

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

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

ON

**ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
ON THE 2016 ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES**

OF THE

**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE,
TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION**

December 2015

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

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ON THE
2016 ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE,
TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (MESTI)**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

On Friday, 13th November 2015, the Minister for Finance, Mr. Seth E. Tekper presented to Parliament the Budget Statement and Economic Policy of Government for the 2016 financial year in accordance with Article 179(1) of the Constitution. Pursuant to Orders 140(4) and 185 of the Standing Orders of Parliament, Rt. Hon. Speaker referred the Annual Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI) to the Committee on Environment, Science and Technology for consideration and report.

2.0 DELIBERATIONS

The Committee met on Monday, 14th December 2015 and considered the Budget Estimates. The Hon. Minister for Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Mr. Mahama Ayariga, the Deputy Minister, Dr. Alfred Sugri Tia and the technical team from the Departments and the Agencies under Ministry as well as officials from Ministry of Finance were in attendance to assist the Committee in the consideration of the Budget Estimates. The Committee is grateful to them for their attendance and inputs.

3.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

The Committee referred to the following documents during the deliberation on the Budget Estimates:

- the 1992 Constitution
- the Standing Orders of Parliament
- Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1994 (Act 490)
- Council for Scientific and Industrial Research Act, 1996 (Act 521)
- Atomic Energy Commission Act, 2000 (Act 588)
- National Biosafety Act, 2011 (Act 831)

- the Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2016 financial year
- the Report of the Committee on Environment, Science and Technology on the 2015 Annual Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation

4.0 MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (MESTI)

4.1 Mission

MESTI exists to promote sustainable development by deepening and strengthening market driven Research & Development for sound Environmental Governance, Science, Technology and Innovation through intensive awareness creation, collaboration and partnership

4.2 Vision

The Vision of the Ministry is to attain sustainable development through the utilization of Science, Technology and Innovation for wealth creation and sound environmental governance in a modern and competitive economy.

4.3 Core Functions of the Ministry

- Provide leadership and guidance for Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation within the broad sector of the economy through sound policy formulation and implementation
- Ensure the establishment of the regulatory framework and setting of standards to govern the activities of science and technology and the management of the environment for sustainable development
- Promote activities needed to underpin the standards and policies required for planning and implementation of sound scientific and technological development activities
- Ensure the coordination, supervision, monitoring and evaluation of activities of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation while fulfilling national benefits-sharing commitments

- Set out the parameters required for programmes on environment, science, technology and human settlement in consultation with the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC) in guiding the Districts Assemblies as the planning authorities at the local level
- Analyse and coordinate all planned programmes as well as budgets in the environment, science, technology and innovation sector of the economy for purposes of achieving a single integrated management system
- Initiate, simulate and coordinate research including the continuous development and review of policies, laws, rules and regulations in the environment, science, technology and innovation sector of the economy, and
- Ensure effective environmental management and governance, in line with the functions of the Act 490, with the EPA as the main implementing agency and MESTI playing an oversight, coordination and facilitating role

4.4 Policy objectives of the Ministry

In pursuance of its core functions, the Ministry has adopted the following Policy Objectives as captured in the GSGDA II:

- Promote the application of Science, Technology and Innovation in all sectors of the economy
- Strengthen the appropriate institutional framework to promote the development of Science and Technology research
- Promote sustainable extraction and use of mineral resources
- Promote green economy
- Reduce loss of biodiversity
- Reduce pollution, poor sanitation and vulnerability of coastal communities
- Mitigate the impacts of climate variability and change
- Streamline spatial / land use planning system in Ghana
- Facilitate on-going institutional, technological and legal reforms in support of land use planning and human settlements developments
- Strengthen the human and institutional capacities for effective land use planning and management

- Ensure that practices in the Oil and Gas industry are consistent with Ghanaian and international standards of environmental sustainability

4.5 Departments and Agencies under the Ministry:

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Ghana Atomic Energy Commission (GAEC)
- Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
- Town and Country Planning Department (TCPD)
- National Biosafety Authority (NBA)

