

**IN THE FIRST MEETING OF THE FIRST SESSION OF
THE SIX PARLIAMENT OF THE FOURTH REPUBLIC
OF GHANA**

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT,
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

ON THE

**2013 ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE,
TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION**

19TH MARCH, 2013

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

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY ON THE 2013 ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE MINISTRY
OF ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

In accordance with Article 179(1) of the Constitution, the Hon. Minister for Finance, Mr. Seth E. Terkper presented to Parliament the Budget Statement and Economic Policy of Government for the 2013 Financial Year on Tuesday, 5th March 2013. Pursuant to Orders 140(4) and 185 of the Standing Orders of Parliament, the Rt. Hon. Speaker referred the Annual Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI) to the Committee on Environment, Science and Technology for consideration and report.

2.0 DELIBERATIONS

The Committee met on Tuesday, 19th March, 2013 and considered the Estimates. In attendance were the Hon. Minister for Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Dr. Joe Oteng Adjei and his technical team as well as officials from the Ministry of Finance to assist the Committee in the deliberation of the Estimates.

The Committee is grateful to them for their assistance.

3.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

The Committee referred to the under-listed documents during its deliberations on the Estimates:

- i. the 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana;
- ii. the Standing Orders of Parliament;

- iii. the Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2013 financial year;
- iv. the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1994 (Act 490);
- v. the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research Act, 1996 (Act 521);
- vi. the Atomic Energy Commission Act, 2000 (Act 588);
- vii. the Report of the Committee on Environment, Science and Technology on the 2012 Annual Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology.

4.0 MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (MESTI)

4.1 Mission Statement

MESTI exists to promote sustainable development through the application of scientific knowledge to resource potentials.

The Vision of the Ministry is to ensure sustainable development based on a strong and vibrant promotion of science, technology and innovation, proper planning and management of human settlements, sound environmental governance and sustainable management of its natural resources.

4.2 GSGDA Policy objectives under the Ministry

a. Accelerated Agricultural modernisation and sustainable natural resource management

- i. Adapt to the impacts and reduce vulnerability to climate variability and change.
- ii. The use of Low Carbon Growth (LCG) as a specific approach to integrate the link between climate and development
- iii. Curb the loss of biodiversity by the intensification of safe and sound environmental practices.

b. Oil and Gas development

- i. Ensure that the practices of the Oil and Gas Industry are consistent with international standards of environmental protection.

c. Infrastructure, energy and human settlement development

- i. Promote the application of Science, Technology and Innovation in all Sectors of the economy.
- ii. Strengthen the appropriate industrial framework to promote the development of science and technology research.
- iii. Explore the options for nuclear and geothermal energy.

d. Human Resource Development

- i. Promote a sustainable, spatially integrated and orderly development of human settlements for socio-economic development
 - ii. Facilitate ongoing institutional, technological and legal reforms under the LAP/TCPD-LUPMP in support of land use

e. Transparent and accountable governance

- i. Strengthen Monitoring and enforcement mechanism of environmental legislation
- ii. Enhance policy and regulatory framework and effective coordination among key government agencies to improve the performance of the environment sector.

4.3 Departments and Agencies under the Ministry:

- i. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- ii. Ghana Atomic Energy Commission (GAEC)
- iii. Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR); and
- iv. Town and Country Planning Department (TCPD)

5.0 PERFORMANCE REVIEW OF THE 2012 BUDGETARY ALLOCATION

5.1. Summary of 2012 Budget of MESTI

Items Of Expenditure	2012 Approved Budget	Amounts Released	Variance
GoG	GH¢ 70,148,621	GH¢ 67,819,796	GH¢ 2,328,825
IGF	GH¢ 16,888,355	GH¢ 15,088,300	GH¢ 1,800,055
Dev't Partners	GH¢ 18,039,249	GH¢ 11,158,188	GH¢ 6,881,061
ABFA	GH¢ 25,000,000	GH¢ 30,995,500	GH¢ 5,995,500 (in excess)
Total	GH¢ 130,076,235	GH¢ 125,061,784	GH¢ 5,014,451

The table above indicates the total releases made to MEST in 2012. Even though the Ministry and its Departments and Agencies (MDA's) did not receive the expected amount, they were able to undertake the following major programs and activities during the year:

5.2 MESTI (Headquarters)

a. Promotion of the Application of Science and Technology

- i. The Ministry was able to procure 108,000 pieces of Laptop computers to be distributed to students and the various educational institutions throughout the country. This exercise is still on-going. Again, the Ministry successfully organised the first ever Science Congress and implemented the Ghana Skill and Technology Development Project (GSTDP).
- ii. In order to address the falling standards of Mathematics, Science and Technical Education, MESTI in collaboration with GETFund and other key stakeholders set aside 2% of the GETFund in 20 and initiated an annual Mathematics, Science and Technology Scholarship Scheme (MASTESS) to provide scholarships to needy but

brilliant students. In 2012, 2,560 students benefited from the scheme which brings the total to 7,000 students who have benefited from the scheme since its inception.

