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

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**ON THE 2014 ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE
MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL
DEVELOPMENT**

DECEMBER, 2013

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL
DEVELOPMENT ON THE 2014 ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE
MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 On Tuesday, 19th November, 2013 the Hon. Minister for Finance, Mr. Seth Emmanuel Terkper, in accordance with Article 179 of the 1992 Constitution and Order 140 (1) and (2) of the Standing Orders of the House, laid before Parliament the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure of the Government of Ghana for the 2014 Fiscal Year.
- 1.2 The Rt. Hon Speaker in accordance with Order 140 (4) of the Standing Orders referred the Draft Annual Estimates of the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development to the Committee on Local Government and Rural Development for consideration and report.
- 1.3 The Committee met on Thursday, 28th and Friday 29th November, 2013 and considered the Annual Estimates of the Sector Ministry in accordance with Article 179 of the Constitution and Order 181 of the Standing Orders of the House.

2.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 2.1 During the deliberations on the Estimates, the Committee met with the Minister of Local Government and Rural Development, Hon. Akwasi Opong-Fosu, the Deputy Ministers, Hon. Baba Jamal and Hon. Emmanuel Agyekum, the Chief Director, Heads of the various Departments, Agencies and Projects of the Ministry and Officials from

the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning. The Committee is grateful to these persons for their invaluable contributions.

3.0 REFERENCES

3.1 In discussing the estimates, the Committee made reference to the following materials:

- a. The 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana
- b. The Standing Orders of the House
- c. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2013 financial year.
- d. The 2014 Draft Annual Estimates of the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, and
- e. Report of the Committee on the 2013 Annual Estimates of the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development.

4.0 MISSION OF THE MINISTRY

4.1 The Ministry is mandated to ensure good governance and balanced development of Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) through the formulation of policies on governance, decentralization, rural development and environment and draws Guidelines on the acquisition and use of human resources by Assemblies.

4.2 The Ministry is further authorized to design and deliver systems that would set targets and monitor the performance of Local Assemblies. It also develops, monitor sector plans and provides management advisory services to the Assemblies.

5.0 BROAD POLICY OBJECTIVES

The following are the broad policy objectives of the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development:

- i. Ensure effective implementation of decentralization policy and programmes.
- ii. Ensure effective and efficient resource mobilization, internal revenue generation and resource management
- iii. Integrate and institutionalize district level planning and budgeting through participatory process at all levels
- iv. Mainstream Local Economic Development (LED) for growth and local employment creation
- v. Promote redistribution of urban population and spatially integrated hierarchy of urban settlements throughout the country
- vi. Promote resilient urban infrastructure development, maintain and provide basic services
- vii. Create an enabling environment to accelerate rural growth and development
- viii. Facilitate the sustainable use and management of natural resources that support the development of rural communities and livelihoods
- ix. Promote the construction, upgrading and maintenance of new integrated commercial/residential housing communities

- x. Establish an institutional framework for effective coordination of human settlements development
- xi. Accelerate the provision of improved environmental sanitation facilities
- xii. Ensure the development and implementation of health and hygiene education as a component of all water and sanitation programmes
- xiii. Adopt a sector-wide approach to water and environmental sanitation delivery
- xiv. Improve sector institutional capacity
- xv. Foster and promote the culture of leisure and healthy lifestyle among Ghanaians

6.0 PERFORMANCE REVIEW OF 2013 BUDGET

- 6.1 In the year under review Parliament approved an amount of **Four Hundred and Forty-Seven Million, Four Hundred and Ninety-Five Thousand, Nine Hundred and One Ghana Cedis GH¢447,495,901.00** from a combination of Government of Ghana (GoG), Donor and Social Intervention Sources for the operations of the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development as well as its Departments and Agencies.

6.2 As at September 2013, the Ministry expended **Two Hundred and Sixty-Five Million, Two Hundred and Sixty-Three Thousand, One Hundred and Eighty-Seven Cedis, Twenty-Two Pesewas (GH¢265,263,187.22)** representing about **59.28 %** of the total amount approved by Parliament.

