

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

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE ON THE 2020 BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING COMMISSION (NDPC)

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The **2020 Annual Estimates for the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC)** was laid in the House on Wednesday 13th November, 2019 and *referred* to the Finance Committee for consideration and report in accordance with the Constitution and Standing Orders of the House. This referral followed the presentation of the 2020 Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government to the House by the Hon. Minister for Finance, Mr. Ken Ofori-Atta.

The Committee, in considering the Estimates, met with the Minister responsible for Planning, Hon. Prof. George Yaw Gyan-Baffour, Director-General of the Commission, Dr. Kodjo Mensah-Abrampa and a technical team from the Ministry of Planning and the Commission as well as officials from the Ministry of Finance and hereby presents this report to the House.

2.0 BACKGROUND

The National Development Planning Commission (NDPC) exists to advise the President on national development planning policy and strategy, to prepare and ensure the effective implementation of approved national development plans and to coordinate the decentralized planning system.

The Mission of the Commission is to coordinate development policies and strategies and to manage the decentralized planning system for the timely preparation and effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of development plans at all levels.

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Class No BF/NDPC/20

3.0 OBJECTIVES AND FUNCTIONS

The objectives of the Commission as derived from the Medium-Term Development Policy Framework: The National Medium-Term Development Policy Framework (NMTDPF) "*Agenda for Jobs: Creating Prosperity and Equal Opportunity for All*" are as follows:

- Improve decentralized planning;
- Enhance capacity for policy formulation and coordination; and
- Ensure improved fiscal performance and sustainability;

Pursuant to Act 479, the core functions of the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC) are to advise the President on development planning policy and strategy and to do any of the following *suo motu* or at the request of the President or Parliament.

- Formulate national development policy frameworks and ensure that the strategies, including consequential policies and programmes, are effectively carried out.
- Study and make strategic analysis of macro-economic and structural reform options.
- Make proposals for the development of multi-year rolling plans taking into consideration the resource potential and comparative advantage of the different districts of Ghana.
- Make proposals for the protection of the natural and physical environment with a view to ensuring that development strategies and programmes are in conformity with sound environmental principles.
- Make proposals for ensuring the even development of the districts of Ghana by the effective utilization of available resources
- Monitor, evaluate and co-ordinate development policies, programmes and projects.
- Undertake studies and make recommendations on development and socio-economic issues.
- Formulate comprehensive national development planning strategies and ensure that the strategies and their consequential policies and programmes are effectively carried out.

- Prepare broad national development plans.
- Keep under constant review national development plans in the light of prevailing domestic and international economic, social and political conditions and make recommendations for the revision of existing policies and programmes where necessary and perform such other functions relating to development planning as the President may direct.
- Coordinate the decentralized national development planning system by prescribing the format and content of development plans for the districts, ministries and sector agencies to reflect integration of economic, spatial and environmental principles and ensure their compatibility.

4.0 2019 BUDGET PERFORMANCE

The Budget Estimates approved for the Commission for the 2019 financial year amounted to GH¢7,312,555. The breakdown was as follows:

Compensation of Employees	-	GH¢4,198,490
Goods and Services	-	GH¢2,829,065
Capex	-	GH¢285,000
TOTAL	-	<u>GH¢7,312,555</u>

Actual Outturn for 1st January to 30th November 2019 shows the following:

Compensation of Employees	GH¢2,332,081.99
Goods and Services	GH¢2,505,406.00
CAPEX	GH¢525,960.00
TOTAL	<u>GH¢5,363,447.99</u>

Achievements of the Commission as at 30th November 2019 include:

- i. Briefed 40 media houses on the principles of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Ghana's implementation arrangement, sources of information and data for reporting and linking stories to the SDGs.
- ii. Prepared a Voluntary National Review (VNR) Report on Ghana's progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda. This followed an inclusive process that led to the submission of the VNR Report to the United Nations on 14th June 2019 and presented to the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in New York on 17th July, 2019.
- iii. Prepared a Multi-Dimensional Child Poverty Report in collaboration with the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) and the UNICEF.
- iv. Finalized macroeconomic model and trained selected staff of NDPC and MDAs
- v. Approved Medium-Term Development Plans (MTDPs: 2018 – 2021) for 25 MDAs and 197 MMDAs
- vi. Prepared Ghana's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) indicator baseline report, which provides the status of the SDGs targets at the beginning of the 15-year timeline and serves as a benchmark against which achievement of SDGs will be tracked.
- vii. Held a number of coordinated meetings around various thematic issues such as inclusive growth, nutrition, population and implementation of the MTNDPF. These meetings were convened to streamline and ensure effective implementation of key Government flagship priority programmes.
- viii. Reviewed draft Ghana Infrastructure Plan (GIP) to ensure that infrastructure proposals are sufficiently forward-looking and internally consistent.
- ix. Completed the inception report for producing infographics, and visualization of the GIP for wider dissemination
- x. Completed internal draft of planning guidelines for plan preparation to be used during the next planning cycle (2022-2025).

