

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

**REPORT OF THE
COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL, LEGAL
AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS**



ON THE

**2024 ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE MINISTRY OF
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS**

11TH DECEMBER 2023

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PARLIAMENT OF THE FOURTH REPUBLIC OF GHANA**
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ESTIMATES OF THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the year ending 31st December 2024 was presented to Parliament, by the Hon. Minister for Finance, Mr. Ken Ofori-Atta, on 15th November 2023 in accordance with Article 179 of the 1992 Constitution.
- 1.2 Pursuant to Orders 140(4) and 179 of the Standing Orders of Parliament, the Rt. Hon Speaker referred the Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs to the Committee on Constitutional, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs for consideration and report to the House.

2.0 DELIBERATIONS

- 2.1 The Committee met on 8th December 2023 and considered the 2024 Annual Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. Present at the meeting were the Ministry for Parliamentary Affairs, Hon. Osei Kyei-Mensah Bonsu, the Ag Chief Director, Ms Gifty Joyce O. Bosomprah, Deputy Director, the Ag Director, Programme, Planning, Budgeting, Monitoring and Evaluation, Mr. Kwame Oppong Ntim, the Chief Accountant, Mr. Emmanuel Osei Bediako

and other officials from the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, as well as the Ministry of Finance.

2.2 The Committee is grateful to the Minister and all the officials for their assistance during the deliberations.

3.0 REFERENCES DOCUMENTS

3.1 In considering the Estimates, the Committee referred to the under-listed documents:

- i. The 1992 Constitution;
- ii. The Standing Orders of Parliament;
- iii. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of the Republic of Ghana for the 2024 Financial Year;
- iv. The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs Medium Term Expenditure Framework for 2024-2027

4.0 VISION OF THE MINISTRY

An accountable client-sensitive institution within an enhanced participatory and representative democracy.

5.0 MISSION OF THE MINISTRY

To facilitate, coordinate, monitor and evaluate strategies for the smooth execution of government business in Parliament that guarantees good governance and sustainable national development.

6.0 CORE FUNCTIONS OF THE MINISTRY

- i. Initiate and formulate policies, considering the needs and aspirations of the people;
- ii. Facilitate development planning in collaboration with the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC)
- iii. Co-ordinate, monitor and evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of the performance of the Sector;
- iv. Facilitates the smooth conduct of Government business on the floor of Parliament;
- v. Serve as interface between the Executive and Parliament;
- vi. Provide an effective linkage between Parliament, the Executive, the Judiciary and the Civil Society Organization (CSOs);
- vii. Facilitate citizens-centered interface involving the state and non-state actors (private businesses, CSOs etc.) on matters relating to the legislature; and
- viii. Assess policy papers, credit agreement and Legislative proposals and other matters intended for deliberation by Parliament and provide appropriate recommendations.

7.0 POLICY/STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES OF THE MINISTRY

The Ministry's policy objective for the Medium Term are to:

- Deepen democratic governance;
- Deepen political and administrative decentralization;
- Improve participation of civil society in national development; and promote the fight against corruption and economic crimes.

8.0 2023 PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

8.1 Operational performance

The Ministry was able to record the following operational achievements in the 2023 financial year:

- i. The Ministry conducted consultative meetings with Constitutional Experts with the aim of engendering debate for the possible review of the 1992 Constitution;
- ii. Inaugurated a Consultative Committee to oversee the possible review of the 1992 Constitution;
- iii. Developed a Transport Policy;
- iv. Developed a Client Service Charter;
- v. Analysed and prepared a report on the 2022 Parliamentary Questions; and
- vi. Reviewed the Ministry's Organizational Manual.

8.2 Financial performance

In 2023 financial year, the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs was initially allocated an amount of Six Million, Four Hundred and Fifty-five Thousand, Three Hundred and Eighty-One Ghana Cedis (**GH¢6,455,381.00**). The allocation was later revised to Four Million, Six Hundred and Fifteen Thousand, Three Hundred and Eighty Ghana Cedis (**GH¢4,615,380.00**) as a total resource envelop for the Office. The breakdown of the expenditure returns of the Office is provided in Table 1 in the overleaf.

