

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

**REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON
LANDS AND FORESTRY AND MINES AND ENERGY**

**ON THE ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE MINISTRY OF LANDS
AND NATURAL RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR 2013**

MARCH 2013

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2013 fiscal year was presented to Parliament by the Hon. Minister for Finance and Economic Planning, Mr. Seth Terkper on Tuesday, 5th March, 2013 in accordance with Article 179 of the 1992 Constitution of Ghana. The Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources were accordingly referred to the Joint Committee on Lands and Forestry, and Mines and Energy for consideration and report pursuant to Orders 140(4), 177 and 188 of the Standing Orders of the House.

1.2 During the consideration of the referral, the Committee met with the Hon. Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, Alhaji Inusah A. B. Fuseini and key Officials of the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources and the Schedule Officers from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning. The Committee lauds the Hon. Minister and the Officials for their assistance during its sitting.

1.3 AGENCIES UNDER THE MINISTRY

The Ministry has three Sectors namely, Land, Forestry and Mines. The Land Sector is managed by two agencies, that is, the Lands Commission and the Office of the Administrator of Stool Lands. The Forestry Sector is also managed by the Forestry Commission. The Mines Sector is managed by three agencies and these are the Minerals Commission, the Geological Survey Department and the Precious Mineral Marketing Company.

2.0 REFERENCES

2.1 The Committee used the under-listed as reference materials during its deliberations:

- (i) The 1992 Constitution of Ghana

- (ii) The Standing Orders of the House
- (iii) The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of Government for the year ending 31st December, 2013
- (iv) The Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) for 2013-2015 and the draft Annual Estimates for 2013 of the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources
- (v) The Budget Estimates for the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources for 2013.

3.0 MISSION STATEMENT

3.1 The Mission Statement of the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources is to ensure sustainable management and utilization of the nation's land, forest, wildlife and mineral resources for the socio-economic development and growth of Ghana. This is to be achieved through:

- (i) Efficient formulation, implementation, co-ordination, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes of the sector agencies.
- (ii) Efficient management of public and stool lands as a means to ensure equitable land delivery.
- (iii) Promoting effective inter-agency and cross-sectoral linkages.
- (iv) Promoting sustainable and efficient forest, wildlife and mineral resource management and utilization.
- (v) Creating an enabling environment for effective private sector participation.
- (vi) Promoting effective community participation in multiple uses of land, forest, wildlife and mineral resources.

4.0 OBJECTIVES

4.1 The Mission of the Ministry will be realized through the pursuit of the under-listed objectives:

- (i) Develop and manage sustainably, land, forest, wildlife and mineral resources;
- (ii) Facilitate equitable access, benefit sharing from and security to land, forest and mineral resources;
- (iii) Promote public awareness and local communities' participation in sustainable management and utilization of forest, wildlife, land and mineral resources;
- (iv) Review, update and consolidate existing legislation and policies affecting natural resource management;
- (v) Promote and facilitate effective private sector participation in land service delivery, forest, wildlife and mineral resource management and utilization;
- (vi) Develop and maintain effective institutional capacity and capability at the national, regional, district and community levels for land, forest, wildlife and mineral service delivery;
- (vii) Develop and research into problems of forest, wildlife, mineral resources and land use; and
- (viii) Build regional and global linkages toward the management of natural resources.

5.0 PERFORMANCE FOR 2012

LANDS SUB-SECTOR

- 5.1 A blue print to establish District Lands Commission Offices to decentralize Lands administration services has been developed. A Policy document on grants of large tracts of agricultural land to avert land grabbing and speculation as well as avoid landlessness has been completed.
- 5.2 To increase efficiency in survey and mapping data collection, 5 continuous operation reference stations have been established in Accra, Kumasi, Takoradi, Tamale and Bolgatanga whilst a network of 42 stations has been designed to form the new Geodetic Reference Network for land surveying up-to-date Orthophoto maps covering 14,282.30 sq km for land use planning have been provided in 100 towns nationwide.

FORESTRY SUB-SECTOR

- 5.3 The Ministry had completed the Land use change and Forestry classification maps for the whole country under the Forest preservation programme. In addition, aerial surveys to acquire 3-dimensional structure of our Forest were completed. A State-of-the-Art Geographical Information System and Photogrammetry Laboratories for the analysis of satellite imagery and biomass modeling was established.