5.0 PERFORMANCE REVIEW OF THE 2015 BUDGETARY ALLOCATION

5.1. Table 1: Status of 2015 Budget Implementation - Composite by Budget Programmes

Programme	2015 Approved (GH¢) (A)	Actual receipts as at 30 th Sept. 2015 (GH¢) (B)	Expended (GH¢) (c)	%	Variance (GH¢) (D=A-C)
Prog. 1: Mgt. & Admin.	30,527,868.45	22,476,115.90	17,199,638.94	56.3	13,328,229.51
Prog. 2: Research & Devt.	134,995,896.00	103,194,993.58	102,990,002.94	76.3	32,005,893.06
Prog. 3: Env'tal Prot.&Mgt	66,024,827.00	28,910,032.39	28,910,032.39	43.8	37,114,794.6
Prog. 4: Spatial Plng.& Human Settlement	13,050,000.00	6,018,938.83	5,863,584.70	44.9	7,186,415.30
Total	243,399,833.00	160,600,080.70	154,963,258.97	63.7	88,436,574.03

5.2 Table 2: Expenditure from January to September 2015

BUDGET CLASSIFICATION/ FUNDING SOURCE	2015 APPROVED BUDGET (GH¢)	2015 AMOUNT RELEASED (GH¢)	EXPENDED (GH¢)	EXPEND-ITURE(%)	VARIANCE (GH¢)
COMPENSATION (GoG)	140,000,000	105,307,612.20	105,307,612.20	75.2	34,692,387.80
GOODS & SERVICES (GoG)	6,250,650	3,235,876.32	3,080,522.20	49.3	3,170,127.81
CAPEX (GoG)	650,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	650,000.00
TOTAL (GoG)	146,900,650	108,543,488.52	108,388,134.39	73.3	38,512,515.61
IGF	65,523,052	32,933,456.16	32,728,465.50	50.3	32,794,586.48
DEVT. PARTNERS INCL. NREG)	30,976,131	19,123,136.02	13,846,695.10	61.7	17,129,471.94
GRAND TOTAL	243,399,833	160,600,080.70	154,963,258.97	63.7	88,436,574.03

5.3 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2015

Management and Administration Programme

- A National Bio-safety Authority has been established to address public concerns on biosafety and related biotechnology issues. The Authority has prepared guidelines to address Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) concerns in the future.
- The Ministry revamped the Mathematics, Science and Technology Scholarship Scheme in 2015 with funding from GETFUND. Currently about 4000 students from the senior high, technical and tertiary institutions will be awarded with bursaries ranging from GHC300 to GHC1, 500.
- The Ministry has also established technology development, innovation, marketing and transfer centres in 5 Research and Development institutions namely, University of Ghana, CSIR, GAEC, Ghana Technology University and Kumasi Polytechnic. These centres are earnestly marketing and transferring the shelved technologies to the private sector in the country.

- Other innovative technologies are being supported to be further developed for the market. In 2015, the Ministry held a technology fair to showcase some of the technologies developed by these institutions, which included a solar wheel chair by Kumasi Polytechnic and game application by Ghana Technology University.

Research and Development Programme

- Under the implementation of the policy on the use of the local building materials in the construction industry, two brick factories have been set-up in Bawku and Sandema by CSIR-BRRI, and about 50 brick layers and 13 works supervisors have been trained. 30 artisans have also been trained on the use of burnt bricks and burnt pavement slabs in the construction of affordable houses. Thus increasing job creation opportunities and also promoting the use of local materials in the building industry.
- The CSIR has also established Guinea Fowl Resource Centres (GFRC) in Katamanso (Accra-GAR) and Nyankpala (Tamale-NR) for technology generation, demonstration and business incubation throughout the guinea fowl value chain. The GFRC will facilitate the creation of competitive guinea fowl related businesses through technology development and commercialization. It will support such agri-businesses with back stopping technical services, starting from business conceptualization to the implementation and scaling up.
- The Ghana Nuclear Regulatory Authority Bill was passed on June 25, 2015 and received Presidential assent. 1,593 radiation workers (in hospitals, mines, oil and gas sector, research and education etc.) are being monitored for radiation exposure. Additionally, security infrastructure at selected nuclear facilities including radiotherapy centers in the Korle-Bu and Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospitals, together with the Takoradi and Tema ports have been upgraded to counter malicious intent.

