

**IN THE FIRST SESSION OF THE SIXTH
PARLIAMENT OF THE FOURTH
REPUBLIC OF GHANA**

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON
YOUTH, SPORTS AND CULTURE**

ON THE

**2014 ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES
OF THE MINISTRY OF CHIEFTAINCY
AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS**

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MINISTRY OF CHIEFTAINCY AND
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Hon. Minister for Finance, Mr. Seth Terkper presented the Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2014 Financial Year to the House on Tuesday, 19th November 2013 in accordance with article 179 of the 1992 Constitution. Pursuant to Order 140(4) of the Standing Orders of the House, the Rt. Hon. Speaker referred the Annual Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Traditional Affairs to the Committee on Youth, Sports and Culture for consideration and report.

1.2 Subsequently, the Committee met with the Hon. Minister for Chieftaincy and Traditional Affairs, Dr. Henry Seidu Daannaa and his team on Tuesday, 3rd December 2013 and considered the referral.

The Committee expresses its appreciation to the Hon. Minister and his team for their cooperation.

2.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

The Committee made reference to the following documents during its deliberations:

- i. The 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana.
- ii. The Standing Orders of the Parliament of Ghana.
- ii. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2013 Financial Year.
- iii. The 2014 Annual Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Culture.

- iv. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2014 Financial Year.

3.0 MISSION STATEMENT

The Ministry exists for the development of effective interface between Government and Civil Society on matters relating to Chieftaincy and Traditional Affairs for the promotion of peace, good governance, national cultural values and international partnership for the overall development of Ghana

4.0 PERFORMANCE FOR YEAR 2013

Table 1

Budgetary Allocation and Releases for 2013

EXPENDITURE ITEM	2013 ALLOCATION (GH¢)	ACTUALS (GH¢)	VARIANCE	Variance (%)
COMPENSATION	14,215,973.00	6,637,844.30	7,578,128.70	53.3%
GOODS AND SERVICES	1,758,450.00	439,954.25	1,318,495.75	74.98%
ASSETS	3,275,730.00	667,486.00	2,608,244.00	79.6%
TOTAL	19,250,153.00	7,745,284.55	11,504,868.45	59.8%

- 4.1 The Committee noted that out of the total budgetary allocation of GH¢19,250,153 for year 2013, only GH¢7,745,284.55 constituting 40.2% was released. It is worth noting that, only GH¢6,637,844.30 (46.7%) out of an allocation of GH¢14,215,973.00 for compensation had been released. For Goods and Services, GH¢439,954.25 representing 25.02% of an allocation of GH¢1,758,450.00 was released. An amount of GH¢667,486.00 (20.4%) out of an allocation of GH¢3,275,730.00 was released for Assets.

The Committee expressed concern about the fact that a high percentage of the Ministry's allocation for Goods and Services (74.98%) and Assets (79.6%) was not released, thus making it

extremely difficult for the Ministry to fully and effectively implement its planned programmes for the year.

The untimely and non-release of approved funds affected, among others, the ability of the:

- Houses of Chiefs to engage experienced counsels in the resolution of chieftaincy cases, and also acquire offices and residential accommodation.
- Ministry to acquire office equipment and a permanent office accommodation.

The above notwithstanding, the Ministry undertook the following activities:

- i. Processed sixteen (16) Legislative Instruments indicating lines of succession to sixteen (16) stools/skins for passage into law
- ii. Launched the Royal Codes of Ethics for Chiefs and Queen Mothers to promote and uphold the dignity of Traditional Authority
- iii. Successfully laid the Chieftaincy Legislative Instrument, 2013, LI 2207, in pursuant of its Customary Law Programme
- iv. Facilitated the resolution of forty (40) chieftaincy cases by Judicial Committees of the National and Regional Houses of Chiefs through the judicial process and the amicable settlement of ninety-one (91) disputes through the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) processes.