Table 1: Financial Performance of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs
as at September 2023

Expenditure Item	Revised Budget GH¢ (A)	Amount Released GH¢ (B)	Actual Expenditure GH¢ (C)	Variance GH¢ (A-B)	% Released
Compensation	3,564,780.00	2,153,439.00	2,153,439.00	1,411,341.00	60.4
Goods and services	604,200.00	655,266.00	655,266.00	(-51,066.00)	108.5
Capital expenditure	446,400.00	0.0	0.0	446,400.00	0.0
Total	4,615,380.00	2,808,705.00	2,808,705.00	1,806,675.00	60.8

9.0 OUTLOOK FOR 2024

9.1 Operational outlook



In 2024, the Ministry plans to build on the progress made in 2023 by undertaking the following activities:

- i. Organise a working session with the Core and Expanded Leadership of Parliament on the need to promote effective collaboration among members of Parliament;
- ii. Engage the Independent Governance Institutions to educate the citizenry on their regulatory functions;
- iii. Facilitate a meeting with the Political Parties to identify their roles in ensuring credible, peaceful, and transparent elections;

- iv. Support strengthening the capacity of Parliamentarians as well as the Leader of Government Business in promoting transparent elections;
- v. Engage the independent governance institutions to promote free, fair, transparent and violence-free elections;
- vi. Engage and collaborate with political parties to deepen their roles in ensuring peaceful and transparent elections;
- vii. Engage Traditional Authorities, Religious Leaders, and Peace Council to advocate for citizens to promote peaceful co-existence;
- viii. Engage Security and Security-related Agencies on their respective roles, and responsibilities in promoting law and order;
- ix. Engage the Council of State to provide the needed guidance and recommendations that will promote peace and unity;
- x. Engage Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and the Media on the need to advocate and promote national unity; and
- xi. Support the strengthening of the implementation of electoral guidelines, rules and regulations to reduce monetization of politics.

9.2 Budgetary Allocation for the 2024 Fiscal Year

For the 2024 fiscal year, the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs has been allocated a total sum of **Nine Million, Four Hundred and Twenty-Three Thousand, Seven Hundred and Seventy-Four Ghana Cedis (GH¢9,423,774)** for the implementation of the programmes and projects under the Ministry. The intended Allocation in terms of Economic Classification, Sources of Funding and Programmes are provided in Tables 2 and 3.

Table 2: Budgetary Allocation by Economic Classifications for 2024

ECONOMIC CLASSIFICATION	SOURCES OF FUNDING					
	GOG	ABF A	IGF	Donor	Total	%
Compensation	3,607,520	-	-	-	3,607,520	38
Goods and services	3,816,254	-	-		3,816,254	41
Capex	2,000,000	-	-		2,000,000	21
Total	9,423,774.00		-		9,423,774.00	100
%	100					

Source: Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government for 2024

Table 3: Budgetary by Programmes for 2024

Programme	Allocation GH¢	% of Allocation
Management and Administration	7,976,774.00	84.6
Executive and Legislation Coordination and Dialogue	1,447,000	15.4
Total	9,423,774.00	100

10.0 OBSERVATIONS

10.1 Discrepancy in the 2023 Compensation Releases and Actuals

Upon an analysis of the Actual Compensation Expenditure of the year under review, the Committee observed that out of the Actual Released Compensation of Three Million, Five Hundred and Sixty-Four Thousand, Seven Hundred and Eight Ghana Cedis (GH¢3,564,780.00), only an amount of Two Million, Three Hundred and Sixty-Four Thousand, Seven and Sixty-Six Ghana Cedis

(GH¢2,364,766.00) representing 67% of the 2023 Approved Compensation has been expended. Upon enquiry as to the reason for the over 30% anomaly, it was explained by the Schedule Office from the Ministry of Finance that, some of the technical staff engaged by the Ministry are over the retirement age (above 60 years) and as such are not recognized on the Single Spine System. This means their remunerations have not been paid since January. The Acting Chief Director provided that her outfit is exploring other alternative arrangements with the Office of the Accountant General to regularise the compensation of the affected staff.

