

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

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE
AND INTERIOR**

ON THE

**2024 ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

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DECEMBER, 2023

REPORT ON THE BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2024

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Hon Minister responsible for Finance, Mr Ken Ofori-Atta, on Wednesday 15th November 2023, presented the 2024 Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana to Parliament in accordance with article 179 of the 1992 Constitution and Order 140(1) of the Standing Orders of Parliament.

Following the presentation of the Budget Statement and Economic Policy of Government, the Annual Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Defence (MOD) was referred to the Parliamentary Select Committee on Defence and Interior for consideration and report, pursuant to Standing Orders 140(4) and 158 of the House

2.0 DELIBERATIONS

The Committee on Defence and Interior met with the Hon Minister responsible for Defence, Mr Dominic Bingab Aduna Nitiwul, the Chief Director, Dr Evans Dzikum, the Military High Command, and other officials of the Ministry on Tuesday 12th December, 2023 to consider the Budget Estimates. Officials from the Ministry of Finance were also present to offer the necessary clarification during the deliberations.

The Committee expresses its gratitude to the Hon Minister and his team for their cooperation.

3.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

The Committee referenced the following documents during the consideration of the 2024 Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Defence:

- i. The 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana.
- ii. The Standing Orders of the Parliament of Ghana.

- iii. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2023 Financial Year.
- iv. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2024 Financial Year.
- v. Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) 2024-2027 for the Ministry of Defence.

4.0 BACKGROUND OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is a key security service delivery institution of the Government of the Republic of Ghana under the Office of the Head of Civil Service (OHCS) vested with the mandate of formulating and managing the implementation of policies aimed at safeguarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ghana and ensuring the protection of life, property and rights of all nationals, especially the vulnerable within the democratic environment.

4.1 IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES

The Ministry of Defence operates to achieve its mandate through the following agencies:

- I. Ministry of Defence Headquarters
- II. General Headquarters of the Ghana Armed Forces
- III. Ghana Army
- IV. Ghana Navy
- V. Ghana Air Force
- VI. Ghana Armed Forces Command and Staff College
- VII. Military Academy & Training School
- VIII. Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre
- IX. Veterans Association of Ghana
- X. 37 Military Hospital
- XI. Defence Advisors

5.0 PERFORMANCE OF THE MINISTRY 2023

In the year under review, the Ministry of Defence carried out among others, the following programmes and projects:

5.1 Establishment of New Units in Ghana Armed Forces

The Ministry established new units which include: the National College of Defence Studies, 10, 11 & 12 Mechanised Battalion, Signals Brigade Headquarters, Armoured Brigade, Army Special Operations Brigade, Special Boat Squadron Camp, Supply Application School, Navy Logistics Command, TRADOC, Bui Tactical Command, 154 & 155 Armoured Regiments, Airforce Training Command, 31 Mechanised Battalion in Bolgatanga, and 35 Mechanised Battalion in Bimbilla.

5.2 Internal Defence Cooperation

The Ghana Armed Forces collaborated with other Security Agencies to check illegal logging and mining to control environmental degradation through Operations COWLEG, CALM LIFE, HALT, and GONGGONG.

The Ghana Armed Forces undertook Operation CONQUERED FIST to provide security and neutralize threats of terrorism in the Northern Sector of the Country. In addition, the Ministry carried out works for the improvement of 10 Mechanized Battalion in Wa, 11 Mechanized Battalion in Bawku and 3 Field Workshops. 3 Mechanical Transport Coy Vehicles were also procured by the Ministry for the Northern Border Project.

The Ghana Armed Forces continued to provide surveillance of Ghana's airspace and territorial waters.

5.3 External Defence Cooperation

The Ministry through the Ghana Armed Forces (GAF) contributed about 2,793 troops with equipment towards International Peace efforts. Ghana's role in

international peace keeping has projected the country's image on the international scene. Currently, Ghana is involved in several Peacekeeping/ Peace Support Operations including the United Nations regional and sub. regional missions; United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), ECOWAS Stabilization Support Mission in Guinea-Bissau (ESSMGB), and the United Nations Interim Security Force for ABYEI (UNISFA) among others.

5.4 Infrastructural Projects for the GAF

The Ministry continued with the Ghana Armed Forces housing and infrastructure projects aimed at reducing the accommodation deficit in the Military. The Military Housing Projects and the reconstruction of the Ghana Military Academy at Teshie are expected to provide 832 Accommodation Units to improve the living conditions and standards of officers of the Ghana Armed Forces. The project which is 99% complete is scheduled to be commissioned by 31st December 2023.

Furthermore, progress has been made on the construction of two (2) bedroom half compound houses for various garrisons (2, 3, 4, 5, and 7). The project which is scheduled to be completed in December 2023 will provide 320 accommodation units for the Military.

