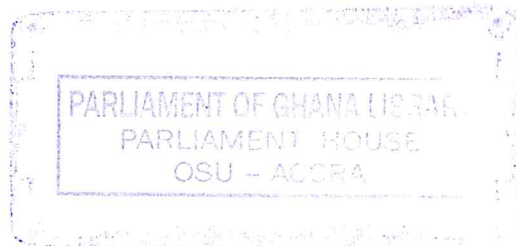


**IN THE FIRST SESSION OF THE SEVENTH
PARLIAMENT OF THE FOURTH REPUBLIC OF
GHANA**

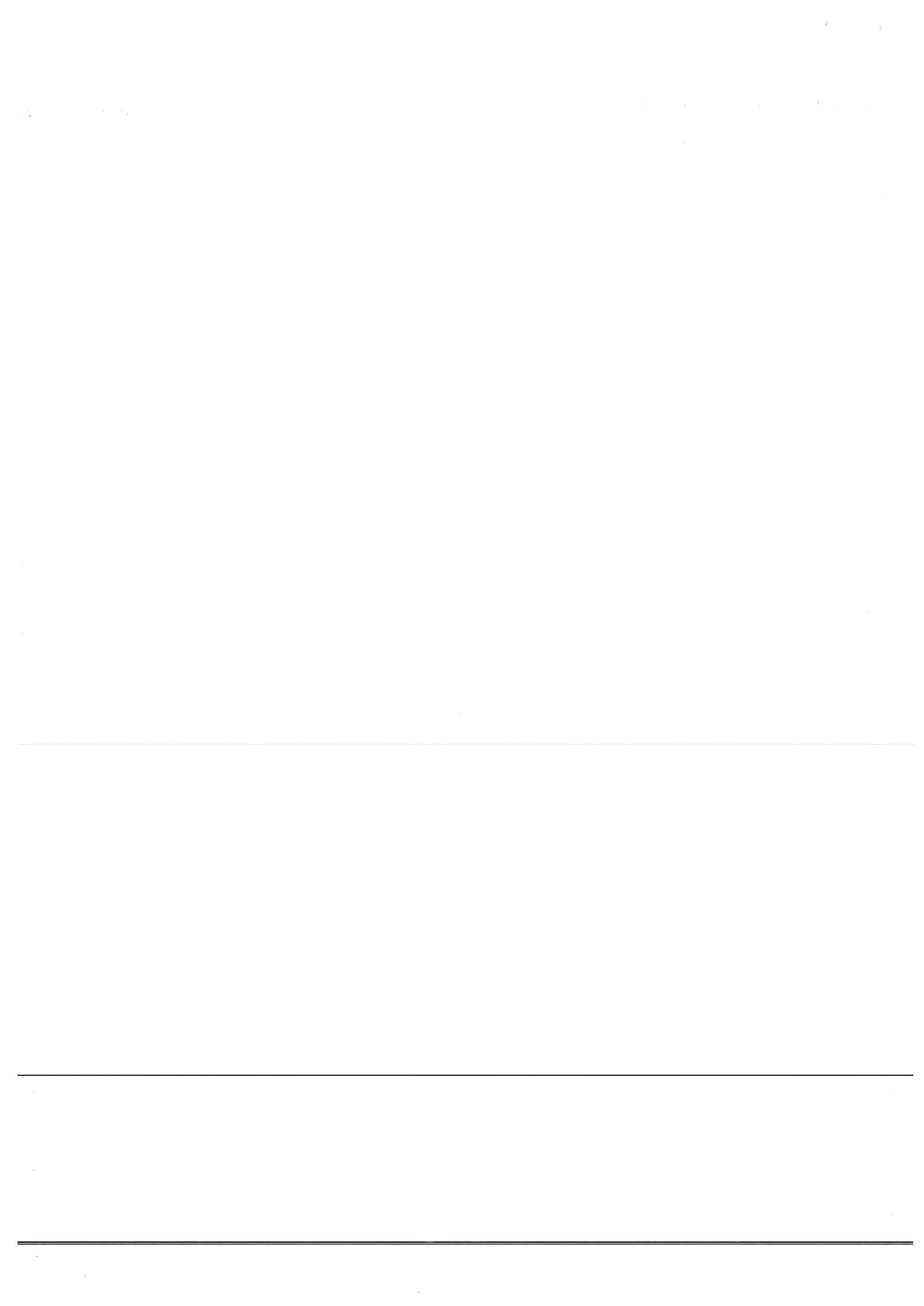
**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON
CONSTITUTIONAL, LEGAL & PARLIAMENTARY
AFFAIRS**



ON THE

**ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE MINISTRY
OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS FOR THE 2017
FINANCIAL YEAR**

MARCH, 2017



**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL, LEGAL &
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS ON THE ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES
OF THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS FOR THE 2017
FINANCIAL YEAR**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government for the 2017 Financial Year was presented to Parliament on Thursday, 2nd March, 2017 by the Hon. Minister for Finance, Mr. Ken Ofori-Atta in accordance with Article 179 of the 1992 Constitution.

