



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

**REPORT OF THE
COMMITTEE ON FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND
COCOA AFFAIRS**

ON THE

**2024 BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE MINISTRY
OF FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE
DEVELOPMENT**

12TH DECEMBER, 2023

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FOURTH REPUBLIC OF GHANA**

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COCOA**

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MINISTRY OF FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2024 Financial year was presented to Parliament on Wednesday, 15th November, 2023 by the Hon Minister for Finance, Mr Ken Ofori-Atta in accordance with Article 179 of the 1992 Constitution of Ghana.

Pursuant to Standing Orders 140(4) and 176, the Rt. Hon Speaker referred the Estimates which relate to the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (MoFAD) to the Committee on Food, Agriculture and Cocoa Affairs for consideration and report to the House.

2.0 DELIBERATIONS

The Committee met on Friday, 8th December, 2023 and considered the 2024 Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development. In attendance at the meeting were the Minister responsible for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development Hon Mavis Hawa Koomson and her Deputy, Hon Moses Anim and other officials of the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, as well as Ministry of Finance.

The Committee is grateful to the Hon Minister, the Deputy Minister and the Officials of the Ministry for the clarifications during the consideration of the Estimates.

3.0 REFERENCE MATERIALS

The Committee made reference to the following documents during the consideration of the Budget Estimates:

- i. The 1992 Constitution;
- ii. The Standing Orders of Parliament;
- iii. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government for 2023 Financial Year;
- iv. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government for 2024 Financial Year;
- v. The Medium-Term Expenditure Framework of the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development for 2024-2027; and
- vi. The Report of the Committee on Food, Agriculture and Cocoa Affairs for the 2023 Financial Year.

4.0 POLICY OBJECTIVES OF THE MINISTRY

The policy objectives of the 2022-2025 National Medium Term Development Policy Framework (NMTDPF) related to the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development are to;

- i. Ensure sustainable development and management of aquaculture;
- ii. Ensure sustainable development and management of Fisheries Resources;
- iii. Improve post-harvest management;
- iv. Mainstream Science, Technology and Innovation in all socio-economic activities;

- v. Strengthen plan preparation, implementation and coordination at all levels;
- vi. Enhance coordination among key institutions; and
- vii. Prevent and protect children from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation.

5.0 Goal

The goal of the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development is to “Transform the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector into a viable economic segment to contribute to national development.”

6.0 Core Functions

The core functions of MoFAD are to;

- i. Formulate and implement sector development policies and strategies in line with National Development Policy Frameworks;
- ii. Facilitate the development of aquaculture sub-sector to increase domestic fish production;
- iii. Enforce fisheries Laws and Regulations to protect fisheries resources;
- iv. Promote sustainable management of fisheries resources for national benefits;
- v. Develop sector medium-term development plans consistent with National Development Policy Frameworks;
- vi. Conduct periodic socio-economic studies/ research on “Topical” fisheries related development issues for policy formulation and planning;
- vii. Coordinate all development interventions to accelerate the transformation of the Fisheries and Aquaculture sector; and

- viii. Have oversight responsibility of all agencies in the sector, including the Fisheries Commission.

7.0 2023 PERFORMANCE REVIEW

7.1 Financial Performance

A total amount of Sixty-Six Million, Seven Hundred and Fifty-One Thousand, Six Hundred and Thirty-Five Ghana Cedis Seventy-Four Pesewas (GH¢66,751,635.74) out of approved budget of Two Hundred and Thirteen Million, Three Hundred and Eight Thousand, Eight Hundred and Fourteen Ghana Cedis (GH¢213,308,814.00) had been released as at September 2023. In addition to the releases in respect of the approved budget, the Ministry also received an amount of Twenty Million Ghana Cedis (GH¢20,000,000.00) from the General Government Services to procure relief items for the affected fishermen during the closed fishing season.

Table 1 below provides the detailed performance of the budgetary allocations to the Ministry during the year under review as at September, 2023.

