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

**REPORT OF**

**THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON  
ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE AND  
TECHNOLOGY**

**ON THE**

**2024 ANNUAL PROGRAMME BASED  
BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE MINISTRY  
OF ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE,  
TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION**

**December 2023**

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

**REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE AND  
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**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, 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2023 by the Hon Minister for Finance, Mr. Ken Ofori-Atta in accordance with Article 179 of the 1992 Constitution.

The Estimates relating to the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology, and Innovation were consequently referred to the Select Committee on Environment, Science and Technology for consideration and report, in accordance with Orders 140(4) and 185 of the Standing Orders of Parliament.

**2.0 DELIBERATIONS**

The Committee met with the Chief Director, of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Patrick Nomo and the technical team of the Ministry to discuss the referral. Officials of the Ministry of Finance as well Agency Heads of Council for Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), Ghana Atomic Energy Commission (GAEC), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), National Biosafety Authority (NBA), Nuclear Regulatory Authority (NRA) were in attendance at the meeting to assist in the deliberations. The Committee is grateful to the Chief Director and his Officials for their cooperation and support.

**3.0. REFERENCE DOCUMENTS**

The Committee referred to the following documents:

- i. The 1992 Constitution of Ghana;
- ii. The Standing Orders of Parliament of Ghana;
- iii. The 2023 Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana;
- iv. The 2023 Programme-Based Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation;
- v. The 2024 Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana; and
- vi. The 2024 Programme-Based Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation.

**4.0 STRATEGIC OVERVIEW OF THE MINISTRY**

**4.1 Policy Objectives**

The Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation has adopted fifteen (15) Policy Objectives out of the numerous contained in the Medium-Term Development Policy Framework (MTNDPF) for the period 2022-2025.

These are as follows:

- i. Enhance environmental protection services
- ii. Improve forest and protected areas
- iii. Enhance institutional capacity and coordination for effective climate action
- iv. Enhance climate change resilience
- v. Reduce greenhouse gases
- vi. Reduce environmental pollution
- vii. Reduce coastal and marine erosion
- viii. Minimize potential environmental impact of the oil and gas industry
- ix. Promote sustainable extraction of mineral resources
- x. Combat deforestation, desertification, and soil erosion



- xi. Mainstream science, technology, and innovation in all socio-economic activities
- xii. Ensure availability of clean, affordable and accessible energy
- xiii. Promote sustainable spatially integrated development of human settlements
- xiv. Improve research and development (R&D), innovation, and sustainable financing for industrial development
- xv. Enhance the application of science, technology, and innovation.

#### **4.2 Goal**

The Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology, and Innovation (MESTI) seeks to ensure accelerated socio-economic development of the nation through the formulation of sound policies and a regulatory framework to promote the use of appropriate environmentally friendly, scientific, and technological practices.

#### **4.3 Core Functions**

The Ministry performs the following core functions:

- i. Provide leadership and guidance for environment, science, technology and innovation within the broad sector of the economy through sound policy formulation and implementation;
- ii. Ensure the establishment of the regulatory framework and setting of standards to govern the activities of science, and technology and the management of the environment for sustainable development;
- iii. Promote activities needed to underpin the standards and policies required for planning and implementation of sound scientific and technological development activities;
- iv. Ensure the coordination, supervision, monitoring and evaluation of activities of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation while fulfilling national benefit-sharing commitments;
- v. Set out the parameters required for programmes on environment, science, technology and innovation and human settlement in consultation with the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC) in guiding the Districts Assemblies as the planning authorities at the local level;
- vi. Analyse and coordinate all planned programmes as well as budgets in the environment, science, technology and innovation sector of the economy for purposes of achieving a single integrated management system;
- vii. Initiate, simulate and coordinate research including the continuous development and review of policies, laws, rules and regulations in the environment, science, technology and innovation sector of the economy; and
- viii. Ensure effective environmental management and governance in line with the functions of Act 490, with the EPA as the main implementing agency and the MESTI playing an oversight, coordination and facilitating role.

