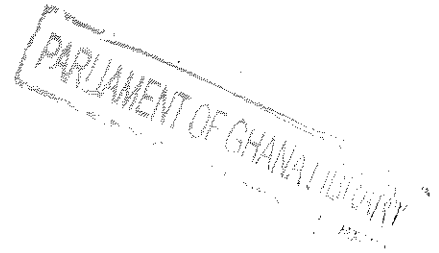
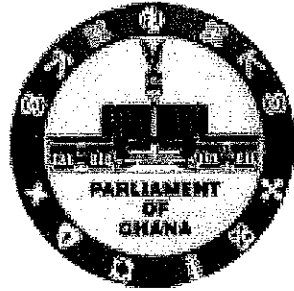


IN THE FIRST SESSION OF THE SEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF THE
FOURTH REPUBLIC OF GHANA



**REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE ON
THE 2018 BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE
OFFICE OF THE SENIOR MINISTER**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The 2018 Annual Estimates for the Office of the Senior Minister were laid in the House on Wednesday 15th November 2017 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 2018 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 Senior Minister Hon. Yaw Osafo Maafo, Chief Director and other officials of the Office of the Senior Minister as well as officials of the Ministry of Finance and hereby presents this report to the House.

2.0 BACKGROUND

The Office of the Senior Minister (OSM) exists to ensure that Government agenda to improve the quality of life of the people of Ghana is achieved. This is done by exploring and utilizing the human capital available in the country to make available to Government well examined policy alternatives to enhance policy implementation.

Further, concrete public sector reform initiatives are implemented to enhance the private sector participation in the economy.

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3.0 OBJECTIVES AND FUNCTIONS

With the view to furthering Government agenda, the Office of the Senior Minister performs the following functions:

- a) Exercise oversight responsibility over economic Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to ensure prudent economic management
- b) Facilitate private sector led growth, leading to the attainment of a robust economic growth and improved quality of life.
- c) Provide policy guidelines in the implementation of agreed reform initiatives
- d) Institutionalize public campaign to imbue positive change in the attitude of the citizenry
- e) Facilitate, coordinate, monitor and evaluate flagship projects and reforms in the public sector to ensure improved, timely and transparent service delivery.

The Office of the Senior Minister does its business through meetings, interactions, surveys, data collection and analysis or reports for decision making. The Office deals with sector ministries and other state institutions such as the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Monitoring and Evaluation, Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Agriculture, the Bank of Ghana, Ghana Investment Promotion Center, among others.

4.0 2017 BUDGET PERFORMANCE

For the 2017 Financial Year, the Office of Senior Minister (OSM), through the Office of Government Machinery, was allocated a budget of **GH¢2,326,000** for Compensation of Employees and Goods and Services.

Actual expenditure of the OSM as at 30th November 2017 were as follows

Compensation of Employees	GH¢674,361
Goods and Services	GH¢826,606
Capital Expenditure	GH¢ 0
TOTAL	<u>GH¢1,500,967</u>
Amount yet to be released	<u>GH¢825,033</u>

5.0 2018 BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE OFFICE OF THE SENIOR MINISTER (OSM)

For the implementation of its programmes and objectives, the Office of the Senior Minister (OSM) has been allocated a sum of **GH¢6,062,742** for the 2018 financial year. The details are as follows:

Compensation of Employees	-	GH¢1,062,742
Goods and Services	-	GH¢3,280,100
Capex	-	GH¢1,719,900
TOTAL	-	<u>GH¢6,062,742</u>

6.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Achievements for 2017

The Committee observed that the Office of the Senior Minister (OSM) chalked some notable successes in the year 2017. Key among them:

- ✓ The Office developed a comprehensive National Public Sector Reform Strategy (NPSRS) (2018-2023) which is one of the structural reform benchmarks of the International Monetary Fund (IMF's) Extended Credit Facility (ECF) Programme for Ghana.
- ✓ The Office conducted a survey on implementation status of Client Service Charters and Client Service Units in MDAs and MMDAs across the country. The Office also facilitated the implementation of Ghana's Second Open Government Partnership (OGP) Action Plan and submitted same to the international OGP Secretariat.
- ✓ The Office further implemented the Subvented Agencies (SAs) Reform Programme. In connection with this, the Office held series of dialogues with SAs which led to the signing of Institutional Performance Contracts by six Subvented Agencies (SAs). The objective of the programme is to enhance the operational efficiency and effectiveness of the Subvented Agencies.