Pursuant to Order 140 (4) of the Standing Orders of the House, the Annual Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs were referred to the Committee on Constitutional, Legal & Parliamentary Affairs for consideration and report.

2.0 DELIBERATIONS

In considering the referral, the Committee met with the Hon. Majority Leader and Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Mr. Osei Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu to discuss the Estimates. The former Chief Director, Mr. Ohene Okai and former Chief Accountant, Mr. Frederick K. Bediako of the erstwhile Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs were in attendance to assist in the deliberations.

The Committee extends its profound appreciation to the Minister and the Officials for their invaluable input into the Committee's deliberations.

3.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

The Committee referred to the following documents during deliberations:

- i. The 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana;
- ii. The Standing Orders of the Parliament of Ghana;
- iii. The Civil Service Act, 1993 (PNDCL 327);

- iv. Parliamentary Service Act, 1993 (Act 460); and
- v. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government for the 2017 Financial Year.

4.0 VISION OF THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

The vision of the Ministry is to promote consensus building among the political class in a purposed, transparent and accountable manner and to deepen and broaden inclusiveness in the Country's chosen path of participatory democracy.

5.0 CORE FUNCTIONS

The Ministry shall perform the following functions:

- i. Serve as the interface between the executive and Parliament;
- ii. Co-ordinate the tabling of government business on the floor of Parliament;
- iii. Harmonise government business into the calendar of Parliament;
- iv. Facilitate the development and implementation of citizen centered collaborative interface with other state and non-state actors on matters relating to the legislature;
- v. Facilitate the review/promulgation of legislation and regulations for equitable national development.
- vi. Monitor and evaluate the implementation of government policies and feedback to Parliament;
- vii. Undertake such research as may be necessary to enhance the collaboration between Parliament and the executive and civil society groups;
- viii. Provide strategic leadership in the development of the medium-term plan of the Ministry in consultation with National Development Planning Commission.

6.0 PLANNED PROGRAMMES FOR 2017

6.1 Management and Administration

The objective of this programme is to provide requisite logistics and develop human resource policies among others. The Ministry intends to execute the programme through the following:

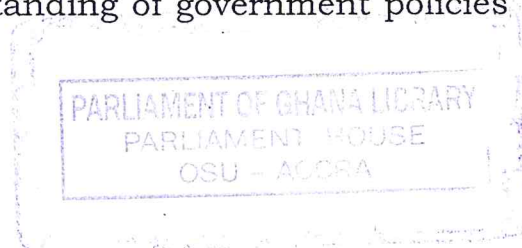
The General Administration and Finance Units of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs shall be responsible for delivering this programme through:

- i. Effective and efficient management of financial resources and timely annual reporting as contained in the new public Financial Act 921 and the Financial Administration Regulation
- ii. Facilitating training and development, recruitment and promotions, leave policy, welfare, discipline and appropriate job description to engender optimum output from employees.
- iii. Provision of logistical services such as transport, estates, cleaning services, security, maintenance, stores management and internal human resource management.
- iv. Carrying out of regular maintenance of assets of the Ministry.

6.2 Executive and Legislative Coordination and Dialogue Programme

For the year 2017, the Ministry seeks to achieve the following objectives:

- i. The Ministry will serve as interface between Parliament and the Executive, between Parliament and the citizenry, state and non-state actors.
- ii. The Ministry will also monitor and evaluate government policies and report to Parliament.
- iii. The Ministry will formulate policies in order to gain deeper understanding of government policies that are brought before



the House for approval so as to engender the needed buy-in of these policies by Parliament.