Environmental Protection and Management Programme

- Under the Sustainable Land and Water Management Project (SLWMP), 3200 farmers were supported to adopt sustainable land and water management practices, which cover an area of 1500 hectares. Community Resource Management Area (CREMA) management plan for site 1 within the western

wildlife corridor has also been developed and 26 community watershed management plans were developed and currently are being implemented, additionally, 400 hectares of Kulpawn and Ambalara forest reserve are under reforestation.

- The EPA successfully implemented a project on the elimination of Poly Chlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) in collaboration with the ECG, VRA, GRIDCo and NEDCo to gather stocks of PCBs for disposal abroad. 160 metric tons of PCBs and obsolete pesticides are in the Tema Harbour ready to be shipped abroad for environmentally sound disposal.
- 35,000 tree seedlings were planted on degraded lands especially in the northern savanna zones including awareness creation programmes.

Spatial Planning and Human Settlement Programme

- Work on the Land Use and Spatial Planning Bill has received Cabinet approval for onward transmission to Parliament. The Bill when approved by Parliament would empower the Town and Country Planning Department to ensure well-planned human settlement schemes at the national, regional, metropolitan, municipal and district levels.

6.0 2016 BUDGETARY ESTIMATES

A sum total of **Two Hundred and Seventy Four Million, Two Hundred and Fifteen Thousand One Hundred and Fifty Three Ghana Cedis (GH¢274,215,153.00)** have been allocated to the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation for the implementation of its programmes and activities for the 2016 financial year.

Table 3: 2016 BUDGET ALLOCATIONS - BUDGET PROGRAMME /ECONOMIC CLASSIFICATION

BUDGET PROGRAMME/ ECONOMIC CLASSIFICATION	COMPENSATION (GH¢)	GOODS & SERVICES (GH¢)	CAPEX (GH¢)	TOTAL (GH¢)
PROGRAMME 1 (Mgt& Admin)	1,082,865	5,532,857	16,739,859	23,355,581
PROGRAMME 2 (Research &Devt)	144,837,740	14,934,850	3,120,473	162,893,063
PROGRAMME 3 (Evn'tal Pro. &Devt)	8,242,880	36,180,000	30,974,410	75,397,290
PROGRAMME 4 (Spatial Plng)	12,064,219	305,000	0.00	12,369,219
PROGRAMME 5 (Biosafety)	0.00	200,000	0.00	200,000
TOTAL	166,227,704	57,152,707	50,834,742	274,215,153

TABLE 4: 2016 BUDGET ALLOCATION – FUNDING SOURCE

ECONOMIC CLASSIFICATION /FUNDING SOURCE	GoG (GH¢)	IGF (GH¢)	DEVT. PART (GH¢)	TOTAL (GH¢)
COMPENSATION	164,516,725	1,170,979	0.00	166,227,704
GOODS & SERVICE	3,125,325	49,842,417	4,184,965	57,152,707
CAPEX	0.00	34,094,883	16,739,859	50,834,742
TOTAL	167,642,050	85,648,279	20,924,824	274,215,153

7.0 OUTLOOK FOR THE YEAR 2016

For the 2016 financial year, the Ministry has outlined a number of programmes and activities to be implemented which include the following:

- provide output based incentives (PES) in cash and in kind to farmers adopting and promoting sustainable land and water management practices
- Construct two (2) waterholes within the Gbele Resource Reserve
- Compile a directory of all existing ex-situ components of biological diversity in Ghana
- Identify priority species and genetic resources in need of urgent ex-situ conservation efforts
- Conduct technical follow-ups and review of MMDA MTDP for transition to green economy
- Support the implementation of action plan recommendations in prioritized sectors (Agriculture and Food Security, Disaster Preparedness and Response, Natural Resource Management, Equitable Social Development and Energy and Infrastructure Development
- Coordinate the implementation of National Climate Change Policy Master Plan especially in 5 priority Sectors (Agriculture and Food Security, Disaster Preparedness and Responses, Natural Resource Management, Equitable Social Development and Energy and Infrastructure Development
- Implement first year activities of Adaptation Fund Project in the 3 Northern Regions in the country
- Establish the Board and recruit 100 staff for the Land Use and Spatial Planning Authority (LUSPA) by the end of the year
- 45,000 tree seedlings is program to be planted

8.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATION

8.1 Budgetary allocations for the 2015 financial year

The Committee observed that even though budgetary allocations were made for Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) under the 2015 budget of the Ministry, there were no releases to the Ministry. Accordingly, this made it difficult for the Ministry to realize most of its stated outlook under capital expenditure for the financial year.