6.3. 2013 ALLOCATIONS AS REVIEWED

The breakdown of the budgetary allocation and expenditure returns of the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development for the year 2013 as at September were as follows:

TABLE A

ITEM	GOG (GH¢)	DONOR (GH¢)	SIP	ABFA	TOTAL (GH¢)
COMPENSATION FOR EMPLOYEES	116,121,205.00				116,121,205.00
GOODS & SERVICES	41,032,090.00	37,962,279.00	85,000,000.00		163,994,369.00
ASSETS	5,531,212.00	151,849,115.00	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	167,380,327.00
TOTAL	162,684,507.00	189,811,394.00	90,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	447,495,901.00

EXPENDITURE (JANUARY – SEPTEMBER, 2013)

TABLE B

ITEM	2013 APPROVED BUDGET (GH¢)	2013 RELEASED (GH¢)	EXPENDITURE (GH¢)	EXPENDITURE (%)
COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES	116,121,205.00	161,624,108.27	161,624,108.27	139.19
GOODS & SERVICES	41,032,092.00	1,809,579.80	¶ 664,879.03	1.57
ASSETS	5,531,212.00	37,879.60	37,879.60	0.68
SIP	90,000,000.00	2,848,376.81	2,848,376.81	3.16
ABFA	5,000,000.00	-	-	-
DONOR	189,811,394.00	100,520,800.07	100,520,800.07	52.96
TOTAL	447,495,901.00	266,840,744.55	265,676,043.78	59.37

6.4 2013 ALLOCATION/EXPENDITURE (SIP UNDER DACF)

The Allocations for Social Intervention Programmes for the year 2013 and the Expenditure Returns as at September 2013 were as follows:

TABLE C

ITEM	2013 APPROVED BUDGET (GH¢)	EXPENDITURE (GH¢)	EXPENDITURE (%)
GHANA SCHOOL FEEDING	199,000,000.00	92,989,115.39	46.73
NATIONAL SANITATION PROGRAMME	60,000,000.00	771,800.00	1.29
SANITATION/WASTE MANAGEMENT	30,000,000.00	-	-
SANITATION GUARDS	30,000,000.00	-	-
TOTAL	319,000,000.00	93,760,917.39	29.39

7.0 PERFORMANCE FOR 2013

7.1 Local Government Service

7.1.1 The Committee was informed that the Local Government Service collaborated with the Institute of Local Government Studies (ILGS) to conduct orientation for 2,602 newly recruited staff of the Local Government Service (LGS). Also a Code of Conduct and Human Resource Operational Manual were drafted for the service.

7.1.2 The Committee was again informed that the Local Government Service Secretariat acquired Server Space with National Information Technology Agency (NITA) to host Local Government Service Secretariat (LGSS) Website and Human Resource data for the Local Government Services.

7.1.3 Additionally, Scheme of Service for Environmental Health and Sanitation, Social Welfare and Community Development as well as Legal Classes were drafted and are ready for validation.

7.1.4 The Local Government Service also developed a framework for participatory planning for MMDAs to help strengthen citizen-government engagements.

7.1.5 Last but not the least, the Service has submitted to Cabinet for consideration and onward submission to Parliament for approval, amendments of legislation on Schedule II Departments of L.I.1961 namely: Ghana Library Board, Births and Deaths Registry, National Youth Authority and National Sports Authority.

7.2 Local Government Capacity Support Project

- 7.2.1 The Committee was informed that a total of 201 sub-projects in the areas of education, health, energy, transportation, security, water and environmental sanitation were awarded by 30 participating Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) and also 53 sub-projects were completed. Furthermore, 157 sub-projects are on-going.
- 7.2.2 The Committee was also informed that 46 technical staff of MMDAs were trained in procurement and financial management to facilitate project implementation.
- 7.2.3 Also, under the capacity support fund, USD 880,000 was disbursed to 22 Metropolitan and Municipal Assemblies (MMAs) for activities related to street naming, property re-valuation, preparation of revenue enhancement plans, preparation of assets register and preparation of database for business operation permits.
- 7.2.4 Furthermore, the Committee was informed that under the Local Government Capacity Support Project, 4 regional technical adviser teams were procured to provide technical support to 46 MMAs.