#### **4.4 Implementing Agencies**

- i. Council for Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)
- ii. Ghana Atomic Energy Commission (GAEC)
- iii. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- iv. National Biosafety Authority (NBA)
- v. Nuclear Regulatory Authority (NRA)



## 5.0 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OF THE MINISTRY IN 2023

A total amount of **Six Hundred and Fifteen Million, Four Hundred and Thirty Thousand and Sixty Cedis (GH¢615,430,060.00)** was appropriated by the House to the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation and its Agencies for the 2023 financial year. The breakdown of the allocation and releases for the year is captured in table 1:

**Table 1. – Breakdown of Budgetary allocation and releases for year 2023**

Economic Classification	2023 Approved Budget (GH¢) A	Release as at September (GH¢) B	Actual Expenditure (GH¢) C	% of Budget utilisation
Compensation of employees	388,887,407.00	333,577,329.03	326,019,508.48	83%
Goods and Services	155,928,228.00	166,371,197.39	149,716,231.68	96%
Capex	70,614,425.00	10,162,360.75	9,657,667.23	13.6%
Others	1,982,173.00	7,154,097.22	6,893,934.00	347%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>617,412,233.00</b>	<b>517,264,984.68</b>	<b>492,287,341.39</b>	<b>80%</b>

Source: 2023 Programme Based Budget Estimates of MESTI

The total budget released to the Ministry stood at **GH¢ 510,110,887.17** as at September 2023 and out of it, **GH¢ 492,287,341.40** representing 95.1% had been expended.

The Ministry had an extra release of **GH¢7,154,097.22** in respect to **Other** allocation from the Ministry of Finance in addition to the 2023 budget allocation of **GH¢615,430,060.00**. The Ministry explained that the additional release was as a result of some outstanding payments to be fulfilled by the Ministry. These releases included; release for the Foundry and Machine Tooling Centre, Plastic Waste and Recycling Fund, payment of other subscriptions and international obligations.

## 6.0 OVERVIEW OF THE 2023 BUDGET PERFORMANCE OF THE MINISTRY

During the year under review, the Ministry utilized its budgetary allocation to implement programs and activities under the various sub-programmes.

### 6.1 MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION PROGRAMME

The Ministry as part of the implementation of Establishing a Circular Economy Framework for the Plastics Sector (CEF-PS) in Ghana Project, twelve (12) Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (SMEs) operating within the plastics value chain had been selected to receive technical and financial support to undertake some selected activities. Some of these activities included; campaign to discourage the single-use plastic (banku rubber, cutlery, straw, plates etc) production, the demonstration of food-grade plastics recycling and reuse options and intensifying the recovery/collection of easily recyclable plastic waste.

In promoting environmentally sound management of plastics, the Ministry implemented plastic segregation in St. John Bosco Basic School and Accra Technical for behavioral change and create awareness within the framework of the Plastic-Free Schools Project.

The Ministry, in collaboration with the University of Ghana and Notpla launched the Ooho edible water packaging and compostable take-away boxes in selected restaurants at the University of Ghana Campus. This initiative was adopted as a means of reducing the use of single-use plastics packaging in the food sector.

In alignment with the Paris Agreement, the Ministry in collaboration with its agency EPA, developed a Carbon Market Framework. The initiative is to use twenty-four (24) million tons of carbon dioxide in carbon trading



to generate an estimated amount of Eight Hundred (800) million US Dollars by 2030. The expected income through the Carbon Market Framework will be generated through direct investment, fees and charges.

The Ministry has supported the Palm Oil industry through energy efficiency improvement techniques. MESTI has installed forty-seven (47) new improved cookstoves with chimneys, steamers and clarification tanks to replace traditional cooking stoves in Eight (8) communities in the Eastern Region.

The Ministry continued with the construction works for the establishment of the Foundry and Machine Tooling Centre. Phase I which involves the physical construction of the Foundry is currently 95% complete, while Phase II, which consists of the physical construction of a Machine Tooling Centre, a Patterns Development Shop, and a Staff Canteen are at 25%, 70% and 70% completion stage. On addition, all the equipment for the project has been procured and delivered to the site. The Phase 2 of the procurement of equipment has received approval from the Public Procurement Authority (PPA) but contract is yet to be signed.

The Ministry developed the National Carbon Credit Framework and a national carbon registry system to support the registration, issuance, and transfer of carbon credits to address climate change issues. The National Carbon Credit Framework is currently undergoing stakeholder consultations before Cabinet approval for its adoption.

