

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

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

**ON THE**

**ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE OFFICE OF  
THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTRY OF  
JUSTICE FOR THE 2018 FINANCIAL YEAR**

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**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL, LEGAL AND  
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OF THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTRY OF  
JUSTICE FOR THE 2018 FINANCIAL YEAR**

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2018 Financial Year was presented to Parliament by the Minister for Finance, Hon. Ken Ofori-Atta, on Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2017 in accordance with Article 179 of the 1992 Constitution.
- 1.2 Consequently, the Annual Budget Estimates of the Office of the Attorney-General and the Ministry of Justice were referred by the Rt. Hon. Speaker to the Committee on Constitutional, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs for consideration and report pursuant to Article 103 (1) and (3) of the Constitution and Standing Orders 140 (4) and 179 of the Standing Orders of the House.

**2.0 DELIBERATIONS**

The Committee met with the Hon. Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Miss Gloria Afua Akuffo and Officials of the Office of the Attorney-General and the Ministry of Justice, its Departments and Agencies to consider the Referral. Officials of the Ministry of Finance were in attendance to assist the Committee in its deliberations.

The Committee is grateful to the Hon. Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, and the Officials for their attendance upon the Committee and for clarifying issues raised in the course of deliberations.

**3.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS**

The Committee referred to the following documents during the deliberations:

- i. The 1992 Constitution;
- ii. The Standing Orders of Parliament;
- iii. The 2018 Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana; and
- iv. The 2017 Approved Budget Estimates of the Office of the Attorney-General and Ministry of Justice.



#### **4.0 OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND THE COMPOSITION OF THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE**

4.1 The Ministry of Justice exercises oversight responsibility over the following Departments and Agencies:

- i. The Office of the Attorney-General (Legal Service);
- ii. The Registrar-General's Department;
- iii. The Legal Aid Scheme;
- iv. The General Legal Council (Ghana School of Law);
- v. The Law Reform Commission;
- vi. The Council for Law Reporting;
- vii. The Copyright Office; and
- viii. The Economic and Organised Crime Office (EOCO)

#### **5.0 GOAL AND CORE FUNCTIONS OF THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE**

5.1 **Goal of the Office of the Attorney-General and the Ministry of Justice**

The goal of the Office of the Attorney-General and the Ministry of Justice within the medium term is to provide quality advice and legal service to the Government and people of Ghana.

5.2 **Core Functions of the Office of the Attorney-General and the Ministry of Justice**

The core functions of the Office of the Attorney-General, the Ministry and its Departments and Agencies are as follows:

- i. Provision of legal advice to the Government;
- ii. Initiation and conduct of criminal prosecutions on behalf of the State;
- iii. Initiation and conduct of civil litigations on behalf of the State;
- iv. Drafting legislation and vetting of subsidiary legislations of State Institutions;
- v. Monitoring and evaluation of the activities of the Ministry, Departments and Agencies;
- vi. Formulation of policies for the Ministry, Departments and its Agencies;



- vii. Provision of professional legal education and ensuring high standards of professional conduct of Lawyers;
- viii. Prevention and detection of organised crimes and facilitation of confiscation of proceeds of crime;
- ix. Production and publication of the Ghana Law Reports and Review of laws of Ghana to strengthen the capacity of lawyers and Judges;
- x. Provision of free legal services to indigents and the vulnerable in society and to resolve disputes among them through mediation;
- xi. Implementation of copyright and copyright-related laws and provision for copyright administration;
- xii. Conduct research and make recommendations for reform of laws in the country; and
- xiii. Registration of businesses, marriages, protection of industrial property rights and administration of estates.

## **6.0 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES OF THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTRY OF JUSTICE**

The Policy Objectives of the Ministry are to:

- i. promote access and efficiency in delivery of Justice;
- ii. promote the fight against corruption and economic crimes;
- iii. ensure improved fiscal performance and sustainability; and
- iv. develop a competitive creative arts industry.