A modern Forestry inventory system was also developed. Under the National Plantation Development Programme, 9,426 ha were demarcated out of which 3,698 ha were planted; it created over 10,000 full time jobs. This is expected to restore degraded forest landscape, address the deficit in wood supply for both industrial and domestic purposes and create employment for forest fringe communities.

- 5.4 To mitigate the rampant encroachment of forest reserves and protected areas as well as to address illegal logging, mining and settlement, a Rapid Response Unit has been established to ensure compliance to the regulatory and legal requirements that protect our natural resources. Subsequently, 8 teams of this unit have been created out of which 3 have been adequately equipped and deployed to seriously encroached areas to arrest the menace.
- 5.5 As part of efforts to enable the implementation of the Legality Assurance system, the wood Tracking System, the Resources (legality Licensing) Regulations 2012 L. I. 2184 was passed.
- 5.6 Under the Bamboo and Rattan Development Programme, 250ha of bamboo and 8ha model rattan plantations were established in the Brong Ahafo and Western Regions, respectively.

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MINES SUB-SECTOR

- 5.7 A number of new mining companies have started full scale operations in the country. They include Perseus Mining Gh. Ltd (Edikan Mine) at Ayanfuri, Owere Mines at Konongo and Noble Mines at Bibiani.

To give full effect to Act 703, six Mining Regulations have been passed by Parliament to strengthen the regulatory framework governing the management of the minerals and mining industry. In addition, the Ministry has facilitated ^{with cabinet} the ~~passage~~ of the Minerals Development Fund Bill to help address developmental issues in mining communities.

The Ministry has established Regional Task Forces to complement effort by the National Security to deal with the illegal mining situation in the country. Five

Regional Task Forces are already operational in the Eastern, Greater Accra, Ashanti, Western and Central Regions.

**THE APPROVED BUDGET ESTIMATES AND RELEASES FOR 2012 AS SHOWN
IN TABLE 1**

**TABLE 1
GOG**

ITEM	APPROVED BUDGET FOR 2012	ACTUAL RELEASES FOR 2012	DIFFERENC ES	DIFFERENCES AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE APPROVED BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE YEAR 2012
COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES	34,763,155	39,152,115	- 4,388,960	-13
GOODS AND SERVICES	132,609,600	77,554,459	55,055,141	42
ASSETS	50,614,309	12,435,239	38,175,315	75
Total	217,983,309	129,141,813	88,841,496	41

6.0 OUTLOOK FOR 2013

THE BUDGETARY ALLOCATION FOR THE MINISTRY OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES FOR 2013 AS SHOWN IN TABLE 2

TABLE 2	
ITEM	BUDGET ALLOCATION FOR 2013 GH¢
COMPENSATION	SUB-TOTAL 28,690,841
	28,690,841
GOODS AND SERVICES	GOG 21,493,492
	IGF 108,241,556
	SIP 13,200,000
	DONOR 3,479,940
	SUB-TOTAL 146,414,988
ASSETS	GOG 2,313,630
	IFG ^{14F} 35,094,757
	DONOR 13,919,760
	SUB-TOTAL 51,328,147
TOTAL	226,433,976

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LANDS SUB-SECTOR

6.1 The lands sub-sector will continue to employ Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanisms which have proven to be more reliable and affordable as well as less time-consuming and acrimonious in finding solutions to nagging land disputes between the agencies under the sub-sector and aggrieved parties. To

ensure efficient internal revenue generation and transparency in resource management, the Lands Sub-sector will employ sustainable and rigorous strategies to maximise revenue mobilization.

- 6.2 The Lands sub-sector will conduct inspection on Lands to monitor uses and ensure effective information update to adapt new and innovative means of promoting development control and enforce regulations.
- 6.3 In addition, inventory of all state lands to obtain complete and up to date records on public lands will be completed to create the database of all state acquired lands. To ensure the development of the oil and gas industry, the acquisition of rights to land and way leaves for the oil related industry installations will be facilitated and the appropriate plans and maps produced for the monitoring of operations of the on-shore and off-shore activities in the oil industry.

FORESTRY SUB-SECTOR

- 6.4. In order to access climatic change funds to sustainably finance resource management and development, the carbon emission reference level framework and monitoring, reporting and verification systems shall be completed.
- 6.5. The Ministry will implement the Forest Investment Programme and the National Plantations Development Programme to arrest the drivers of forest degradation and deforestation in order to enhance our forest resources and for job creation.
- 6.6. Ecotourism development and improvement of the status of the

protected area system for revenue generation and resource conservation to promote private sector investment will be pursued.

