

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

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL BUDGET COMMITTEE

ON

**THE 2016 ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE
PARLIAMENT OF GHANA**

DECEMBER, 2015

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**IN THE THIRD SESSION OF THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF THE
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BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE PARLIAMENT OF GHANA**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Hon. Minister for Finance, Mr. Seth Terkper presented the Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government for the year ending 31st December, 2016 to Parliament on Friday, 13th November, 2015 in accordance with article 179 of the 1992 Constitution.

The Estimates of the Parliament of Ghana were subsequently laid before the House in accordance with article 178 (1) (a) and 179 (2) (b) of the 1992 Constitution, section 15 of the Parliamentary Service Act, 1993 (Act 460) and section 15(a) of the Parliamentary Service (Amendment) Act, 2008, (Act 763).

Pursuant to Order 140(4) of the Standing Orders of the House, the Speaker referred the Draft Annual Budget Estimates of Parliament to the Special Budget Committee for consideration and report.

1.2 The Committee met with the Clerk to Parliament, Mr. Emmanuel Anyimadu, two of his deputies, Mr. Cyril Nsiah and Alhaji Ibrahim Gombilla, and senior officials of the Parliamentary Service and considered the Budget Estimates of the Parliament of Ghana. The

Committee expresses its gratitude to the Clerk to Parliament and his officials for their cooperation.

2.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

The Committee made reference to the following documents during its deliberations:

- 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 2015 Financial Year.
- iv. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2016 Financial Year.
- v. The Parliamentary Service Act, 1993 (Act 460).
- vi. The Parliamentary Service (Amendment) Act, 2008, (Act 763).

3.0 MISSION STATEMENT

3.1 The Mandate of the Parliament of Ghana is to perform legislative, oversight, representational and deliberative functions.

3.2 In the realization of the mandate, the following strategic goals have been identified as follows:

- Strengthen the capacity of Members of Parliament to effectively perform legislative function;
- Ensure Parliament's representational function is made more relevant to the needs of the public;
- Improve the ability of Parliament to exercise effective oversight;
- Improve effectiveness and efficiency in the delivery of services;

- Ensure that Parliament has adequate infrastructure to facilitate excellence in service delivery.

4.0 PERFORMANCE REVIEW OF 2015 BUDGET

4.1 The total budget allocation to Parliament for the 2015 financial year was **One Hundred and Eighty Five Million, One Hundred and Ninety Four Thousand, Five Hundred and Seventy Two Ghana Cedis (GH¢185,194,572.00)**. The Breakdown is as follows:

<u>Expenditure Item</u>	<u>GH¢</u>
Compensation	133,898,701.00
Goods and Services	41,295,871.00
Assets	<u>10,000,000.00</u>
Total	<u>185,194,572.00</u>

Table 1

Approved Budget and Expenditure as at September 2015

Expenditure Item	Approved Budget GH¢	Expenditure GH¢	Balance outstanding for the year
Compensation of Employees	133,898,701	100,424,025.75	33,474,675.25
Goods and Services	41,295,871	30,971,903.25	10,323,967.75
Assets	10,000,000	7,500,000	2,500,000
Total	185,194,572	138,895,929	46,298,643

5.0 ACHEIVEMENTS IN 2015

5.1 Legislative Business

Parliament continue to discharge its mandate through Plenary and Committee Sittings to consider and approve legislative proposals. In this regard, the House held a total of 105 Plenary Sittings, 308 Committee Sittings and had laid a total of 309 Papers to the House for consideration and approval. The Papers included twenty three (23) Bills, ten (10) Legislative Instrument (L.I.s) and Constitutional Instruments (C.I.), fifty-nine (59) International Loan Agreements and Conventions; and one hundred and seventy-two (172) Committee Reports presented as of now. Out of the 23 Bills presented, fifteen (15) have been passed into law.

5.2 Parliamentary Oversight

In accordance with Articles 174, 178,181, 184 and 187 of the constitution, Parliament continue to exercise oversight over the use of state resources. In this direction, the Public Accounts Committee conducted seven (7) public sittings to consider and report on Auditor-General's Reports and made a total of thirteen (13) recommendations involving retrieval of misappropriated public funds. The Government Assurances Committee also held two (2) public sittings for the first time to follow up on assurances made by Ministers of State on the Floor of Parliament.

187 Parliamentary Questions and 45 Statements were admitted. Committees of Parliament also undertook a total of 31 monitoring visits to assess the progress of implementation of selected projects approved in sector budgets.

5.3 Provision of Offices to Members of Parliament

With the Job 600 facility completed, a total of 252 Members of Parliament are being provided with Offices and Secretariats to provide administrative and research support to facilitate the work of Members and increase their effectiveness. The facility also provides for committee meeting rooms, restaurants, an Auditorium and banking services among others.