7.3 District Development Facility (DDF) and Urban Development Grants (UDG)

- 7.3.1 The Committee was informed that a total amount of GH¢73,000,000.00 was transferred to all MMDAs under the District Development Fund whilst an amount of GH ¢17,716,031.00 was transferred to MMAs under the Urban Development Grant (UDG).

7.4 Ghana School Feeding Programme

7.4.1 The Committee was informed that in the year under review, the Ghana School Feeding Programme (GSFP), as part of its preparation towards the development of National School Feeding Policy, organized Technical Stakeholder consultations with NGOs, 10 Regional Stakeholders consultation as well as consultation with Members of Parliament.

7.4.2 The Committee was further informed that in order to improve the nutritional intake of pupils, a ration design tool was developed by the National School Feeding Programme. This is essentially a menu planning instrument developed to ensure nutritionally balanced meals using available local food crops.

7.4.3 The Programme has also engaged an Agricultural Consultant to help in the designing of a programme to link the School Feeding Programme with Agriculture.

7.4.4 Again, the GSFP has finished the collection of data as part of the Impact Evaluation of the programme baseline.

7.5 Community Development

7.5.1 The Committee was informed that 2,853 youth consisting of 682 males and 2,171 females passed out with Vocational, Technical and Entrepreneurial Skills. Also the Gender Responsive Skills and Community Development Project (GRSCDP) offered a scholarship package to additional 500 females from poor households in the 59 beneficiary Districts of the GRSCDP.

7.5.2 Five hundred and thirty-four (534) women group leader were trained in various income generating and entrepreneurial skills which impacted on a total membership of 16,643 women. 120 community Educators (change agent) received training on Community Education out of which 56 graduated.

7.5.3 Six hundred and twenty-five mass meetings were organized with an estimated audience of 71,945 and 424 study group meetings were held with total participants of 18,073 consisting of 6,338 males and 11,735 females.

7.6 Births and Deaths Registry

7.6.1 The Committee was informed that out of the expected target of 664,853 Births for the period under review a total of 111,317 representing 16.74% were registered and issued with certified copies of Birth Certificates.

7.6.2 Also, out of the expected target of 668,542 Deaths registration expected for the period under review a total of 102,742 representing 15.36% were registered and issued with certified copies of Death certificates.

7.6.3 Births and Deaths Certificates, Registers and Forms were printed and distributed to promote and expand the Community Population Register in 68 rural communities. Additional Registration Centres were established in 54 rural communities.

7.7 Parks, Gardens and Recreation

7.7.1 The Committee was informed that landscaped areas of all roundabouts, road medians and road shoulders in our cities and towns were maintained.

7.7.2 Also, the Flagstaff House, Castle Gardens, Peduase Lodge, State House Gardens and all Regional Coordinating Councils (RCCs) gardens were maintained. All Parks in the Country including Nationalism Park were maintained.

7.7.3 The Committee was again informed that the cultivation and conservation of medicinal and aromatic plants are ongoing.

7.7.4 Also, the identification of rare and threatened plant species and their multiplication are in progress.

7.7.5 Furthermore, 350,000 tree seedlings were supplied to various communities, schools and organized groups as at the end of July, 2013, for planting to combat climate change.

7.7.6 The collection of plant species to feed the Biodiversity Information Facility (Ghana B.I.F) that was established in collaboration with Botany Department of the University of Ghana is in progress.

