



OFFICE OF PARLIAMENT

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

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL BUDGET COMMITTEE
ON THE 2018 BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE
PARLIAMENT OF GHANA

Acc No 744
Class No BE/POG/18

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COMMITTEE ON THE 2018 BUDGET
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Minister for Finance, Hon. Ken Ofori-Atta presented the Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government for the year ending 31st December, 2018 to Parliament on Wednesday, 15th November, 2017 in accordance with Article 179 of the 1992 Constitution.

The Estimates of 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 Annual Budget Estimates of Parliament to the Special Budgets Committee for consideration and report.

The Committee was assisted by the Clerk to Parliament, Mr. Emmanuel Anyimadu and officials of the Parliamentary Service and considered the Budget Estimates. The Committee expresses its gratitude to the Clerk and his officials for the assistance.

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

3.0 MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of Parliament of Ghana is to legislate, represent and protect the people of Ghana within the framework of the Constitution, supported by a non-partisan, innovative and professional Parliamentary Service structured to ensure the dignity of Parliament.

In pursuit of this mission, the following strategic goals will be carried out:

- Strengthen the capacity of Members of Parliament to effectively legislate and initiate Bills;
- 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 sustain excellence in service delivery;

4.0 2017 BUDGET PERFORMANCE REVIEW

For the performance of its function an amount of **Three Hundred and Eight Million, Five Hundred and Sixty-five Thousand, Four Hundred Forty-four Ghana Cedis (GH¢308,565,445.00)** was appropriated to Parliament of Ghana in 2017. The allocation was disbursed among the three cost centers of Parliament as follows:

Compensation of Employees	-	GH¢135,741,658
Goods and Services	-	GH¢123,379,238
Capital Expenditure	-	GH¢ 49,944,548
Total	-	GH¢308,565,444

The appropriated amount was allocated to the programs of Parliament as follows:

Management and Administration	GH¢119,926,990
Parliamentary Business	GH¢184,079,677
Information Support	GH¢ 4,558,777
Total	GH¢308,565,444

The actual expenditure of the Parliament as at 31st October, 2017 stood at **Two Hundred and Twenty-two Million, One Hundred and Seventy-one Thousand, Seven Hundred and Fifty-three Ghana Cedis (GH¢222,171,753)** representing 72% of the total allocation. The unreleased balance therefore stands at **Eighty-six Million, Three Hundred and Ninety-three Thousand, Six Hundred and Ninety-one Ghana Cedis and Fifty-three Pesewas (GH¢86,393,691)**. The 2017 Budget Allocation and actual release as at 31st October, 2017 is presented in Table 1.

Table 1: 2017 Allocation and Actual Releases as at 31/10/2017

Item of Expenditure	2017 Budget Allocation EC GH¢	Actual Releases GH¢	Variance GH¢	% Released
Compensation	135,241,658	122,042,595	13,199,063	90
Goods and Services	123,379,238	100,011,858	23,367,380	81
Assets	49,944,548	117,300	49,827,248	0.23
Total	308,565,444	222,171,753	86,393,691	72

5.0 ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2017

Out of these releases, Parliament undertook very key activities related to its core mandate namely; legislation, oversight and representation. Some of the activities include:

5.1 Legislative Business

In accordance with Article 93(2) of the constitution, Parliament continued to discharge its mandate through Plenary and Committee

Sittings to consider and approve legislative proposals brought before it. In this regard, the House held a total of ninety (90) Plenary Sittings, two hundred and thirty-six (236) Committee Sittings and considered One Hundred and Thirty (130) Papers.

The Papers included Sixteen (16) Bills, Two (2) Legislative Instruments (L.I.s), Nine (9) International Agreements and One Hundred and Three (103) Reports from Committees. Out of the Sixteen (16) Bills laid, Eleven (11) were passed into law.

5.2 **Parliamentary Oversight**

The first meeting of the 7th Parliament was devoted to the composition of the Committees of the House, approval of Ministerial and Deputy Ministerial nominees, approval of national budget and also received the delivery the message on the State of the Nation by the president.