The Office infrastructure of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) has been completed and commissioned. It consists of fifty (50) Office spaces, conference rooms and modern state-of-the-art facilities.

The construction of the Army Headquarters, which is to accommodate units under the Command, is 60% complete. In addition, the Commander-in-Chief's Sports Centre at 6 Garrison, Tamale, which is being built to improve the health and general well-being of the Ghana Armed Forces, is also 50% complete.

In 2023, rehabilitation works on barracks roads in all garrisons across the country aimed at improving the poor state of roads within all Barracks is approximately 75 km completed.

5.5 Re-Equipping the Military

The construction of a Forward Operating Base (FOB) at Ezinlibo in the Western Region and Bui are 55% and 65% complete, respectively. The projects are part of a national strategic programme to protect the country's oil and gas resources.

Due to terrorist activities and other transnational crimes along Northern Ghana's border post, the government initiated the construction of twelve (12) FOBs, two (2) Forward Logistics Bases (FLBs), and one (1) Main Logistics Base (MLB). Upon completion, they are expected to provide approximately fifty (50) accommodation units each to accommodate about one hundred and fifty (150) personnel.

In 2023, the Ministry of Defence commissioned and delivered to various units; seventy (70) Kamaz Utility Troop Carrying Vehicles, 52 High Mobility Light Tactical Vehicles, twenty (20) Brone Transporter (BTR-70) Armoured Personnel Carriers (APC), thirty (30) Husky Armoured Vehicles, Assorted weapons, Communication Equipment, Engineering and other Logistics Equipment.

The Ghana Navy also received 4 River Class boats for the patrol of oil rigs in the western boundary.

5.6 Defence Health Initiative

Structural design and financial proposals concerning the expansion project of 37 Military Hospital are under review. The expansion would ensure all officers have continued access to quality health care.

Also, the Military Hospital at Afari in Kumasi has been completed and is expected to be commissioned in March 2024.

5.7 Capacity Building of GAF

In November 2023, the Ministry commissioned 292 Senior Officer Cadets and 170 Junior Officer Cadets who are currently undergoing training at the Ghana Military Academy. Additionally, a total number of 2,100 Army recruits completed training with another 2,200 currently undergoing training. Also, 360 Air Force recruits and 800 Navy recruits were trained and passed out in 2023.

A total of 85 Senior Staff and 62 Junior Staff graduated from the Ghana Armed Forces Command and Staff College (GAFCS) in the third quarter.

The Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) organised courses for 2,523 participants in 2023.

Further, to improve the provision of security services globally, the "Earned Dollar Payment Policy" for deployed troops for Peacekeeping Operations is still in force.

5.8 IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES IN 2023.

The Ministry of Defence encountered the under listed challenges among others in 2023:

- a. Inadequate budgetary allocation which affected the implementation of planned programmes and activities for the year.
- b. Encroachment of Ghana Armed Forces lands.
- c. Inadequate accommodation, office space and essential facilities for all units of the Army especially the 10 and 11 Mechanised Battalions, 154 and 155 Armoured Regiments, Armoured Training School and Artillery Training school among others.

6.0 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR THE 2023 FINANCIAL YEAR

The Ministry of Defence was allocated a total amount of **Three Billion, Seven Hundred and Forty-Two Million, Nine Hundred and Thirteen Thousand, Four Hundred and Eighty-Six Ghana Cedis (GH¢3,742,913,486.00)** for its planned programmes and activities for the year 2023.

The Ministry's revised budget for 2023 was **GH¢4,187,119,829.00**, comprising GH¢3,187,419,710.00 as Compensation, GH¢187,020,716.00 as Goods and Services, and GH¢302,837,905.00 as Capital Expenditure (CAPEX). The Annual Budget Funding Amount (ABFA) was also revised to GH¢86,000,000.00 while the Donor Partner funds amounted to GH¢395,000,000.00.

The total release to the Ministry was GH¢2,269,852,087.98 with GH¢2,098,946,932.98 as Compensation, GH¢33,067,250.00, as Goods and Services and Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) amounting to GH¢51,837,905.00. The Annual Budget Funding Amount (ABFA) amounted to GH¢86,000,000.00.

The Committee noted that out of an amount of GH¢ 51,837,905.00 released for CAPEX, only GH¢25,633,925.97 had been expended by the Ministry. The Ministry indicated that although the request was made to the Ministry of Finance, the release was not made to enable the expenditure to be effected.

Out of a total amount of GH¢28,841,498.00 generated internally, GH¢21,434,612.08 was expended.

An amount of GH¢86,000,000.00 was also spent as ABFA, bringing the total expenditure to **GH¢2,265,082,721.03**.

