

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

REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON LANDS
AND FORESTRY AND MINES AND ENERGY

ON THE

PROGRAMME BASED BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR
THE MINISTRY OF LANDS AND NATURAL
RESOURCES FOR THE 2024 FINANCIAL YEAR

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**IN THE THIRD SESSION OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF THE FOURTH
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**REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON LANDS AND FORESTRY & MINES AND
ENERGY ON THE ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE MINISTRY OF LANDS
AND NATURAL RESOURCES FOR THE 2024 FINANCIAL YEAR**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2024 Financial Year 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.

Pursuant to Orders 140 (4) and 177 of the Standing Orders of the Parliament, the Annual Budget Estimates for the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources were referred to the Committee on Lands and Forestry for consideration and report.

2.0 DELIBERATIONS

The Committee met with the Hon. Deputy Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, Mr. Benito Owusu-Bio, and Officials of the Ministry to discuss the Annual Budget Estimates. Officials of the Ministry of Finance were also in attendance to assist in the deliberations.

The Committee is grateful to the Hon. Minister and the Officials for availing themselves to assist the Committee in its deliberations.

3.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

The Committee referred to the following documents during the deliberations:

- i. The 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana;
- ii. The Standing Orders of the Parliament;
- iii. The Land Act, 2020 (Act 1036);
- iv. The Ghana Integrated Aluminium Development Corporation Act, 2018 (Act 976);
- v. The Ghana Integrated Iron and Steel Development Corporation Act, 2019 (Act 988);
- vi. The Ghana Geological Survey Authority Act, 2016 (Act 298);
- vii. The Ghana Boundary Commission Act, 2010 (Act 450);

- viii. The Lands Commission Act, 2008 (Act 767);
- ix. The Minerals Commission Act, 1993 (Act 450);
- x. The Forestry Commission Act, 1999 (Act 571);
- xi. Mineral Development Fund Act, 2016 (Act 912);
- xii. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2023 Financial Year;
- xiii. The Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) for 2024-2027; and
- xiv. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2024 Financial Year.

4.0 MISSION AND CORE FUNCTIONS OF THE MINISTRY

4.1 Mission of the Ministry

The Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources exists to ensure sustainable management and utilisation of Ghana's lands, forests, wildlife and mineral resources for socio-economic growth and development.

4.2 Core Functions of the Ministry

The Ministry is responsible for the following:

- i. Ensuring the efficient formulation, implementation, co-ordination, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes;
- ii. Ensuring efficient and equitable land delivery services;
- iii. Facilitating the promotion of sustainable forest and wildlife resource management and utilisation;
- iv. Ensuring efficient management of mineral resources to catalyse sustainable development;
- v. Facilitating the promotion of effective inter-agency and cross-sectorial linkages; and
- vi. Protecting the country's boundaries in collaboration with other State agencies.

5.0 POLICY OBJECTIVES OF THE MINISTRY UNDER THE MEDIUM-TERM EXPENDITURE FRAMEWORK (MTEF) FOR 2024-2027

The following are the policy objectives of the Ministry under the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) for 2024-2027:

- i. Ensure sustainable extraction of mineral resources;
- ii. Ensure effective linkage of the extractive industry to the rest of the economy;
- iii. Develop efficient land administration and management system;
- iv. Expand forest conservation areas;
- v. Protect forest reserves;
- vi. Conserve marine areas;
- vii. Reduce environmental pollution;
- viii. Promote sustainable use of forest and wildlife resources;
- ix. Reduce coastal erosion;
- x. Combat deforestation, desertification and soil erosion;
- xi. Enhance climate change resilience;
- xii. Reduce greenhouse gases;
- xiii. Promote proactive planning for disaster prevention and mitigation; and
- xiv. Promote sustainable groundwater resources development and management

6.0 AGENCIES UNDER THE MINISTRY

The Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources is segmented into three sub-sectors, namely, the Forestry Sub-Sector, the Land Sub-Sector, and the Mining Sub-Sector.

6.1 The Forestry Sub-Sector

The Forestry Sub-Sector is managed by the Forestry Commission. The Commission has the following Divisions:

- i. Forest Services Commission;

- ii. Wildlife Division;
- iii. Timber Industry Development Division; and
- iv. Plantation Development Fund Board.

6.2 The Land Sub-Sector

The Land Sub-Sector is managed by the Lands Commission, the Ghana Boundary Commission and the Office of the Administrator of Stool Lands.