## **7.0 PERFORMANCE OF THE 2017 APPROVED BUDGET OF THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND ITS AGENCIES**

The Office of the Attorney-General and Ministry of Justice and its Agencies were allocated the sum of **Ninety Million, Seven Hundred and Twenty-Eight Thousand, One Hundred and Six Ghana Cedis, Thirty-Two Pesewas (GH¢90,728,106.32)** for their activities for the 2017 Financial Year. Out of this, an amount of **Seventy-Seven Million, One Hundred and Seventy-Nine Thousand, Five Hundred and Sixty-Nine Ghana Cedis, Fifteen**

**Pesewas (GH¢77,179,569.15)** had been released to the Office, the Ministry and its Agencies as at October, 2017. The details of actual expenditure are shown in Table 1 below:

**Table 1: Details of 2017 Actual Expenditure of the Office of the Attorney-General and Ministry of Justice as at the end of October, 2017**

<b>COST CENTRE</b>	<b>COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES (GH¢)</b>	<b>GOODS AND SERVICES (GH¢)</b>	<b>ASSETS (GH¢)</b>	<b>2017 APPROVED ALLOC. (GH¢)</b>	<b>2017 ACTUAL EXP. TOTAL (GH¢)</b>
<b>Ministry of Justice</b>	10,639,690.00	219,592.93	50,000.00	<b>10,050,487.19</b>	<b>10,909,282.93</b>
<b>Office of Attorney-Geneneral's Department</b>	21,279,379.00	351,356.00		<b>31,510,112.47</b>	<b>21,630,735.00</b>
<b>Council For Law Reporting</b>	2,193,351.60	164,882.00		<b>11,733,193.73</b>	<b>2,358,233.60</b>
<b>Registrar General's Department</b>	2,925,850.17	7,812,854.57	878,323.94	<b>1,648,697.23</b>	<b>11,617,028.68</b>
<b>Copyright Office</b>	251,043.14	387,756.54		<b>1,511,031.03</b>	<b>638,799.68</b>
<b>Legal Aid Scheme</b>	6,841,820.58	145,138.83		<b>3,975,772.50</b>	<b>6,986,959.41</b>
<b>Law Reform Commission</b>	1,155,677.15	85,550.00		<b>5,519,461.28</b>	<b>1,241,227.15</b>
<b>Economic &amp; Organised Crime Office</b>	13,422,768.00	349,627.95		<b>9,215,762.63</b>	<b>13,772,395.95</b>
<b>General Legal Council</b>	6,139,782.86	1,783,427.81	101,696.08	<b>15,563,587.26</b>	<b>8,024,906.75</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>64,849,362.50</b>	<b>11,300,186.63</b>	<b>1,030,020.02</b>	<b>90,728,106.32</b>	<b>77,179,569.15</b>

## **8.0 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL, THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE, AND ITS DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES**

### **8.1 Management and Administration Programme**

The Ministry launched the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and trained some officers in the use of the SOPs to enhance transparency in service delivery. It also developed a Change



Management Strategy and Training Plan. A Roundtable Conference with Development Partners was also held to discuss various aspects of the Legal and Justice Sector Reform Programme. It further spearheaded the passage of the **Office of the Special Prosecutor's Bill, 2017 into law which is expected to strengthen** the rule of law and facilitate the prosecution of corruption cases, thus boosting investor confidence in the system.

## 8.2 Promotion of Rule of Law

- a. Under this programme, the Office of the Attorney-General secured judgement in favour of Ghana in the boundary dispute between Ghana and Ivory Coast at the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2017. It also represented the State in **303 civil litigations** in Ghana, handled **208** petitions and **106** international cases.
- b. The Office successfully defended arbitration proceedings brought against the Government of Ghana by Mr. Alfred Agbesi Woyome (the claimant) before the International Chamber of Commerce Arbitration Centre (ICC) in the USA.
- c. It again uncovered massive fraud in the Garnishee Order Nisi on the accounts of the Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA) in a case involving **African Automobile vrs. Accra Metropolitan Assembly** and saved the country about **1 billion Ghana Cedis**.
- d. The Office drafted a number of Bills including **the Right to Information Bill**, the **Conduct of Public Officers Bill**, the **Legal Profession (Amendment) Bill 2017**, the **Legal Aid Commission Bill 2017**, and the **Companies Bill 2017**.
- e. The **Office of the Attorney General** initiated and prosecuted **554 cases** in various courts across the Country as at third quarter of 2017. The Office also prepared **225** legal advice on various requests from other public institutions.

