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

# REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE ON THE REVIEW OF ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE BASED ON THE BUDGET STATEMENT AND ECONOMIC POLICY AND SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES FOR THE 2006 FINANCIAL YEAR

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Supplementary Estimates for the 2006 Financial Year were laid in the House on Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> July 2006 and referred to the Finance Committee for consideration and report, pursuant to Article 179(8) of the 1992 Constitution and the Standing Order 143 of the House.

To consider the Estimates, the Committee met with the Minister for Finance and Economic Planning, Hon. Kwadwo Baah-Wiredu, the Deputy Minister for Finance and Economic Planning, Hon. Prof. George Gyan Baffour and a technical team from the Ministry for Finance and Economic Planning and reports as follows:

#### 2.0 REFERENCES

The Committee availed itself of the following documents in its deliberations:

- The 1992 Constitution
- The Budget Statement and Economic Policy for 2006
- Standing Orders
- Review of Economic Performance based on the Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2003 Financial Year
- Review of Economic Performance based on the Budget Statement and Economic Policy and a Supplementary Estimates for 2006

## 3.0 BACKGROUND

In November 2005, the 2006 Budget Statement & Economic Policy was presented to the House for approval in line with Article 179 of the Constitution and Standing Order 140 of the House.

The Budget reflected the Strategic focus of the Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy (GPRS II) which dwells on accelerated growth as a means of creating wealth, reducing poverty and enhancing development.

Since the 2006 Budget was approved by the House, many significant developments have arisen on the macro economic front. Ghana is to further benefit from the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative resulting in the irrevocable cancellation of outstanding debts owed to the IMF, World Bank and African Development Bank.

These reliefs are to be used to augment the current investment levels to accelerate the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) towards the reduction of poverty.

For these investments to be undertaken there is the need for some adjustments in the annual estimates approved for the 2006 financial year and the redirection of governments efforts to achieve these development goals.

As a result of this, there is the need for supplementary estimates be laid before the House for approval in conformity with Article 179 (8) of the Constitution and Order 143 of the Standing Orders of the House.

# 4.0 SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION FOR 2006

The total amount of ¢4,280, 328,000 being the supplementary estimates is grouped under three thematic areas, namely good Governance and Civic Responsibility, ¢1,783.5 billion, Private Sector Competitiveness ¢2,149.3 billion and human resource development ¢347.5 billion.

The Deputy Minister for Finance informed the Committee that the amount would be disbursed as follows:

#### 5.3 OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT MACHINERY

A total of \$\psi\731.7 billion is being allocated to the Office of Government Machinery. Out of this amount, \$\psi\91.5 billion\$ has been allocated to support programmes and activities of the National Identification Programme (NIP) in view of the importance of the National Identification Programme (NIP) in the development agenda of the nation,.

An amount of **¢182.9 billion** has also been proposed to fund the activities marking Ghana's Golden Jubilee Celebrations. This amount, some Members were of the opinion that it was on the higher side and needed explanation and justification from the Minister of Finance.

The Deputy Minister for Finance and Economic Planning, Prof. Gyan Baffour informed the Committee that the amount would be used to undertake activities such as the renovation of the Independence Square and 28th February Roundabout, acquisition of fleet of cars for the invited dignitaries, accommodation for guests, renovation of some ceremonial structures in Accra, Maintenance of a small secretariat for the Anniversary planning Committee among others.

The Minister assured the Committee that the celebration would be throughout the Country and that the Anniversary Planning Committee would meet and brief the Finance Committee on the details of the proposed expenditure.

# 5.4 OFFICE OF PARLIAMENT

Parliament has been allocated an amount of **¢64 billion** to fund various investment activities, including the renovation of the Chamber block and the completion of the new Office block for Parliament.

## 5.5 MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION

There is a provision of an amount of **¢868.9 billion** to the Ministry of Transportation. This is to support the road projects such as Tetteh Quarshie to Adenta, Achimota to Ofankor, Asankragua to Enchi and Dadieso, Bamboi to Tinga among others.

Members noted that just one bulk figure has been allocated to the various road projects (as per the appendix) and requested the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning to endeavor to provide the specifics as to how much is allocated to each road project to make it easier for monitoring and supervision.

# 5.6 MINISTRY OF HARBOURS AND RAILWAYS

The Harbours and Railways Ministry has been allocated a supplementary amount of  $\precept{\rlap/}c73.2$  billion to support the rehabilitation of railway transportation from Accra to Tema.

## 5.7 MINISTRY OF ENERGY

In support of Government's commitment to increase capital investment in the utilities sector, an amount of **¢311 billion** has been allocated to the Ministry of Energy for the construction of a Third Bulk Supply Point (BSP) in Accra, acquisition of VRA Generator and the implementation of SHEP 4.