The Lands Commission has the following Divisions:

- i. Land Title Division;
- ii. Survey and Mapping Division; and
- iii. Public and Vested Lands Division.

6.3 The Mining Sub-Sector

The following agencies are responsible for the Mining Sub-Sector:

- i. The Minerals Commission;
- ii. The Ghana Geological Survey Authority (GGSA);
- iii. The Ghana Integrated Iron and Steel Development Corporation (GIISDEC); and
- iv. The Ghana Integrated Aluminium Development Corporation (GIADEC).

7.0 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OF THE MINISTRY IN 2023

The sum of One Billion, Three Hundred and Fifty Million, Nine Hundred and Sixty-Four Thousand, Five Hundred and Eighty Ghana Cedis (GH¢1,350,964,580) was approved for the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources to implement its programmes for the 2023 Financial Year. The total expenditure of the Ministry as at September, 2023 was Seven Hundred and Twenty-One Million, and Seventy-Seven Thousand, One Hundred and Sixty-Six Ghana Cedis (GH¢721,077,166). Out of this, GoG expenditures accounted for Two Hundred and Sixty-Three Million, Six Hundred and Sixty-Eight Thousand, Seven Hundred and Forty-Eight Ghana Cedis (GH¢263,668,748), IGF at Four Hundred and Twenty-One Million, Two Hundred and Eighty-Nine Thousand, One Hundred and Twenty-Four Ghana Cedis (GH¢421,289,124), Donor Partners at Thirty-Three Million, Seven Hundred and Seventy-Three Thousand, Nine Hundred and Thirty-Three Ghana Cedis (GH¢33,773,933) and Annual Budget Funding Amount (ABFA) of Two Million, Three Hundred and Forty-

Five Thousand, Three Hundred and Sixty-One Ghana Cedis and Thirty-Six Pesewas (GH¢2,345,361.36).

The details of the expenditure of the Ministry for the 2023 Financial Year are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Expenditure of the Ministry as at the end of September 2023

Source of Funds	Approved Budget (GH¢) (A)	Amount Released as at Sept 2023 (GH¢) (B)	Actual Expenditure (GH¢) (C)	Variance (GH¢) (B-C)
GOG	498,603,402	334,132,073	263,668,748	70,463,326
IGF	695,307,367	511,548,593	421,289,124	90,259,469
DP	142,200,000	44,926,795	33,773,933	11,152,862
ABFA	14,853,812	2,345,361.36	2,345,361.36	0.00
Total	1,350,964,581	892,952,822.36	721,077,166.36	171,875,657

8.0 OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE OF THE MINISTRY OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES IN 2023

The operational performance of the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources are summarized as follows:

8.1 Headquarters of the Ministry

The Ministry Headquarters achieved the following in 2023:

- i. Commissioned the New Eastern Regional Forest Services Division office. The office facility sits on a two-acre land and will manage seven (7) district offices - Kyebi, Oda, Somanya, Kade, Mpreaso, Begro and Donkokrom and the 48 forest reserves in the region;
- ii. Granted its first concession for the mining of lithium, which is guaranteed to be a major contributor to Ghana's GDP from 2025;
- iii. Secured Parliamentary approval for the passage of the Wildlife Resource Management Bill into law to provide legal regime for effective resource management;

8.2 Forestry Sub-Sector

The following are the achievements of the Forestry Sub-sector:

