

IN THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE SEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF THE  
FOURTH REPUBLIC OF GHANA

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS**

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**BUDGET PERFORMANCE REPORT IN RESPECT  
OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND  
REGIONAL INTEGRATION FOR THE PERIOD  
JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2019**

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# **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON THE BUDGET PERFORMANCE REPORT IN RESPECT OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY TO DECEMBER, 2019**

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The Budget Performance Report of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration for the period January to December, 2019 was laid in Parliament by the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, Hon. Mohammed Habib Tijani on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2020 in accordance with Section 27(1)(2) and (3) of the Public Financial Management Act, 2016, (Act 921).

Pursuant to Article 103 of the Constitution and Order 183 of the Standing Orders of the House, the Rt. Hon. Speaker referred the Report to the Committee on Foreign Affairs for consideration and report.

The Committee met on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2020 and considered the Budget Performance Report of the Ministry. The Committee is grateful to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, Hon. Shirley Ayorkor Botwey, her Deputy, Hon. Mohammed Habib Tijani and the Technical Staff from the Ministry for their invaluable contributions and inputs during the Committee's deliberation.

## **2.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS**

In considering the Budget Performance Report, the Committee relied on the following documents;

- i. The 1992 Constitution;
- ii. The Public Financial Management Act, 2016, (Act 921).
- iii. The Standing Orders of Parliament;
- iv. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2019 Fiscal Year;
- v. The 2019 Annual Estimates of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration;



- vi. Report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs on the 2019 Annual Estimates of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration.

### **3.0 CORE FUNCTIONS**

The core functions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration are to;

- Initiate, formulate, coordinate and implement Ghana's Foreign Policy objectives;
- Advance Ghana's economic interest by working with other MDAs for the promotion of 'Made-in-Ghana Brand' and expansion of trade, tourism and inward investments;
- Coordinate Ghana's contribution to regional integration for the promotion and protection of the national interest;
- Develop and coordinate Ghana's position at multilateral fora to ensure that the outcomes serve Ghana's interest to the greatest extent possible;
- Develop and maintain cordial bilateral relations with friendly countries in all fields of endeavour;
- Develop institutional frameworks, including joint commissions for corporation and bilateral consultation mechanism for the conduct of productive and mutually beneficial relations;
- Collaborate closely with the Attorney-General's Office for the establishment of an integrated legal service with the Ministry to maximize Ghana's representation and participation in international legal fora for related bodies;
- Improve the quality of consular services provided by the Ministry and its Diplomatic Missions and Consular Posts and maintain close contacts with Ghanaian communities around the world, including immigrant groups;
- Contribute to greater public awareness of Ghana's international rights and obligations.

### **4.0 POLICY OBJECTIVES**

The policy objectives of the Ministry are as follows:

- Promote globally competitive Foreign Service;

- Enhance Ghana's international image and influence;
- Leveraging Ghana's governance and security credentials to promote the Country's political and economic interests abroad;
- Promote international peace and sustainable development;
- Integrate Ghanaian Diaspora into national development;
- Accelerate economic and social integration with Regional and Sub-regional States.

## 5.0 BUDGET PERFORMANCE FOR 2019

### 5.1 Financial Performance

The financial performance of the Ministry during the period is presented in Table 1.

Out the approved budget of Gh¢465,576,872.00 for the year 2019, a total of Gh¢403,077,949.71 was released as at December 2019 representing 87% of the total allocation. Out of the budget figure of Gh¢364,460,122.00 for Compensation, an amount of Gh¢357,876,268.48 was released, representing 98% whereas out of a budget figure of Gh¢50,645,876.00 for Goods and Services, an amount of Gh¢38,608,281.23 representing 76% was released. On the other hand, out of budget figure of Gh¢50,470,874.00 earmarked as Capital Expenditure, only Gh¢6,593,400.00, representing 13% was released.

Out of the total amount released for the Ministry for the 2019 Financial Year, 89% was for Compensation, 10% was for Goods and Services and 1% for Capital Expenditure.