7.8 Environmental Health and Sanitation

7.8.1 The Committee was informed that the unit scaled up the Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) in Eastern and Brong Ahafo regions, bringing the total number to 7 regions. A total of 3,959 Tertiary Students were deployed under the Ghana Students' Industrial Attachment Programme on education campaign on sanitation.

- 7.8.2 Sensitization of focus groups such as water vendors, food vendors, public toilet operators, etc were held in the Eastern, Brong Ahafo, Volta, Greater Accra, Central, Northern and Upper East Regions to sensitize them on Cholera. The unit developed Basic Sanitation Information System to monitor sanitation services in small towns and rural communities.
- 7.8.3 The Project rolled out Results Based Financing in CLTS among Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in the Upper East, Upper West, Volta and Central Regions.
- 7.8.4 The Project again developed and distributed Information, Education and Communication (IE&C) materials for Behaviour Change Communication to all the 10 regions of the Country. It further sensitized focus groups namely: Water Vendors, Public Toilet Operators etc on Cholera in the Eastern, Brong Ahafo, Volta, Greater Accra, Central, Northern and the Upper East Regions.
- 7.8.5 Again, the Project sensitised and distributed Cholera education materials and Aquatabs in Ejura Sekyere-Dumase and Mampong Municipalities.
- 7.8.6 Furthermore, the Project organised one (1) National Technical Working Group on Sanitation (NTWGS) Meeting and conducted 3 Training Workshops on CLTS under the tutelage of Dr. Kamal Kar, the originator of CLTS.
- 7.8.7 Additionally, the Project developed Basic Sanitation Information System to monitor sanitation services in small towns and Rural Communities.

7.9 Ghana Social Opportunities Project (GSOP)

7.9.1 The Committee was informed that the Draft Report on the Rationalization of National Social Protection Spending was completed. A total of 38 sub-projects made up of 1 school block, 22 feeder roads, 15 dams and dug-outs were completed. A total of 59,345 individuals were employed as compared to a target of 33,800.

7.9.2 Again, a total of 71,456 people received payments under the LEAP as of June 2013.

7.10 Local Enterprises and Skills Development Project (LESDEP)

7.10.1 The Committee was informed that 15,000 persons were trained in various Technical, Business and Entrepreneurship Skills. However, the Programme provided Business Set-up equipment to 3,000 beneficiaries out of the 15,000.

7.11 Food Security and Environment Facility (FSEF)

7.11.1 The Committee was informed that a knowledge sharing platform was organised for 75 key partners including development partners to share knowledge and best practices in food security.

7.11.2 The "Zai", a simple agricultural technology method which was introduced to 715 farmers improved their maize production from 3 bags per acre to 8 bags in Builsa, East Gonja, East Mamprusi and Garu-Tempani Districts under the Sustainable Farming Techniques sub-project. The project supported 2,749 farmers with 24 community onion storage structures under the onion Value Chain Improvement

Sub-Project in 8 communities in Bawku West to increase storage Capacity. Fifteen of these facilities are in full use. The bulb size of onion increased from 60 to 100 grams by the introduction of new variety (galmin) and improved agronomic practices under this project.

7.11.3 The Project also completed the construction of 9 'chokor smokers' in two fishing communities in Central Gonja District. Also the project commenced the construction of four guinea fowl incubators in four communities in the Nadowli District and Wa Municipality.

7.12 Urban Development and Management

7.12.1 The Committee was informed that Cabinet approved the Policy Guidelines and Operational Manual for Street Naming and Property Addressing for MMDAs.

7.12.2 The Ghana Urban Management Pilot Project (GUMPP) completed the procurement of Design and Supervision Consultants for Priority Investment Projects in Ho, Tamale, Kumasi and Sekondi-Takoradi. Furthermore, the Programme developed Terms of Reference for Procurement of Consultants for Street Naming, Spatial and Local Plan Development and Revenue Mobilization Software.

7.12.3 The Project has fashioned out a Manual on Street Naming to serve as hands-on guide for MMDAs. It also completed the procurement of Consultants to conduct study and submit a report on Urban Review for Ghana. A Draft Slum Upgrading Strategy document was also completed.