- i. Organised the third edition of the Green Ghana Day Initiative in June 2023. 11,531,914 seedlings including forest, fruit, ornamental and multi-purpose trees were distributed for planting in the forest reserves whereas 4,407,717 were for the off-reserve landscapes;
- ii. Established a total area of 3,132ha of forest plantation under the National Afforestation Programme and planted 5.8 million seedlings including ofram, emire, wawa, kokrodua, teak, cedrela, gmelina, cassia, eucalyptus and mahogany species;
- iii. Maintained 14,314ha of existing forest plantations and enrichment planting of 608ha within partially degraded forest reserves;
- iv. Opened a wood Identification Laboratory at Takoradi to allow scientific identification of wood species and speed up business process. The Forestry Commission facilitated the export of a total wood volume of about 227,318m³ that yielded a value of €99.97 million;
- v. Created jobs under the various Landscape Restoration intervention programmes and engaged a total of 44,682 persons in Youth in Afforestation Project, 16,046 persons in Modified Taungya System (MTS), 18,300 persons in Private Sector Plantation Development and 1,350 persons in the Seedling Production;
- vi. Rehabilitated the Accra Zoo as part of the ecotourism development with a 100-seater summer hut to serve as the reception area and a constant supply of electricity; and
- vii. Deployed the Rapid Response Unit to operate in 15 Forest districts, 5 regional offices and 1 protected area to fight illegalities in forest reserves and wildlife protected areas. The Unit, evacuated 5 logs and 933 poles, destroyed 81 excavators and 85 chanfan machines, seized 50,614 assorted lumber, 37 vehicles, 4 tractors, 147 chainsaws, 39 power plants, 25 barrels of diesel, 55 water pumping machines, 32 motor bikes, 12 short guns and 15 gold detectors, demolished 287 structures that housed illegal miners and arrested 198 suspects for various forest and wildlife offenses.

8.3 Land Sub-Sector

8.3.1 Lands Commission

The Lands Commission achieved the following in 2023:

- i. Initiated a modernised records management system across its regional offices. This included scanning, geo-referencing, digitizing and archiving of existing records to facilitate the retrieval of files for various purposes. The initiative has been successful in the Greater Accra, Ashanti and Central Regional Lands Commission offices;
- ii. Improved and expanded the functionality of the ELIS system, a digital platform designed to drive the operations of the Lands Commissions services by facilitating the submission, payment, processing and tracking of applications;
- iii. Strengthened the legal unit by developing a software to enhance the efficiency of the Legal Unit's operations;
- iv. Started the process of embarking on a monumental 5-year Land Administration Reform Project, aimed at catalyzing transformative land reforms throughout the nation;
- v. Completed the 2nd phase of the Greater Accra Regional office building and plans are underway to commission the 1st and 2nd phases of the building in November 2023. The head office building is 78% completed; and
- vi. Strengthened the legislative framework for effective land administration by preparing the Legislative Instrument for a smooth implementation of the Land Act, 2020 and engaging with diverse stakeholders to raise awareness on the provisions of the Act.

8.3.2 Office of the Administrator of Stool Lands (OASL)

The OASL achieved the following in 2023:

- i. Developed and rolled out the OASLRevApp to 58 district offices within Ashanti, Bono, Bono East, Central, Eastern, Greater Accra, Northern, Savannah, Western and Western North Regions to help digitize its operations for improved stool land revenue mobilisation. The Office has through the OASLRevApp generated a revenue of Seventeen Million, and Seventy-Four Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢17,074,000);
- ii. Opened new offices and collecting sites in an effort to increase revenue mobilization. Office accommodations were secured and furnished the Upper East Regional Office and three District Offices were opened in Techimentia, New Juaben and Tease;
- iii. Raised GH¢103,143,343.57 as at the end of September, 2023 as stool land revenue out of a target of GH¢142,229,889.90 representing 72.52% of the target; and
- iv. Facilitated the survey and demarcation of 4,859 land rights out of a target of 4,200 to provide accurate data for farm rent assessment.

8.3.3 Ghana Boundary Commission

The Ghana Boundary Commission achieved the following in 2023;

- i. Undertook several joint activities with its neighbouring boundary Commissions including the reaffirmation of international boundaries of 150 kilometers of boundary line between Ghana and Togo, and land boundary of 100km between Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire. In addition, 50 international new boundary pillars are under construction;
- ii. Conducted a maiden maritime boundary inspection along with maritime boundary line between Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire to verify the International Maritime Boundary decided by the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS);
- iii. Facilitated the construction of feeder roads to Dollar Power and Sapelliga sponsored by the Ministry of Roads and Highways; and
- iv. Piloted a trial geodatabase developed on one of the Commission's network servers to facilitate the effective storage, management, and maintenance of geospatial information on Ghana's sovereign land and maritime boundaries.