Table 1: Summary of Expenditure by Economic Classification (2023)

2023 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE						
Item	2023 Approved Budget	Releases	Actual Expenditure	Variance	% Released	% Utilized
	A	B	C	D=(A-B)	F=(B/A)*100	G=(C/B)*100
COMPENSATION	19,219,853.00	16,167,317.15	16,167,317.15	3,052,535.85	84.12	100.00
GoG	19,219,853.00	16,167,317.15	16,167,317.15	3,052,535.85	84.12	100.00
GOODS AND SERVICES	72,895,925.00	54,961,518.55	51,051,565.25	17,934,406.45	75.40	92.89
GoG	674,850.00	295,981.80	250,236.00	378,868.20	43.86	84.54
IGF	40,621,075.00	34,665,536.75	30,801,329.25	5,955,538.25	85.34	88.85
DP	31,600,000.00	0.00	0.00	31,600,000.00	0.00	0.00
OTHERS(Closed)	0.00	20,000,000.00	20,000,000.00	-20,000,000.00	0.00	100.00
CAPEX	121,193,036.00	15,622,800.04	13,663,112.00	105,570,235.96	12.89	87.46
GoG	3,475,170.00	969,965.91	969,965.91	2,505,204.09	27.91	100.00
ABFA	28,000,000.00	8,403,860.87	6,542,882.39	19,596,139.13	30.01	77.86
IGF	89,717,866.00	6,248,973.26	6,150,263.70	83,468,892.74	6.97	98.42
Total	213,308,814.00	86,751,635.74	80,881,994.40	126,557,178.26	40.67	93.23

Source: 2024 Programme Based Budget Estimates of MoFAD

7.2 PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE FOR 2023

The Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development implements five main programmes under the Programme Based Budgeting of the country. The expected outcomes and achievements under the various programmes are provided below.

7.2.1 Management and Administration.

The outcome expected under the Management and Administration Programme is to enhance institutional capacity, provide policy direction and support services for efficient service delivery of the sector. The following key outputs were recorded as part of the measures to achieve the Programme goal:

- i. Trained one hundred and twenty-five (125) officers in various competency-based training programmes to enhance their competencies for improved service delivery. The training programmes covered areas such as Human Resource Management Information System (HRMIS), Ghana Integrated Financial Management Information System (GIFMIS), Electronic Salary Payment Voucher (E-SPV) and Report writing, among others.
- ii. Completed 50 out of the 300 Premix Fuel Automation Project at designated landing sites as at September 2023. Another 50 is earmarked for completion by December this year.
- iii. Introduced canoe identification system and issued smart canoe identification cards to artisanal fisher folk to enable them dispense premix fuel from the automated dispensing machines.
- iv. Continue the construction of the Anomabo Fisheries College for the training of graduates, technicians and practitioners in the fisheries and aquaculture industry.
- v. Distributed 20,000 bags of rice, 8,333 cartons of cooking oil, 3,000 wire mesh and 10,000 aluminum basins to the fisher folks in the four coastal regions during the closed season.

7.2.2 Fisheries Resource Management

The Fisheries Resource Management has the expected programme outcome of protecting, conserving and sustainable management of Fisheries Resources of Ghana for the benefit of present and future generations. To this end, the following were undertaken:

- i. Conducted seventy-two (72) pre-departure and arrival inspections to ensure compliance to the ministerial directives for trawlers and to help reduce the catch of juvenile fish as well as address the issue of excessive by-catch and fish stock depletion;
- ii. Implemented the Ministerial Directive on trawl gears for industrial trawl vessels aimed at combating Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing activities in the Ghanaian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ);
- iii. Trained forty (40) members of the Fisheries Commission to equip them with the capacity to check inshore vessels in the field of licensing;
- iv. Commenced an Inland Canoe Frame Survey for the registration of inland fishing and transport canoes;
- v. Successfully implemented the 2023 closed season for the artisanal, inshore, industrial trawlers and tuna fleets;
- vi. Received Cabinet approval for the implementation of Marine Fisheries Management Plan (2022-2026); and

- vii. Collaborated with the Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF), the Ghana Fisheries Recovery Activity and the Fish for Development Project to implement a number of programmes, projects and activities in the fisheries sector. These included the biological monitoring of demersal fish species, survey for the biological and socioeconomic studies of the effects of closed season, engagement for the development of Marine Protected Area (MPA), implementation of gear directives and moratorium on new canoe entry.