5.0 BUDGETARY ALLOCATION FOR YEAR 2014

To implement its programmes and activities for year 2014, an amount of **Twenty Million, Two Hundred and Twenty-seven Thousand, Nine Hundred and Ninety-one Ghana Cedis (GH¢20,227,991.00)** has been allocated to the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Traditional Affairs. The breakdown is captured in table 2:

Table 2
Summary of Budgetary Allocation

EXPENDITURE ITEM	2014 ALLOCATION (GH¢)
COMPENSATION(Salaries& Allowances)	17,524,868
GOODS & SERVICES	1,340,849
ASSETS	1,362,274
TOTAL	20,227,991

The Ministry intends to apply its budgetary allocation for year 2014 to implement a number of programmes including the following:

- i. Undertake Chieftaincy Research to establish and codify clear lines of succession in 16 traditional areas.
- ii. Undertake research to establish and codify customary land and family law in 20 traditional areas.
- iii. Undertake monitoring and evaluation of the programmes and activities of the National House of Chiefs and three (3) Regional Houses of Chiefs.
- iv. Organise fifty (50) advocacy Programmes on harmful customary practices and disputes.

6.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 The Committee observed that an amount of GH¢17,524,868.00 representing 86.64% of the total allocation of GH¢20,227,991.00 will go into the payment of salaries and allowances. This means that the Ministry would be left with a meagre amount of GH¢2,703,123 (representing 13.36%) for the execution of its programmes for the year.

6.2 This year, the Ministry will continue with its project on “Research and Codification of Lines of Succession Applicable to Stools/Skins”. It is expected that by the end of the year, sixteen (16) lines of chieftaincy succession would have been documented and verified. The Committee acknowledges the

importance of this project in view of the fact that chieftaincy disputes rarely arise in areas where lines of succession are codified. The Committee therefore urges the Ministry of Finance to make timely release of funds to enable the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Traditional Affairs carry out this activity.

- 6.3 The Committee was informed that the Ministry will continue with its project on “Research and Codification of Customary Land and Family Law” in twenty (20) traditional areas. The Committee considers this project laudable since a ‘customary lands plan’ will go a long way to minimise land and chieftaincy related conflicts in the country.
- 6.4 The scope of the Chieftaincy Institution has been widened to officially include Queen Mothers. It has therefore become imperative to build the capacity of Queen Mothers to enable them perform their role effectively. To this end, the Ministry will organise advocacy programmes on harmful customary practices and seminars to promote Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanism. The Committee shares the view that the increased scope of the Ministry’s activities will require more funds and therefore requests the Ministry of Finance to release the needed resources for the successful implementation of this activity.
- 6.5 The Committee identified the Ministry’s chieftaincy dispute resolution role as an important mechanism to promote peace within traditional communities. In year 2013, the Ministry facilitated the amicable settlement of 150 out of the 650 cases through mediation, reconciliation and alternative dispute resolution (ADR). This year, the Ministry intends to continue with its dispute resolution programmes to foster peace.
- 6.6 The Committee recognises the need to build the capacity of staff of the Ministry to ensure efficient performance. However, due to inadequate resources over the years, staff of the Ministry do not often receive the requisite training. The Committee recommends that adequate resources should be allocated to the Ministry to enable it build its human resource capacity.

6.7 The Committee noted that due to inadequate allocation, late releases and in some cases the non-release of funds, the Ministry was unable to undertake most of its planned activities for year 2013. The Committee strongly urges the Ministry of Finance to ensure that funds allocated are released to enable the Ministry implement its planned programmes for year 2014.


7.0 CONCLUSION

The Ministry of Chieftaincy and Traditional Affairs plays an important role in preserving, conserving, developing and promoting traditional institutions, culture and values to project the unique Ghanaian identity and national pride.

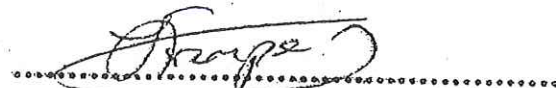
However, the budgetary allocation to the Ministry is inadequate to enable it fully achieve its objectives. In the light of this, the Committee urges the Ministry of Finance to give more priority to the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Traditional Affairs in the allocation of resources.

The Committee hereby recommends to the House for approval, the sum of **Twenty Million, Two Hundred and Twenty-seven Thousand, Nine Hundred and Ninety-one Ghana Cedis (GH¢20,227,991.00)** for the implementation of the programmes of the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Traditional Affairs for the 2014 financial year.

Respectfully submitted



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HON. KOBENA MENSAH WOYOME
(CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE)



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JANET FRIMPONG
(CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE)

December 2014