Table 1 shows the expenditure as of 30th September 2023.

Table 1 2023 Expenditure

Fund Source	Expenditure Classification	2023 Approved Budget (Gh¢) A	2023 Revised Budget (Gh¢) B	2023 Amount Released @ Sept'23 (Gh¢) C	Actual Payments For 2023(Gh¢) D	Variance (Gh¢) E=B-C
G O G	<i>Compensation of Employees</i>	3,014,166,833.00	3,187,419,710.00	2,098,946,932.98	2,098,946,932.98	1,088,472,777.02
	<i>Good & Services</i>	33,067,250.00	187,020,716.00	33,067,250.00	33,067,250.00	153,953,466.00
	<i>Capital Expenditure</i>	51,837,905.00	302,837,905.00	51,837,905.00	25,633,925.97	251,000,000.00
	<i>Sub-Total (GoG)</i>	3,099,071,988.00	3,677,278,331.00	2,183,852,087.98	2,157,648,108.95	1,493,426,243.02
	<i>IGF</i>	28,841,498.00	28,841,498.00	-	21,434,612.08	5,888,605.58
	<i>ABFA</i>	220,000,000.00	86,000,000.00	86,000,000.00	86,000,000.00	
	<i>DONOR</i>	395,000,000.00	395,000,000.00	-	-	395,000,000.00
	<i>Grand Total</i>	3,742,913,486.00	4,187,119,829.00	2,269,852,087.98	2,265,082,721.03	1,894,314,848.60

Source: Programme-Based Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Defence for 2024.

6.1 Additional Budgetary Allocation

The Ministry received an additional budgetary allocation of **GH¢444,206,343.00** during the period under review. The allocation included GH¢173, 252, 887 for Compensation, GH¢153, 953, 466 as Goods and Services, and GH¢251, 000, 000 for CAPEX

7.0 PERFORMANCE OUTLOOK FOR 2024

The Ministry of Defence plans to undertake the following programmes and activities in 2024:

- Collaborate with other Security Agencies in Operation COWLEG, CALM LIFE, HALT, and GONGGONG. This is to provide security and peace to communities and control illegal logging and mining which are a major cause of environmental degradation.

- Continue to work on 10 Mechanised Battalion at Wa, 11 Mechanised Battalion at Bawku, 3 Field Workshop, and 3 Mechanical Transport Company to enhance security and eliminate terrorist threats from the Northern Border of the country.
- Continue the establishment of 15 Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) along the nation's northern borders to stop terrorist infiltration and cross-border crimes.
- Continue the construction of the FOB at Ezinlibo in the Western Region which is currently 55% complete as part of the national strategic programme to safeguard the nation's oil and gas fields.
- Continue the construction of compound housing projects to provide two-bedroom houses for some Garrisons (namely Garrisons 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7). The project is expected to offer 320 apartments.
- Continue the construction of the Commander-in-Chief's Sports Centre at 6 Garrison in Tamale to enhance the general health and well-being of soldiers.
- Upgrade of military hardware and software, ammunition, accoutrements, and fleet for the Ghana Armed Forces.
- Continue the rehabilitation of the barracks roads in the garrisons.
- Continue with the implementation of the "Earned Dollar Payment Policy" towards international peacekeeping.
- Continue with recruitment exercise targeting about 4000 personnel to enhance the capacity of the Ghana Armed Forces.
- Continue surveillance of the country's airspace, territorial waters and boundaries by the Ghana Armed Forces.

8.0 2024 FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS

The Ministry of Defence has been allocated a total amount of **Three Billion, Eight Hundred and Ninety-One Million, One Hundred and Fifty-One Thousand, Eight Hundred and Fifty-Six Ghana Cedis (GH¢3,891,151,856.00)** for its planned programmes and activities for the year 2024. An amount of GH¢ **3,860,396,959.00** out of the total allocation will be sourced from GoG and **GH¢ 30,754,897.00**, from IGF.

Table 2 Economic classification and sources of funding for 2024

ITEMS	Sources of funds GH¢		TOTAL GH¢
	GOG	IGF	
Compensation	3,376,685,871.00	-	3,376,685,871.00
Goods & Services	117,986,475.00	26,186,878.00	144,173,353.00
Capex	365,724,613.00	4,568,019.00	370,292,632.00
Total	3,860,396,959.00	30,754,897.00	3,891,151,856.00

Source: 2024 Budget Statement and Economic Policy

9.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATION

9.1 Inadequate Budgetary Allocation

The Committee observed that the allocation made to the Ministry of Defence for 2024 to discharge its mandate is woefully inadequate.