6.0 **OUTLOOK FOR 2016**

For year 2016, Parliament will undertake the following, among others:

- Parliament will continue to strengthen the capacity of MPs to effectively scrutinize policy proposals; widen public engagement in legislation; improve representation for effective public understanding of Parliamentary business; and adequately monitor the implementation of national policies as well as exercise effective oversight over the implementation of programmes and projects approved in the budget. The Parliamentary Service will also undertake programmes to improve on processes and procedures for effective service delivery.
- The Public Accounts and Government Assurances Committees will continue to conduct public hearing to consider the Auditor General's Report and Ministerial Assurances respectively, as well as

host dedicated websites that will provide the public access to reports on actions taken on their recommendations.

- The Table Office plans to install ICT applications for the dissemination of information to the public as well as design and operationalize electronic transmission of the Order Paper, Votes and Proceedings, Business Statements, Agenda, Standing Orders, the Constitution, Interpretation Act and other relevant enactments for access by Members in the Chamber, offices and vantage points in real time.
- Parliament will also develop a Web-Based GIS database application for effective monitoring of the implementation of projects specified in the annual budgets through timely delivery of spatial data for evidence based oversight.
- The Office of Scrutiny will be established to provide expert analysis of policy measures including bills, budgets, loan agreements and international financial transactions which are brought before the House for approval. In addition, the second phase of implementation of the Parliamentary Training Institute will be completed to provide continuing education, training and development of MPs and staff. The Institute will also serve as a Regional Centre for providing training in Parliamentary practice, procedures, and research into parliamentary democracy for local and regional participants.

7.0 BUDGETARY ALLOCATION FOR 2016

A total of **Two Hundred and Fifty Five Million, Eight Hundred and Sixty Five Thousand, Seven Hundred and Seventeen Ghana Cedis (GH¢255,865,717.00)** has been allocated for the execution of the 2016 programmes of the Parliament of Ghana. The breakdown is as follows:

<u>Expenditure item</u>	GH¢
Compensation	118,898,701.00
Goods and Services	94,990,110.98
Capex	31,000,000.00
Social Investment	<u>10,976,905.02</u>
Total	<u>255,865,717.00</u>

8.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Resources Requirements for year 2016 as against Allocation

The Committee observed that Parliament submitted a budgetary request of **Two Hundred and Sixty Five Million, Two Hundred and Seventy-Four Thousand, Seven Hundred and Thirty Seven Ghana Cedis (GH¢265,274,737.00)** for the implementation of its planned programmes and activities for the year 2016. However upon negotiations with the Minister of Finance an allocation of **Two Hundred and Fifty Five Million, Eight Hundred and Sixty five Thousand, Seven Hundred and seventeen Ghana Cedis (GH¢255,865,717.00)** representing 96.4% of the initial requirement was agreed and submitted by H.E. the President for approval by Parliament.

The Committee was pleased to note that the MPs Social Investment Fund originally managed by the Ministry of Local Government has been relocated to Parliament. For 2016 allocation, an amount of GH¢10,976,905 has been voted for that purpose.

8.2 Job 600

The Committee was concerned about the fact that the Job 600 facility could not accommodate all 275 Members of Parliament. Out of the 275, 23 Members could not be accommodated. Officials of the Service informed the Committee that additional offices within the precincts of Parliament will be constructed in 2016. It is expected to address this gap and also provide space for key departments of the Parliamentary Service. The project, which will be executed in two phases is estimated at GH¢21,236,526.

The Committee was informed that, Parliament has taken charge of the West Gate of the State House. Rehabilitation works is currently ongoing. It was also made known to the Committee that, Parliament has also acquired landed property situated directly opposite the newly built office complex of the Ministry of Communication. It is expected that a multipurpose building will be constructed on the property to provide more office accommodation for both Members and staff of the Parliamentary Service.

8.3 House Matters

The Committee Members expressed dissatisfaction with the services provided at the Members Services Centre within the Job 600 Complex. According to the Committee Members, the Centre is not equipped with competent personnel to provide a one-stop-shop

facility to enable Members access information. The Officials present at the meeting assured the Committee that steps are being taken to provide up to standard services required by Members at the Centre.

Members of the Committee also raised serious lapses and inconveniences in the current arrangements made for Members to source for Research Assistants. The Clerk informed the Committee that the current arrangement for a national service person to assist an MP is a temporary measure to help provide some form of support for Members. However, arrangements are being made to assign office assistants with a minimum qualification of a Masters' Degree to provide administrative, research and analytical support to Members.

The Clerk again assured the Committee that measures are being put in place to address pertinent issues relating to the Job 600, including security issues.

