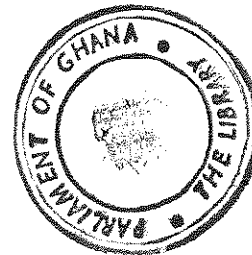


**IN THE SECOND SESSION OF THE
FOURTH PARLIAMENT OF THE
FOURTH REPUBLIC OF GHANA**



**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON
GENDER AND CHILDREN**

ON THE

**ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES OF
THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND
CHILDREN'S AFFAIRS**

12TH DECEMBER 2006

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON GENDER AND CHILDREN ON THE 2007
ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND
CHILDREN'S AFFAIRS (MOWAC)**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Following the presentation to Parliament of the Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2007 Financial Year on Thursday 16th November 2006, by the Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, the Annual Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs were referred to the Committee for its consideration and report, in accordance with Article 179 of the Constitution and Orders 140 (4) and 158 of the Standing Orders of the House.

The Committee met on the 8th of December, 2006 to consider the referral. The Hon. Minister for Women and Children's Affairs Hajja Alima Mahama accompanied by officials of the Ministry attended the sitting.

2.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

- i. Constitution of the Republic of Ghana, 1992
- ii. The Standing Orders of Parliament
- iii. The Budget Statement of the Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2007 Financial Year.
- iv. The Committee's report on 2006 budget estimates of the Sector Ministry.

3.0 MISSION STATEMENT

The Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs exist to promote gender equality and equity, the survival protection and development of children to ensure increased participation of both women and children in the development process of the country.

The Ministry therefore is responsible for:

- i. Policy formulation, co-ordination and monitoring of constitutional framework and activities of women and children programmes;
- ii. Advocacy of gender sensitivity in sectoral plans and business promotion, programmes and projects;
- iii. Collaboration with donor agencies , NGOs and other development partners to facilitate the integration of Women and Children in national development;
- iv. Implementation and dissemination of government policies; on Women and Children for incorporation into the development process;
- v. Implementation of sector plans and programme relating to Women and Children;
- vi. Ensuring the adherence and implementation of international convention, protocols, treaties and resolutions.

4.0 OBJECTIVES OF THE MINISTRY

In pursuit of this mission, the Ministry has the following as its main objectives:

- i. Enhance the socio-economic status of women and children, the Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups in order to accelerate growth and poverty reduction.

- ii. Accelerate the integration of women and children issues into the national development policy framework.
- iii. Promote the survival, protection and participation of children.
- iv. Collaborate with institutions to promote gender Equality and Equity.
- v. Enhance the capacity building of MOWAC and it's departments for efficient service delivery.
- vi. Establish and periodically update a reliable gender-disaggregated database for evidence based policy formulation/Review

5.0 PERFORMANCE IN 2006

A sum of twenty two billion six million cedis (¢22,600,000,000) was approved by this Honourable House for the operations of the Ministry in 2006 out of the base budget of fifty four billion, four hundred and seventy four million cedis (¢54,474,000,000) and left a financing gap of thirty two billion and one hundred million cedis (¢32,100,000,000.). This implied that MOWAC was not able to carryout all it's planned activities for 2006 and this affected overall service performance for the period. Nevertheless, the Ministry was able to carry out some major activities as follows:

- Carried out sensitization programmes nation-wide on the Domestic Violence Bill (DVB) to increase public understanding and enhance the passage of the Domestic Violence Act. View collated enriched the content of the DVB.
- MOWAC carried out effective sensitization programmes on the Human Trafficking Law (HTL) targeting relevant agencies, Traditional Authorities,

the Media, Religious bodies and the general public in all 10 Regions of Ghana. A Human Trafficking Secretariat was established.

- Presented and successfully defended Ghana's Reports on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), at the UN and also presented Reports to the Committee on the Conventions of the right of the child in Geneva. This has enhanced Ghana's global image with respect to government's commitment to issues relating to the advancement of women and children.
- Over 25 women groups in Greater Accra Region were trained in the efficient use of micro credit which enhanced the recovery rate of the micro-credit scheme. 130 women were also trained on Food Processing techniques.
- Liaised with Micro-Financial schemes and institutions to extend credit to 17,000 women engaged in small-scale farming and petty trading especially in the rural areas. The Expansion of the scheme created rural jobs and increased incomes of poor women.
- To promote gender equality and equity, MOWAC collaborated with NDPC and key MDA's to mainstream gender, vulnerability and marginalized groups and children's issues into GPRS II – National Development Policy framework of Government.
- Set up about 100 community child volunteer teams aimed at protecting and seeking the welfare and development of children.

6.0 OUTLOOK FOR 2007

The Ministry has planned among others the following activities for 2007:

- The Ministry will organize quarterly gender and children policy and programme coordination meetings with key sector MDAs to build stronger partnership with all stakeholders and ensure effective gender and child related programme implementation at all levels.
- MOWAC will collaborate with NDPC and MOFEP to introduce Gender Budgeting across sectors and also for the District Assemblies
- Women empowerment programmes
- Implementation of Human Trafficking Law
- Increased advocacy at all levels, to enhance the protection of the Ghanaian child
- The Ministry will continue to disseminate Government Policies and Programmes at Regional and district levels to enhance grassroots participation in Ghana's development and enhance Good Governance.

