

IN THE THIRD SESSION OF THE SEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF THE FOURTH REPUBLIC OF GHANA



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REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY

ON THE

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
GHANA SHARED GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT
AGENDA (GSGDA) II 2014-2017

2015 ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

MARCH, 2019 ✓

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1.0. INTRODUCTION

The 2015 Annual Progress Report on the implementation of the Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda (GSGDA) 2014 – 2017 prepared by the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC) was laid in the House on Monday, June 19th 2017 and was referred to the Committee on Poverty Reduction Strategy for consideration and report in accordance with the Standing Orders of the House.

In considering the referral, the Committee invited Ministers, Chief Directors and Officials of the Ministries, Departments and Agencies. The Committee is grateful to them for their assistance.

2.0. REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

The Committee referred to the following documents in considering the report:

- i. The 1992 Constitution
- ii. The Standing Orders of the House
- iii. The Budget Statements for 2014 and 2015
- iv. The 2015 Annual Progress Report on the implementation of the Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda (GSGDA II), (2014 – 2017)

3.0. SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

The 2015 Annual Progress Report (APR) provided an assessment of the policies and strategies outlined in the Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda (GSGDA II), 2014-2017 in 2015. It is the second assessment of the progress of implementation of the GSGDA II and the fourteenth in the series of APRs prepared since 2002.

The overall goal of the GSGDA II is to accelerate the growth of the economy with the view to creating more jobs, generating more income and reducing poverty. Policy measures identified to achieve this goal are prioritised in the seven thematic areas, namely:

- i. Ensuring and sustaining macro-economic stability;
- ii. Enhanced competitiveness of Ghana's private sector;
- iii. Accelerated agricultural modernisation and sustainable natural resource management;
- iv. Oil and gas development;

- v. Infrastructure and human settlement development;
- vi. Human development, productivity and employment; and
- vii. Transparent and accountable governance.

The 2015 Annual Progress Report presents the results of the assessment of the status of indicators and targets adopted for monitoring the progress of key policy and programme interventions undertaken in 2015. It also documents key policy measures and strategies implemented during that year to bring about the expected changes in these indicators.

Out of the 290 indicators assessed, about 29.7% made significant progress or achieved their targets in 2015, compared to 27.3% in 2014, whilst 14.8% made steady progress compared to 17.5% in 2014. The number of indicators which did not achieve their targets or recorded slow progress increased from 33.1% in 2014 to 45.2% in 2015 while the number of indicators without data decreased from 22.2% in 2014 to 9.5% in 2015.

The report indicates what the various Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) have done to ensure that the intended growth as anticipated under the Budget for the 2015 fiscal year is achieved. As mentioned earlier the indicators were developed by the MDAs themselves and it is on this basis that the 2015 budget was prepared and presented to the House. These targets were approved by Parliament and the MDAs were expected to achieve them.

4.0. OBJECTIVE

The objective of the referral is to assess and evaluate the progress of development made in 2015 in the various sectors of the economy and whether the targets set by MDAs have been achieved.

5.0. METHODOLOGY

Upon referral of the report to the Committee by the Speaker of Parliament, the Committee invited some officials of the National Development Planning Commission to a meeting where the Committee was briefed on the Overview of the 2015 APR. Following that, issues were discussed and clarifications sought. This guided the Committee in its deliberations with the Ministers who appeared before it.

The Committee resolved to discuss the issues in the report under the broad thematic areas as classified in the GSGDA II 2014 -2017 and the 2015 Annual Report.

Ministries, Departments and Agencies whose work and activities fell under various thematic areas were invited to attend upon the Committee to account for the progress made towards achieving the relevant targets. Thus, each MDA made presentations and offered explanations to questions asked in relation to the indicators and issues raised. However, Ministry of Education could not attend upon the Committee.

In some circumstances, some Ministers who appeared before the Committee shared revised data with the Committee.

The Committee further resolved to report on matters that in its view should engage the attention of the House.

6.0. OBSERVATIONS

The Committee made the under-listed observations during the consideration of the 2015 Annual Progress Reports classifying them into the seven thematic areas.

6.1. ENSURING AND SUSTAINING MACRO-ECONOMIC STABILITY

6.1.1. Overall performance

The overall performance in this thematic area could be considered as below average, as only 35% of the 20 indicators monitored in the thematic area either exceeded/achieved their target, or made significant/steady progress, whilst 65% did not achieve their respective targets or recorded slow progress towards target.

6.1.2. MINISTRY OF FINANCE

A technical team led by the Deputy Minister for Finance, Hon Abena Osei-Asare gave an account of the performance of the economy.

(a) Performance of the Economy

The Deputy Minister informed the Committee that the economy grew by 3.9% in 2015 compared to 4% in 2014. This fell short of the target of 9.5% set under the GSGDA II for 2015. Consequently, per capita GDP declined from US\$1,426 in 2014 to US\$1,339 in 2015, thus falling short of the target of US\$1,816.54 set under the GSGDA II. The Deputy Minister attributed the decline in GDP growth to inadequate power supply, particularly to industry and rising inflation.

The Committee noted with concern that consumer inflation increased from 17% in 2014 to 17.7% in 2015, thus endangering the medium-term target of 8.±02.0%. The increase was mainly attributed to the upward adjustments in utility and fuel prices, transport fares as well as the depreciation of the cedi.

i. Declining Growth rate of the Agricultural & Industrial Sector

The Committee observed that the targets for both agricultural and industrial growth rates were not met. While Agriculture recorded a growth rate of 2.5% against the targets for 2015 budget and GSGDA II of 3.6% and 5.9% respectively, that of industry recorded 1% against the targets for 2015 budget and GSGDA II of 3.3% and 10.5% respectively.

The decline in Agriculture was attributed largely to the poor performance of the cocoa sub-sector which grew by -2.3% compared to the 2014 growth rate of 4.3%.