6.2 Office security

In 2018, the Office of the Senior Minister intends to strengthen its management and administrative capability in order to offer efficient and effective administrative support to the delivery of its key programmes and projects. The Public Sector Reform Secretariat will reinforce its offices by installing burglar-proof and CCTV cameras to prevent thievery and leakage of vital information. The interior of the offices are also scheduled to be renovated whilst over-aged equipment will be replaced.

6.3 Improvement in Service Delivery

The Committee was informed that the Public Sector of Ghana has not adequately facilitated private sector development. Service delivery by Public Sector institutions to the private sector and ordinary citizens continue to be poor and inefficient. This is due to the many bureaucratic processes that unnecessarily waste time and increase opportunities for corruption and other malfeasance.

In 2018 therefore, the OSM will facilitate the implementation of service delivery improvement measures to provide high quality and modernized services in the Public Sector.

6.4 Reduction in Business Turn-around time of MDAs

The OSM will in 2018 put in place measures to re-orient the current structures, systems, processes and internal management functions to provide modernized and timely services to the populace and the private sector. Pursuant to these measures

- The Registrar General's Department will reduce the turnaround time for Business Registration to one (1) day through the institution of e-registration services. A mobile App will be developed for the e-registration services. The processing of the Department's documents will also go paperless.
- The Ghana Investment Promotion Center will also move the entire process of registration of investments online and maintain the legally mandated turnaround time of five (5) days.
- The processing of Payment Certificates at the Ministry of Roads and Highways which is currently achievable in thirty (30) days will be reduced to ten (10) working days.
- The Ghana Immigration Service will reduce the processing period for Work/Residence Permits from two (2) weeks to ten (10) days whilst the time spent on processing Visitor's Permit Extension will also be reduced from 5 to 3 days.
- Express passport processing period will in 2018 be reduced from one (1) week to three (3) working days whilst ordinary passports will be

processed in fourteen (14) days. Also, Five (5) new Passport Application Centers (PACs) will be established across the country and the number of PACs providing online services will be increased from one (1) to eleven (11). The number of Ghana Missions Abroad providing biometric passport services will be increased by six (6).

6.5 Assistance to NIA for Registration of Births

The OSM will in 2018 assist the National Identification Authority to site mobile registration workstations and registration officers at all government birthing centers for the registration of eligible persons aged zero (newly borns) to fourteen (14) years.

6.6 Client Service Charters

In 2018, the OSM will implement a programme to review, streamline, revamp and regulate the implementation of the Client Service Charter (CSC) and the Client Service Unit (CSU) initiative to further promote efficiency, effectiveness and transparency in public service delivery. The OSM will work to ensure that all MDAs and MMDAs have functional Client Service Units by the end of 2018.

6.7 Public Sector Reform Strategy Programme

The OSM has successfully coordinated the preparation of a Public Sector Reform Strategy Programme document which is presently before Cabinet for approval. The Senior Minister intimated to the Committee that several Development Partners have indicated their willingness to contribute funds towards the implementation of the programme once approved by Cabinet.

6.8 Ban on Purchase of new vehicles

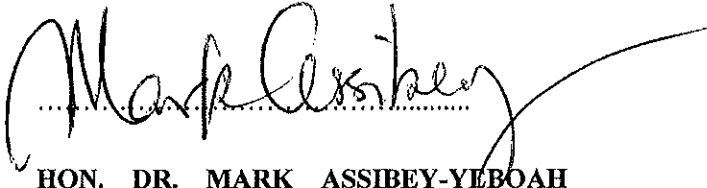
The Committee observed that the OSM has programmed to purchase some vehicles to augment its fleet in the year 2018. As to whether such purchase of vehicles would not conflict with the directive from the Presidency freezing the purchase of new vehicles, the Senior Minister informed the Committee that the Presidency has issued a modification directive allowing vehicles to be purchased on need basis and upon justification.

7.0 CONCLUSION

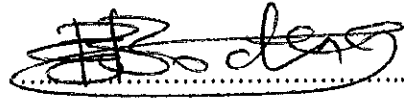
The Committee having critically examined the Budget Estimates of the **Office of the Senior Minister**, respectfully recommends to the House to adopt this report and approve the sum of **Six Million, Sixty-Two Thousand, Seven**

Hundred and Forty-Two Ghana Cedis (GHC6,062,742) for the implementation of the programmes of the Office for the 2018 financial year.

Respectfully submitted.



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



EVELYN BREFO-BOATENG
(CLERK, FINANCE COMMITTEE)

8TH DECEMBER, 2017