In accordance with Articles 174, 178, 181, 184 and 187 of the Constitution, Parliament continued to exercise oversight over the use of state resources. In this direction, the Public Accounts Committee held twenty-three (23) days of Public Sittings in the year 2017 to consider the Thirteen (13) Reports of the Auditor-General pursuant to Article 187.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker admitted a total of Sixty-nine (69) Parliamentary Questions and One Hundred and Twenty-eight (128) Statements on matters of national importance. Committees of Parliament also undertook a total of Ninety-six (96) monitoring visits to

track the progress of implementation of selected projects approved for sector Ministries, Departments and Agencies.

5.3 State of the Nation Address

Pursuant to Article 67 of the Constitution, H.E. the president, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo delivered to the House, a message on the State of the Nation on 23rd of February, 2017. The address covered critical National issues including economic, social and environmental management.

5.4 The Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD)

The foundation supports the Research Department, Hansard, ICT, Library and Committees Department to implement a number of activities that aimed at harmonizing the work of these departments. The objective is to streamline the provision of information support to members of Parliament.

5.5 Introduction of Parliamentary Reforms

During the period under review, Parliament initiated a number of reform processes aimed at strengthening capacity to execute its mandate including legislative reforms, automation of the Chamber, provision of office accommodation for Members of Parliament (MPs), Provision of Research Assistants for MPs, establishment of a corporate planning and Strategy Department among others.

Also, Parliament established a Parliamentary Training institute (PTI) to provide among others, institutional mechanism for continuous

education, learning training and development for Members of Parliament and Staff.

The Parliamentary Service also commenced the implementation of a major ICT project to transform the ICT infrastructure of the House under the e-Parliament project.

6.0 OUTLOOK FOR 2018

For the 2018 financial year, Parliament will continue to implement ongoing programmes aimed at improving the deliberative, informational, power-of-purse (i.e. financial control), legislative, oversight and representational functions of Parliament and also promote improved service delivery to support the work of Parliament. To this end, the following activities among others will be pursued:

6.1 Legislative function

Parliament will continue with its legislative functions and complete review of the Standing Orders. The review will make provisions for the opening of committee sittings to the public and permit media coverage of proceedings, empower committees to undertake independent investigations as well as summon witnesses and government officials to appear before it. Parliament will also undertake legislative scrutiny of Bills and complete preparatory work for the construction of a new chamber.

6.2 Oversight function

Parliament will undertake monitoring activities at the local level with the involvement of service providers and community members to

increase the effectiveness of the Public Accounts Committee. Parliament will also hold public hearings of the Public Accounts Committee and the Government Assurance Committee. In addition mechanism will be implemented to track MDA budgets in line with the Public Financial Management Act.

Parliament will also deploy a web based Geographic Information System in 30 selected Districts to help monitor development projects.

Other activities to be implemented in the year include:

- i. Commence work on the construction of a new chamber block for Parliament;
- ii. Develop and implement a Table Office Information Management System (TOIMS),
- iii. Establish and equip the office of Scrutiny to improve legislative oversight.

7.0 BUDGETARY ALLOCATION FOR 2018

For the implementation of the above programmes and activities, Parliament of Ghana has been allocated the sum of **Four Hundred and Six Million, Two Hundred and Ten Thousand, One Hundred and Ninety-two Ghana Cedis (GH¢406,210,192)** for the execution of its 2018 programmes. The allocation will be expended on the various expenditure items of Parliament as follow:

Compensation of Employees	-	GH¢141,912,130
Goods and Services	-	GH¢120,118,612
Capital Expenditure	-	GH¢144,179,450

Total - GH¢406,210,192

The allocation to Parliament will be expended on the various programmes as indicated in the table 2.

Table 2: 2018 Budget Allocation by Program

Budget Program	Compensation (GH¢)	Goods and Services (GH¢)	Capital Expenditure GH¢	Total (GH¢)
Management & Administration	141,912,130	42,900,553	144,179,450	328,992,134
Parliamentary Business	-	73,213,445	-	73,213,445
Information Support Services	-	4,004,612	-	4,004,612
Total	141,912,130	120,118,610	144,179,450	406,210,190

The allocation will further be disbursed among the sub-programme component of Parliament as follow:

Table 3: 2018 Appropriation by sub-program

Program	Sub-program	2018 Appropriation (GH¢)
Management & Administration	General Administration	325,207,994
	Finance	2,502,681
	Human Resource	768,874
	Policy, Planning, Budgeting, Monitoring and Evaluation	512,584
Parliamentary Business	Legislative Service	32,034,586
	Financial Oversight	9,590,723
	Representation and Constituency Services	8,633,400
	Parliamentary Caucuses	6,329,137
Information Support Services	Library and Research Services	1,445,414
	ICY Support Services	1,454,942
	Parliamentary Relations and Public Affairs	1,104,256
TOTAL		406,210,190

8.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 CAPEX Disbursement in 2017

The Committee noted that only GH¢117,300 representing 0.23% has been released out of the 2017 Capital expenditure allocation of GH¢49,944,548 to Parliament.