Table 1: Expenditure and Releases as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019

ITEM	2019 BUDGET (A)	RELEASE (B)	% RELEASED	VARIANCE (A-B)
Compensation	364,460,122.00	357,876,268.48	<b>98</b>	6,583,853.52
Goods and Services	50,645,876.00	38,608,281.23	<b>76</b>	12,037,594.77
Capex	50,470,874.00	6,593,400.00	<b>13</b>	43,877,474.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>465,576,872.00</b>	<b>403,077,949.71</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>62,498,922.29</b>



*Source: Budget Performance Report in respect of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration for the period January to December, 2019, p. 22*

The Committee observed that while the Ministry was able to access about 98% of its allocation for Compensation, only 13% of the budget for Capex amounting to GH¢6,593,400.00 was released. The non-release of the Capex budget, the Committee noted, had hampered and delayed some of the Ministry's projects such as the acquisition and renovation properties for some Missions abroad.

## **5.2 Programme Performance**

### **5.2.1 Performance Management Exercise for Heads of Missions and A1 Officers**

The Ministry in conjunction with the Office of the Head of Civil Service organized performance management training program for all Heads of Ghana's Diplomatic Missions as well as all Foreign Service Officers (FSO) at Level A1 (Directors) both home and abroad. The exercise was aimed at training Ambassadors and Directors of the Ministry to contribute to the attainment of Ghana's foreign policy objectives, the Ministry's medium term development plan and the President's coordinated programme of economic and social development. At the end of the exercise, 49 Heads of Missions and 58 Directors were made to sign respective Performance Agreements for 2019.

### **5.2.2 Recruitment of Additional Staff**

During the period under review, the Ministry obtained financial clearance from the Ministry of Finance and recruited additional 95 officers. This increased the total staff strength to 668 comprising of 309 males and 359 females. With respect to staff movement, apart from regular internal reassignments where staff were moved to other Bureaux to broaden their experience, a total number of 38 Officers were posted to various Missions abroad.

### **5.2.3 Implementation of the Foreign Service Regulations**

Pursuant of Section 93 of the Civil Service Act 1993 (PNDCL 327), the Ministry started the implementation of its Foreign Service Regulations which updated the conditions of service for officers of the Ministry, modernized human resource practices and brought the Foreign Service Regulations in line with international best practices.

#### **5.2.4 Hosting of the Secretariat of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area**

The Ministry in conjunction with the Office of the President and the Ministry of Trade and Industry spearheaded the campaign for Ghana's candidature to host the Secretariat of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area. Ghana mounted a vigorous bid campaign, including visits by the President's Special Envoys to several African countries. Consequently, the African Union Heads of State and Governments on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2019 in Niamey, Niger approved the candidature of Ghana to host the Secretariat.

#### **5.2.5 Trade and Investment Promotions**

Ghana Embassies abroad also facilitated inward investment into Ghana, promoted Ghana's export trade and marketed Ghana's tourism potentials. The Ministry and its Missions engaged a number of friendly Governments for cooperation arrangements including facilitating concessionary financing for programmes and projects in Ghana.

The Ministry in collaboration with partner MDAs organized trade and investment activities to aggressively promote "Made-In-Ghana" goods and services as well as attract the needed foreign direct investments (FDIs) for Ghana's industrialization agenda. Among these were:

- Facilitation of the Ghanaian private sector in the Offshore Technology Conference (OTC) in Texas, USA, 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2019. The Economic and Trade Investment Bureau is currently assisting private sector operatives to actualize the contacts they made at the Conference;
- Facilitation of the participation of the Ghanaian private sector in the United Arab Emirates Annual Investment Meeting held in Dubai from 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2019. Business contacts have been established towards joint ventures;
- The fact-finding mission to Ghana by Thai officials who paid working visits to GIPC, GFZA, GPHA, MOTI, NIB, AGI etc. from 5<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2019. The delegation showed keen interest in investing in the Government's flagship programmes such as One-District-One-Factory;
- Organization of inter-sectoral preparatory meetings, which was the result of the official visit of President Akufo-Addo to Malta in June 2019. The outcome of the meetings included Malta becoming an EU-gateway logistics hub for Made-In-Ghana products and the recruitment of regularized labour from Ghana for the Maltese market.