The Committee further observed that Ministry of Finance issues budget allotment to all the MDAs. The MDAs on the other hand are expected to submit a request for the release of funds under CAPEX before disbursements are made under this expenditure item.

The Committee therefore urges the various MDAs under MESTI to ensure that they process and submit invoices to Ministry of Finance for the timeous release of Funds for their Capital Expenditure.

8.2 National Biosafety Authority (NBA)

The Committee noted that with the passage of the Biosafety Act, 2011 (Act 831), the National Biosafety Authority (NBA) was established as an Authority under MESTI. The Authority was established to act as the national focal point responsible for liaising with any other agencies or international organisation concerned with biotechnology and biosafety among others.

The Committee also noted that the Authority undertakes an adequate level of protection in the field of safe development transfer, handling and use of genetically modified organisms resulting from biotechnology that may have an adverse effect on health and the environment. These activities from the newly created Authority require funding resulting in the increase in the budgetary allocations of MESTI in the 2016 financial year.

8.3 Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)

The Committee observed that currently CSIR has about 240 ongoing research projects that attract funding from Donor Agencies. In view of shortfalls in the budgetary allocations for the Council, the Council is compelled to augment some of the shortfalls

with funds earmarked for research and this slows down the progress of scientific research.

The Committee further observed that since research into crops would further enhance food security it is imperative that the CSIR is adequately funded to enable the Council achieve their stated research objectives.

The Committee noted that in the ensuing year, CSIR is set to support efforts in rural electrification through the use of lesser-known wood species for electric poles, bio-fuel from agricultural waste for generators and hybrid solar and wind energy systems for households.

8.4 Utilization of the Annual Budget Funding Amount (ABFA)

The Committee noted that in the 2015 financial year, there were no budgetary allocations under ABFA to the Ministry. Again, in the 2016 financial year, no budgetary allocation has been provided for the Ministry under ABFA. The Committee reiterates that the Minister of Finance should prioritize Research and Development for the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, to enable the council benefit as one of the four (4) specific areas under the ABFA.

8.5 Climate Change

The Committee, following the outcome of COP 21 in France this year, urges the Ministry and the Government to ensure compliance of the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) to mitigate and adapt to the effect of climate change.

8.6 Strengthening of Inter-Ministerial collaboration

The Committee recommends the strengthening of the Inter-Ministerial collaborations to discuss cross - cutting issues to ensure prudent use of funds and to avoid duplication of efforts.

MESTI as a regulatory body should therefore be strengthened to carry out its mandate by coordinating funding for research and make such funding available to other MDAs.

8.7 The Committee observed that the Ministry in 2015 revamped the Mathematics, Science and Technology Scholarship Scheme (MASTESS) with funding from GETFund and developed a website to ensure easy access by students to the public. In the 2016 financial year, the Ministry would continue to promote the programme by awarding 3,000 scholarships to students with bursaries ranging from Ghc300 to Ghc1, 500.


The Committee recommends that the Ministry of Finance should release the funds provided to enable the Ministry carry out this very important programme.

9.0 CONCLUSION

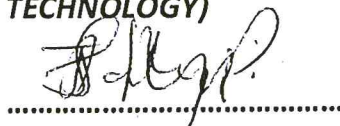
The Committee considers the mandate of the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation as cardinal in the nation's economic growth and development. However, the Ministry is constantly burdened with delays in the release of funds and inadequate funding, especially for Research and Development Programmes.

The Committee accordingly recommends the approval of an amount of **Two hundred and Seventy Four million, Two Hundred and Fifteen Thousand One Hundred and Fifty Three Ghana Cedis (GH¢ 274,215,153 .00)** for the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation for the 2016 Financial Year ending 31st December 2016.

Respectfully submitted.



HON. SIMON EDEM ASIMAH
(CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON
ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE &
TECHNOLOGY)



JOANA A.S. ADJEI (MRS.)
CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

DEC 2015.