Mining, quarrying and electricity sub-sectors were the most affected recording a growth rate of -2.2% and -10.2% respectively. While the decline in the mining sub-sector was largely due to a fall in gold and oil production as a result of a slump in global commodity prices, that of electricity was attributed to the challenges with the power sector.

ii. Increasing Public Debt

The Committee further observed that the total public debt stock increased from GH¢79,665.48 million in 2014 to GH¢100,234.95 million at the end of December, 2015. In real terms, this represented an increase from 70.23% of GDP in 2014 to 71.63% of GDP in 2015.

This was against the backdrop of the debt management strategy which required that commercial loans be restricted to profitable projects with on-lending and funds held in trust to ensure debt repayment.

(b) Ghana Integrated Financial Management Information Systems (GIFMIS)

The Committee noted that as at 2014 all MDAs and seven (7) MMDAs have been migrated onto the GIFMIS platform to process financial transactions. Currently, MMDAs that are on the platform are Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA), Kumasi Metropolitan Assembly (KMA), Tema Metropolitan Assembly (TMA), Cape Coast Metropolitan, Ho Municipal, Obuasi Municipal and Tarkwa Nsuaem Municipal.

In 2015, additional 53 MMDAs were expected to be migrated onto the platform, however, this was not achieved due to the inability of the Ministry to complete the roll-out of the fiscal decentralization and composite budgeting policies, as well as the network infrastructure to the affected MMDAs.

The Committee recommends that the Ministry of Finance intensifies its efforts to extend GIFMIS to the Local Government level (i.e. the MMDA level). It is also important that National Information Technology Agency (NITA) establishes network connectivity to all the MMDAs for the roll out of activities.

6.1.3. BANK OF GHANA

High Inflation

The Committee noted with concern high inflation experienced by Ghanaians in the country. The year-on-year inflation rose from 17% in 2014 to 17.7% in 2015. The Committee was of the view that with the current rate of inflation the country might risk the opportunity to achieve GSDA's medium target of $8.0 \pm 2.0\%$.

The Committee was informed that the rise in headline inflation rate at the end of 2015 was mainly due to food inflation as it rose from 7.4% in June to 8% in December 2015.

The Committee recommends that the Bank pursued both demand and supply driven macroeconomic policies in order to achieve low and stable inflation and exchange rates. In the view of the Committee, while inflation targeting is useful and necessary tool to achieve low inflation, it is not sufficient to ensure rapid and sustained low level of inflation. A more moderated and weighted adjustment of the Monetary Policy Rate (MPR) that takes into account the real sector of the economy will help achieve a dual goal of inflation and high economic growth.

Interest Rate Spread

The Committee was informed that the interest rate spread for the year 2015 was 14.5%. In the view of the Committee, this was too wide and may impact negatively on the cost of doing business in Ghana.

In response, the Deputy Governor attributed the wide interest rate spread to inflation and other risk factors related to lending. It was further explained to

the Committee that if measures were taken to contain Non-food inflation, the MPR of the Bank and subsequently interest rate spread would have reduced.

Improved Access to Financial Services

The Committee noted that credit to the private sector as a percentage of Deposit Money Banks' total credit reduced from 87.3% at the end of 2014 to 81.7% at the end of 2015. This, the Deputy Governor attributed to the position taken by some banks to slow down on the granting of new loans until they are able to improve upon their non-performing loans.

This notwithstanding, the Committee was happy to have been informed of the establishment of the Collateral Registry and licensing of Credit Reference Bureau which will go a long way to help lower the ratio of impaired loans and address the risks in lending.

6.2. ENHANCING COMPETITIVENESS OF GHANA'S PRIVATE SECTOR

6.2.1. Overall Performance

The Committee noted that the overall progress in this thematic area in 2015 was below average. Out of the 22 indicators monitored, only 36.4% either achieved their target or made significant/steady progress, whilst 59.1% either made slow progress or did not achieve their targets. The rest of 4.5% could not be assessed due to lack of data.

6.2.2. MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Regulatory and Business Environment

The Committee noted that Ghana's ranking in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business assessment dropped from the 70th position in 2014 to 112th in 2015 out of 189 countries. In the same vein, Ghana's ranking under the Global Competitiveness Index (GCI) worsened in 2015 with only 4 out of the 12 pillars of the index recording improvement.

In responding to this, the Deputy Minister informed the Committee that the Ministry was putting in place a programme that would seek to implement comprehensive regulatory reforms to improve Ghana's rankings on the World Bank's Doing Business Index and the Global Competitiveness Index. It will also seek to create an E-Register and One-Stop Repository that will make all

business regulations readily available on-line to increase transparency and certainty for both Ghanaian entrepreneurs and foreign investors.

The Committee recommends that the Ministry of Trade and Industry collaborates with other Ministries to put in place the necessary regulatory reforms that would help shorten the procedures and time as well as reduce the cost of doing business to make Ghana more competitive.

Declining Merchandise Export

In discussing the performance of Ghana's external trade sector, the Committee observed that in 2015, earnings from merchandise export declined by 21.6%. This was largely on account of falling commodity prices of key export commodities such as gold, oil and cocoa coupled with decreased output of all major export commodities.

The Committee therefore urges the Ministry to take appropriate actions that would boost the export of non-traditional products. In the view of the Committee, this would help in Ghana's export diversification efforts. Efforts should also be made by the Ministry to enhance the quality of export products that would help meet the global market requirements.

6.2.3. MINISTRY OF TOURISM, CULTURE & CREATIVE ARTS

Provision of Infrastructure to Tourist Sites

The Committee was happy to note that the tourism industry contributed 4.7% to Gross Domestic Product in 2015. However, the potential of tourism to national development remains largely under-developed. The provision of tourism infrastructure such as good road networks and tourism-related facilities are not in a good state.