8.0 OUTLOOK FOR 2014

8.1 Local Government Service

For the year 2014 the Local Government Service intends to validate the Code of Conduct and Human Resource Operational Manual for the Service. It further plans to validate Scheme of Service for Environmental Health and Sanitation, Social Welfare, Community Development and the Legal Classes.

8.1.1 Additionally, the Service intends to undertake sensitization of Regional Coordinating Councils (RCCs) and MMDAs on the framework for participatory planning and budgeting.

8.1.2 The Service would implement the report on Local Government legislations review. It would also integrate Departments in the Second Schedule to L.I. 1961 into the MMDAs.

8.2 Local Government Capacity Support Project

8.2.1 In the year 2014, the Local Government Capacity Support Project intends to train the staff of MMDAs in the use of the Public Financial Management Templates.

8.2.2 Again, the Programme plans to implement 221 sub-projects covering various social services in 34 participating MMAs.

8.2.3 It further intends to train the technical staffs of 46 MMDAs in Procurement and Financial Management to improve capacity for the efficient disbursement of funds.

8.2.4 It will again disburse outstanding USD 320,000 under the Capacity Support Fund for year 2010 to 8 MMAs.

8.2.5 The Programme will disburse additional USD 1,360,000 under the Capacity Support Fund for year 2011 to 34 MMAs for related activities.

8.3 Ghana School Feeding Programme

8.3.1 In the year 2014, the Ghana School Feeding Programme intends to submit to Cabinet for endorsement, the National School Feeding Policy. The Programme will also launch the National School Feeding Policy.

8.3.2 The Programme further intends to implement the Action Plan of the National School Feeding Policy as well as implement the ration design tool.

8.3.3 Additionally, the Programme will conduct Impact Evaluation of the GSFP.

8.4 Local Economic Development

8.4.1 For the year 2014 the Local Economic Development (LED) Programme intends to disseminate the LED Policy Framework and Action Plan.

8.4.2 The Programme will also organise training for staff of MMDAs in 8 Regions on the use of the LED Operational Manual.

8.4.3 It further intends to build capacities of MMDAs core staff in mainstreaming LED in the district planning process and district Medium Term Development Plan (MTDP).

8.5 Urban Development Unit

8.5.1 For the year 2014 the Urban Development Unit intends to print additional copies of National Urban Policy and Action Plan, Street Naming Property Addressing System Guidelines and Manuals for dissemination to MMDAs. It will again procure Geographic Information System (GIS) equipment for all MMDAs.

8.5.2 Again, the Programme plans to conduct training for all Technical Officers in all the MMDAs.

8.5.3 The Programme will also complete the Study into the Hierarchy of Settlements as well as Launch and Disseminate the Report on Hierarchy of Settlements.

8.5.4 The programme intends to organise Stakeholders Validation Workshops on the Slum Upgrading Strategy document.

8.5.5 It will further design and execute all the sub projects of GUMPP in the beneficiary MMAs i.e Kumasi, Sekondi Takoradi, Ho and Tamale.

8.5.6 The Programme plans to procure Consultants and facilitate work on Street Naming, Spatial Plan, Local Plan and Revenue Mobilization Software for MMDAs.

8.6 Births & Deaths Registry

8.6.1 For the year 2014 the Births and Deaths Registry intends to implement community population registers in 40 communities in Northern Ghana and set up new offices in the newly created MMDAs so as to ensure the decentralisation of the registration system.

8.6.2 Again, it intends to expand the nationwide computerization programme to the last regional office (Upper East).

8.6.3 The Registry will capture the backlog information on births and deaths dating back to 1912.

8.7 Department of Community Development

8.7.1 For the year 2014 the Department of Community Development intends to organise formal training for 4,000 youth in Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) by end of December, 2014.

8.7.2 It further intends to organise informal training for 6,000 women in vocational and technical skills (income generation activities) by end of December, 2014.

