

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

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON LANDS
AND FORESTRY**

ON THE

**ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE
MINISTRY OF LANDS AND FORESTRY
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING
31ST DECEMBER**

MARCH 2002

INTRODUCTION

1. The Budget Statement and Financial Policy of the Government for the year ending 31st December 2002 was presented to Parliament by the Minister of Finance on Thursday 21st February 2002 in accordance with Article 179 of the 1992 Constitution of Ghana and accordingly, the Draft Estimates of the Ministry of Lands and Forestry referred to the Committee for consideration and report in furtherance to Orders 140(4) and 177 of the Standing Orders of the House.
2. Your Committee held two sittings to deliberate on the estimates and had discussions with officials of the Ministry of Lands and Forestry and the Ministry of Finance.
3. Your Committee wishes to express its gratitude to the officials who attended upon the Committee and assisted it in its deliberations.

REFERENCE

4. Your Committee referred to the following documents at its deliberations:
 - i. The 1992 Constitution of Ghana
 - ii. The Standing Orders of the House
 - iii. The Budget Statement and Financial Policy of Government for the year ending 31st December 2002.
 - iv. The Draft Annual Estimates of the Ministry of Lands and Forestry.

MISSION STATEMENT

5. The Ministry has as its Mission Statement, the sustainable management and utilization of the nation's lands, forests and wildlife resources for the socio-economic development and growth of Ghana. This will be achieved through:
 - (1) Efficient formulation, implementation, co-ordination, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes of the sector agencies.

- (2) Efficient management of public and stool lands as a means to ensure equitable land delivery
- (3) Promoting effective inter-agency and cross-sectoral linkages.
- (4) Promoting sustainable forest and wildlife resource management and utilization
- (5) Creating an enabling environment for effective private sector participation.
- (6) Promoting effective community participation in multiple uses of land, forest and wildlife resources.

6. In doing all this, the Ministry of Lands and Forestry will promote transparency and deliver its services effectively for the benefit of present and future generations.

OBJECTIVES

7. In order to realize its Mission, the following objectives developed by the Ministry will be pursued:

- i. Develop and/or manage sustainable Lands, Forest and Wildlife Resources;
- ii. Facilitate equitable access and security to Land, Forest and Wildlife Resources.
- iii. Promote public awareness and local communities participation in sustainable Forest, Wildlife and Land use management and utilization;
- iv. Create an enabling environment to increase effective private sector participation in land service delivery, forest and wildlife management and utilization.
- v. Put in place an effective land, forest and wildlife planning to increase benefits derived from these resources.

- vi. Develop and maintain effective institutional capacity and capability at the national, regional, district and community level for land, forest and wildlife service delivery.
- vii. Review, update and consolidate existing legislation and policies affecting natural resources management.
- viii. Develop research into problems of forest, wildlife and land use.

ESTIMATES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2002

8. In pursuit of its policy objectives for the 2002 fiscal year, the Ministry of Lands and Forestry has been allocated 229,858,471,433 for its activities, an increase of ₦38,214,185,595 or 19.9% of the previous year's figure of ₦191,644,285,838.

9. Out of the total budgeted figure, an amount of ₦39,008,422,708 is provided by government (GOG) whilst ₦63,681,547,514 is donor funded. The balance of ₦127,168,501,211 is generated internally (I.G.F.). The IGF figure represents 55.3% of the Ministry's total budget.

A comparative breakdown of sources of funding for the two years is as follows:

COMPARATIVE BREAKDOWN ON SOURCES OF FUNDING

FISCAL YEAR 2001 AND 2002

ITEM	GOG		DONOR		IGF		TOTAL	
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS	23,461,829,719	23,116,024,608	-	-	10,751,360,514	12,503,681,244	34,213,190,233	35,619,705,852
ADMINISTRATION	13,309,434,092	7,757,607,500	-	-	32,239,471,001	40,820,802,491	45,548,905,093	48,588,409,991
SERVICES	11,273,942,140	5,819,171,400	26,187,192,924	17,765,524,964	16,054,626,200	59,413,334,976	53,515,761,264	82,998,031,340
INVESTMENT	17,554,897,879	2,315,619,200	29,517,434,000	45,916,022,550	11,294,097,369	14,430,682,500	58,366,429,248	62,662,324,250
TOTAL	65,600,103,830	39,008,422,708	55,704,626,924	63,681,547,514	70,339,555,084	127,168,501,211	191,644,285,838	229,868,471,433

10. The reduction in budgetary allocation from GOG component for the various items in this year's budget is attributable to the creation of a separate Ministry of Mines which in the previous year's budget was part of the then Ministry of Lands, Forestry and Mines.