The Committee recommends that the Ministry makes the necessary effort to attract private investment into tourism infrastructure development. The Committee further urges the Ministry to collaborate with relevant Ministries to ensure good sanitation in our beaches as well as the cities.

Inadequate Data on Culture and Creative Arts Industry

The Committee observed that comprehensive data to assess the contribution of trade in culture and creative goods were still not available.

The Committee recommends that the Ministry collaborate with the Ghana Statistical Service to facilitate the availability of data on creative arts on a consistent basis.

6.3. ACCELERATED AGRICULTURAL MODERNIZATION AND SUSTAINABLE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

6.3.1. Overall Performance

The overall performance in this thematic area could be rated as below average, as 35.1% of the 79 indicators monitored in the thematic area either achieved their target, or made significant/steady progress, whilst 51.9% did not achieve their respective targets or made slow progress. The remaining 13% could not be assessed due to lack of data.

6.3.2. MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Production Risk

The report revealed that the targets for production of foundation seeds, fertilizer application rate, cultivated areas under irrigation, and the total number of beneficiaries with access to agriculture technologies were not achieved in the year 2015. In the view of the Committee, this poses serious production risks with its consequent effect on food security.

For instance, with respect to the missed target for the production of foundation seeds, the Ministry explained to the Committee that farmers continue to resort to using farmer-saved seeds which have relatively poor germination yields as a result of the unavailability of the foundation seeds.

The Committee therefore recommends that government resource the Grains and Legumes Development Board to increase access to the use of certified seeds among farmers.

Spread of the Avian Influenza

The Committee was informed of the outbreak of the Avian Influenza in 2015 in which five regions were affected. The Committee was further informed that over seventy-five thousand birds had to be destroyed to contain the disease. The Committee noted that despite the outbreak of the disease the poultry industry was still resilient and that poultry farmers had been encouraged by the Ministry to adhere to best practices that would prevent any future outbreak.

Promotion of Livestock and Poultry Development

The Committee was informed that the rate of growth in the production of the various species of livestock slowed down in 2015, following three

consecutive years of major improvements. This contributed to the sector's inability to achieve the 2015 target set under the GSGDA II.

The Committee recommends that the Ministry intensifies its efforts in the promotion of livestock and poultry development. In this regard, there is the need to increase research into large scale breeding and production of livestock, large scale cultivation of maize and soya beans for the formulation of animal feed to improve access to quality feed, design appropriate interventions to address processing and marketing of livestock and intensify disease control and surveillance, among others.

6.3.3. MINISTRY OF FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT

Illegal Fishing

The Committee noted that illegal fishing activities coupled with over exploitation of marine resources were some of the causes of the depleting fish stock in the country's waters. Consequently, Ghana recorded a fish catch deficit of 662,555.84 metric tonnes in 2015.

The Committee observed that illegal fishing activities affected the declaration of the quantum of fish catch, thus, not reflecting the actual contribution of fishing to agricultural Gross Domestic Product.

The Committee recommends that the Fishing Enforcement Unit of the Ministry should be strengthened. The Committee further urges the Enforcement Unit to have regular interactions with the fisher folks and educate them on best practices of fishing. There is also the need for collaboration between the Ghana Marine Police and the Ghana Navy to curtail illegal fishing and improve surveillance.

Production of Aquaculture

The Committee was informed that production from aquaculture accounted for 10.0% of the overall fish production in the year under consideration. The Committee was further informed that aquaculture production has been increasing over the years, however, the rate of growth has not been significant enough to drastically reduce the country's over-dependence on fish catch.

To significantly transform aquaculture development and enhance domestic fish production, the Committee recommends that the implementation of the Ghana National Aquaculture Development Plan be given appropriate attention

by the Ministry. Thus, measures such as promotion of private investment in aquaculture, developing aquaculture infrastructure and adequate supply of fish feed should be given a priority.

6.3.4. MINISTRY OF LANDS & NATURAL RESOURCES

Declining Gold and Diamond Production

The Committee expressed concern about the decline in Gold and Diamond production. The Ministry in response attributed this to the downturn in global prices. Besides, the suspension of mining at the Obuasi Mine of AngloGold Ashanti, the slowdown in output from the small-scale mining sector as well as production challenges at Newmont Ahafo, Golden Star Bogoso Prestea Limited and Abosso Goldfields Limited also contributed to the poor performance, especially in gold production.

The Committee noted that the situation affected the ability of exploration Companies to raise the necessary resources to undertake and complete their respective work plan for 2015. Furthermore, it was noted that Foreign Direct Investment and the contribution of minerals production to total merchandise exports declined by 32% and 26.4% respectively.

To reduce the sector's vulnerability to slumps on the world market, the Committee recommends the need for government to prioritize diversification of the sector from the export of the mineral resources in their raw forms into value-added products.

Forest degradation

The Committee noted with concern the over-exploitation of some natural resources which is causing damage to the environment, especially, through deforestation. Estimates by Forestry Commission show that the country is undergoing rapid forest degradation at a rate of 0.19% per annum. It is the view of the Committee that if measures are not taken to forestall this trend the country's forests will be fully degraded in the next 50 years.

In response, officials from the Forestry Commission informed the Committee that under the National Plantation Development Programme, the Commission is required to replant 20,000 hectares of degraded landscape (10,000 hectares on-forest reserve areas and 10,000 hectares off-forest reserve areas) to restore the degraded forest. However, between the years 2014 and 2015 no plantations

had been established by the government in forest reserves due to inadequate resources.

The Committee recommends that Forestry Commission should make the necessary effort at developing innovative approaches for mobilization of funds to facilitate the implementation of the 25-year Ghana Forest Plantation Strategy.

6.4. OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT

6.4.1. Overall Performance

The overall performance in this thematic area could be considered as below average, as 45.5% of the 11 indicators monitored in this area either achieved their target or made significant/steady progress, while 54.5% did not achieve their respective targets or made slow progress.

