

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

**REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE ON THE 2014 BUDGET
ESTIMATES OF THE OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT MACHINERY**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the year ending 31st December 2014 was presented to the House by the Hon. Minister for Finance, Mr. Seth Terkper, on Tuesday 19th November, 2013, and pursuant to Article 179 of the Constitution and Order 140 (4) of the Standing Orders of the House, the **2014 Annual Budget Estimates of the Office of Government Machinery** were referred to the Finance Committee for consideration and report.

The Committee subsequently met with the Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Seth Terkper, the Ministers of State at the Presidency, Hon. Alhassan Azong and Hon. Mustapha Ahmed (Rtd.)(Maj.) (Dr.) (Alh.), Chief Director at the Presidency, heads and technical teams from the various Departments and Agencies under Government Machinery and officials from the Ministry of Finance and reports as follows:

2.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

In considering the Estimates for the Government Machinery, the Committee was guided by the following documents:

1. The 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana;
2. The Standing Orders of the House;
3. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2014 Financial Year; and
4. The 2014 Budget Estimates for the Government Machinery.

3.0 BACKGROUND

Government Machinery embraces the Office of the President as the seat of Government, the Regional Co-ordinating Councils (RCCs) and those Organizations whose operations fall outside traditional areas of sectorial responsibility, for which the Office of the President (Government Machinery) exists to provide administrative, managerial and technical services.

The Office of Government Machinery comprises the following;

- i. Office of the President;
- ii. Office of the Head of Civil Service;
- iii. Management Services;
- iv. Scholarships Secretariat;
- v. Public Records and Archives Administration Department;
- vi. Ghana Aids Commission;
- vii. Commissions and Councils;
- viii. National Identification Authority;
- ix. National Population Council;
- x. Ghana Investment Promotion Centre;
- xi. Internal Audit Agency;
- xii. Savannah Accelerated Development Authority;
- xiii. National Pensions Regulatory Authority;
- xiv. Microfinance and Small Loans Centre;
- xv. Office of the National Security; and
- xvi. Regional Co-ordinating Councils.
- xvii. Office of the Administrator General
- xviii. Office of the Chief of State protocol

Goal and Objectives

The Office of Government Machinery exists to institutionalize open, transparent, and accountable governance for the attainment of government's development agenda of improving the quality of life of Ghanaians. The Office of Government Machinery policy objectives include among others, the following;

- To improve the balance of among arms of government, governance institutions and their functioning,
- To ensure inclusive and equitable political system
- To ensure effective implementation of the decentralization policy and programme
- Ensure efficient and effective resource mobilization, internal revenue generation and resource management.
- Strengthen policy and development planning process for equitable and balanced spatial and economic development
- Rationalise and define structures, roles and procedures for state institutions
- Enhance supervision and productivity in the Public service and
- Improve the responsiveness of the public service in service delivery an;
- Mainstream development communication across the public sector policy cycle among others.

4.0 2013 BUDGET ALLOCATIONS

During the year under review, the Office of Government Machinery (OGM) was allocated a ceiling of **Three Hundred and Twelve Million, Three Hundred and Forty-five Thousand, Five Hundred and Twenty-one Ghana Cedis (GH¢312,345,521)** for the 2013 financial year. The breakdown at item level is shown in table 1 below.

Summary of 2013 allocation by item. Table 1

	ITEM	GOG (GH¢)	IGF (GH¢)	Donor (GH¢)	Total
1	Employee Compensation	135,572,334.00	-	-	135,572,334
2	Goods & Services	98,113,522.00	15,415,571.00	193,330.00	113,722,423
3	Assets	41,923,685.00	353,759.00	773,320.00	43,050,764
4	ABFA	-	-	-	20,000,000
5	TOTAL	275,609,541.00	15,769,330.00	966,650.00	312,345,521

5.0 2013 PERFORMANCE

Under-listed activities were undertaken by the agencies of Government Machinery during the year under review:

5.1 Office of the Head of the Civil Service

- ✓ Office of the Head of Civil Service organized a sensitization workshop for MDAs on the revised Annual Performance Reporting System aimed at improving performance assessment reporting of the Service and as well prepared and submitted the Annual Performance Report on the Civil Service for 2012 to the Office of the President.
- ✓ Started the construction of a 3 storey 15-Unit Classroom Block for the Civil Service Training Centre in Accra and trained the first batch of Civil Servants from Liberia and Sierra Leone.
- ✓ Organized a one week induction course for newly appointed Chief Directors of the Civil Service and re-introduced the signing of Performance Agreements to assess their performance.