8.4 Mining Sub-Sector

8.4.1 Minerals Commission

The Minerals Commission achieved the following in year 2023:

- i. Established a Central Control Room and installed 69 tracking devices to effectively monitor the movement of earth moving machines and mining equipment nationwide in compliance with the Minerals and Mining (Minerals Operations -Tracking of Earth Moving and Mining Equipment) Regulations 2020 (L.I 2404);
- ii. Procured and distributed 5,087,706 hybrid oil-palm seedlings and 1,750,000 coconut seedlings to beneficiary farmers in the Ashanti, Central and Eastern Regions as part of the Alternative Livelihood Project;
- iii. Launched and operationalized Community Mining Schemes in six (6) areas with thirty-one (31) community-mining concessions. This created 1,611 direct jobs to replace illegal mining;
- iv. Reclaimed a total of 462.01ha of degraded mined-out areas in the Ashanti, Central and Western North Regions;

- v. Took steps to delineate mineralized areas for small scale mining by undertaking a geological investigation of gold at Bonfa block and Elubo block to identify viable areas for Small Scale Mining;
- vi. Acquired nineteen (19) drones fitted with GPS and camera to ensure effective monitoring and inspection;
- vii. Deepened the Local Content and Local Participation in mining by increasing the number of items on the procurement list from 41 to 50 through the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources; and
- viii. Rolled out the phase 3 of the Mining Cadastre Administration System (MCAS) platform and has also procured and deployed ICT infrastructure to improve service delivery.

8.4.2 Ghana Geological Survey Authority

GGSA achieved the following in year 2023:

- i. Received approval of the Authority's Scheme of Service from the Public Services Commission (PSC);
- ii. Engaged in six (6) media sensitization campaigns on GGSA's activities across the country;
- iii. Renovated the Head Office and the Ho Regional Office;
- iv. Conducted 324sq.km pegmatite investigation in the Ajumako Besease, Gomoa Nkoranza, Dawurampong and Apam in the Central Region;
- v. Carried out 243sq.km of iron ore investigation in the Nkwanta, Odomi-Challa, Pawa, Gekrong, Abrewanko, Odumase, Koue and its environs in the Oti Region;
- vi. Conducted 324sq.km investigation for columbite tantalite in the Akim Oda, Osenase, Akenkase, Atiankama Nkwanta and its environs;
- vii. Carried out 162sq.km investigation for white clay in Assin Fosu and surrounding areas; and
- viii. Constructed a fence wall to protect the GGSA land at Bolgatanga.

8.4.3 Ghana Integrated Iron and Steel Development Corporation (GIISDEC)

GIISDEC achieved the following in year 2023:

- i. Developed the Integrated Iron and Steel Industry (IISI) Master Plan to guide growth, promotion and development of the integrated iron and steel industry. The plan details the industry's demand and supply analysis, essential infrastructure requirements such as power, transportation, water use, investment analysis, recommendations, proposals for community facilities and land use;
- ii. Commissioned a high-level Mineral Resource study which has been undertaken by its Private Partners to ensure that various mineral discoveries and inferred deposits of iron ore, especially in the newly discovered Oti regional deposits and other parts of the country are commercially viable; and
- iii. Procured a Multi-Purpose Drill Rig Machinery to support geological investigation and data collection. This machinery is expected to be utilized by both GIISDEC and Ghana Geological Survey Authority (GGSA). This Drill is expected to be a source of Internally Generated Funds through a rental system.

8.4.4 Ghana Integrated Aluminium Development Corporation (GIADEC)

GIADEC achieved the following in year 2023:

- i. Completed the Mineral Resource Estimate Report, through their strategic partner, which indicates significant bauxite quantities within the block of the strategic partner, making the project a commercially viable one;
- ii. Undertaken a search for a strategic Partner for Project 4 – VALCO modernization with the support of a transaction adviser;
- iii. Held nine (9) engagements with traditional leaders in the operational areas of Mpemeso, Awaso, and Nyinahin; and
- iv. Established a Working Group to develop the Regulations on the Export of Bauxite following approval from the Hon. Minister. The Working Group has met to consider and review submissions from stakeholders on the draft regulations.

9.0 OUTLOOK FOR 2024 FINANCIAL YEAR

9.1 The Headquarters of the Ministry

The Headquarters of the Ministry has planned to undertake the following activities in 2023 in furtherance of its mandate:

- i. Extract lithium and graphite in line with the Green Minerals Policy, to support Ghana's energy transition;

- ii. Organize the Green Ghana Day for the fourth time;
- iii. Continue to assist the RCCs with funding to fight the Galamsey menace in their jurisdiction;
- iv. Continue to implement the National Alternate Employment Livelihood Project (NAELP) to create jobs for illegal small scale miners, reclaim degraded lands, provide start-up kits through apprenticeship skill training and entrepreneurship;
- v. Launch fifty (50) Community Mining Schemes; and
- vi. Continue to implement the Ghana Landscape Restoration and Small-Scale Mining Project (GLRSSMP).