6.4.2. MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM

Performance of the Oil and Gas Sector

The contribution of the oil and gas sub-sector to the overall economy (GDP) declined from 7.2% in 2014 to 6% in 2015 against the target of 7.89% set under the GSGDA II. The shortfall was attributed in part to slump in global oil prices and reduction in gas export.

The report revealed that oil production in 2015 totalled 37,461,014 barrels against the budget estimate of 37,242,186 barrels.

Total gas produced was 52.5 Billions of Cubic Feet as against the target of 46 Billions of Cubic Feet (BCF). The Committee was however informed that actual gas volume exported during 2015 was 24.2 BCF compared to the target of 27.4 BCF. It was explained to the Committee by officials from the Ghana National Petroleum Corporation (GNPC) that the reduction in gas export volumes by 12% was as a result of the challenges encountered in the onshore gas compression system.

The Committee was further informed that the amount of new investment in oil and gas exploration in 2015 was US\$2.469 billion which was below the target of US\$3.8 billion. Officials from GNPC explained to the Committee that cost

data provided by partners was just on three main projects namely, Jubilee, Tweneboa Enyenra Ntomme Oil and Sankofa Gye Nyame and these were used as proxy for investments. However, since 2017, information on new investments has been provided by the Petroleum Commission.

Implementation of Local Content L.I.2204

Whilst the Committee was satisfied with progress made on the number of Ghanaians in management, technical and other positions in Oil Companies, the Committee expressed concern about the percentage and number of contracts awarded to indigenous companies and the percentage share and value of service contracts awarded to indigenous companies.

For instance, total contracts issued in 2015 by 10 key oil and gas producing companies were valued at US\$1,665,112,868.12 out of which an amount of US\$364,903,233.46, representing 22%, were awarded to Ghanaian companies. This performance fell below the situation in 2014 when 38.14% of contracts were awarded to Ghanaian companies.

Officials attributed this to the fact that indigenous companies were poorly structured and factors such as information asymmetry in tendering process, inadequate technical certifications and lack of access to credit constrained the ability of indigenous companies from fully participating and bidding for high value contracts in the sector.

The Committee recommends that Government support the on-going efforts of the Petroleum Commission of picking up champions and developing capacity to effectively compete for high-value contracts. In addition, a long-term programme should be developed by the Petroleum Commission to systematically build the capacity of indigenous companies to operate efficiently and be cost competitive, especially in bidding for contracts.

Protecting the environment

The Committee expressed concern about two companies on the Jubilee Field who did not comply with the conditions under the Environmental Management Plans (EMP) Permits. The Committee was informed that in the year under review, both Tullow Ghana Limited and Eni Ghana Exploration and production Limited did not report their offshore chemicals in a format known as the Harmonized Offshore Chemical Notification Format (HOCNF).

In a similar vein, the Committee noted that monthly environmental monitoring reports sent to Environmental Protection Agency by Tullow Ghana Limited did not reflect the amount of hazardous waste recorded in the waste manifest generated on the Floating Production Storage and Offloading (FPSO).

To ensure environmental safety of the oil and gas industry, the Committee recommends that Environmental Protection Agency should ensure that companies in the oil and gas sector strictly comply with conditions under the Environmental Management Plans (EMP) Permits.

6.5. INFRASTRUCTURE AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS DEVELOPMENT

6.5.1. Overall Performance

The overall progress in this thematic area could be considered as above average. About 57.5% of the 40 indicators monitored in the thematic area either achieved their target, or made significant/steady progress, 2.5% could not be assessed due to lack of data, whilst 40% did not achieve their respective targets or made slow progress. This represents an improved situation from 2014 where 37.5% of the total number of indicators monitored in the thematic area either exceeded/achieved their target or made significant/steady progress, 17.5% could not be assessed due to lack of data, whilst 45% of them did not achieve their respective targets.

6.5.2. MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

Development of Rail Transport

The Committee expressed worry about the state of rail transport in Ghana. It was noted that not much investments have been made in the sector to contribute meaningfully to the economy.

The Committee is of the view that the development of the rail transport can potentially reduce heavy traffic congestion in urban centres and facilitate government's industrialisation efforts.

The Committee recommends that the Ministry reviews and fully implement the Railway Master Plan to ensure that the sector obtains the needed investment for the development of railway infrastructure in Ghana.

Construction of Private Ports

As regards maritime transport, it was made known that there has been instances where private individuals have made attempts to construct private port in the Volta and Greater Accra regions to assist the operations of their organisations.

The Committee recommends that such organisations should liaise with the Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority and the Ministry of Transport for clearance.

Use of Ferry Service

The Committee noted a decline in the use of ferry services. The Cross Lake Ferry Service suffered a challenge due to weak engines and other equipment, bad landing sites as well as low water level which make it difficult for the company to operate all year round.

The Committee recommends to the Ministry that funds be made available to maintain the vessels that have been retrofitted. Ferries and water bus must also be procured to facilitate the operation of the ferry.

Bus Rapid Transit

The Committee expressed concern about the inadequacy of dedicated lanes for the implementation of Bus Rapid Transport (BRT) project. In the Committee's view, this is not only impeding the achievement of the objective of the project in terms of reducing congestion on urban roads but also stifling operations of the transport service.

The Committee therefore recommends that there is the need for the Ministry of Transport to liaise with the Ministry of Roads and Highways to redesign the urban roads to incorporate the dedicated lanes for fast movement within urban settlements. The Committee further recommends that while the road infrastructure is being put in place, the buses can use already existing roads with other vehicles.

6.5.3. MINISTRY OF ROADS AND HIGHWAYS

Road Maintenance

The Committee observed that in 2015, 55% of roads were to be maintained/rehabilitated, however, only 52% was achieved. The officials from

the Ministry explained to the Committee that significant amount of resources were allocated to the payment of arrears. Consequently, this reduced resources available for maintenance and rehabilitation.

