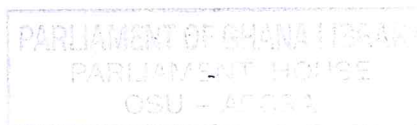


IN THE FIRST SESSION OF THE SEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF THE FOURTH REPUBLIC OF GHANA

THE REPORT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY SELECT COMMITTEE ON YOUTH, SPORTS AND CULTURE ON THE 2017 ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE MINISTRY OF CHIEFTAINCY AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS



1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Draft Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs for 2017 was referred to the Select Committee on Communications for consideration and report pursuant to Order 140 (4) of the Standing Orders of the House. This followed the presentation to Parliament of the 2017 Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government by the Minister of Finance (MoF), Mr. Ken Ofori-Atta in accordance with Article 179 of the 1992 Constitution and Order 140 (2) of the Standing Orders of the House.

The Committee met with the Hon. Kofi Dzamesi, the Minister for Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs, and his technical team as well as officers from the Ministry of Finance, on Monday, 20th March 2017 to consider the estimates, and reports as follows

2.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

- i. The 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana;
- ii. The Standing Orders of the House;
- iii. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2017 Financial Year;
- iv. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2016 Financial Year;
- v. Report of the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs' on the actual releases and expenditure of the Ministry for the 2016 financial year

3.0 VISION AND MISSION OF THE MINISTRY

Previously the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Traditional Affairs, it was re-designated in January 2017 as the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious affairs to enable it supervise the promotion of religious activities in the country, including the management of Christian, Islamic and other Religious Bodies. The Vision is to preserve, sustain and integrate the regal and traditional values and religious practices to accelerate wealth creation and harmony for total national development. The Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs therefore exists to operate as the primary and apex body in policy formulation, implementation and co-ordination in the Chieftaincy and Religious Sectors. The goal of the Ministry is to harness, develop and maximize the utilization of Chieftaincy and Traditional assets and values to serve as the basis for wealth creation and socio-cultural empowerment.

3.1. CORE FUNCTIONS OF THE MINISTRY

The Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs has the mandate to operate as the primary and apex body in policy formulation and co-ordination in the Chieftaincy Sector of Ghana. Its functions are as follows:

- i. Initiate, formulate and ensure the efficient and effective implementation of policies, plans, programmes and projects for the Sector;
- ii. Preserve, conserve, develop, promote and present Ghanaian regal, traditional institutions, and values to project the unique Ghanaian Identity and National pride;
- iii. Collaborate with the National House of Chiefs to undertake the study, interpretation and codification of customary law with a view to evolving, in appropriate cases, a unified system of rules of customary law, and compiling the customary laws and lines of succession applicable to each stool or skin;
- iv. Collaborate with the National House of Chiefs to undertake an evaluation of traditional customs and usages with a view to eliminating those customs and usages that are outmoded and socially harmful;
- v. Undertake development planning for the sector in consultation with the National Development Planning Commission; and
- vi. Organize periodic Sectorial Review Conferences for all stakeholders in the Ministry to re-examine direction and focus in line with prevailing Government policies.

4.0 IMPLEMENTING DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

The Ministry is made up of a Headquarters with six (6) Directorates. These are:

- i. Finance and Administration
- ii. Policy Planning Monitoring and Evaluation
- iii. Human Resource Management
- iv. Research
- v. Internal Audit
- vi. Chieftaincy & Religious Affairs.

In addition to the above, the Ministry oversees the operations of

- i. The National House of Chiefs
- ii. Ten (10) Regional Houses of Chiefs
- iii. Three hundred (300) Traditional Councils.
- iv. Oversees the management of Christian, Islamic and other Religious bodies.

5.0 THE YEAR 2016 IN RETROSPECT

The ministry informed the committee that despite its financial challenges during the 2016 financial year, it managed to undertake the following activities:

- i. **Capacity Building Programme for Registrars:** The Ministry organized a two-day capacity building programme for Registrars of the National and Regional Houses of Chiefs on the 26th to 27th August 2016 in Koforidua;
- ii. **Legislative Instruments:** A Joint Committee of the Ministry and the Attorney-General's Department have finalised work on ten draft LIs on Lines of Succession to Stools/Skins and submitted same to Parliament;
- iii. **Research Project:** The final research on the Elimination of Harmful Traditional Practises Project has been completed;
- iv. **Ascertainment and Codification:** The Ascertainment and Codification of Customary Law on Land and Family Project (ACLP-2) has completed review of reports of two Traditional Areas (Asebu and Wassa Amenfi). These are ready for validation at the Traditional Area level;
- v. **Consultative Meetings:** With the support of UNICEF, the Ministry organized consultative meetings on Justice for the Children's Policy with the National House of Chiefs and Queenmothers in the Volta, Western and Brong Ahafo Regions. These were to solicit the views of the Traditional Authorities on the Policy, which aims at improving access to Justice for Children by adhering to standards, values and beliefs of the formal and community justice system;
- vi. **Traditional Councils:** The Ministry successfully inaugurated three new Traditional Councils:
 - Owirenkyi Traditional Council in Assin Kushea in the Central Region; and
 - Amoaful and Adankragya Traditional Councils in Asante Bekwai in the Ashanti Region
 - The Ministry also inspected facilities in 15 Traditional Areas in Volta Region and two in Brong Ahafo Region to be considered for inauguration as Councils.