The Committee was informed that, the allocation was earmarked for the procurement of plants and equipment, renovation of official residence, acquisition of official vehicles and the commencement of physical infrastructure enhancement project in Parliament. It was

explained that delays in the procurement process contributed to the inability of Parliament to access the allocation. The Committee was however informed that the affected projects have been rolled over into 2018 budget, in line with the MTEF budgeting guidelines.

The Committee noted that, the roll-over of these project partly accounted for the significant increase (188.7%) in CAPEX allocation to Parliament from GH¢144,179,450 in 2017 to GH¢49,944,548 in 2018.

8.2 Research Support to Members

The Committee noted that, the 2017 Budget allocated resources for the recruitment of research assistants to support for Members, but the process has not been completed. The Service explained that, the recruitment delayed because there was the need to develop guidelines on the conditions of service, roles and functions, recruitment procedure and qualifications of the research officers.

The Committee was informed the Service has now completed work on the guidelines and an amount of GH¢6.1 million is allocated in the 2018 budget for the salaries of the research personnel.

The Committee is of the view that provision of research support and policy advisory services are essential to enhance the performance of Members at Committees and at plenary. Effective research will improve quality of debate and ensure contributions by Members are based on well researched facts and evidence.

The Committee urges the Clerk to take the necessary steps to ensure that the recruitment of the research officers is done within the shortest possible after appropriation.

8.3 Development Partner Expenditure Returns

The Committee noted that Parliament receives support from some Development Partners including STAR-Ghana, African Development Bank, World Bank and Westminster Foundation for the implementation some projects and capacity building activities of Parliament and Parliamentary Service. The Parliamentary Service however failed to submit expenditure returns in respect of the use of these funds to the Committee. The failure to report the use of these funds does not present the exact picture of the actual amount of resources expended in pursuit of the programs of Parliament.

The Service informed the Committee that, the Service is unable to report on the use of the funds because disbursement was done directly by the funding agencies.

The Committee urges the Clerk to track expenditure on projects and programs funded by development partners and report the expenditure returns to the Committee in each budget year. The reporting must also indicate expected funding from development partners in the ensuing year.

8.4 Allocation to Parliamentary Committees

The Committee noted that as part of efforts to strengthen the oversight role of Parliament, the sum of GH¢49,909,627 has been allocated in the 2018 Budget to support the oversight activities of Parliamentary Committees in 2018. The allocation is a reduction of the 2017 amount of GH¢53,658,355.19 for Committee activities.

The Committee that allocations are being made over the years to enable Committee engage the services of experts in undertaking their oversight responsibilities, however these provision are not being utilized by Committees over the years either due to lack of information about the existence of the funds or lack of capacity to access the funds.

For the 2018 fiscal year, an amount of GH¢1,504,511 has been set aside to assist the Committees engage the services of experts to provide expert advice to the Committees.

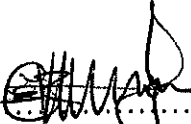
The Committee urges the Parliamentary Committee to tap into this resources to ensure the procurement of expert advice and guidance to the Committees prior to undertaking oversight visits.

CONCLUSION

In view of the need to strengthen Parliament as one of the primary pillars of Ghana's democracy, the Committee recommends to the House to adopt its report and approve the sum of **Four Hundred and Six Million, Two Hundred and Ten Thousand, One Hundred and Ninety-**

two Ghana Cedis (GH¢406,210,192) for the implementation of the programs of the Parliament of Ghana for the 2018 financial year.

Respectfully submitted.


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HON. OSEI KYEI-MENSAH-BONSU
(MAJORITY LEADER & CHAIRMAN,
SPECIAL BUDGET COMMITTEE)


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INUSAH MOHAMMED(MR.)
(CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE)

December, 2017