The Committee recommends that it is important for the Ministry of Finance to clear the road arrears so that inflows from the Road Fund would be devoted to the maintenance and rehabilitation of roads.

Road Accidents

The Committee noted that the rate of road accidents and associated fatalities worsened in 2015 and this was after achieving a reduction in 2014. The report revealed that road crashes increased from 9,152 in 2014 to 10,852 in 2015.

The Committee further noted with displeasure the inability of the Ghana Road Safety Commission to implement the 2014 recommendation to establish trauma centres along identified sections of major roads and highways.

The Committee therefore recommends that the Commission take the necessary steps to establish the trauma centres along the identified major roads. The Committee further urges the Ghana Road Safety Commission to review its existing programmes and interventions to make them more effective.

6.5.4. MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Research and Development Expenditure as Percentage of GDP

The Committee was informed that one of the major causes of Ghana's development challenge is under-investment in Research and Development (R & D) as expenditure constitutes 0.05% of Gross Domestic Product. This creates technology gap that impedes efforts to develop the various sectors of the economy.

The Committee recommends that the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI) accelerate work on the proposed long-term strategy to ensure that R&D is adequately funded, including the establishment of the Science and Technology and Innovation Fund to support research activities in tertiary and research institutions.

Air Pollution

The Committee noted that air quality in some residential, commercial and industrial areas in Accra continue to show high levels of pollution. The Committee further noted that lack of enforcement of compliance to the air quality guidelines developed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was a major problem.

In the view of the Committee, most premature deaths from cardiovascular and respiratory diseases can be avoided each year if these air quality standards are met. This notwithstanding, the Committee was pleased to have been informed of the introduction of a National Air Quality Management Plan that would provide a framework for coordinating activities related to air quality.

The Committee therefore recommends to EPA to enforce the air quality guidelines and ensure the full implementation of the National Air Quality Management Plan.

Noise Pollution

The Committee observed that noise pollution has become a major discomfort to residents in urban and peri-urban areas. The Committee further noted that this has serious implications on the health of residents.

The Committee therefore urges the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to collaborate with relevant MDAs to educate the public on the effects of noise pollution on the health of citizens. The Committee further recommends to EPA to ensure that offenders are dealt with by law.

Disposal of Waste

The Committee was informed that there was limited comprehensive data on how solid wastes were disposed effectively in Ghana. The Committee observed that the number of engineered landfill sites remained at four and this continued to be a major challenge for solid waste disposal across the country.

The Committee urges EPA to develop a framework for attracting new investment in infrastructure for waste management through Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs).

6.5.5. MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

Poor Access and Quality of Internet and Telephone Services

The Committee observed that despite improvement in the telephone penetration rate and the contribution of ICT to overall GDP, internet connectivity and quality of telephone services remained relatively poor.

The officials from the Ministry informed the Committee that significant investments are being made to provide ICT infrastructure that will improve internet access and telephone services across the country, including rural areas.

The Committee recommends that the current effort by National Communications Authority to enforce service standards in the provision of ICT services, especially telephone services, including monitoring of operators' performance and the monthly verification of operators' marking activities should be intensified.

6.5.6. MINISTRY OF ENERGY

Power Supply Deficit

The Committee noted with concern the sector's inability to meet the projected growth in power demand of 10% per year over the medium term. Officials from the Ministry of Energy informed the Committee of on-going infrastructural developments in the sector to accommodate the growing demand.

The Committee recommends that such infrastructural developments should be sustained in order to bridge the power supply deficit and improve service delivery.

Distribution Losses

The Committee noted that whilst distribution losses of Electricity Company of Ghana (ECG) declined from 24.13% in 2014 to 22.71% in 2015, the distribution losses of the Northern Electricity Distribution Company (NEDCo) worsened from 22% in 2014 to 23.1% in 2015. Both could not meet Public Utility Regulatory Commission's (PURC) threshold of 21%.

Officials from ECG informed the Committee that in 2015 a special revenue protection exercise was introduced to ensure that energy meters and service connections were not tampered with. This was also done in order to meet the PURC's threshold figure of 21%.

The Committee recommends to ECG and NEDCo to intensify investments in loss reduction programmes to bring losses, at least below the PURC benchmark.

6.5.7. MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, WORKS AND HOUSING

Distribution Losses

The Committee noted that the percentage of distribution losses of water produced by Ghana Water Company Limited (GWCL) increased from 49.04% in 2014 to 55% in 2015. The Committee was further informed that the percentage of distribution losses was more than twice the international best practice of 20% and even the benchmark of 33% of low-income countries.

In the Committee's view, this is affecting the efficiency of the operation of the company resulting in the provision of poor services. Officials of the GWCL attributed this to the old and poor maintenance of infrastructure which are causing leakages and high level of theft from the distribution network.

The Committee recommends that GWCL pursues appropriate metering for water production and consumption. This is to ensure that data is made available to track water production and losses along the distribution chain. It is also necessary for GWCL to replace old infrastructure as well as regularly maintain them.

Sanitation

The Committee expressed dissatisfaction about the poor state of sanitation in the country. The Committee believes that improved environmental sanitation contributes significantly to the reduction and prevention of water and sanitation-related diseases such as malaria, typhoid and dysentery.

The Committee was informed that the percentage of the population with access to improved sanitation services remained the same at 15% in 2015 and fell short of the target of 18% set for the year 2015. This was against the backdrop that several interventions continued to be implemented but remain uncoordinated.

The Committee therefore recommends that the Ministry develop a strategy to coordinate the various interventions for effective impact.