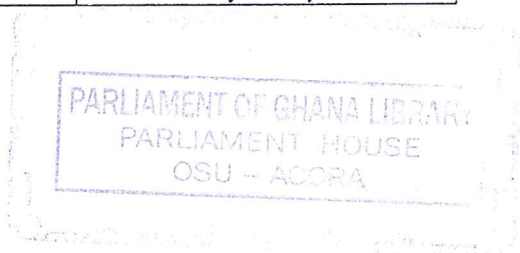
- iv. The Ministry will follow up on Ministerial questions and other requests, to ensure that Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) comply with these requests from Parliament. This will create a fair balance between the Executive-Parliament interactions.
- v. The Ministry will also ensure the collection and collation of government programmes for purposes of synchronization.
- vi. The Ministry will ensure that proposed Bills are properly updated with the relevant Parliamentary perspectives and also reconciled with existing legislations and provide greater clarity and illumination to ensure the smooth conduct of government business in the House.

7.0 2017 ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

The sum of **Three Million, Two Hundred and Twenty-Seven Thousand, Eight Hundred and Fifty-Five Ghana Cedis (GH¢3,227,855.00)** has been allocated for the activities of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for the 2017 Financial Year. The breakdown is as shown in the table on the next page.

Table: **Breakdown of the 2017 Annual Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs**

ITEM	2017 ALLOCATION (GH¢)
Compensation of Employees	498,230.00
Goods & Services	2,229,625.00
Capex	500,000.00
Total	3,227,855.00



8.0 OBSERVATIONS

8.1 Role of the Ministry

The Minister stated that the Ministry has existed since the commencement of the 4th Republic but has been in abeyance over the past eight years, when the previous National Democratic Congress Administration declined to continue the practise. According to him, the Ministry is critical to the proper functioning of Parliament within the framework of the distinct hybrid system of governance practiced in Ghana. The Ministry will also serve as a strong link between Parliament and the Executive and to make Parliament more independent and assertive contrary to the notion that it will rather subjugate Parliament to the Executive. The Ministry shall also provide a platform of dialogue pursuant to the smooth conduct of business in Parliament.

8.2 Provision for Compensation of Employees

The Committee observed that an amount of **Four Hundred and Twenty-Eight Thousand, Two Hundred and Thirty Ghana Cedis (GH¢498,230.00)** has been provided for the payment of Employee

Compensation for the year. The Committee was informed by the Minister that the process of recruitment has begun to employ the needed Staff. The Minister also stated that, the Ministry intends to employ 18 persons to fill vacant positions.

It was however noted that the Ministry's indicative allocations remain the same for 2018 and 2019 which gives an indication that the Employee Compensation Vote will remain the same throughout the period. The Committee accordingly urges the Ministry of Finance to take a second look at the figures and adjust them to reflect the anticipated increases in the subsequent years. This will allow the Ministry to have its full complement of Staff to operate effectively and efficiently.

8.3 Investment Activities

The Committee also observed that the amount of **Five Hundred Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢500,000.00)** has been allocated to the Ministry for its investment activities for the year 2017. This was explained by the Minister to be used for renovation works on the Ministry's building which hitherto had been used as an Annex to the Presidency. Provision has also been made for the procurement of 4X4 vehicle and office equipment, including office furniture and air conditioners.

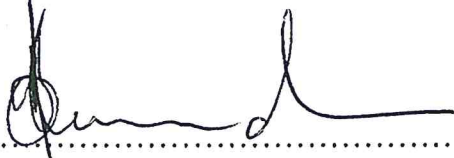
9.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The Committee acknowledges that the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs is still evolving having gone into abeyance for the past eight years and hence the need to resource the Ministry to enable it carry out the very important duties imposed on it.

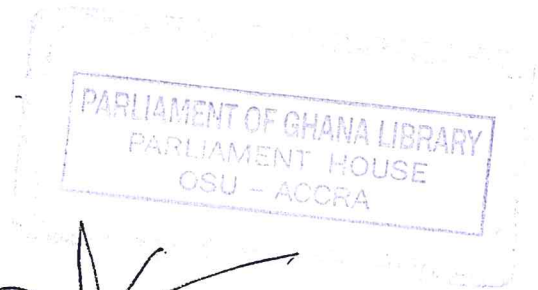
It is expected that the Ministry's allocation for subsequent years will be enhanced as it grows to enable it perform its critical coordination role. This will engender harmonious relationship between Parliament and the Executive and to facilitate the transaction of Parliamentary business.

The Committee therefore recommends to the House to adopt its Report and to approve the sum of **Three Million, Two Hundred and Twenty-Seven Thousand, Eight Hundred and Fifty-Five Ghana Cedis (GH¢3,227,855.00)** for the activities of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for the 2017 Financial Year.

Respectfully submitted.



.....
HON. BEN ABDALLA BANDA
CHAIRMAN



.....
AKUA DUROWAA OWUSU AGYEKUM (MRS.)
CLERK

MARCH, 2017