## 8.3 Registrar-General's Department

The **Registrar-General's Department** generated an IGF of **Fifty-Eight Million, Seven Hundred and Ninety-Eight Thousand, Two Hundred and Forty-Two Ghana Cedis, Forty-Four Pesewas (GH¢58,798,242.44)** as at October, 2017. It registered **66,168 business entities comprising 443 subsidiary business names, 4,238 companies limited by guarantee, 162 partnerships, 16,407 companies limited by shares, 44,809 sole proprietors and 109 external companies**. The Department



registered **1,127 Trademarks** as well as **1,241 marriages**. It further launched e-certificates to ease the process of doing business.

#### 8.4 **The Copyright Office**

The **Copyright Office** carried out training workshops for over **one thousand (1000)** police recruits in Accra and Koforidua to sensitize them on copyrights and related rights. The Office also organized a two-day stakeholder meeting towards the ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty. Anti-piracy activities were also undertaken in Greater Accra and Ashanti Regions.

#### 8.5 **The Economic and Organised Crime Office (EOCO)**

The **EOCO** recovered an amount of **One Million, Three Hundred and Eleven Thousand, Seven Hundred and Eight Ghana Cedis, Ninety-Two Pesewas (GH¢1,311,708.92)** from proceeds of crime and paid same to the EOCO Exhibit Account. The Office also investigated **211 cases, with 18 of them currently** at various stages of prosecution. **Three (3) Court convictions** have been secured and **five (5) confiscation** cases are still pending. **Eleven (11) Senior High Schools** have been covered under the Senior High School sensitization programme. **Two hundred and twenty-two (222)** Officers have been trained in **local courses** while **four (4)** officers underwent training in **foreign courses**.

#### 8.6 **The Counsel for Law Reporting**

The **Council for Law Reporting** published **1,000 copies of the [2013-2015] Volume 1 Ghana Law Reports**. The Council has almost completed the preparation of manuscript for the publication of **1,000 copies of the [2013-2015] Volume 2 Ghana Law Reports**. Manuscripts for **500 copies of the [2011-2015] Review of Ghana Law** are also ready for publishing.

#### 8.7 **The Legal Aid Scheme**

The Legal Aid Scheme received **1,675 cases** and resolved **762 of these cases** in various courts. The Scheme also received **7,178 cases under the** Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and resolved **3,296 of them**.

#### 8.8 **Legal Education**

The **General Legal Council** trained and called to the Bar **252 Lawyers**. The number comprised **47** in April 2017 Mini-Call, **22** in the Post Call and **183** in October, 2017 Main-Call. The Council

**handled 20 disciplinary cases.** The School has successfully automated students' records.

## **8.9 The Law Reform Commission**

The **Commission** completed work on proposals for the **setting up of the Office of the Special Prosecutor**. The Commission also completed works on recommendations for the amendment of some Sections of the Criminal Offences Act, 1960 (Act 29); some sections of the Criminal and Other Offences (Procedure) Act, 1960 (Act 30); and new laws on Public Office, Corrupt Practices and other related offences.

## **9.0 OUTLOOK FOR 2018**

For the year, 2018 the following have been outlined for implementation by the Ministry and its Departments and Agencies:

### **9.1 Management and Administration Programme**

The Ministry intends to:

- i. complete the construction of the Law House project to ease the problem of acute office accommodation;
- ii. develop an Electronic Case and Data Management System for the Office of the Attorney-General with support from the World Bank;
- iii. monitor programmes and activities of its Departments and Agencies and embark on regional monitoring exercise to assess the progress of work done across the country; and
- iv. build the capacity of administrative staff especially the monitoring and research teams to intensify monitoring and research in the Ministry.