MINES SUB-SECTOR

- 6.7. The Ministry will continue to ensure that opportunities for increasing local content in the Mining industry through capacity building of local entrepreneurs and job creation in mining areas are pursued. The sector will continue to enforce the ban on registration and participation of foreign companies in small scale mining in accordance with the Minerals and Mining Act 2006(Act 703)
- 6.8 As part of efforts to maximise its contribution to sustainable development of the country, the sector will improve information availability to attract investors and also collaborate actively with key stakeholders to implement programmes to improve performance of small scale miners as well as reducing or eliminating illegal mining activities in the country.

7.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

LANDS SUB-SECTOR

LANDS COMMISSION

The Committee expressed worry about the fact that the Commission does not retain any portion of the stamp duty it collects on behalf of the Ghana Revenue Authority; and also any portion of the revenue it generates from its operations.

The Committee is recommending that a portion of the stamp duty and the Internally Generated Funds are retained by the commission. The Committee is therefore

urging the Ministry to expedite action on the legal procedures to retain portions of the revenue the Commission collects.

LAND ADMINISTRATION PROJECT

The Committee observed that there were no arrangements put in place for the commencement of the construction of the new Lands Commission building. It also came to the fore that a meagre allocation has been provided for the continuation of the Land Administration Project.

It is the view of the Committee that the Ministry should take immediate steps to provide the 10% counterpart funding for the start of the new Lands Commission building.

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR OF STOOL LANDS

The Committee further observed that disbursement of the royalties paid to the Office of the Administrator of Stool Lands does not reach all its beneficiaries.

The Committee would like to recommend that the appropriate guidelines and formulae for the benefits sharing, are strictly adhered to .

FORESTRY SUB-SECTOR

MOLE NATIONAL PARK

The Committee also noted that a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Forestry Commission and the Ghana National Petroleum Commission for the building of accommodation facilities for the Mole Park is impeding the investment drive for the development of facilities at the Park.

The Committee is of the view that the agreement between the parties be severed to pave way for investment by other interested entities in the development of facilities at the park.

PLANTATION DEVELOPMENT

The Committee noted with satisfaction that the Ministry has been given a budgetary allocation for plantation development. The Committee was also informed that the allocation was not only for new plantation development but for monitoring and evaluation of the plantation programme so far undertaken by the sector. The Ministry is also to maintain direct supervision and control over the Forest Services Division in carrying out its activities on the plantation programme.

8.0 MINING SUB-SECTOR

MINERALS COMMISSION

The Committee noted with grave concern that the alarming rate of illegal mining going on across the country and its devastating effect on the environment. The Committee also observed that provisions have been made in the budget of the Minerals Commission to address this menace. Allocations for the National Resource Governance Programme Secretariat have been earmarked for the implementation of projects including the exploration of mineable areas for small scale miners.

It is also important to indicate that an allocation has been made to the Commission's budget from the Social Investment Programme for the implementation of the Alternative Livelihood Projects within the year 2013.

It is the expectation of the Committee that the above-mentioned programmes will assist in getting illegal small scale miners into the ambit of the Commission's control and direction to help reduce the incidence of illegal mining in the country; and also improve the living conditions of the people in the mining communities, respectively.

9.0 GEOLOGICAL SURVEY DEPARTMENT

The Committee observed that there has been inadequate budgetary allocation to the Geological Survey Department over the years and this has affected their exploration activities.

The Committee would like to appeal to the Ministry to engage Ghana National Petroleum Corporation (GNPC), allied institutions and the oil and gas capacity building project to support the department to improve its capacity and also revamp its laboratories. It is also the view of the Committee that the department could come up with strategies to commercialise its operations by way of the sale of geological data to generate additional funds to support its activities.

10.0 CONCLUSION

The Committee having carefully examined the estimates recommends to the House to approve the sum of **Two Hundred and Twenty-six Million, Four Hundred and Thirty-Three Thousand, Nine Hundred and Seventy-six Ghana Cedis (GH¢ 226,433,976 .00)** for the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources for the 2013 financial year.

Respectfully submitted.



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HON. ALBERT ABONGO
CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON
LANDS AND FORESTRY



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HON. KWABENA DONKOR
CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE
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MR. SAMUEL ADDEI
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MARCH 2013