9.2 The Lands Commission

In 2024, the Lands Commission shall undertake the following activities:

- i. Undertake the preparation of the Legislative Instrument (LI) under the Land Act, 2020 (Act 1036);
- ii. Scale-up digitisation and automation of land records by partnering with private sector experts by embarking on a 5-year Administration Reform Project to catalyse land reforms across the country;
- iii. Continue the construction of the Phase II of the Greater Accra Regional Office;
- iv. Continue the rehabilitation and renovation of Regional Offices;
- v. Continue the construction of the Sekondi/Takoradi Regional Office; and
- vi. Continue the implementation of the Land Act through public sensitisation

9.3 Ghana School of Survey and Mapping (GSSM)

In 2024, the GSSM plans to:

- i. Train 176 students in survey and mapping;
- ii. Procure consultancy services for re-accreditation processes;
- iii. Procure computers, survey and mapping instruments, office furniture; and
- iv. Provide internet connectivity and infrastructure for research.

9.4 Ghana Boundary Commission

The Ghana Boundary Commission shall undertake a number of projects in 2024 including the following:

- i. Commence construction of the boundary pillars of the newly reaffirmed boundary with Cote d'Ivoire;
- ii. Procure and set-up GIS Geo-Database GIS Software for the management of Ghana's Land Boundaries;
- iii. Plant boundary pillars and teak along the international border line;
- iv. Conduct capacity building trainings for staff in their respective areas of operation;
- v. Continue to undertake community sensitisation programmes and media engagement; and
- vi. Conduct field research on border security risk, vulnerability assessment and other border-related issues

9.5 Office of the Administrator of Stool Lands (OASL)

OASL plans to undertake the following activities in 2024:

- i. Roll out the OASLRevApp to 70 additional districts of operation for optimal revenue collection and data management;
- ii. Establish five (5) new districts and collection points to extend operation of the Office;
- iii. Deploy OASLRevApp to seventy (70) districts;
- iv. Prepare and validate Guidelines for the use of stool land revenue by MMDAs;
- v. Undertake public education programmes and engagements with Stakeholders and communities;
- vi. Facilitate the establishment of 5 self-initiated customary land secretariats;
- vii. Facilitate the demarcation of 200 farm parcels for small holder farmers; and
- viii. Compile 5,300 land rights records (transactions) from CLSs.

9.6 Forestry Commission

The Forestry Commission plans to undertake the following activities in 2024:

- i. Employ a variety of cultural treatments to protect the plantations against weather, fire, insects, fungi and animals;
- ii. Augment the implementation of a Robust Afforestation/ Reforestation Programme (RAP) to achieve national landscape restoration targets under the Ghana Forest Plantation Strategy (GFPS) through the establishment of 25,000ha of forest plantations;
- iii. Continue to implement the National Afforestation Programme;
- iv. Continue to undertake plantation development and landscape restoration;
- v. Continue to implement sustainable management and protection of Wildlife Resources;
- vi. Continue to develop ecotourism; and
- vii. Develop the Timber trade industry.

9.7 Minerals Commission

The Minerals Commission has committed to undertake the following activities in 2024:

- i. Commence geological investigation of gold at Adwumadiem Block in the Western Region;
- ii. Continue geological investigation of gold at Bomfa Block and Accra Town in Western Region;
- iii. Facilitate Private Partnership for the Daboya salt exploration;
- iv. Continue to expand the list for locally procured items;
- v. Procure and install more tracking devices to track earth moving and mining equipment;
- vi. Continue to launch and operationalize more community mining schemes in the mining communities and procure additional mercury-free gold processing plant for small scale mining;

- vii. Upgrade and expand the usage of the Mining Cadastre System to interconnect with GRA, EPA, GGSA, and WRC.
- viii. Complete review of Explosives, Health, Safety and Technical Regulations 2012;
- ix. Continue to expand the Alternative Livelihood Project by distributing 13,700,000 hybrid oil-palm and 1,000,000 coconut seedlings to farmers in the mining communities to create more jobs to minimize illegal mining; and
- x. Complete the reclamation of selected degraded mined-out areas.