7.2.3 Aquaculture Development

In order to increase domestic fish production to offset the importation of fish, and create additional job opportunities for economically active unemployed men and women along the Aquaculture Value Chain, the Ministry undertook the following interventions:

- i. Completed the construction of the state-of-the-art National Aquaculture Centre at Amrahia and inaugurated by H.E. the President, Nana Addo Dankwa Akuffo-Addo in June, 2023;
- ii. Supported the first batch of twenty-four (24) trainees made up of 12 males and 12 females to undertake thirteen (13) weeks training in various aspects of aquaculture including fish production, farm management, fish health, feed formulation and processing. The second batch of 24 trainees are expected to graduate in December, 2023;
- iii. Provided extension service delivery to 5,349 existing and prospective aquaculture operators across the sixteen (16) regions to ensure compliance to good farm management practices;

- iv. Operationalised three (3) public fish hatcheries at Dormaa Ahenkro, Veaa and Sefwi-Wiawso to produce quality fingerlings to aquaculture establishments and to provide training to fish farming operators;
- v. Commenced the rehabilitation of the Aquaculture Demonstration Centre at Ashaiman;
- vi. The International Water Management Institute in collaboration with Water Research Institute of Ghana and Fisheries Commission provided 4 canoes, 8 cages, 16 life jackets, 4 weighing scales, 4 water test kits, 32,000 tilapia fingerlings and 200 bags of fish feed to 80 farmers in 4 communities in the North East Region, namely; Lanbinsi, Nansoni and Tombu. The beneficiaries, comprises 70 percent males and 30 percent females, were trained in fish farming management and group dynamics to ensure the sustainability of the project in the communities;
- vii. Developed a Draft National Aquaculture Development Plan (2024-2028) for cabinet approval;
- viii. Developed Aquaculture Guidelines and Code of Practice and Guidelines for the Introduction and Management of Exotic Fish Species in Ghana; and
- ix. Produced an estimated 100,042mt of fish under aquaculture within the reporting period (January-September, 2023).

7.2.4 Fisheries Law Enforcement.

As part of measures to promote compliance of Fisheries Laws and Regulations that protect and conserve the Fisheries Resources of Ghana, the Ministry recorded the following milestones:

- i. Conducted 24/7 electronic surveillance on 70 operational trawl vessels.
- ii. Inspected a total of 223 quaysides and undertook 286 observer missions to ensure that each trawl vessel had an observer before it could sail;
- iii. Piloted 3 trawl vessels with a video electronic monitoring system (EMS) in collaboration with the Ghana Fisheries Recovery Activity (GFRA); and
- iv. Established and operationalised Seven Landing Beach Enforcements Committees (LaBECs) to improve co-management.

7.2.5 Aquatic Animal Health and Post-Harvest Management

The Ministry recorded the following successes as part of measures to ensuring the production of safe and quality fish and fishery products for domestic consumption and export, and reduce post-harvest losses:

- i. Conducted 16 investigations into cases of diseases and mortality of fish; Trained Four (4) veterinarians on Basic Epidemiology, Disease Outbreak Investigation and Risk Assessment in Aquatic Animals with support from the Norwegian Veterinary Institute (NVI) in collaboration with the University of Ghana;
- ii. Trained a total of 30 fish farmers in the Ashanti Region on water quality testing.
- iii. Collaborated with the West Africa Centre for Cell Biology and Infectious Pathogens (WACCBIP), Family Health University College (FHU) to conduct a surveillance of common pathogens in ponds and tanks in the northern sector;
- iv. Trained five (5) prospective hatchery operators on various aspects of fish hatchery management, including brood stock selection,