6.0 BUDGETARY ALLOCATION FOR YEAR 2017

Even though the ministry budgeted for and requested for an amount of GhC 51,048,558.00 for its activities in 2017, the ceiling allocated is **GhC 34,328,798** to be expended as follows:

Compensation	-	GhC 29,328,79.00
Goods and Services	-	GhC 2,000,000.00
CapEx	-	GhC 3,000,000



6.1 PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Despite the cut in its budget expectations, the Ministry plans to undertake the following activities, among others, during the 2017 financial year:

- i. Sensitize Chiefs on their roles in land acquisition and the importance of community land use plans. It will also focus on enhancing the capacity of Traditional Authorities in advocacy, peace building, and dispute resolution. In addition, advocacy programmes will be organised for the youth in selected traditional areas.
- ii. The Ministry plans to educate the general public on the positive roles of the chieftaincy institution and to undertake monitoring visits to the Houses of Chiefs and Traditional Councils.
- iii. To enhance peace and stability in the traditional areas, the ministry plans to organise a nationwide exercise to delineate and demarcate boundaries of paramountcy of the Houses of Chiefs.
- iv. Complete the codification of eleven lines of succession to Stool/Skins
- v. Complete the codification of ten customary laws relating to land and family
- vi. Enter eight hundred Chiefs into the National Register
- vii. Settle sixty judicial cases and resolve forty more through Alternative dispute Resolution

7.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- i. **The 2016 Budget Allocation:** The Committee observed that there was an increase in its wage bill which resulted in the 2016 allocated compensation ceiling of nineteen million, eight hundred and nine thousand, eight hundred and ninety-one Cedis (GhC19, 809,891) being exceeded by one hundred and sixty-seven thousand, four hundred and forty-eight Cedis (GhC 167,448.00). This pushed the compensation expenditure to a total of nineteen million, nine hundred and seventy-seven thousand, three hundred and thirty-nine (GhC19, 977,339.00).

The committee further observed that despite the increased wage bill, the ministry did not exceed its allocated budget. This is because not all of its allocated funds were released (Table 1).

TABLE 1: 2016 BUDGET RELEASES AND EXPENDITURE

<u>EXPENDITURE ITEM</u>	<u>BUDGET (GHØ)</u>	<u>ACTUAL (GHØ)</u>	<u>VARIANCE (GHØ)</u>
Compensation of Employees	19,809,891.00	19,977,339.00	-167,448.00
Goods and Services	335,212.00	44,164.46	291,047.54
Assets		NIL	
TOTAL	20,145,103.00	20,021,503.46	123,599.54

The Ministry explained that the increase in compensation was due to unplanned increases in the salaries of their legal staff whose salaries had to be put at par with their colleagues in the Attorney-General's Department. In addition to this, the ministry had to make some increases in the allowances of some senior staff to bring it at par with their colleagues in the other ministries, after a series of negotiations with the relevant stakeholders. The Committee was of the view that this move to improve conditions of service was in the right direction given that the high staff attrition rate will impact negatively on the ministry.

- ii. **The 2017 Budget ceilings:** The Ministry informed the committee that its biggest problem is the cut in its CapEx line. This is because, the plan is to complete all outstanding projects, including finishing the works begun on its Houses of Chiefs. The committee was of the view that since the ministry's mandate has been stretched to overseeing religious issues, it needs to be adequately resourced to carry out its mandate efficiently and effectively.

The committee however observed that this year, the ministry has an increased budget allocation compared to 2016 and must therefore prioritize its activities in order to have optimal utilization of its allocated funds. For example, policy outcomes such as the number of targeted Skin/Stool lines to be codified as well as the number of cases expected to be legally resolved must be increased.

TABLE 2: 2016 AND 2017 ALLOCATIONS COMPARED:

ITEM	2016 ALLOCATIONS	2016 ACTUAL RELEASES	2017 ALLOCATIONS
COMPENSATION	19,809,891.00	19,977,339.00	29,328,798.00
GOODS & SERVICES	335,212.00	44,164.46	2,000,000
ASSETS	NIL	NIL	3,000,000
TOTAL	20,145,103	20,021,503.46	34,328,798

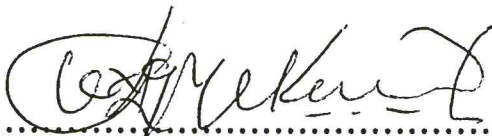
- iii. **Increased wage bill:** The Committee observed that the ministry's 2017 compensation allocation has increased from nineteen million, nine hundred and seventy-seven thousand, three hundred and thirty-nine Cedis (GhC 19,977,339.00) to twenty-nine million, three hundred and twenty-eight thousand and seventy-nine Cedis (GhC 29,328,079.00). The ministry explained that this was to cover recruitment, staff replacement and to engage the services of counsel to assist the judicial committees in resolving the numerous chieftaincy cases.
- iv. **No Permanent offices:** The minister informed the Committee that even though it was established as the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Culture (MoCC) in May 2006, in accordance with Section 11(1) of the Civil Service Law 1993 (PNDC Law 327), the ministry is yet to have permanent office accommodation and is a squatter within the State Protocol Department. They can therefore not make any modifications to the premises to accommodate their growing staff and equipment. The ministry intimated however that necessary arrangements to acquire its own premises are being made.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

The Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs has an important mandate, which when carried out effectively, would help decrease the many chieftaincy conflicts as well as rising spates of religious squabbles in Ghana. The committee therefore recommends that all its allocated funds must be released and on time.

In conclusion, the Committee, after a thorough scrutiny of the estimates of the ministry, recommends that this House approve the total sum of **Thirty-four million, three hundred and twenty-eight thousand, seven hundred and ninety-eight Cedis (GHC 34,328,798.00)** for the implementation of the Strategies and Policies of the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs for the 2017 Financial Year.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED



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HON. ALEX KOFI AGYEKUM
CHAIRMAN

PARLIAMENT OF GHANA
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIAT
LEGISLATIVE SERVICES
ACCRA



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SHEBA NANA AFRIYIE OSEI
CLERK