9.8 Ghana Geological Survey Authority

The Authority shall undertake the following activities in 2024:

- i. Implement measures to improve on its IGF generation;
- ii. Renovate and improve its office facilities and bungalows;
- iii. Continue to explore for additional minerals other than gold, diamond and bauxite to bring diversification in the mining industry;
- iv. Continue to monitor seismicity/earthquake to mitigate the impact of natural disasters;
- v. Carry out geo-hazard mapping and public sensitization on geo-hazards of the country.

9.9 Ghana Integrated Iron and Steel Development Corporation

In 2024, GIISDEC shall undertake the following activities:

- i. Continue to engage communities on the iron and steel industry;
- ii. Undertake the construction of the head office complex; and
- iii. Secure funding for its mandate through public private arrangements.

9.10 Ghana Integrated Aluminium Development Corporation

GIADEC intends to undertake the following activities in 2024:

- i. Develop, complete and sign Project Agreements for Projects 2 and 3;
- ii. Deliver Project 3 Drilling and MRE;

- iii. Submit JV Mining Lease Application to Parliament and transition to phase 2 of Project 3;
- iv. Consolidate MRE works at Nyinahin and Awaso;
- v. Actively engage local and international CSOs;
- vi. Develop Biodiversity Action Plan and complete Baseline Biodiversity for Tano Offin;
- vii. Promote continuous staff development; and
- viii. Implement Strategic Communication Plan for Projects 2, 3 and 4.

10.0 2024 ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE MINISTRY

The sum of One Billion, Seven Hundred and Thirty-Four Million, Seven Hundred and Fifty-Eight Thousand, Five Hundred and Seventy-Five Ghana Cedis (GH¢1,734,758,575) has been allocated to the Ministry for its activities in the 2024 Financial Year. This figure comprises the amount of Five Hundred and Ninety Million, Eight Hundred and Ninety-Six Thousand, Six Hundred and Fourteen Ghana Cedis (GH¢590,896,614) for Compensation of Employees, Goods and Services has a Vote of Seven Hundred and Fifty-Eight Million, One Hundred and Seventy-Five Thousand, Three Hundred Ghana Cedis (GH¢758,175,300), and CAPEX of Three Hundred and Eighty-Five Million, Six Hundred and Fifty-Six thousand, Six Hundred and Sixty-One Ghana Cedis (GH¢385,656,661). The details are illustrated in Table 2.

Table 2: 2024 Annual Budget Estimates of Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources

Item	GOG (GH¢)	IGF (GH¢)	ABFA (GH¢)	DP FUNDS (GH¢)	Sub-Total (GH¢)
Compensation of Employees	411,346,403	179,550,211	-	-	590,896,614
Goods and Services	117,464,670	564,726,493	-	75,984,137	758,175,300
Capital Expenditure	25,600,300	206,411,967	-	153,644,394	385,656,661
Total	554,411,373	950,688,671	-	229,628,531	1,734,758,575

11.0 OBSERVATIONS

The Committee made the following observations during the deliberations:

11.1 Low releases of 2023 approved budget

The Committee noted the low releases of funds to the Ministry to undertake its 2023 programmes. In 2023, the sum of Nineteen Million, Eight Hundred and Fifty-Two Thousand, and Twenty-Three Ghana Cedis and Three Pesewas (GH¢19,852,023.03) was released from GoG out of the approved sum of Thirty-Seven Million, Six Hundred and Twenty-Two Thousand, and Three Hundred and Fifteen Ghana Cedis (GH¢37,622,315). The low releases affected the implementation of key programmes of the Ministry including the National Alternate Employment Livelihood Project (NAELP). The release for NAELP was Nine Million, One Hundred and Eleven Thousand, Two Hundred Ghana Cedis (GH¢9,111,200) against the approved sum of Twenty- One Million, Seven Hundred and Sixty Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢21,760,000) representing 41.8%. The Committee considers the work of the Ministry as critical and therefore urges the Ministry of Finance to release the outstanding amount to the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources to meet pending payment requests before the end of the 2023 Financial Year.

11.2 Green Ghana 2023

Officials of the Ministry intimated the low budget provision for the implementation of the Green Ghana Initiative since its introduction in 2021. It was therefore disturbing to note that the amount of One Million, Five Hundred Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢1,500,000) earmarked for the 2024 Green Ghana Day was woefully inadequate against the amount of Sixty Million Ghana Cedis (GH¢60,000,000.00) requested for the project. The Committee urges the Ministry of Finance to provide additional funds to remedy the situation.