- induced spawning, fry management, common diseases, disease identification and biosecurity;
- v. Launched and trained 1,363 stakeholders comprises fisher folk, fisheries officers and officers of MMDAs on the safe fish certificate and licensing scheme (SFCLS);
 - vi. Audited 134 fish processing facilities and certified 51 in the Western and Volta Regions on the SCCLS;
 - vii. Trained one thousand, two hundred and ninety (1,290) beneficiaries on hygienic fish handling to ensure optimum utilisation of fisheries resources;
 - viii. Sensitised and trained one hundred and twelve (112) stakeholders on tilapia lake virus disease management, antimicrobial resistance, biosecurity and aquaculture principle and aquatic animal health management;
 - ix. Visited sixty-four (64) farms through a monitoring programme in the Ahafo, Ashanti, Bono, Bono East, Eastern, Oti, Savannah and Western North regions;
 - x. A post-harvest infrastructural needs assessment was conducted in five (5) fishing communities;
 - xi. Issued a total of 162 import permits and 38 export permits during the period to facilitate trade of fish and fishery products.

8.0 OUTLOOK FOR 2024

8.1 Financial Requirement

The budgetary allocation for the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development for the year 2024 is the sum of **GHC298,772,253** made up GHC28,264,220 (9.46%), as compensation of employees, GHC100,986,032 (33.80%) Goods and Services and GHC169,522,001 (56.74%) as Capital

Expenditure. The detailed breakdown in economic and programme classifications are shown in the Tables 2 and 3 below.

Table 2: 2024 Budget Ceilings by Economic Classification and Funding Source

SOURCES OF FUNDING Item	ECONOMIC CLASSIFICATION			
	Compensation	Goods & Services	Capex	Total
GoG	28,264,220	50,405,000	70,000,000	148,669,220
ABFA	-	-	-	-
IGF	-	50,581,032	99,522,001	150,103,033
Donor	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	28,264,220	100,986,032	169,522,001	298,772,253

Source: 2024 Programme Based Budget Statement of MoFAD

Table 3: 2024 Budget Allocation by Programme Classification

Programme	Compensation of Employees	Goods and Services	Capex	Total	% Share
Management of Administration	10,496,710.00	75,906,570.00	109,820,801.00	196,224,081.00	65.68
Fisheries Resource Mgt.	7,977,806.00	9,279,392.00	660,000.00	17,917,198.00	6.00
Aquaculture Development	7,829,891.00	8,250,070.00	57,000,000.00	73,079,961.00	24.46
Fisheries Law Enforcement	1,266,643.00	5,700,000.00	2,041,200.00	9,007,843.00	3.01
Aquatic Animal Health & Post Harvest Mgt	693,170.00	1,850,000.00	0.00	2,543,170.00	0.85
Total	28,264,220.00	100,986,032.00	169,522,001.00	298,772,253.00	100

Source: 2024 Programme Based Budget Estimates of MoFAD

8.2 Programme Outlook for 2024

8.2.1 Management and Administration

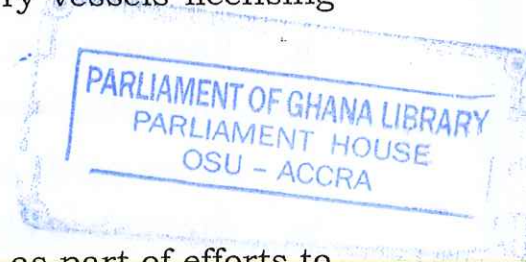
In 2024, the Ministry plans to undertake the following as part of measures to enhance institutional capacity, provide policy direction and support services for efficient service delivery of the sector:

- i. Establish Intranet in 4 directorates;
- ii. Train 10 MOFAD staff in ICT to improve ICT infrastructure for fisheries management;
- iii. Produce and disseminate 5 fisheries publication;
- iv. Conduct two research on topical issues in the fisheries sector to inform decision making;
- v. Conduct 12 stakeholder engagements;
- vi. Prepare and submit 4 quarterly reports;
- vii. Prepare and submit 2 annual/mid-year reports; and
- viii. Review and make recommendations for fishery vessels licensing by 31st December, 2024.