It is important to note that out of a budgetary requirement of **Four Hundred and Forty-Three Million, Three Hundred and Ninety- Nine Thousand, Six Hundred and Forty- One Ghana Cedis, Forty-Five Pesewas,**

(GH¢443,399,641.45) made for Goods and Services, an amount of One Hundred and Forty- Four Million, One Hundred and Seventy- Three Thousand, Three Hundred and Fifty- Three Ghana Cedis (GH¢144,173,353.00) was allocated, creating a shortfall of GH¢ 299,266,288.45 representing 70.29% .

For CAPEX, an amount of Three Hundred and Seventy Million, Two Hundred and Ninety- Two Thousand, Six Hundred and Thirty - Two Ghana Cedis (GH¢370,292,632.00) was allocated as against an expected amount of Four Hundred and Twenty-Five Million, Seven Hundred and Twenty-Four Thousand, Six Hundred and Thirteen Ghana Cedis, and Sixty Nine Pesewas (GH¢425,724,613.69)

The inadequate allocation may affect the efficient delivery of some critical projects, planned programmes and activities of the Ghana Armed Forces for the year 2024.

9.2 Need to Acquire More Aircraft

It is important to observe that Air Combat Capability is necessary to strengthen surveillance of the air space of the country especially in the wake of terrorism in the West African sub-region. The Ghana Air force therefore needs to acquire additional logistics such as such as executive aircraft, fighter jets, and helicopters needed for rescue and defence purposes. It is a matter of concern that the Ghana Air Force has recently suffered attrition of trained pilots. It is important that the Ghana Air Force takes immediate steps to augment its fleet of Aircrafts to halt this phenomenon.

9.3 General Elections Security

In response to a question as to whether the Ghana Armed Forces could assure the Committee of its loyalty in ensuring peace particularly in the election year, The Minister for Defence indicated that the Ghana Police Service was solely responsible for internal security and maintenance of law and order in the country. The Ghana Armed Forces however stands ready to provide support at the behest of the Ghana Police Service, particularly during elections and in other joint operations.

The Committee further noted concerted efforts are being made by all security agencies, the Electoral Commission and the National Commission for Civic Education to play their respective roles. Additionally, the National Election Security Taskforce has also been re-launched in preparation towards a peaceful District Assembly and General Elections.

9.4 Encroachment of Armed Forces Lands

The Committee was concerned that lands owned by the Armed Forces were constantly being encroached upon by the Lands Commission and private individuals with impunity. Unfortunately, the Armed Forces is unable to document and secure its lands due to funding challenges. Nonetheless, steps were being taken to develop these military lands to serve as accommodation for Officers and men of the Ghana Armed Forces.

9.5 Construction of Forward Operating Bases (FOB's)

The Committee noted that recent acts of violence, extremism and terrorism in the sub region require heightened alertness and preparedness which warrants the construction of FOBs, especially in the northern parts of the country. It was observed that although an amount of 200 Million Ghana Cedis was allocated for the construction of these FOBs, a number of them are still under construction, due to delay in the release of funds to contractors by the Ministry of Finance. The completion of the FOB is crucial to enable the Ghana Armed Forces respond in record time to prevent attacks. The Committee requests the Ministry of Finance to consider this a priority and ensure the timely release of funds for the completion of the FOBs.

9.6 Landslides at Ghana Navy Stores Depot

It came to the attention of the Committee that the Ghana Navy experienced landslides at its logistical ware house location in Takoradi, causing these warehouses to be abandoned to avert any major disaster. The Committee was assured that the 48 Engineer Regiment was capable of dealing with the situation but would require adequate funds to protect lives and property.

9.7 Health Services

The health needs of the Ghana Armed Forces are vital to ensure the well-being of Officers and men in uniform as they defend the nation. As part of efforts to expand health care services to members of the Ghana Armed Forces, the Committee was informed that the Afari Military Hospital in Kumasi has been

completed and is expected to be operationalised in March 2024. The Ministry also intends to construct a military hospital in Tamale and expand the 37 Military Hospital in Accra.

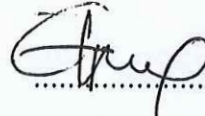
10.0 CONCLUSION

The Committee, after careful examination of the 2024 Annual Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Defence, hereby recommends to the House to adopt its report and approve the sum of **Three Billion, Eight Hundred and Ninety-One Million, One Hundred and Fifty-One Thousand, Eight Hundred and Fifty-Six Ghana Cedis (GH¢3,891,151,856.00)** for the Ministry of Defence for the year ending 31st December 2024.

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Respectfully Submitted.

.....
HON OPHELIA MENSAH HAYFORD
VICE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE
ON DEFENCE AND INTERIOR



.....
MRS GIFTY JIAGGE-GOBAH
SENIOR ASSISTANT CLERK,
COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE &
INTERIOR

DECEMBER 2023.