### **9.2 Promotion of Rule of Law**

The Office of the Attorney-General hopes to:

- i. successfully operationalise the Office of the Special Prosecutor Act;
- ii. review all agreements for MDA's and MMDA's;



- iii. secure at least 75% conviction of cases referred to the Office by the Police and to diligently defend the state in matters brought against it in the courts;
- iv. recruit more Attorneys to handle the increasing number of reported cases at the Ministry; and
- v. draft all the Bills referred to it in 2018 to ensure better access to justice for all citizens.

### **9.3 Council for Law Reporting**

The Council plans to publish 1,000 copies of Volumes 1&2 of the [2006-2007] of the Ghana Law Report. The Council also intends to publish 1,000 of the Second Volume of the [2013-2015] Ghana Law Reports and publish 1,000 copies of Volume 1 of the [2016-2017] Ghana Law Reports.

### **9.4 Legal Aid Scheme**

The Legal Aid Scheme projects to assist at least 10,730 applicants. The Scheme also projects to receive 7,700 applications and projects to resolve 5,700 of them through ADR mechanisms. The Office will again ensure effective and efficient legal aid delivery, improve case management system and source the services of private lawyers to help provide ADR services to their clients.

### **9.5 Law Reform Commission**

- i. The Law Reform Commission plans to finalise its work on the Law of Torts (Occupier's liability) through a nationwide public consultation and validation workshops by experts.
- ii. It would also submit a report on Inter faculty dialogue and subsequently, submit a final report on the Law of Torts (Occupier's Liability) to the Attorney-General.
- iii. The Commission also intends to submit its final report on the Commission's conditions of service for approval by the Public Services Commission.

### **9.6 Copyright Office**

The Copyright Office intends to embark on twelve (12) anti-piracy activities and sixteen (16) sensitization workshops in selected second cycle institutions. The Office will also organize educational programmes for the Police and Customs Officers and undertake a study into the contribution of copyright-based industries to the



national economy. A regional Copyrights Office will also be established in Tamale.

#### 9.7 Registrar-General's Department

The Department envisages to register 85,000 businesses, 3,500 marriages and generate about Sixty-Six Million, Seven Hundred and Thirty-Eight Thousand, Seven Hundred and Thirty-Five Ghana Cedis, Forty-Five Pesewas (GH¢66,738,735.45) in revenue. The Department also intends to establish offices in Eastern Region and Brong-Ahafo Regions and complete its Kumasi office project.

#### 9.8 Economic and Organised Crime Office (EOCO)

It is expected that about 30% of reported cases will be fully investigated and prosecuted on the advice of the Attorney-General. It is also expected that about 300 officers will be trained in various investigative skills and emerging crimes both locally and in foreign institutions. Given adequate funding, it is expected that the EOCO forensic laboratory will become operational.

#### 9.9 Legal Education

The Ghana School of Law estimates to enroll 425 lawyers in 2018. The General Legal Council anticipates that 40 disciplinary cases against lawyers might be disposed of in 2018. Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR).

### 10.0 THE 2018 ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

The Office of the Attorney-General, the Ministry of Justice and its Departments and Agencies have been allocated the sum of **One Hundred and Ten Million, Three hundred and Fifty-Seven Thousand, One Hundred and Sixty-Three Ghana Cedis (GH¢110,357,163)** for the implementation of programmes for the 2018 Financial Year. The details are illustrated in Table 2 overleaf:



**Table 2: Details of the Annual Budget Estimates of the Office of the Attorney-General, the Ministry of Justice and its Department and Agencies for the 2018 Financial Year**