8.2.2 Fisheries Resource Management

The Ministry plans to undertake the following as part of efforts to protecting, conserving and sustainably managing Fisheries Resources of Ghana for the benefit of present and future generations:

- i. Implement closed season on all fishing fleets after stakeholder engagements on the outcome of the 2023 closed season;
- ii. Implement a 3-year moratorium on canoes entrance into marine waters;



- iii. Register and license 103 industrial vessels;
- iv. Register 14,500 canoes, emboss 3,000 canoes and issue out 1,000 canoe identification cards;
- v. Conduct 1 canoe frame survey and issue 6,000 canoe authorisation cards;
- vi. Produce 166,513 metric tons fish from inland;
- vii. Implement marine management plan and develop a robust fisheries data management system; and
- viii. Incorporate 2019 trawl gear audit report into the law and establish a functional fishing gear unit.

8.3.3 Fisheries Law Enforcement

In the 2024 fiscal year, the Ministry plans to apply part of its budgetary allocation to finance the implementation of the following projects under the fisheries law enforcement programme:

- i. Rollout the EMS on all trawl vessels in Ghanaian marine waters;
- ii. Enhance community policing fostering voluntary compliance;
- iii. Intensify fisheries enforcement patrols by conducting 500 hours of sea patrol and boarding 30 vehicles during patrols;
- iv. Strengthen electronic monitoring of fishing vessels. This will be done through tracking 74 trawl vessels by VMS, spending 168 hours to monitor trawl vessels in a week, 35 tuna vessels equipped with video EMS and monitor and analyse 500 tuna vessel fishing trips;
- v. Expand fisheries observer programme. This will be done by training and deploying 200 observers, increasing observer missions to 550 and achieving 100% observer coverage;

- vi. Promote safety of life and property at sea through sensitisation of 200 fishers on safe fishing practices at sea;
- vii. Intensify public awareness on fisheries laws and regulations. The Ministry intends to sensitise 120 fishing communities on fisheries law and regulations; and
Strengthen inter-agency and stakeholder collaboration in fisheries law enforcement.

8.3.4 Aquatic Animal Health and Post - harvest Management

The Ministry plans to undertake the following under the aquatic animal health and post-harvest management programme:

- i. Improve routine diagnostics, early warning system and biosecurity in aquaculture establishments by increasing farm visits, surveillance and capacity building for aquaculture operators and enhancing disease management and quality assurance;
- ii. Certify 30 fish processing facilities under Safe Fish Certification and Licence Scheme;
- iii. Train 50 fisheries officers in post-harvest management protocols/standards;
- iv. Ensure 35% reduction in fish post-harvest losses;
- v. Train 100 fish processors on the use of improved processing technologies and trained 50 fisheries officers in post-harvest data collection;
- vi. Develop operational guidelines and manuals on Post-Harvest Management;
- vii. Develop operational guidelines for gender mainstreaming for fisheries sector;

- viii. Facilitate implementation of activities under the “Empowering Women for Sustainable Food Systems” project; and
- ix. Coordinate activities of fish processor and trader groups.

