

**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 2013 ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES
OF THE MINISTRY OF CHIEFTAINCY AND
TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In accordance with Article 179 of the 1992 Constitution, the Hon. Minister for Finance and Economic Planning, Mr. Seth Terkper presented the Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2013 Financial Year to the House on Tuesday, 5th March 2013. 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 The Committee subsequently met with the Minister for Chieftaincy and Traditional Affairs, Dr. Henry Seidu Daannaa and his team on Friday, 15th March 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 2012 Financial Year.
- iii. The 2012 Annual Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Culture.

- iv. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2013 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 2012

Table 1

Budgetary Allocation and Releases for 2012

EXPENDITURE ITEM	2012 ALLOCATION (GH¢)	ACTUALS (GH¢)	VARIANCE
COMPENSATION	10,596,749.00	10,596,749.00	-
GOODS AND SERVICES	2,930,750.00	976,912.00	33.3%
ASSETS	348,137.00	0	-
TOTAL	13,875,636.00	11,573,661.81	

- 4.1 The Committee noted that out of the total budgetary allocation of GH¢13,875,636.00 for 2012, GH¢11,573,661.81 was released. It is worth noting that an amount of GH¢10,596,749.00 out of the GH¢11,573,661.81 released went into the payment of salaries and allowances. For Goods and Services, only GH¢976,912 representing 33% of an allocation of GH¢2,930,750.00 was released. No amount was released for Assets.

The above notwithstanding, the Ministry undertook the following activities:

- i. Presented to Parliament for legislation, 11 Lines of Chieftaincy Succession.
- ii. Facilitated the amicable settlement of 150 out of 650 chieftaincy disputes.

- iii. Monitored and evaluated programmes and projects of its Agencies, Houses of Chiefs and Traditional Councils in the Greater Accra Region.

5.0 BUDGETARY ALLOCATION FOR YEAR 2013

To implement its programmes and activities for year 2013, an amount of **Nineteen Million, Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand, One Hundred and Fifty-three Cedis (GH¢19,250,153.00)** has been allocated to the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Traditional Affairs. The breakdown of the budgetary allocation is captured in table 2:

Table 2
Summary of Budgetary Allocation

EXPENDITURE ITEM	2013 ALLOCATION (GH¢)
COMPENSATION(Salaries& Allowances)	14,215,973.00
GOODS & SERVICES	1,758,450.00
ASSETS	3,275,730.00
TOTAL	19,250,153.00

6.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The Committee noted that an amount of GH¢14,215,173.00 representing 73.84% of the total allocation of GH¢19,250,153.00 will go into the payment of salaries and allowances. This leaves the Ministry with a meagre amount of GH¢5,034,980.00 representing about 26.15% for the execution of its programmes and activities for the year.
- 6.2 The Committee was informed that the redesignation of the Ministry as Ministry of Chieftaincy and Traditional Affairs was in line with the President's vision of increasing the scope of the chieftaincy institution by officially roping in Queen Mothers. This implies that for every codification of lines of succession of a Paramount Chief, there should be a corresponding codification for a Queen Mother's stool/skin. Similarly, for every seminar/workshop organised for Chiefs, same should be organised for Queen Mothers. The increased scope of the

Ministry's activities will require more resources to effectively deliver on its mandate.

- 6.3 The Committee identified the Ministry's chieftaincy dispute resolution role as an important mechanism for engendering peace within traditional communities. Last year, the Ministry facilitated the amicable settlement of 150 out of the 650 cases through mediation, reconciliation and alternative dispute resolution (ADR). The Ministry intends to continue with its dispute resolution programmes this year to foster peace. The Committee urges the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning to ensure the timely release of resources to enable the Ministry implement its activities.
- 6.4 The Committee also underscored the significance of the Ministry's project on "Research and Codification of Lines of Succession Applicable to Stools/Skins". Experience shows that very few chieftaincy disputes arise where lines of succession are codified. The Committee was informed that 11 lines of Chieftaincy Succession have been legislated by Parliament. Also, 17 more have been verified and sent to Parliament for passage into law. The Committee however noted that this Project (Research & Codification of Lines of Succession Applicable to Stools/Skins) was facilitated with donor support. However, the focus of the supporting donor agency has changed; therefore the Ministry will now have to depend entirely on funding from Government to carry out this activity. It is therefore imperative that allocations are released fully and on time to enable the Ministry perform efficiently.

For this year, the Ministry, among others, intends to codify 30 traditional areas and undertake the second and third phases of the "Ascertainment and Codification of Customary Law Project" relating to Family and Land in Ghana. The third phase which involves the validation, harmonisation and codification of customary laws pertaining to family and lands when completed will reduce land and chieftaincy disputes in the country.

The Committee however, observed that out of an amount of GH¢2, 930.750 allocated in 2012 for Goods and Services, only

GH¢976,912.00 representing 33.3% was released. This greatly impacted negatively on the Ministry's activities in year 2012. To enable the Ministry meet its targets for 2013, the Committee recommends that an amount of GH¢800,000.00 be taken from the allocation of GH¢3,275,730.00 under Assets to top up the allocation for Goods and Services. In view of the importance of the above project in reducing chieftaincy and land disputes in the country, the Committee urges that the Ministry is allocated adequate resources to enable it realise its objectives.

- 6.5 For effective and efficient delivery of services, the Committee underscored the need for staff of the Ministry to be adequately trained. However, due to inadequate resources, staff of the Ministry do not often benefit from the requisite training. The Committee recommends that more resources are allocated to the Ministry to enable it build the capacity of its human resource.
- 6.6 With an allocation of an amount of GH¢3,275,730.00 for Assets, the Ministry plans, among others, to acquire a facility (Traditional Centre) and furnish it with the requisite regalia to serve as a waiting point for chiefs/queen mothers and their entourage who visit Accra for programmes and meetings. 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 2012. The Committee strongly urges the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning to ensure that funds allocated are released to enable the Ministry implement its planned programmes and activities.

7.0 **CONCLUSION**

After a careful consideration of the Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Traditional Affairs, the Committee is of the view that the budgetary allocation to the Ministry is inadequate. The Committee therefore urges the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning to consider providing additional resources to the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Traditional Affairs should there be a Supplementary Budget.

Nevertheless, the Committee recommends to the House for approval, the sum of **Nineteen Million, Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand, One Hundred and Fifty-three Cedis (GH¢19, 250, 153.00)** for the implementation of the programmes and activities of the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Traditional Affairs for the 2013 Financial Year.

Respectfully submitted.



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HON. KOBLA MENSAH WOYOME
(CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE)



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MS JANET FRIMPONG
(CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE)

19TH MARCH 2013