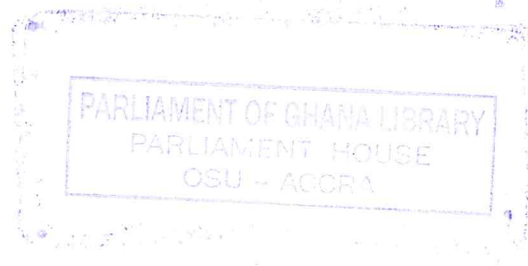


**IN THE FIRST SESSION OF  
THE SEVENTH PARLIAMENT  
OF THE FOURTH REPUBLIC  
OF GHANA**



**REPORT OF THE SPECIAL  
BUDGET COMMITTEE ON  
THE 2017 ESTIMATES OF THE  
PARLIAMENT OF GHANA**

**3/29/2017**

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**REPORT OF THE SPECIAL BUDGET  
COMMITTEE ON THE 2017 BUDGET  
ESTIMATES OF THE PARLIAMENT OF  
GHANA**

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The Minister responsible for Finance, Hon. Ken Ofori-Atta presented the Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2017 to Parliament on Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2017 in accordance with Article 179 of the 1992 Constitution.

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

The Committee was assisted by the Clerk to Parliament, Mr. Emmanuel Anyimadu and officials of the Parliamentary Service in considering the Budget Estimates. The Committee expresses its gratitude to the Clerk and the 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 2017 Financial Year.
- v. The Parliamentary Service Act, 1993 (Act 460).
- vi. The Parliamentary Service (Amendment) Act, 2008, (Act 763).

## **3.0 MISSION STATEMENT**

The Mandate of the Parliament of Ghana is to represent and protect the people of Ghana within the framework of the Constitution, deliberate on matters, inform the citizenry on salient issues, legislate, scrutinize financial matters, oversee the executive and the independent governance institutions, as well approve and ratify agreements, protocols and conventions. Parliament in the performance of these functions is supported by an efficient, non-partisan, innovative and professional Parliamentary Service, structured to ensure the dignity of Parliament.

In the realization of the mandate, the following strategic goals have been identified:

- Strengthen the capacity of Parliament to perform its legislative function effectively and efficiently;
- Build and continually strengthen the competence of Members of Parliament in the discharge of their constitutional and other statutory functions.
- Strengthen the capacity of Parliament to perform its financial oversight functions effectively and efficiently;
- 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 of the Parliamentary Service in the delivery of services;
- Ensure that Parliament has adequate physical, logistical and ICT infrastructure to sustain excellence in service delivery;
- Strengthen international relations of Parliament through regional and global cooperation and partnership.

#### **4.0 2016 BUDGET PERFORMANCE REVIEW**

For the performance of its function an amount of **Two Hundred and Fifty-five Million, Eight Hundred and Sixty-five Thousand, Seven Hundred and Seventeen Ghana Cedis (GH¢255,865,717.00)** was allocated to the Parliament of Ghana in 2016. The breakdown of the total allocation has been depicted in Table 1 below.

**Table 1: Breakdown of 2016 Allocation**

<b>Expenditure Item</b>	<b>2016 Allocation (GH¢)</b>
Compensation	118,898,701.00
Goods and Services	94,990,111.00
Assets	10,976,905.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>255,865,717.00</b>

## **5.0 ACHEIVEMENTS IN 2016**

### **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-eight (98) Plenary Sittings, two hundred and eighty-one (281) Committee Sittings and considered three hundred and fifty-eight (358) Papers.

The Papers included Twenty-nine (39) Bills, thirty-nine (39) Legislative Instruments (L.I.s) and Constitutional Instruments (C.I), one hundred and eleven (111) International Agreements and one hundred and fifty-one (151) Reports from Committees. Out of the thirty-nine (39) Bills laid, thirty-four (34) were passed into law.

### **Parliamentary Oversight**

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 regard, the Public Accounts Committee conducted seven (7) public sittings to consider and report on Auditor General's Reports and made a total of thirteen (13) recommendations involving retrieval of misappropriated public funds. The

Government Assurances Committee also held two (2) public sittings for the first time to follow up on assurances made by Ministers of State on the Floor of Parliament.

Furthermore, a total of one hundred and ten (110) Parliamentary Questions were asked of various Ministers and eighteen (18) Statements on matters of national importance were made. Committees of Parliament also undertook a total of (12) monitoring visits to track the progress of implementation of selected projects approved in sector budgets.

#### **State of the Nation Address**

Pursuant to Article 67 of the Constitution, H.E. the president, Mr. John Dramani Mahama delivered to the House two messages on the State of the Nation in February and December, 2016. The addresses covered critical matters of national importance.

#### **Provision of Offices to Members of Parliament**

With the completion of work on Job 600 facility, a total of 252 Members of Parliament were provided with Offices and Secretariats to facilitate their work. The facility also provides for committee meeting rooms, restaurants and Auditorium and banking services. The provision of these facilities is expected to facilitate work of Members and increase their effectiveness. The facility also included a Member' Service Centre to enable Members conduct their parliamentary business efficiently and effectively. The Centre provides one-stop-shop facility to provide information and other services to Members.

#### **Provision of Research Assistants to Members of Parliament.**

In recognition of the important role of research in the exercise of oversight and monitoring functions, Members of Parliament have been provided with research and administrative support to enable them effectively discharge their responsibilities.