# 5.8 MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND SPORTS

As is known, Ghana has won the right to host the Confederation of African Nations (CAN) 2008 Soccer Competition. The Committee observed that this would require significant financial investment in infrastructure. To achieve the goal of organizing a successful tournament and to build on Ghana's success at the just ended 2006 FIFA World Cup, an amount of **¢228.7 billion** out of a total of **¢256.1** billion has been allocated to finance the infrastructure requirements of CAN 2008.

# 5.9 MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENT

An amount of **¢27.4 billion** has been allocated to the Ministry to be utilized as seed money for the construction of new markets in Accra and Kumasi.

#### 5.10 MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Since the Agricultural sector has been identified as one of the key sectors to help achieve a higher economic growth, an amount of **¢109.8 billion** has been allocated to the Ministry of Food and Agriculture for the purchase of modern agricultural equipment, mainly tractors.

#### **5.11 MINISTRY OF INTERIOR**

To enhance the effective operations of institutions under the Ministry of the Interior, an amount of ¢292.7 billion has been provided for the Ministry. ¢109.8 out of that amount is to be used by the Immigration Service to commence its renewed mandate of patrolling the nation's borders. The remaining amount would be used to purchase various items, including communications equipment, vehicles and other logistics for the Police Service.

# 6.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The Committee observed that the moneys for which authorization to spend is being sought would be obtained as follows:
- a. An amount of **¢27.4 billion** which had accumulated from adjustment of petroleum prices in February 2005
- b. An amount of **¢311.00 billion (US\$ 34 million)** from the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA)
- c. A Debt Relief from the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI) consisting of ¢1829.2 billion (US\$ 200 million) from the International Monetary Fund, ¢219.5 billion (US\$ 24 million) from the World Bank,

and ¢54.9 billion (US\$6 million) from the African Development Group.

- d. A grant of **US\$ 20 Million** from Areeba **(equivalent ¢182.9 billion)** for the financing of the Accra East-West Water Loop
- e. An amount of  $\not\in 1,317.02$  billion is expected to be contracted through short-term and long-term loans.
- f. Furthermore, the government would raise **¢338.4 billion** through offloading some of its shareholdings in State Insurance Company (SIC), Ghana Oil Company (GOIL) and Produce Buying Company (PBC)

The Deputy Minister for Finance therefore assured the Committee that this would not lead to any additional taxes.

- 6.2 Some members of the Committee expressed some concern about the Long Title of the supplementary estimates document as it also includes 'Review of Economic Performance'. The Deputy minister however explained that the Ministry was following a precedent set in the year 2003 when supplementary estimates were passed by the House with the same long title as the current one (i.e. Review of Economic Performance Based on the Budget Statement and Economic Policy and a Supplementary Estimate of the Government of Ghana for the ..... Financial Year)
- **6.3** On the question of why an amount of **US\$181 million** is sitting idle at the Bank of Ghana whilst various parts of the country continue to experience various developmental problems, the Deputy Minister explained that such a measure was necessary to cushion the country against any unexpected happenings in the currently rather volatile crude oil market.
- 6.4 Some members also expressed reservation about the fact that the Government of Ghana was budgeting to spend on Food Ration for United Nations Peacekeeping operations and requested the Ministry of Finance and Economic planning to endeavour to get a refund whenever possible since Members were of the view that UN operations are not under any cost to the Government of Ghana.

6.5 On the issue of a possible conflict of interest arising as a result of the Government accepting a \$20 million grant from Areeba, the Finance Minister explained that Areeba approached the Government with the proposal to help assist in easing the perennial water problem at Adenta as part of their corporate social responsibility to the people of Ghana.

APPENDIX: Please find a comprehensive list of the allocations (by Ministry) attached as Appendix.

# 7.0 CONCLUSION

The Committee recommends that the House respectfully adopts its report and approve by Resolution, the sum of ¢4,280 billion as Supplementary Budget for 2006 financial year for the purpose of meeting expenditure to carry out Government's services in accordance with Article 179(8) of the Constitution.

Respectfully Submitted.

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HON. KWADWO AGÝEI-ADDO VICE CHAIRMAN

ALHAJI IBRAHIM GOMBILLA CLERK

19TH JULY 2006

SUPPLEMENTARY MILES AND

Appendix Table 7: 2006 Sub Mida	SEA COMMENTAL .		、川間			
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Asilienium Development Authority (MiDA)	400 tractors a	nd Accessories				9,752,000.00
	waneuroni Cu	llenge Projects				0,964,000.00
Ministry of Energy	a. VBA Gener	ator Equipment		·		
	p. ECG (Prep.	aid Meters/BSP			10	2,920,000.00
	c. SHEP 4			.		1,460,000.00
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Ministry of Harbours & Railways	Extention of ra	lway line to Port	of #	_		
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Ministry of Water Resources, Works and Housing	a. Accra Loop		.			1,876,000.00
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	b. CAN 2008 Sta	dia !			- 計 - 24。	38,000,00
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Ministry of Health	1				258,0	88,000,00
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	b. National ID				457,30	00,000,00
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Ministry of Information & National Orientation	<u>.</u>				304 13	00.000,5
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