ministry intends to among others, strengthen the capacity of aquaculture associations by providing business advisory services for existing and potential investors in medium and large scale aquaculture ventures.

In addition, the Ministry intends to develop various profitable fish farming production modules as basis for providing credit to small-scale starter farmers. It will also support the entry and growth of new small-scale investors with profitable business plans in the aquaculture sector. An Extension unit will be established and equipped to provide technical services to fish farmers.

### **2.4 Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Programme**

During the year under review, the Ministry implemented a number of projects under this Programme. They include the setting up of a committee to investigate fishing malpractices. Ten tuna fishing companies that were found to have engaged in illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing practices were sanctioned accordingly.

In addition, the Ministry in collaboration with the European Union developed a road map for improving processes for industrial fisheries operations. A National Steering Committee was inaugurated to oversee the establishment of the Fisheries Enforcement Unit.

The Ministry plans to formally establish the Fisheries Enforcement Unit to efficiently and effectively carry out its duties in respect of combating illegal fishing through land, sea and air surveillance.

In 2014, the Ministry plans to review the Fisheries Act of 2002, the Fisheries Regulations 2010 (L.I. 1968) and also restructure the Fisheries Commission to support the legal and functional reforms expected in the fisheries sector.

## 2.5 Fish Health and Post-Harvest Management Programme

Under the Fish Health and Post-Harvest Management Programme, some important activities implemented during the year include inspection of 17 farms and hatcheries to provide guidance on aquaculture, fish health and sanitary practices to minimize outbreaks and spread of diseases. The Ministry also investigated deaths of aquatic organisms.

In 2014, the Ministry intends to continue the construction of the Turnkey Fish Processing Plant at Elmina which consists of 40 chilled cubicles with display units, cold storage rooms of 100 metric tons capacity, blast freezers, two ice making plants and a waste processing plant.

## 3.0 BUDGETARY ALLOCATION FOR THE 2014 FISCAL YEAR

**Table 1: Breakdown of the 2014 Budgetary Allocation by Expenditure Item**

<i>Expenditure Item</i>	<i>Sources of Funding</i>				
	<i>GOG(GH¢)</i>	<i>IGF (GH¢)</i>	<i>ABFA(GH¢)</i>	<i>Donor(GH¢)</i>	<i>Total (GH¢)</i>
<i>Comp of Employees</i>	8,000,000	-	-	-	8,000,000
<i>Goods &amp; Services</i>	1,637,770	6,624,260		4,501,541	12,763,571
<i>Capital Expenditure</i>	5,605,933	-	84,240,168	18,006,165	107,852,266
<b><i>Grand Total</i></b>	<b>15,243,703</b>	<b>6,624,260</b>	<b>84,240,168</b>	<b>22,507,706</b>	<b>128,615,836</b>

**Table 2: Breakdown of Allocation by Programme**

<i>Programme</i>	<i>Sources of funding</i>				
	<i>GOG (GH¢)</i>	<i>IGF (GH¢)</i>	<i>ABFA (GH¢)</i>	<i>Donor (GH¢)</i>	<i>Total (GH¢)</i>
<i>Mgt &amp; Admin</i>	11,165,098	4,103,605	-	4,350,024	19,618,727
<i>Fisheries Resources Mgt</i>	2,707,647	1,757,571	79,240,168	11,273,726	94,979,112
<i>Aquaculture Development</i>	1,320,535	200,239	5,000,000	955,280	7,476,054
<i>Fisheries Monit. Cont. &amp; Surveil</i>	15,634	68,400	-	4,243,265	4,327,299
<i>Aquatic Animal Health &amp; Post-harvest Mgt</i>	34,789	494,445	-	1,685,411	2,214,645
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,243,703</b>	<b>6,624,260</b>	<b>84,240,168</b>	<b>22,507,706</b>	<b>128,615,836</b>

An amount of **One Hundred and Twenty-Eight Million, Six Hundred and Fifteen Thousand, Eight Hundred and Thirty-Six Ghana Cedis (GH¢128, 615, 836)** has been allocated to the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development to implement its planned policies, programmes and projects for the 2014 fiscal year.