<b>COST CENTRE</b>	<b>EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION</b>	<b>GOODS &amp; SERVICES</b>	<b>ASSETS (CAPEX)</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Ministry of Justice</b>	4,048,848.00	1,429,850.00	4,234,539.00	<b>9,713,237.00</b>
<b>Office of the AG</b>	36,497,112.00	2,445,073.00	2,390,228.00	<b>41,332,413.00</b>
<b>Registrar-General Department</b>	4,788,542.00	5,822,912.00	3,895,099.00	<b>14,506,553.00</b>
<b>Copyright Office</b>	1,008,821.00	981,939.00	689,455.00	<b>2,680,215.00</b>
<b>Law Reform Commission</b>	1,803,629.00	478,649.00	272,958.00	<b>2,555,236.00</b>
<b>Council for Law Reporting</b>	2,661,680.00	521,059.00	239,351.00	<b>3,422,090.00</b>
<b>Legal Aid Scheme</b>	5,945,691.00	885,653.00	363,944.00	<b>7,195,288.00</b>
<b>General Legal Council</b>	5,892,186.00	3,171,256.00	633,894.00	<b>9,697,336.00</b>
<b>EOCO</b>	17,147,702.00	1,731,673.00	375,420.00	<b>19,254,795.00</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>79,794,211.00</b>	<b>17,468,064.00</b>	<b>13,094,888.00</b>	<b>110,357,163.00</b>

## **11.0 OBSERVATIONS**

The Committee made the following observations during its deliberations:

### **11.1 Inadequate Budgetary Allocation**

The Committee found that while the Ministry submitted a total request of One Hundred and Ninety-Eight Million, Nine Hundred and Forty-Four Thousand, Eight Hundred and Three Ghana Cedis, Fifteen Pesewas (**GH¢198,944,803.15**) to implement



critical activities in 2018, an amount of One Hundred and Ten Million, Three Hundred and Fifty-Seven Thousand, One Hundred and Sixty-Three Ghana Cedis (GH¢110,357,163) has been allocated to it by the Ministry of Finance. This amount is considered inadequate in view of the persistent funding challenges that the Ministry continues to contend with. It was also found that, in most cases, funds approved for the Ministry are not released on time. This creates a situation where activities are rolled on to another year because of lack of funds. The dire circumstances had sometimes caused the Ministry to solicit financial assistance from the Registrar-General's Department and sometimes institutions outside the sector to deal with some of the issues.

The Committee therefore strongly recommends to the Minister of Finance to consider additional funding for the Ministry and also ensure timely releases to enable the justice sector institutions discharge their mandate effectively and efficiently.

### **11.2 Performance in respect of the Ministry's Compensation Vote**

The Committee noted that the implementation of the Compensation Vote for the Ministry of Justice for 2017 has already exceeded the approved allocation. It was explained that while an amount of Three Million and Seventy Thousand, One Hundred and Seventy Ghana Cedis, Twenty-Two Pesewas (GH¢3,070,170.22) was approved for that purpose for 2017, an amount of Ten Million, Six Hundred and Thirty-Nine Thousand, Six Hundred and Ninety Ghana Cedis (GH¢10,639,690.00) had already been spent as at the end of October, 2017. It was explained by the Officials of the Ministry that, the increased expenditure was as a result of the payment of salary arrears from 2013 to 2017 to State Attorneys at the Ministry whose conditions of service are tied to that of Members of the Bench.

### **11.3 Inadequate Staffing**

The Committee also noted that, apart from acute shortage in office and residential accommodation, the Ministry and its Agencies face inadequate staffing challenges. The Ministry cited that, the already dire situation has been compounded by high attrition rate of administrative staff of the Ministry due to the cancellation of leave and clothing allowances. Officials of the Ministry indicated that though its current establishment levels require three hundred and forty-nine (349) personnel, currently, the number of officials at post, are one hundred and ninety two (192), leaving a shortfall of one hundred and fifty seven (157). It is therefore recommended that the necessary approvals should be granted to enable the Ministry engage additional staff especially lawyers for the Attorney-General's



Department and other agencies of the Ministry. It is also strongly recommended that resources should be made available to the Ministry to regularly train its staff, especially the lawyers who have for a long time been denied the needed training as a result of inadequate funds.