THE 2007 DRAFT ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES

The Ministry has been allocated a total amount of thirty-four billion, and sixty four million cedis (¢34,064,000,000.00). This is made up of the following components:

THE 2007 DRAFT ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES

The Ministry has been allocated a total amount of thirty-six billion, eight hundred and seventy million cedis (**¢36,870,000,000.00**). This is made up of the following components:

GOVERNMENT OF GHANA (GOG) SOURCES (¢)

i.	Personnel Emoluments	-	901,000,000.00
ii.	Administration	-	5,695,000,000.00
iii.	Service	-	7,531,000,000.00
iv.	Investments	-	<u>7,762,000,000.00</u>
	Total	-	<u>21,889,000,000.00</u>

DONOR COMPONENT (¢)

i.	Service	-	<u>12,141,000,000.00</u>
	Total	-	<u>12,141,000,000.00</u>

INTERNALLY GENERATED FUND (IGF) (¢)

i.	Investments	-	<u>34,000,000.00</u>
	Total	-	<u>34,000,000.00</u>

Out of the said amount of thirty-four billion, and sixty four million cedis (¢34,064,000,000.00), a total of twenty-one billion, eight hundred and eighty nine million cedis (¢21,889,000,000.00) represents the Government of Ghana (GOG) funding, and a Donor component amounting to twelve billion, one hundred and forty-one million cedis (¢12,141,000,000.00). The Internally Generated Fund (IGF) component amounts to thirty-four million cedis (¢34,000,000.00).

PERSONNEL EMOLUMENTS

An amount of nine hundred and one million cedis (¢901,000,000.00) has been provided as Personnel Emoluments for the staff of the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs. This amount will cater for salaries, daily rated expenses and social security contributions.

ADMINISTRATION

For its administrative expenses, the Ministry was allocated an amount of five billion, six hundred and ninety-five million cedis (¢5,695,000,000.00). The said amount is to be utilized for the core business of the Ministry and departments under its jurisdiction.

SERVICE

The Ministry has been allocated a total amount of nineteen billion, six hundred and seventy-two million cedis (¢19,672,000,000.00) with an amount of seven billion, five hundred and thirty-one million cedis (¢7,531,000,000.00) as GOG component, and a donor component of twelve billion, one hundred and forty-one million cedis (¢12,141,000,000.00). This is meant for the purchase of materials and consumables, training, stationery, printing, publications, travel and transport.

INVESTMENT

The Ministry has been allocated a total amount of seven billion, seven hundred and ninety-six million cedis (¢7,796,000,000.00) with an amount of seven billion, seven hundred and sixty-two million cedis (¢7,762,000,000.00) as GOG component whilst thirty-four million cedis (¢34,000,000.00) from IGF.

1.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee during its deliberation, made a lot of observations that need to be brought to the attention of the House. These are:

That in view of the peculiarity of the mandate of the Ministry that is initiation and formulation of policies, promotion of gender mainstreaming across all sectors, and empowerment of women and children and protection of their rights, they require a lot more budgetary allocation than has been allocated this year and in the past.

The Committee was highly impressed about the Ministry's achievements in 2006 in spite of their limited resources and commended the Minister and her officials for their efforts. As part of its achievements, the Ministry successfully launched the "Women in Local Government Fund" and supported potential women aspirants' to contest the 2006 District Assembly Elections. It was realized with joy that the number of women elected in the just ended District Assembly Elections increased from 7.6% to 10% and more women participated as candidates.

The Committee was concerned about the undisclosed source of the twelve billion one hundred and forty one million cedis (¢12,141,000,000) earmarked as Donor Inflows for the Ministry and requested that, the Ministry of Finance reveals the source of funding.

It was interesting to note that under the Investment plan of the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs (MOWAC) will start a construction of a new Office Accommodation to house the Headquarters and its two Departments. Accordingly, a total amount of four billion cedis (¢4,000,000,000) has been allocated to kick-start this project as against the initial request of ¢10billion.

With regard to funds allocated to women as credit facility through the banks, the Committee noted that the banks were not releasing the funds as expected. The Committee therefore recommends that, the Ministry redesign a structure on

conditions of the loan facility to facilitate the release by the banks since the standard conditions is so rigid that it makes it virtually impossible for the vulnerable and poor women to access the loan

The Committee observed that in order for the Ministry to generate an amount of 34 million cedis as IGF there is the need to rehabilitate the potentially viable Children's parks and charge social users. However, the real challenge to the Ministry was how to source money to rehabilitate the parks.

The Committee observed that the budgetary allocation for the Ministry's Service activities for the year 2006 had not been forthcoming since October, and therefore hoped that the residue be released to enable it fulfill all commitments.

The Committee noted with discontent about the inadequate budgetary allocation for the Ministry and said the preparation of the Annual Budget was gender insensitive. This, the Committee said was due to lack of consultation on the part of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning. Consequently, the Committee recommends that a Schedule Officer represents the MOWAC during the preparation of the guidelines for the various Sectors.

The Committee also recommends that the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning increases its budgetary allocation to enable the Ministry recruit personnel to fill vacancies especially at the district level, in view of Government's commitment to decentralization. This will help tackle gender issues from the grassroots.

CONCLUSION

The role played by the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs cannot be over-emphasized. The responsibility of ensuring, Gender integration, enhancing the socio-economic status of women and children, the vulnerable and the

marginalized in the society, accelerating growth and poverty reduction require huge financing for the realization of these objectives. Being a new Ministry, there are several challenges facing it. Adequate resources must therefore be made available for the effective performance of its functions.

The Committee accordingly recommends to the House for approval the sum of thirty four billion and sixty four million cedis (**₦34,064,000,000**) for the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs for the 2007 financial year.

Respectfully submitted



Hon. Esther Obeng Dappah
Chairperson



Linda Gyekye Boadu
(Ag. Clerk to the Committee)

12th December 2006