b. Mitigating the impact of Climate Change and Vulnerability

- i. As part of efforts to reduce Climate vulnerability, the Ministry in 2009 sponsored tree planting and nurturing project along the coastal zone and the savannah regions of the country. So far 50,000 trees have been planted which aided in the creation of jobs for 18,000 youth in various communities across the country.
- ii. The Ministry also reviewed the National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan and also developed a Clearing House Mechanism website.

c. Environmental Protection

- i. In order to ensure good environmental governance, the Ministry spearheaded the review of the draft Mineral and Mining Law, the e-waste and noise pollution policy. The implementation strategy has been completed. Three chemical conventions have also been ratified.
- ii. As part of government's effort to maintain sanitation and re-establish biodiversity of the country's coastal communities, the Ministry continued the implementation of the Coastal Development Project targeted at promoting coastal ecotourism and job creation. The project is being implemented in the Volta, Greater Accra, Central and Western Regions of the country.

5.3

Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)

- i. CSIR has developed and released four early maturing and Drought Tolerant Maize varieties in commercial quantities. The Council has also replaced the first and second generation breeding flock with stock hatched, selected and placed in growing facilities at Pokoase and Katamanso poultry farms. CSIR has established yam, cocoyam and potato cultures using nodal cuttings as explants for field establishment of clean planting materials with a hundred percent success rate.

- ii. The Council has successfully completed a project to restore degraded areas within Afram Headwaters Forest Reserve with Indigenous Tree Species for Biodiversity conservation. They have also developed Rainwater Harvesting Systems for some Institutions and communities.

5.4 Ghana Atomic Energy Commission (GAEC)

- i. GAEC with the support from GET Fund has commenced the construction of a Nuclear Accelerator building. The Commission has also rehabilitated a two story building into offices for National Regulatory Authority.
- ii. The Commission conducted a hazard assessment of Electromagnetic Radiation from mobile phones and radio station and also researched into the radiation preservation of fresh agricultural produce.

5.5 Environmental Protection Agency

In 2012, EPA commissioned the Ghana National Cleaner Production Centre (GNCPC). The Centre is expected to build the capacity of manufacturing industries in energy efficiency and water conservation during production and efficient management of both solid and liquid waste after production. The Center would also ensure that manufacturing industries operate under sound environmental conditions.

5.6 Town and Country Planning Department (TCPD)

The Department collected some base line data on the Bui resettlement area to support spatial planning. The Department also prepared the manuals for Spatial Planning and reviewed the National Standards.

7.0 THE 2013 BUDGET ESTIMATES

The Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation has been provided with Budget resources of GH¢ 139,995,861.00 for its activities in 2013.

7.1 Summary of the 2013 Budgetary Allocations for the MESTI

Table 1: *Breakdown of GoG Budget ceiling by MOF*

NO.	MDA	2013 BUDGET ALLOCATION (GH¢)
1.	MESTI (Headquarters)	19,243,159.00
2.	Environmental Protection Agency	4,183,625.00
3.	Ghana Atomic Energy Commission	13,422,632.00
4.	Council for Scientific & Industrial Research	42,500,454.00
5.	Town & Country Planning Department	6,640,431.00
	Sub-Total	85,990,301.00

7.2 Table 2: MESTI MDA 2013 BUDGET

Fund source	Compensation	Goods/Services	Assets	Total
GOG	GH¢ 63,226,169	GH¢21,002,769	GH¢ 1,761,363	GH¢ 85,990,301
IGF	0	GH¢15,955,114	GH¢7,930,736	GH¢23,885,850
DONOR	0	GH¢ 3,363,942	GH¢13,455,768	GH¢16,819,710
ABFA	0	GH¢ 300,000	0	GH¢ 300,000
SIP	0	GH¢13,000,000	0	GH¢ 13,000,000
TOTAL	GH¢63,226,169	GH¢53,621,825	GH¢23,147,867	GH¢139,995,861

This total figure indicates an increase of *Sixteen Million, Seven Hundred and Forty Seven Thousand, Nine Hundred and Eighty-Five Ghana Cedis (GH¢16,747,985.00)* over the 2012 budgetary allocation for the Ministry.