11.3 Payment to beneficiaries of the Youth in Afforestation Programme

Officials of the Forestry Commission informed the Committee that the Youth in Afforestation Programme continued to face funding challenges. For this reason, the Officials disclosed that payment to beneficiaries of the programme was currently in arrears of seventeen (17) months. They also hinted that the provision of Fifty-Five Million Ghana Cedis (GH¢55,000,000) for the implementation of the programme in 2024 will cover payments to beneficiaries for only four (4) months. In view of the immense benefit we derive from the National Afforestation Programme, the Committee urges the Ministry of Finance to provide additional funds to augment the provision for 2024 in order to clear the arrears.

11.4 Digitalisation agenda of the Lands Commission

The Committee noted the frantic efforts being made by the Lands Commission to re-engineer its operations. The Commission informed the Committee that, in view of the high capital demand to execute the project, the Commission is taking steps to partner with a private investor to raise the necessary capital for the execution of the digitalisation agenda.

11.5 Capping of IGF Retention

Officials of the Commission raised a serious concern about the effect of the implementation of the capping policy on the operations of the Commission. They stated that the Lands Commission has, over the years, relied heavily on its IGF to fund its operations. Hence, the dire consequences that the implementation of the current capping of its IGF retention at 33% is having a great toll on its operations. The Committee found it disturbing to learn that the capping was effected after the approval of the 2023 budget of the Commission. In view of the critical programmes that the Land Commission needs to undertake to improve the management of our land sector, the Ministry of Finance should reconsider the capping policy being implemented in relation to the Commission.

11.6 Delay in releasing MDF funds to OASL

The Committee noted the delay in the release of funds from the Minerals Development Fund to beneficiaries including the Office of Administrator of Stool Lands. Officials of OASL told the Committee that the last time the Office received funds under the MDF was June, 2023. The Committee urges the Ministry of Finance to expedite processes for the timely release from the Fund to enable the beneficiary institutions execute critical projects intended by the MDF Act, 2016 (Act, 912)

11.7 Effects of galamsey activities on OASL's revenue generation

The Committee noted that in 2023, the OASL achieved 84% of its target in revenue mobilisation. The Committee expressed concern about the inability of OASL in 2023 to meet its stool land revenue mobilisation target of GH¢142,229,889.90. The OASL associated the low revenue generated in 2023 to the indiscriminate destruction of farm lands caused by illegal mining activities by the use of chemicals that are harmful to the environment. These chemicals render the land unfit for future farming activities and destroys the ecosystem including destructions to timber species and other cash crops such as cocoa. This ultimately affects the payment of royalties by timber concessionaires and other cash crop producers.

Officials of OASL also informed the Committee that farmers were induced by illegal miners with cash and other incentives to sell or make their lands available for illegal mining

activities, explaining that the proceeds from such sales were higher than their annual sale of farm produce. The Committee acknowledged the interventions by various governments and agencies over the years in dealing with the menace and noted that the fight against Galamsey should be a collective effort.

11.8 Funding challenges of Ghana Boundary Commission

The Committee noted with concern the recurrent underfunding of priority projects of the Ghana Boundary Commission which had affected the Commission in procuring modern and adequate equipment to support its operations.

The Committee observed that the Ghana Boundary Commission had not been allocated funds for capital projects over a couple of years, resulting in the inability of the Authority to be adequately resourced to perform its mandate. For instance, the Authority's plan to acquire Surveillance Radars to monitor International Land and Maritime Boundaries has not materialized for the past few years. The Committee noted that the Ghana Boundary Commission was allocated GH¢5,409,402 out of its budgetary requirement of GH¢36,627,087.68 for the year 2023. The Committee further noted that in the 2024 Budget, the Commission has been allocated an amount of GH¢5,835,812 instead of GH¢43,696,830.04 required for effective implementation of its mandate. The Committee also observed that in the 2024 Budget, the Commission was allocated GH¢1,000,000.00 instead of the required GH¢23,324,738.56 needed for its Goods and Services.

The Committee noted that as part of its programmes for the year, the Commission intends to conduct field research on border security risk, vulnerability assessment, and other border-related issues and undertake a systematic Geo-Database for management of Ghana's land boundaries by procuring and setting up GIS Geo-Database Software and conduct Orthophoto Mapping of 100m Buffer corridor of Boundary line.