8.7.3 Again, the Department plans to train 120 community educators (change agents) at Rural Development College by end of 2014.

8.7.4 Additionally, the Department will secure accreditation for Rural Development College to award Diploma Certificates.

8.7.5 Also, the Department intends to develop a Handbook on Community Development procedures based on Operating Standards.

8.8 Department of Parks and Gardens

8.8.1 For the year 2014 the Department of Parks and Gardens intends to undertake tree planting with Stakeholders to combat the effects of global warming.

8.8.2 It further intends to collaborate with MMDAs in the promotion of landscape beautification in the built and natural environments and to develop programmes for floral beautification of Cities and Towns.

8.8.3 The Department plans to collaborate with MMDAs in the establishment of Public Parks and promote eco-tourism so as to generate revenue for Assemblies and jobs for the people.

8.8.4 It further plans to concentrate on the conservation of threatened plant species and restoration of plants diversity as well as communicating the importance of plants diversity under the Global strategy for plants conservation project.

8.8.5 The Department will continue the collaboration with the Botany Department of the University of Ghana and other Stakeholders in the documentation of national information facility for the sharing of digital biodiversity data.

8.9 Environmental Health and Sanitation

8.9.1 For the year 2014 the Environmental Health and Sanitation programme intends to scale up Community Led Total Sanitation to cover the 3 remaining regions.

8.9.2 Again, it intends to deploy Results-Based Monitoring and Evaluation (RBM&E) systems for environmental sanitation to accurately capture process and analyse data for national statistics.

8.9.3 The Programme will construct 2 Waste to Energy Plants in Kumasi and Cape Coast under a PPP arrangement.

8.9.4 It further plans to provide support to MMDAs to legally acquire waste treatment and disposal sites.

8.9.5 Also, the Programme intends to organise a National Environmental Sanitation Conference (NESCON) and National Sanitation Week celebration.

8.9.6 Furthermore, the Programme will organise a commemoration of World Toilet Day to raise awareness on people who do not have access to toilets.

8.10 INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (IRDP)

8.10.1 For the year 2014 the Integrated Rural Development Project intends to launch the Integrated Rural Development Project (IRDP) and to procure the needed goods for the Integrated Development Project.

8.10.2 Also, the Project intends to sensitise MDA's and Community Based Organisations (CBO's) to pay their portion of counterpart funds for the identified Sub-projects.

8.10.3 Again, the Project will disburse the revolving loan funds to the Partner Financial Institutions (PFI's).

8.10.4 Furthermore, the Project has plans to prepare training materials to train Sub-Projects Management Committees (SPMC), Partner Financial Institutions (PFI's) and credit beneficiaries support.

8.10.5 It further plans to monitor the disbursement of the micro-credit by PFI's to the respective beneficiaries.

8.10.6 The Project plans to validate the Integrated Rural Development Projects (IRDPs) Indicators.

8.10.7 In addition, the Project will train the participating MDA's, Community Based Organisations (CBO's), Community Leaders etc in Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Skills.

8.10.8 Again, the Project will monitor the utilisation of the credit by the beneficiaries.

8.11 Ghana Social Opportunities Project

8.11.1 For the year 2014, the Ghana Social Opportunities Project intends to finalise the report on the Rationalisation of National Social Protection.

8.11.2 It further plans to start and complete 112 new sub-projects under the programme. These are 54 Dams and dug-outs, 23 climates change interventions and 35 feeder roads. The new feeder roads add up to the rollover feeder roads to give a total length of 107km.

8.12 LESDEP

8.12.1 In the year 2014, LESDEP intends to recruit and train 35,000 beneficiaries nationwide in technical skills, entrepreneurial and business management skills.

8.12.2 The Programme also intends to provide various business set-up equipment to the 35,000 trained beneficiaries.

8.12.3 Again, the programme will undertake needs assessment and business requirements of beneficiaries in 20 communities across the three ecological zones.