The provision of dedicated staff, is expected to improve Members' access to reliable and timely data and information for the performance of their functions.

### **Hosting of Foreign Delegations**

During this period under review Parliament hosted a number of foreign dignitaries, significant among them were the Italian Prime Minister, the Turkish Prime Minister and the Speaker of the Chinese Communist Party.

Also a delegation from the Committee on the scrutiny from Gauteng Provincial Legislature of the Republic of South Africa and staff from the Auditor General's Department of Uganda.

Parliament of Ghana also hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Professional Development Seminar of the society of Clerks-at-the-Table (SoCATT), Africa Region.

## **6.0 OUTLOOK FOR 2017**

For year 2017, Parliament will undertake the following activities among others:

### **Legislative function**

Parliament will continue with its legislative functions and complete the 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.

The allocation is also to facilitate the discharge of the Core Functions of Parliament including:

- Representational,
- Deliberative,
- Information transmission,
- Scrutiny of Loans and Agreements,
- Capacity Building of Members and Staff and, increasingly, problem solving engagements.

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## 7.0 BUDGETARY ALLOCATION FOR 2017

For the implementation of the above programmes and activities, Parliament of Ghana has been allocated the sum of **Three Hundred and Eight Million, Five Hundred and Sixty-five Thousand, Four Hundred Forty-five Two Ghana Cedis (GH¢308,565,445.00)** for the execution of its 2017 programmes. The allocation will be expended on the various expenditure items of Parliament as follow:

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

**Total - GH¢308,565,445**

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

**Table 2: 2017 Budget Allocation by Programme**

<b>Budget Programme</b>	<b>Compensation (GH¢)</b>	<b>Goods and Services (GH¢)</b>	<b>Capital Expenditure GH¢</b>	<b>Total (GH¢)</b>
Management & Administration	26,903,138	32,493,821	49,944,548	106,549,194
Parliamentary Business	108,338,520	88,973,844	-	197,312,364
Information Support Services	-	1,911,573	-	1,911,573
<b>Total</b>	<b>135,241,658</b>	<b>123,379,238</b>	<b>49,944,548</b>	<b>308,565,445</b>

## **8.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Budget Requirements of Parliament for 2017 Financial Year**

The Committee observed that allocation to Parliament has been increased from **GHC 255,865,717.00** in 2016 to **GH¢308,565,445.00** in 2017, an increase of about **GHC 52,669,728** constituting about **17.07%** over the 2016 allocation.

The provision is to enable Parliament implement the security enhancement policy, equip the Parliamentary Training Institute, complete the e-Library project, complete the Parliamentary

infrastructure enhancement project and equip the Office of Scrutiny among others.

## **8.2 Security at Parliament**

The Committee expressed concerns about the laxity of security at the precinct of Parliament. Concerns were also raised about uncontrolled access to all parts of Parliament by unidentifiable persons and groups and the non-enforcements of measures put in place to ensure the safety of Members and staff of Parliament.

The Clerk to Parliament, while acknowledging the severity of the problem informed the Committee that the Parliamentary Service has put in place proposal to ensure the safety of Members and staff.

The proposal which is expected to be placed before the Parliamentary Service Board includes the use of qualified and trained security personnel to secure the entry and exit points of the House and other strategic locations.

The Committee also expressed the urgent need to restructure the Marshal's Department to ensure the maintenance of security in the precincts of the House.

The Committee noted that the metal detecting scanners which were donated to Parliament by the Chinese Government are not being utilized at the appropriate places. The Committee therefore urges the Clerk and Head of security to ensure their utilization to enhance the security of Members, the Staff and strangers who visits Parliament.

The Committee urges the Clerk and officers of the Service to as a matter of priority engage the leadership of the House to agree on

appropriate measures to ensure strict compliance to security directives in order to the guarantee the safety Members and Staff.

The Committee further urge Members of the House and Staff to cooperate with management in its effort to enforce security measures for the good of all.

### **8.3 Research Support to Members**

The Committee observed that, the provision of research support and policy advisory services are essential for to enhance the performance of Members both at Committees and at plenary. Effective research will improve quality of debate and ensure contributions by Members as deliberation will be based on well researched fact and evidence. This will ultimately promote evidence based discussion on matters of policy before the House.

The Committee noted efforts have been put in place to assign National Service personnel to each Member to provide administrative support for Members. However, for the effective and efficient performance of duties of Members of Parliament, there is the need for a strong research and policy advisory support services to be provided.

The Committee therefore recommends to the Parliamentary Service Board to, as an interim measure, procure seasoned policy advisory professionals to service the two main Caucuses of the House as well as the Women Caucus.

The Clerk to Parliament also assured the Committee that the ~~Parliamentary Service has made sufficient provision in the 2017~~ allocation to enable Members procure the services of research

assistants to enhance the performance of Members. He however stressed that only persons with Minimum qualification of Master's Degree will be considered for the Job under a specified contract terms conditions.


## 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 **Three Hundred and Eight Million, Five Hundred and Sixty-five Thousand, Four Hundred and Forty-five Ghana Cedis (GH¢308,565,445.00)** for the implementation of the programs of the Parliament of Ghana for the 2017 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)**

March, 2017