The allocation comprises of GOG component of **GH¢15,243,703** representing **11.85%** of the total allocation, a donor element of **GH¢22,507,706** or **17.50%**, IGF of **GH¢6,624,260** or **5.1%** and ABFA of **GH¢84,240,168** representing **65.50%**.

#### **4.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

##### **4.1 Delays in Release of Allocations**

The Committee noted that less than 40% of the sector allocation for 2013 had been released as at October. The Ministry of Finance attributed part of the delay to internal challenges emanating from the separation of the Ministry from the Ministry of Food and

Agriculture (MOFA). According to the Ministry of Finance, some releases were made to the latter Ministry because there were some Programmes that were still partly managed by that Ministry.

The Committee however found the explanation from the Ministry of Finance untenable because it was noted that releases to the Ministry of Food and Agriculture within the same time frame was also below 52%. The Committee is of the view that delay in release of funds is unhealthy for effective implementation of planned policies and programmes. The Committee therefore recommends that effort should be made in the coming years to ensure timely release of funds to the sector.

#### **4.2 Development of Alternative Livelihood Programmes for Fishing Communities**

It is the view of the Committee that steps to control and manage the sustainable exploitation of marine resources must be complimented with the provision of alternative livelihoods programmes for the fisher folks. It is in this regard that the Committee welcomes the proposal from the Ministry to develop alternative livelihood programmes for 150 Farmer Based Organizations (FBO) in 2014 under the West Africa Regional Fisheries Programme. The Committee lauds the Ministry for this initiative and urges it to intensify effort at providing more livelihood programmes for these fisher folks.

#### **4.3 Lack of Office Accommodation**

The Committee was informed that the Ministry is currently housed in a temporary structure that is not befitting its status. The Deputy Minister informed the Committee that the old Ministry of Transport building has been allocated to the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development to use as Headquarters. The Committee however noted that the building is not in good shape. It was further noted that an amount of GH¢600,000 was allocated in 2013 budget for the renovation of the facility. The Committee recommends that as a matter of urgency, the Ministry of Finance should release the said amount for the renovation of the building.

#### **4.4 Development of Aquaculture**

The Committee expressed concern about the over exploitation of marine resources in spite of the existing rigorous regulatory framework. As a response to the declining fish stock in the country, the Committee noted that the Ministry had launched a National Aquaculture Development Plan with the objective of increasing the current production of 27,750 metric tonnes to 100,000 metric tonnes by 2016.

The Committee further noted that the Plan would cost about US\$85 million to implement. It was however observed that only Gh¢5 million was allocated to aquaculture development in 2014.

The Committee recommends that the Government should make every effort to raise enough money to implement the Plan in order to meet the target of 100,000 mt by 2016 and to also reduce the overreliance on marine fishing.

#### **4.5 Annual Budget Funding Amount (ABFA)**

The Committee noted that an amount of **Gh¢84,240,168** has been allocated to the Ministry as part of the 1.7 billion Ghana Cedis ABFA expected in 2014. The amount is to be used for the development of Landing Sites and Aquaculture infrastructure. The Committee believes that the need to inject more funds to develop Ghana's landing sites was long overdue in view of the high post-harvest losses associated with fish catch. The Committee therefore recommends that effort should be made to release the said amount timely to enable the Ministry execute its planned projects successfully.

#### **5.0 CONCLUSION**

The Committee has thoroughly scrutinised the Draft Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development for the 2014 fiscal year and accordingly recommends to the House to adopt its Report and approve the total sum of **One Hundred and Twenty-Eight Million, Six Hundred and Fifteen Thousand, Eight Hundred and Thirty-Six Ghana Cedis (GH¢128,615,836)** to enable the Ministry implement its planned programmes and projects for the ensuing year, 2014.

Respectfully submitted.

  
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HON. STEPHEN KUNSU  
VICE CHAIRMAN

  
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KOFI MENKAH (MR.)  
ASSISTANT CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

*November, 2014*