8.3.5 Aquaculture Development

In order to advance the goal of increasing domestic fish production to offset the importation of fish, and create additional job opportunities for economically active unemployed men and women along the aquaculture value chain, the Ministry plans to undertake the following activities in 2024 financial year:

- i. Improve logistical support for extension services and conduct feasibility studies on mariculture;
- ii. Operationalise Ghana National Aquaculture Development Plan (GNADP);
- iii. Upgrade pilot aquaculture center into aquaculture training centre;
- iv. Renovate the office and accommodation at Lawra;
- v. Demolish and reconstruct Asuogyaman zonal office at Akosombo;
- vi. Supply 604,800 pieces of fingerlings and 3,594mt fish feed to AFJ beneficiaries;
- vii. Create 280 direct jobs and 685 indirect jobs;
- viii. Construct 719 new production facilities and 2,640 aquaculture establishments;
- ix. Achieve a total aquaculture production of 145,395mt ;
- x. Furnish the hatchery at Veaa, Dormaa and Sefwi-Wiawso and upgrade of Ashaiman Demonstration Centre; and
- xi. Produce 544 million fingerlings from hatcheries and train 70 fingerlings producers.

9.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 High cost of inputs for aquaculture development

The Committee was informed that the high cost of inputs particularly, fish feed has become the major disincentive to attracting investors into aquaculture.

According to the Ministry, the situation has been a setback to the efforts at achieving the aquaculture development programme objectives of job creation, increasing domestic fish production for local consumption and export, and more importantly, easing the pressure on marine and inland fishing resources.

The Ministry indicated that while it has traditionally supported fish farmers with inputs such as fingerlings and extension services, taxes on importation of fish feed have hindered growth in the aquaculture sub-sector. The Ministry however assured the Committee of its relentless efforts to collaborating with relevant Research institutions and other stakeholders with the goal to developing cost-effective feed recipe using local raw materials. In addition, the Government is considering adding aquaculture as part of its flagship programmes to receive the needed attention and resources.

9.2 Automation of premix fuel distribution to address inherent challenges

The Committee expressed concerned about the worrying persistent trends of diversion, smuggling and hoarding that have characterised premix fuel supply and distribution in the country. The unfortunate development and its attendant consequences of shortages and hiking prices of the product in the market

continues to negatively affect marine fish production and ultimately, the standard of living of the fisherfolks.

In responding to the concerns of the Committee, the Ministry indicated that the best panacea identified to permanently deal with, and possibly eliminate, the corruption, diversion and other bottlenecks associated with the supply and distribution of premix fuel is to fully automate the supply and distribution of the product. They explained that the Automated Premix Fuel Dispensing and Monitoring System currently being implemented by the Ministry ushers in efficiency, transparency, and accountability in the premix industry.

On the status of the Automation Project, the Ministry indicated that out of the 300 Landing Beaches selected for the automation, 50 of them have been fully completed, but only 20 out of the 50 have been operationalised due to lack of access to electricity. 150 of the remaining 250 are also under various stages of completion. An amount of GH¢94,038,324.98 out of the total contract sum of US\$59,700,375.00 for the entire project has so far been paid by the Ministry of Finance.

9.2 Reduction in premix fuel supply

The Committee observed that during the year under review (2023), the Premix Fuel Secretariat was able to supply 25,893,000 Litres out of a projected quantity of 107,288,000 Litres of premix fuel to various 310 landing beaches in the country. This represents 24% of the total targeted supply. The actual quantity supplied in 2023 (25,893,000 Litres) was less than the volume supplied in the previous year, 2022 (39,582,000 Litres). The officials of the Ministry explained that the shortage in the supply was largely

attributed to forex losses arising out of the high depreciation of the local currency that made it difficult for the Bulk Distribution Companies (Vihamma and Maranatha oil) to import Premix fuel into the Country.

The Committee recommends to the government to utilise its foreign reserves to regulate the exchange rate for the importation of Premix Fuel by the Bulk Distribution Companies (BDC).

9.3 Impact of Closed Fishing Season on Production Outcomes

Pursuant to Section 84 of the Fisheries Act, 2002 (Act 625), the Fisheries Commission is mandated to impose a closed season for fishing in specified areas of the coastal waters whenever considered necessary. The objectives of the imposition of the restriction among other things are to reduce overfishing and the pressure on the marine stocks, recover overexploited fish stocks, rebuild depleted fish species and replenish dwindling fish stocks. This is particularly important given the fact that marine fish stocks accounts for about 80% of fish production annually and therefore the backbone of the fishing industry in Ghana.