## **6.2 RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

The CSIR developed and released two improved varieties of cowpea namely; SARI-Tuya, SARI-Tuzievallenga and maize namely; SARI Alaafee-Kawana with a potential yield of 3.78 tons/ha and SARI-Yezura-Kamana also with a potential yield of 4.21tons/ha. These varieties were released to support food security and reduce poverty.

The CSIR developed an electronic learning platform which provided free short courses in key areas of agriculture. Also, demonstrative videos on areas such as Climate Smart Agriculture, Mulching and Fall Army Worm management for farmers, extension agents, prospective youth in Agriculture and other interested persons was developed.

The Ghana Atomic Energy Commission (GAEC) through the use of latest innovations and advancements in cassava production, processing and utilization distributed 10,000 sticks of improved cassava varieties to farmers and farmer associations to improve livelihood and ensure food security.

The Ministry, upon approval by Cabinet, submitted the Draft Environmental Protection Bill to Parliament. The new Bill seeks to: amend and consolidate the laws relating to environmental protection; establish the Environmental Protection Authority; to regulate, protect and manage the environment; to provide for pesticide control and regulation; provide for climate change mitigation and adoption; and provide for the control, management, and disposal of electrical, electronic and hazardous wastes.

The EPA issued 8,970 environmental assessment permits and 38,152 chemical licenses in line with L.I 1652. Additionally, the EPA monitored 113 industries to analyze the level of pollution for effluent quality. Through its effluent discharge monitoring, the Agency compelled Pioneer Food Canary to modify its drainage system and dissolve the air flotation unit in order to meet Ghana's Standard on Effluent Discharge Quality.

The Ministry through the Nuclear Regulatory Authority (NRA) in order to ensure the protection of humans and the environment from harmful effects of radiation issued 273 permits. The permits covered aspects such as import, export, design approval and transport and storage of radioactive sources and devices. Additionally, the Authority inspected and authorized 331 facilities for the use of radioactive sources and devices. In enforcing compliance, the NRA issued enforcement notices to nine non-complying facilities, mandating corrective actions to ensure the safety of radiation workers and patients.



The National Biosafety Authority (NBA), through the Ministry received a total of 16 Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) and Non-GMO applications pertaining to environmental release, event registration, confined field trial and non-GMO status. Three permits were issued out of the 16 applications, with the remaining 13 undergoing a risk assessment review.

**7.0 BUDGETARY ALLOCATION FOR 2024**

A Total amount of **One Billion, One Hundred and Seventy-Three Million, Nine Hundred and Eighty-Five Thousand, Eight Hundred and Nineteen Cedis (GH¢1,173,985,819.00)** has been allocated to the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation and its Agencies for implementation of their activities for the 2024 Financial Year. The breakdown of the allocation is provided in Table 2 as follows:

**Table 2: Details of Annual Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation and its Agencies for the 2024 Financial Year**

	GOG (GH¢)	IGF (GH¢)	DP (GH¢)	TOTAL (GH¢)	% of Budget
Compensation of Employees	403,586,615.00	107,662,262.00	-	511,248,877	43.6%
Goods and Services	21,789,115.00	169,511,002.00	258,638,893.00	449,939,010	38.3%
Capex	152,339,971.00	60,460,961.00	-	212,800,932	18.1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>577,715,701.00</b>	<b>337,634,225.00</b>	<b>258,638,893.00</b>	<b>1,173,988,819</b>	

Source: 2024 Programme Based Budget Estimates of MESTI

**8.0 OUTLOOK FOR THE YEAR 2024**

The Ministry, through its Agencies and Departments plans to undertake the following programmes and activities, among others:

**8.1 MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION PROGRAMME**

The Ministry will continue to promote sound recycling and disposal of electrical and electronic equipment waste and also continue with the incentive payment system and collect more e-waste in 2024. The Ministry plans to recycle the remaining 318.73 out of 378.73 tons of e-waste cables retrieved for the period 2020-2023.

The Ministry as part of its implementation of Establishing a Circular Economy Framework (CEF-PS) for the Plastics Sector in Ghana Project had selected 12 SMEs in the plastics value chain. These SMEs were selected to receive financial and technical support to produce biodegradable plastics for alternative feedstock, design packaging materials from non-fossil such as cassava-based biodegradable and other water-soluble fiber.