The Committee, however, questioned the basis for the engagement of retirees and urged Management to press the Ministry of Finance (MoF) to expedite the process toward ensuring the payment of compensation due to the affected staff.

The Committee also recommended that future expenditure trends should be presented in a quarterly to provide a better impression and appreciation of the events that occurred in the quarters.

10.2 Increase in Capex Budget Estimate

With regards to the 2024 Budget, the Committee queried about the astronomical increase in the 2024 Capex Allocation from Four Hundred and Forty-Six Thousand Four Hundred Ghana Cedis (GH¢ 446,400. 00) in 2023 to Two Million Gana Cedis (GH¢ 2,000,000. 00) in 2024, an increase of about 448%. It was explained that the 2024 Budget contains some capital expenditure requirements which includes the replacement of some over-aged pick-up vehicles, overdue renovation work on the office building and the purchase of much needed office equipment. She also emphasised that, as an interface between the Executive, Legislature, Judiciary and other constitutional bodies,

the sphere of influence of the Ministry is multi-dimensional and would require much resources to carry out its mandate especially during the upcoming election year.

The Committee also acknowledged other equally important mandate of the Ministry, such as the sensitization of the public on the role and functions of Members of Parliament to sensitize the public from maintaining the notion that Members of Parliament are responsible for the delivery of developmental projects in the constituencies and programme to sensitise the public on the importance of women in politics. The Ag Chief Director responded that, these programmes are already in existence, however, given that, 2024 is an election year, the Ministry plans to enhance the sensitization activities under the two programmes.

10.3 Estimation Beyond Budget Allocation

The Committee made observations about the very ambitious programmes the Ministry develop year in and year out and the fact that, rather unfortunately, the Ministry of Finance is not able to make sufficient allocation for the implementation of the scheduled programmes and activities. The 2024 Budget of the Ministry as has been conventional, far exceeds the allocation of the Ministry of Finance by GH¢3,698,886.00. Accordingly, the Committee recommends to the Ministry to be more realistic in the formulation and budgeting of its programmes and activities and to endeavour to budget within the ceiling set by Ministry of Finance, in order not to create wrong impression and perception to the public on government funding to ministries. However, the Minister maintained that it was necessary to present the absolute budget

requirements, since donors always demand for the absolute budget for the programmes of the Ministries and the counterpart funding by Governments.

10.4 Mandate of the Ministry to establish a Constitutional Committee

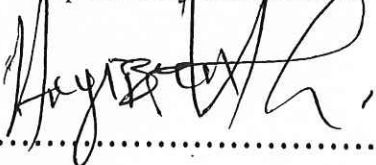
The Committee notes that one of the ongoing flagship programmes of the Ministry is the establishment of a Consultative Committee of Constitutional Experts with the aim of engendering debate for the possible review of the 1992 Constitution. The Committee raised questions as to the legal mandate of the Ministry to establish a committee to review the report of the Constitutional Review Commission's (CRC) which a Government's White Paper has already been issued. In response, the Ministry submitted that the said committee is only mandated to engage to the different shades of opinion across the country and engender debates among stakeholders for further input for the possible review of the constitution. They explained that, the Report of Constitutional Review Commission would be used as the principal document by the Committee.

11.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Having thoroughly examined the Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for the 2024 fiscal year, the Committee is of the view that the Policies and programmes outlined for the year would go a long way to contribute to the national effort at securing for the present and future generation, the blessing of liberty, equality of opportunity and prosperity in a united stable country within the election year.

The Committee, accordingly, recommends to the House to adopt its Report and approve the sum of Nine Million, Four Hundred and Twenty-Three Thousand, Seven Hundred and Seventy-Four Ghana Cedis (GH¢9,423,774.00) for the programmes and activities of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for the year ending 31st December 2024.

Respectfully submitted,



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HON. KWAME ANYIMADU ANTWI
(CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL,
LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS)



.....
AKUA DUROWAA OWUSU AGYEKUM
(HEAD, LEGAL COMMITTEES CLUSTER)

11TH DECEMBER 2023