The Committee supported the noble intention of the closed season in sustaining jobs along the fishing value chain and ensuring food security, but was concerned about the cost-benefit analysis assessment warranting the distribution of relief items worth Twenty Million Ghana Cedis (GH¢20,000,000.00) to the fisherfolks during the 2023 closed season alone. In reacting to the concerns of the Committee, the Ministry indicated that post assessment studies conducted have revealed that mean catch per canoe after the imposition is significantly higher than before the

closed season necessitating the need to continue the implementation of the intervention.

9.5 Delay in completion of the Anomabo Fisheries College

The Committee expressed grave concerns about the delay in completion of the Anomabo Fisheries College which was started in 2011. The College is meant for the training of extension officers for the marine and inland fisheries sub-sector as well as offering opportunities for training practising fishermen, fishmongers and fish farmers in the application of science and technology in their fields of endeavour.

The Committee further noted that the medium-term policy objectives of the country related to the Fisheries Sector are to ensure sustainable development and management of aquaculture and fisheries resources as well as improving post-harvest management. This cannot be achieved without mainstreaming science, technology and innovation in all aspects of fishing activities.

The Ministry however attributed the delay to inclusion of additional facilities to the original design such as lecturers' bungalows, boreholes and water treatment plants and fish ponds. The Committee was assured that the remaining works estimated at GHC40 Million Ghana Cedis would be completed in the 2024 financial year to pave way for commencement of academic work and training at the College. The Committee urged the Ministry of Finance to release the capex budget on time to enable the Ministry complete the additional works as scheduled.

9.6 Farmers Day Celebration – over concentration on crops

The Minister bemoaned the over concentration of Annual National Farmers Day Awards on the crop sub-sector with little attention to the aquaculture sub-sector. She indicated that in spite of the significant contribution of fisheries and aquaculture industries to the employment creation, foreign exchange generation, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and protein source of the country, the selection and awards of gallant farmers at Annual Farmers Day celebrations have been dominated by the crop-sub-sector. She informed the Committee that a 2-bedroom House awarded to the 2021 Best Fish Farmer is still under construction due to delay in release of budgetary allocations. Also, the Ministry has abandoned the decision of awarding the Best Fish Farmer with a house because of financial constraints.

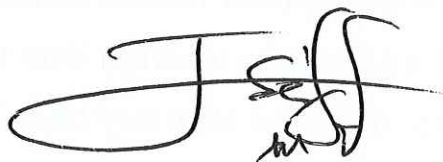
The Committee urged the Ministry of Finance to release the GHC500,000.00 allocated for the completion of the 2-bedroom House awarded to the 2021 Best Fish Farmer and to enable the Ministry consider restating the housing award to motivate more investors to go into aquaculture.

10.0 CONCLUSION

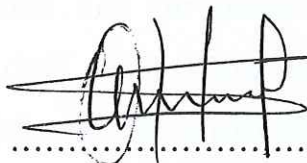
The Committee has thoroughly examined the budget estimates of the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development for the 2024 financial year and is satisfied that the policies and programmes outlined for the year will go a long way to ensure adequate growth of the sector.

The Committee accordingly recommends to the House to adopt its Report and approve the total sum of **Two Hundred and Ninety-Eight Million, Seven Hundred and Seventy-Two Thousand, Two Hundred and Fifty-Three Ghana Cedis (GHC298,772,253)** to implement planned programmes and activities of the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development for the 2024 financial year.

Respectfully Submitted.



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HON. JOHN OSEI FRIMPONG ADJEI
(CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON FOOD,
AGRICULTURE AND COCOA AFFAIRS)



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KOFI MENKAH (MR)
(SENIOR ASSISTANT CLERK)

12TH DECEMBER, 2023

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