

IN THE FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTH
PARLIAMENT OF THE FOURTH REPUBLIC
OF GHANA

REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON
YOUTH, SPORTS AND CULTURE

ON THE

2010 ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES OF
THE MINISTRY OF CHIEFTAINCY AND
CULTURE

11TH DECEMBER 2009

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Following the presentation of the 2010 Budget Statement and Economic Policy by the Hon. Minister for Finance and Economic Planning Hon. Kwabena Duffuor on Wednesday 18th November 2009, the Annual Estimate for the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Culture was referred to the Select Committee on Youth, Sports and Culture for consideration and report in accordance with Order 140 (4) and 187 of the Standing Orders of the House and Article 179 of the Constitution.

In considering the referral, the Committee met on 9th December 2009 to examine the Estimates. Present at the meeting was the Sector Minister, Hon. Alex Asum-Ahensah, (MP) and his team from the Ministry led by the Chief Director. An Official from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MOFEP) was also present.

The Committee is grateful to the Hon. Minister and all the officials for their kind assistance.

2.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENT

Reference documents used by the Committee during its deliberations were:

- i) The 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana
- ii) The Standing Orders of the House.
- iii) The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2010 financial year
- iv) 2010 draft Annual Estimate of the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Culture
- v) 2009 Committee Budget Report.

3.0 MISSION STATEMENT AND OBJECTIVES

The Ministry is charged with the responsibility to preserve, sustain and integrate the legal, traditional and cultural values and practices of the country to accelerate wealth

creation and harmony towards the overall national development objectives. The mission will be achieved through the following objectives:

- Strengthening the Ministry, National House of Chiefs and 10 Regional House of Chiefs.
- Increasing the capacity of the legal system to enhance speedy and affordable access to justice.
- Strengthening the regulatory and Institutional framework for the development of National Culture.
- Deepening on-going institutionalization and internalization of policy formulation, planning and M and E system at all levels.
- Ensuring reduction of HIV/AIDS /STI/TB transmission, ensure its proper management and promote healthy lifestyles.
- Promoting sustainable and responsible tourism in such a way to preserve historical, cultural and natural heritage.
- Researching, preserving, developing and promoting culture; values and practices that encourage national unity, social cohesion and harmony for socio-economic development.

4.0 PERFORMANCE IN THE YEAR 2009

Culture

A number of programmes and activities were implemented in the year 2009 under the 3rd Operational Programme Estimate (PE 3) of the cultural Initiatives Support Programme (CISP) to stimulate the development of arts and cultural expressions in all their diversity, as an engine for economic development and poverty reduction at the national, local and individual level. These were:

- Evaluation of small and big grant applications, monitoring visits to grant recipients;

- Organisation of a conference on culture, disability, highlife and witchcraft as well as workshops for the creation of database for inventorisation of National cultural assets and the publication and launching of Ghana Culture Magazine;
- Development of an appropriate project proposal to source the big grant application for the commencement of Cultural Education Magazine Programme on GTV;
- Organisation of Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Lectures in Accra, Kumasi and Tamale as part of the Centenary celebrations;
- Training workshops were held for Cultural Officers and Administrators, Artists and Craftsmen in Sunyani, Kumasi and Bolgatanga respectively;
- Workshops on Culture and Development to discuss the integration of culture into all relevant aspects of national development planning process were organised for District Planning Officers, Coordinating Directors and Cultural Officers from upper East, Upper West, Ashanti and Brong Ahafo Regions; and
- Participation in the Second Pan African Cultural Festival – PANAF ALGER 2009 in Algiers with a contingent of 64 delegates comprising officials, artists and scholars.

Chieftaincy

- A draft legislative Instrument on the codification of lines of succession based on reports from 11 Traditional Areas was submitted to the Attorney General's Department;
- Data was collected from 20 traditional areas relating to family and land law as part of the ascertainment of customary laws; and
- Organisation of workshops to train Chiefs on the Chieftaincy Act, 2008 Act 759

5.0 OUTLOOK FOR 2010

Government will continue to promote Ghana's cultural diversity as a rich asset which the nation can exploit for growth, employment and wealth creation. In this regard the following activities have been planned:

- Declaration of 2010 as the National Festival of Arts and Culture (NAFAC) year. As a prelude to this National Festival, Regional and District Festivals of Arts and Culture will be organised;
- Continuing to fashion harmonious ways of integrating culture into relevant dimensions of the curricula of educational institutions through inter sectoral coordination with the Ministry of Education;
- In fulfilment of constitutional provisions, culture will be integrated into the national development planning processes to accelerate poverty reduction and wealth creation; and
- The codification of lines of succession where more reports from Traditional Areas on customary laws converted into draft legislative instruments will be submitted to Parliament and additional data collected for the ascertainment of customary law.