#### 11.4 **Construction of the Law House**

In spite of the acute office accommodation facing the sector, the Law House Project, which is to provide office accommodation to the Ministry has stalled since 2016, due to funding challenges. In this regard, it was disturbing to note that the amount voted for the Law House in 2017 had not been released to the Ministry for that purpose. The Committee therefore implores the Ministry of Finance to release the said amount to the Ministry of Justice as soon as possible. It is strongly recommended that the investment votes for the Ministry in 2018 in respect of the Law House Project should also be released on time to see to the early completion of the project.

#### 11.5 **Utilization of the Ministry's Approved Goods and Services Votes for 2017**

The Committee was informed that, it has become very difficult for the Ministry to meet its administrative expenses in view of high utility bills. It was disclosed that, in 2017, the Ministry spent over ninety percent of its goods and services allocation on electricity alone. It was also disclosed that the Head Office of the Ministry alone spent **Seventy-Eight Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢78,000.00)** every month on electricity, amounting to **Nine Hundred and Thirty-Six Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢ 936,000.00)** a year. They explained that the huge bills have been a huge drain on the resources of the Ministry and had made it difficult to meet other administrative expenses such as repair and running costs of official vehicles.

It was however refreshing to note that the Ministry had devised innovative ways to firstly reduce power consumption by urging its staff to adopt energy conservation practices. Among other recommendations, the Committee advised the Ministry to consider a solarisation programme to reduce expenditure on electricity and must be given the necessary support in that regard.

#### 11.6 **Logistical Constraints**

The Committee was very unhappy with the level of logistical constraints facing the Ministry and its Agencies which have militated against their effective operational activities. This



situation is traceable to the inadequate budgetary allocation that has plagued the Ministry over the years. Officials of the Ministry informed the Committee that, due to the use of over-aged vehicles for their operational activities, they have had to incur more repair cost due to frequent breakdown of the vehicles. The resultant effect is that there is always inadequate vehicles to convey State Attorneys to and from courts to litigate on behalf of the State. A similar situation has also hampered the operational activities of the Law Reform Commission, Company Inspectors of the Registrar-General's Department and the Economic and Organised Crime Office (EOCO). The Committee accordingly appeal for increase and timely release of the investment vote for 2018, to procure new operational vehicles for the head office, regional offices and the Agencies.

#### **11.7 Registrar-General's Department**

The Committee took cognizance of the fact that the Registrar-General's Department, prior to the implementation of the Capping Policy in 2017, was the only institution within the justice sector which had considerable capacity to fund its activities through retention of 20% of its internally generated funds. The Committee was informed that the Capping Policy slashed the existing retention rate to 10%, a situation which has gravely affected the operations of the Department and virtually crippled it. Though the Committee was informed that the Department managed to get the amount increased to 16% in the course of the year, the situation remains gloomy. The Officials recounted that, in the years that the Department operated under the 20% retention regime, it was well positioned to deliver on its revenue targets. They were therefore convinced that if the retention rate is reverted to the 20%, the Department will be able to generate more revenue into the Consolidated Fund and fully finance its activities.

On the basis of the track record of the Department, the Committee fervently believes that if the appeal is granted and implemented in 2018, it will greatly assist the country to maximize the potentials in the sector. It also believes that the measure will enable the Department to implement some of its key projects such as the E-Certificate project which is due to be handed over to the Department in 2018.

#### **11.8 Funding Challenges facing the Legal Aid Scheme**

The Legal Aid Scheme, continues to face funding challenges. The Committee was informed that the Legal Aid Scheme has had no head office since its establishment and still remains a squatter at the offices of the Council for law Reporting. The Scheme currently



has only 21 lawyers who deliver legal services to the poor and the vulnerable across the country. The work of the few lawyers are further hampered by mobility challenges as the Scheme has only two dilapidated vehicles which are used as operational vehicles throughout the country. The officials explained that since most of the lawyers operate from the regional capitals, the lack of effective means of transport affects the dispensation of legal services to the most needy in the districts.