The Ministry will complete the construction of the Handover Centre (HoC) for electrical and electronic waste at the Ghana Atomic Energy Commission (GAEC). Operationalization of this Centre will take effect in the year 2024.

The Ministry will actively engage other development partners interested in Carbon trading. This initiative is a drive to promote the Carbon Market Framework and also generate adequate income for the Ministry.

**8.2 RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in 2024 will continue to support the Planting for Food and Jobs (PFJ) Initiative by providing enhanced crop varieties for farmers.

Ghana Atomic Energy Commission (GAEC), will continue with the processes towards the inclusion of nuclear energy in the energy mix and enhance the latest innovations and advancements in cassava production, processing and utilization.





The National Biosafety will in the year 2024 continue to actively engage in promoting public education, sensitization and participation in biosafety events.

## 9.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 9.1 INCREASE IN BUDGETARY ALLOCATION (2024)

The Committee observed that an amount of **One Billion, One Hundred and Seventy-Three Million, Nine Hundred and Eighty-Five Thousand, Eight Hundred and Nineteen Ghana Cedis (GH¢1,173,985,819.00)** has been allocated to the Ministry for the 2024 financial year as against **Six Hundred and Seventeen Million, Four Hundred and Twelve Thousand, Two Hundred and Thirty-Three Ghana Cedis (GH¢617,412,233)** allocated in the 2023 budget year. This represents an increase of 90% of the 2023 budget allocation.

The Ministry explained that the Ninety Percent (90%) increment is largely attributed to some projects and implementations to be undertaken by the Ministry. These projects include; the construction and installation of Foundry equipment; operationalizing the Resource Recovery Secretariat for Plastic Management; Launch and implement Science, Technology and Innovation Policy and others.

### 9.2 DONOR PARTNERS

The Committee noted that in 2023, the approved Donor allocation to the Ministry amounted to **GH¢17,828,720.00**. The Committee was surprised to learn that as at September, 2023 the releases and the actual expenditure in respect of the Donor component stood at **GH¢63,977,587.93**, which represents **358%** increase over the approved budget.

The Ministry explained that the Ministry of Finance always gave ceilings which is below the projections sent to its outfit (Ministry of Finance). The Ministry's funds received from donors far exceeded its approved budget hence the huge gap between the actual expenditure and approved budget.

The Committee recommended that Donor partners be engaged during budget planning process to enable the Ministry project accurately. Also, donor fund projections should be based on empirical data of bankable projects proposals in the pipeline.

### 9.3 RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

The Committee was informed that Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) was allocated with an amount of **GH¢331,791,904.00** for the 2024 fiscal year. Out of this, **GH¢34,130,682** was allocated for the use of Goods and Services and **GH¢289,451,449** for Compensation of Employees. The Committee observed that goods and services represented about 1% of the entire budget allocation whilst compensation represented about 87%. It was also noted that funding for research activities was woefully inadequate hence affecting research and technological development.

The Committee noted that, the allocation for Ghana Atomic Energy Commission (GAEC) for the 2024 budget year is **GH¢125,870,093** out of which **GH¢21,837,134** was allocated for Goods and Services and **GH¢92,310,104** for Compensation of Employees. The allocation for Goods and Services represented about 1% of the total budget whilst Government of Ghana allocation for Compensation of Employees of **GH¢92,310,104** represented about 73% of the Commission's budget.

The Committee further reiterated the adverse effects of this low Goods and Services allocation on the actual work, research and technological development. The Committee therefore recommends that the Government of Ghana through the Ministry of Finance allocates 1.0% of the national GDP to fund research activities in the Country. This support will enable them carry out their mandate more effectively and efficiently.



#### **9.4 NUCLEAR REGULATORY AUTHORITY**

The Committee was informed that, the proposed owner/ operator for the Ghana First Nuclear Power is at the vendor selection stage. It is imperative that Nuclear Regulatory Authority is ready and willing to conduct all the needed regulatory works which includes the review of license submittals and conduct all the needed plant inspection. It is also noted that, the Regulator needs the appropriate staff to train to enable them gain the needed competence and capabilities to carry out the review and inspection regulatory work.

According to the Ministry, currently the Regulator does not have the requisite needed staff and competencies to handle the Nuclear Power Program. It has therefore written to the Ministry of Finance to give clearance to enable the Authority to recruit at least 61 personnel to augment its staff strength toward the preparation of the installation of Nuclear Power plant in the country.