5.2 Scholarships Secretariat

- ✓ Paid the second term fees of 73,675 students on scholarships in second cycle institutions as well as allowances for the first half year for 671 students on Bilateral Scholarship Awards in 12 countries.

5.3 National Pensions Regulatory Authority

- ✓ As part of the Regulatory service programme, National Pensions Regulatory Authority submitted 2 Legislative Instruments on the Basic National Social Security Scheme Regulations and the Occupational and Personal Pensions Schemes Regulations which has been passed into law and gazetted.
- ✓ The Authority organized orientation and sensitization workshops for stakeholders on the Three-Tier Contributory Pension Scheme and sensitized informal sector groups on special pension schemes for workers in that sector and :
- ✓ Also developed a public information, education and communication strategy and completed guidelines for registration. The Authority also registered Schemes, Pension Fund Managers and Custodians as well as Licensed Trustees.

5.4 Internal Audit Agency

- ✓ Undertook audit inspections based on reviewed 299 of the 610 internal audit reports of MDAs and MMDAs and presented inspection reports to their respective management for redress.
- ✓ Assisted the National Health Insurance Authority in their regional financial and operational audits of the Mutual Health Insurance Schemes throughout the country and submitted the requisite reports to the Authority for further action.
- ✓ During the year under review, the internal Audit Agency trained 50 heads of IAUs in quality management and conducted reviews at 50 IAUs to improve

the quality of Internal Audit Reports received from Internal Audit Units (IAUs) of MDAs and MMDAs.

- ✓ Trained 670 members of staff of IAUs in the use of the IAA website as well as reviewing the Quality Assurance Improvement Programme Manual in line with the new IIA Standards and trained staff from selected IAUs in conducting quality assurance reviews. Three hundred and ninety-five officers from 25 MDAs/MMDAs were also trained in integrated risk management.

5.5 Microfinance and Small Loans Centre (MASLOC)

- ✓ The Micro Finance and Small Loans Centre (MASLOC) imported and distributed 1,000 outboard motors and 6,450 bundles of fishing nets to fishermen in all the fishing communities in Ghana. These 1,000 outboard motors are expected to generate at least 13,000 new direct jobs and 20,000 indirect jobs.
- ✓ MASLOC funded 48 poultry farmers in the Volta Region to produce table eggs for sale and also provided training and supervision as well as markets for their produce under the Poultry Finance Scheme to improve incomes, livelihoods and economic welfare of farmers

5.6 Ghana Aids Commission (GAC)

- ✓ As part of the HIV and AIDS Management Programme, the Ghana AIDS Commission embarked on a drive to increase HIV testing and counseling uptake through the "Know Your Status" Campaign and implemented activities that increased the number of Persons Living with HIV on Anti-Retroviral Treatment (ART) and the uptake of Preventing Mother to Child Transmission of HIV.
- ✓ The Commission worked with the media on HIV counseling and testing, Preventing Mother to Child Transmission of HIV, stigma and discrimination and Anti-Retroviral Treatment. In addition, the Commission worked closely with Civil Society Organizations to undertake community outreach through peer education, one-on-one and group discussions, community mobilization for HIV testing and counseling, condom promotion and distribution, film shows and drama and Information, Education and Communication (IE/C)

materials distribution. Through these interventions, a total of 3,934,449 people were reached with HIV messages and information during the year under review.

5.7 Public Records and Archives Administration Department PRAAD

- ✓ Developed a draft policy on records management and began the establishment of a records management system at the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection and as well decongested 7 records offices of MDAs.
- ✓ During the year under review, the Department trained various categories of staff of the Civil Service in records management and conducted orientation for newly recruited Records Class staff and commenced the appraisal of semi-current records at the Centre. to decongest the National Records Centre

5.8 National Population Council (NPC)

- ✓ Developed the 6th Country Programme (2012-2016) with the support of UNFPA and other partners.
- ✓ Also the NPC produced the final report of a research on Tourism, Sexual Violence and HIV and AIDS in selected districts in the Central and Greater Accra regions.

National Identification Authority

- ✓ As part of the Security and safety Management programme, the National Identification Authority (NIA) completed the establishment of the National Identity Register and began the full operation of the national identification system.
- ✓ Data collection in the remaining three Northern Regions was completed bringing to 15,216,450 the number of registered persons, representing 69 percent of the total registerable population. The Authority also printed and distributed 800,000 Ghana cards in the Greater Accra Region