The Committee, therefore, recognises the critical role the Ghana Boundary Commission plays in determining cross-boundary matters and urges MLNR to pay more attention to the Commission's work to deal with the land and maritime boundary issues affecting Ghana.

11.9 New Condition of Service for Ghana Geological Survey Authority

The Committee was informed that GGSA has secured new conditions of service for staff of the Authority in 2023. According to Officials of the Authority, the new conditions of service has finally migrated the Staff of the Authority from the Civil Service to Public Service in accordance of its establishing Act. The Committee hopes that the approval of the new condition of service would enable the GGSA to attract, retain and motivate the requisite caliber of technical Staff needed to execute the mandate of the Authority.

11.10 Funding challenges facing GGSA

The Committee noted that GGSA continues to contend with acute funding challenges despite the Committee's persistent highlight of this issue. The Committee however notes the steps being taken by the Authority to introduce fees and charges in 2024 to ameliorate the situation. While the Committee urges the Ministry of Finance to take the necessary steps regarding the IGF, the Committee urges the Government to provide a dedicated funding to GGSA to enable the Authority produce marketable data to strengthen the country's bargaining position during negotiations with investors for sustainable exploitation of our natural resources.

11.11 Construction of new offices of the Minerals Commission

The Committee noted the steady progress being achieved by the Minerals Commission in construction of new offices of the Commission across the sixteen (16) Regions of the Country. Most of the construction works are at different levels of completion. Officials of the Commission have targeted to complete the Bole, Tamale, Kumasi, Akim and Bibiani offices in 2024. Hence, the amount of One Hundred and Forty Million Ghana Cedis (GH¢140,000,000.00) has been allocated to the Commission for its 2024 investment activities including the construction works.

11.12 Promotion of other minerals by Minerals Commission

The Committee noted the efforts being made by the Minerals Commission to promote other minerals. In 2023, the Minerals Commission engaged Stakeholders in the mining industry for the purposes of exploration on Bomfa block in Ashanti Region, Elubo Eboaloa block in Western Region and the Daboya Salt block in the Savannah Region. In 2024, the Minerals Commission plans to facilitate private partnership for the Daboya Salt exploration (drilling), and validate clay resource in Savannah and North – East Regions.

11.13 Funding challenges facing GIADEC

The Committee noted that, despite the Strategic significance of GIADEC, the Corporation continues to face acute funding challenges. It is feared the situation will persist in 2024 due to the low budgetary allocation to the Corporation. While the Corporation made a budget request of Two Hundred and Three Million, Nine Hundred and Four Thousand, Six Hundred and Fifty-Five Ghana Cedis (GH¢203,904,655) for its activities in 2024, only a paltry sum of Fifty-One Million, Six Hundred and Fifty Thousand, Nine Hundred and Seventy-Four Ghana Cedis (GH¢51,650,974) has been allocated to the Corporation for 2024. In view of this, the Committee urges the Government to find a special funding arrangement to fund the activities of GIADEC, as the viable option.

11.14 Activities undertaken by GIISDEC in 2023

The Committee noted among other achievements that GIISDEC in 2023 secured twelve (12) investment partners for iron ore exploration, developed a master plan, undertook three

(3) investment promotion activities, purchased geological drill rig and acquired land for the construction of an office complex.

Despite the above achievements, officials of GIISDEC bemoaned the liquidity challenges facing the Corporation due to the low budgetary allocation and releases since its establishment. The Committee recommends for a dedicated funding arrangement to meet the funding needs of the Corporation.

12.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION


The Committee has critically examined the Annual Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources in the light of their planned crucial activities for the 2024 Financial Year. The Committee takes note of the insufficient allocations made to the Ministry and its Agencies and urges the Ministry of Finance to make additional funds available to the Ministry to execute critical programmes such as the 2024 Green Ghana Day, as well as increase the allocation to the Ghana Boundary Commission to execute its mandate.

In this regard, the Committee therefore recommends to the House to adopt this Report and approve the sum of One Billion, Seven Hundred and Thirty-Four Million, Seven Hundred and Fifty-Eight Thousand, Five Hundred and Seventy-Five Ghana Cedis (GH¢1,734,758,575) for the implementation of programmes of the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources for the 2024 Financial Year.

Respectfully submitted.


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MRS. LINDA GYEKYE BOADU
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