### **11.9 The General Legal Council**

The Committee was informed that the Ghana Law School continues to operate within the constraint of inadequate lecture facilities which are required for effective teaching and learning. It was disturbing to note that work on the Law Village Project has stalled due to lack of funds. According to the Ministry, when the project is completed, it would address the infrastructural challenge. It would house all the campuses of the Ghana school of law currently located in various tertiary institutions. The Committee therefore implores the Ministry of Finance to release on a timely basis, the sum of **Nine Million, Six Hundred and Ninety-Seven Thousand, Three Hundred and Thirty-Five Ghana Cedis (GH¢ 9,697,335.00)** which has been committed to the General Legal Council for its activities in 2018.

### **11.10 Law Reform Commission**

The funding challenges faced by institutions in the Justice sector as a whole are not different from that of the Law Reform Commission. Officials of the Commission informed the Committee that the Commission had started work on reforming some important laws including the Law of Contract and Torts Law, for which more funding is needed to complete. The Commission is yet to undertake some key activities in that regard, including the holding of Stakeholder conferences. The Commission also lacks the logistical support to undertake some of its operations as most of its vehicles are over-aged with broken down office equipment. They accordingly appeal for additional funding and early release of the 2018 allocation if approved by the House.

### **11.11 Council for Law Reporting**

Apart from the infrastructural and logistical constraints which have bedeviled all the Justice sector institutions including the Council for Law Reporting, the Committee took note of the intention of the Council to develop an online platform for the sale of Ghana Law Reports as one of the measures to improve on its revenue generation and to remain relevant in the modern trends of legal



practice. It is fervently believed that the financial requirement needed would be made available to the Council to undertake this laudable project.

#### **11.12 The Copyright Office**

The Committee observed that, like its counterpart institutions, the Copyright Office also continues to be constrained with inadequate funding and late releases of its approved allocation over the years. This state of affairs has militated against the performance of the Office's statutory duties and resulted in operational difficulties.

#### **11.13 Economic and Organised Crime Office**

The lack of adequate funding for the Office had stalled regular training of officials in specialized investigative skills. The Office is also unable to engage experts in cybercrime combat among others. The Committee was informed that a lot of informants have been willing to give critical information that would help build good dockets, necessary for successful prosecution, however prompt allowances are needed to encourage. The Officials therefore made the strong case for the establishment of the Whistleblowers Fund under the Act, to be expedited.

#### **11.14 Payment of Subscription Fees**

The Ministry once again informed the Committee that, its staff were unable to participate in some important international conferences due to inadequate resources. They also stated that even where the Ministry manages to secure funds for their participation, they are often denied voting rights and other benefits due to defaults in the payment of subscription fees.

The Committee would like to remind the Ministry of Finance that participation in such international conferences are very necessary so as to equip our lawyers to keep abreast with current trends in law and to make them relevant in today's global economy. The Committee reiterates that attendance to such workshops is not to engage in fruitless talk shop but to seek knowledge for the wellbeing of our country and to equip them.

The Committee is therefore reiterating its call on the same issue in the 2017 Budget Report to the Minister of Finance to ameliorate this national embarrassment by considering the subscription dues of the Ministry in a Supplementary Budget to restore Ghana's impeccable feat at the international level.

## 11.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The Committee has scrutinised the Annual Budget Estimates in the light of the precarious financial status of almost all the justice sector institutions and has come to the considered view that the Estimates are insufficient to meet their infrastructural and logistical needs.

In this regard, the Committee wishes to make a strong appeal to the Ministry of Finance to make more funds available to the justice sector institutions in the event of a Supplementary Budget in 2018. This would enable the Ministry to pursue its mandate and bring about the needed improvement in justice delivery, strengthen rule of law, enhance transparency and improve responsiveness of legal and justice sector institutions.

The Committee recommends to the House to adopt its Report and to approve the sum of **One Hundred and Ten Million, Three Hundred and Fifty-Seven Thousand, One Hundred and Sixty-Three Ghana Cedis (GH¢ 110,357,163.00)** for the activities of the Office of the Attorney-General and Ministry of Justice for the 2018 Fiscal Year.

Respectfully submitted.



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**HON. ALEXANDER KODWO KOM ABBAN**  
(Vice Chairman)



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**AKUA DUROWAA OWUSU AGYEKUM**  
(Clerk to the Committee)

**DECEMBER, 2017**