8.13 FOOD SECURITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL FACILITY

8.13.1 For the year 2014, two hundred (200) farmers will benefit from the "Zai" method and other sustainable soil management practice. These farmers will be supported with inputs to increase production.

8.13.2 The Project further plans to introduce 10 communities to dry season farming in Builsa, East Gonja, East Mamprusi, Garu-Tempani Districts under the Sustainable Farming Techniques Programme.

- 8.13.3 Again, the Project will introduce farmers to improved variety of onions under the Onion Farmers Livelihood and Value Chain Improvement Project in Bawku West.
- 8.13.4 It further plans to introduce two communities in the Wa Municipality to Community Based Cage Fish Culture to increase fish production in the area.
- 8.13.5 Furthermore, the Project intends to intensify Small Holder Pig Farming for better income in the Lawra and Nandom Districts.
- 8.13.6 Also, the Project plans to develop Small ruminants breeding programmes for the achievement of food security and poverty reduction in the 3 Northern Regions.
- 8.13.7 Additionally, the Project intends to introduce community cage-fish culture to 4 communities in the Nandom and Wa West Districts.

8.14 Accra Sewage Improvement Project (ASIP)

- 8.14.1 For the year 2014, ASIP intends to construct a new sewer networks at Mamprobi, Korle-Gonno and Korle-Bu.
- 8.14.2 Again, under these Project there will be Network Rehabilitation at University of Ghana, Achimota Hospital, Achimota School, Trinity College and Construction of a pumping Station.
- 8.14.3 It further plans to rehabilitate sewer networks and construction of pumping stations at Dansoman Estate.

9.0 PROVISION FOR 2014

9.1 To realise the goals set by the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development and its Department and Agencies, a total sum of **GH¢239,851,160.00** was allocated to the Ministry.

The breakdown of the 2014 allocations is as follows:

9.1.2 2014 BUDGET ALLOCATION TO COST CENTRES OF THE MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Table C

COST CENTRE	WAGES & SALARIES	GOODS & SERVICES	ASSETS	DONOR	TOTAL
General Administration	1,304,517.00	4,531,129.00	1,000,000.00	-	6,835,646.00
Inspectorate Division	220,741.00	1,000,000.00	500,000.00	-	1,720,741.00
LGPSU	-	2,000,000.00	-	157,017,408.00	159,017,408.00
Development Plg Unit	744,366.00	500,000.00	465,000.00	-	1,709,366.00
Internal Audit	-	300,000.00	-	-	300,000.00
Environmental Health and Sanitation Unit	865,880.00	1,000,000.00	600,000.00	-	2,465,880.00
Parks and Gardens	6,699,620.00	1,200,000.00	700,000.00	-	8,599,620.00
Births and Deaths Registry	3,095,992.00	1,200,000.00	700,000.00	-	4,995,992.00
Department of Community Development	6,253,483.00	1,200,000.00	925,648.00	-	8,406,131.00
LGSS	1,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	800,000.00	-	4,800,376.00
Sanitation and Waste Management	-	31,000,000.00	10,000,000.00	-	41,000,000.00
TOTAL	20,184,975.00	46,931,129.00	15,717,648.00	157,017,408.00	239,851,160.00

10.0 OBSERVATIONS

10.1 The Committee observed that the Budgetary allocation to the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development has been reduced from **GH¢447,495,901.00** to **GH¢239,851,160.00**.

10.1.2 It was explained to the Committee that the sharp reduction in the total allocation to the Ministry was due to the fact that the portion of the Ministry's allocation dealing with Compensation for Employees in the MMDAs have been disaggregated from the budget of the Ministry as part of the newly introduced composite budgeting.

10.1.3 Mr. Speaker, the Committee observed that as at the end of the 3rd Quarter, the Ministry of Local government and Rural Development had already overspent its allocation under Compensation for Employees by GH¢45,502,903.27 representing a variance of 39%.