6.0 BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR 2010

For its operations in 2010, the Ministry has been allocated an amount of **fifteen million, two hundred and fifty thousand, five hundred and sixty five Ghana Cedis (GH¢15,250,565)**. This includes donor and IGF. A breakdown of this amount is shown below:

a)	Government of Ghana (GOG)	¢13,136,965.00
b)	IGF	¢1,395,584.00
c)	Donor	<u>¢718,016.00</u>
		<u>GH¢15,250,565.00</u>

The departmental breakdown of the Ministry's budgetary allocation for the year 2010 is as follows:

		GOG	IGF	Donor
Personnel Emoluments	-	9,988,452	-	-
Administration	-	2,385,153	-	-
Service	-	67,085	816,370	718,016
Investment	-	696,275	579,214	-
Total	-	13,136,965	1,395,584	718,016

7.0 OBSERVATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Madam Speaker, in considering the budget estimates of the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Culture, your committee made the following observations and recommendations:

Table 1

Comparison between the Ministry's Requirement and Allocation

	Activities	Actual Budget Requirement	Budget Allocation
1	P.E	7,839,087.00	9,988,452.00
2	Administration	3,103,171.00	2,385,153.00
3	Service	25,241,665.00	67,085.00
4	Investment	3,421,135.00	696,275.00

It was worthwhile to note that the budgetary allocation for Personnel Emoluments for the Ministry of Chieftaincy was 27.42% higher than its requirement. The Ministry of Chieftaincy explained that the percentage increase in P.E was to cater for the single spine salary structure as well as the Queens allowances which would

require more funds to meet its obligation. The approved ceiling for Administration, Service and Investment were however, less than the Ministry's requirement for the 2010 fiscal year.

A slash in the budget requirement of the Ministry for administration, service and investment would definitely hamper the effective running of the Ministry's program. The Committee therefore recommends to the Ministry of Finance to consider making more funds available to the Ministry in the supplementary budget to enable it run its programmes and activities.

Creation of Cost Centre (General Administration)

The Committee noted with regret, that though the Ministry operates just like any other Ministry, it is inadequately resourced for the performance of its core functions. According to the Ministry, since its establishment, no specific budgetary allocation has been approved for General Administration and therefore budget ceilings for the Ministry has always been for the two sectors, Chieftaincy and Culture, which are still operating as separate entities. The Ministry therefore has been relying on the already inadequate budget allocation of these sectors.

The Ministry further informed the Committee that the situation has negatively affected the ability of the Ministry to meet some demands of the sector. Unfortunately, since his appointment, the Minister has not been able to tour the regions to apprise himself of issues pertaining to his sector and occasionally turn down invitations to international conferences/colloquiums in the culture sector which would otherwise be of immense benefit to Ghanaians.

In view of the above observation, the Committee recommends that, the Ministry of Finance should consider approving a cost centre as exists in other Ministries for the implementation of the Ministry's activities.

National Festival of Arts and Culture (NAFAC)

Madam Speaker, the Committee was informed that 2010 budgetary allocation to the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Culture did not cater for the organization of National Festival of Arts and Culture (NAFAC), which is a bi-annual event on the Ministry's calendar. The Committee once again found out that the Ministry's concern during the 2009 budget hearing on this matter remained unresolved.

Pursuant to its objective of preserving, developing and promoting cultural values and practices that would eventually encourage national unity, social cohesion and harmony for Socio-economic development, the Ministry must be able to organize Festivals of this nature. During the 2009 Committee hearing, the Committee highlighted this issue in its reports to the House but no concrete decision seems to have been taken on the matter.

The Committee would therefore reiterate its recommendation to the Government to have a second look at the matter and make funds available to the Ministry to enable it hold such an important Festival next year.

Inadequate Resource

Madam Speaker, the Committee observed that the Ministry is grossly under-resourced in terms of staffing and materials. The Ministry, though mandated to replace exiting staff, explained that there were difficulties in the process and hence the Ministry's inability to replace personnel in the Ministry as well as personnel to operate the one hundred and sixty (160) District Centres for Culture. It was regrettable to note that as a result, of the cumbersomeness in the staff replacement process, only GH¢2,637,806.00 out of GH¢8,464,790.00 of its Personnel Emolument allocated to the Ministry was utilized. The Ministry again indicated that due to poor remuneration and working conditions attrition rate is high.

The Committee advised the Ministry to engage the Minister of Local Government on the matter and request his Ministry's involvement and subsequently submit a memorandum to Cabinet to that effect. The Committee, therefore, expressed the hope that the Ministry would overcome these difficulties in order to hire staff next year to man the District Offices.

The unavailability of official vehicles was also a matter of concern to the Committee since it has a potential of affecting work performance.

Capacity Building

Madam Speaker, Capacity building is crucial for effective management of every organization. Unfortunately, capacity building has not been addressed in the 2010 budget of the Ministry. This situation would negatively affect the intensity of training Chiefs and Officials of the Ministry to be sufficiently equipped to control conflicts in their local communities.

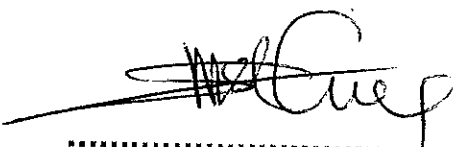
The committee is of the view that considering the effect of culture on tourism in the country and the important role chiefs can play in alternative conflict resolution in our traditional communities, the Ministry of Finance should consider making adequate funds available to the Ministry to enable it achieve its objective particularly to support chiefs to address the numerous conflicts.

8.0 CONCLUSION

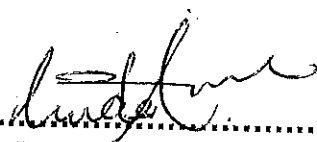
The Committee is of the view that in order to promote sustainable and responsible tourism in such a way to preserve historical, cultural and natural heritage of the nation the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Culture must be well resourced to administer the sector.

The Committee therefore, wishes to recommend to the House to approve an amount of **fifteen million, two hundred and fifty thousand, five hundred and sixty five Ghana Cedis (GH¢15,250,565)** for the fiscal year 2010.

Respectfully submitted.



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Hon. Stephen M.E.K. Ackah
Chairman



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Linda Gyekye Boadu
Assistant Clerk

11th December 2009