5.0 2020 BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING COMMISSION

For the pursuance of its programmes and objectives, the sum of **GH¢9,757,525.00** has been allocated to the Commission for the 2020 financial year. The breakdown is presented below:

Compensation of Employees	-	GH¢5,793,051.00
Goods and Services	-	GH¢3,964,474.00
Capex	-	GH¢0
TOTAL	-	<u>GH¢9,757,525.00</u>

6.0 OBSERVATIONS

6.1 Medium-Term Development Plans of MDAs and MMDAs

The Committee was informed that the Commission has successfully reviewed and approved Medium-Term Development Plans (MTDPs: 2018 – 2021) for 25 Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and 197 Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs).

In the 2020 financial year, the Commission will prepare a new Medium-Term National Development Policy Framework (2022-2025) and issue out guidelines for the 2022-2025 Medium-Term Development Plans of Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), Regional Coordinating Councils (RCCs) and Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs).

6.2 Non-Allocation for Capex

The Committee noted with concern that the Commission was not allocated any amount for Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) for the year 2020, a situation

which could impact negatively on the ability of the Commission to maintain or improve on its fixed assets.

The Director-General of the Commission however informed the Committee that the Commission would endeavor to raise some grants from Donor sources in order to fill the gap in the estimates.

As to how much the Commission planned to raise from such donor sources, the Committee was informed that the Commission has already initiated discussions with some Development Partners such as UNICEF and UNDP and was hopeful of raising an estimated GH¢4,105,746.00 of donor support for the year 2020 even though the commitments are not yet confirmed.

6.3 2020 Programmes

In the year 2020, the Commission will continue to perform its constitutional mandate of advising the President on national development planning policy and strategy.

Other specific operations to be undertaken by the Commission would include strengthening the capacity of all agencies responsible for policy formulation, planning, monitoring and evaluation at national, regional and district levels, preparing the Annual Progress Report (2019) on the implementation of the NMTDPF, preparing field monitoring reports on sectors and MMDAs, coordination of environmental policies and mainstreaming development communication.

The Commission in 2020 will further track the implementation of the policies, programmes, projects and activities in relation to national development policy framework and plans and provide feedback on the attainment of targets to stakeholders.

6.4 National Economic Modelling

The Committee observed that the NDPC has in collaboration with Oxford Economic Team of Experts and the Economics Department of the University of Cape Coast instituted a national economic modelling system

for Ghana. The Commission in 2019 completed the review and finalization of the model. In addition, the Commission trained selected staff of the Commission and some MDAs on the model. The Commission will in 2020 intensify the training of MDAs and MMDAs on the macroeconomic model.

6.5 Outstanding Staff Allowances

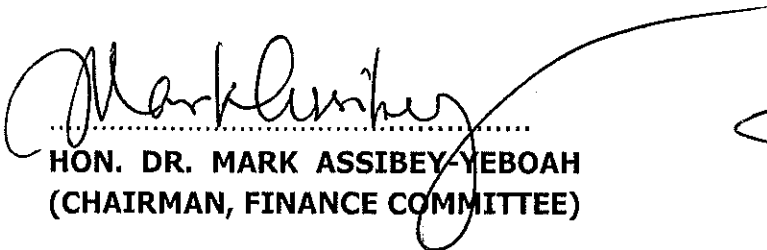
The Committee observed that allowances due the staff of the Commission have been in arrears since the year 2012. Presently, the total amount of staff allowances in arrears was said to stand at about GH¢1.4 million. Worse still, some allowances due Commissioners were also said to be in arrears.

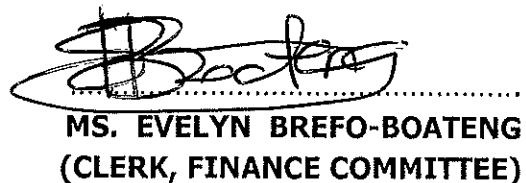
The Committee finds this situation to be a fertile recipe for demoralization of the staff and members of the Commission and hence strongly implore the Ministry of Finance to take immediate steps to release the necessary funds for the payment of these arrears. Measures should also be put in place to avoid a re-accumulation of such arrears in the future.

7.0 CONCLUSION

The Committee, upon a careful consideration of the Budget Estimates for the **National Development Planning Commission (NDPC)**, respectfully recommends that the House approves the sum of ***Nine Million, Seven Hundred and Fifty-Seven Thousand, Five Hundred and Twenty-Five Ghana Cedis (GH¢9,757,525.00)*** for the implementation of the programmes and activities of the Commission for the 2020 financial year.

Respectfully submitted.


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HON. DR. MARK ASSIBEY-YEBOAH
(CHAIRMAN, FINANCE COMMITTEE)


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MS. EVELYN BREFO-BOATENG
(CLERK, FINANCE COMMITTEE)

4TH DECEMBER, 2019