6.6. HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTIVITY AND EMPLOYMENT

6.6.1. Overall Performance

The overall performance in this thematic area could be considered as above average, as 53.2% of the 62 indicators monitored in the thematic area either achieved their target or made significant/steady progress, 19.4% could not be assessed due to lack of data, while 27.4% did not achieve their respective targets or made slow progress. This represents a more favourable situation than 2014, when 52.2% of the 62 indicators monitored in the thematic area either achieved their target or made significant/steady progress, 17.7% could not be assessed due to lack of data, while 29% did not achieve their respective targets or made slow progress.

6.6.2. MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Outpatient Department (OPD) Attendance

It was brought to the attention of the Committee, the declining trend of OPD attendance from 2013 to 2015.

It was explained to the Committee that factors such as inability of National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) to reimburse its service providers on time may have accounted for the worsening OPD attendance. The resultant effect is that patients have to pay for basic healthcare services.

The Committee recommends that the Ministry of Health liaise with the Ministry of Finance to ensure the timely release of funds to the National Health Insurance Authority to facilitate the payment of claims. In addition, the Committee urges the Authority to institute punitive measures for false claims by health institutions.

Ambulance services

The Committee observed that only 45 which constitute 34% of the 133 ambulance service stations were functional and of the functional stations only 50% had vehicles. It was also revealed that while it was difficult to get some parts replaced when vehicles breakdown, some of the ambulance vehicles were over-aged and this normally results in high operational cost. Thus,

funding of ambulance services had become problematic with its attendant effect on service delivery.

The Committee was however happy to have been informed that plans were underway by the Ministry to procure ambulances for all the districts.

The Committee therefore recommends that the Ministry comes out with a more sustainable way of financing ambulance services in Ghana to ensure prompt and quality service delivery.

6.6.3. MINISTRY OF EMPLOYMENT AND LABOUR RELATIONS

Youth unemployment

The Committee expressed displeasure at the rate of youth unemployment in Ghana. The Committee observed that the Ghanaian economy had witnessed growth over the years. However, this had not been translated into decent, gainful and productive employment generation, as about 6.5% of the youth in the working population are estimated to be unemployed. Even those employed, majority of them are engaged in vulnerable employment.

In the view of the Committee, if care is not taken, Ghana could face a backlash from the growing numbers of disgruntled and unemployed youth.

The Committee recommends that the Ministry accelerates the implementation of interventions outlined under the youth employment programmes to reverse the current trend. Other complementary interventions by the government to expand the growth of the economy should be given priority attention to create more jobs for the youth.

6.6.4. MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND SPORTS

Inadequate Budgetary Allocation

The Committee was informed that the sector was not provided with adequate budgetary allocation to meet the various demands of National Sports Authority. This has negatively impacted on Sports development in the country.

The Committee therefore recommends the establishment of the Sports Development Fund to assist in the development of sports in the country.

Inadequate and Poor Sports Infrastructure

The Committee observed that the lack of adequate and quality sports facilities continue to be a challenge to the development of sports in Ghana. It was revealed to the Committee that in the year 2015, Kpando Park was the only one that was rehabilitated while the construction of the Cape Coast Sports Stadium was 80% complete.

In this regard, the Committee recommends that the Ministry step up its efforts at the construction and rehabilitation of sports facilities across the country.

Contribution of Sports to GDP

It was intimated to the Committee that the benefit of sports and its contribution to the national economy could not be quantified.

The Ministry intends to collaborate with the National Development Planning Commission and the Statistical Service to determine the contribution of sports to GDP.

The Committee is urging the Ministry to collaborate with these two bodies to come up with indicators to know the benefit of sports to the economy.

6.6.5. MINISTRY OF WOMEN, CHILDREN AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

Children Engaged in Hazardous Labour

The Committee observed that quite a sizeable number of children are engaged in hazardous labour which has effect on their health, education and social development. It is the view of the Committee, there is the need for government to tackle systemic poverty and address the lack of local infrastructure in order to deal with the menace.

This notwithstanding, the Committee was further informed that the Child and Family Welfare Policy and its Implementation Plan were completed and adopted during the year under review. The Committee is of the view that the policy when properly implemented will promote the interest of children.

The Committee recommends that the Ministry in collaboration with its stakeholders should intensify their efforts in monitoring the implementation of the Child and Family Welfare Policy to ensure that gaps are addressed.

Amount of DACF transferred to Persons with Disability

The Committee observed that by law MMDAs are mandated to allocate 2% of their District Assembly Common Fund (DACF) to support Persons with Disability (PWDs). This is to improve their living conditions and empower them to participate in national development. To this end, the Committee was informed that data on the amount of DACF allocated to PWDs continued not to be available for effective assessment of progress.

The Committee recommends that the National Council for Persons with Disability which is responsible for the overall monitoring of the Fund should ensure availability of data on funds allocated. In addition, the current effort initiated by Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MOGCSP) to integrate PWDs in the District Assembly processes should be accelerated.

7.0. TRANSPARENT, RESPONSIVE AND ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNANCE

7.1. Overall Performance

The overall performance in this thematic area could be considered as above average, as 51.8% of the 56 indicators monitored in the thematic area either achieved their target, or made significant/steady progress, 3.6% could not be assessed due to lack of data, while 44.6% did not achieve their respective targets or made slow progress. Following two consecutive years of decline, the performance in 2015 represents a decline below the 2014 situation, when 68.6% of the total number of indicators monitored in the thematic area either exceeded/achieved their targets or made significant/steady progress, 11.7% could not be assessed due to lack of data, while 19.6% did not achieve their respective targets or made slow progress.

7.2. MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Capacity of MMDAs to Generate Funds

The Committee noted with concern the inability of MMDAs to generate enough funds to implement policies, programmes and projects at the local level. The Committee was informed that the share of MMDAs' total revenue in national revenue declined from 4.08% in 2014 to 3.92% in 2015.

The Committee recommends that the Ministry should ensure that capacity of the local governments to mobilize Internally Generated Funds be enhanced through special training in revenue generation strategies.