### **5.2.6 Joint Commission for Cooperation and Political Dialogue**

The Ministry as at July 2019, coordinated, organized and led the following Cooperation and Dialogue arrangements;

- a. Ghana – Namibia Permanent Joint Commission for Cooperation (PJCC) held in Windhoek, Namibia from 27<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> February, 2019;
- b. 3<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Ghana – Russia PJCC held from 20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2019 in St. Petersburg, Russia;
- c. Ghana – EU Migration dialogue held on 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2019 in Accra;
- d. 4<sup>th</sup> Round of consultations between Ghana and Switzerland held in Switzerland on 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2019
- e. 6<sup>th</sup> Session of the Ghana – France Political Dialogue held on 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2019 in Accra; and
- f. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ghana – China Consular Consultations held from 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> July in Beijing, China.

### **5.2.7 Opening of New Missions**

The Government of Ghana opened two Consulates General in Port Louis, Mauritius and Guangzhou, China with the view to better provide Ghanaian compatriots with timely consular services as well as enhance the economic cooperation between Ghana and Mauritius on one hand and Ghana and the City of Guangzhou on the other.

The Ministry also facilitated the establishment of three (3) new Diplomatic Missions in Ghana, namely the High Commissions of Suriname, Kenya and Rwanda, thus bringing the number of resident Diplomatic Missions in Ghana to sixty-six (66) and thirty-eight (38) Honorary Consulates.

### **5.2.8 Purchase and Renovation of Properties**

The Ministry in its efforts to give a facelift and maintain the value of landed properties in Ghana's Missions abroad renovated the Chancery and the residence of the Head of Chancery at the Ghana Embassy in Lusaka, Zambia. The Ministry also completed the construction of the Chancery of the Ghana Embassy in Bamako and also purchased the Residencies for the Ghana Embassy in Oslo, Norway and the Ghana Embassy in Cotonou, Benin.

### **5.2.9 Economic Diplomacy**

Ghana's economic diplomacy agenda focuses on the national objective of diversifying and increasing Ghana's export base by actively seeking markets for Ghanaian products abroad and taking advantage of preferential arrangement and multilateral trade agreements. Economic

Diplomacy also supports the diversification and expansion of the tourism industry for job creation and revenue generation by marketing Ghana abroad as a competitive tourist destination and attracting investment into the hospitality industry.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration organized its 2<sup>nd</sup> Made-In-Ghana Bazar Extravaganza from 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> July 2019, which brought together over 231 Ghanaian small-to-medium businesses to exhibit their products. The overarching objective of the Bazaar was to use the network of Ghana's Diplomatic Missions abroad and Diplomatic Missions accredited to Ghana to facilitate the internationalization of Ghanaian products and services.

The expected outcome was for increased exports, job creation and to secure the needed foreign exchange for the economic growth of Ghana. To give effect to this expectation, the Ministry devoted a special edition of its magazine, "The Envoy" to the promotion of exhibitors of the maiden Bazaar Extravaganza in all its Missions and Diplomatic Missions accredited to Ghana.

#### **5.10 Passport Administration**

The Ministry improved its service delivery of passports by reducing the turnaround time for processing a passport from one month to 12 days for express application and from three months to one month for standard/regular applications.

In addition, the Ministry took some initiatives to improve service delivery at the Passport Office. Among these initiatives were the online passport application and downloadable Portable Document Format (PDF) Passport Application Form. Others included the extension of Passport Applications Centres (PACs) to eight (8) Regional Capitals, establishment of the Premium Passport Application Centre, overhauling of passport processing equipment and extension of the validity of passports from five (5) years to ten (10) years.

Additionally, action was initiated to introduce 48-page passport booklets to satisfy the needs of frequent travellers. The Ministry has started discussions aimed at introducing chip-embedded passports to keep up with the pace of technological advancement and enhance the security of Ghanaian passports.



## **6.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **6.1 Establishment of Consular Fund to cater for Ghanaians in distress situation abroad**

The Committee was informed that in line with the recommendation of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Public Accounts Committee for the establishment of a Fund to support distressed Ghanaians abroad, the Ministry applied to the Ministry of Finance to establish a Consular Emergency Fund. The proposal was for the Fund to be maintained at the Ministry of Finance and for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs applying for disbursements from the Fund as and when the need arises.

The Committee noted that in many instances, the Missions abroad are either unable to support Ghanaians who are in dire need for assistance or carry out required repatriation when the need arises because of the huge financial commitment associated with such operations. As a result, Foreign Service Officers (FSO) had to occasionally use their personal resources to support Ghanaian compatriots in such conditions.