10.1.4 It is the belief of the Committee that the percentage will increase by the end of the 4th Quarter.

10.1.5 It was explained that the over expenditure was necessitated by increases in salaries and payments of related arrears in the course of the year.

10.1.6 The Committee observed that out of a total allocation of GHC 60 million to the National Sanitation Programme only GHC771,800.00 representing 1.29% was released as at September 2013. Furthermore, nothing out of the GHC30 Million each allocated to the Sanitation and Waste Management and Sanitation Guards was released.

- 10.1.8 It was further observed that no allocation was made specifically to the Local Enterprises and Skills Development Programme (LESDEP) in the 2014 budget. Also, no money was released to LESDEP under the 2013 budget although GH¢75 million was allocated.
- 10.1.9 The Committee wondered how the Programme was able to train 15,000 people and provided business start-up for 3,000 people in 2013. It was explained that LESDEP is a Public Private Partnership (PPP) arrangement and that the Private Partner was able to provide resources to ensure the continuity of the Programme.
- 10.1.11 The Committee observed that there was a general challenge of delay in the release of funds to almost all the agencies under the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development. The situation did not augur well for the smooth implementation of programmes and activities of the Ministry and its agencies.
- 10.1.12 The Committee observed the Ghana School Feeding Programme owed Caterers to the tune of about 75 days in payment which translates into almost GH¢70 million.
- 10.1.13 The Committee further observed that nothing was mentioned about the Centre for Urban Transportation in the 2014 Budget Statement and wondered what the Government intends to do about the Centre.
- 10.1.14. The Committee observed that the Department of Births and Deaths Registry registered 715,271 births and 88,972 deaths in the 2012 fiscal year as against the registrations of 111,317 for births and

102,742 deaths in 2013. The Committee was informed that the high output in 2012 was due to donor support to the department.

10.1.15. The Committee observed with satisfaction the ability of the Department of Parks and Gardens to give face lift to the various parks and vehicular round about within the country with the increase in their allocations in the 2013 fiscal year.

10.1.16. The Committee observed that the Ministry of Local Government is essentially providing services to the nation. It was therefore worried that only GH¢1,809,579.80 representing 1.57% of the total sum of GH¢41,032,090.00 was released to the Ministry. In essence, employees were paid for virtually providing no service.

10.1.17. Mr. Speaker, the Committee expected the Ministry to receive all its allocations for Assets considering the fact that new District Assemblies were created towards the end of 2012. This was to enable the new Assemblies and old ones to meet their basic asset needs. The Committee therefore was worried that only of GH¢37, 879.60 representing 0.68 % was released to the Ministry out of the total sum of GH¢ 5,531,212.00 allocated in 2013.

11.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 The Committee wishes to urge the Minister for Finance and the Minister for Local Government and Rural Development to ensure that resources are made available to ensure the continuity of LESDEP as the programme has been useful to Ghanaian Youth in the acquisition of skills and improvement in their livelihoods.

11.2 The Committee again wishes to recommend to the Minister for Finance to consider issues pertaining to sanitation very serious as these have implication on the health and wellbeing of our citizens. There is therefore the need to ensure fuller and timely release of funds to face the daunting challenges of sanitation in our country, especially in our cities and urban communities.

11.3 The Committee wishes to once again recommend to the Minister for Finance to consider giving approval to enable the Registry of Births and Deaths retain at least 20% of its internally generated funds to undertake some of its essential services in order to improve upon their services.

11.4 The Committee wishes to further recommend to the Ministry of Finance to consider releasing funds for Assets, Goods and Services timely if decentralisation is to be meaningful and beneficial to our citizens at the local level.

11.5. As a matter of urgency, the Committee recommends that the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development should take immediate steps to resolve all matters that have tended to affect the smooth operations of the Centre for Urban Transportation to ensure that the purpose for which the Centre was created is realised.

12.0 CONCLUSION

12.1 Considering the importance of the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development to the decentralization process, couple with the need to improve upon the sanitation situation in the country as well as