7.3. MINISTRY OF GENDER, CHILDREN AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

Women's Representation in Public Life

The Committee observed that even though progress continues to be made in women's participation in public life, Ghana is still far from achieving its medium-term target of at least 40% women representation in public life. This was attributed to some structural factors such as high dropout rate for girls and inadequate access to economic resource.

The Committee therefore recommends that the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection give necessary attention to eventual implementation of the national gender policy and the affirmative action bill when passed into law. Also, efforts at ensuring gender budgeting should be given a renewed attention in order to ensure that programmes and projects implemented by MDAs and MMDAs are given the necessary gender emphasis.

Human and Child Trafficking

The Committee was informed that while reported cases of human trafficking increased by 60.9% from 36 to 92 in 2015, the number of reported cases of child trafficking rose from 4 in 2014 to 11 in 2015. It was explained to the Committee that child trafficking was more prevalent in places close to water bodies such as the coastal areas in southern Ghana and along the Volta Lake. It is the view of the Committee that there has not been enough education to discourage such practices.

The Committee was happy to note of the initiatives taken by the Ministry to address the concerns in respect of protection of victims by the introduction of the Human Trafficking Legislative Instrument and the new Human Trafficking National Plan of Action.

The Committee recommends that there is the need for the Ministry to intensify its efforts in sensitizing the citizenry to put a stop to the menace.

7.4. MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Legal Aid Scheme

The Committee noted that the Legal Aid Scheme is facing financial difficulties which are hindering its ability to carry out its programmes. The Scheme is also challenged with office accommodation in most of the regions for its Legal Officers and other staff. This makes access to legal rights difficult especially in rural communities where lawyers are not attracted to work.

The Committee therefore recommends to the Ministry of Finance to make adequate budgetary provision for the construction of regional offices to enable the Legal Aid Scheme carry out its functions. There is also the need for the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General's Department to come up with a package to attract lawyers to work in rural communities.

8.0. LINKING THE 2015 BUDGET TO THE GSGDA II

The Committee was informed that the total resource requirement under GSGDA II for the implementation of activities under the various thematic areas for 2015 was estimated at GH¢17,933.76 million. Under the 2015 annual national budget a total of GH¢16,312.14 million¹ was approved for the implementation of activities related to GSGDA II by MDAs. Thus, the approved budget for 2015 fell short of the GSGDA II requirement by 9.9%.

This notwithstanding, a total of GH¢18,549.05 million was actually released for the implementation of activities for the fiscal year 2015. This represented a 13.7% increase over the budget initially approved and 3.4% higher than the GSGDA II resource requirement.

Despite this, two thematic areas recorded shortfalls in the releases of budgetary resources. These were enhanced competitiveness of the private sector thematic area (27.7%) and accelerated agricultural modernization and natural resource management thematic area (0.68%). In other words, agricultural modernization and private sector development received less than the GSGDA II required resources.

¹ exclude debt services and personnel emoluments

The remaining five thematic areas namely: (i) Ensuring and Sustaining Macroeconomic Stability, (ii) Infrastructure and Human Settlement, (iii) Human Development, Productivity and Employment, (iv) Oil and Gas Development, and (v) Transparent, Responsive and Accountable Governance recorded 24%, 7%, 14%, 20% and 26% increases respectively over the approved budgets.

The Committee further observed that some misalignment of budgetary resources occurred in 2015, thus making the relative shares to each thematic area inconsistent with the requirement of the GSGDA II. The Committee was informed that the sources of this misalignment was as a result of the fact that whilst Government of Ghana (GOG) prioritized activities related to human resource development, Donor Partners (DPs) prioritized activities in favour of infrastructure and human settlement development, transparent and accountable governance, and ensuring and sustaining macro-economic stability.

The Committee is of the view that given the importance of private sector development and modernization of agriculture to the structural transformation of the Ghanaian economy, the Ministry of Finance should ensure that releases to these two thematic areas are consistent with the requirement of GSGDA II.

9.0. IMPLEMENTING GSGDA II AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL

9.1. Preparation and Quality of District APRs by MMDAs

The Committee observed that about 137 MMDAs representing 63% submitted their 2015 Annual Progress Reports (APRs) to NDPC for review in line with the requirements of the M&E guidelines issued by NDPC. This represents a decline from the 2014 situation where 66% of the 216 MMDAs submitted their APRs.

The Committee was informed that on average 25% of MMDAs who submitted their 2015 APRs did not comply with, at least one of the seven prescribed sections of the APR reporting format. Besides, only five MMDAs indicated they partially conducted evaluations and participatory monitoring and evaluation (M&E) on their programmes and projects. This is in contrast with 2014 when about 10 MMDAs either partly or fully conducted evaluations and participatory M&E.

The Committee therefore recommends that MMDAs should comply with the prescribed reporting format of the APR and to regularly submit them to NDPC. The Committee urges MMDAs to attach importance to this exercise to enable NDPC ascertain the impact of government policies.

9.2. Financing District Medium-Term Development Plans (DMTDPs)

The Committee noted that the main sources of financing the DMTDPs were: Central Government transfers to MMDAs (GOG), District Assembly Common Fund (DACF), MMDAs own Internally Generated Funds (IGF), Development Partners (DPs), HIPC Fund, and Other Grants.

It was observed by the Committee that the relative importance of DACF in financing MMDAs programmes and projects continued to decrease. This has been as a result of the payment of backlog of outstanding arrears due to MMDAs and about 50% deductions of DACF at the national level for Priority Intervention Programmes (PIPs). Consequently, donor support contributed the most to the overall resource envelope of MMDAs in 2015.

The Committee therefore recommends that the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development come out with measures to increase the capacity of MMDAs to generate funds internally. In this regard, the Committee is urging MMDAs to liaise with the Land Valuation Division of the Lands Commission to ensure that the right rates for properties are collected.