The Committee noted that even though the intention to establish the Fund was contained in the 2019 Budget of the Ministry, the Fund was not established. The Ministry indicated that they were in discussions with the Ministry of Finance on the matter and that an initial amount of US\$2million has been proposed as the initial capital for the Fund.

The Committee lauds the development and urges the Ministry to expedite action on the establishment and capitalisation of the Fund in order to bring relief to distressed Ghanaians abroad.

### **6.2 Passport Processing**

The Committee observed that the processing time for biometric passports has improved markedly from fifteen (15) days to ten (10) days for express applications. This was attributable to some initiatives introduced by the Ministry. They included processing of online applications; the establishment of eight (8) Passport Application Centres (PACs); the establishment of a Premium Passport Application Centre; and the extension of the validity period of passports from five (5) years to ten (10) years.

The Committee was informed that the new initiatives have contributed to a reduction in the activities of "Goro Boys" at the Passport Office. The Ministry indicated that it would continue to work to further reduce the lead-time for the processing of biometric passports to five (5) days.

The Committee commends the Ministry for the strides made in passport processing. The simplified processes would bring relieve to prospective applicants and also save them from the extortionist activities of "Goro Boys".

### **6.3 Release of Funds under Goods and Services and Capex**

The Committee observed that during the period under review a total amount of Gh¢12,037,594.77 and Gh¢43,877,474.00 of the budget for Goods and Services, and Capex respectively were not released. These amounts represent 24% and 87% of the total allocation for Goods and Services, and CAPEX respectively.

The Committee observed that the allocation for Goods and Services is used to pay for the operational expenses of the Missions including payment for rent, utilities and Ghana's assessed contribution (subscription) to the membership of international organisations. During the period under review, the Ministry spent approximately US\$5 million (Gh¢25,000,000.00) on rent for its Missions abroad. This amount excluded payments for utilities such as electricity, water and telephone bills. On the other hand, an amount of Gh¢59,630,188.18 was paid as the 'assessed contributions' to member international organisations.

In view of the sensitive nature of these payments and the negative image that would befall the Country if rents, utilities and assessed contributions are delayed or not paid, the Committee recommends for the timely release of funds to settle these bills on time.

### **6.4 Ratification of International Treaties, Conventions and Protocols**

The Committee noted that the Ministry could not meet the target set for the ratification of international Treaties, Conventions and Protocols. Out of a target of 15, the Ministry submitted eight (8) Treaties, Conventions and Protocols to Parliament for ratification.

The Committee observed that many international Treaties, Conventions and Protocols signed by Ghana have not been ratified. As to why such Agreements are not submitted on time to Parliament for ratification, the Ministry explained that the Agreements may be categorised into two: those that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has direct responsibility and those that are under the purview of other Ministries and Agencies.

The Ministry indicated that Agreements that fall within the purview of the Ministry are normally submitted on time for ratification. The challenge however was in respect of Agreements signed by other Ministries and Agencies and which are not under the control and administration of the



Ministry. The Ministry was therefore unable to compel the submission of such Agreements to Parliament for ratification.

The Ministry assured the Committee that as a coordinating Ministry, it would continue to appeal to other Ministries and Agencies to ensure that these International Treaties, Conventions and Protocols are submitted to Parliament on time for ratification.

### **6.5 Retention of Internally Generated Funds (IGF)**

The Ministry in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance secured a US\$50 million loan facility for the renovation and procurement of properties for Ghana's Missions abroad. The facility was secured from SG SSB Bank in year 2016 and the arrangement with the Ministry of Finance was for the Ministry to retain 100% of the IGF from Ghana's Missions abroad to service the facility.

The Committee noted that the Ministry has been servicing the loan since 2017 but was yet to fully amortise the facility. It is therefore imperative that the policy of the 100% retention is maintained to ensure that the facility is retired on time to avoid any penalties from the lender.

### **7.0 CONCLUSION**

The Committee have thoroughly examined the Annual Performance Report of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration for 2019 and is of the opinion that the Ministry was able to deliver on its policy objectives. Given the required resources, the Committee believes that the Ministry would be able to do more in promoting Ghana's image globally.

The Committee therefore recommends to the House for approval, the Budget Performance of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the period January to December 2019

Respectfully Submitted.

  
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**HON. FRANK ANNOH-DOMPREH**  
**Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs**



  
.....  
**CAMILLO PWAMANG**  
**Clerk to the Committee**

11<sup>th</sup> June 2020