8.0 OUTLOOK FOR THE YEAR 2013

The Ministry in 2013 has outlined a number of programmes and activities to be implemented. Among these are the following:

i. **Establishment of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Fund**

The Ministry would establish Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Fund to promote Science, Technology and Innovation through the implementation of Phase III of the Action plan for the utilization of local building materials in the construction industry.

ii. The Better Ghana ICT Project

The Ministry would continue to promote teaching, learning and the use of ICT. To this end, the Ministry would procure and distribute 100,000 laptops for distribution by the end of 2013 that is the Phase IV of the Better Ghana ICT Project.

iii. Implementation of the Mathematics, Science and Technology Scholarship Scheme (MASTESS)

The scholarship scheme would continue to disburse funds for an additional 5,000 beneficiaries to augment and maintain the interest of needy but brilliant students in the science and technology field of study.

iv. Environmental Development

The Ministry would also continue the coastal zone development programme of tree planting and cleaning of beaches as well as biodiversity conservation which would help in reducing the impact of climate change as well as creating jobs for the youth.

v. Promotion of Lesser-Known Wood Species and Rain Water aTechnology

The CSIR would also promote the utilization of lesser known wood species for poles to support rural electrification projects and for the construction of bridges on feeder roads. The Council would promote rain water technology for schools and small communities

7.1 OBSERVATIONS

- i. The Committee was informed that the Ministry in 2012 procured 108,000 pieces of Laptops under the Better Ghana ICT project to be distributed to individual and other educational institutions nationwide. Out of this number, 100,000 pieces were funded by MOFEP at a cost of GH¢50,000,000.00 from the Non-Road Account and the remaining amount sourced from the Ministry's share of the GET Fund.

- ii. Again, the Committee observed that as part of efforts to reduce Climate vulnerability and the promotion of biodiversity, the Ministry under the Coastal Zone Development Project sponsored the planting and nurturing of 50,000 trees along the coastal zone and the savannah regions of the country. The project which also included cleaning of the country's beaches also aided in the creation of jobs for 18,000 youth in various communities across the country.
- iii. The Committee was also informed that the Town and Country Planning Department internally generated funds through the sale of permits and the processing of same. However, the funds generated from these activities are not retained by the Department rather they are consolidated into the District Assembly Internally Generated Fund for the use of the Assemblies.

The Committee recommends that, the Department should initiate the appropriate legislation to empower the Department to retain a percentage of its Internally Generated Fund (IGF) to support its programmes and activities.

- iv. The Committee further observed that some of the agencies under MESTI such as CSIR have been undertaking a number of research activities which has resulted in outcomes that would help develop the nation's economic growth, especially the agricultural sector. However, the sector is unable to inject funds into the recruitment of the needed technical staff and retain them and procure logistics to facilitate effective discharge of their mandates.

The Committee recommends that, the Ministry should also initiate the appropriate legislation to enable the Council commercialise their research findings which would go a long way in increasing their internally generated fund to support their programmes and activities.

v. ***Funding Gap***

It was observed with grave concern the funding gap between the votes for compensation in 2012 and 2013. In 2012 an amount of ***GH¢59, 774,175.01*** was released to GAEC in 2012 as its compensation votes. However, in the 2013 financial year, an amount of ***GH¢12, 239, 671.00*** has been allocated which indicates a drastic shortfall under this expenditure item.

The Committee further noted a reduction in the allocation for CSIR which would adversely affect the Council in the implementation of its programmes and activities for 2013.

The Committee recommends that, MOF should critically examine the proposed ceiling for these expenditure items and ensure that the amount release would reflect the realities when the Council is fully migrated onto the Single Spine Salary Structure (SSSS).

- vi. Finally, the Committee observed that the delays in the release of funds, inadequate staffing positions, logistics, office space and funds for monitoring and reporting affected the delivery of the Ministry as a whole in the 2012 financial year.

The Committee urges the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning to ensure that funds are released timeously to enable the Ministry undertake its programmes and activities as scheduled. Again, the financial clearance should be given to enable the Ministry engage the services of additional technical staff to carry out its mandated effectively.

10.0 CONCLUSION

The Committee considers the mandate of the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation as cardinal in the nation's growth and development. However, the Ministry is confronted with many challenges including inadequate

funding, delays in the release of funds, inadequate staffing position, lack of logistics, office space and inadequate resources for monitoring and reporting.

Having thoroughly examined the 2013 Draft Annual Estimates of the Ministry, the Committee considers the allocation woefully inadequate in view of the programmes and activities earmarked for the 2013 financial year.

The Committee accordingly recommends, for the approval of this Honourable House, an amount of **One Hundred and Thirty-Nine Million, Nine Hundred and Ninety-Five Thousand, Eight Hundred and Sixty-One Ghana Cedis (GH¢139,995,861.00)** for the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation for the 2013 Financial Year Ending 31st December.

Respectfully submitted.



**HON. SIMON EDEM-ASIMAH
(CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON
ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY)**



**JOANA A. S. ADJEI (MRS)
COMMITTEE CLERK**

19TH MARCH, 2013