The Committee further recommends that MMDAs explore Section 74 of the Public Financial Management Act, 2016 (Act 921) to create the needed fiscal space for their infrastructural development.

9.3. POVERTY REDUCTION INTERVENTIONS

The existing poverty reduction interventions in health, education and general well-being continued to be implemented in 2015. The status of progress of the National Health Insurance Scheme, the Capitation Grant, the School Feeding Programme, the Free Metro Mass Transit, and the Livelihood Empowerment against Poverty (LEAP) Programme are assessed below.

9.3.1. NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE AUTHORITY

Status of Provider payment reforms

The Committee was informed of the status of provider payment reforms under the capitation payment programme of the NHIS which was introduced in the year 2012. This was to contain the escalating cost of primary healthcare in Ghana. Under the reforms, the valid National Health Insurance cardholders are required to select their preferred primary providers and based on the number of members a provider has, a fixed amount of money is paid to them. This ensures that primary healthcare providers deliver quality service to clients during the first visit to the hospital. This also potentially reduces the number of visits by the patient thereby enabling providers operate within the amount allocated by the NHIA.

It was further brought to the attention of the Committee that eight regions namely; Ashanti, Upper East, Upper West, Volta, Brong Ahafo, Central, Northern and Western are fully implementing the capitation payments.

The Committee therefore recommends the scale up of the capitation payment to the Eastern and Greater Accra Regions to help address the challenges in claim payments.

Alternative source of Funding for the Scheme

The Committee was informed that there was an urgent need for alternative sources of funding for the Scheme to ensure financial sustainability. The Committee observed that whiles Value Added Tax (VAT) contributes 70% to the Scheme's income, formal sector workers' contribution from the Social Security and National Insurance Trust (SSNIT) constitutes 25% and others constitute 5%.

Officials from the NHIA proposed to the Committee some measures to be taken to ensure the financial sustainability of the Scheme. Some of these measures include the imposition of taxes on consumption of Tobacco, Sugar, and alcoholic drinks, given the effect these have on the health of individuals.

The Committee recommends that the NHIA together with the Ministry of Health liaise with the Ministry of Finance to consider these proposals.

9.3.2. MINISTRY OF GENDER, CHILDREN AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

School Feeding Programme - Inadequate budgetary allocation and late release of funds

The Committee's attention was drawn to the inadequate budgetary allocation and late release of funds for the implementation of the Ghana School Feeding Programme. The Committee was informed that an amount of GH¢2 million was allocated for the programme in the year under review. This was to provide one hot meal for pupils.

It was further revealed to the Committee that funds for the implementation of the programme were not released on time. In this regard, caterers had to pre-finance the provision of meals for the children and this affected the quantity and quality of meals served.

The Committee in view of the situation recommends that the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection liaise with the Ministry of Finance for an upward review of the budgetary allocation and also to ensure that funds are released on time.

Decline in the use of Free Mass Transit for School Children

The Committee was informed of the decline in the use of Free Mass Transit for school children in uniform from Primary School and Junior High School. Officials attributed this to the ageing Metro Mass Transit (MMT) buses and non-replacement of fleet which has led to a situation where out of over 1000 fleet only 490 buses are operational. This has affected the ability of MMT to generate enough revenue to service debt incurred by the Organization.

To help mitigate the challenges, officials from MMT explained to the Committee that MMTs has started operating inter-city bus services as a means of cross-subsidizing the high cost of operating intra-city operations. Additionally, MMT offer contract bus services to some private schools for a fee.

The Committee recommends that the Ministry of Finance make available funds to facilitate the procurement of the broken down parts to increase the number of operational buses.

Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP)

The Committee was informed that even though the number of extremely poor households which benefited from the LEAP programme almost doubled to 146,074 in 188 districts from 73,134 in 2014, the 2015 target of reaching 150,000 households could not be achieved.

The Committee was further informed about a number of initiatives that has helped increase coverage and service delivery. These included the introduction of LEAP 1000 which targets poor households with pregnant women and children less than two years in 7 districts of the Northern and 3 districts in Upper East regions and the electronic Leap Cash Transfer arrangement which also ensured timely payment of benefits to LEAP beneficiary households.

The Committee was of the view that the programme if well- managed can help reduce poverty and inequality, ensure social cohesion and ultimately contribute to national development. The Committee therefore recommends the need for government to provide sufficient budgetary allocations to the programme to increase coverage of the extremely poor households.

10.0 CONCLUSION

After careful consideration of the document, the Committee is of the view that if Shared Growth Agenda is to be achieved, it is imperative for government to invest in infrastructural development in the power sector. This will help bridge the power supply deficit and enable industries to thrive to employ the teeming unemployed youth.

The Committee also recommends that the proposed Science and Technology Endowment Fund should be established to address the technology gap that constraints efforts to develop the various sectors of the economy. Furthermore, important interventions are required to improve internet connectivity and quality of telephone services to address the digital poverty.

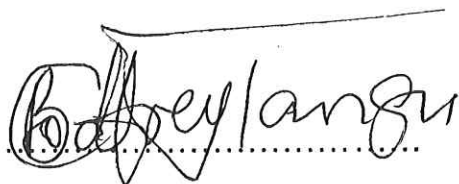
The Committee further recommends that MDAs adopt the culture of regular maintenance of assets and infrastructure to ensure efficient service delivery.

The Committee also urges the House to demand from MDAs the commitment to achieve the targets spelt out in the Annual Progress Reports for the development of the country. The Committee wishes to commend the NDPC for compiling the 2015 Annual Progress Report

11.0 RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends to the House to adopt this Report and the 2015 Annual Progress Report on the implementation of the Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda (2014 – 2017).

Respectfully Submitted.



**HON. GODFREY TANGU BAYON
CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE**



**SAMUEL ADDEI
CLERK TO THE
COMMITTEE**

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