The Committee strongly recommends that, the installation of Nuclear Power Plant will accelerate clean carbon free base load electricity for the country. There is therefore the need for the Ministry of Finance to urgently give clearance to enable the Authority prepare adequately for the Nuclear Power program.

#### **9.5 Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)**

The Committee observed that the CSIR was allocated **GH¢1,291,595.00** by Government of Ghana in respect of Goods and Services to cater for all its thirteen 13 Institutions. Out of this allocation, each Institute is estimated to receive **GH¢100,000.00** which is woefully inadequate and likely to affect the smooth operation of the Council.

According to the Ministry, a number of on-going scientific innovations and research such as newly released rice varieties, high yielding hybrid maize varieties, improved varieties of tomato market product, development of composite panel products among others have been developed.

The Committee indicated that, considering the important role the CSIR play in the socio-economic development of the country and to harness the full potential of research science and technology, there is the need for Government to increase research and development budgetary allocation for CSIR and other agencies under MESTI. This will help address current challenges and research into emerging areas such as nanotechnology and application of Artificial Intelligence. The Committee further recommends that there is an urgent need for allocation of vehicles to support the research team for field work and nationwide monitoring and data collection exercise.

#### **9.6 E- WASTE**

Pursuant to section 28(h) of the Hazardous and Electronic Waste Control and Management Act, 2016 Act 917. The Administrator of the Fund is allowed to disburse only half of one percent for the administrative. A total of **GH¢ 12,207,903.71** had been realized into the fund in the year under review, of which the administrator had to expend half of one percent of the collection which is equivalent to **GH¢ 61,039.52** for administrative purposes.

The Committee agreed to the request by the Administrator to amend Act 917 to enable the Fund pay its administrative expenses and disburse the net according to the formula in the law.

#### **9.7 UPGRADE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY AS AN AUTHORITY**

Environment Protection Agency through the Ministry explained to the Committee the need for its present status as and an Agency to be changed to an Authority. The Committee was informed that EPA as an Authority will better the Agency to have the authority to generate more funds for its operations, and enforce environmental compliance across all the Sectors.

The Committee buttressed the need for the Agency to be dominant in the environmental space and lauded the initiative and assured to fully support it.



### 9.8 LAND ENCROACHMENT (GAEC & CSIR)

The Committee noted that, land encroachment continued to disturb CSIR and GAEC had issues of land encroachment. The Committee was informed that lands belonging to these Institutions were still encroached, hence the need to support them protect their lands.

The Committee recommended that, CSIR and GAEC the explore the option of leasing some portions of the land to some private entities to mobilize funds to initiate fencing projects to protect their lands. The Committee also recommended that, both CSIR and GAEC could site or build some of their new projects at the extreme ends of their land to enable effective monitoring.

### 9.9 E-WASTE MANAGEMENT

The E-Waste Fund management informed the Committee of not disbursing funds to the Beneficiaries except to the Ministry and Environmental Protection Agency. The Fund management explained that they needed more clarifications and guideline to assist them in the disbursement.

However, the Committee expressed concerns for the non-disbursement to other stakeholders and the Committee referred the Fund Manager to the e-waste Act passed by Parliament for the classification and guidelines they needed.


The Committee recommended to the Ministry to amend of the e-waste Act in order to provide explicit details on the disbursement. The amendment could also enable the Ministry to make room for the Fund management carry out its administrative duties.

The Ministry was also tasked to comply with the law by submitting E-Waste reports to the Committee for effective monitoring.

### 10.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The Committee has thoroughly examined the 2024 Annual Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, and is of the view that the policies and programmes outlined in the Budget is consistent with Government's agenda towards pursuing growth and development within a stable macroeconomic environment.

The Committee accordingly recommends to the House to adopt this Report and approve the amount of **One Billion, One Hundred and Seventy-Three Million, Nine Hundred and Eight-Five Thousand, Eight Hundred and Nineteen Cedis (GH¢ 1,173,985,819.00)** for the services of the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology, and Innovation for the 2024 Financial Year.  
Respectfully submitted.



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HON EMMANUEL MARFO (DR)  
(CHAIRMAN, SELECT COMMITTEE ON  
ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY)



.....  
ABDALLAH IBRAHIM GARIBA (MR)  
(CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE)