ESTIMATES FOR DIVISIONS/DEPARTMENTS OF MINISTRY

Headquarters

11. A total amount of ₵72,411,021,526 has been voted for the activities of the Headquarters of the Ministry which comprises of the following agencies; General Administration, Lands Title Registry, Ghana Forestry Commission, Land Valuation Board, Office of the Administrator of Stool Lands, Forestry Planning and Savannah Resource Components. The breakdown by item is as follows:

	₵
Personal Emoluments	- 13,046,477,271
Administration	- 23,639,293,609
Services	- 15,457,175,846
Investment	- <u>20,268,074,800</u>
Total	- <u>72,411,021,526</u>

Survey Department

12. The Survey Department, which includes the survey school, has been granted an amount of ₵8,258,230,158 to finance its activities for the 2002 fiscal year. The breakdown is as follow

	₵
Personal Emoluments	- 3,371,895,558
Administration	- 1,845,375,000
Services	- 2,513,560,800
Investment	- <u>527,398,800</u>
Total	- <u>8,258,230,358</u>

Forestry Services Division (FSD)

13. To achieve its objectives, the FSD has been allocated an amount of ₦107,712,071,358 has been earmarked for its activities for the year. Below is the breakdown:

	₦
Personal Emolument	- 11,186,529,832
Administration	- 17,370,842,982
Services	- 55,852,563,294
Investment	- <u>23,302,135,250</u>
Total	- <u>107,712,071,258</u>

Wildlife Division

14. An amount of ₦34,149,025,475 has been granted the Division for its activities for the year. The breakdown is indicated below:

	₦
Personal Emoluments	- 6,443,351,175
Administration	- 4,664,550,900
Services	- 7,055,143,400
Investment	- <u>15,985,980,000</u>
Total	- <u>34,149,025,475</u>

Lands Commission Secretariat

15. A total amount of ₦7,328,122,916 has been set aside to meet the activities of the Secretariat for the financial year 2002. The breakdown is shown below:

	₦
Personal Emoluments	- 1,571,452,016
Administration	- 1,058,347,500
Services	- 2,119,588,000
Investment	- <u>2,578,735,400</u>
Total	- <u>7,328,122,916</u>

OBSERVATIONS

16. Your Committee observed that the Draft Estimates failed to provide information on the actuals for the previous financial year i.e. 2001.

17. This does not allow for easy comparative study of the figures of the two years' (2001 and 2002). Your Committee requested MOF to provide these figures in their subsequent budgets.

18. Your Committee has again observed that not much has been done by way of creating new Parks and wish to reiterate its previous years recommendation by urging the Ministry to develop a policy aimed at establishing additional Parks and Reserves. This will not only increase the country's foreign exchange earning capacity but also provide recreational facilities for Ghanaians.

19. Your Committee noted that there is an internal arrangement between the Forestry Commission and the Office of the Administrator of Stool Lands (OASL) in which the former collects stumpage fees for latter. The arrangement provides for the Commission to retain 60% of the total collections as administrative charges and the 40% paid to OASL.

20. In line with the provisions of the 1992 Constitution, the Administrator is required to retain 10% of the 40% stumpage fee and the rest of the amount paid to the traditional authorities in line with the constitutional guidelines. This administrative arrangement was to be a pilot project for a year.

21. Your Committee however noted that this system, unfair as it is, is still being implemented by the Ministry. Your Committee therefore wishes to urge the sector Minister to take the necessary measures to have the arrangement reviewed.

22. Your Committee further noted that the numerous land litigations especially in Accra arise from the irregular registration of title deeds to such lands. The Lands Title Registration which exist to provide titles to lands is however ill resourced to undertake this assignment.

23. The Land Title Registry was expected as at last year to register titles to lands within a three-year period. Unfortunately however, no funds were released under the Service and Investment budgets of the Registry for year 2001.

24. Furthermore, the adjudication Committees set up by the Registry to resolve disputes over land matters had to be dissolved over the past three years due to the unavailability of funds to pay Committee members.

25. Your Committee wishes to urge the Ministry of Finance to endeavour to release funds to the Registry to carryout its activities since efficient land administration is crucial to the realization of the government's golden age of business.

26. Your Committee also wishes to urge the Minister of Lands and Forestry and the Attorney General and Minister of Justice to lay before Parliament as early as possible, the Land Valuation Board Bill to regularize the existence of the Board.

27. Your Committee observed that cartography is very crucial to an effective and efficient land policy. Unfortunately, the bodies mandated to manage our lands lack the needed cartographers to do the job.

28. The Lands Commission Secretariat, the Land Valuation Board and the Survey Department should therefore concert their efforts and have the cartographic school re-opened this year.

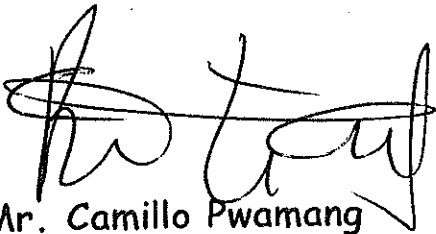
CONCLUSION

29. Your Committee after, thoroughly examining the 2002 Draft Estimates of the Ministry of Lands and Forestry and after satisfying itself with the explanations given by officials of the Ministry, recommends that the sum of **¢229,858,500,000** be approved by this House for the activities of the Ministry of Lands and Forestry for the 2002 financial year.

Respectfully submitted.



Hon. Agyare Koi-Larbi
Chairman, Committee on Lands and Forest
March 2002



Mr. Camillo Pwamang
Clerk, Committee on Lands and Forestry