8.4 Establishment of Office of Scrutiny

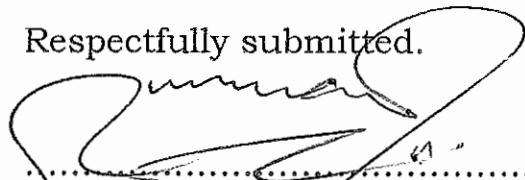
The Committee welcomed the laudable idea of a proposed Office of Scrutiny which would be operationalised by June, 2016. The Office is expected to provide expert analysis of policy measures, including Bills, the Budget, loan agreements and international financial transactions that are brought before the House for approval. This would promote healthy debate at plenary by Members of Parliament.

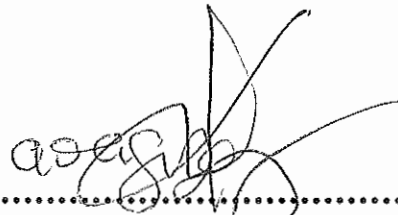
9.0 CONCLUSION

The country continues to demonstrate its commitment to the deepening and consolidation of Democracy and good governance for sustainable growth and development. It is therefore imperative that Parliament, being the fulcrum of democracy, be adequately resourced to enable it discharge its obligations effectively and efficiently. Parliament on its part should also ensure that all resource inflows are judiciously utilized for the attainment of planned programs and projects.

The Committee recommends to the House to approve the sum of **Two Hundred and Fifty Five Million, Eight Hundred and Sixty Five Thousand, Seven Hundred and Seventeen Ghana Cedis (GH¢255,865,717.00)** for the implementation of the programmes and activities of the Parliament of Ghana for the 2016 financial year.

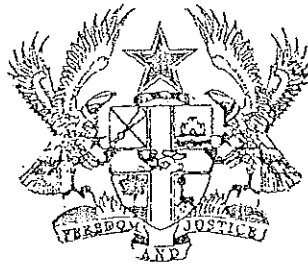
Respectfully submitted.


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HON. A. S. K. BAGBIN
(MAJORITY LEADER & CHAIRMAN,
SPECIAL BUDGET COMMITTEE)


.....
AKUA DUROWAA OWUSU AGYEKUM (MRS)
(CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE)

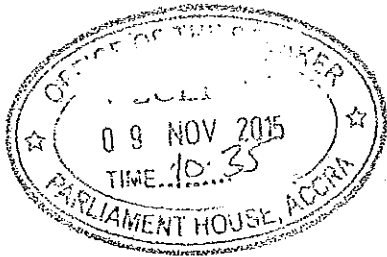
17th, December 2015

NB: Please find attached the communication from His Excellency the President indicating the 2016 budget allocation for the Ghana Audit Service.

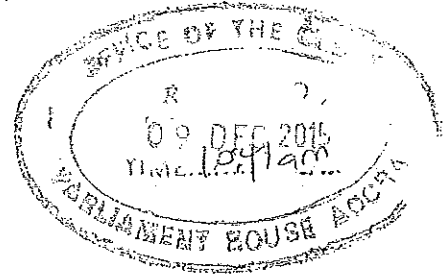


Republic of Ghana

9th November, 2015



THE RIGHT HON. SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT
OFFICE OF THE PARLIAMENT
PARLIAMENT HOUSE
ACCRA



Right Honourable Speaker,

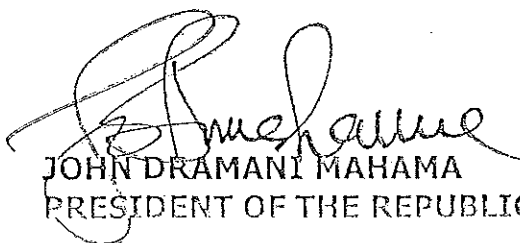
ANNUAL ESTIMATES OF PARLIAMENT AND THE
PARLIAMENTARY SERVICE FOR 2016

Pursuant to Article 178(1)(a) and 179 (2)(b) of the Constitution and Section 15 of Act 460 and Section 15(A) of Act 763, I forward herewith, to be laid before Parliament, the annual estimates of Parliament and the Parliamentary Service for 2016.

Parliament and the Parliamentary Service is requesting for an amount of Two Hundred and Sixty-Five Million, Two Hundred and Seventy-Four Thousand, Seven Hundred and Thirty-Seven Ghana Cedis (GH¢265,274,737.00) for its operations in 2016.

In view of the current fiscal challenges facing the country, it is recommended that the sum of Two Hundred and Fifty-Five Million, Eight Hundred and Sixty-Five Thousand, Seven Hundred and Seventeen Ghana Cedis (GH¢255,865,717.00) be considered for approval for Parliament and the Parliamentary Service.

Please accept, Right Honourable Speaker, the assurances of my highest consideration.


JOHN DRAMANI MAHAMA
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA

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11/9/15

PP. F. Y. / 11-9

MDU: PAC - table

